

International Dolphin Watch (IDW)

Has an unblemished reputation as a non-profit organisation dedicated to helping dolphins since it was founded by Dr Horace Dobbs in 1978.



Friends of IDW NEWSLETTER

1st November 2006

SPECIAL REQUEST SPREAD THE WORD

Please print out all or part of this Newsletter and put hard copies on display in libraries, schools, waiting rooms etc. for others to read (for example, schools might be interested in the Competition on page 13. We would like to highlight the plight of whales and ask for your help on pages 8-10).

Thank you

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IDW MISSION STATEMENT

A non profit organisation for the observation, conservation and study of dolphins - especially their relationship with humans.

IDW NEVER WORKS WITH DOLPHINS IN CAPTIVITY

Aims and Values

To make sure the seas and rivers are clean, healthy and productive for the benefit of both humans and dolphins. To respect the rights of dolphins to a free life in their natural environment. To recognise that since earliest times, dolphins have had an affinity with humans and allow this to evolve.

Achievements

IDW has contributed to saving lives of countless dolphins and enabled thousands to achieve their dreams of meeting dolphins, free in the open sea.

News and Information

Friends of International Dolphin Watch receive news and exchange information on a host of topics including bargains via Monthly E-mail Newsletters.

Friends of International Dolphin Watch can use the website to share stories about their personal dolphin experiences, projects and fund raising events. They can also contribute to one of our most popular website features - A World Wide Guide on where you can meet dolphins and possibly swim with them.

Strandings

IDW has friendly links with organisations with whom it collaborates in the rescue and treatment of stranded and injured marine mammals.

Native Wisdom

IDW is forging links with indigenous peoples, such as the Australian Aborigines, to find ways of applying their ancient wisdom and understanding of the natural world to help solve present ecological problems

Personality of the Month

Sonya Sitton



Sonya – June 2006 at the airport in Bimini with Horace Dobbs returning home with the Operation Sunshine group

Sonya has always been concerned about the environment. She was involved with the anti nuclear campaign as a child, going on many a march with her family. She joined Greenpeace, The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and International Dolphin Watch as well as supporting other charities.

Sonya also loves to help people to help themselves on their journey in life and is a massage therapist. Sonya has worked as a masseuse at a Chiropractor Clinic and has recently set up Sunshine Holistic Therapy, working from home in her treatment room.

Sonya has enjoyed working with children at Inter Action Community Arts Centre in Milton Keynes, where she was involved in projects with special needs, deprived and behaviourally challenging children. She also worked as a children's play worker at a Women's Aid Shelter.

Sonya has always loved dolphins and attended the IDW Dolphin Healing Conference in Milton Keynes organised by Jackie Connell in 2000. She learnt about Dr. Horace Dobbs' dream of having a Virtual Dolphin Healing Dome and decided she would love to be involved, not knowing how she could really help, as she was a busy Mum.

In 2003 Jackie Connell was organising an International Dolphin Healing Conference at The Open University in Milton Keynes and Sonya offered her help. She organised a team of volunteers to help at the conference and helped Jackie with administration. Along with her daughter Ellie, they helped at the two-day conference. It was at this conference that she won a prize for 2 people to swim with dolphins in the Bahamas. Sonya decided to take the whole family including partner and 3 children to Bimini, where she fulfilled an ambition of swimming with dolphins in their natural environment, and experienced that very special feeling of interacting with dolphins in their natural environment that she had heard about from others.

Sonya has been helping International Dolphin Watch ever since and is a very active member, volunteering her help, advice and expertise with whatever needs to be done.

Sonya became involved with The Dilo Dome project with Horace Dobbs and Jackie. She organised a "play shop" in a local combined school, where Horace talked to the entire school showing dolphin films and the Dilo Dome. The Dilo Dome was then left in the school for their Learning Achievement Base staff to use with the children.

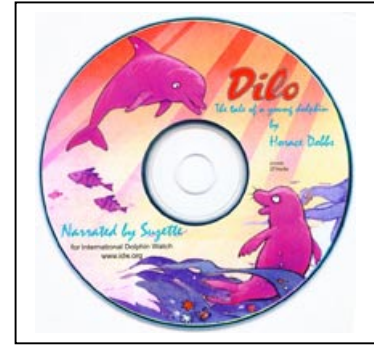
Sonya is now helping in all areas with the Management of Operation Sunshine – family therapy programmes and went to Bimini in the Bahamas this June to help. Sonya feels very privileged to be involved in such a special project, giving special needs families a well deserved break. She is also very excited about the research of dolphin healing, the dolphins' love of people, their purpose for being here and all that they are teaching us.

Bargain of the Month

FREE DILO CD

an enchantingly told story of Dilo's adventures as a young dolphin.

With any one of the following Dilo books, written for children age 5-11 and enjoyed by adults. Signed by the author Horace Dobbs. A wonderful gift that will be treasured.



1. *Dilo and the Call of the Deep*

Dilo's early life.

2. *Dilo Makes Friends*

Dilo's friendship with the 'Terrible Twins'.

3. *Dilo and the Treasure Hunters*

Dilo in mortal danger when treasure hunters use explosives to steal sunken gold.

