



# CSGRT

## Annual Report 2020

Who knew we could achieve so much?

An extraordinary year

Inspiring ambassadors for seals

Smashed expectations and targets

It's all change

Highs and lows

Amazing seal stories

World record breakers

Phenomenal teamwork

COVID19 transformed our charity for the better forever.

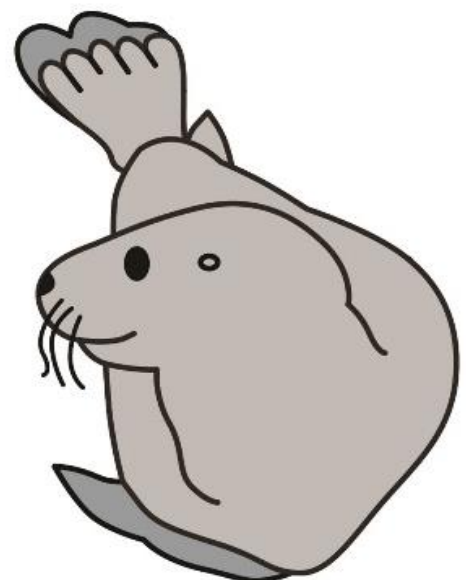
Cornwall

**SEAL**

Group

Research

Trust





# Annual Report 2020

At CSGRT we described 2018 as a landmark year, 2019 saw us riding a wave of success, which we managed to sustain in 2020 despite COVID19.



## People

We began 2020 with **4 paid rangers**. At the start of 2020, our Rangers and activities were funded by The **People's Postcode Lottery (Postcode Local Trust)**, **Heritage Lottery Fund**, **Heritage Emergency Fund**, **Natural England**, **TEVI**, **LUSH Cosmetics**, **TESCO Bags of Help**, **Seal Protection Action Group**, **Polzeath Marine Conservation Group**, **Three Bays Wildlife**, **Animal Friends**, **Aspects Holidays**, **Fourth Element**, **Mungo Lils on the Hill**, **Rowes Cornish Bakers**, **The Bowgie Inn**, **SeaChangers**, **Waterhaul**, **The University of Exeter** and our **incredible volunteer fundraising efforts and donations**. However, during 2020, funding ran out and COVID19 made our finances rather precarious. As a result, we ran our first ever **Crowdfunder Appeal**. Thanks to everyone's huge generosity and a lot of hard work by our team, we surpassed our target and raised a total of **£21963**.

In 2020, our part time Rangers were:

- Amazement and Discovery/Photo ID Ranger (Marion Beaulieu)
- Creativity and Activity Ranger (Emily Pollitt)
- Retail Ranger (Joe Gray)
- Sanctuaries at Sea Ranger (Sarah Millward)
- Seal Research Ranger (Katie Bellman)



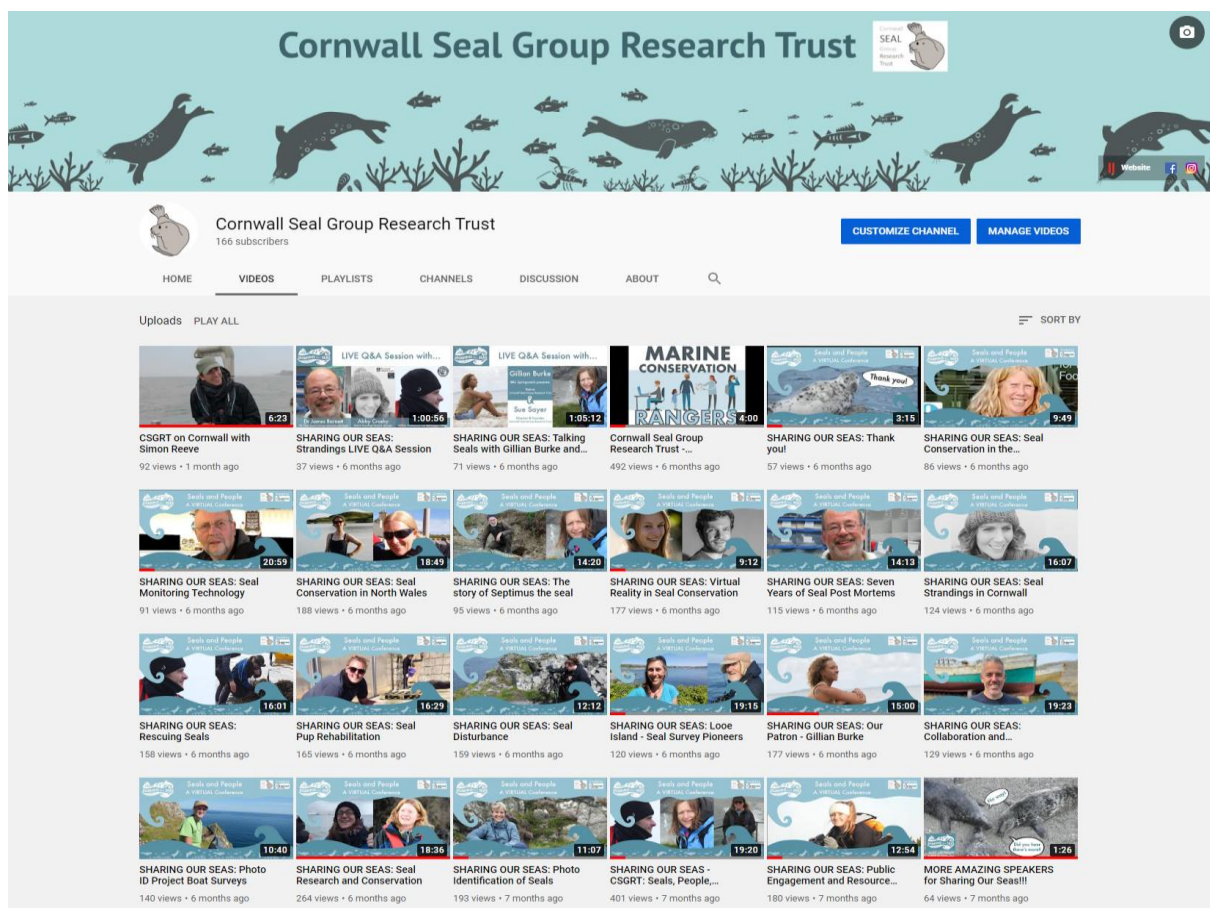
Emily has moved on to pastures new and we have been joined by Joe. So, we have ended 2020 with 4 paid rangers, all of whom are thankfully funded until end of Feb 2022 by the **Heritage Lottery Green Recovery Challenge Fund**. We also welcomed lots of new hub and administrative volunteers and several key volunteers:

