

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



www.idw.org



SUMMARY



This special edition of DOLPHIN is an educational and environmental adventure story. It tells how a make-believe dolphin is bringing joy into the lives of children learning to read and write. And then by looking at life through the antics of a mischievous, friendly wild dolphin, making both the young and old aware of the importance of looking after the natural world.



The Introduction reveals that the adventure actually began in 1974 when a chance encounter with a large wild dolphin in the open sea triggered a succession of investigations by pioneer diver and medical research scientist, Dr Horace Dobbs, into the centuries old relationship we have with dolphins, whose brains are as large and complex as ours.

Dr Dobbs quickly perceived that dolphins lift the human spirit. He then investigated this observation with a clinical trial. The improvement that swimming with a wild dolphin brought into the lives of his three subjects set the researcher on a new trail - to see if he could recapture this "Dolphin Effect" and make it universally available.

A televised demonstration at the Open University of a large Dolphin Dome based on a portable planetarium provided incontrovertible evidence that this could be done. A second successful method, involving a small portable prototype dome, was tried out by the Head Teacher at a school in Milton Keynes to the cheering delight of his young pupils who crowded into the school hall.

When Dr Dobbs founded the non-profit organisation International Dolphin Watch (IDW) in 1978 he immediately sought ways of protecting dolphins and spreading word of the need for conservation - not just of dolphins - but of all endangered species on our planet.

To awaken awareness in children of the vulnerability of dolphins Horace created a fictional character he named Dilo. He then set about capturing Dilo the dolphin's life style and spirit in a series of easy-to-read books with the help of his artist friend Rico. Dilo then became a major character in another project Dr Dobbs dubbed IDEAL (Integrated Dolphin Education And Learning) which was taken up by the Dilo-Dolphin-Group in Germany and the Delfino Group in the Czech Republic.

The IDEAL concept also inspired a head teacher to organise a Dolphin Arts and Drama Festival for a cluster of schools in England in June 2010 that was attended by two representatives (Val and Dana) from the Czech Delfino Group, who, upon their return home, received accreditation for IDEAL and pressed ahead with their plans to include Dilo in a government scheme to promote book reading in schools in 2012.

The Delfino Group also arranged for an IDW group to visit them in June 2011 to see how IDEAL methods were being incorporated into teaching programmes in Czech schools. This highly successful event, dubbed The Dilo Dolphin Road Show, came to a splendid conclusion in the Michnuv Palace in Prague when the famous Czech TV personality and dedicated conservationist Jaroslav Dusek celebrated the televised "birth" of 'Dilo a čarodějnice od Černé skály' - the third Dilo book to be published in Czech.

At the closure of the tour Horace Dobbs announced that the Czech Republic was leading the world in the introduction of the joy and playful spirit of the dolphin into education - starting with the proven ability of dolphin stories to encourage youngsters

to want to read and write.

INTRODUCTION

by

HORACE DOBBS

Two momentous occasions that hang heavy in the living memory and minds of many Czechs are the occupation of their country by the Russians and the devastating floods of 2002.

A remarkable Czech woman whose life has been hugely influenced by these historic events is [Valpurga Hozáková](#).

When she retired after years of teaching and management in the Czech Education Service, Valpurga set herself four topics to convey to the up and coming generation:

1. The importance of living in harmony with nature.
2. The importance of education, especially reading and writing.
3. The importance of friendship with neighbouring countries.
4. The value of freedom.



[Horace Dobbs in Liberec](#)



[Valpurga Hozáková](#)

Valpurga was stimulated to pursue these aims when she heard about IDEAL, an approach to education pioneered in Germany (shown below) that was not based solely on the assimilation of facts but included the introduction of joy, fun and creativity into lessons at home and in the classroom.

IDEAL

I - INTEGRATED

D - DOLPHIN

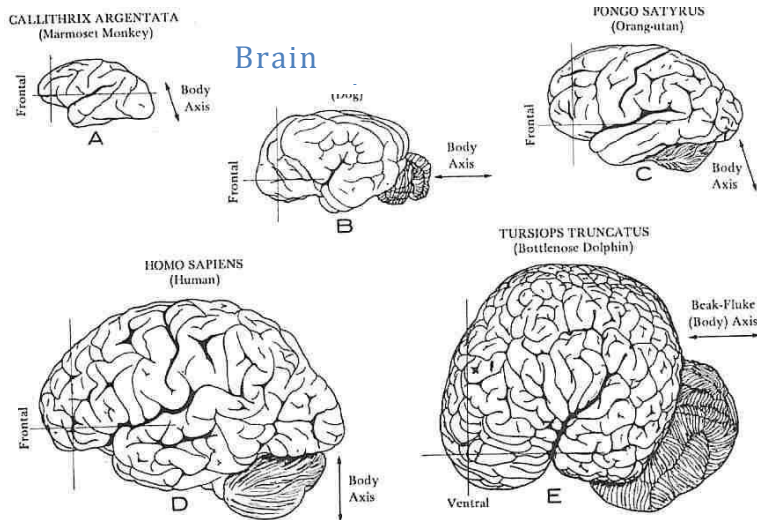
E - EDUCATION

A - AND

L - LEARNING



IDEAL is a concept to support and enrich holistic and inter-disciplinary teaching methods. It is connecting modern tried and tested teaching methods with new subjects and provides an easy and stress-free access to learning. IDEAL can be adapted and integrated within every educational concept.



Our cousins in the sea

The foundation of IDEAL is simple. It is based on the lifestyle of dolphins that have brains as large as ours, are regarded by many as “Our cousins in the Sea” and live in total harmony with their environment. Recent scientific studies show that these marine mammals are highly intelligent, learn very quickly, have a close affinity with humans and can help us overcome emotional and mental problems such as clinical depression. These discoveries have led to a greater understanding of the mystery of the bond that has existed between humans and dolphins for thousands of years.

Dolphins make us happy

Just how strong and widespread this rapidly growing human attachment to dolphins now is can be deduced from the outcome of a poll conducted by the BBC in which the question asked was “What would you most like to do before you die?”

The overwhelming, totally unexpected and unlikely reply was: “to swim with a dolphin.”

Many of those who responded in this way had very little knowledge of dolphins but knew that dolphins were roughly shark shaped and lived in a hostile and alien environment - the sea. Thus we should be scared of them. But we are not. We love them.

When the pollsters were asked “Why do you like dolphins so much?” most of them could produce no other explanation than: “Just thinking about them makes me feel happy.”

Young children, who know nothing about dolphins, feel the same when they see dolphin films or read about them in books

And it is this joy, and some say unconditional love, that dolphins bring into our lives that makes them such good subjects to introduce into lessons in the classroom - especially in junior schools.

Nature and science

I hold the view that a combination of science and nature can provide the basis for the development of new medical treatments. This view is the outcome of extensive personal medical research in the laboratory and in the field - including chemically modifying extracts from poppy plants that work in the brain and the creation of a series of new drugs that are now used worldwide for relieving pain and trauma in humans and animals.

The discovery and development of pharmaceutical products such as these usually starts with knowledge of the folk law of natural substances and an intuitive feeling that this knowledge could be put to good use. And then scientifically following up clues that may not be immediately obvious.

Donald



This is just what happened to me in 1974 when I had an encounter with a friendly wild dolphin that had been named Donald. I was in the company of a fellow medical research scientist, Dr Luciano Manara, the author of a scholarly tome on the pharmacology of numerous substances such as caffeine and alcohol that affect human behaviour. We both agreed that our meetings with Donald affected our psyche. These encounters lifted our spirits and made us feel happy. I reported these and hosts of other incidents in my books *Follow a Wild Dolphin* and *Save the Dolphins*.

Bill Bowell

The Black Hole of Depression

I continued to study dolphins around the world. But it was not until 1984 that I made a big breakthrough. This time I was filming a friendly wild dolphin off the coast of Wales. In the boat was a man, Bill Bowell, whose daughter had pleaded with me to take him out to see the dolphin known as Simo. She told me her dad was a chronic depressive who had spent years in an out of hospital in Oxford. But none of the treatments he received had done him any good.

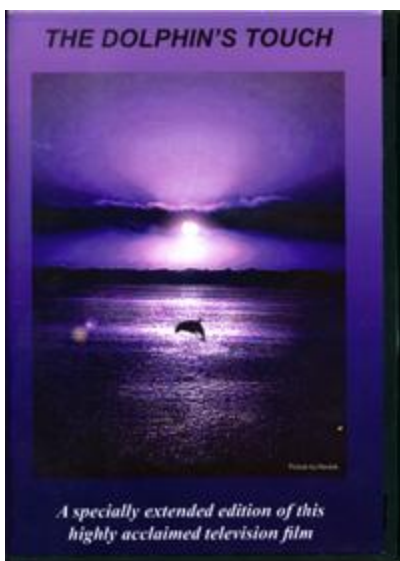
I reluctantly agreed to take Bill and his wife Edna out in our boat and allowed Bill to get in the water when Simo came alongside. When Bill came out of the water both Edna and I detected a change in Bill. He smiled.

Back on land Bill told me that for 12 years he had lived in what he called *the black hole of clinical depression*. Bill then said: "When I was in the water today with Simo I saw a chink of light. I think it may be the way out of my depression."



Bill Bowell & Simo

The Dolphin's Touch



Looking back I can see that Bill's comment was a pivotal moment in my life. I had stumbled on a clue - a pointer to the fact that encounters with dolphins could have a major beneficial effect on people with emotional and neurological problems.

I immediately followed this up by organising a clinical trial on the effects of swimming with dolphins on three patients, including Bill Bowell, each diagnosed as clinical depressives, but presenting with very different symptoms. That experience changed their lives. The study was filmed off the Irish coast for a TV documentary: *The Dolphin's Touch* which revealed the positive life-changing effects swimming with the dolphin had had on all of their lives.

Medical Research Council

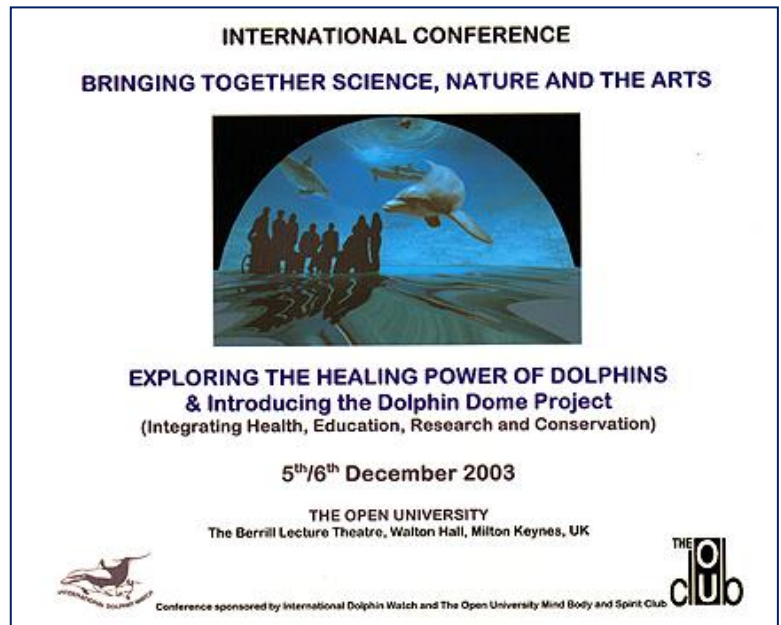
At the time I was not surprised that this discovery was viewed with some scepticism, particularly by some members of the medical profession set in their ways of using drugs for the treatment of depression. However, any niggling doubts I had on the validity of what I called the “Dolphin Effect” were dispelled when I presented my findings to the [Applied Psychology Unit](#) of the [Medical Research Council](#) in Cambridge who urged me to continue my investigations. And, perhaps more importantly, to continue my search for ways of capturing and recreating the dolphin effect artificially in ways that would make it universally available to those who could benefit from it. I already had several ideas on how I might go about this.

