

Parting Shot 1

It's safe to say that 2020 hasn't been the best year for divers. With foreign trips postponed and cancelled, we've all had to reconsider our diving plans for this year. This isn't all bad though, as it's given us British divers a renewed appreciation of the fantastic dives we have right on our doorstep.

One such location I visited this summer is the famous Chesil Cove. This was my first visit to Chesil. I had been told horror stories by my partner (also a diver) about nauseating, washing machine currents and the Mount Everest like steepness of the beach. These concerns did not deter me. I was keen to get in and experience the local marine life for myself.

Whilst Chesil certainly isn't as treacherous as I was lead to believe, it definitely is a task to enter and exit the surge whilst coddling a rather unwieldy SLR housing! Juggling a large camera whilst trying to remove fins is a sure-fire way to end up flailing around and beaching yourself on the pebbles, much to the amusement of your buddy!

Once submerged however, Chesil certainly rewards in terms of marine life! The resident cuttlefish were out in abundance, and very tolerant of their neoprene clad visitors. I managed to grab a photo of this handsome chap as he sat and posed for me on the iconic Chesil pebbles. I was mesmerised by their hypnotic ability to change colour and patterns to camouflage themselves. A true chameleon of the sea!

These creatures are proof you don't need to travel far, to dive with incredible marine life!



Nikon D810, Sigma 15mm Fisheye, Nauticam Housing, Zen 170mm Dome, 1/60, f9, Iso 200, 1x Inon Z330

Rhodri Hall

[@rhodri_hall](mailto:Rhodri.Hall@gmail.com)
Rhodri.Hall@gmail.com

**Do you have a shot
which has a story within a story?
If so e mail it with up to 500 words of text
and yours could be the next Parting Shot.**

peter@uwpmag.com

Parting Shot 2

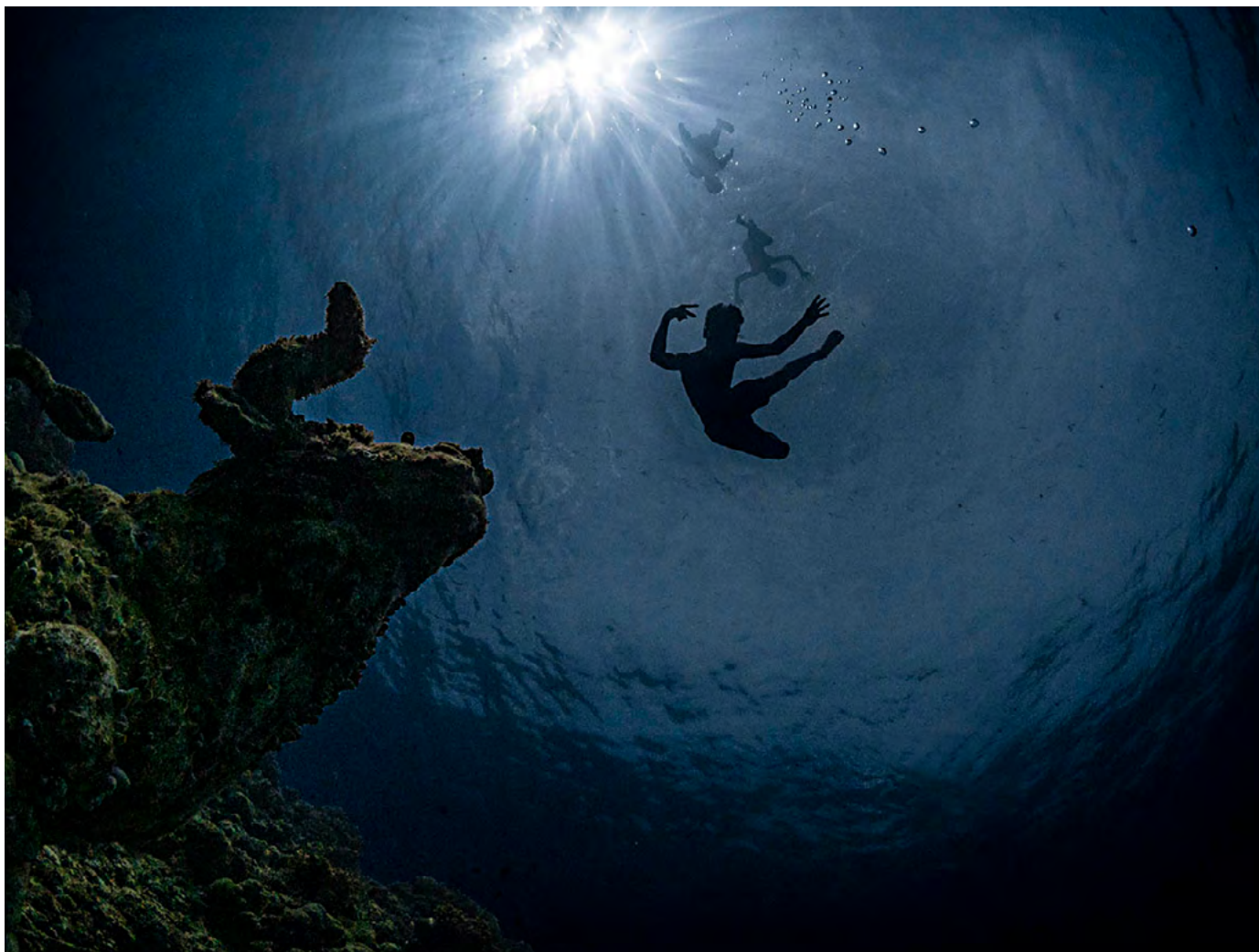
I spent most of 2020 in Cebu in the Philippines. At the beginning I was stranded there with the lockdown but after a while I decided to stay longer. The area has many nice dives from the shore and I could also train in freediving. The food was good and nice friends made my stay very enjoyable.

One of the most famous hotels in the area the Pacific Cebu Resort has a long pier that they use for diving. In the end of it there is an array of underwater sculptures. They create a very beautiful and photogenic UW scenery. Big words like LOVE and ENJOY, two hearts that divers can put a padlock as a sign of eternal love, a mermaid and 12 Sculptures of the Zodiac signs. The spot is between 13 and 17 meters deep in nice clear waters with lots of fish swimming around.

One day coming back from island hopping we stopped to make a couple of dives around the statues. A group of children were playing in the water when we arrived. I asked them if they can dive down to the statues to take a picture of them. Most of the kids looked at me like I was crazy but one of them came closer.

I can dive down there mister, he said. I went down first and waited for him. He came down half way and I could see the struggle in him. The urge to breathe against his ego. The body language spoke volumes as the eyes of his friends were on him. Eventually the urge to breathe won but it still gave me the chance to take a picture.

10 minutes later he came back to me and asked me to try again. The second time he reached the statue and I could see the joy in his eyes. The picture was not so good though.



The picture was shot on breath hold.

Olympus OM-D E-M5 mark III with Olympus M.Zuiko Digital ED 8mm f/1.8 Fisheye PRO Lens behind a 4.33" Dome port in a Nauticam housing. f/11, 1/6400 sec, ISO 1600

Nicholas Kouvaras
www.freedivingsociety.com

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