

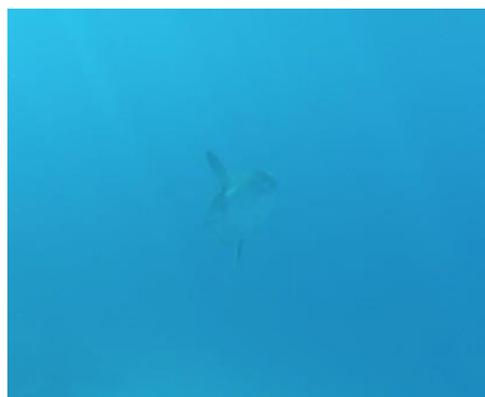


Welcoming in the International Year of the Reef!

This year we welcome in the [Third International Year of the Reef](#) (IYOR), announced by the [International Coral Reef Initiative](#) (ICRI) an informal partnership between nations and organisations, which promotes the preservation of coral reefs and associated ecosystems. This year heralds the ten-year anniversary of the second IYOR, a movement which proved to be a fantastic vehicle for highlighting the issues faced by coral reefs, and promoted a huge amount of research and discussion. The goals identified in the meeting were:

- "Strengthen awareness globally about the value of, and threats to, coral reefs and associated ecosystems;
- Promote partnerships between governments, the private sector, academia and civil society on the management of coral reefs;
- Identify and implement effective management strategies for conservation, increased resiliency and sustainable use of these ecosystems and promoting best practices; and
- Share information on best practices in relation to sustainable coral reef management."

Although ICRI does not have any formal powers to create legislation, we at [CCC](#) are very hopeful that this year will be a turning point for global awareness of the importance of coral reefs, and can't wait to build on the success of Blue Planet II, and the huge amount of media attention that plastic pollution, in particular, has gained through social media over the last few months.



A screen shot of the video caught by Tom, the first sighting of a Sun Fish by CCC Personnel on Napantao house reef! We'll be sure to share the video on Facebook when available!



Click the picture above to check out a video created by one of our intrepid teams. After walking all night, over many miles, they took the time the next morning to edit this video, now that's going above and beyond!

Coral Cay Conservation

The Charlton Chase

Our Head of Science, Tom Dallison, has been champing at the bit to get out to the Philippines and see our [Southern Leyte](#) site, and we are happy to announce that last week he got his wish! Tom spends much of his day in the office analysing data and writing reports so if there is anyone who knows our work back to front it's him, but there really isn't anything to compete with seeing the site and methodology in action for yourself.

Site visits are a great opportunity for us at Head Office to send out a bulk load of kit and this time was no exception, with BCDs, compasses, torches and digital depth gauges on the list, plus prezzies for the staff including the highly important HP Sauce and Marmite!

Tom quickly understood why we say that volunteers and staff are spoiled by our house reef as it boasts fantastic reef complexity, but he was in for an even greater surprise, in Tom's own words: *"Yesterday, whilst Jesse [Community Liaison Officer], was showing me the permanent transects on Napantao... I found a turtle and started to follow it... Jesse shouted, turned around and there was a friggin' Sun Fish! I lost it. Was incredible. At this point I was already struggling after being underwater for 20 secs holding my breath following the turtle, but thought staying down to watch this guy was worth dying for."* To be honest we agree ;), especially as this is the first sighting by CCC personnel on house reef. Here's to many more spots of this beautiful species!

If you live anywhere near the South Downs National Park you may have spotted the hills come alive with torch lights over the weekend of the 27th January. This is because it was [The Charlton Chase](#), an overnight orienteering event run by [Adventure Lifesigns](#), which welcomes teams of four, aged 15-21, to test their navigational prowess against each other. The Charlton Chase has been running for many years. Although headed up by Adventure Lifesigns, its continued success is largely due to the enthusiasm and dedication shown by the volunteers, who give their time freely to support the event.

With 31 teams signed up for this year's event a staggered start was needed, and from about 17:00 onward teams began to set off from the [ADUR centre](#). Each team then had 8 hours to complete the course with five mandatory check points and 16 optional nodals where they could punch in to boost their points. This event is of course a physical challenge, with individuals facing cold, rain, fatigue, mud and of course the difficulties of orienteering in the dark, but it's also a great test of mental fortitude. Each team had to carefully plan their route to take best advantage of points and distance, after all with a total possible distance of over 35 km it's important to consider every team member's ability. We were so impressed by the maturity and positivity shown by each and every team member.

Congratulations to Trident Explorer Scout Unit, who won with a fantastic 300/340 points!

Recent Events



Our Company Manager, Ian Forbes, has had the good fortune to travel the world providing medical, health and safety, and security support to journalists, and TV crews. His most recent adventure took him to the Sudan, from Khartoum to Wadi Halfa, where he provided support to Mallinson Sadler Productions (MSP), who were filming a new TV series focused on archaeology.

MSP joined us in late 2017 for a bespoke [Travel Guardian](#) course, a safety and risk training program. Filming on location comes with inherent risks and this occasion was particularly challenging, with remote and night filming, working on the Nile, and a host of cuddly creatures, such as the scorpion pictured above, to keep everyone warm at night! Ian was in his element! There was also a powerboat trip on the Nile to sweeten the deal!

The archaeological finds on the trip were absolutely fascinating, so we'll be sure to tell you where you can catch the programme as soon as the embargo is lifted!

Offer of the Month

If you are heading off on an overseas adventure anytime soon, or simply want to build on your First Aid experience, then we have the course for you. We will be running the [Expedition Care Programme](#) (ECP) course on the 17th - 18th February and would love you to join us! We are happy to gift a 10% discount to anyone who mentions Newsletter Jan 2018 on booking. Just contact Pauline on 01483 810785 / ukoperations@lifesignsgroup.co.uk for details.

1 day ECP Explorer Medicine - £75 + VAT
2 day ECP Exploration Medicine - £110 + VAT

Terms & Conditions: Offer applies to the 17th - 18th February ECP course only. Offer can be redeemed on either the one or two-day course. Offer is only redeemable at time of booking and cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer subject to availability. This offer has no monetary value and no cash or product alternative will be offered. Usual Terms and Conditions apply.