Steering Group Minutes

36th Meeting

12th September 2023 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston (co-Chair), Anne Gwynn, Pete Jonas, Rob Morgan (Treasurer), Belle Heaton
2. Apologies: Sue Watson-Bate; her husband is ill in hospital and the Steering Group wish him all the best for a speedy and full recovery.
3. Welcome  
   **TS** welcomed **PJ** who is now recovering from a successful operation.
4. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising (not covered below):  
   The minutes were accepted with a couple of changes, in particular that **PJ**s contribution to the Turn the Tide stand had not been acknowledged. This has been corrected.
5. Treasurer’s report and Membership  
   At close of business on 11 September 2023, the balance of the bank account stood at £463.17. The cash holding was £101.65, making our total holding **£564.82**. The only transaction since the last report was a payment into the account of £6 from Toby Sherwin for donations by two visitors to the Hollicombe rocks Shoresearch. There has still been no contribution from Plymouth Marine Laboratory for the time when **MP** lead them onto the rocks at Plymouth. It was agreed that in future if an organisation requests someone lead them on the rocks they must pay first.
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 268 followers. MP stated that the Facebook site, which continues to be regularly populated gets scam posts which are rejected.
7. Talks and speakers  
   *Past talks  
   5th Sept.* Coral Smith from Devon Wildlife Trust gave a Zoom talk entitled ‘Life beneath the waves’ in which she described the activities of DWT at Wembury. The talk is now available on our Youtube channel. About 10 people attended it live.  
   *10th Sept.* **MP** gave a talk in the Heritage Centre as part of the Teignmouth Shanty Festival, but due to poor advertising only 6 or 7 people attended.  
   *Future Talks*  
   a) The list of Autumn Zoom speakers remains as Oct 10th: Jenny Bennett (Geology); Dec: Keith Hiscock (MBA, review of 2023), although precise dates have not been confirmed.  
   b) Kirsty Andrews will be our guest speaker at the **AGM** on 9th November.
8. Field activities  
   a) A successful August Shoresearch Walkover survey was conducted at Bundle Head, Shaldon, lead by **SW-B** and **TS**. The observations were all uploaded to the DWT server.  
   b) A second successful Shoresearch walkover survey was conducted at Hollicombe Rocks, north Preston Beach on 2nd Sept, lead by **TS** with **AG** and **MP**. A total of 8 people attended, including two non-members who donated £3 each. Two people were alerted by the Instagram post. At present the full dataset is still being collected before loading to the server.  
   d) The next Shoresearch will be held at Coryton Rocks, Dawlish on Sunday 1st October and be led by **TS** and **MP**. LW is 0.27 m chart datum at 1429 h BST, meet at the steps on the promenade above the rocks at 1245 h.  
   e) There will be another Shoresearch at Corbyn Head, Torquay on Sunday 29th October when LW (Teignmouth Approaches) is 0.47 m at 1220 h GMT. It will be lead by **MP** and **TS**. Meet on the beach below the steps at 1030 h GMT. (Note the train from Newton Abbot gets in at 1022 h).   
   **TS** is leading a Dawlish Walking Festival walk to Coryton Rocks on Sunday 17th Sept. This is not an SoSD event as such. Celia Hadow and possibly **SW-B** will help out and about 12 members of the public will attend  
   **MP** plans to ask Pete Stevens a local environmentalist to lead a walk along the Teign estuary on the weekend of 14/15 October to look at marine life and overwintering sea birds.
9. Stands and talks etc  
   *Past events:*  
   *13th Aug*. The proposed stall at the Field Studies Council Environmental Festival, Slapton Ley had to be cancelled at the last minute when **TS** had to take his wife to hospital for an urgent operation on that day.  
   9*/10th Sept*. Teignmouth Shanty Festival. **MP**, **AG** and **TS** exhibited their photos and artwork over the weekend at TAAG in Teignmouth. Over 400 visitors came to the arts centre during that time and had an opportunity to appreciate the beautiful animals and algae of our seashore.
10. SoSD branded T and Polo shirts  
    Some recipients of the branded shirts have remarked that they are tighter than expected but it was agreed that nothing could be done about it now. Since the shirts are intended to show up the leaders of shore surveys and would not be used in bad weather it was agreed to provide the Steering Group with yellow beanie hats displaying the SoSD logo. Action **TS**.
11. Other business  
    Chris Bryan has agreed to stand down from the Steering Group.
12. Next meeting  
    The next meeting will be by Zoom on Tuesday 31st October 2023 at 1930 h.
13. The meeting closed at 2050 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 | Coryton Rocks, Dawlish | **TS** | **MP** |
| 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~~** |
| October 14 / 15 | Walk | Teign estuary | N.A. to Shaldon | **MP**, Pete Stevens |
| ~~Sun Aug 13~~ | ~~Stall~~ | ~~FSC Environment Festival~~ | ~~Slapton Ley~~ | **~~TS~~**~~, tba~~ |
| ~~Sept 9 and 10~~ | ~~Talk and Photo exhibition~~ | ~~Teignmouth Shanty Festival~~ | ~~TAAG, 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 10 | Jenny Bennett | South Devon Geology | Zoom |
| November 9 | Kirsty Andrews | AGM | Royal Torbay Yacht Club |
| December | Keith Hiscock | Review of 2023 | Zoom |