

Andy Jackson – wreck hunter, filmmaker, conservationist

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS

Scarborough BSAC 83 announces the sudden death of Andrew Jackson aged 60, a long-term member who first joined in the 1980s.

Andy suffered a fatal heart attack while riding his bike on 14 October 2019. He had observed a strict fitness regime for his diving work, but it had masked an underlying coronary condition.

Andy was always interested in the sea, born in Scarborough in May 1959, where he spent his childhood exploring the rock pools of the local beaches. After joining Scarborough BSAC in his early 20s, Andy began a love affair with shipwrecks. He dived prolifically throughout the next 30 years off the Yorkshire coast with many other local divers such as Gordon Wadsworth, Peter Lassey and Carl Racey, and often welcomed visiting divers to share his enthusiasm for exploring the historic wrecks of the Yorkshire coast.

Once his partnership with Carl Racey on the RIB Northstar was established, they decided to begin diving all the wrecks marked on the admiralty charts to try and identify as many as possible. Previously many of these chart co-ordinates were approximate and not easily married to actual known wrecks. Andy and Carl designed a database to cross reference their marks to possible names of lost shipping. Many hours were spent searching local records in libraries

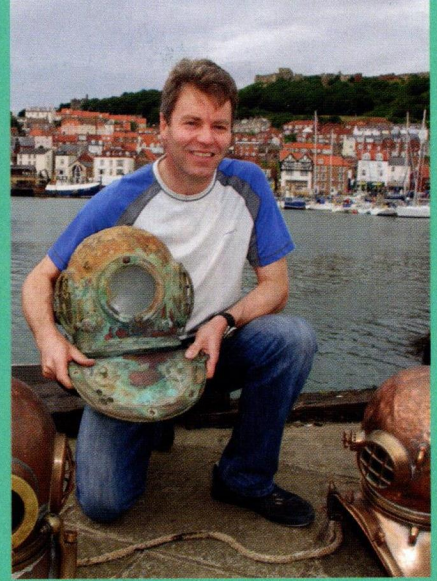
and Lloyds register to gain as much information as possible.

This database began to be invaluable in assisting their quest for the whereabouts of certain enigmas such as SS Disperser, a hardhat diving vessel lost but never found before. Andy recovered the Siebe Gorman helmet, now on display at Scarborough SAC clubhouse.

In 1993 the Northstar crew dived an unknown chart mark in 50 metres, three miles out of Whitby and were amazed to discover the U-boat UB30, which had sunk in August 1918 and also never before found.

Andy continued this intense exploration with a new crew on his next boat, and dived deeper wrecks until 2009 when he decided to combine his lifelong passion for the natural world with underwater filmmaking. He had been filming his wreck dives for many years, but he began exploring a new frontier with his camera – Britain's marine life in the shallows.

He met Jackie Daly in 2012 on a dive trip to Scilly Isles. Jackie was a writer and diver and they soon became a team with Jackie



writing scripts to accompany Andy's films. They married in 2017.

Andy spent many patient hours filming British marine life from the Scottish Highlands to Lands' End in Cornwall. He filmed incredible sequences that were screened on *BBC Springwatch*, *Blue Planet II*, *The One Show*, *National Geographic*, and many others.

He was always keen to campaign for marine conservation and was involved in many projects, including the campaign that resulted in the Scottish government designating Loch Carron's flame shell reef a Marine Protected Area and Sea Change Wester Ross's survey work in the Summer Isles. Andy leaves a wife, Jackie, and his two children Ellie 28 and Fred 26.

Anyone wishing to see many of Andy's artefacts is welcome to attend club night on Wednesday evenings 8pm at Scarborough Sub Aqua Club, 25 St Mary's Street, YO11 1QW.

JULIA MCLEAN, Chair, Scarborough SAC

