Steering Group Minutes

35th Meeting

11th July 2023 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston (co-Chair), Anne Gwynn, Sue Watson-Bate, Pete Jonas, Tamsyn Mann, Belle Heaton
2. Apologies: none
3. Special Statement  
   **PJ** explained that he has ongoing health issues that for the time being prevent him from playing a full part in SoSD. Other SG members expressed their best wishes and hope that he would soon be back to full health.
4. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising (not covered below):  
   The minutes were accepted.
5. Treasurer’s report and Membership  
   There was no Treasurer’s report at this meeting. It was noted that the Association T-shirts had cost £100 and that two new people (Traci Cornelius and Simon Bailey) had submitted membership forms cut it was not known if they had paid the £10 membership fee. A A1 poster for the Art Exhibition at the Strand Centre cost £20.16. We have a total of 61 members.
6. Facebook and Instagram  
   There have been no significant issues with the Facebook or Instagram accounts. The Instagram account, run by **SW-B**, now has 254 followers. **TS** has relaxed the rules for the private SoSD Association Facebook site to allow any posts by the SoSD membership provided they are of general interest (e.g. posts of safaris outside south Devon).
7. Talks and speakers  
   *Past talks*  
   *31st May*. **MP** and **TS** gave joint presentation at the South West Marine Festival, Paignton were there was an opportunity to meet people with similar interests.   
   *29th May.* **TS** gave a talk in a small marquee at the Turn the Tide, Dawlish, about the Art Exhibition in the Strand Centre. The facilities were poor and he recommends that we should not give Powerpoint presentations in a marquee in future.  
     
   *Future Talks*  
   a) The list of Autumn Zoom speakers remains as Sept: Coral Smith (DWT); Oct: Jenny Bennett (Geology); Dec: Keith Hiscock (MBA, review of 2023), although precise dates have not been confirmed.  
   b) The ***AGM*** is confirmed for 9th November at the Royal Torbay Yacht Club, doors open at 7 pm. At the suggestion of **TM** the speaker will be Kirsty Andrews, a winner in the Underwater Photographer of the Year competition 2023.  
   c) Other possible speakers for the New Year are Bernard Picton and Rob Hughes  
   Action: **MP** to arrange dates for Zoom speakers and invite Bernard Picton. **AG** to approach Rob Hughes for a live talk.
8. Field activities  
   a) A successful initial Shoresearch at Heybrook Bay near Wembury on 21st May was conducted by **SW-B** and **TS**. The observations were all uploaded to the DWT server. Unfortunately due to a misunderstanding about the precise location and poor phone coverage in the area part of the group lead by **BH** failed to meet up. This has taught us that we need unambiguous joining instructions for Shoresearches.   
   b) A successful June Shoresearch was conducted at Shoalstone Beach, Brixham, lead by **BH** and **MP**. The observations were all uploaded to the DWT server.  
   c) The planned July 8th Shoresearch at Mount Batten Beach was cancelled due other commitments for both reporter and co-leader.  
   d) The next Shoresearch will be held at Bundle Head, Shaldon on Saturday 5th August and be led by **BH** and **SW-B** with **TS** and **AG** also attending. LW is 0.49 m chart datum at 1551 h, meet at the entrance to the Smugglers Tunnel at 1245 h.  
   e) There will be another Shoresearch at Preston Sands, Torbay on Saturday 2nd September when LW (Teignmouth Approaches) is 0.25 m at 1453 h. It will be lead by **SW-B** and **TS**. Meet at the head of the steps at the north end of the beach near the marine outfall pipe at 1300 h. Beware that this is still high season and parking may be difficult.   
   **SW-B** asked **TS** to circulate a copy of the disclaimer form to all SG members before each Shoresearch survey so that it can be brought to the survey. Action. **TS**.  
   **TS** is leading a Dawlish Walking Festival walk to Coryton Rocks on Sunday 17th Sept. This is not an SoSD event as such. **SW-B** and Celia Hadow will help out and about 12 members of the public will attend.  
   **MP** plans to lead a walk along the Templar Way on the banks of the Teign Estuary sometime in August. **BH** will attend for sure. Action: **MP**.  
   **MP** suggested asking Pete Stevens a local environmentalist to lead a walk along the Teign this winter to look at overwintering sea birds.
9. Stands and talks etc  
   *Past events:*  
   *20th May.* **TS** was helped by Celia Hadow at a stall at the Devon County Show. It was the show’s busiest day ever and our stall was a great success and continuously on the go. The little aquarium / rock pool was very popular.  
   *29th May*. A stall at Turn the Tide on the Lawn, Dawlish, was manned by **TS**, **MP** and Celia Hadow.   
     
   *Events to come*  
   *13th Aug*. Field Studies Council Environmental Festival, Slapton Ley. To be manned by **TS**, **AG** and others.  
   *10th Sept*. Teignmouth Shanty Festival. **MP** has been asked to give a talk and we may be asked to exhibit some of our photos. However, arrangements have not yet been announced by the organisers. **AG** emphasised that if they were planning to use TAAG they should be booking it now.
10. Art exhibition  
    The Art Exhibition at the Strand Centre, Dawlish, was on display from Friday 26th May till Friday 7th July, much longer than originally planned. The Centre enthusiastically supported the exhibition and it is intended to use new photographs in a similar exhibition to coincide with Turn the Tide next year.
11. SoSD branded T and Polo shirts  
    Shirts have been provided for all members of the Steering Group and have already been worn at the stalls and for the Shoresearch surveys.
12. Other business  
    **TS** agreed to ask Chris Bryan if he still wanted to be nominally a member of the Steering Group.
13. Next meeting  
    The Steering Group agreed to continue with bi-monthly meetings. The next one will be by Zoom on Tuesday 12th September 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~~ | **~~BH~~** | **~~MP~~** |
| ~~Sat July 8~~ | ~~1630✝︎~~ | ~~1.00~~ | ~~Mount Batten, Plymouth~~ | ~~Cancelled~~ |  |
| Sat Aug 5 | 1551 | 0.49 | Bundle Head, Shaldon | **SW-B** | **BH** |
| Sat Sept 2 | 1453 | 0.25 | Preston Sands, Torbay | **TS** | **SW-B** |
| 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~~** |
| August | Walk | Teign estuary | N.A. to Shaldon | **MP**, **BH** |
| Sun Aug 13 | Stall | FSC Environment Festival | Slapton Ley | **TS**, tba |
| Sept 8 - 10 | Talk and Photo exhibition ? | Teignmouth Shanty Festival | Teignmouth | **MP**, **TS**, **AG** |
| Sun Sept 17 | Walk | Dawlish Walking Festival | Coryton Rocks | **TS**, **SW-B**, Celia Hadow |

Talks and AGM:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Speaker** | **Subject** | **Location** |
| September | Coral Smith | Devon Wildlife Trust | Zoom |
| October | Jenny Bennett | South Devon Geology | Zoom |
| November 9th | Kirsty Andrews | AGM | Royal Torbay Yacht Club |
| December | Keith Hiscock | Review of 2023 | Zoom |