

NOCSnews

October 2008

Boat show success for Callista

RV Callista was 'belle of the ball' at the Southampton Boat Show this year.

On board, during the show, were displays from across the NOCS community, including Serpent project, Discovery Collection, NMFD and SOES.

During the five days at the show, Saturday to Wednesday 13-17 September, *Callista* attracted nearly 3,800 visitors. "The display was truly impressive and imaginative and I very much enjoyed my visit on Sunday", said **Ed Hill**: "This was a fantastic outreach opportunity and *Callista* was certainly the star of the show, also with some excellent TV coverage."

Indeed, *Callista* featured on the Channel 4 Boat Show coverage, Meridian News, Global Internet Radio and on the front page of Boat Show News, a daily publication delivered to every exhibitor at the show.

The show organisers tried to arrange for the vessel to stay beyond the period originally planned but unfortunately no berth was available.



Barry Marsh

"The feedback from show organisers and visitors was extremely positive and I am optimistic that we will be invited to next year's show", says **Gary Fisher**.

NOCS also had a healthy presence on the University of Southampton stand.

Seahorse found

Who would have thought there are seahorses in Southampton Water?

A group of retired engineers on the *Callista* found a rare seahorse off Netley in September. They were on a 'Discover Oceanography' trip, run by **Gary Fisher** of NOCS and the SOES boat group.

The 15-cm individual, a male, is most likely a spiny seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*). It came up in the beam trawl net from the muddy seabed. The seahorse, protected by the UK's Wildlife and Countryside Act since April this year, was put back in the sea as soon as it had been photographed.



Bill Fletcher

Marine Life Talks at NOCS

- 2 Oct **Leviathan, the Whale**
– Philip Hoare
- 6 Nov **Marine mammal sounds and effect of man-made noise**
– Paul White



The popular Marine Life Talks are held in the Lecture Theatre and are open to the public. The talks start at 7.30pm – Free admission



Congratulations...

...to Ken Collins and Jenny Mallinson for reaching the 'century' with the popular NOCS Marine Life Talk series.

The talks, which have taken place every month for the last eight years, are open to the public and NOCS folk, and typically attract an audience of 50-100. The hundredth in the series (2 October) is given by Southampton author Philip Hoare, who talks about his new book, 'Leviathan or, The Whale', and BBC 2 film, 'The Hunt for Moby Dick'.



Adding his congratulations, **Martin Marsters** of COMS praised the effort that goes into the talks, which he says are "always very successful and really appreciated by the public".

Glider launch

On 16 September 2008, a team from NOCS successfully launched an underwater glider in the Eastern Atlantic.



The aim is to understand better the interaction between oceans and climate, improving the ability of scientists to detect signs of rapid climate change.

"Twelve days into the mission the glider has travelled 330 km without any major problems and we are very pleased with the data", says **David Smeed**, "It is really nice to be getting the latest data every day – and without having to leave the office."

NOCS facilities

Seminar room

The seminar room has been extended, increasing its capacity from 38 persons to 100+. Seating and tables for 100 persons will be provided, but the capacity can be further increased if tables are removed. The seminar room can be booked through the Facilities helpdesk; any special arrangements should be requested at the time of booking. Temporary audiovisual facilities will be in place by 6 October 2008, with more permanent facilities to be installed during the next few months. These facilities will be linked to the lecture theatre, enabling combined events for over 275 persons.

Reception area

The building work to improve the reception area is virtually complete. The permanent reception desk will be installed about 8 weeks from now. Corporate branding being organised by COMS will improve the overall look of the area. The aquarium being established under the stairs by **Jörg Wiedenmann** will provide a permanent display opposite new seating at the back of the reception area. The new meeting room located in reception will also be opened during October.

Wind turbine

The failure of the wind turbine located on Node 3 during August remains under investigation by the manufacturer; in close liaison with NOCS. An independent consultant working for NOCS will evaluate the investigation process and any deficiencies/outcomes before a report is submitted to the NOCS Executive Board. Electricity production up until the turbine's failure had been encouraging and a conservative estimate for the first year's production was about 7000 kWh, equivalent to a typical desktop PC operating for over 46,000 hours!

