

The Seahorse Trust End of year report

2025

**TRUSTEES REPORT AND
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR
TO 31ST MARCH 2025**

*The
Seahorse
Trust*



**WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH NATURE**

Registered charity no 1086027

The Seahorse Trust

Year to 31st March 2025

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Officers, advisors and details during 2024/25

Trustees	Tim Haywood (Chairman), Dr Barbara Gainswin (Treasurer), Lydia Morrison	
Director	Neil Garrick-Maidment FBNA	
Patrons	Kate Humble Kirsty Jones Ellie Harrison	Chris Packham Mark Carwardine Sir Hugo Swire MP
Registered Charity No	1086027	
Registered Address	36 Greatwood Terrace Topsham, Devon	EX3 0EB
Tel. no	07876513628	
E-mail	theseahorsetrust@gmail.org	
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/groups/theseahorsetrust/	
Twitter	https://twitter.com/seahorsecharity/with_replies	
Web sites	www.theseahorsetrust.org	
Independent examiner	Anthony Roberts FTCA 7 Totnes Road Paignton Devon	TQ4 5JX
Bankers	Lloyds TSB 234 High Street Exeter Devon	EX4 3NL

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 2024 -2025

The Director and Trustees have the pleasure in presenting their Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025, which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act and The Statement of Recommended Practice.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities for that year which properly presents the charity's income and expenditure for the year together with its assets and liabilities at the end of the year and adequately distinguish any material special trust or other restricted fund of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether the policies are in accordance with the appropriate SORP on Accounting by Charities and the Accounting Regulations and with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable Accounting Standards and Statements of Recommended Practice and the regulations made under s44 of the Charities Act 1993. They are responsible for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

ADMINISTRATION

The Charitable Trust and its property shall be administered and managed by the Trustees under the name of [THE SEAHORSE TRUST](#) or by such other name as the Trustees from time to time decide with the approval of the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

There shall be at least two trustees, and future trustees shall be appointed by a resolution of the trustees passed at a trustees meeting.

Trustees who acted during the year were: Tim Haywood, Dr Barbara Gainswin, Lydia Morrison

The Trust's bankers are: Lloyds TSB
234 High Street,
Exeter.
Devon
EX4 3NL

The Independent examiner is: Anthony Roberts FTCA.
7 Totnes Road,
Paignton,
Devon.
TQ4 5JX

OBJECTS

The Trustees shall hold the trust fund and its income upon trust to apply them for the following objects ('the objects'):

- To promote for the benefit of the public the preservation and conservation of rare and endangered species of marine and terrestrial flora and fauna and in particular but not exclusively, seahorses and related species.
- To advance the education of the public generally about wild flora and fauna.
- To conduct research and enquiry into endangered species of marine and terrestrial flora and fauna, and in particular, but not exclusively, seahorses and related species and to publish the results for the benefit of the general public.

LEGAL STATUS

The charity is a registered charity No. **1086027** and governed by the Declaration of Trust dated 12th August 2000 as amended by a supplemental deed dated 27th January 2001.

GENERAL AND FINANCIAL REVIEW 2024/2025

Here is a summary of key events and updates from the 2024/25 year. While we couldn't include everything due to space constraints, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making this year a success.

To make this report easier to read, we've listed project highlights as bullet points. For comprehensive details, please visit our Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/theseahorsetrust> and our website at <https://www.theseahorsetrust.org/>

Volunteers are the backbone of The Seahorse Trust. Without their dedication and generosity, our work would not be possible. We are deeply grateful to each of them for donating their time.

Due to health challenges, our director Neil was unable to dive as frequently this year. However, our exceptional team of volunteers and licensed agents stepped up, conducting numerous surveys on behalf of The Seahorse Trust. Their efforts have solidified our position as the leading seahorse researchers in the UK.

Without a doubt Facebook is our major social media platform and this year it has risen considerably in numbers joining the platform to follow our work. As of the 20th of October 2025, when this report was being written we had 11,450 followers.

British Seahorse Survey

Again, this year we have been dogged by east winds, this is a direct result of global warming, and this has reduced the amount of diving in the early part of the year.

We now have a number of sites that fall under the British Seahorse Survey, in total we have 6 sites from Selsey Bill in Hampshire down to Torbay in Devon.

