



# Moles Monitor

## November 2015

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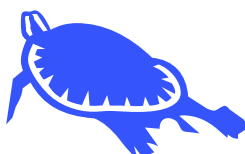
### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December 5th - Dinner Dance  
January 20th - Pool Games  
January 27th - Try Dive  
February 13th & 14th - London Dive Show  
May 7th & 8th - Weymouth Trip (Carolynn)  
May 21st - 26th - Lundy (Del)  
June 18th - 20th Plymouth (Carolynn)  
Portland 13-14 August (Chris Knight)  
Portland 24-25 September (Chris Knight)  
October 21st - 28th Red Sea Trip (Chris Knight)



### MVSAC COMMITTEE

Janet Wynn - Chairperson  
Aly Mitchell - Training Officer  
Carolynn Royce - Social secretary  
Eddie Fassnidge - Treasurer  
Sonja Wood - Special Projects  
Sue Wayland - Secretary  
Eddie Fassnidge - Equipment Officer  
Keith James- Diving Officer





# Dartmouth

Carolynn



2015 saw us diving out of Dartmouth for the first time for a few years. Dartmouth is of course an incredibly picturesque town overlooking Kingswear which is on the other side of the Estuary. Friday 10th July saw 10 moles arrive down a very narrow lane to a self catering house with a stunning view over the Estuary.

We had been warned that the house was on a steep hill and they weren't joking! Despite that we managed it down the hill for some food and back up after a couple of liveners.....

On the Saturday we met Tony, the Skipper of Falcon II who was incredibly friendly and helpful. Falcon II is not the biggest boat in the world but the skipper and his crew more than made up for this. The first dive on the Saturday was on the The Newholm, a 3400 ton steamer that was mined on her way back to Middlesborough in September 1917. It was a good dive where we got a max depth

of around 37m. Keith did a bit of rummaging and came back with a couple of forks from the wreck, one engraved with the name of the boat. The wind was definitely getting up at this point and our second dive was in the shelter at Down End Point.

While we left harbour on Saturday morning with 10 divers and returned with 10, there was definitely something unfamiliar about one of the divers.....

Eddie it seemed had decided that there were better looking divers on the Samuel Irvin 3 and hitched a ride back into Dartmouth with them....There was a story of a prop being fouled and he went to help out while we recovered their divers but he soon returned to the fold when he discovered that the young lady in question was not interested!

The skipper had his own air station a few miles out of Dartmouth and it's surprising how eager people were to help out with the filling (as it meant they didn't have to walk up the hill!).



# Dartmouth

Carolynn

Unfortunately Sunday dawned very windy and we were unable to dive the wrecks planned and ended up diving on two more reefs. There is no photographic evidence but dolphins came to visit the boat whilst divers were under the water on the second dive.

We had hoped to dive on the Monday but this was not to be and diving was cancelled. This did however give us time to have a leisurely start and pack up ready for the drive home.

This is definitely one to be revisited.

A good weekend again despite the weather, thanks to Adam, Keith, Steve, Sharon, Sonja, Tristan, Eddie, Janice and Chris for your company.

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## HMS Northcoates

This steel armed trawler was built for the Royal Navy in 1918 by Cocks & Co at Falmouth, and was launched the following year as the 277 ton HMS George Corten, 124ft long with a beam of 23ft.

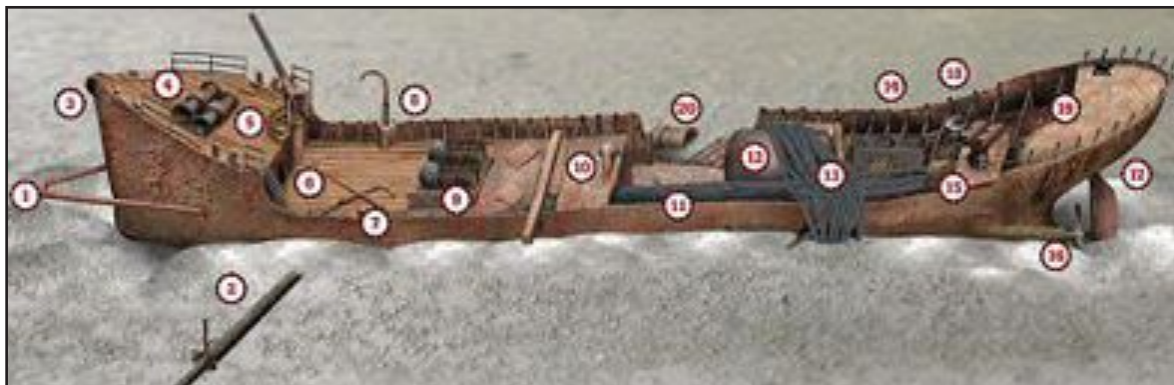
She started life as HMS George Corten in 1919, sold by the Navy in 1921 she spent some time as a fishing trawler called Zencon. In 1939 the Navy reclaimed her and renamed her as HMS Northcoates. She was being used as a minesweeper throughout WW2, then on 1st December 1944 a failed engine and rough weather resulted in her loss.

HMS Northcoates is the clubs adopted wreck as part of the NAS Dive with a purpose initiative that was introduced in 2000 as a way of encouraging the gathering and dissemination of information.

