

# Gylly Mag

THE SURF STORY OF THE SOUTH COAST



3/24 · PREMIERE EDITION GYLLY MAG · LOCAL MARINE ENCOUNTERS · GYLLY WAVE  
· THE WINTER · STORIES OF THE SOUTH COAST · A SUSTAINABLE SURFING INDUSTRY?



**W**elcome to the very first edition of Gilly Mag produced by GillySurf School.

**In this first edition we are taking a look into the nature, marine and surf stories of Gilly, Falmouth, the South Coast and Cornwall.**

**The south coast of Cornwall is a hidden gem. Most surfers, tourists and Cornish locals stick to the North Coast. But the South Coast, Gilly and Falmouth have so much surf, nature and natural beauty to offer.**

**2023/24 Winter on the south coast was a cracker! Whilst the north coast was bombarded with howling onshore winds and messy waves, the south coast and Gilly received some all time swells! Local photographers and surfers made the most of the conditions as you will see in the following pages! GillySurf ran a Gilly Wave of the Winter with some awesome shots and awesome prizes for the winners.**

**And that was not all! Falmouth was treated to some incredible wildlife as well. Two female Humpback Whales made their way into the Fal Estuary in early January, along with Fin Whales and some huge pods of Dolphins. Whilst the waves may have headed back to the north coast for summer, our love for Gilly and the south coast certainly hasn't.**

**Enjoy!**

**Dan,**

**Gilly Mag Editor**





# A MARINE ENCOUNTER

JAMES CHATFIELD

Gelly beach is an awesome place to be in Cornwall. On top of the safe conditions that make it perfect for a variety of watersports, the marine life is also incredible, and a true highlight for those lucky enough to experience it. My name is James, and I'm a local marine biologist studying seal behaviour. I'm going to quickly talk about a recent interaction with some of the amazing marine life just off Gelly.

I spend most of my time in the water, normally as a snorkeller or diver. A few weeks ago, I had one of my most memorable experiences, just off Pendennis Point, next to Gelly. I'd been in the water for about 2 hours, with one of my close friends. We'd spent the afternoon exploring the gullies off Pendennis in our snorkel gear. The water's cold, but our thick wetsuits kept us comfortable for the entire snorkel. We'd made it most of the way to the end of the Point, and had started heading back, when I turned around to look at my friend, and saw a large, dark shape sprawled across his back. He looked quite uncomfortable, so I swam over to investigate, when I came face to face with the large seal that had taken an interest in us.

We have a few seals that regularly swim past Castle, Gelly, and Swanpool; I have seen different individuals on four separate occasions when I've been snorkelling.



Most are curious but, ultimately, tend to swim away after a few minutes of watching. This individual, however, was curious and playful, leading to an amazing interaction. This seal went straight for our fins – nibbling and pulling on them, and just wanting to play with us. Although he had a few nibbles and a little play with my black fins, he proved far more interested in my friend's bright yellow fins, which made for some nice photo opportunities. We stayed with this seal for about 20 minutes, before we found ourselves on some rocks and decided to leave him to it.

Contacting a local charity that keeps a photo ID catalogue of local seals, I had this individual identified as a sub-adult male that had travelled over from Porthgwarra after first being seen there in 2022. Despite his already massive size, he still has about a year of growing to do before he'll be considered an adult. Normally, it's the juveniles and females that show the most curiosity, but not in the case of this male.

Although seals often come up and interact with water users, it's so important to remember that these are wild animals: any interaction should take place on their terms, so that they feel comfortable, for both their safety and ours. Never chase a seal, and stay as far away as possible if you see one hauled out on land. Thanks for reading, and enjoy your time in the water this summer!



