

The Seahorse Trust

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016

Welcome to the spring 2016 newsletter

Welcome to the spring 2016 edition of our newsletter and thank you to all of you for your amazing support this winter; without you we could not have achieved so much and over the winter we have achieved a great deal.

This winter was yet another manically busy period for the trust and below is just a small snapshot of what we have done and achieved. There is much more information on our [Facebook page](#) and on our [website](#) and if you have any enquiries then please get in touch on [INFORMATION](#)

PLEASE ENJOY THE NEWSLETTER AND THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR WORK, PLEASE READ ON



Two of the seahorses found this winter, one was released and the other, even though it was dead provided much needed information about the species and the location. This will go into the database and be used to advise the authorities on protecting seahorses around the UK.



This Pygmy Seahorse was photographed off Japan by trust volunteer Bonnie

The beautiful Pygmy Seahorse was photographed by Bonnie off the coast of Japan and is thought to be the northernmost record of this species (See below)

Pictures copyright and thanks to Bonnie Waycott

Seahorses around the British Isles

There have been a number of seahorses washed up or found around the coast of the UK this winter and it is thought that the warm temperatures are bringing them closer to shore, on an early migration and the strong storms are dislodging them and pushing them onto the beaches.

Some however some are being caught in Sole nets by fishermen, this is common for this time of year, a lucky few have been found by trust friend, fisherman Mike. 'Seahorse Mike' has worked with the trust for many years and photographs the seahorses and measures them before putting them gently back into the sea. The information Mike is gathering is helping us to understand more about these elusive animals.

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 1,394 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 and the natural world.



Without a doubt, seahorses are masters of camouflage and this picture by Jess in Bermuda sums it perfectly.

The picture was taken under a pontoon and shows a Slender Seahorse (*Hippocampus reidi*) totally blended into the micro fauna and flora behind it.

It takes a sharp eye to be able to find seahorses in the wild and it is only with patience and determination that Jess is so successful.

Seahorses have two ways of changing colour. Firstly they have a base colour which makes them think they are perfectly matched to their environment which often to the human eye is very bright (colours like red 'disappear' underwater the deeper you go, so to other fish they appear black).

The second colour change reflects their mood.

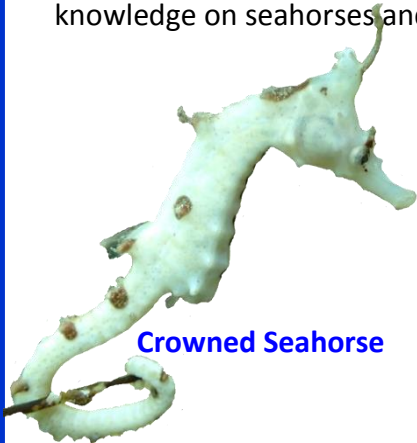
When a seahorse is doing a Courtship display or if they are in stress they can change their colour rapidly to reflect their mood. During courtship or stress they can go from white to black, orange to brown and in fact a wide variety of colours. The other method of camouflage is by growing or absorbing 'filaments' on their body giving them a hairy or smooth look. We have discovered over the years that young seahorses tend to have more filaments than older seahorses because they are in transit and need to blend in with their background as they travel across a variety of habitats, whereas older seahorses are more settled and do not travel so widely.

(See more about Jess below)

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 [INFORMATION](#) to find out more

Bonnie in Japan

Like Jess (below) we are lucky enough to have underwater photographer Bonnie based in Japan who is recording the seahorses she is seeing and sending us the information. So far she has logged three different species and one (the Pygmy Seahorse) is the most northern record we have so far for this species. This proves how The Seahorse Trust volunteers from all around the world are making a massive difference to our knowledge on seahorses and the marine environment.



Crowned Seahorse



Pygmy Seahorse

Shinos Seahorse



Seahorse hunt on Brighton Beach

Back in January we launched a hunt for a dead seahorse on Brighton beach, which had been found and photographed but sadly the body was left on the beach. So we launched a hunt for this small seahorse through the media and despite so many looking for it, it still has not been found.

We are gathering information for our project with the Natural History Museum (see below). If you happen to be on Brighton or any other beach) and find a seahorse please let us know. [INFORMATION](#)



Natural History Museum

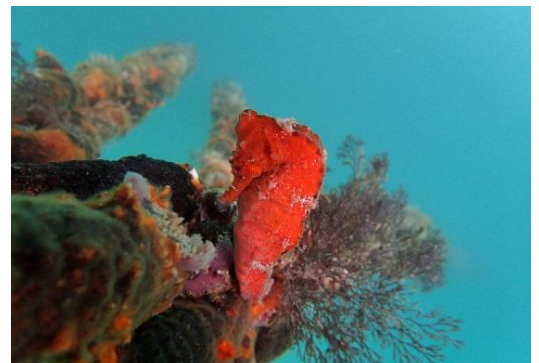
Our work is all about working in partnership with others and we are doing this with the Natural History Museum in London to try and understand more about the classification of European seahorses.

Even in death seahorses can help us and this is what is happening with any seahorses that end up washed up on the beaches. We are taking samples or getting them sent to Dr James Maclaine at the NHM so he can extract DNA and look at the links between all the European seahorse species.



Jess and Bermuda

We are very lucky to have volunteers all over the world and one, Jess is writing a book about Bermuda and has kindly been looking at seahorses for us which is helping us to get a better understanding of the behaviour of these amazing seahorses. Jess is an amazing photographer and sent us many incredible pictures, showing behaviour we do not usually see in the wild.



SEAHORSE FACT: There are about 54 species of seahorse around the world but there could be more. As fast as they are being discovered they are going extinct. The Ruby Seadragon was only discovered in 2014.

