THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

England & Wales · Charity number 220509

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1964-06-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Linnean Society Of London Burlington House Piccadilly London W1J 0BF
Phone	02074344479
Email	info@linnean.org
Website	www.linnean.org

Activities

Objects: FOR THE CULTIVATION OF THE SCIENCE OF NATURAL HISTORY IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

Activities: The Society's Royal Charter 1802 states the purpose as 'The Cultivation of the Science of Natural History in all its branches'. We have three key charitable activities:1) safeguarding and promoting our heritage collections; 2) advancing scientific knowledge and understanding; 3) engaging the public and educational outreach. Our vision is a world where nature is understood, valued and protected.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LONDON
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£2,632,979	£2,008,737	£12,062,607	23
2024-12-31	£2,275,510	£1,888,952	£11,017,843	22
2023-12-31	£2,442,501	£2,008,617	£10,327,508	23
2022-12-31	£2,044,826	£1,651,614	£9,524,279	23
2021-12-31	£2,500,544	£1,583,441	£9,695,750	21
2020-12-31	£2,304,914	£1,546,936	£8,335,685	19

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Mark Francis Watson	Chair	2021-05-24
Andrea Hart		2022-05-24
Dr Heather White		2024-05-24
Dr Jose Fernando Gonzalez-Maya		2025-05-22
Dr Juliano Morimoto		2025-05-22
Dr Linda Davies		2025-05-22
Dr Peter Gregory		2025-05-22
Dr Philip Mark Gilmartin		2025-05-22
Edward Joseph Banks		2020-05-22
Fiona McWilliams		2023-05-24
George Edmund Bull		2025-05-22
Prof Amy Dickman		2024-05-24
Professor Michael Francis Fay		2026-05-21
Subhadra Das		2024-05-24

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Linked charities

- BLOOMER BEQUEST (220509-1)
- JANE JACKSON BEQUEST (220509-10)
- A G SIDE FUND (220509-11)
- OMER-COOPER FUND (220509-12)
- BONHOTE FUND (220509-13)
- LINNEAN SOCIETY'S FLORA EUROPEA FUND (220509-2)
- DENNIS STANFIELD MEMORIAL FUND (220509-3)
- TRAIL AWARD (220509-4)
- WESTWOOD FUND (220509-5)
- HOOKER LECTURE FUND (220509-6)
- GOODENOUGH FUND (220509-7)
- CRIPS AWARD (220509-8)
- E A MINCHIN FELLOWSHIP FUND (220509-9)

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THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

England & Wales - Charity number 220509

Accounts

The Linnean Society of London

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the Year Ended

31 December 2025

Charity No. 220509

Company No. RC000313

(Royal Charter Company)

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1. **LEGAL STATUS**

The Linnean Society was founded in 1788, received a Royal Charter in 1802 and Supplemental Charters in 1904, 2005 and 2024. The Society is a registered charity, No. 220509.

2. **ADDRESS**

The Linnean Society of London
New Burlington House
Piccadilly
London W1J 0BF

3. **PRINCIPAL ADVISERS**

Bankers:	Barclays Bank Plc PO Box 13555 Acorn House 36–38 Park Royal Road London NW10 7WJ
Auditor:	Knox Cropper LLP 65 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD
Investment Manager:	Evelyn Partners 45 Gresham Street City of London London EC2V 7BG

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

TRUSTEES

Council, composed of the Trustees of the Linnean Society, is the governing body providing strategic direction for the Society. At the close of 2025, there were 16 Fellows on Council (14 Elected and two Co-opted). Most Fellows step down after a three-year term unless they are re-elected or co-opted. In October 2025 the Council agreed that it would be efficient to reduce its membership over time to 12 Trustees. The Society's Charter and Bye-Laws mandate the President and Treasurer as the Society's only Officers.

Following their election, all Trustees are provided with key governance documents. These include Charity Commission documents such as CC3: The Essential Trustee, the Society's Charters, Bye-Laws and Standing Orders, and the Trustee Code of Conduct. Trustees receive a full induction in which they are briefed on their duties, meet staff, and can raise questions and provide feedback.

Throughout 2025, Trustees continued to focus on reviewing and updating policies, monitoring major and strategic risks, and conducting oversight of the Society's strategy. Council reviews the major and strategic risks in the Society's Risk Register on a quarterly basis, and the Finance & Risk Committee reviews the entire Register annually. In June 2025, the Council tasked the President and CEO with undertaking a review of the Society's committees and to report their findings in 2026.

All the members named below, except for those who retired in 2025, formed the Board of Trustees as at the date of signing the Trustees' Report.

TRUSTEES

Officers

Professor Anjali Goswami, President (retired 22 May 2025)

Dr Mark Watson, President (from 22 May 2025)

Edward Banks, Treasurer

Elected Trustees

Professor Paul Barrett (retired 22 May 2025)

George Bull (from 22 May 2025)

Subhadra Das, Vice President

Dr Linda Davies (from 22 May 2025)

Professor Amy Dickman

Professor Philip Gilmartin (from 22 May 2025)

Dr José F. González-Maya (from 22 May 2025)

Dr Peter Gregory (from 22 May 2025)

Andrea Hart

Fiona McWilliams

Dr Juliano Morimoto (from 22 May 2025)

Professor Michael J. Reiss (retired 22 May 2025)

Professor Stuart West

Dr Heather White

Co-opted Trustees

Dr Isabel Larridon, Vice President

Dr Howard Nelson, Vice President

ABBREVIATIONS

ABGD	Automatic Barcode Gap Discovery
ACE	Arts Council England
ADAS	Agricultural Development Advisory Service
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AI	Artificial Intelligence
ASAP	Assemble Species by Automatic Partitioning
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
BES	British Ecological Society
bGMYC	Bayesian Generalized Mixed Yule Coalescent
BL	Bye-Law
CE	Common Era
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFN	Council for Nature
CNRS	Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EBHL	European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries group
FLS	Fellow of the Linnean Society
FMLS	Foreign Member of the Linnean Society
FRS	Fellow of the Royal Society
FRS 102	Financial Reporting Standard 102
HM	His Majesty
HIH	His Imperial Highness
HIM	His Imperial Majesty
HRH	Her Royal Highness
Hon FLS	Honorary Fellow
IAPT	International Association for Plant Taxonomy
ICZN	International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature
IF	Impact Factor
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ISAs	International Standards on Auditing
KS2	Key Stage 2 (Primary education for pupils aged 7–11 in England and Wales)
LSL	Linnean Society of London
Lt Col	Lieutenant Colonel
LWT	London Wildlife Trust
NBH	New Burlington House
OA	Open Access
OM	Order of Merit
OUP	Oxford University Press
PLS	President of the Linnean Society
RES	Royal Entomological Society
RHS	Royal Horticultural Society
SI	Special Issue
SOFA	Statement of Financial Activities
SORP	Statements of Recommended Practice
UCL	University College London
VI	Virtual Issue
ZSL	Zoological Society of London

ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REVIEW 2025

2025 was a landmark year for the Linnean Society—a year of new beginnings. With the signing of our 999-year lease on New Burlington House, the granting of our new Royal Charter and Bye-Laws and the adoption of our Strategic Plan all by the close of 2024, we could move beyond essentials in 2025. We began delivering long-held projects and exploring new ideas to advance our mission: cultivating a global community working for a world where nature is understood, valued and protected. These foundations were laid during Professor Anjali Goswami's presidency and I feel privileged to take the helm at this time in our history. The Society and I owe her immense gratitude.

Few moments in our 237-year history have brought such change. Our work has never been more important, and it is vital we are equipped to meet our ambitions. When Anjali handed over the presidency at our Anniversary Meeting in May, she entrusted me with continuing the Society's development as a charity and fulfilling the membership's expectations. In my first President's Lecture I reflected on the need to adapt in response to challenges facing nature, charities and learned societies. Organisations cannot remain fixed in their ways; they must change to meet new demands or risk falling behind.

Our Strategic Plan places greater emphasis on outward impact and benefit to nature and society. We have prioritised four pillars of activity: Membership, Research, Society and Operations. The first three focus on understanding, valuing and protecting the natural world by drawing on the expertise of our Fellowship, enabling vital research and engaging wider society. The fourth ensures the Society has the people, platforms and resources to deliver this work. Strong progress has been made in putting this plan into practice, led by our exceptional staff and journal Editors-in-Chief and supported by many Fellows contributing through committees, events and activities. I must also acknowledge Priya Nithianandan, our Head of Finance, who died suddenly in May 2025. Priya was one of our longest-serving colleagues and a deeply respected member of staff who is greatly missed. Our staff, led by CEO Professor Gail Cardew, deserve recognition for carrying forward major projects with determination during a period marked by loss and change.

Guided by our new Bye-Laws, 2025 also saw the embedding of new governance processes and development of Standing Orders to support them. There were minor teething problems, but only one amendment to the Bye-Laws—to enable rolling membership fees, approved at the Anniversary Meeting. I am particularly pleased with the work of the new Fellowship Committee, chaired by Fiona McWilliams, which has strengthened scrutiny of applications and created a clear way for Fellows to contribute their views directly.

To deliver our mission, we must involve people with diverse expertise, perspectives and needs, making the Society a forum for all voices. Progress is evident through global participation, new faces at New Burlington House and growing Fellowship applications. I am excited and honoured to lead the Linnean Society forward, building on the achievements of the past and inspiring a future where nature is cherished and protected worldwide.

Dr Mark Watson PLS

A Message from the CEO

Over the past year, our community has shown remarkable resilience, professionalism and care. In May, right before the Anniversary Meeting, we faced profound loss with the sudden and unexpected passing of our much-loved Head of Finance, Priya Nithianandan. Priya was a thoughtful presence in the life of the Society, and we continue to feel his absence deeply.

Against this backdrop of loss and change, it is a testament to the commitment of our staff, Trustees, volunteers and wider membership that progress against our 2025 strategic targets has remained strong. While the year demanded flexibility and mutual support, it also demonstrated the depth of talent and shared purpose across the organisation.

Our work on fundraising and membership development necessarily focused on strengthening internal systems and processes, rather than outward promotion and acquisition. This foundational work may be less visible, but it is vital. By investing in infrastructure and improving how we operate behind the scenes, we are building a more sustainable and resilient platform for future activity.
In the first half of the year, we completed the migration of our online collections from CoSector to the Preservica digital platform. This substantial project culminated in the relaunch of Linnean Online, opening up our collections in new and more accessible ways. It marks a significant milestone in our commitment to sharing knowledge and widening access to our remarkable resources.

Meanwhile, our medals and awards were slightly reshaped, with the Linnean Medal now to be awarded in duplicate, one for excellence in research and the other recognising the protection of nature. This was also the first year that the awards for PhDs—the Irene Manton Prize and the John C. Marsden Medal—were organised through the journals, with the Editors-in-Chief (EiCs) selecting the recipients from impressive papers based on PhDs published during the year. The new process ran smoothly, and our EiCs are delighted with this additional avenue to encourage submissions from early career researchers.

Onsite, a low-cost refresh of the shop, combined with an expanded merchandise range, helped us surpass our budget target. We also introduced a ticket charge for in-person lectures and have been pleased with the outcome: no-shows have fallen significantly, income has increased, and attendance remains strong, with major lectures selling out. Our exhibitions continue to thrive, with *Naturalists' Notebooks* achieving the highest attendance to date and a lively, sold-out workshop programme attracting new audiences.

Towards the end of the year, we were delighted to co-host the Green Careers Conference with the British Ecological Society (BES). The event welcomed around 70 attendees and generated highly positive feedback. Engagement on LinkedIn following the conference was particularly strong, extending the reach of the event well beyond those in the room and reinforcing our role in supporting emerging talent across the natural sciences.

Finally, our Education Team exceeded their target for school workshops, and bookings for 2026 are already encouraging, with many repeat visits.

In a year that tested us in many ways, these achievements reflect a community that is dedicated, adaptable and united in purpose. Thank you for your continued support and commitment.

Professor Gail Cardew

MEMBERSHIP

We are a membership organisation. Our members are advocates for nature around the globe. We will grow, diversify and support our membership to expand their capacity to work in support of our mission.

In 2025, the Linnean Society celebrated the impact of collective curiosity and expertise. Our diverse, global membership drives research, sparks debate and inspires discovery. Through lectures, publications and workshops, they bring our collections and history vividly to life, while collaborations foster innovative approaches to conservation and natural history. From groundbreaking research to prestigious honours, our community shows how shared passion and knowledge can transform understanding, influence policy and ignite a worldwide conversation about the natural world.

Growing Our Membership

The Society's membership is a truly diverse and interdisciplinary community of like-minded people, all united in their love of nature and natural history. In March 2025, following the recommendations of the 2024 Membership Review by Culture Consultants, Pru Shackley was appointed to the new position of Head of Membership and Development. This role has full operational and strategic responsibility for the membership and the organisation's development activities. This includes supporting the Fellowship Committee, who had their first full year of operation in 2025, overseeing the updated Fellowship application process which launched at the end of 2024.

We are delighted to report that in 2025 we welcomed 164 new Fellows, 85 new Associates and 134 new Student Associates, making 383 new members in total. While there were several defaulters and resignations, the total number of members 2025 was 3,256.

Collaborating with Our Community

One of our central strategic priorities is to actively engage our members across the full scope of our work. Whether through events, workshops, or contributions in print and online, we warmly invite them to share their expertise and insights. In doing so, we seek to cultivate a vibrant, collaborative community—one that not only embraces emerging research, but also champions new fields of inquiry and welcomes new voices.

Throughout much of 2025, we gathered self-reported data across our activities to ensure we are fostering contributions from a diverse range of voices and perspectives. This process has enabled us to reaffirm and strengthen the central role our membership plays in shaping and enriching our work. Across our events, over 40% of speakers were members of the Society, sharing their own paths of study with a global audience, like the popular evening lecture by Mike Gunton FLS of the BBC's Natural History Unit, 'An Insider's Guide to the Secrets of Making a Wildlife Blockbuster'. Or the Linnean Lens talk by Leah Demitriou FLS looking at Richard Owen's private scrapbook—an intriguing and intimate glimpse into the mind of the man behind the term 'dinosaur'.

This also extends to the written word. Around 60% of articles in our membership publication, *The Linnean*, are written by members. John van Wyhe FLS explored Thomas Henry Huxley's life and research, marking his bicentenary and highlighting how our view of historical figures evolves. Elaine Charwat FLS investigated how buildings and bird-window collisions affect German bird populations—and shared how some simple solutions, like subtle dotted grids on larger windows, are already showing promising results.

Celebrating and Connecting New Members

In 2025 three popular welcoming ceremonies were held to bring together and celebrate 52 recently joined Fellows. The first welcomed 20 new members before the fully booked Anniversary Meeting and AGM on Thursday 22 May. In September at an oversubscribed President's Lecture, 23 Fellows were formally inducted by the President before he gave an insightful talk on the history and evolution of the Society. Finally in December, nine more Fellows were admitted before another sold-out event—the annual Founder's Day lecture by our much-admired Fellow, Jenny Uglow, on the fascinating Gilbert White.

Spotlighting the Success of Our Membership

We celebrate the extraordinary breadth of expertise within our international membership—spanning continents, disciplines and fields of discovery—and we are proud to recognise the remarkable achievements of our members.

In March, Martyn Rix FLS received the 2025 Victoria Medal of Honour from the Royal Horticultural Society, one of the highest distinctions in British horticulture. In August, John Koprowski FLS was elected President of the American Society of Mammalogists. Vivek Menon FLS was chosen by IUCN Members to chair the IUCN Species Survival Commission, and Anjali Goswami PLS (President: 2022–2025) was appointed Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

These honours reflect not only individual excellence, but the global impact and influence of our membership.

New Membership Category: Honorary FLS

The new membership category of Honorary Fellow (Hon FLS) was established in May 2025 following the Society's revised Charter and Bye-Laws becoming operational in November 2024. Honorary Fellows were previously known as Fellows *honoris causa* (HonFLS) for British subjects, or Foreign Members (FMLS) for non-British subjects.

Following this update, Council requested an in-depth review into the process and eligibility for Honorary Fellows to ensure that it was clear, equitable and fit for a modern learned society. As a result, the purpose of Honorary Fellowship is now to thank individuals for their contributions to the work of the Linnean Society and its mission. This is distinct from Medals and Awards which may be awarded for contribution to the field of natural history, but where there is not necessarily any link to the Society. Existing Honorary Fellows will continue to be recognised as such, regardless of when they were appointed and the selection criteria used.

Royal Patron

We were thrilled in early 2025 when HRH The Princess Royal accepted Patronage of the Linnean Society, having been a member in an honorary capacity since 2007 during Carl Linnaeus' Tercentenary. A champion of science and youth engagement with nature, The Princess Royal's support was warmly welcomed by then-President Professor Anjali Goswami as a powerful boost to the Society's mission of fostering a global community that values and protects the natural world.

Vice-Patrons

The Society's revised Charter and Bye-Laws also established the role of Vice-Patron, previously known as Honorary Members (HonMLS), in a change that sought to bring greater clarity to their role within the life and work of the Society. Council may invite persons who champion and support the object of the Society to accept the role of Vice-Patron of the Society.

Currently there are five Vice-Patrons:

HM King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden
HIM The Emperor Emeritus of Japan
HIH The Prince Hitachi of Japan
Baroness Young of Old Scone
Sir David F. Attenborough OM FRS

In Remembrance

Finally, we respectfully remember those members whose deaths were reported to our Council throughout the year:

Fellows	
Professor John Allen	Dr Jeremy Holloway
Mr Ronald Baxter	Dr U. Kya
Dr Alan Brafield	Professor David Landon
Dr Michael Darby	Professor Maurice Moss
Mr Kenneth Davison	Mr Alexander Muir
Professor Patrick Denny	Mr Ian Phelps
Professor Joseph Ewusie	Professor Yeleswarapu Sarma
Professor Richard Fortey OBE	Dr Alan Silverside
Mr Mathew Frith	Lt Col Colin Watkins
Mr Cyril Giles	

Honorary Fellow
Professor Jean Leclercq

Associate
Mr George Sowerby

RESEARCH

We are an international resource and hub for the study of the natural world. We will leverage our collections and other assets to promote and enable research and action for nature.

Throughout the year, the Society amplified its global impact, making collections, archives and research more accessible than ever. Our journals continue to publish with purpose, not only advancing high-quality science but also nurturing authors and early career researchers. Digital platforms expanded, with treasures like the Percy Sladen archive and women's correspondence networks opened up for new scholarship. Away from New Burlington House, our grant schemes offer support for research in the field and in the lab. Together, these initiatives position the Society as a dynamic hub, bridging historic legacy with bold, future-focused natural history research.

Publishing with Purpose: Trusted, Inclusive Science for a Global Community

Our Journals

The journals of the Linnean Society are more than just an income source—they represent a key part of our work to support the natural history community. Our authors, reviewers and Editorial Boards are part of our community, and through our Editorial Office and wider Engagement Team, we aim to promote the work of that community, and particularly support those at the start of their career.

Our Editors-in-Chief are a key part of this, providing leadership for their journals, supporting and enabling their Editorial Boards. We are indebted to each of them for their hard work to grow their journals, while also ensuring that through our peer-review process, we provide useful feedback and proper scrutiny of the work submitted to us.

In 2025, we saw a significant increase in the number of papers submitted to our journals. Each of our hybrid journals was able to publish more high-quality, peer-reviewed papers than in 2024.

The *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* in particular, led by Editor-in-Chief Jeff Streicher, saw an unprecedented number of submissions. Many papers published in the journal also gained significant scientific and general attention. One paper on the species *Janjucetus dullardi* gained an altmetric score of over 3,000.

These growing submissions put extra pressure on our Associate Editors, who play a vital role in reviewing papers. However, the team across our journals managed the extra workload admirably, with all journals maintaining good submission-to-publication timelines. Feedback from our publisher's author satisfaction survey was good across the journals, with all of them achieving an average score of at least 8 out of 10. Thank you to all of our Associate Editors and Reviewers, who volunteer their time to support the journals and their peers in this way.

Our special issues in progress during the year included the highly popular 'Mobilising Natural History Collections in the Global South', guest edited by Iroro Tanshi, who also delivered a Lunchtime Lecture for the Society on her own research.

The *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society*, led by Julia Day, continued to publish papers from its special issues on speciation, adaptive radiation and evolution on islands.

The *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, led by Steven Dodsworth, prepared a special issue from the Conference of Young Botanists, as part of its supporting early career botanists.

Our support for a community of early career researchers was continued through our lunchtime lectures based on papers across the journals. From the *Evolutionary Journal*, 'The Andes are a driver of physiological diversity in *Anolis* lizards', from the *Zoological Journal* 'Ecomorphological correlates of inner ear shape in Australian limb-reduced skinks (Scincidae: Sphenomorphini)' and from the *Botanical Journal*, 'Bat Foraging: Where and how they do it'. Meanwhile *Zoological Journal* author and Editorial Board Member Neil Gostling FLS was part of our Pint of Science event in May.

As part of our wider events programme, we held a *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* Day Meeting on 'Organismal Resilience in a Rapidly Changing World', which brought together a global panel of speakers, who will be contributing papers to the special issue in 2026. As well as a huge thanks to the Special Issue Guest Editor, Zac Cheviron, and the *Biological Journal*'s EiC Karen Sears, we are grateful to the Company of Biologists and OUP for their support for the event.

The Paper Trail

This year we launched The Paper Trail, a blog series that presents potentially complex scientific research in a more accessible way to a wider audience. For example, in July, a blog based on the *Botanical Journal's* paper 'Opportunities and limits of image-based plant stress phenotyping: detecting plant salt stress status using machine learning techniques' uncovered how machine learning can be used to spot salt stress in plants, revolutionising how we farm amidst rising sea levels.

Blogs are written by both paper authors and guest bloggers from a global community, many of whom are early career researchers wanting to develop their science communication skills. The Paper Trail has helped improve the visibility of the journals and enabled the original papers to be shared with several hundred people who may not otherwise have come across the research. Paper authors have been incredibly pleased with the outcome, with many commenting on the collaborative and positive experience. One author wrote, 'I really love The Paper Trail and all the stories posted from your journals. I think it is great scientific outreach.'