NOCS in the media

Last month it was Autosub6000, but it is underwater gliders and the latest Cape Farewell expedition that are now in the limelight.

The launch of an underwater glider in the Eastern Atlantic as part of the Rapid-Watch ocean-monitoring programme was covered in a number of publications, including the *Daily Echo*, *Marine Technology Reporter*, www.seadiscovery.com, and *The Engineer Online*, www.theengineer.co.uk. One of the gliders also featured as 'Big Picture' of the day, with some familiar NOCS faces, and **David Smeed** was also interviewed by BBC Three Counties Radio.

The official launch of Cape Farewell's 2008 expedition to the Arctic took place on Tuesday 16 September at the London Science Museum. The expedition is supported scientifically by NOCS and has attracted considerable media attention, due in part no doubt to the involvement of singers K.T. Tunstall, Jarvis Cocker and Martha Wainwright, among others. Highlights included coverage in the *Sunday Mail*, <http://tinyurl.com/3s8s9d> and in the scientific journal *Nature*, <http://tinyurl.com/4lp9jb>, with an associated blog. Expedition scientist **Simon Boxall** of NOCS said in *Nature*, "our dream would be to get Jeremy Clarkson along". Perhaps Mr Clarkson will take up the challenge another year! Simon also gave a number of radio interviews.



First-ever UK matched giving scheme

On 3 April 2008 the Government launched a £200 million matched funding scheme for voluntary giving, following a Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills-led consultation last year. The scheme began on 1 August 2008 and will run for three years.

It is intended to encourage more private support for the higher education sector (participation and the level of giving), to diversify the funding sources for universities and to help keep pace with funding systems for universities outside the UK.

The scheme is the first of its kind in the UK and aims to achieve a step change in voluntary giving. All higher education institutions in England can participate in the scheme. Each university has the discretion to determine how the funds will be matched. The University of Southampton has decided that all gifts up to £10,000 will be matched 100%. This provides our donors an exceptional opportunity to maximise their support and the impact their gift can have. All donors will receive full credit for their personal gift plus the matched gift.

"We are particularly pleased that the new scheme will provide added incentives to current donors to increase their support as well as to encourage alumni and friends to make their first gift", says Joanne Donahoe: "We are also speaking with industry about funding new scholarships to recruit and retain the best students and to help support our fieldwork programmes."

If you would like to learn more about the Matched Giving Scheme, please contact **Joanne Donahoe** at development@noc.soton.ac.uk or x29483.

Alumni Reunion

The University held the first-ever annual Alumni Reunion event on 20 September.

The Graduating classes of 1948, '58, '68 and '78 enjoyed their 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th class reunions with a day of seminars, lectures and tours across the University. Between catching up with old friends and admiring the campus' many capital improvements since their time at 'uni', alumni heard from expert academics on a range of topics. Highlights included a lecture on neuroscience at Southampton by Hugh Perry which focused on the impact of common infections on the healthy and diseased brain, a tour of the John Hansard Gallery and a behind the scenes look at Hartley Library's special collections.

Alumni ended their day with a visit to NOCS. **Andrew Roberts** gave a lecture about NOCS which included a tribute to the SOES alumni who were present. Rare photos of the first oceanography class and class pictures of alumni in attendance provided laughter and many trips down memory lane. Guests finished their evening with dinner in the canteen. Over 95 alumni were in attendance, and due to its success, we look forward to organising an alumni reunion event next year. Pictured left are the first four students of the very first oceanography class at the University in 1964.



Front, 1 to r: Chris Alexander, Jose Tundisi and back Dave Blackburn, Geoff Chapman

Rockwatch 2008

Harry Baker proudly holds his competition-winning 'black smoker' model at this year's Rockwatch, which attracted many enthusiastic visitors and featured a great display of marine fossils put together by **Ross Williams**.



NOCS Staff and Postgraduate Committee

The *NOCS Staff and Postgraduate Committee (NSPGC)* is an informal group that organises events and activities for all staff and postgraduate students based at NOCS.

Information about NSPGC can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/3tvfpz>.

Please subscribe to NOC-Social for updates, but coming up soon are:

21 October – Bring-and-Buy Book Sale

In the exhibition area outside IT from 1000 until 1500. Bring in your unwanted books, videos, CDs and DVDs from 0900 on the day. All unsold items will be taken to the Oxfam bookshop. Proceeds will go to support NSPGC and a charity to be nominated.

