

International Dolphin Watch (IDW)

Has an unblemished reputation as a non-profit organisation dedicated to helping dolphins since it was founded by Dr Horace Dobbs in 1978.



Friends of IDW NEWSLETTER

1st April 2008

INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN WATCH (IDW)

IS A GLOBAL FAMILY OF DOLPHIN LOVERS

HELPING DOLPHINS AND PEOPLE

In the past, members communicated via the printed journal **DOLPHIN**.

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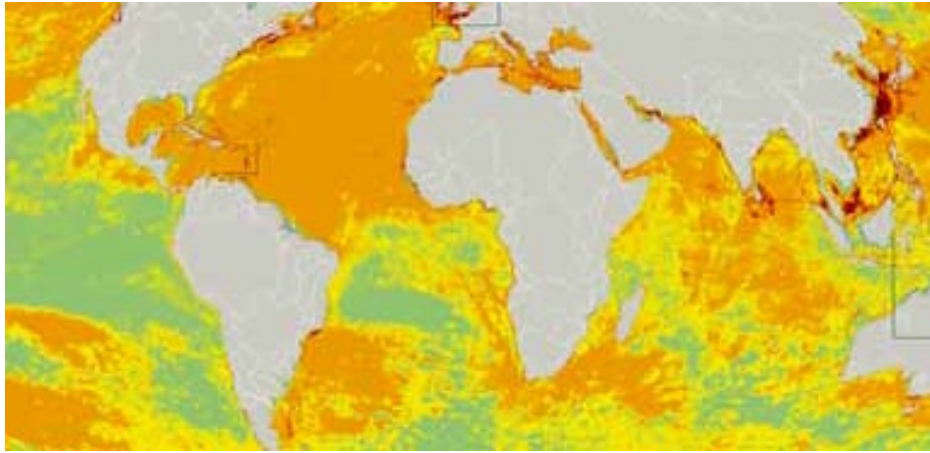
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CONSERVATION

No ocean is untainted by the polluting hand of Man



From The Times, 15th February 2008

Mark Henderson, Science Editor

Almost half of the oceans have been badly damaged by humanity and no region has been left untouched, the first global map of Man's impact on marine ecosystems has revealed.

The ambitious project to chart the changing ocean environment shows that Man has exacted a much heavier toll on the seas through fishing, pollution and climate change than had been thought.

The world map, which was created by dividing the oceans into kilometre squares, shows that 41 per cent have been affected strongly by 17 human activities, a much higher proportion than expected.

Some of the worst-affected marine areas are found around the British Isles. Parts of the North Sea, the Channel and the North Atlantic off the Irish and Scottish coasts have all been assessed as suffering very high ecological damage.

The map is the first to combine information on how different human influences are affecting the oceans. It examined indicators of environmental health, including coral reefs, fisheries, kelp forests and water quality.

Ben Halpern, of the US National Centre for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), who led the study, said: "This project allows us to finally start to see the big picture of how humans are affecting the oceans. Our results show that when these and other individual impacts are summed up, the big picture looks much worse than I imagine most people expected. It was certainly a surprise to me."

David Garrison, the biological oceanography programme director at the US National Science Foundation, which funded the initiative, said: "This research is a critically needed synthesis of the impact of human activity on ocean ecosystems. The effort is likely to be a model for assessing these impacts at local and regional scales."

The map, which was presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Boston yesterday, was produced by drawing up human impact scores for each marine square. A paper describing the map has been published in the journal Science.

Each type of human influence fits one of four categories: climate change, pollution, fishing and shipping. Climate change has had the greatest impact, particularly through rising sea temperatures and its effect of

acidifying the oceans. The effect of fishing is the next most important, especially the damage that has been caused to coral reefs from trawling and stock depletions from overfishing.

In many regions the effects of these are combined with pollution, particularly run-off of fertilisers from agricultural land and invasive alien species that are often introduced in the ballast tanks of ships.

“Clearly we can no longer just focus on fishing or coastal wetland loss or pollution as if they are separate effects,” said Andrew Rosenberg, a professor of natural resources at the University of New Hampshire, an independent scientist who was not involved with the study.

“These human impacts overlap in space and time and, in far too many cases, the magnitude is frighteningly high. The message for policymakers seems clear to me: conservation action that cuts across the whole set of human impacts is needed now.”

Beyond British waters the regions that are most affected are in the South and East China seas, the Caribbean, the East Coast of North America, the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, the Gulf, the Bering Sea and several parts of the western Pacific. The areas near the poles have been affected the least but these regions are at risk of damage through global warming.

“Unfortunately as polar ice sheets disappear with a warming global climate and human activities spread into these areas there is a great risk of rapid degradation of these relatively pristine ecosystems,” Carrie Kappel, of NCEAS, a principal investigator on the project, said.

Dr Halpern said that while the picture is grim it could be reversed by urgent action. “There is definitely room for hope,” he said. “With efforts to protect the chunks of the ocean that remain relatively pristine we have a good chance of preserving them.

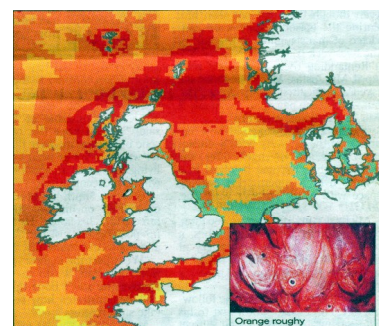
“My hope is that our results serve as a wake-up call to better manage and protect our oceans. Humans will always use the oceans for recreation, extraction of resources and commercial activity such as shipping. This is a good thing. Our goal is to do this in a sustainable way so that our oceans remain in a healthy state and continue to provide us with the resources we need and want.”

British scientists welcomed the study but said that the poor scores for British waters could reflect better recording of environmental problems.

Emma Jackson, of the Marine Biological Association, said: “The unsustainable way in which we exploit the goods and services that marine eco-systems provide are shown in this paper and, as a nation, we should be concerned.

“But we should consider that the UK human impact hotspot, which Halpern and colleagues have highlighted, is partly due to the fact that we are fairly good at recording our human activities. It is also down to a legacy of historical pressures, which we are now beginning to do something about by protecting our marine areas.”

