

# The Seahorse Trust

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

The  
Seahorse  
Trust



Registered charity no.1086027

## NEWSLETTER

### SUMMER 2010

[www.theseahorsetrust.org](http://www.theseahorsetrust.org)

[www.britishseahorsesurvey.org](http://www.britishseahorsesurvey.org)

[www.seahorses.tv](http://www.seahorses.tv)

Facebook page: The Seahorse Trust

## Studland Tagging project kindly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Writing this newsletter we are looking out of the trusts window here at Escot at brilliant sunshine and wishing we were under the water at Studland Bay at our study site in Dorset but even though the weather is bright and cheerful we havnt had much diving this winter due to the continuous Easterlies that have hit our shores. The Easterlies cause a lot of problems at Studland due to the stirring up of the seabed.

Despite the weather the project has gone from strength to strength and we have made some amazing breakthroughs such as proving the Seahorses pair for the breeding season and that the males and females set up individual territories that overlap. Our two paired males gave birth and got pregnant 3 times during the time they were tagged and it could have been more. We are hoping to find the tagged Seahorses again this spring and summer and see where they set up territory again this year.



### Divers

Divers are vital to the work of the survey as they help us to find the seahorses, keep an eye on them and make sure they are safe in their habitat. Over the first tagging season we have had 161 volunteer divers giving us 271 hours of their time, without this amazing input we would never have achieved so much, so a massive thank you to them all.

When diving on the project divers get briefed about protocols and safety on

the site and what to look for when they are seahorse searching.

If you want to get involved diving with us looking for Seahorses then contact the trust office via our website but you must be at least PADI Open water or above to qualify and have had at least 20 dives in the UK.



**Divers working on the Studland  
Seahorse Tagging Project.**



**Seahorses are always  
handled with great care  
when we are surveying  
this one was caught in  
the River Dart and is a  
Short Shouted  
Seahorse.**



## Dead seahorses

Sadly since January we have had a number of dead seahorses washed up onto the beach in Poole Harbour and at Studland Bay which appears to be the result of illegal clammers working in the harbour. An investigation is ongoing into this and we hope it will be stopped so that the Seahorses which are a protected species due to the hard work of the volunteers of The Seahorse Trust can carry on without interference.

**A dead seahorse washed up on the beach gives us a chance to study them close up to see why they have died, their age, sex and species. This one is a Spiny Seahorse female.**



The Studland Tagging Project is kindly funded by the National Lottery through the Your Heritage Fund and many other organisations and individuals and we would like to say many thanks to them for their invaluable support

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



## Seahorse Trust and Seafaris Education department

An exciting development for 2010 is the formation of an education department as part of The Seahorse Trust. The Seahorse Trust has linked up with Charlotte Coleman of Seafaris who has started a wildlife based educational business based at Exmouth in Devon. Charlotte will be doing wildlife walks and talks, beach art and strand line safaris as well as a host of other activities such as rock pool rambles and plankton searching.

If you have a school, group or society that would like to have an exciting wildlife experience then contact Charlotte at [exeseafaris@googlemail.com](mailto:exeseafaris@googlemail.com) and/or visit her website at <http://www.seafaris.co.uk/>

Seafaris is the official education department for The Seahorse Trust and Charlotte is being helped by trust volunteer diver and educationalist Beccy who is designing with Charlotte a range of curriculum based educational packs for Seafaris and the trust.





## Breeding Seahorses

We have now become self sufficient in Zebra Snouted Seahorses and our older babies are now in the main tank with the adults and producing babies themselves. We have a couple of their babies on the go at the moment in the nursery tank and have been perfecting a rearing technique for them that works very well.

Our friends at Sealife's Displays Development based at Weymouth Sealife Centre have kindly donated a couple of British Seahorses for our breeding programme which is fantastic. Only by working together can aquariums, zoos and researchers the world over make a difference to the natural world.



