

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity 206228

Report of the society for the year ending 30 June 2022

Objects

The objects of the society are the study and recording of natural history, archaeology and other kindred subjects 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 handing over to Annie Wilson mid-term), up to ten members' representatives and one representative of each of the society's Sections (currently five) governs the society. Jo Hatton, Angela Linnell, David Bevan, Ian Woodward, Jan Hewlett, Wendy Knight and Robin Blades represent the members. Liz Andrew represented the London Bird Club section; Maureen Parry the Botany section, Anke Marsh the Ecology and Entomology section and Kat Duke the Hampstead Heath Survey section. The post of Bookham Commons representative remained unfilled.

As the President can serve for only two years, Maria will be stepping down at the end of the year and taking a break from the council. We thank her for the selfless energy and enthusiasm with which she has led the society. In accordance with rule 17(6), which limits elected membership of council to a continuous period of five years, we will also be saying farewell and thank you to Jo and Angela at the end of this year.

We would love to fill all the vacancies on Council, so we would welcome people coming forward to join us. We are looking for people with a range of skills and interests, but you do not need to be an expert in natural history.

The Administration and Finance Committee, chaired by Michael Wilsdon, meets five times a year to deal with delegated business.

Despite a relaxation of restrictions, most people's work patterns have not returned to the pre-covid norm and not everyone feels comfortable to use public transport, so the majority of society business has been conducted using Zoom technology. This can also make attendance easier for those who live further afield.

The society is exploring accessibility considerations for outdoor meetings and plans to arrange some field meetings which are programmed with accessibility in mind.

Finances

The annual financial report accompanies this report. The society continues to receive a significant amount of income from members who pay under the gift aid scheme, and we are very grateful to them for doing this. Members who pay sufficient tax to be eligible to use the gift aid scheme but are not signed up are encouraged to consider doing so.

Activities

The society continued to host fortnightly 'virtual' talks using Zoom. The talks remain very popular and continue to attract new audience members from more geographically diverse locations than in-person meetings. We extend our thanks to all of our speakers, who have generously shared their time and expertise to entertain us, and acknowledge the hard work of the virtual talks team to facilitate and support the talks.

In July 2021 most of our outdoor activities were suspended due to the pandemic (although some individuals continued to survey Hampstead Heath) so we were delighted when field meetings resumed in September and very pleased that they have been well supported. Many thanks to the walk leaders, new and old, and programme planners who volunteer their time and knowledge to make these events happen. New leaders and attendees are always welcome.

Regular monthly Saturday field meetings at Bookham Commons resumed in March 2022. The LNHS ecological survey of Bookham Commons, a Site of Special Scientific Interest near Leatherhead in Surrey, has been running continuously for eighty years with the result that Bookham Commons is one of the best-documented sites in the UK. The London Naturalist 100 included Steve Mellor's report on botanical records at Bookham Commons since 2002, comparing these with the three previous surveys back to 1953. Members are strongly encouraged to visit this wonderful site and contribute to the survey. We would love to be able to form a new committee to guide this work.

Journals and other publications

The London Naturalist 100 (2021), ably edited by Nick Rutter for the final time, was distributed to members in December. It comprises annual reports from officers and articles of interest covering natural history and archaeology of the London area contributed by members. The editorial team continues to produce a high-quality journal of which the society can be proud.

The London Bird Report No 85 for the year 2020 was published in May 2022. This annual publication is a tribute to the many individuals who contribute, from the record submissions, verification, data manipulation, species accounts write up and review, to photo selection and design for printing and final dispatch. We thank everyone involved.

The Newsletter edited by Mark Burgess and published four times a year continued to provide members with regular news on the activities and operation of the society, and members' contributions. We encourage all members, old and new, to consider submitting items for publication. The August 2021 Newsletter was accompanied by the redesigned programme of events which has been well received.

Leslie Williams (LNHS Butterfly Recorder) is leading the project to update 'The Butterflies of the London Area', originally published in 1987. Colin Plant (LNHS Moth Recorder) and Les Evans Hill are updating the 'Larger Moths of the London Area' published in 1993 using data recorded up to 31st December 2022. Mark Spencer (LNHS Flowering Plant Recorder & Vascular Cryptogam Recorder) is working on an update to 'Flora of the London Area' published in 1983. Each of these publications will contribute to the conservation of London habitats and wildlife.

Keiron Brown and Anke Marsh have made great progress with the LNHS website re-design. The events calendar and news sections are proving very useful in keeping members and non-members up to date. And we thank our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram editors for their contributions too – they do achieve results in publicising the Society and its events! Mike Trier has also been creative in his exploration of new avenues for making the Society more widely known.