- **Photo ID coordinator – Kate Williams**, who organises our ID work and responds to all emails sent into the [sightings@cornwallsealgroup.co.uk](mailto:sightings@cornwallsealgroup.co.uk) email account
- **Data Manager and Wild Seal Supporter Scheme Coordinator – Karen Gaudern**. Karen digitises the majority of survey albums generated each month and ensures our Wild Seal Supporter and Adoption Scheme runs like clockwork
- **Treasurer – Lesley Fitt**, a passionate advocate for marine conservation.

Going forward, we hope to sustain our Rangers by increasing our self-generated funding streams through our **online shop** (gifts and clothing), our **Wild Seal Supporter and Adoption Scheme**, and private / corporate **donations**. Huge thanks to everyone who has contributed to this incredible achievement.

We finally got **fibre broadband** at CSGRT HQ to help us access our IT network remotely and share seal stories online a bit faster. This helped us to deliver **53 free talks, 14 free events and 53 free online training workshops** for our volunteers directly engaging with **8652+ beneficiaries** from all age groups. This shared our learning about the SW's globally rare speciality species and how best to help them at work, rest and play. In return, Mevagissey Museum won a **Cornwall Heritage Innovation Award** for their partnership with us and our Septimus exhibition and CSGRT got a mention in the **House of Lords**.

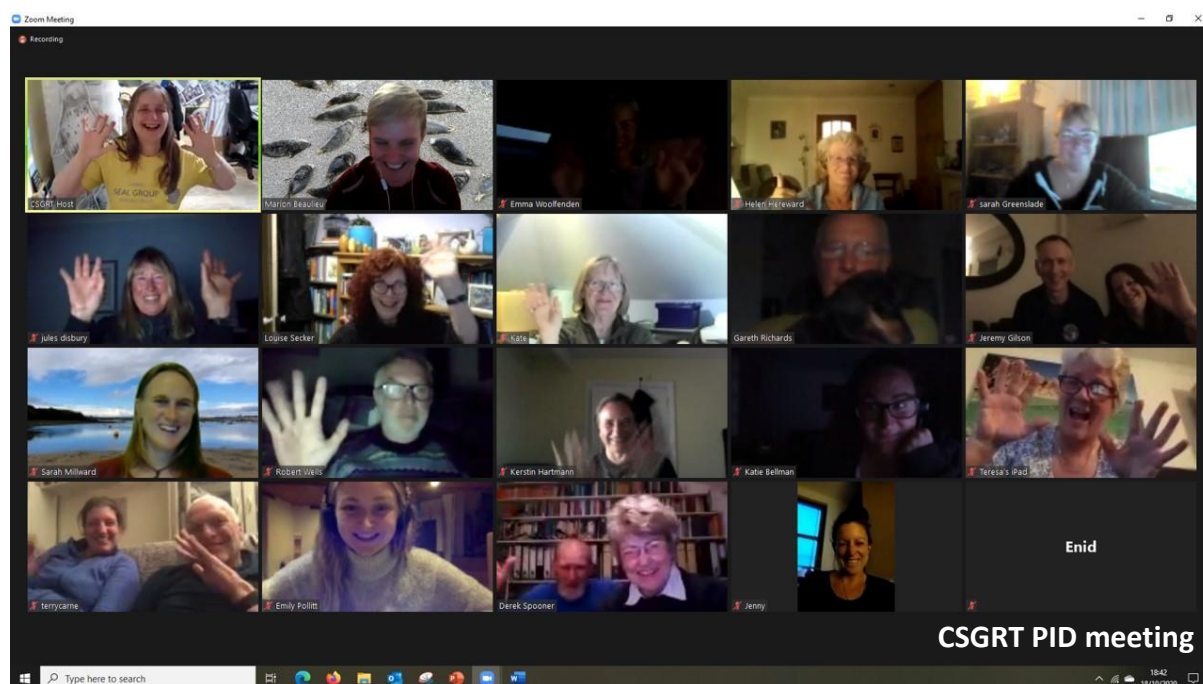
Our news goes around the world via our **4 global partners**, website and social media – our **Facebook page** has **6141 followers** (up 30%); our **Instagram** page has **2671 followers** (up 84%); our Twitter account has **893 followers** and we set up a new **CSGRT YouTube channel** in May 2020. Our online talks, training and videos had **4440 views in 2020**. Incredibly our Lucky bunting rescue video on our old YouTube channel had **836,970 views** - mostly in India!





