

The Seahorse Trust

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

Spring/Summer 2022

NEWSLETTER



Thank you to everyone who has joined, supported, adopted, become members or just helped The Seahorse Trust out this year. You are the backbone of this organisation and without you we do not exist. As you know we have been really busy in our work at Studland Bay installing Ecomoorings with our partners from [Boatfolk](#) and in 2022 we hope to put in another 12 more. However, we have also been incredibly busy on other projects and below is just a snapshot of what we do, thanks to you.

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.



3C's project - Studland Bay Marine Partnership

Following on from our amazing success in putting in 10 Ecomoorings into Studland Bay in 2021 (funded and partnered with [Boatfolk](#)), we have had a very busy autumn/winter which saw the start of the 3C's funded Ecomoorings plan which led to the formation of the Studland Bay Marine Partnership. (Click picture to see webpage)

Boatfolk and ourselves have partnered with the National Trust, Southampton University, Dorset Wildlife Trust and RYA to name just a few of the amazing organisations that have joined together in equal partnership to make this site a specially preserved conservation zone for the future.

We are producing a mooring plan for Studland Bay by bringing stakeholders together to get agreement on location and timescale. We will create a draft 10-year management strategy for the bay, that incorporates, an eco-mooring management plan, transitioning away from anchoring and conventional moorings, there will be seagrass restoration projects and future governance options for the Bay including roles and responsibilities to deliver the strategy.

This work is funded by the [Championing Coastal Coordination](#) (3Cs) project which is an Environment Agency initiative with support from Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation and the Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities.

Boatfolk

None of this would have been possible without [Boatfolk marina and boating services](#). This amazing forward-thinking company and their incredible staff have made the installation of the Ecomoorings a reality. They believed in our project and backed us in every way and we owe them a massive debt of gratitude for all their hard work. [THANK YOU](#).

Powered by
boatfolk



Mata Research Project PADI Grant

Our Malta Research Project got a major boost in 2022 with a [PADI Project AWARE grant](#) (click on image). This grant will help fund equipment, leaflets and crucially some of Kirsty-Jo Muddiman in her master's degree, which she is doing as she runs the project, which is vital to our overall knowledge of seahorses and their habitat in Malta.

We are working in partnership with the people of Malta, to learn more about the 2 seahorse species around the islands, their distribution, behaviour and whether there are other non-native species of seahorse in the area and we are licensed by the Maltese government to do our research.

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

World Seahorse Database

The work in Malta is part of our overall [World Seahorse Database](#) which was kindly funded by Sealife Trust (Click on image to go to their website). We are looking to build the largest database of its kind in the world to understand more about how seahorses are distributed and behave around the world. The information is also used to conserve seahorses and their fragile habitat. At present we have data from approximately 50 countries and this is building everyday as word spreads about our work. If you find a seahorse or know of areas where seahorses are found, then please let us know, through our website or email worldseahorsesurvey@gmail.com



Steve Backshall Deadly Predators

Education is really important to us, here at the trust and this takes many forms, from teaching classes, running online courses, to providing educational material on our website. Recently we had the chance to work with Steve Backshall on his Deadly Predators series. We contributed to the programme where Steve explains how deadly

seahorses are as predators to shrimp and other small creatures. There is a brilliant animated piece in the programme showing how a seahorse captures and eats its food with no teeth and scaled up it gives Steve a bit of a shock. You can see [Deadly Predators on BBC](#).

Seahorse eco course

Have you ever wondered why a seahorse is like it is? What makes these 'little horses of the sea' so unique and so well adapted to their watery world?

Are they a fish, a monkey or a chameleon? seahorses show so many traits from so many different species, it is hard to decide exactly what they are; the Victorians thought they were insects. In this unique online course, you will find out the answers to these questions and many more. Our new online Seahorse Biology, Ecology and Conservation course allows you to learn about this enigmatic species at your own pace and includes 12 sessions on topics such as Taxonomy and Diversity, Camouflage and Colour Change, Migration, Human Impacts and Conservation Measures to name but a few, along with an online Learners Community.

The full online course costs just £65 – giving you unlimited access to 13 learning modules. The Introductory Session is free to access, so if you wish to learn more about the course and what we do at the Trust please click the image above and to get in touch with us please email Beccy seahorsesurveycourse@aol.co.uk

This course was kindly funded by [Sea Changers](#), (click on their image to go to the website)



Seahorse Survey Course

Like the ecology course above we have designed an online course to teach about how to survey for seahorses and what to do and most importantly what NOT to do, when you find one in the sea. This vital course directly helps to conserve seahorses by stopping stress and disturbance to seahorses when divers do a survey for seahorses.

In the UK it is a legal requirement to have a license issued by the Marine Management Organisation to seek out seahorses in the wild.

This course is £65 but if you choose to do both courses together it is £120.

Thanks goes to the [Postcode Local Trust](#) who kindly funded the writing of this course.

Click on the image to go to their site



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.

This will allow us to set up the not-for-profit company, employ staff to run it and crucially to buy and install more Ecomoorings.

The not-for-profit will be overseen by a board made up of interested



parties and those with expertise to make this project happen. Please help us make this a reality by donating, please click the photo to go the site.

Memorial Ecomoorings

If you or a loved one love the sea, seahorses and nature, what better way of being remembered than by having an Ecomooring 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?

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



Mermaid Atlantic

Mermaids and seahorses, what a brilliant combination. The Mermaid Atlantic crew are going to row across the Atlantic in 2023 to raise awareness and money for three marine charities and we are lucky they have chosen us as one of them

<https://mermaidatlantic.com/donate/>

To find out their latest blog click on the picture

In brief.....

- Conservation is about working together and one of our conservation partners is [Wildflower Favours](#). In partnership with Fire Lily Studios, they have put together an amazing video on Saving pollinators but planting wildflower seeds, (Click on the image to see the video)





- How do you keep your toes warm and save seahorses? Why not buy a pair of bamboo socks from [Bare Kind](#). These amazing bamboo socks have great designs of seahorses on them and Bare Kind kindly donate 10% to the work of The Seahorse Trust (Click on the image to go to their site)
- Did you know we have a fantastic [Sponsors Shops](#) page on our website, with offers and products from many organisations that help fund our work. Without them we could not do what we do, so whether you want beauty products from Beauty Kitchen, or gin from Maritime, Sea Arch or Greenwich gins, or maybe art from many of our arts shops to clothes from Brian Davies SCUBA they all have it and know that you are helping to conserve and preserve seahorses at the same time.
- If you have any empty Ferrero Roche boxes, we could use them please. We are often sent dead seahorses that have been washed up on the beach and we store them in the boxes so that when we are asked for details or DNA from seahorses, we can then send them off to be tested.



Seahorses Environmental Communications

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

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

 <p>find us on Facebook</p>	 <p>amazonsmile You shop. Amazon gives.</p>
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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/>

Your privacy

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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

