

**NEWS** 10-07

**NEWS  
IN BRIEF**

**DIVER DIES OFF IRELAND**

An English woman has died after surfacing from a dive near Castlegregory in west Kerry, Ireland.

The 59-year-old had been diving with her husband and others off the Maherees on 5 August. She is believed to have failed to surface with the group and one of her companions went to find her. She was unconscious when taken from the water and died later. Her body was taken to Kerry General Hospital, where a post-mortem examination will be carried out.

**DOLPHIN PROTEST**

Dolphin and whale conservation charity The Marine Connection will be leading a peaceful protest outside the Japanese Embassy in London against the Japanese drive hunts, which slaughter thousands of dolphins and whales every year.

This protest on 25 September aims to stop this brutal practise - the largest slaughter of dolphins in the world. Drive hunts are fuelled by the captivity industry, which pays huge prices for choice individuals to be displayed, before the rest are slaughtered for their meat.

[www.marineconnection.org](http://www.marineconnection.org)

**Royal Archer bell found**

The bell of the steam ship Royal Archer has been found in the Firth of Forth.

The find was made by Emma Smith and Mark Blyth, owner of The Dive Bunker Dive Centre in Burntisland, Fife.

Mark frequently puts his customers on this impressive wreck, which sank after hitting a mine in 1940, so hundreds of

divers have fanned over the bell unaware of its presence.

The bell was found by a case of good luck. Immediately on reaching the seabed, while Mark secured the shotline to the wreck, Emma spotted the bell partially sticking out of the seabed. After considerable digging to free the bell, which weighs around 20kg, Mark



Photograph: Mike Clark

managed to rope it off and bring it safely to the surface. The find has been declared to the Receiver of Wreck.

**Taking diving to the masses**

Portsmouth-based Triton Scuba came up with a novel approach to getting new divers hooked on the sport by putting a try-dive pool in a shopping centre.

For ten days Triton ran try dives in a prime spot

at Gunwharf Quays shopping and entertainment complex to coincide with celebrating the City's maritime heritage with a Waterfront Festival.

It worked and the end result was more than 150 try-dives, more than 20 club members diving in the ornamental lock (formally the Defence

Diving School facility and not dived for some 15-20 years), huge amounts of visibility within the local community and the opportunity to take diving to the masses. It just goes to show what can be achieved when you think outside the box and try something radically different.



**LATEST...** New flights from Gatwick-Aqaba, Nov-April. [Aquatours.com](http://Aquatours.com)

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