

# Horizon News



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## Happy 2012 !!

Well, 2012 is up and running so now is the ideal time to be thinking of exciting dive trips and shiny new dive gear. We have lot's of ideas to help you plan your diving adventures for the coming year with trips, courses and dive gear to suit all needs and budgets. We have our winter SALE in full swing with great deals on Regulators, BCD's, Wetsuits and more. For those of you getting out and about during the colder months we have fantastic savings on Fourth Element DryBase thermals which are great whether diving, walking, skiing or just making the most of the great outdoors.

Our UK trips are booking up nicely so do make sure you get your name down if you fancy joining us on one of the many great dive trips we have planned for 2012. We also have some spaces left on our Red Sea trips to both Taba and the August Liveaboard. The Egyptian Red Sea still offers some of the best value diving available so don't miss out, book your place today!!

### Stayin Alive.

A lot of you may have seen the new advert about hands only CPR featuring Vinny Jones. It has been really successful in raising the awareness of people that having some basic CPR and first aid knowledge is hugely important and something we should all have. We have been teaching CPR and First Aid courses for

years and they are a requirement for all Rescue divers and above.

The **Emergency First Response** course covers all you need to know to feel confident about stepping in when an accident happens. We feel it is something that everyone should learn and we are currently offering a special deal where a **couple** booking the course will get one place for half price. Remember this course is open to everyone, not just divers, so bring along those non diving members of the family

and get everyone involved.



## Red Sea Liveaboard, August 2012.

The Straits of Tiran and North cruise allows you to take in some of the best wrecks the Red Sea has to offer as well as the pristine coral reefs of Tiran and the dramatic walls at Ras Mohammed. During the month of August the marine life tends to be at its best with large schools of fish in clear blue waters. The Tiran dive area is found in the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba and is made up of four main reefs, these reefs, named after British cartographers (Jackson, Woodhouse, Thomas, Gordon), are world famous for their extraordinary diversity of corals and strong south westerly currents make them home to many large pelagic fish.

M/Y blue Melody is everything you would expect from a 5\* diving vessel with large dining area, separate sky lounge with state of the art entertainment system and double and twin cabins all benefiting from ensuite facilities, air conditioning, mini refrigerators and personal entertainment systems. A spacious dive deck also makes kitting up and getting in the water a stress free experience. All modern safety equipment is on board. M/Y Blue Melody won the 2010 Sport Diver Best liveaboard award.



We are running a trip here from the 10th - 17th August 2012. Check out our [website](#) for more details or call the Dive Centre to book your place.

## Upcoming Courses

- **Emergency First Response – Saturday 25th February at NHDC.**

An innovative First Aid/CPR course strongly recommended for all divers. This qualification meets the prerequisites for the Rescue Diver course. Remember you should renew your EFR training every two years and if you haven't done it for a couple of years, recommendations do change (e.g. ratio of breaths to compressions) so you really should consider booking a refresher to ensure you are both practised and in line with current thinking should YOU be the person faced with the emergency. (SAVE £40 if you complete this as a refresher – using your original materials).



- **Enriched Air Diver Specialty – Saturday 3rd March at NHDC.**

This course provides an insight into the safe use of enriched air nitrox for recreational diving and certifies the diver to use EANx with up to 40% oxygen but with an emphasis on 32% and 36% mixtures.

The theory modules introduce the diver to the benefits of EANx; the safe use and preparation of EANx equipment; the measurement of oxygen percentage in the cylinder and to the hazards involved and how to avoid them.

You will self study the materials provided for the course and then attend one of the scheduled review sessions at New Horizons Dive Centre (or a private one if you can't make these).



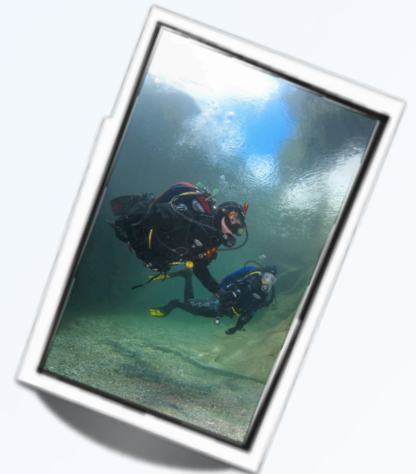
- **Rescue Diver – starts Sunday 1st April NHDC.**

The Rescue Diver course is the minimum level we recommend all divers should attain. You will learn self rescue skills; techniques to help and rescue others; how to prevent and if necessary manage emergency situations along with improving your core skills and self confidence. In the classroom and pool you will learn and practice your skills before putting them together in the open water in a series of scenarios. Despite the serious nature of the course, it is always enjoyable and great fun.



