



Newsletter

June '08

Dive Dates

A list of dive and social event dates are at the end of the Newsletter, please let us know if you wish to attend so we can properly plan, some of the more important ones are explained in more detail below, if there is anything you particularly want to do let us know and we will see what we can do

Congratulations

Well done to Dave who is now a fully qualified Open Water Instructor

Josh on passing his Ocean Diver

Andy Winnett, George and Malcolm on passing their Dive Leader

Andy Winnett, Andy Wiles and Dave on passing their Advanced Diver theory

Dive Training

Ocean, Sports and Dive Leader training is progressing well and several theory sessions have been completed. If you need any training and do not yet have dates please speak to Andy Winnett (07773 284 799)

Blue lagoon

Now that the summers back the Blue Lagoon has reopened on Wednesday evenings (6.30-8.30) & Sunday mornings (10.30-12.30). This ex-quarry is the closest dive site to Buckingham & has some excellent features including "The Bus", a Capri, a plane and various steel and wooden boats. With its maximum depth of 18 metres the Blue Lagoon is a very good dive site with plenty to see & find. There are no changing rooms, showers or catering services here, but being only 20 minutes from Buckingham it is really not needed.

There is a great deal of wildlife in the Blue Lagoon with large Pike, Perch, Little Jack Pike, Roach, and of course the American Signal Crayfish of which there are thousands!

Milton Keynes Sub Aqua club runs the Blue Lagoon letting us use the lake for a nominal fee of £3 per diver. They do require 48 hours notice regarding dates, & numbers of divers attending. Ideally we need to dive the site independently of Milton Keynes, providing our own Dive Manager, Dive Planning, Shore Cover & Oxygen. They have been very hospitable, when it has only been 2 or 3 of us diving, letting us go on their sheets & providing our shore cover, but this does need to be arranged with them in advance & is at their discretion.

I have arranged 2 dates a month for club dives, which have been added to the Dive Calendar. If you intend to come on any of these dates I will need to know in advance to help with the dive planning. This is a very good location to practice Sport Diver & Dive Leader training. If you have not yet passed the Ocean Diver Course we can arrange for an instructor to attend & this is a good location for your first open water dives. If you wish to

progress your diving in any area, from setting of SMBs, practicing controlled buoyant lifts & of course navigation & dive leading, or just wanting to go on a pleasure dive, this is the place.

If you would like to dive the Blue Lagoon on other dates not in the diary below (only Wednesday or Sunday) there is normally someone from the club to dive with, so please email me using andrew.wiles@buckspect.nhs or call me on 07867971289 and I will arrange this with you.

Fishy Talk Saturday 27th September

"Harems, hermaphrodites, herbivores and hunters" - Tales of courtship, sex changes, territorial defence, aggression and feeding strategies of fish. An illustrated introduction to the amazing biology of marine fish by Dr Roy Wiles.

Roy is an ecologist who teaches scientific diving as part of his degree programmes in Biology and International Wildlife Biology at the University of Glamorgan. He teaches students survey techniques on coral reefs in the Caribbean, Red Sea and Indonesia.

This will be followed by a tutored wine tasting led by Roger and then a buffet style dial a curry. The location is being finalised but will be in Buckingham. The price will be £25 including the wine and curry, feel free to bring some beer to wash the curry down

Club Marketing

We have made contact with two more gyms in Buckingham, at the Best Western and Bourton Mills to advertise the club and see if we can hold open days - both were keen on initial contact and we will be following up in the next couple of weeks. Now that the Marketing Manager is back at Swan Pool after a break, we can progress organising further open days both in Buckingham and Aylesbury - watch this space, as we will need some volunteers! No firm leads through as yet from the Travel Agents in Buckingham, but a couple of interested enquiries for try dives, so we will keep the contacts going.

After a post-dive brainstorm, helped along by a couple of pints, we will also be getting in touch with Buckingham University, and try other possibilities like local branches of the YFC and TA. Letters have also gone out to local secondary schools, extolling the virtues of diving for Duke of Edinburgh awards.

We now have a club display board that we can use at events (or will have, when we find a car big enough to carry it!), and progress is going on apace with the display banner and pop-up stand - Nicola has kindly agreed to work on a diver design.

However, we can always use some help: please feel free to volunteer to distribute magazines to waiting rooms, or put up posters in relevant places (George or Roger have supplies of both) or get in touch with George with any ideas or contacts that we can follow up.

We need to get some more Ocean Divers in training to meet our objectives for the year, so any help welcome.

Try Dives:

we have held one try dive session on 21st April for the Buckingham ATC with just under a dozen cadets attending - enjoyed by all (especially their instructor!), and I am sure we will see them again. It is proving a bit slow getting more scout groups lined up, but we have bookings from Buckingham Guides for early in 2009 (forward planning!), Bicester scouts on 16th June (thanks to Kate Gard for organising that), and Newport Pagnell Scouts on 13th October, with 3rd Buckingham Scouts to come back to us shortly.

We still have the following dates free on the calendar for try-dives if you know anyone who might be interested?

