



MOLES MONITOR

February 2018

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Committee 2016/2017

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- 24th February 2018 - Go-karting
- 6th March 2018 - London Dive Lectures
- 15th March 2018 - Try Dive
- 21st March 2018 - Open Water training begins
- 24th March 2018 - Chepstow (TBC)
- 28th March 2018 - Pre - season club evening
- 21st April 2018 - Treasure Hunt walk (TBC)
- 5th-7th May 2018 - Weymouth Dive Trip
- 19th-20th May 2018 - Wraysbury weekend (TBC)
- 2nd - 9th June 2018 - Scilly Isles Dive Trip
- 21st - 28th July 2018 - Devon Dive trip
- 1st - 2nd September 2018 - Weymouth dive trip

Your 2017 - 2018 Committee

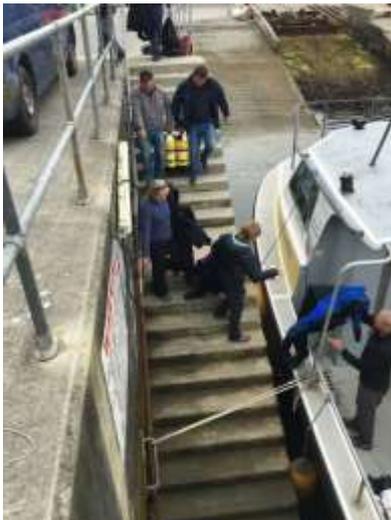
Chairman- Steve Pavey
Secretary - Jon Gower
Treasurer - Aly Mitchell
Diving Officer - Keith James
Training Officer - Janice Wilson
Social Secretary - Carolynn Royce
Equipment Officer - Eddie Fassnidge
Special Projects - Robin Bourne

West Cork Ireland - Diving in Baltimore

Baltimore, one of Ireland's most picturesque towns situated as far from Dublin as you can get in the very south west of Ireland, has a colorful history including being ransacked by Dutch-Algerian pirates and 160 villagers being kidnapped and brought to the Middle East in the 17th century. I'd never been to Ireland before and I was looking forward to visibility as clear as anywhere in the world but unfortunately it wasn't to be!

We set off from Leatherhead to Fishguard where we all boarded the ferry to Rosslare with all our kit, except a pair of twin 7 cylinders which were confiscated! We then drove to Baltimore with the weather deteriorating. Six of us stayed at the Stonehouse, where Rianne & Jerry looked after us with wonderful breakfasts, homemade bread & yoghurts & freshly baked cakes & biscuits in our rooms. The others stayed at the Fastnet House where Sandra the landlady (known as Mummy to some!) even did Eddie's laundry for him. Everyone we met in Ireland was very friendly and didn't appear to have a worry in the world.

An Underwater Encounter



On the first day we dived the wreck of the Alondra followed by a scenic dive around Kedge Island. The next day we dived near Cape Clear where we were lucky enough to see a juvenile Angler Fish. After our dive we sheltered from the heavy rain at Sean Rua's restaurant where they welcomed us in even though we were dripping wet.

On the Wednesday it was deemed to be the best day & our only chance to dive the Kowloon Bridge, the largest wreck in Europe (300mtr long), and all seemed well as we descended onto the wreck. But the visibility was poor and when we tried to swim up and over a large piece of the wreck we had to turn back

due to the serious swell. After the dive as we popped to the surface to find the conditions had changed and the sea state wasn't pleasant which made getting back on board the Wave Chieftain a bit tricky. Once everyone had stowed their kit we found somewhere to sit and made our way back to the harbor and were all very pleased to be back on dry land!

When we weren't diving some of us walked to the Baltimore Beacon, a white-painted conical shaped navigational aid, at the entrance to the harbor which is about 50 feet high and fifteen feet in diameter. Some went to Lough Hyne, a beautiful saltwater lake fed by tidal currents, designated as Ireland's first marine nature reserve, where Sonja bravely went wild swimming. The other expeditions involved trying to find Eddie some new clothes, which ended up taking all day and going swimming in the Wild Atlantic Pool.



Although we didn't have the weather or visibility we'd hoped for we had a good week.



[Diving Devon](#)

In 2017, MVSAC were faced with having to find a new home for our family trip as very sadly, Phil, owner of the campsite in Cornwall which we used for many years, passed away at the end of 2016. The hunt was therefore on to find another venue. Thanks to Jon (who put a lot of time and effort into the task), MVSAC found a new place to pitch their tents near Modbury in Devon. Tai Dive did us proud launching and retrieving the RIB every day with their tractor. They also filled all our cylinders in their small pump room.

The advance party turned up on the Friday in torrential rain - not a good omen for the rest of the week (as Robin found out!)- note to anyone coming along for the first time this year - a single skin festival tent is not really robust enough to withstand gales and lashing rain!



The campsite was great with a tiny shop which appears to sell everything! Eddie was particularly impressed when he found out that they did bacon sandwiches in the mornings. One night they did fish and chips, and a pizza van came around another night. Other than that it was BBQ's (thankfully we had the club gazebo) or dinner at the pub or a lovely curry house we found in Modbury.

RIB launching and recovery at Challaborough was interesting but Tai Dive performed the task very efficiently. We dived some favourites such as the Persier and the Maine and also some new sites such as the Fairyland Trawler. Challaborough, had everything we needed - including toilets and those left on the beach had



fun in and out of the water. Unfortunately the weather at the end of the week was not what we hoped for so we didn't get in a full week's diving and hence didn't visit as many new sites as planned.



We did however take the opportunity to visit some of our favourite haunts such as Salcombe

(now with a gin distillery ) and some also visited a climbing wall and a cavern system in

Paignton. Hopefully the weather will be much better for 2018....fingers crossed!

Diving Cyprus

In October, a group of 18 of us descended on Pissouri, Cyprus for a long weekend. The group was comprised of 15 divers and 3 non divers (along for the sunshine). We split into 2 diving groups with one happy to do most of their diving on the fantastic wreck of the Zenobia. This was a roll on/roll off ferry which sank just outside of Larnaca harbour in 1980. The wreck is huge at 172m long. She lies on her port side on the seabed at 42m with her starboard side up at 16m. She went down with a full cargo of around 108 trucks which are still in and around the cargo decks. The other dive group visited a variety of sites including the Amphitheatre, Pistol Bay, St Georges Island, the Limassol wrecks and the Zenobia.



We had a great few days but one incident reminded us of the importance of keeping hydrated whilst diving out in warm countries!



And finally.....

Don't forget our Try
Dive on
Thursday 15th March
at Leatherhead
Leisure Centre