

# Seals SW



## Annual Report 2023

### Seal Research Trust's 'Seals SW' Annual Report

Research Communicate Inspire Conserve  
Protecting Pinnipeds People Planet

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Seal  
Research  
Trust



Registered charity number: 1162936

[www.cornwallsealgroup.co.uk](http://www.cornwallsealgroup.co.uk)

[www.sealresearchtrust.com](http://www.sealresearchtrust.com)

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## Executive Summary

### Funders

SRT are now self-financing thanks to our public, private and voluntary funders. Substantial grants and donations were received from Natural England, LUSH, the Humane Society International, Derek Bryan Gray, NovaTomato, Carbis Bay Hotel, Bare Kind, MoonSeals, Isabella White Studios, Aspects, Bowgie, Mungo Lils on the Hill, Smartie Lids on the Beach, Our Only World, Polzeath Marine Conservation Group and the Seal Protection Action Group.

### People

Thank you to our Patron, Science experts, Hubs and Volunteers – this is a massive team effort.

### Charity Achievements and Activities

In 2023 SRT delivered 740 activities (including 245 UK and 80 globally) involving 29,183 beneficiaries. We ended the year with 18,313 social media followers. Volunteers delivered 69 talks, 20 workshops, 11 stalls/events, 217 field engagements, 1 8 month exhibition, 8 school sessions, 20 Photo ID Project day long surveys, 322 meetings, 27 reports, 12 Seals SW Sessions 12 Seals SW Newsletters, 4 Wild Seal Supporter updates, 2 new resources, 63 media coverage events. Working with multiple partners, SRT have helped to prevent Planetary Technology getting a licence for their St Ives Bay Geoengineering experiment in 2023.

### Feedback about SRT Activities

Thank you for all your kind words about your engagement with us. It spurs us all on!

### Seal Data Outputs

252 survey volunteers completed 4,567 discrete surveys from 328 locations alongside our quarterly census and 20 PIPs. A mean of 9.2 seals were recorded up to a max of 458. 66% were adults of which 56% were males. There were 581 sightings of white coated pups at 39 locations (including 11 on the south coast) representing 1% of all seals. Ghost had her 20<sup>th</sup> pup in 21 years. There were 44 harbour seal sightings with up to a max of 4 at 8 locations. 105,235 photos were processed into 1,899 albums for 11,409 IDs. 34 seals have been identified for at least 20 years. 3,175 unique seals were ID'd – 58 20+ times. 6 dead seals were ID'd. 126 different tagged seals (2%) were ID'd. 81 unique entangled seals were ID'd (2%). 13 hooked seals recorded. 156 serious disturbance incidents involved 1,328 seals (max 163).

### Policy and Conservation Actions

35 consultations were submitted (7 for conservation, 6 on issues, 10 for developments, 7 on fisheries and 5 others). SRT drafted the Seal Protection Parliamentary Debate and joined Wildlife and Countryside LINK. We continue to pursue the goal of making seal disturbance illegal. 2023 campaigns were Disturbance, Flying Rings, Climate Change and Geoengineering.

### Highlights from 2023 and Conclusion

2 adult females re-ID'd after a 16 and 20 year absence. Sue Sayer's MBE for everyone at SRT! SRT make a huge contribution to multiple aspects of seal and marine conservation with just 1.5fte paid rangers and hundreds of incredible and amazing volunteers. Thank you all!

## Seal Research Trust (SRT) est. Cornwall 2000

### Annual Report 2023

#### Funders

In 2023 we achieved our ambition to transform SRT into a self-financing charity, funding our low overheads from **public, private and voluntary donations**, through our **Wild Seal Supporter and Adoption Scheme, volunteer fundraising efforts** and with **profits from our online shop**. Our Sanctuaries at Sea Ranger, Sarah Millward, applied for one funding grant to support our boat survey charter costs. We were delighted when this was successful, as our costs were again covered by the [LUSH Charity Pot](#). Our biggest donation of the year was a legacy from the estate of **Derek Bryan Gray**, to whom we are hugely grateful. Thank you to Derek's family.

As our datasets grow they become increasingly useful for marine conservation, so SRT were honoured to have two reports commissioned and funded by [Natural England](#). The first SRT's ['Boat-based Photo Identification Project: Marine Life and Human Activity Surveys 'Other' Species 2011 – 2022'](#) by Sarah was 44 pages long and covered cetaceans, seals and other marine megafauna. The second was a 46 page **'Network of Sensitive Seal Sites in the SW UK'** report by Sue Sayer MBE. As the latter contains multiple references to sensitive seal sites (SSSs), this has not been made publicly available.

The [Humane Society International \(HSI\)](#) approached SRT to create 6 ['Post Release Monitoring' seal stories about ex rescued, rehabilitated and released'](#) built up from our extensive Photo ID sightings. Collated by our wonderful volunteer Joyce Williams, these case studies provide an inspiring insight into the second chances made by seals that needed a helping hand. HSI also funded the creation of a new SRT/BDMLR film outlining why more rehabilitation capacity is required as a result of the impacts of climate change, called [Sea Change: Seals](#).



To ensure efficient use of critical funding, SRT created a [public call to action version of this film too](#), showing how we can all make daily decisions to reduce our climate emissions. Huge thanks to SRT's Media Team: Barry Williams, Polly Ford and George S Jones.

We were completely surprised when [NovaTomato](#) approached SRT in July offering to run a 3 month fundraising campaign for us entitled '**Protect Baby Seals**'. NovaTomato are an on-demand, waste free, fashion platform, that includes polo shirts made from recycled plastic bottles. Huge thanks to NovaTomato and everyone who supported us, raising \$3617.45!

On 23/04/23, the [Carbis Bay Hotel](#) ran a '**fundraising funday**' event for SRT. It was a hugely enjoyable experience with displays, a wild swim, children's activities, a seal talk, book reading and raffle. Led by the lovely Harriet Tatlow, Emily Barker (artist), Sarah Walsh (Cornish Kelpie) and Sue Sayer, the day raised £803, which was a massive achievement, doing justice to a great team effort by the hotel staff, SRT volunteers and supporters.

**Lucy Jefferies** from [Bare Kind](#) became our new corporate sponsor, donating money from every pair of eco seal socks sold, whilst **Charlotte Fitzgerald and Clare Sirman** from [MoonSeals](#) donated a substantial amount of their epic merchandise to sell on our 'one stop sealy shop'. Thank you all! [Isabella White](#) found us through the '**One Percent for the Planet**' network, leading her to make her first, much appreciated, donation to our charity.

Of course, SRT remain hugely grateful to those organisations who repeat funded us in 2023. It is these ongoing donations that help our charity's sustainability over the long term. These businesses, large and small, included [Aspects Holidays](#), [Bowie Inn](#), [Mungo Lils on the Hill](#) and [Smartie Lids on the Beach](#), as well as charitable organisations [Our Only World](#), [Polzeath Marine Conservation Group](#) and the [Seal Protection Action Group](#).

Thank you to **Hayley Mitchell our Seal Supporter Coordinator** who ran two Jumblebee fundraising auctions for seals in August and December 2023. They were a great team effort – thank you! As a highly agile, thrifty and economical charity, our 1.5 full time equivalent Rangers continue to be our charity's main outgoing, alongside boat charters (funded by LUSH Charity Pot) and some modest IT hardware/software application costs.

Thank you to our current funders for paying our critical 1.5fte Marine Rangers



Derek Bryan Gray



NOVATOMATO

SRT 2023 Funders



HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Funded resource



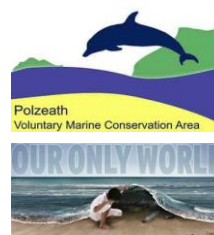
CARBIS BAY  
ESTATE



Isabella White Studio



aspects holidays



## People

### Patron, Marine Rangers and Science Advisors

2023 was a year of exciting opportunities and consolidation. **Gillian Burke** (Springwatch) continues to be our charity **Patron**. We began the year with **1.3 full time equivalent (fte) paid rangers** – Sarah Millward (Sanctuaries at Sea Ranger) and Lauren McGregor (Activities and Administration Ranger). By the end of 2023 it had become apparent that we were in need of more administrative support, so Lauren added more hours to her working week and Karen Gaudern (Administration and Retail Ranger) joined our team, bringing us up to **1.5 fte roles**. Rebecca Allen continues to be our volunteer **Science Advisor** helping us with numerous data analyses for the Natural England reports. In 2023 she was joined by **Dr Ian Hendy from Portsmouth University** and **Dr David Santillo from Greenpeace International**. These two experts have been helping advise us about our response to the Planetary Technology proposed geoengineering project (see page 18). We are thankful and glad to have these wonderful people/experts to help and support our incredible volunteer network and conservation efforts.

### Hubs

SRT now have **47 Photo ID Catalogues**, which were all utilised in 2023, covering seals from the Isle of Man to France and South Wales, as well as the Channel Isles to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The catalogues are run by incredible volunteers led by our dedicated and wonderful **Photo ID Hub Coordinator** Kate Williams. These teams communicate with each other through our free **Facebook Workplace Platform**. This allows our volunteer network to share new seal IDs, so we can make matches between the different Photo ID catalogues. We also share engagement wording, approach and tone, to help us with effective conservation actions which avoids us all duplicating effort by reinventing wheels. This internal communication platform makes us all more efficient and keeps us better informed.

### Volunteers

Our charity makes a major contribution to marine conservation nationally. This is only possible thanks to the generous, ongoing and long term contributions made by **multiple hub, administrative and specialist key volunteers, data processors and surveyors**. We are hugely grateful to every single one of our amazing volunteers who are too numerous to name individually. Between them our volunteers:

- Survey from land and sea
- Process photos into survey albums
- Make IDs, confirm IDs and manage Photo ID catalogues
- Digitise, analyse and manage data
- Write reports
- Act as eyes and ears for change, issues or developments around their patch of coast
- Engage with members of the public as ambassadors for seals
- Inspire others with their ongoing knowledge, energy and enthusiasm



- Help upskill and empower others through ongoing support, training and shared resources
- Fundraise or support our charity financially to avoid us having to apply for grants
- Manage and verify our accounts and financial processes
- Advocate for seals at a huge variety of public, private and voluntary meetings
- Arrange and deliver a range of events at varying venues
- Take conservation actions, such as writing letters, public consultation responses or supporting campaigns to make the coast safer for seals.



## Charity Achievements and Activities

In total our extensive SRT team organised, delivered and participated in **740 activities** in 2023, to give seals a voice and share key conservation messages with a much wider audience by delivering more events online than ever before. Our charity Founder and Director, Sue Sayer MBE, is passionate about urgently mitigating the impacts of climate change. She has committed to being 'flight free' and made the decision to only attend events online wherever possible. This will reduce our charity's carbon footprint and ensure that we can fit in the maximum amount of conservation action possible. This wastes less time travelling and creates fewer emissions.

### Summary

Focusing our time online improved our 2023 engagement and reach. Whilst most activities were based in **Cornwall**, we spread our influence further online with **257 UK** and **80 global** (more than double that of 2022) activities! Sue has now presented in 6 continents (Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, North and South America). Her next target is Antarctica!

In 2023, our **activity beneficiaries** total increased again to an impressive **29,183 people**. This included **1894 0 to 16 year olds**; **371 17 to 24 year olds** and **26,918 25+ year olds**. This is a massive achievement considering how small our paid team is (1.5fte). This shows just how much our volunteer team have stepped up, been empowered and taken on the role of public engagement. It has been wonderful to see key volunteers thrive, stepping out of their comfort

zone to be wonderful ambassadors and advocates for the seals they love so much. Thank you to each and every one of them! Seals support all our health and mental wellbeing.

Our **social media** engagement continued to expand in 2023, with at least one post most days across all four of our online platforms:

- **Facebook** followers 8,716, an increase of 528 on 2022
- **Instagram** followers 6,427, an increase of 610 on 2022
- **Twitter/X** followers 1,898, an increase of 215 on 2022
- **Linkedin** followers 944, an increase of 291 on 2022

By the end of 2023 we had **18,313 followers**, an increase of **1,654** achieved without any paid marketing. Increasing social media and YouTube channel engagement will continue to be a key target for 2024.

