

Cover Shot

I make no apology for choosing this issue's front cover. Photographically it's not a brilliant shot but that's not the point. The point is the subject matter and the image tells it like it is; stark, depressing and hopefully frightening. That is how powerful a photograph can be.

Most normal mortals have an inbuilt fear of drowning and I hope that this image conveys in the strongest possible way what it feels like, for us, to effectively choke to death. The shark unfortunately was dead when the net was discovered but thankfully the ray was cut free and lived to swim another day.

We had a similar front cover shot on UwP67 in July/Aug 2012 by Jordi Chias Pujol of a small turtle suffocating in a heavy fishing net. It had won the One Earth category in the recent Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2010 so it was obviously a good photograph photographically.

This issue's front cover by Attila Koszo almost certainly won't win any prizes photographically but competitions aren't everything. What is important is the truth and we as underwater photographers have the power to illustrate that truth.

Photographing the truth may, in the long term, save the beauty.

Editorial

Invest in 'glass'

Alex M's (you know who he is) excellent article in this issue on choosing between a Nikon D600 and 800 makes fascinating reading and it illustrates how far technology has progressed and how we are, most definitely, the beneficiaries.

His very informative and stunningly illustrated article is providing you with the information to help you decide whether to choose between an amazing camera or a really amazing camera; either of which is capable of producing stunning results in excess of your requirements.

At the end of the day it all comes down to money but if you can save a really large amount of money buying a Nikon D600 over an 800 without a noticeable disadvantage in overall image quality, you'd be a fool not to because, with the money you save, you could invest in the best available 'glass' which is an awfully trendy term used for lenses with a wide constant maximum aperture and which, in the cold hard photographic light of day, really do make an optical difference.

Sinking wrecks

I must start by apologising on behalf of my British maritime nation for our lamentable track record in sinking obsolete naval vessels which we, by the way, the law abiding taxpayer, have paid for.

For the record we have scuttled just one, yes 1, in the whole of our maritime history and that was back in 2004. It was HMS Scylla, a Leander Class frigate which served us in the Iceland Cod War amongst other duties and now lies in 30 metres of water and has attracted the most amazing marine growth.

In the words of Wikipedia, the sinking of HMS Scylla has benefitted Devon and Cornwall's economy, with a large increase in visitor numbers to the National Marine Aquarium and local diving schools reporting a large increase in divers wanting to experience the wreck.

Recently we were denied the opportunity to scuttle aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal, 210 m (689 ft) long and displacing 22,000 tons preferring to sell her for just £3 million for scrap.

Can you imagine the revenue it could have created from visiting divers from all over the world?

In the words of the late, great Ian Dury "What a waste".

Dive the World magazine

I take no pleasure what so ever in writing this piece but hopefully it will bring an era to an end.

Unfortunately glossy and beautifully printed Dive the World magazine has folded (sorry for the pun) ALLEGEDLY owing subscribers, contributors and presumably printers not insignificant amounts of money.

News like this is never good but hopefully it will become undeniable proof that, for once and for all, to produce, print and distribute a quality magazine based on underwater photography will never, ever, stand on it's own two feet without the likes of Paul Allen or Larry Ellison to support such a venture unconditionally.

It is a classic sign of the times; an inevitable consequence of people power and technology.

The only light at the end of the tunnel is that if either Messrs Allen or Ellison are reading this they might like to invest in an online publication such as UwP to make it glossier.

If your are reading this Pauly or Lazza my contact details are:

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