

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity 206228

Report of the society for the year ending 30 June 2023

Objects

The objects of the London Natural History 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

The Society is governed by a Council of Trustees comprising the officers (President - currently vacant, Treasurer Mike West, & Secretary Annie Wilson), up to ten members' representatives - David Bevan, Ian Woodward, Jan Hewlett, Wendy Knight, Robin Blades, Joanne Maddox, Pete Mantle and Noel Brock - and one representative of each of the Society's sections - Liz Andrew (London Bird Club), Maureen Parry (Botany), Anke Marsh (Ecology and Entomology) and Kat Duke (Hampstead Heath Survey). The post of Bookham Commons representative is vacant.

The President's role remains unfilled and this year the Society is very sorry to say goodbye - and a huge thank you - to Mike West who is stepping down as Treasurer after more than thirty years. We are very keen to fill all the vacancies on Council, so please consider joining us to help keep your Society going. 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, whilst Robin Blades soldiers away in the background managing our membership. We are pleased to welcome Elliot Newton as our Conservation Officer taking over from David Bevan after many years, and Leslie Bolsover taking over the role of Librarian from Julie Berk. The Trustees would like to thank all participants for their contributions and commitment to the Society.

Despite a relaxation of restrictions, people's work patterns have not returned to the pre-covid norm so a lot of society business continues to be conducted using Zoom technology. The 2022 AGM amended the Society's rules to make explicit that General Meetings and meetings of the trustees can be held online or by hybrid methods. On a positive note, this makes attendance possible 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 benefit from members who subscribe to the gift aid scheme, for which we are very grateful. Members who qualify to use the gift aid scheme but have not signed up are encouraged to consider doing so. The Society has also been the grateful recipient of several generous bequests.

Activities

The Virtual Talks team continues to host 'online' talks using Zoom, which are available for a limited time on YouTube after the meeting. These talks remain very popular and still attract new audience members from more geographically diverse locations than in-person meetings. The Society thanks our many speakers, who generously share their time and expertise to entertain us and recognises the hard work of the team to facilitate and support the talks.

A full and varied programme of field meetings was offered throughout the year. The walks were well supported, regularly attracting new attendees who sometimes became members. Many thanks to everyone who volunteers their time and knowledge to make these events happen. New leaders and attendees are always welcome.

Regular monthly Saturday field meetings at Bookham Commons continue despite the lack of a committee. The LNHS ecological survey of Bookham Commons, a Site of Special Scientific Interest near Leatherhead in Surrey, has been running continuously for more than eighty years with the result that Bookham Commons is one of the best-documented sites in the UK. 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 101 (2022), ably edited by Clive Herbert for the first time, was distributed to members in December. It comprised annual reports from officers and articles of interest covering natural history 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 86 for the year 2021 was published in May 2023. This annual publication is a tribute to the many individuals who contribute significant time and effort to produce a high quality record of London's bird observations for 2021. Thank you to everyone involved.

The Newsletter edited by Mark Burgess and published four times a year continues 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.

Amy Muiyui Lui efficiently manages production of the programme twice a year. This is one of the Society's key publicity tools for attracting new members.

Leslie Williams (LNHS Butterfly Recorder) is nearing publication of the updated 'Butterflies of the London Area', originally published in 1987. Colin Plant (LNHS Moth Recorder) and Les Evans Hill continue work on an updated version of 'Larger Moths of the London Area', and Mark Spencer (LNHS Flowering Plant Recorder & Vascular Cryptogam Recorder) is making good

progress on an updated edition of 'Flora of the London Area', both last published in 1983. Each of these publications will contribute to the conservation of London habitats and wildlife. The Publications Committee is being reconvened to manage these imminent publications and help bring them to fruition.

We thank all our social media editors for publicising the Society and its events. All platforms - website, Facebook, Twitter/X and Instagram - continue to prove extremely useful in keeping members up to date and attracting new joiners.

Membership

130 new members joined the society during the membership year ending 30/09/2023. The total membership was 981, down from 1020 last year but still above pre-pandemic levels.

