Steering Group Minutes

33rd Meeting

18th Apr 2023 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston (co-Chair), Pete Jonas, Anne Gwynn
2. Apologies: Sue Watson-Bate, Robert Morgan (Treasurer), Tamsyn Mann (note: **SW-B** provided an update on her activities by text before the meeting).
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 58 members. The Treasurer’s report (see Appendix 1) shows that at 11th Mar 2023 the balance in SoSD was £759.55. There were one new member (Michael Piper) and one rejoining (Gerald Hobbs). There was no expenditure.
5. Facebook and Instagram  
   There have been no significant issues with the Facebook or Instagram accounts. **MP** and **TS** agreed that they don’t fully understand how membership works with the Facebook page. The Instagram account, run by **SW-B**, now has 219 followers.
6. Talks and speakers

* *23rd Mar*: The hybrid talk on south Devon’s geology at the Royal Torbay Yacht Club by Jenny Bennett was very appreciated by the small audience that attended. Unfortunately the hybrid Zoom system was not successful for reasons that were not obvious and several people online were were unable to hear the talk. Fortunately Jenny has agreed to repeat her talk by Zoom in November.
* *11th Apr*: Mike Puleston gave a fascinating Zoom talk on his observations of marine life on the River Teign which was well received.
* *May*: **TS** has been unable to contact Will Alpass who had agreed to give a talk on Seaweed foraging at Royal Torbay Yacht Club and it was agreed the **MP** and **TS** try to find a speaker at the SWME meeting that they are attending at PML on 19th.

1. Field activities  
   a) The April Bioblitz which was to have been held at Shoalstone Beach, Brixham, on Saturday 22nd April was cancelled because there were no leaders available.  
   b) The May Bioblitz / Shoresearch will take place at Heybrook Bay near Wembury on 21st May when local LW is 0.9 m at 1350 h. Meet at either Wembury car park at 1130 h, or on the beach at 1150 h. **TS** and **SW-B** will lead it.  
   c) The June Bioblitz / Shoresearch will be at Shoalstone Beach, Brixham, on Sunday 4th June when LW (Teignmouth) is 0.87 m at 1311 h. Meet at the car park above the shore at 1130 h. **TS** will lead.  
   d) The 15 staff from Plymouth Marine Laboratory that **MP** lead on the shore at Firestone Bay have not yet paid their promised £75 donation to SoSD.  
   e) **SW-B**, **TS** and **MP** conducted a brief Shoresearch Walkover survey of Coryton Rocks on 7 April, in order to acquaint themselves with the Devon Wildlife Trust methodology. It was agreed that Shoresearch was easy to use in the field, but an issue arose when **SW-B** tried to upload the photos of **TS** and **MP** from home. A final decision on Shoresearch will be made once this problem has been resolved.  
   f) **TS** has produced a list of the best day each month from July to December for undertaking Bioblitzes (Appendix 2). Steering Group members are invited to suggest suitable shores and indicate whether they are able to lead or attend the Bioblitz.  
   g) **MP** intends to hold a barnacle event at Corbyn Head in the near future. Details to be announced.
2. Stands and talks etc  
   SoSD has agreed to man a stall at the following events:  
   *20th May.* A stall in a tent managed by Juliette Jackson of Seadream Education at the Devon County Show. Details to be confirmed by **TS**.  
   *29th May*. Dawlish Turn the Tide, the Lawn Dawlish. To be manned by **TS**, **MP** and **AG** (morning only) and others. **TS** will also be giving a talk.  
   *31st May*. **MP** and **TS** to give joint presentation at the South West Marine Festival, Paignton.   
   *13th Aug*. Field Studies Council Environmental Festival, Slapton Ley. To be manned by **TS**, **MP** and others.  
   *8 - 10th Sept*. Teignmouth Shanty Festival. **MP** to confirm arrangements.
3. Art exhibition  
   The Art Exhibition at the Strand Centre, Dawlish, will be on display from Friday 26th May till Friday 9th June. **AG**, **MP** and **TS**  to organise. Louise Scammell will be showing three prints.
4. SoSD branded T and Polo shirts  
   **TS** has found a branded clothing company in Exeter ([watteva.com](http://watteva.com)) that can provide SoSD with suitable shirts at a reasonable price. It was agreed that all members of the Steering Group and any ordinary members of the Association who assist at stands and other events on behalf of SoSD should be provided with a shirt to fit their size. The shirts will be sandy / yellow with the SoSD logo front and back along with web address and Facebook and Instagram symbols. **TS** will organise their procurement.
5. Next meeting  
   The next meeting will be by Zoom on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 1930 h.
6. The meeting ended at 2030 h.

### Appendix 1

**Shores of South Devon – Treasurer’s Report 1 April 2023**

At close of business on 31 March 2023, the balance of the bank account stood at £657.90, an increase of £42. The cash holding was £101.65, an increase of £12. This makes our total holding **£759.55**. Transactions since 11 March 2023 are detailed below.

**Income**

Membership fees paid via bank transfer (2 no. @ £10 each):

M Piper £10

G Hobbs £10

Paid in by T Sherwin (? Admission fees at previous meeting) £22

Admission fees at meeting at RTYC, 23rd March £12

**Expenditure**

There was no expenditure during this period.

Robert Morgan

### Appendix 2

Dates of Bioblitzes / Shoresearch Walkover surveys for the rest of 2023

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | LW time\* | LW ht / m\* | Location | Reporter | co-leaders |
| Sun May 21 | 1350✝︎ | 0.90 | Heybrook Bay, Wembury | **SW-B** | **TS** |
| Sun June 4 | 1358 | 0.84 | Shoalstone, Brixham | **TS** |  |
| Sat Aug 5 | 1551 | 0.49 |  |  |  |
| Sat July 8 | 1648 | 0.95 |  |  |  |
| Sat Sept 2 | 1453 | 0.25 |  |  |  |
| Sun Oct 1 | 1429 | 0.27 |  |  |  |
| Sun Oct 29 | 1220 | 0.47 |  |  |  |
| Sun Nov 26 | 1107 | 0.92 |  |  |  |
| Sat Dec 16 | 1344 | 0.98 |  |  |  |

* Times are given in GMT / BST as appropriate

✝︎ Tides for Plymouth, elsewhere they are for Teignmouth (Approaches)