Membership

177 new members joined the society during the year. This was down from last year's exceptionally high number of 245, but still significantly higher than the average of 98 new members per annum in the previous five years. We believe that many of the new members have joined because of the virtual talks programme and hope some have participated in field meetings and other in-person events as they resumed.

The total membership at 30 September 2022 was 1020, up slightly from 1008 at the same time in the previous year. This is a welcome increase from an average of 899 in the five years before that and continues to reverse a declining trend. We hope that the quality of our events and publications will continue to demonstrate the fascination of London's natural history and encourage people to maintain their membership.

While many new members are attracted by our website and social media presence, we are very grateful to existing members who recruit friends who they think will enjoy what we have to offer. We encourage people to keep doing this and help the Society to continue to grow. Everyone is welcome to join field meetings or virtual talks to get a taste of the Society before they join.

We are very sorry to record the deaths of the following members (date of joining in brackets) during the year and thank them for their support of the society, in several cases over many decades: Mrs Sue Adshead (1991), Mrs Margaret Bagley (2021), Mr Bruce Carson (2015), Mr Michael Deans (1980), Mr John Fitzpatrick (1975), Mr David Harris (1957), Dr Geoffrey Joyce (2004), Mr Peter Jupp (1979), Mrs Jean Neal (1964), Miss Mary Rawitzer (1998), Professor Richard Robinson (2004), Mr Colin Turner (1947), Mr Anthony Vaughan (1958), Mr Philip Vines (1991), Mr Jeffery Wheatley (1964), Dr Stephen Wood (1978).

Recording and research

Thanks go to all of our recorders for their continuing hard work. They do an invaluable job of gathering data on most of the species to be found in the London area, ensuring that the information is shared, and generously help individuals with their enquiries.

In early 2022, the London Natural History Society was awarded a 30-month grant from the City of London Corporation for a pilot study to map key flora, fungi and lichens in the different habitats on the Heath. This study, known as the Millennial Flora of Hampstead Heath Project 2022 (in reference to the Society's previous survey in 2000), led by Liz Andrew (the Hampstead Heath Survey Chair) will provide a baseline to monitor changes that might occur in the future due to habitat degradation or/and climate change.

In 2022, the Rewild London Programme awarded LNHS and partners a project to map and improve hedgehog and wildlife populations in north London. Led by the Institute of Zoology and Jeff Waage, on behalf of LNHS, the project focuses on the possibility of improving and linking established populations in Regents Park and Hampstead Heath, particularly through local Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs). Camera traps have been set up in local SINCs and an online survey with local residents' associations had 200 responses, with about 25% of respondents reporting sightings in the past five years.

Library

The LNHS library, located in the Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity in the Natural History Museum, 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. Following reduction of covid restrictions, under the care of Julie Berk the LNHS Librarian, the library re-opened to visitors in November 2021 on Wednesdays. From April 2022 the library also opened every third Saturday per month. We are now running additional activities such as visiting the wildlife garden and looking at specimens in collaboration with the Angela Marmont Centre, to attract more LNHS members to attend. Members are strongly encouraged to make use of this very valuable asset. Many thanks to Julie Berk for all her hard work.

Conservation of the natural environment

Rich habitats are still under threat from developers. The society is often asked to lend its voice to protest 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 2022

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 2022

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 income from potential sponsorship and expenditure on hall hire relating to a normal programme of events did not materialise.

Overall expenditure totalled £37,932 (compared to £28,656 last year). Receipts from members and supporters totalled £23,645 (compared with £21,856 last year). Subscription income again increased from £17,826 to £18,919 as significant numbers of new members were again attracted through the Society's successful programme of virtual online talks. In addition to this, a grant was awarded by The City of London Corporation for a survey of Flora on Hampstead Heath with the first two instalments received during the year, totalling £5,562. The nature of this income is restricted. Total receipts were £45,392 compared with £31,854 last year.

During the year the Society withdrew £15,000 from its CCLA COIF Charities Deposit Fund and reinvested £7,500 in its CCLA COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund and £7,500 in its M&G Charibond Fund. The value of the Society's investment assets fell by 11% 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 £33,038 to £339,946 compared with £372,984 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. Funds from grants or bequests that have been accepted by the Society for specified charitable purposes or projects shall be retained and spent solely on such causes.

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 2022****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 2022 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.

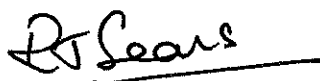
An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent 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.