Dolphin Dome

One of my ideas for recreating the dolphin effect, The Dolphin Dome, was unveiled at a ground breaking conference organised by Jackie Connell at [The Open University](#) in England in December 2003.

The Dolphin Dome was a large, dome shaped enclosure, based on a planetarium, inside which dolphin images were projected over the hemi-spherical internal surface. Surrounded by moving images of dolphins gave those sitting inside the dome the feeling that they were actually safely immersed in the sea with friendly dolphins swimming amongst them.

A televised demonstration of the Dolphin Dome, in which those leaving the dome exclaimed how realistic the experience had been, provided incontrovertible evidence that the power of dolphins to help humans could indeed be captured using a combination of science, technology and art.



Dilo Dome



With generous support and help from Jackie Connell and Sonya Sitton, I explored the use of a small portable dome that was very popular with active kids but was light enough to be easily placed over children confined to bed.

In July 2007 the prototype [Dilo Dome](#) was launched at Southwood Middle School. During my presentation, the students cheered when the Head Master, Mr. Schram, popped his head out of the top of the dome. The children created images to go on the outside and inside of the dome.

The Dilo Dome, as it was called, was also tested in York at a school for children with special needs with the help of an ex-midwife, Julie Kaloczi, who had extensive experience with wild dolphins in the open sea.

Further trials took place in the Bahamas with help of Ashley Saunders, English Teacher at Bimini All Age School, and a registered charity ‘[Operation Sunshine Family Therapy Programmes](#)’ www.operationssunshine.org based in the UK. This charity, set up by Jackie Connell, of which I am Patron, aims to bring joy and healing into the lives of those with additional needs through dolphin inspired education, art, community projects and family retreats.



Horace Dobbs with Ashley Saunders
inside his house on the island of Bimini.

Ashley Saunders, a teacher, poet, historian and artist is very keen to promote conservation in the Bahamas, especially on his home island of Bimini.

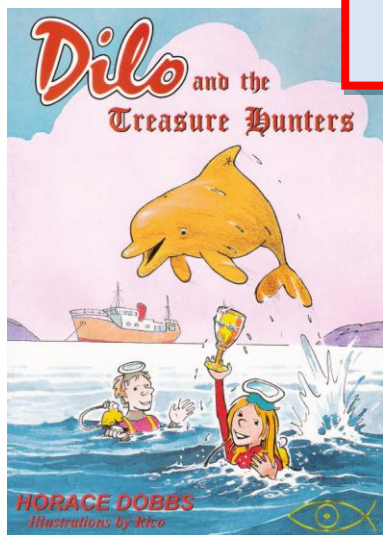
The walls of Ashley's entire house are decorated with Dilo mosaics. Many of the shards of coloured glass were collected off the beach outside the school by his pupils. He tells the kids in his school that his first swim with the dolphins was the greatest experience of his life and it was Rico's images of Dilo that inspired him to decorate his house which now attracts visitors from around the world:

<http://inmyrighthand.homestead.com/DolphinHOUSEindex.html>

Publication Project

Before the Open University Conference I was drawn into the possible use of the dolphin effect in education by a chance observation. It followed a project I organised at Hessle High School in 2000 in which a group of students took key roles in the publication of my book

Dilo and the Treasure Hunters.



The aims of the Dilo Publication
Project:

ENTERPRISE *EDUCATION*
COOPERATION

were symbolised by incorporating the
IDW logo into the Hessle High
School badge

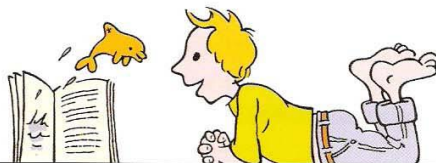


Whilst working on the Dilo Publication Project I stumbled on a valuable clue which in hindsight seems blatantly obvious. It was that **reading my Dilo stories out loud encouraged children to want to learn to read.**

This simple method of encouraging literacy had, of course, been practiced by pedagogues and parents ever since learning to read and write was recognised as an essential step forward for those who wanted to give children the best opportunities later in life.

Dolphin Education Research Project

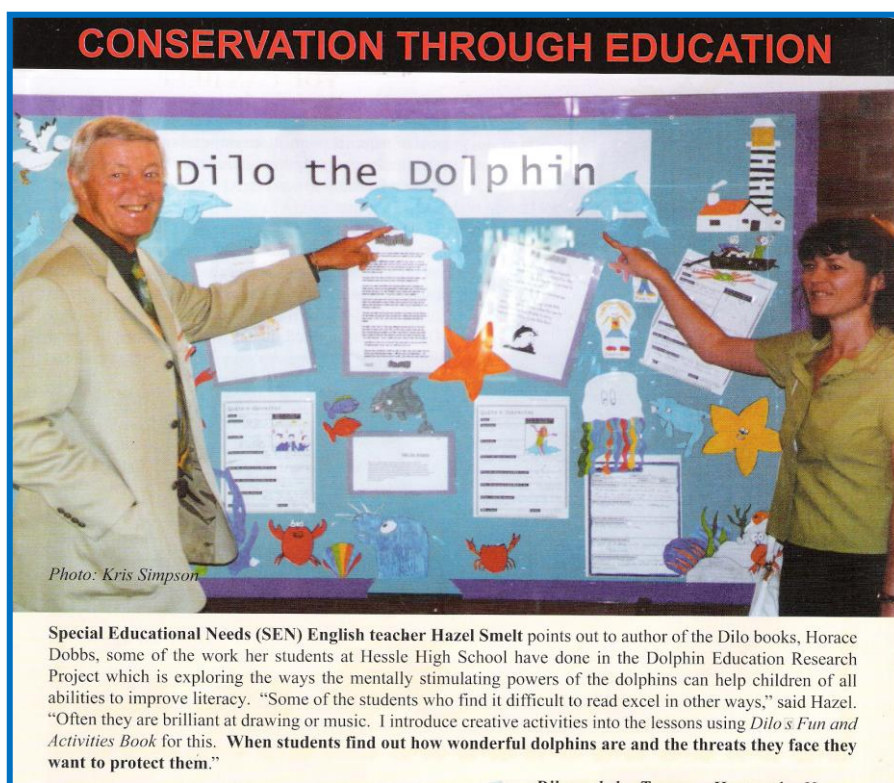
As soon as I had recovered from the demands of getting the group of intelligent year 10 students successfully to publish and sell *Dilo and the Treasure Hunters* I asked myself the question: "Could the fictional dolphin I had created named Dilo help less able kids who had real problems learning to read and write?" To carry out this investigation I set up yet another research programme (Dolphin Education Research Project) at Hessle High School which I reported in the IDW Newsletter of November 2001



MISSION STATEMENT

The aim of DERP is to provide scientific evidence to support the introduction of dolphin stories and dolphin-related activities into the teaching of English and possibly other subjects. The ultimate objective is to help children of all abilities to attain their full potential - especially those with special educational needs. In addition the project aims to create awareness of the lifestyle and vulnerability of dolphins and the need to protect them.

The results of the Dolphin Education Research Project were published in the IDW Newsletter – Nov. 2001

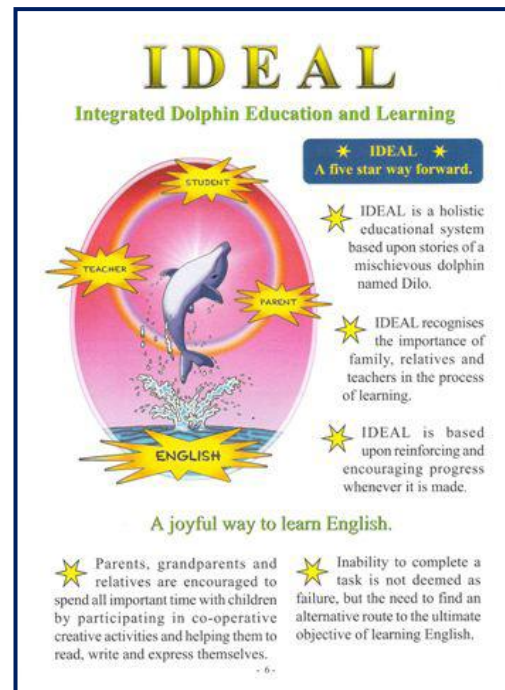
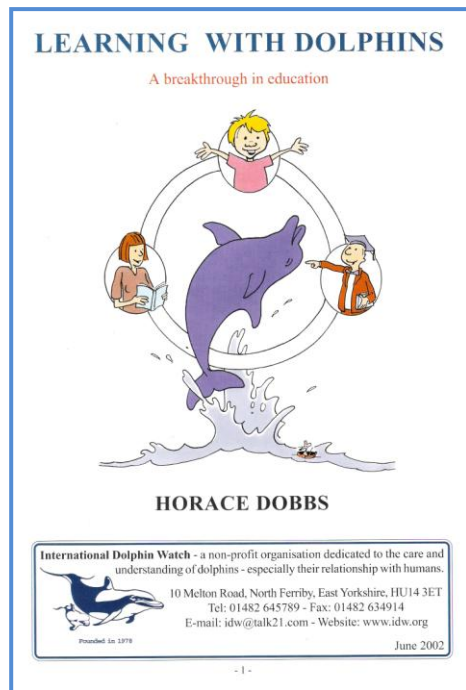


The Birth of IDEAL

The findings of DERP were clear-cut. My Dilo books could indeed help Special Educational Needs kids to overcome their difficulties. This study also revealed yet another feature of the dolphin effect. It clearly demonstrated that hearing about dolphins in English lessons released a lot of pent-up creative, artistic, energy. This artistic energy showed itself in many ways, including a host of eye-catching tee shirt designs that were put on display in the school.

The seeds of Integrated Dolphin Education And Learning (IDEAL) were sown.

In 2002 the IDEAL concept was published in a special IDW Report



German Dilo-Dolphin-Group

I lectured on IDEAL around the world. The German Dilo-Dolphin-Group was formed at the conclusion of a dolphin festival organised by Michael Launtenbach in Freiburg. The group was headed up by Birgit Baader who had translated my book *Dolphin Healing* into German and arranged for it to be published by AT Verlag in 2004. Birgit was supported by Odile Loras who was French and whose nickname, unbelievably, was Dilo. The third member of the team of volunteers, Helen, was married to Henrik Langholf who was German.

