

Aria
LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity 206228

Report of the society for the year ending 30 June 2021

Objects

The objects of the society are the study and recording of natural history, archaeology and other kindred subjects, especially within twenty miles of St Paul's Cathedral, the promotion of scientific investigations, the appreciation and conservation of the natural environment and the publication in the society's journals of scientific and educational papers. Activities and achievements in respect of these objectives are described below.

Governance: Council, Committees and Sections

A Council of Trustees, comprising the officers (President Maria Roberts, Treasurer Mike West, & Secretary David Howdon), up to ten representatives of the members at large and one representative of each of the society's Sections (currently five) governs the society. During the year Liz Andrew represented the London Bird Club section; Frances Dismore the Botany section, Anke Marsh the Ecology and Entomology section and Kat Duke the Hampstead Heath Survey section. The post of Bookham Common representative remained unfilled.

Rule 17(6) which limits a continuous period of elected membership to five years, and came into force in December 2017 replacing rule 4(c) which made similar provision and had been in effect since December 2005. This limitation on terms for council members was first implemented at the AGM in 2010.

The Administration and Finance Committee, chaired by Michael Wilsdon, dealt with much delegated business.

The majority of society business (including the 2020 AGM) was conducted by Zoom videoconference given the restrictions in place, although some subcommittee meetings were able to take place in person during less restricted phases of the year. The technology has allowed us to run, and take forward new activities for, the society during a time that would otherwise be impossible. Nevertheless we appreciate that the technology is not fully accessible to everyone and are hopeful of resuming in person meetings in the coming reporting year.

Formal Health & Safety and Safeguarding policies were introduced this year.

Finances

LNHS Annual Report to 30th June 2021

The annual financial report accompanies this annual report. The society continues to receive a significant amount of income as a result of members who pay under the gift aid scheme, and members are thanked for doing so. Any members who pay sufficient tax to be eligible for the gift aid scheme but currently not signed up to it are encouraged to consider doing so.

Activities

The society entered this reporting year with all its activities suspended due to restrictions on activities associated with the covid-19 pandemic and the response of the Government thereto. Field meetings and indoor meetings have remained suspended throughout the period covered by this annual report. Individual members have, subject to the various iterations of 'lockdown', been able to carry out their own recording activities and so recording for the flora project and the Hampstead Heath survey has been able to continue to some extent.

During the year the society trialled and subsequently rolled out a series of fortnightly 'virtual' talks using the Zoom videoconferencing platform. This has allowed us to provide talks on ecological subjects to a wide audience which have proved popular with members both old and new with attendees frequently in the hundreds, and have allowed us to reach a more geographically diverse audience than we have previously. The society is intending to continue with some online activities of this form even when in person meetings resume. We would extend our thanks to all our speakers who gave their time and expertise for these.

Journals and other publications

The London Naturalist 99 (2020) edited by Nick Rutter was distributed to members in December. The editorial team are continuing to produce a high quality journal of which the society can be proud.

The London Bird Report No 84 for the year 2019 was published in April 2021. The editorial board continued its hard work getting these reports out in a timely fashion. There are a lot of stages necessary in getting these out involving record submission, verification, validation, processing, and subsequent writing up so it is a tribute to their work that this all gets turned around so effectively.

The Newsletter edited by Mark Burgess continued to provide members with regular news on the activities and operation of the society.

Work on the London Flora and Butterflies of the London Area continued and have been discussed in the Activities report above. During the year the society started exploring options for publishing an update to the Larger Moths of the London Area.

LNHS Annual Report to 30th June 2021

Our longstanding webmaster Malcolm Kendall stood down towards the end of the year, we thank him for all the work he has done over the years and the support he provided in transferring responsibilities. Keiron Brown and Anke Marsh have started to work on reviewing the website and introduced the news section <https://lnhs.org.uk/index.php/news> which helps members and non-members know what we are doing.