7th July
22nd September
8th December

Thanks George 07702 679 483

Club Kit

Could all those who have any club kit, weights, BCD, Tank, Masks etc etc please return it as we are planning an audit and repair evening. Also if you have any dive tables can you return them please. Many thanks

Working Party Evening Thursday 19th June 7.30pm

Volunteers are required to tidy and re arrange the shed following the recent work. We will be making the best use of the space available and storing kit that is only occasionally used in the roof space. All help is gladly accepted from basic DIY to repair of dive kit and sorting the equipment paperwork. Can you spare a couple of hours to help?

BSAC 'Branch of the Year Award'

Are you aware that we have entered into the 'BSAC Branch of the Year Award'?

- [What is the 'Branch of the Year Award'?](#)

The Branch of the Year award is open to all BSAC branches and is aimed at getting members actively diving and learning new skills. The award will be made to the branch that has done the most in achieving the aims of the Award, details of which are in the attached document.

<http://www.bsac.org/page/1076/branch-of-the-year-2008.htm>

(See attached file: *Branch_of_the_year_2008.pdf*) Branch_of_the_year
_2008.pdf

- [What do we need to do now?](#)

From the 1st January 2008 to 31st October 2008 our branch must record all it's activity in:

- Going diving
- Members attending skill development courses
- Members attending instructor training events
- Members attending instructor examinations
- Members attending their next diver / snorkelling grade

To begin gathering this information, can I ask that all members notify me of all dives that have been completed this year so far. For each dive you submit, Roger will need a copy of the dive log for verification, who you dived with etc...

I will begin to compile this information into a spreadsheet and we will then slowly build up the information required ready for submission to BSAC in early November.

Let's get some dives in!!

I have a sheet to record this, very rough draft, and will start compiling when I get details from people...

Thanks

Ruth Robottom +44 (0) 7880 980436

Membership & Branch Secretary

BSAC Newsletter

For those that have qualified you are now part of the world's biggest and best diving club! To ensure you are kept fully informed about BSAC and diving, there is a Members Emailing List - exclusive to BSAC Members who want to keep up to date with the latest diving news. This FREE service is easy to subscribe to, simply click on <http://www.bsac.org/page/454/opt-in.htm> and fill in the quick and simple form with your details, you will then begin to receive emails on a monthly basis keeping you right up to date with the latest diving news and information.



Club Rugby and Polo Shirts available

We now have added Rugby shirts to the range of clothing available, they are excellent quality (as modelled by Roger) and are only £15. I also still have a number of Polo and Sweat shirts in stock, sizes xs to xxl £10.50 for a polo shirt £11 for a sweat shirt. Anything not in stock can be ordered and takes about two weeks. Cash with order to Roger please.

Bruxelles

We are running a trip to Bruxelles, leaving Friday lunchtime 19th Sept and returning in the early evening of Sunday 21st Sept. We arrive in time for a Thai meal and then a night dive in the deepest swimming pool in the world (35m) and sample a range of the world's best beers (not at the same time). We will also take in some sight seeing (some of the interiors of the bars are wonderful) and an opportunity for shopping to bring back gifts (chocolate and beer, or even chocolate beer) The cost is about £220 including transport, hotel 2 dives and meals. Let Roger know if you wish to attend with a deposit of £50 per person. Open to qualified Ocean divers and above.

Club Trips

To ensure safety and maximum enjoyment everyone must have completed two local dives before going on a trip to the sea. It is really important to have recently used your equipment and ensure it is still working well. Additionally all Club members on club trips must have a valid medical declaration form, a copy of which must be held by the branch and all divers must have insurance cover. (The insurance is provided as part of your BSAC membership, ensure it is up to date)

Dive Planning

Anyone who is thinking of planning a dive let Roger know and we can try to ensure they do not clash with other events. If you have not planned a dive trip (day, weekend or Week) before it is easier than you may think and plenty of help is available. Details of the trips will be available at the AGM. If you have any ideas please let us know. Current ideas are Egypt, Bruxelles, Farnes, Lundy, Weymouth etc.

If you have any comments or articles for the next newsletter, let me have them, also if you are organising any dives let me know and I can add them to the list

