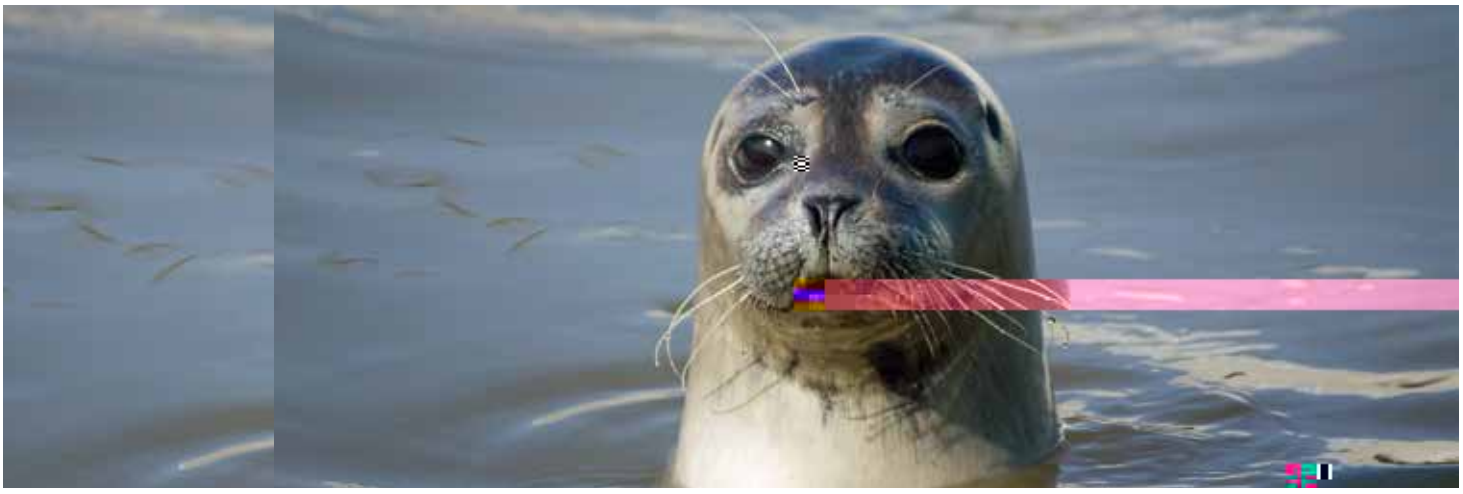
July 2014

SCHOOL OF OCEAN SCIENCES ASSOCIATION



CONTACT

Back in 2011, staff in offices overlooking the old Victorian house —"Westbury Mount"— were offered ear defenders as a prelude to the demolition of the building and associated flat roof late sixties/early seventies teaching laboratories. Little were staff to know what lay ahead! The re-routing of the gas and water pipes was the first indication that there would be "a little noise". The old and very hard Precambrian green Schist could not be excavated easily without a lot of effort and to make matters worse a large drill could not be used to excavate a trench alongside the NERC building for fear of disturbing the foundations of the existing building. This meant a small drill was used and the whole process took more than 6

Like a phoenix from the ashes the new Ocean Sciences building - **Marine Centre Wales** – began to rapidly rise once the foundations had been poured. A large

Despite the quality of the Victorian work manship the Westbury Mount crumbled like a pack of cards under pressure from the bucket of a large JCB. All the ma

of wiring and plastic pipes. Everything was taken off site and a large gaping hole

aquarium where many an alumnus had worked late into the night on an experi ment that benefted from the cool stable air temperatures that existed.

Many months later, after a small pond had

cerns were expressed about red crested newts taking up residence, the drilling re

drill was used to break up the underlying bedrock. Regular as clockwork at 08.00 the noise would begin and was unremit ting, until coffee (a brief respite), lunch (peace at last), afternoon tea (another brief respite) and would stop at 17.30. All this lasted for six months! Like the staff,

concerned that there would never be peace in SOS and the village again. Well not quite yet.

Vim and Vigour

Since 2002, the SOS, through generous funding from the Drapers, has been running a two-week feld course to the Virginia Instute of Marine Sciences, (VIMS), at the Eastern Shore Laboratory at Wachapreague on the Atlantc coast

successfully running the feld course, small group of ten students partcipated at the start, we have expanded the course and in September 2013, 28 students and staf made the trip.

The work was tough at tmes – as is evidenced in the photo below, when Goncalo Lourenco, Melissa Dickenson, and Anne Taylor became stuck in the mud during a survey of Wachapreague salt marsh.

