



# Newsletter

## “Here’s your captain speaking”

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Kaptan June was visited at the Beach Hut late this summer by a family from Liverpool.



David and his family spent some time with Kaptan June,



enjoying her company and the sunshine and beautiful scenery .....

### My Diary

#### Issue 27

December 2019

#### Hello Dear Friends of the Foundation,

So nice to be in touch with you all again this December. The weather here today is very different from the way it was when I last wrote my diary – very wet and unsettled although we have had lovely sunshine up to now.

I am glad to be here in Dalyan as Christmas and New Year and my birthday approaches. I feel very fortunate to be in good health still and able to reflect on many past Christmases spent with friends all around the world.

So – what’s been happening since my last diary –

#### September

Not so many Turkish visitors now as the summer draws to an end, but an increased number from the UK and other European countries – September is always a popular month for them. Weather a little cooler, but still most enjoyable. A pleasant visit to like-minded friends – Sustainable Living – in Fethiye. Also, an exciting day at the Beach Hut with the BBC (more details in the Newsletter).

#### October

Still able to enjoy time in my garden as the lovely sunshine continues. At the end of the month, we closed up the Beach Hut – another summer season at an end! How quickly this one seems to have passed!

#### November

Once again, the Foundation’s General Assembly was held in my garden – well attended and a good atmosphere. At the end of the month, we had a stall at Dalyan’s Winter Fayre – a very pleasant day shared with local people and many friends.

#### December

The annual Volunteers Get-Together was held in my house – no chance of being in the garden now due to stormy conditions outside – but that didn’t stop us from having a good time and enjoying just being together.

Now getting ready for Christmas and New Year – my first spent in Dalyan for several years – and my 97th birthday at the end of the month. Many celebrations are planned, I’ve been told!

All in all, a good year – helpers and much appreciated friends still supporting me as always in keeping my beloved Beach Hut open. Already looking forward to next summer when we’ll do it all again!

I wish you all – my dear Friends of the Foundation – good health and happiness always wherever you may be this Christmas and New Year. I’m looking forward to a reunion with as many of you as possible in 2020!

Best wishes always Kaptan June



#### Iztuzu Beach is under attack again!

33 years on from her original fight to prevent any development on Iztuzu Kaptan June is again involved in trying to keep this important and very special place almost untouched.

The management of DEKAMER, otherwise known as the Turtle Hospital, have plans to develop their current site in the forest of Iztuzu Beach with a 2-storey building of 1,000 sq m, to house new hospital facilities and accommodation for up to 40 people. While it is acknowledged that the centre does need improved facilities, the site at the beach is not the right place for it for a variety of reasons.

There is strong opposition to the plan both locally and further afield, and a meeting was held on the beach in November to present the Press Statement prepared by Iztuzu’s protection group, IKUP. The meeting was well attended with around 400 people, including the majority of the Foundation’s volunteers.

The main speech was delivered by IKUP’s spokesman, Murat Demirci, with contributions from several other speakers notably including Kaptan June.

Very shortly an on-line petition will be published for objectors to this latest attempt to flout various laws and regulations, to read and sign. Please keep an eye on our facebook page for your chance to support the objections.





### Visit from the BBC

As you will all recall, towards the end of the summer Kaptan June was excited to be contacted by the BBC. A film crew wanted to visit and feature her in an episode of the programme The Holiday Show. They explained that the programme would include several items of interest along this part of the coast and that they had heard about Kaptan June and were keen to include her and a piece about the turtles and "The Turtle Beach". The film crew duly arrived one day in September and spent most of the morning both at the Beach Hut and on the beach.



For those of us who were there that day it was an interesting experience to watch the crew at work and whilst they seemed to film a lot of material we obviously didn't know how much of it would eventually end up being shown in the programme. As for Kaptan June, she wasn't at all fazed by all the activity around her having been interviewed for television programmes on many previous occasions and she thoroughly enjoyed the whole morning.



Although initially delayed, the programme was eventually shown over a period of a few days in October and we do hope that you - our Friends and supporters - were able to watch it and enjoy it as much as we all did. The fact that Kaptan June was about to feature in a programme on the BBC caused quite a stir here in Dalyan among the residents - at the time, there were many notifications and comments on Facebook etc, which again highlighted the conservation efforts continuing at Iztuzu Beach. Kaptan June said at the time "its good to know that the BBC believes that whats going on here at Iztuzu Beach and the ongoing protection of the turtles and the beach is still of sufficient importance to be included in a programme about the area".



Here are some pictures that were taken of the film crew on the day, showing the action "from the other side of the camera".



### Visit to Sustainable Living in Fethiye



We mentioned in our last Newsletter that Kaptan June had received a visit during the summer from an organisation in Fethiye called Sustainable Living - a group of people interested in all aspects of environmentalism and recycling. Kaptan June said at the time that she would welcome the opportunity to visit them, and in September, accompanied by a few of the volunteers, she was able to make the trip to Fethiye and spend a morning with them at one of their recycling events.