Torbay was new in 2024, and initial surveys kindly funded by the BSAC Jubilee fund. It has already been successful in finding a larger seagrass meadow than we expected and both species of Seahorse, these were found on the second and third dives.

Weymouth and The Fleet in Dorset are being overseen by Chris Brown from the Sealife Trust, his daughter Chloe and a great team of volunteers under our licence. They are having great results and have formed a large team to assist. So far, they have repeatedly seen about 20 to 30 seahorses, helping us to build our knowledge of the species in the area.

Studland Bay is being overseen by Dr Ken Collins from Southampton University under our licence. Ken has over 150 volunteers and has had approximately 46 individual seahorse sightings this year, with about 3,000 hours put into the project so far, since 2008.

Ali Mayor is overseeing Selsey Bill under our licence and will be involved in the new 3 Harbours Project.

The National, now World Seahorse Database is the largest running project of its kind and was founded in 1994 by trust founder Neil. It underpins so much of our research and has allowed us to understand so much about these elusive animals.

Media coverage

Every year we are lucky enough to get incredible coverage in the media, and this year has not been any different, below are some of the highlights.

Devon Life has done a feature on our work

<https://www.greatbritishlife.co.uk/magazines/devon/25395991.inside-seahorse-trust-based-wildwood>

Chloe took part in International Day of Woman and Girls in Science and did an interview for the BBC that was listened to by millions of girls and women. Chloe is fast becoming a figurehead for girls wanting to go into marine conservation.

Neil did an interview with BSAC about the work at Studland after receiving a grant from them.

https://www.bsac.com/news-and-blog/snorkelling-through-seagrass-searching-for-seahorses/?fbclid=IwY2xjawNi_TpleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHuKAPAGIUb28pkoorf5QkuRznZGJI1VSY2pFfgk3Wt-LC2TPtHWGVLDt5wM_aem_tdsiLMPzUrE8g24i09DPAw

Kirsty Jo who oversees the Malta Project did an interview on podcast

https://open.spotify.com/episode/1uLdGQbh4RpXhAgNMS6Eft?si=2A2OLWmERIKmEBXlwAvN_Gw&sfnsn=wa&fbclid=IwY2xjawNi_m1leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHhRvH6XZx5tM-7QCK97qR7T-Kf_FBefhlwzXnYxfwIGtD7S7YXefn1QaFPN_aem_cuTAW8cU-gWMhvhYHg33xng&nd=1&dlsi=a9d5823ddcda47d8

The Seahorse Trust is now the go to charity for the media and information about seahorses, not just here in the UK but also wider afield.

Teaching

Neil has overseen Kirsty-Jho Muddiman's Master's degree through Bournemouth University.

Beccy has taught a number of Seahorse Ecology and Survey courses online.

Neil taught the Seahorse survey Course to 20 volunteers who are now listed as volunteers at Studland, helping Dr Ken Collins out.

Awards

Chloe was awarded the Young Coastal Champion by Dorset Coast Forum for her work with the trust in surveying for seahorses in Weymouth, at the time she was only 16.

Neil was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the British Naturalist Association in recognition of his work in natural history.

Fund raising

We have a number of business such as [Sea Adora](#), [Wildflower Favours](#), [Scapa Joe](#), [Sails and Canvas](#), [Bare kind](#) amongst so many others that kindly make donations to our work. These regular donations make all the difference to our work and a massive thank you to them all for this. These shops and websites can be located through our website @ <https://www.theseahorsetrust.org/sponsors-page/>

Our long term relationship with [Salcombe Brewery](#) which sells [Seahorse Ale](#) (does not contain seahorses but is a finely crafted ale), raises funds for us through the sale of their bottled ale which raised just over £2,311 this year.

The Annual Studland Bay Seahorse Swim raised £1,000 for us, which is the highest yet.

The [BSAC Jubilee Trust](#) donated £2,088 to hire a boat 3 times to start our project in Torbay. This project is already a success and a massive thank you to them for this donation.

[Harbour Hounds](#) raised £5,000 from the sale of its dog products, making The Seahorse Trust a beneficiary of its donations.

We now have a QR code so that donors can donate to our work online and already we are finding people using this way of donating which is great news. A massive thank you to Ellen from Seahorse Communications for putting it together for us.



