



## Living Seas Project Update 2016-17

**Thank you for your support for the Living Seas project delivered by Cumbria Wildlife Trust and the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside.**

Living Seas is a vision for the future of the UK's seas where marine wildlife thrives, from the depths of the ocean to the coastal shallows. This year there has been a great emphasis on raising the profile of Our Living Seas project, delivering over 30 public engagement events and gaining extensive media coverage.



The A key project in 2016 was 'The Waste Beneath the Waves', an inspiring and thought-provoking art exhibition created from beach litter gathered on the shores of Cumbria. The marine waste, once cleaned and sorted, was transformed into wonderful sculptures of sea creatures by Cumbrian artist Ellie Chaney, working with local community groups and Cumbria Wildlife Trust.



Other events included whale and dolphin watches, with participants managing to spot harbour porpoises, and seal workshops with enthusiastic attendees braving all weathers.

Twelve illustrated talks were delivered to groups of volunteers, students and wildlife enthusiasts, and rocky shore educational sessions were run with two local colleges and universities.

A total of 25 surveys were also completed this year. These included monitoring the grey seal population at South Walney Nature Reserves. For the second year in a row, seal pups were recorded, which could mark the establishment of a breeding colony on the reserve.

Cumbria Wildlife Trust will be running a number of events over the spring and summer, including the annual Beached Art festival at St Bees and celebrating our fantastic marine life during National Marine Week at the end of July.

**Thank you again for your amazing support!**