The multinational Dilo-Dolphin-Group got off to a splendid start. It published fliers in English and German with clear-cut definitions of its aims and objectives. Pilot projects were conducted in Germany and Austria in 2003 to adapt the English concept of IDEAL and the English teaching materials to German requirements. And to create individual concepts devised in cooperation with German parents, teachers and pupils. These were so well received that plans were made to present the findings to the governing education authority in Germany with the proposal that IDEAL should be incorporated in official education programmes. But the venture never got that far. Birgit's work took her to New Zealand. Without her presence in Germany the group could not continue to meet. And the introduction of Dilo and IDEAL into central Europe was put on hold.

IDEAL in the Czech Republic

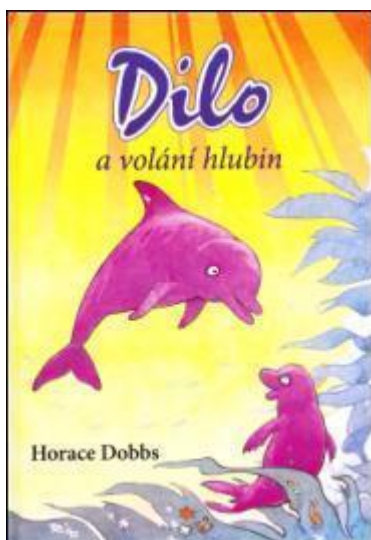
And it stayed that way until 2006 when I met Valpurga Hozáková at a presentation I gave at a dolphin fiesta in the home and grounds of Digvijay Chaudhuri and Elizabeth Battenberg in Augsburg. Valpurga was fluent in Czech, German, Polish and Russian but spoke little English. With the aid of Helen and Michael Langholf acting as translators I learned that Valpurga, who had a vast experience in education, was very impressed by IDEAL and wanted to continue the work of the German Dilo-Dolphin-Group. Not just in Germany. But also in her homeland – the Czech Republic.

Valpurga was authoritative and enthusiastic. Despite the fact that she was living off a very modest pension I got the distinct feeling that when Valpurga set her mind on a task she would overcome any obstacles to get it done. Future events proved this to be true.

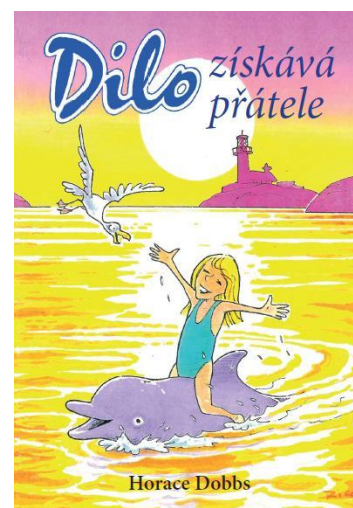
As soon as Valpurga arrived back home she collaborated with Dana Hegerová to form the non-profit organisation *Delfino* and finished translating the German version of IDEAL into Czech. She then set about getting all six of my Dilo books published in Czech – starting with *Dilo and the Call of the Deep*. This was

followed by *Dilo Makes Friends* in which two children, Debra and Robin, also known as the Terrible Twins, arrive at the lighthouse where their Uncle Pat is the lighthouse keeper. And it is there, in the sea at the bottom of the cliffs, that their adventures begin with a solitary wild dolphin known as DILO.

Valpurga in Dingle



Valpurga (in blue) and Horace (wearing hat) beneath the lighthouse in Dingle Bay that inspired the setting for the Dilo stories

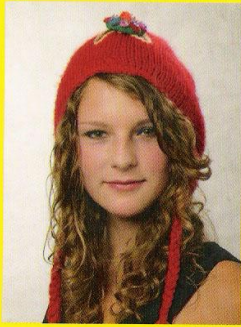


I make no secret of the fact that the Dingle Bay in County Kerry Ireland, with its cliff top lighthouse, is the location I chose to fictionalise as the place where my make-believe dolphin, Dilo, meets Debra, who is an expert swimmer and Robin who would rather work on his computer.

When Valpurga learned that I was going to be present in Dingle to attend a dolphin conference organised by www.irishdolphins.com in May 2008, she saved up enough money to travel to Ireland and experience for herself the joy of watching a friendly wild dolphin frolicking in the sea and playing with people. Just as I described it in my Dilo books.

Sarah Völk

Illustrator

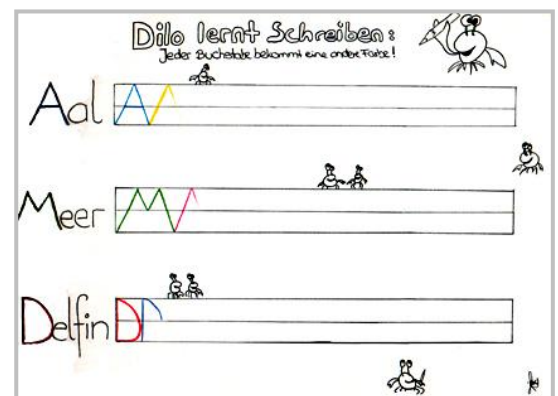
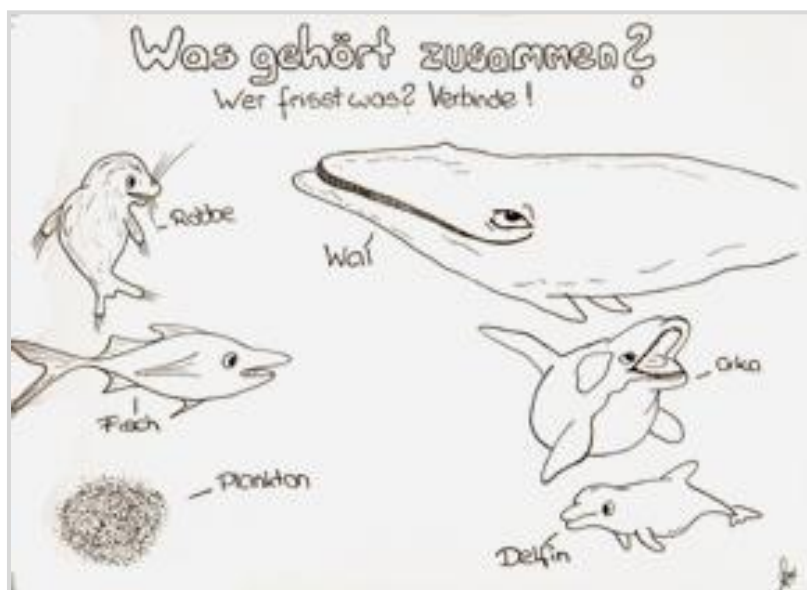
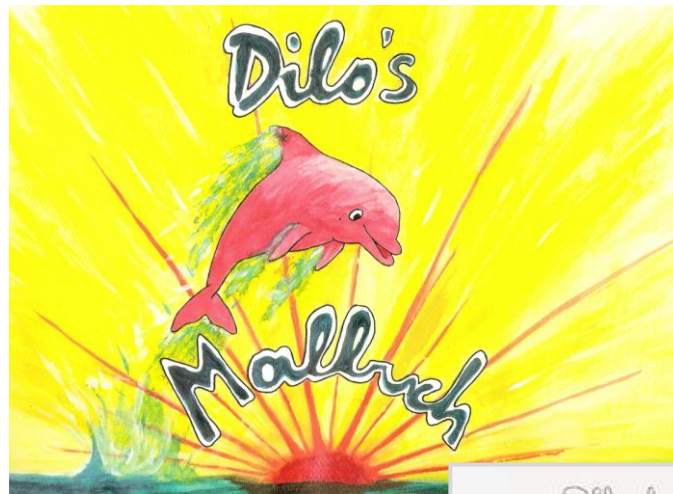


Sarah Völk
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sarah@voelk.de



Valpurga arrived in Dingle with a German dolphin enthusiast Martin Volk and his daughter Sarah. When I met Sarah I had no idea how big an influence on her future Sarah's visit to Dingle would be.

The following year Sarah wrote and published her very own Dilo book – *Dilo's Malbuch* – in German.



Sarah Völk loves children, enjoys babysitting and is very artistic. She was so enthralled with her Dingle Bay experience and later swimming with dolphins in New Zealand that she was inspired to write an educational colouring book for very young children.

I knew nothing about this until one day in August 2010 when a surprise package, containing a copy of *Dilo's Malbuch* arrived at my house. Inside was a charming letter, written in English in longhand, in which she said she would like to take part in my Dilo education projects.

It was not until I met Sarah in the Czech Republic in 2011 that I discovered she was only fifteen when she wrote *Dilo's Malbuch*.

Education, Conservation and Website Warriors

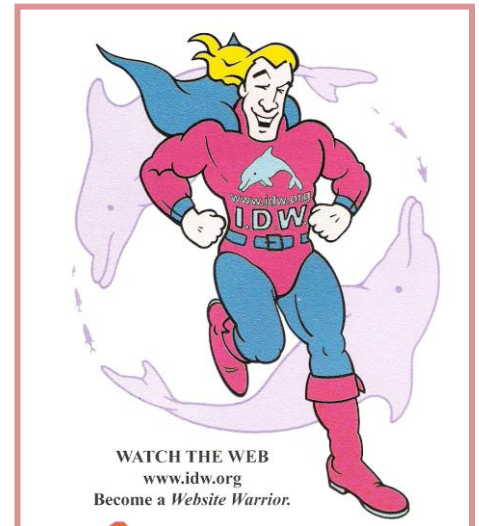
When the IDEAL concept was conceived and being translated into German and Czech huge changes were taking place in communication. The use of computers was growing rapidly. A revolution was underway, speeding up the dissemination of information around the world.

Valpurga's involvement with IDEAL came at a time when International Dolphin Watch was making education and conservation its priority objectives - the aim being **to make the public aware of the importance of conservation not just of dolphins, but all wildlife**. The means it chose for doing this was to use Dilo.

Stories about the mischievous dolphin enchanted children who learnt about life under the sea through the eyes and mind of a dolphin. When the books were read out loud to children by adults, they too picked up facts about dolphins and the undersea world that many of them knew little about.

The IDW policy on linking education and conservation came at a time when the use of computers was growing rapidly in schools. And children were becoming recognised as a powerful force for change. To take advantage of this, IDW recruited an army of *Website Warriors* who could send Emails to politicians, presenting facts and requesting them to pass laws to protect wildlife.

To keep pace with this new technology IDW phased out printed information and became paperless. Well almost. The office was closed and a virtual office was created in the form of Jackie Connell's laptop computer that went with her wherever she was in the world. The 1st August 2006 was declared E-Day. Supporters were notified that in future they would receive information free of charge via an E Newsletter, with features such as a Dilo's Corner, simply by logging on to www.idw.org.



Dilo Cocoon

The Delfino Group took full advantage of the Newsletter to spread news of the exciting work that was being done with Dilo and IDEAL in the Czech Republic. Valpurga and Dana used the E Newsletter to release news of their own invention, a DILO COCOON, in which children could have a very gentle dolphin experience whilst surrounded by images of Dilo painted on sea blue silk.