Membership

245 new members joined during the year, compared with 96 last year. The number of individual members currently stands at 1008, compared with 798 at the same time last year, and 895 the previous year. The significant increase in membership is welcomed and although we've not undertaken formal research on this it is highly likely that this increase is in part or whole due to the new members we attracted from the virtual talk programme.

The increase in membership more than totally reverses the decline we saw last year which was in part a result of a conscious choice not to chase payments when we were not undertaking any activities. The resumption of in person activities and continuation of virtual ones provides a good base for retaining and growing this membership.

Remember that the society is not just for experts – meetings and workshops are planned with beginners in mind, and newcomers are always encouraged to play an active part in the society's affairs. If you know someone who is unsure whether to join invite them along to one of the field or indoor meetings (when they are running again) or to attend one of our virtual talks.

We have been notified of and record with regret the deaths of the following members during the year to 30 June (date of joining in brackets): Mr Bill Budd (2014), Ms Janet Dobbie (2013), Mr Roger Evans (1994), Mr John Hollingdale (1996), Mr Keith Hyatt (1947), Mrs Stella Luce (1975), Miss Eileen Taylor (1993), Mrs Pat Verrall (1992), Rev Marion Warman (1990).

Recording and research

Thanks go to our recorders for all their continuing hard work.

The society has an ongoing project at <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/gigl/london-bird-records> to convert the society's old record cards into a modern digital format. Members are encouraged to sign up and help out (full instructions are provided and you don't need to be technically skilled to make a contribution).

LNHS Annual Report to 30th June 2021

Mark Spencer our botany recorder is leading a project looking at digitising wildlife records from previous London Naturalists and getting them into a database format.

In the year, led by Kennedy Cruikshank, we launched a research grant aimed at students working on projects involving any aspect of natural history in London, preferably for fieldwork within the Greater London area, but possibly for relevant, archival research.

Library

Access to the Angela Marmon Centre for UK Biodiversity in the Natural History Museum was essentially restricted or impossible for the period covered by this report. Nevertheless David Allen the LNHS continued to manage acquisitions and keeping the administration of the library operating. . The library is an important resource for both the public (for reference) and LNHS members (for borrowing) providing access to a wide range of out of print and hard to find natural history titles. In normal times, and unlike many other libraries, the Angela Marmont Centre is very welcoming of people bringing in specimens to try to identify. When access is possible again members are encouraged to make use of it.

Conservation of the natural environment

Rich habitats are still under threat from developers. The society is often asked to lend its voice to protests against such developments. Council's view is that an appropriate campaigning body in such cases is the London Wildlife Trust, the LNHS being better placed to provide evidence-based advice if required. Our partnership with GiGL helps ensure that our high quality validated records are available for such purposes.

This report has been prepared with due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

London Natural History Society
(Charity Registration Number 206228)

Accounts
For The Year Ended 30th June 2021

Meyer Williams
Chartered Accountants
Stag House
Old London Road
Hertford
Hertfordshire
SG13 7LA

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2021

The Society's accounts are again presented on a receipts and payments basis, as permitted by the Charity Commission.

The COVID-19 restrictions continued to impact on the Society's activities through the year, and as a result potential sponsorship income and hall hire expenditure relating to a normal programme of events did not materialise.

Overall expenditure totalled £28,656 (compared to £36,738 last year which included new investments of £5,000). Receipts from members and supporters totalled £21,856 (compared with £23,687 last year, which had included a legacy of £5,000). Subscription income increased from £14,047 to £17,826 as significant numbers of new members were attracted through the Society's successful programme of virtual online talks. Total receipts were £31,854 compared with £35,131 last year.

Notwithstanding a transfer of £5,000 from the COIF Charities Deposit Fund to the Fixed Interest Fund the value of the Society's investment assets fell by 3% during the year, and at the year end the total net assets of the Society as detailed in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities had decreased by £7,779 to £372,984 compared with £380,763 last year.

