

EUSAC

Getting Wet Since '68



COMMITTEE UPDATES

President: Ella Penny

Secretary: Robyn

Lindeque

Treasurer: Sophie Dawson

Diving Officer:

Cara Nicholson

Assistant Diving Officer:

Finn Crossley-Jones

Training Team:

Ellen MacRae, Alex Leaver,

Sophie Allard, Alice

Malone

Kit Officers:

Daniel Donald and Billy

Minns

Expeditions Officer:

Biddy Hyde

Social Secretary:

Alex Phillip

FAPS Officer:

Charis Walton

General Member:

Adam Dunajski

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Unfortunately, as you are all no doubt aware, we are currently on hiatus as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. However, it's not all doom and gloom! We thought we'd use this as an opportunity to look back at everything the club has achieved so far in 2020.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Hi EUSAC,

It's Ella here, I'd like to introduce myself as your President for 2020-21. I've been with the club for 2 years now, having done my Ocean Diver in Oban with EUSAC November 2018 and have been a looming presence ever since. As a TO last year, I've definitely pestered a fair few about instructing and it was great to meet many of you at our grand 50th Burns' Night Ball. Puffin Bay will always have a place in my heart (seeing an Octopus there on my first ever dive definitely helps) and I have found a second family in EUSAC.

In the upcoming year, we have many exciting plans brewing and having tested the capabilities of the club over the past year, this year we are in a much better place to balance training with more fun diving - watch this space! If you have any ideas for trips or any thoughts, musings, questions or suggestions for the club, please drop me an email at ellabeatrice.penny@gmail.com

I'm super excited to get in the water again and once this lockdown is over, nothing will stop us! St Abbs in the sunshine? Irresistible. I hope you're staying home, keeping busy and looking out for you friends and family (remotely!). Diving wise, for now, we'll just have to be content giving our kit some well deserved TLC - patch that drysuit, give your mask a good clean and fill in the gaps in your dive log - it'll be over before we know it!

Stay safe, stay sane, dream of diving.

Ella x

SPORTS DIVER WEEKEND

On the weekend of the 6-8th March we had our Sports Diver training trip. We set off in the evening, our cars and mini bus packed to the brim, ready for a wet weekend of scuba diving. Unfortunately our traditional stop for pizza in Callander was met with an upsetting sight; Mimmo's appeared to be closed. Perhaps the owner was possessed with incredible foresight and was self-quarantining already! Perhaps she knew we were coming and hurriedly shut up shop!

The Oban Backpacker's hostel was welcoming as always, with the communal area hosting plenty of games, sandwich construction, and naps.

The rest of the weekend in Puffin Bay met us with cold weather and strong winds (which had previously been strong enough to blow the roof off of the toilet block) but we braved through it and got some excellent dives in, such as DSMB, rescue, and dive management training. Big thanks to our instructors Ed Brooks, Matthew Smith, Jamie Steel and our ADIs Adam Dunajski, Charis Walton, Biddy Hyde, and Daniel Donald for their excellent teaching!

“

I had an amazing time on the Sport Diver training weekend! It was a great time to refresh and learn some new skills. I almost managed to finish all the training and I can't wait to finish it off soon. I found the rescue dive challenging but super rewarding. It's great to know that if I'm ever in a situation where I need to assist my buddy, I know exactly what to do. The food was amazing, of course and the extra-unspicy fajita mix made especially for me was delicious (and only a little humiliating)!

Robyn Lindeque

”

Robyn dragging Dan to shore in the simulated rescue situation



“

Adam Dunajski cooked a fantastic meal on Saturday, by popular request with a shirt on.

Patrick Kage

”

DAY TRIP TO PRESTONHILL QUARRY

On the 15th of March, six EUSACers took a cheeky trip to the quarry for nothing more than pleasure diving- a rarity for us! (And perfect timing to squeeze a last dive in before lock-down began).

We were initially blessed with lovely weather, before the inevitable torrential rain in the early afternoon. However, we are delighted to report that no spirits were dampened.

As well as hunting for all of the regular landmarks - sofas, cars, and the bicycle graveyard- we salvaged some of the less noteworthy and smaller items (such as crisp packets and a broken light fixture). Adam and Biddy even tried some impromptu lift and shift practise with things like traffic cones to the surface.

