

The Seahorse Trust

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE



Summer /Autumn 2023

NEWSLETTER

The Seahorse Trust has been so busy these last few years, it is difficult to know where to start. Whether it is Studland Seahorses, seahorse surveys, attending events, fundraising, checking out our project in Malta or promoting the conservation of our incredible seas.

Please find our latest newsletter and thank you all for your incredible support. You and the volunteers are the backbone of the charity, without you all we could not do so much.

New adoption and membership scheme online

When we set up our adoption and membership scheme a number of years ago it was of its day and quite modern. However, we have come to realise it is old-fashioned now and so we commissioned a software company to redesign it to be online and we have done away with the old-style paper forms. Click on the image to the right to have a look at the new format and why not buy an adoption or membership as a gift for someone?



Trust founder awarded the David Bellamy award

Trust founder Neil was awarded the David Bellamy Award for distinction as a field naturalist by the [British Naturalist Association](#), at an event at the Natural History Museum in London



The award was set up by the late David Bellamy and it was awarded to Neil for his work with seahorses for the last 47 years.

In accepting the award Neil thanked his wife Maxine for her incredible support and also the thousands of volunteers who have helped over the years with [The Seahorse Trust](#) and its survey work.

The [British Naturalist Association](#) is the longest-running association of its kind and is the National Body for Naturalists

and has some amazing people in it such as Sir David Attenborough and Chris Packham. It was founded in 1905 with the sole aim of promoting the study of all branches of Natural History.

Malta Research Project

The [Malta Research Project](#) is run by Kirsty-Jo Muddiman on behalf of The Seahorse Trust and at the beginning of May, Trust executive Director Neil went out to meet up with Kirsty-Jo and to have meetings with Vincent Attard from [Malta Nature Trust](#) about working together on the protection of seahorses and the marine environment in Malta.

If you want to know more about our [project](#) please email Kirsty-Jo on maltaseahorseproject@gmail.com

Picture copyright Adrian Tolliday



Pig on the Beach

THE PIG



The Pig on the Beach Hotel at Studland Bay has kindly sponsored one of our ecomoorings (see ecomoorings below) and to help fund others and the work we are doing in Studland Bay they have also added a voluntary donation on their menu which will go towards the work we are all doing in Studland Bay.

As part of our education programme, Sara from the [Studland Bay Marine Partnership](#) (which we are a Founder member of) and Neil from [The Seahorse Trust](#) spent the day running courses about the work in Studland and crucially about the Spiny Seahorses and other species that live there to The Pig's staff. These training sessions are crucial to pass on the message to their guests about how important the bay is.



Springwatch



It was amazing to see Megan McCubbin from Springwatch showcase our ecomoorings. Megan did an amazing job in explaining how they work and why they are better than traditional swing moorings. Thanks, Megan, for your brilliant support and for doing such a great job.

Picture courtesy of Helping the Rhinos which Megan is a Patron of.

Studland Bay Marine Partnership and ecomoorings



It is amazing how much is going on, in and underwater in Studland Bay. These last 6 to 8 months have been a whirlwind of activity for everyone involved. To help bring all this together the [Studland Bay Mariner Partnership](#) was formed and it has so many organisations and individuals that it would be impossible to name them all. However, the founder members were ourselves, [Boatfolk](#), [the National Trust](#), [Southampton University](#), the [RYA](#), [Dorset Wildlife Trust](#), [Natural England](#) and others. The [SBMP](#) is skillfully coordinated by Sara Parker from [Dorset Coastal Forum](#) and a brilliant job she, and they are doing.

A big event for us was an in-person meeting at Studland Village Hall and a large team from the [Marine Management Organisation](#) (MMO) attended (See picture). This was fantastic to see that MMO are actively engaged in this project and they are looking to see how it works as a possible blueprint for future marine conservation projects.



[Boatfolk](#), the [National Trust](#), [The Seahorse Trust](#) and the [SBMP](#) have now been granted our licence from the [MMO](#) to bring the total number of ecomoorings into the bay up to 100.

We have now installed 21 more ecomoorings into Studland Bay and we have more to put in later this year or early next. At the moment they are free to use but please make a donation for their upkeep and for any future ones we are putting in.

I have to say a massive thank you to Skipper Ian from [Skin Deep diving](#), the [Deep Skinner](#) and his amazing crew who worked so hard getting the ecomoorings in.