- **Advanced Open Water – Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th April at Stoney Cove.**

The next step for the Open Water Diver is this fun filled programme of five dives to improve skills and performance under the guidance of an instructor. You will do dives such as deep, navigation, multilevel, peak performance buoyancy, and wreck. Having completed this course you will be qualified to dive to 30 metres, which will increase the number of sites you can dive and also the number of trips open to you.



- **Deep Specialty – Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th April at Stoney Cove.**

This course will introduce you to the techniques and skills of deep diving between the depths of 18m and 40m. The deep diver course is intended as a safe, supervised introduction to deeper diving within the limits of recreational diving. Should be completed by all divers who want

to dive deeper than 30m. If you do dive below 30m you do need this for your insurance cover.



- **Divemaster – starts Saturday 5th May at NHDC.**

This is your first rung on the professional ladder of diving. It is a fantastic course that gets you involved in assisting on courses of all levels as well as guiding pleasure divers. Anyone who does this course says that it is the most rewarding course they have done. It's not surprising really when you consider that you are helping people learn to do something that you love doing. The Divemaster qualification can also open up new opportunities for you from a working and/or travelling point of view.



## Trip Updates

### Plymouth, Easter Trip 5th - 9th April 2012

Plymouth has been the centre for naval and commercial shipping for centuries and the area has a wealth of scenic dives from the Eddystone Rocks to the most dived wreck in Britain, the SS. James Egan Layne. Since 2004 the artificial 'Scylla Reef' has been a major attraction allowing divers to explore the former Royal Navy frigate HMS Scylla which was sunk and is now lying on the seabed in Whitsand Bay. There are a wide variety of sites to choose from with plenty of marine life to be seen from the cute Tom Pot Blenny to the less cute Conger eels. Easter at Plymouth is a great way to start the UK sea diving season with a variety of sites to suit all tastes.

Diving will take place each day from CEE KING which is a 32ft motor vessel used exclusively as a charter boat for diving parties. Her experienced skipper is well known for getting us on the exact location



for each dive enabling divers to get the best dive each time they enter the water. The boat is laid out to give the maximum unrestricted space for divers and their equipment with a large open deck and side lift. A variety of hot drinks & soup are provided throughout the day.



You will enjoy 4 days hard boat diving with 2 dives per day. You will require 2 tanks for the trip. A dive computer, SMB and reel are mandatory for each diver. Equipment can be hired from New Horizons. This is a great trip for Advanced Open Water divers and above. Check out the [Website](#) for more details or give us a [call](#) to book your place.

## Heatwave ! What Heatwave ?

While most of the country was basking in a mini October heatwave, 12 New Horizons divers headed North and spent 2 days under grey(ish) skies and completed 4 dives around the Farne Islands, all in the company of playful seals. Nobody complained.

Heading out to the islands on a mirror flat North Sea it was only 30 minutes until we arrived at our first site, 'The Knife Stone'. This sliver of craggy reef only rises a few metres out of the water and has been the end for numerous vessels in the past. There are some fragments of wreckage on the sea floor but the wrecks have all but gone. The reef is now guarded by the nearby Longstone light house. Seals, some with new pups, basked on the rocky shoreline and a few swam in the shallows, bobbing up and down to view the visitors.

Lee told us that the water was 'almost as warm as it gets' so we got ready and jumped in. A tropical 13 degrees C, so much for Northumbrian humour. Colourful urchins, dead-mans fingers, anemones and sponges cover the kelp fronds and rocky outcrops. Flashing a torch across a wall suddenly brings it alive with colour. Lobsters and swimming crabs hide in the crevices or scuttle across the rocky sea floor.