Supporting Scientific Discovery Through Targeted Grants

LinneSys: Systematics Research Fund

The Linnean Society and Systematics Association collaborate to support the LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund with £41,000 annually used to fuel discovery in taxonomy and systematics, backing small-scale projects up to £1,500. Supporting fieldwork, equipment access, specimen preparation, publications and education initiatives, it empowers researchers while strengthening the foundations of biodiversity knowledge that, by extension, informs citizen science worldwide.

In 2025, LinnéSys supported 40 projects worldwide awarded from a total fund of £40,618, with the Society contributing £33,618. Projects span uncovering hidden diversity in *Ituglanis amazonicus*, revising the snake *Tantilla melanocephala*, and resolving blue monkey beetle cryptic species. Without clear classification and naming, species vanish unnoticed, ecosystems unravel silently and conservation becomes guesswork. Taxonomy provides the essential map of biodiversity—without it, we cannot truly measure, manage or prevent further loss.

Recipient Name	Country	Research Project Title
Paulo José Vilardo Abreu	Brazil	Hidden diversity: Taxonomy and distribution of the *Ituglanis amazonicus* (Steindachner, 1882) complex
Gabriel Vinicius Felix Afonso	United States of America (USA)	Axial-skeleton elongation in bony-tongue fishes (Osteoglossomorpha): Evolutionary innovations and phylogenetic implications
Cecilia Maria Ariemma	Spain	Morphological and phylogenetic characterization of *Eusimonia wunderlichi*: A unique or cryptic species?
Daniela T. Candia Ramírez	Mexico	Diversity and taxonomy of the genus *Mexentypesa* Raven, 1987 (Araneae: Mygalomorphae) in Mexico
Alvin N. Caril	Philippines	Diversity survey of deep water microgastropod species under Conoidea around Panglao, Philippines
Zhe-Yu Chen	Australia	Integrative taxonomic revision of Amphicoelina from China (Gastropoda: Stylommatophora)
Giacomo Chiappa	Italy	The amphiatlantic top-shell *Calliostoma occidentale* (Mighels & C.B. Adams, 1842)
Jonathan Colville	South Africa	Untangling cryptic species of blue monkey beetle: *Scelophysa trimeni*
Diego Alejandro Cómbita Romero	Colombia	Unravelling the taxonomy and evolution of Miocene tortoises from La Venta, Colombia
Lara Serpa Jaegge Deccache	Brazil	Systematics, Evolution and Biogeography of Ouratea Aubl. (Ochnaceae)
Weverton dos Santos Azevedo	Brazil	Integrative taxonomic revision of the historically challenging snake *Tantilla melanocephala* (Linnaeus, 1758)
Gengyu Fang	United Kingdom (UK)	Megafish fossils from the Qaidam Basin and pharyngeal bone disparity in Cyprinids
Thomas Farrell	United Kingdom (UK)	Redescription of *Priapulites konecniorum* Schram 1973, from the Mazon Creek Lagerstätte
Julia Gerasimova	Germany	Exploring the biodiversity of the *Bacidia* crustose lichens in Mediterranean region
Abdullah Gohar	Egypt / United States of America (USA)	Investigating auditory bulla osteohistology in cetaceans and underwater hearing evolution in mammals
Ixchel Sarahi González Ramírez	United States of America (USA)	Spore morphology for understanding the monospecific genus *Calasterella* (Marchantiophyta, Aytoniaceae)
Sanika Goray	India	Examining the taxonomic identity of a polymorphic *Impatiens* endemic to Western-Ghats, India
Niamh Kennedy	Ireland	The comparative genomics of the Andrenidae
Ghyslain Chabi Kpétikou	Benin	Unveiling the taxonomic richness and ecological patterns of *Marsilea* L. (Marsileaceae) in Benin
Erin Krichilsky (Rin)	United States of America (USA)	Re-discovery and comparative genomics of a rare pollen-feeding wasp
Chien-Hsiang Lin	Taiwan	Species boundaries in *Arius* (Sea Catfish) in Taiwan and the Philippines
Inés Galán Luque	Spain	Increasing available genomic data of comb jellies to understand their systematics
Morgan Lee McCarthy	Denmark	Assessing the taxonomic status of beaked whale strandings in the North Atlantic
James McCulloch	United Kingdom (UK)	Describing the unnamed, non-native species of springtails in the UK
Katherine Montana	United States of America (USA)	Multiple paternity and reproductive morphology across the dragonfly phylogeny
Gabriela Narváez	Chile	Reconstructing the evolutionary history of the subgenus *Nothofagus* of South America

Grazielle Tainá A. Resende Paiva	Brazil	Evolution of the Cerrado flora: Taxonomy, morphology and phylogenomics of *Coracoralina* (Eriocaulaceae)
Ancheng Peng	France	Mitochondrial phylogenomics and evolution of social behaviour in earwigs
Caroline Pessoa de Lima	United Kingdom (UK)	Using paleoproteomics to elucidate the phylogenetic relationships of extinct Pleistocene antilocaprids
Susanne Reier	Austria	Comparative phylogeography and cryptic diversity of Acanthocephalan parasites and their Gammarid hosts
Sara Rodrigues Passos Rocha	Spain	Conservation genomics of the Critically Endangered giant bronze gecko *Ailuronyx trachygaster*
Jennifer Rose	Spain	A taxonomic study of wild bees in the Basque Country
Rodrigo Márquez Sanz	Spain	Systematics of resupinate Thelephorales in poorly sampled regions
Daniel Schönberger	United States of America (USA)	Can historical specimens resolve the taxonomic uncertainty in the *Papilio machaon* complex
Ashutosh Sharma	India	Integrated systematics approach for resolving *Impatiens* species complexes in the Himalayan biodiversity hotspot
Katya Jeanneth Romero Soler	Mexico	Taxonomic revision of *Pitcairnia* (Pitcairnioideae, Bromeliaceae) in Mexico
Yu Kai Tan	United States of America (USA)	Curious collectors: Does cryptic speciation explain specialised collecting behaviour of carrier snails?
Chawatat Thanoosing	Thailand	A mysterious bumblebee, hidden nearly a century: Systematics of *Bombus* in peninsular Thailand
Kevin Torgersen	United States of America (USA)	Systematics and macroevolution of a widespread complex of Neotropical freshwater fishes
Mark Wilkinson	United Kingdom (UK)	The identity and neotypification of Linnaeus' *Caecilia tentaculate*

Other Grants

*The **Anne Sleep Award**, established by Mrs Ivy Sleep in honour of Dr Anne Sleep FLS, provides up to £3,000 biennially to support outstanding early career researchers conducting biological research between the UK and the Middle or Far East.*

In 2025 this was awarded to Dr Shahina A. Ghazanfar FLS for a project studying and recording plants along the Hijrah path. The Hijrah (622 CE), marking the start of the Islamic calendar, was the Prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Yathrib (Medina) across a diverse ecological landscape. While some studies of vegetation exist for western Saudi Arabia, no research has comprehensively documented the plants along the Hijrah route or explored their historical and cultural uses. With the path opening to tourism in November 2025 and expected to welcome thousands of pilgrims annually, this project will systematically record plant species along the route using transect surveys, document their traditional and medicinal uses, and link identified species to their historical significance, contributing to regional ecology and ethnobotany.

*The **Appleyard Fund**, established in 1968, offers grants up to **£2,000** for botany or zoology research. Available to Fellows and Associates not in full-time biology employment, it supports project expenses.*

Awarded to Dr Jeanne Yetchom Fondjo, this project will revise the poorly known, flightless grasshopper genus *Mazaea* in Cameroon, where recent molecular data suggest hidden species diversity. Researchers will collect specimens, examine morphology and sequence multiple genetic markers. Phylogenetic relationships and species boundaries will be determined using molecular delimitation methods (ABGD, ASAP, bGMYC) alongside morphological analysis, with data being made available on public databases. The project aims to discover new species, map where they live, build a DNA reference library and clarify the taxonomy of these grasshoppers. The results will help inform biodiversity conservation, enhance identification tools and provide genomic resources for future studies.

Linnean Society Collections: Preserving the Past, Shaping Future Discovery

Our Collections: Digital Access, Global Reach

In 2023, we set out to transform how our digitised collections are preserved and shared. While our journals remain a trusted home for original research, our collections—hosted on Linnean Online—represent an extraordinary and free to access research resource in their own right. But as our digital ambitions grew, it became clear that our previous platform could no longer support both the collections and an expanding digital archive. So, in November 2023, we chose a new digital preservation partner: Preservica.

What followed in 2024 was a monumental effort. More than 61,000 records—containing nearly 220,000 images—were carefully reviewed, cleaned and enhanced. Metadata was refined and expanded, creating a richer, more powerful dataset designed to improve discoverability and user experience.

In early 2025, Digital Assets Manager Andrea Deneau collaborated closely with developers to migrate and rigorously test the collections in their new digital home. By the end of March, the new platform went live, and the results have been encouraging. The system is not only versatile, but ready to grow alongside our expanding digital archives. In just nine months, the platform has welcomed over 1,000 users each month—more than three-quarters joining us from outside the UK—demonstrating its truly global reach. It has been a strong investment in the future of accessible, sustainable research.

Opening the Archive: Powering New Research

From within our Collected Archives, a range of collections were catalogued and made fully accessible through our archive catalogue. These include collections for members, such as D. H. Scott and Rina Scott (ref: SEO), and for organisations, including the Selborne Society and the Gilbert White Archive (ref: SS), with detailed descriptions now available for the first time.

The Collected Archives also hold significant material on nature conservation. In February, the IUCN and Richard Fitter (ref: FIT) archives were catalogued and uploaded, followed in October by the archives of the Council for Nature (ref: CFN), expertly catalogued by Project Archivist Alex Milne. In total, approximately 1,395 new records were added to the catalogue, opening up exciting new possibilities for research and greatly improving accessibility to these invaluable archives. Since going

live, we have already received numerous requests from researchers to consult this material in person, demonstrating the immediate impact of this work.

Unlocking the Percy Sladen Archive

Through the Percy Sladen Memorial Fund, we appointed Project Archivist Becky Darnill in August to catalogue the Percy Sladen archive held at the Society. Percy Sladen (1849–1900) was a Fellow and Zoological Secretary of the Society, and a marine biologist who studied echinoderms, famously detailing a landmark account of the starfishes collected on the HMS *Challenger* expedition (1872–1876). The Percy Sladen Memorial Fund was set up by his wife Constance Sladen—one the of first female Fellows admitted to the Society—in 1904.

Sorting and appraisal of the extensive Sladen material (77 boxes and three volumes) was the initial step. A hierarchical arrangement was made, organising it into distinct areas including foundational documents, governance papers and grant applications. Listing and collating the material is underway, with a view to transferring it to a catalogue, making the collection globally accessible for the first time. This will have potential research applications in not just zoology, but in geology, archaeology and early studies in anthropology.

Strengthening Partnerships: Championing Collections, Collaboration and Community

In 2025, our Head of Collections Dr Isabelle Charmantier became part of the advisory board for the Natural History Humanities programme as part of the 'Collections-Connections-Communities' research initiative at the University of Cambridge. As part of this, we participated in a popular panel discussion at the British Society for the History of Science conference, looking at natural history humanities, presenting to a packed-out room on the role of the Linnean Society collections and their benefit to the programme.

Other collections-based networking included Librarian Will Beharrell attending the European Horticultural Libraries (EBHL) annual meeting in Paris, and Assistant Archivist Christina McCulloch representing the Society at the Places, Plants and People Archives Network meetings throughout the year. These groups offer a terrific way to share knowledge, grow and adapt to changes in the academic research environment.

Linnaeus Link

The Linnaeus Link Project is an international collaboration devoted to the work of our namesake, the 18th-century naturalist-physician, Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778). The aim has been to provide a comprehensive bibliography of Linnaean-interest publications, reflecting the diverse output of contemporary scholarship, and the holdings of major research collections world-wide. It has been recognised by the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT) and the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN).

After much discussion, it was decided by common agreement between the 24 Linnaeus Link partners that the Linnaeus Link Union Catalogue—an online union catalogue of Linnaean material held in repositories globally—would be closed at the end of June 2025, although the group is keen to continue as a network.

Librarian Will Beharrell continued work on the bibliography of Linnaean works, first started by Basil Soulsby (who headed up the Natural History Museum's General Library) in the early 1900s. The result was an online digest published at the end of the year entitled 'The Year's Work in Linnaean

Studies'. Plans are also being put in place to have an annual Linnaeus Link lecture, hosted by the Linnean Society.

From Archive to Analysis: Haludar's Art Revealed

Several botanical and zoological illustrations by the Bengali artist Haludar, from the Francis Buchanan-Hamilton collection, were sent to the Kelvin Centre for Conservation in Glasgow for image analyses (including stereomicroscopy and infrared reflectography). This is forming part of scientific illustrator Claire Banks' PhD thesis 'Company Drawings of Natural History: The evolution of techniques and materials c. 1790–1820'. We are looking forward to finding out more information about the illustrations, and the 18th- and 19th-century pigments used.

Student Placements, Fresh Perspectives

Each year, the Society offers research placements, fostering connections with early career scholars while uncovering fresh insights into our collections. In 2025, we welcomed London Singletary, a Master's student in History at King's College London. London's work transcribing and indexing the Society's Council Minutes has been invaluable, as, for the first time, these records will be fully searchable, opening them up to wider scholarly use. He also examined the travel diary of the Society's founder, James Edward Smith, tracing his Grand Tour of Europe in the late 18th century and identifying differences between published and unpublished versions. Blogs and articles based on London's research will be shared in 2026.

Meanwhile, as part of a student placement with UCL, Emily O'Connor has been cataloguing the notebooks of William Keble Martin, author of *Concise British Flora in Colour* (1969). Her work records plant species, localities and observation dates, offering insight into Martin's fieldwork. Once complete, the catalogue will be fully searchable by name, location and date, greatly enhancing access for researchers and the public. This is an ongoing project, with completion anticipated in 2026.

AdoptLINN: Conserving Treasures for Tomorrow

Our AdoptLINN conservation scheme supported the care of some remarkable items in 2025, including the largest project: the oil portrait of botanist Nathaniel Ward displayed in our Meeting Room. Measuring 141 x 110.5 cm, the painting had yellowed and darkened from over 150 years of Piccadilly soot, with additional splashes and smears from a 2008 ceiling leak. Conservator Amanda Paulley meticulously cleaned the portrait using smoke sponge brushing and petroleum spirit, retouching only damaged areas with sympathetic colours before applying a light varnish. The transformation was dramatic, and this work was generously supported by Keith Salvesen FLS.

The scheme also preserved one of our most striking books, John Gould's *A monograph of the Ramphastidae, or family of toucans* (1834). This heavy double folio had a detached spine and boards after nearly two centuries of use. Conservator Janet Ashdown rebuilt the spine, added a linen hinge for reinforcement, and recovered it in matching leather, ensuring the book is ready for another 200 years.

Overall, AdoptLINN raised £4,240 (including Gift Aid) via 15 gifts from eight donors. Nearly 39% was given for general conservation, allowing the Collections Team to select items for care in the donors' names, directly supporting the long-term conservation of our treasures.

Linnean Society Medals and Awards 2025

Through its medals and awards, the Linnean Society has long recognised individuals who have made outstanding contributions to understanding the natural world. We were honoured to welcome our 2025 medal and award recipients:

AWARD	RECIPIENT
Linnean Medal *For services to science*	Professor David Macdonald CBE, University of Oxford, UK
Darwin–Wallace Medal *Awarded to a person or group who have made major advances in evolutionary science*	Professor Trudy Mackay FRS, Clemson University, USA
Bicentenary Medal *Awarded to an early career scientist, in recognition of excellent research in the natural sciences*	Dr Joanne Littlefair, University College London, UK
Irene Manton Prize *For the best doctoral thesis in botany in a UK university*	Jamie B. Thompson, University of Bath, UK
John C. Marsden Medal *For the best doctoral thesis in biology in a UK university*	Jamie C. Weir, University of Edinburgh, UK
John Spedan Lewis Emerging Leader Award *For an initiative with notable positive impact for the UK natural environment*	Megan Gimber, People's Trust for Endangered Species, UK
H. H. Bloomer Award *Awarded to an amateur naturalist for an important contribution to the knowledge of natural history*	Aasheesh Pittie, Indian BIRDS, India
Jill Smythies Award *A medal and £1,000 to a botanical artist for outstanding, diagnostically relevant, published illustrations*	Hyewoo Shin, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, South Korea

Medal and Award Revisions

In line with our new strategy to broaden engagement, we are updating our awards portfolio to reflect a wider range of disciplines and contributions.

The Linnean Medal is now aligned with our mission 'to cultivate a global community working for a world where nature is understood, valued and protected'. There are now two Linnean Medals: (1) The Linnean Medal for significant and sustained advances in the understanding of nature. This includes academic research into any relevant branch, including science, history and the humanities. (2) The Linnean Medal for significant and sustained dedication to the protection of nature. This includes conservation, communication, education and advocacy.

The Darwin–Wallace Medal, awarded for evolutionary biology, will be awarded triennially.

For early career researchers, the **Irene Manton Prize** and **John C. Marsden Medal** will now recognise PhD-led papers published in the Society's journals. Four prizes of £500 will be awarded annually, selected by the journal Editors-in-Chief.

These changes took effect following the Anniversary Meeting on 22 May 2025, with the revised awards to be presented in May 2026.

SOCIETY

We will motivate people to take positive action, because protecting the natural world requires the involvement of the whole of society.

One of our major aims for 2025 was to encourage people to care for the natural world by making science and history open and engaging. Our free exhibitions invited visitors to pause, reflect and discover the stories behind both people and objects—revealing curiosity, creativity and the human effort needed for scientific discovery. By lending items and offering tours, talks and workshops, we welcomed students, researchers and families to our Piccadilly home. In person and online, speakers shared research and untold stories in clear, accessible ways, helping more people connect with the natural world. These activities and more deliver on our lease commitments, opening our building further and advancing an ambitious decade-long programme of expanded public engagement and access.

Collections in Action: From Exhibitions to Global Engagement

Exhibitions: From Notebooks to Wunderkammers
Our exhibitions have become a major draw, inviting visitors to explore the richness of the Society's collections. In 2025, we hosted three compelling displays.

Still Life: Depicting Nature from Woodcuts to X-Rays ran from September 2024 to February 2025, attracting 1,270 visitors with its intriguing evolution of imagery—drawings, woodblocks, paintings, photographs, nature prints and more—in scientific study.

Naturalists' Notebooks, curated by Dr Isabelle Charmantier, ran from March to September 2025 and celebrated the humble yet vital notebook. From handmade journals to luxurious volumes, the exhibition highlighted how notebooks have shaped the work of celebrated thinkers past and present. Featuring additional personal volumes from current Fellows, it became our most popular exhibition to date, drawing 2,798 visitors.

The year concluded with ***Wonder***, inspired by the classic cabinet of curiosity or *Wunderkammer*. Curated by Andrea Deneau, it offered a playful 'pick and mix' of our collections, captivating audiences until March 2026.

Altogether, our exhibitions welcomed nearly 5,000 visitors, offering engaging journeys through art, science, history and, best of all, curiosity. An enticing programme of events was also devised for each, with workshops on creating cyanotypes and notebook-making, lectures with experts onsite and online and curator-led tours.

Collections on Tour
Alongside our own exhibitions, wherever possible the Society is happy to loan items for display elsewhere. We were delighted to be a part of the British Library's exhibition *Unearthed: The Power of Gardening* (2 May–10 August 2025), which explored the transformative, enriching and sometimes radical power of gardening in Britain and the impact it has on people, communities and the environment. The Society loaned several items: an 18th-century seed packet of New Zealand flax from Norfolk Island, Charles Darwin's vasculum (a receptacle for collecting plant specimens) and the portrait of an enslaved man at the foot of a breadfruit tree by Antiguan artist John Tyley.

Discovering Natural History on Piccadilly

In 2025, our **Private Tours** programme flourished, welcoming a wide range of visiting groups and strengthening valuable connections. Among our guests were the Swedish Linnaeus Society—who also met with us to explore future collaborations—the London Appreciation Society, the Gardens Trust and the Beatrix Potter Society, for whom Archivist Liz McGow curated a special display of archival treasures. Altogether, we delivered 34 private tours to 240 visitors, sharing the depth of our collections while generating vital income to support our work.

Our popular **Treasures Tours** continued to captivate the public, offering rare access to our 'strong room' in small, intimate groups led by our expert Collections Team. Frequently selling out well in advance, we hosted 12 tours in 2025—including two exclusively for members—welcoming 135 visitors.

Inspiring the next generation with **Educational Tours** remains central to our mission. We hosted 176 students from institutions across the UK and abroad, including Fordham University, Florida State University, Rikkyo School in England, Seoul National University and UCL. From A-level groups to archival specialists, students explored exhibitions, encountered original materials and even tried their hand at nature journalling.

Beyond New Burlington House

We love taking the Society 'on the road' to share our collections and research more widely. Throughout the year, Isabelle Charmantier gave a lecture for the Selborne Society at their education centre in London's Perivale Woods, exploring 'Naming Nature: Carl Linnaeus and the Linnean Society of London'. Will Beharrell spoke at the Royal Society's Libraries of Science conference about 'The Linnean Society Library: Two centuries of continuity and change', alongside historian Anna Marie Roos and Emma Laws from Exeter Cathedral, later joining a lively panel discussion. Nearly 160 people attended the event, both in person and online. Meanwhile, Archivist Liz McGow presented a virtual lecture for the CNRS International Emerging Actions WOMNH 19 in Uppsala, Sweden, examining 'Writing Science in the 19th century: British women's correspondence networks'. She highlighted the remarkable letters of women around our founder, Sir James Edward Smith, revealing the often-overlooked networks shaping science and natural history. These outreach activities help to bring our collections and history to life.

