

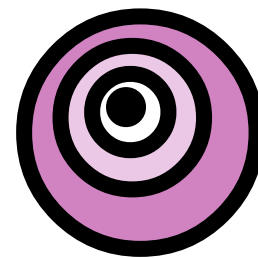
Amber Williamson is one of life's contented divers.

She doesn't need flash new gear, dangerous depths or

hot dive buddies to enjoy herself. All she asks for is

kit she can trust, plenty of sealife, the occasional dive

holiday and a warm shower after a night dive...



DIVER PROFILE



■ WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO DIVE?

● I went along to a Try a Dive at the Dumfries dive club. Not long after that I moved to Lanarkshire and it took me a while to return to diving. I got into swimming first, clocking up a few miles at the pool every week when I noticed an ad at the Larkhall pool for their dive club - for some reason I joined the Bellshill club and Neil and Linda (BDO and BI) taught me to dive. My first openwater dive was at Kenmore, I will never forget the pink colours under there - I was hooked!

■ WHAT TYPE OF DIVER ARE YOU?

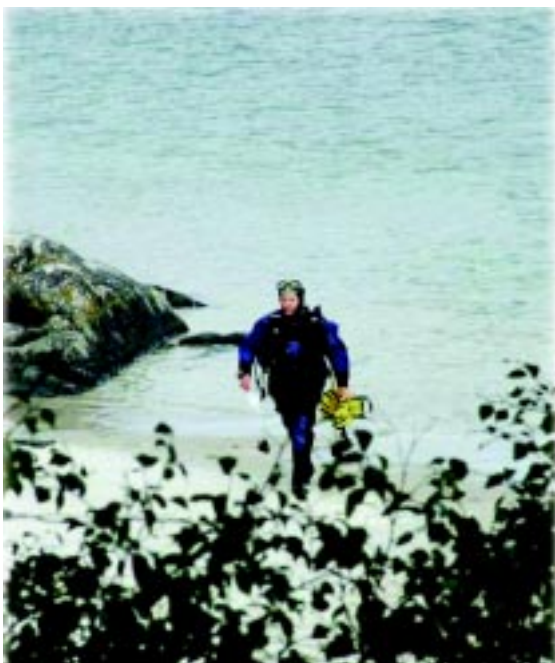
● I'll dive and enjoy just about any site but I'm more of a scenic diver than a wreck or deep diver. I do love a good wreck, but I find I am still looking for the life on the wreck rather than the engine rooms or the wheel house. I flooded my first camera and haven't yet replaced it with a good digital one, but when I do I'll be found mooching around in relatively shallow waters in search of the best shot.

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF KIT?

● I'm not always upgrading my kit, I get something I like and I keep it until it falls apart. Like my first neoprene Otter suit that was held together with aquasure and a prayer. We (my club) celebrated its demise and I bought another second hand neoprene Otter which was almost identical. I recently replaced it with a Northern Diver Vortex 3. I love it and best of all I get a dry dive which I suppose is what it is all about!

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

● Most who know me would expect me to say that my dive buddy is my partner Graeme, but other than on dive holidays we rarely dive together. I dive mostly with my club and I'm delighted to dive with any of them. They enjoy similar dives as I do - we're easy pleased.



■ FAVOURITE DIVE-SITE?

● I love many sites along the east or west coast. We (Chris, Neil and me) dived Cathedral Rock on a day when the viz was the best ever and the wrasse were harassing us to be fed. Craigeith is another great site and the Caves for a night dive with the seal that tries to pull your fins off. Isle of May with octopus (my favourite) and wolf fish - there are so many. What a country for diving!

■ BEST COUNTRY VISITED?

● I haven't travelled as much as some. I've been to Egypt a few times and it is breathtaking. The last time I was there was on the liveaboard *MV Juliet*. We had a fantastic week made all the better by spotting the hammerhead, the lone dolphin who was delighted to have found some companions to swim with and the shark (Graeme knows what kind it was) on the very last minute of our last dive. I have also dived in Norway - thanks guys for inviting us - you know who you are. We dived from the liveaboard the *Jane R* with skipper Gordon (don't stack the plates). We dived the wrecks at Narvik which was a fantastic and breathtaking experience.

■ WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GO DIVING?

● The desire to find the unexpected, no matter how simple. The other night it was a tadpole fish! Every dive could be that dive when you see whatever it is that makes you delight - we all have our favourites.

■ DREAM DIVE BUDDY?

● Chris from my club thought that it might have been him and he's not far wrong. How many divers bring a flask of warm water so his buddy can have a warm shower after a cold night dive. I would say that my dream buddy would be any of the team involved in the filming of the Blue Planet - so long as they got me to just a handful of these sites....

■ DREAM DIVE DESTINATION?

● I'd love to dive St Kilda. The photography from there is fantastic as is the countryside. Very probably cold, weather unpredictable, sea state unpredictable, but if you're lucky it would be a real awe inspiring experience - one day!

■ BEST DIVE BOOK EVER READ?

● My sister gave me 'Diving the World - A Guide to the World's Coral Seas' by Beth and Shaun Tierney. If you can't get there then it's the next best thing thanks to the details and the amazing photographs. I'd love to use it to plan my dive trips.

■ WHAT BUGS YOU MOST ABOUT DIVING?

● Not having enough time and money to visit all the dive sites I'd like to and having to leave Egypt after my last dive holiday there.

■ HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE DIVING TO NON-DIVERS?

● It's a bit like flying - I guess. It's exciting and can be breathtaking, invigorating, relaxing and peaceful all at the same time. A privilege to see things most folks don't get to see.