

# NORTHERN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

## NUPG NEWSLETTER Issue #25, Nov'07-Aug'08

NUPG Web Site: [www.nupg.org.uk](http://www.nupg.org.uk)

At the AGM, against stiff (and very spiny) competition John Spencer clinched 1<sup>st</sup> place in the image competition with this great shot of a Scorpionfish.

Taken with a Nikon D70 and macro lens in the Red Sea, the colours are quite rich, and with negative space, the subject “jumps” out!



### **This Issue:**

- Meeting Information
  - Meeting Dates, Sep & Oct'08
  - Meeting Reviews, Nov'07 – May'08
  
- Events - Past
  - Blue Planet – Ocean Awareness
  - Winter Splash-In
  - Summer Splash-In

Date for your Diary:

**NEXT MEETING:** 8th September 2008, see website for details.

Editor: Tony Gilbert, e-mail: [Info@Nupg.Org.uk](mailto:Info@Nupg.Org.uk), for the Editor ☺

## MEETING DATES & EVENTS for your diary

# The Northern Underwater Photography Group

### Contact information, meetings & events.

The NUPG meets regularly throughout the year to increase experience and knowledge of underwater photography. It's fun, informal, informative and fishy!

Date	Meeting place	Time	
SEP 08 <sup>TH</sup> 2008	<b>Blue Caps, Cuddington</b>	19.30pm - 22.00pm	<b>"Talk-About"</b>
OCT 6 <sup>th</sup> 2008	<b>Blue Caps, Cuddington</b>	19.30pm - 22.00pm	<b>Lembeh/KBR/Bunaken Mark &amp; Dirk</b>

To contact or find out about NUPG, meetings and for further information,  
See the NUPG Website [www.nupg.org.uk](http://www.nupg.org.uk)

Note: Meetings usually start 1930 and finish at 2200 at the latest.

Welcome to the (I hope) long-awaited Newsletter. It's been a while since the last one, mainly due to the very busy nature of life the universe and everything!

Meeting formats have evolved over the last year, being more much informal, which has given a chance for everyone to contribute further. I personally think this is a great positive step and enjoy each meeting for what they are, and have noticed a marked improvement in the quality of images presented or submitted by members. This cannot just be due to recent technological advances in camera systems, but also a sharing of information & ideas amongst the group, and feel this is a positive approach – with many “fresh approaches” to the same subjects, whether this is a small goby, a static piece of coral, wide-angle plane wrecks or divers in water.

The last two meetings went well at the regular meeting place, but it was noticed at the April meeting we had been moved slightly owing to refurbishment. We should have guessed then, because at the AGM in May 2008, a change of management had ensued and for future meetings here, we would be paying a very high (and unacceptable) cost for a room that wouldn't necessarily be sectioned off to the public. Considering it's a Monday evening, traditionally very quiet, seems the new management have priced us out (room, food & drinks).

I know it sounds like we've become a slightly “nomadic” club these days, but it seems the “nature of the beast”, with rising economic costs all around, we're endeavouring to keep costs to a minimum, especially as club numbers have reduced over the last NUPG year (trend seems to be that diving relating activities are reducing in the UK).

**Lastly, we are seeking new members, for the continuance of the club, so please try and promote the club as much as possible.**

Thanks

## MEETING REVIEWS

As mentioned previously, the meetings have become less formalised, allowing attendees to contribute much more actively with both discussions, images & socially.

The LAST two meetings of 2007 were without doubt memorable for many reasons, not least the amount of discussion between all members, feedback & superb imagery.

### Nov'07

There was much discussion and valuable feedback at the November meeting, in amongst the "Talk-Abouts", which were well received. I think this was one of the first meetings that EVERYONE became heavily involved at some stage!

The meeting evolved slightly as the evening wore on. Colin Samuel provided feedback from Visions, which he'd recently visited, giving a good appraisal of the activities that surround this London-based event, held each year.

Maureen & Richard Frost, and Clive Field had recently visited Cocos Island & Costa Rica, and just happened to have some impressive video footage as well as static imagery to share with us. Seems like they had a very good time! Many thanks for sharing.

### Dec '07

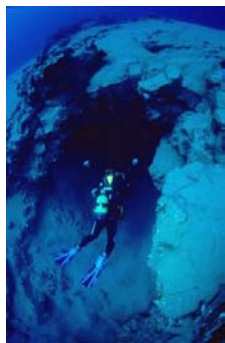
The close of the year brings the traditional crop of BEST OF images, see below - but, also it was a chance for some to make a 15minute talk, and I wondered whether we'd actually finish at our allotted time, seems the meetings are just not long enough!

