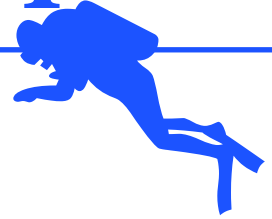




Moles Monitor

Summer 2014



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Sept 21st – Epsom & Ewell Funday

Sept 24th – Try Dive

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November 5th – AGM

December 6th – Dinner Dance

MVSAC COMMITTEE

Andy Daniel - Chairman
Aly Mitchell - Training Officer
Carolynn Royce - Social secretary
Eddie Fassnidge - Treasurer
Sonja Wood - Special Projects
Janet Wynn - Secretary
Bryan Gooden - Equipment Officer
Adam Royce - Diving Officer





Diving in Grenada

Alick Fraser



In February, Peggy and I headed for the blue waters of the Caribbean and a mixed activity holiday including a week's sailing, some snorkelling and of course some diving, based in the lovely island of Grenada.

We booked a package of six dives and a hotel through Dive Grenada, one of several dive outfits on the island. It is well run by a British couple Phil and Helen with local staff including our dive master, Kojak. We did two dives a day from a hard boat and included two wrecks, some drift dives and some visits to the amazing and very healthy coral reefs.

On our sailing week we had snorkelled with turtles and rays as well as a great variety of reef fish, so we were surprised and very pleased to see how much



more we could see with diving kit. We identified a huge number of fish from the tiny spotted drum to the brilliant French angel fish as well as the ominous jacks and barracuda. In the marine park off Grenada fishing is not permitted and we saw huge shoals of snapper and silversides. Peggy's favourite was certainly the sea horses, which Kojak found for us after some prompting.

Perhaps the most unusual dive was our visit to the underwater sculpture park, which is a creation by Jason Taylor a British and local artist and which



is now listed as one of the top 25 Wonders of the World by National Geographic. Sitting in 15-20m the various sculptures include a man at a desk, a mermaid and my favourite a crashed cyclist, all bigger than life-sized. The most famous however are the two circles of figures holding hands and facing outwards into the ocean.

I would recommend Grenada and its diving for a laid back happy holiday with as much to do as you feel like doing.



Majorca Diving

Sharon Pavey



We dived with Scuba Mallorca in Puerto Pollensa in June 2014. We'd done our research before our holiday & chose this dive centre because it was originally set up by two British BSAC divers & had only recently changed to Spanish ownership. It's now run by the people who had been working there for many years. We didn't book the dives until we'd visited the dive centre to see for ourselves that it lived up to its website. They were very friendly, multi-lingual and extremely helpful. Steve's 1st days diving (2 dives) cost 90 euros (cash) and I paid 15 euros to go on the boat. Our 2nd days diving cost us 70 euros each. The dive centre will pick you up on the morning of your dive but there are plenty of parking spaces nearby. Lunch of bread, cheese, ham & fruit is included between dives.

You need to be at the dive centre at 08:15, there you can hire any kit you need (we only had masks, fins, snorkels, rash vests & computers) we paid no extra for the wet suits, BCDs, regs etc.

The dive boat, the 'Captain Haddock', was only a 2 minute walk away. It's an easy boat to get on and off, there's no shade or toilet but you're back by

12:30'ish so that wasn't a problem.

You do need 2-3 kilo's more weight than you would normally use as the sea is very dense & salty, they ensured everyone did a weight test & they had plenty of spare weights on the boat. Cylinders are 12 litre and aluminium.

Our dive guide Miguel was brilliant, very enthusiastic & had been diving there for 14 years so knows the dive sites very well.

Steve's 1st dive

THE CAVE OF JERONI (GERONIMO)

A fabulous grotto which is easily accessed in 10 meters. Emerging in the interior, you find yourself floating in the magically transparent, luminescent blue, silent waters of a huge inner lake which is greater enhanced by the vaulted ceiling of a natural cathedral and the characteristics of the formations in stalactites and stalagmites. One of the dive guides saw a sun fish. Maximum depth 20-25 meters.

Steve's 2nd Dive - THE PINNACLE

A rocky out crop that drops into the bay with a wall in 15 to 24 meters. Site is noted for variety of marine life, everyone saw moray eels, barracuda, large schools of swallowtail sea perch and a blenny. On the north point is a huge boulder which is home to many octopus and behind this is the magical arch, a 5 meter swim through 8 meters long where many scorpion fish can be found. Maximum depth 24 meters.



Majorca Diving

Steve's 3rd Dive + My 1st Dive,

THE BMW CAVE

This cave is so called because someone thought the 2 entrances to the cave looked like the headlights on a BMW, it had obviously been a good night at the pub when they named this one! We saw octopus, barracuda and jelly fish. There's a discarded fishing line lying along the bottom & some very nice swim throughs. Maximum depth 25m.

Steve's 4th Dive + My 2nd Dive.

THE TUNNELS OF LOVE

A series of interesting arches, rocky bridges and tunnels characterize this dive. The tunnels are accessible in 5-7 meters and range 10 to 40 meters in length. Morays, congers and groupers can be seen. Maximum depth of the dive site is 20-25 meters. This was our favourite dive.

