Shores of South Devon (marine life interest association)

Steering Group Minutes

17th Meeting

7th December 2021 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston, Sue Watson-Bate, Anne Gwynn, Rob Morgan (Treasurer)
2. Apologies: Gavin Watson-Bate, Pete Jonas, Chris Bryan
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising:
**AG** noted that in her absence at the last meeting **MP** had suggested that she be asked to produce a logo for the Association. She said that she was willing to do so but asked for suggestions for its design.
4. Membership (**TS** and **RM**):
Six or seven people have joined or renewed their membership. These are **TS**, Jane Pitt, Chris Bryan, R Wotton (this is a 2nd payment for 2022), Neil and Mandy Mander, Lorraine Lizius (who has not completed a form and so cannot be contacted). **SW-B** offered to contact the latter and complete the online form. **TS** will send out a reminder to all existing members to rejoin.
5. Treasurer’s report (**RM**):
The Treasurer’s report is appended to these minutes. It shows that our balance before outstanding expenses stands at £342.42.
6. Facebook
**MP** reported that now have over 1000 members (or is it participants?) and said that he thought the Facebook site was going well. At a suggestion by **G-WB** it was decided that Ju Lewis be asked (nicely) to step down as an administrator as she was no longer active on the site, and instead **SW-B** volunteered to take her place.
7. Talks and speakers
**MP** has arranged for David Conway to give a Zoom talk about plankton off South Devon on 14th December. He is also intending to produce a programme of speakers for the next 6 months.
**TS** has now arranged for live talks to recommence in the Billiard Room of the Royal Torbay Yacht Club starting on Thursday 13th January. The first speaker will be Sarah Greenslade of the Brixham Seal Trust. Final arrangements with RTYC have still to be made. **TS** will contact Rob Hughes of Sea Safari and a regular contributor to the Facebook site to give a talk in February about some of the amazing wildlife and geology that he has photographed from his boat. **SW-B** will text Rob’s phone number to **TS**. **SW-B** agreed to ask Amelia Davies, lately of Dawlish Warren Nature Reserve, to see if her replacement will agree to give a talk in March. In addition **TS** will contact the South Devon AONB for a talk. Obviously all talks are dependent on Government advice with respect to the ongoing Covid situation.
8. Rockpool Project
Unfortunately we were too slow in taking part in the December New Moon Rockpool Project Mini-Bioblitz. The next New Moon occurs on Sunday 2nd January with the lowest tide (0.6 m) being on 4th and 5th January. **TS** will poll the SG to find a suitable time around those dates. It was agreed that the next Bio-blitz would take place at Preston North End Beach (also known as Hollicombe Head) where **CB** has found so many interesting creatures. This time we would invite other members of the Association to join us (at their own risk), once we had fixed the date, with a request to confirm to **TS** 2 days before when the weather forecast was known. It was agreed that we would advertise it to members as ‘explore the shore’ (not to be confused with the headline ‘Explore the Shore’ event that will be planned for late Spring. **TS** had recently attended a Rockpool Project Citizen Science Forum on Zoom which he found very valuable. Two facts stood out; i) that they weren’t too bothered if a survey was done outside the New Moon period, and ii) they are about to launch a new front end for submitting data. **TS** recommended our continuing support of the RPP which can solve a number of our problems, such as organising SoSD surveys and submitting verified data that will end up on the National Biodiversity Database. The RPP also benefit from being able to include our data in their records.
9. Calendar raffle.
So far the raffle has raised £40. The draw will be held on 12th December with **GW-B** filming **SW-B** drawing the winners. The closing date will be 4 pm on 10th December to allow bank transfers time to be registered in the SoSD account. **RM** will then inform **SW-B** of the names of the entrants and she will ensure that the winners receive their calendars. **TS** congratulated **SW-B** on implementing the raffle.
10. Banners and advertising material
No progress has been made with Teignbridge District Council about funding for advertising material, partly because **TS** wanted to use any approach to them for money to help with setting up a beach hut field and information centre at Dawlish**. SW-B** offered to get in touch with a contact in Torbay Council to see if there might be a way to get funding from them.
11. And finally
**MP** expressed his positive feelings about the way the Association is progressing and he commended the enthusiasm of members of the Steering Group.
12. Next meeting
The next meeting will be at 1930 on 11th January
13. The meeting ended at 2100 h.

## Appendix - Treasurer’s report