She lies upright in at 26m on a sandy seabed and makes an interesting wreck tour with a 12 pounder gun on the bow deck. Weather permitting the club makes several dives a year from the rib, launching out of Littlehampton.

For more information about visiting the Northcoates visit:

<http://www.divernet.com/wreck-tours/p301636-wreck-tour:-77hms-northcoates.html>





# Marine ID

Sonja

Saturday 8th August saw early start for 8 MVSAC club members. We met up at Swanage Pier at 8am, parked up 2 vehicles, loaded the dive gear into them and went for a delicious breakfast at the Seagull café.

From here we headed up to Leeson house and met up with Gerry and Paul our instructor for the weekend.

We spent a fascinating morning in the classroom as we were led through the classification of marine life. We learnt that dog whelks have a modified radula which they use to bore into the shells of their prey. Once they have made a very neat hole, they secrete paralyzing and digestive enzymes, turn the shellfish into soup, and then suck it back up with their proboscis.

We learnt that limpets secrete slime to make their



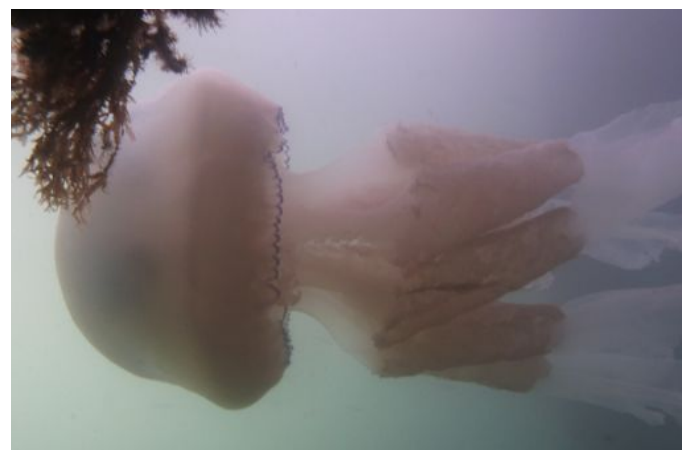
way back “home” after a hard day grazing on algae. Also, that it’s actually OK to give things a gentle poke whilst diving if you’re trying to find out if “that thing” is a sponge or something else!



Aly had organised a scrumptious lunch which we enjoyed in the grounds of Leeson House.

We headed back to the pier and kitted up ready for our dive, which was to start further along than the usual point of entry. With the sun blazing down on us, I looked enviously at my friends in wetsuits as I pull my dry suit on. Not to worry, I didn’t stay dry for long!

We had a lovely long relaxed dive under Swanage pier, collecting samples which we put in our bags ready for identification later. We saw tompot blemmies, velvet swimming crabs, a large clam, pipe fish and on the way to the exit, Janet and Mike saw a huge barrel jellyfish.





# Marine ID

Sonja

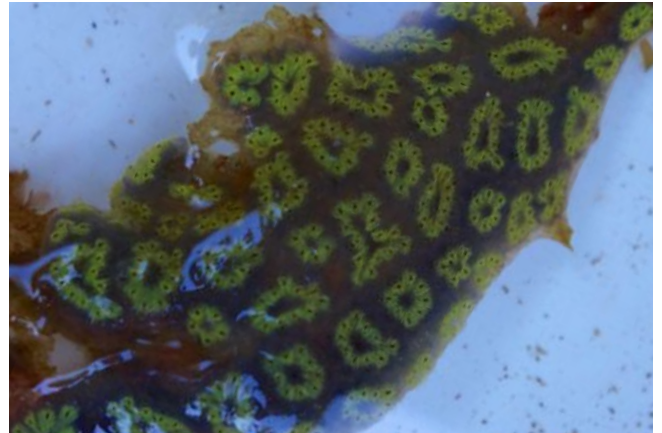
We all emerged with our bags full ready to head back up to the field centre.

Gerry and Paul had tables set up outside and we had a great time identifying our hydroids, bryozoans and sea squirts under the microscopes.

We made our way to Swanage youth hostel, a beautiful converted victorian house with wood panelling in the lounge and games room. We cleaned up and headed out for fish and chips.

On Sunday we spent another half day in the classroom and finished off with a quiz to test how much of the imparted knowledge we'd managed to retain, I'm pleased to report, we did OK!

Thanks to Janet, Mike, Tristan, Hilary, Aly, Peggy Janice for a fun weekend.





# Dive Stats

Keith

Top 10	Divers	No of dives
1	Adam Royce	59
2	Steve Pavey	52
3	Carolynn Royce	50
4	Mike Naylor	40
5=	Keith James	37
5=	Sonja Wood	37
7	Tristan Wood	34
8	Janice Wilson	32
9	Eddie Fassnidge	31
10	Chris Knight	28

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Top 10 UK	Divers	No of dives
1	Adam Royce	34
2	Steve Pavey	28
3	Carolynn Royce	25
4	Eddie Fassnidge	23
5	Chris Knight	20
6	Keith James	17
7=	Janice Wilson	15
7=	Mike Naylor	15
9	Champ Tennakoon	12
10	David Edwards	11

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