Hidden Stories, New Research

Our Treasure of the Month blog series offers an exploratory dip into some of the lesser-known items within our collections. Overseen by Archivist Liz McGow, each blog is written by a curator or member of the Linnean Society team. Ten 'Treasures' were produced throughout the year, with highlights including the notebooks of amateur botanist Dorothy Chapman (1877–1974), complete with newspaper cuttings, dried flowers and photographs, and a 1782 pub bill outlining dinner for Carl Linnaeus' son at the King's Arms, Kew Green, during his travels to England.

Collections were also highlighted in *The Linnean*, with so many of our members being part of, and interested in, the museum and curatorial community. Henry Noltie FLS explored a botanical manuscript from the collections (MS/620), uncovering stunning, lesser-studied illustrations by the 19th-century Indian artist Manu Lal. And Sarah Bilston FLS examined the rise of Britain's early conservation movement through the newly-catalogued archives of the Selborne Society—one of the country's oldest environmental organisations—tracing its origins amid the pressures of rapid industrial and urban growth.

From Nature to Knowledge: Imaginative Events for Every Audience

Under the guidance of Anna Perman, and managed by Katie Lau and Scarlet Forrester, our public events programme continued to broaden the Society's reach. Attracting new audiences and raising awareness of our work, it also provided members with meaningful opportunities to meet, connect and exchange ideas across disciplines.

In 2025, the team ran a remarkable 91 events—despite just 1.5 staff dedicated primarily to events—showing an extraordinary effort. Sixty-seven in-person events welcomed 3,253 attendees to our building or nature walks, while 22 online and two hybrid events reached 2,914 people, demonstrating broad interest.

Our in-person events foster connections across fields, attracting influencers and leaders to the Society. Scientific talks covered tiger genetics, citrus fruits, the natural history of the dodo and climate modelling. Alongside these were sessions on communicating nature through documentaries, art and music, and the history of studying nature, culminating in the Founder's Day lecture by Jenny Uglow FLS.

We are grateful to attendees for feedback, which has helped to guide improvements and often praises our venue and speakers. Of the 334 people who responded, events scored 4.6 out of 5. Highlights of what people valued about our events include:

- 'Challenging perceptions and stimulating critical thinking around conservation orthodoxy.' (*James Bullock, Conservation and Rewilding in a Changing Climate*)
- 'The speaker was a natural storyteller which really helped to convey her messages and engage the audience.' (*Rosa Vasquez, The Spirit of the Rainforest*)
- 'Opened my eyes to museum displays which I have seen for decades without seeing the bias in them.' (*Jack Ashby, Nature's Memory: Behind the Scenes at the World's Natural History Museums*)
- 'I always enjoy the Linnean Society's lectures. Because I live in the United States, I can only attend by video. Please keep doing them.' (*Iroro Tanshi, Bat Foraging: Where and How They Do It*)

A Collective Effort: Strength Through Collaboration

Partnerships form a key part of this aim. This year, we were part of London Craft Week with the artist Tess Newall and furniture designer Alfred Newall. We also delivered a policy lecture on misinformation with the Systematics Association. Other partners included the British Ornithologists' Club, Pint of Science and the BES. For Open House, we coordinated with our neighbours across Burlington Courtyard, opening on the same day—on that one day alone we welcomed 1,171 people to the Society.

In collaboration with India Cole at Queen Mary University, our day meeting '(Re)Discovering Natural History Collections' brought together 75 attendees working with natural history archives and collections, and explored the research being undertaken, as well as innovative ways to communicate about collections, including smells and individual stories.

Life Through a Linnean Lens

Our online Linnean Lens talks continue to bring the Linnean Society's collections to a global audience. Highlights of 2025 included historian Sachiko Kusukawa's Linnean Lens lecture on Leonard Fuchs's *Historia Stirpium* (1542), which attracted 203 online attendees and over 10,000 YouTube

views. Equally popular was volunteer John Abbott's live demonstration on 'How to conserve 18th- and 19th-century paper', engaging 225 viewers with practical insights. These digital events offer expert-led, in-depth explorations that make our historic collections accessible and captivating to audiences worldwide.

Lunchtime Lectures: Natural History That Connects and Inspires

This year's Lunchtime Lectures brought natural history vividly to life, welcoming 1,200 attendees to an inspiring programme of 11 diverse talks. From the genetic analysis of *E. coli* in our food systems to woodland management and the colonial history of the okapi, the series explored science, history and conservation across an impressively wide spectrum of ideas and perspectives.

We were proud to host speakers from every stage of academia—early career researchers, PhD candidates, doctors and activists—each offering compelling global perspectives on the challenges and possibilities shaping our natural world today.

Our most popular lunchtime event, drawing more than 170 guests, featured Dr Iroro Tanshi, whose captivating lecture explored the foraging behaviours of African bats and showcased her groundbreaking research in collaboration with the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*.

With another exciting programme ahead, we look forward to continuing to make natural history accessible, dynamic and deeply relevant to a growing, loyal audience.

Bringing in New Audiences

Our workshops and nature walks are essential gateways for first-time visitors to the Society. This year's nine workshops—spanning botanical art, embroidery, knitting, cyanotype printing, lino-printing and notebook-making—brought together people united by nature, creativity and craft. Our nine nature walks engaged those eager for the outdoors, including staff-led bat walks in April and September, an insect walk with Connor Butler FLS, and a nature walk and zine-making workshop with blogger Zabby.

Amplifying Perspectives Across Nature, Science and History

As mentioned in 'Membership', this year (and for the first time), we gathered self-reported data from our speakers, bloggers and contributors to *The Linnean* to ensure our programme reflects a rich mix of voices. The findings have shown that:

- 19% of *The Linnean* contributors and 26% of event contributors were under 35
- 34% of contributors came from outside academia
- 48% identified as female, 43% as male and 9% as non-binary
- 27% identified as being from non-white backgrounds

Growing Connections: Our Education Programme Inspiring Science and Nature Engagement

Inspiring 1,100 Students Through Hands-On Science

This year we trialled our Evolution workshop for KS2, offering it free to schools for a limited period to refine and perfect the activities. Students explored Charles Darwin's work, the evolutionary tree and his connection to the Linnean Society, before presenting their findings on a 'new species' in a peer-reviewed style—just as naturalists did in Darwin's day.

Over the year, around 1,100 students from 33 schools attended our onsite workshops on Classification and Evolution. While most schools came from the London area, we were thrilled to welcome one school all the way from Devon. Online sessions were fewer (five workshops) but helped reach additional learners beyond the onsite programme.

To make the workshops even more accessible, we also trialled taking them directly into schools. These sessions can help accommodate students with additional or behavioural needs, or for schools unable to visit the Society, ensuring that the excitement of hands-on science reaches every learner.

Our Local Nature: Supporting the Next Generation of Nature Leaders

Since its launch in 2020, the Our Local Nature grant scheme has awarded nearly £30,000 to 49 projects, empowering young people across the country to take practical action for nature. This year was no different, with £6,000 awarded to help young people bring their projects to life. Demand for this youth-led scheme was exceptional: 412 applications were submitted for the 2025–2026 cycle, reflecting the scale of young people's commitment to environmental action. Ayesha Meredith-Lewis shortlisted a fantastic range of proposals—from enhancing bat habitats in Cumbria to creating a wellbeing garden in Birmingham—for consideration by our Youth Panel.

Fourteen students aged 16–18 applied to join the Youth Panel; seven were selected and, with support from the Society, led the grant-making process themselves. Together, they awarded funding to seven projects, directing resources to initiatives they believe will make a tangible difference in their communities.

The Cheer Up Squad, for example, had received £775 earlier in the year to deliver 'Growing Hope', providing plant-growing kits to 50 children aged 3–10 following hospital treatment. Young volunteers assembled and distributed the kits, promoting sustainability by repurposing recyclable materials as watering devices—nurturing both environmental awareness and recovery through hands-on engagement with nature. Movingly, one parent noted: 'It takes my son some time to get out of bed after coming home from the hospital. Now, he checks his plant first thing every morning. It's been such a small but powerful change.'

Inspired by the dedication of young project leaders, we were thrilled this December to secure funding from the Mayor of London's Green Roots Fund, enabling Our Local Nature to support projects along London's waterways from 2026.

Nature Network

This was the first year of Nature Network, a nature engagement project targeting 11–14-year-olds (KS3 students) across North and West London. Thanks to funding from John Lyon's Charity, we have been able to recruit a dedicated Project Manager and offer the scheme at minimal cost to eligible schools.

With the aim of inspiring young people into potentially studying science and natural history at higher education, the project is also about diversifying audiences using natural spaces and recognising the health benefits of spending time in nature. We ran sessions at five schools across the autumn term, often tying science and art together, engaging with a total of 89 students. Even the most unassuming corners of a school site can be home to a range of biodiversity—in one Ealing school we caught badgers on a trail camera!

Though recruiting participating schools was less successful than anticipated, 100% of teachers and school staff reported a positive outcome. One science teacher shared a list of noticeable benefits for their students:

'Students making a 'connection with nature' and their own lives. Some have really just sat outside and paid attention to things around them. That nature and 'science' can be artistic. Increased awareness of different species around their community.'

We were successfully awarded a second year of funding and hope to build on everything we've learned in 2026.

Green Careers Conference

Building on the success of our 2024 conference, the Society, in partnership with the BES, hosted another event celebrating careers in the natural world. We welcomed over 70 students and career changers to our Green Careers Conference, offering talks from professionals sharing their own journeys—including Tony Day from The Volunteer Charity and Jamila Brown from JB Impact Agency—alongside CV clinics and interview workshops. Attendees were able to connect with experts in a personal and relaxed setting, gaining practical advice and the confidence to explore their own pathways.

Our library came alive with exhibitors from institutions such as the London Wildlife Trust (LWT), Zoological Society of London (ZSL), the Royal Entomological Society (RES) and Royal Parks, giving participants the chance to discover training and work opportunities while asking questions freely.

In October, the Society further expanded its reach at the ZSL Careers Event, engaging over 250 attendees and inspiring young people to pursue careers in nature, conservation, communication and the history of science.

Amphibians, Fungi and Festival-Goers

In June 2025 the Society ran a stall for the first time in the Science Futures area at **Glastonbury Festival.** The area focuses on science communication and environmental awareness, with our stall located within the Futurarium, a large marquee that hosts five different organisations each year. Engagement Officer Scarlet Forrester and Journal Officer Georgia Cowie designed, built and ran several interactive activities while disseminating information about the Society and its aims for the full five days of the festival.

The main attraction? 'Toad in the Hole', a carnival-style game encouraging visitors to launch hand-made frog beanbags through holes in a board with the aim of educating them on amphibian conservation. Holes were coloured red or green, representing active threats to global amphibian populations and some real-world measures to protect them, respectively. The game was a huge success, with many people returning later in the day to talk more about our work and have another go. Many visitors didn't know about the threats faced by amphibians, and our game allowed them to learn specifics without feeling daunted, before directing them towards related charities they could support. Over 500 visitors engaged with our stand, with nearly 100 sign-ups to Linnean News. We also made several lasting connections with other scientific bodies, including the Daphne Jackson Trust, University of London, ADAS entomology research and the BBC Natural History Unit.

The Education Team was delighted to be invited to take part in the 2025 **All Things Fungi Festival** at the Chiddinglye Estate in East Grinstead. Across two lively days, Ayesha Meredith-Lewis, Scarlet Forrester and Georgia Cowie hosted an interactive stall titled 'Fungi Fling'—a hands-on game that challenged visitors to 'forage' for mushrooms and test their species-spotting skills. Participants identified which mushrooms were edible, with those correctly choosing safe, non-toxic species earning higher points. The sharpest forager of the day took home a special prize pack of Society goodies! Designed to highlight the importance of accurate mushroom identification, the game sparked curiosity, conversation and plenty of friendly competition. More than 380 people stopped by, deepening their knowledge of species identification and discovering more about the Society.

Social Media: A Year of Steady Growth

This year, more people chose to follow our work online, and that steady growth has been genuinely encouraging. It means more people are reading, watching and staying connected with what we do.

- **YouTube** grew from 4,760 to **7,455 subscribers**—a **57% increase**, showing growing interest in our talks and recorded events.
- **LinkedIn** rose from 1,896 to **2,898 followers**—up **53%**, helping us stay in touch with colleagues and professionals.
- **Bluesky** increased from 5,771 to **8,691 followers**—a **50% rise** as more people joined us there.
- **Mailchimp** subscribers grew from 3,159 to **4,717**—up **49%**, meaning more people are choosing to receive our news directly.
- **Instagram** climbed from 5,110 to **7,274 followers**—a **42% increase**, with strong interest in images from our collections and events.
- **Facebook** grew from 10,226 to **11,405 followers**—a steady **12% rise**.

Behind each number is someone who has taken an interest in our work, and that growing community matters.

OPERATIONS

We recognise that to achieve our strategy, we need to be resilient and sustainable. We will ensure that we have the right tools, resources and staff to deliver our mission.

In 2025, New Burlington House thrived as a hub for visitors, events and merchandise. Thoughtful pricing, new shop displays and digital initiatives helped share our collections widely, while print-on-demand and licensing opened fresh ways for people to engage. Behind the scenes, staff training and building improvements strengthened the Society for the future.

Under the terms of our lease with the government, we are obliged to report on any substantial improvements to the building, beyond general maintenance. There were no such improvements to the Linnean Society building in 2025.

Hosting, Engaging, Sustaining: Room Hire and Events

Room Hire

Overseen by Operations Assistant Tatiana Franco, room hire at New Burlington House continued to attract strong engagement in a very competitive market. Set around an attractive historic courtyard and neighbouring the Royal Academy of Arts and other Learned Societies, the venue welcomed 2,636 guests across 96 bookings, including 13 new client groups.

Room hire generated £24,052 achieving around 89% of the projected target. While slightly below expectations, the volume of bookings and new partnerships demonstrates sustained demand and provides a solid foundation for repeat business and future income growth in this prestigious Piccadilly setting.

Events

At the beginning of 2025, we introduced a small charge for in-person lectures at New Burlington House, with members enjoying a 20% discount, while online lectures and broadcasts remained free. This change, supported by members in a 2024 survey, has helped to cover rising costs and building improvements such as new AV in the Meeting Room and new emergency lighting.

Charges were already being applied to other types of events, including Treasures Tours, day meetings, education sessions and nature walks. Collectively, these generated £28,192, achieving 123% of the year's proposed target. This income not only supported the smooth running of our programme but also allowed us to maintain free online offerings, reaching audiences far beyond our walls. The modest charges drastically reduced the number of no-shows, helping us to plan the organisation of the events on the night more effectively.

By balancing small fees with member discounts and free digital access, 2025 demonstrated how thoughtful event pricing can sustain our activities while keeping the Society's collections, talks and experiences accessible to as many people as possible.

Bringing Our Collections to Life: Inspiring Products, Supporting Our Work

Onsite Shop

With exhibitions driving increased visitor numbers, we transformed our shop space to better capture attention and maximise sales. Despite spatial limitations, Helen Shaw, Jo Macdonald and Leonie Berwick introduced simple yet highly effective display enhancements, creating a more visible and inviting retail area. A bespoke card display was installed, making it easier for visitors to browse and leave with a meaningful memento of their visit.

A revised second edition of *L: 50 Objects, Stories and Discoveries from the Linnean Society of London* was published at the start of the year, featuring a reflective foreword by Sir David Attenborough OM FRS. Sales remained steady throughout 2025. We expanded our range with new exhibition-linked postcards, individual greetings cards and a Christmas card celebrating the 'at-risk' hedgehog, which proved especially popular. Notebook sales rose significantly following promotion alongside the *Naturalists' Notebooks* exhibition and online. A limited-edition 'Naturae' candle also sold strongly, while new tea towels and a foldable tote bag were designed and prepared for launch in 2026, in response to visitor feedback.

Overall, merchandise generated £10,166—meeting our £10,000 target. This good performance not only demonstrates strong visitor engagement but also provides valuable profit to reinvest in future exhibitions, collections care and public programmes.

Images and Print-on-Demand

Building on our partnership with Magnolia Box (which began in 2023), Leonie Berwick and Andrea Deneau digitised, edited and added metadata for a fresh autumn upload. Promoted via our social media channels, this generated almost £500 in income.

Looking ahead, we also established a new collaboration with Bridgeman Images at the end of 2025. We uploaded 200 high-resolution images for licensing and signed up for the product-on-demand option, offering products from mugs to cushion covers and phone cases. These new opportunities will be actively promoted throughout 2026, helping more people discover and enjoy our collections while supporting the Society's work.

Supporting People and Strengthening Skills

Throughout the year, staff received training in the following areas: cybersecurity, crisis management, premises (health and safety, risk assessments, evacuation procedure), safeguarding, dementia awareness, digital fundraising and legacies, communications, marketing and social media, evaluation of impact, carbon reduction and first aid. Additionally, the Senior Management Team received training on understanding people and behaviours, establishing effective relationships, emotional intelligence, navigating difficult conversations and conflict resolution.

By supporting staff to develop new skills and deepen their expertise, we strengthen our organisational resilience, improve the quality of our services and ensure that our team is equipped to respond to the evolving needs of the communities we serve.

FEEDBACK

TALKS AND LECTURES

Founder's Day Lecture: ***Gilbert White, the Revolutionary Outdoor Naturalist (Jenny Uglow):***
'The feeling of being present as something important was taking place, and the social gathering in the library afterwards.'

Lunchtime Lecture: ***Botanical Triumph in a 16th-Century Italian Villa (Paola Bonfante):***
'I'm interested in botany, am a big fan of your free Zoom lectures and am particularly interested in Art History. This ticked ALL those boxes.'

EXHIBITIONS

Naturalists' Notebooks
'What a lovely exhibition. It's so nice to see notebooks from the 1800s side-by-side with ones done by contemporary/current Fellows…it definitely inspires me to note down observations in my sketchbook!'
'Wow! What a wonderful hidden treasure! I love scribbling in various notebooks and this was a revelation! Very inspiring, thank you.'

Wonder
'Beautiful and witty!'
'*Wonder* is an extraordinary exhibition in the most majestic of settings. A delight!'
'Really interesting and beautifully curated and displayed. All young people should see it!'

JOURNAL BLOGS

'I've read some of your posts from The Paper Trail blog, I love them! I feel honoured you've selected our manuscript for the next post.'

WORKSHOPS, TOURS AND WALKS

Knitting Workshop: 'I loved all of it. The staff were so welcoming, the room was fantastic, it was so well led and informative, I felt as though I entered another world. Thank you all so much.'
Bat Walk: 'It was really informative and instructors were very knowledgeable. It was really enjoyable to do something new and I would recommend it to anyone.'

THE LINNEAN

'The Linnean magazine is, in a word, excellent! It is not only worth reading, but also worth watching. The topics are well chosen and written.'

'Congratulations to everyone on this beautiful issue. I found it truly very interesting. I hope one day to write an article about my research […] for this beautiful magazine.'

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Linnean Society contributes to scientific, cultural, economic and social well-being nationally and internationally through a broad programme of activities. Our Arts Council England (ACE)-designated biological collections and historical resources—and our strong focus on biodiversity conservation, sustainability and science outreach—support the care and understanding of our planet. The Society's key contributions to public benefit are:

- Safeguarding and promoting the Society's heritage collections, through cataloguing, conservation and digitisation, improving access to primary information, making collections freely available to view online.
- Advancing and disseminating knowledge through four world-class research journals and providing support and recognition through grant schemes and awards to emerging scientists and naturalists.
- Engaging the public through exhibitions, regular tours of the collections, conferences and free public lectures, while our educational programme, which fuses science, history and art, reaches out to students of all ages and backgrounds, providing resources in schools, in New Burlington House and online.

The Society's activities contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through support for the natural world, and through unique resources that illuminate environmental and social change. The Society connects academia with a diverse public, informing UK Government policy and promoting the international profile of the UK as a pre-eminent international hub for expertise about the natural world.

CORE VALUES AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Society's vision, mission and values are:

Vision: A world where nature is understood, valued and protected

Mission: To cultivate a global community working for a world where nature is understood, valued and protected.

Values:

- We are a diverse community of people united by an active interest in nature, its management and conservation.
- We aim for excellence and integrity in all areas of our activity.
- We use our income and other finances to fulfil our charitable function and declared mission.
- We promote our science to all sectors of society.
- We value diversity and seek to broaden the inclusion of currently under-represented groups.
- We are an expert voice concerning relevant major issues and challenges of our time.

PEOPLE

Officers and Council listed on pp. 3–4

Linnean Society Staff Team

CEO	**Professor Gail Cardew (2021) ***
Head of Finance	**Priya Nithianandan (1991–May 2025) *;** **Michael Kyriakides (from June 2025) ***
Head of Collections	**Dr Isabelle Charmantier (2017) ***
Head of Operations	**Helen Shaw (2017) *;** **Josie Macdonald** **(from April 2025, maternity cover) ***
Head of Engagement	**Anna Perman (2022) ***
Head of Membership & Development	**Pru Shackley (2025) ***
Governance Manager	**Andrew Swan (2022)**
Librarian	**Will Beharrell (2019)**
Archivist	**Liz McGow (2016)**
Project Archivist	**Alex Milne (2021–February 2025)**
Project Archivist (Percy Sladen Memorial Fund)	**Becky Darnill (from August 2025)**
Assistant Archivist	**Christina McCulloch (2023–September 2025)**
Digital Assets Manager	**Andrea Deneau (2010)**
Conservator	**Janet Ashdown (2002)**
Communications & Events Manager	**Padmaparna Ghosh (2020);** **Katie Lau (from March 2025, maternity cover)**
Publications Manager	**Leonie Berwick (2007)**
Education Manager	**Ayesha Meredith-Lewis (2022)**
Engagement Officer	**Scarlet Forrester (2024)**
Journal Editorial Manager	**Dr Hassan Rankou (2022)**
Journal Officer	**Georgia Cowie (2023)**
Operations Assistant	**Tatiana Franco (2015)**
Office Cleaner P/T	**Fatima Mendonça (2015)**

* Senior Management Team

Curators, Editors and Committees 2025

Curators

Fish, Shells & General Zoology	Oliver Crimmen (2017)
Insects	Suzanne Ryder (2017)
Plants	Dr Mark A. Spencer (2013–April 2025); Jacek Wajer (from April 2025)
Artefacts	Glenn Benson (2014)
Honorary Archivist	Gina Douglas (2009)

Editors

Biological Journal	Dr Karen Sears (2023)
Botanical Journal	Dr Steven Dodsworth (2023)
Zoological Journal	Dr Jeffrey Streicher (2023)
Evolutionary Journal	Professor Julia J. Day (2023)
The Linnean	Leonie Berwick (2022)

Committee Chairpersons

Audit	Dr Isabel Larridon (until May 2025); George Bull (from May 2025)
Collections	Dr Mark Watson (until May 2025); Andrea Hart (from May 2025)
Engagement	Dr Howard Nelson (until May 2025); Dr Linda Davies (from May 2025)
Fellowship	Fiona McWilliams
Finance & Risk	The Treasurer
Medals & Awards	Professor Paul Barrett (until May 2025); Professor Phil Gilmartin (from September 2025)
Nominations	The President
Publishing	Professor Stuart West
Remuneration	The Treasurer
Safeguarding	Professor Michael Reiss (until May 2025); Dr Peter Gregory (from May 2025)

The President and Treasurer are *ex officio* members of all Committees, with the exception of the Audit Committee, where the Treasurer is an attendee. The CEO is an invited attendee of all Committees. Staff also attend various Committees, but not as members.