2020 saw us building mutually beneficial local artist and business partnerships with a range of talented artisans – **Kurt Jackson, The Chapel Street Gallery, The Cornish Jewellery Company, Rosalyn Cook, Lindsey Keates, John Daniels, Smartie Lids on the Beach, Zennor Made** to add to **Animal Friends and Attic Design and Print** who we have supported for several years.

As ever, people are our most precious asset. By the end of 2020, CSGRT had **25 local area Photo ID (PID) Hubs** across the southwest. These incredibly dedicated volunteers are not only eyes and ears for the seals on their local patch, but they conduct surveys, process photos, make and confirm IDs as well as digitise data. Most importantly these inspiring people are ambassadors and **champions for seals**, representing them in local communities.



## Data and Reports

Thanks to an incredible **365** volunteers, we were able to process a total of **4438 discrete surveys** in 2020 (that's over 12 each and every day with the Lizard team managing **daily surveys** for yet another year!) Working within government COVID19 guidelines these included **6 boat Photo ID Project** transects and two of our quarterly **seal censuses**. Sadly, we had a big miss this year, as we were unable to do any of our Looe Photo ID Project surveys down to a combination of COVID19, weather and sea conditions. It is a good job Assistant Warden Claire Lewis keeps routine records for us year-round. Our surveys covered a total of **280 different seal locations**. This was down on 2019, but not really surprising considering the COVID19 pandemic. On **average 9 seals** were recorded per survey from a minimum of zero to a maximum of 596. Overall, of the seals that we could accurately age and sex, **73% were adults** and 27% juveniles. Of the adults we could confidently sex, **57% were male** and 43% female. Our observations included **118 common seal** sightings.

Our PID Hubs processed a truly gobsmacking **139,704 photos** in 2020 and generated a total of **12162 seal identifications** of which **86% were re-identifications**. This included our new maximum of **122 different individual seal identifications** in a single survey that were

confirmed by two experienced volunteers. Of all the seals re-identified, **7 were seals we first added to our catalogues back in 2000** (4 males and 3 females).

**777 observations of entangled seals** were recorded up to a **maximum of 19** entangled (current or ex) on a single survey. It is not always possible to add an entangled seal to the ID catalogue, so of the 777 records, **94 different entangled seals were identified on 492 occasions**. The most frequently identified were **‘Slipper’ (42 times); ‘Legs’ (33); ‘Beast’ (24); ‘Long line’ (24) and ‘Mono double’ (20)**.