An essental element of the feld course is the collecton of material by the students from the feld and identfed and studied back in the laboratory. But it was not all vim and vigour. Afer a wash and brush-up, they were ready to hit the town, as can be seen in the group photo below.

The group also had a fantastc experience on the 7 September: "*!ű yƛƎKűΣ ƎI·ŰKŜ₪ƛyƎ dzyŘŜ₪ I· ²Sű ōfI·Ŏ] ă]ëΣ ăLJI·₪]fƛyƎ ǿƛűK ű ǿƛy]fƛyƎ ăűI·₪ă I·yŘ Řƛăű I·yű Ŏ2yăűŝffI·-ə2yãΣ ǿŜ ǿƛűySăăŜŘ I· aƛy2űI·dz₪ ± ₪2Ŏ]Ŝű fI·dzyŎK ₣₪2Y b ! { !ûă aƛŘπ ! űfI·yəŎ wŜƎƛ2yl·t {LJI·ÔŜLJ2₪ű I·ű ² I·ff2LJă LătfI·yŘΣ y2₪ŰK 2₮ ² I·ŎKI·LJ₪ŜI·ƎdzŜ℗ Lű ŎI·úI·LJdzfűŜŘ I· ₪2ō2əŎ ăÕƛSyŎŜ 2ōăŜ₪ØI·ű2₪è ű2ǿI·₪Ră ŰKŜ Y22y℗ DI·ŰKŜ₪ŜŘ ƛyűKŜ LJƛűÔK ōfI·Ŏ]Σ ădz₪₪2dzyŘŜŘ ōè ŰKŜ ŎKI·ğŜ₪ 2₮ ŜÈLJŜÕűI·yű Ø2ƛÔŜă I·yŘ ŰKŜ ƛy-ŰŜ₪Yƛğŝyű Ř₪2yŜ I·yŘ ōdzÎÎ 2₮ ōƛəyƎ ƛyâŜÕűă ₮ŜI·ăəyƎ 2y . ₪ƛəăK ăűdzŘŜyűăΣ ǿŜ ǿI·ƛűŜŘ ₮2₪ ŰKŜ ăLJI·ÔŜ fI·dzyŎK ű2 ōŜƎƛy℗ t₪ŜÔƛăŜfè 2y əYŜ ŰKŜ yƛƎKű ă]è ǿI·ă ădzŘŘŜyfè ƛffdzYƛyl·ű-ŜŘ ōè I·y ƛyűŜyâŜ ō₪ƛƎKű 2₪I·yƎŜ Ǝf2ǿ I·yŘ I· ō₪ƛƎKű ăLJŜÔ] 2₮ fƛƎKű ǿI·ă âŜŜy Kdz₪ûfƛyƎ ă]èǿI·₪Ră℗ ! ₮Ŝǿ Yƛyűzű Ŝă fI·ŰŜ₪ I· ŘŜŜLJ ₪dzYōfƛyƎ ₪2I·₪ ₪ŜI·ŎKŜŘ 2dz₪ ŜI·₪ăΣ Ŏ2yŰ₪Y-ƛyƎ ŰKI·ű ŰKŜ yπ₮22ûΣ ŰØŜπăúI·ƎŜ ₪2Ô]Ŝű KI·Ř ŜÈLJf2ŘŜŘ 2ũ ŰKŜ fI·dzyŎK LJI·Ř℗ Lű ǿI·ă ŰKŜy ŰKI·ű ǿŜ]yŜǿ ǿŜ KI·Ř ǿƛűySăâŜŘ 2dz₪ Ű₪ăú ! YŜ₪ƛÔI·y ăLJI·ÔŜ fI·dzyŎK℗ á*

{ŜŜ ŰKŜ fI·dzyŎK I·yŘ KƛƎKfƛƎKűă ₣₪2Y ŰKŜ ±L a { нлмoŰŜfŘ Ŏ2dz₪ăŜ I·ű℣ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Es_uMT1mZfM

Dr Paul Butler, research lecturer in SOS has been given a prestgious award.

