

The Seahorse Trust

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

The
Seahorse
Trust



Registered charity no.1086027

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2009

www.theseahorsetrust.org

www.britishseahorsesurvey.org

Fantastic news for the Studland Tagging project; we have been awarded a Heritage Lottery Grant for our work.

After our second attempt we are so pleased to say that we have been awarded a grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund under the Your Heritage fund.

This amazing grant will allow us to work on this unique project by employing a Project Officer for a year to oversee the tagging of the Seahorses, recording all the data, working with and training volunteers to work on the project and to meet and explain to the public in one to one and public meetings about this amazing unique site..

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



Studland Tagging Project

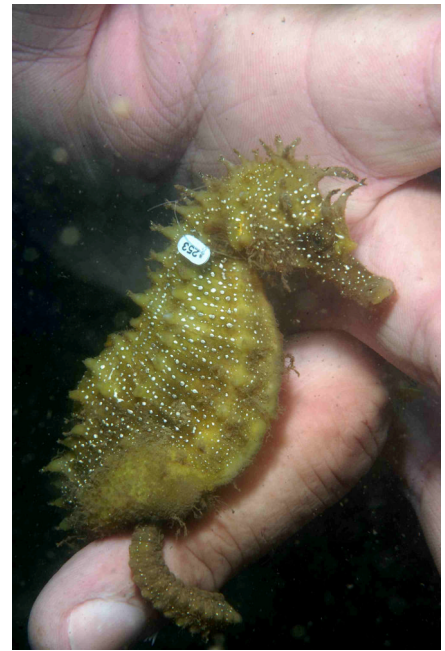


Studland is an amazing internationally important site for Seahorses that is under pressure from overuse; we need with the help of others to preserve and conserve this amazing site for future generations and we hope that eventually our proposal for environmentally friendly moorings will allow us to do this.

At the moment an extensive survey is about to be undertaken by Natural England which will take two years and look at the habitat damage that is occurring by overuse of anchors directly into the seagrass. Hopefully the environmentally friendly moorings will be put into the site and this will allow visiting boat users to moor up safely and without damaging the seagrass; this would be a good answer to a major problem and will allow everyone to still use the site and everyone involved will benefit from it, the locals, the businesses, the visitors and most importantly the Seahorses and the other marine species that are reliant on this amazing site.

Tagging Seahorses

We use a small tag on an elasticated necklace to tag the Seahorses which is being done under license from Natural England. We have been licensed to tag 3 Seahorses initially and then to recover them, after which we will submit a report to Natural England. When we tag the Seahorses we also photograph, measure and look for identifying marks on them; we also mark the spot found on our GPS.



Divers

Divers are vital to the work of the survey as they help us to record and monitor the Seahorses around the British Isles and on the Studland Project. If you are a diver we need you to look at for Seahorses for us but please if you find one; look but don't touch. We need to know everything you can about the Seahorse and if you take a picture then please send us a copy for our files but if you take pictures keep it to a minimum and don't move the Seahorse for a better picture. Check out our British Seahorse Survey website as this has lots of information on the two native Seahorses, we also have lots of downloads on the main trust website.

British Seahorse Survey

www.britishseahorsesurvey.org

The Seahorse Trust

www.theseahorsetrust.org

Fishermen

Over the years fishermen have also been vital to the work of the survey and we need their help more than ever. Being out to sea most days of the year fishermen have a unique insight into the marine world and in hauling nets and pots Seahorses are often caught up and brought to the surface. Please let us know if you get a sighting and please provide as much information as possible so that we can add it to our database and protect them for now and the future.

Volunteers

As part of the Studland Tagging Project we hope to have many volunteers coming to help us look for Seahorses. It is vital to us to be able train volunteers to help us survey and to train the volunteers to talk to the public about the problems at Studland and others areas of the country where Seahorses are found and where there are problems protecting marine species.

Website

Andy our amazing website designer has been hard at work doing more work and changes to the website as part of the HLF grant; this will make the site much more interactive and we hope informative. He has included lots of downloads and information about our work.

After many years Andy has managed to change our trust web address to .org, so we are now www.theseahorsetrust.org

We have to say a massive thank you to Andy Paton for kindly redesigning and building our fantastic website and continuing to do so and we hope you enjoy all the information on it.

Low tide Day

In May we attended The National Trusts Low Tide Day at Knowle Beach at Studland to meet the public and tell them about the work of the trust and about our work in Studland itself with the seahorses and the tagging project. It was a great day and well attended.