4. *Dilo and the Witch of Black Rock*

Dilo is captured and put into a dolphinarium.

5. *Dilo in Lighthouse Bay*

Dilo rescues an oil rig worker after a dramatic explosion.

OFFER CLOSSES ON 1st DECEMBER 2006

All available from the Dolphin Shop
<http://www.dolphinfriend.com/>

Dates with Dobbs

Presentation by Horace Dobbs at the Xmas
Special Mind, Body & Spirit Festival

Sunday 12th November at 4pm.



Xmas Special Mind, Body & Spirit Event

Saturday, 11th November
Sunday, 12th November
10am - 5pm

Lincolnshire Showground
Grange-de-Lings
Lincoln

- Sample treatments available in a wide range of complementary therapies and Spiritual Healing
- Psychic Artist & Aura Camera
- Mediums, Clairvoyants, Readers of Tarot, Palms, Crystal Ball, Numerologists, Astrologers
- Wide range of associated products

Daily programme of talks and demonstrations included in admission price

A great opportunity to find unusual and meaningful xmas gifts, from over 100 stands, or just to have a great day out for YOU!

see www.bssk.co.uk/events

Ample Free Parking - Refreshments available

Why not make a day of it?

Admission: £4
Concessions: £3.50
Two Day Pass: £7.00
Two Day Concession - £6
Accompanied under 15's: Free

For a free Show Guide, please e-mail events@bssk.co.uk

Promoters: BSSK Events Ltd
British School of Spiritual Knowledge
Web: www.bssk.co.uk
E-mail: events@bssk.co.uk
This is a fundraising event for the school

'Dolphins and Didgeridoos' Report by Ken Shapley

Sunday 24th September and you could barely see ten feet in front of you up in Edinburgh. Not to worry I was off on another adventure with Horace Dobbs. Not the Bahamas or Crete this time but the delightful Harrogate Mind Body Spirit Festival. We were to do a performance of Didgeridoo and then a workshop, whoops *playshop*, on Dolphin Healing together with Robin. Journeying by rail on a Sunday threw up its usual problems. The mists persisted all the way down to Newcastle then I missed my connection to York, blagged my way onto a different train with a ticket for a different company and yet still missed the connection to Harrogate from York!! What to do, I was due on stage in one hour and the next train was 2 hours later!! A quick phone call and Robin came to the rescue from Harrogate. We caught up on old times on the way; it had been 12 years since we last met in magical Findochty.

At The show I had a joyous reunion with Horace and we both took to the stage before an audience of about 80 people to do a brief introduction to the wonders of the Didgeridoo. Then straight onto the playshop which a dozen or so people came to, eager to hear Horace speak and for a chance to have a go with a didgeridoo and enter the Dolphin Dreamtime. They weren't disappointed. Horace was waxing lyrical as usual, and Robin gave a great talk about his experiences with Dolphins. We distributed Didgeridoos amongst the audience and after a quick dedication to the spirit of the dolphins began our melodic call. Now usually a dozen novice Didge player's sounds are absolutely appalling, a cacophony of farts at the best but today was different. Perhaps it was the magic of Horace's water drum, which soothed us into a collective reverie, or perhaps it was the inspiring words and music we'd all just enjoyed, I don't know BUT what we produced was truly amazing. A gentle wave of sound came forth from everyone. Supported by my steady heartbeat rhythm everyone played with great heart and spirit and blew and sang down their didges without producing any embarrassing notes. A gentle medicine drum accompanied us and the song evolved sending out a great wave of healing to the surrounding lands, this was our intent.

Many people wished we had recorded it but I guess it is one of those magic moments just for the memory. Many people bought books and CD's of Dolphin Dreamtime and Didgeridoo Dolphin Dreamtime so they will have a treasure for life now, always able to tap into the healing power of the dolphins.

All in all the day was a great success - one lady even said she was having a massage about 150 yards away and could feel the didge coming up through the floor from there, helping her treatment along. Inspired by this event we organised for DIDGE HEALING to be available at the next Health and Healing Festival at The Pavillion Gardens, Buxton, Derbyshire on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th June 2007. For information ring Neil or Ruth on 01405 704180 or Email neilauchterlounie@btinternet.com .

Ken Shapley is an artist, writer, shamanic healer, didgeridoo teacher and storyteller currently living in Edinburgh. His didgeridoo music has been used in soundtracks by the BBC and he has performed in schools, universities and temples worldwide. His first novel "When We All Dream Together" has just been published. For further information visit www.lulu.com/kenscreations.

Conservation

HELP US TO PUT AN END TO WHALING

GREENPEACE DEFENDING OUR OCEANS

<http://oceans.greenpeace.org>

Icelandic Fisheries Ministry issues permit to kill endangered fin whales!

Iceland resumes commercial whaling!

17 October 2006



Archive photo: Hvalfjörður whaling station in Iceland. Seagulls feeding on the carcass of a fin whale.

In Iceland, the whale watching industry contributes more to the national economy than commercial whaling did before it was put on hold in the '80s. Yet now, after 17 years, Iceland has officially resumed commercial whaling.