Committee Members

Audit Committee for the 2024 Accounts

Dr Isabel Larridon (Chair)

Dr Mark Watson

Dr Heather White

Fellowship representative, Tim Bush

Fellowship representative, Professor William Friedman

Fellowship representative, George Bull (co-opted)

A representative of Knox Cropper (Auditors)

Audit Committee for the 2025 Accounts

George Bull (Chair)

Subhadra Das

Dr Heather White

Fellowship representative, Karen Goldie-Morrisson

Fellowship representative, Dave Mitchell

A representative of Knox Cropper (Auditors)

Collections Committee

Dr Mark Watson (Chair, until May 2025);
Andrea Hart (2015; Chair, from May 2025)

The Honorary Curators

Professor Felix Driver (2023)

Dr Louisiane Ferlier (2023)

Debbie Lane (2020)

Chris Mills (2022)

Dr Chris Saunders (2021)

Engagement Committee

Dr Howard Nelson (Chair, until May 2025);
Dr Linda Davies (Chair, from May 2025)

Lucy Carson-Taylor (2023)

Dr Chiara Ceci (2024)

Sara Abdulla (2024)

James Fulcher (2023)

Fellowship Committee

Fiona McWilliams (Chair)

Professor Amy Dickman (2024)

Fellowship representative, Dr Alexandra Helen-Davey (2024)

Fellowship representative, Jon Dunn (2024)

Fellowship representative, Chadwick Hagan (2024)

Fellowship representative, Dr Ellen Kenchington (2024)

Finance and Risk Committee

The Treasurer (Chair)

Dr Charlotte Grezo (2020–October 2025)

Fiona McWilliams (2023)

Eoin Murray (2023)

Elree Winnett Seelig (2023)

Medals and Awards Committee

Professor Paul Barrett (Chair, until May 2025);
Professor Phil Gilmartin (Chair, from September 2025)

Dr José F. González-Maya (2025)

Professor Kayla King (2022–May 2025)

Dr Sandra Knapp (2022–May 2025)

Dr Juliano Morimoto (2024)

Dr Heather White (2024)

Nominations Committee

The President (Chair)

Professor Phil Gilmartin (2025)

Steph Holt (2022–May 2025)

Dr Sandra Knapp (from August 2025)

Dr Howard Nelson (2022); (May 2025, co-opted for 1 year)

Dr Mark Watson (from May 2024; May 2025, Chair)

Publishing Committee

Professor Stuart West (Chair)

Dr Isabel Larridon (2024)

Professor Alistair Hetherington (2023)

Kathryn Spiller (2024)

Nick Lindsay (2024)

The Editors-in-Chief

Representatives from the publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP)

Remuneration Committee

The Treasurer (Chair)

The President

George Bull (from May 2025)

Dr Mark Watson (from May 2024)

Safeguarding Committee

Professor Michael J. Reiss (Chair, until May 2025);
Dr Peter Gregory (Chair, from May 2025)

Designated Safeguarding Officer

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officers

CEO

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The full financial accounts were prepared to conform to the Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP–FRS 102) and are presented after the report of the External Auditors.

SUMMARY

The Society's income increased by £357,469 in 2025 to £2,632,979 from £2,275,510 in 2024. This was largely due to a significant one-off increase in income from Publications during the year, which is unlikely to be repeated in the future. Our expenditure was up on last year, increasing by £119,785 from £1,888,952 in 2024 to £2,008,737 in 2025.

Overall, our surplus of income over expenditure (before movements in investments) in 2025 was £624,242 (2024: £386,558). Without the benefit of donations and legacies our unrestricted funds surplus would have been £542,557. This metric, which excludes net gains / losses on investments, is the best way to assess the ongoing 'operational' financial performance of the Society but was somewhat inflated this year as a result of the one-off increase in revenue from Publications. At the start of the year, it was expected that we might be in a modest deficit on an 'operational' basis in 2025 so it is pleasing to have finished this year well ahead of this expectation.

The value of our investments increased during the year by £420,522 (2024: £303,077) taking the overall net surplus for 2025 to £1,044,764 (2024: £690,335).

Our unrestricted funds at the end of the year were £8,646,802 (2024: £7,743,634). We continue to try to balance the active use of our funds for charitable purposes with ensuring a sustainable financial position given the future challenges and uncertainties we face.

INCOME

Publications and Royalties

As usual, the overwhelming majority of our income came from our scientific research journals. Overall income from these publications was significantly higher than last year at £2,067,800 (2024: £1,718,019). After deducting the direct production, distribution and editorial costs payable by the Society, the net contribution of our journals was £1,891,382, an increase of £338,160 on 2024 (£1,553,222). Approximately £275,000 of this increase was due to one-off AI licensing income, which is unlikely to be repeated in future years. Without this one-off benefit, our Publishing income would have been up about 4% over 2024.

For our main journals, the Society continues a policy of hybrid publication, enabling those authors who wish to or are required to publish Open Access (OA) to do so, while maintaining a default policy of not economically disenfranchising those authors with no or low funding by not levying page charges. As the journals are our primary source of income, the Society, along with our publisher, keeps a close eye on the worldwide changing policies of OA. Our first online-only fully OA journal, the *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society,* is making a small contribution to our finances.

Membership Contributions

We are delighted to report that in 2025 we welcomed 164 new Fellows (2024: 147), 85 new Associates (2024: 60) and 134 new Student Associates (2024: 87) making a total of 383 new members (2024: 294). At the end of 2025, the total membership of the Society stands at 3,256, compared with 3,055 at the end of 2024. This includes all fee and non-fee-paying members. Retention rates remain good with less than 10% churn for the year. We are reviewing our membership platform to ensure it is optimised for our strategic needs and provides an effective and user-friendly service for the members of the Society.

Donations and Legacies

Grants, donations and legacies play an important role in sustaining our charitable activities and we are most grateful to all those funders and donors who have supported the Society during the year. We benefitted from donations and legacies of £46,408 during the year (2024: £74,860).

Investments

As a result of buoyant stock market conditions the value of our investments increased by £420,522 in 2025. After the sale of some investments, which had a corresponding increase in our cash balance, the net increase in the value of our investment portfolio was £380,954 from £5,896,090 at the end of 2024 to £6,277,044 at the end of 2025.

During the year, we used some of our cash funds to pay a further £300,000 of the outstanding deferred consideration for the purchase of the 999-year lease of our premises (see below). At the end of the year, our holding in money market funds (and other cash at our investment managers, Evelyn Partners) had increased to £2,449,800 from £2,227,834 at the end of 2024. These funds continue to provide us with high levels of liquidity with low levels of risk.

Total income from investments in 2025 was £196,158 (2024: £235,105).

Investment policy

Our aim is to enhance the value of both capital and income on a long-term sustainable basis. In order to meet this aim, the investment portfolio is of a prudent nature avoiding over concentration in individual investments and is invested across asset classes to mitigate exposure to any one investment category. Although the Society accepts that investment involves some element of risk, the overall portfolio has a balanced approach across asset classes and markets in order to avoid excessive risk. More speculative investments are avoided.

Following the purchase of the New Burlington House lease in 2024, we instructed Evelyn Partners to lower the risk level on our investment portfolio marginally. The investment strategy adopted by the Society currently targets returns over the medium term of at least 2.5% per annum above inflation as measured by the UK consumer price index.

During the year, we continued to implement the responsible investment policy that we adopted in 2020 to ensure our investment strategy seeks to minimise and ideally eliminate irresponsible corporate behaviour. The policy is intended to be entirely consistent with the duty to secure maximum returns from the prudent investment of charitable funds. The Society positively supports investments in well managed companies that are ethically, environmentally and socially responsible. The Society expects Evelyn Partners, as part of its normal investment research and analysis process, to take account of social, environmental, ethical and governance considerations in the selection,

retention and realisation of investments. This includes consideration of key issues such as climate change, biodiversity, labour standards, human rights, racial or sexual discrimination, public health, corporate governance, executive pay and business ethics. The Society encourages Evelyn Partners to raise issues with organisations in which it invests and to raise standards in a way which is consistent with improvements in long term shareholder value. During the year, Evelyn Partners made several adjustments to our portfolio to improve its overall environmental and social impact.

We will continue to review our investment policy and the use of any surplus cash, particularly in view of the outstanding balance for the acquisition of the New Burlington House lease and the potential requirement for a significant capital investment from the Society in improvements to the building.

Other Income
Events yielded a total income of £28,192 in 2025 (2024: £19,743). Income from room hire and catering improved during the year to £30,849 (2024: £26,684). Our in-house shop selling books and other merchandise associated with the Society was enhanced during the year and is making a helpful contribution to our finances. Together with other trading activities, this contributed £10,166 in 2025 (2024: £11,298).

EXPENDITURE

98% of the Society's expenditure was used to further our charitable objectives in 2025, with £32,755 (2024: £37,334) spent on raising funds and managing investments.

Charitable Activities
Our seven core charitable activities reported in the Accounts are: Education, Publications, Scientific Meetings, Collections, Collections (Curatorial), Collections (Conservation & Digitisation), and Research Sponsorship. Our total expenditure on these charitable activities in 2025 (excluding investment management costs) was £1,975,982 (2024: £1,851,618). The work of the Society in safeguarding and promoting our heritage collections, advancing scientific knowledge and understanding, and engaging the public and educational outreach, is set out in detail in the narrative above.

We provided funding for research projects (excluding support costs) across the globe of £47,117 (2024: £63,052) making grants to over 40 individuals.

Expenditure on staff salaries, National Insurance and pensions increased during the year to £1,046,060 (2024: £932,337), reflecting cost of living increases for all staff and the impact of some recent senior hires. The average number of employees in 2025 was 23 (2024: 22).

New Burlington House
In 2024, we purchased a 999-year lease of New Burlington House for a total price of £4,000,000. We paid £1,750,000 upfront from our cash reserves, with the balance of £2,250,000 left outstanding and payable to the Government over 10 years. The outstanding balance attracts interest at the rate of 5.8% per annum.

In October 2025, we paid a further £300,000 of the deferred consideration due on the lease, reducing the balance outstanding to the Government to £1,950,000. In view of the ongoing interest charge on this outstanding balance, we will continue to review whether early repayment of some or all of this balance would be in the Society's interest, taking into account the other financial commitments and risks facing the Society.

Following the purchase of the New Burlington House lease, we will no longer pay any rent to occupy our premises, although other costs (such as insurance, rates, maintenance and utilities) remain. We will also need to invest in the building to improve its accessibility, sustainability and efficiency, so there is likely to be material capital expenditure that will be required over the coming years.

FUNDS

The Society's Total Charity Funds amounted to £12,062,607 at the end of 2025 (2024: £11,017,843). These funds are split between (a) Permanent Endowments and Restricted Funds and (b) Unrestricted Funds. Endowments and Restricted Funds amount to £3,415,805 (which includes heritage assets of £1,500,000 that cannot be monetised). Unrestricted Funds amount to £8,646,802. Within Unrestricted Funds, the Society holds a designated reserve of £5,059,790 to reflect funds already deployed on fixed assets or required to be deployed in the future, including the new lease. This year we have also re-instated the designated fund relating to future costs associated with our premises at New Burlington House. We have allocated £500,000 to this fund to cover certain identified (although not yet fully quantified) costs relating to the building, as well as to have some funds available to make matched contributions to funding received from external parties towards future improvements as required.

Reserves Policy

Under the Charities SORP 2019 free reserves are calculated as the total of investments and net current assets classified as unrestricted funds, less any assigned to designated funds.

The Society's General Reserve is held to provide income to support our day-to-day charitable activities as well as to enable the Society to continue to operate effectively in the event that income is unexpectedly reduced. The level of contingency is set by the Council after detailed consideration by, and a recommendation from, the Finance & Risk Committee. In determining the level, future income and expenditure is assessed for reliability and commitment respectively. In addition, future capital expenditure, other commitments and contingency are considered.

Aside from general risks, the Society needs to maintain a General Reserve to safeguard against the risk of a decline in publication income due to changes in the business model of academic journal publishing. We also need to ensure that we have sufficient funds available to address required essential maintenance and modernisation of our premises and infrastructure. The General Reserve is available to provide further financial support in relation to both these matters.

The Trustees consider that a minimum of six months of operational expenditure should be held in the General Reserve with a minimum of approximately £1m. After the creation of a dedicated Building Reserve of £500,000, the General Reserve Fund now stands at £3,587,012 (2024: £3,136,657). The Trustees consider the current balance of the General Reserve to be reasonable in the context of the uncertainties facing the Society.

OUTLOOK

Whilst the Society remains in a relatively healthy financial position, there continue to be significant challenges ahead. We need to continue to find ways to grow our income streams, which remain heavily dependent on revenue from our journals, and which are under long-term threat from trends in publishing. Our financial strategy needs to focus on income diversification in order to be able to continue and expand our activity and impact.

Whilst we continue to manage costs efficiently, we are not immune to inflationary pressures. We are also investing in the future development of the Society with new staff hires, which we expect to increase our income over time, but which will have a cost impact in the short term. There are also likely to be maintenance and other costs for New Burlington House that could be significant. As set out above, our publishing income is expected to reduce in 2026 because the one-off factors that increased the income in 2025 will not re-occur. The combination of these factors means that we are budgeting to be around break-even on an 'operational' basis in 2026.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Trustees of the Society extend their gratitude to all the Officers and Staff for continuing to be so careful in control of expenditure in their areas of responsibility and to thank the volunteers for their much-appreciated contributions. Finally, our particular thanks to Michael Kyriakides for stepping in as Interim Head of Finance following the sad loss of Priya Nithianandan in the early part of the year.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees regularly review the Risk Register, which summarises the major strategic, business and operational risks that the Society faces and have implemented appropriate systems and procedures to mitigate these risks. In 2024 the Trustees approved a new Risk Management Policy to guide their activity. The Society also has a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and a Disaster Plan, which were developed to enable the Society to continue normal operations in the event of a serious disruptive incident. These plans are regularly reviewed and updated as needed.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the surplus or deficit of the Society for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the

assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Responsibilities of the Treasurer

Bye-Law 15.1 states: The Treasurer shall generally be responsible for supervising the financial affairs of the Society and advising the Council on economic and financial questions. The roles, responsibilities and powers of the Treasurer are to be determined by the Council and set out in the Standing Orders. The Treasurer shall be appointed to hold office for a term of three years from the conclusion of the Anniversary Meeting at which they are elected. This term may be renewable by the Fellowship twice, giving a maximum period of office of nine years.

Audit Arrangements

As per Bye-Laws 17.2 and 17.4, Council has delegated responsibility for the annual financial audit to an Audit Committee, as set out in the Standing Orders and Terms of Reference for this Committee. This Committee comprises three Council members and two Fellows (who are not members of Council) and may co-opt additional members to provide specialist advice on a particular matter or for succession planning purposes. The Committee reports to Council and then to Fellows at the Anniversary Meeting.

Knox Cropper was appointed as auditors at the Anniversary Meeting in May 2025, and have expressed willingness to be re-appointed. These accounts were approved by Council on 2 April 2026 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Edward Banks

_____ Treasurer

Mark Watson

_____ President

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have audited the financial statements of The Linnean Society for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND AUDITORS

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The Charity is required to comply with the charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charity complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees and members, as a body, in accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under Section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we may state to the Trustees and members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Trustees and members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Knox Cropper LLP, Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Date: 14 / 04 / 2026

Knox Cropper LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Income and Endowments From:						
Donations and Legacies	2	45,660	748	-	46,408	74,860
Charitable Activities						
Members' Contributions		185,086	-	-	185,086	180,886
Publications	3	2,067,800	-	-	2,067,800	1,718,019
Scientific Meetings		28,192	-	-	28,192	19,743
Library		4,844	20,000	-	24,844	5,907
Education		3,763	40,000	-	43,763	2,930
Other Trading Activities	4	40,728	-	-	40,728	38,060
Investments		155,147	41,011	-	196,158	235,105
Total Income and Endowments		2,531,220	101,759	-	2,632,979	2,275,510
Expenditure On:						
Raising Funds						
Investment Management Costs		24,532	8,223	-	32,755	37,334
Charitable Activities	6					
Education		221,052	36,501	-	257,553	273,640
Publications		479,863	-	-	479,863	437,797
Scientific Meetings		333,265	-	-	333,265	239,020
Collections		371,449	-	-	371,449	397,988
Collections: (Curatorial)		225,043	-	-	225,043	189,689
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)		218,720	14,511	-	233,231	220,917
Research Sponsorship		69,079	6,499	-	75,578	92,567
Total Expenditure		1,943,003	65,734	-	2,008,737	1,888,952
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Investment Gains/(Losses)		588,217	36,025	-	624,242	386,558
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments		314,951	53,792	51,779	420,522	303,777
Net Income/(Expenditure)		903,168	89,817	51,779	1,044,764	690,335
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		903,168	89,817	51,779	1,044,764	690,335
Fund balance brought forward at 31/12/2024		7,743,634	2,404,022	870,187	11,017,843	10,327,508
Fund balance carried forward at 31/12/2025		8,646,802	2,493,839	921,966	12,062,607	£11,017,843

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Heritage Assets	9		1,566,950		1,566,950
Tangible Fixed Assets	10		4,492,840		4,606,977
Investments	11		6,277,044		5,896,090
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	870,125		498,039	
Short Term Deposits		2,449,800		2,227,834	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		187,221		134,082	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		3,507,146		2,859,955	
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	13	(1,831,373)		(1,662,129)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			1,675,773		1,197,826
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due After One Year	14		(1,950,000)		(2,250,000)
NET ASSETS			12,062,607		11,017,843
CAPITAL FUNDS					
Endowments	15		921,966		870,187
INCOME FUNDS					
Restricted	15				
Other		993,839		904,022	
Heritage Fund		1,500,000		1,500,000	
			2,493,839		2,404,022
Unrestricted					
Designated	16	5,059,790		4,606,977	
General	17	3,587,012		3,136,657	
			8,646,802		7,743,634
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			12,062,607		£11,017,843

These accounts were approved by Council on 2nd April 2026 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Edward Banks

_____ Treasurer

Mark Watson

_____ President

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash generated from operations	19	40,647		110,918	
Interest paid		-		-	
Net Cash provided by (used in) operating activities			40,647		110,918
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		196,158		235,105	
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		(1,267)		(1,750,000)	
Proceeds from sale of investments	11	1,078,318		509,870	
Purchase of investments	11	(1,038,751)		(383,334)	
Net Cash provided by (used in) investing activities			234,458		(1,388,359)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
New Loans		-		-	
Net Cash provided by (used in) financing activities			-		-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			275,105		(1,277,441)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			2,361,916		3,639,357
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			2,637,021		2,361,916

Analysis of Net Funds/(Debt)	**1st January 2025**	**Movement**	**31st December 2025**
	£	£	£
Short Term Deposit	2,227,834	221,966	2,449,800
Cash in Bank and in Hand	134,082	53,139	187,221
	2,361,916	275,105	2,637,021
Deferred Consideration and associated interest	(2,271,750)	171,655	(2,100,095)
Net Funds/(Debt)	90,166	446,760	536,926

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 ST DECEMBER 2025

1.ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts are prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and in compliance with the Charities Act 2011. The Society is a Public Benefit Entity.

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write each asset down to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life as follows:

Property: 50 years
Lift and associated refurbishment work: 30 years
Furniture and Fixtures: 10 years
Environmental Control: 10 years
Office Equipment: 3 years

Investments are stated at mid-market value. Gains and losses on disposals and revaluations of fixed asset investments are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities and added to the funds to which they relate.

Investment income is accounted for gross in the year of receipt.

Donations and legacies are accounted for when the Society is unconditionally entitled to receipt. No account is taken of stock held for resale. Contributions income is stated net of amounts received in respect of future years.

The Society is partially exempt for VAT purposes. Expenditure is stated net of VAT with irrecoverable VAT shown as a separate expense item.

Support costs are allocated to charitable activities on the basis of estimates of staff time spent on those activities and, in relation to accommodation costs, the relative space used by those activities.

Heritage assets donated to the Society are valued by an independent expert at the time of their donation.

Expenditure is accounted for when there is a constructive or contractual liability arising. A provision is made when the amount payable cannot be determined with certainty.

