



# SHOTLINES



## A Weekend Soaked In History

NEARLY 300 members and non-members attended the Nautical Archaeological Society's 2005 Annual Conference. Due to the popularity of last year's conference the venue was moved to a larger auditorium in Portsmouth's historic dock. The NAS committee has also broadened the event; this year it included a photographic competition, an Elizabethan banquet, a dive on an Elizabethan wreck, a guided tour of the historic dock as well as the annual Adopt a Wreck award.

Topics covered by the 11 speakers were diverse, informative and represented all parts of the world. Connie Kelleher reported on further finds located by a local dive club from the wreck of the *La Trinidad Valencera* off the coast of County Donegal.

Camels, scrub and landmines were the major hazards encountered by Lucy Blue and her team as she tried to locate ancient harbours along the coast of the Red Sea. The effect of the Boxing Day tsunami on the work, buildings and people of Sri Lanka's newly formed Archaeological Diving Unit in Galle was described by Robert Parthesius. And closer to home the current licence holder for the wreck site of the Warship *Hazardous*, Iain Grant, reported on the success of the

visitors' scheme.

This year's winner of the Adopt a Wreck Scheme was David Carter and the LUNAR Society for their work on the wreck of the East Indiaman *Earl of Abergavenny*, which was wrecked in Weymouth Bay in 1805. Work on researching and excavating this wreck started in 1979, and has resulted in the recovery of over 50,000 items. The award was presented to David and some of his team by Phil Harding from Channel 4's Time Team.

The photographic competition proved extremely popular, with an excellent variety of entries in all the classes. Prizes were supplied by Cameras Underwater and were awarded to the best novice, amateur and professional photograph, depicting underwater or foreshore archaeology.

The conference was followed in the evening by an Elizabethan banquet held in the Mary Rose Museum. On Sunday there was the chance to dive in Horsea Island inland site which is now the new home of the remains of an Elizabethan



Above: Diver on the remains of the Elizabethan wreck at Horsea Island; & below: David Carter celebrates his award with Time Team's Phil Harding



cargo vessel, or merchantman, found in the Thames during dredging operations.

The recovered timbers have been laid in 6m of water, complete with an anchor and part of her cargo of iron bars. The vessel, which would have probably been lightly armed with about 10 small cannon, is thought to have sunk around 1574.

Jen Auer of Wessex Archaeology, the wreck's adoptee, provided a shore side display and briefing prior to the dive. The site will now be used as a training area for NAS students to learn underwater survey techniques.

## Extra NAS News

THERE WILL be changes to NAS Scotland in the New Year. As from April 1, 2006 Peter Pritchard of Pritchard Diving Services (PDS) will start as the NAS Scotland training coordinator. Peter, who has been closely linked with NAS Scotland Training over the last five years, has a wealth of experience

through his company which specialises within this sector commercially. Access to information on courses and projects can be made through either: [www.nasscotland.co.uk](http://www.nasscotland.co.uk) or the PDS website: [www.pdsdive.co.uk](http://www.pdsdive.co.uk).

Venues for training over the next twelve months will vary

from the Shetland Isles, South Uist in the Hebrides, Dunoon in the central belt and Fort William in the Highlands. Anyone interested in getting involved with underwater or foreshore archaeology should contact Peter for further details.

# And The Winners Are ...

LAST YEAR'S underwater success in The Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition didn't continue this year, with the overall winning images both featuring birds.

Manuel Presti of Italy won the top prize with 'Sky Chase', his picture of a swirling flock of starlings evading a peregrine falcon; the junior title was taken by Jesse Ritonen aged 10 of Finland for his image 'Inquisitive Joy' which depicts a jay perched on a snowy pine branch.

Both of these images together with winners from all the other categories, including the Underwater World winner by George Duffield – 'Leopard Seal Pass', will be on display at the



George Duffield's Leopard Seal Pass

Natural History Museum until April of next year before embarking on a tour across the country.

If you feel inspired by what you see then maybe you would like to enter next year's

competition. Entry forms will be available in the February edition of BBC Wildlife Magazine, from the Natural History Museum (020 7942 5015) and through the web: [www.nhm.ac.uk/wildphoto](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/wildphoto).

# Fish Farm Decision Angers Divers



THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE and Crown Estate Commission have given the go ahead for a fish farm in Loch Broom near the wreck of the *Fairweather V* (pictured above). The decision appears to have ignored views of the local community and Highland Council who have both condemned the move. Members of Ullapool Sub Aqua Club, who campaigned against the fish farm are critical of the decision.

Highland Green MSP, Eleanor Scott said: "Highland Council itself were quite clear they had a different vision for how this bit of water and coastline should be used ... that they didn't want this development to go ahead."

*Fairweather V* is one of the best known and most dived wrecks on the north west mainland coast. The clear waters and relatively sheltered location in Annat Bay make the wreck a magnet for all kinds of marine life. Effluent from the fish farm could have a potentially disastrous environmental impact on the wreck and surrounding area.

A draft consultation of the Atlantic Coast (Wester Ross) Project emphasises the significance of the *Fairweather V* and scenic diving in Annat Bay and the negative impact that any aquaculture would have on the diving there.



# Big Cross-Channel Event Rescheduled

THE FIRST EVER cross channel scuba relay, '10,000mm Under the Sea' has had to be postponed due to adverse weather conditions. But fear not, the epic scuba adventure with its drive to raise both funds and awareness of male cancers, has now been rescheduled to take place in August 2006.

Colin Osbourne, founder of the Orchid Cancer Appeal said: "We are all saddened at the

postponement of this event. The team and I would like to thank everyone who has helped us get to where we are - all our sponsors, the support team, the dive boats, the press and everyone else. I cannot emphasise enough the amount of work and training that has got us to this point when the ONLY thing that could have stopped us achieving this fantastic feat did - the weather!"

The organisers urge people not to forget them and to bear in mind that the daring journey will go ahead next year - so plenty of time for others to get involved!

If you would like to learn more about the challenge and how you can be involved in 2006 please call Colin Osbourne on: 020 8501 3027 or email: [colin@orchid-cancer.org.uk](mailto:colin@orchid-cancer.org.uk).

# Seasearch Scotland Update

2005 has been another busy year for Seasearch Scotland, with 226 records returned, ranging from Bass Rock to St Kilda and in particular from our target area of North East Scotland.

The total number of records submitted since 2000 for Scotland is now over 860. A big

thank you to all who have sent in Seasearch forms and organised trips, to Marion Perutz and Owen Paisley for co-ordinating locally and to Sue Mitchell for help with entering the data into Marine Recorder.

Visit: [www.seasearch.org.uk](http://www.seasearch.org.uk) for details of Seasearch events and training in 2006.

