Steering Group Minutes

31st Meeting

14th Feb 2023 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Chair and Secretary), Sue Watson-Bate, Pete Jonas, Belle Heaton, Anne Gwynn (arrived late)
2. Apologies: Mike Puleston (co-Chair), Robert Morgan (Treasurer), Tamsyn Mann
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising (not covered below):
The minutes were accepted with the addition that **BH** had been omitted from the attendees list.
4. Treasurer’s report and Membership
At present SoSD has about 55 members. The Treasurer’s report (see Appendix) shows that at 11th Feb 2023 the balance in SoSD was £690.55.
*Proposed purchases.* The Steering Group approved spending about £50 by **TS** to buy a table top microphone that would enable hybrid Zoom / Live talks to be hosted. It also approved £25 to be spent by **MP** on hand lenses and sample trays to be used on Bioblitzes.
5. Facebook and Instagram
There have been no significant problems in the last month on Facebook although the administrators are finding it hard to police under the new Facebook system. They will have a discussion offline about how best to do this. The Instagram account now has 175 followers.
6. Talks and speakers
* 26th Jan: Mike Puleston gave a talk about his “Observations of marine life on the River Teign at the Maltings Taphouse, Newton Abbott”. This was a free SoSD talk that was well attended with about 50 attendees. The donation box raised £43.10.

The next talks are as reported last month:

* 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 hybrid 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)
**TS** has introduced Eventbrite as an additional method of registering for the link to Rob’s talk, which in future will remove need for him to have to reply to individual requests. The talks by Jenny Bennett and Will Alpass will be a hybrid talks with Zoom attendees joining through Eventbrite. The Steering Group approved a charge of £3 for each Zoom participant, to cover the cost of hiring the room, with the money being raised through Eventbrite.
1. Field activities
The Bioblitz held at Mount Batten, Plymouth, on Sunday 22nd Jan had 18 participants and recorded 90 species. **SW-B** had some trouble in uploading the observations to the Rockpool Project server but these were eventually resolved by Ben Holt.
a) The next Bioblitz will be 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 **BH**.
b) On 11th March when LW is 0.46 m at 1449 h there will be a Bioblitz at Langstone Rock, Dawlish Warren. Meet at the steps leading down to the beach that are about 200 m to the north of the railway bridge at 1340 h.
c) Finally it was agreed to hold the April Bioblitz at Shoalstone Beach, Brixham, on Saturday 22nd April when LW Torquay is 0.7 M at 1430 h. Meet at the car park above the beach at 1245.
2. Stands and talks etc
SoSD had a stand at the Paignton Zoo Coastal Communities 2023 exhibition on 4th February.
**MP** and **TS** have been asked to give a talk at the South West Marine Fest, Paignton on 31st May 2023.
SoSD has been invited to help with a bucket collection for the Teignmouth Air Show. There will be two money raising opportunities on 29th and 30th May and 1st and 2nd July. We also have the opportunity to man a stand on the Den on 29th and 30th April. No decision was made about SoSD’s involvement in these events.
3. Art exhibition
The exhibition has been removed from the Maltings Taphouse and its working group (**AG, TS**  and **MP**) have arranged for it to be exhibited at the Strand Centre, Dawlish sometime this spring. The exact dates have yet to finally agreed.
4. Other business
**TS** and **BH** are attended a Shoresearch walkover Bioblitz at Wembury on 24th January organised by Devon Wildlife Trust where **TS** had a discussion with Coral Smith, the DWT Marine Awareness and Engagement Officer about SoSD / DWT. It was agreed that **TS** should invite Coral to a Bioblitz here where we could learn about the DWT’s arrangement for archiving data. This meeting was made more pressing given the suggestion by **SW-B** that the Rockpool Project may be finding it difficult to get funding.
5. Next meeting
The next meeting will be by Zoom on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 1930 h.
6. The meeting ended at 2040 h.

**Shores of South Devon – Treasurer’s Report 11 February 2023**

At close of business on 10 February 2023, the balance of the bank account stood at £600.90 and the cash holding was £89.65, making our total holding £690.55. Transactions since 10 January 2023 are detailed below.

Income

Membership fees paid via bank transfer (17 no. @ £10 each): K Sherwin; K Hixon; M Puleston; C Whitton; Ellis/Humble; Surgenor x 2 (via TJS); A Bessell; A Morgan; K Hiscock; S Greenslade; R Walford; R Shearmur; L Lizius; B Winkler; P Ferris; I Shields.

 Total: £170.00

Membership fees paid in cash (names to be confirmed by TJS):

 3 no. @ £10 each: £30.00

Donations (at talk given by M Puleston at Tucker’s Maltings): £43.10

Guest fees at January Bioblitz: £6.00

Total income: £249.10

Expenditure (all via TJS)

Banner £46.80

Posters £39.60

Leaflets £33.24

Zoom fees £71.96

Total expenditure: £191.60

Robert Morgan