

SILVERTIP TIMES

Meeeeerry Christmas to you all



A Look Back At 2011

Well what a wonderful year we have had here at LSD in 2011. Just before we roll over into 2012 we are going to have a look back at an action packed 12 months. Some shameful photos to follow ☺



LSD finally said farewell to the rattling robin reliant that transported the odd snorkel and frightened student to Wraysbury and was replaced by the all singing, all dancing, Titanic vessel together with more logo's than a rugby league jersey. Now the only frightening thing about going to the dive sites are the drivers weaving abilities on the M4. You know who you are, and the many speed cameras. Here's hoping this chariot keeps us travelling in style for a few years to come.

The Divemasters lead Instructors of 2010 passed over the batons to new breed of wide eyed, enthusiastic educators. These are the heiress of the inner shoe sole Lucy Scholl, face of the Drink Responsibly campaign Steve King, inventor of stabilizers for motorcycles Bruce Milani and Vidal Sassoon finalist in 2010 Oliver J Goodman. A big thank you to the oldies Michele, Alex A, Andy and Alex D. You have been paroled.

This year we had a some celebrities join the LSD crew to ample the delights of diving which included X Factor contestant Stacey Solomon, Dragons Den Theo Paphitis, genius Irish comic Dara O'Briain from BBC's Mock the Week and the England Rugby team using the pool after the Twickenham internationals. There are plans in 2012 to have all the Ladies Volleyball teams for the Olympics in to use the pool. Yeeeeeeeeee right!



Left: Stacy Soloman



Right: Dara O'Briain

LSD had its second Open Day which was a fantastic success again offering great deals on courses and materials. Thanks to all who helped and we look forward to next year's get together.



The Club did its first trip to Lundy and it was hailed by all as amazing. Lundy is a protected marine reserve and already the 2012 trip is sure to fill so get in fast when the club calendar is released. The Farne Islands again was fantastic with some of the most playful seals you could ever encounter. The Isle of Man is fast becoming a true favourite amongst the club member with some fantastic diving below and excursions above. These were just a few places that we went to in 2011 and it was truly a fantastic year for the Club.

LSD's professional image was seriously dented over the Summer when Farmer, Nick and Bruce represented the centre at the PADI Golf Day in Shendish Manor. Although it was a charity event which raised lots of money it did lower lots of moral as the trio hacked their way through the fairways and greens. Profanities and club tossing aside it was a great day and the whisky hip flask eased the pain of coming dead last. Next year Nick will be wearing a Hawaiian shirt ,shorts and flip flops instead of the required golfing dress code as punishment for the unbelievable amount of time he spent in the sand.



In May LSD lent its support to Swimstock with double Olympic Gold medalist Rebecca Adlington. There was an Underwater Tea Party with the likes of Adrian Chiles and Louis Theroux ,a children's Aquathlon, a Hula Hula Pool Party and a music festival including Sophie Ellis Bextor. Swimstock raised lots of money for Marie Curie Cancer Care and we look forward to joining them again next year for more free try dive session open to all.

To round off the year LSD had its annual themed party which was Aliens & Astronauts. There were some cracking costumes on show which can be seen below.



Here's to next year folks. Happy Christmas to you all and we hope you have a prosperous new year.



RED SEA TRIPS FOR 2012

Dahab Dreams

[25 March-01 April 2012 - £745](#)

Fancy escaping the dreary skies of London in exchange for pampering above and below the water?

The reefs and fish life around Dahab are nothing short of spectacular. Staying at the beautiful Bedouin Moon you have 10 dives over 5 days diving around the world famous Blue Hole and Canyon. Some of the best shore diving the Red Sea has to offer with the option of doing a boat trip to some stunning national parks

Price includes: Return flights from LGW, 10 guided dives, B&B based on 2 sharing at the Bedouin Moon Resort, private transfers, tanks & weights



Northern Wreck's & Reefs Liveboard

[15-22 June 2012 - £1199](#)

Come and join us for a truly fantastic week on Egypt's 5* liveboard.