### SRT Charity Achievements and Activities in 2023 included:

#### Talks: 69 (over one a week)

We organised and delivered **69 talks** for a wide range of different audiences from adults to 4 year olds. This is exemplified by talks for the **Pinniped Entanglement Group** and **Respect the Wild**; two global NGOs organised from N and S America, the **Centre for International Environmental Law**, a **Moroccan University** on marine mammal bycatch, **Seal Society of San Diego Docents** and 60 first graders at the **Pace Academy in Atlanta Georgia**. In total SRT delivered **7 school talks** and has ambitions to increase these in 2024. Talks were delivered to a range of statutory bodies, including 3 talks to the **Defra Marine and Fisheries Team**, **Welsh Police Rural Affairs and Wildlife Crime Marine Mammal and EPS Group**, **UK MPA Officers** and the **Welsh Police Marine Partnership Against Wildlife Crime**.



**Peter Perkins giving a U3A talk in Penzance**

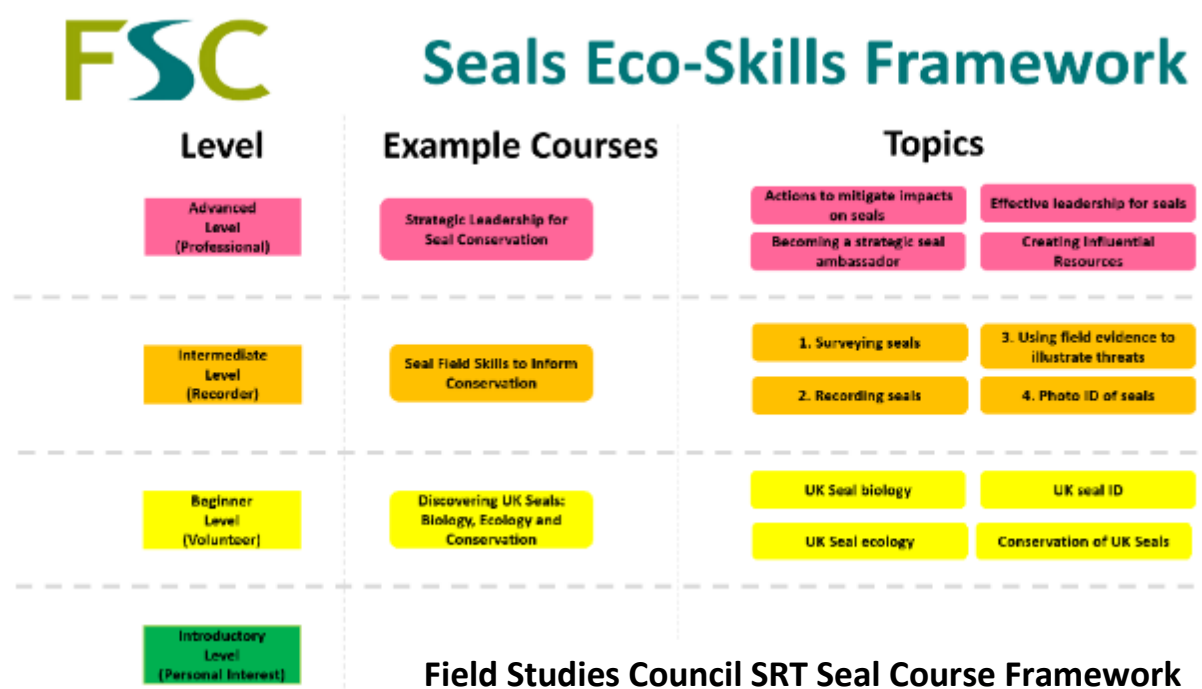
Governing bodies such as **British Canoeing** and the **Cornwall Pilot Gig Association** requested presentations, along with multiple voluntary conservation organisations or events including: the **Wildlife and Countryside LINK (WCL)**, **National Trust (NT)**, **Seal Alliance MasterClass** and **SharePoint sessions**, **Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) ShoreWatch team**, **Operation**



Seabird, Cornwall Marine Liaison Group, Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code Group (CMCCG) Cornwall Wildlife Trust's (CWT) YourShore Conference, CWT Marine Strandings Network Forum (CWTMSN), South West Marine Ecosystems (SWME) Conference and SWME Webinars on plastics and seals, Hayle Health and Wellbeing Festival, British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) multiple MasterClasses for vets and interns, the Cornish Seal Sanctuary (CSS) staff, the Cornwall Plastic Pollution Coalition (CPPC); Plastic Free Penzance Group, Hayle Towans Partnership (HTP), local conservation groups including: Wild Roseland and Lundy and community groups and businesses such as the University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age and Carbis Bay Hotel. In addition, several Universities requested input such as the University of Exeter (Entanglement and Disturbance), Plymouth University (Marine Issues) and Halesowen College (Careers). Huge thanks to our amazing volunteer speaker team who delivered SRT's talks: Jeremy Gilson, Carole Anne Lee, Kerstin Hartmann, Peter Perkins, Sue Sayer MBE and Rob Wells.

### Workshops/Training: 20

We were very excited to expand our partnership with the **Field Studies Council (FSC)** to create a second new course in 2023 for their **online Ecoskills programme**. As an FSC Associate Tutor, Sue re-ran her course '**Discovering UK Seals**' twice in 2023, in May and September. Participants spent a minimum of 2 to 3 hours a week online with a weekly zoom talk and Q&A sessions with Sue. The course lasted 4 weeks, covering **Biology, Ecology, Species ID and Conservation**. Sue also wrote her second course '**Seal Field Skills to Inform Conservation**' (4 weeks of input on **Surveying Seals, Recording Seals, Using Field Evidence to Illustrate Issues and Influence Decision Making and Photo Identification**), which ran for the first time in November 2023. In 2023 we've had **139 course participants** add to their knowledge base about seals. Sue thoroughly enjoyed delivering these three courses and cannot thank the FSC's Ellen Monaghan and Dan Asaw enough for supporting her to run these Ecoskills courses.



In 2023, Sue Sayer delivered online input for the **‘Seals’ and ‘Seabird’ modules** for the **Wildlife Safe Scheme (WiSe)** across the UK. This included delivery on the WiSe Adventure and Top Up courses, a WiSe Standard Boat Operator course and a Harbour Commissioner course for the Falmouth team.



Units from SRT's **Ecology and Conservation Course** (for the 'Not in Education and Training' cohort of students) have been delivered by **Cornwall Marine Network's Cornwall Marine Academy (CMA)** team during 2023.

Our **ongoing, free, on demand, online volunteer training** continued to be popular. We had a total of **109 people signed up on the course** by the end of 2023. As ever, we continued to deliver online PID sessions for Hub's support and skills training. We ran 4 online **PID Hub Sessions** (in March, June, September and December) with additional input for the St Austell Bay and Lizard Hub teams, as well as in-field training by our volunteer team across a range of survey sites. Huge thanks to all our volunteers who have spread the word so effectively and recruited new Hub team members. You are a wonderful asset to our seal team!

SRT partnered with the Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code Group, BDMLR, Cornwall Birds (CB) CSS, CWT to deliver a workshop for the **St Ives Bay Operators** covering key species they encounter and best practice messaging to keep these creatures safe and thriving.

We still run **Crowdfunder training** about how to run a successful campaign. In 2023 this was shared with **Cornwall Climate Care's Ellie Bearcroft**.

Funded by the **National Wildlife Crime Unit**, Sue, Colin Speedie and Abby Crosby trained as 'Expert Witnesses' for marine wildlife crime cases. Thanks to Gareth for setting this up.

2023 also saw Sue being asked by George Bevan to write a new online training course on seals for **Conservation Diver**. The course content and resources has been completed and will run for the first time in 2024, so watch this space.

## Stalls/Events: 11

Our volunteers Charlotte and Terry Carne supported by Ranger Lauren, ensured SRT had stalls at 11 events. As part of the national **Operation Seabird** events SRT turned out in force at St Ives, Godrevy, Looe and Falmouth in 2023. We were delighted to attend the **Screech Owl Sanctuary's two British Wildlife Days**, as well as appearing in the crowds at **St Piran's Day**, Redruth and at **Butterfly Conservation's** AGM. Thanks to Andrea, Andrew, Billy, Charlotte, Emily, Peter, Jasmina, Kate, Malcolm, Rob, Terry and Vanessa for facilitating these events.



**St Ives Operation Seabird Day**

It was an honour when Harriet Tatlow asked if she could run another fundraising event on behalf of the **Carbis Bay Hotel** for SRT. Of course we jumped at the chance. There were lots of different fundraising elements, from a wild swim with Sarah Walsh the Cornish Kelpie, a marine plastic art activity led by Emily Barker, a cake competition, a raffle, an SRT stall with leaflets and merchandise, a book reading for children and our 7 Wonders of the Seal World talk by Sue. It was such a great day. Thank you to Harriet for making this possible!



**Carbis Bay Hotel fundraiser**



## Porthtowan Film Festival

Another highlight of the year was the **Porthtowan Film Festival** organised by the **St Agnes Marine Conservation Group** in November 2023. SRT attended with Septimus, our seal skeleton, exhibition banners, ghost gear seals and display items to support and engage people after they had watched SRT's film about Septimus: Some Seal's life and immortality story.

**Field Engagement: 217** (plus frequent conversations held by Claire, the Looe Island Warden, that have not been included here).

Whilst out surveying, our enthusiastic volunteers frequently engage face-to-face with members of the public. These opportunities help to win hearts and minds to our shared seal conservation cause. People love hearing about the seals they are watching and celebrity seal stories. We began formally recording this in 2022 and, in total, **33 of our inspiring volunteers** had conversations with **2662 members of the public**. Thank you everyone for spreading the word at a time, and in a place, where people are interested and eager to learn.

Of particular note was the public engagement forced upon BDMLR, CWT Seaquest and SRT's Pentire Hub Team. On **11/09/23** a small white coated pup was born to a previously unidentified dark mum on a publicly accessible beach. Fearful that this pup would not be able to feed uninterrupted, so be too underweight to survive its first winter, SRT set up a schedule for monitoring mum, pup and their dominant male beachmaster. Volunteers from all organisations were asked to sign up to record progress and interactions, as well as manage people around them, by talking about the trio's need for space and peace to feed and rest. **Over 15 days, 35 different volunteers signed up for 75 shifts, covering 232 hours** to keep these seals safe. Whilst on site, **volunteers engaged with at least 837 members of the public** visiting the site, asking them to keep back from the cliff edge, watch quietly and avoid access to the beach at low tide. We were all delighted to see a very fat moulted chonk pup wean from its mother on day 15. This was a miraculous team effort with a fabulous outcome for all.



**Mum and pup Day 1, 13 & 15**

### Exhibitions: 1 Wight Biodiversity at Carisbrook Priory

In January Septimus travelled by land and sea to the Isle of Wight, accompanied by Augusta (SRT's 3 day old pup skeleton), to be the focus of an exhibition organised by Martyn Ridgley from **Wight Biodiversity**. They were complemented by multiple display banners to raise awareness about our incredible, native, heritage and globally rare grey seals. SRT's exhibits were visited by several SRT volunteers and Sue even gave an online talk for visitors present at the priory. Septimus and Augusta finally returned in September to be skeletons in Sue's lounge in Cornwall.

