

April 6<sup>th</sup> 2004

**TOP BBC WILDLIFE MAN TO SPEAK AT DEEP**

The Deep, Hull's £45.5m Millennium Commission lottery project is looking forward to welcoming Extreme Animals and Animal Camera presenter Steve Leonard later this month. Steve is giving an illustrated talk about his exciting experiences with marine animals and highlights of his career with the BBC. The talk will take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 8pm with proceeds raised going to the Shark Trust.

Steve Leonard trained in veterinary science at Bristol University Vet School where in his fifth and final year of his degree the BBC approached the university asking for permission to film a selection of final year students. Thinking the opportunity "a bit of a laugh" Steve agreed to the filming and the result was Vet School, a huge success that sealed his career with the BBC.

Dr David Gibson, Director of Operations and Husbandry commented;

"We are very excited about welcoming Steve to The Deep for his upcoming talk on his experiences as a high profile wildlife presenter. We are especially pleased that the talk is being held in support of The Shark Trust, a charity that we have very close links to. The conservation of marine animals is central to our philosophy and Steve's talk will hopefully raise public awareness of the issues relating to our oceans."

**Tickets to Steve Leonard's illustrated talk cost £10 per head and include a glass of wine plus entry to The Deep. Tickets must be prebooked, please call 01482 381000 (option 3). Doors will open at 7pm, talk starts at 8pm.**

**Note for Editors**

The Shark Trust was set up in 1997 to promote the study, management and conservation of sharks, skates and rays. They have campaigned extensively to stop shark finning in European waters and on EU vessels worldwide. The Deep works in collaboration with The Shark Trust on campaigns and fundraising events.

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