**A Zebra Snouted  
Seahorse Fry (baby)  
born at The  
Seahorse Trust  
headquarters at  
Escot in East  
Devon.  
Picture by Beccy  
and Jonny.**

## Sealife Centres and other collections

The Seahorse Trust and the Sealife Centres and other collections around the world, notably the Anglesey Seazoo in North Wales have worked together for many years and this is still ongoing, sharing information and data between ourselves. We work very closely to ensure the future of Seahorses in captivity and in the field.

With the Sealife Centres we sit on their ethics committee helping to ensure the highest standards possible in husbandry; and working with Sealife and many other aquaria such as Anglesey Seazoo we are putting together a husbandry manual to ensure the highest standards of Seahorse care throughout the breeding projects.

Sealife Centres  
Anglesey Seazoo

<http://www.sealife.co.uk/>  
<http://www.angleseyseazoo.co.uk/>

## Talks and meetings

As usual the trust is in demand for talks and events to explain about our work and Seahorses in general, below is a list of just a few of the talks done by trust staff and volunteers.

If your society or group want to have a talk by a member of the trust then get in touch and if you want a fun packed educational visit don't forget to contact Charlotte at Seafaris.

### **By Trust staff**

Topsham Museum  
Meet the public day (National Trust)  
Charmouth Heritage Centre

Jurassic Diving Club  
Fossil festival  
Escot tourism evening

Colyton School  
The National Trust, Studland  
**By Volunteers**  
Canford Heath 1<sup>st</sup> School  
Just U Dive, Poole Dorset  
Swanage Sailing Club  
RSPB, Upton Poole  
Fossil festival

Exeter Forum

Meet the public day (National Trust)  
Tolpuddle Village Hall  
St Martins School, Langton Matravers  
3x schools (by Charlotte)

## Media

The trust has appeared on lots of radio programmes in the last twelve months and appeared (and written) many articles about the trusts work including many national newspapers and magazines and academic journals such as Global published by the Marine Biological Association in Plymouth.

We also had a 5 minute slot on the One Show showing the Tagging project at Studland and during June we are to film for this years Oceans programme with Paul Rose.

## Seahorse Ireland

Late in 2009 Trust Director Neil went across to Dublin in Ireland to take part in a joint film with Seahorse Ireland about the work of Seahorse Irelands founder Kealan Doyle. Kealan who has been a good friend of the trust for a long time and the film documentary shows the ups and downs of Kealan's work over the last 5 or 6 years including his recent undercover trip to China to learn more about the Traditional Medicine trades use of Seahorses.

The documentary is set to be shown initially on Irish television and subject to commissioning on International television.



**Seahorse Ireland  
founder Kealan Doyle  
with some of his  
captive bred Seahorses  
at his research facility  
in Dublin.**



## Websites

We have been very lucky over the last year to have Andy Paton working on and designing our website for us; sadly Andy is now so busy having taken on a full time job that he can no longer maintain the trust website for us so Gavin from GL Solutions has just taken it over.

## Facebook

Thanks now to our educational/diver volunteer Beccy who has set up a page on Facebook for the trust

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=107757299258869&ref=ss#!/group.php?gid=106564446031865&ref=ts>

Beccy also regularly reminds Neil (Trust director) to update the page earning her the affectionate title of Little Miss Bossy; many thanks to Beccy for all her hard work.

I would like to offer Andy our thanks for all the hard work he put into doing the website and for all his suggestions on layout and content.

Over the next few months the website will again be updated and extra pages will be put in showing our Malta project, the new educational department and many other things, so check out the site regularly.

If you are ever bored and want a change from watching the TV why not tune into one of our tanks here at the trust on [www.seahorses.tv](http://www.seahorses.tv). The site was kindly donated by Danny Bamping director of Crazeethingz toy company [www.Crazeethingz.com](http://www.Crazeethingz.com) and the web camera was kindly put in by Mark Welch of FiNETra [www.finetra.co.uk](http://www.finetra.co.uk) , many thanks to both of them.

## Escot

We have now moved back out to Escot to a purpose built centre having moved around the corner from the original centre into the old Pet Cabin. Neil spent months building the new centre and we finally opened at the end of the summer.