### Delivering an online School Session for KS 1/2



### School Sessions: 8

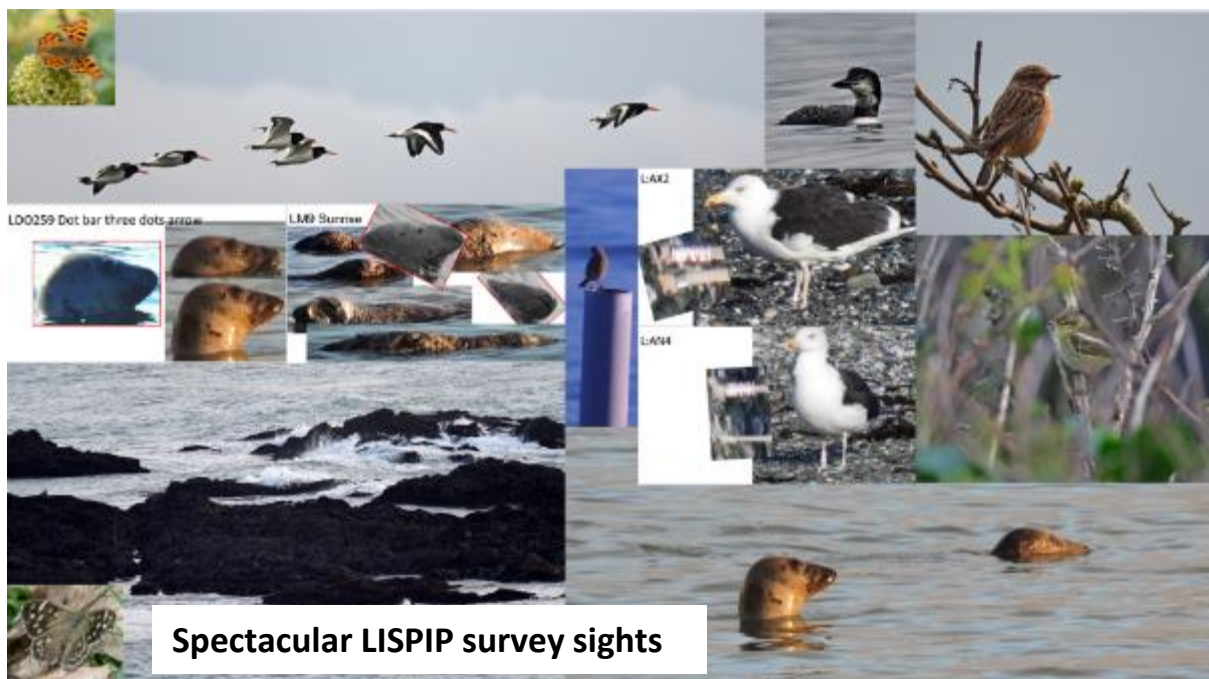
In September Lesley Fitt stepped up and offered to promote our schools' sessions. Educating the next generation in all things 'seals and marine conservation' is key. SRT's Vice Chair Kate Hockley, attended a face to face careers session for **Penpol School**. Sue covered the online sessions for home schoolers, as well as schools including **St Columb Major, the Rainbow Academy, Roskear, Mount Hawke and Crofty Mat**; but the biggest session was for 60 6 year olds at the **Pace Academy in Atlanta Georgia, USA**. Fortunately Sue had multiple seal friends with her that day in the form of grey and harbour seal puppets, Emily Barker's life sized seal pup, juvenile and adult as well as numerous artefacts to keep everyone's attention. Sue was blown away by the children's amazing confidence and questions. The feedback was wonderful (last on page 23). Do tell your local schools that SRT can do online talks and please guide them to our [website for more information](#) and how to contact us!

### Photo ID Projects (PIP) organised day long surveys: 20

We were delighted to complete **9 day-long, systematic, boat-based Photo ID transect surveys** (CASPIP, STAPIP and POLPIP) along a 115km stretch of the north Cornish coast, involving a total of **96 volunteers**. We are eternally grateful to Atlantic Diving/Newquay Safaris and Fishing for enabling us to have subsidised boat charter rates for these surveys. We



also successfully completed **10 Looe Island Photo ID Project (LISPIP)** surveys undertaken by **92 volunteers**. We were very sad to say goodbye to our long-term boatman, Dave Butters, RIP. As always highlights of our PIP surveys include spectacular seals, cetaceans, nesting, feeding, loafing seabirds, other marine megafauna, great company and lots of yummy cake!



### Meetings: 322

It is hard to believe that we could surpass the number of meetings SRT attended in 2022 but we did, partly because Sue had additional support from key volunteers Andy, Dan, Kate H, Kate W and Peter. Together we covered meetings with:

**Dignitaries** King Charles III (see page 37);



**Politicians** George Eustice twice and Sarah Olney. Sue was asked to draft a script for a Seal Protection Parliamentary Debate delivered by Sarah on 26/06/23;

**Statutory agencies** Cornwall Marine and Coastal Partnership Planning, Cornwall Marine Liaison Group, Clean Catch UK, Defra, Devon and Cornwall Police, Environment Agency (Natural Capital Ecosystems Assessment), Falmouth Town Council and Harbour Authority, Hayle Town Council, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Marine Management Organisation, Marine Partnership Against Wildlife Crime, National Wildlife Crime Unit, Natural England, Office for Environmental Protection, Operation Seabird, Operation Seabird Cymru, Sea Mammal Research Unit, South West Coast Path Association, UNESCO Lundy Licencing Scheme, Welsh Police Mammals and EPS Group and Wildlife and Countryside LINK;

**Higher Education institutes** Cornwall College Newquay, University of Bristol, University of Exeter, Oxford University, Plymouth University, Portsmouth University, University of Morocco, University of Southampton and the University of the West of England;

**Students** Eden, Ellie, Jeremy, Laura, Mathilde, Milly, Poppy and Scarlett;

**Businesses** Coral Covers, Angling Trust, Attic Design and Print, Bowgie Inn, Brian Leith Productions, British Canoeing, Carbis Bay Estate, Cornwall FLOW, Cornwall Live, Easy Fundraising, Field Studies Council, Nick Cunard, NovaTomato, Padstow Sealife Safaris, Planetary Technology, Primary PC and multiple St Ives Bay Operators;

**Artists** Cornish Jewellery, Elspeth Stevenson, Emily Barker, John Parkes from Animal Friends, Karen Gaudern, Kurt Jackson, Michelle Costello, MoonSeals, Mungo Lils and Sarah Bell;

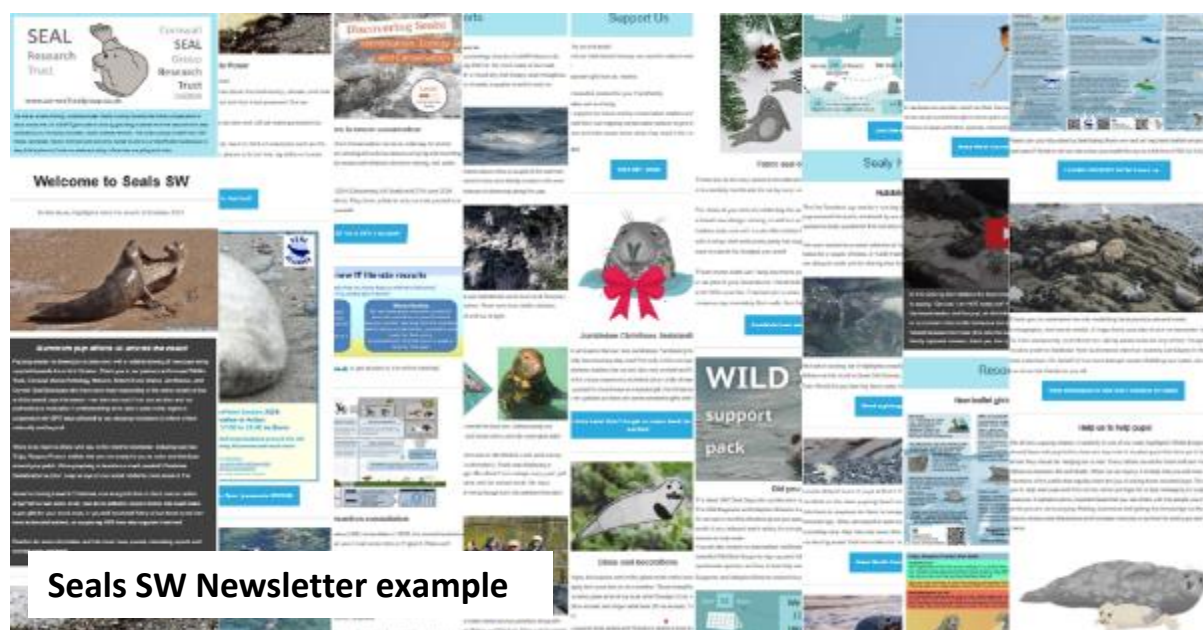
**Charitable organisations** BDMLR, Centre for International Environmental Law, Conservation Diver, Cornish Pilot Gig Association, Cornish Seal Sanctuary, Cornwall Carbon Scrutiny Group, Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code Group, Cornwall and Devon Wildlife Trusts, East Marine Ecosystems, Flotilla, Friends of Horsey Seals, Hands Off Mother Earth, Hayle Towans Partnership, Marine Animal Rescue Coalition, Mounts Bay Marine Group, National Trust, Pinniped Entanglement Group, Respect the Wildlife, Sea Changers, Seal Alliance Executive, SW Marine Ecosystems, Team Walrus, Wales Wildlife Trust, Wight Biodiversity, Wildlife and Countryside LINK (11 Groups), Wildlife Safe Scheme and Wight Biodiversity.

## Reports: 27

Natural England commissioned 2 reports from SRT in 2023. One **‘Marine Life and Human Activity ‘Other Species’** Report by Sarah Millward and the second **‘Network of Sensitive Seal Sites in the SW UK’** Report by Sue Sayer MBE. Our amazing team collated data to write additional routine reports including **4 CASPIP reports** by Sarah Millward; **3 STAPIP reports** by Mike Taylor; **2 POLPIP reports** by Sarah Millward and **11 LISPIP reports** by Martin Gregory. In addition we published our **SRT Annual report for 2022**, along with **the SW Marine Ecosystems Report on Seals for 2022**, both written by Sue Sayer. Sue also input to the **Cornwall Wildlife Trust Marine Strandings Network Report** for 2022. Dr Mel Broadhurst (our Channel Isles volunteer) compiled our **2022 Census report**. The incredible Kate Williams produced Hub Summary reports for **North Devon 2022, Mounts Bay 2021 and Pentire 2022**. This is a massive achievement – well done everyone!

## Seal SW Session: 12, Seal SW Newsletters: 12 and Wild Seal Supporter Updates: 4

Sue continues to host our monthly online **Seal SW Session for up to 50 people**. Our monthly online presentations are a vital archive of all our charity's ongoing activities. Ranger Sarah compiled and circulated **12 Seal SW Newsletters**. Our circulation list grew by 125 during 2023 to **1,152 subscribers**. Director Sue wrote **4 Wild Seal Supporter and Adoption Scheme Updates**, which went to **205 recipients (up by 26 at the start of the year)**, summarising quarterly exclusive information about our adopted seals, for a scheme run by Karen Gaudern.



## Resources: 3 New

We were very excited at the start of 2023, as **Sue's book 'Seal Secrets'** was re-printed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time as a bumper edition, because it included a substantial update and extra content. Climate Change is a topical and key issue affecting all seals. Consequently SRT decided to create new resources, summarising the impact of climate change on our native seals in the form of **'Sea Change: Seals'** films (edited by Barry Williams) and a leaflet (designed by Milly Hall), as described on page 4. **The Seal Alliance Watching Seals Well leaflets** and **Give Seals Space signs** were re-ordered in 2023 and sent out nationally. As they are Defra backed, they have proved extremely popular across the UK for a second year running. Our **'Good Neighbours' toolkit** was developed as part of our 'Space for Seals' project, forming a new part of our best practice social media messaging. The wonderful Mungo Lils on the Hill continue to sell SRT's **Lizard Seal Pack and Stickers**. Volunteer Cliff Davies from the Looe Marine Conservation Group designed SRT's **Watercraft Stickers**, outlining best practice around seals and these continue to be distributed nationally. Volunteer Aidan Botha's **wonderful poster and social media graphic** for our Flying Rings campaign continued to be shared widely in 2023.