John Spencer provided a very visual array of images of Margarita, set to Santana music, a 15 min DVD. At the end of the presentation we were all tapping our feet, and singing along – they don't make music like they used to! Seems that the Isla de la Margarita off the Venezuelan coast has much to offer in the way of diving opportunities. My wife visited it a few years back and wasn't overly keen on returning, so my opinion of the place was a little negatively biased - until John's talk. It seems the island infrastructure has improved a lot since then, and the diving is comparable with many of the other not so well know Caribbean diving destinations.

Neil o' May gave a very whimsical insight into his efforts to develop a digital camera system using DIY materials and a film camera housing. Much to the amazement (or was it something else) of some, he'd brought along a motley collection of apparatus, describing in detail how to do the "bodge". No, this wasn't some kind of dance step, but a carefully worked out piece of re-engineering, using everyday materials that would be suitable underwater. The trick was to cut pieces in the housing, extend various areas outwards, and provide gearing and such like for the slightly different controls needed. It was an ongoing process, as it was current setup for ambient light photography – and it worked!

**Tony Gilbert** had recently visited his favourite overseas dive destination, Lanzarote, whilst the UK plunged from Autumnal temperatures into cold wet freezing wintry conditions. Another slant on photography this time, back to the “Olde-Days”, with FILM. For Tony, this was still present day, and with recent advances made in dia-positive film technology, providing better emulsion, greater dynamic range and colour definition, the FUJI Velvia 100-F film could be the ultimate.

The challenge this time was to take images in a different way, and as the immediate “image review” facility on film cameras is non-existent, it meant waiting for the results. After Jim Garland’s talk in October, the emphasis was on ambient light photography “at depth”, “vertical cliffs and lava formations”, “wrecks”, aside from a modicum of marine photography. I’ve included 2 images from the trip, seems it worked quite well.



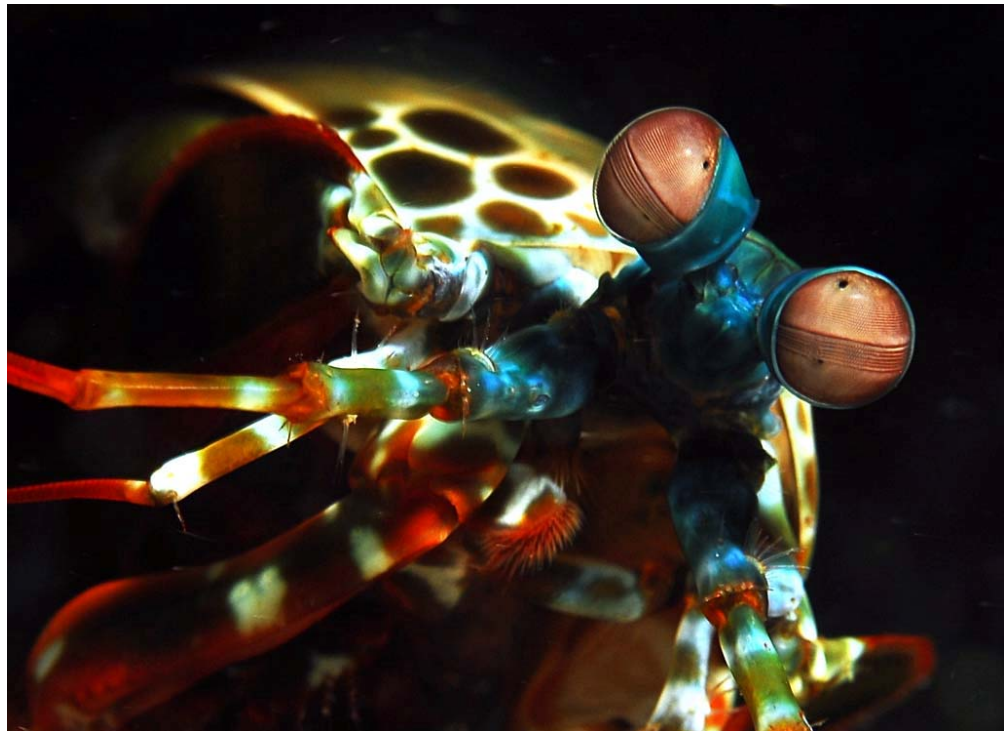
The Blue Hole Lava Tube at 24m with a fish-eye lens, provides an interesting round effect to a round hole.

The mighty undersea cavern of The Cathedral as seen from 20m to 40m, shooting downwards.

