

The Seahorse Trust

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

Spring - Summer 2021

NEWSLETTER



Where do we begin? From the most seahorses ever recorded washed up on our beaches over the winter due to the cold and storms, to the launching of our new online ecology course, partnerships with so many organisations, to projects happening all over the world.

Please enjoy this newsletter, and if you want to send us your feedback, send us seahorse sightings or support the trust, through our adoption and membership scheme, or just make a donation to our work, then please email us on theseahorsetrust@gmail.com

Like so many charities we have been hit by COVID-19 so any support you can give us would be incredible.

Seahorse Ecology Course

If you ever wanted to know what makes a seahorse tick, where does it go in the winter, or does it mate for life, then this is the course for you.

We have launched our online ecology course, thanks to a kind grant by [Sea Changers](#) marine conservation charity.

Beccy our Director of Education and Trust Founder Neil have put together this 12-part, online course, that can be done at your own leisure. It is aimed at all groups and abilities and we hope everyone enjoys it, and crucially takes away something about Neptune's 'Little horses of the sea'.

The course costs £65 to take part and there are concessions for certain groups, so please email us to find out if you qualify.

Sea Changers have also given us a grant to allow for those that need help, to get a free place on the course. Just email Beccy on seahorsesurveycourse@aol.co.uk to see if you are eligible.

Click on the logo to the right to go to their website



Seahorse fact

Seahorses are a wide range of sizes, from the centimetre long Pygmy Seahorse, to the giant Pacific Seahorse at 30 cm



Sea Beneath

Working in partnership is crucial to the ethos of The Seahorse Trust and one partnership we are proud to have is with Sea Beneath. It was set up by Jemma who has an amazing passion for the ocean and all the creatures that live in it.

Working with Jemma, we advised on her seahorse section on the website and you can visit it by clicking on the logo. It is full of useful and fun facts about seahorses or just click this link <https://seabeneaththesea.com/blog/seahorse-zone/>



The Great Out-tours

The Seahorse Trust is all about 'Working in partnership with nature', none more so than with educators like Sea Beneath above and our new partners The Great Out-tours.

We have come together to design a Seahorses Bundle, a collection of online and on the beach, activities aimed at children, after school clubs, care homes and people with special needs.

The bundle cost £3.50 with 50p going to the work of the trust and can be done at your own pace. Along the way there are videos, online tutorials and many other activities. Click on their logo and go and see what fun you can have with this specially designed educational pack or click this link <https://thegreatout-tours.com/the-seahorse-trust/>

Seahorse Survey Course

Our industry standard Seahorse Survey Course has been well attended since we wrote and published it a couple of years ago but sadly like so much, it has been hit by the COVID pandemic. We have not let that beat us though and Beccy our Director of Education is teaching it as a webinar. She recently taught many of the Selsey Bill Seahorse Survey volunteers online so they can start surveying in the Selsey region for seahorses (more on that below). If you want to attend the next webinar, or if you fancy getting a group together to have Beccy teach you the course then, click the picture above and email her to find out more.



As it is now an online webinar, we are charging £60 for this course (concessions available), however if you want to do the Survey and Ecology course together then we are offering a short-term discount down to £100 (please note they need to be booked together at the same time to benefit from the discount).

Selsey Bill Seahorse Survey

Trust volunteer and friend Ali Mayor has set up the Selsey Bill Seahorse Survey, working under our license (she is listed on the license) for surveying seahorses here in the UK, issued by MMO.

Ali and her friends had found seahorses a few times on the site over the years and reported them to us at the trust. This led onto conversations about the seahorses there, with Ali suggesting that she get involved and setup a formal survey on the site.



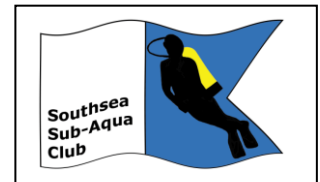
Picture by and copyright
of Ali Mayor 2021

After spending months putting together a very in-depth survey proposal, she has now got the team together and they have started working on surveys for the site.

It is hoped over time that Ali and the team will discover more about the seahorses of Selsey, building on our national knowledge of these amazing fish.

The picture on the left is a pregnant male Short Snouted Seahorse, photographed by Ali (copyright protected).

Ali and the team are from Southsea Sub Aqua club. It is a club run project and they cover the whole of the Selsey Bill



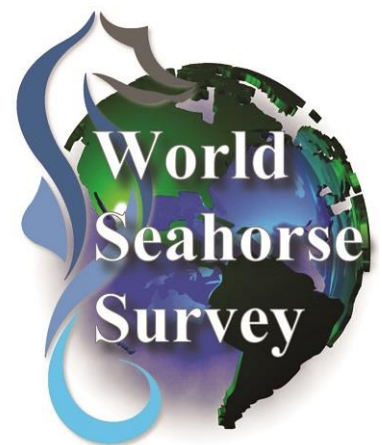
and Hounds MCZ. They are always looking for new members.

World Seahorse Survey Portal

The World Seahorse Survey Portal, kindly funded by the Sealife group of aquariums and rescue centres is now up and running, so you can report your seahorse findings and sightings to us online at

<https://www.theseahorsetrust.org/conservation/world-seahorse-survey-2/>

The WSS grew out of the National Seahorse Survey and is the longest running, continuous survey for seahorses of its kind in the world. We cover 49 countries and have over 2,000 records for the UK and Ireland alone and. The data in it has led to seahorses being protected, sites



being protected and has increased our knowledge of the species to help their conservation, into the future. By sending in your sightings online you can help directly to the conservation of seahorses.

