

# NORTHERN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

**NUPG NEWSLETTER Issue #15, Jun2005 - Aug2005**

## SUMMER ISSUE

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

Lucy Kay. Summer Splash-In Slide Winner and Overall Splash-In Winner. Lucy also came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Splash-In Slide section with this shot of a Greater Pipefish in Holyhead Marina surrounds.



### This Issue:

- Meeting Information
  - Meeting Dates
  - Forthcoming Meetings
  - Summer Splash-In Report, Tony Gilbert
- Web Links

Date for your Diary:

**NEXT MEETING: Monday Sept 5<sup>th</sup> 2005 TBA, Corbans, Hale Barns at 1930.**

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## **MEETING DATES & EVENTS for your diary**

Pass on the dates to your friends & colleagues who may fancy joining the club.

# 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
Monday Sep 5 <sup>th</sup> 2005	Corbans, Hale Barns (A538/J6 M56, towards Altrincham & Hale)	19.30pm - 22.00pm
Monday Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2005	Corbans, Hale Barns (A538/J6 M56, towards Altrincham & Hale)	19.30pm - 22.00pm

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.**

## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Following on from the May AGM, it was agreed to change the venue and the finish times adjusted to 2200hrs. A new venue has been chosen, see the NUPG Website for details – [www.nupg.org.uk](http://www.nupg.org.uk).

## *Summer Issue*

Many of the NUPG members have been busy over the summer period, either completely disappeared on holiday in some far flung corner of the world, working, or like some of us, joined in the splash-in, meeting up again for a Lewis Trip liveaboard.

Hopefully we can encourage some of the members to share their photographic diving experiences from their holidays at future meetings. It's an opportunity to show us all what other places are like, so we may also visit them in time.

See the next edition for a full report on the Lewis Trip. With 12 divers and 12+ cameras and full of thrills & spills, a glorious week of diving a remote corner of Scotland, with at least 6 NUPG Members on the boat.

I for my sins went on a business trip to Malaysia in August, for 3 weeks, and unfortunately had to do some diving in Pulau, 10 dives on a very long weekend – it was really arduous!

It's at this time of year as the summer greens turn to Autumnal gold's that we start to get our woollies & long sleeved shirts out once more and think about winter holidays!

NUPG becomes more active shortly with regular monthly meetings over the coming months.

Have look at the web site for future dates, and if you are a prospective member reading this, welcome, and maybe we see you at one of the informal meetings.

In the mean time, feast yourselves on the “Last of the Summer Wine” and look forward to seeing you all in the September, October and future meetings.

# Summer Splash In, Slide & Digital Competition

In the true tradition of Summer Splash-in competitions, the weather plays an important part in the proceedings. June 4<sup>th</sup> meant a challenging splash-in as the plankton bloom was still around, with great gulping blobs of gloop wafting around in the shallows of Anglesey threatening to turn the sea into a fish soup.

## Weather or not

To add further complication, the weather wasn't being very nice, with overcast conditions and a westerly F4/5 hooley blowing down the gizzard that was once Trearddur Bay! Backup sites were invoked!

## Choices, choices

Still, the 10 or so entrants, some non-members included, were hardy enough to brave the elements with a proliferation of wet or housed cameras, either digital or film SLR / compact or standard.

The main choice of diving venue was to shore dive, and for the majority to amble over to Holyhead Marina / Mackenzie Pier & surrounds, some diving outside of the breakwater. This presented reasonably calm waters, some visibility and plenty of targets. Some were on Chris Holden's boat out of Bull Bay, to dive Lamb Island / Cemaes Bay, along with members of Chester SAC.

As it turned out, the weather on the northeast side of the island became extremely sunny & warm by around 10am, presenting many targets in the lowered visibility. Another sea dive was had a by a few in the afternoon.

## Evening Shift

The evening festivities got off to a good start, all meeting up at around 7pm for a bite to eat in the Trearddur Bay Hotel; the food in here is really great, as is the selection & service – even on busy Saturday evenings.

Some checked in to various local guesthouses, such as the excellent Moranedd, providing a boost to the local communities around. It was time to sort ourselves out, and a modest 15 people attended, along with a selection of beers, real-ales and shorts.

Much deliberation went on for both the slide & print, and people went into corners with a light box to slice and dice film, or slip memory sticks to Paul for processing onto the laptop.

**Eventually, the Splash-In images were cooked and ready to serve.**

The selection on offer this evening varied but mainly centred on macro shots. There were 11 digital entries, consisting of pipefish, starfish, crabs, kelp, divers, anemones & lobster. Amongst the 14 film entries were lobster, spider crabs, cnidarians, velvet crabs, dogfish, pipefish & bladderwrak.



A true cross-section of Anglesey marine life, none of these tompot thingies to be seen, maybe they were all on their summer holidays or perhaps someone had given them lots of money to stay away on 4<sup>th</sup> June!

The field was wide open, any of the aforementioned marine creatures could be given the accolade tonight (*did I mention no tompots, I think I did, didn't I*).

So, which part of the North West / Wales will the coveted trophy be going tonight...

