Steering Group Minutes

37th Meeting

31st October 2023 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Chair and Secretary), Sue Watson-Bate, Anne Gwynn, Pete Jonas
2. Apologies: Mike Puleston (co-Chair), Rob Morgan (Treasurer), Belle Heaton.
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising (not covered below):
The minutes were accepted without any corrections
4. Treasurer’s report and Membership
At close of business on 13 October 2023, the balance of the bank account stood at £483.17. The cash holding was £111.65, making our total holding **£594.82**. Since the last monthly report, income has been £20, £10 from **TS** for Shoresearch voluntary contributions and £10 for membership by J. Manning. There has been no expenditure.
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 288 followers.
6. Talks and speakers
*Past talks
Oct 10th:* Jenny Bennett gave a well received talk about the geology of South Devon which has been uploaded to our Youtube channel.
*Future Talks*
a) *Dec: 14th (?)* Keith Hiscock (MBA, review of the marine life of the south-west of England for 2023).
b) Kirsty Andrews, Underwater Photographer of the Year, will be our guest speaker at the **AGM** on 9th November.
**MP** has secured agreement from Louise Firth and Ari Drummond from Plymouth University to give talks in 2024. Dates are yet to be decided.
The Steering Group pressed on **MP** (in his absence) the need to have a full list of speakers for the first half of 2024 so that a full programme of talks can be published in the New Year.
7. Field activities
a) A successful Shoresearch Walkover survey was conducted at Coryton Cove, Dawlish, on 1st Oct led by **SW-B** and **TS** with 3 non-members who contributed a total of £10 in donations. The observations were all uploaded to the DWT server.
b) A second successful Shoresearch walkover survey was conducted at Corbyn Head, Torquay on 29th Oct, lead by **SW-B** and **TS** with initial input from **MP**. There were a further 6 attendees with two non-members donating £6. At present the full dataset is still being collected loaded to the server.
c) **MP** and Pete Stevens, a local environmentalist, led a walk along the Teign estuary on Saturday 14th October to look at marine life and overwintering sea birds. The walk was very well received and it is intended to repeat it next year. About 10 people attended although no donations were requested or provided.
d) The next Shoresearch will be held at Meadfoot Beach, Torquay on Sunday 26th November led by **TS** and **SW-B**. LW is 0.92 m chart datum at 1107 h, meet at the steps halfway along the road at 0930 h..
e) There will be another Shoresearch before Xmas at Goodrington Beach, Paignton on Saturday 16th December when LW (Teignmouth Approaches) is 1.04 m at 1344 h. It will be lead by **TS**. Meet by the steps at just north of the Premier Inn at 1230 h.
f) A nighttime safari will be held at Coryton Rocks on Wednesday 22nd November when LW is 1.63 m at 1944 h. Meet at the top of the steps on the promenade at 1815 h and bring a UV torch and/or head torch if you have one. Apart from Steering Group members this safari will be by personal invitation only.
8. AGM
The AGM will be held on Thursday 9th November at 1930 h (doors open at 1900 h) in the Billiard Room of the Royal Torbay Yacht Club, Torquay. The club bar will be open all evening. An agenda was agreed and the following tasks were assigned:
a) **SW-B** on the door to register participants and collect attendance and membership fees.
b) **PJ** to keep minutes
c) **AG** to be ready to help participants and the speaker find the Billiard Room
d) **MP** to lead the discussion
e) **TS** to chair the meeting and introduce the guest speaker
In addition **TS** will provide the following: display boards; flyers; money box and £10 float; blank signing in list; blank membership forms for new members. **TS** has confirmed the booking with the club and arranged for 35 chairs and tables along one wall to display our boards.
Steering Group members were asked to wear their SoSD polo shirts to identify themselves attendees.
9. Stands and talks etc
*Past events:*
**MP** attended an public event ‘Changing Tides’ organised by the Rockpool Project at Mount Batten, Plymouth on 30th October where he was able to talk about SoSD. We have been invited to join in with Rockpool Project safaris in Torbay next summer.
10. Other matters
8 fluorescent yellow beanie hats imprinted with the SoSD logo have been purchased by **TS** for a total of £42.53. These are gradually being distributed to members of the Steering Group.
Tamsyn Mann has resigned from the Steering Group. **TS** thanked for her for her contribution during the year and she offered to return her polo shirt which had not been used.
There is some uncertainty about whether we will be able to hold another art and photo exhibition at TAAG, Teignmouth next spring, partly because of further building work and partly because we need to source some new frames. **AG** will keep us posted.
11. Next meeting
The next meeting will be by Zoom on Tuesday 12th December 2023 at 1930 h.
12. The meeting closed at 2045 h.