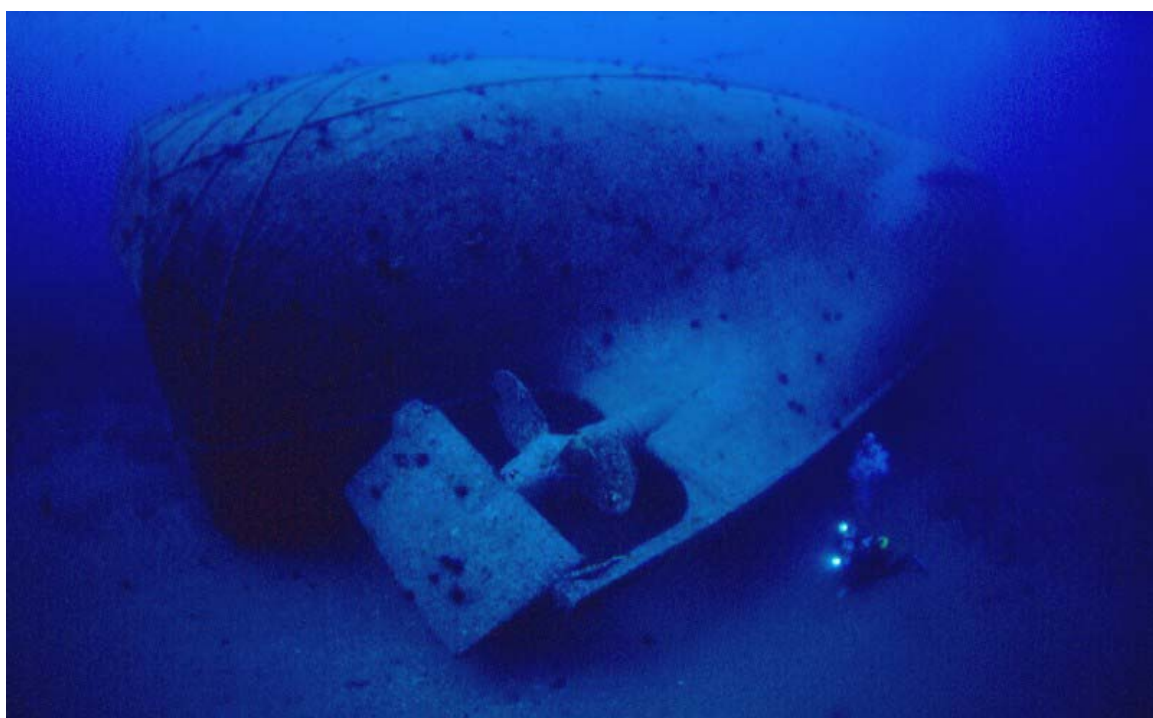
**Best of 2007. The image competition comprises of 4 categories, tropical wide-angle & macro, temperate wide-angle & macro. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**

**I know everyone agreed at the meeting that the images being shown were without doubt some of the best members have produced and shown to date! Here are the winners!**

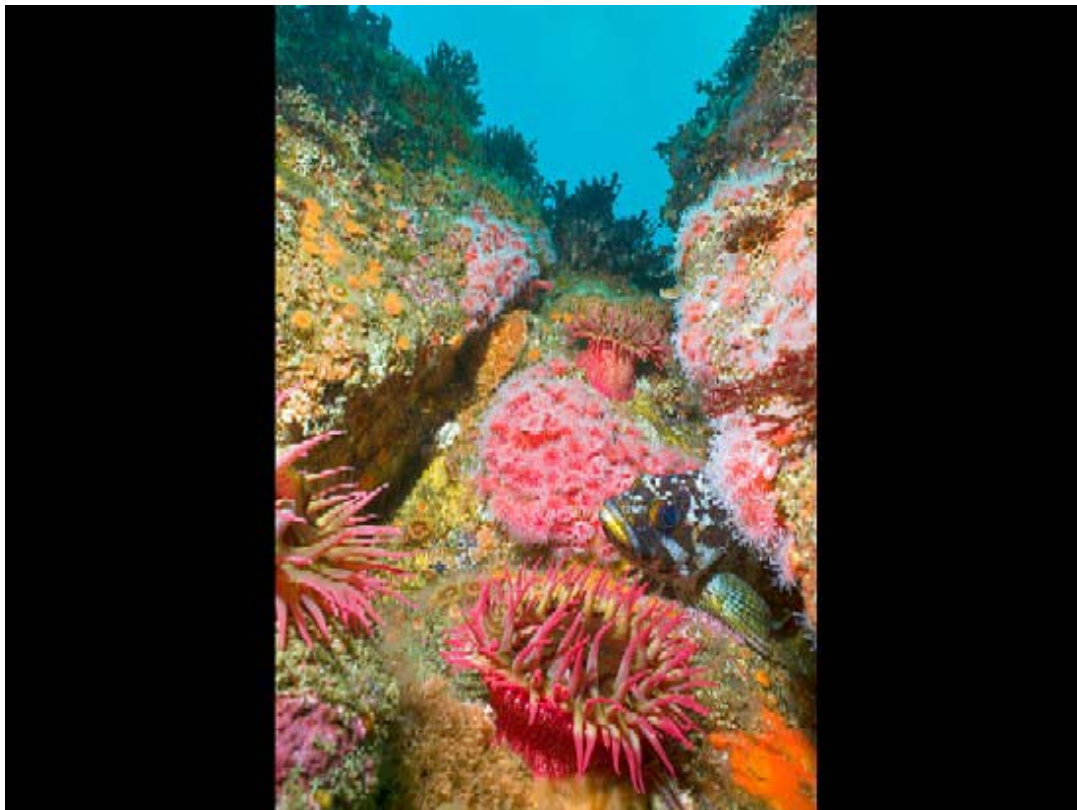
**Neil Blackie's Mantis Shrimp, Tropical Macro – the eyes have it!**



