

Clean-up the world

On 17 September, divers on board northern Red Sea liveboard VIP One showed their support for the 20th PADI Project AWARE International Clean-up Day and took part in an underwater clean-up on the Middle Gardens dive site in Sharm el Sheikh.

The clean-up was initiated by Dan Lion, diving product manager for Longwood Holidays, who happened to be on board for the week. He – along with his wife Beth, six other Longwood Holidays guests and six Russian divers – were more than keen to do their bit for the environment. "What better way to contribute to conservation in the area than to get stuck in ourselves," commented Dan.

Fortunately, a minimal amount of debris was collected from the seabed, which is reassuring evidence that the Red Sea reefs are being

protected from the growing number of tourists holidaying on the Red Sea Riviera.

For further information, contact Longwood Holidays on 020 8418 2570 or check out the website: www.longwoodholidays.co.uk



Cleaning up the Maldives

Kuredu Island Resort and Kuredu ProDivers took part in 'Clean Up The World' day, held on 17 September.

More than 130 people, guests and staff, participated in the clean-up, guided by ProDivers dive school staff, hotel staff and some of the tour representatives on the island.



On Kuredu island, a stand was set up with a 'Clean Up The World' banner to serve as a central meeting point and control centre.

Some 48 divers went to the House Reef in the afternoon and collected a few bags of garbage, and Kuredu ProDivers' snorkelling department was cleaning the jetty and lagoon. Around 20 guests collaborated with two snorkel guides to cover the above areas.

A total of 36 guests, tour guides and a lot of hotel staff were walking around the island and collecting rubbish. As result of the clean-up, around 48 bags of rubbish were collected.

When all groups had returned, a photograph was taken on the beach of all the clean-up participants. Kuredu Island Resort organised a party with free drinks and snacks for all volunteers. Thanks to all that made this event possible!

IDCS IN THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

For the fourth year in a row, the luxury trimaran Cuan Law will be the exclusive home for a PADI Instructor Development Course as it sails among the beautiful British Virgin Islands. Cuan Law is very spacious and stable – 31 metres long with a 14-metre beam. PADI Course Director Barbara DeClerque will conduct the programme.

The dates are 27 August to 5 September, with the Instructor Exam on 6/7 September. To take full advantage of being on this lovely sailing vessel, potential candidates are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible in order to start preparing. In addition, the class size will be limited to ten IDC and two IDC Staff candidates to give everyone plenty of personal attention.

The all-inclusive cost of the 12-night programme is £1,885 (£1,814 if deposit received before 31 December 2005). This covers tuition, diving during the IDC, fun diving, accommodations during the IDC and IE (double occupancy), meals, soft drinks and snacks, post IE party and all taxes and service charges. There are one or two cabins available for single occupancy for an additional cost (Note PADI fees and books are not included). For more detailed information, contact Barbara at: bdeclerque@usa.net

OLD FRIENDS MEET UP AFTER 22 YEARS

It was celebrations all round at Portsmouth-based PADI five-star IDC centre Triton Scuba on 25 September. As is the usual practice at the centre, the successful students were having a celebratory glass of champagne with their instructors, and several members of the club were also raising a toast to the latest member to reach 100 dives.

However, this day was different. The club has around 250 members and new club members Robert Bruce and Derrick Healy, both from Scotland, just happened to pop into the South Coast dive centre at the same time – and they recognised each other instantly. They had served together in the RAF in Bruggen, Germany, in 1983 and had not seen each other since. Both had eventually migrated down to Portsmouth, and both had

ended up in the same dive club.

Centre owner and Course Director David Jones said: "It was an incredible coincidence, and just goes to show what a small world we live in. Meeting up again after 22 years must have been quite strange for them. However, the story does not quite end there, as it transpires that they have both ended up working as MoD policemen. How spooky is all that?"

For more information about diving out of Portsmouth, check out the website: www.tritonscuba.co.uk