## Media Coverage: 63

Our media coverage was extensive and began early in 2023, as **All About Animals Radio** interviewed Sue to create a podcast about our wonderful seals. Olivier Vergnault from **Cornwall Live** did a comprehensive interview with Sue which was aired in February as an

article and on their YouTube channel. The **SW Coast Path Association** released a Podcast interview with Sue in March. As the **Defra Marine and Coastal Wildlife Code** was released in April 2023, Sue was asked to create a short film to publicise this on social media, working to their script. Thanks to Polly Ford for helping with the filming. Coverage appeared nationally on **BBC Breakfast News**, as well as on **regional news channels**. **Julie Skentelbery** from **BBC Radio Cornwall** interviewed Sue in July to hear about the sad story of adult male 'Commuter', who had been trapped in a plastic ring since 2017. This was swiftly followed by **BBC Radio Cornwall's James Dundon**, who shared the story of BDMLR's epic rescue of adult female 'Wings' from her flying ring in St Ives Harbour (see page 34). This story went viral with over 1 million hits on BBC Radio Cornwall's social media channels alone! Next came interviews with **James Churchfield and Mel** on **BBC Radio Cornwall** about the impacts seals face around our coastline. In September Liz Howell created an audio recording about the impacts of climate change on coastal communities for a new exhibition called **Storm Warning**, featuring in both the **Focal Point Gallery in Southend-on-Sea** and at **Newlyn Art Gallery**. We were hugely grateful to **BBC Radio Cornwall's Julie Skentelbery** for creating a proactive piece for the start of the pupping season, about what pups need and how we can all best help them. In October our subscription payment providers, **Paywhirl**, requested an interview which was published as an online blog, covering our Wild Seal Supporter and Adoption Scheme. SRT also provided content, graphics and photos for an article outlining best practice around seals for **COAST magazine**. By far the most extensive media SRT was involved in during 2023 was coverage of the controversial marine geoengineering experiment planned by Planetary Technology, to release thousands of tonnes of Magnesium Hydroxide into St Ives Bay as a climate change solution (see page 18). Coverage of this began in March 2023 and continued throughout the year. Various elements of the story were covered by The **Times Newspaper**, **ITV Westcountry**, **BBC Spotlight (x3)**, **St Ives Times and Echo**, the **Cornishman**, the **Guardian**, the **Sunday Post** and the **BBC SW Politics Show**, where Sue appeared live with Defra minister Rebecca Pow and two UK MPs. In addition, Sue was interviewed by Canadian Journalist Avis Favaro (shared by **CTV News**) and at the end of the year by Yannic Rack for the **Hakai Magazine**.



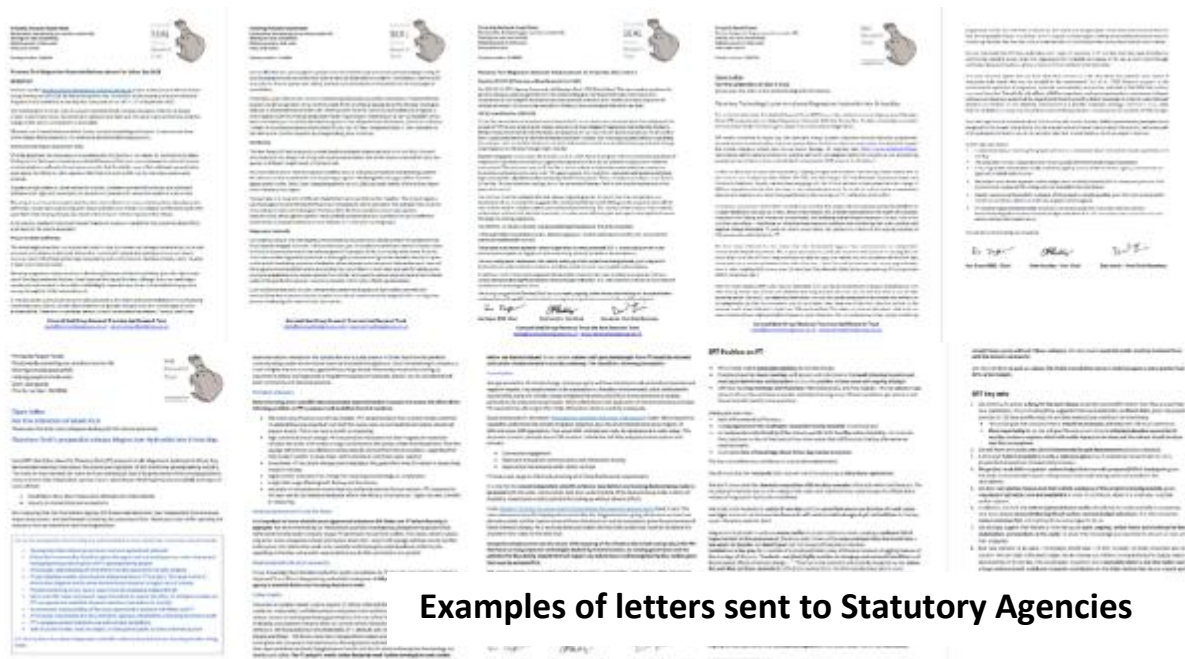
**BBC Politics Show SW : Water Special**



Thanks to our partners at the **Pinniped Entanglement Group** who continue to cover our stories, **tracking entangled seal wounds** over the long term in their biannual newsletters. Articles containing input by SRT about seals and seal conservation appeared in **Launceston Life**, the **Guardian** (in a piece featuring CWT's Nature Reserve on Looe Island), a blog for **Wildlife and Countryside LINK** on the EFRA Committee recommendations, **BBC Wildlife Magazine** (written by our patron, Gillian Burke), the **Sunday Post** about Unmanned Aerial Vehicle impacts on seals, as well as the **Mammal Society's News and Updates** about seal pups and the pupping season.

### Planetary Technology's (PT) Marine Geoengineering Project

SRT first heard about PT's Marine Geoengineering Project for St Ives Bay on 19/01/23. This is a Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement (OAE) experiment that could set a global precedent for this industry. 2023 proved quite a roller coaster ride as we engaged deeper with this project. A [summary of SRT's engagement and scrutiny of this project](#) can be seen here. To cut a very long story short, by the end of 2023 **Sue had over 2100 files on her PC amounting to 10+ GB of data** about this experiment. It has proved to be an extremely time consuming and stressful distraction from our routine seal conservation work and we are hugely grateful to **NGO Hands Off Mother Earth** and the **Centre for International Environmental Law** who helped us at SRT get our heads around the big picture of carbon credit projects of this kind. As a result of connections with partners, SRT became a founding partner of the **Cornwall Carbon Scrutiny Group (CCSG)** working alongside the **Keep Our Sea Chemical Free (KOSCF)** campaign group. In addition to all the media coverage summarised above, SRT attended a **public consultation meeting in Hayle** and wrote **4 letters to the Environment Agency** and copied to multiple statutory agencies.



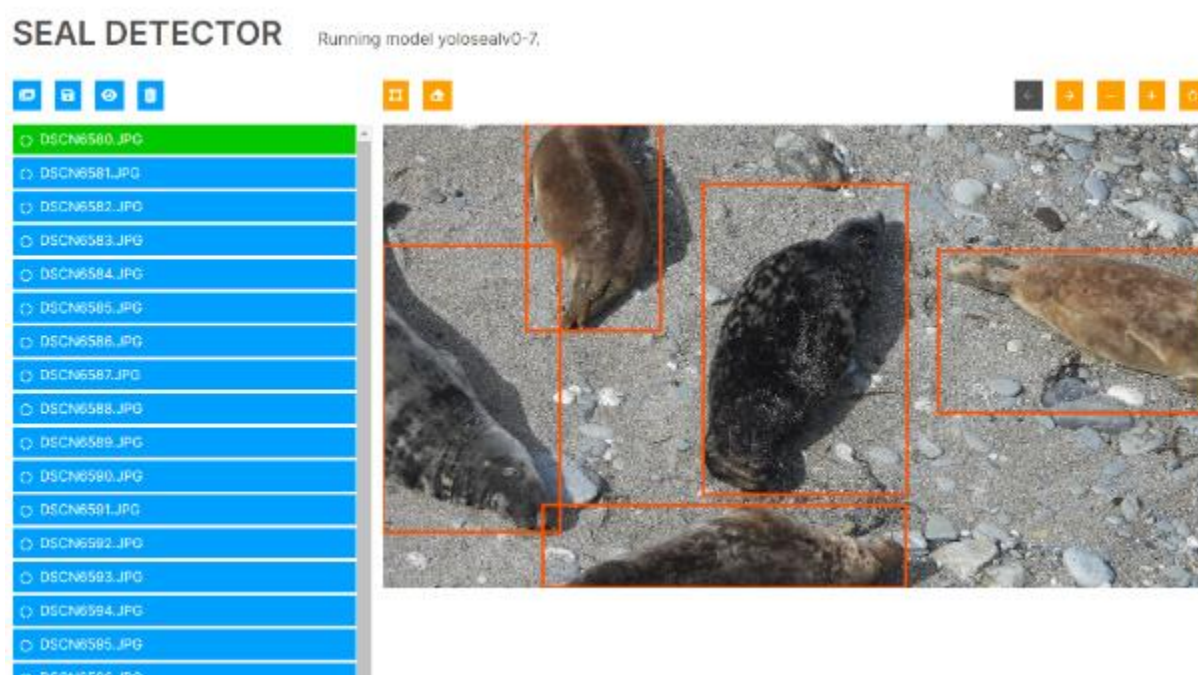
**Examples of letters sent to Statutory Agencies**

In addition, SRT **commissioned a science report from a local volunteer geochemist**, held **2 face to face meetings with PT's CEO and PR representative**, consulted with the **University of Exeter**, read numerous **journal papers** on the topic of CDR and OAE, **briefed our local MP**

about the project, **spoke at a KOSCF Protest** (the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest attended in Cornwall in recent years), provided PT with **marine mammal monitoring protocols**, submitted an **input to the United Nations consultation about 'Removal activities under Article 6.4 mechanism'**, met multiple times with **SRT's new science experts on this issue – Dr Ian Hendy** from Portsmouth University (a blue carbon and habitat restoration expert) and **Dr David Santillo** from the International Greenpeace Lab at Exeter University (a geoengineering expert), **presented at Hayle Town Council and Hayle Towans Partnership meetings**, wrote **2 letters to South West Water**, whose infrastructure was being used to diffuse the Magnesium Hydroxide (MH), **requested a literature review from PT** about the science around the project which they refused to undertake, **developed a nature based alternative proposal** to restore blue carbon habitat in St Ives Bay to achieve the same outcome but with multiple additional biodiversity benefits, **attended a meeting with SWW's Chief Operating Officer and two colleagues**, as well as engaging with the **Water Research Centre** to provide science and data about St Ives Bay seals and seal senses. By the end of 2023, the Environment Agency had still not issued a marine licence for the pilot geoengineering experiment to go ahead. This saga is set to continue into 2024 and beyond.

### Deep Learning Computer Vision Project

This project that we began in 2022 with **Seb East from the University of Bristol** is part of a long term, three-phase project aimed at the development of **bespoke automated photo ID software** for SRT. Phase 1 was completed very successfully in 2023 and SRT volunteers now have access to **'Seal Detector'** software to **auto extract seal images** from our survey photos for including into PowerPoint albums, saving albumising volunteers lots of hours of manual processing, especially at the larger seal sites! Massive thanks to every student and volunteer for helping Seb East to see this project through to such a successful outcome for us all!



**Seal Detector Software in use, auto extracting seal crops**

## Feedback about SRT Activities (don't just take our word for it!)

We always do our best to present exciting, interesting and informative input about seals in multiple ways. We deliver this to a huge variety of different audiences ranging from statutory agency consultations to schools. This is all aimed at promoting peoples' understanding about, and appreciation of, our native, heritage, speciality seals and their precious marine habitat. **We always ask for honest feedback from participants and organisers** about what went well and what we need to improve on. Our delivery team got some lovely feedback in 2023, some of which is listed below:

- *Although I am quite knowledgeable about wildlife and the impact we have on it, I still learnt a lot from this talk. I spend a lot of time with wildlife! There are many people who will get a lot out of these talks. Your work is very worthwhile. Thank you. Keep spreading the knowledge*
- *I have just listened to Sue's fantastic talk at the MPA network meeting*
- *I will certainly be more aware of seal disturbance and share this important message. I will also read more about the subject*
- *Can I just add my hearty thanks and congratulations following your talk yesterday. It was really outstanding - fascinating, informative, wonderfully enthusiastic, superbly organised, varied, and a masterclass in presentation (I say this as a retired Uni geography lecturer!) - nicely informal and friendly, yet so clear, orderly, authoritative and authentic*
- *I watched your wonderful Zoom talk this evening. Thank you so much. Most informative*
- *I really admire the work you do, dedication, your energy, positivity and devotion. You are my role model*
- *I am absolutely in awe of everything you do and I learned so much*
- *I have learnt so much on the FSC course with you and can only thank you for passing on your knowledge and enthusiasm!*



Location: [Virtual](#)

Region: Online

Duration: 4 weeks

Date:

Fri 22, September 2023 - Fri 03, November 2023

Level: Beginner

Tutor: Sue Sayer

Price

£60.00

In this **beginner's online course**, you will learn more about the biology and ecology of **UK seal species** that you may see around our coastline. By the end, you will appreciate their amazing lives, and start to identify these animals. Explore one of our favourite marine mammals in this 4-week online course, developed and delivered by leading seal conservation experts.

