



# NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

Registered charity no.1086027.

**WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE**

## Welcome to the spring/summer 2019 newsletter

.....and thank you to all of you for your amazing support in 2018/19; 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](#)

The work of The Seahorse Trust extends around the world from surveys to recording seahorse sightings, advising on projects, to campaigning to save seahorses and marine habitat.

During the winter we have advising against the installation of an oil rig in Poole Bay (see below) right on top of known seahorse habitat and at the moment we are looking at the potentially disastrous dredging of Exmouth docks and the dumping of the waste off Sprey Point in Teignmouth

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### Your privacy

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](mailto: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.

Please check out our Privacy Statement on our website at <https://www.theseahorsetrust.org/>

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### Adopt a Seahorse or become a member

Why not adopt a seahorse or become a member of [The Seahorse Trust](#) and join the fastest growing and biggest seahorse charity in the world to make a difference to our planet. Find out more at:-

<https://www.theseahorsetrust.org/support-us/>

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## Stop the Curio Trade

Our Stop the curio Trade campaign is getting a lot of attention and we are building a database of illegal sellers around the world and especially here in the UK. To help aid all of this we set up a [Stop the Curio Trade on Facebook page](#) . Please report any sellers of seahorses to us through this page or at [theseahorsetrust@gmail.com](mailto:theseahorsetrust@gmail.com)

We work with partners all around the world on this project but in particular [Save Our Seahorses](#) our sister organisation that is based in Dublin who has done extensive undercover work in China.

We have to stop this horrendous trade for the future of seahorses and other species.

## Welcome to our new patron Sir Hugo Swire MP

We are incredibly lucky here at the trust that we have so many good people as our patrons such as Kate Humble, Ellie Harrison and Chris Packham and many, many others and they have now been joined by [Sir Hugo Swire MP](#).

[Sir Hugo](#) has been an enthusiastic supporter of our work and secured meetings with Michael Gove (Minister for the Environment) and Facebook to discuss and plan how to preserve and conserve seahorses for the future.



### Sir Hugo Swire said:

*I am delighted to become a patron of the fantastic Seahorse Trust based in Topsham, Devon. Tragically the traditional medicine, aquarium and curio trades are threatening the future of seahorses, I secured a debate in parliament on the trade in seahorses after The Seahorse Trust and I met with the Environment Secretary Michael Gove. I will continue to lobby ministers on behalf of The Seahorse Trust to ensure we do everything we can to protect all aspects of our marine environment'.*

## Meeting with Facebook

In February we had a meeting with Facebook in London organised by [Sir Hugo Swire](#) to talk about the unregulated trade in seahorses and other wildlife on the Facebook platform. It was a successful meeting with Facebook promising to do something about it within weeks and we look forward to them putting measures in place to stop this horrendous trade.

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## Facebook

The Seahorse Trust Face book page is growing from strength to strength. We now have over 2,453 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.



## 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](mailto:seahorsesurveycourse@aol.co.uk) for details and to book a place on the course or if you are interested in becoming an instructor



**Ko-Fi** Fancy buying us a coffee?

Or more accurately do you fancy donating the cost of a cup of coffee towards our conservation, education and research work? Click on the logo below and buy us a coffee to help fund our work.

Thank you

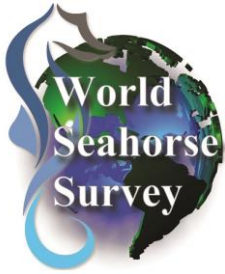


**Volunteers** are the life blood of any charity and ours are amazing because of their hard work and dedication. They do jobs from surveying to social media admin, working on the illegal trade project to fundraising. They come from all walks of life and have one thing in common they are dedicated to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

**Thank you to each and every one of them.**

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## World Seahorse Survey and online database



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](mailto: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>

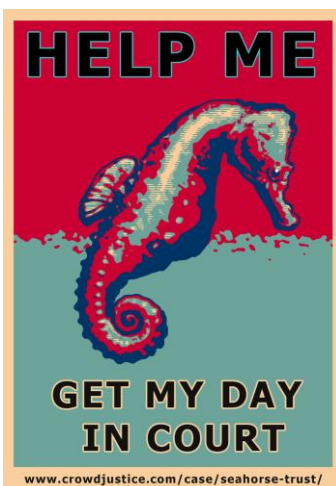
### Seahorse sightings

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](#)

This picture to the right was found by Maddy Bowers (the picture has copyright on it) and is a female Short Snouted Seahorse. Sadly the seahorse was dead but even when dead they tell a story and we added that knowledge into the [World Seahorse Database](#).



