

# SHOTLINES



Basking shark - as seen by Mike Clark on Scotland's East Coast



## Wildlife Bonanza

IT'S ALL GOING a bit wild in the St. Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve at the moment.

There was marine life mayhem at the reserve during the photographic Splash In event held over the August Bank Holiday weekend when both minkie and pilot whales were spotted. They were feasting on a massive school of herring that was sweeping up the coast. As I was submerged, day turned into night as the wall of fish engulfed me and blocked all surface light - exhilarating stuff!

It was a case of marine mammals

aplenty when in September a pod of Rissos Dolphin also decided to frequent the area - to the delight of many.

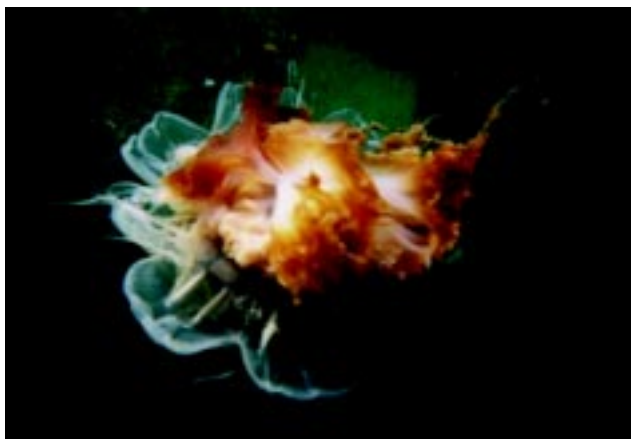
However best of all and certainly most surprising was the sighting of a basking shark just off Eyemouth.

A group of lucky divers aboard Eyemouth dive boat, *North Star* had 60 minutes snorkelling time with the three metre long shark. A similar event took place on the same day at Pettico Wick bay at St. Abbs where a basking shark mingled with snorklers. It is unclear whether the same shark was

responsible for both sightings.

Owner skipper of *North Star*, Jim Easingwood has been at sea in the area for over 42 years and has never seen a basking shark in all that time. It certainly is a rare occurrence for these sharks to turn up on the East Coast of Scotland and so on visiting the area in mid September I was absolutely delighted when the Basker put in another appearance and I was able to get my camera out for that all important shot.

**Mike Clark**



## Young Snapper

11 YEAR OLD Robert Grieves became the youngest entrant in the St Abbs Marine Nature Reserve Splash-In competition in August. Robert's efforts included the photographs shown here: a marine life portrait (above) and a reserve atmospheric shot (right). Our 3 page Splash-In Special starts on Page 20.



# Want To Learn?

THE INTRIGUING science of the seas is now available from the comfort of your home computer. Delve Deeper - a new distance learning course from Newcastle University - enables students to explore the world of marine biology without having to commit to a full-time course.

The course was developed in response to demand from visitors to dive shows over the past few years, and is aimed at over 18-year-olds with an interest in marine biology, such as divers, sea-anglers and surfers. It will be delivered over the internet, but also includes a five day residential field course at the Dove Marine Laboratory in Cullercoats, Northumberland.

Lecturer Dr Jane Delany explained: "The course is designed for people who wish to know more about the biology and ecology of the intriguing marine organisms they have encountered or heard about. It will be a wonderful opportunity to delve deeper into this fascinating world."

The course will explore various marine

environments: coastal seas, open ocean, tropical and polar seas, and will take students through the life cycles and behaviour of the organisms that inhabit them.

A further module will look at human impact on the oceans, and how we can all embrace a sustainable approach to its conservation. Each module will introduce current ideas and theories in marine biology, and key researchers who work in the field.

"The residential module will be a chance to meet other students, experience 'hands-on' marine biology and also visit the beautiful Northumbrian coast," added Dr Delany.

"Practical exercises on the rocky shore will allow students to meet some of the species they have learned about."

Learning materials for the course will be delivered over the internet in a virtual learning environment. Students will be able



*Why not learn a little more about the underwater world you love?*

to download and work through sections of the course, then answer online quizzes.

The course costs £485 and will take place over six months in 2008, with registration closing November 30, 2007.

For more information and how to apply, visit [www.ncl.ac.uk/marine/delvedeeper/](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/marine/delvedeeper/) or email [marinecourse@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:marinecourse@ncl.ac.uk).

## Royal Archer Bell Found

THE BELL of the steamship *Royal Archer* has been found in the Firth of Forth. The find was made by Emma Smith and Mark Blyth, proprietors of The Dive Bunker Dive Centre in Burntisland, Fife.

Mark frequently puts his customers on this impressive wreck, so hundreds of divers have finned over the bell throughout the years, completely unaware of its presence beneath them.

The bell was found by a case of old fashioned good luck. During a routine dive on an ordinary day, Emma spotted the bell as she reached the seafloor, whilst Mark was securing the

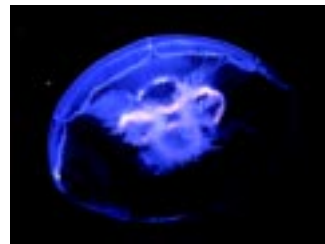


*Bell rescuers, Emma and Mark*

shotline to the wreck. It was partially sticking out of the seabed, and required considerable digging to be freed. The bell weighs around 20kg, but amazingly Mark was able to rope it off and bring it safely to the surface

The *Royal Archer* was sunk by a mine in 1940 and the find has now been declared to the receiver of the wreck.

**Mike Clark**



*Aurelia - Graham Day*

ANNE SAUNDERS has recently taken up the post of Scottish Projects Officer, based in the MCS Scotland Office in Edinburgh. This post focuses on Jellyfish Surveys, Basking Shark and Turtle Watch, promoting Adopt-a-Beach and Beachwatch and marine outreach work in Southwest Scotland.

