

**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**Registered Charity 206228**

**Report of the society for the year ending 30 June 2024**

**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 handing over to Lydia Gallyer-Barnett, & Secretary Annie Wilson), up to ten members' representatives – Liz Andrew, Robin Blades, Noel Brock, Jan Hewlett, Wendy Knight, Cassandra Lee, Joanne Maddox, Pete Mantle and Ian Woodward - and one representative of each of the Society's sections – Cecilia Derrick (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. Council would like to acknowledge Michael Wilsdon's hard work to fill the gaps left by this vacancy and keep the society running. This year the Society is very sorry to say goodbye - and a huge thank you - to Catherine Schmitt, Publications Secretary, and Mike West, Treasurer, who have both served the society for many years. We are extremely keen to fill all the Society's vacancies, so please seriously consider joining us to keep your Society going. We are looking for people with a range of skills and interests - 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 continues to soldier away in the background managing our membership. The Library Committee has reconvened following relaxation of Covid restrictions and Michael Wilsdon has restarted the Publications Committee to guide the imminent LNHS publications.

The Trustees would like to thank the army of volunteers who support the Society for their contributions and on-going commitment.

As work patterns have not returned to the pre-covid norm a lot of society business continues to be conducted using Zoom technology.

## **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 Virtual Talks team who facilitate and support the talks.

A full and varied programme of field meetings was offered throughout the year. The walks across all sections of the society have been 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 102, edited by Clive Herbert, was distributed to members in November 2023. It comprised annual reports from officers and articles of interest covering natural history of the London area contributed by members. Many thanks to the contributors and editorial team who continue to produce a high-quality journal of which the Society is proud.

The London Bird Report No 87 for the year 2022 was published in May 2024. This annual publication is a well-regarded high-quality record of London's bird observations for 2022. Many thanks to the numerous individuals who contribute significant time and effort to its production.

Thanks as always go to Mark Burgess and contributors for the quarterly Newsletter which continues to provide members with regular news on the activities and operation of the Society. We encourage all members, old and new, to consider submitting items for publication.

Many thanks to Amy Muiy Lui for managing the production of the bi-annual programme of events. Family commitments mean that Amy has had to step down from this role but we are very grateful to Noel Brock who has taken over the task.

Leslie Williams (LNHS Butterfly Recorder) is nearing publication through NatureBureau 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 has been reconvened to manage these imminent publications and help bring them to fruition.

We thank all of 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**

98 new members joined the society during the membership year ending 30/09/2024, down 31 on the previous year. The total membership for the year was 963, down from 997.

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 some cases over many decades: Mr Leslie Brockington (1958), Mr Steve Chastell (2010), Mr Christopher Ennis (1983) and Mr John Evans (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), has now completed the survey phase. A six-month extension to the grant has been awarded to allow time for data analysis and report writing based on the plant, fungi and lichen surveys. The Nature's Calendar phenology part of the project will be continued by the Hampstead-based charity Heath Hands and their volunteers.

After much discussion, the Council signed a data sharing agreement with GiGL (Greenspace Information for Greater London) in March 2024. We look forward to a productive relationship with GiGL - members will be able to take advantage of the large data sets now available.

### **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 one Saturday per month, thanks to Leslie Bolsover, the Librarian, and James Lovely and Ron Dionne. The library has 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 interested in helping Leslie to keep the library open is strongly encouraged to step forward – library experience is not essential.

**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 partnership with GiGL will help ensure that our high-quality validated records are widely available for such purposes.