**Tony Gilbert. Lanzarote, and almost all the wreck of the Rabat! Tropical wide-angle.**



Paul Kay cleaned-up the Temperate environment going bug-eyed with a very colourful shot of a close up squat lobster for the Macro. Even more colourful is the wide-angle reef scene off the coast of New Zealand – looks like the water is very clear as well as having densely packed creatures lying around!



**And, if you thought the winners were good, just take a look at the runner's up!**

**Tropical Wide-Angle & Macro:**

**Neil Blackie with diver and fish swarm enjoying the scene, and Bill Bradley had a shot of a turtlehead on the up.**

**Temperate Wide Angle & Macro:**

**Derek Haslam got very close and on course with a wide-angle shot of a compass jelly. Mark Thomas got even closer to this small goby.**



## Jan'08

A great meeting was had by all couple with much discussion. Pauline Blackie's talk was very good and tempted a lot of those present to think about the Philippines for a trip. Seems that this destination is one of Pauline's (and Neil's) favourite places!

Jason Gregory also did a talk, the only "talk-about" of the evening. Jason showed a selection of images from his Nikon D200, a recent addition, now he's gone digital. This prompted a good discussion about RAW vs. JPG and using a 60mm Macro lens on a cropped sensor. I think he almost agreed that digital is as good as film!

This was the last meeting for 2 months...

## Apr'08

An extremely busy and "cosy" meeting tonight, as the current venue was being refurbished. The new projection equipment worked very well; a good investment!

Our guest speaker for the night was **Samantha Bean** who presented a great talk on her life in photography. Many images were shown, with some early ones, and more recent slide images, as well current ones, from her D200. These were quite distinctive and original, with much macro work.

With little time remaining the judging from the Winter Splash-In competition took place. The organisation for this competition took some time, originally going with a boat, staying at accommodation local to the venue, with the judging at a local pub, in the evening. As it turned out, this was not to be, owing to various reasons, some out of our control. Organising a splash-in takes time & effort, so it's important to know confirmed numbers beforehand.

The splash-in too place on Sat 16-Feb, a crisp winters day, with excellent clear morning air & reasonable visibility underwater, ideal conditions.

18 images were submitted by the entering divers (15 were diving) from the day, and the winners selected tonight.

**Congratulations to the winners & participants alike, without any support these competitions wouldn't exist.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Jason Gregory – Shrimp**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Thomas – Butterfish**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Colin Samuel – Trefor Pier**

See a divers report later on.

## **WINTER SPLASH-IN**

**Jason's shrimp wasn't afraid of the cold or the camera, although it does look a little blue!**



**Mark's shot of a butterflyfish didn't slip through his fingers, while it played peek-a-boo!**

**Colin managed a wide-angle shot in February of Trefor Pier – with sunlight!**



## May'08 – AGM (in Brief)

To bring everyone up to speed with the outcome of the AGM, most of the evening was discussing the club's future course and much contribution from everyone helped enormously – thanks for this.

### Finances/Committee/Newsletter/Membership/Website

The current committee still stands, and several at the meeting have offered to help out with particular activities, and many thanks for this.

Membership is currently 26 people.