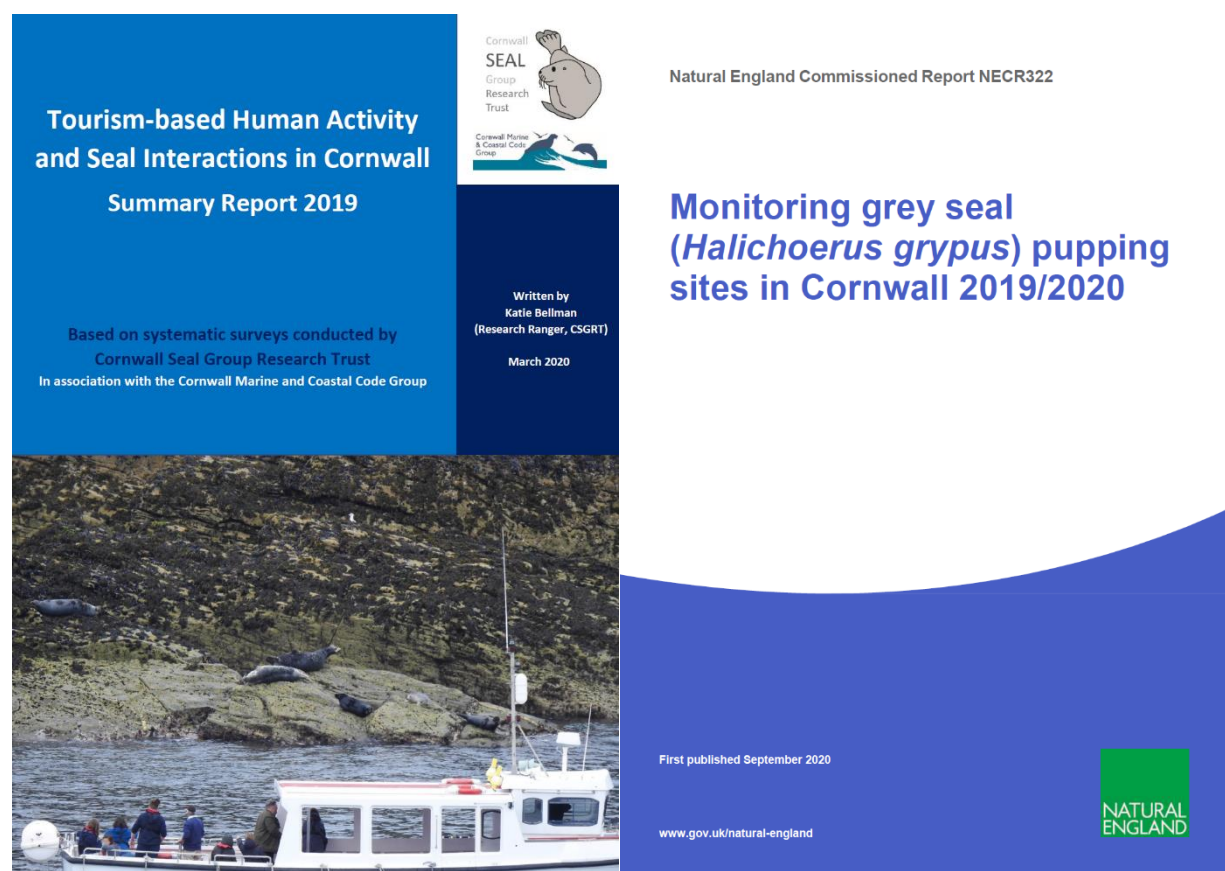


From our routine data (not effort corrected) , disturbance was down this year, perhaps as a result of the COIV19 pandemic. Serious level 3 disturbance incidents **dropped from 141 to 64** and seals affected from **614 to 192** during lockdown between Feb and July inclusive. Things then deteriorated with August being our worst August for the number of seals affected. In total, we recorded **221 different disturbance incidents** (of which 156 were serious level 3) with 1319 individual seal reactions (of which **946 were serious level 3**), all of which were likely to impact seal metabolisms and physiology. Level 3 ‘serious’ disturbance data is shown in the tables below – No. of seals impacted (top) No. of Incidents (bottom).

No. of seals	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Jan	26	84	22	76	12	182	94	188	154	218	1115
Feb	34	15	21	27	73	17	52	5	140	15	399
Mar	55	125	27	55	113	80	94	63	108	25	747
Apr	58	91	164	186	362	39	123	305	14	10	1354
May	50	33	118	169	135	35	65	31	62	56	754
Jun	14	32	22	49	14	21	49	57	39	26	324
Jul	32	78	42	65	40	131	98	105	251	60	903
Aug	71	22	68	24	82	25	119	145	126	150	835
Sep	84	25	81	176	74	81	70	61	58	50	763
Oct	12	68	80	53	63	121	31	75	341	53	897
Nov	42	7	14	83	14	20	174	37	127	147	665
Dec	151	1	30	36	13	127	84	232	124	136	934
	629	581	689	999	995	879	1053	1304	1544	946	
Incidents	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Jan	3	9	3	6	5	13	13	3	11	13	80
Feb	3	3	4	2	6	3	3	2	6	5	37
Mar	5	2	2	11	8	7	9	6	7	4	62
Apr	13	3	20	19	16	3	19	13	3	4	114
May	6	5	13	17	14	3	9	12	17	15	111
Jun	3	7	6	12	5	5	10	19	22	14	104
Jul	6	23	20	8	10	15	15	27	86	22	233
Aug	11	6	12	9	20	12	13	26	50	37	199
Sep	12	8	19	17	15	16	19	15	17	17	157
Oct	3	8	10	10	8	6	14	9	23	10	101
Nov	6	1	4	8	2	5	15	4	2	8	55
Dec	9	1	4	4	2	10	6	9	12	7	64
	80	76	117	123	111	98	145	145	256	156	

On a more positive note, there were **790 sightings of ex rehabilitated tagged** seals up to a **maximum of 12** on one survey. On all but one occasion, these seals were identified and in total **121 different individual tagged seals were identified** post release back to the wild. These had been released from the **Gower** in southwest Wales to the north, **Combe Martin** to the northeast, the **Isles of Scilly** to the west, **Gunwalloe** to the south and **Sidmouth** to the east. The most frequently identified were **‘Archer lady’ (78 times); ‘Prudie’ (46); ‘Hufflepuff’ (46); ‘Slipper’ (42) and ‘Orion’ (41)**. Tagged seal sightings show a lot less seasonal variation than entangled seals.

All this data provided CSGRT with a robust evidence base from which we wrote **15 reports including 4 for publication** (a **‘Post release monitoring’** paper for **Marine Mammal Science** currently in review, our **‘Grey Seal pupping sites in Cornwall 2019/2020’** for **Natural England**, the **‘Human Activity and Seal Interactions’** report for the **Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code Group** and we edited the **Southwest Marine Ecosystems Seal Report.**)



## Policy and Conservation

We used the evidence we collated to give seals a voice in **36 public consultation** submissions, as wide ranging as the **Southwest Marine Spatial Plan**, the **Responsible Fishing Port Scheme**, the **Southwest Coast Path**, **OCR’s Natural History GCSE**, **Fishing Fixed Net Byelaws**, the **AONB Management Plan**, **Cornwall’s Marine Nature Recovery Priorities** and amending the **Conservation of Seals Act** with a range of statutory agencies coordinated by **DEFRA**. This was the biggest news ever as the **Conservation of Seals Act** finally outlawed the taking, injuring and killing by any means of seals in the UK.



CSGRT represented seals at the two **Seal Network UK** meetings chaired by DEFRA online in March and November 2020 and hosted a socially distanced visit by **Vicky Bendall the DEFRA Seals and Seabirds Policy Advisor**.

Sue Sayer chaired the newly formed **Seal Alliance's Disturbance Working Group** which held 8 meetings from April 2020 and will launch some exciting developments in 2021. CSGRT



were invited to represent seals on the National Steering Group for a new statutory organisation aimed at reducing wildlife bycatch – **Clean Catch UK led by DEFRA**.

