Steering Group Minutes

26th Meeting

6th Sept 2022 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston (co-Chair), Pete Jonas, Anne Gwynn
2. Apologies: Sue Watson-Bate, Emma Griffin, Robert Morgan
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising:  
   The minutes were accepted. **TS** had untaken all the tasks that he had been allocated. Chris Bryan has asked to continue to be a member of the SG even if it is not possible for him to contribute much at the moment.
4. Treasurer’s report and Membership:  
   **RM** sent in this report  
   “As of close of business on 30 August 2022, the balance of the bank account stood at £74.87 and the cash holding was £114.15, making our total holding **£189.02**. Transactions since the last report on 9 August were:  
   In: £0.98 (RM test of Square device)  
   Out: £10 to FSC Slapton for tables, etc for stand at Start Bay event  
    £64.42 to Toby Sherwin (for payment of annual Third-Party Insurance)  
   I am concerned that we seem to have received very little income from new or renewed memberships in the last few months – hopefully this will pick up as we resume public meetings in the autumn.”  
   One new member, Jayne Thomas, was recruited at the open day at Slapton Lea, and had offered to pay her subscription by Bank Transfer, although this does not appear to have been received to date.  
   It was agreed that we need to promote the Association more, particularly at stalls where we need better information sheets on display.
5. Facebook  
   A new rule has been introduced by the administrators - no posts from scuba or free divers, although shallow water snorkelling is still acceptable. This follows an increasing number of free diving posts from different groups recently.
6. Talks and speakers  
   The winter programme to date is as follows:  
   Belle Heaton (Zoom) October 11th. Pacific Oysters  
   Paul Naylor (RTYC - confirmed) November 17th. Inter-tidal life  
   Rob Morgan (Zoom) February 2023. Taxonomic relationships  
   Mike Puleston (Zoom / live) March 2023. River Teign  
     
   Other possibilities are:  
   Mike Cooper (Plymouth Uni) tba. Life on Sargassum   
   Jenny Bennet (Devonshire Association) Geology of south Devon (to be approached by **TS**)  
   Will Alpass (willalpass@hotmail.com). Seaweed foraging. (Recommended by **AG** and **TS** who met him at the FSC event)  
   Rob Hughes (Sea Safari)
7. Field activities  
   *Rockpool Project Bioblitz 16th August, Dawlish*  
   A Bioblitz was held jointly with 29 staff from the Devon County Council Environment Group on 16th August at Coryton Rocks. The group were led by **TS**, **MP**, **RM**, **AG** and Celia Hadow. The Bioblitz was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by the DCC staff and over 40 species were recorded. This number was a little less than the previous Bioblitz. DCC staff all signed the new Registration Document and Health and Safety Disclaimer. **ΜP** has submitted an article about this Bioblitz to the Mid Devon Advertiser.  
     
   There will be no Bioblitz this September because of a lack of availability of SG members to support **SW-B** who would have led it. The next one will be held at Langstone Rock on Sunday 9th October when LW is 0.59 m at 12:46 h BST). Meet at 11:00 h at the top of the steps on the promenade just north of the rock. Attending will be **TS**, **MP** and **AG** (and possibly other members of the SG). Members of the Association will be invited to join the Bioblitz.
8. Other events  
   *Start Bay Environmental Festival, Field Studies Council, Slapton Ley 21st August***TS**, **AG** and **RM** manned a stall for SoSD which generated a lot of interest. The FSC festival had a strong environmental theme and was very enjoyable. We have been invited to attend again at the next year’s festival on Sunday 13th August 2023.   
     
   *Dawlish Walking Festival 24th September*. SoSD will have a gazebo stand on the beach at Coryton Cove on the first day of the Walking Festival. Dawlish Town Council will provide the gazebo and tables which we will have to transport and erect. **TS** will contact the Dawlish events organiser, Angie Weatherhead, about arrangements to collect and return the hardware. He will also produce some literature promoting SoSD and seeking new members. Those committed to attend so far are **TS** and **MP** but further volunteers are sought.  
     
   *Art exhibition at the Taphouse Maltings (starting 8th October)*  
   **MP** has agreed with the landlord of the Maltings for us to display pictures and photos at an exhibition in the upper room. **AG** commented that it was very important for there to be a degree of uniformity in the exhibits (e.g. consistent framing and labelling). She and **MP** will meet at the Taphouse on Monday 12th Sept to plan the event, after which they will inform those offering to participate what is expected of them. It was agreed that the exhibition should be used to encourage new membership and that the landlord be approached to see if they would be willing to support some of our costs (e,g, for picture frames).   
     
   *[Questions. a) Should we invite other members of the Association to contribute to the display? b) What about advertising within the pub and elsewhere? c) Should we have a ‘grand opening’ with drinks and nibbles etc? ]*
9. Next meeting  
   The next meeting will be in the Taphouse Maltings at 1930 on Thursday 6th October.
10. The meeting ended at 2100 h.