

## **International Dolphin Watch (IDW)**

Has an unblemished reputation as a non-profit organisation dedicated to helping dolphins since it was founded by Dr Horace Dobbs in 1978.



**IDW - DEFENDING DOLPHINS - HELPING CHILDREN**

**2010 IS THE YEAR OF THE DOLPHIN IN SCHOOLS**

**JULY 2010**

**IDW NEWSLETTER**

**SPECIAL ISSUE**

**EDUCATION**

*By Dr. Horace Dobbs and Jackie Connell*



# Dolphin Arts Project rockets Dilo into around the world programme



Like a countdown at the launch of a space craft, excitement started to build up the moment the Dilo Delphino Group from the Czech Republic were welcomed ashore by Horace Dobbs off the ferry in Hull Docks early on Sunday morning on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010. They had come to take part in a pioneering, educational venture masterminded by Ray Woodward, the Headteacher of Swanland Primary School in East Yorkshire.

Jackie and Terry Connell, the Editor and Publisher of the IDW

Newsletter, drove up from Milton Keynes to join the luncheon reception party at the *Sandpiper* pub/restaurant in North Ferriby.

**After nearly a year of planning Ray Woodward's Dolphin Arts Project was finally underway.**

## AIMS

The Dolphin Arts Project was instigated by Ray, in collaboration with his Art Co-ordinator, Hannah Myers and like-minded colleagues from his own and neighbouring schools, to broaden and extend his long held belief in the power of the arts and physical activity as catalysts for *all* learning. Where children have the opportunity for creative self-expression, cocooned in an uplifting environment, they become partners with their teachers, in the learning process. The added Dolphin Dimension lent adhesion and purpose to a project designed to engage main-stream primary, secondary and special school children in several days of integrated arts activities.

The Dolphin Arts Project was devised as a week-long event that would release children across two stages, from the constraints of a timetabled curriculum, thereby enabling them to take part in a wide variety of creative, artistic activities with, most significantly, a dolphin theme.

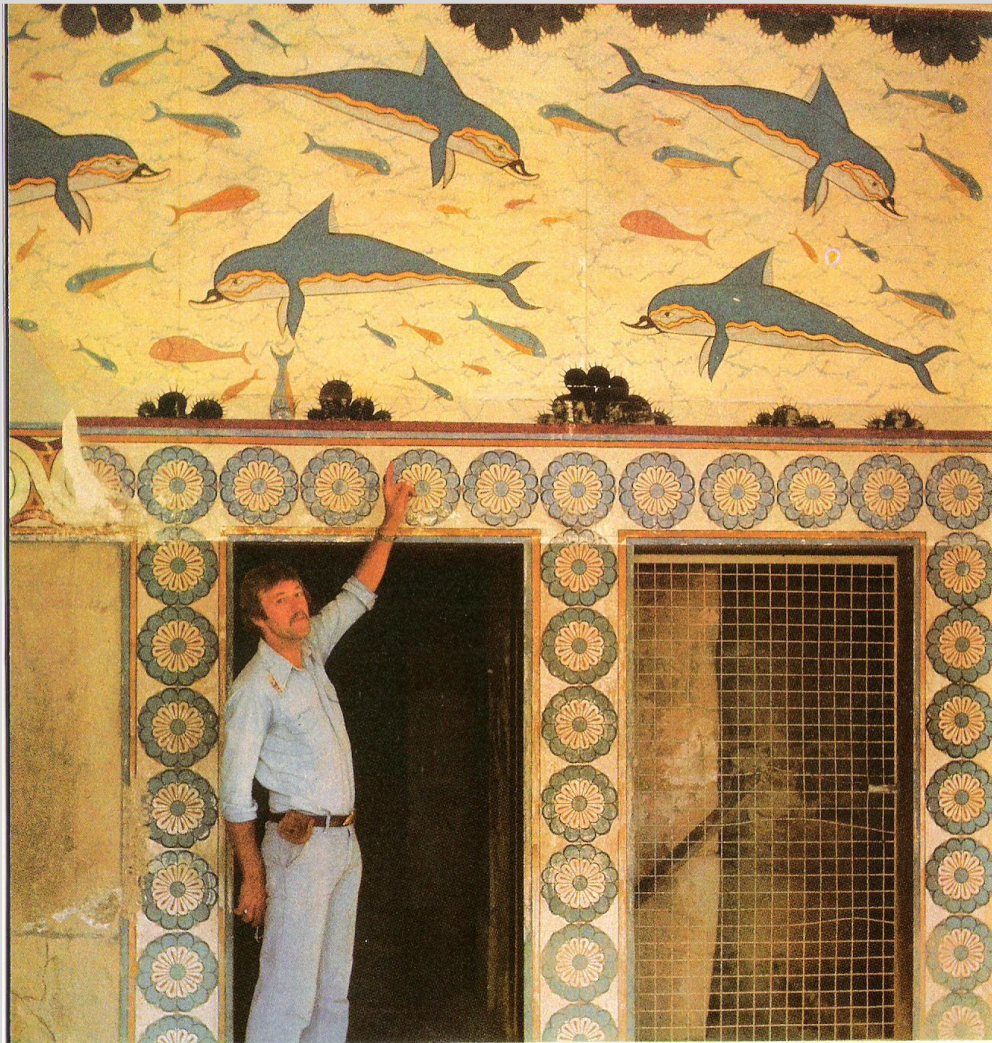
One of the aims of the Dolphin Arts Project was to generate "Cultural Cohesion" within the school and the local community. Thus the youngsters taking part in the diverse artistic endeavours were divided into groups with all of the children in each small group working together as a team – with the teachers/facilitators encouraging and assisting.