2.DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
John Marsden Fund	-	748	748	688
Legacies	20,726	-	20,726	39,290
Other Funds for Grants and Awards	7,000	-	7,000	10,005
Other Donations	17,934	-	17,934	24,877
	45,660	748	46,408	74,860

3.PUBLICATIONS

	2025 £	2024 £
Joint Publication Account (Note 5)	2,064,211	1,715,363
Other Publication Sales	2,886	1,211
Royalties	703	1,445
	2,067,800	1,718,019

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Room Hire	24,052	25,257
Catering	6,797	1,427
Translation Gain/(Loss) – US Dollar	(287)	78
Other (merchandise and drinks)	10,166	11,298
	40,728	38,060

5.JOINT PUBLICATION ACCOUNT

	2025			2024		
	Total	Publisher Share	Society Share	Total	Publisher Share	Society Share
	£	£	£	£	£	£
SALES						
Journals	2,757,845	693,634	2,064,211	2,301,300	585,937	1,715,363
PUBLICATION COSTS						
Production and Distribution	(147,003)	(38,947)	(108,056)	(136,997)	(36,395)	(100,602)
SURPLUS	2,610,842	654,687	1,956,155	2,164,303	549,542	1,614,761
Other Costs Incurred by Society						
Editorial Costs			(64,773)			(61,539)
			1,891,382			1,553,222
SUMMARY						
Society's share of Income – Note 3			2,064,211			1,715,363
Society's share of Joint costs and other directly incurred costs			(172,829)			(162,141)
			1,891,382			1,553,222

6.CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activities Undertaken Directly	Grant Funding Activities	Support Costs (Note 8)	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Education					
Education Costs	6,398	-	-	6,398	7,577
John Lyon Fund	-	36,501	-	36,501	-
Support Costs	-	-	214,654	214,654	266,063
Total	6,398	36,501	214,654	257,553	273,640
Publications					
Joint Publication Account (Note 5)	172,829	-	-	172,829	162,142
The Linnean Newsletter and Pulse	8,057	-	-	8,057	12,401
Support Costs	-	-	298,977	298,977	263,254
	180,886	-	298,977	479,863	437,797
Scientific Meetings					
Expenditure	16,865	-	-	16,865	17,938
Support Costs	-	-	316,400	316,400	221,082
	16,865	-	316,400	333,265	239,020
Collections					
Expenditure	10,874	-	-	10,874	14,641
Conservation Archives Project	-	-	-	-	37,046
Support Costs	-	-	360,575	360,575	346,301
	10,874	-	360,575	371,449	397,988
Collections (Curatorial)					
The Linnaeus Link Project	1,222	-	-	1,222	8,490
Support Costs	-	-	223,821	223,821	181,199
	1,222	-	223,821	225,043	189,689
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)	35,001	-	-	35,001	65,502
Percy Sladen Memorial Fund	-	14,511	-	14,511	-
Support Costs	-	-	183,719	183,719	155,415
	35,001	14,511	183,719	233,231	220,917
Research Sponsorship	-	47,117	28,461	75,578	92,567
Total	251,246	98,129	1,626,607	1,975,982	1,851,618

6.**CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

The grants set out above include grants made by the Society to individuals. In total, grants were paid to over 40 individuals during the year (2024: 37).

7.**GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	2025	**2024**
	£	£
Expenses of Officers and Council	2,076	3,144
Audit Fee	7,455	7,100
Legal and Professional Fees	11,967	59,167
Staff and Other Related Costs	68,831	64,498
	90,329	133,909

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Education	Publications	Scientific Meetings	Library	Collections Curatorial	Collections Conservation & Digitisation	Research Sponsorship	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries and Wages	135,077	220,265	181,133	179,339	108,691	88,149	21,409	934,063	832,975
Premises Costs (depreciation)	33,242	27,706	35,322	37,930	36,112	39,224	-	209,536	151,120
Repairs and Maintenance	34,415	8,746	43,161	43,161	43,161	43,161	-	215,805	113,381
Office Costs	-	2,524	3,967	8,113	2,164	180	541	17,489	17,107
Other Costs (rent provision)	-	23,133	35,247	72,009	21,264	2,803	4,929	159,385	213,593
Governance Costs	11,920	16,603	17,570	20,023	12,429	10,202	1,582	90,329	134,652
	214,654	298,977	316,400	360,575	223,821	183,719	28,461	1,626,607	1,462,829
2024	266,063	263,254	221,082	346,301	181,199	155,415	29,515	-	1,462,829

SALARY COSTS	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£
Gross Salary	823,949	779,267
Employers National Insurance	83,287	80,788
Employers Pension Contributions	81,289	72,312
Consultancy fees	57,535	-
	1,046,060	932,337
Charged direct to projects	48,638	36,958
Charged to Support costs	934,063	832,975
Charged to Governance	63,359	62,404
	1,046,060	£932,337

The average number of employees was 23 (2024: 22).

One employee earned more than £60,000. The total emoluments of the senior management team amounted to £456,731 (2024: £319,659).

Council and Committee members provide their services gratis and receive only out of pocket expenses.

Travel and subsistence expenses claimed for by Officers and Council and Committee members in 2025 were £2,076 (2024: £3,144)

9. **HERITAGE ASSETS**

Heritage assets acquired since 2010		**2025**
		£
COST		
At 1st January 2021 made up of		
Darwin's Books	1,500,000	
Nepal Maps	21,000	
Smith Diaries	5,000	
Opie Paintings	25,000	
The Transylvania Florilegium Vol 1	5,475	
The Transylvania Florilegium Vol 2	5,475	
Tyley Drawing	5,000	
		1,566,950
DEPRECIATION (At 31st December 2025)		
At 1st January 2025		-
Charge for the Year		-
		-
NET BOOK VALUE (At 31st December 2025)		
At 31st December 2024		£1,566,950
At 31st December 2025		£1,566,950

In 2015, the Society received from the Charles Darwin Trust a gift of Darwinian and Wallacean material which contained many key works, manuscripts and letters which has been valued at £1,500,000. In accordance with FRS 102, donated heritage assets have been included at valuation.

The Society also holds a large number of scientific and historic assets which cannot easily be valued and which will not be sold because their maintenance is part of the primary objective of the Society. As a result, these heritage assets are not included in the Balance Sheet. These assets comprise:

a. biological specimens	b. books and periodicals	c. manuscripts, including notebooks, letters and artworks	d. portraits and busts

These heritage assets of the Society are of primary value, internationally, to the biological sciences, and in terms of cultural value, to the history of science. The main collections of dried plant material, preserved animal specimens, books and manuscripts and correspondence of Carl Linnaeus and Sir James Edward Smith provide the foundation for classification, taxonomy and nomenclature.

All this material is irreplaceable and so it is stored under optimum environmental conditions. The collections themselves are accessible physically by any *bona fide* research worker, accompanied by a curator or appropriate member of staff. The Society, with generous grant funding, has financed the digitisation of this material, and these images are accessible to all, at no charge, through the Society's website.

The Society's Collections Development Policy recommends that any additional material must be in fields relevant to existing material.

The Society's insurance policies cover damage to the fabric of the building and the seek-and-find or repair of the Library's book stock, manuscripts, paintings and busts, but not the plant and animal collections as they are unique and irreplaceable. As such, they are invaluable to research and science but are valueless for insurance purposes.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Leasehold Property	Lift Building Works	Office Equipment	Other	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST						
At 1st January 2025	518,854	4,000,000	225,752	210,464	317,297	5,272,367
Additions in Year	-	-	-	1,267	-	1,267
At 31st December 2025	518,854	4,000,000	225,752	211,731	317,297	5,273,634
DEPRECIATION						
At 1st January 2025	91,136	13,333	90,300	204,323	266,298	665,390
Charge for the Year	7,378	80,000	7,525	6,562	13,939	115,404
At 31st December 2025	98,514	93,333	97,825	210,885	280,237	780,794
NET BOOK VALUE						
At 31st December 2025	420,340	3,906,667	127,927	846	37,060	4,492,840
At 31st December 2024	427,718	3,986,667	135,492	6,141	50,999	4,606,977

The freehold property held by the Society comprises Toynbee House in Wimbledon London, which is currently used primarily to house some of the Society's collections. The leasehold property comprises the property at New Burlington House.

11. INVESTMENTS

Investments are held on a long-term basis to generate investment income for the Society.

	2025		2024	
	Book Cost	Market Value	Book Cost	Market Value
	£	£	£	£
UK Fixed Interest	743,244	762,375	511,491	538,023
UK Equities	2,119,105	3,521,940	2,689,513	3,226,320
Overseas Equities	1,590,917	1,992,729	989,696	2,131,747
	4,453,266	6,277,044	4,190,700	5,896,090
Investment Portfolio				
Market Value brought forward		5,896,090		5,718,847
Add: Acquisitions		1,038,751		383,334
Less: Disposals		(1,078,318)		(509,870)
Realised Gains (Losses) on Disposals		302,184		124,639
Gain (Loss) on Revaluation		118,337		179,140
Market Value carried forward		6,277,044		5,896,090

Realised Gains represent the difference between the sales proceeds and original cost of investments sold during the year. Revaluation gains and losses arise from the revaluation of investments to market value at the year-end.

12.**DEBTORS**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Due from Publisher	823,833	378,943
Prepayments	13,622	-
Other Debtors	32,670	119,096
	870,125	498,039

13.**CREDITORS:** Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Contributions received in advance	68,098	75,766
Publishing income received in advance	1,238,560	1,132,321
VAT	213,303	215,143
Deferred Expenditure	28,083	34,390
Service Charge	-	14,439
Other Creditors	133.234	168,320
Deferred Consideration – New Burlington House	150,095	21,750
	1,831,373	1,662,129

14.**CREDITORS:** Amounts falling due after one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred Consideration – New Burlington House Lease	1,950,000	2,250,000
	1,950,000	2,250,000

The £1,950,000 is the outstanding proportion of the £4,000,000 consideration payable in relation to the acquisition of the New Burlington House lease from HM Government, which is payable in equal instalments over a 10-year period from October 2024 at 5.8% per annum.

15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS 2025

	Permanent Endowments				Restricted Funds				
	Balance at 1.1.25	Endowments Received	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance 31.12.25	Balance at 1.1.25	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended & Transfers	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance at 31.12.25
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Westwood Fund	8,482	-	505	8,987	212	201	(2)	13	424
Trail-Crisp Fund	7,666	-	456	8,122	3,023	247	(27)	180	3,423
Hooker Fund	19,727	-	1,174	20,901	18,081	874	(164)	1,076	19,867
Goodenough Fund	-	-	-	-	35,796	827	(608)	2,130	38,145
Minchin Fund	-	-	-	-	1,715	40	(16)	102	1,841
Jane Jackson Fund	88,651	-	5,275	93,926	-	2,049	-	-	2,049
The HH Bloomer Fund	21,091	-	1,255	22,346	7,039	650	(64)	419	8,044
P. Appleyard Fund	88,906	-	5,290	94,196	17,597	2,462	(2,160)	1,047	18,946
Dennis Stanfield Memorial Fund	51,397	-	3,058	54,455	2,125	1,237	(19)	126	3,469
Omer Cooper Fund	-	-	-	-	79,775	1,844	(726)	4,747	85,640
Bonhote Fund	35,715	-	2,125	37,840	1,154	852	(10)	69	2,065
Jill Smythies Prize Fund	59,512	-	3,541	63,053	825	1,395	(8)	49	2,261
Irene Manton Prize Fund	74,006	-	4,404	78,410	11,052	1,966	(1,101)	658	12,575
A.G. Side Fund	-	-	-	-	75,610	1,748	(688)	4,499	81,169
Jan Gillett Fund	-	-	-	-	10,957	253	(100)	652	11,762
Denis Owen Fund	-	-	-	-	2,348	54	(21)	140	2,521
Ivy Eleanor Sleep Fund	218,916	-	13,026	231,942	160,744	8,776	(3,362)	9,565	175,723
Trewavas/Greenwood Fund	-	-	-	-	42,816	990	(389)	2,548	45,965
Eleanor McMillan Fund	-	-	-	-	188,080	4,347	(1,711)	11,191	201,907
Zimmerman Fund	196,118	-	11,670	207,788	48,846	5,662	(1,761)	2,906	55,653
John Marsden Fund	-	-	-	-	33,532	1,523	(305)	1,995	36,745
The John Topp Fund	-	-	-	-	162,695	3,762	(1,480)	9,680	174,657
Percy Sladen Memorial Fund	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	(14,511)	-	5,489
John Lyon Fund	-	-	-	-	-	40,000	(36,501)	-	3,499
	870,187	-	51,779	921,966	904,022	101,759	(65,734)	53,792	993,839
HERITAGE ASSET									
Charles Darwin Trust	-	-	-	-	1,500,000	-	-	-	1,500,000
TOTAL	870,187	-	51,779	921,966	2,404,022	101,759	(65,734)	53,792	2,493,839

15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS 2024

	Endowments				Restricted				
	Balance at 1.1.24	Endowments Received	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance at 31.12.24	Balance at 1.1.24	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended & Transfers	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance at 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Westwood Fund	8,038	-	444	8,482	212	177	(177)	-	212
Trail-Crisp Fund	7,254	-	412	7,666	2,795	203	(85)	110	3,023
Hooker Fund	18,667	-	1,060	19,727	16,907	911	(289)	552	18,081
Goodenough Fund	-	-	-	-	34,778	665	(1,377)	1,730	35,796
Minchin Fund	-	-	-	-	1,623	34	(34)	92	1,715
Jane Jackson Fund	83,886	-	4,765	88,651	-	1,772	(1,772)	-	-
The HH Bloomer Fund	19,978	-	1,113	21,091	6,590	551	(433)	331	7,039
P. Appleyard Fund	84,224	-	4,682	88,906	17,733	2,262	(2,858)	460	17,597
Dennis Stanfield Memorial Fund	48,660	-	2,737	51,397	5,171	1,094	(4,261)	121	2,125
Omer Cooper Fund	-	-	-	-	76,164	1,973	(1,973)	3,611	79,775
Bonhote Fund	33,876	-	1,839	35,715	1,137	817	(817)	17	1,154
Jill Smythies Prize Fund	56,313	-	3,199	59,512	1,136	1,202	(1,513)	-	825
Irene Manton Prize Fund	70,028	-	3,978	74,006	10,644	1,678	(1,711)	441	11,052
A.G. Side Fund	-	-	-	-	72,000	1,671	(1,671)	3,610	75,610
Jan Gillett Fund	-	-	-	-	10,273	330	(87)	441	10,957
Denis Owen Fund	-	-	-	-	2,240	120	(12)	-	2,348
Ivy Eleanor Sleep Fund	207,149	-	11,767	218,916	151,548	8,705	(6,131)	6,622	160,744
Trewavas/Greenwood Fund	-	-	-	-	40,216	1,065	(336)	1,871	42,816
Eleanor McMillan Fund	-	-	-	-	208,584	7,257	(39,174)	11,413	188,080
Zimmerman Fund	184,861	-	11,257	196,118	44,416	6,459	(2,029)	-	48,846
John Marsden Fund	-	-	-	-	31,903	1,317	(1,334)	1,646	33,532
The John Topp Fund	-	-	-	-	153,542	3,938	(1,182)	6,397	162,695
	822,934	-	47,253	870,187	889,612	44,201	(69,256)	39,465	904,022
HERITAGE ASSET									
Charles Darwin Trust	-	-	-	-	1,500,000	-	-	-	1,500,000
TOTAL	£822,934	-	47,253	870,187	2,389,612	44,201	(£69,256)	39,465	2,404,022

15. **ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Permanent Endowments represent capital funds where only the income arising may be spent. Unspent income balances are disclosed as separate restricted funds, available to be spent in the future, although, from time to time, unspent balances may be added to capital.

Restricted funds may only be spent for the purpose prescribed by the donor.

16. **DESIGNATED FUNDS**	**2025**	**2024**
	£	£
Fixed Asset Fund	4,559,790	4,606,977
Building Fund	500,000	-
	5,059,790	£4,606,977

The Fixed Asset Fund represents the extent to which the Society's general reserve has been utilised to acquire fixed assets. This ensures that the balance on the general reserve gives a better indication of the funds available to the Society. This fund increased significantly during 2024 as a result of the purchase of the 999-year lease of our premises at New Burlington House for £4,000,000. This fund includes the full balance sheet value of the New Burlington House lease notwithstanding that deferred consideration of £1,950,000 remains outstanding in relation to it - this ensures that our future payment obligations to the Government in respect of the lease are fully covered by this fund. This year we have also included the £66,950 of heritage assets (as set out in Note 9 above) that are not restricted funds, and which are used to further the Society's charitable purposes and as such we have no intention to monetise.

The Society has re-instated the designated fund relating to future costs associated with our premises at New Burlington House (the "Building Fund"). £500,000 has been allocated to the Building Fund to cover certain identified (although not yet fully quantified) costs relating to fire safety and roof repairs that will need to be incurred over coming years, as well other potential expenses. A portion of the fund may also be used to make matched contributions to funding received from external parties towards future improvements at New Burlington House. This level will be kept under review on an annual basis and could increase as new potential expenditures are identified and our plans for the future use of the building are developed.

The need to create other Designated Funds to reflect potential future costs and liabilities of the Society will also be kept under review on an annual basis.

17. **GENERAL RESERVE**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Balance 1st January	3,136,657	4,704,438
Net Movement in funds for the year	903,168	628,672
Transfer from Designated Funds	114,137	1,750,000
Transfer (to) Designated Funds	(566,950)	(3,946,453)
Balance at 31st December	3,587,012	£3,136,657

We rely on the income from our General Reserves to support certain of our charitable activities. As such it is important to maintain a significant balance on General Reserve. In addition, the Society needs to maintain a General Reserve to provide contingency funding for day-to-day expenses of the Society in the event of unforeseen negative developments and in order to have contingency plans in place to maintain or replace publication income if Open Access regulations threaten the current business model for academic journals. The Society may also need to make significant capital expenditures to maintain and improve our premises at New Burlington House that are not covered by the Building Fund in Designated Reserves.

18. **ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2025**

	Investments	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment and Restricted Funds	1,915,805	1,500,000	39,000	(39,000)	3,415,805
Unrestricted Funds	4,361,239	4,559,790	3,468,146	(3,742,373)	8,646,802
	6,277,044	6,059,790	3,507,146	(3,781,373)	12,062,607

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2024

	Investments	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment and Restricted Funds	1,480,197	1,500,000	294,012	-	3,274,209
Unrestricted Funds	4,415,893	4,673,927	2,565,943	(3,912,129)	7,743,634
	£5,896,090	6,173,927	2,859,955	(3,912,129)	11,017,843

19. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income for the reporting period	1,044,764	690,335
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	115,404	53,547
(Gains)/Losses on investments	(420,522)	(303,777)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(196,158)	(235,105)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(372,086)	171,426
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(130,755)	(265,508)
	40,647	110,918

20. RELATED PARTY DECLARATIONS

There were no transactions with related parties during the year.

21. TAXATION

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Income and Endowments From:						
Donations and Legacies	2	74,172	688	-	94,860	384,706
Charitable Activities						
Members' Contributions		180,886	-	-	180,886	168,170
Publications	3	1,718,019	-	-	1,718,019	1,691,017
Scientific Meetings		19,743	-	-	19,743	15,343
Library		5,907	-	-	5,907	15,633
Education		2,930	-	-	2,930	2,331
Other Trading Activities	4	38,060	-	-	38,060	16,968
Investments		191,592	43,513	-	235,105	148,333
Total Income and Endowments		2,231,309	44,201	-	2,275,510	2,442,501
Expenditure On:						
Raising Funds						
Investment Management Costs		26,676	10,658	-	37,334	25,480
Charitable Activities	6					
Education		273,640	-	-	273,640	257,867
Publications		437,797	-	-	437,797	499,540
Scientific Meetings		239,020	-	-	239,020	275,154
Collections		360,942	37,046	-	397,988	480,804
Collections: (Curatorial)		189,689	-	-	189,689	201,600
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)		220,917	-	-	220,917	183,739
Research Sponsorship		71,015	21,552	-	92,567	84,433
Total Expenditure		1,819,696	69,256	-	1,888,952	2,008,617
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Investment Gains/(Losses)		411,613	(25,055)	-	386,558	433,884
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments		217,059	39,465	47,253	303,777	369,345
Net Income/(Expenditure)		628,672	14,410	47,253	690,335	803,229
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		628,672	14,410	47,253	690,335	803,229
Fund balance brought forward at 31/12/2023		7,114,962	2,389,612	822,934	10,327,508	9,524,279
Fund balance carried forward at 31/12/2024		7,743,634	2,404,022	870,187	11,017,843	10,327,508

Appendix: Full Listing of the Linnean Society's Meetings, Events and Workshops 2025

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2025		
14 January 2025 **Linnean Lens**	Leonhard Fuchs's History of Plants (1542)	Sachiko Kusukawa
15 January 2025 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Bagh Chaal | Traversing the Heart of India	Amrita Neelakantan
27 January 2025 **Workshop (*Still Life* exhibition)**	A Time for Stitches | Embroidering Linnaeus' Floral Clock	Padma Ghosh and Alex Milne
30 January 2025 **Evening Lecture**	The Story of Nature | A Human History	Jeremy Mynott
05 February 2025 **Lunchtime Lecture**	What's On My Food?	Gabriel Astorga
07 February 2025 **Special Event**	Curator-Led Exhibition Tour | *Still Life*	Isabelle Charmantier
11 February 2025 **Symposium**	(Re)discovering Natural History	Cecilia Bembibre, Oliver Cox, Joy Gregory, Miranda Lowe CBE, Advolly Richmond, Brad Scott, Marenka Thompson-Odlum, Will Tullett, Laura Van Broekhoven
12 February 2025 **Evening Lecture**	Connecting the Dots to Protect the Ocean	Anna Metaxas
13 February 2025 **Workshop (*Still Life* exhibition)**	Into The Light | Cyanotype Workshop from the Linnean Society's Collections	Martha Gray
20 February 2025 **Nature Reader**	The Unnatural Trade | Naturalists and the Slave Trade	Brycchan Carey
4 March 2025 **Linnean Lens**	How to Conserve 18th- and 19th-Century Paper with Live Demo	John Abbott
5 March 2025 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Interstices | The Hidden Histories of Women in Botany	Gem Toes-Chrichton
7 March 2025 **Evening Lecture** **(*Still Life* exhibition launch)**	A Brief History of Naturalists' Notebooks	Roland Allen
11 March 2025 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Botanical Triumph in a 16th-Century Italian Villa	Paola Bonfante