The maximum dive time was 45 minutes. The sea temperature ranged from 18° to 21°.

Diving in Spain you will be asked on the indemnity form to confirm you have a current dive medical. We ticked yes but weren't asked to show it. They also ask how many dives you've done & they will check your qualification card.

The majority of the diving offered is for the less experienced but despite that it was very enjoyable. We would recommend Scuba Mallorca and we hope to dive with them again in the future.

www.scubamallorca.com.



Pembrokeshire

Greg Waring

What did we dive?

- Wattic Reef
- THE Wall!
- The Lucy
- North Wall
- The Behar
- Dakotian



Predator - dive deck & bonding area

Who went?

Carolynn and Adam Royce, Keith James, Steve Pavey, Sonja and Tristan Wood, Jon Gower, Eddie Fassnidge, Simon Shalgosky and Greg Waring.



Sonja & Tristan enjoy the puffins

Who did we dive with?



Predator - Dive Pembrokeshire



Captain Gadget keeps a look out for Great Whites



Pembrokeshire

At 240 miles, the natural, deep harbour of Haverfordwest, West Wales is almost as far to go as Cornwall for our long week-end of diving. We stayed at the Lord Nelson hotel in Milford Haven, which was very welcoming and comfortable (apart from being too hot at night). Our visit coincided with a huge influx of visitors celebrating Fish Week; the Welsh do know how to party. Wales's reputation for producing singers was a little tarnished by a drunken young lady who, convinced that she was the next Cerys Matthews, sang her Karaoke repertoire next to our restaurant table, which was nice.

The sea state and silty vis were sometimes marginal but we had some good dives. The Lucy is an intact, upright wreck. Tristan discovered to joys of being narked at 36m. The wreck is in a beautiful setting in the lee of Skomer Island with puffins to entertain us during our surface interval.



The cable laying ship Behar was notable for its huge size and jumbles of massive cables.

The Predator's crew are very helpful and friendly. The boat even has a second toilet; pretty much a men only as it is a gunwale-mounted, funnel affair. Due to some back flush whilst crossing a wave, Eddie was able to directly ascertain the sea temperature with his probe!



Eddie and I are still friends...

Many thanks to Carolynn for organising such an enjoyable trip.

Greg's pot find during a drift





Cornwall

Aly Mitchell

After a bit of hesitation I decided to join Andy's Cornwall trip despite not diving this season. It was looking like a small and select trip for while but gradually more and more people signed up and 27 people took part over the week.

The weather was scorching travelling down and watching the sun set over St. Michael's bay, we were hopeful for a good week; and so it was. All the diving days saw some sunshine and the wind was no problem. There were a few showers overnight and of course those of us in campers, caravans, cottages and B&B were warm and cosy but even the campers stayed dry!



The first morning we were not sure what would greet us at Lamorna Cove after the much publicised damage in the winter storms. The end part of the wall had fallen away completely, large rocks were piled over half the slipway

and over the beach area. This made bringing the boat in difficult as the tide fell but much to our approval on Monday at low tide, a JCB arrived and proceeded to remove most of the boulders back onto the main beach.

There were some good successes, Hilary completed her training and her first sea dives; Mike Naylor completed his Advanced course and Dawn re-discovered her love of diving after an extended break!

2 waves at least went every day, 3 some days, and all the regular sites were dived.





Cornwall



THE CONQUEROR ran aground off Mousehole in 1977

The Conqueror had been scrubbed by the winter storms, exposing more of the ship from beneath the kelp.

Finding the Alice rather than just the mast seemed to be a challenge but despite the loss of the permanent markers on most wrecks everything went smoothly. Gul rock proved popular as a site we have not dived too frequently on these trips, though the advice to keep the rock on your left seemed to be challenging for some!

Huge thanks to Andy for organising us all and getting the boat there/back as well as to Jon for boat handling so Andy could do some diving!

I am looking forward to diving again next year instead of looking after everyone's keys in the car park!





Social Activities

The social calendar for 2014 has been very full, starting off with a quiz night in February.

Thankfully the flood waters receded in time for the Treasure Hunt Walk in April as there was some concern that boats may be needed!



The White Water Rafting at Lee Valley in July was very popular although some rafts had more trouble keeping upright than others.....

Congratulations to David Whittaker who celebrated his 70th birthday on the day.



A Golf Challenge was held on 15th August - The winner of the eighteen hole challenge was Steve Richardson with Keith James coming in a close second.



The Family Day on 16th August was great fun, many thanks go to everyone who helped out and also to all those who attended.

The next event is the cycle ride on 11th October in the Forest of Dean and for those of you staying over we are organising a dive in Chepstow on the 12th (although there are lots of other activities around) so don't forget to let Carolynn know if you would like to come along.

Our dinner dance is on 6th December so please put the date in your diaries. A chance to dress to impress and put on your dancing shoes - and also see those photo's that you didn't know anyone had taken!