Seals are incredibly charismatic species and one of our most easily sighted iconic UK marine mammals. They live a complicated life, having to survive the challenging environment of the wild northern hemisphere oceans, plus a huge variety of terrestrial coastal environments.



- *I've just watched your seal video and it is superb – a great watch, super informative and so supportive of good behaviour traits around our wildlife. I am pretty humbled to be honest and you've set a very high bar for the rest of us*
- *That was your best ever presentation tonight – absolutely spot on!*
- *That was a very interesting Talk Rob and I know that our members enjoyed it very much. It was a pleasure to meet you all and I hope you enjoyed your visit as much as we enjoyed seeing you all*
- *Brilliant talk thank you for all the amazing work you and your team do!*
- *Thank you so much for your inspiring and informative presentation today. Really fantastic. I really enjoyed your presentation and appreciate all your work for Cornwall and our amazing seals*
- *Thank you so much for your valuable input today - you sell yourself short, you raised such important points today and without your guidance we wouldn't have been able to have the discussions and progress that we did*
- *Thank you so much for the amazing workshop you did for you. The children learnt lots and have enjoyed sharing their knowledge with their friends and family. You have certainly inspired them – my daughter would now like to rescue seals when she is older*
- *Sue was brilliant at speaking to and engaging with our young children age 3-6. It's important that knowledge and the motivation to help wildlife is passed on to the younger generation and the talk and photos were exciting and inspiring*
- *Super interesting and engaging for children, with the right balance of information and activities to keep them hooked in, and plenty of ideas for us to follow up with. Sue was so child-friendly and fun. (Have to admit I expected someone with an MBE in something sciencey to be serious and stuffy but she was anything but!!)*
- *With all you have going on, you still are kind enough to think of others. How much kinder and richer this world would be with more people like you*
- *I will be more aware of my own plastic consumption: The example of the flying ring made me think a lot. But also how to approach seals in the right way, preferably not at all. And the effects of disturbing seals when they flee into the water was also something I was not aware of before. I immediately had the urge to pass on the new knowledge so that everyone is aware of this*
- *Very insightful, and has also included some of the research findings on their individual behaviours in pupping and mating, and the seal calendars had marked their individual differences – all very interesting!*
- *It was a completely new take on a topic that has been heard many times before. And it leaves a different impression to see certain disturbing images of the effects we humans can have on seals rather than just being told to be more careful. Keep going!*
- *Great images, good connection with Science and local people, explained everything well!*
- *I wanted to mention is that the activity booklet ('Sharing Our Seas') you sent us is BRILLIANT! Both Hannah and Henry are really enjoying working through it. It's both fun and educational, and pitched at the right level for children their age*
- *I just wanted to thank you both for such a wonderful presentation last night. It was so professional, brilliantly delivered, with humour and care, with a superb selection of*

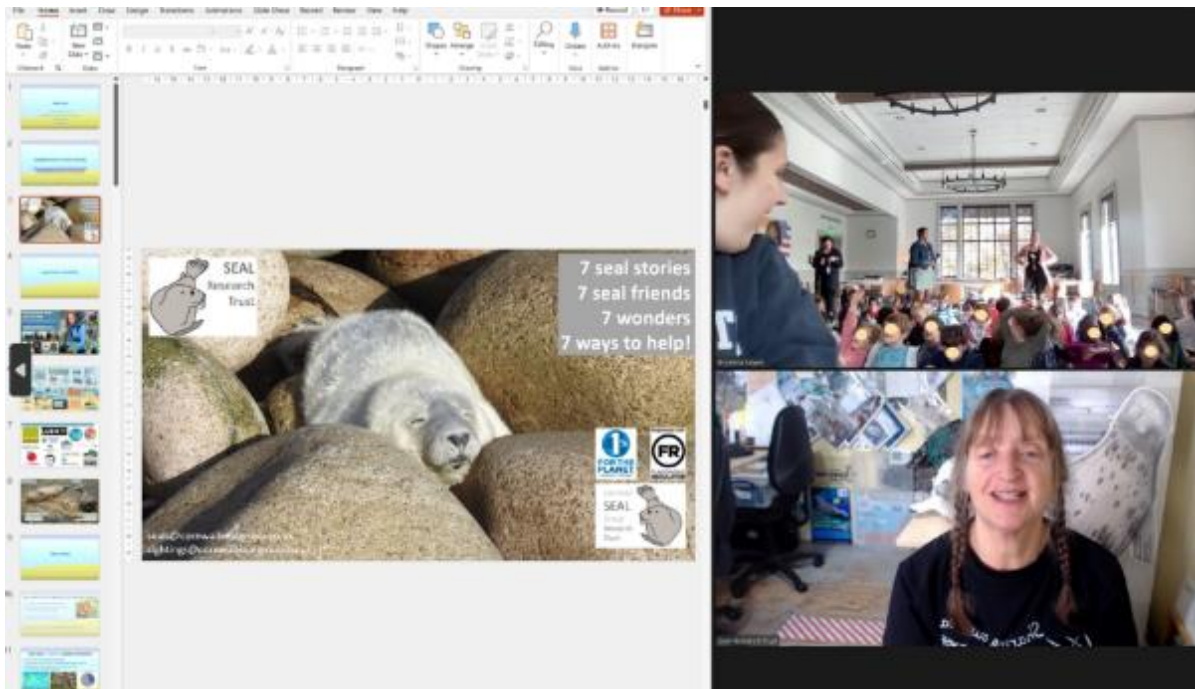
*photographs, charts and information. The concentrated interest and response of the largest audience I think we have ever had was great. There were 84 people present! And comments after the event were so positive about what SRT are doing as a group and you two as individuals have been really quite moving. Rob and Kerstin, your empathy for seals came through and your far reaching knowledge was much appreciated*

- *I especially enjoyed the first few talks by Sue and Dan about seals and the walrus in Europe, and their approaches to people management/social science thinking to mitigate disturbance*
- *You are definitely my hero! You do such amazing work, thank you*
- *You are very inspirational and I left feeling that I wanted to do more and also how cool seals are!*
- *Thank you for the minutes and an excellent meeting as usual. I have really enjoyed the insight to the national picture regarding our lovely seals and wish to personally thank you for your knowledge and enthusiasm which is a major factor in the success of the group*
- *I just received this Pentire summary from Kate. Wow, it's fantastic. Some really interesting findings. I'm going to have a good read through it over the next couple of days but just wanted to say a huge thank you to you all for the support and guidance we get as a Hub*
- *The seal pillow was a big hit with my son and is now called 'Bartholomew Jerome Jeremiah Gerald Binchilling ... the 3<sup>rd</sup>!'*
- *Really inspiring and great to see some successes with local communities and retailers on the flying rings*
- *Really interesting, nice to see actual example bones as well, rather than just the photos, as we can get a better idea of them by turning them around*
- *Learnt a lot on seal skeleton which I can share with folk who visit our seals*
- *Loved your Wild Seal Supporter Update and annual report. Both really good reading, interesting and informative*
- *Your talk was absolutely brilliant. Thank you once again for agreeing to do this for us, it helps us inspire the next generation of animal conservationists*
- *I am thoroughly enjoying the course and am astounded at how much of a positive impact volunteering has had on my mental health and wellbeing*
- *Excellent course with some challenging activities*
- *I liked the mixture of ways of learning - reading and activities and online webinars*
- *I want to congratulate you all, you are doing a wonderful in depth job. I can tell from all the newsletters and exchanges that I have that you are super professional and very passionate*
- *Massive well done and thank you for your involvement in the broadcast media yesterday and today. The BBC Breakfast piece was brilliant*
- *The students were incredibly engaged throughout the talk and found it very interesting*
- *Thank you great course. Will see you on the next one!*
- *Thank you so much for the amazing 4-week course, on our beautiful seals. You're full of so much knowledge, which really inspires me on your work*

- *I just wanted to get in touch to once again thank you for your support during my project, your experience and knowledge really helped support my dissertation which has now been marked and I managed to achieve an A\*!*
- *The boat surveys are fantastic days with inspiring people. The amount I learn every trip is awesome*
- *Your report is a great piece of work! We can't wait to share it ourselves*
- *Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with the children. They really enjoyed seeing the different seals and learnt lots of new facts!*
- *Peter did absolutely brilliant today and certainly knows how to pull a crowd. This talk was informative and entertaining, a clear message well illustrated and delivered, by a speaker who showed genuine enthusiasm and compassion for the seals and their welfare*
- *I mean every word about how awesome you are, and it is not just me! There are so many in PEG that think you are the greatest and are so impressed with all that you do. You are absolutely amazing and wonderful and I feel very lucky to know you*
- *Many thanks for all your huge amounts of hard work - there is so much unseen behind the scenes too. Brilliant!*
- *Thanks so much for reaching out, the seal has safely been delivered, as well as the information leaflets. I am so incredibly impressed with this group and all the work everyone is putting in to bring awareness to the Grey seals, it really shows! Since I've received the pamphlets all of my friends have learned many facts about seals. I only wish there was more I could do for them from Oregon, USA!*
- *This particular couple spent an hour quietly watching and chatting and asking loads of questions over 2 days when they walked all the way to the cove to check on the pup before they started their long journey home. To me this is why public engagement on the cliff top is so important and enjoyable*
- *You are an incredible host, organiser and catalyst for us all and seals*
- *Nature needs all the friends it can get – your work at SRT has meant so many more people are involved in conservation so hats off to you all*
- *I've just read your annual report from 2022 and can't believe how active you've been and your outreach figures are amazing*
- *Today's boat survey was the most amazing day and Sarah is absolutely brilliant, actually everyone was lovely, no egos just helpful, caring, kindness*
- *The course was well explained yet a scientifically sound approach. Plain English but great evidence and knowledge!*
- *I liked the way the workbooks were set out. Easy to follow and interesting material*
- *Thank you for a wonderful day! Such a privilege to learn from you and listen to you talking about the seals. I could listen to you all and every day! I loved hanging off the edge of the cliffs with you, what a treat it was*
- *I loved the course, it's the tutor that really made it for me. Her passion really just is infectious! Loads of information, I learnt so much than I thought I was going to! It's a must course for anyone interested in seals or working within the ecology sector!*
- *I would like to give you a HUGE thank you for yesterday. I cannot believe that you were able to capture our student's full attention for almost an hour. You have some magic*



*powers! Your presentation was incredibly engaging, witty, and a great learning experience for our young ones. It was the talk of the entire grade throughout the school day*



- *I liked the gentle humour enthusiasm, knowledge & experience that Sue conveyed in the webinar. The wealth of course content that I could download to use after the course is finished*
- *Just want to say a big thank you for the leaflets you put in the parcel today. I ordered seal socks for my wife which were great, but the leaflets were absolutely loved by my 7 year old daughter who loves seals*
- *My son loves the pack, and the book I'm hoping to read at the weekend. He knows more about seals than me. He tells everyone what he has in common with Lucky bunting (after we adopted her) as he was born in 2016 the year she was rescued*
- *Thank you so much for your support, enthusiasm and expertise. It makes my life so much easier*
- *The furry seal is gorgeous, I am tempted to keep it rather than give it as a Christmas present to my grand daughter! It was lovely to meet you, your courses have helped & inspired me a lot. I feel a little more confident when I volunteer. Plus I am now more aware of the wealth of information & resources that is open to me to explore so I have a little more understanding about seals and marine conservation work*
- *I liked the information about the analysis of the data collected and it's use in making maps of the movements of the seals over time*
- *Heartiest congratulations on getting your award. So proud of you. You most certainly deserve it. Well done.*

## Seal Data Outputs (reports included above)

### Surveys and Volunteers

In 2023 we received records from **252 different volunteers**, from which we were able to process **4,567 discrete surveys** (an average of **13 site specific surveys each and every day**) from **328 different locations**. Our Sanctuaries at Sea Ranger, Sarah, coordinated our **quarterly SW Seal Census**, of which all four were completed in January, April, July and October. Thank you to all our amazing volunteers who took part and made these possible.

