

PE&D1

Activity



Dee Sports Shop

- [Link to swimming lessons.](#)
- [Find out about diving.](#)
- If you could dive, where would you like to go for a diving holiday?
- Why?



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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.

Dee Sports 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 Port Mina.

Interview with Stewart Tattersall Dee Sports

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 1,000 people the basic open water diving course where participants dive to 60 feet. The advanced 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.

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.

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Lee Kelly's story on scuba diving

Ten years ago I decided to take up a new hobby, so I went to Dee Sports in Brook Street and met with Stewart to talk about becoming an open water diver.

After many weeks of classroom lessons and tests and hours in the swimming pool learning all the skills of diving I then had to go to a quarry called Dorothea in Wales to put what I had learnt into practice. The water was so cold that I had to wear special diving suits called 'dry suits'. You would wear your normal clothes underneath the dry suit to try and keep you warm. Over a few days I did several dives in Doratheia and also a dive in a smaller quarry called Vivian. After these dives I passed my first PADI qualification and became an open water diver.

Soon after this I went for the next level which meant more training. I had to do a 15 metre dive in Doratheia. I was very nervous as this was the deepest I'd been. It was very strange seeing the huts and roads of the old quarry where people used to mine, all under water.

So after this I gained my second PADI qualification and I am now an advanced underwater diver and a dry suit specialist. These qualifications have enabled me to dive in St Lucia and to see turtles, amazing fish, lobsters and a rainbow of colourful coral. It has also allowed me to dive with sharks at the Blue Planet Aquarium, which has to be one of the best experiences I've ever had.

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Interview with Trudi Thomas at Trudis Tutus and Dancewear

Trudi's daughter is in the sixth Form at The Hammond School in Chester and she has been attending the school since Year 8. The family originally lived in Dorset and Trudi's daughter was boarding at the school. It was a long commute for the family. When Trudi's daughter moved into Year 12, she could no longer board but was required to live with a responsible adult in lodgings. Trudi decided that, having been made redundant and also now being a single parent, that she would move up to Chester so she could provide accommodation for her daughter.

Trudi was really brave and decided to set up her own business with the help of a government scheme focussing particularly on women in enterprise for over 50's. It was the New Enterprise Allowance and Blue Orchid that provided Trudi with a mentor and financial advice, so that Trudi could have a sound business plan and a small budget to set up.

The business opened on April 7th 2014. There was a gap in the market as prior to that, the dancewear and fancy dress shop on City Road had closed down two years previously.

Trudi finds Brook Street to be a real community street and when she was looking for premises in the Hoole area or Brook Street, she wanted a community street. What she sells is not a tourist product and although sometimes people do happen upon the street there is no need to be in the heart of the city and the cost would be prohibitive.

Trudi has always made dance costumes as her daughter has been dancing since she was age 3. Her daughter is petite and so often the costumes would "drown" her, so Trudi was very good at altering the costumes and other Mums were amazed at what she could achieve. She had also always done dress making for herself. Before she knew it she was making costumes for 200 children and leading a team of mothers for a dance school in Dorset, spending Saturdays at a community centre creating the costumes – she loved it!

Interview with Trudi Thomas at Trudis Tutus and Dancewear

The premises that Trudi occupies were previously a dog groomers so it needed a re-fit and she converted upstairs into a dressmaking area as Trudi makes costumes for festivals, shows and competitions. Trudi makes a lot of costumes and has been doing this for 7-10 years. She always has a 3 month waiting list. To make a ballet tutu it takes three full weeks to make: 2 weeks for sewing and a week for decoration. It takes 150 metres of net and all the crystals etc are put on by hand. Basically no machinery other than Trudi and her sewing machine! To purchase a tutu for an 11 year old for example it would cost approximately £120.

The shop is open Wednesday to Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm and Saturdays 9.00am – 4.45pm. Trudi has 2 members of staff – her daughter and another girl who is a senior at the Hammond school. Her daughter and her daughter's friend will be finishing at The Hammond in the summer (2016) so Trudi will be looking for 2 new staff. People find it really useful to be able to talk to the girls about The Hammond and how they can apply and how it is to be a student there.

The shop sells all the class uniforms for virtually all the local dance schools – there are about 20 odd dance schools locally and footwear is also sold. The area that Trudi covers is large – stretching from Liverpool to Wrexham to Crewe in the south of Cheshire. Trudi has been trained by the point shoe company Grishko to fit point shoes.

Saturday is definitely the busiest day and Trudi runs a frequent customer card scheme and she has a lot of regular clients and repeat business. She tends to close the shop during August and Easter as there is very little business at that time and also strangely at Christmas – when actually the products would make fantastic Christmas presents.

It is still early days but the business is “holding its own” – Trudi has developed a really good rapport with clients and people come back. Other traders in the street have been very welcoming and for example have offered to get Trudi a coffee, take in parcels and sometimes put a note on the door if she has been unable to open. She has really enjoyed the Brook Street carnival and hopes that happens again.

An interesting nugget of information – “tutu” is the slang French word for “bottom”.

PE&D3b

Activity



Make a tutu using tulle.

- Find a simple pattern and make a tutu.



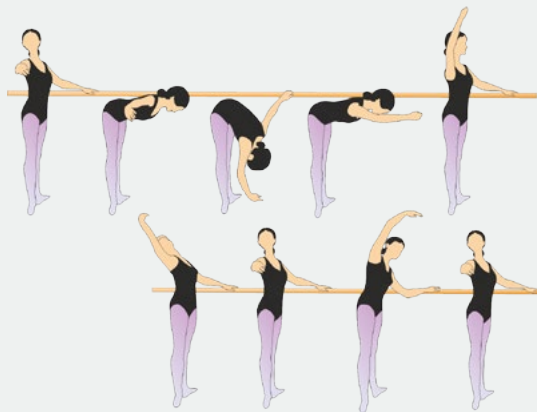
PE&D4

Activity



Ballet

- Learn some simple ballet steps.



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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. Some say the term codswallop originates from beer sold in Codd bottles, though this is generally dismissed as a folk myth.

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 pounds at auction. The Codd-neck design is still used for the Japanese soft drink Rmune and in the Indian drink called Banta.