



**Lundy Island
Devon
5-8 September 2002**

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Trip Report by Ida Lister

The Divers:

- Shani Eimers (Bury St Edmunds Club DO)
- Les Simmons (Bury St Edmunds club)
- James Moffat (Bury St Edmunds club)
- John Gray (Bury St Edmunds club)
- Ida Lister (CUUEG)

In September 2002, CUUEG's Ida Lister infiltrated the Bury St Edmund's (BSAC 1441) Club trip to [Lundy Island](#). That, at least, was where it was supposed to have gone, but the weather decided to play games with them...

We had originally intended to stay on Lundy Island but our camping permit was refused at the last minute. After some indecision nobody wanted to camp and we spread ourselves over 3 B+B's (see below)

Friday morning saw us receiving a phone call from Clive, the skipper, of [Clovelly Charters](#) to say that diving would not be possible today as the wind was too strong. Had we already been on Lundy Island some diving would have been possible but the boat would not be able to make it across in gale 6-7. It was also highly likely that diving was out for Saturday. After some discussion about other dive sites around the south coast, Les contacted a skipper in Plymouth and places on two boats were secured for Saturday (£30 per head). We had the rest of Friday to ourselves and resigned ourselves to the Eden Project!! A lovely day was had by all there and we finished the day by a visit to Tintagel castle, the birthplace of King Arthur. We all managed to get wet, after all, as it rained heavily as we looked around the wind swept ruins.

Saturday morning we left for Plymouth at 6 am. Shani and Ida were on one boat, happily ensconced with a group of divers that included 3 tall firemen. Tea was provided by two of their party who were unable to dive that day. At the end of the day they all shifted kit for us - a kinder group of people would be hard to find. The first dive was a small wreck at about 30 m, called the *Elk*. Visibility was 3-5m but there was plenty of life with shoals of Pollack. A DSMB was deployed for surfacing. For her first British dive for about a year, Ida was very happy! The sea was pretty rough and getting back on the boat was a bit of a challenge as you waited for the right lull in the waves. The second dive was a 10 m scenic dive, in more sheltered water, and featured a large crab with baby crabs clinging to it in a forest of large papery kelp. A first DSMB reel jammed and Ida ascended a couple of metres before letting go (thankfully the DSMB was later recovered from the sea surface). A second DSMB was immediately deployed and the dive continued without event.

On Sunday we were able to dive off Lundy island. The Skipper spotted a basking shark, and we donned snorkel gear and dived in to swim with it or rather, to let the 5m long animal swim round us. A great experience. The first dive was off two pinnacles called the Knoll Pins, on the east coast of the island at around 25 - 30 m. There was a strong northerly current and we were advised by the Skipper to surface swim up to the inner pinnacle, and round to the southern side before descending to get protection from the current. At lunchtime the Skipper cooked freshly caught mackerel for us which we ate in the sunshine before snorkelling with the seals. The second dive was the highlight of the trip. We dived a wreck called the *Robert*, still fairly intact and lying on its starboard side at 25 m. Life is abundant and Les and Ida spotted a massive lobster hiding under the starboard side as well as a couple of Conga eels. On the way back a small buoy got entangled in the propellor and James got a third dive in as he gallantly cut it free.

Ida would like to thank the Bury club for a grand weekend!

Information for future trips:

Accommodation:

Mrs. Huxtable
Higher Velly Farm
Clovelly
EX39 5SB

Mrs. Curtis
Fuscia Cottage
Burscott Lane
Higher Clovelly

Mrs. West
C&P Holidays
Pillowery Park
Burscott Lane

01237 431207
(£16.50 per night)
(Can do a good packed lunch as well - £2 per head)

EX39 5RR
01237 431398
(£17 per night)

Higher Clovelly
EX39 5RR
01237 431065
(£18 per night)

Camping can be done at:

Mr. Royston Johns
Dyke Green Farm Campsite
Clovelly Cross
Tel. 01237 431699
(£3 per night, electricity £2 per per night)