Marine Conservation Zones

The second tranche of marine Conservation Zones are now in place and The Seahorse Trust has been integral to some of them coming together and being designated and we have been named and quoted in some of the official documentation that helped this all happen.

We are now waiting for the third tranche to be nominated in 2016 with all the evidence we have supplied through our ongoing close relationship with Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation who we met with over the winter.

This close relationship is allowing us to inform for the third tranche and we have high hopes that the petition that The Seahorse Trust organised and instigated which was then supported by the Wildlife Trusts and many other marine organisations will help influence opinion on making Studland Bay a Marine Conservation Zone.

More than 153,000 people from 76 countries signed this petition, asking DEFRA and JNCC to put the site forward as a MCZ, especially in light of the work by Southampton University and Project Seagrass from Cardiff University which showed the seagrass is fragmenting and failing and the seahorses have gone from our study part of the site with none being recorded in 2014 and 2015.



Poster competition with Wildlife Watch

The [Wildlife Watch](#) the junior arm of the Wildlife Trusts teamed up with us to get their members to design a poster to show the plight of seahorses in the wild.

The entries were so good that we awarded all the runners up a British Seahorse booklet and the winner got an adoption for a year and a booklet. The winner was Samil Patel; the poster on the right.

Wildwood Trust

Thank you so much to [Wildwood Trust](#) who kindly host our office free of charge at their centre near Ottery St Mary in Devon. [Wildwood Escot](#) have a number of native British and European species such as Wild Cat, Lynx, Red Squirrel, Boar, Beaver and soon to arrive Wolves.

They are a progressive charity that supports Rewilding projects throughout the UK and are involved in bringing back former native species to our countryside, such as Red squirrel and Beavers and hopefully in the future Lynx.



Borneo from Below

[Scubazoo](#) continued their series on marine issues below the waves in Borneo and The Seahorse Trust helped the team to put together an episode called [Galloping Extinction: Last stand of the seahorse](#). Bertie the presenter is very keen on seahorses and the episode was kindly sponsored by Asia Dive Magazine. Who are putting on the ADEX exhibition on the 15th to 17th of April in Singapore which is dedicated to seahorses, click on the logo to the right to see their FB page. It is a brilliant video and was helped by our friends at [Save Our Seahorses](#) in [Ireland GMTV](#) who kindly donated some important footage to help complete the film.



SEAHORSE FACT: Seahorses migrate in colder waters to overcome the strong, fierce winter storms but where they live in sheltered, protected areas then they stay put and conserve energy.

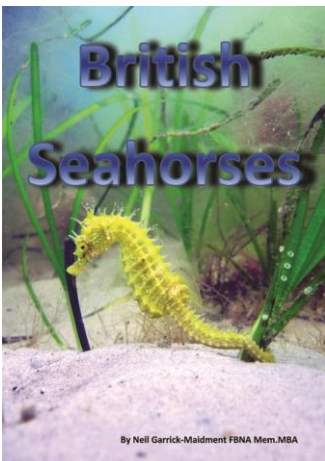
NEWS IN BRIEF

- [Project Seagrass](#) launched their [Mission SEA](#) project to inspire children to protect the sea
- [Paris Sealife Centre](#) kindly donated £193 towards the work of The Seahorse Trust
- Ade from [Kaleidoscope Koi](#) has been a fantastic supporter this year and raised funds for us from designing Lego seahorse puzzles
- Jess has been selling her silver Seahorse pendants to aid the trust
- The Green Team in Bournemouth kindly nominated us as their charity this winter
- We are very lucky in having some great supporters and below is a short list of some them;
 - [GAC logistics](#) donated £250 at Christmas, the fourth year in a row
 - The Seahorse Group kindly donated £31 from the sale of calendars
 - [Wildlife World](#) and the team there kindly made a donation again this Christmas
 - [Topsham Wines](#) nominated us as their charity at a recent wine tasting
 - [Paris Sealife Centre](#) kindly donated £193 towards our work from their guests
 - [Skegness Aquarium](#) have kindly donated money collected from their guests
- Kim from [The Acupuncture Clinic](#) in Torbay has kindly set up a page about The Seahorse Trust on his web page and has a donate button on their towards our work, great work and thanks Kim.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR UP TO DATE E-MAIL AND HELP US SAVE FUNDS AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT
BY SENDING YOU OUR LATEST NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL.**

Sadly there is not enough room to list and name everyone who helps us, so apologies if we have not mentioned you; however we do want to mention our fantastic patrons for their continued support and our amazing trustees for guiding us in the right direction and a massive thanks to our amazing team of volunteers. There is also our [Facebook](#) page, [Twitter](#) account and [News page](#) on the [trusts website](#) to get even more information.



British Seahorse booklet

As part of our ongoing educational work we have produced a booklet on British Seahorses and their way of life. It is a look into the secretive world of seahorses, especially British ones and we hope you will enjoy it.

To buy a copy, please go to our home page at <http://www.theseahorsetrust.org> 100% of the profits from this booklet go to The Seahorse Trust and as it is a donation please don't forget the gift aid it. It was designed in-house and the printing costs were kindly donated by Marty Maidment.

We would like to offer a huge thank you to her for doing this.

SEAHORSE FACT: It is possible that seahorses could go extinct in the next 20 to 30 years (Ref: Save our Seahorses) without strict conservation measures being put into place; we need to act fast.

In keeping with our ethos of working in partnership with nature we have recently set up a joint adopt a seahorse scheme with the Marine Conservation Society where a percentage of the donation comes to the work of The Seahorse Trust.

To find out more follow this link or click below

[Adopt a seahorse](#)

We also run our own [Adopt a Seahorse](#) project and you can choose from 10 seahorses that have been found in the British Seahorse Survey.

Adopt a Seahorse

[Just click here](#)



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 volunteer 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

www.theseahorsetrust.org

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