A fantastic little day trip, thanks to Biddy for pulling us all together and to whoever chucked all of that stuff into the quarry, providing us with an orienteering course as well as some new decor for the lockup.

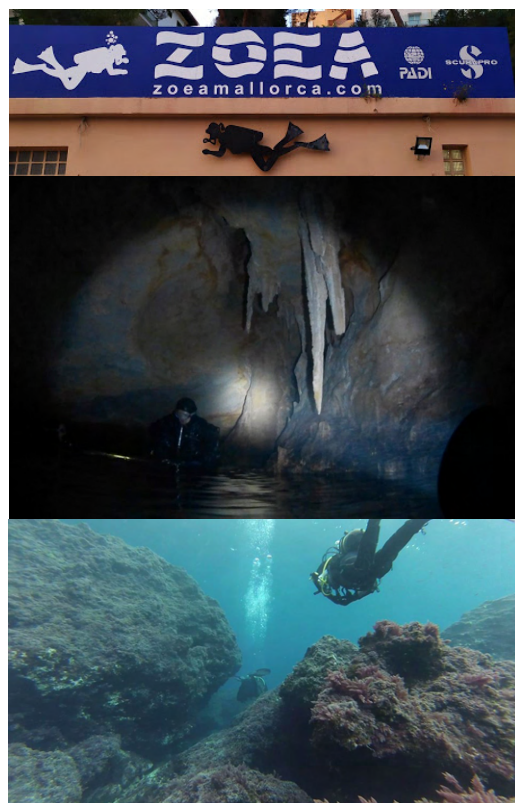


WINTER TRIP 2020 - By Sophie Dawson

Our much-celebrated January trip took 26 EUSAC Divers to Mallorca this year, where we completed 237 dives over the span of 5 days with the ZOE A Dive Centre.

Our routine was as follows. First, we ate the hotel out of house and home at breakfast. We were then driven to the dive centre, where we spent many an hour stuffing our pale scottish selves into drysuits before completing two boat dives each day. Upon returning to our apartments, EUSACers were often seen lounging on balconies in the mild Mallorcan sun before gathering for evening potlucks; which saw hot debate between the Wreckers and Fish Fanatics about the following day's dive plan (think West Side Story, with a far lower bar for vocal and dancing ability).

The diving and the company all contributed to one of the best EUSAC trips we have ever run, our only casualties being Robyn's neck, Sophie's ankle, an unsuspecting statue of the Madonna and Biddy's sanity. Thank you so much to all those who helped make this trip a raging success, to be repeated in the new year.



SEASEARCH COURSE - FEBRUARY

In February, a number of our Sports Divers sacrificed the watching of a Six Nations game to participate in the Seasearch Observer Course.

What is Seasearch?

Seasearch is a project for volunteer scuba divers and snorkellers who have an interest in what they're seeing under water, want to learn more and want to help protect the marine environment around the coasts of Britain and Ireland.

The main aim is to map out the various types of sea bed found in the near-shore zone around the whole of Britain and Ireland. In addition we are recording what lives in each area, establishing the richest sites for marine life, the sites where there are problems and the sites which need protection.



Course Experience - By Sophie Dawson

This day turned out to be a haven of information on marine life identification and conservation, with its aim being to allow the nerdiest of EUSACers to go off and contribute to the charting of underwater landscapes around the UK.

Throughout the day we gained both insight into the wonderful conservation efforts of Seasearch divers and a few new idols in the form of our coordinators, whose diving experiences have inspired greater interest in recording EUSAC's dives for the benefit of our environment. We concluded with a resolution to begin a seaweed journal, before running to watch England trounce Scotland at Murrayfield. Thank you so much to the amazing Seasearch team, we shall be back for the Surveyor Course in the near future.

EMAIL

info@seasearch.org.uk

WEB

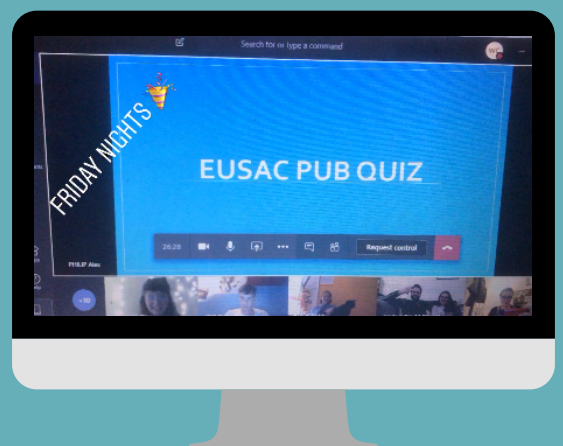
<http://www.seasearch.org.uk/>

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/seasearch/>

SOCIALS

Thanks to lock-down, EUSACers are spread far and wide but we're still finding ways to socialise. Virtual pub sessions have replaced the Pear Tree and Stramash and lead to Alex Phillip displaying his talents as Quiz-master. Drop him a message on Facebook to be added to the Microsoft Team.



