

The Seahorse Trust

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2015



Welcome to the **SPRING 2015** newsletter

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter and thank you to all of you for your amazing support this year; without you we could not have achieved so much and we have achieved so much.

We have made history this winter with our petition to DEFRA to get them to reverse their decision over dropping Studland Bay as a Marine Conservation Zone; it was the fastest trending petition ever on Care 2 at one stage and has reached over 153,000 signatures from 76 different countries; more about that below.

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/208/992/778/reverse-the-decision-on-the-studland-bay-mcz/>

The trust is incredibly lucky to have so many volunteers involved doing so much for us and those volunteers have been so busy fundraising and working over the winter, from Alice from Little Alice Crafts, Marc Roberts putting on his concert in Cardiff, Jess Stephens selling silver seahorse pendants to Kimberly and her volunteers who did a beach clean and raised funds for the trust at the same time.

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and see how much the trust achieves; as somebody once said, we punch well above our weight for a small charity. We can only do this because of you, thank you



Another lucky this seahorse this time in wales that was saved due to quick thinking

Pictures copyright and thanks to Ali Newman

Another lucky seahorse, this time in Wales

What a very lucky seahorse. Ali Newman and his Dad were walking along the beach at Tenby in Wales on the last day of 2014 when they came across this very lucky seahorse washed up on the beach. With quick reactions Ali, took a number of pictures of the juvenile female Spiny Seahorse and noticing she was still very much alive, he released her back into the sea, watching her swim off into the waves. Only Ali's quick action saved this little seahorse and we are really grateful to him, saving the seahorse and then sending us all the information, so it can be recorded on the National Seahorse Database. Seahorses are found all around Wales but it is not very often we get one washed up onto the beach. Cheers Ali for your quick thinking and saving the seahorse.

Don't forget to adopt a seahorse or become a member, it makes a great present. Check out our website for details. www.theseahorsetrust.org

The Seahorse Trust on social media

We now have a Twitter account and you can follow us on [@seahorsecharity](https://twitter.com/seahorsecharity) or follow us on [The Seahorse Trust](https://www.facebook.com/groups/theseahorsetrust/), although we have started small we hope to have Twitter followers around the world, so that they can follow the work of the trust in our quest to conserve and preserve seahorses around the world. Please follow us and retweet to all your followers.

We also have a very active Facebook page with well over 1,000 members, you can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/theseahorsetrust/> or just search [The Seahorse Trust](https://www.facebook.com/groups/theseahorsetrust/)

As well as our social media links we also have a great website with lots of information and pictures of seahorses and our work with them.

Petition to DEFRA to protect threatened British Seahorses

Studland Bay in Dorset, UK, is probably the most important place for the Spiny Seahorses to breed but it is under threat from loss of habitat; since 2008 numbers of known individuals have dropped from 40 to 1 in 2014 which is tragic.

In 2008 both seahorse species were listed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act as 'threatened' because of research and lobbying work by The Seahorse Trust. This means that they are legally protected in the same way as bats and otters, and habitats must be protected as well.

3 years ago there was an announcement that 127 marine conservation Zones were to be set up and because of the importance of the Spiny Seahorse we were certain Studland Bay would become protected. So we submitted our data and knowledge and were stunned when it was dropped due to pressure from a few boat owners and the government put economics over their legal duty to protect the site. So in the second tranche we submitted them again and the same thing has happened again.

This time we set up a petition to tell DEFRA to do its legally binding duty and protect the site and the petition has received a staggering 152,000 signatures from 76 different countries; the world is telling the UK government to do its legal duty and protect the seahorses.

We have submitted this petition and all our other data into the consultation process and we have high hopes that the site will be listed in the 2016 third tranche, especially as there is not an election happening. Thank you to all of you who signed the petition and we have high hopes this time, especially as many governmental departments have now supported our request.

The Petition is still running and can be found at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/208/992/778/reverse-the-decision-on-the-studland-bay-mcz/>

