



West Lothian SAC pair Jenny and Gordon Young have been diving for the past 13 odd years since being introduced to the sport on holiday. They've clocked up some miles since then, however Scotland remains a firm favourite despite the need for a drysuit ...

■ WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO DIVE?

● **BOTH:** We both did try dives in the Dominican Republic and Cancun and thought, "Wow, this is amazing." It prompted us to join West Lothian Sub Aqua Club and in the 13 years since we have never looked back!

■ WHAT TYPE OF DIVER ARE YOU?

● **JENNY:** I am a master diver, branch instructor and love scenic diving and taking trainees into the water.
● **GORDON:** I am a master diver, regional instructor and so naturally I enjoy the training side of diving but my heart really lies in tracking down new dive sites to explore – some times I get lucky, sometimes I don't in fact I usually find myself finning around in mud!

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF KIT?

● **JENNY:** I have a Typhoon heated belt which I wear under my clothes to keep me toasty in all conditions – I wouldn't go diving in Scotland without it.
● **GORDON:** My Dui drysuit has been with me for over 10 years but it still keeps me warm and dry even though it is covered in aquasure patches.

■ DIVE BUDDY - WHO DO YOU ENJOY DIVING WITH MOST?

● **JENNY:** Gordon – as I always know where he will be (usually right in front of me) but also any trainee due to their enthusiasm.
● **GORDON:** Obviously Jenny is my first choice buddy but in her absence and in no particular order: Ally, Jim and James (they know who they are).

■ FAVOURITE DIVE SITE?

● **JENNY:** As far as Scotland is concerned it has to be Rubha na Dunain in Skye. I have dived this site a few times aboard the *Mary Doune* and it has never disappointed.
● **GORDON:** Hyskier Lighthouse is not only a great dive but you also stand a chance of being able to swim with basking sharks – this makes it a top for me.
● **BOTH:** Further afield we have both dived Elphinstone Reef in the Red Sea a few times and the last time we were there we were lucky enough to spend an entire dive in five metres of water surrounded by four oceanic white tipped sharks – completely unforgettable.

■ BEST COUNTRY VISITED?

● **BOTH:** Manado, Sulawesi in Indonesia has to get this accolade due to the sheer amount and variety of marine life we saw. Pygmy seahorses, frog fish, mimic octopi, ornate ghost pipefish to name but a few. In fact, you name it – they've got it.

■ WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GO DIVING?

● **JENNY:** It is a bit like an addiction, the more you do it – the more you want to keep doing it. The fact that each dive is a unique experience each time also helps.
● **GORDON:** Jenny is my motivation, if it wasn't for her I would probably be in the pub by 12noon.

■ DREAM DIVE BUDDY?

● **JENNY:** I don't really have a dream dive buddy, anyone who is willing to carry my kit to the edge of the water will do for me!
● **GORDON:** I could be obvious and say someone like Angelina Jolie, but to be honest I would rather just dive alone with nobody there to bother me under the water!

■ DREAM DIVE DESTINATION?

● **JENNY:** Palau in Micronesia because of the possibility of diving with manta rays.
● **GORDON:** I would like to spend 6 months touring Indonesia and the Philippines. Having been to the area already I know how wonderful it is and it would be great to be able to spend longer than two weeks doing what I love.

■ BEST DIVE BOOK EVER READ?

● **JENNY:** *Deep Into Blue Hole* by Rob Palmer was fascinating to read.
● **GORDON:** The one with James Mason, Kurt Douglas and a seal (the movie *2000 Leagues Under the Sea*). Yep, you've guessed it I don't do books!

■ WHAT BUGS YOU MOST ABOUT DIVING?

● **JENNY:** The sheer amount of clothing and the weight of kit that is required to dive in Scotland is a real bug bear.
● **GORDON:** Definitely 'armchair divers', they meet in the pub, talk about diving till the cows come home – but they never actually dive.

■ HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE DIVING TO NON-DIVERS?

● **JENNY:** A peaceful, exhilarating, exciting and amazing experience.
● **GORDON:** I think the silence and weightlessness means it is the closest thing to being in outer space but with the added bonus of familiar and strange creatures to explore with.

Image above: Jenny Young is pictured with husband Gordon (right) and former ScotSAC NDolan Seith