, has awarded Paul the award of the 2014 Lyell Fund. This is awarded to researchers

search published within ten years afer gradua ton. In work carried out during his PhD and subse

Beam me up, Scotty

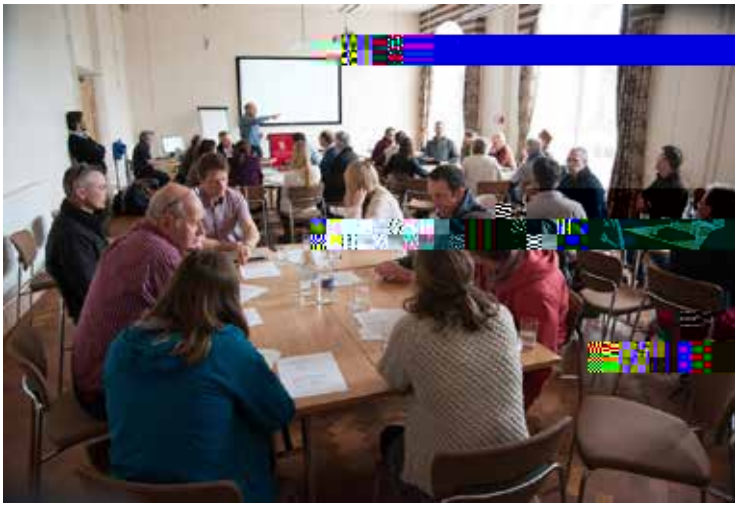
During a visit to the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg, USA, Professor John Hughes, Vice-Chancellor, visited VIMS at Wachapreague to learn at first-hand what SOS Marine Biology students experience during their annual field course. The visit and field trip were combined with a meeting and a meal with a small group of Bangor University's alumni, who live on the East coast of the USA, including alumnus Alan Burch who studied for a BSc in Marine Biology and Oceanography and an MSc in Shellfisheries and Aquaculture at SOS.

All aboard a Carolina skiff! Our intrepid hydronauts are: Centre – Professor John Hughes (Vice-Chancellor), flanked left by Professor Colin Jago (Dean of College of Natural Sciences) and right by Professor Chris Richardson (Head of School).

Crystal Balls

The SOS held an 'Away Day' on Friday 11th April to discuss the research strategy for the next 10 or so years. The day was spent in Neuadd Reichel, now the University's conference centre and formerly the

that SOS should keep the Prince Madog!



Final year BSc Marine Biology undergrad uate student, Leo Johnson, receiving his Bangor Employability Award (BEA) from Professor Carol Tully, Pro-Vice Chancellor (students) at a recent awards ceremony.

The Bangor Employability Award was developed in 2010, and o fers fr , Őlol l l Ţ ŏ lə e l' aů ʻ я ſ 0 a eشdi M Ů‾

Size Matters!

The programme about seashells from Anglesey was aired on Tues day 13th May.

Summer Bursaries

2014

Sciences ofers a series of summer bursaries to 2nd year undergradu ates to enable commited and able students to work alongside and as sist members of staf undertaking research or outreach actvites. This can be for a period of 5-8 weeks.

students. Below are the names of all the successful candidates for 2014.

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Senergy

LR Senergy Survey & GeoEngineering

Marine Geoscience Specialists:

One of my fondest (and earliest recollec
tons) of working in the West Australian
(WA) Oil and Gas Industry was gazing

Sharks play a vital role in keeping our oceans healthy. As apex predators, they keep other marine species in a healthy balance by controlling and regulating the populations of their prey species. However, shark populations face major threats worldwide, and many shark species are now facing extinction as a result of overfishing.

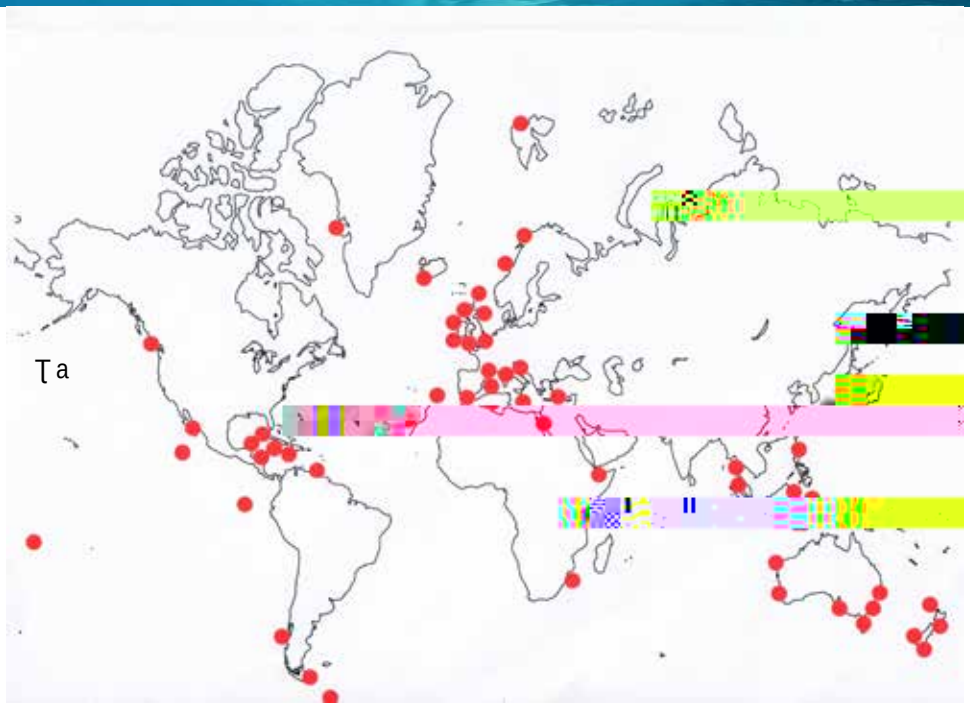
I am extremely passionate about marine conservation and, since graduating from Menai Bridge in 2012 with a Masters in Marine Biology, I've been desperate to gain some practical experience in marine conservation. Therefore, in April 2014, I decided to leave my job at a public aquarium and join a shark conservation project out in Fiji. This project only started in January 2014, and is literally a brand new shark conservation initiative.