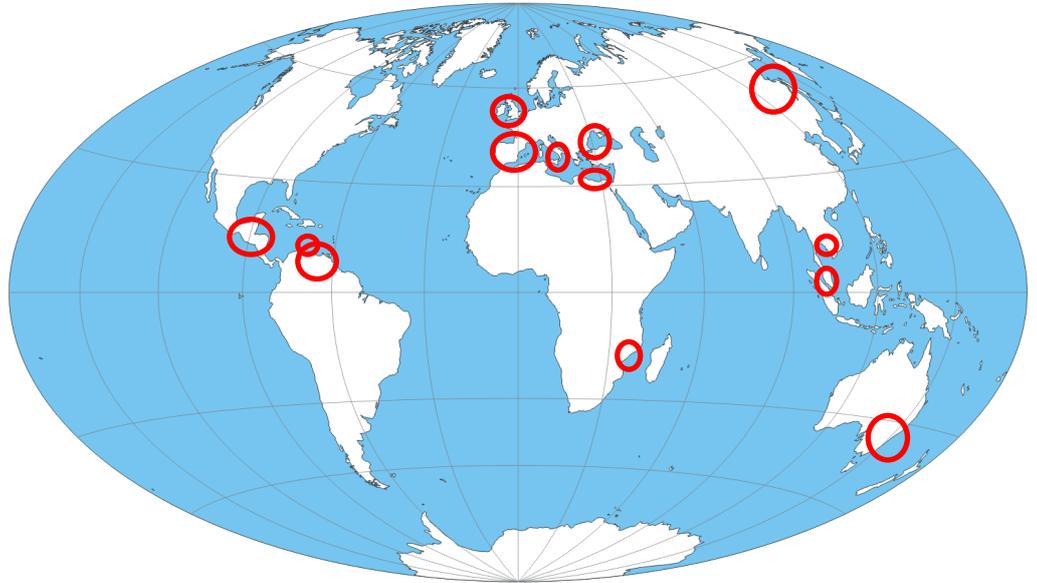
If you want to do a fund raising event why not choose us as your charity? Whether you do a cycle ride, a concert, wild swim or climb a mountain you can help the trust by nominating us as your charity, contact us on info@theseahorsetrust.org to find out more

The Seahorse Trust partnerships through the Seahorse Alliance

The Seahorse Trust was set up as a partnership organisation and as part of this we set up the Seahorse Alliance, a loose knit group of organisations whose common themes are the conservation, research into and preservation of seahorses. Most of these organisations also conduct seahorse surveys around the world and we are helping to coordinate them and share our joint knowledge. Below is a map with red circles showing some of the areas our partners work in, some of the circles represent multiple partners in the countries.



The Seahorse Alliance
Spanning the world



The trusts' motto is 'Working in partnership with nature' and we try to work in partnership with countries, organisations and individuals all around the globe, as can be seen by the map above. Our newest working partnership is with the [Species Recovery Trust](http://www.speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk/), where we have come together to work, especially on British Seahorses to try and ensure a long term future for them in British waters.

The Species Recovery Trust

<http://www.speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk/>

Pipehorses in Kenya

Our partners in Kenya through biologist Eric Stokman found some of the beautiful Pipehorses; a very difficult to see species, that falls between seahorses and pipefish. This particular species is the Shortpouch Pygmy Pipehorse and it was a male who was possibly Pregnant. Eric and the team in Kenya, especially dive instructor Yatin spot them occasionally but Yatin in particular has a good eye to spot them. The evolution of Seahorses started with pipefish and has evolved into seahorses but undertaken many changes as they have changed over 40,000 plus years. Thank you to Eric, Yatin and the team for sending the images into us.



SEAHORSE FACT: The recently discovered Ruby Seadragon brings the total number of these amazing underwater dragons up to 3. The Ruby Seadragon was only discovered by looking at dead animals in museums

Curio trade prosecution

One of our amazing volunteers tipped us off that a shop in Brixham, Devon was selling dead seahorses, which is illegal without a CITES certificate. We immediately contacted the Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) and they raided the shop; recovering over 10,000 seahorses plus other CITES protected species such as crocodile, seamoths, sharks and corals. The shop owner has now had his stock confiscated and received a formal caution.

This would never have happened without our amazing team of volunteers and we are just setting up a Stop the Curio Campaign to be launched in the spring. Thank you to everyone involved.



The National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth has been an amazing supporter to us again this year, as well as generating hundreds from pounds in donations from its guests they have also raised the profile of British seahorses in their seahorse exhibit. We would like to thank them for their support and wish them well with their new Community Seagrass Initiative project. <http://www.national-aquarium.co.uk/media-centre/press-release/the-national-marine-aquarium-appoints-two-project-officers-for-community-seagrass-initiative>



NATIONAL
MARINE
AQUARIUM

Beach clean-up by Kimberly and friends

Volunteers and fund raisers come in all shapes and sizes and in January a very brave group of people got together to clean up the beach at Bognor in Sussex. As well as collecting 17 bags of rubbish, plastic crates, bundles of fishing net and plastic in concrete; they also raised funds for The Seahorse Trust. This brave band of volunteers of all ages and sizes coped with the freezing weather and remained cheerful through it all.