Calum Duncan continues as Scottish Conservation Manager, leading on marine

conservation policy in Scotland and Seasearch co-ordination.

Anne said: "No matter where you are on Scotland's coast you are likely to encounter jellyfish. These sightings are invaluable to our research into leatherback turtle ecology. Please report any sightings you have, no matter how few jellyfish you have seen."

Contact Anne on 0131 226 6360

## Big Thanks From Donny

ON JUNE 16 this year, a six hour fly-fish competition took place on the Watch Water Reservoir to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Donny Inglis, the St Abbs



*Fundraiser, Donny Inglis*

parking attendant, took part in the fundraising event, and thanks to the generous support of the local and visiting divers to St Abbs, raised £500.

About eighteen other fishermen took part, and the total raised on the day at the reservoir was over four thousand pounds.

Donny would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported him and the other fisherman.

**Alison Fuller-Shapcott**

## Dive the Clyde

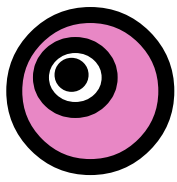
with  
**West Coast Divers**

scenic dives  
wreck diving  
diving every weekend  
minimum 2 divers  
registered for 9 divers

Leaving from Largs Yacht Haven

Contact  
Jim Martin - 07988 585 743  
Garry O'Hare - 07787 148 756

[info@westcoastdivers.co.uk](mailto:info@westcoastdivers.co.uk) [westcoastdivers.co.uk](http://westcoastdivers.co.uk)



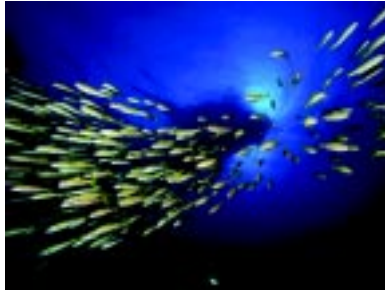
# Workshop Winners

MARK WEBSTER'S latest underwater photography workshop certainly produced winning results. The workshop, which took place aboard *MY Blue Sea's* trip to St Johns in September saw Webster tutoring a variety of talented underwater photography enthusiasts.

Austin Bannister was delighted to win the onboard competition with his picture of a diver and turtle while Bartek Strozynski who came second was honoured when his superb image showing a shoal of brightly coloured fish coming at him was chosen as the front cover of the new Oonasdive 2008 brochure.

You could also see your photographic skills improve in leaps and bounds (and who knows you might even see your image on the front cover of the 2009 Oonas Brochure) by joining a 2008 workshop to either The North and Wrecks on board *M.Y. Blue Planet 1* on June 13-20 (price £995) or to St John's on board *M.Y. Blue Waves* on October 1-8 (price £975). These prices include flights, transfers, 7 nights full board, photo workshop with Mark Webster and 6 days diving.

For further details contact Oonasdive: Tel. 01323 648924 [www.oonasdive.com](http://www.oonasdive.com) [www.photec.co.uk](http://www.photec.co.uk)



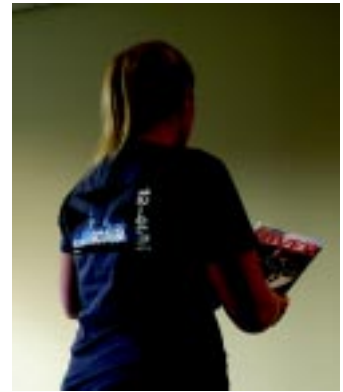
2nd place - Bartek Strozynski

Right: 1st place - Austin Bannister



3rd place - James Hurley

4th place - Ellen Williams



## Tops Ts

SCAPA SCUBA has teamed up with Fourth Element to produce an exciting new range of t-shirts that are sure to appeal to the more fashion conscious diver.

As stockists of the Fourth Element range, those at Scapa Scuba decided the design experts were the obvious choice to help give the Scapa merchandise a revamp with a new, trendier edge. They weren't wrong! The t-shirts they have produced are striking, cool and comfortable to wear. Designed to be sex specific, the womens t-shirts are a flattering skinny fit and come in light blue while the mens are a more relaxed fit in a darker shade of blue.

The distinctive print on the back of the t-shirts is the famous SMS Konig with the words 'Wrecked in Scapa' strapped across it. It is also pleasing to note the subtle use of the Scottish flag behind the image of the wreck - making it a fantastic gift for any Scottish Diver.

The t-shirts are available to buy now and come Easter time you might be able to add to your Scapa collection as plans are afoot to bring new garments into the range early next year.

You can purchase a t-shirt directly at the Scapa Scuba shop (RRP: £22 + £2 P&P) or contact them by phone or email, visit: [www.scapascuba.co.uk](http://www.scapascuba.co.uk) for more details.

## Farewell Alikai

THERE HAS been a change of dive boat at St Abbs. Visitors to Rock House Diving which is situated right in the centre of St Abbs, will be familiar with the red livery of Billy Aitchison's steel hulled catamaran, *Alikai*.

However *Alikai* has been replaced with *Wavedancer II*, which is essentially the same boat, complete with diver lift, but is slightly bigger and slightly faster than its predecessor.

Unlike *Alikai*, *Wavedancer II* is white, although Billy says he may change the colour. He also has plans to install the latest must have luxury - an onboard toilet.

Full details at [www.rockhousediving.com](http://www.rockhousediving.com)

**Alison Fuller-Shapcott**

right: Rock House Diving's new boat - *Wavedancer II*