Of course the highlight of every dive in the Farnes is diving with seals. We soon had glimpses of silvery seal shapes zooming past. As they became more confident diver's fins were being nibbled, divers were being followed and generally we were being viewed as the morning entertainment. Swimming up shallow gullies in 3 to 4 metres of water it was easy to encounter a seal, face to face at close range and make eye contact. Smiles all around. Moving to the second site, 'Megstone', it was more of the same, kelp fronds swaying in the tide, shallow gullies and seals.

Sunday morning was misty to say the very least. The Farnes were not even visible as we headed out of the harbour, however Lee suggested we should head for 'The Harcars' to find a sheltered spot. Other dive boats had the same idea but there is more than enough space

and more than enough seals. Underwater visibility was much better at this site and it afforded the opportunity to see how graceful seals are underwater. They seem to glide effortlessly and are incredibly agile. They can turn in the blink of an eye and disappear, or they can stop dead and come to investigate.

The highlight for many was the final dive of the weekend at 'The Crumstone'. Here we saw more adults and pups on shore and more underwater than the previous dives. On shore they call constantly and boy can they make a noise. If you get on the down wind side of the colony it is also a very distinctive 'fishy' smell.

The Grey Seals share the Farne Islands with thousands upon thousands of sea birds. Cormorants, Gannets, Guillemots, Razorbills, Puffins to name a few all inhabit the islands and regularly zoom around or dive for food. There is plenty to watch during surface intervals, all accompanied by a tea or coffee provided by the Skipper.

Thanks to Lee for a great weekend and thanks to the seals for living up to expectations.

Phil



## Equipment News

### Servicing Time

It's that time of year again folks. The time when you forget about the cold and the snow and imagine all the fantastic diving you will be doing over the next year. This means it is the perfect time to get all your dive gear serviced and ready for the coming season. All regulator manufacturers recommend getting them serviced every 12 months and cylinders need testing at least



every 30 months. We are also able to put new seals on your Drysuit or a new battery in your dive computer. Check out our [website](#) for further information or just bring your equipment in and we will do the rest.

## February Social

On Wednesday 1st February Tony Gilbert will be presenting a talk on British Diving at the Dive Society Social. As always, Tony will be showing some of his fabulous photos and will be able to help you choose which dive trips are the ones best suited to you. He will be covering all the planned destinations for New Horizons 2012 UK dive schedule so come along and see what is in store.



The social will be at Macclesfield Rugby Club and will start at 20:00. Whether you have been before or not do come along and join in the fun. we hope to see you all there.

## Congratulations!!

### Seal Team

Luca Frost  
Jack Marshall-Clack

### Open Water Diver

Mike Burke  
Mike Abbott  
Gabby May

### Specialties

Thomas Miller  
Keith Miller  
Fiona Miller  
Max Gabarre-Grindrod

### Divemasters

Shelley Hesford  
Steph Debenham  
John Ainley

## Swimathon 2012

We will once again be entering a team into this years charity Swimathon. It takes place on Sunday 11th March at Macc Leisure Centre starting at 13:50. If you are interested in taking part we will putting together a team of 6 divers to allow us to complete the 45min session underwater. Money raised will again be going to the R.N.L.I. and other local charities so even if you can't join in on the day you can make a donation to help these worthy causes.



## Important Dates

Don't forget we have pool sessions on most Sunday evenings where you could book to do a [Scuba Tune-Up](#) or indeed

just check out your gear(if you are a Dive Society Member).

1st February 2012	Dive Society Social ( Tony Gilbert)	Macc Rugby Club
25th February 2012	Emergency First Response Course	New Horizons
3rd March 2012	Enriched Air Specialty Course	New Horizons
7th March 2012	Dive Society Social	Macc Rugby Club
10th March 2012	Emergency First Response Course	New Horizons
11th March 2012	Swimathon 2012	Macc Leisure Centre
27th March 2012	Taba, Hotel and Daily Boat Diving	Red Sea
1st April 2012	Rescue Course Starts	New Horizons
4th April 2012	Dive Society Social	Macc Rugby Club
5th April 2012	Plymouth, Hard Boat Diving	Plymouth
21st April 2012	Philippines, Island Hopping & Boat Diving	Philippines
28th & 29th April 2012	Advanced Open Water Diver Course	Stoney Cove
28th & 29th April 2012	Deep Diver Specialty	Stoney Cove