



# SHOTLINES



JP Trenque's Scorpionfish was one of last year's Splash-in prize winners

ON SATURDAY and Sunday August 26/27 the St Abbs & Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve will be hosting its annual underwater photography competition, the Splash In.

# Time To Splash-In

As in the last couple of years, the Splash In will include a digital and a film competition, and there will be three categories for each: marine life portrait, marine atmospheric and most humorous shot. On the Sunday night all the entries will be shown in a presentation at St Abbs

Village Hall, which is open to all, and where the audience acts as judges, voting on their favourites. Thousands of pounds worth of prizes are up for grabs, these will be

presented following refreshments in the Old School. The slide show starts at 7pm, there is an entry fee of £2 payable on the door, which includes drinks & nibbles.

Although St Abbs is one of Scotland's prime dive sites, there have been relatively few entries over the years from Scots. So, come on you Scottish photographers, why not give it a go this year!

Any divers interested in taking part should check the VMR website at [www.marine-reserve.co.uk/activities](http://www.marine-reserve.co.uk/activities)

## Shipwreck Finds



a restored cannon

DIVERS WITH an interest in marine archaeology had a rare treat earlier this year when the the Nautical Archaeological Society (Scotland) organised a public viewing of rescued and restored artefacts from Scotland's historic shipwrecks. These items are not normally on display to the public.

The event, organised by the Nautical Archaeological Society (Scotland) as part of their training scheme, was held at the National Museums of Scotland conservation facility in Edinburgh, and was attended by about 50 people.

Many of the items on display were from the Duart Castle wreck, the *Swan*. These included some of the wooden decorative carvings, a sailor's shoe, rope, the ship's kettle, a milling stone and the ship's binnacle case. The man responsible for much of the

excavation work on the *Swan*, Dr Colin Martin was on hand along with his wife, Dr Paula Martin, to answer questions on this and other projects.

There was a tank containing timbers from another Sound of Mull wreck, the *Dartmouth*. So good was their state of preservation, that tool marks were still clearly visible on the wood. Many of the items had been preserved by a process of freeze drying, and Peter Pritchard,

the new NAS Scotland trainer, was there to explain and answer questions on this process.

Another highlight of the day was

a display of highly decorated Italian majolica pottery from the Kinlochbervie wreck. This wreck was initially thought to be one of the ships from the Spanish Armada, but the pottery has now been dated to late 16<sup>th</sup> century to early 17<sup>th</sup> century, which casts doubt on this theory.

For more information on the Nautical Archaeological Society (Scotland), visit [www.nasscotland.org.uk](http://www.nasscotland.org.uk)



carvings from the Swan

# New Aquarium

IF YOU are a fan of sea-life centres and aquaria then you will be pleased to hear about a new one which is just about to open its doors on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond.

If ever an aquarium had a picturesque setting then certainly this is it - not only will you have splendid views of the loch itself and the surrounding countryside, but now you will be able to take a look at the beauty that lies beneath the water and the sorts of animals that have made Loch Lomond their home.

The attraction will be home to a variety of fish such as

salmon, trout and crayfish in the large fresh water aquarium, but alongside this there will also be a spectacular tropical ocean tunnel which features a model of the sunken remains of a Clyde steamer - the *SS Sea King*.

For divers with kids, you can't afford to miss the touch pools, where you can all have a shot at feeling the various creatures and learning more about their habits from the expert staff on hand to answer any questions.

Raising awareness of the plight of Scotland's own otters, the aquarium will be home to three Asian Short Clawed



*an artist's impression of the aquarium*

Otters.

The new aquarium, situated at Loch Lomond Shores in Balloch on the south tip of the loch is sure to be a fun, exciting and

educational family day out.

The aquarium is opening soon - if you would like more information then call: 01389 721500

# Corals & Anemones

IN THE last issue of **SCOTTISH DIVER** we told you about a fish identification course designed to help you learn more about the fish you see when you dive in British waters. Now we bring you information on an anemone and coral workshop, ideal for anyone who would like to improve their knowledge on these fascinating and colourful animals.