Today, the Icelandic Fisheries Ministry issued a permit to hunt 39 whales for commercial purposes. Nine of these are endangered fin whales - putting to lie claims that the hunt is sustainable.

The old Icelandic whale processing factory is also reportedly being put back into service.

Prior to today, Norway was the only country openly conducting commercial whaling. Japan conducts a large yearly hunt using the pretence of "scientific whaling" to keep its industry alive. Since 2003, Iceland has also engaged in so called "scientific whaling". In both cases the meat is sold, mostly as a luxury food.

Update Saturday, 21 October 2006

A lone Icelandic whale hunter licensed to kill 39 whales made his first kill today: an endangered Fin whale.

"There is no economic or scientific justification for commercial whaling. The fact that the first kill was an endangered whale makes a nonsense of claims that the hunt is sustainable," says our campaigner John Frizell. "Iceland has no market for whale meat internationally and almost none domestically. This hunt is no more than pointless posturing, which achieves nothing except the further depletion of an endangered species," he added.

In addition to the Iceland hunt, next month the Japanese whaling fleet will sail to Southern Ocean, with plans to kill nearly 1,000 whales - including endangered Fin whales. Japan has announced plans to begin hunting humpbacks in future as well.

The question of why?

Kristjan Loftsson, managing director of the Icelandic whaling company, is said to be "pleased" about receiving the hunt permit. But the question remains: why kill whales? Why try to revive a dying industry with a long history of deception and mismanagement?

There is a glut of unwanted meat in Iceland, Norway and Japan. In Iceland, they haven't even sold the meat from earlier "scientific" hunts. There simply is not much of a market for the stuff.

A Gallup poll, commissioned by IFAW and released last month, found that, "Only 1.1 percent of Icelanders eat whale meat once a week or more, while 82.4 percent of 16 to 24-year-olds never eat whale meat." Not very optimistic numbers for a business venture.

Whale watching and how you can help

Iceland has a choice. Most Icelanders are environmentally conscious, and in favour of using marine resources in a way that preserves them for future generations. Its whale watching industry is known around the world, and brings in more revenue than whaling possibly could. Yet, the Fisheries Ministry has done a favour for a very small interest group, and granted a permit for commercial whaling.

This permit should be revoked. You can help by signing the Icelandic pledge. Tens of thousands of people have pledged to consider visiting Iceland as tourists and whale watchers, but only AFTER the whale killing ends.

Iceland Whales Pledge

"I would seriously consider taking a vacation in Iceland rather than somewhere else if the Government of Iceland stopped whaling. I would be willing to receive an email about the options available for Icelandic tourism, an email that would be sent to me if the Government of Iceland ends its whaling program."

Sign the pledge <http://oceans.greenpeace.org/en/>

If you agree with the statement above, send the message to the Icelandic Ministry of Tourism.

(If you've previously taken the pledge, click here to just send the letter.)

86360 people have made the pledge as of today.

Message from CEO, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

Dear Jackie,

Despite worldwide outcry and a ban on whaling in place since 1986, Iceland, like Japan, continues to kill whales using cruel methods, saying it's for "scientific" purposes.

But now the government of Iceland has gone even further, launching a commercial whale hunt for the first time in more than two decades, a hunt that has already killed several endangered fin whales.

Permits have been granted by Iceland's Ministry of Fisheries for the hunting of 30 minke whales and nine endangered fin whales. In fact, whaling ships have already killed their first two endangered fin whales.

Yet few Icelanders eat whale meat regularly (only 1.1% of Icelanders say they eat whale meat once a week or more*); and there is limited, if any, world market for the meat. Furthermore, a growing number of jobs in Iceland depend on the country's thriving whale-watching industry.

Iceland's unique environment has attracted millions of tourists who increasingly visit Iceland to see whales in their natural habitat. IFAW has worked hard in recent years to help promote responsible whale watching in Iceland. This dangerous move to resume whaling puts all of that at risk.

A flagrant disregard for international agreements to protect whales

Scientists have long agreed that there's no need to kill whales in order to study them. What's worse, whale meat has been proven to contain dangerously high levels of mercury, even though it is sold in supermarkets, restaurants and even school cafeterias in Japan. But even Japan has publicly announced it will not import the fin meat from the Icelandic hunt.

There is little market, domestic or international, for this meat, and no facility in Iceland ready to process it. These whales have died unnecessarily. Commercial whaling is an outmoded, unnecessary and cruel industry that should have ended a century ago with the use of whale oil lamps. The government of Iceland should be supporting its nation's thriving and growing whale watching industry rather than sinking money and political capital into the resumption of cruel whale hunts.

It's quite rare for Iceland's embassy to receive an outpouring of public comments on a political issue. That's why it's not too late to have an impact! [Please send a polite message today to protest Iceland's terrible decision to resume commercial whale hunting.](#)

Thanks for all you do,



Fred O'Regan
President and CEO

P.S. Please let others know about Iceland's commercial whale hunt. Please send this message to as many others as you can so their voice may also be heard.

