

The Seahorse Trust

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2014

Welcome to the autumn 2014 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.

From amazing seahorse reports from Jersey, to documentaries about seahorses, working with partners around the world, to joining the Twitter sphere, it has been a very, very busy summer.

Sadly we have had no seahorses found on our study site at South Beach in Studland this year but there was one transient juvenile male found on the site next door but this does not bode well for the future of the seahorses at Studland unless the site is designated as a Marine Conservation Zone and only people power will make that happen.

We have a new look website coming online and hopefully, soon the trust is setting up an online shop, so with Christmas coming up why not help the trust by buying some of your presents online; don't forget sending an adoption or membership of the trust for Christmas is a thoughtful and caring present to make.



A very lucky Short Snouted Seahorse that survived a Jonah and the Whale experience with a hungry Pollack.

Pictures copyright and thanks to Sue Daly 2014

www.suedalyproductions.com/

Amazing seahorse discovery in Sark; a real Jonah and the whale story

Imagine the look of surprise on the face of fisherman Peter Guille of Sark when he pulled up a Pollack on the end of his line with a seahorse in its mouth. He removed the seahorse and put it back into the sea but when he gutted the less fortunate Pollack he found that its stomach was full of young seahorses and a few of them were still alive. After putting them in a bucket of seawater he headed back to harbour and got on the phone wildlife camerawoman Sue Daly (Sue is an old friend of the trust and our coordinator for the Channel Islands.) Sue met Peter at the harbour and after taking lots of pictures of his amazing find; she donned her SCUBA gear and dropped into the sea to release the 4 seahorses that had survived. Thanks to Peter and Sue for their quick thinking, they saved 5 seahorses from certain death.

Don't forget to adopt a seahorse for Christmas, it makes a great present. Check out our website for details

The Seahorse Trust joins Twitter

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.theseahorsetrust.org/), 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.

Seahorses disappear from South Beach at Studland Bay in Dorset

In 2008 we recorded 40 individual seahorses on our study site at South Beach in Studland Bay, Dorset; in 2014 we have had one. Our research has shown the rapid decline in seahorses on the site due to habitat decline and so the need for an MCZ more urgent than before!!

Although an underwater photographer found a seahorse on the site next to ours which was a juvenile male who was probably transient through the site, this is disastrous news for what was one of the most important sites for Spiny Seahorses in the UK.

Please lobby DEFRA to get this site protected; it is more urgent than ever before



Spiny seahorses are one of two species of seahorse found in European waters; the other being the Short Snouted Seahorse.

The Spiny seahorses are very distinct; as their name suggest they have a mane of spines on the top of the head, running down the back and are usually Olivey green in colour. However like all seahorses they can change to all sorts of colours from white to yellow.#

They are a large seahorse measuring up to 18 cm from the top of the head to the end of the tail.

If you want to do a fund raising event why not choose us as your charity? Whether you do a cycle ride, 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

East Dorset Open Water Swimming Club Seahorse Swim



We had an amazing time on Sunday the 22nd of June at the Seahorse Swim at Studland Beach organised and run by Bob Holman and his amazing team of volunteers and swimmers from East Dorset Open Water Swimming Club. The event has been running for several years now and has grown from 50 swimmers in its first year to 230 this year and once again EDOWSC kindly supported the work of The Seahorse Trust by inviting us along and making a very generous donation of £300 towards our work at Studland.

Trust Director Neil started the race and set the swimmers on their way and at the end of a long grueling course he presented some of the prizes.

It was a very hot sunny day and everyone who took part enjoyed themselves and the team of volunteers who ran the race did a fantastic job of making sure everyone was safe and well.

It was fantastic to see The Seahorse trust logo on the back of everyone's T-shirts and our own team of volunteers tried to answer the huge number of questions we were asked about our work with seahorses.

On behalf of The Seahorse trust, trustees, patrons, members and supporters of the trust we would like to thank Bob and his amazing team.

If you want to take part next year, go to www.edowsc.org/ed/

Conservation evening at Weymouth Sealife Centre

For the second year in a row we attended the Conservation evening at the Weymouth Sealife Centre, which like last year was well attended but unlike last year it was a very warm evening (it poured last year)

There were stands by a number of environmental charities and visitors to the evening enjoyed all the music and games that the staff and volunteers put on.

