Steering Group Minutes

32nd Meeting

14th Mar 2023 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston (co-Chair), Sue Watson-Bate, Pete Jonas, Belle Heaton, Anne Gwynn
2. Apologies: Robert Morgan (Treasurer), Tamsyn Mann
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising (not covered below):  
   The minutes were accepted.
4. Treasurer’s report and Membership  
   At present SoSD has about 57 members. The Treasurer’s report (see below) shows that at 11th Mar 2023 the balance in SoSD was £705.55. There were no new members.  
   *Purchases.* **TS** has bought a table top microphone for £20 to enable hybrid Zoom / Live talks to be hosted. This will be used at the talk to be given by Jenny Bennett.
5. Facebook and Instagram  
   There have been no significant issues with the Facebook or Instagram accounts. The Facebook account has 22 new members and the Instagram account, run by **SW-B**, now has 195 followers.
6. Talks and speakers

* 16th Feb: Rob Morgan gave a very interesting and detailed account of the taxonomic relationships of marine life by Zoom.  
  *Future talks:*
* 23rd Mar: Jenny Bennett. Geology of Devon’s south coast at Royal Torbay Yacht Club (hybrid talk). Celia Hadow (a former student of Dr Bennett will introduce her).
* 11th Apr: Mike Puleston. Observations of marine life on the River Teign by Zoom
* May: Will Alpass. Seaweed foraging. Royal Torbay Yacht Club
* There will be no talks between June and September. Coral Smith from Devon Wildlife Trust has been asked to give a talk in early autumn.

1. Field activities  
   a) A Bioblitz was held on the shore in front of the Ness Inn, Shaldon on 25th February led by **TS** and **BH**. Despite the unpleasant weather a total of 5 people attended and a total of 44 species were identified. The observations uploaded to the Rockpool Project server.  
   b) On 11th March there was a further Bioblitz at Langstone Rock, Dawlish Warren when the weather was again particularly unpleasant. The Bioblitz was led by **SW-B** and TS when 15 people attended. A total of 41 species were identified and the data were uploaded to the Rockpool Project server.  
   c) The April Bioblitz will be at Shoalstone Beach, Brixham, on Saturday 22nd April when LW Torquay is 0.7 M at 1430 h, provided there are enough leaders from the Steering Group. BH should be available. Meet at the car park above the beach at 1245.  
   d) The May Bioblitz will take place at Heybrook Bay near Wembury on 21st May when local LW is at 1350 h. Meet at either Wembury car park at 1130 h, or on the beach at 1150 h.  
   e) **MP** will lead a group of 15 staff from Plymouth Marine Laboratory onto the shore at Firestone Bay. They have agreed to pay his expenses plus a £75 donation to SoSD.  
   **BH** agreed to talk to Dan Lear at the MBA about archiving Rockpool Project Bioblitz observations at DASSH.  
   The SG approved a set of house rules for bioblitzes to help leaders manage them (see appendix below). Principal amongst them is that two members of the AG are expected to be present at a Bioblitz.
2. Stands and talks etc  
   The is no change in plans since the last meeting. **TS** is attending the annual meeting of the Porcupine Marine Natural History Society in Bangor, Gwynedd, on 18th and 19th of March.
3. Art exhibition  
   The exhibition is planned to be shown at the Strand Centre, Dawlish to coincide with the Turn the Tide stand Festival at Dawlish. **TS** will speak to Paul Lentle to confirm dates and costs. He will also contact Dave Hutton of Turn the Tide to advertise the exhibition.
4. Other business  
   **TS** and **MP** met with Coral Smith of Devon Wildlife Trust at Corbyn Head to take forward the idea of conducting Shoresearches with DWT rather than Bioblitzes with the Rockpool Project. (**SW-B** had planned to attend but was detained by an emergency at work). The discussion on the shore was constructive and should lead us to developing closer ties with DWT.
5. Next meeting  
   The next meeting will be by Zoom on Tuesday 11th April 2023 at 1930 h.
6. The meeting ended at 2040 h.

**Shores of South Devon – Treasurer’s Report 14 March 2023**

At close of business on 11 March 2023, the balance of the bank account stood at £615.90 and the cash holding was £89.65, making our total holding **£705.55**. Transactions since 10 February 2023 are detailed below.

**Income**

Membership fees paid via bank transfer (5 no. @ £10 each):

F & L Gumery

MS & ME Jones

DA Hutton

J Asmussen

J Sanders

Total: £50.00

**Expenditure**

Payment to RTYC (15th February) £35.00

Robert Morgan

House rules for conducting SoSD / RPP bioblitzes

1.  No Bioblitz should go ahead without 2 members of the Steering Group to lead it.  If only one SG member is able to attend then it should be cancelled by the other SG member.  (Note ’should’, not ‘must’, since there may be extenuating circumstances).  The leaders must decide which of them will collate and upload the records to the RPP server.

2. All members of SoSD must sign the disclaimer form, including the leaders.

3. Non-members can participate in one of two ways:

a) By joining SoSD and paying their £10 subs on the day, thereby becoming a new member.  (They do not need to be accompanied by an existing member).

b) By being accompanied by an existing member, signing the disclaimer form and paying £3.

4. All participants contributing photographs should be encouraged to acquire an RPP number.

5. A record of RPP numbers should be shared and added to by Bioblitz leaders.

6. Young people under the age of 18 can attend free provided they are accompanied by a member who should be sign the disclaimer on their behalf.