Reserves Policy

The London Natural History Society may hold funds in the form of cash, stocks, shares, bonds, collective funds and other classes of investment deemed from time to time to be appropriate (hereafter 'the reserves'). The reserves will be held for the purpose of providing an income stream to support the Society's activities and publications, and maintain membership rates at affordable levels so as not to exclude people from the educational benefits of the Society, and to encourage increased and informed participation in wildlife recording activity.

Where income from the reserves is sufficient to meet these purposes the Society may make additional payments from the reserves to third parties to fund research and ecological study (with a particular emphasis on the London area) where such research is consistent with the objects of the Society.

The trustees may decide to use amounts held as part of the reserves to fund publications or other projects which further the Society's charitable aims.

The Society uses investments specifically set up for charities, which invest in bonds and deposits, and not directly in the equity of individual companies. Each of these funds has associated ethical policies, and the Society considers this is a prudent and proportionate means of balancing our financial needs and ethical concerns.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2021

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities – continued

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- c) make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- e) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
(Charity Registered Number – 206228)

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
London Natural History Society**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the London Natural History Society ('the charity') for the year ended 30 June 2021 which comprise of receipts and payments and the statement of assets and liabilities.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('The Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently, I express no audit opinion on the accounts and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

R J Sears FCCA
Meyer Williams
Chartered Accountants
Stag House,
Old London Road
Hertford,
Herts,
SG13 7LA

Date:

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
As at 30th June 2021

| | Notes | 2021 | 2020 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| Monetary Assets | | | |
| Bank Balances: | | | |
| National Westminster current account | | - | - |
| National Westminster reserve account | | 19,770 | 16,773 |
| Cash in hand | | 499 | 298 |
| | | <u>20,269</u> | <u>17,071</u> |
| Investment Assets | | | |
| M&G Charibond | | 138,069 | 140,230 |
| COIF Fixed Interest Fund | | 195,181 | 198,997 |
| COIF Charities Deposit Fund | | <u>19,465</u> | <u>24,465</u> |
| | | <u>352,715</u> | <u>363,692</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u><u>£372,984</u></u> | <u><u>£380,763</u></u> |

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on.....

M L Roberts - President

M J West - Treasurer

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th June 2021

| RECEIPTS | 2021 | | 2020 | |
|---|-------|----------|-------|----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Receipts from Members and Supporters: | | | | |
| Subscriptions | | 17,826 | | 14,047 |
| Donations | | 1,027 | | 1,222 |
| Legacy income | | - | | 5,000 |
| Tax recovered on Subscriptions and Donations under Gift Aid | | 2,849 | | 3,262 |
| Reading Circle receipts | | 154 | | 156 |
| | | <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| | | 21,856 | | 23,687 |
| Sales: | | | | |
| Journals | | 426 | | 581 |
| Previous publications | | - | | 9 |
| Other income: | | | | |
| “The London Bird Atlas” - Royalty Income | | 122 | | 122 |
| Sundry receipt | | - | | 20 |
| Sponsorship of Meetings and Events | | - | | 1,188 |
| Refund of cancelled Hall and Room booking | | 60 | | - |
| | | <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| | | 608 | | 1,920 |
| Investment income: | | | | |
| Charities Fixed Interest Fund | 6,010 | | 6,234 | |
| Charities Deposit Fund Interest | 9 | | 108 | |
| Income from M&G Charibond | 3,360 | | 3,136 | |
| Bank Deposit Account Interest | 2 | | 35 | |
| Interest on Gift Aid tax recovered | 9 | | 11 | |
| | <hr/> | | <hr/> | |
| | | 9,390 | | 9,524 |
| Total Receipts | | <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| | | 31,854 | | 35,131 |
| Less: Total Payments (Page 6) | | <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| | | (28,656) | | (36,738) |
| Net Receipts/(Payments) for the year | | <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| | | 3,198 | | (1,607) |
| Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 1 st July 2020 | | 17,071 | | 18,678 |
| Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 30th June 2021 | | <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| | | £20,269 | | £17,071 |