Professor John Shepherd, of the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton, said: “This is a bold attempt to make a global map of human impacts on the ocean. The high impact shown for UK waters is probably due to heavy fishing, intensive exploitation of oil and gas resources, shipping and tourism. Not all of these lead directly to ecosystem damage but there is no doubt that mankind’s impact is significant.”



Professor Chris Frid, of the University of Liverpool, said: “As the management of human impacts on the environment seeks to be more holistic and ecosystem-based it is critical that we have means of assessing the sites of human impacts”.

“Spatial mapping of the ‘footprint’ of human impacts is a useful way of doing this as different impacts — fishing, oil exploration, aggregate dredging — can then be superimposed. The results confirm the fact that coastal seas close to populous and industrialised areas are most impacted”.

“The major limitation of this approach is the pseudo-precision of the maps. The original scientists did not score the impact of each activity in each square but their responses were transferred by the authors to these grids and then aggregated”.

“The resulting broad patterns will be correct but the detail in terms of footprint and intensity will be approximate and must not be used as the basis for management decisions, for example on where to allow development.”

41% of the oceans have strongly been affected by 17 human activities listed below



Climate change
 Ocean acidification
 Ultraviolet radiation
 Sea temperature

Pollution
 Direct human pollution (sewage etc)
 Inorganic pollution
 Nutrient input (fertiliser runoff etc)



Oil, gas and shipping

Oil and gas platforms
 Commercial shipping
 Ocean based pollution (from shipping)
 Species invasion (mainly through shipping ballast)



Fishing
 Artisanal fishing
 Low-bycatch pelagic (open-ocean) fishing
 High-bycatch pelagic fishing
 Non-habit-modifying low-bycatch fishing
 Non-habit-modifying high-bycatch fishing
 Habit-modifying fishing (mainly

trawling damage to coral reefs, sea mounts)

For further information visit:
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/>

RESEARCH



<http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/>

Life and its environment on Earth form a tightly coupled system. Understanding the way this system functions is a formidable scientific challenge. Given the growing effects on the planet of human activities, it is also an urgent priority. The Antarctic is a pivotal component of the Earth system.

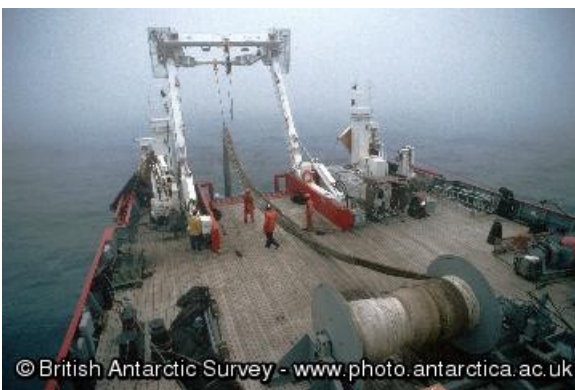
Antarctica's ice, rocks and living material contain a treasure trove of information on Earth's history and the evolution of life. Although geographically remote, it affects the whole planet through its influence on the climate system and sea level.

Recognising this, British Antarctic Survey (BAS) has committed itself to become, by 2012, the leading international centre making use of the exceptional importance of the Antarctic and the surrounding Southern Ocean to achieve new insights into key global phenomena and scientific fundamentals.

Sustainability of the Southern Ocean biological resources

The stormy seas that encircle the continent of Antarctica are known as the Southern Ocean. Occupying the only band of latitudes on the planet where ocean waters encircle the globe, the Southern Ocean connects the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Indian oceans, and is a crucial cog in the Earth's climate system.

The Southern Ocean is one of the largest marine ecosystems in the world. Its cold and often ice-covered waters harbour a web of species from the smallest single-celled plants and animals to the largest mammal on Earth, the blue whale.



Although commercially exploited for decades, many of the Southern Ocean's scientific secrets remain undiscovered. Working from its Royal Research Ship *James Clark Ross* and its research stations on South Georgia - Bird Island and King Edward Point - scientists from British Antarctic Survey (BAS) are studying many crucial aspects of the Southern Ocean and the species that depend on it.

One of the key challenges for BAS scientists today is to predict how human activity and climate change will affect the Southern Ocean, and how the creatures that depend on it will respond. Parts of Antarctica are among the most rapidly warming areas of the planet. At BAS, scientists are

monitoring the effects of this climate change on the Southern Ocean's ecosystem.

BAS also plays a vital role in conserving fish stocks in the Southern Ocean. Exploitation of the Southern Ocean's biological riches began almost immediately after humans reached the region. The discovery in 1775 of South Georgia by Captain James Cook heralded the start of both sealing and whaling, industries that were to last until the 1960s and drive many species to the edge of extinction.

Fishing continues in the Southern Ocean today, but catches are kept within ecologically sustainable limits by the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). By monitoring populations of key species, BAS is able to provide CCAMLR with the scientific information it needs to ensure that fishing can continue at the same time as fish stocks are preserved.

NEWS

How Moko the dolphin gave humans a masterclass in saving stranded whales

The Times, 13th March 2008



Moko the dolphin saved two whales from almost certain death after they became stranded.

Moko the dolphin had already won over humans at Mahia Beach, where she plays with swimmers in the New Zealand surf and pushes kayaks along with her snout. Now the friendly bottle-nosed has shown her empathy for other species, by saving two whales from almost certain death after they became stranded.

Human attempts to guide the two pygmy sperm whales through a narrow escape route from the beach had consistently failed, and all seemed lost until the dolphin intervened.

Moko, a regular visitor to Mahia Beach on the east side of North Island, appeared to communicate with the whales before guiding them to open water

Malcolm Smith, a field worker for the New Zealand Department of Conservation, said that he had almost given up and was contemplating killing the whales to prevent further distress, until Moko arrived.

“It was amazing,” he said. “It was like she grabbed them by the flipper and led them to safety. We worked for over an hour to try to get them back out to sea . . . but they kept getting disorientated and stranding again.”

The whales — a three metres (10ft) long female and her 1.5-metre male calf — had been unable to negotiate a sand bar that was blocking their way to deeper water.

Mr Smith was alerted to the whales’ plight early on Monday morning by a neighbour. “Over the next hour and a half I pushed them back out to sea two or three times and they were very reluctant to move offshore,” he said.