We were overwhelmed with the positive public response to our work and we even had a number of 'converts' who are from the boating community who had been under the illusion that we wanted to ban boats from Studland.

We have always advocated that the answer to the problem is to install environmentally friendly moorings that visiting boats and residents alike can moor up to which will stop the problem of anchors destroying the seagrass and which will stop the existing illegal moorings chains dragging on the seabed and eroding the seagrass.



Trust director Neil speaking to members of the public.

Project Officer and Underwater videographer Steve Trehwella next to a stand of his amazing pictures of Seahorses taken at Studland.



One of our volunteer divers studying a Spiny Seahorse at Studland

Trustees and President



We must offer our congratulations to trust President Nick Baker and his new bride Ceri (and their lovely little daughter Elvie) on their marriage in May. Nick and Ceri opted for a Hand Fast on the edge of Dartmoor and it was a fantastic, almost mystical affair as can be seen by the amazing pictures.

Right up to the week before and straight after Nick has been working on his new series of Weird Creatures which saw him undertake a Journey to Australia to film Seadragons amongst others.

<http://www.nickbaker.tv>



Trust Patron Kate Humble has started another series of Springwatch and we are pleased that another trust patron Chris Packham has joined her on the sofa presenting this great series showing some of the incredible species that we have here in the UK and they look at just a few of the projects that will ensure the survival of our natural heritage. Trust supporters will remember that the trust was featured on Autumnwatch last year with the Studland project

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/springwatch>



Trust director Neil and patron Chris have both been honoured for their work in Natural History by the British Naturalists Association; Neil was awarded a Fellowship for his work with Seahorses and Natural History and Chris was made an Honorary fellow and became Vice president of the Association for his long standing and outstanding work in Natural History.

<http://www.bna-naturalists.org>

Escot

The trust is to move back to Escot Park near Honiton in East Devon. We moved from Escot earlier this year as we were occupying only a small part of a bigger unit which Escot wanted to rent out. We have been temporarily housed at the director's house for a few months but we are set to move into a bigger unit at Escot in late June so please come out and see us.

<http://www.escot-devon.co.uk>

Adopt a Seahorse.

We are starting an Adopt a Seahorse scheme in July 2009 to help generate funds for our much needed work. Members of the public will be able to adopt Seahorses that have been found around the British Isles as part of our British Seahorse Survey.

For £4 per month (if you want to donate more we would certainly make good use of the funds) for a minimum of 6 months you will get a fact card / photo of your seahorse, a trust pin badge, a certificate of adoption and a fluffy Seahorse.

By adopting a Seahorse you will be helping us to help them.

<http://www.theseahorsetrust.org>

Fund raising

Like everyone this year The Seahorse Trust has been hit badly by the credit crunch and we are very grateful for our existing and new supporters who kindly donate by standing order; this allows us to plan ahead for the important work that we do.

If you want to donate to the trust we now have several ways you can do this:

- 🐡 Donate through our website using the Everyclick Donation button on the home page. www.everyclick.com/theseahorsetrust/search
- 🐡 Donate through our website using the forms that can be downloaded on the Support Us page, and then send the forms to us so we can process them.
www.theseahorsetrust.org
- 🐡 Go to the Big Give website and search for The Seahorse Trust
www.thebiggive.org.uk
- 🐡 You can pay money directly into The Seahorse Trust bank account (details on the website)
- 🐡 Or you can send us a cheque and we will pay it into the Trust account

 **BUT DON'T FORGET TO GIFT AID IT, THIS ALLOWS US TO CLAIM 25P FOR EVERY POUND YOU DONATE FROM THE GOVERNMENT IF YOU ARE A UK TAXPAYER.**

As well as our amazing luck in being granted a Heritage Lottery grant under the Your Heritage fund we also received three generous donations from other organisations; two of them prefer to remain anonymous and the third which was kindly arranged by Kate Humble for us was from Aigle outdoor clothing (www.aigle.com) They make superb outdoor clothing so check out their website.

Trust partners

The Seahorse trust could not do all its work without its partners throughout the world, so check out our website (www.theseahorsetrust.org) for a list of our partners and friends and thank you to them all for their help.

Many thanks to one and all for your support this year and for helping out on our many projects, don't forget we still need your help and if you want to Adopt a Seahorse we will be starting the Seahorse Adoption Scheme in July and any donations (especially gift aided) will help us to continue our valuable work with Seahorses and the natural world.

Thank you and have great summer.

British
Seahorse
Survey



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www.britishseahorsesurvey.org

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