

September 2011



# The Frog

Produced by:

Anthony Hulcoop, Club Secretary

## Snorkelling, Seals and other Mammals

### Lundy Island Expedition

The time spent in the pool over the winter months is used to prepare us for our Summer expeditions, this year we have experienced snorkelling with seals for the first time. Two of our adult members, Sue and Paul, did this expedition during 2010 and suggested it to the committee for 2011.

On 24th July we set out early for North Devon, planning to meet there at 13:00. We explored some of the coastline along Hartland Quay on the Hartland peninsula during the afternoon. We saw dramatic cliffs, waterfalls into the sea and also potential dive sites.



Unfortunately our planned afternoon

dive was called off due to the weather.

On 25th July we woke up with great expectations for the day ahead, we were all excited about travelling to Lundy Island and spending some time with the seals. We met our boat for the day at Clovelly Harbour, the weather was calm but the clouds were down to sea level! We set off into the mist for our 1 hour 15 minute journey to Lundy; on route we saw tantalising glimpse of shapes in the distance, dolphins, porpoises, or just waves?

Our captain for the day found a bay with between six to ten seals in it and after being briefed about the does and don'ts around wild animals we entered the water.



### Inside this issue:

Lundy Island Expedition 1

2012 Lundy Island trip 1

Swanage Weekend 2

We also have a supplement entitled 'A Dream of Seals' a more detailed account of our trip to Lundy, by Adam Hurt (Assistant Instructor).

### Special points of interest:

- Club Committee Meeting to be held on **9 October 2011**.
- Internal ClubMark Audit on **9 October 2011**.
- **New starters expected on 18 September 2011**

### Would you like to join us at Lundy/Swanage next year?

We are planning a Lundy Island trip next year at about the same time, probably making a weekend of it, one day on the North Devon Coast and one day on Lundy. We need to book the boat well in advance and therefore need to know how much interest there would be. All attendees will need to have open water experience and potentially the boat could take non-snorkelling passengers, but space is limited for each trip.

We would also like to hear from you if would like to attend Swanage next year.

For further details contact Graham Griffiths or Anthony Hulcoop

## Lundy Island expedition in pictures...

Just checking us out...



Showing us who is the most at home in the water



Hitching a ride...



Trying to avoid eye to eye contact...



Having a nibble of a fin...

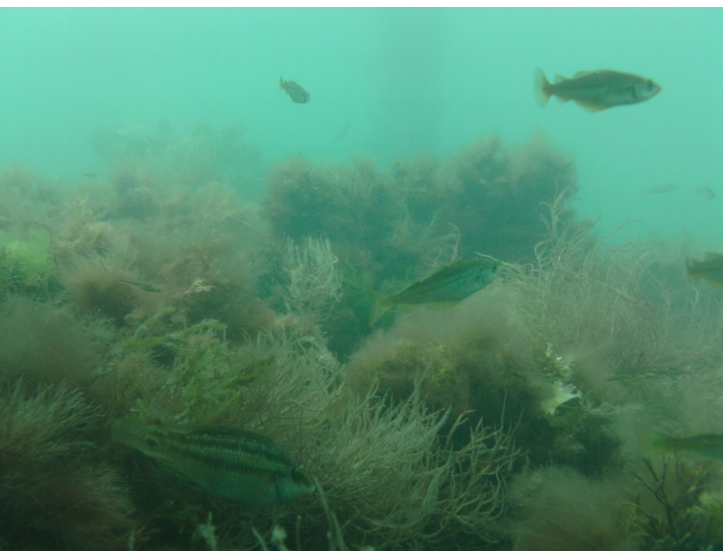


Playing 'peek-a-boo' at 3 metres ...



## Swanage Weekend

Our annual trip to Swanage was full of trepidation as the bank holiday weather was looking changeable. On Friday we had a good run down to Dorset as many others were probably put off; after eating lunch at Leeson House to avoid the heavy shower we set off to Swanage bay. Once in the water we found the water relatively clear and we saw many wrasse and bream.



On Saturday we changed our plans and visited

Kimmeridge Bay early to try and catch the best weather.

It was a bright start but the tide was low and the visibility poor along the snorkel trail, but clearer on the far side of the bay. While on our dive we experienced a short heavy shower but most of us were wet anyway. The weather closed in and our base camp looked rather deserted.



After a few boat rides we returned to Leeson House and spent the afternoon washing our equipment out relaxing in the games hall.

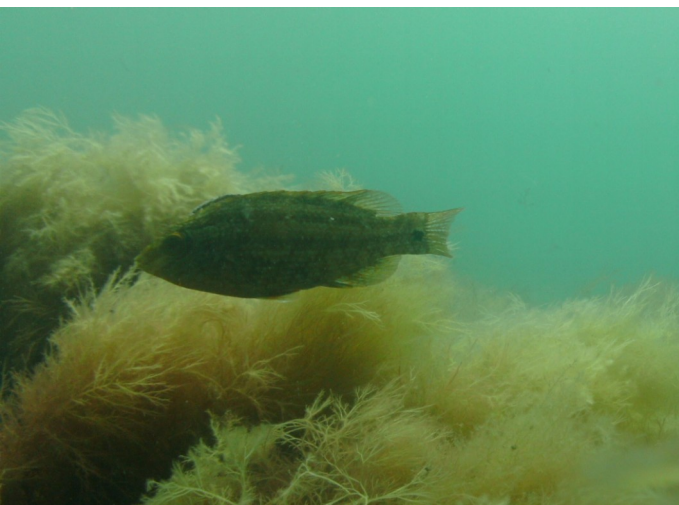
## Swanage Weekend

On Saturday evening, after some deliberation, a core group went into Swanage for a night dive; most of the remaining group went into Swanage to watch the firework display. Both groups enjoyed the fireworks from their respective viewpoints, and the night dive was also a success.

On the Sunday we changed our dive plan again and went to South Beach, Studland in the morning rather than the afternoon. The weather was bright and after a long walk along the beach we completed our first dive. Again the tide was out but the water was fairly clear and plenty of fish and the occasional crab could be seen. The weather closed in and we returned to Leeson House.

In the afternoon we split into three groups and did the Langton Matravers Mystery Trail, a short guided trail picking up clues as we walked around the village. The cream teas in the church and ice creams at Putlake Adventure Farm were not part of the trail but were enjoyed all the same.

On the Monday we returned to Swanage and set-up camp at Peveril Point and set-out to dive Durlston Bay. It was another good dive with really good visibility; plenty of larger more colourful fish were to be seen.



As the water was deeper in the bay two of our members (Sam Rogers and James Collinson) completed their 4m open water dive, as part of their open water test.



The anemones were moving backwards and forwards with the waves.



Despite playing 'cat and mouse' with the weather, the weekend was a success and we all returned to life on land [most of it on the A31 it seemed!]