

Tigger's Dream 23rd April 2006.

Rottingdean and Seaford Drift



Meet at 9.00am Newhaven.

This was the script. 9.15 we are taking bets as to what time Doug will arrive. Of course he has less distance to travel but as most of you will know Doug (alias Postman Pat in his red van) tends to drive rather cautiously!!

Anyway he arrives shortly after all bets are in, nobody wins as he arrived too early!!

Weather has been kind to us this week with very little wind but as we are kitting up there are a few spots of rain in the air. Nothing to worry about though. Crew is Karen, Dave and Squiddy.

Divers for the day are Kevin and Paul, Tim and Rob and Doug and Therese.

Our plan is to find some viz. After last week anything would be good!!

Our dive briefing goes something like, we don't expect to see anything so hold onto the line etc.

Well it couldn't have been more different. We motored out to Rottingdean and me and Tim dropped over to have a look 15 mts and we could see the bottom!!. This will do. Back on the boat and kitted up we all back rolled in together. Paul and me dropped first and lazily drifted, we saw plaice, gurnard, hermit crabs and a carpet of star fish, 30 minutes later start to ascend. Back on the boat, then off to pick up the others. I have dived quite a lot here but I have not seen better viz here.

Quite a slow trip back to refill air then out to Seaford. On the way out we spotted a Dolphin who tripped round and about for a few minutes. Paul managed to lose his mask as we all dropped in without kit to play with the dolphin. Didn't really get too close as with my eyesight I thought it might be a great white shark!! Tim's lending me his prescription mask soon!! And you all thought you had to go to Florida to see dolphins eh!!!!

This time some of us kitted up in the water and Doug and Therese went on a drift over a nice reef and so did me, Tim and Rob. 20 mins and time to swap Rob for Paul. Back down and drifting steadily towards Beachy Head looking at the reef formations. Lots of star fish, velvet swimming crabs, edible crabs and a lobster (too small for eating, but I know where you live now, next time eh!)

Boat had collected Doug etc and all on board me being last then a camera was tossed in the water with instructions, "take a few pictures, see you later". Shock, horror as I bobbed about with the boat buzzing me from all directions. Got some good pics though so hope you enjoy them. Unquestionably this had been a great days diving in the boat. It has helped Rob and Paul gain more experience as this was their first time in the sea and also from a boat. It has shown them that there is excellent diving to be had locally and the more people from the club we get in the better. In the next few weeks we will be going further out to find some of the many wrecks that litter the area just off the coast and explore them. I can say from personal experience that there are many more fish here than in the red sea although not so pretty but personally I prefer to see the wrecks, so book your space soon as there are limited spaces available on each trip and I can guarantee you that all those that go will re-book straight away and it will become harder to get a spot as time goes on.

My thanks once again go to the crew who did (eventually) get me home safely and to my buddies for another great days diving and to Wendy my wife because I was late home (again).

Kevin