

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

**Report of the society for the year ending 30 June 2025**

**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**

All positions within the Society are undertaken by volunteers. The Society is governed by a Council of Trustees comprising 3 officers, up to ten members' representatives and one representative from each of the Society's five sections.

The President's role has been vacant since AGM 2022. James Lovely was appointed as Treasurer at AGM 2024 to replace Mike West and handover is complete. Annie Wilson continues to act as Secretary. The members are represented by Liz Andrew, Robin Blades, Noel Brock, Wendy Knight, Cassandra Lee, Joanne Maddox, Tony Madgwick and Pete Mantle. The section representatives are 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 Administration and Finance Committee, chaired by Michael Wilsdon, meets five times a year to deal with delegated business, and Robin Blades continues to manage our membership despite moving to Harrogate. Council would like to acknowledge the work of Michael and Robin to fill the space left by the absence of a President and keep the society running day-to-day.

The Trustees are extremely grateful to everyone involved in delivering LNHS activities who so generously volunteer their time and expertise. And many thanks to the continuing support of our members. We are very keen to encourage members to help deliver the society's activities, both indoors and outdoors - you do not need to be an expert in natural history.

**Finances**

The annual financial report accompanies this report. Many thanks to Mike West, the retiring Treasurer, and Robin Blades, the Assistant Treasurer, who have helped James Lovely to settle in to the role of Treasurer. 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. If you are interested in helping to organise and deliver the virtual talks, please contact the Secretary.

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.

The Society took part in the Green Meet at Fulham Palace in May. Tony Madgwick, the Society's Hymenoptera (bee and wasp) recorder was invited to lead bee walks. The Council was discussing the logistics of hosting an LNHS Open Day for the first time after Covid, so agreed that this would be a good opportunity to have a trial run. The bee walks proved very successful, as always, and some useful lessons were learnt.

### **Journals and other publications**

The London Naturalist 103, edited by Clive Herbert, was distributed to members in September 2024. 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 88 for the year 2023 was published in May 2025. This annual publication is a well-regarded high-quality record of London's bird observations for 2023. 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. The Newsletter is now available as a digital download. Members are encouraged to sign up to receive the digital version and help us reduce our carbon footprint.

Many thanks to Noel Brock and his team who produce the twice-yearly programme.

At the end of 2024, Leslie Williams (LNHS Butterfly Recorder) completed his major update of 'Butterflies of the London Area', originally published in 1987, and sent it for publication through NatureBureau. It is available at a good nature bookshop near you! Colin Plant (LNHS Moth Recorder) and Les Evans-Hill continue to 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 was 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, BlueSky and Instagram - continue to prove useful in keeping members up to date and attracting new joiners.

### **Membership**

119 new members joined the society during the membership year ending 30/09/2025, up by 21 on the previous year. The total membership at 30/09/25 was 954, down from 963.

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 during the year (date of joining in brackets), and thank them for their support of the Society, in some cases over many decades. The list includes a number of the society's Vice Presidents and Honorary Vice Presidents. Dr Paul Bartlett (1993), Mr Philip Baumber (1957), Mr John Bedford (1952), Dr Colin Bowlt HVP (1975), Mr Rodney Burton HVP (1964), Mr Sean Huggins (1992), Mr Jeremy Ison (2009), Dr Douglas Model (1999), Mr David Montier HVP (1960), Mr Roger G. Payne (1992), Ms Nicola Pyne (1995), Mr Patrick Sellar VP (1957), Mr Raymond Uffen (1955).

### **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), completed the survey phase in 2024. This year the project team has worked on analysing the plant, fungi and lichen data resulting from the surveys and producing reports. The project budget has been spent as planned and the final items of work are being completed. Nature's Calendar phenology part of the project will be continued by the Hampstead-based charity Heath Hands and their volunteers.

### **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 the third Saturday every month, thanks to Leslie Bolsover, the Librarian, and James Lovely and Ron Dionne. The library regularly hosts popular Study Days, making good use of the facilities and specimens in collaboration with the Angela Marmont Centre. Leslie and her team have worked hard to increase borrowing and raise awareness of the collection. In addition to an increase in book borrowing, journals are also being borrowed and the collection is being used regularly for research and identification. Members are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this very valuable asset. 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 to 30 June 2025**

	2024/2025	2023/2024
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		
Bank and cash	13713	32458
Investments	344949	338587
	<b><u>358662</u></b>	<b><u>371045</u></b>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
Subscriptions	16827	16804
Donations	1901	1801
Bequests unrestricted	0	6000
Bequests restricted	0	0
Gift Aid	0	3387
Investment income	13149	10567
Other	886	1905
	<b><u>32763</u></b>	<b><u>40464</u></b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>		
The London Naturalist	5942	5257
London Bird Report	4793	5730
Newsletter	4407	4100
Mailing	12553	10318
Library	1613	1405
Services	4930	4527
Hampstead restricted	2605	2136
Hyatt restricted	11950	0
Other	2715	3430
	<b><u>51508</u></b>	<b><u>36903</u></b>
<b><u>Surplus(deficit) in year</u></b>	<b><u>-18745</u></b>	<b><u>3561</u></b>

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

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

**Accounts**  
**For The Year Ended 30th June 2025**

**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 2025

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 £18,789 (compared with £28,061 last year) with the decrease due to a legacy of £6,000 received in the previous year. The Charity received no legacy income or bequests in the year. Subscription income increased from £16,804 to £16,827.