The Delfino Group kindly gifted me a Dilo Cocoon in December 2009 which I took to nearby Swanland Primary School as soon as it reopened after the Christmas holidays. The Head Teacher, Ray Woodward, and his deputy Chris Huscroft immediately erected the Dilo Cocoon in the reception class and reported to me how effective it was at calming children who were nervous or frightened.

In the Czech Republic the cocoon was becoming very popular in mainstream education and for children with additional needs by providing a peaceful and magical space for both healing and education. In the cocoon the children can have quiet 'time out', listen to dolphin sounds, look at dolphin images, hear or read Dilo stories or be creative designing their own images and stories.



Valpurga and Dana in England

Valpurga and Dana were keen to see how IDEAL was working in English schools. In June 2010 they were driven by a friend, Peter, from Liberec to Rotterdam. There they caught the overnight ferry to the Port of Hull, which is a short distance from North Ferriby where I live and Swanland Primary School. We were joined by Jackie Connell and her husband Terry, editor and producer of the IDW E Newsletter, who drove up from Milton Keynes, and my assistant, Yvonne Dumsday, whose house in Swanland overlooks the village pond, only had to walk across the road to reach the school where the sign at the entrance says: EVERY CHILD MATTERS.

Val and Dana had read the reports about 500 dolphin sculptures that went on display for the parents to see and admire at the school's Christmas Fair in the January 2010 issue of the IDW E NEWSLETTER. Thus, they knew that the head teacher they were about to meet was progressive and very keen supporter of IDEAL. They were not disappointed. As soon as The Delfino Group walked into his office they were greeted by a one metre long, shiny, blue, fibre glass Dilo sculpted by Trevor Goldsmith.

Valpurga came very well prepared and gave out attractive dolphin bags packed with items related to the work being done in schools in the Czech Republic. Ray Woodward, who is an arts graduate and keen to promote international exchanges with the children in his school, was immediately drawn to the CD of 11 draft tracks of a Dilo Symphony composed by René Král.

The story of what happened next was reported in a Special Edition of the IDW NEWSLETTER July 2010 devoted to **EDUCATION**.



Valpurga and Dana were welcomed to England by Horace when they arrived at the docks in Hull.

The visit was filmed by Tim from Fairview Studios for a DVD (working title: *Dilo Goes to School*) that has yet to be finished.



In North Ferriby Primary School the entire group of visitors, including those from England, watched the actor and drama coach, Tim Crowther, and Horace give a lesson in the school hall on creating dolphin stories with sound and music.



Tim Crowther then took the class outside and told them all to be quiet and listen to the sounds around them. He explained that is what dolphins do most of their lives, especially when they can't see very far in the sea, they have to rely on their sonar and listen carefully to find out what is going on around them.

In South Hunsley School in a classroom devoted to drama, one of the students, accompanied by music, danced holding the sculpture of Dilo to portray how a dolphin can move in three dimensions in the undersea world. Unlike humans who are always pulled to the ground by gravity.



During their three day visit to England Valpurga and Dana were shown how stories of Dilo the dolphin were being woven into all aspects of education including: science, music, art and drama as part of the International Dolphin Watch IDEAL (Integrated Dolphin Education And Learning) programme in the UK.

The Centre piece for the three day DOLPHIN FESTIVAL OF MUSIC, DRAMA AND VISUAL ARTS

was the Giant Dilo Cocoon

based on the Dilo Cocoon devised by the Czech Delfino Group.

The Giant Dilo Cocoon, designed and built by Head Teacher Ray Woodward with the help of his staff and pupils, was made from sheets of blue and clear plastic hung from a circular frame suspended from the ceiling in the main hall of Swanland School.



Valpurga stood in awe inside the Giant Dilo Cocoon, before the pupils brought in their artwork. The freshly painted additions, created from cardboard and other materials, under the guidance of a retired arts teacher, brought into the school especially for the project, transformed the inside of the Giant Cocoon into a colourful underwater wonderland.

A small group from Saint Anne's Special School in Welton joined in the Grand Finale when representatives of all four schools taking part in the Dolphin Arts Festival gathered in the hall to sing and dance in and around the Giant Dilo Cocoon.



When Valpurga and Dana departed on the Ferry back to Rotterdam, Ray Woodward's final words were still ringing in their ears:

"This is just the beginning. I wish you continued success in the Czech Republic and your plans to take the IDEAL message into Germany and other European countries and beyond...Remember:

Dilo's World has no boundaries."

HOW THE “DOLPHIN ROAD SHOW” EVOLVED

by Keith Dobbs



It was on the 17th December 2010 that my wife Doreen & I received an email from Valpurga & Dana confirming they had been granted by the Department of Education in the Czech Republic an Accreditation authorising the use of Dilo Books as a means to encourage reading and interest in books in young children in schools throughout the Czech Republic.

This Accreditation was unprecedented and would provide the platform for the agreement with Valpurga & Dana's publisher (Fabula) to go ahead with the publication of a hardback version of book 3 'Dilo and the Witch of Black Rock' in the Dilo series.

Also for Valpurga to explain and promote the IDEAL (Integrated Dolphin Education And Learning) concept and bring the Dilo stories into schools.

Here in the U.K. we were anxious to support and endorse Valpurga & Dana's activity as part of the Educational Programme of International Dolphin Watch and suggested we bring a 'Dolphin Road Show' for 2 days to Prague.

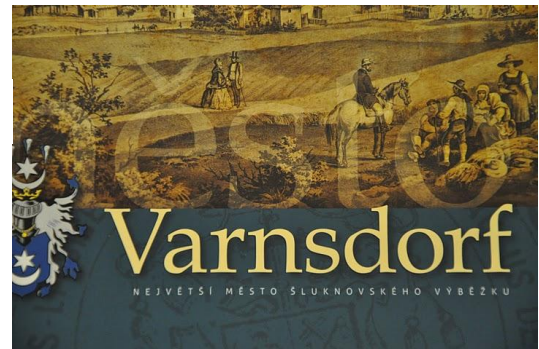
Valpurga & Dana were delighted and set about their tasks, fired with enthusiasm. It was not long before Valpurga's tireless endeavours were bringing success. Following a minimum of 3 visits per school, Head Teachers, staff and parents gave their unanimous support. A programme was subsequently agreed and set in motion.

Timing for the Road Show was linked to coincide with 'National Reading to Children's Day'.

Valpurga requested we do more Road Shows to include schools she had visited and the launch of *Dilo a carodejnice od Cerne scaly* at the Michnuv Palace in Prague

The scheduled 2 days soon became 6 days.

Varnsdorf was one of the towns included in the Road Show

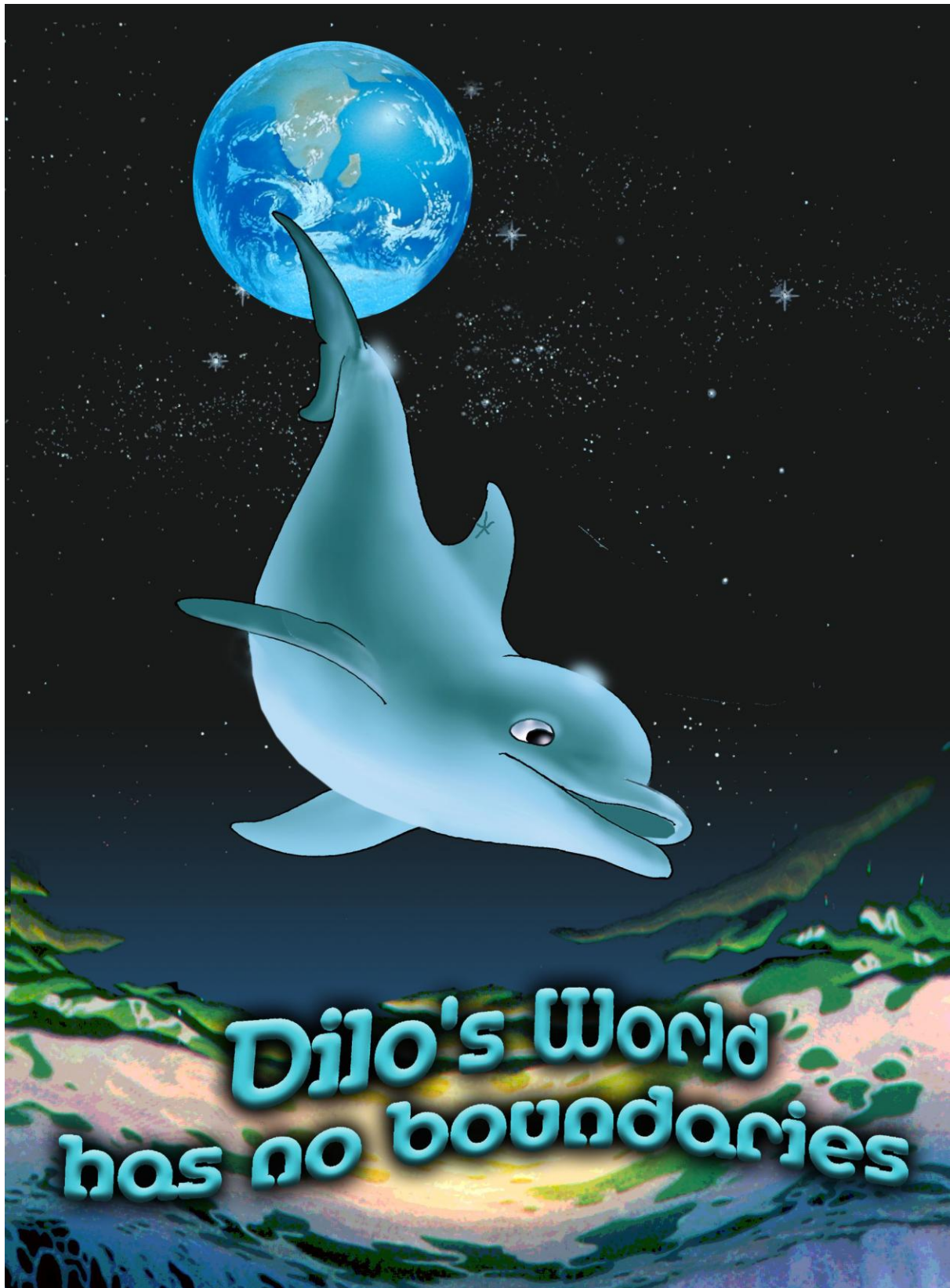


Our Road Shows brought together for the first time Author Horace & Artist Rico, much to the delight of the children & teachers who had their own Dilo artwork and stories exhibited throughout their schools. Many surprises had also been prepared for their first ever visitors from the U.K.

The whole tour was an unqualified success and clearly has established the way forward, beyond our expectations, with Dilo in the Czech Republic and potentially around the world.

For everyone involved the Czech Dolphin Road Show was a memorable experience that will live on for years to come.

THE CZECH REPUBLIC LEADS THE WAY FORWARD



The New Journey for Dilo

By

Valpurga Hozáková and Dana Hegerová

When we left England last year and parted company with Horace Dobbs and his team, it was clear to everyone that for the dolphin Dilo comes a new time. In our minds Dilo floated away to the Czech Republic to find a way to children in schools and kindergartens in the Czech Republic. This year we succeeded.