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF IFAW AND HOW YOU CAN HELP <http://www.ifaw.org/ifaw>

Ecophilosophy - Open Letter from Ann Palmer

This is an open letter, sent to people and organisations whom I believe are interested in doing a range of things to promote the well-being, and the awareness of the need for the well-being, of our shared Earth. As such, there is no copyright involved i.e. you have the RIGHT to COPY this letter to friends or other interested parties, or use it for your own purposes, if you so wish. If you believe, as I do, that a fruitful and worthwhile way forward is to promote the concept of ECOPHILOSOPHY.

What is ecophilosophy?

Ecophilosophy is the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality and existence taking Planet Earth as source.

Roots of Ecophilosophy

In 1974, Henryk Skolimowski, Professor of Humanities at the University of Michigan, coined the term 'ecophilosophy' in which he conceived of Earth and sanctuary.

This is the background academic credibility source.

To people, who think about things globally, ecophilosophy is an 'obvious development'. But most people, of course, are not polymaths but specialists because their career-path has imposed that on them. Currently it's unfashionable to be a polymath.

Why would anyone wish to promote ecophilosophy? What difference will it make?

Words have power. Imagine deleting 'consumerism' or 'nazism' from our language and consciousness. It'd leave a gaping cultural and historical hole. Imagine people, particularly youngsters, wanting to be identified as ecophilosophers. Ecophilosophers being the blanket term for people who care, in their individual and specialist ways, for the Earth's future. It opens a door.

We need a big word to do a big job and a lot of people behind it if it is to become part of our everyday language. To anyone working in the media, it's a potentially new line of interactive development. Youngsters might prefer to be 'eco-opters', like 'helicopters'. To simplify still further, use the slogan – PUT THE EARTH FIRST.

Ecophilosopher – the all embracing term

To gain any sort of status, the first job is for the word itself to gain credibility and meaning for the average person. And a very specific meaning too.

What's wrong with the current terms?

Ecoist (too extreme), conservationist (too narrow) or 'green' (too political).

Other terms describe a specialist interest: nature lover, outdoors enthusiast, wildlife gardener, wilderness walker, outdoor photographer, plus numerous scientific designations. All these plug into an ecophilosophical perspective in their own particular way.

My idea is that, in bringing together all these types of people who, with their specialist interests are, in one way or another, interacting with things of Earth, there lies a possibility of creating a much larger – and therefore STRONGER – group of people with a more powerful voice. Who might willingly embrace ecophilosophy, once they see its usefulness as a bridging device, to access the larger picture; the whole ecosystem.

The cautious approach

Today the 'eco' prefix is common, attaches easily to many familiar words and is immediately understood. It's the PHILOSOPHY bit that needs careful handling and nurturing if it isn't to be misunderstood or pigeonholed as some dry-as-drought concept. Yawn time.

Presented as energy- filled, immediate as a driving force of human life cuts across this and dramatically changes ecophilosophy's image, so accords with the accepted appreciation of any 'reinvention'.

The upside of ecophilosophy is the invitation to steer clear of the heat, emotion, angst, doom-and-gloom, instantly confrontation or negative, fighting/exciting spins. As, across the board, eco-things are bound to become more mainstream during the next decade, it seems a good idea to expand the concepts to forward our thinking in ways which the public may perceive as 'cool', sensible, rational yet compassionate. It's these qualities I believe are encouraged to emerge by the use of this term.

'Eco-nazi' is an unfortunate coupling and supplies a warning example, an illustration, of the need to profile eco-matters in ways which give them gravitas and credibility. Yet simultaneously attract, encourage and offers ways to empower the individual. 'Proud to be an ecophilosopher' is something worth cultivating.

Young people have enormous funds of energy, and it'd be good to empower the next generation to think of the Earth, primarily, as their shared home.

My contribution

I have written a 100,000 word book – 'Everyone's a Common Origin' – guide to a personal ecophilosophy, by Gaia Dance. In its pre-published form 'Everyone's Common Origin' is entered for the U.K.'s 2006 Eco Prize. If you would like a copy of 'Everyone's Common Origin' to see what it's all about, develop your own ideas, or forward its potential in your own way, I'll be happy to email it to you. If you would like to, you are invited to offer me a few sentences review for prospective publishers.