### Digit All

3<sup>rd</sup> Paul Kay, Holyhead, Spider Crab.

2<sup>nd</sup> Ken Byrne, Holyhead, Snake Pipefish.

1<sup>st</sup> Keith Lloyd, Holyhead, Dahlia Anemone.

### Sliding Around

3<sup>rd</sup> Paul Maddox, Holyhead, Lobster.

3<sup>rd</sup> Tony Gilbert, Lamb Island/Cemaes, Cnidarian

2<sup>nd</sup> Lucy Kay, Holyhead, Greater Pipefish.

1<sup>st</sup> Lucy Kay, Holyhead, Two Spotted Goby.

### HEAD to HEAD

The final confrontation – “Digital versus Film”, who will it be, it doesn't matter, it's the shot not the medium.

Lucy Won, with the Two Spotted Goby out in the water, well done!

Well done to all those who attended and entered.

**DIGITAL 1<sup>st</sup>: Keith Lloyd**

**Dahlia Anemone**



Keith was using digital film on his to produce the shot of this fine & dandy dahlia anemone.

This type & colour are quite common around the Anglesey shorelines.

**DIGITAL 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ken Byrne**

**“Snake Eyes” A snake-pipefish sneaked stealthily sliding seawards sorting splash-in second.**

**Itssssssssssmarvelous.**



**DIGITAL 3<sup>rd</sup>: Paul Kay**

**DigiPaul romped home 3<sup>rd</sup> with this spider crab romping & roaming over the dusty seabed of Holyhead, in what looks like reasonable visibility!**



**SLIDE 1<sup>st</sup>: Lucy Kay**

**Galloping Goby**



**Lucy's slide shot of a goby doing a mid-water scuttle won her first prize in the slide section of the Splash-In and the Head-to-Head overall winner.**

***I reckon the goby is saying "Oh no! Look at that bug eyed monster near me, help – its gonna get me!"***

**SLIDE 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lucy Kay**

**As seen on the front cover Lucy came 2<sup>nd</sup> with a shot of a greater pipefish, something you don't see as often as the lesser and snake.**

**Just goes to show "muck-diving" in Holyhead Marina area reaps rewards!**

**SLIDE Joint 3<sup>rd</sup>: Tony Gilbert & Paul Maddox**

**Both Paul Maddox and Tony were placed 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Caemes Bay in North Anglesey had masses of cnidarians just wanting their photos taken, and Tony found them.**



Paul on the other hand “Romanced the Stone” or in this case “Caressed the Carapace” to get a great shot of a lobby.



# Summer Splash-In, Print Competition

The Print Competition had pride of place on two top tables, with a stunning array of colour, black & white, and form. This year seemed to prove extremely popular, with the bulk in the temperate – 25 prints, to the 7 tropical.

“Totally temperate dude”.

The stunning range of images with many shots from Capernwray, macro shots, wide-angle, fish portraits & shoals, the odd wreck.

With much deliberation, the winner and runners up were selected, and I think when you see the images, you’ll agree they are worthy of praise.

Well done to all entrants and hope it’s as popular next year.

## Temperate

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mick Hyde, Maen Melt, conger.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ken Byrne, Capernwary, Black & White.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Derek Haslam, Devils Bridge.**

## Tropical

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tony Gilbert, Red Sea, Soft Corals.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Gilbert, Dominican Republic, Fan Worms.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Paul Maddox, Red Sea, Seahorse.**

## Print Competition Temperate, 1<sup>st</sup>: Derek Haslam

A whoppingly big 10.5mm lens allowed “r’Derek” to conjure up this split-level shot on a cold and frosty February morning under Devil’s Bridge in the River Lune (near Lancaster).

As you can see the diver has no shake so it means the thermal insulation in the 2C water has not got to him!



**Print Competition Temperate, Joint 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ken Byrne**

**Ken's altered image of a diver inspecting a small wreck in Capernwray earnt him second place.**

**Originally the image was in colour, and is was altered slightly and switched to black & white.**



**Print Competition Tropical, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tony Gilbert**

**A waving fan worm colony in the Dominican Republic made for an ideal photographic candidate.**



**Print Competition  
Tropical, 3<sup>rd</sup>: Tony  
Gilbert**

**Extensive Red Sea soft  
coral colony situated at  
Erg Somaya around the  
Giftun Islands.**



# Splash-In & Print Comp "Hall-Of-Fame"



The splash-in, on safari over in Caemes Bay, and Lamb Island, with Chris Holden's boat Calgo II

Trearddur Bay Hotel, the venue for the night's Splash-In & Print Competition judging and awards.



Let's eat, drink and be merry first!

Keith, Liz, Derek and Mark all wait patiently for their food.

It seems some do read the newsletters after all!!

Ok, I think it's about time to start the proceedings off

...



Which ones of the many shots can we choose?



Slide Cutting.

Lucy making short work of her "winning" slides.



As you can see there are many to choose from, both Temperate and Tropical.

## **LINKS**

If you have any photo-type web links you wish to share, let us know... (Also see previous issue(s) for many others).