Many children in the Czech Republic today know the story of a young curious dolphin called Dilo. As well as the Dilo stories, lots of creative pictures, beautiful music, and dance performances...Dilo has settled in the children's hearts.

The team in England had already seen the photos of the beautiful happy faces and glowing eyes of the children, but much better is to meet them personally. Therefore, this year we invited Horace Dobbs, author of the Dilo books, Rico, illustrator of the Dilo Books, together with others in the team from England to meet everyone working on the project IDEAL in the Czech Republic, so that they could see for themselves some schools with whom we work (reports from our actions in these selected schools can be seen in previous Newsletters). We also wanted them to have an insight into the background of education and teaching in our country because every country is different and unique.



Dilo accompanied us every step as the perfect guide.

After a wonderful week, packed full of engagements in Liberec and Prague, we all said goodbye. For Dilo, however, this opened another journey - **the Czech Republic opens the door to all Europe**. This year from 1st - 7th June the Czech Republic hosted the International Week Reading to Children, with the aim of sustained International cooperation between organizations, their activities and to nurture a love of literature and reading through a common goal - to build strong ties in the family. International Week, 1st – 7th June, will be a read impetus for schools, libraries, literary cafés and the general public and to report annually through literary festivals throughout the country.

International Week Reading to Children is unparalleled in Europe. This meeting will launch an International project at the European level with the title "All of Europe Reads to Kids".

This year the project took part in the Czech Republic and Poland <http://www.allofpolandreadstokids.org/>. In coming years, books will be read throughout Europe.

A CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Dilo has made a lot of friends in different countries and we therefore urge you to:

READERS OF DILO BOOKS, UNITE!

We are looking for all candidates who want their country to participate in this project. The project is still at the beginning and we can all connect throughout the world through the dolphin Dilo.

All who have interest, please contact us at:

E-mail: delfino.office@gmail.com

Valpurga Hozáková and Dana Hegerová

Delfino, Czech Republic www.delfino.cz

Dilo Dolphin Road Show in Czech Republic

By Yvonne Dumsday

(Photographs from Sarah Völk, Olga Cernohoska, Dawn & Rico Oldfield and Mr. Michal Skvor)



DAY ONE: Monday 30th May 2011

I flew out from Manchester Airport to Prague with Horace Dobbs (Author of the Dilo Books and Founder of International Dolphin Watch), Rico Oldfield (Dilo Illustrator) & his wife Dawn, Keith & Doreen Dobbs (IDW Publicity Manager and Personal Assistant) to be met by Jackie & Terry Connell (Magazine Editor and IDW Web Master), Valpurga Hozáková & Dana Hegerová (our hosts from Delfino) and Sarah Völk (artist and photographer). My job was to assist Horace and record the programme. We were transported to the Pension Jasmine in Liberec and allocated our rooms.



Dr. Horace Dobbs (left) and team arrive in Prague
(photographed by Sarah)

DAY TWO: Tuesday 31st May 2011

Our first stop was Semily to look in the Tourist Office before making our way on foot up the hill to the Waldorf School where we were met by Professor Anthony Tun, who took us through their enclosed courtyard where young children were being creative working at an open-air forge. We were taken up to a room with stage and piano and were soon joined by several classes of 11 - 15 year old children.

Horace and Rico were introduced in turn and each gave a presentation including a film by Horace Dobbs. The whole audience were enthralled with the clips taken from his film ‘[The Eye of a Dolphin](#)’ and it elicited many questions from the youngsters, both in Czech and English, some of whom had assisted in the translation of ‘[Dilo and the Isle of the Gods](#)’ into Czech.

Valpurga introduced 16 year old Sarah to the audience and she told them about her colouring book ‘[Dilo’s Malbuch](#)’ published and inspired by Dilo. Sarah told the audience how dolphins had helped her find a direction in her life through her photographs and art. Sarah is currently in her final year studying art and everyone agreed she is very talented and will go far.



Valpurga with composer René Král

René Král then played a series of beautiful compositions inspired by ‘[Dilo and the Call of the Deep](#)’. René said: "When I read text or see the image, I begin to sound tones in my head".

After a tour around the school, we returned to our pension in Liberec to freshen up before walking down into town to the “Babylon” complex for our evening meal.

A perfect ending to the day was a celebration for Dana's birthday and in Sarah's usual creative way she decorated a plate of ice cream and finger cakes with her candle on top. Dana received her birthday gifts, blew out her candle whilst making her wish.



DAY THREE: Wednesday 1st June 2011

Another early start, joined by Adam Drda to translate for us.

We walked across Liberec to the very modern Town Library and were ushered to our allocated room where we were joined by a group of 7 - 11 year old children and another translator, Mirek Stejskal. Valpurga introduced Horace & Rico to gasps of delight from the children. Many of the children were familiar with the Dilo books.



Horace invited the children to join him in a swim under the sea with a wild dolphin and showed his film again. Many of the children understood Horace's presentation as they had been studying English.

Rico told the children that he was an artist and passionate about diving. He wanted to tell everyone about the wonderful things he had seen in the sea. He said “the sea is very big and touches many countries where they speak many languages but an artist does not need language”. Rico went on to explain that many years ago Horace Dobbs set him a challenge when he asked him to capture the essence of Dilo through his art. The children were enthralled when Rico showed them a selection of slides of his drawings and explained how they came about.



The children had been learning about conservation and reading about the sensory deprivation of dolphins in captivity. They were very pleased to learn that a recent application to build a dolphinarium in the Czech Republic had been refused.

Reading to Children Project



Valpurga explained that this day was a special day because it was “Reading to Children Day” in the Czech Republic. She went on to explain that next year similar events would also take place in Germany and Poland. The Czech Government hoped that the Reading to Children Project would then expand to the rest of Europe.

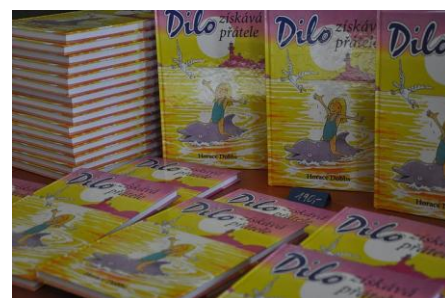
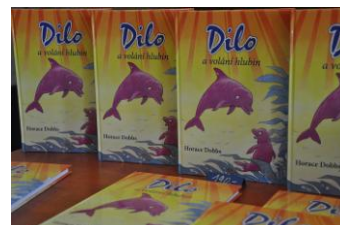
The aim of this project is, through the use of educational, organisational, and promotional activities, to support the emotional growth of children.

The project, ‘Every Czech Reads to Kids’, originated out of the recognition that as a society we must reinforce the deep importance of reading aloud to children both in terms of their emotional development as well as forming the habit of reading and continuing it into their adult lives. Both researchers and teachers agree that regular reading aloud teaches a child language and thought, develops memory and imagination, enriches knowledge, sharpens moral reasoning, strengthens concentration, defends against the dangers of mass culture, and strengthens self-confidence.

It is hoped adults will realize that today's world is often complicated and adversarial for children. Hurry and stress, ignorance of children's emotional needs, insufficient time and the often negative influence of television and computer games cause more and more children to suffer from unnecessary emotional disturbances.

Consequently, the shared activity of reading aloud is not only a long-lasting form of intelligent contact with children, but, moreover, provides an excellent and enjoyable educational tool.

Reading aloud in a friendly atmosphere is a reliable and effective manner of displaying how the reading process can become very attractive to children. Habitual practice is the best way to show children their importance, to express our love for them, to gently and gradually develop their language skills, to expand their general knowledge and perception of the world, and to allow them to form their own habits and a need for reading that can continue into their adult life. Reading encourages children's imagination and allows them to develop ideas and write their own stories, which in turn can help them to better develop the stories of their own lives.



We should unquestionably make the minimal investment of twenty minutes a day reading aloud - for and with our children - and let us educate them as discerning readers.

Nobody is a born reader. We have to show them the way.

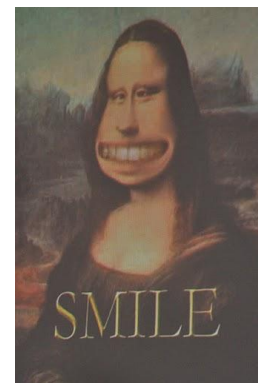
The Roadshow continued:

The next group of children that arrived were the 11 - 15 year olds.

Once again Valpurga introduced Horace and the video was shown. Horace explained that mankind is killing dolphins by fishing and pollution so he wrote the “Dilo” books to show life through the eyes of a dolphin.

He talked of their sonar; of the mother dolphins scanning a pregnant woman swimming in the Bahamas, of the superiority of dolphins over man in so many ways. He ended by stating that the message of the dolphin is to enjoy life and hoped that they would all learn this lesson.

Rico, with his usual and endearing humour, told the audience that he and Horace complemented one another as he was a frustrated scientist and Horace was a frustrated artist. He then showed his slide-show ending with the rather altered version of the “Mona Lisa” showing the dolphin message, “Just Smile” (to great hilarity).



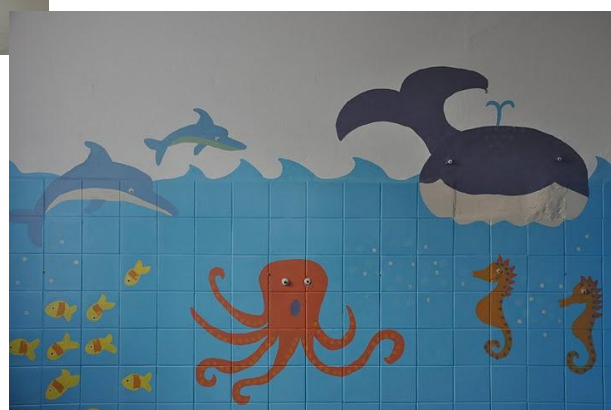
After a question and answer session, followed by lunch, the afternoon session commenced with a presentation by Horace and Rico that was open to the general public. Visitors to the library were encouraged to join us for the film show and photo session that everyone enjoyed. Chairs were then moved round into a circle and the group shared their dolphin experiences.

DAY FOUR : Thursday 2nd June 2011

The minibus awaited us after an early breakfast to transport us once again through the beautiful Czech countryside - on the way passing through Poland and Germany - to the Bratislavská junior school at Varnsdorf.



Dolphins were everywhere! We were enthralled by the dolphin pictures, mobiles, hangings and paper “statues”.



We visited each classroom in turn, including the cloakroom, and discovered that the special name that the children had for Valpurga was “*Grandma Dolphin*”.

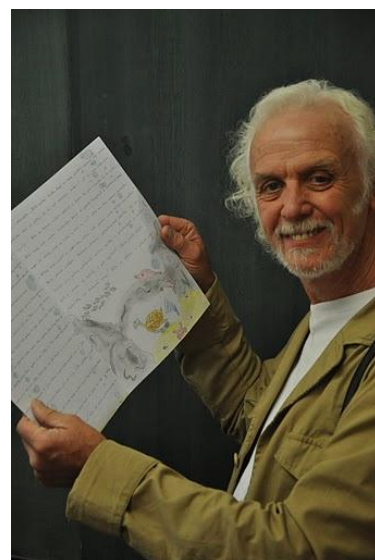
Horace was given pictures, presents and stories – all done for him by the children. Horace was delighted and openly moved by the many Dolphin Story books that the children had written and illustrated themselves.