### Age and Sex Classes

**On average 9.2 seals were recorded**, ranging from a minimum of no seals observed to a **maximum of 458 seals** counted during a single survey (**down from 557 in 2021 and 519 in 2022**). Of seals that we were able to classify according to their age, **66% were adults** and **34% juveniles, moulted pups or white coated pups**. Only adults can be reliably sexed, so of all adults that we could confidently sex **56% were males and 44% females**, which is exactly the same proportion as recorded in 2021 and 2022, despite our huge survey effort and datasets.



### Grey Seal Pups

White-coated, maternally dependent, grey seal pups (WCPs) were recorded on **581 occasions at 39 different locations** around the southwest. Most were recorded on the north coast, but there were **32 sightings** of WCPs recorded at **11 different sites** on the **south coast** of Cornwall and Devon. WCPs represented just over **1% of all seals** observed. The maximum number of WCPs recorded at a single site was 15 at North Cornwall. 5 or more WCPs were recorded 37 times at 10 different pupping sites at the **North Cornwall complex** (4 sites), **West Cornwall** (2 sites), **West Cornwall East** (3 sites) and **West Penwith North** (1 site). **LP316 'Lucky bunting'**, a seal rescued in 2016, was not seen with a pup in 2023 (this would have been her fourth). Our world record breaking seal mum '**Ghost**' had her **20<sup>th</sup> pup in 21 years**, back at her normal

pupping site having breached her site fidelity tradition in 2021. She was photographed on 20/10/23 mating with her current beachmaster male 'Snake' for pup 21, should she survive another year. We have everything crossed! **94% of the unique WCPs were born on north coast sites with 6% on the south coast.** Historically between 2010 and 2016, most pups were born in October followed by November. In 2022, most pups were born in September followed by August (but with only 4 more pups born in August than October). In 2023, most pups were born in September, but there were 23 more pups born across the SW in August compared to October. **Pupping season has moved substantially earlier, creating temporal and spatial overlap with the peak tourist season, which is problematic.**

### Harbour Seals and Harbour Seal Pups

Our observations included **25 records** with **44 harbour seal sightings** (down from 85 in 2021 and 29 in 2022). **12 records were single individuals** up to a **maximum of 4 individuals seen on 04/02/23 in South Devon.** Harbour seals were recorded at **8 different locations** all at south coast locations across Cornwall, Devon and the Solent.

After 2 successfully weaned harbour seal pups, observed with their mother Serena in 2021 and 2022, there was a potential sighting of **'Serena'** and a pup in 2023 but this couldn't be confirmed. There were no sightings of the legendary, routinely sighted, adult male common seal called **'Ellis'** after February 2022. He was the suspected father of Serena's 2021/22 pups.



### Photos, Albums and Identifications

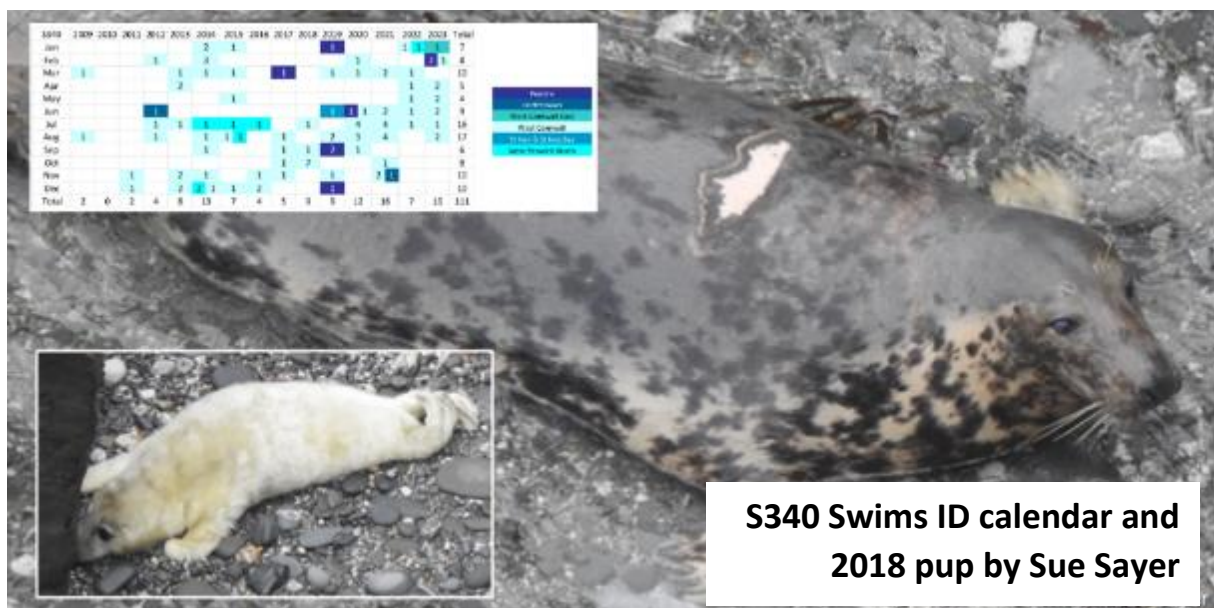
Our PID Hubs continue to be highly productive, processing an incredible **105,235 photos** in 2023 into **1,899 survey albums** (including 416 from 2021 and 2022). This enabled SRT to generate a total of **11,409 seal identifications**, of which **84% were re-identifications** (which is surprisingly consistent compared to 87% in 2021/22 and 86% in 2020). This included a maximum of **145 different individual seal identifications in a single survey** (5 less than our previous maximum in 2022) that were confirmed by two experienced volunteers. Over 100



different seals were identified on 3 separate surveys, all at the West Cornwall site. Of all the seals re-identified in 2023, **34 have been identified for at least 20 years by the SRT network**. This is a tremendous achievement in itself! **5 were seals first added to our catalogues back in 2000** (1 male S7 and 4 females S3 / S4 / S5 / S31); **6** were seals that were **first identified in 2001** (1 male DP193 and 5 females S16 / S26 / S32 / S49 / LP12); **9** were seals **first identified in 2002** (2 males S80 / S92 and 7 females S46 / S54 / S60 / S62 / S74 / S84 / S891) and **14** were seals **added to catalogues in 2003** (2 males DP122 / DP120 and 12 females NF4 / S88 / S89 / S100 / S104 / S107 / S111 / S112 / S113 / S114 / S119 / S123).

In total, **3,175 unique seals** were identified in 2023. **58 seals from 7 sites were identified 20 or more times** from the **Lizard, Looe, North Devon, Pentire, Roseland, St Ives and West Cornwall Hubs**. This is a reflection of the frequent survey effort at these sites (all are surveyed on multiple days every week) and the utterly incredible ID processing hub team effort. Well done everyone and thank you for making these incredible records possible!

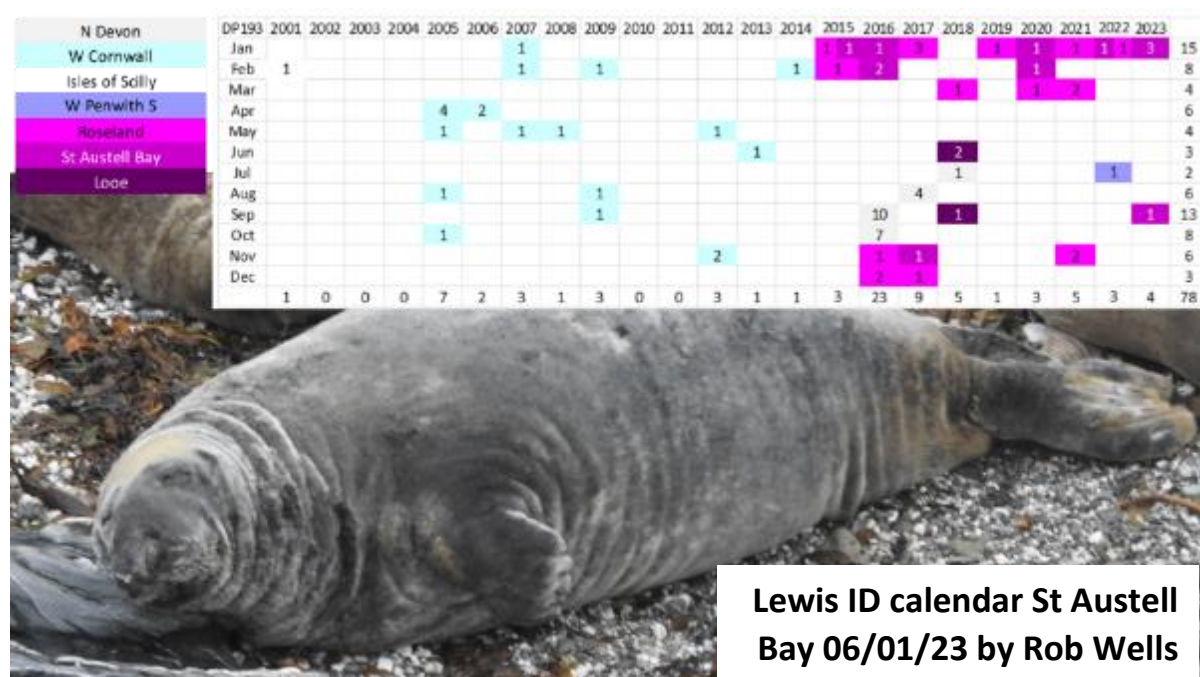
We continue to partner with the **Cornwall Wildlife Trust Marine Strandings Network** and in 2023 **4 dead seals were identified from their carcasses** (1 male and 3 females). **DP2004 ‘Watermark alien’** adult male (First live sighting 28/12/17 West Cornwall Sue Sayer and Jes Hirons; Identified 71 times all at West Cornwall by 17 different SRT volunteers; Last live sighting 01/12/22 West Cornwall Sue Sayer and Karen Gaudern; Dead 08/02/23 Mounts Bay Constance Morris); **S2931 ‘Three bars’** adult female (First live sighting 24/02/21 St Ives Peter Nason and Eli Kalcikova; Identified twice at West Cornwall and in St Ives Bay by 4 different SRT volunteers; Last live sighting 13/12/21 West Cornwall Sue Sayer and Kate Hockley; Dead 04/03/23 Carbis Bay Dan Jarvis); **ROF124 ‘Tulip placeholder’** adult female (First live sighting 30/08/12 Fal Jes Hirons; Identified 102 times at 3 locations on the south coast by 24 different SRT volunteers; Last live sighting 09/01/23 Roseland Kerstin Hartmann; Dead 14/06/23 St Michael’s Mount CWTMSN) and **S340 ‘Swims’** adult female (First live sighting 25/11/07 West Cornwall Sue Sayer; Identified 111 times across 6 north coast sites by 42 different SRT volunteers; Last live sighting 31/08/23 West Cornwall Sue Sayer; Dead 19/11/23 Perranporth CWTMSN). RIP beautiful seals – you have taught us so much.



Two additional dead, tagged ex-rescue, rehab and released seals were also identified as **‘Wasabi’** (released in 2023) and **‘Jonesy’** (released in 2018).

### Ex-rescued, Rehabilitated and Released Seals

SRT 2023 data included **732 sightings** of **126 different rear flipper tagged, rehabilitated seals** (around **2% of all seals observed**) from all around our southwest coast. Most of our tagged seals would have been released in **North Devon** or from the **northwest/southwest Cornish coast** but there were three notable exceptions. **‘Sate’** and **‘Christine’** were released in **France** and **‘Crater’** who was released from **Courtown in SE Ireland.**) The longest identified, and so potentially longest surviving ex-rescued seals traced back to their rehabilitation records, are **DP193 ‘Lewis’** (an adult male released in 2001) and **S123 ‘Puffa’** (an adult female released in 2003). Lewis’ IDs are fascinating, as he has defected from the north to the south coast.



