Steering Group Minutes

34th Meeting

9th May 2023 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston (co-Chair), Anne Gwynn, Sue Watson-Bate, Robert Morgan (Treasurer), Belle Heaton
2. Apologies: Pete Jonas, Tamsyn Mann
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising (not covered below):  
   The minutes were accepted.
4. Treasurer’s report and Membership  
   At close of business on 5 May 2023, the balance of the bank account stood at £667.90, an increase of £10. The cash holding was £101.65. This makes our total holding **£769.55**. The only transaction since 1 April 2023 was a membership fee (£10) from N Mieszkowska.There was no expenditure during this period. At present SoSD has 59 members. Payment of £75 has yet to be received from Plymouth Marine Lab for a walk led by **MP**.
5. Facebook and Instagram  
   There have been no significant issues with the Facebook or Instagram accounts. The Instagram account, run by **SW-B**, now has 229 followers.
6. Talks and speakers

* *May*: **TS** has been unable to contact Will Alpass who had agreed to give a talk on Seaweed foraging at Royal Torbay Yacht Club so that talk has been abandoned.
* Talks will restart on Zoom in the Autumn with the following speakers. Sept: Coral Smith (DWT); Oct: Jenny Bennett (Geology); Nov: AGM in Torquay (speaker to be arranged); Dec: Keith Hiscock (MBA, review of 2023).  
  **Action:** **MP** to arrange dates for speakers

1. Field activities  
   a) The May 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 1100 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) *Move to Shoresearch*.   
   Following a successful trial of a DWT Shoresearch Walkover survey at Coryton Rocks on 7th April by **SW-B**, **MP** and **TS** it was agreed that in future SoSD will adopt the DWT protocol. There are several advantages: the Walkover survey is very similar to the Rockpool bioblitz and so fits our requirements; the data are easy to upload; there is certainty that the data will end up in a secure archive; and it opens the door to further collaboration with DWT; we can simply adopt the DWT health and safety policy. One change is that the surveys will be free, but we can suggest a donation (say £3) from any visitor who is not a member of SoSD. Anyone approved by **TS** may lead a survey.
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. **TS** will attend with Celia Hadow to assist.  
   *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. **TS** will produce a poster to advertise the exhibition.
4. SoSD branded T and Polo shirts  
   **TS** has ordered shirts for members of the Steering Group. Their design was agreed in consultation with members of the group.
5. Next meeting  
   The Steering Group agreed to experiment with having bi-monthly meetings instead of monthly ones. The next meeting will be by Zoom on Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 1930 h.

## Appendix. Summary of further commitments for 2023

Dates of Shoresearch Walkover surveys:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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** | tba |
| Sat July 8 | 1630✝︎ | 1.00 | Mount Batten, Plymouth | **BH?** | tba |
| Sat Aug 5 | 1551 | 0.49 | Bundle Head, Shaldon | **TS** | tba |
| Sat Sept 2 | 1453 | 0.25 | Preston, Torbay | tba | tba |
| Sun Oct 1 | 1429 | 0.27 | Lannacombe Bay | **TS** | tba |
| Sun Oct 29 | 1220 | 0.47 | Corbyn Head, Torquay | tba | tba |
| Sun Nov 26 | 1107 | 0.92 | Meadfoot, Torquay | tba | tba |
| Sat Dec 16 | 1344 | 0.98 | Burgh Island, Bigbury | **TS** | tba |

* Times are given in GMT / BST as appropriate

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

Other events:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** |  | **Event** | **Location** | **Contributors** |
| Sat May 20 | Stall | Devon County Show | Westpoint, nr Exeter | **TS**, Celia Hadow |
| Fri May 26 to Fri June 9 | Art Exhibition |  | Strand Centre, Dawlish | **MP**, **TS**, **AG**, Louise Scammell |
| Mon May 29 | Stall & Talk | Turn the Tide | Dawlish | **TS**, **MP**, **AG** |
| Wed May 31 | Talk | SW Marine Fest | Paignton | **MP**, **TS** |
| Sun Aug 13 | Stall | FSC Environment Festival | Slapton Ley | **TS**, tba |
| Sept 8 - 10 | Stall ? | Teignmouth Shanty Festival | Teignmouth | **MP**, tba |
| Sun Sept 17 | Walk | Dawlish Walking Festival | Coryton Rocks | **TS**, tba |

External speakers:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Speaker** | **Subject** | **Location** |
| September | Coral Smith | Devon Wildlife Trust | Zoom |
| October | Jenny Bennett | South Devon Geology | Zoom |
| November | AGM, tba | tba | Royal Torbay Yacht Club |
| December | Keith Hiscock | Review of 2023 | Zoom |