Steering Group Minutes

39th Meeting

23rd January 2024 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Founder and meeting Chair, Mike Puleston (co-founder), Anne Gwynn, Pete Jonas.
2. Apologies: Rob Morgan (Treasurer), Belle Heaton. Sue Watson-Bate
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising (not covered below):  
   The minutes were accepted without any corrections. **TS** agreed to remind members that they need to pay their subs if they want to rejoin.
4. Treasurer’s report and Membership  
   At close of business on 19th January 2024, the balance of the NatWest bank account was £723.17, an increase of £162 since 1st December 2023. The cash holding remained at 111.65 making our total holding **£834.82**. Income comprised **15** **membership fees of £10**, and £12 of donations collected at Shoresearches. It was not possible to consolidate the difference between fees collected and membership numbers that was reported at the last meeting.
5. Facebook and Instagram  
   There have been no significant issues with the Facebook or Instagram accounts although **MP** reported that the number of Facebook scam requests has increased with time. The Facebook site has over 1800 followers and the Instagram account, run by **SW-B**, now has 296 followers.
6. Talks and speakers  
   Andrew Cleave gave a fascinating talk on coastal wildflowers on 16th Jan 2024 that was well attended.  
   *Future Talks*There will be no talk in February but Charlotte Cumming (a Shoresearch volunteer) has agreed to speak on Tuesday April 9th.**MP** emphasised that he was finding it very difficult to get potential speakers to agree to a particular date a long time in advance.
7. Field activities  
   a) A very successful Shoresearch Walkover survey was conducted on Goodrington Rocks, Torquay on Saturday 13th January led by **TS**. A total of 10 people who included **AG** and Charlotte Cumming (a future speaker) also attended. There have been some glitches with submitting the observations to the DWT database this time and the data have yet to be uploaded.  
   b) The next Shoresearch will be held at Bundle Head, Shaldon on Sunday February 11th, meeting at the entrance to the Smugglers Tunnel at 1200 h. LW (Teignmouth) is 0.21 m at 1412 h.  
   c) The March Shoresearch will be on Sunday 10th at Livermead Beach, Torquay, meeting at 1030 h. LW (Teignmouth) is 0.26 m at 1226 h.  
   Note that both the above tides are amongst the lowest of the year.  
   **TS** is preparing a list of previous Shoresearches and Rockpool Project Bio-blitzes for publication on the website.
8. Future activities  
   a) **BH** is investigating the possibility of a visit to the seawater Aquarium at the MBA.  
   b) No progress has yet been made with respect to the ‘What on Earth’ exhibition at TAAG, Teignmouth on Sat 20th April to 3rd May. **TS** remains in communication with an organiser (Antony Turner) and will keep **MP** and **AG** informed (and anyone else who declares an interest).  
   c) Turn the Tide, 7th - 9th June 2024. The intention is to repeat a photo/art exhibition at the Strand Centre to coincide with the event. **TS** to contact Paul at the Centre. We will also man a stand on the during during World Ocean Day on 8th June.  
   d) October or November 2024. Louise Scammell has suggested that we exhibit at the Old School Centre in South Brent in the Autumn.  
   e) **MP** has been in touch with the organiser of the ‘ACT with the Arts’ Exhibition to be held in Newton Abbot from 22nd to 29th June. The exhibition has a climate theme but to date it is not certain how SoSD can contribute.
9. A.O.B.  
   a) **TS** has approached Celia Hadow to see if she’s willing to rejoin the Steering Group, but has not had a commitment from her so far.  
   b) The Group agreed to a suggestion by **TS** and **MP** that in future they will describe their position in the Association as co-Founders, with **TS** also being the Steering Group meeting Chair.  
   c) Teignbridge District Council have installed a hut / store at Coryton Cove to be shared by SoSD and Dawlish Against Plastic. We have yet to receive keys for the lock. It was agreed that we suggest to DAP that we have a joint opening ceremony in due course.
10. Next meeting  
    The next meeting will be by Zoom on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 1930 h.
11. The meeting closed at 2030 h.