



This month **SCOTTISH DIVER** visited ScotSAC member Elaine Watt, skipper of MV *Clutha*. *Clutha* is a 10m purpose built diving vessel operating from Inverkip marina and covering most of the scenic and wreck dives in the Clyde Estuary. Many ScotSAC divers will know of Elaine's friendly style onboard and comprehensive dive briefings.

Here's what Elaine has to say about diving ...



WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO DIVE?

I learned to dive with Inverclyde Sub-Aqua Club, based in Greenock in 1995. At that time I was running fishing charters; fishing for Pollack on the Clyde wrecks; my friend Barry and I decided we wanted to see what we were fishing. Once I learned to dive it was good-bye fishing gear, hello dive kit!

WHAT TYPE OF DIVER ARE YOU?

I qualified to master diver level; I've been chair-person, expedition organiser and fundraiser for my club. In recent years however due to the commitment of *Clutha* I'm sadly no longer as involved with my club as I was in the past.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF KIT?

I'd have to say a fully charged torch as I tend to do most of my diving at night!



Further details of MV Clutha are available from www.clyde-diving.co.uk

BEST COUNTRY VISITED?

Got to be Norway we had great fun there with Gordon on the Jane R last summer. The wrecks are fantastic and the geography of the west coast is amazing.

DIVE BUDDY - WHO DO YOU ENJOY DIVING WITH MOST?

My partner Drew dives too but we tend not to dive together as one of us needs to stay aboard *Clutha* for insurance reasons. I usually dive with Neil who helps me on *Clutha* or Barry; but because we know each other so well as a group we tend to jump in with whoever's ready at the same time!

FAVOURITE DIVE SITE?

My favourite site is the wreck of The *Greenock* in the Clyde especially as a night dive. It's alive with all sorts of sea-life particularly in the nooks and crannies where the hull plates meet the seabed. Each weekend when I'm not working onboard *Clutha* we take the ribs and head out to places like Sanda, Islay and Rathlin; these are all great too.

DREAM DIVE BUDDY

If Matt the presenter of The City Gardener dives... he'd do. Seriously though, probably Moya Crawford or Keith Jessop as they've both done lots of exploratory salvage work. Each of them had brains and a determination to succeed.

DREAM DIVE DESTINATION

I would like to go to New Zealand for the summer to camp and dive.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GO DIVING?

'I'll dive anywhere wreck, scenic, whatever.... It's the people I've met through diving that motivate me to continue. We always have a great laugh even if the vis is down, the tide is running and it's raining!

WHAT BUGS YOU MOST ABOUT DIVING?

As a skipper I've been lucky I seldom have divers aboard who are literally out of their depth. The limited visibility in the Clyde tends to make everyone a little more cautious and sensible. What bugs me as a diver is someone who wrecks the vis with awful buoyancy, particularly if they're in front of me!!

BEST DIVE BOOK EVER READ?

I need to give 'Sir Peter Moir' a mention here as he has researched passionately to produce Clyde Shipwrecks and Argyll Shipwrecks. The effort put in to find out about the history of each vessel make these books second to none.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE DIVING TO NON-DIVERS

If you're properly trained, and comfortable with what you're doing, a new world is waiting for you.