10 December – Christmas Ball

Winter Wonderland at the Rosebowl – dinner, disco and dodgems! A four-course meal with wine, a disco, casino and dodgems should get your Christmas festivities off to a great start. Cost £41 per person, which can be paid in installments. Contact **Vikki Gunn** (26550) or **Sandy Grapes** (26777) for more information.

Christmas Quiz and Carols – (date tbc)

This sell-out event last year will be repeated the week before Christmas in the cafeteria. Teams (maximum six) take part in a light-hearted quiz, with carols from the resident NOCs band. Mince pies and mulled wine included. Full details will be published in the near future.

Met Office and NOCS share marine observing expertise

An official ceremony on 26 September marked the relocation of a team from the Met Office, the UK's national weather service and a world-leading centre for climate-change research to NOCS.

Previously located at Watnall, near Nottingham, the eight-strong Met Office Marine Engineering Team are responsible for moored buoys and other automatic observing systems located on lightships and remote islands that make up the Met Office's Marine Automatic Weather Station network, providing early warning of severe weather conditions. The team also provide technical support for drifting buoy and Argo float deployments.

Their work complements that of the NOCS Sensors and Moorings Group on towed vehicles and fixed-location moored systems, including the Rapid mooring array at 26.5 degrees north, which monitors the meridional overturning circulation of the Atlantic, also known as the 'Atlantic heat conveyor'. **Ed Hill**, who was joined at the opening by Met Office Chief Executive, John Hirst and Professor Alan Thorpe, Chief Executive of NERC, said: "We are delighted to welcome the Met Office Marine Team to the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton. The move brings together the UK's two leading groups working in this area and creates a true centre of excellence that supports vital research into marine observing."

John Hirst expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome extended by NOCS to the Met Office team.



NERC Green Fund 2009/10

Bids have been made for the following items:

- Economisers for the main gas boilers, aiming to reduce gas consumption by about 5%.
- Amenity facilities: provision of a pond within the middle courtyard, additional benches, and bird boxes, including a peregrine box on top of Node 8.
- Light sensors for communal areas.
- Tricycles with baskets for transport between various workshops.
- Charging points for personal electric vehicles.

FerryBox'08

On 29/30 September NOCS hosted FerryBox'08. This was the second international conference on the use of ships of opportunity (SOO) to be held at NOCS.

Sixty people attended the conference from 15 nations. **David Hydes** organised the event with help from Ellen Keegan at Chelsea Technologies. David says, "The event was great success. We got most of the global SOO community together to exchange ideas. Impressive progress has been made since our last meeting at NOCS in 2004."

David was particularly pleased that Akira Harashima (Japan) and Jae Oh (Korea) were able to attend as their groups were the first to bring SOO work into the modern age with autonomous ecosystem parameter measurements. Instrument manufacturers are also interested in this growing market.

Highlights included talks on the international carbon dioxide monitoring effort in the North Atlantic by Ute Schuster (UEA), and the European Marine Ecosystem Observatory concept (Dave Mill, CEFAS). The PowerPoint presentations and many of the posters can be obtained from **Mark Hartman** and will also be available shortly a new website hosted by GKSS in Germany.

Below: participants of the FerryBox'08 conference





New faces

Two new faces are now on site operating on behalf of Sea Systems to organise cruise freighting equipment, to and from NOCS and the research cruises.

Peters & May are based in the NOC Stores from 9-12 every day and for a

couple of years it has been the familiar face of **Tania** that has greeted people. But Tania has left to pursue other interests.

From 1 October **Debbie O'Malley** will be in the NOC Stores. She brings extensive experience in the freight industry and will work alongside **Charlie Milligan** who will assist and train her in the NOC freighting requirements.

Debbie and Charlie are also key contacts in managing the NMFD customs warehouse.



...and welcome to:

Employee well-being initiative

Pressures and stress at work can result in ill health and the UK Health and Safety Executive have asked organisations to work proactively with them to prevent this wherever possible. NOCS is keen to meet this request, as they want to ensure the continued well-being of all their employees.