A maximum of **10 different ex-rescue, rehabilitated and released** seals were recorded on one survey on 20/10/23 at West Cornwall by Sue Sayer and Kate Hockley. **16 different ex-rehabilitated seals** were identified **10 or more times**, including **5 identified over 20 times** in 2023. These were **‘Orion’, ‘Pangolin’, ‘Prudie’, ‘Snail octopus’, ‘Crater’** and **‘Archer lady’**.

SRT continue to use the confidential GoogleSheet created by Paul Oaten from **RSPCA West Hatch Wildlife Hospital** that logs all seal admissions and, in 2023, Katherine Thomas from the **Cornish Seal Sanctuary** has continued to deliver regular and excellent input at our monthly Seals SW Sessions. We are grateful to **British Divers Marine Life Rescue** who do the majority of seal pup rescues, then triage and treat most of the seals rescued at the **BDMLR Cornwall Seal Hospital**, before they are transported elsewhere for longer term rehabilitation.

### Entangled Seals

To balance our resightings of rescued, rehabilitated and released seals, which reflect a positive intervention by people, were our observations of seals that have experienced

entanglement at some point in their lives. SRT record entangled seals as ‘currently entangled’ or as ‘ex-entangled’ – the latter based on evidence of a healed wound and no visible entangling material. This can be harder to judge than might be imagined. Seals having experienced or still experiencing entanglement were recorded **732 times (2% of all seals observed)** during **407 surveys up to a maximum of 15 different individuals in a single survey** – recorded on 19/01/23 at West Cornwall by Kate Hockley. **10 or more different entangled seals were recorded 3 times, all at West Cornwall**, during the year. In total **81 unique entangled seals were identified** from our catalogues.

A new entanglement issue that emerged in late 2021 continued to be observed in 2022 – that of seals being **hooked in line** mostly from our local sustainable inshore mackerel fishery. In 2023 **13 different seals were recorded as hooked**, ranging from apparently single or multiple hooked adult seals to moulted pups in need of rescue. We know from our long-term seal data that peak seal numbers have shifted earlier from March/April to December/January. In contrast, we have been told that the mackerel fishery has moved later in the year, from starting in the summer to commencing in November. This has created a **temporal and spatial overlap between the mackerel fishery and peak seal numbers** that never used to occur. This has presumably caused this **new and emerging issue of hooked seals**.



SRT continue to share data and entangled seal experiences as members of the **Clean Catch UK National Steering Group** and the global **Pinniped Entanglement Group** of which Sue and Dan Jarvis are members.

Bycatch includes the live entangled animals described above, who have most likely interacted with lost fishing gear. It also refers to dead seals accidentally caught up in live operational fishing gear. We were shocked to discover from the 2020 Special Committee on Seals report that **85% of all UK seal bycatch occurred in our southwest region** (ICES area VII). One bycaught seal in 2023 was found in St Ives Harbour in unfortunate circumstances. It died after



becoming entangled in loose gear wrapped around a fishing boat's propellor before the skipper could release the gear at low tide.



### Disturbance

From our routine data (not effort corrected) serious level 3 disturbance is described as seals leaving the land by tombstoning (leaping from height) or in a stampede (rushing over sand/rocks) into the sea; crash diving at sea; displacement from sea areas where humans were present or seals being fed. There were **155 serious disturbance incidents**. In total, **level 3 disturbance affected a shocking total of 1,328 seals** in 2023. This ranged from a minimum of 1 seal in 51 incidents to a **maximum of 163 seals on 17/12/23** stampeding into the sea at West Cornwall East in a single incident. This was caused by people accessing the beach.



This incident occurred within a Site of Special Scientific Interest where seals are a monitored feature. This makes it an offence to disturb seals here. As a result of SRT reporting this incident to Natural England (the enforcement agency) action was taken against the perpetrators.

**20 or more seals** were seriously disturbed stampeding into the sea on **14 different occasions** at **9 different sensitive seals sites** in the **North Cornwall, Pentire, Roseland, West Cornwall and West Cornwall East** areas.

Where possible, disturbance incidents are now routinely followed up by members of our newly formed volunteer **Conservation Team**. Case studies of disturbance and data continue to be shared with various statutory agencies, including the **Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, Natural England, Operation Seabird** and **DEFRA**. In 2022, Natural England provided a specific email address for SRT to report serious disturbance incidents within designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest. We continued to use this in 2023 to ensure audit trails and case studies can be built up as intelligence and evidence for potential action and future prioritisation.

In 2023 SRT have been liaising with **Operation Seabird**, the **Marine Management Organisation** and **Whale and Dolphin Conservation** to explore the possibility of a **national online, standardised recording format for marine wildlife disturbance** (into which the existing Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code data set can be merged). SRT's disturbance data is routinely shared with statutory agencies, NGOs, governing bodies and landowners to inform the efficacy of mitigation strategies. Throughout 2023 SRT continued to fund and distribute the Defra-endorsed Seal Alliance 'Watch Seals Well' leaflets and 'Give Seals Space' signs across the UK. We were delighted when, in May 2023, **Defra launched their new Marine and Coastal Wildlife Code** (a recommendation of our 2022 People Protecting Precious Places research report). SRT were asked to deliver the [online and live press coverage for the launch](#).

The image displays a collage of pages from the 'Defra's Marine & Coastal Wildlife Code'. The pages are arranged in a grid-like fashion, showing various sections of the code. Key sections visible include:

- Marine and coastal wildlife code: advice for visitors** (Introduction, Purpose, Scope, Key messages, Summary, How to use this code, Acknowledgements, Glossary, Index).
- Be aware of how you could disturb wildlife** (Introduction, How you could disturb wildlife, What you should do, What you should not do, Summary).
- Know your seals** (Introduction, Seals, Dolphins, Whales, Other marine mammals, Summary).
- Use boats, jet skis and other vessels responsibly** (Introduction, Boats, Jet skis, Other vessels, Summary).
- Enjoy water activities without harming wildlife** (Introduction, Water activities, Summary).
- Report a wildlife crime** (Introduction, Wildlife crime, Summary).
- Report an incident, disturbance or case of distress** (Introduction, Incident, disturbance or case of distress, Summary).

The pages are predominantly white with blue and green accents, featuring text, bullet points, and some small images of marine life.

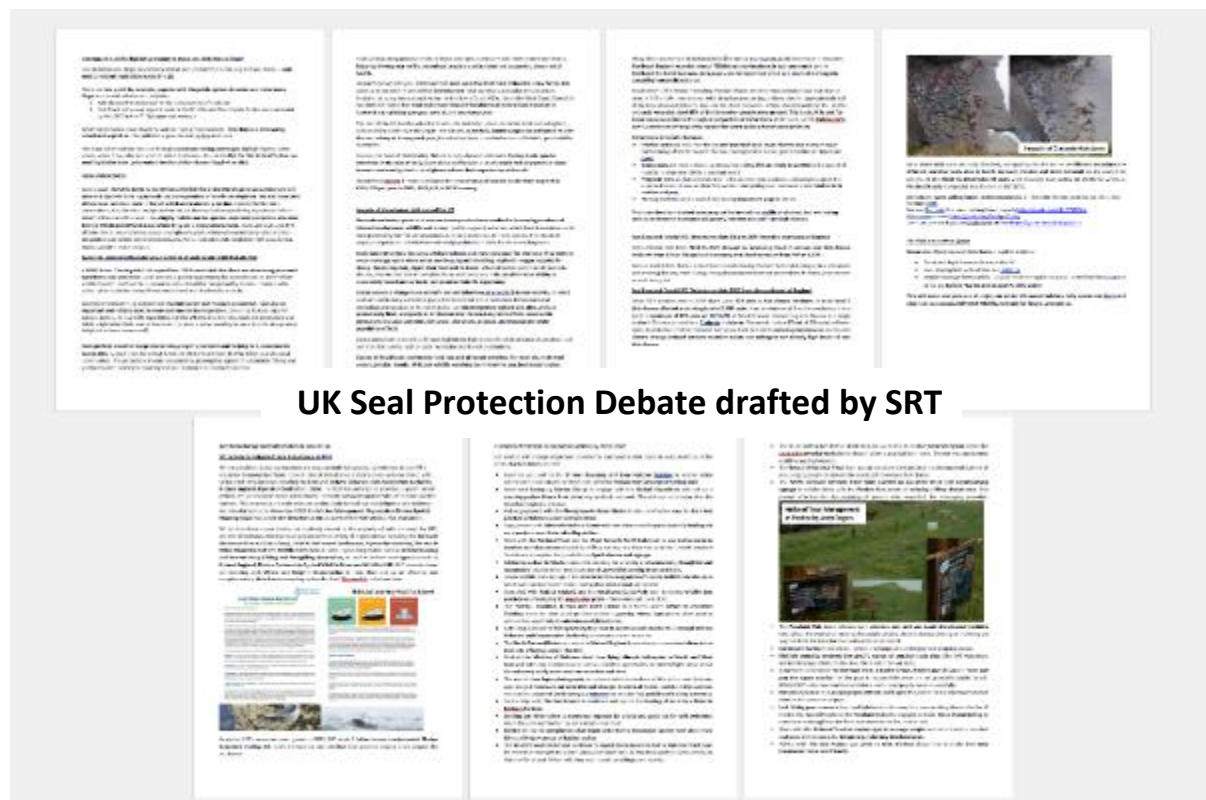
## Defra's Marine & Coastal Wildlife Code

To build on our awareness raising letters to wildlife tour operators in 2022, working alongside the Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code Group, SRT met with St Ives Bay operators to explore ways of raising the bar between current practice and Defra's new Code. This work is ongoing.

## Policy and Conservation Actions

### Consultations: 35

SRT used data from our amazing volunteer citizen science network to submit evidence to **35 policy and planning consultations**. These varied hugely but could be classified into 5 categories: **Conservation (7)**: Defra Environment and Rural Affairs Inquiry on Marine Mammals; Defra Marine and Coastal Wildlife Code; Defra 30 by 30; Parliamentary Debate on Seal Protection; Office for Environmental Protection on Nature Recovery; Cornwall Council's Nature Recovery Strategy and the Mounts Bay Charter of the sea); **Issue specific policies (6)**: Parliamentary Plastic Pollution Debate; Environment Agency Storm Outflows; Charity Commission on Trustee Roles; Oceana Oil and Gas licences; Defra Plastic Free Wet Wipes; Defra Lead pollution); **Developments (10)**: Ardesier Port; Arcadis Polperro; MMO Marine Spatial Plan SW; Dean Quarry; White Cross Wind Farm; SeaLINK in Kent; N Devon Seaweed Farm; Kingsbridge Estuary netting; Gerrans Bay Seaweed Farms x 2), **Fisheries (7)**: Marine Protected Areas bottom trawling; Sandeel closures in the North Sea; Crab and Lobsters Fisheries Management Plan; Remote Electronic Monitoring; Finfish Licencing; Discards) and **Other (5)**: Charity publicity; Charity Commission; Citizen Science; OCR Natural History GCSE; Defra Stakeholders).



It was an honour to be asked to draft the **Seal Protection Parliamentary Debate** speech for Sarah Olney MP delivered on 27/06/23 in Westminster Hall. [You can watch this here.](#)



This is the hardest and most mundane aspect of our charity's work but it is undoubtedly the most important thing we do. It means all the data and expertise created by our huge volunteer team effort is communicated through the proper channels, where it counts, **having a difference in planning and policy at a national and international decision making level**. All this is done monthly during or between our monthly **Steering Group Meetings**. In 2023 SRT were co-opted to participate in the **Wildlife and Countryside LINK (WCL)**, providing **seal expertise to the Marine Mammal, Marine and Bycatch Groups**. It quickly became apparent that joining this well established voice for nature group would substantially increase our conservation efforts and impact, so a decision was made to pay their membership fee (albeit at a vastly reduced rate, negotiated to be sustainable for our small charity over the long term). SRT now routinely input into 10 different WCL group forums.