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)

For the year ended 30th June 2021

PAYMENTS

| | 2021 | | 2020 | |
|--|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Meeting Costs, Sectional & General Expenditure: | | | | |
| Hire of Halls and Rooms | - | | 2,121 | |
| Lecturers' Fees and Expenses, Sectional Expenses etc. | 360 | | 953 | |
| Reading Circle Journals | 328 | | 345 | |
| Postage and Telephone | 131 | | 126 | |
| Office Supplies and copying | 614 | | 689 | |
| Services | 419 | | 179 | |
| Independent Examiners' Fees | 1,800 | | 1,800 | |
| Insurance | 1,810 | | 1,764 | |
| Expense Allowances | - | | 148 | |
| Paypal account charges | 165 | | 49 | |
| | | 5,627 | | 8,174 |
| Publications: | | | | |
| Printing and Expenses: | | | | |
| London Naturalist No. 98 | - | | 5,019 | |
| London Naturalist No. 99 | 4,389 | | - | |
| London Bird Report 2018 | - | | 4,401 | |
| London Bird Report 2019 | 4,522 | | - | |
| | | 8,911 | | 9,420 |
| Programme | - | | 688 | |
| Newsletters | 3,427 | | 3,407 | |
| Mailing | 7,809 | | 6,874 | |
| Publicity | 288 | | - | |
| | | 11,524 | | 10,969 |
| Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure | 471 | | 354 | |
| Library | 1,632 | | 1,716 | |
| Grant towards publication of Hawkweed book | - | | 500 | |
| Bookham hut expenses | - | | 423 | |
| Website costs | 491 | | 182 | |
| | | 28,656 | | 31,738 |
| Asset and investment purchases: | | | | |
| Payment into COIF charities deposit fund account | - | | 5,000 | |
| Total Payments for the Year | £28,656 | | £36,738 | |

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LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2021

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities – continued

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M L Roberts - President

M J West - Treasurer

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th June 2021

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| Sundry receipt | | - | | 20 |
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| | | 3,198 | | (1,607) |
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| | | £20,269 | | £17,071 |

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)

For the year ended 30th June 2021

PAYMENTS

| | 2021 | | 2020 | |
|--|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Meeting Costs, Sectional & General Expenditure: | | | | |
| Hire of Halls and Rooms | - | | 2,121 | |
| Lecturers' Fees and Expenses, Sectional Expenses etc. | 360 | | 953 | |
| Reading Circle Journals | 328 | | 345 | |
| Postage and Telephone | 131 | | 126 | |
| Office Supplies and copying | 614 | | 689 | |
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| Independent Examiners' Fees | 1,800 | | 1,800 | |
| Insurance | 1,810 | | 1,764 | |
| Expense Allowances | - | | 148 | |
| Paypal account charges | 165 | | 49 | |
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| London Naturalist No. 98 | - | | 5,019 | |
| London Naturalist No. 99 | 4,389 | | - | |
| London Bird Report 2018 | - | | 4,401 | |
| London Bird Report 2019 | 4,522 | | - | |
| | | 8,911 | | 9,420 |
| Programme | - | | 688 | |
| Newsletters | 3,427 | | 3,407 | |
| Mailing | 7,809 | | 6,874 | |
| Publicity | 288 | | - | |
| | | 11,524 | | 10,969 |
| Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure | 471 | | 354 | |
| Library | 1,632 | | 1,716 | |
| Grant towards publication of Hawkweed book | - | | 500 | |
| Bookham hut expenses | - | | 423 | |
| Website costs | 491 | | 182 | |
| | | 28,656 | | 31,738 |
| Asset and investment purchases: | | | | |
| Payment into COIF charities deposit fund account | - | | 5,000 | |
| Total Payments for the Year | £28,656 | | £36,738 | |