Steering Group Minutes

29th Meeting

17th Jan 2023 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; Anne Gwynn, Tamsyn Mann
2. Apologies: none
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 13 December 2023, the balance of the bank account stood at £579.40 and the cash holding was £53.65, making our total holding **£**633.05. About £100 is owed to **TS** for Zoom fees and printing costs. **SW-B** raised about £140 with the Xmas raffle for family tickets to the Plymouth Aquarium. This is a significant sum and she is to be praised and thanked for her efforts with the raffle.
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 160 followers.
6. Talks and speakers
Tracy Hamston gave a very insightful talk about *Zostera marina* seagrass and described to work going on by the Wild Planet Trust to reestablish seagrass beds in Torbay. The talk was recorded and uploaded to the SoSD Youtube channel.
The following talks programme up to May / June 2023 is now in place:
* 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. Following conversation with Dr Bennett this will be a live talk at Royal Torbay Yacht Club.
* 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)
**SW-B** reminded **TS** to contact Dawlish Warren Nature Reserve to find a live speaker.
1. Field activities
There have been no Bioblitzes since the last Steering Group meeting in December. The next Bioblitz will be held at Mount Batten, Plymouth, on Sunday 22nd Jan meeting at the head of the steps at 1030 h. **SW-B** has been sent the dates for Rockpool Project bio-blitzes this year which she has circulated. It was agreed to hold the next Bioblitz on the shore in front of the Ness Inn, Shaldon on 25th February when LW is at 1540 h. Meet at the steps leading down to the beach at 1340 h. This Bioblitz will be led by **TS** and **TM** hopes to be able attend. After that we will hold a Bioblitz at Langstone Rock on 11th March when LW is 0.46 m at 1449 h. Meet at the steps leading down to the beach that are about 200 m to the north of the railway bridge. These Bioblitzes will be open to all association members.

A discussion was held about the ultimate destination of the data we send to the Rockpool Project. **MP** was concerned that is was not making its way to the National Biodiversity Network. (Note: after the meeting **TS** found this text in an email from Ben Holt at the Rockpool Project “*Based on advice from DASSH, we won't be submitting data directly to them but to the Biological Records Centre via iRecord, from there our records will make their way to experts for external verification and on to various sharing platforms such as NBN and I assume DASSH.*”). It was agreed that **BH** speak to Dan Lear at DASSH, MBA and **MP** to Ben Holt to clarify things. **TM** also agreed to investigate what it would take to set up a group database with iNaturalist.

Finally **TM** suggested combining a rocky shore Bioblitz with a scuba Seashore survey, possibly at Shoalstone, Brixham.
2. Art exhibition at the Taphouse Maltings
**AG, TS**  and **MP** will take down the exhibition at 4 pm on 31st January.
3. Other business
**MP** has offered an SoSD stand at the Paignton Zoo Coastal Communities 2023 exhibition on 4th February. **TS** agreed to contact Megan Ross at the Zoo to make arrangements.

**TS** and **BH** are attending a Bioblitz at Wembury on 24th January organised by Devon Wildlife Trust. **TS** intends to use the opportunity to explore possible ways of linking up with DWT in future.

**TS** and **PJ** have submitted an article about SoSD to the MBA’s Marine Biologist magazine for consideration for publication.
4. Next meeting
The next meeting will be by Zoom on Tuesday 14th February 2023 at 1930 h.
5. The meeting ended at 2110 h.