Steering Group Minutes

29th Meeting

14th Dec 2022 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston (co-Chair), Robert Morgan (Treasurer), Sue Watson-Bate, Pete Jonas
2. Apologies: Anne Gwynn, Tamsyn Mann
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising (not covered below):  
   The minutes were accepted.
4. Treasurer’s report and Membership:  
   As of close of business on 9 December 2022, the balance of the bank account stood at £335.40 and the cash holding was £188.15, making our total holding **£**523.55. A total of £134 was collected at the AGM which comprised of £24 entry fees and £110 membership fees from people joining or rejoining. It was agreed that since **TS** had the cash box at the moment that he should pay £134 directly to the SosD account and remove that amount from the cash box. It is evident that there are problems matching subscription paid into the Bank account managed by **RM** to the membership list managed by **TS** and they agreed to resolve this problem later.
5. Facebook and Instagram,  
   There have been no problems in the last month on Facebook although a few dodgy requests to participate were declined. The Instagram account now has 159 followers.
6. Talks and speakers  
   Keith Hiscock gave a very interesting talk about the state of marine life off the coast of south Devon by Zoom on 6th December which has now been uploaded to the SoSD Youtube channel.  
   As part of the AGM Paul Naylor gave a fascinating live talk entitled 'Marine life highlights (and lowlights) along South Devon in 2022’ which was well received.  
   The following talks programme up to May / June 2023 is now in place:

* 11th Jan: Tracey Hamston. ‘Save our Seagrass: working together to protect this unique coastal habitat’ by Zoom
* 26th Jan: Mike Puleston. Observations of marine life on the River Teign at the Maltings Taphouse, Newton Abbott. This will be a free SoSD talk with donations invited.
* 16th Feb: Rob Morgan. Taxonomic relationships of marine life by Zoom.
* 23rd Mar: Jenny Bennett. Geology of Devon’s south coast by Zoom
* 11th Apr: Mike Puleston. Observations of marine life on the River Teign by Zoom
* May: Will Alpass. Seaweed foraging. Royal Torbay Yacht Club
* June: John Bishop. Invasive species (t.b.c)  
  In addition Keith Hiscock has agreed to give a review of 2023 in December 2023.  
  It was requested that a list of talks be produced but it was realised after the meeting that one already exists on the website.

1. AGM debrief  
   The AGM was held on 17th Nov at the Royal Torbay Yacht Club. Nearly 30 people attended. **TS** gave a report on activities that have taken place over the last year and a taster of what’s planned for next year. Paul Naylor then gave a talk mentioned above. **SW-B** manned the door and **PJ** kept the minutes and introduced the speaker.
2. Field activities  
   The weather during the Bioblitz on 10th December at Corbyn Head was cold, but sunny and windless. It was led by **S-WB** with **TS**, **MP** and Belle Heaton attending along with two ordinary members of the Association and a total of about 60 different species were identified. Neither these data, nor those from the earlier Meadfoot Bioblitz in November, have been uploaded so far due to problems with the Rockpool Project server.  
   It was agreed that the next Bioblitz be held at Mount Batten, Plymouth, on Sunday 22nd Jan, when LW (Devonport) is at 1220. We will meet at 1030 h. The precise meeting location will be decided in due course.
3. Art exhibition at the Taphouse Maltings  
   The Art Exhibition was prepared by **AG**  and **MP** on Thurs/Fri 24/25th Nov and opened on 25th as planned**. MP** gave a talk about the exhibits but unfortunately illness prevented **TS** from attending and talking about SoSD. The exhibition has been favourably received by viewers at the pub and an article about it is scheduled to be printed in the Mid Devon Advertiser newspapers.
4. Other business  
   SoSD have been invited to have a stand / gazebo at the Turn the Tide event on Dawlish Lawn on 29th May 2023 and later at the Field Studies Council Environment Festival in August.  
   Celia Hadow has been in further contact with Graham Smith of Teignbridge DC about his plans to develop a space at Coryton Cove that SoSD could use and she and **TS**  sent him a list of ways in which we could use such a space should it become available.  
   **SW-B** is holding a raffle on behalf of SoSD for two family tickets to the Plymouth Aquarium. Raffle tickets are £3 each or £5 for two and the draw will take place on 2nd January. Steering Group members are encouraged to invite friends and colleagues to enter the draw by taking people’s names, informing Sue and forwarding their takings to the SoSD bank account. To date she has raised £140.  
   **PJ** wanted the Steering Group to know that he is about to undergo an extensive course of chemotherapy and may not be able to take part in SoSD activities until May (depending on how badly the chemo affects him). The Steering Group sympathised with his situation and wished him all the best with his treatment.  
   **MP** said how well he thought SoSD had done with all the activities undertaken during 2022.
5. Next meeting  
   The next meeting will be by Zoom on Thursday 19th January 2023 at 1930 h.
6. The meeting ended at 2050 h.