This cruise allows you to take in some of the most notorious wrecks that the Red Sea has to offer. An ideal itinerary for those new to scuba diving or the Red Sea, allowing you to experience world famous wrecks and pristine reefs. You must be a PADI Open Water diver or equivalent with a minimum of 30 logged dives to join this safari. You will be diving legendary sites such as the Thistlegorm, the Abu Nuhas Wreck, the Dunraven and the massive Rosalie Moller.

Price includes return flights from LGW to Hurgada, Egyptian entry visas, all transfers, marine park fees, full board accommodation, 12L tanks, air and weights for the week

Red Sea Deep South

Daedalus, Rocky and St Johns is a week of diving that is as varied as it is enjoyable, with a new dive site just begging to be explored at every stop. Walls, shallow caves, softly draped pinnacles are all on the menu. Daedalus is the place for exhilarating drift dives and the first shark sightings. Be it hammerheads at Daedalus or Rocky, grey reefs at Habili Jaffa (or small habilli, St John's), there is plenty of reason to keep a watchful eye to the blue. Oceanic white tips cruise the shallows in the summer months, right through to the year end. Rocky and Zabagad are mystical islands where ancient Egyptians mined green gem stones from the dusty earth. Free Nitrox



On the vessel there is always somewhere to sunbathe, read a book, take a cool drink at the sun deck bar. Double or twin cabins accommodate 24 divers in total. The modern en suite bathrooms feature multiple jet showers.

Price Includes: Package includes, flights from London Gatwick, transfers and 7 nights on a Full Board basis on Grand Sea Serpent (including 12lt tank and weights)

Go Pro with the NEW Divemaster Course at LSD

The Divemaster course is the first professional level in the PADI system and develops your leadership abilities by training you to supervise dive activities and assist instructors with student divers. It can be the first step in your dive career.

During the PADI Divemaster course you will learn about supervising certified divers, assisting with students, risk management, the physiology of diving, dive equipment, the physics of diving, decompression theory, the recreational dive planner, diving skills, the underwater environment and how to independently conduct certain PADI programs and courses.

To enroll in a Divemaster course you will need to be 18 years old, have 40 logged dives, be a PADI Rescue Diver (or equivalent), have a current medical statement signed by a physician and submit proof of CPR and First Aid training within the last 24 months. The course costs £449 and you have unlimited diving throughout as you gain the experience and skills to become a top rated Divemaster. All LSD Divemasters are offered work with us after qualification.



PADI INSTRUCTOR MARCH OFFER 2012



london school of diving

time to teach?



Choosing the right centre to complete your IDC is extremely important to ensure you get value for money and valuable training. LSD is London's Premier 5* Career Development Centre that leads the field in instructor training right up to Staff Instructor. On top of this our courses are led by a top level Platinum Status Course Director, one of only 90 worldwide. You should demand the best for your training. We feel we have it.

Tel: 0208 995 0002
www.londonschoolofdiving.co.uk info@londonschoolofdiving.co.uk

Enrol before the end of January on first IDC of the year in March and you will get a 15 % discount AND receive a free Instructor Specialty. Places are limited on IDC's so book early to avoid disappointment.

For more details visit our PRO website on www.londonschoolofdiving.co.uk/padi-courses/instructor-idc.asp

Upcoming Courses

Open Water Referral

Whether you're a busy professional or just find it hard to take time off work, why not complete half your diving course here in the UK. You will be given your PADI Open Water manual when you book on to the course. You will be required to have filled in your knowledge reviews prior to attending the course. Both days will be split between the classroom and the pool

- Pre-requisite: none
- Minimum age: 10
- Dives: N/A
- Cost: £249
- Next dates: Every Weekend

Open Water Completion

To finish the Open Water Diver course you need to complete four dives where you will perform some of the skills that you have mastered in the pool. You will do this whilst enjoying the thrill of diving in an open water environment. We run this completion course over a weekend or over 2 days midweek at a local lake.

