

Stoney Cove, April 2013

Trip organised by Dan Reynolds

Report by Dan Reynolds

The Divers:

- > Jo Deane
- > Pete Deane
- > Stuart Moore
- > Dan Reynolds
- > Greg Steele

Details

Stuart, Greg and I made an early start to meet Pete and Jo who only had to drive down from Leicester.

With diving equipment, there is kit for fiddling with and kit for diving with, so while the three twinset divers prepared their gear, Jo and I got in the water and made a 40 minute dive on the Stanegarth.

I was trying out something new for me: using thin socks and tight wetsuit boots over my drysuit instead of the usual booties and rock boots. The proved to be a real success, as I could actually fit my feet into the fins. Attitude control was far easier, my feet were warmer, and I could swim much faster without risking a cramp. I would recommend this to anyone.

With the twinsetted trio finally ready to dive, Jo and I sat on the side providing surface cover. While we were sitting there, the Cambridge University Officer Training Corps were finishing their Open Water course, braving the 5C water in hired wetsuits! Though I daresay it would toughen them up, it was a terrible thing to watch them shivering there, and I was almost moved to share the contents of my Thermos. If anyone knows these people, please invite them to join CUJEG where they can enjoy the toasty delights of a drysuit!

Stuart, Greg and Pete, practicing for the Scapa trip, returned fairly quickly after some kind of out-of-air drill, and Jo and I made a second dive, again 20m / 40 mins. This time we swam left along the cliff, looking at the helicopter and a van. With the sun out it could have been Cornwall. Jo found some good crayfish lurking under Captain Nemo's Nautilus, and we followed a pike.

This time I tried another thing, Stuart's "Waterproof" gloves. These have a smooth, silvery lining which presumably keeps the warm water in and reflects heat back to your hand. This was another huge improvement over regular wetsuit gloves - this time, I could actually feel my hands for the entire dive, and it's true to say that no part of me was cold in the slightest.

Feeling that good, I was tempted to go down to 35m with the other three, but I needed a fill and didn't want to hold things up. As it was, Pete dived with no less than four cylinders while Stuart practiced shutting down a free-flowing regulator at 35m, showing the benefits of having a twinset for this kind of dive. Greg, breathing air, enjoyed a bit of narcosis, apparently losing at rock-paper-scissors even when Pete was trying to let him win.

We were back in Cambridge mid afternoon - all in all an excellent day's diving, and a site I'd recommend to anyone wanting to put in some practice before it's time to go back in the sea.