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

## Summarised Accounts for Year ended June 30<sup>th</sup> 2024

|                                  | 2023/2024      | 2022/2023      |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| ASSETS at year end               |                |                |
| Bank & cash                      | 32,458         | 28,897         |
| Investments                      | 338,587        | 323,782        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>371,045</b> | <b>352,679</b> |
| RECEIPTS                         |                |                |
| Subscriptions                    | 16,804         | 17,790         |
| Donations                        | 1,801          | 881            |
| Bequests (Unrestricted)          | 6,000          | -              |
| Bequests (Restricted)            | -              | 26,386         |
| Grants (Restricted)              | -              | 3,338          |
| Gift Aid                         | 3,387          | 3,654          |
| Investment income                | 10,567         | 8,664          |
| Investment sales                 | -              | -              |
| Other                            | 1,905          | 789            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>40,464</b>  | <b>61,502</b>  |
| PAYMENTS                         |                |                |
| The London Naturalist            | 5,257          | 4,464          |
| London Bird Report               | 5,730          | 5,030          |
| Newsletter                       | 4,100          | 5,451          |
| Mailing                          | 10,318         | 11,824         |
| Library                          | 1,405          | 669            |
| Services                         | 4,527          | 4,908          |
| Hampstead (Restricted)           | 2,136          | 4,149          |
| Investment purchases             | -              | 20,000         |
| Other                            | 3,430          | 3,839          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>36,903</b>  | <b>60,334</b>  |
| <b>Surplus (deficit) in year</b> | <b>3,561</b>   | <b>1,168</b>   |

The signed Independent Examiner's Report, Treasurer's report and full detailed financial accounts can be found on the LNHS website.

If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the LNHS Secretary (c/o London Natural History Society Library, Angela Marmont Centre, Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD).

**London Natural History Society**  
(Charity Registration Number 206228)

**Accounts**  
**For The Year Ended 30th June 2024**

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

## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024

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 £28,061 (compared with £48,807 last year) with the decrease due to a legacy of £26,386 received in the previous 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. No expenditure from this restricted fund occurred in the year. During the year the Charity received unrestricted legacy income totalling £6,000. Subscription income decreased from £17,790 to £16,804.

In addition to this, no further instalments of a grant awarded by The City of London Corporation were received during the year. 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 £2,136. As at the end of the year this restricted fund had a balance of £2,615.

Total receipts were £40,464 compared with £61,502 last year.

Overall expenditure totalled £36,903 (compared to £60,334 last year) the previous year included an investment of £20,000 made to the Charity's CCLA COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund.

The Charity's investments have increased in value by 4.6% during the year. The CCLA COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund has been renamed as the CCLA COIF Charities Short Duration Bond Fund.

At the year end the total net assets of the Society as detailed in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities had increased by £18,366 to £371,045 compared with £352,679 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.

**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY****TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024****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.

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 2024 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: 10 October 2024

**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**As at 30th June 2024**

| Notes  | 2024           | 2023            |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
|  | £              | £               |
| <b>Monetary Assets</b>                           |                |                 |
| Bank Balances:                                   |                |                 |
| National Westminster current account             | -              | -               |
| National Westminster reserve account             | 32,320         | 28,562          |
| Cash in hand                                     | 138            | 335             |
|  | <u>32,458</u>  | <u>28,897</u>   |
| <b>Investment Assets</b>                         |                |                 |
| M&G Charibond                                    | 129,235        | 123,886         |
| CCLA COIF Charities Short Duration Bond Fund     | 204,887        | 195,431         |
| COIF Charities Deposit Fund                      | 4,465          | 4,465           |
|  | <u>338,587</u> | <u>323,782</u>  |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                                | <u>371,045</u> | <u>£352,679</u> |
| <b>Funds</b>                                     |                |                 |
| Unrestricted                                     | 342,044        | 321,542         |
| Restricted – Hampstead Heath Project             | 2,615          | 4,751           |
| Restricted – Research/Survey Publication Bequest | 26,386         | 26,386          |
| <b>Total Funds</b>                               | <u>371,045</u> | <u>£352,679</u> |