At the start of lockdown, CSGRT approached **Natural England** to review the **Aire Point to Carrick Du Site of Special Scientific Interest** and seals have been confirmed as a monitored species across this protected area. This is now the **third SSSI in Cornwall** where seals are features of interest and **well protected legally even from disturbance**.

We partnered with **Perran Sands Holiday Park** to design a large sign about seals and our new banners were put up by the National Trust on the **Roseland and the Bowgie Inn**. CSGRT agreed **pupping signs** that were **erected temporarily on the Lizard** (by Natural England) and **the Roseland** (by the National Trust and volunteers) to reduce disturbance. We partnered with **British Divers Marine Life Rescue** in a **pup watch at Pentire** where signs were also



designed, agreed and **put up by the National Trust** along with new clifftop fencing to protect 'Lucky bunting' and her pup 'Little flag' from clifftop footfall and disturbance. The Roseland haul out had fencing too. CSGRT also created **advisory signs for Dorset and Carbis Bay** where juvenile grey seals had been actively engaging with swimmers. Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in this valuable ambassadorial work.

Lockdown impacted our ability to communicate with our supporters and the public, so CSGRT transformed our operational procedures, set up a new **remotely accessible IT network** and went online. Our supporters benefitted, as newsletter subscribers (<http://eepurl.com/dHdy3j>) were able to access new **virtual monthly meetings**. We held an incredible **341 conference calls and meetings** with volunteers, partner organisations, business networks and statutory agencies. **CSGRT's 20th birthday** was celebrated with a **[virtual conference](#) attended by 700+** different people. Incredibly, COVID19 has changed our charity and seal conservation for the better forever.

As in previous years we continued to share evidence, information and advice with **4 global partners** – World Animal Protection, the Global Ghost Gear Initiative, the Pinniped Entanglement Group and the 5 Gyres Trawlshare Microplastics Project.

## Media

In 2020, CSGRT featured in **43 written articles** for organisations such as the Pinniped Entanglement Group, Global Ghost Gear Initiative Newsletters, Finisterre, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership, the SW Coast Path, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Cornwall and Devon Mammal Groups.

CSGRT and seals were discussed in **3 live radio interviews** from **BBC Radio 4's nature table to Radio Cornwall** interviews about seal pups and our Green Recovery Challenge Fund grant. CSGRT took part in **3 high profile TV** series including **Countryfile** and **Springwatch** earlier in the year and **Simon Reeve in Cornwall** that was watched by 3million viewers in November. Several clips also featured in local news programmes throughout the year.



## Resources

Our exhibition and activity resources grew again this year. Our **Virtual Reality experience**, where people of all ages and abilities can explore the anatomical features of our seal



skeletons was launched and proved a great hit prior to lockdown. We created a series of **9 online activities for families** to share during lockdown and these are available to download for free from our online shop. We also have new **Seal Adaptation** leaflets, **15 Fascinating Fact** Infographics, a **Timeline of CSGRTs first 20 years** and **Top Ecotips** to give away to inspire eco action at home.



## Seals and Seasonal Activity

The beauty of long-term data sets is that you can begin to spot changes. **Phenology shifts** appear to be taking place in the seal world. **Peak haul out season for seals is now earlier** moving from April in 2013/14 to March (for 5 years) to Feb (for 2 years) and even Jan and Dec (for 1 year each). Likewise, the pupping season, that **used to peak in October**, has **moved to September for the last 2 years and is shorter and more compressed** than it used to be. Alongside this, seals have started using apparently **new haul outs** not previously recorded by CSGRT on the Lizard and at West Cornwall, whilst **haul outs have shifted** from one side of the headland to the other on the Roseland.

After a highlight on New Year's day of identifying our **favourite Bottlenose dolphin 'Topless'** at Portreath, we were horrified a short while later to discover an **enormous yellow mooring buoy washed up on the West Cornwall** haul out beach. We soon realised that this would break up into millions of plastic fragments if not removed, so began an epic undertaking with Ghost Net Busters and the National Trust to remove this lost gear before it was too late.

In January, we discovered that adult female, **BRF20 'Tulip place holder'**, who has an **extremely swollen and blind right eye** has actually survived in this condition since 2012 –

she seems to spend the summer in the Fal or on the Lizard and the winter on the Roseland haul out. Adult male **LIZ837 'Number 25'** made us smile when he challenged our ID skills during his annual moult. Sarah Greenslade took a photo of a **seal launching itself vertically out of the water** that had us gobsmacked. Then, true to form, adult male **'Arrow Flight'** made his usual short winter visit to the north coast from his favourite haunt in Mounts Bay.



In February, it was a great relief that **LF80 'Brittany'** and another unidentified seal actually turned up during filming for Countryfile for our 100<sup>th</sup> Looe survey. Like **'Arrowflight'** adult female SCF1 **'Kelp'** also turned up at West Cornwall from Mounts Bay – this was only the 5<sup>th</sup> time since 2008 that we have seen her on the north coast. Great news was to be had from Fowey too as FRC1 **'Serena Lowen'** the common seal was recorded there again. It was wonderful to host a **West Cornwall Fieldcraft Day** for the University of Exeter despite the beach having been recently scoured of its top layers of sand revealing more rocks below.