During the installation of the ecomoorings [The Seahorse Trust](#) undertook seahorse surveys prior to installing each ecomoorings which was a condition of our installation license from the [Marine Management Organisation](#).

This was a wise precaution as it turned out because we found a large transient female Spiny Seahorse where we had intended to install an ecomoorings. After finding her we moved on to the next spot and then came back the next day and she had moved on by this point and so we could install the ecomoorings.

The terms and conditions in all our licences have been designed by us, MMO and NE to ensure that seahorses are with us into the future.

[STUDLANDS OCEAN MEADOWS](#) is a film put together by Sue Western for and is being used by the [Studland Bay Marine Partnership](#) to show the public how amazing and fragile Studland's seagrass meadows are.

It explores the use of the bay by humans and how they interact with nature, especially seahorses and the seagrass meadow.



GoFundMe Appeal Ecomoorings

With our many partners in the project we hope to set up a not-for-profit company to oversee all the work with the Ecomoorings to increase the number and conserve this amazing bay for all. With this in mind we have set up a [GoFundMe](#) appeal to raise £100,000.

Memorial Ecomoorings

If you or a loved one love the sea, seahorses and nature, what better way of being remembered than by having an Ecomoorings installed in your memory? We have started to do this at Studland Bay. Why not join the growing number of Ecomoorings that make a difference and remember someone special?

Please contact us on theseahorsetrust@gmail.com to find out more details.



Seahorse Alliance

[The Seahorse Trust](#) is part of the Seahorse Alliance which includes [Save our Seahorses](#), [Asociación Hippocampus](#), Ireland, Italy, Croatia Holland, the Balearic Islands amongst others including our [Malta project](#).

It is a loose group of interested parties but already we are making a difference, collectively. Only by working collectively together can we hope to make a difference and crucially understand the problems

facing the natural world, especially seahorses. We are formulating a Europe wide project that will see habitat restoration and an increase in seahorse and others fish species.

Blue Reef Aquariums

The Newquay, Bristol, Hastings, Tynemouth and Portsmouth Blue Reef aquariums, kindly host our money spinners where visitors to the aquariums can support our work through donations. Over the year they have raised well over £1,000 towards

the research and conservation projects that we undertake. A massive thank you to General Manager Steve and all the Managers and teams in each of the aquariums and especially their guests who kindly make donations.



CICK ON THE LOGO TO GO TO THEIR WEBSITE

In brief.....

- Did you know we have a fantastic [Sponsors Shops](#) page on our website, with offers and products from so many organisations that help fund our work. Without them we could not do what we do, so whether you a tittle, from [Salcombe Brewery](#), [Maritime](#), [Sea Arch](#) or [Greenwich](#) gins, art from our arts shops, to clothes from [Brian Davies SCUBA](#) or jewelry from [Aquamarine](#) or [Honu](#). They all have it and know that you are helping to conserve and preserve seahorses at the same time. Check out the [Sponsors Shop](#) page as there is so much more on there, to many to list here.
- Here at the trust, we hold a collection of dead seahorses that have been washed up on the beach and these are used to help us study and research these amazing animals. Our collection is kept in Ferraro Rocher boxes and recently we put out an appeal for more boxes and we have been inundated with them. Thank you to everyone who kindly sent them to us, especially those that left the chocolates in them!



- Three friends from the Isle of Wight, all alike in ambition, are undertaking the ultimate ocean encounter in 2023 to row across the Atlantic. Their mission is two-fold, firstly to communicate the detrimental effect of waste items on the ocean, polluting the water, damaging ecosystems and threatening marine life. The second is to raise awareness of the power of seagrass and the role it plays in combating the climate crisis as well as providing habitats to marine life.

These three amazing people have kindly offered to support The Seahorse Trust in their travels and you can help to support them by clicking on the picture to go to their GoFundMe page.

Seahorses Environmental Communications

For all press and media enquiries please contact Amy and Ellen at Seahorse Environmental Communications on info@seahorseenvironmental.co.uk

Check out their website at <https://seahorseenvironmental.co.uk/clients-and-experience>



Adopt a Seahorse or become a member

Why not adopt a seahorse or become a member of [The Seahorse Trust](http://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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We could not have done this without the support of these amazing supporters
(and so many others) and importantly- you. THANK YOU