A further aim of the Dolphin Arts Project is to facilitate the exchange of teachers and pupils between and beyond neighbouring schools, to those around the world, using art to forge friendly links and a greater understanding of cultures beyond the UK. These objectives coincide with the recommendations made in the glowing OFSTED Report on Swanland Primary School of 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

# WHY DOLPHINS?

The reason why the dolphin was chosen as the theme for Ray's Arts Project is based on the fact that children, regardless of their religious, ethnic or cultural backgrounds, can all relate to dolphins.

Dolphins have had a unique close relationship with humans for centuries.



*The author at the Minoan temple at Knossos in Crete where a dolphin fresco was painted to decorate the Queen's bathroom in 1500 BC.*

*Horace Dobbs, Author of 'The Magic of Dolphins'*

Dolphins are free spirits who do not impose any of the usual constraints that adult humans apply to children in formal education. In other words for a few days the kids would be free to let their minds and bodies wander in creative artistic ways under the sensitive guidance of specialist teachers, recruited by Ray specially for the project, in various artistic endeavours, especially in the universal language of music. Sound is the dolphin's primary sense.

During their time on planet earth dolphins have evolved into a close harmonious relationship with their environment. They have no possessions. Thus no dolphin can own more than another dolphin. So disputes over ownership do not arise. Their world has no boundaries.



Territorial disputes do not arise. Dolphins gather in groups of different sizes that move to areas where their food, mainly fishes, is most abundant. Sometimes feeding is co-ordinated.

Dolphins have brains as large as those of humans and have had them for 30 million years longer than us. If their brains did not fulfil a vital function over that period of time they would have atrophied.

The cerebral cortex of the dolphin is more highly evolved than that of humans. As the cerebral cortex is the part of the brain that we associate with aesthetic experience it is argued that dolphins use their cerebral cortex to derive pleasure from the natural things around them. Just being alive imbues dolphins with a sense of joy. And this is what most humans pick up on when they have encounters with dolphins.

Man on the other hand has sought to change the world to suit his needs. He has moved progressively out of tune with his environment. Man has sought to conquer the land and his fellow humans, often with brutal and devastating results.

We are not dolphins and never can be. Nonetheless dolphins can provide the up and coming generation with a model that has at least some of the qualities that they can aspire to in order to lead happy and fulfilling lives - hopefully in a less war torn world.

## WHY ART?



At a ground breaking conference organised by Jackie Connell and helpers at the Open University in Milton Keynes in 2003, images of dolphins set the tone. Scientists, artists and healers from around the world came together to explore the mysteries of the healing power of dolphins.

One of many exhibits was a collection of exquisitely beautiful, slender, white sculptures by Ginger Gilmour. But it was her large abstract sculpture of a dolphin on the stage that had the biggest impact. It created a sense of the spirit of the dolphin that was palpable to the audience and the speakers the moment they stepped into the Berrill Lecture Theatre.