Finances are still in the black, and we need to arrange a switchover of signatories for the NUPG account. A breakdown of the finances will be published at a later date.

Newsletters have few and far between recently, and that's mainly due to workload and also the recent meeting contents are more informal, so the newsletters will be less frequent.

Website needs a phone number on.

Venue: A change of venue will be necessary owing to changes within the Hungry Horse, now wanting an overly expensive charge for a "public" room. We are actively seeking new premises in the locale (with a proper room), and already have one in mind (which we'll be checking out) – but any ideas would be welcome.

Attracting new photographers: This has been recognised as something we all need to do, and realise the club needs to move forward.

Whether this is by adding NUPG website hyperlink on other websites, or by conducting promotional activities.

There is no distinction made on what camera systems people are using as we promote underwater photography instead (as per our constitution)

The bottom line though, is that new photographers in the main are compact digital users, very similar to when many of us first started with NikIIs or MMIs, MX-10s etc., so we need to encourage like-minded photographers who genuinely want to improve their photography, by meetings, splash-ins and feedback.

Further activities are currently being progressed, and it was suggested to have pool workshops with qualified divers and their cameras.

### Future Meeting Contents:

Seem to be ok with meeting content, although we need further guest speakers especially to attract new members. Any ideas are more than welcome. (Maria Munn has been put forward already).

The planned meeting schedule was passed to members at the meeting, giving dates & current content.

Additionally, it was mentioned that a good Technical Talk to do would be "Ten easy steps from Camera to Image".

Other club splash-ins: were mentioned, like BSoUP and Abbs, but at this stage its on per individual basis. Some from NUPG are going to Plymouth 12/13 Jul for the BSoUP – so if you need info please email. Abbs Splash-in is on the late Aug Bank Holiday.

### Blue Planet Ocean Awareness Weekend, 7/8 Jun'08)

Some have kindly volunteered to do part of that weekend. More on this in another email.

### Dive Show

Assuming BSoUP will invite us once more. We should be looking for volunteers from the NUPG ranks (2-3 per day) for this prestigious event. Please email (to [info@nupg](mailto:info@nupg) etc.) if you fancy volunteering and which day(s) you are available to do so.

## May'08, continued

This evening's competition was Scorpionfish (which included lionfish), and there were 19 images entered. Of course with such a particular fish it came as no surprise that many of these were the same, and we were all looking for those that stood out from the crowd.

### 1<sup>st</sup> John Spencer. Scorpionfish

Taken with a Nikon D70, twin strobes, 60/90mm lens, Safaga Red Sea. John had captured the deep red colouration of the fish, with negative space in the background. Many other shots submitted that evening had the fish merged with the background – after all that's its best camouflage! I think we'll all be looking to separate the scorpionfish from the background next time!

See front cover.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Graham Eaton. Lionfish

Graham submitted this shot of a lionfish viewing its larder, and intended next meal – in black & white....cool.



## **June 2008, Blue Planet Aquarium, Ellesmere Port.**

A mention and a **BIG** thank you must be made to those NUPG members who manned the Blue Planet Aquarium stand at such short notice during an early June weekend. The weather over that weekend was glorious, so not many people visited the Blue Planet itself.

Nevertheless, **Pauline, Sue, John and Neil** gave up their weekend to promote NUPG and Ocean Awareness.

They set the NUPG stand up on Friday evening, and it remained unmanned throughout Saturday, but manned throughout Sunday, after which the stand was taken down. So, they not only manned the stand but also did all the work around it!

Once again, thank you.

## REPORTS and HANDOUTS

### **NUPG Winter Splash-In, Feb 2008, by Tony Gilbert**

After some organizational changes, the NUPG winter splash-in got off to a sunshiny start on the morning of Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2008. The original plan was to have the judging in a local pub with people staying over in cheap accommodation, however this was not to be. Instead, it was simplified to the previous year's format of entrants shooting images on the day, and judging taking place during the next meeting.

It had been a quiet time after New Year and was beginning to wonder whether anyone was going to the splash-in. At 5am the alarm duly rang me out of slumber, and I made my way down the M56, after removing ice from the windscreen. Luckily I'd packed an extra thermal, some gloves, hat, thick sailing coat and a nice flask of piping hot coffee, as over Pentre Halkyn the temperature was -2C!!

With sleep still in my eyes, I became mesmerized by the 40mph speed limit on the A55 at Llanfairfechan, so much so, the services at the A55/A5 junction were missed! Luckily, the Shell Menai Bridge was open, where supplies were obtained and toilet facilities used accordingly (T.M.I.). The dim half-light of the morning hung around, and with no cloud canopy, the stars started to fade as I parked under the big arches of Menai Suspension Bridge. The first car here, at 0730, but only just as Clive arrived seconds later. We had a good look around, and within another 20mins 2 more vehicles arrived, with Ken, Paul+1, John & Sue.