The Charity received a bequest in 2023 totalling £26,386, 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. Expenditure totalling £11,950 has been deducted from this restricted fund in the year. As at the end of the year this restricted fund had a balance of £14,436.

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 £2,605. As at the end of the year this restricted fund had a balance of £10.

Total receipts were £32,763 compared with £40,464 last year. Gift Aid tax reclaim came too late for inclusion in the 2024-25 financial year accounts and will be credited in the 2025-26 financial year accounts.

Overall expenditure totalled £51,508 (compared to £36,903 last year). The main reason for the increase is the £11,950 expenditure on the publication of The Butterflies of London from the restricted fund.

The Charity's investments have increased in value by 1.9% during the year. M&G closed their Charibond fund. The Society agreed to reinvest in M&G Charity Multi Asset Fund and M&G Equities Investment Fund (Charifund), both funds are designed for charities.

At the year end the total net assets of the Society as detailed in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities had decreased by £12,383 to £358,662 compared with £371,045 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 2025****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 2025 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.



S W Hudson ACA  
Hentons  
Chartered Accountants  
Stag House,  
Old London Road  
Hertford,  
Herts,  
SG13 7LA

Date: 29 September 2025

**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
As at 30th June 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
<b>Monetary Assets</b>			
Bank Balances:			
National Westminster current account		-	-
National Westminster reserve account		13,610	32,320
Cash in hand		103	138
		<u>13,713</u>	<u>32,458</u>
<b>Investment Assets</b>			
M&G Charibond		-	129,235
M&G Charity Multi Asset Fund		64,757	-
M&G Equities Investment Fund (Charifund)		64,175	-
CCLA COIF Charities Short Duration Bond Fund		211,552	204,887
COIF Charities Deposit Fund		<u>4,465</u>	<u>4,465</u>
		344,949	338,587
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>358,662</u>	<u>371,045</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted		344,216	342,044
Restricted – Hampstead Heath Project		10	2,615
Restricted – Research/Survey Publication Bequest		14,436	26,386
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>358,662</u>	<u>371,045</u>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on..... *22 SEPT 2025*

A E Wilson - Secretary

J R Lovely - Trustee

*James Lovely*

## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th June 2025

RECEIPTS	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts from Members and Supporters:</b>				
Subscriptions		16,827		16,804
Donations		1,901		1,801
Unrestricted Legacy Income		-		6,000
Restricted Legacy income		-		-
Tax recovered on Subscriptions and Donations under Gift Aid		-		3,387
Reading Circle receipts		61		69
		<u>18,789</u>		<u>28,061</u>
<b>Sales:</b>				
Journals		375		612
Butterflies of London		450		-
<b>Other income:</b>				
Refund of hall hire		-		1,224
		<u>825</u>		<u>1,836</u>
<b>Investment income:</b>				
Charities Short Duration Bond Fund	6,482		4,720	
Charities Deposit Fund Interest	208		224	
Income from M&G Charibond	6,141		5,078	
Bank Deposit Account Interest	318		470	
Interest on Gift Aid tax recovered	-		75	
		<u>13,149</u>		<u>10,567</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<u>32,763</u>		<u>40,464</u>
<b>Less: Total Payments (Page 6)</b>		<u>(51,508)</u>		<u>(36,903)</u>
<b>Net (Expenditure)/Receipts for the year</b>		<u>(18,745)</u>		<u>3,561</u>
Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2024		<u>32,458</u>		<u>28,897</u>
<b>Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025</b>		<u>£13,713</u>		<u>£32,458</u>
Unrestricted Net (Expenditure)/Receipts		<u>(4,190)</u>		<u>5,697</u>
Restricted Net (Expenditure)		<u>(14,555)</u>		<u>(2,136)</u>
<b>Total Net (Expenditure)/Receipts for the year</b>		<u>(£18,745)</u>		<u>£3,561</u>

## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)

For the year ended 30th June 2025

## PAYMENTS

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Meeting Costs, Sectional &amp; General Expenditure:</b>				
Lecturers' Fees and Expenses,				
Sectional Expenses etc.	10		246	
Reading Circle Journals	269		437	
Postage and Telephone	361		116	
Office Supplies and copying	702		760	
Services	915		761	
Independent Examiners' Fees	2,280		2,190	
Insurance	1,735		1,576	
Expenses allowance	326		100	
Payment processing fees	128		141	
		6,726		6,327
<b>Publications:</b>				
Printing and Expenses:				
London Naturalist No. 103	5,942		-	
London Naturalist No. 102	-		5,257	
London Bird Report 2023	4,793		-	
London Bird Report 2022	-		5,730	
		10,735		10,987
Programme	433		905	
Newsletters	4,407		4,100	
Mailing	12,553		10,318	
Publicity	-		-	
		17,393		15,323
Restricted Fund Payments – Hampstead		2,605		2,136
Restricted Fund Payments – The Butterflies of London		11,950		-
Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure		83		401
Library		1,613		1,405
Website costs		403		324
		51,508		36,903
<b>Total Payments for the Year</b>		51,508		36,903