Steering Group Minutes

27th Meeting

6th Oct 2022 19:30 h, at the Taphouse Maltings, Newton Abbot

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston (co-Chair), Pete Jonas (by Zoom), Anne Gwynn, Robert Morgan, Belle Heaton
2. Apologies and welcome: Sue Watson-Bate and Emma Griffin made apologies. Belle Heaton from the MBA was welcomed to the Steering Group on the recommendation of **MP**.
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising (not covered below):  
   The minutes were accepted with one change which was that **MP** had suggested asking Keith Hiscock to give a talk in the near future. In matters arising **TS** has approached Jenny Bennett to give a talk about the Geology of the south Devon coast but she has not replied to his email.
4. Treasurer’s report and Membership:  
   **RM** reported that there had been no change to our finances since the last meeting and that the balance of the bank account stood at £74.87 and the cash holding was £114.15, making our total holding **£189.02**.  
   The new member, Jayne Thomas, who was recruited at the open day at Slapton Lea, and offered to pay her subscription by Bank Transfer, had not done so thus far. **TS** will write a reminder to her.  
   Once again (!) it was agreed that we need to promote the Association more, particularly at stalls where we need better information sheets on display. Action **TS**.
5. Facebook and Instagram,  
   There have been no problems in the last month with the change of rules to exclude free diving being respected.
6. Talks and speakers  
   The winter programme to date remains as last month:  
   Belle Heaton (Zoom) October 11th. Pacific Oysters. (She will promote her talk to colleagues at the MBA).  
   Paul Naylor (RTYC - confirmed) November 17th. Inter-tidal life.  
   Rob Morgan (Zoom) February 2023. Taxonomic relationships  
   Mike Puleston (Zoom / live) March 2023. River Teign  
     
   **MP** will approach Mike Cooper who has now moved from Plymouth Uni to Southampton to give a talk on Life on Sargassum , Keith Hiscock (MBA), and Warren Maguire (Edinburgh Uni) about isopods.   
   In view of the lack of response from Jenny Bennett (above) **TS** will approach the Devonshire Association to see if there is someone there to give a talk about the Geology of south Devon. He will also check with Coastwise North Devon. **TS** will also approach Will Alpass to give a live talk about Seaweed foraging, and Rob Hughes (Sea Safari) for a talk about animals he sees on his offshore safaris.  
   **PJ** offered to contact the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority to tell them about the activities of SoSD and invite them to give a talk.  
   It was agreed that we should proceed with Zoom talks in October, December and January and have a live talk at the AGM in November. We will review the programme at the January meeting. Actions **TS**, **MP** and **PJ**.
7. Field activities  
   *Rockpool Project Bioblitz 16th August, Dawlish*  
   The article by **ΜP** about the Devon County Council Bioblitz was published the Mid Devon Advertiser on 29th September.  
   *Future Bioblitzes*  
   There was no Bioblitz in September so the next one will be (agreed at the last meeting) at Langstone Rock on Sunday 9th October at 11:00 h. Attending will be **TS**, **RM** and **PJ.**  Members of the Association have been invited to join the Bioblitz. In November we will return to Meadfoot on Sunday 6th November when LW Teignmouth is 1.03 m at 1031 h GMT, meeting at the top of the steps midway along the beach at 0900 h.
8. Other activities  
   *Dawlish Walking Festival 24th September*.   
   SoSD had a stand in a beach hut at Coryton Cove thanks to help from Teignbridge District Council and Dawlish Town Council who provided the hut and table. **TS**, **AG** and **MP** manned the stand with further help from Celia Hadow. The weather was fine and the stand was very successful, with a lot of interest from passers by and nearly all the remaining leaflets being handed out.  
   *Art exhibition at the Taphouse Maltings*  
   The Art Exhibition will open on 25th November and run for an unspecified period of time. A Working Party comprising **MP**, **AG**, and **TS** are curating and co-ordinating the Exhibition and will report progress to the Steering Group at the next meeting. There will be an opening reception on the first night which may include a guest speaker. Although the Exhibition is being organised by SoSD it will include photographs by non-members of the Association and will not involve SoSD in any costs.  
   *Promotional film*  
   Work on the film will now proceed in the New Year. In the meantime SG members are asked to make some movies on the rocks in particular during Bioblitzes.
9. Next meeting  
   The next meeting will be by Zoom at 1930 on Thursday 10th November.
10. The meeting ended at 2050 h.