



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2018

Registered charity no.1086027.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

Welcome to the autumn 2018 newsletter

.....and thank you to all of you for your amazing support in 2018; without you we could not have achieved so much and it has been so busy as usual.

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](#)

GDPR

If you have received this newsletter and do not want to be on our e-mail list anymore, then please let us know at theseahorsetrust@gmail.com and we will remove your details ASAP. Please note, we do not sell, share or give your details to anyone else and they are held here at [The Seahorse Trust](#) solely so we can keep you updated with the latest news and events here at the trust.

Stop the curio trade

Since the [People's Postcode Local Trust](#) kindly gave us a grant towards our campaign to [stop the curio trade](#) earlier this year, the team have been incredibly busy searching for and reporting violations to the police. We have also put together a film explaining about this horrendous, destructive trade (please click on the bottle picture below to see it, or go to our website) and designed educational leaflets, a database and an online reporting form.

This highly destructive trade is forcing seahorses closer to extinction each year and our colleagues at [Save Our Seahorses](#) in Ireland estimate that we only have 25 to 30 years left before seahorses become extinct, unless we take action now.

They estimate that **150 million** seahorses are killed per annum for the curio and traditional medicine trades.



**STOP THE
CURIO
TRADE**



Featured Seahorse

Bargibant's Pygmy Seahorse

(*Hippocampus
bargibanti*)

One of seven species of 'Pygmy' seahorses, most of which have been discovered in recent times through the work of Dr Richard Smith.



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Marta Carrasco

Stop the Curio Trade campaign grant

We are very grateful to the players of the People's Postcode lottery who have funded our [Stop the Curio Campaign](#) through the People's Postcode Trust. This grant has allowed us to work on the campaign, put together a database of curios being sold, design and print educational material and put together a short film about the curio trade and the problems it is causing.

Thank you to them all for their amazing support



We have formed a partnership with Seahorse Communications based in London to get the message out there about the plight of seahorses around the world and here in the UK.

<https://www.seahorsecomms.co.uk/>

Kindly sponsored by



Fancy looking after your skin and helping conservation, then check out the Seahorse Plankton range by Beauty Kitchen at

<https://www.beautykitchen.co.uk/by-scent/seahorseplankton?mode=list>

Marine conservation Zones (Studland Bay)

In June Teresa and Neil from The Seahorse Trust had an amazing and very positive meeting with Michael Gove MP (Minister for the Environment) and Sir Hugo Swire MP (who kindly organised it with his brilliant team (Thanks Sue and Stewart) at the DEFRA HQ in London. We went to talk about the curio trade and making Studland Bay a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) and Michael Gove is highly supportive of both which is great news.

He fully understands and is supportive of making Studland an MCZ as it is the most important site for Spiny Seahorses and seagrass in the UK and as well as being a Seahorse lover he sees it as a nationally important species. We were very impressed with his understanding of seahorses and their ecological position in our seas and we came away with a number of crucial action plans and hope to get them put in place ASAP.

Studland was listed in the potential MCZ's this time which is fantastic news because in tranche 2 and 3 it was dropped at the latter stages.

The Marine Conservation Zone consultation process has come to an end now and all the data and petitions have been submitted by ourselves and others and so we are just keeping our fingers crossed and we hope to know in late 2018 or early 2019 to see if we have been successful.



Left to right: Hugo Swire MP, Teresa Sinclair, Michael Gove MP, Neil Garrick-Maidment FBNA





If you fancy a nice pint and want to help conservation then why not buy a bottle of Seahorse Ale from Salcombe Brewery.

We have teamed up with the brewery because Salcombe Estuary is home to 2 species of seahorses and their emblem is a seahorse.

Click on the link below to see how you can buy some of this delicious Seahorse ale online.

<https://www.salcombebrewery.com/seahorse/>

SPARROWS GREEN SCARVES

These beautiful scarves are designed by artist Kate Palmer and she kindly makes a donation from each seahorse one to our work.

Click on the picture below to go to her site



Volunteers

Volunteers are the life blood of any charity and ours are amazing because of their hard work from surveying to social media admin, working on the illegal trade project to fund raising. They come from all walks of life and have one thing in common they are dedicated to seahorses and their conservation for the future. **Thank you to each and every one of them.**



A pair of Short Snouted Seahorses (male in the picture above and right) was found in Babbacombe in Torbay this summer by local diver Duane Elliot and the seahorse pair managed to get pregnant and give birth at least 3 times.

This is the second time a pair of seahorses has been studied on this site with the first pair in 2007 by trust diver/volunteer John Newman.

The Seahorse Trust went down and checked them out under license from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) a few times and unusually they were a slate grey colour which is a match of the colour of the cuttlefish eggs within the weed they were hanging onto.

Seahorses will change to a colour that they think makes them camouflaged and in this case they were the same colour as the eggs.



Pictures copyright N.G-Maidment

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Facebook

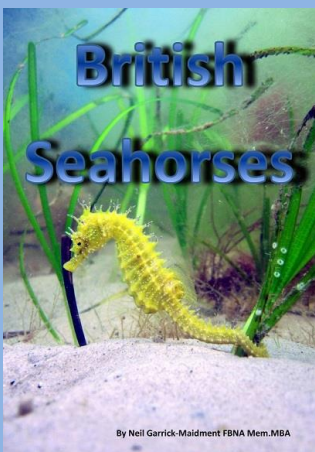
The Seahorse Trust Face book page is growing from strength to strength. We now have over 2,270 followers on the site. People from all over the world are following our work and it is a fantastic Interactive site with input from everyone. Click on the logo to the right to go directly to the site and if you haven't already, then sign up and join the fastest growing network for seahorse lovers in the world.