“I was reaching the stage where I was thinking, it’s about time to give up, I’ve done as much as I can. The whales were getting tired and I was getting cold when Moko turned up. She just came straight for us and escorted the two whales along the beach and out through the channel.”

He heard Moko and the whales making noises before they departed, he said. “The whales were on the surface of the water quite distressed. They had arched their backs and were calling to one another, but as soon as the dolphin turned up they submerged into the water and followed her.” Moko led the whales 200m along the beach and once they reached the end of the sand bar, Moko turned a right angle through a narrow channel and led the whales to safety.

Rescued whales often return to the site of their stranding, but Moko’s actions appear to have had long-term success. “She obviously gave them enough guidance to leave the area because we haven’t seen them since,” Mr Smith said. “What the communication was I do not know, and I was not aware dolphins could communicate with pygmy sperm whales.”

Mark Simmonds, director of science at the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, said that bottle-nosed dolphins are renowned for their ability to empathise with humans and other animals. “The whole notion that a bottle-nose dolphin would have shown the whales the way out is completely possible,” he said.

“Dolphins have got the ability to plan, to think ahead, to persuade others to take part. They almost certainly do not have a common language with pygmy sperm whales, but they would understand that the whales would have been at risk of stranding. The first thing a dolphin does when it has a calf is to push it to the surface so it can breathe.”

Dolphins are known to swim in mixed groups with some species of whale to protect themselves from predators, so it may not have been unusual for the animals to associate with one another, he said. He is aware of one instance of a bottle-nosed dolphin — nicknamed Dave by locals in Folkestone, Kent, where the female creature is a regular sighting — playing with a seal.

Moko has become famous for her antics at Mahia, which include playing in the surf with swimmers, approaching boats to be patted and pushing kayaks through the water with her snout. Once she had assisted the whales she immediately returned to the beach to play with local residents. Such close interaction with humans is rare among dolphins but not unknown. Mr Smith said: “She’s become isolated from her pod obviously for one reason or another, but made Mahia home just at the moment.”

Up to 30 whales become stranded on Mahia Beach every year, most of which have to be put down. “I don’t know if next time we have a whale stranding we can get her to come in again. She certainly saved the day for us and the whales this time.”

Tiny Porpoise faces extinction

San Felipe

Times, 19th March 2008

The vaquita, a tiny stubby-nosed porpoise found only in Mexico’s Sea of Cortez, is on the brink of extinction. Biologists say that more die each year in nets than are being born and there may be only 150 left (*Reuters*).

Mutilated dolphins washing up on UK coasts

Jasper Copping

Sunday Telegraph, 16/03/2008

An increasing number of mutilated dolphins are washing up dead on British coasts, conservationists have warned.

The corpses of 29 dolphins and porpoises have been found on the beaches of south-west England since the beginning of the year, compared with 80 for the whole of 2007.

Experts suspect that most have drowned after being caught up in fishing nets, and have criticised the Government for delays in the introduction of a sonar device designed to deter the creatures from swimming in fishing areas.

Some of the dolphins' bellies have been sliced open after death to try to make them sink. Others have had their tails amputated to free them from the nets, or have sustained deep cuts on their beaks and bodies from the fine threads. Ten recent "strandings" occurred in a 10-day period, including three on Cornwall's south coast.

But marine mammal specialists believe "bycatch" incidents, when fishermen catch them in their nets while fishing for other species, could be responsible for killing far more dolphins than those washed ashore.

Mark Simmonds, science director at the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, said: "It is a horrid way for these dolphins to die and you can see that when they come ashore. Fishermen are getting more adept at hiding the evidence and what we see on land is only a proportion of the problem."

Under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, porpoises, dolphins and whales are protected species. Anyone convicted of ill-treating them faces a six-month prison sentence or a £5,000 fine. But the Act does not apply to bycatch. In April 2004, the EU passed legislation requiring £60 "pingers" (sonic devices) to be fitted, but the Government has yet to force fishermen to use them.

Andy Wheeler, of the Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation, said: "Every reasonable effort is made by fishermen to avoid bycatch of dolphins. The jury is still out on whether the level of bycatch is a threat to the population."

Death of a Whale

Seattle Times 03/26/08

Let last September's botched, illegal whale hunt by five members of the Makah Tribe in the Strait of Juan de Fuca may be the last for a long, long time.

The application of the federal criminal-justice system to the killing of the grey whale has been a work in progress for months. A plea deal was close on Monday, and then collapsed. Another agreement might be forthcoming Thursday, or maybe the case will go to trial next month.

Either way, the tribe's separate and ongoing request for an exemption to the Marine Mammal Protection Act to hunt another whale, after one was legally taken in 1999, ought to be buried under a tall stack of paper.

The defendants were headed for a plea deal with no jail time and two years probation when they reportedly learned that pleading guilty to one count of violating the federal protection act might prevent them from whaling while on probation. They refused.

One might have imagined the five men would have embraced the restriction given the absolute muddle of their arrogant and inept behaviour last September.

Stranger still, the Makah Tribe had jurisdiction to enforce its own rules, but opted to avert its eyes and remain silent, if the five pleaded guilty to the one count of the federal law.

In November, the Makahs' tribal biologist issued a 13-page report of findings and drawings that ought to have mortified all associated with that sad day. In addition to not having a permit, the five men were apparently clueless about how to properly take a gray whale. Sixteen bullet holes and four harpoons did not kill the whale. Perhaps the hunters might have succeeded if they had brought a sufficient amount of the appropriate ammunition and not lost the primary rifle over the side.

Once the hapless event had begun, the mortally wounded whale struggled for eight to 10 hours before it died. As a Times headline noted, euthanasia was held up by red tape. There was much regulatory hemming and hawing after the hunt was halted by authorities.

Sending the bungling hunters to jail serves no purpose. But denying them the right to hunt whales during probation would fit the crime perfectly, and serve to elevate and hold a tradition in fitting reverence.

Taking a whale in the 21st century is about spiritual sustenance. The tragic folly on the Strait of Juan de Fuca mocks that sacred value. The moment has passed.