Rico was very impressed with the illustrations and jokingly said “I think I am going to be out of a job”.

The teachers had embraced the concept of IDEAL and it was obvious to see how the children had enjoyed their lessons since working with dolphins. Dilo had inspired them to write their own stories with beautiful neat writing and very artistic illustrations.

In the gymnasium we were met by a sea of children mainly dressed in blue and turquoise in our honour. There were blond haired and blue eyed children amongst the many dark skinned Roma children and every one of them was enthralled by Horace’s and Rico’s presence.



"Three ten year old girls, Štěpánka Křížová, Nikola Šmídová and Karolína Dvořáková performed a dance representing the birth of Dilo and then he and his mother playing in the marine wonderland.



Another group performed a Dilo-based musical entertainment with the sound of water being provided by half filled water bottles. The teacher explained that the children did not have the sea to enjoy in the Czech Republic and therefore they brought the sea to the children with dolphins, music and dance.

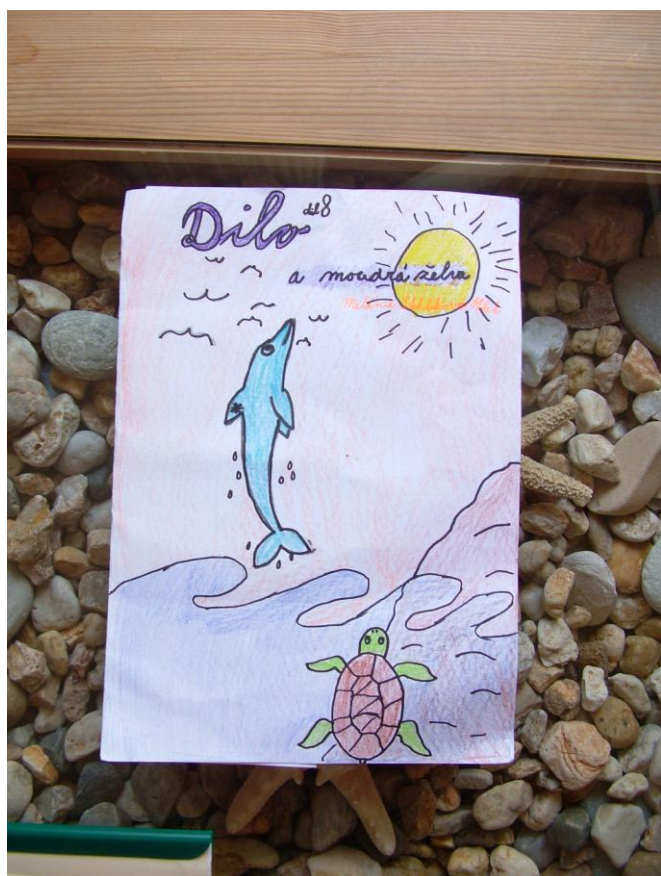
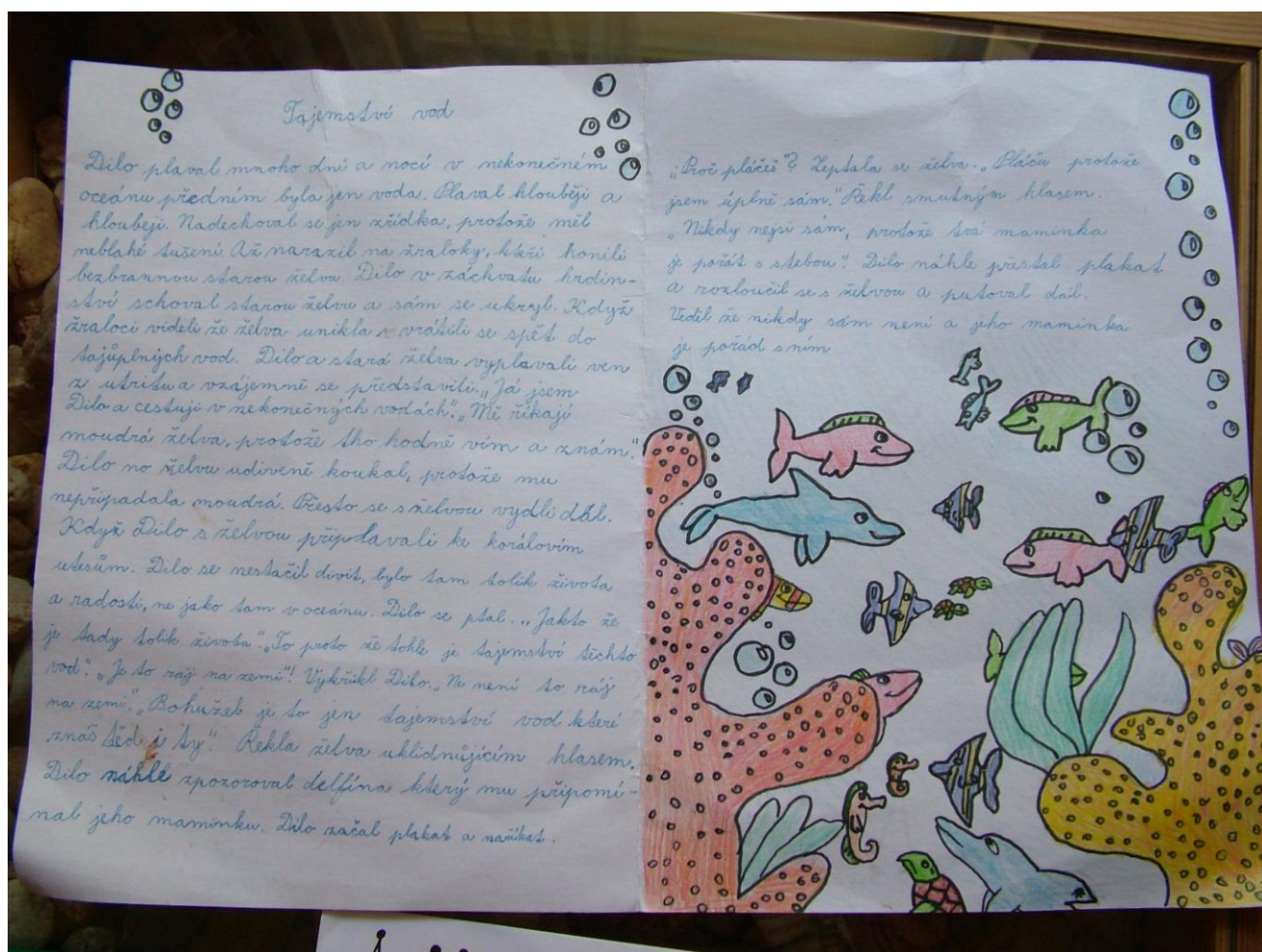


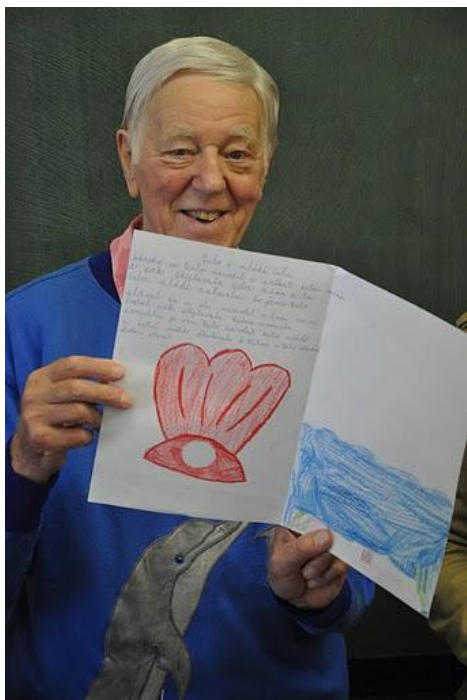
The children were keen to meet Horace and Rico personally and asked for their autographs.

Horace told the children that he had visited many schools around the world from Arab Bedouin children to those in villages up the Amazon River and he had enjoyed meeting and talking to them all but this is the first school he has ever visited in a country that had no sea around it. This was the first school where the sea had come inside the school through their writing, art, music and dance. He had written many Dilo books but he was now delighted to learn that the next one will be written by the children in this school entitled *Dilo and the Wise Turtle*.



Here are a few examples of the many beautifully handwritten stories with illustrations by the children.





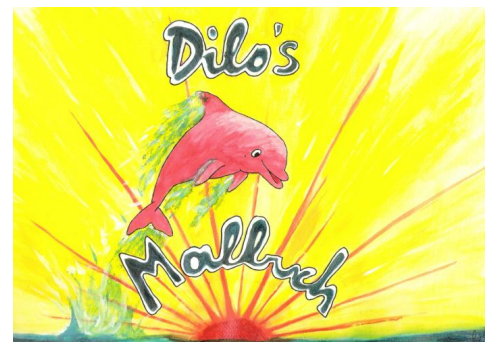


Everywhere we went we saw happy children enjoying their education with the Dolphin DILO.

Valpurga congratulated all the children on their work and told them about the new Dilo book translated into Czech and just published. Valpurga presented an autographed copy of the Dilo book to Katerina Kutinova who had written the final words on the back cover.



Valpurga introduced Sarah Völk and she signed books for the children before our group left for our next destination.



Goodbye to Varnsdorf



"Where next?"

Thursday pm - Kindergarten - Bily Kostel nad Nisou.

As we arrived, there were teachers to meet us and after introductions were made we sat at a low table with plates of delicious biscuits, made for us that morning by the children.



Valpurga explained to us that even though this is in a poor, rural region it is one of the top schools in the area and compares very well with many in the cities. Valpurga & Dana love visiting all the schools that have accepted Dilo Cocoon and embraced the concept of IDEAL but this one is the one they love most.

Jana Šindelářová, the Headmistress at Bílý Kostel nad Nisou kindergarten, explained that they could use the commercial route in their school but they preferred the IDEAL (Integrated Dolphin Education and Learning) principles after hearing of Horace Dobbs. They like to develop the children's personalities by using the dolphin as an example. Taking this route sometimes meets with resistance, caused partly by lack of funding and misunderstanding.

The Headmistress went on to explain some opponents believed that Valpurga & Dana were representing a religious sect. One school governor reported Delfino to the Ministry of Education as she was outraged that they were working with dolphins and not the Czech culture. Quite intensive meetings followed - with the press present - but, once the public saw the results of this methodology, they realised that there was no religion involved at all. Many parents support Valpurga and Dana and the concept of IDEAL, recognising the benefits it gives to their children's education.

Jackie said, "Looking around, it is obvious that the children enjoyed working with dolphins" and asked "what effect has this had on them?"