The ridge of land on the mainland side of the Straits was now being silhouetted, and the sun started to caress the upper workings of the bridge. Derek, Mark and a few from Chester Jesters arrived, and my buddy also. Parking was very limited, so it meant using the double-yellow lines (at owner's risk) or parking further up the brew. Finally Colin & Gail, Jason & family arrived in their large mobile home wagons.

There were now around 15 divers for the splash-in, and the water had become glass like as we waited for the tide to abate. The bottom could be seen in places, so the vertical visibility was around 3m. With early morning sunlight shimmering over the ever-calming water, and mist swirling around the pedestals, it's not surprising that as photographers we were going to take topside photographs as well. Photo opps. not to be missed!



A 10am in-water time was the plan, but the current slackened some 15minutes before, so most were in at 0950. At this time of year no particles are present, and some had elected to dive the cable, the bulk opting for the small west side beach and swim across to island Ynys-y-Moch for the Underwater Nature Trail.

My buddy Tony and I, slowly progressed across to the west buttress, descended, taking care to dodge the large rock that sits just off the buttress start and nearly breaks the surface. Bubbles and flashes below revealed at least one photographer, so our course went obliquely down ahead and out to the bedrock initially, where many common starfish were scattered.

The vis. was pretty good and the initial part of the wall draped in a mottled colourful carpet of breadcrumb sponge.

A nice scorpionfish was immediately spotted lying in a camouflaged position, and I took 1 shot, but the camera had difficulty with it, almost pre-focussing. How strange, so I checked for leaks, none, the setup appeared correct, F16, 1/60<sup>th</sup> on the 60mm macro. Another line up, and the camera took a shot in the same way. The synch'd strobe fired ok, green light, and then a third shot... what third shot... the shutter depress on the housing stopped working, as did the on/off button! **Arrrgghh!**

A quick check for flooding revealed nothing immediately wrong, but what to do? I signalled the "I am not feeling to good" to Tony, pointing at the camera. At this point we were off the buttress and on the main wall of Ynys-y-Moch, in 12m. Let's ascend northwards and surface. Least I can do is take a look, and break a cardinal rule, don't open and shut camera during a dive in wet conditions!

The light levels became stronger, the wall more vertical, and the depth shallower. I saw many photographic targets on the way up, with oatenpipe hydroids & beds of glistening golden sagartia anemones. Now, sea oak, bladder wrack, and then I looked up into the light. No, I wasn't dead, but 1.5m below the surface, with an almost Snell's window and beyond this the big curving arches of the bridge. It reminded me of Derek's shot of Devil's Bridge, and Mark, Derek and myself had talked about the possibility of using wide-angle on this dive, and taking the shot I'd just seen.

Momentarily, I'd forgotten about the camera fault, while I contemplated a composition situation... maybe next time, but given the fickle nature of the turbidity of the Straits, it could be when the next Blue Moon was around! A beach, there was one straight in front of me, small but space enough for me to haul myself out and perform an initial assessment on the "patient". Whipping the back off there was little life in it and the shutter was not working.

There was nothing for it, but to continue the dive, but not before I'd triple checked the housing seal and placed the back on carefully, and checked it out in the shallow water here. My buddy was down to 150bar, and was becoming cool. To swim back and do something about would be folly, and open to currents.

Sod's Law now came well into play, as we hit 13m at the wall bottom, this time straight onto not one but two large yellow sea lemons and their egg rosette, a perfect shot...darn it! A few minutes later, whilst dodging velvet swimming and edible crabs by the tonne, we chanced upon two more nice scorpionfish, both about 8-9cm long, with nice colourful markings. Now at the end of the east buttress, near the "caves", a beautiful orange sea lemon and several macropodia crabs were resting on the rocks. We cruised through several darker shallow rock channels, and chanced upon a nice boulder, where underneath a healthy colony of erect plumose anemones had made their home.

Coming off the island, at 9m, the ridge runs parallel to the Straits at 10-12m depth, so our course was more NE across the hinterland, and this was quite interesting finding some good wall formations, and a very large scorpionfish, some 12cm long, typical!

The area between the island and the Old Quay, at 8m, was scattered with human rubbish, such as cabling, and metal pipes. Around here, some really superb & large dahlia anemones gardens exist, in many different shades of red & pink, some of them reminding me of jammy-dodgers! (Must be nearing lunch, I think the two rounds of toast at 5am had worn off).