**“I had this individual identified as a sub-adult male that had travelled over from Porthgwarra after first being seen there in 2022”**





# GETTING THE SHOT

A CHAT WITH GYLLY WAVE OF THE WINTER 2024 WINNER GRACE SHIMA

**Conversation with Grace Shima, winner of Gylly Wave of The Winter 2024, sponsored by Surfbalm & Saltrock. Check out her entry and others on the @gyllysurf Instagram.**

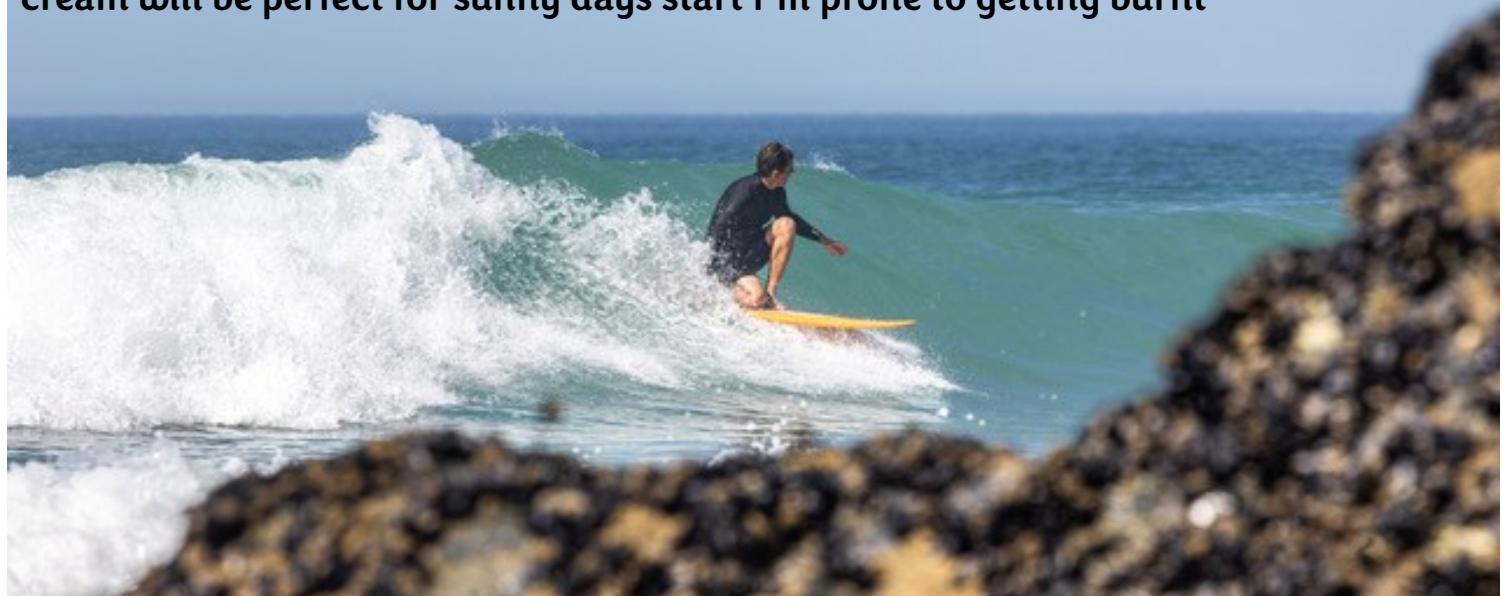
**So Grace, take us through the shot:**

“Originally I wasn’t at Gylly beach to take any surf photos that day, I was there to take a photo of someone’s surf injury, which I was going to use for one of my projects. However, after I had taken the shot I needed, I turned around and was just watching the surf. That week the weather was constantly changing through the days, with rain sun and rainbows, so I thought it was a great opportunity to take a photo of surfers as it showed the location and a rainbow, which I don’t often see with surf photos. Normally I’m shooting on cliff tops with a heavy 500mm lens, so it was a ‘right place right time’ picture, and even though I didn’t have the equipment I’m used to, taking it was a great example for me to make the most of what I’ve got.”



**Are you excited to get use your awesome Saltrock Robe and Surf Balm?:**

“I’ve already worn the Saltrock Changing Robe and it is very warm and makes changing at the beach a lot more comfortable, and the Surf Balm came just in time as I had run out of my previous lip balm. The mint one is my favourite, and the sun cream will be perfect for sunny days start I’m prone to getting burnt”



## **How did you get into photography?:**

**“I think I got into photography through my nan as she always had a camera or video camera on her, and I got my first digital camera at a young age. Originally I didn’t want to come to University because there wasn’t anything that really drew my attention to it, but then I saw the marine and natural history course, which is where I discovered my niche for surf photography. I think not being a surfer myself or living by the beach when I was younger, I’m drawn to it by watching the thrill and excitement that can happen when surfing”**