I arrived in Fiji at the end of April and spent the month of May working on the project. The overall aim of the Fiji shark conservation project is to gather as much information as possible on the shark species found in Fiji, so that eventually we can set up and expand ł vatte abo Ń se se ş or u' n aton D 4 aton Fiji, s Ů ń

Ŗ M ɔ ş Ł ƚ s Ł to s ct a ū her as Ů 6

t es ins t lled in me an enduring fascina t on

ing under water and an adventurous spirit,
modicum of luck and good fortune
and 45 years later a globe sca t ered I' L



In the early 1970s, the ‘Diving Unit’ at Menai Bridge established techniques for marine ecological surveys using diving. They were innovative at the time and are still used today. Research using those techniques has greatly enhanced our knowledge of sublitoral ecology.

The first studies that I was involved in from Menai Bridge were in support of Professor Jack Kitching at Lough Hyne; providing invaluable experience in the importance of systematic study, accuracy and good record keeping in research.

NERC Studentship was under the re nowned Denis Crisp. I convinced him that my research should be in my eve l’ Ə e g º r ng in 6 e 6 6 ne Ł Ɲ ź e Ʀ abœ

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It was all about frogs when I was a kid; frogs and newts to be precise. A fer leav

Having been a confirmed addict of the sea

The Ma terhorn is probably the most iconic mountain on Earth. Four drama t cally steep faces fanked by severe arêtes give the Ma terhorn its unmistakable shape. Standing at 4,478m it may not be the highest mountain in the Alps but it has captured the imagina ton of climbers since the late 19th Century.

In early September 2013, David Reynolds together with brother, Steven, and guides, a tempted to complete possibly the frst recorded par tally sighted ascent of the famous peak via the Hornli Ridge. The expedi ton was completed in order to support the Royal Na tonal Insttute for the Blind and raise awareness of Macular Dystrophy and sight loss which a fects approximately two million people in the

In 2009 David was diagnosed with Star gadts Macular Dystrophy (SMD), a gene tc degenera tve eye condi ton that a fects the central part of the re tna leading to

mon cause of sight loss in elderly people. However, it is quite rare amongst young people. Coping with any kind of sight

can be very di f cult to deal with. Ini tally you think that your eyesight is cri tcal for everything that you do in life and that by losing it you will never be able to com plete your dreams and ambi tons. As a result people who su fer with sight loss are at a far greater risk of su fering with depression. A fer being forced to give up driving and cycling and as the impacts of the sight loss were star tng to become

terhorn, se t ng a stand point that sight loss was not going to limit his ambi tons.

The route to the Ma terhorn consists of 1200m of ver tcal ascent along a perilous ly en tte ≠ iΘ M

acclima tsed and successfully completed an ascent of the Dent du Geant (4,013m). Unfortunately, however, on the ascent to the Ma terhorn summit at around 4,100m the e fects of the al ttude forced David to abandon the summit a tempt.

The most challenging component of the climb s tll had to be completed: the descent. The descent of the Ma terhorn is notorious, with the warming rocks melt ing the ice and causing fatal rock falls. Coupled with the lack of detail in David's vision causes the descent of climbs to be the most challenging; iden tfying solid places to place the feet being incredibly

success for the team with Steven manag ing to complete the climb.