We urgently need your help to challenge the Secretary of State over the illegal issuing of an extended drilling license in Poole Bay which may have been responsible for the deaths of 4 dolphins, 1 seal and 2 seahorses. If we are successful in our challenge, it will stop this happening again. Our Solicitors, Harrison Grant of London have done a lot of the work free of charge for us (Thank you so much) but we are now entering that stage where there will be costs and so we are trying to raise £12,000 to cover this. Time is running out over the period we have to make this challenge and so this is a matter of urgency.

Please can you share this appeal on all the social media you belong to and emphasise the urgent need. Click on the picture to the right to go to our appeal

or go to [https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/seahorse-trust/?fbclid=IwAR3KyOj5wU\\_ohKHIRs8o\\_AqF3boLINHon8M-](https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/seahorse-trust/?fbclid=IwAR3KyOj5wU_ohKHIRs8o_AqF3boLINHon8M-)

[trust/?fbclid=IwAR3KyOj5wU\\_ohKHIRs8o\\_AqF3boLINHon8M-](https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/seahorse-trust/?fbclid=IwAR3KyOj5wU_ohKHIRs8o_AqF3boLINHon8M-)

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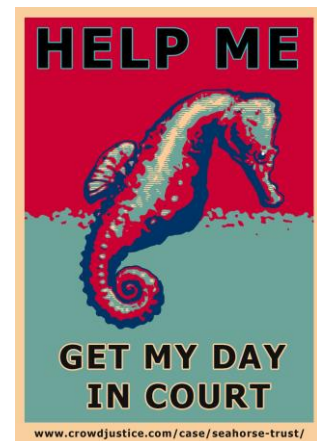
## News in brief

- We work with police forces around the country to stop the curio trade, especially the Metropolitan [Police Wildlife Crime Unit](#).  
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, this reduces our effectiveness
- Working in close partnership with the [Metropolitan \(and other\) Police force](#) there have been some successful prosecutions of sellers, selling seahorses in this country and we have assisted in these prosecutions
- Sir Hugo Swire MP our newest patron kindly called an [adjournment debate in parliament](#) about the seahorse curio trade
- A few months later he then asked the secretary of state for [answers about this trade](#).
- [Sir Hugo](#) also organised our meeting with Facebook about the trade on its online platform and we hope to hear their proposal to stop this trade soon.
- We have been protesting with all our partners at [Save Our Shores](#), [Global Justice](#), [Sea Shepard](#) and many others about the Oil rig that was placed in Poole Bay. We have now started a challenge the secretary of state over how the extension was allowed to happen
- [The Seahorse Trust](#) motto is 'Working in partnership with nature' and we do this mainly through the smaller wildlife charities to give us all a stronger voice.
- Our seahorse reporting team stretches around the world from the UK, to all over Europe, from Bermuda to South America. They report into us from over 33 countries 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 their customers kindly support us and so if you are in the shops then please put any spare change into them
- We have a number of collection tins in the [Blue Reef Aquariums](#) who support our work, so if you are in [Newquay](#), [Bristol](#), [Portsmouth](#) or [Tynemouth](#) Blue Reef aquariums this year, then drop a penny or two in our collection spinner

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- We are pleased to say we appeared on [Blue Planet UK \(Episode 5\)](#) talking about our work here in the UK and around the world and it had a great response
- We are very proud to have such a high calibre of patrons for our charity and one, Chris Packham and his colleagues have set up [Wild Justice](#), a not for profit organisation that; *'Wild Justice exists to take legal cases on behalf of wildlife against public bodies where they are failing to protect species and/or habitats.'* [Wild Justice](#) have kindly backed our [Challenge to the secretary of State](#) over the oil rig in Poole Bay by tweeting out our appeals and a massive thank you to them all for doing this and we wish Chris Mark and Ruth all the best with the project. Check out their website on the link above to see what they stand for
- As part of a confederation of small wildlife and environmental charities we work with many such as [Save Our Shores](#) and [Global Justice](#)
- Crucially it is individuals that are making a stand in conservation and the environment and we were so pleased when Steve Harper a senior lecturer at Bournemouth University kindly designed the post card for our day in court. Thanks Steve.
- We do the occasional talk, time allowing and we recently did a talk to [Totnes BSAC](#) which was a packed room with lots of non BSAC people also coming along
- We have now designed a one day [Seahorse Ecology Course](#) for those people that want to know more about seahorses and why they are such a stunning creature, the subject of myths and legends. Beccy our Course Director will be teaching this course and like the [Seahorse Survey Course](#) we will also be training up instructors to teach it. So if you are interested in attending the course and maybe becoming an instructor then please contact Beccy on [seahorsesurveycourse@aol.co.uk](mailto:seahorsesurveycourse@aol.co.uk) to check on dates and availability



## 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.

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