An unusual fund raiser for us was to collect Ferrero Roche boxes to keep dried seahorse specimens in, which we use for our ongoing research. We ended up with over 150 boxes and luckily some of them came with chocolates in.

The family and friends of Judith Cochrane raised £196 in her memory instead of buying flowers for the service. Thank you to them all for thinking of us, apparently The Seahorse Trust was one of her favourite charities.

Blue Reef aquariums at [Newquay](#), [Bristol](#), [Portsmouth](#) and [Hastings](#) raised just over £1,000 from their visitors for our work. Thank you for all their hard work.

Events

The Boat show in Southampton has become an annual event with our partners <https://www.boatfolk.co.uk/our-sustainable-future> Boatfolk marina and boating services company. They have been incredible in their support to us, and it is great to work with them on a variety of projects.

We attended Open day at Studland Beach where trust director Neil did a survey dive and when he came out of the water, he shared images and knowledge with members of the public.

Blue Wilson has walked the coast and popped into see Neil and Maxine at The Seahorse Trust. They accompanied Blue for part of her walk to help support her.

https://www.exmouthjournal.co.uk/news/24604325.blue-wilson-resumes-uk-coastline-walk-exmouth-october-19/?fbclid=IwY2xjawNjAZtleHRuA2FlbQlXMAABHuKAPAGIUb28pkoorf5QkuRznZGJI1VSY2pFfgk3Wt-LC2TPtHWGVLDt5wM_aem_tdsiLMPzUrE8g24i09DPAw



[Boatfolk](#) attended the Southampton Boat Show in September and won a number of environmental awards again. [Environmental Pledge and awards](#)

Boat Folk have been incredible supporters of The Seahorse Trust and our work at Studland Bay in Dorset through the [Studland Bay Marine Partnership](#) that we cofounded together. This partnership has now installed [87 ecomoorings](#) into Studland Bay and the seagrass is recovering and seahorse numbers increasing.

Projects

Hydrophones were placed by student Annabelle from Southampton University into Studland Bay and initial results have shown it to be the noisiest place on earth underwater

With our partners in Denmark, we have proven seahorses are in the North Sea including in countries such as Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Holland and France. This was groundbreaking research and most 'experts' assume them to be tropical, whereas all of our work at The Seahorse Trust has proven this is not the case. We even have a record off Nova Scotia.

As well as our ongoing projects we started a new one last year in Torbay and have already discovered it is a larger seagrass meadow than originally thought and has both species of seahorses, congers eels, various crabs and so many others species in it. We aim to use it as a compare and contrast site to Studland for so many reasons and hope to study it for the next 5 years at least.

The Seahorse Trust formed a partnership with Susan Smillie in Greece and set up a Seahorse survey there. Susan is now the coordinator for Greece but in her specific area in the Ambracian Gulf she has an unusual number of seahorses, made especially unique because of all the other rare and endangered species in the area, such as Monk Seals and Pen Shells.

Volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone of the trust and every year we have hundreds of them working in various capacities, but a special mention should be made to Kim, Paul, Chris, Chloe and Ali in diving here in the UK and Teresa and Kim for their work on the curio trade.

Malta project

The Malta Project is going from strength to strength and volunteers Kirsty-Jo and Susie have done an incredible job in getting divers out there looking for seahorses but more crucially in getting them to report the record back to us. The Malta Seahorse Project is going to develop and become much larger over the next few years.

Curio Project

Kim and Teresa have worked hard on the Curio trade project this year and managed to get many items taken off the internet. Sadly, Facebook has failed to communicate with us for over 3 years, even though we are a Trusted Partner. Where we are failing on Facebook we are succeeding strongly on eBay and luckily now have a personalized contact who removes items for us.

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](#),

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.

Wildwood Trust

Thank you so much to [Wildwood Trust](#) who kindly hosts our office free of charge at their centre near Ottery St Mary in Devon. [Wildwood Escot](#) has a number of native British and European species such as Wild Cat, Lynx, Red Squirrel, Boar, Fox, Beaver and now Wolves.

They are a progressive charity that supports Rewilding projects throughout the UK and are involved in bringing back former native species to our countryside, such as Red squirrel and Beavers and hopefully in the future Lynx.