Ginger's dolphin sculpture clearly demonstrated that there were no limits to the ways in which the essence of dolphins can be captured and perceived.

*Horace and Ginger with the dolphin sculpture in the Berrill Lecture Theatre, The Open University*

There are, of course, countless other examples that illustrate that artistic images can have a greater impact on the mind of the beholder than the real thing. A single impressionistic representation of sunflowers by Vincent van Gogh, for instance, sold for many millions of dollars - infinitely more than the cost of the bunch of sunflowers in a vase that he painted.



Horace fictionalised Ginger Gilmour's sculpture in his book *Dilo in Lighthouse Bay*\* in which a sculpture is erected as a tribute to Dilo after he rescued a worker who was thrown into the sea from a blazing oil rig.

\* Available from IDW Mail Order Shop

[http://www.dolphinfriend.com/html/dolphin\\_shop.html](http://www.dolphinfriend.com/html/dolphin_shop.html)

What the conference at the Open University clearly demonstrated is that the power of the dolphin, to influence our senses and sensitivities, can be recreated in very many different ways using art. This in fact is just what has been happening in the Czech Republic where floating silk panels decorated with images from Horace's Dilo books and linked together in the form of a cocoon are being used to provide a peaceful, magical space for both healing and education.



## WHY DILO?

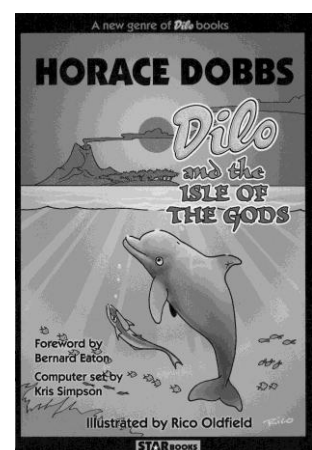
Dilo is a make-believe dolphin created by Horace Dobbs to introduce to children and adults, around the world, the qualities we all love and associate with dolphins.



Dilo is the eponymous hero of six books that start with the baby dolphin's birth under the sea. The first book *Dilo and the Call of the Deep* has been translated into many languages most of them illustrated by Horace's good friend and diving buddy Richard Oldfield, otherwise known as Rico.

In the second book in the series Dilo meets the Terrible Twins, Debra and Robin, who subsequently have many adventures with their mischievous dolphin friend who just can't keep out of trouble.

Dilo has a near death experience when an oil rig catches fire in Lighthouse Bay. After that Dilo decides to move on. When a suckerfish named Rema sticks herself to Dilo and he can't get rid of her, Dilo sets off with his unwanted passenger for more adventures



to The Isle of the Gods.

All six of the Dilo books are based on Horace's real life experiences with solitary dolphins that seek out human company (Horace calls them Ambassador Dolphins) and his own innumerable diving adventures around the British Isles and in far away locations such as the Galapagos Islands.

Dr Horace Dobbs, a medical research scientist, has shown that dolphins can have a powerful and beneficial influence on those with neurological problems such as clinical depression. They can also help children. One of Horace's most remarkable findings, however, is that these benefits are not confined to encounters with live dolphins.

**The special ability that dolphins have to stimulate the human mind can be captured and recreated with dolphin stories and images in many forms of art.**

A Dolphin Dreamtime CD, based on Australian Aboriginal lore, for which Horace created the term "Sound Pill", has been extensively researched and shown to benefit over 70% of those with emotional and neurological problems that are difficult to combat with orthodox medical treatments.

A completely different study in a school with a class of youngsters with learning difficulties, who vehemently declared that they did not like reading, showed a complete reversal of attitude when they were introduced in a fun way to Dilo stories, illustrated with articles such as wet suits and sea shells as they appeared in the book they were reading in class.

## WHY A FILM?

Film and television are arguably the most powerful means of recording events, passing on the news and providing evidence of what happened. Indeed, without the film *Ride a Wild Dolphin* that Horace made with YTV in 1976, which showed his encounters and friendship with a totally wild dolphin under the sea, most people at that time would not have believed such a close relationship was possible.

Since then Horace has made films of most of the major breakthroughs in his endeavours to explore and understand the unique role that dolphins can play in our lives. *The Dolphin's Touch*, for instance, produced irrefutable evidence that dolphins can help those suffering from clinical depression.