Many thanks

Roger 07802 765 366



Dive Dates

Event	Start Date	Start Time	Finish Time	Organiser	Phone	Places Available	Criteria	Notes
Social Event Bowling in MK	07 June 2008			Kate	07770 593 304	Yes	All	See Kate for details
Blue Lagoon	11 June 2008	6.30	8.30	Andy Wiles	07867 971 289	Yes	Qualified Divers	Arrive on time or be locked out
Blue Lagoon	15 June 2008	10.30	12.30	Andy Wiles	07867 971 289	Yes	Qualified Divers	Arrive on time or be locked out
Scouts Try Dive	16 June 2008	20.30	22.00	George	0'7701 679 483	Yes	All	All help gratefully accepted
Committee Meeting	17 June 2008	20.00		Roger	07802 765 366		Committee	Planning the year & practical stuff
Farnes Dive Trip	20 June 2008	TBA		George	07702 679 483	Yes	All	Varied diving inc Seals
Blue Lagoon	29 June 2008	10.30	12.30	Andy Wiles	07867 971 289	Yes	Qualified Divers	Arrive on time or be locked out
Stoney Cove	04 July 2008	08.30	16.00	Roger	07802 765 366	Yes	All	Speak to Andy Winnett about any training needs
Scouts Try Dive	07 July 2008	20.30	22.00	George	0'7701 679 483	Yes	All	All help gratefully accepted
Blue Lagoon	09 July 2008	6.30	8.30	Andy Wiles	07867 971 289	Yes	Qualified Divers	Arrive on time or be locked out
Buckingham Festival	12 July 2008			Kate	07770 593 304	Yes	All	See Kate for details
Bike ride & BBQ	19 July 2008			Kate	07770 593 304	Yes	All	Keep fit & eat & drink!!
Blue Lagoon	20 July 2008	10.30	12.30	Andy Wiles	07867 971 289	Yes	Qualified Divers	Arrive on time or be locked out
Lundy Dive Trip	24 July 2008	TBA		George	07702 679 483	No	All	Varied diving inc Seals
Family Night	28 July 2008	20.30	22.00	Roger	07802 765 366	Yes	All	Bring all your family to swim or for a try dive for free

Stoney Cove	01 August 2008	08.30	16.00	Roger	07802 765 366	Yes	All	Speak to Andy Winnett about any training needs
Paint Balling	02 August 2008			Kate	07770 593 304	Yes	All	See Kate for details
Committee Meeting	07 August 2008	20.00		Roger	07802 765 366		Committee	Planning the year & practical stuff
Blue Lagoon	17 August 2008	10.30	12.30	Andy Wiles	07867 971 289	Yes	Qualified Divers	Arrive on time or be locked out
Blue Lagoon	27 August 2008	6.30	8.30	Andy Wiles	07867 971 289	Yes	Qualified Divers	Arrive on time or be locked out
Blue Lagoon	03 September 2008	6.30	8.30	Andy Wiles	07867 971 289	Yes	Qualified Divers	Arrive on time or be locked out
River Rinse	14 September 2008	10.00	13.00	Roger	07802 765 366	Yes	All	River clean in Buckingham
Stoney Cove	16 September 2008	08.30	16.00	Roger	07802 765 366	Yes	All	Speak to Andy Winnett about any training needs
Bruxelles	19 September 2008	12.00		Roger	07802 765 366	Yes	All	About £220 inc Hotel, travel, food, diving, beer etc
Scouts Try Dive	22 September 2008	20.30	22.00	George	0'7701 679 483	Yes	All	All help gratefully accepted
Fish Identification, wine tasting & Curry	27 September 2008	19.30	Late	Andy Wiles	07867 971 289	Yes	All	Great social & learning event
Blue Lagoon	28 September 2008	10.30	12.30	Andy Wiles	07867 971 289	Yes	Qualified Divers	Arrive on time or be locked out
Pre Egypt Meeting	04 October 2008	20.00		Roger	07802 765 366	Yes	All	Roger's House
Blue Lagoon	05 October 2008	10.30	12.30	Andy Wiles	07867 971 289	Yes	Qualified Divers	Arrive on time or be locked out
Committee Meeting	07 October 2008	20.00		Roger	07802 765 366		Committee	Planning the year & practical stuff
2nd River Rinse	12 October 2008	10.00	13.00	Roger	07802 765 366	Yes	All	2nd River clean in Buckingham
Scouts Try Dive	13 October 2008	20.30	22.00	George	0'7701 679 483	Yes	All	All help gratefully accepted
Blue Lagoon	15 October 2008	6.30	8.30	Andy Wiles	07867 971 289	Yes	Qualified Divers	Arrive on time or be locked out

Egypt	23 October 2008			Roger	07802 765 366	Yes	All	£570 all inclusive + £200 diving
Birmingham Dive Show	01 November 2008	10.00		Roger	07802 765 366	Yes	All	
Post Egypt Party & Photos	15 November 2008	20.00		Kate	07770 593 304	Yes	All	Roger's House
Murder Mystery/Medieval Supper	29 November 2008	20.00		Kate	07770 593 304	Yes	All	See Kate for details
Diving Officers Conference	06 December 2008	09.00		Roger	07802 765 366	Yes		
London Festival of Diving	07 December 2008	09.00		Roger	07802 765 366	Yes	All	
Scouts Try Dive	08 December 2008	20.30	22.00	George	0'77701 679 483	Yes	All	All help gratefully accepted
Christmas Curry	10 December 2008	20.00		Kate	07770 593 304	Yes	All	Annual Christmas beer & Curry
Family Night	22 December 2008	20.30	22.00	Roger	07802 765 366	Yes	All	Bring all your family to swim or for a try dive for free
Committee Meeting	14 January 2009	20.00		Roger	07802 765 366		Committee	Planning the year & practical stuff