



# Moles Monitor

## January 2016

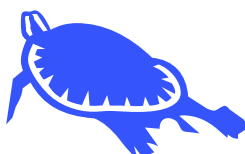
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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January 20th - Pool Games  
January 27th - Try Dive  
February 10th - Mark Powell talk (TBC)  
February 13th - Quiz Night  
February 13th & 14th - London Dive Show  
February 20th - CPROX course  
March 2nd - Skills refresher  
March 9th - London Dive Lectures  
March 13th - Boat refresher  
April 16th & 17th - Not the Easter Dive Trip (Harry)  
April 23rd - Theatre Trip (Carolynn)  
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



# London Aquarium



*On a “Winnie the pooh blustery sort of a day”. Fifteen intrepid moles headed off to the big city. Undeterred by tales of Barney, who was threatening to create floods and fallen trees and thereby disrupt travel. The moles were tempted by an intriguing combination of bubbles and chips and tales of marine conservation, which had been promised at The Ocean of Stars event at the London aquarium.*

*Eight moles met at the station known as “Leatherhead” in preparation for catching the “17:41” – six more were gathered up by the train along the way to the place known as “Waterloo”. The last mole was met “under the clock” which was tricky as many, many other people were also gathered “under the clock”*

*Some moles then dispersed to feed themselves with*



*pasties, but this was OK as this had been anticipated, and extra time had been allowed for the moles to feed themselves before finishing their journey. The mole known as Aly – then led the way, as she seemed to know where she was going, the other moles followed, although she was hard to spot in the crowd and walked rapidly. The moles braced themselves against the wind, and marveled at the “big wheel”, which was lit up with red lights and looked dramatic against the dark, stormy November sky.*

*At the allotted time of 7pm, the moles were allowed into the London Aquarium and were, for a while*



*safe from the wind. As they ventured into the dark unknown, they resisted the temptation to lay themselves down on the glass floor to admire the sharks below and bravely continued deeper in the aquarium where more treasures revealed themselves to the intrepid explorers.*

*The moles were happy to be presented with ‘bubbles’ to quench their thirst after the long and arduous journey. They marveled at the undulating snake lock anemones, the pipefish, the mesmerising jelly fish, the octopus and at the strange markings on the backs of the rays.*



# London Aquarium

But seriously - despite a security alarm and a brief trip outside, we had a great time and learnt a lot from the speakers from Bite Back and the MCS. Shark's fins are being brought into the UK for shark's fin soup, shocking stuff.

We were warned that a video once watched could not be erased from the memory, and this proved to be true, the sight of sharks being "de-finned" and thrown back into the water to die was truly horrific.

Chips and bubbly turns out to be a winning combination and despite Barney's best efforts, travel was not disrupted, and all the moles made it back to their various destinations safely

*As the 22:39 from Waterloo dispatched the travellers back to their rightful destinations, with the last of them arriving back at Leatherhead, thus completing their journey - arriving home, sleepy, but happy that they had got up close to some amazing marine*



*life and had supported, in a small way, the organisations that are doing some very challenging work to protect the marine life in our oceans.*

*Thanks to Carolynn for suggesting the trip and to everyone who supported the event, definitely a night to remember!*





# Awards



Novice of the year  
Sue Wayland



Diver of the Year  
Mike Naylor



Member of the year  
Carolynn Royce



# Malta

## Sonja & Carolynn



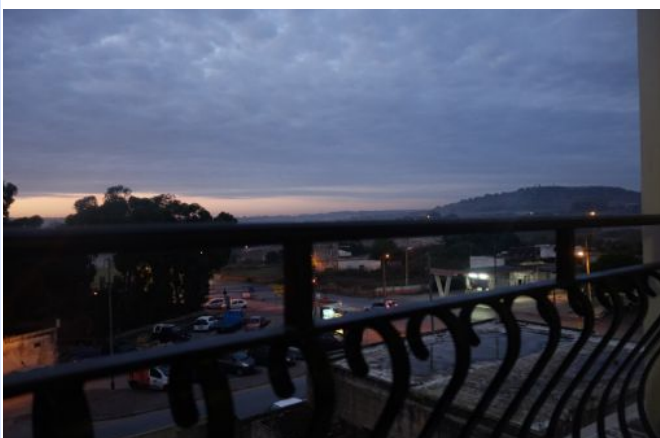
### When

1st – 6th October – the plan – travel on Thursday 1st, dive Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday – 2 dives a day and then fly back late on Tuesday after a 24hr no fly period.