Facebook

Spreading the word about Seahorses, the natural world and the work of the trust is very important and we have a website with a newsletter page The newsletter is sent out to over

2,000 people by email each time we publish one. We no longer send newsletters out by post due to costs. We also have a highly interactive Facebook page which now has over 4500 members.

Thanks go to all who kindly administer this site for us as well as holding down full time very busy job

Adoption and membership schemes (UK only)

Our adoption and membership scheme has increased considerably this year in numbers mainly because we are becoming internationally recognised now for our work with seahorses and because we have changed the format of how to adopt or become a member.

The figures for Adoption and Membership are encouraging, in 2024-2025 it was £12762.32 whereas in 2023-2024 it was £11,401.37 which is up by £1,360.95

It shows that although the scheme has been and is successful in terms of funds, but we need to increase numbers of adoptions and memberships. more work needs to be done on this.

Website

We would like to say a special thank you to Gavin who often does work for us for free and without his input we would not have such a great website. Here at the Trust, we highly recommend him, and he can be found on his website at <http://www.gslsolutions.co.uk/>

Patrons

We are very lucky here at the trust in having the support of some well-known names as patrons and I would like to thank one and all for their superb help and support over the last twelve months.

Kate Humble	http://www.katehumble.com
Chris Packham	http://www.chrispackham.co.uk
Kirsty Jones	http://www.kirstyjones.com
Mark Carwardine	http://www.markcarwardine.com
Ellie Harrison	http://www.ellie-harrison.com/
Monty Halls	http://www.montyhalls.co.uk/
Sir Hugo Swire	https://www.hugoswire.org.uk/

FINANCIAL POLICY

RESERVES POLICY

It is the intention of the Charity only to maintain reserves at the level required to fund its ongoing commitments.

RISKS ASSESSMENT

The Trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the Charity may be exposed and consider measures have been taken to mitigate such risks.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the trust for the year ended 31st March 2025, which are set out on pages 14 to 15.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

As the charities trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of s43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under s43(7) (b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and. Consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. That gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with s41 of the Act; and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.
 - Have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

INCOME		2025	2024
General Fund	Donations	28553.21	23697
	Gift Aid - HMRC Recovery	1656.13	1808
	Income from Adoption Scheme	12762.32	11401
	Fees Received Ecology Course	220.00	430
	Collections	2295.94	1652
	Other Income	17.98	8
TOTAL INCOME		£ 45505.58	£ 38996
LESS : EXPENSES			
	Administrator Fees	36533.88	35072
	Repairs and Equipment	125.36	117
	Stationery and General Office Costs & Leaflets	1439.83	378
	Course Costs	260.00	
	Accountancy Charges	396.00	348
	Website Costs	105.60	194
	Telephone	0.00	171
	Electricity	105.16	
	Insurances	956.52	752
	Boat Hire	1800.00	
	Diving Expenses	216.33	
	System Tests	30.00	
	Travel and Parking	131.19	100
	Computer and Software Costs	888.29	931
	Repairs and Renewals	159.61	
	Vehicle Running Costs	806.54	824
		43954.31	
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		£ 1551.27	£ 109
Surplus Brought Forward		60458.97	60350
SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD		£ 62010.24	£ 60459
BALANCE SHEET as at 31st March 2023 REPRESENTED BY --			
	Equipment	1015.33	1015
	Lloyds Current Account - General Fund	61366.15	59711
	- Malta Project		80
	Cash in Hand	0.76	1
Less:	Creditors and Accrued Expenses	372.00	348
	0.00	£ 62010.24	£ 60459

The Balance Sheet below and annexed Income and Expenditure Account for the year have not been audited but are prepared from the records information and explanations supplied to us and are in accordance therewith

Anthony Roberts FCPA - Chartered Accountant for
The Tax Shop Limited 7 Totnes Road **PAIGNTON** Devon

10th November 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2025

- **ACCOUNTING BASIS**

These accounts have been prepared under the Historical Cost Convention, applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, accounting and reporting by charities.

- **INCOMING RESOURCES**

Income is credited in the period it is received.

- **STAFF EMOLUMENTS**

Total cost of administrator's fees inclusive was £36,533.88
No employee received emoluments above £50,000

- **INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION**

Cost £396

- **VOLUNTEERS**

No value is placed on volunteer's time.

- **TRUSTEES**

No trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in the year.