ANN PALMER

Email: plyons.gress@tiscali.co.uk

Dilo Corner



DRAW A PICTURE OF A DOLPHIN WIN A PRIZE

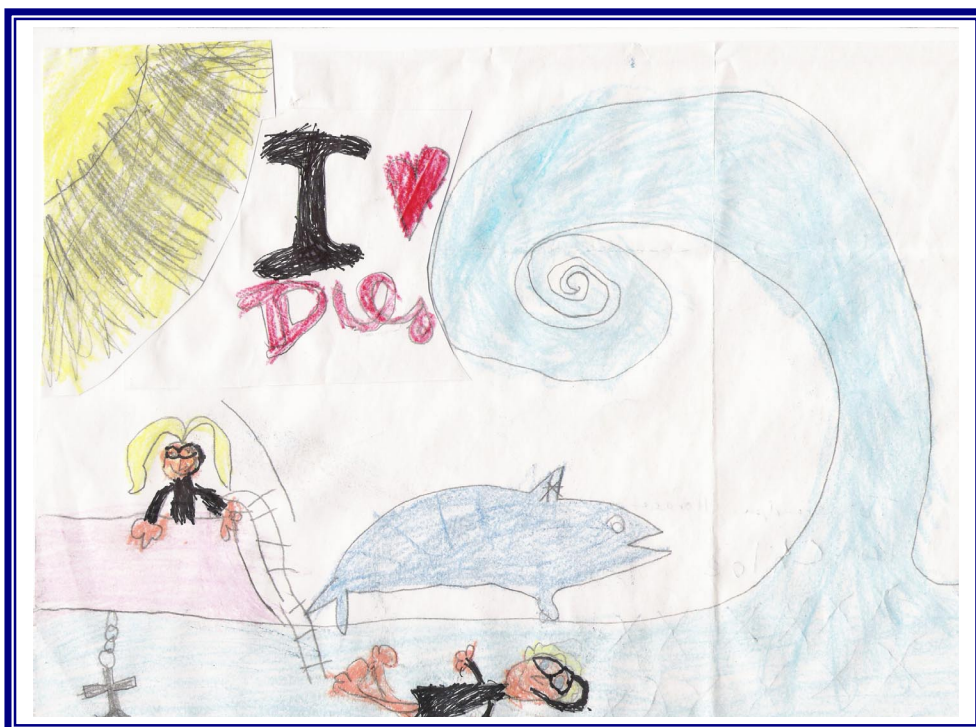
Each month International Dolphin Watch is sending **two Dilo books**, signed by author Horace Dobbs, plus a **Dilo Poster** and a **Dilo Sticker** to a school **anywhere in the world** as part of IDW's Educational Programme.

IT'S EASY TO ENTER No age limit

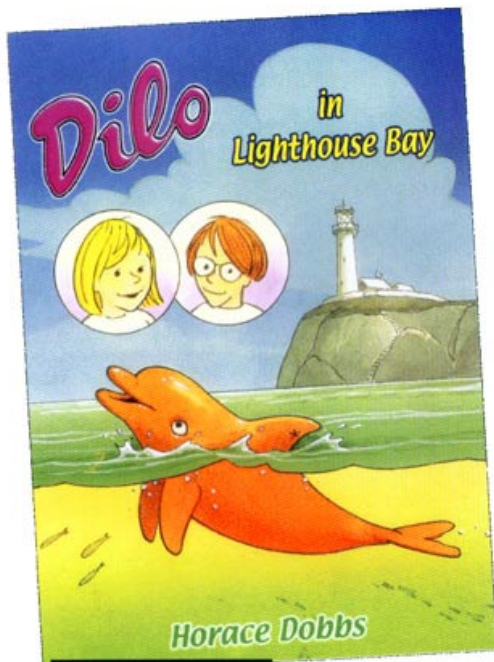
All you have to do is to discuss it with a teacher, draw a picture of a dolphin and Email it to idw@talk21.com

The prize this month was won by **Chloe Dobbs**, age 6, of Polperro Community Primary School

Here is Chloe's prize-winning picture



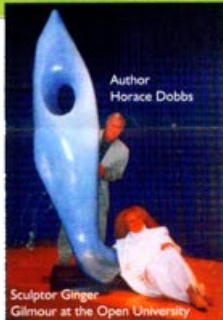
The closing date for the next prize is **20th November 2006**



Dilo

the dolphin and the
Terrible Twins
are back
in another
gripping adventure
by
best selling author
Horace Dobbs

"I couldn't put it down"
- David Bellamy



Fact and fiction come together
in the story's exciting climax when a sculpture
'Spirit of Dilo' is erected in Lighthouse Bay.
The structure is based on original abstract sculpture
by acclaimed artist **Ginger Gilmour ASWA**
www.ginger@gingerart.net

As in previous tales of Dilo this book is laced with humour and
illustrated throughout in his inimitable style by
www.rico@deeptrek.net



Paperback 128 pages
ISBN 0-9541721-4-0
Price £6.49
E: horace@drdobbs.karoo.co.uk
T: 01482 632650

----- **ORDER** - signed by author with special dedication if requested -----

Please supply: No of copies of Dilo in Lighthouse Bay
@ £6.49 + £1.50 p&p. Total £

Name

Address

Tel: Email:

Send cheque (Payable to Watch
Publishing) or credit card details to:
Watch Publishing
International Dolphin Watch
10 Melton Road, North Ferriby
East Yorkshire HU14 3ET England.
Tel: 01482 632650
Email: horace@drdobbs.karoo.co.uk
or order online www.idw.org

THE DILO DOME

Enables children of all abilities, including
special needs, to have a dolphin experience.



INFORMATION including 'What it is, How it works &
Who will benefit' from Jackie Connell, 16 Rowsham Dell,
Giffard Park, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK 14 5JS, England.
Email jackie.connell@intl-world.com Tel/Fax: 01908 617318

Friend's News

Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT)

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) is dedicated to the conservation of Scotland's whales, dolphins, and porpoises and the Hebridean marine environment through education, research and working with Hebridean communities.



Aims:

- **Raise awareness**, through education and communication, of whales, dolphins, porpoises and marine mammals in the Hebrides
- **Conduct benign research** into whales, dolphins and porpoises, their environment and associated species.
- **Promote** the truly sustainable use and value of the Hebridean marine environment by working with local communities of the Hebrides, promoting sustainable eco-tourism and providing education, training, and job opportunities.