### Who

Del, Keith, Tristan, Sonja, Carolynn, Adam, Hilary, Janet, Alick, Chris Knight, Mike Naylor, Mike Bailey, Eddie, Champ, David Edwards, Karen Browne (not diving)

### Accommodation



We were met at the airport and transported to our apartments at St Pauls Bay. The Sands apartments are functional apartments, furnished with divers in mind and are part of the dive package

with Maltaqua. The apartment block includes a wet room for washing out and storing dive gear which is great (although not so great for drying kit and this was done on the apartment balconies).

### The Dives



**Friday** - after filling out the requisite paperwork we were taken to Cirkewwa (which now has a proper building with toilets and showers – so no more portaloos!!) We were split into groups, listened to our various dive briefings (don't touch the fire-worms) and headed out to the entry point at the steps for our "check dive" which was either a pleasant reef dive (although the exit was via a shallow rocky area which resembled a washing machine) or a dive on the Rozi. After a surface interval with snacks (never knowingly underfed....) the various groups headed out to dive either the wrecks of the The Rozi or the P29.

**Saturday** - we were transported to the south coast to carry out two dives on the El Faroud – a 115m long oil tanker.

After a swim out to the wreck we dropped down and followed our guide along the gangway of the wreck and then did some lovely swim-throughs – barracudas etc. The second dive was back out to the El Faroud but it is such a large wreck that you need at least 2 dives to see it all.



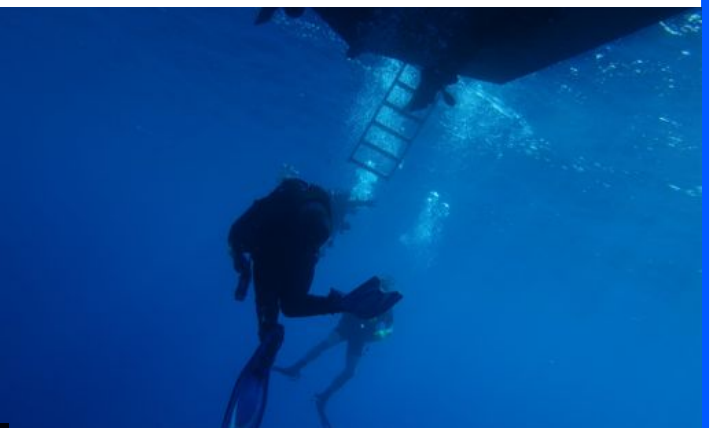
# Malta

## Sonja & Carolynn

**Sunday** was an early start, with a short trip on the ferry to Gozo, we dived the inland sea – with its rose algae followed by the blue hole of Gozo. Carolynn, Adam and Keith went off to Xatt I-Ahmar to dive the wreck of the MV Karwela, a small ferry, as an alternative to Blue Hole.

**Monday** saw us headed off for a dive from a boat which had been hired by Maltaqua so that we could dive the Comino Caves. The first dive was at Lantern Point and included a chimney, several octopus and a dusky grouper. The second dive (Santa Maria caves) was a very relaxed and beautiful cavern dive and was a fantastic last dive which ended with a fish feeding frenzy.

Altogether a fun trip with lots of relaxed diving even if some exits were a bit challenging!! Having said that everyone helps each other so if you struggle to get your fins off, someone will be there to help you or you give you a hand up at the exit point.





# Photography Competition

Above Water Winner - Janet



Below Water Winner - Del



Photographer of the Year - Andy



# Word Search!

Word Search - 15 diving / marine related words are hidden below.  
Email your answers to Sonja by the 20th of January.

J	O	S	M	J	X	X	P	Y	O	C	D	W	Z	B
S	Q	A	H	K	V	V	D	I	Y	I	K	Z	N	J
D	E	V	B	W	K	Z	G	R	O	U	P	E	R	Y
I	B	S	C	K	U	P	K	R	A	H	S	S	E	N
R	B	S	R	E	X	E	D	K	E	M	P	X	C	L
X	R	U	O	O	J	Y	S	U	P	O	T	C	O	J
N	Y	L	O	U	H	M	X	L	N	B	O	B	J	G
J	Z	U	F	Y	T	A	K	G	J	U	S	R	T	B
N	O	T	P	M	A	H	E	L	T	T	I	L	Q	R
R	A	N	E	M	O	N	E	S	E	X	G	G	Q	F
G	N	Z	V	T	M	K	C	R	A	B	B	K	T	M
B	O	F	T	Q	B	R	A	Y	N	F	I	Q	F	Q
T	L	P	F	G	Q	M	Q	M	Z	P	I	B	V	U
P	U	F	B	R	G	H	D	D	C	E	L	K	U	V
J	I	I	T	I	H	Z	G	O	N	S	U	V	O	Q