



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

outstanding scilly

nature access beauty heritage

Marine Champions Wanted!

By Nikki Banfield, Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust Communications Officer

Islands = Sea. Sea = Marine Life. Marine Life = endless possibilities in terms of research opportunities and, sometimes, the need for human interventions in order to alleviate suffering.

Following on from Sue Sayer's ask in the last edition of Scilly Now & Then (Issue 90), for volunteers to support the progression of Seal photo ID research across the Islands, we'd like to encourage those who have a love of our marine environment to consider not only volunteering but also taking up the following training opportunities we are endeavouring to bring to the Islands next year.

This is an opportunity for the Islands to support partner organisations on the Mainland in developing a core of trained volunteers here on Scilly with a keen interest in supporting our Marine Wildlife, providing information, contributing to research and we'll provide the training for FREE!

BDMLR Marine Mammal Medic Training

Volunteers who have completed the BDMLR Marine Mammal Medic Training (like Heike Dorne - pictured right - & Dave McBride) are the people who are called on when there is concern for a live Marine Mammal around our Islands (including Seals, Dolphins and Whales).

The training takes place over a day and you do not need to be a diver to take part. Training usually consists of a morning in the classroom learning about cetacean and seal identification, biology and physiology, rescue techniques and health & safety followed by an afternoon of practical sessions covering Seal, Dolphin and Whale rescue.



Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Marine Strandings Network Training

The Marine Strandings Network are the people who are called on when dead marine wildlife is found (Seals, Cetaceans, Birds etc); they record relevant information which is then submitted to the records centre for use when looking at trends and threats to survival, providing information which is vital in helping us to conserve wildlife and cannot be learnt from studying live animals.

The training takes place over a day and volunteers respond to "hotline" enquiries; this can either be in the form of helping to "man" the hotline or being a trained person to attend locally and take measurements, photographs etc of reported "strandings".

20 people have already registered an interest to join them in either of these training opportunities or to find out more information please send me an email (NikkiBanfield@ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk) or call our office on 01720 422153



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