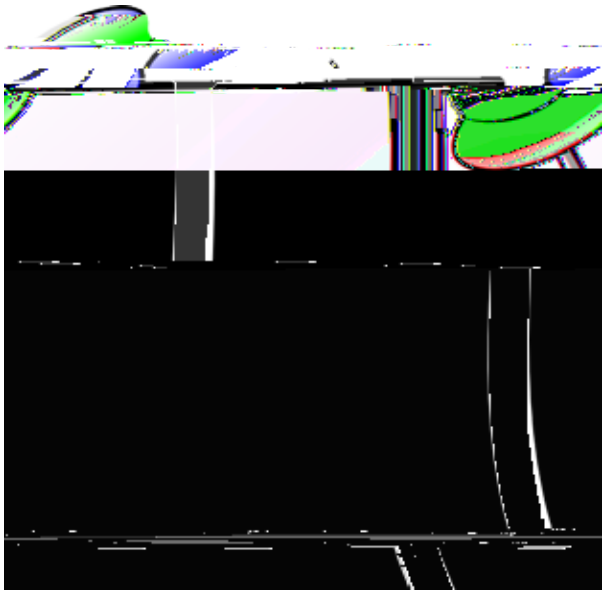
The expedi ton raised £1,356 for the Royal Na tonal Ins ttute for the Blind as well as gaining na tonal news coverage through both radio and newspapers. This kind of publicity is priceless for raising aware ness of sight loss. Hopefully other young people going through sight loss will be

and be inspired to not give up on their dreams. David s tll aims to summit the Ma terhorn and is currently planning the next expedi ton, set to take place in late summer 2016.

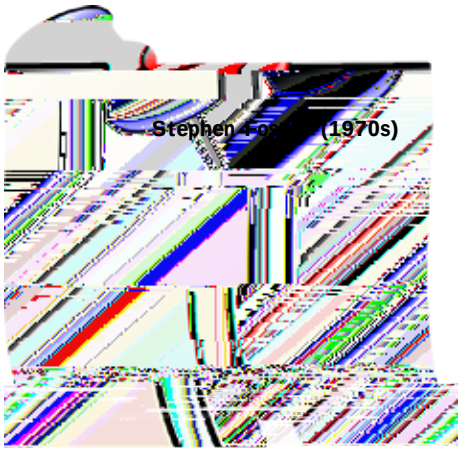
David Reynolds
ReynoldsD3@cardi f.ac.uk
Having completed a BSc and PhD at SOS, David is now a lecturer at the University of Cardi f.

erG eUr

A f er almost 20 years away from Bangor, I'm returning for a brief visit. I am an alumna from 1997 (Marine Biology/Zoology) but I moved to Australia soon a f er gradua t on and haven't been back since. I am now managing several marine conserva t on projects in South Australia and will be happy to share my experiences and knowledge with anyone who is around on Monday 11 August when I will be giving a presenta t on about 'Why is southern Australian marine life so special?'. You will have to take my word for it for now