Rare White Killer Whale Spotted In Alaskan Waters

Science Daily, 24th March 2008

Scientists aboard the NOAA research vessel Oscar Dyson in the North Pacific have sighted a creature of great rarity and even myth: a white whale.

The white killer whale was spotted with its pod about two miles off Kanaga Volcano, part of Alaska's Aleutian Islands, on February 23. At the time, Kodiak-based Oscar Dyson was on a research expedition for NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center, assessing pollock fish stocks near Steller sea lion haulout sites.

The white whale is a fish-eating type of killer whale, as were all the killer whales photographed on the expedition. Fish-eating killer whales are the most frequently seen whales around the Aleutian Islands during the summer. The winter sightings represent important evidence that they may be common year-round.

Holly Fearnbach, a research biologist at NOAA's National Marine Mammal Laboratory in Seattle, was able to photograph the whale's white fin and back. "With hundreds of killer whales documented around the Aleutian Islands, this was equivalent to finding a needle in a haystack," she said.

"Despite the typical stormy weather that makes research operations very difficult in the winter, the scientific team on Oscar Dyson has been pulling in a huge amount of planned research data," said Alaska Fisheries Science Center director Doug DeMaster. "Extraordinary sightings like this white whale are icing on the cake."

Few white killer whales have ever been seen, according to Fearnbach, much less scientifically documented. This whale is likely not a true albino because it still has signs of darker pigmented areas on its body. However, because of its prominent coloring, the white whale serves as an indicator for movements of killer whales in the North Pacific.

White killer whales have been sighted previously in the Aleutian Islands as well as in the Bering Sea and off the Russian coast. Scientists are working to confirm whether or not the whale sighted Feb. 23 is the same animal as any of those previous seen.

Besides fish and marine mammal researchers from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Oscar Dyson also carried a bird observer from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. All added to scientific knowledge about the marine ecosystem of the Aleutian Islands in winter.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 70 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

For further news visit http://www.whales.net/whale_watch/news.html

A future for whales, not whaling!

The Japanese whaling fleet is in Antarctica. They aim to kill 935 minke and 50 fin whales in the single biggest whale slaughter since commercial whaling was banned by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in 1986.



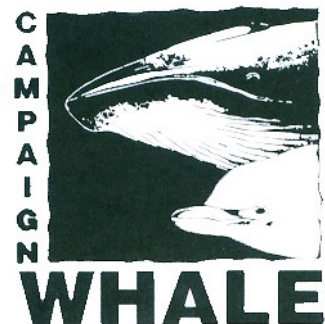
Japan announced just before Christmas that they would not kill an additional 50

humpback whales during this year's hunt. However, Japan has only agreed to 'suspend' the humpback hunt, and they want something in return. The IWC is holding a special intercessional in London to discuss the organisation's future. These talks aim to 'resolve' the whaling dispute, and compromise is very much on the agenda.

Meanwhile a meeting, convened by the Pew Charitable Trust, has ended in Tokyo. They have proposed that the entire southern hemisphere be made a whale sanctuary - but there's a catch: if agreed it would leave the entire northern hemisphere whale populations open to renewed hunting, 'managed' by the IWC. Worryingly, this proposal is gaining significant support.

Campaign Whale has been leading the fight to stop any compromise deals that would condemn countless thousands of whales to a cruel death. The Pew Trust proposals will be discussed again at the IWC meeting in London and Campaign Whale will be there to oppose them. Campaign Whale has a vision for the future of the IWC as a global treaty for the protection, not the slaughter of whales. We are leading an international coalition of anti-whaling groups calling on the IWC to evolve, and protect whales not kill them.

Campaign Whale has stopped many attempts to lift the current whaling ban since it was introduced in 1986. We are pressing for the highest level political protests over whaling - the only action that can really save the whales. Recently, 28 countries signed a demarche presented in Tokyo calling for an end to Japan's 'scientific' whaling. Campaign Whale



has also worked hard over the past year to stop Iceland's resumption of whaling. As a result Iceland has suspended all whaling, but all this good work will be wasted if a compromise deal is struck to resume commercial whaling.

Please help our campaign by donating whatever you can afford today. We have saved the whaling ban before and we must do so again. With your help we can save the whales, not whaling <http://campaign-whale.org> .

Yours sincerely

Andy Ottaway
Campaigns Director



Fifteen-year-old anti-whaling campaigner Skye Bortoli from Port Stephens, Australia presented the 131,965 strong petition to the Japanese authorities in Tokyo. Immediately afterwards, the opposition Japanese Democratic Party (DPJ) called a committee meeting on whaling. That was quick!

Indeed, the Japanese accepting the petition was a victory in itself - past international efforts have been totally rejected. The committee's chair, Mr. Tsutsui said, "Our stance is not the same as yours but we are willing to consider the issue seriously." And, in a major concession, they admitted the market for whale meat was not viable and that Japan's international reputation was at stake.



While the political ground appears to be shifting, the fact is that the Japanese people do not support whaling. Earlier this month, we commissioned a special independently conducted poll which found that 71 per cent do not support their country whaling in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. And astonishingly, 87 per cent were surprised to learn that their tax money was actually being used to help pay for the outrageous whaling operation.

The focus of Greenpeace's campaign is now exposing the Japanese people to the facts on whaling - so they can exert political pressure on their leaders, who won't like to be out of step with public opinion for long. Our petition, developed together with the Daily Telegraph and the Today Show has helped build the momentum for change. Read more about Japan's reaction to our petition: <http://www.greenpeace.org/australia/news-and-events/news/whales/whale-lovers-make-a-splash-in>

Once again, thanks for signing; together we are making a difference. Our campaign continues and we'll keep in touch about further ways for you to be involved.

Rob Nicoll,
Whales campaigner

Greenpeace Australia Pacific

Teens Against Whaling

Skye Bortoli



Report coming soon

A Fundraiser was held on 30th March, Nelson Bay, NSW
Aboard Moonshadow Cruises

All Proceeds to Teens Against Whaling upcoming campaign at
The International Whaling Commission In Chile (June 2008)

“Our mission is stop commercial whaling, including so called scientific whaling” says Skye

Contact:

bortoli@mysoul.com.au

IRISH DOLPHINS CONFERENCE

In support of interactive dolphins, Dingle, May 12th-14th 2008.