## **Where are some of your favourite surf spots to get the shots?**

**“One of my favourite surf spots to shoot is at Porthleven at sunset. With the sun behind the waves it silhouettes the surfers and lights up the waves. It just looks so magical”**

## **Any projects your working on at the moment?:**

**“This last term I’ve been focusing on creating a zine called spectators, which is an image/skate-inspired magazine. I created it for my final project to show surfing from a spectators’ point of view, to show how people see the sport. I’m really pleased with how it turned out. “**



**SPECTATORS**

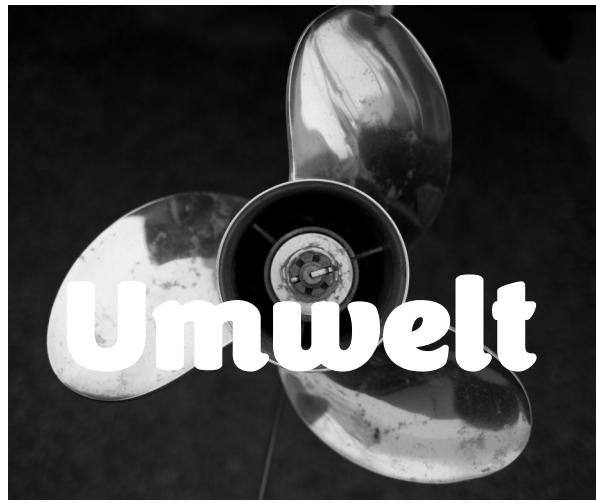
A GUIDE TO SURFING





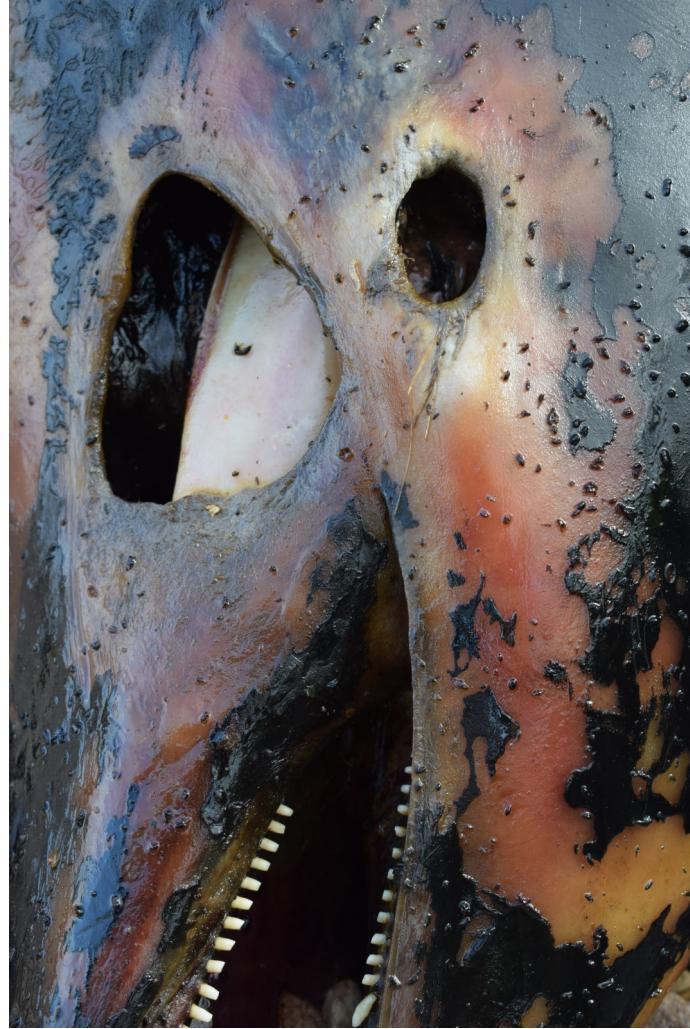
**“so it was a picture taken in a right place right time moment”**