Over the two days of August 5/6 you will develop your anemone and coral identification skills and in the process get to see some rare examples of the species'.

Saturday will be classroom based, giving you a chance to bring in your own images for identification and to brush up on your knowledge before you hit the waters around St Abbs for two dives on Sunday, witnessing first hand some of the anemones and corals common to the area such as dead men's fingers and plumose anemones.

Chris Wood, author of the *Seasearch Guide to Sea Anemones and Corals of Britain and Ireland* will be leading the course and whilst many of the images and

material will come from the published book we will also look at some of the interesting sightings and updates of information it has already given rise to.

If you would like to attend this fascinating course it will cost you £55 for the two days, this includes a course pack, one classroom day and two hardboat dives in the St Abbs Voluntary Marine Reserve.



*get to know your coral*

If you don't want to dive then the cost will be £35, for course pack and classroom sessions only. If you would like more information and a booking form then contact Chris Wood on: [chris@seasearch.org.uk](mailto:chris@seasearch.org.uk) or call: 07776 142096

# St Abbs Needs You!

LIZA COLE, the Marine Ranger at St Abbs & Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve, is asking divers to help out with collecting records of marine life.

There are various ways in which you can help out. You

could fill out a Diver Survey Form (available at St Abbs harbour, or from the local dive shops). These forms ask for details on a selection of indicator species but can also be used to record any other interesting sightings. You

could e-mail any interesting records to Liza direct via the Marine Reserve website [www.marine-reserve.co.uk](http://www.marine-reserve.co.uk). Or those of you who are trained Seasearchers could carry out Seasearch dives in the area.

If you are not trained in Seasearch techniques but are interested in getting involved,

Liza can provide Seasearch training courses so let her know. Also, if you want to learn more about Anemones and Corals (see story above), there are still some places on the Seasearch workshop at St Abbs on August 5/6. See [www.seasearch.org.uk](http://www.seasearch.org.uk) for more details.

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# Volunteers Needed!



IF YOU'VE had it with your job, or you just feel that it is time you did something completely selfless and beneficial to our fragile world then perhaps you will be interested to hear that two different organisations need you right now.

Coral Cay Conservation is urgently appealing for volunteers

to help perform crucial coral surveys in Fiji; and Global Vision are looking for volunteers for its late 2006/2007 expeditions.

James Comley, Coral Cay's head of science said: "Our research is central to the development and initiation of appropriate educational and planning tools which underpin effective Marine Protected Area designations. However in order for us to undertake a comprehensive assessment of coastal marine resources in Fiji we need volunteers to join our project."

The Fiji Coral Reef Conservation is based on the very remote and beautiful island of Dravuni, in the Southern Island Group of Kadavu. Well-off the beaten tourist trail Coral Cay Conservation scientists and volunteers have unique access to the world-famous Astrolabe Reef – offering what many regard as the best diving in Fiji.

The Coral Cay Conservation marine research station is

situated in the heart of a traditional Fijian community. With limited water and electricity supplies and composting toilets, this project is ideal for those looking for a real expedition challenge!

For more information visit: [www.coralcay.org](http://www.coralcay.org)

Global Vision who provide support to critical conservation and humanitarian projects around the globe are offering volunteers who embark on a 10 week expedition an extra 10 weeks placement for free. Their expeditions range from coral reef conservation in Mexico to wildlife monitoring in East Africa and trekking unexplored territory in Patagonia.

Field work that is currently on offer includes whale shark tagging in the Seychelles and rainforest expedition assistants in Costa Rica.

If you would like to know more about what GVI have to offer then visit: [www.careersabroad.co.uk](http://www.careersabroad.co.uk) or call Alexis on: 0870 608 8898



volunteer work includes surveying tropical coral

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