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on ..... 6.10.24

A E Wilson  - Secretary

K Duke  - Trustee

## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th June 2024

| RECEIPTS  | 2024  |                 | 2023  |                 |
|---|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|
|   | £     | £               | £     | £               |
| <b>Receipts from Members and Supporters:</b>                    |       |                 |       |                 |
| Subscriptions   |       | 16,804          |       | 17,790          |
| Donations   |       | 1,801           |       | 881             |
| Unrestricted Legacy Income                                      |       | 6,000           |       | -               |
| Restricted Legacy income  |       | -               |       | 26,386          |
| Tax recovered on Subscriptions and Donations under Gift Aid     |       | 3,387           |       | 3,654           |
| Reading Circle receipts   |       | 69              |       | 96              |
|   |       | <u>28,061</u>   |       | <u>48,807</u>   |
| <b>Sales:</b>   |       |                 |       |                 |
| Journals  |       | 612             |       | 693             |
| <b>Other income:</b>  |       |                 |       |                 |
| Refund of hall hire   |       | 1,224           |       | -               |
| Restricted Grant income – City of London Corporation            |       | -               |       | 3,338           |
|   |       | <u>1,836</u>    |       | <u>4,031</u>    |
| <b>Investment income:</b>                                       |       |                 |       |                 |
| Charities Short Duration Bond Fund                              | 4,720 |                 | 4,597 |                 |
| Charities Deposit Fund Interest                                 | 224   |                 | 242   |                 |
| Income from M&G Charibond                                       | 5,078 |                 | 3,661 |                 |
| Bank Deposit Account Interest                                   | 470   |                 | 117   |                 |
| Interest on Gift Aid tax recovered                              | 75    |                 | 47    |                 |
|   |       | <u>10,567</u>   |       | <u>8,664</u>    |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>   |       | <u>40,464</u>   |       | <u>61,502</u>   |
| <b>Less: Total Payments (Page 6)</b>                            |       | <u>(36,903)</u> |       | <u>(60,334)</u> |
| <b>Net Receipts for the year</b>                                |       | <u>3,561</u>    |       | <u>1,168</u>    |
| Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2023        |       | <u>28,897</u>   |       | <u>27,729</u>   |
| <b>Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b> |       | <u>£32,458</u>  |       | <u>£28,897</u>  |
| Unrestricted Net Receipts/(Expenditure)                         |       | <u>5,697</u>    |       | <u>(24,407)</u> |
| Restricted Net (Expenditure)/Receipts                           |       | <u>(2,136)</u>  |       | <u>25,575</u>   |
| <b>Total Net Receipts for the year</b>                          |       | <u>£3,561</u>   |       | <u>£1,168</u>   |

## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 30th June 2024**

**PAYMENTS**

|  | 2024   | 2023   |
|--|--------|--------|
|  | £      | £      |
| <b>Meeting Costs, Sectional &amp; General Expenditure:</b> |        |        |
| Lecturers' Fees and Expenses,                              |        |        |
| Sectional Expenses etc.                                    | 246    | 238    |
| Reading Circle Journals                                    | 437    | 432    |
| Postage and Telephone                                      | 116    | 64     |
| Office Supplies and copying                                | 760    | 912    |
| Services   | 761    | 798    |
| Independent Examiners' Fees                                | 2,190  | 1,980  |
| Insurance  | 1,576  | 2,130  |
| Expenses allowance   | 100    | -      |
| Payment processing fees                                    | 141    | 150    |
|  | <hr/>  | <hr/>  |
|  | 6,327  | 6,704  |
| <b>Publications:</b>                                       |        |        |
| Printing and Expenses:                                     |        |        |
| London Naturalist No. 102                                  | 5,257  | -      |
| London Naturalist No. 101                                  | -      | 4,464  |
| London Bird Report 2022                                    | 5,730  | -      |
| London Bird Report 2021                                    | -      | 5,030  |
|  | <hr/>  | <hr/>  |
|  | 10,987 | 9,494  |
| Programme  | 905    | 994    |
| Newsletters  | 4,100  | 5,451  |
| Mailing  | 10,318 | 11,824 |
| Publicity  | -      | 96     |
|  | <hr/>  | <hr/>  |
|  | 15,323 | 18,365 |
| Restricted Fund Payments – Hampstead                       | 2,136  | 4,149  |
| Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure                    | 401    | 557    |
| Library  | 1,405  | 669    |
| Website costs  | 324    | 396    |
|  | <hr/>  | <hr/>  |
|  | 36,903 | 40,334 |
| <b>Asset and investment purchases:</b>                     |        |        |
| Payment into COIF Fixed Interest Fund                      | -      | 20,000 |
| <b>Total Payments for the Year</b>                         | <hr/>  | <hr/>  |
|  | 36,903 | 60,334 |
|  | <hr/>  | <hr/>  |