Latest News

Humpback sightings in Loch Long and Wester Ross!

A rare sighting of a humpback whale was reported swimming up Loch Long on Monday 9th October and was reported again in the area (off Blairmore Pier) on Tuesday 10th. Loch Long is a very long (hence the name!), narrow sea loch just north of the Clyde estuary and is a fairly unusual location for whale sightings. Because of its presence in this inshore area, there were initial concerns that the whale may be disorientated or injured. However, the whale seems to be behaving normally and appears to be feeding too. This sighting comes just days after another report of a humpback whale which was spotted further north at the mouth of Gair Loch, Wester Ross. This whale was reported to HWDT by Gairloch boat operator, Nick Davies. The whales are most likely to be feeding on herring at this time of year, as autumn is the season when the majority of herring around Scotland are moving inshore to spawn. Two humpback sightings in the same week may be an indication of good herring stocks this year on the west coast.

On Board Silurian



Silurian is HWDT's research and education vessel.

Most weeks April through October she is either monitoring the waters of the west coast of Scotland for whales, dolphins, and porpoises, or serving as a floating classroom for one of the many Argyll island primary and secondary schools.

For further information about HWDT and how you can help – see their web site on <http://www.whaledolphintrust.co.uk/>

Dolphins Feeding Humans?

By Robert Lloyd-Evans

DOLPHIN ENCOUNTER -1979

This is a description of a sighting of Indian Ocean Bottlenose Dolphins during which it is possible that a dolphin tried either to involve me in a hunt or perhaps even to feed me. The reason for submitting it now is to try to find out whether anybody else has had similar experiences since then.

I had gone to Bay Ternay on Mahe in the Seychelles one morning for a day's snorkelling with my brother, and we were diving along the edge of the reef near the mouth of the bay where it slopes down from 15 feet to about 50, when we noticed a group of 8 – 10 black triangular fins on the surface close to us. On hearing squeaks we realised that they were dolphins not sharks, and swam slowly towards them to try to get some underwater photos. They backed off towards the centre of the bay, and we carried on diving. All the dolphins were the same size, about 5 feet long, so presumably juveniles.

After a few minutes I heard an exceptionally loud squeak, and thinking that something interesting must be happening, immediately dived to investigate. When I had got down about 15 feet a shoal of six small tuna, *Euthynnus Affinis*, shot past about 3 feet in front of me, so tightly bunched that they were almost touching each other, followed at a distance of 10-15 feet by a single dolphin. As the fish passed me the dolphin turned off through 90 degrees and headed back towards where I had last seen the pod.

I have often encountered these fast moving fish both before and since, but on my own have never managed to get closer than 10 feet from them. I do not believe that a single dolphin could have caught these fish (unlike the slower mullet and striped mackerel), except by surprise, whereas a dolphin in my position could not have failed to catch them. The rest of the pod seemed to be out of position for catching this little shoal, so whilst the sequence of events could be pure coincidence, it also seems possible that I was invited to help out. If the latter were the case, then I would expect other similar cases to have been reported in the last 25 years or so, and certainly that there should be evidence of different species of dolphin cooperating to hunt prey; hence my reason for mentioning it again. It may also be relevant that my ears sometimes used to produce a squeak when clearing, and this might possibly have had some inadvertent meaning for the dolphins; it certainly seemed to terrify white-tip reef sharks.

Following this event, both the dolphin and ourselves remained in the bay, and sometime later my brother saw the dolphins apparently resting on their backs about 50 feet down in the middle. When he approached to try to get a photo, they moved off, so he was only able to get a picture as they left. As they swam away I saw them pass below me close to the bottom, and also saw that they were followed by a shoal of 3-foot long yellow fin tuna swimming about 10 feet below the surface. I think that they all left the bay at this point, and we did not see them again.

I hope it interests readers and raises enough issues to provoke some discussion.

*Regards,
Robert Lloyd-Evans*



*Family therapy programmes
for special needs*

www.operationsunshine.org

Aims and Objectives

- Under the umbrella of International Dolphin Watch, Operation Sunshine is a not-for-profit organisation set up to provide therapy and social support for families of children with special needs.
- It is the aim of Operation Sunshine to improve the quality of life, health and social well-being for adults and children with special needs, their families and carers.
- Our goal is to offer an experience that is wholly devoted to spiritual, emotional and physical well-being. We want to create an environment that is as relaxed, positive, open and as supportive as possible.
- Although it is accepted that swimming with dolphins can be therapeutic, the dolphins are not the only focus of the programme. We include other activities and alternative therapies where appropriate.
- In addition to the water-based activities, we work with the local school, church and community, to encourage creativity and the exchange of culture between different countries.
- The support staff, based on their experience, give compassion, encouragement and resources to the families. It is not any one person, dolphin or event that makes this programme a success, but awareness, presence and openness by every participant, in every moment on the programme.

A PowerPoint presentation with pictures of the Summer 2006 Programme now available on CD. Also a DVD showing underwater footage during the interactions with the dolphins.

Both of these are available by making a donation to Operation Sunshine.