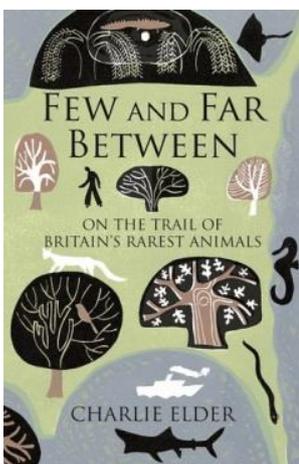
The picture right shows just some of the rubbish collected which is floating around our oceans killing everything it comes in contact with. THANK YOU ALL



SEAHORSE FACT: There are 2 European seahorse species, the Spiny and the Short Snouted but a possible third species is on its way, after migrating through the Suez Canal from the Red Sea; this is the Fuscus Seahorse

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Seahorse Trust has always been a major source of seahorse news and because of this we have been in the last 4 issues of BBC Wildlife magazine
- E-bay are still helping us to control the sale of seahorses through E-bay and many thanks to them and our Illegal Seahorse team of volunteers who monitor E-bay and other sites. If you see a seahorse for sale then please let the team know on illegaltrade@theseahorsetrust.org
- Even though the Sealife Centres no longer fund our work we still work very closely with them on research and captive breeding work and thank you to them for their support.
- Very sadly our friends at Save Our Seahorses in Malaysia have had to close down for now due to pressure over their work. We wish them the best and hope they will set up again soon.
- Thanks for their continued support to all at Wild Aid (UK) <http://www.wildaid.co.uk/>
- There have been a number of kind individuals and Organisations that have kindly made donations to our work some want to remain anonymous others we can name but to all of them we would like to say thank you, without you we could not do our work in preserving seahorses for the future. Amongst those we can name are:-
Aquatronics <http://www.aquatronics.com/>
GAC logistics <http://www.gac.com/UK>
Alice from Little Alice Crafts <https://www.facebook.com/LittleAliceCrafts>
Jess
Marc
Alana <http://alanafairchild.com.au/>
- We would also like to thank Tanya and Catherine from EOCA <http://www.outdoorconservation.eu/> who although they did not make a donation have kindly supported our work and do some amazing work themselves.
- Sadly there is not enough room to list and name everyone who helps us so apologies if we have not mentioned you, however I do want to mention our fantastic patrons for their continued support and our trustees for guiding us in the right direction.



Author Charlie's quest to see a seahorse

Over the last year or so we have had author Charlie following our work in research for his book Few and Far Between. It is a book about some of the rarest species in the UK and Charlie quite rightly included the Spiny Seahorses. It took many attempts and lots of hours for Charlie to finally see a Spiny Seahorse and this is well described in his book which has now been published by Bloomsbury, you can also buy copies through his website below.

<http://www.charlieelder.com/>

SEAHORSE FACT: Seahorses evolved from their long bodied cousins the Pipefish and the British Isles has 6 species of Pipefish with the biggest 30 cm long and the shortest only 5 to 6 cm long

Power of the Pound appeal

What is the cost of a third of a cup of cappuccino, £1 but it is such a powerful tool in conservation it can achieve so much. If 50,000 people donated this £1 to the trust each year, that is just £1 per annum. Then the trust could cover the cost of its annual bill for research, campaigning and conservation work with it. If you can afford one pound per annum then please have a look at our support us page. Let your £1 become the most powerful tool you have for seahorses <http://www.theseahorsetrust.org/support-us.aspx>



Thank you to everyone

We would like to publically thank everyone who is involved in the trust for their amazing input, without you we could not do so much. There are so many people involved from our Patrons, Trustees, members, adopters, to the lady who monitors the illegal trade (we have to keep her name secret for obvious reasons), to Beccy who monitors the Facebook page to the huge team of volunteers divers who go week after week to gather much needed data at Studland, Gavin who maintains the website to all the hundreds of others who follow us on Twitter and Facebook and all those behind the scenes who do so much in fund raising and awareness; getting the message out there.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

FUND RAISING

The Seahorse Trust is a registered charity (number 1086027) and is totally reliant on donations and sponsorship grants to achieve its work. If you want to help raise funds for us there are so many ways you can do this and below are just a few of the methods. Thank you to everyone in advance for their amazing support.

- Adoptions** Why not adopt one of the seahorses found on the British Seahorse Survey, details can be found on our website on the support us page
- Membership** Become a member of the trust and get regular newsletters and updates on our News and Facebook pages; you can now sign up to receive tweets.
- Everyclick** Use Everyclick as your search engine and generate funds for the trust every time you search for anything on the internet.
- Virgin Giving** When donating money or running an event be sure your donations are safe by using Virgin Giving or one of the other secure sites listed on our website.
- Fund raising events** Setting up and running your own event, whether it is a cycle ride, balloon jump or knitting the longest scarf in the world is a fun way to raise funds.
- Gift Aid** Importantly don't forget to gift aid your donation. If you are a UK tax payer we can claim 25p for every £1 you donate (see our site for details on the Support Us Page)

Thank you and have a great spring and summer

www.theseahorsetrust.org

The Seahorse Trust

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