While many new members are attracted by our programme and social media presence, we are very grateful to existing members who recruit friends because 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 Patricia Dickinson (2010), Mr David Harrison (1998), Mr Simon Ogram (2002), Mr Peter Oliver (1965), Dr Arthur Harold Smith (1946), Mr Duncan Tait (2020).

Recording and research

Thanks go to all our recorders for their support and 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 2022, the LNHS was awarded a grant from the City of London Corporation to map key flora, fungi and lichens in the different habitats on Hampstead Heath. The project, known as the Millennial Flora of Hampstead Heath Project 2022, led by Liz Andrew (the Hampstead Heath Survey Chair), is about halfway through and 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 funded 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 focused 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). The findings have been shared with local groups to develop connecting corridors around Hampstead Heath.

The Council met with GiGL (Greenspace Information for Greater London) in September 2022 to discuss setting up a data sharing agreement. We know this is not popular with everyone, but several recorders already have very productive relationships with GiGL and a majority of members are in favour. Discussions will, hopefully, reach a positive conclusion very soon.

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. The library is open every Wednesday and hosted several successful field meetings making use of the facilities and specimens in collaboration with the Angela Marmont Centre. Members are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this very valuable asset. The Library Committee has reconvened after a covid-imposed absence and a new book order has been placed. Anyone who is interested in helping Leslie to keep the library open is strongly encouraged to step forward – library experience is not essential. Many thanks to Leslie Bolsover 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 positioned to provide evidence-based advice if required. Our proposed partnership with GiGL will help 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.

SUMMARISED ACCOUNTS

Mike West - Treasurer

	2022/2023	2021/2022
ASSETS at year end		
Bank & cash	28,897	27,729
Investments	323,782	314,491
TOTAL	352,679	342,220
RECEIPTS		
Subscriptions	17,790	18,919
Donations	881	1,068
Bequests (Restricted)	26,386	-
Grants (Restricted)	3,338	5,562
Gift Aid	3,654	3,552
Investment income	8,664	7,920
Investment sales	-	7,500
Other	789	871
TOTAL	61,502	45,392
PAYMENTS		
The London Naturalist	4,464	4,920
London Bird Report	5,030	5,567
Newsletter	5,451	3,101
Mailing	11,824	7,108
Library	669	1,608
Services	4,908	4,207
Hampstead (Restricted)	4,149	-
Investment purchases	20,000	7,500
Other	3,839	3,921
TOTAL	60,334	37,932
Surplus (deficit) in year	1,168	7,460

London Natural History Society
(Charity Registration Number 206228)

Accounts
For The Year Ended 30th June 2023

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

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023

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

Receipts from members and supporters totalled £48,807 (compared with £23,645 last year) with the increase due to a legacy of £26,386 received in the year. This was given specifically towards the publication of results of research or survey sponsored by the Society, and is being held in a restricted fund for future projects meeting this definition. Subscription income decreased from £18,919 to £17,790.

In addition to this, further instalments of a grant awarded by The City of London Corporation were received during the year, totalling £3,338. The nature of this income is restricted, specifically for the purpose of the Hampstead Heath project for which costs were incurred in the year of £4,149. As at the end of the year this restricted fund had a balance of £4,751.

Total receipts were £61,502 compared with £45,392 last year.

Overall expenditure totalled £60,334 (compared to £37,932 last year) which included an investment of £20,000 made to the Charity's CCLA COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund. Increases in the costs of Newsletters and mailing are prompting consideration of acceptable economies.

Despite a 7.5% fall in the value of the Charity's investment in its M&G Charibond Fund the overall value of the Society's investment assets increased by 2.9% as a result of the £20,000 further investment made during the year to its CCLA COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund.

At the year end the total net assets of the Society as detailed in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities had increased by £12,733 to £352,679 compared with £339,946 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).

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023****Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities – continued**

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.

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 2023 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.

