

The Seahorse Trust

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2015

Welcome to the winter 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 over the summer we have achieved so much.

Highlights of the summer have been the launch of the [Stop the Curio Trade Campaign](#) our ongoing work on the British Seahorse Survey and the work at Studland Bay. [Skegness Aquarium](#) has had a Seahorse weekend, one of our trustees Jennie did a long swim to raise funds for us and [East Dorset Open Water Swimming Club](#) did their annual seahorse swim at Studland.

The media coverage for the trust has been amazing again this year and we have featured in Mail On-line twice (90 million followers), BBC Wildlife Magazine and many national and International newspapers, showing the work we do.

Gaye and the team in Spain have been really busy this summer and there are over 40 identified seahorses on the project now, with many coming back from last year, as well as quite a number of new ones.

A very exciting event this summer is the [Wildwood Trust](#) have taken over Escot Park where we have our office and they are looking to do work more closely with us in the future on British Seahorses and their conservation.

**PLEASE ENJOY THE NEWSLETTER AND THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN
SUPPORT OF WORK**



This Spiny Seahorse female was released back into the sea off Fowey in Cornwall.

Pictures copyright and thanks to Ian McCarthy

Saved seahorse released off Cornwall

In July a very observant fisherman off Fowey in Cornwall, spotted the female Spiny Seahorses above, in his Sand Eel net and noticing she was very dazed took her to [Fowey Aquarium](#) to be fed and looked after for the night.

Phil Coxton who owns the Fowey Aquarium contacted us at the trust and we advised him how to look after her and what to do to release her back to the wild.

The following day a major release plan was put into place which involved Phil, the fisherman and local photographer Ian McCarthy. Phil took the newly refreshed seahorse out by kayak to the exact local the fisherman found her in and gently lowered her over the side and released her beneath the waves (to avoid her being eaten by seagulls !!).

This was a fantastic team effort and thank you to everyone involved in saving this young juvenile female 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 1,215 members, you can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/theseahorsetrust/> or just search [The Seahorse Trust](#)

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.

Trustee Jennie and her incredible 10km open water swim

Seahorse Trust trustee Jennie raised £137 (including gift aid) for the trust by taking part in an open water swim down the River Dart from Totnes on the 6th of September.

This was no easy feat but Jennie who is no stranger to these amazing types of swim took it in her stride and achieved it, despite the water being very cold as it came off Dartmoor.



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

STOP THE CURIO TRADE CAMPAIGN LAUNCH



We launched our [Stop the Curio Trade Campaign](#) in the early summer because this is the time of the year when most people visit seaside towns and buy 'mementoes' of their trip. The curio trade, every year causes death and destruction to millions of species and because of this, a breakdown of the habitats they live in.

This trade is on an industrial scale around the world, forcing so many species and habitats nearer to extinction, with many never being able to come back from that brink.


It is a devastating, cruel trade that has far reaching consequences worldwide and is often seen as an 'innocent' memento of a seaside trip, a trinket to have in the bathroom or office, a unique curio but in reality it is a cruel, indiscriminate, devastating trade.

The [Stop the Curio Trade Campaign](#) is designed to allow the public to take part and report sightings of curios to us so we can gather data and report offenders to the Wildlife Crime Units. Since we launched the campaign we have had sightings from throughout the UK and from as far afield as Bulgaria and Majorca.

This is early days but we still need [funding](#) to make sure this project is successful and luckily it has caught the public's imagination through the wide ranging publicity we have received from BBC Wildlife, Daily Mail and the online news site Love Nature.

Find out more about this horrendous trade on our website at [Stop the Curio Trade Campaign](#) and if you see curios for sale please report them to us at [Illegal Trade](#) and if possible try and get the name of the shop and some photos for us **BUT** please do this peacefully, we do not want anyone to get into a confrontation with shop owners.

Here are a couple of pictures that have already been

Taken; one includes a dolphin's vertebra. 