12 March 2025 **Workshop (*Still Life* exhibition)**	Lino Printing at the Linnean Society	Scarlet Forrester
14 March 2025 **Late Opening (*Naturalists' Notebooks* exhibition)**	Members Only Exhibition Late	The Linnean Society Team
18 March 2025 **Evening Lecture**	Intertidal Zones	Yuvan Aves
27 March 2025 **Evening Lecture**	Nature and Cultural Heritage | How to Conserve These Sources of Inspiration	Heather Viles
04 April 2025 **Special Event**	Curator-Led Exhibition Tour | *Naturalists' Notebooks*	Isabelle Charmantier
07 April 2025 **Evening Lecture**	How Genetics Explain Tigers and Secure Their Future	Uma Ramakrishnan
09 April 2025 **Nature Walk**	Getting 'Batty' at Battersea | An Evening Bat Adventure	Georgia Cowie and the Linnean Society Team
10 April 2025 **Evening Lecture**	Conservation and Rewilding in a Changing Climate	James Bullock
22 April 2025 **Nature Walk**	The Great Linnean Bat Hunt | Family Bat Walk	Georgia Cowie and Ayesha Meredith-Lewis
23 April 2025 **Nature Walk**	Getting 'Batty' at Battersea | An Evening Bat Adventure	Georgia Cowie and the Linnean Society Team
25 April 2025 **Workshop (*Naturalists' Notebooks* exhibition)**	Make Your Own Notebook	Janet Ashdown
06 May 2025 **Linnean Lens**	Linnaeus' Lapland Journey Diary (1732)	Staffan Müller-Wille
14 May 2025 **Workshop**	Botanical Drawing (Part of London Craft Week)	Tess Newall
15 May 2025 **Evening Lecture**	Plant Specimens Aren't Flat | The Many Dimensions of Herbaria	Maura C. Flannery
20 May 2025 **Special Event**	Pint of Science | Dodos, Giggles, and Unexpected Hits: Science with a Twist!	Helen Arney and Neil Gostling
22 May 2025 **Governance Event**	Linnean Society 2025 Anniversary Meeting	The Linnean Society Team

28 May 2025 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Chimpanzee Engineering Prowess | Making the Best Tools for the Job	Alejandra Pascual-Garrido
05 June 2025 **Evening Lecture**	Shifting Focus | An Artist's Approach to Microscopy	Rob Kesseler
12 June 2025 **Special Event**	Misinformation and the Threat to Conservation	The Linnean Society with The Systematics Association
17 June 2025 **Evening Lecture**	A Meticulous Observer | The Fascinating Notebooks of Leonard Jenyns	Richard Preece
18 June 2025 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Mountains, Lizards, and the Battle with Temperature	Jhan Salazar
27 June 2025 **Workshop (*Naturalists' Notebooks* exhibition)**	Make Your Own Notebook	Janet Ashdown
02 July 2025 **Lunchtime Lecture**	How to Make a Woodland	Robin Hayward
03 July 2025 **Evening Lecture**	The World According to Citrus	David J. Mabberley
08 July 2025 **Linnean Lens**	Science and Satire | The Remarkable Cartoons of Richard Owen	Leah Demetriou
09 July 2025 **Nature Walk**	Discovering Insects | A Guided Walk Through Wandsworth Common	Connor Butler
17 July 2025 **Evening Lecture**	Climate Injustice | Fighting Global Inequality to Combat Climate Change	Freddi Otto
25 July 2025 **Special Event**	Curator-Led Exhibition Tour | *Naturalists' Notebooks*	Isabelle Charmantier
31 July 2025 **Evening Lecture**	The Spirit of the Rainforest	Rosa Vásquez Espinoza
13 August 2025 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Noodle Bodies, Gyroscope Ears, and Phantom Girdles | Limb Reduced Lizards	Marco Camaiti
28 August 2025 **Nature Walk and Workshop**	Making Nature Zines and Journals	Zabby Allen

03 September 2025 **Nature Walk**	Getting 'Batty' at Battersea | An Evening Bat Adventure	Georgia Cowie and the Linnean Society Team
04 September 2025 **Members' Event**	President's Lecture | Survival of the Fittest: An Evolving Learned Society	Mark Watson
09 September 2025 **Linnean Lens**	The Spoils of Botany | Carl Linnaeus' Early Swedish Flora	Isabelle Charmantier
12 September 2025 **Special Event**	Curator-Led Exhibition Tour | *Naturalists' Notebooks*	Isabelle Charmantier
15 September 2025 **Nature Walk**	Getting 'Batty' at Battersea | An Evening Bat Adventure	Georgia Cowie and the Linnean Society Team
17 September 2025 **Nature Walk**	Getting 'Batty' at Battersea | An Evening Bat Adventure	Georgia Cowie and the Linnean Society Team
20 September 2025 **Special Event**	Open House at the Linnean Society	The Linnean Society Team
22 September 2025 **Workshop**	Lino Printing at the Linnean Society	Scarlet Forrester
24 September 2025 **Nature Walk**	Getting 'Batty' at Battersea | An Evening Bat Adventure	Alice Cheetham and the Linnean Society Team
25 September 2025 **Special Event**	Queer Ecology Evening at the Linnean Society	Dani Crowley
30 September 2025 **Members' Event**	Preview | *Wonder* Exhibition	The Linnean Society Team
30 September 2025 **Evening Lecture**	Cabinets of Wonder | Archives of Disillusionment (*Wonder* Exhibition Launch Event)	Jane Wildgoose
07 October 2025 **Evening Lecture**	The Dramatic Evolution of Birds on Madagascar	Sushma Reddy
09 October 2025 **Evening Lecture**	Being Tree-ish | Notes on The Genius of Trees	Harriet Rix
14 October 2025 **Workshop (*Wonder* exhibition)**	Into The Light | Cyanotype Workshop from the Linnean Society's Collections	Martha Gray
23 October 2025 **Special Event**	Big Brains | Studying Elephant Intelligence	The Linnean Society with the British Ornithologists' Club

04 November 2025 **Linnean Lens**	Treasures of the Linnaean Shells Collection	John Ablett
05 November 2025 **Day Meeting**	Green Careers Conference 2025	The Linnean Society with the British Ecological Society
06 November 2025 **Evening Lecture**	An Insider's Guide to the Secrets of Making a Wildlife Blockbuster	Michael Gunton
11 November 2025 **Workshop (*Wonder* exhibition)**	Knit like a Victorian	Sarah Walpole
13 November 2025 **Evening Lecture**	Nature's Memory | Behind the Scenes at the World's Natural History Museums	Jack Ashby
18 November 2025 **Evening Lecture**	The Lost Orchid | Hunting An Icon in the Linnean Society Archives	Sarah Bilston
19 November 2025 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Bat Foraging | Where and How They Do It	Iroro Tanshi
20 November 2025 **Day Meeting**	Organismal Resilience in a Rapidly Changing World (*Biological Journal*)	Shane Campbell-Staton, Luis Chevin, Chloe Haberkorn, Patricia Schulte, Rose Thorogood, Maren Vitousek, Chris Wheat, Glenn Yannic
18 November 2025 **Special Event**	Busy 'bout the Tree of Life: Genome Sequencing of Biodiversity	Mark Blaxter
02 December 2025 **Evening Lecture**	Founder's Day Lecture | Gilbert White, the Revolutionary Outdoor Naturalist	Jenny Uglow
03 December 2025 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Hogs on Film | Urban Hedgehog Citizen Science!	Lea Grayston-Smith
11 December 2025 **Evening Lecture**	Christmas Lecture | An Odyssey of Music and Nature	Pete Wyer
06 February, 06 March, 03 April, 22 May (Members only), 05 June, 03 July, 07 August, 03 September (Members only), 02 October, 06 November, 03 December	Treasures Tours: Tours of our library and collections were held on these dates throughout the year.	

THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

England & Wales - Charity number 220509

Accounts

The Linnean Society of London

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the Year Ended

31 December 2024

Charity No. 220509

Company No. RC000313

(Royal Charter Company)

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1. LEGAL STATUS

The Linnean Society was founded in 1788, received a Royal Charter in 1802 and Supplemental Charters in 1904, 2005 and 2024. The Society is a registered charity, No. 220509.

2. ADDRESS

The Linnean Society of London
New Burlington House
Piccadilly
London W1J 0BF

3. PRINCIPAL ADVISERS

Bankers:	Barclays Bank Plc PO Box 13555 Acorn House 36–38 Park Royal Road London NW10 7WJ
Auditor:	Knox Cropper LLP 65 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD
Investment Manager:	Evelyn Partners 45 Gresham Street City of London London EC2V 7BG

4. PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS	YEAR OF APPOINTMENT
Professor Anjali Goswami	President (2022)
Dr Mark Watson	President-Elect (2024)*
Edward Banks	Treasurer (2020)
Professor Stuart West	Editorial Secretary (2023)*
Dr Mark Watson	Collections Secretary (2022)*
Professor Jonathan Drori CBE	Scientific Secretary (2022); resigned July 2024*
Professor Gail Cardew	CEO (2021)*
Robbie Blackhall-Miles	Vice President (Retired May 2024)*
Subhadra Das	Vice President (Retiring May 2027)*
Dr Isabel Larridon	Vice President (Retiring May 2025)*
Dr Howard Nelson	Vice President (Retiring May 2025)*

*NB. The 2024 Charter and Bye-Laws stipulate only the President and Treasurer as named Officers.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

TRUSTEES

Council, composed of the Trustees of the Linnean Society, provides strategic direction for the Society. At the close of 2024, there were 14 Fellows on Council (13 Elected and 1 Co-opted). Most Fellows step down after a three-year term unless they are re-elected by the Fellowship at the Anniversary Meeting in May.

Following their election to Council, all Trustees are provided with copies of key documents setting out the governance of the Society. These include essential Charity Commission documents (CC3: The Essential Trustee) and the Linnean Society's Charters and Bye-Laws. Council members receive a full induction to the Society, including a briefing on their duties as Trustees and meetings with staff, and they are required to sign up to the Trustee Code of Conduct.

On 21 November 2024 a new three-tier governance structure came into legal effect, comprising a new Supplemental Charter, revised set of Bye-Laws and new Standing Orders. Throughout 2024, Trustees continued to focus on reviewing and updating policies, monitoring major and strategic risks, and conducting oversight of the Society's strategy.

The elected members of Council are the Trustees of the Charity and, **in addition to the Officers listed above**, those who served during the year are listed below:

	DUE TO RETIRE
Professor Paul Barrett	24 May 2025
Dr Rich Boden	Retired 24 May 2024
Professor Brycchan Carey	Retired 24 May 2024
Professor Amy Dickman	24 May 2027
Andrea Hart	24 May 2025
Dr Blanca Huertas	Resigned May 2024
Fiona McWilliams	24 May 2026
Dr Juliano Morimoto	(Co-opted Oct 2024 until May 2025)
Professor Michael J. Reiss	24 May 2025
Philip Sadler	Retired 24 May 2024
Dr Heather White	24 May 2027
Professor Baroness Kathy Willis CBE	24 May 2026 (Resigned Sept 2024)

ABBREVIATIONS

ACE	Arts Council England
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AHRC	Arts and Humanities Research Council
BES	British Ecological Society
BL	Bye-Law
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CNRS	Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique
EBHL	European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries group
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
FLS	Fellow of the Linnean Society
FMLS	Foreign Member of the Linnean Society
FRS	Fellow of the Royal Society
FRS 102	Financial Reporting Standard 102
HonFLS	Fellow *honoris causa*
HonMLS	Honorary Member of the Linnean Society
IBC	International Botanical Congress
IF	Impact Factor
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ISAs	International Standards on Auditing
LSL	Linnean Society of London
LWT	London Wildlife Trust
MP	Member of Parliament
MSCI	Morgan Stanley Capital International,
NatScA	Natural Sciences Collections Association
NBH	New Burlington House
OA	Open Access
OUP	Oxford University Press
PLS	President of the Linnean Society
RES	Royal Entomological Society
RHS	Royal Horticultural Society
SNHN	Society for the History of Natural History
SI	Special Issue
SOFA	Statement of Financial Activities
SORP	Statements of Recommended Practice
u3a	University of the Third Age
UCL	University College London
VI	Virtual Issue
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
ZSL	Zoological Society of London

ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REVIEW 2024

The Linnean Society has celebrated many exceptional events over its 236-year history, but there is no doubt that 2024 will be remembered as pivotal.

We kicked off the year with our new strategy, set to guide our activities over the next five years and ensure that our work is ambitious, impactful and inclusive. Our updated mission—to cultivate a global community working for a world where nature is understood, valued and protected—highlights the vital role of our global membership as advocates for nature. By focusing our activities on four key pillars—Membership, Research, Society and Operations—we will be able to better leverage our unique heritage to work effectively on behalf of the natural world. This was just the first of several major events celebrated by the Society this year.

An accomplishment I will always treasure is that, after many years of hard work, collaboration and negotiation, in October we secured our future in Burlington House with a magnificent 999-year lease. This immense achievement frees us from decades of uncertainty and allows us to focus entirely on accomplishing our charitable purpose and mission. It cannot be overstated that this was an incredible team effort, bringing together staff, Trustees, Fellows, neighbours and supporters, all under the excellent leadership of our CEO, Gail Cardew. The relief and joy of finalising this deal with the Government is all the greater for the hurdles encountered along the way, and we profusely thank everyone for their support on this long journey.

And finally, in the last month of the year we took receipt of our new Charter and Bye-Laws, which have allowed us to modernise our practices and make our Society more flexible and accessible to new members—critical to our future.

The world in which we live is also changing apace, bringing both new opportunities and challenges; my 2024 President's Lecture focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) which is rapidly increasing our ability to gather and analyse data on the natural world. Yet it is also creating distrust in information, as well as adding significant burdens on the environment. Similarly, scientific publishing, which has long provided the primary income for our Society, is changing, requiring us to look to novel sources of income to fund our charitable activities. More than ever, we will need our members to support the Society and its work to achieve our mission.

While 2024 may be viewed as a year of change, it is grounded in firm foundations. As I look back on my term as President and my 15 years as a Fellow, I feel immense pride at what our Society has accomplished and excitement for what the coming years will bring!

Professor Anjali Goswami PLS

2024: A BIG YEAR

Several major projects came to fruition in 2024, including the agreement of a new property lease with the Government, the approval of our new Charter and Bye-Laws and the launch of our strategy. This critical work sets the foundation for the next exciting phase in the Society's story.

Celebrating our Lease—999 Years

Those of you following the news about our negotiations with the Government regarding our tenure in Burlington House will be aware of the twists and turns of this long, drawn-out tale. Finally, after years of campaigning and negotiation, on 27 October 2024 we signed a lease agreement for 999 years that secures our home in Burlington House for generations to come. We are immensely grateful for the support given to us by our Fellowship, many of whom wrote to their MPs. This was an important step in securing a meeting with the Secretary of State at the time, Michael Gove, who was sympathetic to our cause and instructed his officials to work with us to find a resolution. Along the way, we invited various MPs and other influential policy makers to see our collections and better understand the contribution our work makes to public benefit. Without exception, all were impressed! The entire process was very much a team effort, involving staff and Trustees (past and present) of the Linnean Society, as well as those from our neighbouring Societies. Our cross-party campaign group of MPs and representatives of the House of Lords, and an army of legal, commercial and public affairs advisors also played an instrumental role. Thank you to all.

Our Plan of Action

At the start of 2024 we were delighted to launch our new strategy, containing a slightly refreshed mission 'to cultivate a global community working for a world where nature is understood, valued and protected'. This focus on a global community is important to us. We already have over 3,000 members across the world who are making a positive contribution to nature. Our strategy prioritises the need to further diversify, support and grow engagement with our members. Alongside this, we will also focus on our charitable work to inspire curiosity in and build understanding of the natural world, particularly for young people and those discovering the joy of nature for the first time. The focus on public benefit in our strategy also extends to our support of research, whether through our scientific journals or the study of our collections, because we firmly believe that research is critical to a comprehensive understanding of nature and how to protect it. Finally, to achieve these aims and secure our wonderful Society for future generations, we must ensure that the Society is resilient and sustainable. Staff have been working hard to embed the strategy in their work and develop a tracker to monitor progress and report back to Council.

Signed, Sealed, Delivered

In a project lasting over three years, we finally completed the exercise of revising our governing documents. On 21 November our new Supplemental Charter and Bye-Laws came into formal effect, having been marked with the Great Seal. It is an unusual configuration, in that the written text refers to King Charles III, but the seal itself depicts Queen Elizabeth II. Printed on vegan vellum, it is housed within a sturdy blue box and rests within the Collections Store for safekeeping.

The Bye-Laws Revision Group, formed in 2021 and chaired by President-Elect Mark Watson, set out to modernise the governing documents which were becoming unworkable. For example, the election of Trustees had to be carried out in person at the Linnean Society, an out-dated process that excluded our non-UK based Fellowship. Drafts of the Charter and Bye-Laws were circulated to the Fellowship for consultation, and final versions approved at a specially organised Extraordinary General Meeting in March 2023. Following this, they were submitted to the Privy Council for approval. Meanwhile Council established Standing Orders to govern matters delegated to Council.

Thanks to the hard work of everyone involved, we now have a modern, three-tier governance structure (Charter, Bye-Laws and Standing Orders) with clear guidelines outlining the powers of Council, as well as the privileges and obligations of members. The Fellowship was informed as soon as we picked up the documents from the House of Lords in December, and copies of the documents were uploaded to the Society's website (www.linnean.org/CharterByeLaws).

Membership Review

Membership forms one of the main pillars of the Society's strategy. To provide clarity about the purpose of membership and how it should correspond with the Society's ambitious strategic objectives, we undertook a thorough review of our current membership structure. This work was carried out by an experienced specialist. It gave us a clear picture of how we might improve our internal processes and communications, respond to the views, needs and preferences of our current membership (as well as potential new ones), increase revenue and incorporate what works well in other membership organisations. We were particularly delighted to hear the pride that current members take in the prestige and heritage of the Society, the impact of our work and access to a like-minded and diverse community of nature enthusiasts. One respondent said they enjoyed 'being part of a community of people from all walks of life who care about the natural world'. One of the main recommendations of the review was to appoint a person responsible for heading up the strategic development of our membership scheme. To this end, in autumn 2024 Council authorised the appointment of a new role, a Head of Membership and Development, to take forward the recommendations in the report.

Say Hello, Wave Goodbye

We were pleased to welcome Alice Cheetham to the Society in the role of Education Manager as parental leave cover for Ayesha Meredith-Lewis during the period February–September. Alice will return to the Society in January 2025 in the new education role of Nature Clubs Project Manager. We also welcomed Scarlet Forrester in the role of Engagement Officer in August.

We said goodbye to our Education Officer, Dani Crowley, who left us in July to start a PhD on the social and ecological importance of sharks. In September, we said goodbye to Rowena Howie, who had been covering Helen Shaw's parental leave and helping us to develop our online and onsite shops. We greatly appreciate their work for the Society and wish them well in their future careers.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORSHIP

Our scientific journals have published exciting research while evolving and adapting—appropriately, given their legacy of publishing papers by Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace—to a changeable publishing landscape. Our history of supporting the research community through awards and grants continued throughout 2024. Congratulations to the deserving awardees.

Our four journals continue to do well in a challenging scholarly publishing landscape. Across the sector, journals are facing increasing difficulty finding reviewers with increased pressure on academics' time. Societies are finding that the growth of open access (OA) and new financing models are disrupting traditional income sources. Like many, we have found that our income is static, as authors and users move from traditional subscriptions to 'read and publish' deals, which fund publishing in a different way.

It is heartening, however, that submissions to our journals have steadily increased over recent years, having declined after COVID, and engagement with papers has also risen. We are grateful to our Editors-in-Chief and editorial boards for their rigour and hard work. Meanwhile, our Editorial Office

has been working closely with our publishers, Oxford University Press (OUP), to improve author experience and speed up times from decision to publication. Two of our journals have moved to continuous publication, reducing wait times for authors. The Impact Factor (IF) of our journals have remained constant or reduced slightly due to OUP moving to a new IF calculation method. We are confident that this is temporary and will recover in coming years.
The year also saw the launch of 'The Paper Trail', a new journal-focused blog series that communicates our scientific papers in more accessible language. Additionally, we have refreshed the four journal webpages and created promotional materials for conferences such as postcards, stickers and sticky notes.

As the primary source of income for the Society, it is vital that our Fellows and scientific members of our community support the journals by reviewing or submitting papers and encouraging their colleagues to do so. Our strength lies in our community of authors and our history as a home for the best in natural history research.

Individual Journals

2024 was the first full year with Dr Karen Sears as Editor-in-Chief of the ***Biological Journal of the Linnean Society***. During this time, she established an international editorial board, six of whom have organised a special issue (SI) on 'Mobilizing Natural History Collections in the Global South' which will be published in 2025. The journal's scope was expanded to include ecology, clarifying how it sits alongside our *Evolutionary Journal*, and it moved to continuous publication in September, meaning that papers are now published as soon as they are ready. We also saw the IF increase from 1.9 in 2022, to 2.0 in 2023.

The ***Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*** has published many well-received papers this year, with several special issues set to publish in 2025. Editor-in-Chief Dr Steven Dodsworth and several editorial board members attended the International Botanical Congress (IBC) in Madrid, where a vote was passed to replace species names based on the derogatory word *caffra* with the words *afra*, *afrorum* and *afrum* to denote plants' African origins. Gideon Smith and Estrela Figueiro, who proposed the *caffra* name change, have previously published opinion pieces in Linnean Society journals on this topic. The journal's 2023 IF reduced to 2.3 from 2.4, but with many significant papers published in 2024, we are optimistic that this will improve.

The ***Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*** also moved to continuous publication. Editor-in-Chief Dr Jeff Streicher and his board have expertly marshalled a high volume of papers, including fascinating work examining the classification of the iconic dodo and the solitaire. Articles about new discoveries have also been widely read, from fossil amphibian and reptile species to a possible new Galápagos woodpecker finch. The team also published the SI 'Cretaceous Tetrapods from South America', presenting seven studies from a diverse group of international and local researchers. The journal's IF has increased from 2.8 to 3.0 in 2023, reflecting the importance of the papers published.

