

Shores of South Devon (Marine Life Interest Association)

Minutes of the Second Annual General Meeting

Venue: Royal Torbay Yacht Club, Torquay

Time & Date: 19:30 17th November 2022

Attendees: Toby Sherwin (Co-Chair and Steering Group member), Peter Jonas (Acting Secretary and Steering Group member), Anne Gwynn (Steering Group member), Sue Watson-Bate (Steering Group member), Belle Heaton (Steering Group member), Celia Hadow, Mark Foden, Frances Hutchinson, Cressida Whitton, Rick Albrook, Neil Mander, Mandy Mander, Louise Scammel, Caroline Jameson, Charlotte Fordham, Megan Ross, Tamsyn Mann, Roger Bird, Deanna Westfold, Chris Widdecombe, Duncan George. (Also present were 7 non-members for the live talk after the meeting, including the speaker).

Apologies were received from: Mike Puleston (Co-Chair and Steering Group member), Robert Morgan (Treasurer and Steering Group member), Keith Hiscock, Rachael Shearmur, Richard Walford, Kerry Sherwin

1. Introduction

Toby welcomed everyone to the second AGM for the Shores of South Devon Marine Life Interest Association.

2. Minutes of the last AGM 28th October 2021

These were put to the meeting and unanimously accepted.

3. Co-Chair's Report

Toby gave a summary of the Association's aims (see attached document Annex 1). He described how the Association promoted itself, through the Facebook website, which now has about 1,500 members, and the Instagram account set up by Sue Watson-Bate during the past year to augment the Facebook site. Toby then gave a round-up of the activities of the Association over the past year, which has included regular bio-blitzes, public awareness events, and articles for local newspapers. The details are given in the attached document Annex 2.

4. Treasurers' Report

Toby went through the Treasurer's report in his absence which is attached to the minutes as Annex 3. The report was put to the meeting and unanimously accepted. It was proposed and seconded by Anne Gwyn and Peter Jonas.

5. Steering Group

Toby introduced the members of the Steering Group to the meeting and said that all of the present members were willing to continue on the Group, except Emma Griffin. These are: Toby Sherwin, Mike Puleston, Robert Morgan, Anne Gwynn, Sue Watson-Bate, Peter Jonas, Belle Heaton, and Chris Bryan.

Toby then said that more members were needed on the Group. Tamsyn Mann expressed an interest in joining the Steering Group and Toby discussed this with her at the end of the meeting.

The Steering Group members for the next year were proposed and seconded by Neil Mander and Celia Hadow and they were unanimously accepted.

6. Way Forward

Toby described some of the future events for the coming year in his Co-Chair's Report (see Annex 2). There will be more bio-blitzes, live talks and Zoom talks during the next year. These will be advertised and promoted through Facebook and e-mails.

7. A.O.B.

Nothing was specifically raised.

The formal part of the meeting ended at 20:00 and Toby thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Talk

After a brief interval the Guest speaker, Paul Naylor was introduced by Peter Jonas and then gave a fascinating 50 minute talk about the behaviour of marine animals titled 'Every picture tells a story ... and asks a question!'. In a series of fabulous photographs and movies he showed off the fascinating behaviour of animals around the coast of Devon.

Peter Jonas, AGM Secretary, 2022

Attachments:

Annex 1: Co-Chair's Report Year November 2021 to October 2022

Annex 2: Treasurer's Report for Year November 2021 to October 2022

Shores of South Devon

Chair's report AGM 2022 17 Nov 2022, Royal Torbay Yacht Club

This is a brief round up of what we've been up to since last November. Remember that 12 months ago we were still under the restrictions of Covid, and Shores of South Devon have only been able to function fully since the Spring (at last!)

To start with I should briefly remind everyone that we are a **Voluntary Association** and that our aims are posted on the front page of our website. In essence they are to

1. **Promote interest** in the wonders of marine life on our local shores to a wide audience of lay people.
2. **Bring people together** to learn about, appreciate and enjoy seeing and recording our marine wildlife
3. **Hold** talks, surveys and links with other organisations.

All of which you should see that we've done to some extent in the last few months:

1. So how do we promote interest?

So we have our **website**: shoresofsouthdevon.org.uk which I maintain. It's a bit clunky and not always up to date, I agree, but it does the job of providing us with a single fixed point of contact, and helps us get grants. If anyone wants to join the Steering Group and help out with it I'm all ears.