The picture on the right is by Nicola Greaves

The picture below is by Lucy McLeod



This amazing 34cm Spiny Seahorse was found in Poole Harbour this year by trust friend Michael Bailey, a local fisherman who has kindly helped us and reported sightings in the past. At 34 cm this seahorse is the largest ever recorded in the wild in the world and Michael has the honour of recording the 3 largest seahorses ever found in the British Isles. All his sightings and others are recorded in the National Seahorse Database run by the Seahorse Trust.

SEAHORSE FACT: A 34 cm Spiny Seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*) was found in Poole Harbour in Dorset in 2015. The largest ever recorded seahorse in the world; he was probably about 12 to 15 years old.

Skegness Aquarium has a 'Seahorsey' weekend

The August Bank Holiday weekend saw staff at [Skegness Aquarium](#) celebrate everything "seahorsey" in an attempt to raise as much money as possible for [The Seahorse Trust](#).

The weekend went swimmingly and the aquarium's Stockade area, which is normally home to the pirate crew, was taken over by seahorse-themed arts, crafts and stories. Visitors learnt more about the aquarium's resident seahorses at the Wet Lab, and the educational room was home to a "pledge net", catching pledges to help conserve the marine environment. Curator of the

[Skegness Aquarium](#), Stacy Adams and her team raised a fantastic £300 for the trust and she said, "The Seahorse Trust is a well deserving charity' who work tirelessly to conserve seahorses and we are proud supporters of their work.

Thank you from everyone here at The Seahorse Trust



KENNA ECO DIVING, JOINT SEAHORSE PROJECT

Our joint Seahorse Project with Gaye and the team at Kenna Eco Diving has gone into its second year and we have had a large number of seahorses returning for the second year.

This fascinating project relies on paying volunteers to the site and they help Gaye and her staff to monitor the 40 plus seahorses on the site and the information is sent to The Seahorse Trust to be analysed.

If you want to get involved visit [Kenna Eco Diving](#)

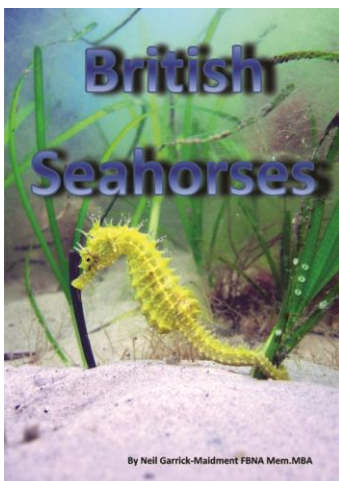
SEAHORSE FACT: seahorses come in so many colours from white to black but because colour disappears underwater they cannot be seen by predators

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 out of 6 issues of BBC Wildlife magazine and are in the September issue about our [Stop the Curio Trade Campaign](#)
- As well as hard copy media we also feature in internet media all around the world with articles on Mail On-line and Love Nature to name just two
- 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
- We are in negotiations with another large online retailer to get them to stop the sale of seahorses and curios on their website, more information when we have it.
- The [National Marine Aquarium](#) in Plymouth has been an amazing supporter to us again this year, raising over £300 in donations from its guests
- [ACE](#) the conservation volunteer group gave us a donation of £100 towards Stop the Curio Campaign
- [SOS Dublin](#) donation of £500 towards our Stop the Curio Trade Campaign
- We received a kind donation of £204 from [Wildlife World](#) towards our work; please visit their website for amazing wildlife educational and nest box products
- Scarlet James (Picture right with SH) one of our young Seahorse supporters
- Seahorses concert by Marc and the [Wyrd Wonder Seahorse Concert](#)
- Dorset Open water Swimming Club kindly raised £300 from their annual seahorse swim <http://www.edowsc.org/ed/>
- Ade from [Kaleidoscope Koi](#) has been a fantastic supporter this year
- Jess has been selling her silver Seahorse pendants to aid the trust



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 amazing trustees for guiding us in the right direction and Tm and Barb at OS. 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. 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: British seahorses can cope with temperatures as low of 3 degrees and tropical seahorses can survive up to 28 degrees, making them a very versatile fish.

The most powerful £1 in the world !!

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 each per year. 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 and conservation and let it make a big difference.

<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 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 autumn and winter

www.theseahorsetrust.org

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