- Pre-requisite: Referral Diver
- Minimum age: 10
- Dives: confined water
- Cost: £149
- Next dates: Every Weekend

Wreck Diver Specialty

Portland here we come! Feel like exploring a few of the sunken treasures of England's south coast and at the same time earn your Wreck specialty? In March we will be heading down to the sea and over 4 dives learn the correct procedures for wreck diving including planning, mapping, reel use and also wreck penetration.

- Pre-requisite: Advanced Open Water or above.
- Minimum age: 15
- Dives: 4 open water dives.
- Cost: £179
- Next date: 17th & 18th March

Oxygen Provider Specialty

Want to be the person other divers want to dive with? Join our Oxygen provider course and you will learn how to help your buddy should a problem occur. We will teach you the valuable skills necessary to provide emergency oxygen to injured scuba divers. It only takes a single evening!

- Pre-requisite: Open Water Diver/ Junior Open Water Diver.
- Minimum age: 12
- Dives: N/A
- Cost: £99
- Next date: 21st January, 18th February

Deep Specialty

Dive to new depths on the Deep Diver Specialty! Over a weekend in lovely Somerset we will teach you all you need to know to plan and dive to the recreational limit of 40 metres. You will learn how to prevent and solve problems associated with depth and feel the effects of nitrogen narcosis under supervision of an instructor. Book now to log your deepest dive ever!

- Pre-requisite: Advanced Open Water or above.
- Minimum age: 15
- Dives: 4 open water dives
- Cost: £179
- Next date: 31st March & 1st April

[Dry Suit Specialty](#)

Keen to explore more of the UK waters but want to stay nice and toasty? Learn to dive in a dry suit! As a dry suit diver, you'll be equipped to dive some of the world's incredible dive sites in cooler regions that are best enjoyed in a dry suit even in their warmer months.

- Pre-requisite: Open Water Diver/Junior Open Water Diver
- Minimum age: 10
- Dives: 1 confined water session & 2 open water dives
- Cost: £149
- Next dates: Every weekend

[Enriched Air Nitrox](#)

How about spending more time underwater and less time on the surface? By increasing the oxygen and decreasing the nitrogen content of breathing gas we can safely increase our limits. This course can be conducted in just a single evening, time you will easily win back underwater.

- Pre-requisite: Open Water Diver
- Minimum age: 15
- Dives: N/A
- Cost: £99
- Next dates: 17th January, 21st February, 20th March

[Navigation Diver Specialty](#)

Today we have satellite navigation systems in our cars, internet sites to provide us with maps and mobile phones to call people when we are lost. For many of us, the art of navigation is not necessary on land. Perhaps this is why, when faced with limited visibility or long distances to travel underwater, many new divers are concerned by the thought of getting lost underwater.

The PADI Underwater Navigator Specialty provides instruction in compass use, natural navigation and distance estimation techniques. It involves three dives covering these topics.

- Pre-requisite: Open Water Diver/ Junior Open Water Diver.
- Minimum age: 10
- Dives: 4 open water dives.
- Cost: £179
- Next date: On request

[Surface Marker Buoy Specialty](#)

This course gives you the knowledge and techniques required for the safe use of marker buoys and delayed surface marker buoys. You practice using a number of reels and launch methods both from negative and neutrally buoyant positions. These skills will prove vital when diving where currents can be strong and boat traffic is present.

- Pre-requisite: Open Water Diver/ Junior Open Water Diver.
- Minimum age: 12
- Dives: 2 open water dives.
- Cost: £99
- Next date: Every weekend

For more information about these courses, please call 0208 995 0002

Not only have we just taken delivery of our brand new compressor but we have also been stocking up on stocking fillers and great gadgets and dive gear for the festive season!