Horace knew that another step forward in our understanding of the human/dolphin bond was underway when he learned of Valpurga Hozáková's valiant attempts to capture the essence of dolphins in what she charmingly called a "cocoon" and apply it to education in the Czech Republic. This was happening at the same time that Ray Woodward was putting together his Dolphin Arts Project in Yorkshire.

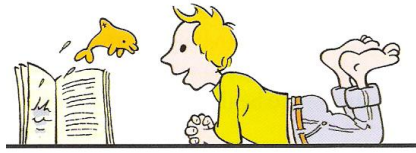
It was time to bring the two team leaders, Ray and Valpurga, together. And that indeed, was what was arranged. Valpurga and three colleagues from the Czech Republic came to England to participate in Ray's *Dolphin Arts Project* from 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> June.

When Horace feels that another big breakthrough is underway his first response is to record the event on film. So before the Czech team arrived, arrangements were made for a film crew from Fairview Studios to cover the Czech's visit and to supplement their film with images captured by Terry Connell and others.

At the same time Horace drafted a treatment for a film provisionally entitled *Dilo Goes to School*.

# DOLPHIN EDUCATION RESEARCH PROJECT (DERP)

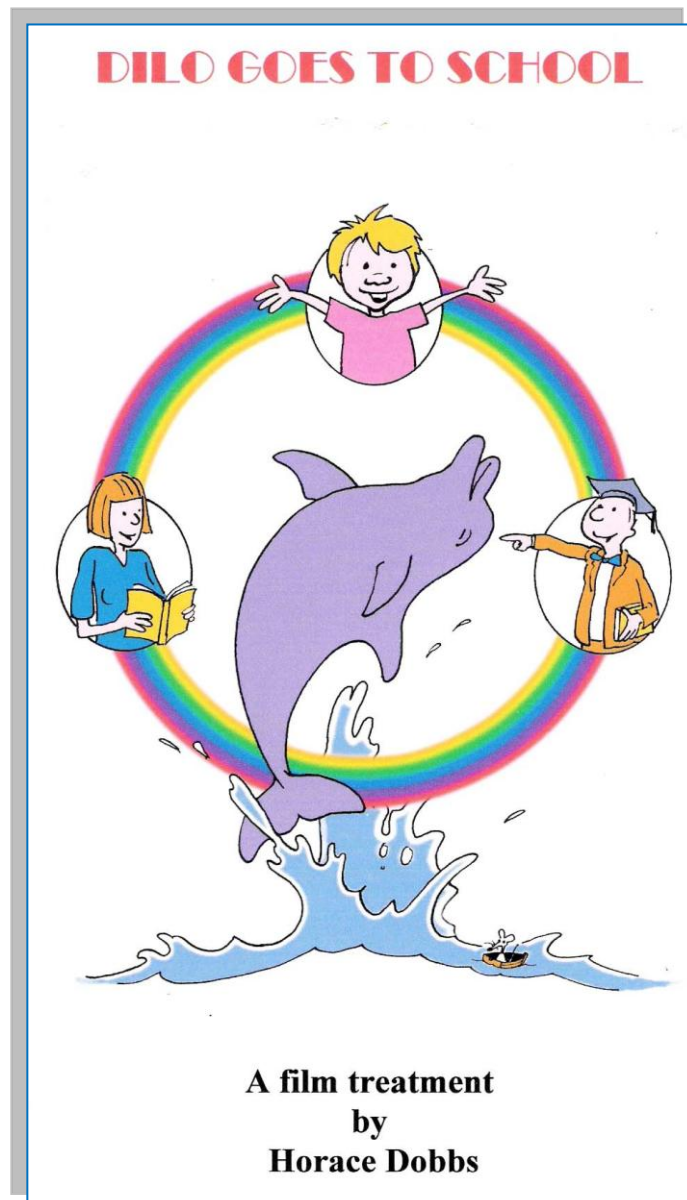
Expanding human potential



*DILO GOES TO SCHOOL* will be a continuation of the IDW long term Dolphin Education Research Project (DERP) that commenced in June 2002.

The aim of DERP is to provide scientific evidence to support the introduction of dolphin stories and dolphin related activities into teaching with the ultimate objective of helping children of all abilities achieve their full potential.