### Legislation

SRT continue to use our unique disturbance dataset to campaign to get **seal disturbance made an offence** (as it is with whales and dolphins), either by **adding seals to the Wildlife and Countryside Act** or by adding the word '**disturbance**' to the **Conservation of Seals Act**. We were delighted when the **EFRA Committee Inquiry on Marine Mammals Report** in June made a clear recommendation that '**in the short term, seals should be added to the list of species in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act as soon as possible**'. This confirmed what the **Joint Nature Conservation Committee** had already advised. We assumed we were close. However, at the final stage all the EFRA Committee recommendations were blocked by the then Environment Minister Therese Coffey, a week before she resigned. Despite this, we remain positive and determined to get seal disturbance made illegal. We are not going anywhere and will continue to campaign with the Seal Alliance to make this a reality. It is just going to take longer than we hoped.

### Campaigns



SRT added a third key campaign to our portfolio for 2023 – **Climate Change** mitigation was added to our pre-existing work on **Disturbance and Flying Rings**.

Our new [Sea Change: Seals](#) films were outlined on page 4. In addition, we worked with Falmouth University student, Milly Hall, to produce a brand new accompanying ‘[Sea Change: Seals](#)’ leaflet summarising the multiple, shocking impacts of **climate change on seals**, as a new motivation for members of the public to commit to taking action at home, work and play to reduce their personal emissions. This was summarised by the acronym TEEMS (see page 33).

In July 2023, we created an open group on our **Facebook Workplace** platform to enable volunteers to share their actions and successes of the **Flying Rings campaign**. This was kick started by a highlight of 2023, which was the **rescue of local celebrity ‘Wings’ from her flying ring in St Ives harbour by British Divers Marine Life Rescue and the Cornish Seal Sanctuary**. SRT’s Photo ID work showed Wings had been trapped in her flying ring for **less than 2 weeks** but, despite this, rescuers discovered it was firmly stuck around her neck and could not be pulled off. This made us realise that the **water resistance** when swimming must wedge the ring further back and deeper into a seal’s neck tissue. Also their **telescopic neck action** (as they stretch forward to snatch and suck prey) narrows their neck enabling the ring to be pushed even further back. It turns out that **Wings is a better conservation ambassador for her species than the rest of us humans put together!** Her rescue video on BBC Radio Cornwall’s Facebook page quickly went **viral with over 1 million hits worldwide**.



Wings' rescue renewed the desire of all our volunteer networks (SRT, BDMLR, CSS and Seal Alliance members) to spread the word and raise awareness of the risks posed by flying rings. **Posters and metal signs of all sizes were distributed regionally, nationally and internationally** by volunteers and through our partners. Shops that were seen selling flying rings were either approached in person or via email/post in a coordinated campaign asking them to say 'No to the O'. Lizzi Larbalestier even won the **'most sustainable float'** award in Perranporth Carnival as she distributed leaflets to the crowd chanting...'We say O...you say

NO!'. Yorkshire Seal Group had **amazing sand art** communicating the campaign. We hope this will lead to reduced flying ring sales and usage, ultimately resulting in fewer lost rings being removed by volunteers from beaches and fewer new flying ringed suffering seals!

### Practical Conservation Actions

We worked with a range of partners to make the southwest a safer place for seals. Examples of the kinds of action taken included:

- Sensitive Seal Sites (SSS) in Devon designated as **County Wildlife Sites**
- **Temporary signage** at various locations alerting swimmers about interactive seals
- Supporting local community groups with **information and signage** to manage a brand new seal haul out on a publicly accessible beach
- **Refurbishment of fence** to manage people around SSSs with partners at the wonderful National Trust (NT) at Pentire and West Cornwall
- Liaising with Police on a **seal shooting case** where the fire arm was surrendered
- **Wording advice** for signage encouraging people to stay on the coastpath around SSSs
- Advice to the RNLI about seals hauling out on **lifeboat slipways**
- Parish Council input about **Malle Rally** on the Lizard near a SSS
- Advising West Penwith North NT team about **barrier and signage** around a SSS
- Liaison with the Devon Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority about a **fisher openly feeding seals** in South Devon
- **Photo policy advice** to the NT about online/public seal photo best practice – all photos of seals looking at the camera (who have likely been disturbed) have been removed from the NT archives and catalogues
- **Letters** to the new Under Secretary of State and an East Coast MP about the mutually beneficial relationship between **fisheries and seals**
- **Flying Rings letters** to vets practices and supermarkets across Cornwall by Peter Perkins
- Numerous snail mailed **letters** written to large and small flying rings retailers and manufacturers by Joyce Williams, supported by Jeremy Gilson
- **Letters** written to Cornwall and Devon Councils by Andrea Hunt and Chris Berry
- **SSS signs** in N Devon by local NT team
- Discussions and plans to gather evidence of, and take action on, potential **bycatch of seals** on the east side of the Lizard in conjunction with BDMLR and CSS
- Multiple **social media pages** followed up after their mention of SSS names or seal disturbance incidents. Appealing to admins to share best practice, delete posts or change group rules
- Engagement with Newlyn Art School to **mitigate seal disturbance** for outdoor sessions
- St Ives Bay Operator **meetings** to raise best practice x 2
- **Monitoring major events** around the Fal - the PowerBoat Race and Armed Forces Day
- **Letters** to wildlife Operators from Looe, Newquay, St Ives and Hayle to alert them to seal disturbance they have caused and **encouraging best practice** by Emma Woolfenden, Andy Rogers and Sue Sayer
- **Discouraging 'in water' activities** in areas known for seals, especially around haul outs
- Supporting Looe Island volunteer **seal ambassadors**



- Informing Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority about **potting activity** of key SSSs to mitigate disturbance
- Working with Whale and Dolphin Conservation to **design their new seal disturbance recording protocols** for their ShoreWatch volunteers
- **Best practice advice** to the Personal Watercraft Partnership and Ramblers Association
- Working with WCL on the **Marine Mammal Protect Act** plans for the UK
- Supporting Looe Marine Conservation Group with their **marker buoys around a SSS**
- Creating **best practice advice** for the Cornish Pilot Gig Association
- Supporting Operation Seabird with advice about seal disturbance caused by a **base jumper in North Wales**
- Supporting the **World Cetacean Alliance bycatch initiative**
- Advising about **disturbance mitigation during benthic surveys** around Lundy
- Suggesting **virtual events** to minimise public habituation and disturbance during releases
- Spreading the word to encourage volunteers to look out for **entangled seals in need of rescue**
- Raising awareness about what to do if a seal tries to **haul out on your board/kayak**
- Supplying data to the **National Wildlife Crime Unit** and the **WCL** for their annual report about wildlife crime
- Providing SSS data for the **Sea Mammal Research Unit, JNCC and Natural England** for the first ever aerial surveys in the SW and ground truthing these by land based counts. SMRU missed 72 seals at 8 sites around the SW, including zero counts at 2 substantial SSSs
- Working with The Seal Project to advise **MDL Marinas** about how to make their replacement wave barriers more seal friendly
- Raising awareness with the public about **best practice photography** around seals
- Reporting of **hooked seals**, and **seals being fed**, to **harbour masters** and providing free signage
- Following up **seal disturbance caused by drones**
- **Volunteer disturbance monitoring** at SSSs
- **Feedback to operators** about their good practice, with ideas about improvements
- Liaising with Natural England when **pupping site signage** is needed
- Writing **multiple articles** for local group newsletters about seal conservation
- Providing **ecologists** with survey advice, protocols and networking contacts
- Engaging with **authors** about coastal books, to share best practice and avoid naming SSSs
- Providing **data** on grey and harbour seals for the **Local Nature Recovery Strategy** in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly
- Sharing tagged seal sightings with **multiple rehabilitation centres**
- Providing data on flying rings for a **parliamentary question**
- Sharing **intelligence** with Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority about gill netting activity and spates of **gill net seal entanglements**
- Raising awareness about the **natural scavenging and decomposition** of seal carcasses
- Supporting **Norwegian residents** to successfully prevent a **seal cull** on their patch.

## Highlights of 2023: Seals and People

**S107 'Square blobs Alien'** re-identified for the first time in 16 years on 26/12/23 at West Cornwall by Sue Sayer and **S119 'Star skateboard'** re-identified for the first time in 20 years on 07/12/23 at West Cornwall by Sue Sayer. Both these females were first identified in 2003 and Star Skateboard had only ever been identified twice – both times in 2003 but she was still recognised straight away by Sue Sayer in the field. Where have these two females been all this time?

2023 started with the momentous news that our **Founder and Director Sue Sayer** had been **awarded an [MBE for her services to wildlife conservation and protection](#)** in the King's first New Year's Honours list. Sue was determined to make a memorable mark at her investiture at Windsor Castle in December 2023. She commissioned local artist, friend and SRT Corporate Supporter **Michelle Costello from Smartie Lids on the Beach** to design and create a **fascinator**. This depicted Sue's favourite and first ever re-identified seal 'Chairlift' from 2000, surrounded by pyroplastic rocks and ghost gear waves. This accompanied her **Starry Night** outfit (by Sue's favourite artist, Van Gogh). To Sue his work is prophetic, **reflecting the planetary turmoil we now find ourselves in, in terms of climate change and marine pollution** (including plastics). The first thing the King noticed and asked about was Sue's fascinator, giving her the opening needed to talk about the unique nature of each seal and the challenges being faced by their species in the wild. Huge thanks go to Gareth Richards from Gower Seal Group for nominating Sue for this award back in 2019!



Sue's MBE Investiture accompanied by Dan Jarvis (Vice Chair), husband Chris Howell and Gareth Richards

## Conclusion

It is hard to believe that such a small charity in terms of funding and paid staff can make this huge contribution to marine conservation – only made possible by our amazing volunteers!





Let sleeping seals lie 😊

Seal  
Research  
Trust



Registered charity number: 1142506  
[www.cornwallsealgroup.co.uk](http://www.cornwallsealgroup.co.uk)  
[www.sealresearchtrust.com](http://www.sealresearchtrust.com)



# Revenue and Expenditure

## Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust For the year ended 31 March 2024

2024

### Revenue

Adoptions - Private WSS	7,542
Online Fundraising - Amazon Smile income	165
Donations - Boat	1,705
Donations - Corporate (inc' Corporate Sponsorship)	14,523
Donations - Private	18,858
Online Fundraising - Facebook income	569
Activity generated income - Fundraising income	229
Income from Projects/Report writing	1,050
Online Fundraising - Just Giving income	392
Activity generated Income- Merchandise sales	8,155
Activity generated income - Talks and Training fee income and expenses claimed	1,070
Online fundraising PayPal Giving Fund income	1,804
Jumblebee fundraiser income	819
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>56,881</b>

### Cost of Sales

Merchandise Purchases	4,808
Postage charges for merchandise	1,758
Shopify costs	252
FSC course fees collected, paid over to FSC	1,050
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>7,867</b>

### Gross Surplus

49,014

### Administrative Costs

Boat charter	5,200
Professional fees - Insurance.	966
IT, hardware and software	14,520
Marketing & Promotional Resources	10,828
Office supplies	1,023
Other Miscellaneous costs	493
Paypal fees	113
Printing	349
Ranger - Sanctuaries at Sea (Sarah Millward)	18,456
Survey equipment	1,008
Training costs for Rangers and Volunteers	60
Ranger - Activities & Admin' Lauren McGregor	11,298
Ranger - SRT RMSR - Polly Ford	500
Grants given	4,788
Ranger - Karen Gaudern	1,468
<b>Total Administrative Costs</b>	<b>71,070</b>

Revenue and Expenditure

	2024
Surplus	(22,056)
Other Income	
Course fees collected for Field Studies Council	154
Gift Aid income	3,483
Flotilla grant - ringfenced	25,000
Total Other Income	28,636
Surplus	6,581
Surplus	6,581



## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

<b>Report to the trustees/ members of</b>	Charity Name Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust		
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1162936
<b>Set out on pages</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <small>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>		

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.


#### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  Date: 20/08/24

Name: Mr J K Shepherd

#### Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

FCCA, CTA

#### Address:

11A Kimberley Park Road  
Falmouth, Cornwall  
TR11 2DA

### Section B

### Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.



Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.