Finally the cable and a whole pile of axinella colonies occurred, and exit was just minutes away, after a great and rewarding dive. Funnily enough, many of the other contestants were also exiting at this time, telling us about their little adventures, and what they had photographed. Was that salt in my eyes, or was I crying?

The slack water must have lasted a good 20minutes more, and the window of opportunity today was enormous, with the full sunshine continuing throughout, and no wind whatsoever. All had enjoyed the dive, and had got their shot, but some wanted more, and Jason & Colin, decided upon Trefor Pier, whereas by buddy Tony and I decided upon Trearddur Bay.

Arriving, the place was deserted, devoid of divers, and almost no water down the western gully, at Ravenspoint! The water was quite low, so checking the tides, it was only rising from the time we arrived at 1230. A nice surface interval was needed, and a tank fill at Diver Services provided a good opportunity for taking topside photographs and to gradually kit up. Trudging along the deserted beach to the gully, one could only wonder were all the divers had gone? Perhaps it's the time of the year, or maybe they'd all decided to go elsewhere. After a quick chat with the dive centre, it seems that many had gone to Dorothea Quarry! Preferring the cold fresh water with no life, nothing, and the complete lack of facilities, over some stunning coastal scenery, shallow water teeming with life. How sad, but says it all really, obviously many were going for the buzz and depth.

As we were diving on a rising tide, we decided to enter the water via the western gully. Off the beach and around the small island adjacent to the beach would have meant a 100m swim across a shallow bed of kelp. Looking at the surge on the half tide rocks just off from the small island, it was best not dived. The decision was made for us then, first exploring a small gully around to the right of the main gully before heading initially course 210 across kelp to flat pebble bed, to a rock corner, then following on 240 parallel to a reef.

The flat pebble bed was interesting, interspersed with boulders and some rippling sand, this I judged must have been ancient sunken coastline created pre-glacial. The west running reef had many interesting subjects including tompots & crab varieties. Heading north in visibility of 3m, we cross the pebble bed picking up rippling sand depressions, before turning east. We hit the rock corner some 50m to the SW of the main gully. Here, we checked our bearings. A small swimthrough is just here, which is superb especially in clear warmer water (trouble is its always occupied by anglers then!). The swimthrough main wall side had large sponge patches dotted with jewel anemones. Around the main gully entrance, many holes occurred, where large shrimps have their homes. Additionally, many top shells and beadlet anemones were in evidence. A worthwhile dive and the sun still continued shining.

A nice end to a good day of diving and photography... and it's goodbye from him... and all.



## NUPG Summer Splash-In, Jul 2008, by Tony Gilbert

Rain, rain & more rain, well that seems to have been the case for June and much of July. At the end of June we had rain in Scapa Flow and much of UK. Luckily the 29-Jun was a really nice day, and great diving ensued, first under Menai Suspension Bridge, then off to Holyhead Marina. The following week, more rain! Then 13-Jul was a superb day, even the visibility under the bridge was good at 4m, but then at Trefor it was even better at 6-8m. With much needed practice with the new Nikon D300, especially macro, it gave me enough time to iron out as many bugs as I could prior to the competition.

The forecast for the week prior to the splash-in week was dire, with yet more rain and unsettled weather. This Spring and Summer so far had been very unpredictable in the weather, with cyclonic winds. Wind forecast seem to change completely every day, with the wind swinging around the compass points. I was beginning to think we'd be washed away like a few years back. We'd been monitoring the activities around Anglesey, specifically the dredging around Holyhead, the new sea wall around Trearddur Bay, and the pile driving off the east coast at the new wind farms. All these add to visibility degradation.

The week leading up to the splash-in continued to be settled throughout, with gentle constant winds & sunshine-showers. Too much rain and wrong wind direction can wreak havoc with the visibility! 26-Jul, 0400am, a wonderful morning dawned as I arose to throw some food in me, place the gear in the car, and down the A55. The usual summer roadworks – it seems to be continuous year-on-year, how do these guys do it?

Arrived at the A5/A55 services, only to find they were not open till around 0730, I was there at 0630! The morning continued to brighten and the sun was dazzling. At 0715 I managed to be the first car, and within minutes my buddy Tony turned up. Shortly afterwards several more cars arrived; Clive, Ken, Paul, Derek and Mark, and also Alan and his wife Chris both from Hartford SAC, and then two more friends of mine Alan & Kathryn – who were not participating but had just come along for the enjoyment.