Organised by Graham Timmins

Irishdolphins international conference in support of interactive dolphins

Dingle, Co.Kerry, Ireland

May 12th, 13th, 14th 2008

- to share experiences and insights into dolphin-human interactions
- to explore the positive aspects of dolphin-human interactions
- to create connections and encourage communication within our community

€175

Dingle has been the home of a now legendary friendly dolphin who has been resident in Dingle Bay for over 20 years and has attracted worldwide media interest. Dr. Horace Dobbs made a BBC *Blue Peter* programme with him and has recounted some of his early antics in his book *Journey into Dolphin Dreamtime* (available from http://www.idw.org/html/dolphin_shop.html)

In the book and the films Horace made with the dolphin, he refers to him as Dorad (the gaelic for dolphin) and not Fungie the name by which he has since become popularly known.

Dr. Horace Dobbs will be joining the gathering of scientists and dolphin lovers from around the world in Dingle. These will include Dr Toni Frohoff author of *BETWEEN SPECIES Celebrating the dolphin-human bond*.

Format and presenters

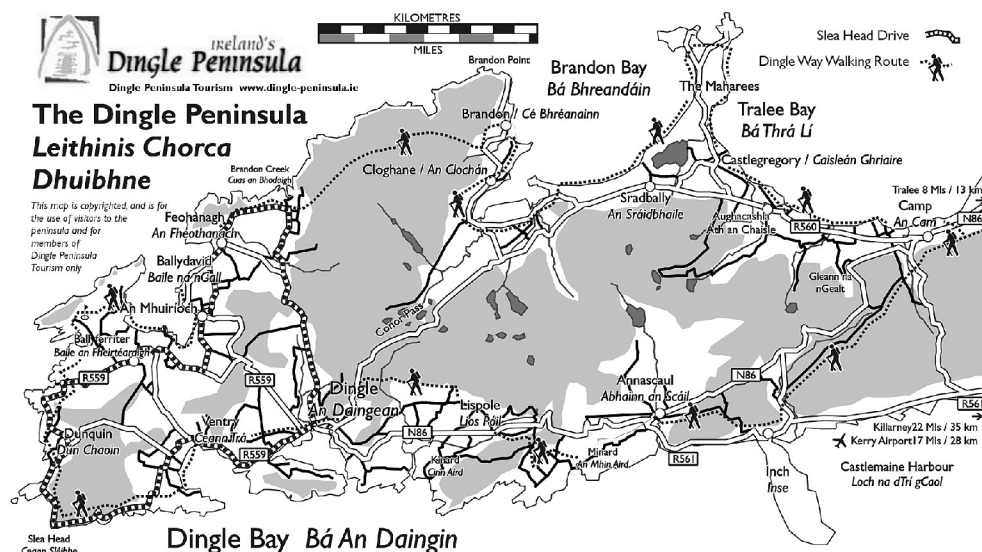
Graham Timmins says "we have a lot of expertise within our own community in Ireland, but we have also invited some leading figures from Europe, Canada and North America who have a wide-ranging understanding of the interactive cetacean phenomenon, both from a scientific and lay perspective. The role of these guests, as of all the speakers, will not be to lecture the audience in a formal way but to present a question or topic based on their own experiences or research and to open it up for general discussion. We expect many audience members to have something equally interesting to say. Finally one of the co-ordinators will have the task of summing up the contributions and if possible finding a consensus of opinion".

"In a three day period, we plan to cover about 10 topics in 60 to 90 minute sessions. In between there will be time for meeting old friends and making new ones during meal and coffee breaks, for walks to the nearby beaches, for evening film shows and social events. We expect that many participants will choose to stay on for a few days to also explore the wealth of natural beauty and cultural interest which is to be found in the Dingle area. We're also offering a programme of whole and half-day [excursions](#) and other special workshops on the days following the conference. The weather in West Kerry is somewhat unpredictable, but May is often a dry and sunny month and the main tourist season has not yet started, so it is a good time to visit this part of Ireland, which boasts a rich cultural and archaeological heritage as well as scenic beauty."

The conference is scheduled for May 12th to 14th, with optional extras from the 15th to 17th, to take place in Dingle, Co. Kerry, which has been the home of the world-famous Dingle dolphin for about 24 years now.

The venue will be the Dingle Skellig Hotel which is located on the shores of Dingle harbour. The conference suite looks directly out onto the home territory of Fungie the dolphin. For information on the Dingle Skellig Hotel & Peninsula Spa, on the magnificent Dingle Peninsula see:

<http://www.dingleskellig.com/welcome.html>



Christened "**Fungi**" by the local fishermen, the male dolphin lives and plays within a small area at the mouth of Dingle Harbour, overlooked by the lighthouse. A small cave under the cliffs at Burnham is thought to be his home, and from dawn till late night, Fungi is always around to welcome boats, trawlers and yachts to the Town.



He is a curious and friendly animal, and has been photographed bringing gifts to divers of still living fish, clasped gently within his jaws. But to show his freedom, Fungi never accepts gifts from divers, or fish thrown from returning trawlers.

It is rare that humans can interact with free dolphins, but Fungi has swam and jumped and played with humans. He has remained wild and free, existing in his own area at the mouth of Dingle Harbour, playing in the bow waves of boats and launching himself out of the water to startle and excite the crowds. He has warmed the hearts of the thousands of people that have travelled from near and far to see and swim with him.

Full details of the Conference are on the website at <http://www.irishdolphins.com/conference>. Booking can be made through http://www.irishdolphins.com/conference/conference_register.asp.