Our **monthly meetings became 'virtual'** in March as we all learned new skills as fast as we could and they started with a bang, as Looe's LF8 **'Lucille'** amazed us all by hauling out in Brixham! She now **links south Devon to north Cornwall** where she was identified in 2017. Kate Hockley and Sue Sayer celebrated by wearing their glad rags as their voluntary contributions were recognised in **Soroptimist Award nominations**. Adult male BRX70 **'Crinkle'** delighted The Seal Project team in south Devon by linking them up with Dorset as they started a new adventure conducting boat surveys. Kate and Sue got lucky when their all-weather writer got ripped out of their hands and blew over the cliff, but was returned to them by a massive gust catapulting it into a gorse bush - phew! S38 **'Thistle clubs'**, first ID'd in 2002 was photographed with 3 entangled seals all lined up on the beach. Then lockdown hit! Some of our luckiest volunteers were able to exercise to their seal site. Fortunately, their survey photos kept our spirits up. LM72 **'One spot 2'** was re-identified back in south Devon for the first time that we know of after lots of identifications in Looe, the Roseland and the Lizard.

April got off to a sad start after ex RSPCA rehab seal **'Vobster'** who was **released in north Devon was found bycaught off the northwest coast of France** - RIP. Fortunately, our spirits



were soon lifted after we recorded some interesting prone howling and body clapping behaviour by a sub adult adolescent male. BRX139 **'Easter bunny'** put in an appearance in south Devon with a shawl of plastic sack around her neck, which fortunately disappeared soon afterwards. Adult male LM46 **'Wiggins'** turned up in Mevagissey again and adult male common seal LC18 **'Ellis'** returned to the Roseland as lockdown continued. Oblivious to world affairs, DP927 **'Clockwork seal'** put in his usual April appearance at West Cornwall and we are left wondering where else he goes when he is off our radar.

## Ellis

Fal
Roseland
Looe

Ellis	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jan			2						1	2	5	6
Feb							1	2	2	3	4	
Mar						1	5		1		3	3
Apr						2	2	1		1		8
May							1	1	1			3
Jun						1		2				
Jul								1	1		2	1
Aug										1		
Sep								1		1	1	
Oct	1								4	1	2	
Nov					2				3		2	
Dec						1		3	6	4	4	
	1	0	2	0	2	5	9	11	19	14	23	20



Devastation hit in May as we lost one of CSGRT's founder members – the legend that was Tim Bain. RIP great man. We also learned from research that seal mums must leave their pups at three weeks in order to survive the energy loss created by feeding them. We became more confident about our online talks and even did some for Maritime UK. It got busy again in north Devon as **57 seals we re-identified during 27 surveys with Starfish being identified 10 times in May alone** and tagged seal **RSPCA's Wookey** was photographed hauled out. In December, he became our **first link between north Devon and the Gower**. We had been helping identify an old adult male **Bertus in Holland** and we were relieved to find that he was still alive after a carcass washed up nearby. The Fal became a popular **haul out spot for adult females on human structures** as the rest of us enjoyed a range of nesting birds on our daily exercise.

In June, we enjoyed a behind the scenes experience during Springwatch filming with our patron Gillian Burke was able to meet Augusta whilst recording for our Crowdfunder film.

Kate Williams had an extraordinary experience at Portreath as she watched **a sudden rush of 10 seals exiting a cave** beneath her. Teresa Boulden spotted ex rehab seal **'Puffa'** at Pendeen from 2003. The Lizard team got great photos of three of their favourites...LIZ112 **'Two fishes'**, LIZ15 **'Key'** and LIZ860 **'Fidget'**. Not to be outdone, S161 **'Crosscomb'** put in an appearance in a blowhole rockpool in the middle of the West Cornwall wave cut platform...she is the only seal we have ever seen access this pool from underwater. The Seal Project were sad to identify a beautiful dead adult male seal as TOR13 **'Sidney'**. RIP.

## S344 Seahorse

S344	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Jan				1	1				1				3
Feb			1		1		1						3
Mar			1	1	1		1		1				5
Apr	1	1	1		1	1			1	1	1	2	10
May							1			2	1		4
Jun	1						1	2		1	8		13
Jul				1			1		4	5	6	1	18
Aug									1	4	1		6
Sep		1		1	1					1			4
Oct	3	2	1	1						2			10
Nov								1					1
Dec								1					1
	5	4	6		5	4	1	5	4	8	16	17	77

Trevose
Pentire
Porthtowan
West Cornwall



Pupping season started with **4 dead pups (2 from late June)** at Porth, St Mary's, Portreath and Torbay – the last of which was tiny and obviously premature. To help pups, we shared messages about the impact of disturbance on mums in the summer which was picked up by the **Telegraph newspaper**. July was a month of filming, as we went out with crews from **Cornwall Climate Care, BBC Spotlight and Beagle Media**. Our seals hauled out on cue to greet Simon Reeve and he was introduced to NF8 **'Radley'**, S466 **'Skinny H'**, S344 **'Seahorse'**, S409 **'Pitchfork'**, S422 **'Ivy'**, DP822 **'Heart sideways'**, PJF8 **'Fuchsia T'** and LP298 **'Whist'** in turn. Still with no Ranger funding after August, our **Sharing our Seas: Seals and People Virtual Conference** took place over a week to be followed by the launch of our all-important **Crowdfunder**. Massive thanks again for everyone's amazing support. We continued to enjoy Andy Roger's monthly updates sharing all his natural highlights from Pentire. This was the month lockdown was lifted. This roller coaster month ended with a sealy low, as poor entangled S524 **'Legs'** returned with a new bobbly lesion on her neck and a high, with a beautiful photo of LC18 **'Ellis'** hauled on a mooring buoy in the Fal.

