

Plymouth, February 2013

Trip organised by: Stuart Moore Report by: Matt Watson

The Divers:

- > Christian Ashby
- > Ruth Charles
- > Chris Rafaluk
- > Stuart Moore
- > Karin Muller
- > Greg Steele
- > Xian Tay
- > Matthew Watson
- > Mareike Wiedmann

Details

We stopped off at [Tiverton Travelodge](http://www.waterloocrosspub.co.uk/) (http://www.waterloocrosspub.co.uk/) on Friday night to break the journey and found a decent nearby pub for food.

We were diving with [Southwest Diving](http://www.southwestdiving.co.uk/) (http://www.southwestdiving.co.uk/) from their boat 'Top Gun'. The winter dive package includes two days' diving and evening meal/bed and breakfast at the [Boringdon Arms](http://www.boringdonarms.co.uk/) (http://www.boringdonarms.co.uk/) - the cow pie (complete with mock pastry horns) and the rack of ribs come highly recommended!

Diving

Day 1: 16 February

There was a welcome break in the weather allowing us to get round Rame Head into Whitsand Bay to dive the HMS Scylla and the James Eagan Layne.

Dive 1: HMS Scylla

The first dive was on the Scylla, a Leander Class Frigate that was sunk as an artificial reef in March 2004. Now that the anti-fouling paint has gone, life is really starting to take hold, and much of the wreck now has a good covering of plumose anemones and dead man's fingers. Totally different to when I dived her a few years back!

Dive 2: James Eagan Layne

The James Eagan Layne was a US Liberty Ship that was beached in Whitsand bay after being torpedoed 12 miles off Plymouth. The JEL is much more broken up than the Scylla, but has a lot of life on her, and unlike the Scylla, many of the contents of the hold are still there for you to have a rummage around.

Day 2: 17 February

On Sunday the wind had picked up from the south east, so we dived the Breakwater Fort and Jenny Cliff Bay.

Dive 1: Breakwater Fort

The Breakwater Fort is a good site. It was used as a training site for commercial divers for many years, hence there's lots of junk lying around for you to investigate, and for crabs/lobsters to hide amongst. There are also a large number of pink sea fans that are very pretty.

Dive 2: Jenny Cliff Bay

The second Dive at Jenny Cliff Bay was a bit rubbish by comparison to the previous sites. The bottom is very silty and apart from a few crabs (edible and hermit) and the odd scallop, there wasn't much to look at. At least on the plus side it was only a short trip back to the 'batten centre pontoon to pack up for the drive home.

Thanks to Stumo for organising and everyone for making it a great trip.