Then we have our very successful **Facebook** site which is administered by Mike Puleston, Sue Watson-Bate, Jana Fischer and myself. Thanks to my colleagues for their hard work monitoring posts and rejecting the few that from time to time stray outside the site's rules. Also Sue has recently set up a Shores of South Devon **Instagram** account which she is regularly updating.

And we have also manned **stalls** at a number of different venues, and have created considerable interest that way. Incidentally our **banners and logo** design were paid for by a grant from Teignbridge Counsellor, Linda Goodman-Bradbury. We've also had support from Dawlish Town Council and if anyone has good contacts with Torbay or South Hams Councils we'd like to know.

2. How have we brought people together?

Well we've held monthly **Bioblitzes** on various shores around south Devon from Langstone Rocks at Dawlish Warren in the east, to South Milton sands in the west. Initially as we got going we restricted ourselves to just Steering Group members, but as the summer progressed we felt confident that we could open Bioblitzes to all Association members. The only exception to this was in August when we entertained 29 staff members from Devon County Council to undertake a mass Bioblitz at Coryton Cove, Dawlish. Incidentally

our Bioblitzes are a collaboration with the **Rockpool Project** in Falmouth who provide a server for us to upload our observations. The Rockpool Project are in discussion with DASSH, the marine data centre at the MBA, for all of their data to be sent on to them and thereby onto a National database.

3. Talks etc

As you can see summarised in the next two slides we've held 7 **Zoom** talks which have been recorded and uploaded to our **Youtube Channel**, 2 two **live** talks here at RTYC. Our remit for the talks is wider than just the inter-tidal zone as you will realise from tonight's guest talk.

4. Miscellaneous activities

Mike Puleston has started a bi-weekly series in the **Mid-Devon Advertiser Newspaper Group** featuring his photographs of local rocky shore wildlife, Sue Watson-Bate held a **raffle** for two calendars, very kindly donated by Georgie Bull, which raised £44. Celia Hadow and I led a **walk** onto the Coryton Rocks as part of the Dawlish Walking Festival. Several of us are members of the **MBA** and Sue and I are members of **Coastwise North Devon**, the equivalent organisation for North Devon.

5 The Future

Well that's enough about what we've done - what's coming up?

We'll **continue** our Bioblitzes, public displays, Zoom and live talks, the latter probably here although we'd be interested to hear what you think of this clubhouse as a venue.

Starting 25th of this month we're holding a photographic **art exhibition** at the Maltings Taphouse in Newton Abbot. It'll last for a couple of months into the New Year and I hope you'll find time to call in. It's free.

We're in conversation with Teignbridge District Council about setting up a **permanent presence** of some sort at Coryton Cove in Dawlish.

And we hope to organise **visits** to the MBA, Plymouth and to the Wembury visitor centre at some stage.

So I hope all of that has given you a flavour of what Shores of South Devon have been up to over the last 12 months. I think we've **done very well** for a first year after the lockdowns, and for that we can thank all members of the Steering Group who have exercised imagination and energy on a topic that means a lot to all of us.

Shores of South Devon

Treasurers Report for the period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022.

Opening balance on 1 October 2021: £177.12

Income

	£
Donations	6.46
Membership fees	415.00
Calendar raffle	44.00
Grant – Teignbridge DC	250.00
Meeting attendance fees	86.00
Total	<u>801.46</u>

Expenditure

	£
Venue hire	105.00
Zoom fees	57.56
Publicity material (printed)	24.65
Stand fee at event	10.00
Display boards	244.00
Display banners	264.00
Public Liability Insurance	64.42
Square payment device	19.20
Transaction fees	0.73
Total	<u>789.56</u>
Balance	<u>£189.02</u>

Comment

As of 30 September 2022 the Association had 45 signed up members, slightly up on the previous year. During the year we received a grant of £250 from Teignbridge District Council to be used for promotional material, as we were a – fairly – new local organisation. This almost covered the cost of two new display banners, including the design fee. We also invested in display boards costing £244, for use at events we attended or set up ourselves. Other significant outlays have been Zoom fees for online talks, public liability insurance which is a condition of attending events organised by other bodies and venue hire for face-to-face talks and our AGM.

In the period covered, membership fees plus meeting attendance fees totalled £501. With an investment of over £500 in display material already made, these fees cover the costs of the present level of our public talks and other educational and promotional activities with a considerable amount to spare. Up to the present time speakers have generously given face-to-face talks for no charge but in the future, it may be expected that some will require travel costs to be paid.

Dr. Robert Morgan, Treasurer, Shores of South Devon.