



## Livermead and Preston Newsletter

### April 2024

**Next Meeting Wednesday 24 April 2024**  
**will be our Annual General Meeting**  
**with entertainment from 1.30pm and light refreshments after.**

### Discovery Group Visit to Shaldon Zoo



Golden-headed Lion Tamarin.



Ring-tailed Lemur



Red-ruffed Lemur

Zak Showell, Director of Shaldon Zoo, was our speaker in January this year and so the Discovery Group decided to visit the Zoo to see what it was all about. The Zoo specialises in rare and endangered animals from the forests of South America, Madagascar, Vietnam and Java and they breed and exchange primates from these areas with other similar Zoos throughout the world. The animals are generally small and tree climbing which you would not usually see in big Zoos. One of the mums had just given birth and if you looked closely, you could see the baby clinging to her back. The mum is about the size of a small domestic cat and can shoot up a branch with the baby holding on for dear life. The animals include meerkats, lorises, civets and rarer animals such as margays and bettongs. There are also tortoises, tree frogs, and a nocturnal house with a snake, which I left to braver members to see. The cages are well built, and all have excellent notices explaining the reasons for the rarity such as being hunted for fur or food.

Zak gave us an introductory talk and we followed the well maintained footpath round the enclosures. It is wheelchair friendly for the first half, but they have not yet upgraded it all the way round so you would need to return back to the start as the second half has a lot of steps. They are visitor friendly and the staff of 5, and the volunteers, are happy to stop and help. As a charity they encourage parents and grandparents to buy experiences such as keeper for a day. On May 22nd you can spend an evening with their poet in residence!

**John Buckman, member. Photos by Helen Johnson, member.**

## News From Our Groups

**Be on the look out for news about our Coffee Morning Group and our Garden Visits Group. These will be starting soon!**

**Discovery Group** – As you can see from our front page, the Discovery Group had a very enjoyable visit to Shaldon Zoo earlier this month. **Our next meeting will be at the Craft Centre, South Devon College, Newton Abbot, on Thursday 2 May. Details to follow**  
**Group Facilitator: Colin Porter email [colintippy@gmail.com](mailto:colintippy@gmail.com)**

**Handicrafts Group** – our next meeting is on Tuesday 28 May at 2pm at Preston Conservative Club. We will be making pendants from glass pebbles. New members are welcome.  
**Group Facilitator: Linda Skipper 07824700886**



**Lunch Club** – Everyone enjoyed their carvery at The Willow Tree, Condor Way in Torquay in April and it was agreed that **our next lunch will be at The Wighton, Orchard Way, Torquay TQ2 7JA on Thursday 9 May from 12.30.** Please let the Group Facilitator know whether you are coming or not. New members welcome.  
**Group Facilitator: Linda Skipper 07824700886**

### **South West Coast Path Connectors Walking Group Timetable for May**

#### **Amblers (short easier walks):**

**Tuesday 7 May 11am – Berry Head 1 hr walk mostly flat** Meet at the Guardhouse Café Berry Head. Metered car park. Bus 17 drops off at Berry Head Hotel only.

**Tuesday 21 May 11am – Torquay Harbour and Daddy Hole Plain. 1.5 hour slightly more strenuous than our other walks. Some undulating coastal path and steps.** Meet at Torquay Pavilion. Most buses stop adjacent to the Pavilion, metered car parking.

#### **Wanderers: (longer more strenuous walks) :**

**Tuesday 14 May 1pm – Torquay to Cockington. 2hrs 15 mins – moderate walk, some inclines/ declines.** Meet at Torquay Pavilion. All buses stop adjacent to the Pavilion.

**Tuesday 28 May 1pm – Roundham and Clennon Valley. 2.5 hrs. Mostly flat but includes one steep hill.** Meet at Paignton Railway Station. Access by rail but Bus Station is close by.

***Please bring weather-proof clothing, water, suncream, etc. Stuart Riddle will lead the walks with a volunteer to support (look out for the bright blue polo shirts)***

***No need to let us know you are coming – just turn up! All are welcome.***

### **Quick Reminder:**

**If you haven't handed in your completed 2024 – 2025 Membership Form yet, you can bring it to the AGM on Wednesday 24 April!**

**Thank you for your continuing support!**