

The Seahorse Trust

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

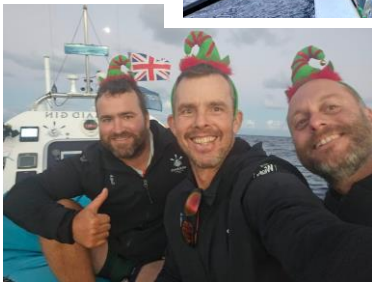


Spring 2024

NEWSLETTER

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 we could not do so much.

Mermaid Atlantic



Three friends from the Isle of Wight, alike in ambition, have undertaken the ultimate ocean encounter in 2023/2024 to row across the Atlantic.

They have just completed the race as we write this newsletter and apart from a broken dagger board and a very bad bout of seasickness, things went well. Their mission was 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 for marine life.

These three amazing people have supported The [Seahorse Trust](#), [Surfers Against Sewage](#) and [Hampshire and Isle of Wight](#)

[Wildlife Trust](#) in their travels and you can help to support them by clicking on the picture to go to their [give wheel page](#). [MERMAID ATLANTIC](#)

Studland Bay Marine Partnership and ecomoorings

Most of the ecomoorings were taken in for the winter in November by [boatfolk](#) and [Apex Diving](#). 10 have been left out for use over the winter as safe anchoring in Studland Bay but the others have been brought in to be cleaned and maintained by [boatfolk](#) and they will be put back out in the spring.

At the same time in the spring, the rest of the 100 ecomoorings (87) will be installed thanks to a large grant of £186,000 from the [Marine Managements Organisations Fisheries and Seafood Scheme](#). The grant is part

of a larger funding package of £248,000 for the project, which is made up of other grants and donations from charities and other organisations, almost £54,000 of which was fund raised for by [The Seahorse Trust](#). Thank you to you all and our supporters for doing this.

[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.

All this money will be spent on buying and installing new ecomoorings and for monitoring by Southampton University under the watchful eye of Dr Ken Collins, and education by the Studland Bay Marine Partnership.



I would like to particularly thank David Brown at the [National Trust](#) and Michael Prideaux and the amazing team at [boatfolk](#) for making this all happen. It will mean that we have achieved almost 100 ecomoorings at South Beach in Studland Bay and this will take a great deal of pressure off the seagrass. There is still a lot of work to be undertaken and Dr Ken Collins from [Southampton University](#) will be overseeing the seagrass and seahorse surveys from 2024 onwards under and in partnership with [The Seahorse Trust](#) under our MMO wildlife license.

Now we have shown this conservation model works we hope to roll it out around the country and so are exploring other areas that are at risk. Keep an eye out in 2024 for new sites we are going to explore.

[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.



New QR code

Thanks to Ellen from [Seahorse Environmental Communications](#) we have a new QR code, making it easier for people to kindly donate to our ongoing work. If you like our projects and feel you want to make a donation, just point your camera at the QR, then click the web

link which will take you to our [PayPal](#) account so you can make donation. The more you donate the more we can do. THANK YOU



Chloe
Diver &
Seahorse
researcher

Young Coastal Champion

Chloe is a Young Coastal Champion for Dorset Coastal Forum's [Young Coastal Champions](#) in 2023, Chloe started volunteering with The Seahorse Trust when she was just turned 15, alongside her dad Chris. They go out most weeks looking for seahorses under our MMO license to go and seek these amazing animals (It is a legal requirement to have an MMO license to go looking for seahorses) It is so important that the next generation

of divers and budding marine biologists like Chloe take over in the protection and gathering of information about special species like seahorses but also the marine environment.

Thanks, Chloe, for all your hard work.

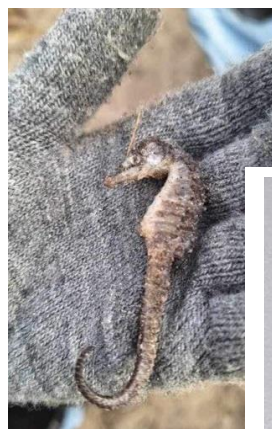
Sealife film

We had a great day filming with the Sealife centres in Weymouth and Studland Bay, late 2023 for an educational film to be shown in their centres around the country. The idea of the film is to educate their visitors about the work that Sealife does with its partners like The Seahorse Trust and so many others.

Thanks everyone for a great day.



Seahorses in Denmark



I just wanted to thank colleague Henrik in Denmark for kindly sending over seahorse records as they occur in Denmark, Norway, and other parts of Scandinavia. For many years we suspected that the North Sea had seahorses all around it and the cooperation with Denmark and so many other countries are finally proving this theory right.

They have the same 2 species that we have here in the UK and Ireland, and they are also found both sides of the

English Channel and around the Channel Islands.

Pictures have copyright

Malta Research Project

The [Malta Research Project](#) is run by Kirsty-Jo Muddiman on behalf of The Seahorse Trust and in partnership with [Malta Nature Trust](#) and we are all working together for 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



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. Since 1017 they have raised over £8,000 for 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.

The picture to the left is of some of their stunning Big Bellied Seahorses from Australia. These beautiful seahorses are often almost 28 centimeters from the top of the head (coronet) to the end of the tail and can often be found hanging of the shark nets in Sydney Harbour.



Adoption and membership scheme online

Don't forget we are doing an adoption and membership scheme to help raise funds for our seahorse research, education, and conservation work. It is simple to do and can be set up online in minutes. Once you have set it up, we then send out your information pack and send you newsletters electronically a couple of times a year.

Sadly, due to costs we can no longer send out newsletter by post.



Seahorses Environmental Communications

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

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



find us on
Facebook



QR Code

Thanks to Ellen at Seahorse Communications, we now have a QR code if you want to donate to our work.

Just point your camera at the code on the right and click the web link and it takes you to our PayPal site, where you can donate. You don't have to have a PayPal account as you can make the donation by debit or credit card.

As a very busy charity making a massive difference to the marine environment, we are reliant on the generosity of others to be able to keep all our projects going.

If you love what we do and love seahorses like we do, please donate. THANK YOU.



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

We could not have done this without the support of these amazing supporters (and so many others) and importantly- you. THANK YOU