## **An organism's unique sensory experience of the world**

**Have you ever thought about where your day-to-day items come from? Your phone? Your shoes? Maybe one of the 50,000 tankers navigating the globe at this exact moment, carried those goods to you. Most commercial goods are imported using these boats. As a society we have found ourselves reliant on the day-in day-out deliveries of these ships. However, do we ever stop and think about how the vessels that travel across the world's oceans, belch out a wake of sound that radiates for miles beneath the waves? In the last 100 years, the global shipping fleet has more than tripled, moving 10 times more cargo at higher speeds. Together, this has raised the levels of low-frequency noise in the oceans 32-fold. As ships pass by in the night, Humpback Whales stop singing, Dolphins stop foraging and Right Whales become stressed. Crabs stop feeding, Cuttlefish change colour and Damselfish are more easily caught. We flatten the undulating sensescapes, destroying what has generated the wondrous variety of animal Umwelt, somewhat unknowingly.**

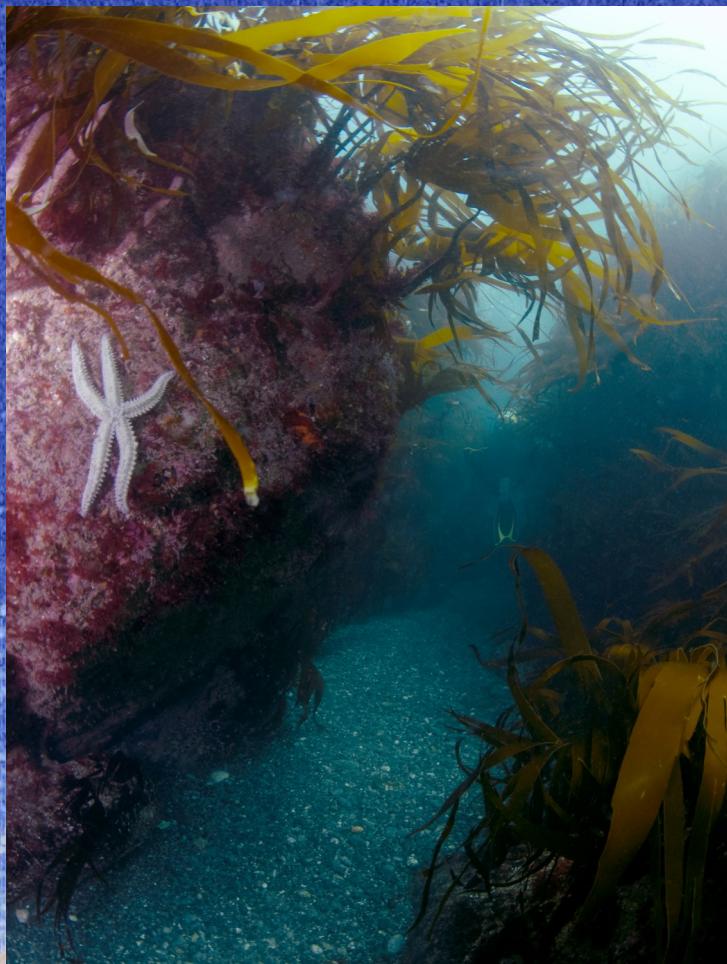


**This project gives us an insight into the onslaught of human noise pollution that is deafening our beloved ocean inhabitants. It peaks into a world 50 years from now presenting an ultimatum between, an ocean overwhelmed by propellers or an alternate future where the people of the present have the power to create sensory solace in our seas. Newman's work conveys to us that although Jacques Cousteau once described the ocean as silent, it is anything but. Remember that two-thirds of Europeans are immersed in noise equivalent to consistent rainfall.**

**Many people have no idea what true quiet feels like and with that inexperience, vicious cycles begin to spin. As we desecrate sensory environments and become accustomed to the results. As we push animals away, we get used to their absence. As the problem of sensory pollution grows, our willingness to address it subsides. This project asks us, how do we solve a problem that we do not realize exists? Plastic pollution in the sea looks hideous and everyone is worried, but noise pollution in the sea is something we don't experience, so no one's up in arms about it.**

**What is uncovered here is the truth about the poor state of sound within our oceans, however what is revealed is the beauty in the simplicity of the solution. We can just stop, and things will instantly go back to how they once were. Natural order will instantly be restored. We can simply remove the harm we have added. Unlike plastic pollution which will continue to spoil the oceans for centuries, even if all plastic pollution halted tomorrow. Noise pollution abates once engines and propellers wind down. Sensory pollution is an ecological gimme- a rare planetary problem that can be immediately and effectively addressed.**

**To perceive the world through other senses is to find splendour in familiarity and sacred in the mundane. We are the only animal that can even come close to understanding how another experiences the world. This is an invaluable gift that we are not necessarily deserving of but, is one we must treasure. Now more than ever the most precious sound is that of your own voice.**



**Amber Newman**

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

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# SURF BALM

Sustainable and protective skincare for surfers by surfers. Originating from Cornwall.