After checking out the water, it was quite deep green with no particles, but with all the rain that had been around we expected nothing, luckily it wasn't too bad below the surface at around 2-3m, a little more or less in places. Some had elected to dive Ynys-y-Moch – the small island just off the Anglesey shore, under the Menai Suspension bridge, others like me, had decided to keep it more simple, and go for The Cable Dive. How surprising is the difference in marine life between the two dive sites. One remarked at finding no Leech's crabs on the island, and yet we were overrun with them on the cable. We'd seen many lobster, and they'd seen many butterfish, whereas others had seen many shrimps in the shallows. We'd also seen extensive beds of dahlia anemones; there were many different photographic opportunities.

All in water at 0830, it was a little strange that everyone did about 60minutes, which was just as well really because 15mins later the tidal stream started in earnest! **The water temperature was a barmy 17C.**

The day was now becoming very warm, and the decision was made to travel to Trefor Pier. En route though, huge queues of traffic were encountered, thankfully in the opposite direction. Road widening is taking place, between Caernarfon and Trefor though, so we expected some delay. On arrival, we were lucky enough to grab the remaining vehicle spaces behind the sea wall. There was no time like the present, and we quickly kitted up for the first dive, 3.5hrs before local high water, finding about 2-5m of depth.



Derek & Mark came up to us and said – I think you should check the vis. out topside. We ran up the incline and over to the pier, like a load of excited children, and weren't disappointed at the sight which befell us. Sparkling summer water, and very clear, yippee!

What a difference 2 weeks makes to the underwater flora, a forest of mermaids tresses gracing the ground around the beginning of the pier. We all marvelled at the amount of marine life available, mostly ambush predators & scavengers, with tompot blennies, shanny, crab varieties, gobies, flatfish and shrimps. Heavily camouflaged were pipefish, whilst in the water column were various wrasse varieties, and a nice shoal of sand smelt.

**Myself & buddy were both diving in 5mm wetsuits, the surface water temperature was 21C, and down to 4m was 18-19C.**

The day was warm at 23-25C, and many managed 1 or 2 long dives here, before making their way up to Trearddur Bay. At 6pm, we were there waiting for the remainder of the entrants, wherever they be. Sadly, there were no more, so it was a quiet evening for all. This was mainly due to being probably one of the busiest weekends of the year, where many have broken up to go on vacation. The Trearddur Bay hotel was also very quiet, although it seemed outside was not so, where nearby at the lifeboat station, about 40 kayakers were around – no divers though – perhaps a sign of the times...

As numbers were low, we invited members of the public to come in, take a look at the print competition – and contribute to the judging, which had about 20 entries across Overseas & UK. There were some really good images from around the world, clearly much hard work had gone into these, and the production of the images.

The Splash-In Competition had nearly 30 entries, up to 4 per person, and since 8 members plus 1 non-member entered, it gave a good spread. The placings were so close, that we had a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Again, once more, we invited a member of the public to decide which of the two images should be 2<sup>nd</sup>, and which 3<sup>rd</sup>.

There were some good prizes to be had, a copy of Chris Holden's new book and a bottle of quality wine for all the first prize-winners, for second & third placings – a bottle of wine.

A few others from Hartford SAC joined in (who were not in the competition), and one was asked to announce the winners and distribute the prizes.

**Congratulations and well done to all those who participated in one or both events, and thanks to all of those organising the evening and day. Congratulations also to the winners & runners-up of the competitions:**

### SPLASH-IN

**1<sup>st</sup> Mark Thomas, Plaice**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Gilbert, Shanny**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Mark Thomas, Butterfish**

### Prints – UK

**1<sup>st</sup> Mark Thomas, little cuttlefish**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Thomas, black goby**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Derek Haslam, compass jellyfish**

### Prints – Overseas

**1<sup>st</sup> Clive Field, snake eel with dreadlocks**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Derek Haslam, turtle**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Derek Haslam**

**1<sup>st</sup> Mark Thomas**



**2<sup>nd</sup>  
Tony  
Gilbert**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Mark Thomas**



## And, just a few images to show the day off...

**“Da Boise”  
lookin on...at  
0730!**



**“I think we’ll go in again, it’s so good”...**



## Presentation of the “medals”...

**Mark wins the SPLASH-  
IN; his “flattie” stands  
proud above the rest!**

**Well Done Mark!**

**PS: Mark, you need to give  
the statue back next year.**



**Mark wins  
the UK  
Print – we  
couldn’t  
“scuttle his  
cuttle”!**



**Clive wins the  
Overseas with his  
“Bob Marley” Snake  
Eel.**