The Headmistress replied:

"In August 2010 there was a major flood in their village, with most of it submerged, and practically every child had been seriously affected in their homes. Even though the kindergarten itself had escaped damage, the landscape was totally transformed and many places were inaccessible. We used Dilo to help ease the children's suffering and to bring them back in touch with nature. We widened our teaching to include the world and qualities of dolphins. Through this the children became calmer, more aware of the underwater world and how it works and have rebuilt their trust and understanding in water-life and nature".

One teacher explained to us how Dilo gives her the opportunity of a wider learning experiences for the children. Horace replied that the love of Dilo continues to spread and grow in the Czech Republic and this is all due to Valpurga.

Jackie told them that her charity 'Operation Sunshine Family Therapy Programmes' is looking for funding so that they can support educational community projects and the distribution of 1,000 Dilo books around the world to assist children with learning difficulties.

- A donation of £40 will fund a full set of Dilo books for schools
- A donation of £150 will fund a dolphin art session.
- A donation of £320 can fund a Dilo Dolphin Cocoon.

Donations can be made through:

<http://www.operationsunshine.org/html/fundraising.html>.



We thanked the teachers for the excellent work being done in their school, before being driven back to Liberec to Delfino's Studio for a business meeting with Valpurga and her friend, Livia, to translate for us.

At the meeting Valpurga informed us that the following days programme in Prague will not include a Roadshow but from 5pm there will be a TV interview for Horace and Rico with a public launch of the new

book, introduced by the most famous Czech actor, Jaroslav Dusek. The evening with Jaroslav will also be televised, where we shall be guests. The whole televised event will be put onto the Delfino website.

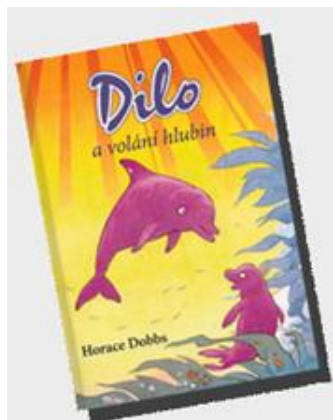
At the meeting Valpurga told us about the annual “Reading to Children Day” and the need to attract sponsorship. With the support of others that had already translated the Dilo books into other languages or worked with the concept of IDEAL in their schools, Valpurga would like to take Dilo throughout Europe as part of the “Reading to Children Day” scheme and use DILO as the mascot for the whole venture. Bids are now being put forward for this event to the Czech Ministry of Education and Culture. Valpurga and Dana also reported that they plan to produce “Dilo and the Call of the Deep” in Czech audio format for the blind.

Before leaving Livia told us she had been so inspired by all she had heard that she now wished to become more involved in helping Valpurga and Dana and the IDEAL Project.

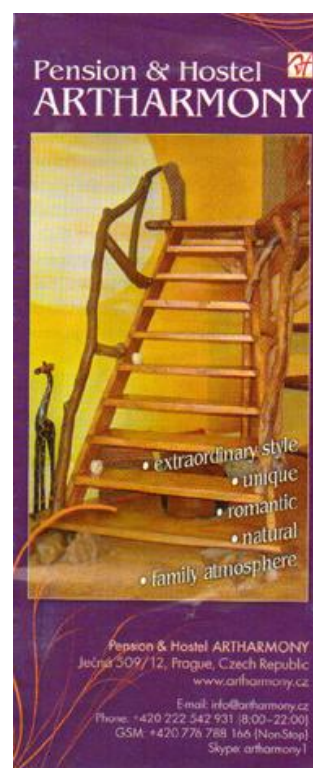
DAY FIVE : Friday 3rd June

After an early breakfast we were driven to Prague, through beautiful countryside and past fields of poppies either side of the motorway.

When we arrived at our destination we dragged our cases up several flights of stairs, but as we reached the hotel entrance we were richly rewarded by the magic that awaited us (see www.artharmony.cz as words cannot describe).



Rico Oldfield



The ArtHarmony Hotel owner, Vladimír Vích, had been inspired by the 1st Dilo book - *Dilo and the Call of the Deep* and assisted Valpurga with translating this book into Czech. He was therefore delighted that we were staying at his hotel. Vladimír invited Rico to draw Dilo leaping out of the sea in front of the painting of a setting sun on the hotel wall.



We were then taken to a cafe in a park for lunch where several people were entranced by the puma chained up outside the restaurant. The owner explained that it was a fourth generation puma brought up in close proximity to humans. When Rico tried to take a photo, the puma leaned over to him and pushed his nose against Rico's camera lens. Although some people were uncomfortable with the idea of a "tame" puma, when the American owner played with it, the puma behaved like a giant kitten and licked his face.



After a quick lunch we walked through the park to the Michnův Palace where the evening event was to take place.



The TV crew arrived with Diane acting as translator. The interview was held by Ms. Alzbeta Sorfova, the owner of well known internet TV "Cesty k sobě" <http://www.cestyksobe.cz/>.



After the interview with Horace and Rico, the whole evening celebrations were filmed for TV.



Jaroslav Dusek introduced the Programme.

Jaroslav Dusek is a famous Czech TV and theatre actor. Jaroslav's most successful theatre performance is based on the famous book of Don Miguel Ruiz: "The Four Agreements".

Jaroslav is involved in helping the people with special needs, visiting some hospices and other facilities caring about handicapped people, and regularly donating the money from his theatre performances to different charity projects and non - profit associations.

After his introduction, Jaroslav suggested that the audience, of almost 100, moved their chairs into a circle and he explained the Czech custom of the flower holder being the only one to speak.

Jaroslav passed his flower to Horace who told everyone that the Czech Republic was leading the world by encouraging parents to read to children. He said, "Reading the dolphin stories brings great joy as dolphins have no race, no nationality, no colour, and no religion. For dolphins, living is a dance. They are not possessive so they have no reason to be aggressive. They just enjoy being alive. They give out a force field that we pick up which makes us feel happy. If children are made happy then learning is made easier. Educational special needs children learn easier with the spirit of the dolphins".



"I am very lucky to have a colleague who needs no language to communicate. Rico speaks through his pictures."

Rico was then handed the flower and said, "Thank you all for coming today to the palace. I am a cameraman and an artist. When Horace once asked me, "How would you like to capture the world through the eyes of a dolphin?" I thought all my birthdays had come at once. The Dilo books are just the start. We want to take our message to TV and film."

Rico handed the flower to a member of the audience who told us about the healing centre

she ran using dolphin therapy. Mirka Smolenova, who works with Dilo books and stories with children and families in her own little centre, said she organizes two weeks trips to Croatia in June - to the area where wild dolphins live and invited the audience to attend.



The flower then passed to Sarah who explained that after swimming with over 700 dolphins in New Zealand, she was inspired to produce her children's colouring/activity book - based on Dilo.



The audience were keen to share their dolphin experiences and one by one they came forward, including the children.



The flower then passed to Jackie who said that her first meeting with Horace changed her life. She is now Editor of the IDW online Newsletter and encouraged the audience to send her their dolphin stories for inclusion in the DOLPHIN Magazine that can be downloaded free through www.idw.org. Articles for inclusion into the Magazine can be Emailed to jackieconnell@btinternet.com.

Jackie then spoke emotionally about her dolphin experience “As a result of my experience of swimming with wild dolphins I wanted to share that wonderful experience with others less fortunate - especially those with special needs”.

“My husband and I set up a charity www.operationsunshine.org to take families with additional needs such as autism etc, to swim with wild dolphins off the coast of Bimini, in the Bahamas. We have had wonderful experiences with these families and we can see the difference it makes to them. They tell us that dolphins make them feel special and give us unconditional love. We see it; we feel it; but this experience is limited to so few without outside sponsorship. Now, our charity wants to raise the money to give 1,000 books to schools around the world to encourage them to work with Dilo as you are doing in the Czech Republic”.

Jackie passed the flower to Jitka who said that she has lived most of her life in the Czech Republic. However, fifteen years ago, when a child, she had the chance to meet a little family of dolphins. She has been so excited ever since and has wanted to experience this again. She finds it interesting to note that her memories of this encounter are always fresh in her mind. She wants others to share this experience. When she read the first Dilo story in Czech, she was determined to help Valpurga and Dana. Jitka went on to say she has been a member of Delfino for over 1 year, helping them with promotion.

She enjoys creating personal talismans with semi-precious stones, inspired by dolphins and sells them to raise finances for Delfino and the IDEAL Project. Her daughter loves the Dilo books and would love to see dolphins in the wild. Jitka's benefit auctions and items for sale can be seen on <http://www.silmarino.cz/>

Jitka passed the flower to Valpurga who told us that she has been communicating every day with Shizuko, a very special friend of Horace and the dolphins, in Japan. Valpurga and Dana had planned a surprise for Horace and invited Shizuko to join us this evening on Skype. Unfortunately technology let them down and they had been unable to make a connection with Shizuko in Japan but were able to show a photograph of her on screen and played her singing *The Dolphin Song* to the whole audience.

Jaroslav then talked about children, about communication, and helping children with learning difficulties. He then welcomed a new Dilo book translated into Czech.

Valpurga held up the Czech edition of *Dilo and the Witch of Black Rock* in a cradle, nestling on soft pillows. She said that this book had four "Fairy Godparents": Shizuko, Jackie, Terry and Horace.



Horace was passed the flower and welcomed the new book in Czech, hoping that everyone would enjoy the spirit of his words and the illustrations by Rico.

Terry then said, "When I was carrying the cradle to this event, I had no idea to what use it would be put but mentioning the joy dolphins bring, I want to tell you of my first experience." He said "some years ago I worked in Veseli Nad Moravou where I learnt to swim". Terry spoke emotionally about his first trip 10 years ago to Bimini to swim with dolphins in their natural environment. He said he wasn't a confident swimmer and when the dolphins appeared the rest of the group got in the water and he hesitated because of his nerves. He took a long time to get into the water by the time he had got his life-jacket on with mask and snorkel. The boat moved away and by then the rest of the group had drifted some way off with the dolphins. Terry panicked when he realised he was on his own in the open sea. The boat Captain called out "Terry look down". The dolphins had left the rest of the group and Terry was surrounded by the dolphins. He felt the love all around him and believed the dolphins had recognised his fear and came to support him. His fear disappeared immediately. It was after that he helped Jackie set up the charity so that others less fortunate could benefit from this special feeling of unconditional love the dolphins give.



Valpurga thanked all the many people that had helped with the translation of the Czech edition of *Dilo and the Witch of Black Rock*, especially as they had worked so hard to ensure that the words would enter the minds of the children. Every new born has its problems but she hoped this book would have them all behind it. There had been many problems along the way to the launch - the last being that at one point it looked as though

Terry would not be with us to share his experience due to recent emergency surgery whilst in New Zealand. But she was delighted he made it and was there to tell his story.

Horace is currently writing more Dilo books. Rico showed his impressive pictures of a book yet to be published – *Dilo and the Lost City of Atlantis*.