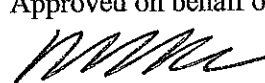
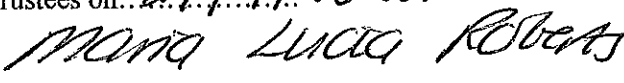
R J Sears FCCA
Meyer Williams
Chartered Accountants
Stag House,
Old London Road
Hertford,
Herts,
SG13 7LA


Date: 28th September 2022

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
As at 30th June 2022

	Notes	2022	2021
	£	£	£
Monetary Assets			
Bank Balances:			
National Westminster current account		-	-
National Westminster reserve account		27,270	19,770
Cash in hand		459	499
		<u>27,729</u>	<u>20,269</u>
Investment Assets			
M&G Charibond		134,018	138,069
COIF Fixed Interest Fund		176,008	195,181
COIF Charities Deposit Fund		<u>4,465</u>	<u>19,465</u>
		314,491	352,715
Trade Creditor		(2,274)	-
Net Assets		<u>339,946</u>	<u>£372,984</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted		334,384	372,984
Restricted		5,562	-
Total Funds		<u>339,946</u>	<u>£372,984</u>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on... 27/9/2022

 
M L Roberts - President


M J West - Treasurer

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
For the year ended 30th June 2022

RECEIPTS	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts from Members and Supporters:				
Subscriptions		18,919		17,826
Donations		1,068		1,027
Tax recovered on Subscriptions and Donations under Gift Aid		3,552		2,849
Reading Circle receipts		106		154
		<u>23,645</u>		<u>21,856</u>
Sales:				
Journals		436		426
Other income:				
“The London Bird Atlas” - Royalty Income		65		122
Refund of contribution from the London Bird Club		264		-
Refund of cancelled Hall and Room booking		-		60
Restricted Grant income – City of London Corporation		5,562		-
		<u>6,327</u>		<u>608</u>
Investment income:				
Charities Fixed Interest Fund	5,330		6,010	
Charities Deposit Fund Interest	8		9	
Income from M&G Charibond	2,565		3,360	
Bank Deposit Account Interest	8		2	
Interest on Gift Aid tax recovered	9		9	
		<u>7,920</u>		<u>9,390</u>
Asset and Investment disposals				
Disposal of COIF Investment		7,500		-
		<u>45,392</u>		<u>31,854</u>
Total Receipts		<u>45,392</u>		<u>31,854</u>
Less: Total Payments (Page 6)		<u>(37,932)</u>		<u>(28,656)</u>
Net Receipts for the year		<u>7,460</u>		<u>3,198</u>
Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 1 st July 2021		<u>20,269</u>		<u>17,071</u>
Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 30th June 2022		<u><u>£27,729</u></u>		<u><u>£20,269</u></u>
Unrestricted Net Receipts		1,898		3,198
Restricted Net Receipts		5,562		-
		<u>£7,460</u>		<u>£3,198</u>
Total Net Receipts for the year		<u><u>£7,460</u></u>		<u><u>£3,198</u></u>

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)
For the year ended 30th June 2022

PAYMENTS

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Meeting Costs, Sectional & General Expenditure:				
Lecturers' Fees and Expenses,				
Sectional Expenses etc.	466		360	
Reading Circle Journals	435		328	
Postage and Telephone	93		131	
Office Supplies and copying	1,176		614	
Services (including Zoom costs)	611		419	
Independent Examiners' Fees	1,800		1,800	
Insurance	1,846		1,810	
Expense Allowances and Honoraria payment	59		-	
Paypal account charges	180		165	
	<hr/>	6,666	<hr/>	5,627
Publications:				
Printing and Expenses:				
London Naturalist No. 100	4,920		-	
London Naturalist No. 99	-		4,389	
London Bird Report 2020	5,567		-	
London Bird Report 2019	-		4,522	
	<hr/>	10,487	<hr/>	8,911
Programme	605		-	
Newsletters	3,101		3,427	
Mailing	7,108		7,809	
Publicity	-		288	
	<hr/>	10,814	<hr/>	11,524
Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure		497		471
Library		1,608		1,632
Website costs		360		491
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		30,432		28,656
Asset and investment purchases:				
Payment into M&G Charibond investment account		7,500		-
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total Payments for the Year		37,932		£28,656
		<hr/>		<hr/>

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
(Charity Registered Number – 206228)

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
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RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

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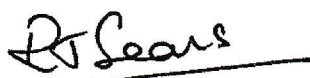
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R J Sears FCCA
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 SG13 7LA

Date: 28th September 2022