

SHOTLINES



Time For Another Splash In



Bosie looking cute in snorkel and goggles

Young Aberdeen Diver Plans 24 Hours Underwater

DIVERS AT Aberdeen Watersports Dive Centre are currently training a very special diver for a very special cause. 'Bosie' the Teddy (pronounced Bo-zee) is preparing for a 24 hour charity dive which is to be held at the National Hyperbaric Centre in Aberdeen and will kick off at 3pm on Friday, July 6 finishing 24 hours later at 3pm on Saturday, July 7.

This novel event, organised by Susan and John McLeod is in aid of the Katie Topley Fund, which raises funds for children's charities in memory of Aberdeen Watersports owners' four year old daughter Katie, who died very suddenly in August 2005.

Katie was a regular visitor to the Dive Centre and was well known by many of the local divers who have worked tirelessly over the last 18 months to help raise an amazing £22,000 for a wide selection of children's charities both locally and overseas.

The aim of the scuba dive is to raise funds to buy teddy bears to

cheer up local children having to spend time in Royal Aberdeen Children's hospital.

Bosie (a Scottish word for a cuddle) is named after Katie's favorite teddy. He will spend 24 hours underwater, accompanied at all times by buddy teams of two 'safety divers' who will baby-sit 'Bosie' for 30 minute intervals.

A number of silly games and underwater antics have been organised to occupy the divers and Bosie during their dive and these will be revealed on the day.

The dive will take place in the National Hyperbaric Centre, Aberdeen's 8 metre deep tank, which has observation ports and video links allowing spectators to watch the divers, at all times.

The event has already attracted a lot of interest with 40 divers currently signed up for a spot of babysitting.

Organiser Susan McLeod said of the event: "We are keen to attract as many divers, surface helpers and supporters as possible."

If you would like to take part, sponsor a diver or go along to watch Bosie and his babysitters more details can be found on Aberdeen Watersports' website and forum at aberdeenwatersports.com or alternatively call the Dive Centre on 01224 581313.



Katie Topley

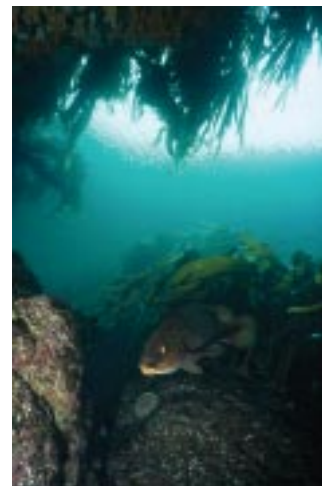
ON AUGUST 25 & 26, the St Abbs & Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve will be holding it's annual underwater photography competition, the Splash In.

The Splash In will include a digital and a film competition, and there will be two categories for each: marine life portrait and marine atmospheric. There will also be a most humorous shot category, which is open to both film and digital entries. On the Sunday night there will be a slide show at St Abbs Village Hall of all the entries to which all are welcome. Here 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.

Any divers interested in taking part should check the VMR website at www.marine-reserve.co.uk/activities.

Picture right: ballan wrasse in a cave by Brian Jubb (last year's best film image)



Wildlife Trusts Go Underwater Again

A NEW face is being selected for The Wildlife Trusts' campaign for the introduction of a robust Marine Bill to protect our seas. The Trusts are once more dipping beneath the waves to find a new image and are running a competition in conjunction with the British Society of Underwater Photographers (BSoUP) to find a new public image.

For the last 12 months the public face of the campaign has been Paul Naylor's iconic photograph of a Tompot Blenny, one of the most endearing fish to be found round our shores. The new search will be conducted through a Print Competition associated with BSoUP's 'Splash-In' Championship.

Lisa Browning, Marine Development Manager at The Wildlife Trusts said:

"We're always on the look-out for engaging and thought-provoking underwater images, so this competition is a great opportunity for us. We're hoping for some outstanding photos of UK marine life to head up our continuing marine conservation campaign. With the rapid growth in digital

underwater photography, we're welcoming entries from new enthusiasts as well as established photographers."

As well as the opportunity to showcase a photograph as the new face of The Wildlife Trusts' marine campaign, the overall winner of the BSoUP British and Irish category will receive a £250 voucher from Ocean Optics Ltd, and a year's family membership to the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth.

The competition was open to both members and non-members of BSoUP. All entries are being displayed at the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth until July 7, with prize-giving on the evening of that date.

The Government launched the Marine Bill White Paper in March and The Wildlife



Paul Naylor's Tompot Blenny image

Trusts will continue to campaign vigorously to ensure that the ensuing legislation provides robust protection the UK's seas.

Lisa Browning added: "Paul Naylor's striking photo of a Tompot Blenny has served us well but as our Marine Bill campaign enters a new phase, it would be great to find a new iconic image to represent our seas and capture the imagination of the UK public."

Full details of the competition can be found on BSoUP's web site: www.bsoup.org/splash.

Millie Makes A Splash

MILLIE CARTER of Reston Primary School was one of the first to try out the new 'Try-a-Dive' Pool at AquaStars Dive Centre in Eyemouth. Millie got the opportunity to try scuba diving through the Scottish Borders Council's FitKids initiative which is funded by the Big Lottery.

The FitKids programme aims to provide opportunities for young people to participate in sports and other forms of recreation such as snowboarding, ski-ing, trial cycling, cricket, hockey, archery as well as scuba diving.

Millie said her first experience of scuba diving had been fun once she had got used to breathing through the regulator. Her parents said they were very proud of the way she had tackled the challenge of trying a new sport and she had obviously enjoyed it.

The 'Try-a-Dive' Pool is a new feature at AquaStars Dive Centre. It is roughly 1m deep, 5m wide and 10m long and is filled with 18,000 gallons of fresh water. The pool will not only be used for 'try-a-dives' and training, but also allows divers to try out new equipment and will be available to hire for pool parties as it can be used for water polo as well.

For more information on pool hire and prices, you can contact Pete or Jacqui on: 018907 50904 or via the AquaStars' web site www.aquastars.co.uk.



Millie ready for underwater action



Aquastar's try-a-dive pool

Alison Takes The Inca Trail

MOST VISITORS to St Abbs know Alison Aitchison as one half of the Alison and Billy team at Rock House Dive Centre. However this year Alison has taken on a new challenge and is raising money for the Fisherman's Mission by walking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

The Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen provides care, compassion and support to working, retired and disabled fishermen and their families. Deep sea fishing is dangerous and unpredictable and the Fishermen's Mission is the only charity that fishermen and their families can turn to when they need financial, practical and emotional support.

Alison's trek starts on November 9 and she hopes to raise £2,500.

If you wish to help Alison reach her fundraising goal, then you can either pledge money by visiting Rock House Dive Centre, or donate online at www.justgiving/alisonaitchison.



Alison has an adventurous spirit