British Seahorses Booklet

This fully coloured book illustrates what amazing species seahorses are. From their rapid moving fin which propel them along to the long snout that probes into nooks and crannies. These 'little horses of the sea' are subjects of myth and legend from ancient times but the real animal is equally as fascinating.

The book is £4.99 including P & P (postage UK only)



e-mail for a copy
theseahorsetrust@gmail.com

Seahorse Survey Course

Have you ever wondered what makes a seahorse tick, how does it survive in the wild or how do you go about setting up a survey to find one of nature's most elusive creatures. Well this course has been designed for you.

Based on our extensive experience in surveying for seahorses and advising others around the world on how to survey for them we have designed and written this 2 day (or 8 sessions) course funded by the players of the People's Postcode Lottery through the [Postcode Local Trust](#).

This is the first course of its kind designed for anyone from scientists to keen amateurs and we will be expanding it out and around the country as we train more instructors.

Please contact Beccy our Course Director on seahorsesurveycourse@aol.co.uk for details and to book a place on the course or if you are interested in becoming an instructor



Kindly sponsored by



East Dorset Outdoor Wild Swimming Club (EDOWSC)

EDOWSC have been amazing supporters of our work for 5 years now and this year was no exception and they raised a massive £500 towards our work in trying to make Studland Bay a protected site.

Each year they do a wild swim and it is getting busier and busier each year.

Trust volunteer and Course Director for our Survey Course, Beccy kindly represented us this year and started a number of the races.

Thank you to everyone involved.



The Blue Reef Aquariums in Newquay, Hastings, Portsmouth and Tynemouth, and Bristol Aquarium are pleased to support The Seahorse Trust.

Each aquarium now hosts collection bins and leaflets for the Sea Horse Trust. In addition the daily talks and feeds at each aquarium also feature highlights of the campaigns that The Seahorse Trust undertakes, such as the curio trade and habitat protection.

Steve Matchett, Group Curator for the aquariums said 'we are delighted to be able to assist The Seahorse Trust, supporting the valuable work that the Trust does.'

THANK YOU Blue Reef



World Seahorse Survey and online database

Here at the trust we work with volunteers and seahorse lovers from all around the world. In our work in partnership with others we gather seahorse information and sightings from all over the world and we want to make this more online so we are doing an appeal to set up the World Seahorse online database and interactive map.

The online map will allow seahorse spotters to see the general location (in 10km squares to secure their location) where seahorses are and what species they are.

It will allow Seahorse Spotters to report sightings online or by e-mail and submit pictures to the archive.

If you feel you can help our work by submitting your sightings to us please do by e-mailing theseahorsetrust@gmail.com or help us fundraise for this project by going to our GoFundMe site at <https://www.gofundme.com/world-seahorse-survey-database>



Just a few of the sites and countries around the world we hold seahorse sightings for, with your help we could learn more about these fascinating fish from all over the world, which will help secure their future

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Adopt a Seahorse

By adopting one of our specially selected British Seahorses from as little as £4 per month you will directly help us to understand seahorses in the wild. Click on the logo above to find out more about how you can support our work in saving seahorses for the future.



Membership

Why not become a member of The Seahorse Trust for as little as £25 per annum. Click on the logo above to find out more about how you can support our work in saving seahorses for the future.

Seahorse sightings

We have had a lot of seahorse sightings sent into us from around the UK this year and we would like to thank everyone for their input.

The sightings have come from all over the country from divers, to beach walkers, fishermen to swimmers.

If you see a seahorse please from anywhere in the world, send us the sighting via our [online reporting form](#)

News in brief

- We work with police forces around the country to stop the curio trade. If you see curios for sale then please let us know, we will check it out and get in touch with the authorities. Please do not tackle it yourself and please never be rude to shop owners and their staff.
- If you see a seahorse in the wild anywhere in the world, then we would like to hear from you. Try and take as many notes as you can about the seahorse and if you take a picture please do not use a flash, it can kill them through the effects of stress.
- Our seahorse reporting team stretches around the world from the UK, to all over Europe, from Bermuda to South America. They report into us seahorse sightings, the curio and medicine trades and any aspects of seahorses and their conservation.
- We work closely with the Marine Conservation Society and have a joint adoption scheme with them. Please go to <https://www.mcsuk.org/> to check it out.
- The motto of The Seahorse Trust is Working in Partnership with Nature and this partnership approach is extended to groups such as the British Sub Aqua Club (BSAC) <https://www.bsac.com/home/>
- [Elm lane Aquatics](#) and [Aquatics made easy](#) (in Paignton, Devon) kindly host our collection tins and so if you are in the shops then please put any spare change into them.

A special thank you

We would like to say a special thank you to [GSL media](#) and [Wildwood Trust](#). GSL have kindly rebuilt our new website and Wildwood Trust kindly host our office at Escot Park, near Ottery St Mary in East Devon. If it wasn't for the kindness and generosity of these organisations and our amazing volunteers [The Seahorse Trust](#) could not survive or do so much and the plight of seahorses around the world would be at greater risk.

Please click on their names and logos to see their websites.