Sealife have been fantastic supporters of the trust for many years and we work in collaboration on captive breeding for conservation projects, surveying for seahorses in the wild and promoting the conservation of seahorses and the marine environment.



SEAHORSE FACT: There are approximately 42 to 65 species of seahorse around the world but nobody really knows for sure; our friends at Project Seahorse are trying to find out by using DNA analysis.

Seahorse surveying in Spain

As part of our European wide partnership we are gathering data on the two species found throughout Europe so we can better understand them and their needs. The Seahorse Trust works in partnership with many organisations through the Seahorse Alliance it set up and Kenna Eco Divers in L'Escala; South East Spain is one of those who we work closely with.

Between us we have identified 28 individual Seahorses and refound them on many occasions, which is helping to build a picture of their movements and behaviour. Each seahorse is given a unique name and they have become very well known to Gaynor and her teams of volunteers who go out daily to monitor them. They then send the data back to the trust and we update the database and analyse the information.

The trust is working with many countries in Europe including Malta, Spain, France, UK, Italy and it has been very revealing about how seahorses behave throughout their overall geographic region.

Kenna Eco Divers can be found at <http://www.kennaecodiving.net/eco-home>



Some of the seahorses from the Spanish Seahorse Survey project (copyright ©Gaynor Rosier)

Graduate documentary filmmaker Ross Birnie and his great team have been making an indepth documentary about The Seahorse Trust and its work over the summer. Ross is studying at the West of England University in Bristol in conjunction with the BBC's Natural History Unit and is one of many students the trust works with in all disciplines from film making like Ross, to behavioural studies like Lauren Timpson, to setting up expeditions in Cambodia like Ben Toulson from Falmouth University.



Ross and his team at work filming the work of the trust this summer

SEAHORSE FACT: Seahorses can live for up to 12 years but as little as 1 year

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Sam raises an amazing £41 from his table top sale. Sam has been a friend of The Seahorse trust for years through his parents at OS Aquatics in Wool Dorset and he wanted to do something positive with all his old games and stuff from a very cramped bedroom. So he set up a table top sale outside of the shop. Many thanks to Sam for his hard work.
- 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
- The trust featured in a documentary about Dorset called Dorset-England's magical coast made by German TV company Mare TV, this well-made film was shown recently and had great reviews and it can be seen on http://www.ndr.de/fernsehen/sendungen/mare_tv/Dorset,sendung280548.html
- Percy the seahorse has been out and about again this summer fund raising for the trust. Sarah Butterworth who made and owns Percy, kindly attends events and makes a donation from her fee. Percy is available for functions and you can contact Sarah on emeraldant@googlemail.com
- MidKent College in Kent and Medway kindly did a fundraise for us in June by doing an 8 mile sponsored walk and cake sale and they raised a massive £475 towards our work. Thank you to Louise and the team for their amazing efforts
- The National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth has been an amazing supporter to us this year and raised the profile of British Seahorses in its seahorse exhibit. We would like to thank them for their support and wish them well with their new Seagrass Communities project.
- Beccy and Jonny, long term volunteers with the Trust has just sold some Seahorse Trust Mouse Mats and raised £20 for the work of the trust. We Would like to say a massive thank you to them both and if anyone wants to buy one for Christmas, they still have some for sale. Just let us pass your details on.
- Now that Studland Bay has become a proposed marine Conservation Zone it is imperative that we keep pressure on making this precious devastated site full protected; only by getting legal protection can we try to ensure that seahorses return to the site.
- The Seahorse Trust appeared on the letters page of October's BBC Wildlife magazine raising the issue of flash photography and seahorses after a picture appeared in the September issue that clearly showed a highly stressed seahorse that would have most likely died after the picture had been taken. We have campaigned long and hard to protect seahorses in the wild and it is now necessary to have a license if you intend to look for or photograph seahorses in the wild.



SEAHORSE FACT: The largest Spiny Seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*) native of the United Kingdom and Europe was found in Poole Harbour, Dorset and measured 30 cm's from the top of the head to the end of the tail.

In memory of Vivian Lansfield

I would like to thank Valerie Thomas and her daughter Kerry for their kind donation in memory of their husband and father, Vivian Lansfield. Valerie and Kerry kindly donated £250 towards the work of the trust.

Valerie would like to say; In memory of Vivian Lansfield, a man who loved to be close to nature. With love from Valerie and our daughter Kerry xx

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 autumn

www.theseahorsetrust.org

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