DOLPHIN SHOP



IDW has a mail order shop, which stocks a range of books and dolphin goodies. To explore the Shop - click the link http://www.idw.org/html/dolphin_shop.html

SPECIAL OFFER

With every set of 5 Dilo Books purchased

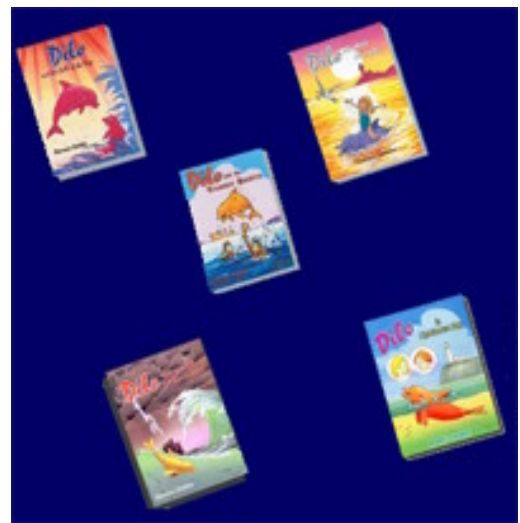
Free while stocks last

Dilo's Adopt and Watch Handbook

plus a

Dilo Poster

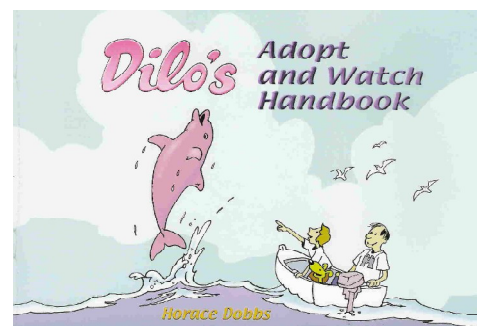
The full set of 5 Dilo books, all signed by the author is £30 plus £2.50 P&P



Announcement

International Dolphin Watch is ceasing to offer its Dolphin Adoption Packs. However the remaining Dilo's Adopt and Watch Handbooks are available free while stocks last as a Special Offer with sets of 5 Dilo books purchased.

Note: Dilo's Adopt and Watch Handbooks, which are beautifully illustrated in full colour, contain details of where dolphins Echo (England), Sun Spirit (Wales), Fungie (Ireland) Star Dance (Scotland) and Crooked Jaw (Bahamas) may be spotted.



CHILDRENS' CORNER

Draw a Picture of a Dolphin – Win a Prize

International Dolphin Watch is sending two Dilo books, signed by the author Horace Dobbs, plus a Dilo Poster and a Dilo Sticker to a school anywhere in the world as part of IDW's Educational Programme.

IT'S EASY TO ENTER

No age limit All you have to do is to discuss it with a teacher, draw a picture of a dolphin and Email it to <mailto:idw@talk21.com> or post to 16 Rowsham Dell, Giffard Park, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK14 5JS

PRESENTATIONS BY DR. HORACE DOBBS

Talks and Shows

ON DOLPHINS



Author and broadcaster

Horace Dobbs

No venue too big or too small.

Dr. Horace Dobbs is renowned around the world for his amusing, yet thought provoking talks and film shows on his work and experiences with dolphins. Horace's enthusiasm and ability to transmit his ideas at all levels so endeared him to big audiences at the National Geographic Society in Washington, that he was awarded a Silver Bowl (the equivalent to an Oscar in the film world) by the International Platform Association for his presentation 'Follow a Wild Dolphin' about Donald the dolphin.

For further information visit <http://www.horacedobbs.com/index.html>

Letter to Dr. Horace Dobbs

Dolphins in captivity

Dear Dr. Dobbs,

I would like to draw your attention to the problem of opening new dolphinariums in Ukraine and Russia. Some ecological organizations and I personally attempt to prevent this biological vandalism. The most popular argument for such building is the necessity to treat ill children. In Ukraine, it has connected with Chernobyl catastrophe and general ecologic poisoning, etc. My arguments against these plans are moral, and scientific. As I know, dolphins are not good therapy signals in closed pools, because suffering from their reflection. In addition, there is your modern virtual technology that is a good dolphin therapy alternative for children. I attempt to propose it instead of dolphin exploitations. In this concern, would you please join energies and draw attentions of international community to these facts.

With admiration to your dolphins protection activity,

Alexander Yushchenko
Friend of IDW, Ukraine.

For information on alternatives to using captive dolphins for therapy, visit:

http://www.idw.org/html/dolphin_therapy.html and <http://www.operationsunshine.org/>



OPERATION SUNSHINE FAMILY THERAPY PROGRAMMES
Registered Charity Number 1121315

<http://www.operationsunshine.org>

Another Spectacular Fundraising Evening

Saturday 19th April 2008

7.30pm – 11.30pm

at

Emerald Sactuary, Addersey Farm, Eakley Lanes, Stoke Goldington, Newport Pagnell, Bucks, MK168LP, ENGLAND

Operation Sunshine Family Therapy Programmes
presents another Spectacular Charity Fundraising Evening

Casino Night

Grand Prize

A Pair of
Diamond Earrings
worth over £1000



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Quality Diamonds
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Dress to Impress!

Licensed Bar
Refreshments
Raffle

Roulette
Black Jack
Middleman
Newmarket
3 Card Poker

Come along for a fun night!

**Entrance, Poker Chips
and Nibbles for just £15**

Saturday April 19th 2008
7:30 - 11:30pm

Tickets available from:

Jackie Connell on 01908 617318
or donate £15 to Operation Sunshine
via our fundraising page at:
www.operationsunshine.org



Emerald Sanctuary
Addersey Farm, Eakley Lanes
Stoke Goldington, Newport Pagnell
Bucks, MK16 8LP

www.operationsunshine.org
Operation Sunshine Family Therapy Programmes Registered Charity 1121315

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

Joan Ocean



In 1978, Joan Ocean first met John C. Lilly, MD, cetacean researcher, and felt very moved by the information he shared. She offered to work with him on his underwater dolphin communication project. Although this volunteer work did not come to pass, Joan felt a connection with Dr. Lilly and his extraterrestrial experiences that seemed to stimulate her eventual relationship with the dolphins. The dolphins then began to contact Joan through meditation and expanded consciousness, but being a non-swimmer, she did not yet enter the water to meet them.

After meeting Jean-Luc Bozzoli and experiencing his dolphin-inspired, multi-media art presentation, Joan Ocean learned to swim and began swimming with cetaceans in oceans and rivers in many countries. When a California Gray whale came close to the island shores of British Columbia, and looked directly into her eyes, Joan experienced a communication between herself and the whale that changed her life forever. She understood that cetaceans around the world are trying to communicate with us. She experiences the gentle communication of the dolphins and whales as sound holography, a language that intensifies physical senses, bypasses rational-cognitive paradigms, resonates directly with our cellular intelligence, and awakens multiple levels of perception and consciousness.

