



Lunesdale Sub Aqua Club

MARGARET BINNING OUR CLUB PATRON.

On behalf of Lunesdale Sub-Aqua Club, I would like to Take this opportunity to share with you all today a celebration of the diving achievements from a very special and brave lady's life.

Margarets first discover scuba dive was in the 1950s, seven years after Jacque Cousteau had invented Scuba diving.

Margaret was a founder member of our club and started training in September 1964 at the sprightly age of 53. Basic training then, was far more physically demanding than it is today.

Margaret became a qualified diver in August 1965.

In 1967 age 56 she dived in Estartit . The dive was carried out using the old twin hose regulator crude by todays standards! She dived to 25m entered a cave system which led to a blow hole. Just before her ascent as she looked up she could see a very large divers knife zig zagging its way towards her. At this stage she found her self low on air so she decided to retrieve the knife, pull her reserve handle and ascend safely up the blow hole. On reaching the surface she found a diver, less his knife, exhausted by the side of the waters edge.

In 1966 Margaret formed Casterton Girls BSAC Special branch. This was the first female branch to be formed in the world and is still active today.



Margaret was part of a team that discovered a Roman wreck in North Africa.

She has also dived the Red Sea, Greece and the Caribbean to name but a few destinations.

On a chilly note, in 1973 aged 62 wearing a home made wet suit, she dived in bleakest November and helped recover 500 stones. This data was used by a professional organisation to research the activity of the bed in the River Lune.

Margaret attended the annual club dinner dance and presentation evenings and in January 1986 she was invited to be our Honourary Life Patron.

Margaret retired from active diving at the young age of 73! She donated her equipment to the club and some of it is still in use today. Margarets underwater Cine Camera has been made into a club trophy for the Club Photographer of the Year.

Just before I finish I would like to share with you a ballad that Margaret wrote about a return trip to Estartit in 1973,

She was marooned on a small island for 6 hours due to the fact that the club boat had broken down (nothing new there!). She had no food and as the tide fell the mussels were revealed and became a tempting option. Eventually all was well the boat was repaired and they were rescued! (read Ballad)

Finally to sum up, Margaret was one of the pioneers of diving for both men and women, an inspirational lady and a valued club member who will be missed.

17 November 2004.

Chris Collingwood, Club Member.