



The **WORLD** in our street

Interview with

Stewart Tattersall Dee Sports

The business has been on Brook Street since 1983 when previously the premises were a cycle shop and a pram shop. The shop was bought from Ursula Keyes who was born in the shop and her father was Edmund Wrench Keyes. Stewart believes that the building was originally the home of a hay merchant – hence the very large window on the first floor that can be seen on historic photographs.

It sells water sports equipment canoeing, sailing, windsurfing and diving accessories and Stewart also teaches diving. Prior to setting up the business, he had been involved in diving since 1973. They use two quarry lakes in Wales one of which is Dorothea Quarry. People come from as far as Shrewsbury Prestatyn and Liverpool for the evening courses. Stewart used to run Monday – Saturday courses and people would come from all over – often London as a result of advertising in magazines which were sold in stations in the 80's and 90's in London.

Water space is difficult and particularly when Chester Baths shut for a couple of years. They now use the Northgate Arena. The training is for people to become an open water diver. They are given a pack and DVD and then they have theory classes in the classroom above the shop, then a session in the swimming pool and a PADI instructor in the UK or abroad has to assess them on four dives.

In terms of being located in Brook Street, Stewart sometimes thinks they would be better off slightly further out of town as the parking is challenging and there is a restriction of 1 hour. In the shop window is a steering column which came off a ship called The Cork – an Irish ferry. Starboard is wrong on it. It was trapped under some decking and Stewart's friend Keith who has an explosives licence was able to release it – there were a lot of dead fish! It was found just off Anglesey near Point Lynas.

Stewart took a trip to the Red Sea last year and most years he has travelled abroad on a diving trip. In 2014 he went to Gozo, Malta, it was a lot of shore diving which was hard work. Stewart estimates that he has probably taught approximately 1000 people the basic open water diving course where participants dive to 60feet. The advance course they dive to 30 meters. There is also a rescue course that can be undertaken and a Dive Master Leadership qualification. He also runs speciality courses.





BROOK STREET

The **WORLD** in our street



Stewart has found a number of items over the years when he has been diving and has a collection of codd bottles. These are glass bottles which had pop in them and had a marble in them to provide a seal. They had to be banged down on the table or 'walloped' to break the seal and this is apparently where the saying it is a load of codswallop comes from.

Stewart also told us about a man called John who is in Rhos on Sea and he discovered an Anson Aircraft from World War 2 which had gone down, amazingly John's father had been on the lifeboat which has rescued men from the fallen plane near Prestatyn.

Further information about Codd bottles

In 1872, British soft drink maker Hiram Codd of Camberwell, London, designed and patented a bottle designed specifically for carbonated drinks. The Codd-neck bottle was designed and manufactured to enclose a marble and a rubber washer/gasket in the neck. The bottles were filled upside down, and pressure of the gas in the bottle forced the marble against the washer, sealing in the carbonation. The bottle was pinched into a special shape, as can be seen in the photo to the left, to provide a chamber into which the marble was pushed to open the bottle. This prevented the marble from blocking the neck as the drink was poured.



Soon after its introduction, the bottle became extremely popular with the soft drink and brewing industries, mainly in Europe, Asia and Australasia, though some alcohol drinkers disdained the use of the bottle. One etymology of the term *codswallop* originates from beer sold in Codd bottles, though this is generally dismissed as a folk etymology.^[3]



The bottles were regularly produced for many decades, but gradually declined in usage. Since children smashed the bottles to retrieve the marbles, they are relatively scarce and have become collector items; particularly in the UK. A cobalt-coloured Codd bottle today fetches hundreds of British pounds at auction. The Codd-neck design is still used for the Japanese soft drink Ramune and in the Indian drink called Banta.