Newest in the Society's portfolio, the ***Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society*** grew significantly in 2024 under the leadership of Editor-in-Chief Professor Julia Day. The journal published two SIs and launched a call for papers for a third: 'Phylogenomic Discordance: Patterns, Processes, and Solutions'. Seventeen papers were published as part of the SI on 'A Global Perspective on Adaptive Radiation'. Meanwhile, 'Perspectives on Speciation' explored multidisciplinary approaches to the topic. This was accompanied by a day meeting held at the Linnean Society, and broadcast online, which was supported by OUP, Company of Biologists, and The Integration of Speciation Research Network (a Special Topic Network of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology).

Sponsorship

LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund

In collaboration with the Systematics Association, the LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund continues to support field and lab work involving research into biodiversity, taxonomy, systematics and evolutionary biology. 2024 saw 37 grants awarded from a total fund of £39,181, with the Society contributing £32,181. Projects included the study of fossil termites in Cenozoic amber, a taxonomic review of the deep-sea squid family Ancistrocheiridae and the evolutionary origins of the only parthenogenetic pleurodont lizard. Applicants were worldwide, from Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, India, the USA and UK.

Awardee	Country of residence	Summarised title of project
Emanuele Berrilli	Italy	Species boundaries on the speciation continuum: systematic of *Saurodactylus brosseti* species complex
Milenka Božanić	Serbia	Molecular insights into the systematics of the ancient insect order Plecoptera
Fraulein Jan Calumpiano	Philippines	A taxonomic and phylogenetic reassessment of the *Laurencia sensu lato* (Rhodomelaceae, Rhodophyta) from the West Philippine Sea (WPS)
Judith Camps-Castella	Spain	Comparative transcriptomic study on Octocoral-Dinoflagellate symbiosis across *Eunicella* species
Henry Cerbone	United Kingdom (UK)	Investigation of ecological correlation in nictitating membrane morphology in the Aves
Paulina Cifuentes Uribe	United Kingdom (UK)	Contributions of microbial pioneer communities to cold ecosystem functioning in Patagonia
Pedro Quinellato Dantas	Brazil	Integrative approach to species delimitation of extra-Amazonian *Tapanhuacanga* (=Psyllocarpus) (Rubiaceae: Spermacoceae)
Jessé Miranda de Figueiredo-Filho	United States of America (USA)	Systematics and macroevolution of *Porotergus* (Apteronotidae, Gymnotiformes): Diversification in deep channels of neotropical rivers
Marie Declercq	Belgium	Taxonomic revision of the East-African *Ipomoea longituba* 'sweet potato relative' clade
Irene del Olmo Barrio	Spain	Integrative study to uncover the *Syllis prolifera* (Syllidae, Annelida) species complex
Marc Domènech Andreu	Spain	One or two? Species delimitation of the cave-dwelling pseudoscorpion *Troglobisium racovitzai*
Flavia Dory	Italy	The Snow Algae Paradox: Unraveling the diversity and phylogeny of the Chlamydomonadaceae
William J. Freimuth	United States of America (USA)	Morphological variation in early therizinosaurians and its bearing on maniraptoran systematics
Fabián Alfonso García	Brazil	Corinninae phylogeny and *Falconina gracilis* species delimitation
Corentin Jouault	France	Fossil termites: hidden treasures in Cenozoic amber
Pilar Jurado Angulo	Portugal	Are historical drivers of speciation determining morphological change in oceanic island micro-radiations?
Jesse Kelly	Canada	A global taxonomic review of the deep-sea squid family Ancistrocheiridae Pfeffer, 1912 (Cephalopoda: Oegopsida)
Guerly León Castillo	Colombia	Taxonomy and morphometrics of wide-distributed wild cacao species (Herrania, Malvaceae)
Marko Lukic	Croatia	Revision of the cave-dwelling genus *Tritomurus* (Collembola) with novel adaptations to cave habitats

Paula Moreno Martín	Spain	Exploring the evolutionary diversity of Syllidae worms through phylogenomic analysis
Katie Murray	United Kingdom (UK)	Revision of the highly diverse *Plexippini* jumping spiders (Salticidae) on Madagascar
Ainun Nadhifah	United States of America (USA)	Phylogenetic affinities of the African liverwort genus *Neolepidozia* (Lepidoziaceae) using target enrichment
Rodrigo Nicolao	Brazil	The role of hybridization in the evolution of the Southeastern South American wild potatoes
Andres Orejuela	Colombia	A taxonomic revision of *Witheringia* in South America (Physalideae, Solanaceae)
Jéronime Marie-Ange Sènami Ouachinou	Benin	Delimiting and mapping two forms of *Detarium senegalense* J.F.Gmel. (Fabaceae) in Benin
Blanca Pérez-Uz	Spain	Diversity and systematics of testate amoebae in extreme microenvironments of granitic rock pools
Brogan Pett	United Kingdom (UK)	First systematic studies on spiders of Salonga, Africa's largest rainforest reserve
João Gabriel Rebello	Brazil	Silent Aliens: Integrative investigation into Sabellidae Latreille, 1825 along the Brazilian Coast
Mauro Rivas-Ferreiro	Spain	Macrofungal diversity of Central and Southern Madagascar
Jesús Antonio Rocamontes-Morales	Mexico	Comparative genomics and demographic history of *Glossophaga mutica* (Phyllostomidae)
Arthur Macedo Rocha	Portugal	Systematics of *Rhipidoglossum* Schltr. (Orchidaceae: Vandeae: Angraecinae)
Jair Rojas Castillo	Mexico	Taxonomic revision of the Ammotrechidae camel-spiders from Northwest Mexico
Karen Salazar	France	Species delimitation of the South American ladybird beetles *Eriopis* Mulsant (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae)
Kevin Imanol Sanchez	Argentina	Evolutionary origins of the only parthenogenetic pleurodont lizard
Jamie Thompson	United Kingdom (UK)	monocot-tree.org: finalising a comprehensive monocot phylogeny to facilitate evolutionary research
Avinash Isaac Vanjare	India	Using integrative taxonomy to uncover cryptic speciation in *Triops granarius* (Crustacea: Branchiopoda)
Jody Helena Voges	Germany	Species boundaries and phylogeography of *Crematogaster* ants on the Balkan Peninsula, a European biodiversity hotspot

The Society also presented three awards from its restricted funds, which are made possible from specific bequests:

The **Anne Sleep Award**, which is provided to young scholars to assist with biological research in the Middle or Far East, was awarded to Kamil Candan for his study entitled 'Molecular Identification of Herpetofaunic Diversity in Kekova (Türkiye), A Special Environmental Protection Area: An Application of DNA Barcoding'. The aim of the project has been to establish species diversity using DNA barcoding within a conservation area in Türkiye for the first time, and to generate new insights that will enhance species diversity through more comprehensive fieldwork. Precise molecular data-based identifications will support the opportunity for accurate species-focused conservation efforts.

Our **Appleyard Fund**, which supports research projects in botany or zoology by Fellows or Associates of the Society, was awarded to Tim Caro for his work on polymorphism in coconut crabs (*Birgus latro*). Tim's project will document 500 coconut crabs and group them into three colour morphs: 'red dorsa' (from light orange to brown), 'blue dorsa' (from blue through purple to black), and brown. Using red/green/blue values from the photos, amongst other techniques, to categorise the

specimens, the data will be compared to human-assessed categorisation to reveal inconsistencies. This in-depth investigation will have implications for assessing subjective colour polymorphisms in a large variety of taxa.

The **Dennis Stanfield Memorial Fund**, which supports botanical research on tropical African plants, was awarded to Tesfay Gidey for his project 'Modelling the impacts of climate change on frankincense yield of *Boswellia papyrifera* using process-based Yield-Safe model in Ethiopia'. The genera *Boswellia* and *Acacia* are known to yield economically important resins such as frankincense, which is extracted by wounding the stem of the tree. Over-tapping has negatively impacted the species by limiting carbohydrate allocations, and future reduced rainfall may result in a population decline of c. 67%. Using collected soil and tree management data and CORDEX database results for Africa, the project results will support wider efforts for the sustainable conservation and restoration of *B. papyrifera* woodlands in Ethiopia.

OUR MEMBERSHIP

Our members are a global community of people who share a common curiosity about the natural world. Anyone sharing this interest—whether through academic study, professional work or personal passion—is welcome. We are indebted to all our members for their support and enthusiasm for our cause.

Welcoming New Members

We are delighted to report that 147 new Fellows, 60 Associates and 87 Student Associates joined in 2024. There were several defaulters and, 62 members resigned, giving a total number of 3,055. We rely on our members to help deliver our charitable mission, whether through offering their expertise, contributing to our activities or financially supporting our work. A key change introduced in the new Bye-Laws is the formation of a new Fellowship Committee that will review applications for election. This Committee will also help us grow our membership and identify Fellows who might like to become more involved in our work.

Championing our Community

It is always fantastic to be able to celebrate the achievements of our members, and here are just a few from 2024. Congratulations to:

- Professor Peter Hollingsworth FLS (Director of Science and Deputy Keeper, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh) on receiving a CBE in The King's New Year Honours List.
- Mr Richard Deverell FLS (Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) for his CBE in The King's New Year Honours List, 'For services to Botanical Science and Conservation'.
- Dr David Rollinson FLS (Scientific Associate, Natural History Museum, London) on receiving an OBE in the King's Birthday Honours List 'For services to Museum Science and to Public Health'.
- Our President Professor Anjali Goswami PLS on her richly deserved Fellowship of the Royal Society in June.

Lives Remembered

Sadly in 2024 we lost several long-standing members of the Society. **Professor Inga Hedberg FLS** passed in January, whose work with husband Olov pioneered the study of afroalpine flora. In April we lost **Professor Pieter Baas FMLS**, a renowned botanist who was the first Director of the National Herbarium of the Netherlands (NHN), and a great friend to the Society. **Dr Geoffrey Dryer FLS** will be remembered for his easy manner and groundbreaking work *The Cichlid Fishes of the Great Lakes of Africa* (1972). Botanist and author **Dr E. Charles Nelson FLS** died suddenly in May—a fiercely

dedicated member of the Society for over 50 years, his article on Edward Donovan was posthumously published in *The Linnean*. Cryptogamic botanist **Professor Mary Gibby OBE FLS**, previous Director of Science at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), passed in July. We were incredibly sad to learn of the passing of Fellow and volunteer **Dr Alan Brafield FLS**, and the stalwart editor of our Synopses series, **Dr John Crothers FLS**, both around Christmas Day. And we said goodbye to **Jenny Grundy FLS**, a great supporter of our education programme.

Engaging with our Membership
This year we hosted two members-only events, including the Anniversary Meeting and our President's Lecture 'Artificial Intelligence meets the Natural World' in September. Our members' publication *The Linnean* also welcomed several fascinating articles from the membership, including pieces about the satirical sketchbook of Richard Owen (who coined the term 'dinosaur') by Leah Demetriou FLS and a concise jump into a new look at the classification of the iconic dodo and solitaire with Dr Neil J. Gostling FLS and Dr Mark T. Young FLS.

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

Through sponsorship and awarding medals, the Society acknowledges and encourages excellence in all aspects of natural history, with particular emphasis on evolution, taxonomy, biodiversity conservation and sustainability, and applauds individual contributions to the public's engagement with nature.

Medal and Award Winners 2024

Linnean Medal (For services to science)**:** Professor Paul Upchurch, *University College London*

Darwin–Wallace Medal (For major advances in evolutionary biology)**:** Professor Sir Peter Crane FRS, *Oak Spring Garden Foundation*

Bicentenary Medal (Awarded to an early-career scientist, in recognition of excellent research in the natural sciences): Professor Dr Anne-Claire Fabre, *Natural History Museum of Bern*

Irene Manton Prize (For the best doctoral thesis in botany in a UK university): Dr Tin Hang (Henry) Hung, *University of Oxford*

John C. Marsden Medal (For the best doctoral thesis in biology in a UK university): Dr Heather E. White, *King's College London*

Trail–Crisp Award (For an outstanding contribution to biological microscopy): Dr Justyna J. Miszkiewicz, *University of Queensland and Naturalis Biodiversity Center*

John Spedan Lewis Emerging Leader Award (for an initiative with notable positive impact for the UK natural environment): Kabir Kaul

H. H. Bloomer Award (Awarded to an amateur naturalist for an important contribution to biological knowledge): Charley Eiseman

Jill Smythies Prize (To a botanical artist for outstanding, diagnostically relevant, published illustrations): Maria Alice de Rezende

EXHIBITIONS

This year, we consolidated a concerted approach to exhibitions, with a programme of events, merchandise and tours. Our superb exhibition posters on Piccadilly enticed those visiting the Courtyard and the Royal Academy into the Society, helping to raise our profile and our footfall. We held three exhibitions in 2024, all organised by Head of Collections Dr Isabelle Charmantier.

Lovely as a Tree (January to June; 2,164 visitors) was produced in tandem with the day meeting 'Tree Cultures: Words, Woods and Well-Being', held on 29 February 2024 and organised in collaboration with Christina Hourigan and Dr Caroline Cornish (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew). Both the day meeting and the exhibition proved extremely popular and reflected the emotional response of the public to trees, especially after the wanton felling of the famous Sycamore Gap tree in Northumberland. The exhibition looked at the culture of trees through the Society's collections, and included cases on the representation of trees, on iconic trees (such as the oak, gingko and cedar), on the economic importance of trees and their exploitation. It was thoughtfully reviewed by Sarah Lonsdale in the *Times Literary Supplement* who said it was 'like walking in the shade of an oak on a hot day'.

Revolution: Nature in the Time of Change 1776–1848 (July to August; 564 visitors) was curated in collaboration with Dr Edwin Rose and Professor Staffan Müller-Wille (University of Cambridge, both FLS), as part of their AHRC funded project, in which the Linnean Society was a project partner. It ran parallel to a day meeting they also organised at the Society on 15 July 2024, 'Natural History in the Age of Revolutions'. The exhibition looked the practices of collecting, observing, recording and distributing knowledge on the natural world between the American Revolution in 1776 and the revolutions of 1848.

Still Life: Depicting Nature from Woodcuts to X-Rays (September 2024 to February 2025; 860 visitors in 2024) focused on the many techniques devised since the 16th century to capture nature on paper. The exhibition showcased the great variety of materials held within the Society's holdings, curated by its staff. From woodcuts and woodblocks to drawings and paintings, each case revealed the evolving methods of depicting the natural world. On display were specimens of plants, fish and insects, rare books, nature prints and photographs, including black and white photographs, digital images and even X-rays.

Displayed alongside *Still Life* were eight prints from *Dispersal*, a series of photographic works exploring the form and function of seed dispersal by photographer and artist Anna Laurent. Anna Laurent was due to exhibit these photographs earlier in the year but sadly passed away due to illness early in 2024. The display was put up in her memory; one visitor described it as 'deeply moving'.

Where possible, merchandise aligning with each exhibition was produced (postcards, magnets and posters). With *Still Life*, we seized the opportunity to collaborate with other organisations, Fellows and friends and create events that coincided with and complemented the exhibition. Curator-led tours gave attendees the opportunity to ask questions and see additional items related to the exhibition on the Library tables. Workshops with The London Alternative Photography Collective on cyanotypes linked beautifully with the famed works of Anna Atkins on display, and we also ran an embroidery workshop that depicted Linnaeus's floral clock and related species. Talks included a close-up look at Leonard Fuchs's stunning book *Historia stirpium* or *History of Plants* (1542), and a dive into the botanical paintings of Scottish botanist Dr Francis Buchanan-Hamilton and Indian artist Haludar.

AN EVENTFUL YEAR

Our public events programme shared the natural world with a range of audiences. These include the thousands we welcomed to our building, to public workshops, talks, conferences and student events. We ventured out with nature and bat walks to help people understand the world around them. Partnerships and online events enabled us to bring the Linnean Society to people across the world.

Buzzing with Discussion

Our programme in 2024 ran a full roster of 81 events, with 7,213 total attendees. From special tours of the building through various lenses, to panel discussions on eco-anxiety and rewilding landscapes, the Society was buzzing with discussion on the ways we impact the planet.

Our lectures continued to draw many, both regular attendees and new. Amongst the talks that attracted the most attention and debate were those on the plant genus *Rafflesia* (with the world's largest flowers) by Dr Chris Thorogood FLS, the natural history of opium and the intricacies of the succulent trade.

The Open House London festival was hugely popular with 1,364 attendees—our biggest audience for this event since COVID. Visitors admired our beautiful building, our *Still Life* exhibition and took part in an origami craft activity. Alongside the Royal Academy, all five Societies around Burlington House Courtyard collaborated on a family trail with activities for children at each Society.

Repeating Patterns, White Sage and Water Voles

One of the most promising threads that ran throughout the year was one of partnerships. From our Pint of Science evening investigating the increasing value of environmental DNA to Dr Susanna Paisley's creative workshop on repeating botanical patterns for London Craft Week, we ran a wide range of special events on botany, natural sciences and conservation through photography.

With the London Alternative Photography Collective, alongside the previously mentioned cyanotype workshops, we ran online lectures covering topics from chlorophyll printing to an artistic exploration of the history of women in botany.

We also hosted film screenings on the conservation of white sage in California and the restoration of water vole populations in Cornwall. And our successful Irene Manton Lecture with Manchester University, 'From Essex Orchids to Tropical Frogs' with Professor Amanda Bamford, Matthew O'Donnell, Dr Maggy Fostier and Robbie Blackhall-Miles celebrated the 10th anniversary of the lecture and bicentenary of the university.

Going into 2025, we are confident that partnerships with other conservation organisations are the strongest way to solidify our network with the aim of understanding and safeguarding the natural world.

International Speakers, International Audience

The rationale behind our determination to run online lectures is the sheer breadth of speakers and the audience it garners. Our online-only Lunchtime Lectures draw a very diverse audience—some have enjoyed viewers from almost 30 countries, even across rather punishing time zones. In terms of speakers, these lectures have meant that we are able to more easily engage with global expertise and knowledge, like Dr Ashwini Mohan's lecture on geckos in the Indian Ocean Islands, Dr Cody Clements on the value of sea cucumbers, and Dr Bry Wilson on the world's rarest coral in the Chagos Islands.

Seasonal Nature Walks
Through our London-based outdoor 'nature walk' programme, we aim to enthuse people about nature through changing seasons and via different ecosystems. The year began with a guided walk through the bountiful display of bluebells in Perivale Wood, a nature reserve in West London featuring 18 acres of ancient oak woodland. In the summer months, we led 'Fruity Walks' with Divya Hariramani Herrero into several South London orchards that often go unnoticed. Later, with botanist Dr Mark Spencer we ventured along the Lee River Valley, exploring the impacts of developmental changes in the area and searching for survivors of original plant life. We ended the year's nature walk programme on a high at Queen's Wood, rooting around for fungal life—always a crowd favourite!

Led by Georgia Cowie and Alice Cheetham, our sold-out bat walks in Battersea Park introduced groups to urban nature and bat identification. These will resume in Spring 2025, with the addition of family focused walks.

Themed 'indoor nature tours' at Burlington House were also a great draw, with Dani Crowley leading a hugely popular 'Flirty Nature' tour and quiz for Valentine's Day, and a Queer Ecology tour in July to round off Pride Month.

NATURE KNOWLEDGE

It is crucial that we enable people to understand and protect the world around them from an early age. Our school programme grows young people's enthusiasm for the natural world, while the 'Our Local Nature' grant scheme empowers them to take positive action. In 2024, we held a conference for those at the start of their career and our collections tours supported students of all ages, from undergraduates through to u3a.

School of Life (Sciences)
Throughout 2024, the education team welcomed 12 schools into the Society for workshops about classification and life cycles. Targeted towards Keys Stages 1–2 (ages 5–11), the workshops included developing a species to then classify, learning about famous members of the Society (from past to present day) and a tour of the building.

Online, we guided four schools through workshops covering these subjects via a video tour of our Burlington House premises with added information about Carl Linnaeus and his work, our history and impactful stories of research. About 350 students visited in 2024, with approximately another 200 joining us for our online sessions. Our online offer for schools includes lesson plans and resources hosted on partner websites, which were downloaded over 6,000 times during the year.

Alongside this, we also delivered workshops with Westminster Abbey earlier in the year for their Super Scientists event, where we spoke to almost 70 students about Charles Darwin and evolution.

We are Family
Our education team has also had a full year of family-based activities. Exhibiting at the Lambeth Country Show in June, we engaged with well over 300 visitors across two days. Later we joined our neighbours at the Geological Society as part of their Earth Science Week celebration where younger visitors played games about adaptation and evolution.

In October we attended Big Biology Day in Cambridge as one of its 50 exhibitors. With a visitor count of 2,000 people, it is the largest free-to-attend UK family festival solely focused on the biological

sciences. Bringing along a case of insect specimens and our popular Special Species game, attendees drew new species and learned more about taxonomy and evolution.
The team also hosted a stall at the Royal Institution's Family Fun Day. The event attracted more than 378 visitors, many of whom learned about the Linnean Society for the first time and are now planning visits.

The Wave Project
Our third year of collaboration with The Wave Project was a great success. During the winter months of 2023–2024, we held three events with the Project, which aims to support the mental health and well-being of young people through surf therapy. When this is not possible during the colder winter months, the Linnean Society works with the Project on providing other workshops like tree planting, 'meet the locals' at London Zoo, mini beast hunting and birdwatching at Greenwich Ecological Park, and a 'Night-time Safari' in Peckham Rye. Overall, 40 young people participated and benefitted from these workshops.

Our Local Nature
The Society's 'Our Local Nature' grant scheme continued to flourish. After an astounding 287 applications, we were able to support seven youth-led nature projects. The pot of £6,000 helped fund an invertebrate survey, a nature-focused parade involving students and their local community, and a pond renovation plan, enhancing a local woodland area. Another successful venture aimed to create a wheelchair accessible sensory nature garden on their school grounds. These projects and others, which collectively empowered 617 young people to engage more closely with nature, were selected by our youth panel. These four young people (aged 15–18) were given guidance in grant application assessment and did a fantastic job selecting the projects whilst deciding on the how best to allocate the funds.