BURNS NIGHT

Becoming our resident Quiz-master isn't the only thing Alex has achieved this year- he and Billy put together a fantastic do back in February.

Burns Night is the paramount social in the EUSAC calendar. Although, believe it or not, it's more than an excuse to see everyone in their glad rags and then sweat through them during the ceilidh.

This year, it was held in the Upper Hall of the Pleasance and, as is EUSAC tradition, we kicked things off with a multi-lingual Address to a Haggis. After it entered to the herald of Duncan Mathewson's bagpipes, Daniel Donald, Sophie Dawson and Adam Dunajski addressed the haggis in Scots, French and Polish respectively.

After dinner, Cara and Alex blessed us with the toasts to the Lads and Lassies (not entirely made up of driving mishaps) and then it was time to ceilidh the evening away.

Thanks to those who donated raffle prizes, the organisers, and the Pleasance and OX184 for hosting us through the evening. See you next year!



THINGS TO DO WHILE WE CAN'T DIVE

As both BSAC and the University have a diving ban in place at the moment, plenty of us must be feeling the itch to be back in the water. So in order to stave off the diving withdrawal, here's a few things to take a look at in the meantime.

If you're looking to start a new podcast, The League of Extraordinary Divers has something for everyone. Stories from "legends of the diving industries" including tips, mishaps and funny anecdotes. Whatever elements of diving appeals to you most, they'll have at least one episode dedicated to it. Dive into their archive.

Fourth Element (the company we ordered our lovely lovely EUSAC hoodies from, which are incidentally still for sale 😊) released their Top 10 Watch & Read List for Divers. This is over here, see if anything takes your fancy -->

Failing that, this is probably the perfect time to (re)binge-watch David Attenborough's Blue Planet and/or Blue Planet 2!

Stay safe and healthy - we'll keep you updated with any and all club activity.

TOP 10 Watch & Read List FOR DIVERS

- James Bond Thunderball**
SPYBURNING ACTION
- Technical Diving**
By Mark Powell
DISPELLING MYTHS
- Into The Planet**
By Jill Heineth
THE DEPTHS OF CAVE DIVING
- Oxygen**
By William Trubridge
A MEMOIR ON FREEDIVING
- Blue**
PROVOCATIVE CONSERVATION DOCUMENTARY
- Other Minds**
By Peter Godfrey Smith
THE WONDER OF OCTOPUSES
- Extreme Adventures**
By Andy Torbet
HOW TO EXPLORE BRITAIN
- Chasing Coral**
EYE-OPENING DOCUMENTARY
- 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea**
OLD SCHOOL ADVENTURE
- Monty Halls' Dive Mysteries**
UNDERWATER INVESTIGATIONS

Visit fourthelement.com/wetnotes for more

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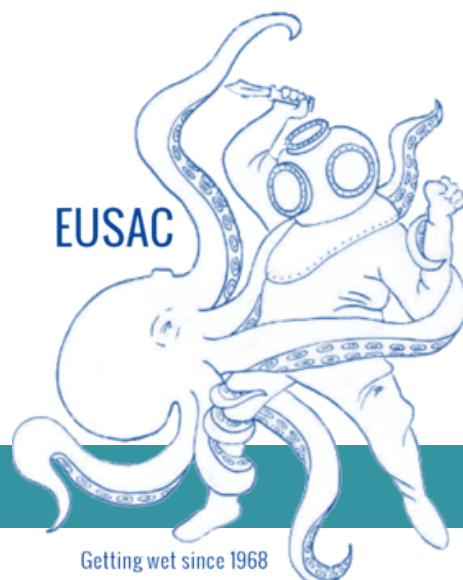
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MAY 2020

Getting wet since 1968