To achieve this, a company-wide survey, involving all employees, will take place in October to try and identify any problems that might exist. The survey, conducted by an external consultancy, will include a day of focus discussions with employees. Once the results are to hand any appropriate action plans will be formulated in conjunction with employee representatives.

Your cooperation in this initiative is vital. We need everyone's involvement and input to ensure the continued well-being of all of us in the workplace.

David Handley, NMFD, working with **Martyn Holdway**
Laura Hepburn, SOES, working with **Matthew Cooper**
Alex Poulton, NSRD/OBE, working with **Richard Sanders**
Loic Jullion, SOES, working with **Alberto Naveira-Garabato**
Catherine Harris, NMFD, working with **Miles Pebody**
Fiona Stuart, CSD / HR, working with **Sarah Buckley**
Carole Miles, CSD/HR, working with **Jessica Ritson**

Uni-link buses

The Uni-link bus operation transferred to Solent Blue Line on 28 September 2008.

Uni-link will be vacating the NOCS site and moving its operational base to Eastleigh. The current operator of the service, Enterprise, is proposing to remove the portacabins on the site, disconnect electricity and water supplies by 10 October.

There are a few changes to the bus timetable which affect NOCS and these are:

U1A Monday – Friday – The first four buses in the morning start from Dock Gate 4 instead of NOCS. The first bus from NOCS leaves at 0640.

U6H Monday – Saturday – Buses will not come to NOCS. All buses from 0603 until 2120 will depart from Dock Gate 4.

U6H Sat/Sun – Buses will go from Dock Gate 4 from 0603 until 2120. Buses will start from Ocean Village from 0825 until 18.25.

The new timetable will be published soon and will be available through the Uni-link website – www.uni-link.info.

Grants Deadlines

University of Southampton – MULSER 2008
Deadline: 31 Sept 2008 for initial feedback
17 Oct 2008 to DVC

For details: speak to your Research Co-Chairs

STFC – Follow-on fund
Deadline: 7 October 2008
For details: www.scitech.ac.uk/

STFC – Science in society science centre awards
Deadline: 17 October 2008
For details: www.scitech.ac.uk/

ESF – Research Networking Programs 2008
Deadline: 23 October 2008, 16:00 CET
For details: www.esf.org/

EPSRC – Energy Challenges for Complexity Science
Deadline: 29 October 2008
For details: www.epsrc.ac.uk/

NERC – Fellowships (all Sciences)
Deadline: 30 October 2008
For details: www.nerc.ac.uk/

LIFE+ Environment
Deadline: 21 November 2008
For details: <http://tinyurl.com/4lzmea>

NERC – UK-IODP Grants
Deadline: 27 November 2008
For details: www.nerc.ac.uk/

ESF – INTROP (Interdisciplinary Tropospheric Research: from the laboratory to global change exchange grants)
No deadlines
For details: www.esf.org/

ESPRC – Discipline Hopping in Information and Communication Technologies – Responsive Mode
Open Deadline
For details: <http://tinyurl.com/4xf086>

NERC – Follow-on Fund Pathfinder
No deadline
For details: <http://tinyurl.com/3ks819>

Awards

Pi, (CoI)
* Split Award NSRD/SOES

Samantha Gibbs, SOES, PALAEO
Royal Society – Fellowship (£451,796)

NOCS Safety Flash: Health & safety training

Training is now managed centrally through the NOCS HR team. This includes most safety-related training.

Using previous training records (from annual reports) it was possible to compile a database of all staff requiring safety training across the centre. Unfortunately, due to a backlog, much of the NERC/University mandatory safety training will take some time to complete.

At present, the outstanding health and safety training requirements for NOCS staff are:

	<i>Number of staff</i>
Display screen equipment training (DSE)	257
Manual handling training	186
Heavy manual handling training	66
Safety management in a research environment/Senior managers safety training	9
NERC Risk management training	66
NERC Safety responsibility training	48

The HR team is working with the NOCS Safety Adviser, local safety officers and managers to find training providers so that the backlog can be reduced as quickly as possible. Please support the HR team by attending these courses when advertised.

In addition, NOCS is looking for staff to be trained up as DSE and/or manual handling trainers. Any volunteers please contact **Sultan Khan**, the NOCS Safety Advisor (x26076).