In 1984, Jean-Luc Bozzoli and Joan Ocean founded their organization, *Dolphin Connection*, to explore the advancement of human consciousness, biophysics and spirituality by producing visionary films, books, artforms and Ocean Seminars encouraging friendships between people and ocean-swimming dolphins and whales.

Greetings from Hawaii from Joan Ocean

<http://www.joanocean.com>

I hope you are well and enjoying this fast-moving and inspiring year of 2008.

In July I will be traveling to New Zealand again to meet the Humpback Whales. I would love you to join me there. New Zealand is a picturesque, friendly place. We fly from Auckland Airport to beautiful and remote Niue Island, north of New Zealand.

Last year we were in our zodiac boat when we heard the familiar loud breathing of an adult whale nearby. Quietly slipping into the water, we reached out to each other to hold hands and swam in the clear blue water in the direction of the whale. It is a mysterious experience, to move along as a small group and wonder what will appear before our eyes. Softly, gently we kick forward. Soon we see some bright white blotches in the water. We stop swimming to wait and look intently. What is it?

Then the large forms of a mother whale and baby take shape before us. In the South Pacific waters, the Humpbacks have extensive beautiful white coloring on their bodies. It gleams iridescent, looking aqua blue in the deep crystalline water. Breathlessly, we watch them. The warm breeze is pushing us forward. The water is clear -- visibility 100 feet. We are moving directly to the adult whale's left side. She is not moving. Very close now, we see the baby whale coming from beneath Mom, floating quietly up to look at us. "Is it okay, Mom that we are with your baby?" The Mom

whale has no fear of us. We are like seaweed floating softly on the surface.

In the endless silence, we experience eye contact with the Humpback. Love and harmony surrounds us. This adult whale now lowers her tail and stands upright in the water. Slowly she rises up above the water, spy-hopping. Her massive head is above water; her eye is just below the surface looking at us. She moves above the surface and then down again, three times, appearing to look at our captain in our boat nearby.

Now we see another whale rising from the bottom. This is a large escort whale coming up for air. All eyes are watching the baby whale until unexpectedly the Escort enters our vision, surprising us. A fifty-three foot Escort swims around us, gently swirling the water. We are mesmerized by the beauty of these whales, rolling and drifting alongside us. We relax into their water flow field, into their essence, and remain with them in the blue water for a half hour. Then as they slowly move into the distance, we give thanks and swim joyfully to our boat, knowing we will be with them again.

Please join us on Niue Island this July. The whales have many messages to share with you.

Warm regards,
Joan Ocean, MS

Contact Information:

Phone/Fax: 808-323-8000; Toll Free number in U.S.: 888-755-7750

Email: <mailto:joan@joanocean.com>

Dolphin Connection International, P O Box 102, Captain Cook, Hawaii 96704 USA

Niue Island

**with Joan Ocean, MS, and Dr. Jason Cressey
July 18 - 25 and July 25 - August 1, 2008**

Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to experience your dream. Join Joan in Polynesia with Humpback whale families and Spinner dolphins. Come to the enchanted Island of Niue (NEW-AY) 3 hours north of N.Z, where Joan Ocean will co-facilitate a whale and dolphin Seminar with Dr. Jason Cressey. This is a birthing sanctuary for the southern Humpback whales. Traveling offshore each day we will meet them and enter the water to be with them as they bring their babies to see us. Our accommodations are at a beautiful tropical resort with encircling views of the ocean. Come for one week or two. Included: Accommodations (two in a room), whale and dolphin encounters in the water, all meals, tours to spectacular coral caves and exotic jungles and daily presentations by Joan and Jason. See website for additional information. Seven days (one week): US\$2650. Visit: <http://www.joanocean.com/Seminars.html>

Higher Frequencies - Good Vibrations Seminar Transforming your life with the Power of Sound and Dolphins.

**Facilitated by: Joan Ocean, MS and Sound Specialist, Elaine Thompson
Directly following the Earth Transformation Conference
May 18 - 24, 2008**

Sound is a Universal language. Audible or inaudible, frequency translates into light, color, and the sounds we find all around us. It gives our brain information, and alters us physically and

emotionally. Some sounds we welcome; such as the sound of a loved one's voice or the song of the dolphins, some we turn away from, such as those that make us feel tense or ill.

All thoughts, emotions and memories are recorded as frequency. Which past event or memory affects you most strongly? Which experiences do you avoid thinking about, or replay constantly? It is this which makes the biggest change to your health and well being.

At this cutting edge seminar, you will learn how you can heal your life and others, rewrite your past and reprogram your future with the Power of Sound. We will swim among the pods of dolphins Joan has befriended over the last two decades. With their sonar, dolphins are able to interpret our vibrations revealing our human nature, intentions and any imbalances. We believe that receptive people can also learn to read frequencies while swimming in proximity of dolphins. You will learn and experience how the dolphin sonar can heal and how to deal with our stress and problems through the eyes of joy and playfulness. Elaine can pinpoint the frequencies of emotional traumas in your life and find the specific balancing tones to within 100th of a hertz.

Included : Days at the beach, three boat excursions to meet the dolphins and a CD of your own personal balancing sounds from Elaine.

This seminar returns by popular demand and is packed with cutting edge information and experiences to lift and revitalize, inform and change you forever. Seven days at Sky Island Ranch, Kona, Hawaii : US\$1650.

Accommodations NOT included.

FRIENDS NEWS

Message from The Humpback Whale

From Andrew Parker

Breathe...Listen into oneness with being! Sense the movement of your energy in relation to others...Breathe...You're in touch with one's breath... breathe deeply...Sensing the oneness...sensing the truth...Breathe...Breath of life encompassing all. Allow the senses to move outward... fluid motion...fluid beings...energetic strands of life pulsating to a call to higher and higher vibration. Breathe...as you realize the truth.

Female Humpback Whale Port Stephens Australia

18/08/06

Hi Everyone,

This message above was given to me in a moment of inspiration by an amazing creature, one of the largest and most intelligent that has ever lived on our mother Gaia.

The Humpback Whale.

