

**BLUE SEAS PROTECTION**



**U.K.**



**U.N.**

**MARINE CONSERVATION REG. CHARITY 1189529**

**"FIGHTING FOR OUR OCEANS NEVER OUT OF OUR DEPTH"**

# BLUE SEAS PROTECTION NEWS

ISSUE 1 • DECEMBER 2021



## WELCOME ABOARD!

BY GINA PHILLIPS

Welcome to our first charity newsletter!

This monthly newsletter will update all our brilliant members on what we have been up to as well as educational articles and featured articles from our trustees and volunteers.

We have had a very busy November and had a lot of interesting conversations and exciting opportunities. Inside this issue you will find out about our visit to Southern Water where we talked all about the pressing issue on everybody's minds: sewage!

This month you'll also have all the key takeaways from November's COP26 event in Newport. You'll also get the opportunity to meet some of our newest team members!

We hope this newsletter finds you well and we have so many exciting plans for the new year.

Let's continue to fight for what is right in our oceans !

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Message From Our  
Chairman

• P. 2

Three P's Please - our visit to  
Southern Water November 2021

• P. 3

Blue Seas at COP26

• P. 4

Meet the Team

• P. 5



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN.

BY GARRY OATES

I'm very proud of all the marine conservation work we have been doing locally on the Isle of Wight, nationally and internationally this month and thank you for all your ongoing support.

In October we handed in our petition of nearly 4500 individual signatures against drilling for oil on the Isle of Wight to the Head of Planning at County Hall in time for the Planning meeting to decide whether or not to approve the application. Happily the application was rejected but we understand that UKOG have already submitted an appeal against the Council's decision. Make sure to read our blog post for the details.

On November 6th we attended a mass gathering in St James Square Newport to have our say about COP26, at which National leaders decided our future and how we collectively approach a climate change tipping point. Even if all Nation's promises are achieved (unlikely), we will still be looking at a global increase in temperatures by the end of this century of 1.8C. The ocean is our single biggest resource to combat and offset this temperature rise and needs a concerted INTERNATIONAL management strategy NOW. The effects of temperature rises on sea levels and therefore coastal communities and our own island are not looking good! But there is hope and we must remain positive. Read our report on page 4



Sewage outflow in the water is "big news" at the moment. On November 4th, as associate members of East Cowes group FAECES, we visited Southern Water's Sandown water treatment plant to hear their side of the story. Read all about our visit and findings on page 3

Our campaign to stop UK trading with the Faroe Islands, who slaughter whales and dolphins in the name of "tradition" (but realistically actually for sport), gains pace and there was a Rally in London in October outside parliament square. The petition now has 51000 signatures, has had a response by government, but requires 49000 more signatures to be debated in Parliament further. Link to petition on website  
Our monthly beach cleans, which we maintained all during lockdown, adapting through all the different changing rules and regulations, continue the first Sunday of every month at 10am for 10.30 start. NEW MEETING VENUE: from Dinosaur Isle/Browns Golf public car park which is free to park over winter.  
I'd like to welcome Gina Phillips to our Team of dedicated people working for ocean conservation from Sandown Marine Conservation Zone on the Isle of Wight Biosphere. She has worked tirelessly since starting with us in October and this new-look newsletter is just one of the super improvements she has made already! Read all about her on p5 Meet Our Team section

Our Kickstart Vacancy for SharkLab is still available. If you are aged 16-24 and registered with the Jobcentre ask your Work Coach and send us your CV!

Finally, we will be holding a Christmas Fund Raising and Awareness weekend at Busy Bees 18th & 19th December.

Happy Christmas and see you in 2022!

Garry Oates Chairman

Blue Seas Protection

"Fighting for our Oceans"

# THREE P'S PLEASE – OUR VISIT TO SOUTHERN WATER NOVEMBER 2021

BY GINA PHILLIPS

There has been a lot in the news and on Social Media recently about Raw Sewage discharges into our waters. Members of Blue Seas Protection went along at the beginning of this month to find out...

Chairman Garry Oates, Trustee Tiena Eccles and Social Media Coordinator Gina Phillips were invited to the treatment plant in Sandown with FAECES, a group of concerned residents from East Cowes.

The visit allowed us to learn how our wastewater is treated and attempt to understand the complexities of wastewater management. The size and intricacies of the site are incomprehensible but all the staff onsite were happy to talk us through every detail.

We were glad to hear that all the team at Southern Water welcomed the proposal of the new Environmental Bill. This new bill will put increased pressure on water companies to take accountability for any environmental impact. They seem to be in constant talks about ways in which to improve their current methods and reduce their impact on the environment. However they were also keen to point out that the wastewater released into the sea makes up a very small amount of the sea pollution we face. With this as well they have assured us that there is no raw sewage being pumped into our waters on the Isle of Wight.



They emphasised that only the “3 P’s” should be put down the toilet: Paper, Poo and Pee. Invariably, instead we put wet wipes, cotton buds, sanitary items etc down our toilets as well, which put a strain on the system.

They were also transparent about the dangerous things that end up in our oceans, even in treated sewage. There are still many steps to be taken to eliminate microplastics and pharmaceuticals from treated wastewater. Things don’t always go to plan but ultimately, they did assure us, there is no raw sewage being pumped out at Sandown Bay. We did learn however that rainwater is mixed and treated with wastewater which puts tremendous pressure on a system that is already at capacity.

