

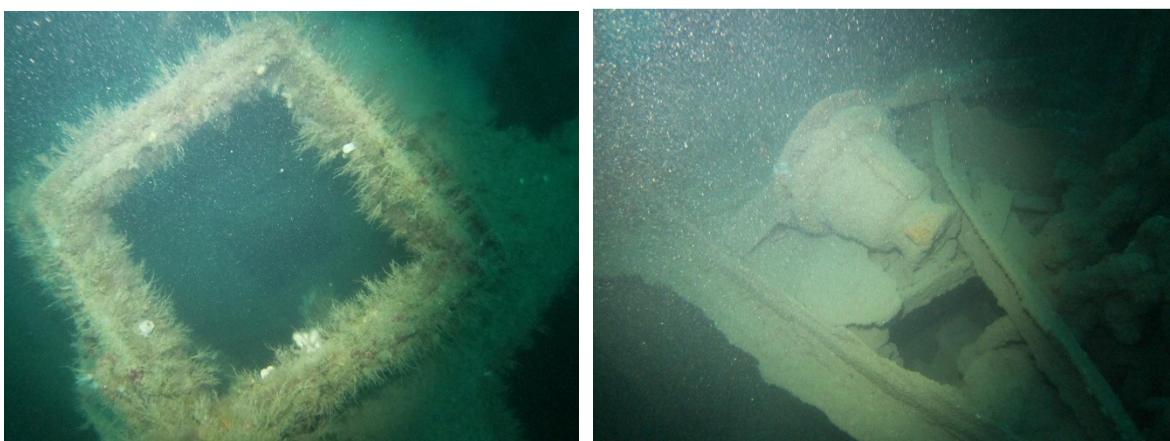
HOPE COVE TRIP - MAY 2012

Hope Cove has been a favourite destination of SSAC for a number of years. The base is Shippen House, a 10 bed holiday home with excellent facilities overlooking the beach at Hope Cove in South Devon. It is also an opportunity to exercise the club rib away from its home base.



Friday – Journey down is 4-5 hours from Portsmouth. The boat arrives mid-afternoon and everyone settles into Shippen House ready for diving the next day. It's a nice warm and sunny day. Doug rigs up a router to give house wide wi-fi access and we have our own internet café for the week.

Saturday – Diving the Maine. It's dark and murky due to the rain water run-off from the land. The two rib trips to the wreck were disappointing. James, Louis and Nick do a shore dive from Outer Hope beach to check equipment and buoyancy. Alison prepares a wonderful supper in between studying for her exam later in the week. This was a lovely sunny weekend and a wonderful sandy beach to enjoy when not diving or coxing the boat. Martin sets up his portable compressor to provide air. We also have a J cylinder of O2 to blend Nitrox mixes.



Sunday – Today we dived the Persier.



Calm seas, sunshine and blue skies provide more promising conditions. There was good visibility on the wreck. Two trips were made to the wreck in Bigbury Bay. We also completed two drift dives in kelp close in to the cliffs along Bolt Tail during late afternoon and early evening. It is cold and miserable for me as the coxswain for both trips, which is really too much for one person. Not helped by omitting to wear sufficient thermal protection under my drysuit. Dawn arrives and James returns to Portsmouth. Alison prepares supper.



Monday – Blown out and a lazy day. Dawn prepares chicken and beef fajitas for supper. John returns to Portsmouth.

Tuesday – Blown out again. Walk along Bolt Tail to Soar Mill Cove and Port Light hotel on Bolberry Down. Dawn walks all the way to Salcombe, becomes tired and depressed and texts for a lift. We are all out walking on Bolt Tail at this time, so she eventually gets a taxi back to Hope Cove. We stop on the way back at the Port Light hotel for lunch. This was a former Golf course pavilion opened in 1907 and later used by the RAF in WWII as an airfield. On our return Louis also walks to the iron age fort at Bolt Tail. Alison returns to Portsmouth for an exam on Wednesday. Dawn, Nick and Louis

start partying and it does not end until the day after tomorrow. Dawn has a bad head the next day and gets lots of sympathy.



Wednesday – Dived the Persier in the morning and a sandy bottom in the vicinity of the Jebba wreck in the afternoon. Visibility on Persier was great, but the sandy bottom drift was nothing to write home about.



Thursday – Up early for a dive on the Maine. We sneak in another dive on the Maine before the weather worsens. This time the visibility is excellent and we have a most enjoyable dive. Later we haul out the boat and bring it back to the house for a good wash down.

Friday – Up early to clean the house and pack. We are away by 0930 and it is over for another year.