Holding public informational talks at an ancient Aboriginal sacred site in June 2006 for our local government organization National Parks and Wildlife, I experienced profound inspiration. As I watched in awe the procession of about 30-40 Southern Humpbacks that come past the geographic way point we call 'Crackneck Lookout' each day during the annual migration I dreamed of a time gone past. As I shared my knowledge of these beings with other whale watchers I saw another time

long ago. When brothers and sisters of a different skin colour to me watched as their totem the whale came past this same point.

This time was a time of great celebration for those people, a time of dreaming and inspiration, a time of gathering and corroboree. The elders would gather the children and pass the stories to them, the children running down to the water to press their ears to the ground, the ground vibrating with the song of thousands of whales in migration. In that time it was usual for tens of thousands of whales per day to pass this point at the height of the season and now I stood in awe as the remnants straggled past and the inspiration flowed just as it had and does for tens of thousands of us every year when we are blessed with a whale's presence.

It was then I dreamed of WhaleSong.

Do you know that less than two people in 150,000 have the chance to do something they'll remember for life?

Now I invite you to imagine yourself in an immense ocean of azure blue, you are warm and confident. You begin to feel a sound, a song all around you, penetrating you as you ride the changing pitch just as you ride the gentle ocean swell. Out of that deep blue rising slowly with a little one gently nestling on her back you can see it's a mother Humpback and her baby as she brings this new born to meet YOU. Can you imagine your heart in this moment, can you fathom the joy of such a moment as it happens, defining your very existence.

This is a moment that you'll remember for the rest of your life!

This year is the third year of the WhaleSong play-shop and the second year that I am taking two groups to the ancient and powerful location of Tonga, one of two places in the world where you can have this experience!

Ha'apai Tonga

28th July – 7th August 4th August – 14th August 2008

4 full days meeting, watching, creating connection and swimming with whales

Airfares ex Sydney/ Taxes

Full Tongan cultural experience

World class diving available

Amazing resort, accommodation, location

Exclusive use of the only whale watch vessel in this island group with the best Skipper on the planet

Whales, dolphins and the human connection play-shop with yours truly

And lots more.

Twin Share Only \$3,690 AUD

If you live in the U.S.A or in Europe / U.K all you have to do is meet us in Tongatapu & the rest is taken care of! The price is reduced for these participants, as we include return flights from Sydney Australia. Contact me NOW as there are very limited places on this trip of a lifetime.

What are you waiting for - visit <http://www.dolphcom.com.au> for further details and send me an email Andrew <mailto:andrew@dolphcom.com.au> or call to book your space and share this special adventure with me

Andrew Eric Parker

+61249422344 Office

+61249422466 Fax

+61438444500 Cell

Dolphin Festival 2008

Denmark

Læsø

<http://www.vildedelfiner.dk/>

Time is coming quickly for the Dolphin Festival in Denmark, on the beautiful sunny island LÆSØ.

Date: 28 – 29 June 2008. Time 11 am – 6 pm (both days).

Place: LÆSØ, Vesterø, on termination of SØNDRE STRANDVEJEN on the parking place called STOKKEN.

In July 2007 we had the first Dolphin Festival/Dolphin Art exhibition in Denmark on LÆSØ. It was a great success, as the profit reached 7000.00 Danish Kr. which was given to support dolphins and whales all over the world. All together 16 artist, sponsors and volunteers were all doing there very best. Thanks to everybody.



We are looking forward this year to present new art, and new ideas from the artist on the Festival 2008. Again some artist will be painting on the Festival. There will be arrangement for children. There will be live music and “dolphin- songs” among other things. We will also give information about dolphins in the shape of brochure, books and videos.



The place for the Dolphin Festival is a “true treasure”, the most beautiful and loveliest place on the whole island. We hope artist from abroad will come, and we also have a slight hope that Horace Dobbs, IDW, will join us.



He wants to support the Festival, and is looking on his “timetable” to see what is possible.

Like last year, profit will go to “International Dolphin Watch” and “Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society”. Both organisations are doing splendid work for our dearest friend the whales and dolphins.

If artist from abroad wants to join us, please contact before 10th June:

Dolphin Festival Committee, Vesterø Havnegade, 9940 Læsø, Denmark

Phone: 0045 9849 1028, Email <mailto:Info@vildedelfiner.dk>

Dolfun Swims

Come fill your heart with dolphin joy!!

Ready to Manifest the Life of Your Dreams?

A week of **dolphin adventures** July 13th 2008

During this week we will have fun working with the Law of Attraction. Be

Careful what you wish for - you might just get it! You are a perfect magnet - make sure you attract what you want! We will also be exploring self-hypnosis. Just 15 minutes a day is all you need to enhance your life. We will learn a few simple techniques to engage your mind in the pursuit of your goals.

Join us for a week of **dolphin adventures** and Brenda El-Leithy July 13th!

Brenda is a Clinical Hypnotherapist and Trainer in Personal Development.

Her training is in Advanced Hypnotherapy, Reiki, Spiritual Healing, and Personal Performance Coaching.

Brenda and I hope you join us for a magical week of manifesting and engaging with these beautiful, heart-centered dolphins!

Blessings & light, Fiona

For more information please visit <http://www.dolfunswims.com> or contact <http://www.dolfunswim@comcast.net>



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER - PLEASE KEEP YOUR STORIES COMING

**WE ARE CREATING A GLOBAL NETWORK OF DOLPHIN LOVERS
THAT CARE ABOUT OTHERS AND THE EARTH WE SHARE.**

HELPING DOLPHINS AND PEOPLE

The Friends of IDW Newsletter is FREE but if you would like to support the work of IDW to help dolphins and people, you can still **MAKE A DONATION** through the Dolphin Shop http://www.dolphinfriend.com/html/dolphin_shop.html.

Friends of IDW can ADVERTISE on <http://www.dolphinfriend.com>. Email our Webmaster Terry Connell on <mailto:terry.connell1@btinternet.com>

International Dolphin Watch has always striven to encourage youngsters to take part in dolphin activities. I hope therefore, that you will enrol as many children as you can to become **DOLPHIN FRIENDS** and encourage them to contribute to future Newsletters.



Jackie Connell

Editor – Friends of IDW Newsletter

Email: <mailto:Jackieconnell@btinternet.com>