

EUSAC



IMPORTANT DATES

September

15th-17th - Virtual Sports Fair

22nd - Virtual Intro Meeting followed by Meet and Greet

29th - Ocean Diver Sign-Up Deadline

October

6th - Crossover Lecture & Ocean Diver Lectures Begin

9th - Social Night

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

As is always the case at this time of year, the committee have been hard at work behind the scenes preparing for the new semester (and coping with the challenges that coronavirus has posed to our best laid plans). Here's your chance to catch up on what we've been doing:

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Hi all, I hope you're all well!

We're getting ready and excited for the start of a new academic year!

We as a committee have been working hard to get our lock up, kit and regulations as ready as possible for a new year of diving in the unfamiliar territory that is social distancing. We're learning on the job and trying to navigate our way through a minefield of new rules, difficult decisions and wanting to get as much diving as possible whilst keeping our members safe. So thank you for all your help and patience as we get things going.

Soon we'll be welcoming a new year of keen divers and learners but also we're hoping to see as many familiar faces as possible. See our Facebook page for our online Welcome Back meeting to reintroduce diving with EUSAC and what plans we have for this year. As a reminder, if you want to help involve our new members and be part of our families system, please drop Alex Philip, our Social Sec, a message if you haven't signed up already.

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LESSONS FROM A DRY SUMMER

- by Sarah Chan

There's never a good time for a pandemic, but for UK divers, the timing of Covid-19 was particularly pernicious. Just as spring weather was on the way and we were gearing up for a summer of dive trips, lockdown hit and left us high and dry on the couch instead.

If you can't go diving, though, the next best thing is thinking, learning, reading and talking about diving! The dive community responded with a whole host of activities for dry divers dreaming of the sea: virtual socials, quizzes, talks and webinars. Of particular note, BSAC launched a coordinated online learning initiative, including training webinars that can be undertaken as part of a formal qualification, as well as support for clubs to deliver online training. As we return for a socially-distanced semester at Edinburgh and prepare for University teaching and learning to be undertaken online, it will be helpful also to think about virtual diver training and what we can do to support this.



One course that I wanted to do but missed out on was the "Diving for All" course, which aims to increase access to diving through developing skills and awareness for diving with people with disabilities. It is only a two-hour course and entirely

theory-based, so ideal for online learning – all I can say is, finding 2 hours when you're at home 24/7 is still surprisingly difficult! Hopefully this will be offered again.

Apart from formal training, there were also plenty of opportunities to learn about different aspects of diving. I participated in some great webinars on underwater surveying techniques, diver safety and incident management, and expeditions; watched skills videos to keep things fresh in my mind (seeing someone miming along with a valve drill on the couch is apparently very funny, at least if you ask my boyfriend)... and learned the words for different parts of a drysuit in Spanish!

Now we're able to get out diving again, I hope the next few months will involve more time underwater and less time on YouTube. The great thing, though, is that much of the content from our 'dry summer' is still available – perfect for weeknight viewing or the occasional blown-out weekend. Check out the BSAC special interest webinar series: these are actually still running, but you can also catch up on past talks by logging in on the BSAC website. The Nautical Archaeology Society also ran a "CovED" educational webinar series, available to rewatch online – as a matter of fact I'm planning to watch Simon Brown's talk on UB116 as preparation for (fingers crossed!) heading to Scapa in a couple of weeks...

Happy diving, happy learning and stay safe everyone!

Safe Return to Diving

Can you feel it in the air? Divers returning to Edinburgh after a long summer away, some getting ready to join us for first time and even people who might not know that they're divers yet; itching to get into the water. Gradually, we are returning to a sense of normal.

However, organising trips can seem especially overwhelming at the moment, as we try to keep up with rule changes from both BSAC and the government. Luckily for us, Diving Officer Cara Nicholson is keeping our guidelines up to date with her **Covid-19 Diving Document**. This is available at www.eusac.co.uk/admin and should be read by all trip organisers before submitting trip plans.

In order to comply with the university's policies, trip runners must also fill out the **SignUp Genius** forms for all club trips. Similarly, we are asking members to download the **Protect Scotland** track and trace coronavirus app.



Family Matters - By Alex Philip

In socials news this year, EUSAC will be implementing Scuba Families. This will be two established members of the club becoming the 'parents' and two new EUSACers being the 'children'.

This will hopefully help the new crop to become more integrated and always have someone to talk to and have answers to any questions. The families themselves will be sorted by current members with them having the opportunity to go in for an arranged marriage or choose their own spouse. The children will then be randomly put into families at a social and we will arrange fun games and challenges around this.