In addition DERP aims to create awareness of the lifestyle and vulnerability of dolphins and the need to protect them





# DILO GOES TO SCHOOL

## MISSION STATEMENT

To put on record a pioneering landmark event, during which educationalists from the Czech Republic, visit England to share their own experiences and explore with schools different ways in which the universal affection and bond humans have for dolphins, can be mobilised to make education a more enjoyable experience. And by doing so, make children of all abilities keen to learn.

Also to help youngsters appreciate that by engaging with nature and participating in art, drama and music leads to a more rewarding and enjoyable life - regardless of what careers they eventually embark upon.

## STORY LINE

DILO GOES TO SCHOOL to follow the progress of Head Teacher, Ray Woodward, as he sets out to encourage year six pupils, who are about to leave Swanland Primary School, to take an active interest in the arts and prepare them for their move into secondary education. To achieve this Ray organised an Arts Festival with a dolphin theme in a cluster of nearby schools.



Reference to be made to Ray's earlier efforts to activate a greater interest in dolphins and art by getting all of the 450 children in Swanland Primary School to make Plasticine dolphins - see report in IDW Newsletter Dec 2009.

The Dilo Group from the Czech Republic visiting Yorkshire to see how their Dilo Cocoon is being used in English schools.

The Czechs to join in the Dolphin Arts Festival and participate in the making of a film that will demonstrate:

1. How the joyful spirit of dolphins can be incorporated into all aspects of education.
2. How to encourage parents and carers to take an active part in their children's education.
3. How to make the whole process of education a joyful and rewarding experience for all concerned including the children, their parents and their carers. And very importantly - their teachers.

The Czech visitors to be joined by Jackie and Terry Connell - the joint Founders of the registered charity *Operation Sunshine Family Therapy Programmes* [www.operationsunshine.org](http://www.operationsunshine.org) .

Jackie and Terry, who produce the International Dolphin Watch E Newsletter ([www.newsletter.dolphinfriend.com](http://www.newsletter.dolphinfriend.com)), have strong links with groups in the Bahamas and New Zealand – their second home.

The specialist teachers recruited by Ray for the Dolphin Art Project also to feature in the film.



# SHOOTING THE FILM



The mascot for Ray's Dolphin Arts Project, an eye-catching, one metre long, bright blue, fibreglass sculpture of Dilo to be used as a key character in the film.

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June a professional cameraman, Tim, from Fairview Studios, to film the final day of the Czech Group's visit before they board the ferry for their return journey home via Rotterdam.

## POST PRODUCTION

DILO GOES TO SCHOOL to be edited at Fairview Studios.

## Dilo, IDEAL (Integrated Dolphin Education and Learning) and Delfino

Along with the Dilo Books, The Delfino Project has produced a package for teachers including books, colouring books, pictures, music, CDs, games etc.

Valpurga Hozáková/The Delfino Project was inspired by Horace's Dilo books and the IDW ideology.

Delfino works internationally with others in the field of music, art and drama. With the help of Giovanni Bearzi, an Italian environmentalist [http://www.tethys.org/giovanni\\_bearzi.htm](http://www.tethys.org/giovanni_bearzi.htm), they have produced a colouring/drawing book, which he has had translated into twelve languages and are supplied free, which are not only being used by teachers in the Czech schools but can also be taken home to encourage more interaction between parents and children.



So, Dilo is living in different environments, connecting with people from around the world. There is no sea in or around the Czech Republic so it is expected that people will really relate to this project. Based on the first book in the series by Horace Dobbs, *Dilo and the Call of the Deep*, the colouring sheets will create many opportunities to relate to dolphins. The options seem endless.

It is hoped that this will allow children and teachers to connect to all aspects of the project, including education, environment and cultural cohesion.

The package includes:

1. A CD electronic copy of the Dilo Books

2. A CD photo gallery of the Montessori and Waldorf (Steiner) school pupils working with Dilo
3. Sara's Völke (Germany) colouring book
4. Dolphin shapes for craft/colouring work
5. A pack of "dolphin" cards
6. A dolphin based learning game
7. Giovani's working book - free download <http://cetaceanalliance.org/dolphinfriends>.

In addition to being placed in schools, the public are able to purchase the Dilo books online from International Dolphin Watch [www.dolphinfriend.com](http://www.dolphinfriend.com) and Delfino <http://www.delfino.cz/>. The first book *Dilo and the Call of the Deep* is also available in electronic form in order that it may be used as a language book and all languages can be produced electronically.