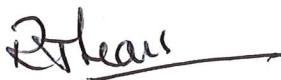
An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent 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
Hentons
Chartered Accountants
Stag House,
Old London Road
Hertford,
Herts,
SG13 7LA

Date: ¹² 29 SEPTEMBER 2023

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
As at 30th June 2023

Notes	2023	2022
	£	£
Monetary Assets		
Bank Balances:		
National Westminster current account	-	-
National Westminster reserve account	28,562	27,270
Cash in hand	335	459
	<u>28,897</u>	<u>27,729</u>
Investment Assets		
M&G Charibond	123,886	134,018
COIF Fixed Interest Fund	195,431	176,008
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	<u>4,465</u>	<u>4,465</u>
	323,782	314,491
Trade Creditor	-	(2,274)
Net Assets	<u>352,679</u>	<u>£339,946</u>
Funds		
Unrestricted	321,542	334,384
Restricted – Hampstead Heath Project	4,751	5,562
Restricted – Research/Survey Publication Bequest	26,386	-
Total Funds	<u>352,679</u>	<u>£339,946</u>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 25 September 2023

A E Wilson

- Secretary

M J West

- Treasurer

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th June 2023

RECEIPTS

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts from Members and Supporters:				
Subscriptions		17,790		18,919
Donations		881		1,068
Restricted Legacy income		26,386		-
Tax recovered on Subscriptions and Donations under Gift Aid		3,654		3,552
Reading Circle receipts		96		106
		<u>48,807</u>		<u>23,645</u>
Sales:				
Journals		693		436
Other income:				
"The London Bird Atlas" - Royalty Income		-		65
Refund of contribution from the London Bird Club		-		264
Restricted Grant income – City of London Corporation		3,338		5,562
		<u>4,031</u>		<u>6,327</u>
Investment income:				
Charities Fixed Interest Fund	4,597		5,330	
Charities Deposit Fund Interest	242		8	
Income from M&G Charibond	3,661		2,565	
Bank Deposit Account Interest	117		8	
Interest on Gift Aid tax recovered	47		9	
		<u>8,664</u>		<u>7,920</u>
Asset and Investment disposals				
Disposal of COIF Investment		-		7,500
Total Receipts		<u>61,502</u>		<u>45,392</u>
Less: Total Payments (Page 6)		<u>(60,334)</u>		<u>(37,932)</u>
Net Receipts for the year		<u>1,168</u>		<u>7,460</u>
Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 1 st July 2022		<u>27,729</u>		<u>20,269</u>
Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 30th June 2023		<u>£28,897</u>		<u>£27,729</u>
Unrestricted Net (Expenditure)/ Receipts		<u>(24,407)</u>		<u>1,898</u>
Restricted Net Receipts		<u>25,575</u>		<u>5,562</u>
Total Net Receipts for the year		<u>£1,168</u>		<u>£7,460</u>

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)
For the year ended 30th June 2023

PAYMENTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Meeting Costs, Sectional & General Expenditure:		
Lecturers' Fees and Expenses,		
Sectional Expenses etc.	238	466
Reading Circle Journals	432	435
Postage and Telephone	64	93
Office Supplies and copying	912	1,176
Services	798	611
Independent Examiners' Fees	1,980	1,800
Insurance	2,130	1,846
Expense Allowance and Honoraria payment	-	59
Paypal account charges	150	180
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	6,704	6,666
Publications:		
Printing and Expenses:		
London Naturalist No. 101	4,464	-
London Naturalist No. 100	-	4,920
London Bird Report 2022	5,030	-
London Bird Report 2021	-	5,567
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	9,494	10,487
Programme	994	605
Newsletters	5,451	3,101
Mailing	11,824	7,108
Publicity	96	-
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	18,365	10,814
Restricted Fund Payments – Hampstead	4,149	-
Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure	557	497
Library	669	1,608
Website costs	396	360
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	40,334	30,432
Asset and investment purchases:		
Payment into M&G Charibond investment account	-	7,500
Payment into COIF Fixed Interest Fund	20,000	-
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Total Payments for the Year	60,334	37,932
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