Current members should contact Alex (s1750558@ed.ac.uk) in order to get signed up to family and, who knows, maybe there will be some more EUSAC babies down the line.

QUIZZES

Virtual quizzes have been a hit with EUSACers this summer, so we're bringing them into this semester too.



Alex Phillip (that busy bee) will be running the next one from **8pm on the 26th of September**. In order to help our new members settle in, we're going to be trying something a little different. Using breakout rooms, participants will break up into teams, in order to replicate that authentic pub experience. Cheers!

MALTA 2021

SAVE THE DATE!

EUSAC SUMMER TRIP

22nd– 29th May 2021

£650 pp*

This will include, flights,
diving (excluding kit hire)
and accommodation.

*subject to slight fluctuation
due to COVID

To stay and dive for 7 days
in St Julians Malta. At least
10 dives, mix of boat and
shore diving, trip to the
island Gozo and some of
the best wrecks in Europe!

Fingers crossed this will go ahead, but we will
have to let the COVID situation guide us!

Any questions please contact
Biddy Hyde (s1702680@ed.ac.uk).

More information regarding sign up
to follow soon!

Training and Gaining

- By Alex Leaver

With the new semester fast approaching we're looking forward to welcoming all the new trainees and have been working hard to plan training around the ever-changing COVID guidelines.

The crossover lecture on 29th September marks the start of training, with the first crossover trip running that weekend and more running throughout the semester.

From 6th October, online Ocean Diver lectures will be running on Tuesday evenings with socially distanced snorkelling trips planned, and the weekend training trips running early second semester.



We are also planning a range of skills development courses such as O2 admin, compressor operation and boat handling over the coming months.

ESCAPE TO SCAPA

At the end of August two of our members (Cara Nicholson and Matthew Firth) got a bargain deal for themselves aboard the **MV Valhalla**. A lovely romantic week of wreck diving in Orkney. ♥ They visited 10 wrecks in Scapa Flow, including club favourites the **SMS Köln** and **SMS Dresden**.

Scapa Flow has something for every kind of diver. Besides the numerous WW1 wrecks that have earned it its fame; seals, octopuses and drift dives can all be found here.

If you're getting jealous, don't worry! Plans for the annual club trip to Scapa in Flexible Learning Week are already being put in place. Keep your eyes peeled for the official trip announcement and hopefully you'll be able to book yourself a place on the **MV Jean Elaine** in February.





CHECK THESE OUT!

Not Another Science Podcast?!

As mentioned in the previous issue, our very own Tom Edwick is now hosting a podcast for EU:Sci. Following their four-part Covid-19 series this summer (discussing the genetic differences that impact our reactions to the disease, PPE production, drug development and tracing transmission) S01E01 launched on the 2nd of September. Titled "Meet the Parents", this episode serves as a true pilot, introducing the team behind the dream. Available where all good podcasts are found.



Be sure to check out the EU:Sci magazine as well. The latest issue is on sustainability, though previous article topics that may appeal to divers include coral bleaching, and how cephalopod cells may hold the key to invisibility.



Jim Jourdane

French illustrator and animator-turned comic artist Jim Jourdane describes his work as "mixing science with illustration". He has recently taken a break from his #fieldworkfail project (right) to focus on "Scientists on lockdown." These highlight the ways in which the STEM-focused among us have been stirring from cabin fever.

scientists on lockdown
For an overview of his work, find him on instagram @jimjourdane



@AgataStaniewicz
Accidentally glued myself to a crocodile while attaching a radio transmitter. #fieldworkfail

KEY CONTRIBUTORS



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Open Water Instructor



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Sports Diver/ADI

Special thanks to Alex Philip, Alex Leaver Matthew Firth, Cara Nicholson and Biddy Hyde for their contributions.

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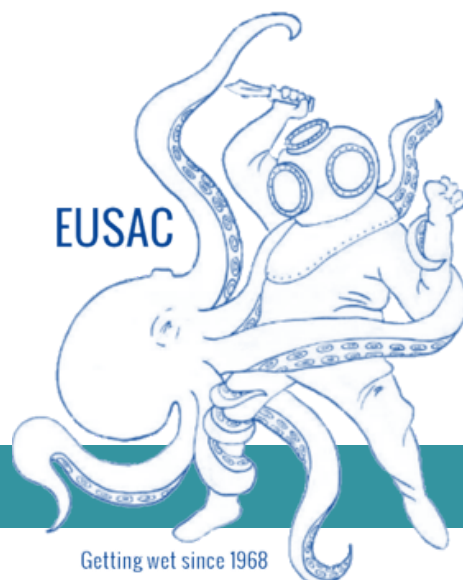
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SEPTEMBER 2020

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