The Dilo Books are available in English, German and Czech. Valpurga reported that she has now been requested to translate the books into Slovak and Russian. The Ministry of International Relations in Bulgaria have also enquired about a Bulgarian version.

In addition to the writing, a music therapist, René Král, (working in a home for people with learning difficulties) has composed some music to accompany the stories. This has now been taken up by a Slovakian conductor, working in Cape Town, who has offered to arrange this into a symphony.

It is proposed to incorporate an event to publicise all these productions to run concurrently with the 2012 International Conference to be held in Prague.

**DILO CLUBS** will be set up for children with different educational needs in areas with different environmental problems. It is envisaged that exchange visits will be arranged between Club members - not just nationally but also internationally.

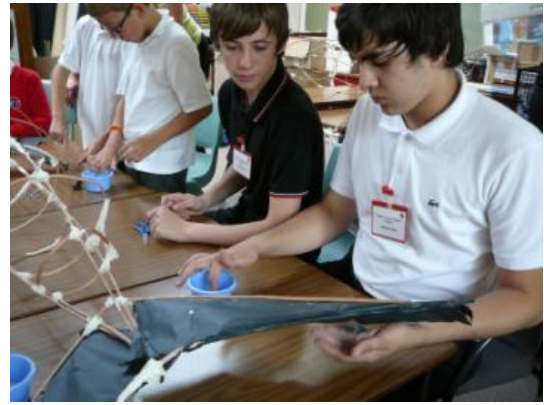
## Dilo Goes to School at North Ferriby Junior School

Monday 28th June 2010

Ray Woodward, Headteacher of Swanland School, and Tim Crowther, Drama teacher, spent the day helping with projects in North Ferriby's year 6 classes.



*Ray showed children how to create a dolphin shape with coppiced willow and then to cover their shapes with tissue paper.*



Tim's group spent a day of music and drama - creating dolphin based stories and sound pictures.



*Horace Dobbs plays the ocean drum in the Dilo Cocoon to assist the children with visualisation in their drama and story time*



*Tim Crowther instructing the children on how to work in groups, to listen and create sound pictures*



# Dilo Goes to School at Swanland Primary School

Tuesday 29th June 2010

## Music, Drama and Visual Arts

1/3 of Year 6 pupils had exchanged places with 1/3 of North Ferriby School and another 1/3 with pupils from Year 7 at South Hunsley School. In addition 7 pupils from St. Anne's Special School were present for the activities taking place over the next two days in Swanland Primary School with Paul Burton, Tim Crowther and Malcolm Orr leading sessions in music, drama and visual arts.



# Dilo Goes to School, Film and celebration

Wednesday 30th June 2010

## Swanland Primary School and South Hunsley School, filmed by Tim and Phil from Fairview Studios.

The Fairview Studios crew filmed sequences for DILO GOES TO SCHOOL (storyline by Dr. Horace Dobbs above) filmed at Ferriby, Swanland Pond and Swanland School.

Filming continued at South Hunsley School where two classes there showed the work they had been doing for their dance interpretations.



The three days' events included all the elements of drama, art and music to support the storytelling.

Four schools had come together and learned to listen, to work as a team, to communicate, to be generous to others and to show commitment to their joint efforts. The music project resulted in song, poetry and rap.

The art project's result was the centrepiece of the giant cocoon in the school hall. Some children mimed whilst the story was told by the rest of the group and all was accompanied by Horace playing his ocean drum softly as a background.



## Ray Woodward introduces Dilo to the Children.



*Filming Dilo, Horace and Ray as they tour the school.*

*Jackie Connell (Editor of Friends of IDW Newsletter) with Valpurga and Dana (Delfino).*



## Dilo Goes to School Conclusion

The culmination of *Dilo Goes to School* resulted in a positive hope that pupils of Swanland School will visit children in Czech Republic schools in 2011 to cultivate community cohesion and learn about different cultures. The children could begin now by becoming pen-pals, either in writing or electronically, with the Czech pupils who are learning English. For the planned Conference in 2012, it is hoped that Swanland children could join the Youth Orchestra in Germany to play the newly composed Dolphin *Symphony*.