Kaptan June spent time talking with many of the people who attended the event who were all interested in meeting her and hearing more about the turtles and Iztuzu Beach - many friendships were made that morning. It is anticipated that

this will be an on-going relationship between two like-minded organisations, as plans are already being put in place to repeat the visit to Fethiye in the New Year.

It was a very enjoyable morning - many bargains were had by everyone - and it was finished off with a delicious lunch on the beautiful Calis sea-front.

Thank you, Sustainable Living, for inviting us and for such a lovely morning - we'll see you again soon.



### A Personal Message from Kaptan June

David Bellamy

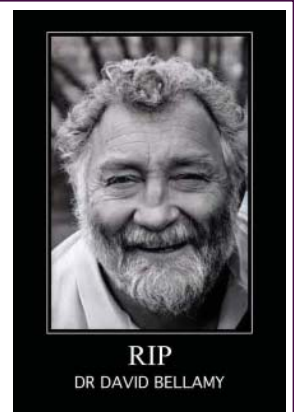
It was with great sadness that - only a few days ago - I learned of the passing of my dear friend, David Bellamy. David and I had known each other for over 35 years and we shared a devotion to the natural world. He was a wonderful supporter of the original fight to save Iztuzu Beach - his enthusiasm and energy at the time kept us all going - and we remained friends afterwards, even though our paths went in different directions - mine to stay here in Dalyan and his to take on other projects in other places. I feel honoured to have been able to call him my friend.

David's wife, Rosemary, supported David in all his work and I am happy to have known them both over many years.

As well as his passion for the natural world, family life was always important to David as well, and my thoughts and prayers go out to his family at this sad time.

-RIP, David: the world - and especially the Dalyan turtles - will miss you.

Kaptan June, Dec 2019





### **Funds Raised for the Turtles by the Turtles Class in Wiltshire**

Kaptan June was contacted in September by a previous visitor to the Beach Hut - Jane Tuersley - saying she was visiting the area again and had a donation of 100 Turkish lira for the Foundation. Jane explained that as someone passionately concerned with the welfare of all animals she had recently given a talk on turtle conservation to the Turtles Class at Semley Primary School, Semley, Wiltshire. As a result, the children had raised 100tl as a donation to the Kaptan June Sea Turtle Conservation Foundation.

Arrangements were made for Jane to visit the Beach Hut and give Kaptan June the donation, which was received with much gratitude and thanks. The pictures show Kaptan June presenting Jane with a Certificate of Appreciation for her to hand on to the children.

As well as the Certificate, Jane was asked by Kaptan June to thank the children most sincerely for their donation and to pass on to them her thanks for all their hard work and her encouragement in all their efforts in animal protection.

So - thank you to the Turtles in Semley from the Turtles in Dalyan .....



### **Volunteers Get-Together**

As always at this time of the year, the volunteers have a bit of a get-together to talk about the summer that's ended and to have a bit of a Christmas celebration together. This year was no different, and a good time was shared together a few days ago in Kaptan June's house

If you're wondering about the candles in the accompanying pictures - these aren't there just because it's Christmas - contrary to the type of weather many of you, our Friends, enjoy here at Dalyan during the summer months, our get-together took place during a tremendous thunder storm with hail banging against the windows and the electricity had gone off!

Be assured, that didn't stop us enjoying ourselves, and in any case - it was raining too hard to be able to go home early!



### **Dalyan Winter Fayre**



The annual Winter - or Christmas - Fayre was held in Dalyan at the end of November, and the Foundation again had a stall. The event was actually postponed from the Saturday to the Sunday because of wet weather, but on the day the weather held, although it was somewhat chilly to begin with.



Kaptan June was at the stall for most of the day and got talking to many people, all of whom were pleased to see her and wanted to chat with her. It was good to meet with people from Dalyan and further afield and to have the opportunity to talk about the turtles and Iztuzu Beach and to point out that the conservation and preservation issues on the beach still goes on - the campaign to keep the beach protected continues!

Here are some pictures of the day, including one of Kaptan June making friends with a new - and somewhat different - kind of turtle.

No matter - she will protect and look after them all!



### **Turtle Foundation - General Assembly Meeting**

The Foundation's General Assembly Meeting (or AGM) took place in Kaptan June's garden in early November, which was well attended by Members of the Foundation.

Discussion took place around the summer season that has just concluded - not an easy season this year to begin with, bearing in mind that the Beach Hut had to close for a short time at the beginning of the summer whilst various logistical points were clarified. However, it was felt that once these issues had been sorted out, it had been a good summer with a good level of visitors - more Turkish visitors again this year, a trend that has been observed for a couple of summers now.

The Foundation's accountant was able to report that all was well financially, and plans for activities for next year were discussed and agreed.

The afternoon ended with the Foundation Members enjoying coffee and cake together in lovely November sunshine.