Operation Sunshine is currently fundraising to help other special needs families – for further information click on www.operationsunshine.org.

Article by Jackie Dahl

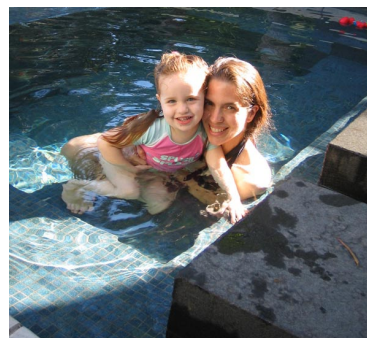
Dear Dolphin Friends

One day in the very near future, I would like to help Jackie Connell, Editor of IDW and Founder of Operation Sunshine, to organize a special dolphin encounter for children with Autism. Almost all children with Autism suffer from some sort of Sensory Integration Dysfunction.

Sensory Integration Dysfunction is the inability of the brain to correctly process information brought in by the senses, therefore misinterpreting everyday sensory information, such as touch, sound, and movement.

Sensory integration therapy focuses on these three inter connected senses -- tactile, vestibular, and proprioceptive.

My daughter suffers from proprioceptive dysfunction. Proprioception is the perception of joint, muscle, and body movement which helps to indicate the position of our body in space. My daughter's symptoms include clumsiness, a tendency to trip and fall, a lack of awareness of body position in space, odd body posturing, a need for deep pressure and impact to her joints, low muscle tone/weak hands, and resistance to simple motor movement activities like riding a bicycle.



Water related activities provide great opportunities for proprioceptive sensory stimulation. When a child is submersed in water, his/her entire body feels an immediate stimulation therefore giving the child direct input and feedback of their senses. Many children with proprioceptive dysfunction feel calm and centered after a day at the beach or after bath time. My daughter is no exception.

This is why our loving Dolphin friends are the perfect candidate to help coax children with Autism into the water enabling them to feel safe, while allowing them to come into contact with the greatest sensory experience: The Ocean. I truly believe dolphins possess the ability to transmit a special type of sensory energy to children, which allows them to immediately connect and generate a sense of awareness and calmness within them.

Please visit <http://www.operationsunshine.org> to learn in detail how dolphins have helped special needs children.

Until we are all able meet amongst a pod of our beautiful friends, please join me on 11, November 2006. I will be hosting an online interfaith Prayer / Meditation Vigil for kids with Autism. You may visit the following website to read my personal letter addressed to parents: <http://www.breathepeacebe.com>

May we find and share peace among each other,

[Jackie Dahl](#)

Dolphins Dreams and Children

Part 1 the Journey

By Andrew Eric Parker

Facilitator, writer and dolphin

www.dolphcom.com.au

As our world seems to reach new heights in the quest for depletion of our resources and as we consume energy at an alarming rate while ignoring our fundamental basic connections to each other and our mother the earth Gaia the mother from which all life springs there comes a call. The call is backed by the gentle breeze that blows in from the blue depths, the call is sonic pitched in a range that we feel, not hear. Up to 10 times our ability to hear! What more can we do than to feel this call?

Today we chase our tails like demented puppies yapping at this problem or that problem or each other. We stay up late working, we work extra hours, through lunch drinking cup after cup of coffee or sugar / caffeine drinks. We get to bed tired and we wake up exhausted. Our children grow old before our eyes and we miss it all in the chase for the illusive dream. And all the time we are being called to remember.

Our stress levels are beyond bodily functionality and its natural design. We are consuming ourselves with the constant pumping of the adrenal glands to get our fix of anger and frustration. We medicate, in my country Australia, one of the most beautiful, free and inspiring landscapes

where the largest percentage of the population live on the coast at a standard amongst the best in the world and one in four are medicated for depression! Something is missing! Something is awry here!

And the oceanic brothers and sisters call. Their songs reverberate amongst the surfers and the swimmers for they know the truth. Speak to one who catches waves like dolphins and feel their passionate description of an early morning glassy session of three foot barrels shared with a pod of dolphins. Look into their eyes and know what they know. Passion, dreams, excitement, exercise...

A friend of mine starts his communications with the line "Life is not measured in the number of breaths you take though the number of moments that take your breath away". You know when you connect with another deeply, when you look in their eyes and the connection becomes amazing? Well encountering dolphins is right up there with that experience.

We have many problems in our little world that's for sure though we are a resilient breed us human beings. Taking the proactive approach to identifying our core issues and actively embarking on daring plans to soar with the eagles and surf with the dolphins will teach us much about ourselves. Dolphins as facilitators open us up by having us touch, feel, hear and sense our joy and excitement. When dolphins are present riding the bow wave or swimming nearby we are completely in the moment and stress is not there with us. It has disappeared and been replaced by laughter, joy, bliss and connection with the experience and with each other. When we work with a skilled facilitator and a well presented program that utilizes this joy we learn and connect deeply. We enthusiastically absorb information and birth new ideas. Our lives become JUICY mmm. We move through blocks and increase potential and productivity. We ride the bow wave of creation just like the dolphins. When we visit this space we heal.