Our **Surf Balm** prevents cracked and dried lips, by providing protection against sea salt and the weather. Comes in four refreshing flavours!





Our **SPF 50 Zinc** protects your skin against the sun's harmful UV rays.

- Ocean friendly
- Recyclable tin
- 100% natural ingredients
- No Petroleum
- No plastic chapstick
- No artificial colours or flavours



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with code: GillySurf

 [surfbum.shop](https://surfbum.shop)

# Stories of the south coast

Our favourite pictures from water missions on the south coast



Ollie Birch behind the lens  
filming The Butson brothers  
on these ones @oframess



Dan L  
coast  
@\_m

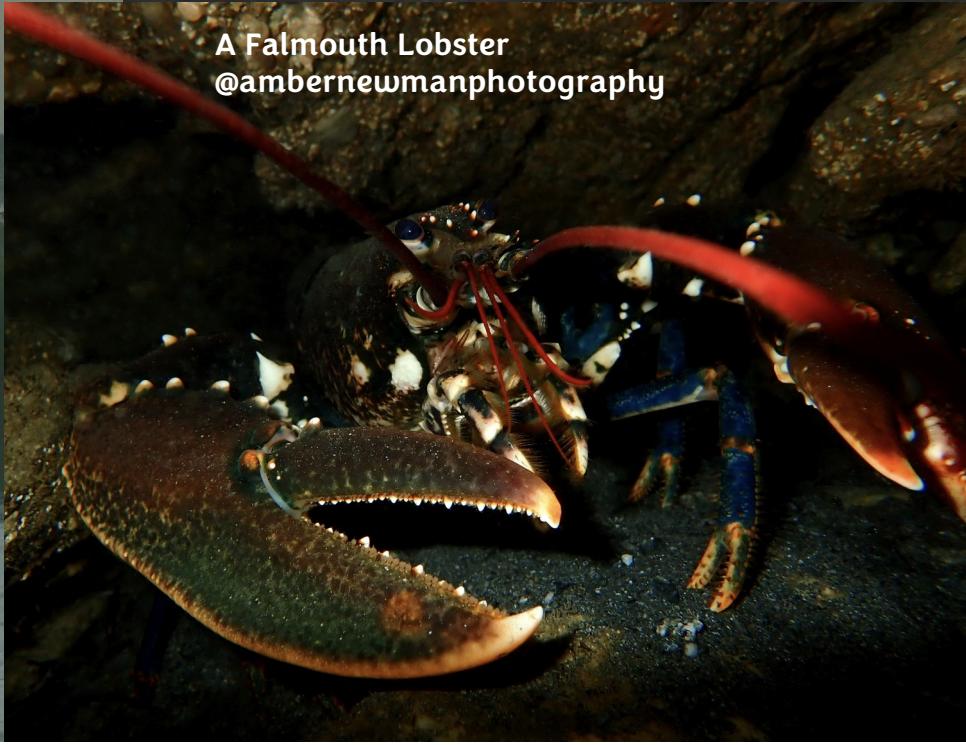


Harris capturing some south  
swell lines  
erriharrismedia\_





Gylly is an absolute treat  
 @\_merriharrismedia\_  
 Featured in @caruemag



# **SUSTAINABILITY WITHIN THE SURF INDUSTRY**

How does Cornwall make its Surf Industry Sustainable?

A difficult question where waves and weather are in severe contrast. Where Surf Tourism is only found for 4 months of the year, but Waves are only abundant for the following 8 months. How can the Surf Industry balance the local needs with the Tourist Boost?

In the next edition of Gilly Surf Mag, Nathan Dass discusses in an

INTERVIEW WITH GYLLY SURF MANAGER DANIEL HARRIS ON THE FATE OF CORNWALL'S SURF INDUSTRY



Dan shot by @tommyrnichols at  
the Waue, Birstol