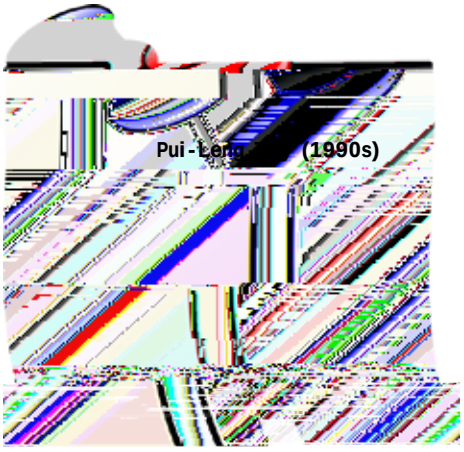


in the next issue of 'The Bridge' in the hope that

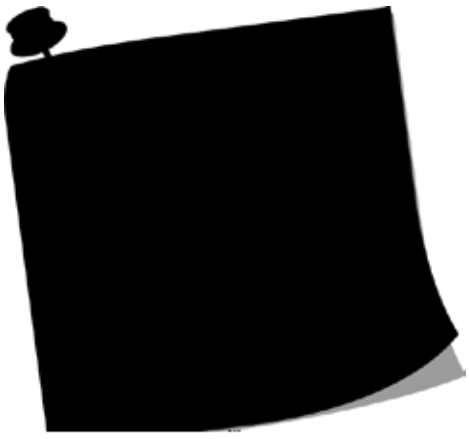


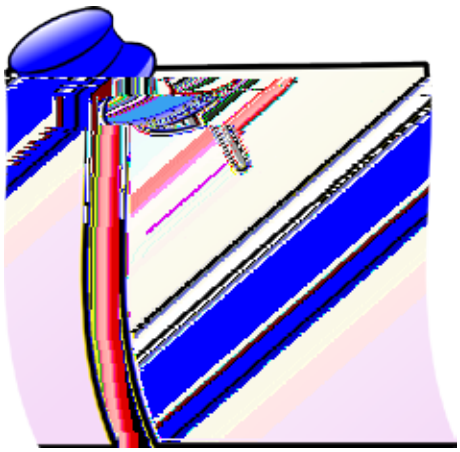
Stephen [illegible] (1970s)

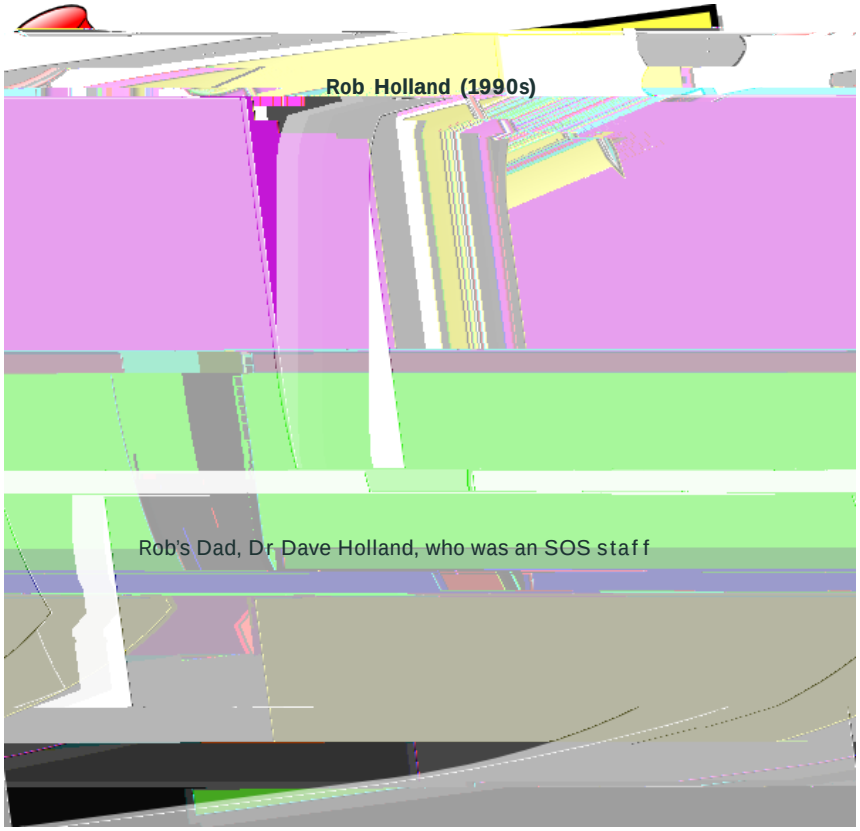
James Glennie (1980s)



Pui-Leng [illegible] (1990s)







Rob Holland (1990s)

Rob's Dad, Dr Dave Holland, who was an SOS staff

In Memoriam

Joan Lewis (1926-2014)

Joan Lewis, who died in April this year, played an important role in the lives of students and staf in the 'Marine Science Laboratories' throughout the 1980's and 1990's. Joan held the unusual posi t on of

raphy and Marine Biology Departments before joining the administra t ve staf of

ciplines in 1988. With her physical ocean ography 'hat'on, she acted as Secretary

was a reassuring and welcoming presence to new students arriving to take up ocean ography courses at that t me.

Science Laboratories when she was 'res cued' from Bardsey Island by the *t lWiyÔŜ a l·Ř2∃*, ostensibly so that she could return to work! Her husband, Peter Hope Jones, whom she married in 1985, regularly visit ed Bardsey to study the bird popula t ons and Joan some t mes accompanied him. On this occasion, as o f en happened, the weather turned foul and the small ferry linking the island to the mainland was un able to operate. Joan knew that her boss, *a l·Ř2∃* t me and working in the area. She was able to get word to the ship by radio and

immediately ordered a change of course to the island. The story appealed to the press and appeared in the *5l·ìfê t2ăű* under a heading along the lines of 'Profess hc vM p n È pre ŭ ary - r h e ŏ f