We have every solution that we need on this planet right here and right now. I am blessed to work with an amazing group of beings called cetaceans and the equally amazing beings that take us out to meet them on their terms, our boat captains and crew. I work in my organization DolphCom www.dolphcom.com.au with Imagine at Port Stephens www.imaginecruises.com.au and these people work tirelessly for the health of our environment and the freedom of all cetacea.

This year together we are happy to be bringing a new "personal dolphin experience" to the public. Weekly overnight trips camping on Broughton Island in the largest marine park in New South Wales, located miles offshore smack in the middle of the whale highway. In the next few months I am going to share stories and pictures of transformation, amazing healing, laughter and joy as we bring a greater awareness of our natural environment and conservation through our programs. This is a time to enjoy and love. I invite you to come and play with us. In March 2007 I am looking forward to meeting the legendary Jackie Connell as she joins us with the dolphins down under☺ Crikey!!!!

Love to see you here
Andrew Parker

Organisation Cetacea (ORCA)



Organisation Cetacea (ORCA) promotes the conservation of the marine environment through research, partnership and education, and provides a forum for the enjoyment of whales, dolphins, seabirds and other marine life. ORCA's website is at www.orcaweb.org.uk

Hull's Deep to host key event in whale and dolphin calendar

For the second year running, whale and dolphin conservation charity ORCA (Organisation Cetacea) will hold its Annual General Meeting at The Deep millennium project in Hull. The AGM will take place on Saturday **25th November**, and non-members are invited to join ORCA regulars, listen to inspirational speakers and enjoy a marine-themed art exhibition and sale.

Speakers will include wildlife cameraman Mark Smith, who captured amazing snow leopard footage for the BBC Planet Earth series, and Mark Simmonds of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society. In his role as Director of Science, Mark attended a crucial meeting of the International Whaling Commission earlier this year and will report back on the latest developments in the fight to protect the world's whales.

The marine-themed art exhibition, featuring the work of whale and dolphin specialist Phil Coles and others, will include a range of media from photography to oils. The exhibition will be extended at The Deep until Easter 2007. ORCA will benefit from a donated percentage from the sale of any pieces.

The AGM day will culminate in an optional three-course dinner and disco at The Deep's Two Rivers restaurant in the company of the sharks and deep-sea creatures, with the keynote speakers staying on as guests of ORCA. An accommodation package with the Holiday Inn (overlooking Hull's marina) is also available, allowing diners to enjoy a glass of wine and a leisurely saunter back to the hotel.

Phil Coles, ORCA trustee and one of its founders said "We're delighted that The Deep is hosting our AGM again this year. It's a fantastic venue, and the day promises to be a great opportunity for both members and non-members to network with like-minded people and catch up on current issues." Entry to the AGM is free to ORCA members, and £10 for non-members or £5 for accompanied children over 12 years of age. Delegates also have full access to The Deep's visitor attractions during the AGM.

On Sunday 26th November, ORCA will also be holding two half-day training sessions at The Deep on marine mammal surveying. The training will be useful to anyone thinking of joining one of ORCA's seagoing surveys, or aspiring to be a marine mammal observer. Volunteer observers will also talk about their survey experiences. Admission to the training workshop costs £10 per person and also includes full access to The Deep's visitor attractions.

ORCA's Scientific Officer Kelly Macleod said "Volunteer marine surveyors make a huge contribution to our research by joining surveys on a number of ocean-going vessels. I would urge people to get trained-up and to get involved in this crucial aspect of our work. It's also great experience for anyone planning a career in marine mammal surveying."

Anyone interested in attending the AGM, dinner or training courses should email orcaconservation@aol.com or telephone 0191 548 7279. Please include either "ORCA AGM/Dinner Booking" or "ORCA Survey Training Workshop" as the email subject title. **Early booking is recommended as places are limited.**

Note from the Editor

I HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED READING THIS NEWSLETTER.

In last month's Newsletter we featured a letter from Michael J. Nilsen 'Dilo's American Cousin'. The letter mentioned the family's time at a captive dolphin centre. 'Friends of IDW' have contacted me questioning why IDW should promote such an activity when IDW states it does not support keeping dolphins in captivity. This is true, but I felt the letter highlighted the joy that the Dilo Stories, by Horace Dobbs, brings to children.

IDW DOES NOT SUPPORT CAPTIVE DOLPHIN CENTRES!

Please help us to spread the word about **NEW IDW**. Encourage your friends and associates to become **Friends of IDW**. Friends of IDW donations can be made online on the Dolphin Shop http://www.idw.org/html/dolphin_shop.html or download a form that can be printed out and sent to IDW: http://www.idw.org/assets/applets/IDW_Dolphin_Friend_flyer.pdf.

If you would like to advertise on www.dolphinfriend.com or be included in the **UP AND COMING EVENTS** or **MY DOLPHIN STORY** section on the website, then Email our Webmaster Terry Connell on terry.connell@ntlworld.com.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR STORIES COMING – WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. WE ARE CREATING A GLOBAL NETWORK OF DOLPHIN LOVERS THAT CARE ABOUT OTHERS AND THE EARTH WE SHARE.



Jackie Connell

Editor – Friends of IDW Newsletter

www.dolphinfriend.com