Shores of South Devon (marine life interest association)

Steering Group Minutes

9th Meeting

4th May 2021 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-chair), Mike Puleston (co-chair), Peter Jonas, Anne Gwynn, Rob Morgan (Treasurer), Sue Watson-Bate, Gavin Watson-Bate, Ju Lewis
2. Apologies: none
3. Minutes of last Meeting:
The minutes were accepted with a change in the Treasurer’s report. The balance should have read £175.90, not £195.90. Matters arising are discussed below
4. Membership and Chairman’s update report (**TS**):
\* We have 3 new members making our total 38
\* Tamsyn Mann gave a Zoom talk on 27 April about ‘An Introduction on Nudibranch in South Devon’ in which she showed the incredible variety of sea slugs that she has photographed whist scuba diving off the south coast of Devon.
5. Treasurer’s report (**RM**):
As of 3 May, the balance of the bank account stood at £173.05. We also hold £17.85 cash. This brings our total holdings to £190.90. Our present financial position is healthy.
6. Safaris and Zoom talks:
\* There have been no safaris since the last meeting and none are planned for the next month (but see section about rock pooling).
\* **MP** has recruited Doug Herdson to give a talk on 'Shore Fish of South West England’ which will be on Thursday 27 May at 1930 h. He has also got agreement from Prof Stephen Hawkins of Southampton University to give a talk on 15 June.
\* The June talk will be the last of the present series and there will be a break until September. A discussion ensued about whether future talks should be live or via Zoom. A decision will be made later this summer when the extent of ongoing Covid restrictions will be better known.
\* At the last meeting **PJ** had offered to provide ideas of potential topics and speakers for future talks. This is given below:
7. The Otter Estuary Managed Realignment – EA speaker or Clinton Estates speaker?
8. Conservation Areas of the South Devon Coast – NE speaker or Devon Wildlife Trust speaker?
9. Plankton off the South Devon Coast – SAHFOS speaker?
10. Slapton Ley and the Start Bay Coast – Slapton Field Studies Centre speaker?
11. The coastal archaeology of the South Devon Coast - ?? speaker
12. The coastal geology of the South Devon Coast - ?? speaker
13. A talk on an interesting marine biological topic – Speaker, Paul Naylor
In welcoming this list immediate impressions of the group were that a talk about Geology would be popular and **TS** agreed to contact Dr Jenny Bennett from Exeter University who led a walking festival walk along the Dawlish seafront a couple of years ago. The name of Robert Hughes was also mentioned.
14. Facebook
\* At the time of the meeting the Facebook site has remained at about 850 members but is still very active. The new About section coupled to the requirement for new members to answer the three questions and agree to the rules within 24 h has seen a sharp slow down in the rate of uptake.
\* **GW-B** has offered to set up an administrator’s messaging account so to avoid having to personalise our messages when declining an application.
\* The private Facebook site has been started slowly but was not discussed.
\* **MP** has sent a report to Keith Hiscock, MBA, about recent exceptional environmental events posted on the Facebook site for inclusion in the next South West Marine Ecology report. In acknowledging **MP**’s contribution Keith highlighted the value of the SoSD Facebook site to the report.
15. Rockpool project
**TS** and **SW-B** / **GW-B** had met at Langstone Rock to compare notes on their respective rock pools at Coryton rocks and Langstone. There was no definite outcome from this meeting. A discussion was held to decide how to take forward the project since those who had had a go were finding it difficult to chart a way ahead. It was agreed that we needed to have clearer objectives and methodology and to establish a depository for our data that would make them useful to others. **JL** agreed to provide links to the ‘Plantlife’ survey forms that have been used in the ‘Building Resilience in South West Woodlands’ project to provide some pointers to what we should be thinking about. **MP** and **PJ** agreed to approach their contacts at the MBA to try and get hold of a copy of a poster **MP** had seen about the work of D P Wilson which was considered relevant. Finally it was agreed that we should all meet one weekend soon as a group to view and discuss how to investigate a specific rockpool. Bundle Head was chosen as a convenient location and **TS** agreed to find out what days in the next few weeks that might be suitable, based on tide tables.
16. AOB
\* **TS** offered to attend a Zoom meeting being held at 1200 on Friday 7th May by Plover Rovers to find out what they were planning with their walk and talk programme this summer.
\* **PJ** alerted the group to a Zoom webinair being hosted by the MBA about citizen science projects this Thursday at 11 am, and **TS** agreed to circulate details to Steering Group members.
17. Next meeting:
The next Zoom meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th May at 1930 h.
18. The meeting ended at 21:10 h.