Within the centre we have display tanks with 4 different species of Seahorses, including the two native Seahorse species.

As well as the display tanks we also have a research room which will allow us to expand our knowledge on breeding seahorses in captivity; there are also lots of information boards on the wall, telling the story of our survey work and don't forget we sell second hand books and videos at the centre to raise funds for the work and running of the trust. If you have any spare books please drop them out to us.

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



**A Spiny seahorse found  
off Gozo in the  
Maltese Archipelago.**

## Malta Project

Neil visited Paul Camilleri from the University of Malta during his annual holiday to Malta during 2009. Paul is trying to run a similar project the British Seahorse Survey around the Maltese Archipelago and has approached Neil



to find out how we run our project. They have been in communication for several years and after Neil's visit they decided to form a formal partnership between both organisations. With this in mind the trust is putting a dedicated page onto the website so that divers and other interested people can find out more about the Maltese Seahorses (which are the same species as we have here in the UK) and they can use the online reporting form to let Paul know about Seahorse sightings.

This is a great project for the trust to be involved with as it is working with the same species we specialise in and it is again working in partnership with another organisation which is the underlying theme of the trust.

## Torbay SeaTorbay Project

The Seahorse Trust as part of its commitment to marine conservation is part of the SeaTorbay Project which is looking at the marine situation in Torbay and through a group of stakeholders from fishermen to conservationists is putting together a management plan for the future to ensure the bay is there for many generations to come.

## Patrons



We are very lucky here at the trust in having the support of some well known names as patrons and I would like to thank one and all for their superb help and support over the last twelve months. Our newest patron is Kirsty Jones who is a model (for Animal) and World Women's Kite Surfing Champion; Kirsty is passionate about the marine environment and very enthusiastic about the trust, so a warm welcome and many thanks to her and all the others for their amazing help.

**Kirsty Jones the trusts newest patron.**

Nick Baker  
Kate Humble  
Chris Packham  
Kirsty Jones

<http://www.nickbaker.tv>  
<http://katehumble.com>  
<http://www.chrispackham.co.uk>  
<http://www.kirstyjones.com>

## Adoption and membership schemes

During 2009 the trust launched its Adoption scheme where it is now possible to adopt one of nine Seahorses from the British Seahorse Survey. This has been slow to get going partially due to website problems which are now fixed and we hope that things will now speed up.

When a seahorse is adopted the adoptee receives a certificate of adoption, regular newsletters via e-mail, a fluffy toy seahorse, a trust pin badge and a trust sticker; all this for a minimum of £4 per month (more would be welcome).

The regular adoption of Seahorses adds funds to the ongoing work of the trust and in the long term this will allow us to plan our finances to create a secure future for Seahorses..

We are just about to launch our membership scheme via the website which we hope will appeal to the many people interested in supporting the trust; again this will help secure the trust funds and allow us to plan the future more securely.

As a trust member you get regular newsletters via e-mail, a membership card, a trust pin badge and a trust sticker; all this for £25 per annum.

Why not adopt a Seahorse or become a member or give an adoption or membership as a gift. ?

## Fund raising

We are a registered charitable trust with the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales, our charity number is 1086027.

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.

We have had some great support from companies as well as individuals and we would like to offer a huge thanks to them all.

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](http://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](http://www.theseahorsetrust.org)
- 🐡 Go to the Big Give website and search for The Seahorse Trust  
[www.thebiggive.org.uk](http://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, please make it payable to The Seahorse Trust.
- 🐡 **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 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](http://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 or become a member of The Seahorse Trust check out the website or pop into the centre at Escot 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



**British Seahorse Survey**  
[www.britishseahorsesurvey.org](http://www.britishseahorsesurvey.org)

**Live Seahorse tank**  
[www.seahorses.tv](http://www.seahorses.tv)

**The Seahorse Trust**  
[www.theseahorsetrust.org](http://www.theseahorsetrust.org)

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