The flower was then passed around the audience for question time:

Q. If people regularly swim with dolphins, do the dolphins recognise them?

A. Jackie told her story about Nemo. She often saw this female dolphin, people called Nemo, when she was swimming with the dolphins in Bimini – she recognised the dolphin as it had a fin missing. Jackie felt it was a sign to take special needs children to swim with the dolphins there through her charity. At the time she was taking a group of young adults with learning difficulties from a Camphill community. During preparations for the trip, Jackie told the group about Nemo and they asked if Nemo would come and swim with them. Jackie replied “I’m sure she will”. On their first day the group were out on the boat for a few hours and were getting despondent because they hadn’t seen any dolphins “You said Nemo would come and swim with us” they said to Jackie. She told the group that they had to call her and that Nemo liked to hear happy people singing. They started to sing and call out *Nemo*! Almost immediately dolphins appeared all around the horizon and jumping towards the boat to ride on the bow waves. The group looked down to see the dolphins in front of the boat and to everyone’s amazement, including Jackie – there was Nemo.



Jackie said a little prayer of thanks to the universe for making the dreams of these special people come true.

Q. Can I touch a dolphin when I swim with them?

A. We do not encourage touching dolphins. We only swim with dolphins in their natural environment and we like to keep it this way - respecting the dolphins’ environment and on their terms. It has taken many years to build trust with the dolphins off the coast of Bimini. The dolphins love to interact with people and sometimes the dolphins initiate contact.

Diane (the translator) told us that only two weeks ago she had read about the birth of a dolphin and really wished that she might have the opportunity to see them in reality. Yesterday she was contacted and asked if she would come today to translate. She had been told that this was dolphinicity and it was quite a normal happening around dolphins.

Q. A lady said she was planning a trip to India this summer in the hopes of swimming with dolphins and asked what we would advise.

A. Best to look at the IDW website where they feature the ‘At a Glance Guide – dolphin watching around the world’ http://www.idw.org/html/at_a_glance_guide.html. Jackie said she would certainly recommend Bimini.

Jaroslav said that there are trips organised in Croatia to see (but not swim with) dolphins. Jaroslav explained that they believe swimming with the dolphins can introduce human diseases to them. On trips he has taken, everyone, except the Captain, expected the dolphins to appear, and they did (much to the amazement of the Captain).

Valpurga told of the first time she saw a dolphin at Gomera (island off Tenerife) when she was lecturing there. Every day she saw the pilot whales and six dolphins. She was having light therapy there and it is where she first met Horace. Valpurga was the oldest in the group and could not swim well but the dolphins

came and played for 2 hours. When they looked into her eyes, she knew her life would be changed. So, she began to work with Horace.

Olga Cernohorska, a friend of Valpurga, made the backdrop for the evening with images of Dilo and the lighthouse. She told the group that she was so very happy to help with the translation of the first Dilo book into Czech. These books bring new ideas to this generation of children and their parents who worry about what the future holds for them. She wants to thank everyone for bringing this book, so full of love and understanding and she is sure that it will have many messages for the next generation. The hanging she made will be used as scenery for a children's play about Dilo and will later be used in an exhibition of children's toys.



Olga continued to say "Fortunately, our children will educate us to think differently and that we can learn a lot from "special needs" children".

Horace added "The message of the dolphins is very simple: make life fun. They give unconditional love. So, give love, give joy."

At this point Dana asked Jaroslav to dance then they split and others joined them. Eventually the whole audience - even the man on crutches - were all on their feet, in a large circle, dancing together in harmony and joy.





Once the book selling and signing was completed we had a banquet laid on for us - the Brits, the Czechs and many of Valpurga and Dana's friends and supporters - with a toast to the success of the new book. Sadly (for us Brits) we also had to say farewell to Sarah who had to return to Germany in order to get ready for her school trip to England. Some of Sarah's photographs now compliment this Special Edition Magazine.



DAY 6 Saturday 4th June 2011

We enjoyed a very informative tourist day around the Prague Castle, guided by Vladimir's father Joseph, an opera singer, who had been a qualified and highly experienced guide for many years. He showed us the Black Tower (that was white), the Lion Court (with no lions), the Lily of the Valley (in the Cathedral window) and the oldest vineyard in the Czech Republic.



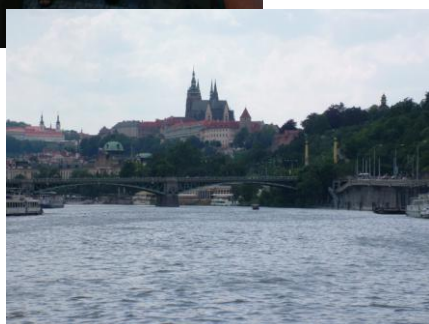
That evening we were guided by Olga across St. Charles Bridge in the dark to see it lit up and get a view of the castle by night.



DAY 7 Sunday 5th June 2011



Another sight-seeing day walking through Wenceslas Square and down to a Sunday Market to browse. Then over the Charles Bridge in daylight with opportunities to take photographs and shop. We took a trip down the River Vltava on a boat and enjoyed living life at a slower pace after the hectic previous five days. Over a leisurely lunch overlooking the river, time passed gently before saying our goodbyes to Valpurga, Dana, Adam and Peter - but no tears as we had all rubbed the statue on the bridge which would ensure our return.



CONCLUSION

Note from the Editor



I have been privileged to know Dr. Horace Dobbs and to share his vision over the years. Along with his scientific background and experience, his projects, especially IDEAL, have always had a sound educational base that have evolved over a decade. He has always given his time with love and a positive hope for future generations and our planet. Through his story telling, with the playful nature of dolphins, along with art, music and drama, the possibilities of learning and developing are endless.

When I first met Valpurga and Dana in England in 2010, I felt sure these were people that shared Horace's hopes and aspirations and that they had the commitment, dedication, experience and knowledge to carry forward the great achievements Horace had already made. I wasn't disappointed – through their hard work with limited resources, during this week I have seen the sheer joy learning with dolphins and Horace's fictional character Dilo have given to the children in the Czech Republic – their happy faces will no doubt stay with me forever.

My hope now is that Government support, outside funding and sponsorship will come in so that this success in education can be developed further, with an understanding of the need for conservation of all wildlife, spreading throughout Europe and worldwide. We are creating a global network of dolphin lovers that care about the future of our children and the earth we share.

TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS.

Jackie Connell

COMMENTS

From Yvonne Dumsday:

I received a message from Horace - "Are you up for the Czech Roadshow?" Forget the fact I am in Greece when the trip starts. Change flights; come back; quick turn-around; out to Prague. Any regrets? Not one.

This was the experience of a lifetime. Amazing Valpurga and Dana - what they have achieved in so short a time; with so few resources. Fantastic teachers and schools - so much dolphin love and joy everywhere we went. So many possibilities for future ambitions - the sky is not even the limit.

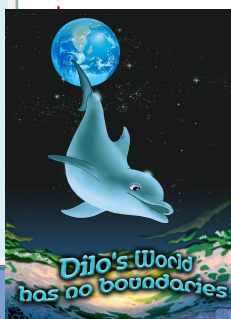
The Czech Republic has no need of seas to surround it. Dilo and the children who have met him have brought the oceans into the heart of their worlds. This is about to spread to other landlocked European countries.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this.



From Dawn Oldfield:

What I found particularly memorable were the children of Varnsdorf. The enthusiasm and sheer joy on their faces at all things to do with Dilo and the sea was both a joy and humbling experience. We in the UK have the luxury of being able to visit the sea whenever we want, but tend to take it for granted. The Czech Republic was a wonderful place filled with wonderful people.



From Terry Connell

I was very impressed with the obvious amount of hard work by Val and Dana that had gone into arranging this trip.

A lot of preparation to make our visit a memorable experience.

The teachers at the schools we visited showed a tremendous enthusiasm for the projects they had undertaken and clearly **it is possible to pass on the joy of dolphins without the presence of a live dolphin. The smiles of young and old alike show this.**

I would now like to see this initiative spread throughout the world.

From Rico Oldfield:

Inspiration is alive and well and living in the Czech Republic! Words like awesome and inspirational have been so devalued by our flippant and shallow western culture that some re-invention of our superlatives seems appropriate. For me the welcome that both the adult and child population of the Czech Republic gave to a small fictional Dolphin, its creator and his team was awesome and inspirational in the old-time undiluted sense of those words. That inspiration and awe encourages me to delve even deeper into Dilo's world and as an illustrator try to capture even more magic than I would have dared before.

From Jitka Hausnerova

I am fortunate to help Dana and Valpurga for more than a year. My nearly five year old daughter has been an enthusiastic reader of Dilo books during that time. She is also the first Czech little "reader" of the latest Czech Dilo book '*Dilo and the Witch of Black Rock*' and her enthusiasm of the new story about Dilo knows no bounds. She is quite talkative and tells the story to almost everybody and everywhere she is. I also often hear other children on playgrounds, at swimming pools and kindergarten mention Dilo. Small children share Dilo's stories to each other. Maybe it's just "dolphinicity", but it seems to me that every child who knows Dilo is spreading widely these stories full of dolphin joy. Where it will lead to - who knows? I think only dolphins knows...

From Anthony Tun

I am a teacher at Waldorf Primary School and Lyceum in the town of Semily, Czech Republic. Some time ago I was offered a project for Class 8, namely to translate a book about adventures of a dolphin from English to Czech language. This would then be published and made available to children nationwide. I brought this idea to my pupils, half expecting lukewarm response to extra work at best. To my surprise the pupils took this on with an unusual degree of enthusiasm. For four months or so we spent a part of each lesson translating the chapters, getting the idioms right, learning new vocabulary and such. It was a difficult process for some and the results vary in quality but in the end the adventures of the dolphin enriched our lessons and inspired interest in pupils most of whom have never seen and very likely will not ever see a live dolphin in the wild. Towards the end of the school year we were pleased to welcome the author of the book Dr. Horace Dobbs and his friends in our midst. He told us some very interesting stories and facts about the marine life. Untypically for these kind of talks where teenagers usually snigger, fool about or both, Dr. Dobbs enjoyed their undivided attention and many questions were asked. The draft translation of the book Dilo And The Isle of The Gods is nearing its conclusion and we all hope that children in the Czech Republic will enjoy reading it as much as we did.

From Keith & Doreen Dobbs

Our most vivid memories of the tour were the responses from the children of all ages.

In particular the children of Varnsdorf School, who in turn gave a wonderful interpretation of the free spirit Dilo portrays, and the inspirational music composed and performed by Rene Král, demonstrating what can be achieved when love and commitment come together.

From Horace Dobbs

As we moved from school to school I became hugely impressed by the enthusiasm the teachers had for the character of Dilo and how they were using the mischievous dolphin to bring joy and inspire creativity in the classroom.

It is my hope that the stories about the life changing problems, such as losing his mother and being confined in a concrete pool, that Dilo faces and overcomes without losing his playful zest for life, will help the children rise to the challenges and solve the problems that they will have to face when they grow up.

Adam Drda, our young translator, and I discussed global trade and how this is affecting the Czech economy. One result is that the up and coming generation is having to face unprecedented changes in the ways in which they create the wealth necessary to maintain the present standard of living in their country. This requires a fresh approach to education that includes the open and creative ways of thinking that is being practiced and taught in the schools we visited.

I hope this message will be passed on. And that the Czech Educational Authorities will respond by encouraging and financing the continuation of the pioneering work that Valpurga and her team are pushing ahead with in the Czech Republic and adjacent countries.