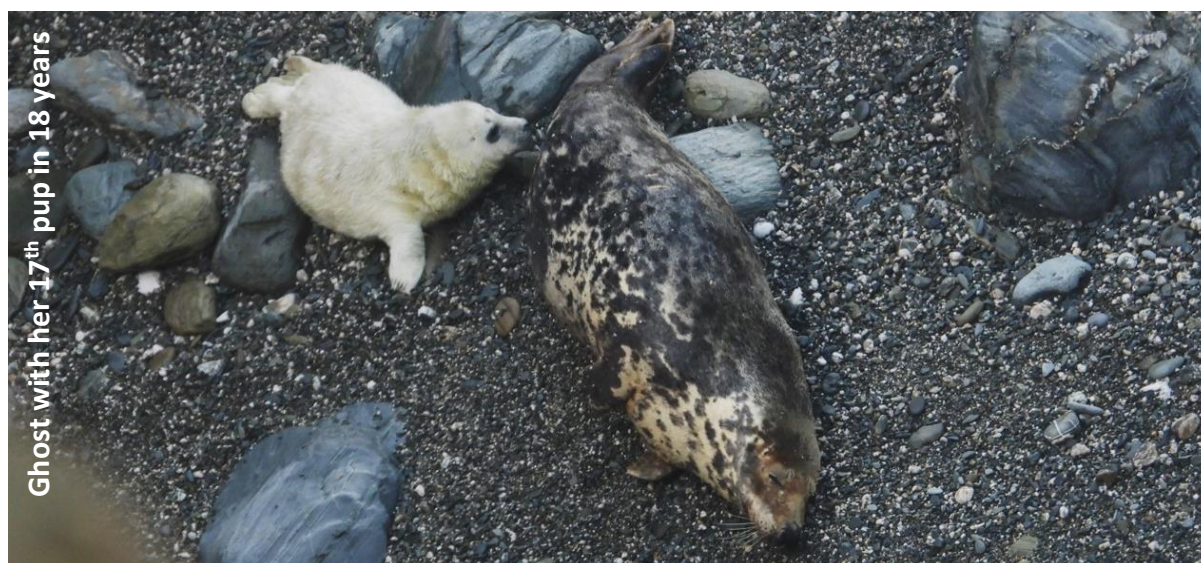
As **pupping season took off in August**, so did disturbance records all-round the southwest. A juvenile seal called **'Sammy'** became far too interested in people as visitors returned to his favourite beaches in Weymouth – fortunately he was watched over by an amazing local volunteer team who kept him safe. We are very grateful to **Ghost Net Busters** who did a very early morning removal of some lost fishing gear from the Pentire offshore haul out without disturbing any seals. **Matt and Lucy** got a great record of 4 seals hauled out at Dawlish as S89 **'Wings'**, S326 **'Box Desk'** and S347 **'Spade'** all delighted visitors in St Ives



Harbour and the haul out returned to the mainland at West Cornwall. The month ended sadly with the demise of LP306 **'Wide eyes wolf'** at around the age of 6 years old. RIP.

A seal was recorded behaving strangely in September by the Padstow Ferry Skipper in the River Camel and to our amazement this turned out to be BRX4 **'Flower'** from south Devon – behaving normally for her. LP41 **'Jenga'** became the first ever ex rehabbed male seal to be recorded mating at Porthtowan – his chosen female was S451 **'Skateboard'**. A **'chocolate orange' stained seal** and a **premature pup** were recorded on the Gower by Gareth. We called **Ghost Net Busters** out for another low-profile removal of trawl net from a secluded pupping beach. As pupping season peaked, **CSGRT partnered with BDMLR to rescue a pup (named Empanada by the Cornish Seal Sanctuary)** from West Cornwall. We finally got out on the first **boat survey PIPs** of the year – wearing masks of course...our new ones designed by **Rowes Cornish Bakers**. The **common dolphins** seemed delighted and we had one of our best ever experiences with them in glassy seas that will live long in our memories.

Keeping up to date with pups, kept us hugely busy in October and there were lot of highlights. Our world record breaking mum – S112 **'Ghost'** was back! We were delighted that she returned to have her **17<sup>th</sup> pup in 18 years** – right on cue. She hung around for 24 days – a good sign for her pup! S240 **'Hanging eyes'** was hot on her heels returning after an **absence of 2.5 years to have her 12<sup>th</sup> pup in 14 years**. TOR2 **'Sammy'** and TOR5 **'Nipper'** had their pups on the same beach in south Devon.



Rob Wells celebrated as there were **late pups – two firsts!** One on the historical mainland haul out beach on the **Roseland** watched over by Kerstin and the second on his local **St Austell Bay** haul out. We recorded **two seals painfully hooked in their sensitive muzzles** in St Ives Bay. Louise Secker discovered an exciting link up between **Lundy and North Cornwall** by LUN533 **'Owl eyes Podium'** who we have tracked since 2012 and our Hub teams found a **link between Lizard South and south Devon**. Taggies provide invaluable information as they can be accurately aged and reveal that **older seals are not always longer/bigger** as shown by LP123 **'Ugg'** and LP228 **'Orion'**. It was a bumper month for tagged seal sightings and a taggie from the Roseland turned out to be an entirely new link up as ROS1000 **'Morgan'** had been rehabbed by **RSPCA Mallydams** and released in Sidmouth in 2018.