We hope you like the look of our newly redesigned [website](#) – a lot of blood sweat and (more) tears and (less) laughter has gone into the style, functionality and new exciting features. One of which allows for product reviews, generated by you the customer – the most recent person to have actually used the gear! And we all know that even with best intentions it takes a lot of effort to go online after you have come back from your holiday so as a little encouragement we are offering an [Oceanic OC1 Limited Edition Dive watch](#) worth an incredible £1399 for the best review - so what are you waiting for ! Get online and start reviewing! Good or bad – we want to know! Reviews will be judged by the staff at Mike's and entry will close on June the 30th 2012

New [Lavacore](#) in STOCK. This stuff is amazing. Imagine 3mm warmth but neutrally buoyant – it's a dream come true!

The new buzz word in recreational diving is TecRec – this means a light dousing of technical to the recreational market – but please don't get too put off by the mention of 'Technical' as we all know that in the past it related to gruffsters talking about gas mixes, strengths of hoses and widgets – well, not TecRec – this is just for the recreational diver to explore a little further – say between the 30-50M range and with the advancements in equipment, training and safety procedures this can now be conducted as safely as 20-30m diving used to be. And the new [HollisTech](#) range is what you want to be wearing! Exceptional build quality at an incredible price!

[Sealife Underwater Cameras](#) designed specifically for underwater use, Sealife gives you the best bang for your buck when it comes to quality and clarity of underwater images!

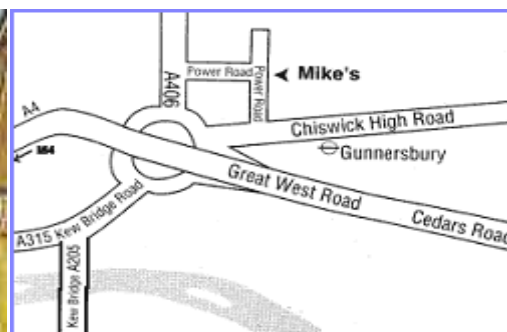
[Miflex](#) has added new fantastic colours to their existing range of regulator and BCD hoses. Try pink, purple, white, red and green. Get truly colour coordinated! And they have some really [cool toys](#) and [tools](#) – perfect for the stocking!

A choice of [Gift Vouchers](#) are available either for equipment from [Mike's](#) or diving courses with [London School of Diving](#), the Capital's premier diving school Or just click here for some more [Christmas Gift Ideas](#)

GET AN EXTRA 10% off our already amazing prices if you spend £100 between now and Friday the 16th of December – offer ends at midnight on the 16th! Just enter code - OC1DFF43-E0C at checkout

Want free postage on any items ordered this week then just insert – FP – in the coupon slot at checkout. Click here for details of [Christmas delivery times](#) and our Interlink 1hr notification texts making it even easier to co-ordinate your Christmas shopping!

shop@mikesdivestore.com



And finally...

The Results are in.....



We can all give ourselves a big pat on the back as LSD was ranked number two in the UK and Ireland for number of certifications issued! This is amazing considering the challenging year it has been and especially as PADI do not take into account the number of referrals completed, as this accounts for a huge proportion of our business here... So go figure where we'd have come if those numbers were also included!! A big, big thank you to all of you... we couldn't do it without you

LIDS 2012

LSD will once again be out in full force next year at the London International Dive Show! Taking place on the weekend of the 31st March/1st April, this is one of the biggest dive shows in the UK, if not in Europe, and will be a fantastic opportunity to bag some great discounts on courses and materials! As always it will be great to see you there!



Aptly Named



Also a reminder for you all about the new updated LSD Scuba iPhone app – available to download for free from the App Store. This enables you to access information about club trips, holidays and even book courses at the touch of a button! You will also be able to view up to date news and offers from the team here at LSD so you wont miss a trick

Should you require any further information about anything in the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the LSD Team. The office hours are Monday – Friday 10am – 6pm and Saturday 9am – 4pm
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