Kindly funded by Sealife

[\(https://www.visitsealife.com/conservation/\)](https://www.visitsealife.com/conservation/)



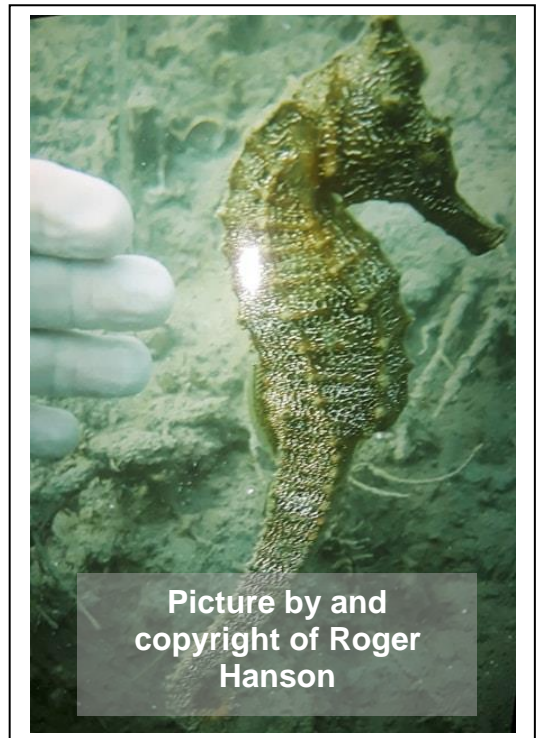
Seahorse City builder

Roger in California

Trust friend and Seahorse city builder Roger Hanson in California is still building his mega cities for seahorses and they love them. Roger has been at this for years now and is copied all around the world. He has spent years gathering data but sadly he announced he is only doing one more year before he passes the baton over. He will be missed by the seahorses and all of us.



Hear about his work in an interview with Brian Davies SCUBA on YouTube, click on the image to the left to see the interview.



Seahorse fact

Surprisingly a lot of seahorse species live in quite deep water, such as the Shinos seahorse that can be found at 70 metres, or the Spiny seahorse that has been recorded at 8 metres



Brian Davies SCUBA

Brian is a great friend to the trust not only did he interview Neil, the trust founder on his channel on Youtube, he also supports our work by selling fantastically designed T-shirts on his Tee Spring site and he has started to undertake seahorse surveys where he lives in Dubai.

To see his shop selling the T-shirts like on the image below or visit <https://brians-store-131.creator-spring.com/?>



To watch the interview between Brian and Neil, click on Brian's logo below



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Seahorses washed up over the winter



The winter of 2020 and 2021 has been very busy with seahorses being washed up all around our coasts, more than we have ever recorded in the past. Why is this? to be honest we are not 100% sure, however we think it is several things occurring at the same time. Firstly, the summer of 2020 was a fantastic one for seahorses and nature as a whole, with the lockdown caused by COVID being the main reason. As mankind could not

venture out into the sea, nature was given a much-needed rest. It was quieter than it has been for decades, fewer motor boats meant less noise, less pollution, the seagrass started to repair as



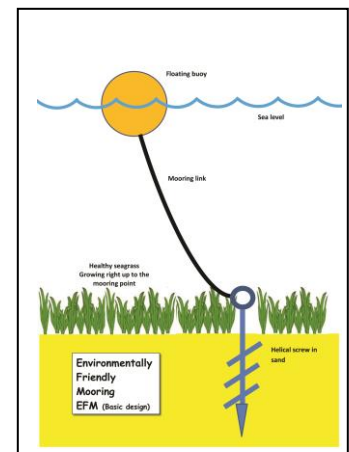
it was not being ripped up by anchors. The increase in quality of the seagrass meant there was better conditions for seahorses, we had the highest number ever at Studland Bay in Dorset, 46 in total.

Sadly, though as soon as humans unlocked the number of seahorses dwindled and they disappeared quickly. As we went back into another lockdown, they appeared to venture out again but sadly were caught by the storms and cold weather of the winter and ended up washed onto beaches, sadly another record amount in such a short time.



News in about Studland Bay

As we write this newsletter, we are waiting to hear whether the Ecomoorings we have applied to put into Studland Bay with boating group [Boatfolk](#) have been approved. We have partnered with them to solve one of the problems of boats mixing with seagrass; the solution being put in ecomoorings, which allow boats to moor but preserve the seagrass and in turn the fish species that depend on it, like seahorses.



Devon Environment Foundation

Our partners at DEF are making great changes to the natural world in Devon and have awarded grants for projects such as water vole surveys, Exmoor tree nurseries, Litter free seas, beavers and wildlife wardens to name a few.

<https://devonenvironment.org/>

Salcombe Brewery

A massive thank you to Salcombe Brewery and their amazing team for continuing to support our work. Click on their image to see some of their fine ales and how you can support The Seahorse Trust by buying their seahorse ale



Beauty Kitchen

Beauty Kitchen are continuing to support our Studland Seahorse Project through sales of their Seahorse Plankton.

Founder Jo and the team have been brilliant, click on their logo to see how they have done it.



Adopt a Seahorse or become a member

Why not adopt a seahorse or become a member of [The Seahorse Trust](https://www.theseahorsetrust.org/) 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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