Valpurga reported that she had previous experience of organising events for children from Poland, Germany and Czech Republic. Valpurga also reported that the whole Delfino project is now reaching TV personalities, film stars and many others - all of whom are becoming involved and helping to lay foundations for future growth, with more projects arising from this with doctors, teachers and healers - with Horace Dobbs and Dilo as the glue to hold all the activities together.

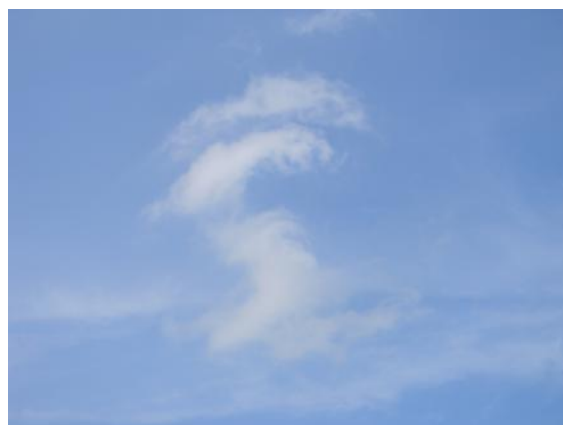
Valpurga reported excellent results with the Dilo Cocoon in five schools (children aged 6-13 years, and how Czech children using the cocoon had helped disruptive children to calm down, helped to stop a child stuttering and helped 3 to 5 year olds in their English and German language lessons. This was demonstrated on the DVD that Valpurga presented to Ray and Horace.

Ray Woodward thanked all concerned and suggested that the children hold this dolphin theme in their hearts as there will be more exciting events to come.

Horace explained his **SNOWMAN PRINCIPLE**. Which is: **if you have an idea do not keep it to yourself**. This often happens with scientists and others who fear that somebody else will steal their idea and publish it. Instead Horace says *"think of your idea as a snowman. Then throw your idea (snowman) up into the sky as thought seeds. In other words let people know about it. Snowflakes will then form on your thought seeds. And when these new snowflakes eventually fall from the sky you will have a much better snowman than the one you first thought of."*



Dilo left school and as he was taken to board The Pride of Hull on his journey to the Czech Republic, some snowflakes remained in the sky to take on the form of two dolphins playing together - a bright omen for Dilo's journey yet to come.



# Feedback

**Following the Event we received this note from Tim Crowther**

I just wanted to say thank you, once again, for an absolutely fantastic week! I have always felt the possibilities of learning, and developing, through drama, are endless – to then incorporate the playful and spiritual nature of Dolphins is simply inspired.

The experience I have gained from the last week will no doubt stay with me forever – thank you.

Best wishes

**Tim Crowther**

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

**WE ARE CREATING A GLOBAL NETWORK OF DOLPHIN LOVERS  
THAT CARE ABOUT OTHERS AND THE EARTH WE SHARE.**

**EDUCATION** is a major function of International Dolphin Watch and has therefore always striven to encourage youngsters to take part in dolphin activities. I hope therefore, that you will enrol as many children as you can to join the DILO CLUB, encourage them to contribute to future Newsletters and participate in 2010 YEAR OF THE DOLPHIN IN SCHOOLS.

**FILMS** you can see SCHOLAR GYPSY [http://www.youtube.com/my\\_videos](http://www.youtube.com/my_videos) DR. HORACE DOBBS - A VIDEO BIOGRAPHY, produced at Fairview Studios [www.fairviewstudios.co.uk](http://www.fairviewstudios.co.uk) for International Dolphin Watch. The Premiere of the full version of this film coming soon. The film of DILO GOES TO SCHOOL coming soon.

**The Friends of IDW Newsletter is FREE** but if you would like to support the work of IDW to help dolphins and people, you can still **make a donation through the Dolphin Shop** [http://www.dolphinfriend.com/html/dolphin\\_shop.html](http://www.dolphinfriend.com/html/dolphin_shop.html).

**Charity (Patron – Dr Horace Dobbs):** If you would like to support the registered charity ‘Operation Sunshine Family Therapy Programmes’ bringing dolphin joy to families of children with special needs, donations can be made through: <http://www.operationsunshine.org/html/fundraising.html>

**Friends of IDW can advertise free** and contribute to future Newsletters – please send me your views, comments and experiences of dolphin encounters. Email: [jackieconnell@btinternet.com](mailto:jackieconnell@btinternet.com).