These are the changes and pressures we need to potentially be putting on other agencies to ensure water companies like Southern Water can continue to do their job and not be forced to cut corners. There are many things we can do as individuals to help. So once again not flushing wipes, sanitary products or cotton buds down the toilet. As well as this we can change the chemicals and products we flush down our toilets to ones that are biodegradable so they do not end up in our oceans. It is also important to be conscious of the amounts of water we use by using the Southern Water GetWaterFit app.

We as a team at Blue Seas Protection realize that this problem is complex. We believe that Southern Water should be investing much more heavily in the infrastructure instead of the focus being on profits. Alongside that, the Planning department needs to be much tougher on new builds and their wastewater regulations. The Environmental Agency should make sure their standards are strict enough in ensuring that the discharge is safe.

We as a Marine Conservation charity would be willing to offer our boat and our services at sea to help with this on the Island and South Coast as part of our charitable work for public benefit.

We would like to thank our colleagues at FAECES for the enlightening visit. We would also like to thank Laura and Andy for showing us around the treatment plant and answering our questions.



# BLUE SEAS AT COP26.

BY GINA PHILLIPS

The 6th of November was a day of action for many local communities to come together and discuss environmental issues that were highlighted at Glasgow's COP26. Blue Seas Protection had the opportunity to attend the COP26 event in Newport. About 150 people turned up to let their voices be heard on the current climate crisis. Many concerns were discussed from animal rights and marine conservation to the current sewage debate including Island MP Bob Seely's stance on the Environmental Bill.



## "WE SAID WE ARE BLUE SEAS PROTECTION TRY SINKING US!"

There were many passionate speeches from people including Jean Bartrum and Vix Lowthian. They repeated the great Greta Thunberg's sentiments of no more "Blah Blah Blah". Our own Chairman Garry Oates made a plea for our oceans as well as an overview of all the work we do at Blue Sea's Protection.

We have seen success first-hand with our petition in conjunction with other Island Pressure Groups that aided the rejection of the plans to drill for oil in Arreton. These successes may be small in the grand scheme of things but overall, they ensure that we take advantage of the position we are in on the Isle of Wight to come together and make a big difference to our local environment.

It is easy to criticize politicians and large companies for their failings on a global scale however in these smaller victories we have proven that a lot can be changed via individual action. It is important as individuals to not only hold accountable the actions of larger organizations but to have accountability for our own actions and to make sure we spend every day making changes and educating others on what we can do to protect our planet.

We would like to thank everybody who stopped by to discuss our aims and who wished to join our growing members of volunteers and supporters.



# MEET THE TEAM: GINA PHILLIPS

BY GINA PHILLIPS

Hi my name is Gina Phillips and I am Social Media Coordinator for Blue Seas Protection.

I have recently graduated from Solent University with a BA in Popular Music Production. My background is in music promotion and marketing. However I am also a vegan and animal rights activist so to be able to work for a Marine Conservation Charity like Blue Seas Protection is a dream come true.

I am responsible for our social media including our brand new Tik Tok where I post educational content and promote our charitable aims. I am also editor for our brand new Newsletter !

For my first few months here I would like to build upon and expand our educational resources and make sure that we are all armed with knowledge and facts when we attend demonstrations and protests. This means that everybody within the organisation and wider community are able to discuss all the important issues that face our seas.

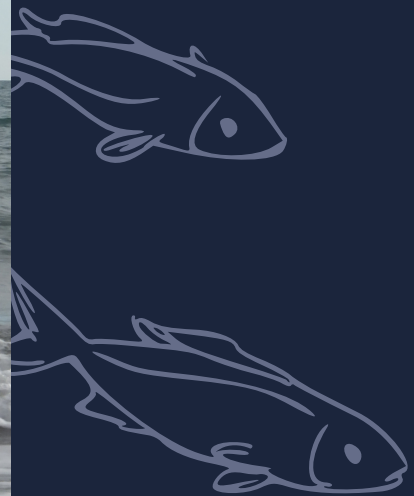


## EVENTS

**DECEMBER EVENTS**

**5TH OF DECEMBER 2021**  
**BEACH CLEAN**  
**10:30 AM (MEET AT DINOSAUR ISLE CAR PARK)**

**18TH AND 19TH OF DECEMBER 2021**  
**CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING WEEKEND**  
**10:00 AM TILL 4PM BUSY BEE**



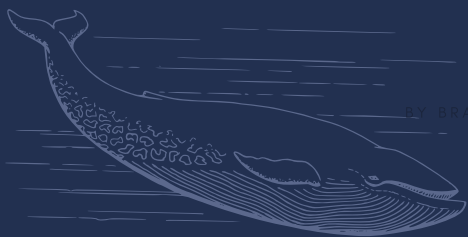
We would like to thank all our supporters and sponsors for their continual support and allowing us to help protect our seas.

We wish everybody a peaceful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

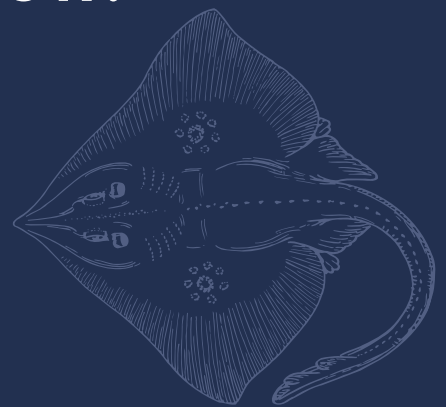
"Marine conservation doesn't cost the earth but it means the world. "



## LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!



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