

Editorial

Please donate to your UwP contributors

You may not know this but none of the UwP contributors get paid. They provide their articles and photo talent in support of the cause of UwP which aims to keep the magazine free for anyone to download.

I've been involved commercially in underwater photography for a long time and I see UwP as my way of putting something back into the hobby I find so absorbing.

In order to remunerate contributors and encourage even better articles for UwP I would like you to consider making a small donation per issue or consider a larger Annual donation.

Have you learnt something invaluable by reading UwP? Have you saved a lot of time benefitting for the experience of UwP contributors or do you simply just enjoy UwP and want to support its philosophy?

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When deciding how much you want to donate, please bear in mind that PayPal's charge for amounts smaller than £3 or \$6 can be as high as 24%!! Whilst I accept that PayPal is absolutely brilliant and safe, I don't want this to become a 'Donate a lot to PayPal'!!

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Disposable digital

Having been involved in repairing underwater photography equipment for over 30 years I have a train of thought that all things mechanical should be repairable as long as spare parts are available.

I accept that electronic boards are cheaper to replace than repair reliably but when I'm told by Olympus UK that no spare parts are available to repair their excellent range of underwater digital housings I think it is a sad indictment of our throw away society encouraged by equipment manufacturers.

Climate change

There's an old saying (which I've just made up) which says "Nothing much happens until the media take it onboard" and this could well apply to global warming and greenhouse gases.

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report predicts that average global temperatures will rise by between 2°C and 4.5°C by 2100. This comes at a time when the heavily computer aided Met Office can't accurately predict what the weather will be like this afternoon but it does make chilling reading.

We are the only animal on the planet which doesn't really rely on anything or anyone else. We can grow our own food, shoot animals that might eat us and produce medicines to save us from disease but every other living thing relies for its very survival on something else.

Whales need krill, seabirds need sandeels and elephants need foliage and water etc etc. Each living being, apart from us, is part of a large chain of life. Removing one link from that chain will produce a domino effect.

Up until now the equilibrium of the food chain has maintained a balance but with global warming caused by greenhouse gases that delicate balance is under threat and nowhere more so than life in the sea.

If the predictions are right we are heading for possibly terminal chaos which only we can do something about. And that, as I see it, is where we face a huge dilemma.

We can't all walk to work, we all want to go on dive trips and we want to have new cameras to lust over. It's human nature and I really can't see how that is going to change.

But change it must and we can all do something to make a difference.

I made a start yesterday and locked my greenhouse door.

peter@uwpmag.com

www.uwpmag.com