December was seabird month, as the phenomenon of 'snowing gannets' returned to the north coast. **Clean Ocean Sailing** approached us about a **large gill net on the Roseland** and **they partnered seamlessly with our local hub to successful remove it**. Thank goodness as this was another bad month for entangled seal sightings. LIZ35 '**Quaver star**' put in her occasional visit at West Cornwall, although she seemed to have a respiratory infection. Sadly LP182 '**Stinkweed**' (an ex RSPCA taggie) was found dead at Hayle – **another adult male to die in his prime – 11 years old – RIP**. More taggie news came as Andrea identified a second Mallydams seal called LP649 '**Panda**' at West Cornwall, which was the first **ever link between the Gower and Cornwall**. Then, LP5650 '**Empanada**' (mentioned above) delighted us as she swam right around the treacherous Land's End seas from her Lizard release site on the south coast to appear back on the north coast beach she was rescued from. This is a **minimum journey of 75km navigated in just 12 days at the ripe old age of 3 months!** Another seal to turn up on cue was S923 '**U cup head**' who made her one visit to West Cornwall on 09/12/20, as adult female S253 '**Scales of Balance**' did her usual West Cornwall to North Cornwall commute in less than 4 days.

We continue to learn that there is no **such thing as an average seal**...like us, they are all doing their own individual thing. They know what they are doing - we just haven't caught up yet. Our photo identification work continues to demonstrate how far our seals swim and how much they depend on joined up and protected coastal habitat. Our photo ID works has helped us to realise just how **complicated seal society** is and the impacts we are all having on their health and welfare.



Massive thanks to all our volunteers across our **Wales, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, Dorset and Hampshire** network, who make these incredible discoveries possible. This huge team effort makes our globally rare grey seals the most intensively studied in the world.

**Sue Sayer: Director: Jan 2021**



## **Appendix: Hub personnel**

### **Seal Photo ID Hubs**

#### **Surveyors**

##### **Cardigan Bay**

Dave Jarvis

##### **Gower**

Gareth Richards

##### **North Devon**

Dave Jenkins

##### **Lundy Island**

Dean Woodfin Jones

Martin Thorne

##### **North Cornwall**

Mike Stephens

Malcolm Baker

Shan Uglow

Pauline McKeogh

##### **Padstow Bay**

Jenny Simpson

##### **Rumps**

Jules Disbury

##### **Trevose**

Terry Carne

Charlotte Bright

##### **Newquay and Pentire**

Katie Bellman

Andy Rogers

Craig Ashley

##### **Portreath to Porthtowan**

Peter Welsh

Andy Hadfield

Ellen Jones

Kate Williams

##### **West Cornwall**

Sue Sayer

Kate Hockley

Andrea Hunt

Geoff Rogers

Nichola Peters

Karen Gaudern

John Adelson

##### **Carbis Bay**

Andrea Hunt

Vanessa Bottrell

##### **St Ives**

Nichola Peters

Eli Kej

Peter Nason

Chris Oates

##### **West Penwith North**

Jeff Loveridge

Helen Hambly

##### **Cape Cornwall**

Malcolm Baker

Teresa Boulden

##### **Porthgwarra**

Teresa Boulden

##### **Mounts Bay West**

Andrea Hunt

Vanessa Bottrell

Hannah Jones

Mounts Bay East

Teresa Boulden

##### **Lizard West and SP**

Alec and Enid Farr

Terry Thirlaway

Ken Wallace

Hilary Hoad

Jeremy and Angela Gilson

Peter Hall

##### **Lizard East**

Cat Lee

##### **Roseland**

Rob Wells

Kath Wherry

Kerstin Hartmann

##### **St Austell Bay**

Rob Wells

##### **Looe**

Claire Lewis

LMCG

Derek Spooner

Martin Gregory

##### **South Devon**

Sarah Greenslade

Duncan Kenny

##### **Solent**

Richard Holgate

##### **CSS**

Ken Wallace

## Seal Photo ID Hubs

### Processors

#### Cardigan Bay

Dave Jarvis

#### Carbis Bay

Andrea Hunt

#### Looe

Cliff Davies

Christine Spooner

Sophie Holden

Jasmina Goodair

#### Gower

Gareth Richards

#### St Ives

Louise Secker

#### Somerset

Vanessa Lloyd

#### West Penwith North

Marion Beaulieu

Helen Hambly

#### South Devon

Ellie Knott

Sarah Greenslade

Kate Williams

#### North Devon

Kate Williams

#### Cape Cornwall

Teresa Boulden

#### Solent

Kate Williams

#### Lundy Island

Dean Woodfin Jones

Lundy wardens and  
volunteers

Kate Williams

#### Isles of Scilly

#### Porthgwarra

Teresa Boulden

#### North Cornwall

Louise Secker

#### Mounts Bay West

Andrea Hunt

#### Padstow Bay

Jenny Simpson

#### Mounts Bay East

Teresa Boulden

#### Rumps

Jules Disbury

#### Lizard West and SP

Enid Farr

Sarah Millward

Jeremy and Angela Gilson

#### Trevose

#### Newquay and Pentire

Katie Bellman

Andy Rogers

#### Lizard East

#### Roseland

Rob Wells

Kerstin Hartmann

Helen Hereward

#### Portreath to Porthtowan

Kate Williams

#### West Cornwall

Sue Sayer

Kate Hockley

Andrea Hunt

#### St Austell Bay

Rob Wells

Emma Woolfenden