Green Careers
In November, the Society was delighted to host, in partnership with the British Ecological Society (BES), a Green Careers Conference for under- and post-graduates. Nearly 70 students attended and were given the opportunity to discover a range of careers and career pathways, through talks, workshops, networking and exhibitions. Our Library offered the opportunity for students to chat with representatives from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), London Wildlife Trust (LWT), University of Oxford, Royal Parks, Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and Royal Entomological Society (RES). Students could also sit with CV reviewers for guidance on how to produce an impactful CV and attend workshops with professionals already in the green careers field. Evaluation showed that 96% of attendees were completely satisfied with the outcomes and benefits from the event. Feedback included: 'The range of careers speakers was really great, and the talk on different careers in conservation was great, as often people don't know the types of jobs that are available.' After such a terrific success, the Society and BES will be holding the conference again in 2025.

Nature Networks
Towards the end of 2024 we were awarded funding by John Lyon's Charity for a new three-year nature connection project. Following the successful 'Wild Wednesdays' pilot scheme originated by Ayesha Meredith-Lewis in 2023, we will be developing a new after-school club aiming to excite students about local nature, helping them record and engage with their observations. Targeting Key Stage 3 students (aged 11–14) across North and West London, Alice Cheetham will begin delivering activities to our first schools in summer 2025.

Society Tours
The Collections team has continued to give tours to members of the public, including its monthly Treasures Tours, as well as privately booked tours to various groups and free tours to university students. Astonishingly, the team hosted 49 different groups (a total of 559 tour attendees), ranging from the Grolier Club and the Athenaeum in London, to various u3a groups (Islington, Merton and Redhill). Some were yearly visitors (Australians Living Abroad, the University of Suffolk and the Rikkyo Japanese School), but we were happy to host Seoul National University and the Letchworth Arts and Leisure Group as newcomers in 2024.

The Social Scene
We love to connect with the world on social media and saw an increase in new subscribers across all platforms. Of particular note was a large increase in followers on Instagram (38%) and LinkedIn (53%), possibly reflecting our community moving away from Twitter/X. In November, after careful consideration, the Society's account on X was retired and we moved to Bluesky, attracting 7,000 subscribers by the start of 2025. Subscribers to our e-newsletter, Linnean News, increased by 74% to 3,156.

COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

The year saw a flurry of activity, with many visitors joining us for public and private tours, researchers consulting our unique collections, and viewers connecting with us online from around the world for our Linnean Lens talks. With ongoing partnerships and laying the groundwork for a new digital home for our collections, 2024 was very productive.

Showcasing our Collections
Showcasing our collections to researchers and professionals often reveals previously unknown information that we can continue to share with a wider audience. Our bi-monthly Linnean Lens online event is a particularly good way to get external researchers (often Fellows) interested in our collections, both as presenters and as viewers, and as potential future researchers. During the year we were lucky to have an outstanding set of speakers which included Roger Gaskell, Jack Ashby, Andrea Hart, Dr Mark Watson, Claire Banks and our Librarian, Will Beharrell. These talks are all recorded and available on YouTube and enquiries often stem from Linnean Lens long after the event.

In June, we welcomed the High Commissioner of St Vincent and the Grenadines, displaying the beautiful illustrations drawn by artists including John Tyley for the superintendent of the island's botanic garden, Alexander Anderson, at the turn of the 19th century. We also hosted the London Rare Books School (as part of Henrietta Ryan and Roger Gaskell's course on natural history and art), and heritage professionals during the Explore Your Archives week in November.

Intriguingly, we were visited by an interdisciplinary group from the Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Toulouse to extract dust and particles from several books and notebooks belonging to Alfred Russel Wallace, to see whether they could identify pollen trapped between the pages from when he was using these books in the Malay Archipelago. Conservator Janet Ashdown donned full PPE to help them with the process, and we are awaiting results with bated breath.

Partners, Loans and Invitations
Our Collections team have worked together with many partners throughout the year. Spearheaded by the University of Cambridge Library, the application to register Charles Darwin's manuscripts on UNESCO's Memory of the World was submitted.

We have continued our involvement with various networks: Christina McCulloch has attended meetings of the Places, Plants and People Archives Network throughout the year; Isabelle Charmantier and Will Beharrell have continued to work closely with the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries group (EBHL) as well as our Linnaeus Link Union Catalogue partners. They also attended the conferences of NatSCA and the Society for the History of Natural History (SHNH) during the spring.

In May, Will travelled to Marazion for the Cornish Seaweed Festival in the UK, a weekend of events celebrating the marine life of this beautiful county. He was accompanied by *Nereis Britannica*, a book on seaweeds by John Stackhouse (a Cornwall native and early Fellow of the Society). It was a privilege to take this item on a visit 'home' after over 200 years.

Isabelle was invited by Sir Peter Crane FRS to the Oak Spring Garden Foundation in Virginia in the US, and was generously hosted by Librarian Tony Willis and his team to research the collections and find ideas for future common events. Similarly, Anatole Tchikine at Dumbarton Oaks and Andrew Berry at Harvard University took the time to complete an incredibly rich visit.

Another way in which we diffuse knowledge of our collections is through external loans. In 2024, we loaned a volume of Anna Atkins' *British Algae* (1843), with its famous blue cyanotypes, and our founder James Edward Smith's botanical prints in *Specimens of nature* (1857), to St Barbe's Museum and Art Gallery in Lymington for their exhibition, *Planting Ideas*.

Archives Galore

At the beginning of 2024 our Domestic Archive was added to the Archive Catalogue. A mammoth project currently standing at 4,569 records, it continues to grow (having recently catalogued the new Supplemental Charter) and document the work of the Society.

The Nature Conservation Archives project began this year focusing on the collections of Max Nicholson, Richard Fitter, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Council for Nature. The papers of Nicholson, a figure known to be instrumental in the foundation of several major nature conservation organisations including IUCN and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), went live in October with 384 files now available to readers in the Library.

Further material from our manuscript collection has also been catalogued. Highlights include the commonplace books of Lady Pleasance Smith (MS/393a+b), and her niece, Lorina Reeve (MS/391), a sketchbook of Richard Owen (MS/713), correspondence and papers of Cuthbert Collingwood (MS/412a-d), and a draft manuscript on fishes by Jonathan Couch (MS/407).

Preservica: A New Home for our Digital Collections

The Society's Online Collections—digitised collections of the Society's specimens and core archives—are moving to a new home. After a tendering process in November 2023, the Collections team selected the digital preservation repository Preservica. Digital Assets Manager Andrea Deneau has spent 2024 cleaning up, standardising and enhancing the descriptive metadata and working with developers at Preservica to migrate the metadata and images from our old platform. Rebranded 'Linnean Online', this new platform will be available early in 2025. In the near future, this repository will also hold our growing digital domestic archives.

AdoptLINN: Conserving Collections

It was a record-breaking year for AdoptLINN, our collections conservation scheme. £13,665 was pledged by 22 generous donors, allowing us to preserve 23 vulnerable items from the library and archive. Our sincere thanks to everyone—students, scholars, members of the Society and the general public—who helped us conserve this priceless heritage over the past year.

Donations to our Library and Archives

We are thankful to everyone who donated items to our collections in 2024: 155 books were donated to the Library, amongst which were Celia Rosser's masterful three-volume *Banksias* (1981–2000) from Australian Fellows Anne Ashford and William Allaway. After prolific botanical artist Stella Ross-Craig's paintbox was presented to the Society last year, Dr Henry Noltie FLS donated more of her artwork, all of which featured in the *Still Life* exhibition. Niki Simpson FLS (winner of the 2018 Jill Smythies Award) donated more of her digital art, also featured in the exhibition.

A Huge Thank You

We are forever indebted to our volunteers for all the work they undertake. These include John Abbott, Amita Mehta, David Pescod, Gina Douglas, Sheila Meredith, Hazel Marsden and Pia Wilson. Alongside our volunteers, we have also hosted interns from King's College London and UCL, as well as work experience students.

Our honorary curators Dr Mark Spencer, Ollie Crimmen, Suzanne Ryder and Glenn Benson help us answer enquiries, host visiting scientists and curate our collections, all the while holding down jobs of their own, so a huge thank you to them. Mark has also embarked on identifying our uncatalogued and unlisted botanical art collection with Archivist Liz McGow, and Glenn has regularly come in while on leave from the V&A Museum to catalogue our medals collection, writing several 'Treasure of the Month' blogs along the way.

FEEDBACK

TALKS, LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

Special Event: African Lacebark in the Caribbean
'I'd never heard of African lacebark before, let alone its important role in the agency and resistance of enslaved women in Jamaica. Really inspired by the collaboration between Steeve Buckridge as a historian and Mark Spencer as a botanist.'

Rewilding the Riverbanks **Film Screening and Debate**
'It confirmed ideas about the environmental crisis, [and] it made me want to protect what remains of our natural world. I'm glad the evening was a little political, and provoking, the Linnean Society should do more events that are challenging. This is not a time to be neutral.'

Sea Cucumbers: The 'Janitors of the Sea'
'Such a wonderful opportunity not to miss such a valuable lecture about this little known, but seemingly vital subject, part of our rapidly diminishing eco-system!'

Linnean Lens: The Wondrous Birds of Elizabeth Gould
'Really accessible—such a 'warm' presentation duo [Andrea Hart and Isabelle Charmantier], and so beautiful to see the art vividly on screen.'

Drawn to Extinction: Depicting the Thylacine
'I learned about the taxonomy of the thylacine and found good connections to my own research into the history of initial European descriptions of distant animals.'

'I learned some new information about the thylacine and I'm interested to learn more.'

Rudbeckian Remains (Wood Blocks and Botany)
'Just amazing to hear about the history of these great people and see the wonderful books and wood blocks, fascinating techniques.'

'Learnt a lot about the carving, printing and engraving techniques. Especially pleased to hear of the role of women.'

EXHIBITIONS

Lovely as a Tree
'I'm so happy to have discovered this place. I love trees, plants and nature. The exhibition is a gift. Thank you.'

'My 1st ever visit. Quite magical!'

'What a joy! I visit the Royal Academy of Arts during lunchtimes and had never noticed this part of the building before. Thank you for enabling public access. Wonderful, informative display.'

'We loved it! The library is gorgeous. Thank you for the most inspirational experience.'

Revolution: Nature in the Age of Change 1776–1848
'Really clear presentation, well explained and organised. Such beautiful exhibits which deserve wider recognition. Thank you.'

'A good succinct account of an important era in the development of "natural history". Well done Linnean Soc.'

Still Life: Depicting Nature from Woodcuts to X-rays
'Fantastic collection & lovely layout. The quiz questions were very fun. Will tell others!'

'Beyond wonderful, what a room of treats!'

'Fantastic, surprising, inspirational, I shall remember the day!'

'What an amazing place! How did I not know this is here. I really appreciate how well looked after are all the objects and the space itself.'

'Super exhibition—beautifully presented and thoughtfully chosen. So valuable to see specimens/drawings/prints all next to each other.'

TOURS AND WALKS

Queer Ecology Evening
'I learnt a lot and it was all entertaining. I think my top things would be the animalia paradox with the unicorns and the pelican, the biology of sea horses and clown fish and the splitgill fungus with the thousands of sexes.'

Treasures Tour

'The tour was excellent. Will was our guide—and an outstanding one. He's a born communicator with real enthusiasm.'

Letchworth Arts and Leisure Group

'Thank you so much for talking to us yesterday, for going to the trouble of giving it a geology focus, and for showing us so many specimens. Gives you a little shiver of awe and excitement when you consider their importance.'

University of Suffolk

'Students were overwhelmed with how the collections are so well kept and how they could access such great scientific treasures.'

THE LINNEAN

'Well done with the careful appraisal of the Richard Owen sketch book in *The Linnean* magazine! Much appreciated.'

'Just completed reading *The Linnean* (December 2024 issue) after being elected as a Fellow of Linnean Society. Simply awesome! It has provided adequate food for thought and introspection. All articles are well written and brilliantly illustrated.'

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Linnean Society contributes to scientific, cultural, economic and social well-being nationally and internationally through a broad programme of activities. Our unique Arts Council England (ACE)-designated biological collections and historical resources—and our strong focus on biodiversity conservation, sustainability and science outreach—support the care and understanding of our planet. The Society's key contributions to public benefit are:

- Safeguarding and promoting the Society's heritage collections, through cataloguing, conservation and digitisation, improving access to primary information, making collections freely available to view online.
- Advancing and disseminating knowledge through four world-class research journals and providing support and recognition through grant schemes and awards to emerging scientists and naturalists.
- Engaging the public through exhibitions, regular tours of the collections, conferences and free public lectures, while our educational programme, which fuses science, history and art, reaches out to students of all ages and backgrounds, providing resources in schools, in Burlington House and online.

The Society's activities contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through support for the natural world, and through unique resources that illuminate environmental and social change. The Society connects academia with a diverse public, informing UK Government policy and promoting the international profile of the UK as a pre-eminent international hub for expertise about the natural world.

CORE VALUES AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Society's vision, mission and values are:

Vision: A world where nature is understood, valued and protected

Mission: To cultivate a global community working for a world where nature is understood, valued and protected.

Values:

- We are a diverse community of people united by an active interest in nature, its management and conservation.
- We aim for excellence and integrity in all areas of our activity.
- We use our income and other finances to fulfil our charitable function and declared mission.
- We promote our science to all sectors of society.
- We value diversity and seek to broaden the inclusion of currently under-represented groups.
- We are an expert voice concerning relevant major issues and challenges of our time.

LOOKING FORWARD 2025

If you have managed to read everything in this report, I hope you will be as astounded as I am about the achievements of our staff, Trustees, volunteers and members in 2024. As well as the sheer amount of work carried out, it is also of exceptional quality and delivered with such a deep passion and determination to inspire people about the natural world. The people behind the Linnean Society are what makes the organisation so special, and I'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their energy and enthusiasm.

After a year of much change, 2025 will be a year of embedding these major achievements within our organisation. In particular, the signing of the lease agreement for our home in Burlington House comes with the responsibility of managing and maintaining the buildings and central Courtyard. Together with our neighbouring Societies, we will soon be appointing a new managing agent and will start planning the investments needed to improve New Burlington House. Behind these decisions will be a number of governance committees including: a Headlease Committee responsible for agreeing how the Societies' joint obligations should be fulfilled and to make major expenditure, resource and procurement decisions relating to these obligations; an Operating Committee responsible for making operational decisions relating to the management of the buildings; and a Buildings Project Group responsible for developing mid- to long-term plans for the improvement and development of the buildings.

We will also be implementing the first year of our strategy. At the beginning of 2025, staff completed a strategy tracker that will assist in determining how well we are delivering on our intentions and help us decide whether we need to re-prioritise if new opportunities arise or external factors change. A key element of the strategy will be to recruit a new Head of Membership and Development, who will deliver many of the recommendations in the membership review. We have listened to the views of our membership, and it will be vital for this person to incorporate these needs into the improved scheme. Our aim is to have an increasingly vibrant and diverse membership who collectively support the Society's mission, whether through direct action or contributing financially to our charitable work.

Professor Gail Cardew FLS, CEO

PEOPLE

Officers and Council listed on pp. 3–4

Linnean Society Staff Team

CEO	**Professor Gail Cardew (2021) ***
Head of Finance	**Priya Nithianandan (1991) ***
Head of Collections	**Dr Isabelle Charmantier (2017) ***
Head of Operations	**Helen Shaw (2017) ***
Head of Engagement	**Anna Perman (2022) ***
Governance Manager	**Andrew Swan (2022)**
Librarian	**Will Beharrell (2019)**
Archivist	**Liz McGow (2016)**
Project Archivist	**Alex Milne (2021)**
Assistant Archivist	**Christina McCulloch (2023)**
Digital Assets Manager	**Andrea Deneau (2010)**
Conservator	**Janet Ashdown (2002)**
Communications & Events Manager	**Padmaparna Ghosh (2020)**
Publications Manager	**Leonie Berwick (2007)**
Education Manager	**Ayesha Meredith-Lewis (2022)/ Alice Cheetham (Feb–Sep 2024, maternity cover)**
Education Officer	**Dani Crowley (2023–Jul 2024)**
Engagement Officer	**Scarlet Forrester (Aug 2024)**
Journal Editorial Manager	**Dr Hassan Rankou (2022)**
Journal Officer	**Georgia Cowie (2023)**
Office & Facilities Manager	**Rowena Howie (2023–Sep 2024)**
Operations Assistant	**Tatiana Franco (2015)**
Office Cleaner P/T	**Fatima Mendoca (2015)**

Curators, Editors and Committees 2024

Curators

Fish, Shells & General Zoology	Oliver Crimmen (2017)
Insects	Suzanne Ryder (2017)
Plants	Dr Mark A. Spencer (2013)
Artefacts	Glenn Benson (2014)
Honorary Archivist	Gina Douglas (2009)

* Senior Management Team

Editors

Biological Journal	Dr Karen Sears (2023)
Botanical Journal	Dr Steven Dodsworth (2023)
Zoological Journal	Dr Jeffrey Streicher (2023)
Evolutionary Journal	Professor Julia J. Day (2023)
The Linnean	Leonie Berwick (2022)

Committee Chairpersons

Audit	Professor Brycchan Carey
Collections	Dr Mark Watson
Engagement	Professor Jonathan Drori CBE; Dr Howard Nelson
Finance & Risk	The Treasurer
Medals & Awards	Professor Paul Barrett
Nominations	The President
Publishing	Professor Stuart West
Remuneration	The Treasurer
Safeguarding	Philip Sadler; Professor Michael Reiss

The President and Treasurer are *ex officio* members of all Committees, with the exception of the Audit Committee, where the Treasurer is an attendee. The CEO is an invited attendee of all Committees. Staff also attend various Committees, but not as members.

Committee Members

Audit Committee

Professor Brycchan Carey (Chair)

Isabel Larridon (2024)

Professor Stuart West (2024)

Fellowship representative, Lee Bilson

Fellowship representative, Professor Natasha De Vere

A representative of Knox Cropper (Auditors)

Collections Committee

The Collections Secretary (Chair)

The Honorary Curators

Felix Driver (2023)

Louisiane Ferlier (2023)

Andrea Hart (2015)

Debbie Lane (2020)

Chris Mills (2022)

Chris Saunders (2021)

Engagement Committee

Professor Jonathan Drori CBE (Chair, until July 2024)

Dr Howard Nelson (2023; Chair, from August 2024)

Lucy Carson-Taylor (2023)

Chiara Ceci (2024)

Sara Abdulla (2024)

James Fulcher (2023)

Finance and Risk Committee

The Treasurer (Chair)

Giles Coode-Adams (2001–May 2024)

Dr Charlotte Grezo (2020)

Edward Hoare (1998–Sept 2024)

Fiona McWilliams (2023)

Eoin Murray (2023)

Elree Winnett Seelig (2023)

Medals and Awards Committee

Professor Paul Barrett (Chair)

Dr Rich Boden (2022–May 2024)

Professor Kayla King (2022)

Dr Sandra Knapp (2022)

Dr Juliano Morimoto (from Oct 2024)

Dr Heather White (from Oct 2024)

Nominations Committee

The President (Chair)

Steph Holt (2022)

Dr Howard Nelson (2022)

Dr Mark Watson (from May 2024)

Professor Baroness Kathy Willis CBE (2023–September 2024)

Publishing Committee

Professor Stuart West (Chair)

Dr Isabel Larridon (2024)

Professor Alistair Hetherington (2023)

Kathryn Spiller (2024)

Nick Lindsay (2024)

The Editors-in-Chief

Representatives from the publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP)

Remuneration Committee

The Treasurer (Chair)

The President

Philip Sadler (2022)

Dr Mark Watson (from May 2024)

Safeguarding Committee

Philip Sadler (Chair, until May 2024), Professor Michael J. Reiss (Chair, from June 2024)

Designated Safeguarding Officer

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officers

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The full financial accounts were prepared to conform to the Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP – FRS 102) and are presented after the report of the External Auditors.

SUMMARY

The Society's income decreased slightly in 2024 to £2,275,510 from £2,442,501 in 2023. This decrease was due to a reduction of over £300,000 in legacies received in 2024, which by their nature can change significantly from year to year. Total income before donations and legacies increased by £142,855 to £2,200,650 in 2024 from £2,057,795 in 2023. Our expenditure was down on last year, reducing by £119,665 from £2,008,617 in 2023 to £1,888,952 in 2024. This reduction in costs was largely technical in nature as we had over-provided for rent on Burlington House in 2023 and were able to release some of this provision in 2024.

Overall, our surplus of income over expenditure (before movements in investments) in 2024 was £386,558 (2023: £433,884). Without the benefit of donations and legacies and the release of the rent provision, our surplus would have been in the region of £225,000. This metric, which excludes net gains / losses on investments, is the best way to assess the ongoing 'operational' financial performance of the Society. At the start of the year, we forecast that the Society would be broadly break-even on an operational basis, so it is pleasing to have finished this year ahead of this expectation.

The value of our investments increased during the year by £303,077 (2023: £369,345) taking the overall net surplus for 2024 to £690,335 (2023: £803,229).

Our unrestricted funds at the end of the year were £7,743,634 (2023: £7,114,962). We continue to try to balance the active use of our funds for charitable purposes with ensuring a sustainable financial position given the future challenges and uncertainties we face.

INCOME

Publications and Royalties

As usual, the overwhelming majority of our income came from our scientific research journals. Overall income from publications was marginally ahead of last year at £1,718,019 (2023: £1,691,017). After deducting the direct production, distribution, and editorial costs payable by the Society, the net contribution of our journals was £1,553,222, an increase of 3.9% on 2023 (£1,494,212). A reduction in our editorial costs (from £87,241 in 2023 to £61,539 in 2024) was a major contributor to the increased overall contribution for our publication income. This reduction reflects the full year impact of the new arrangements with our editors as well the new editorial model under which many more of the editorial activities are conducted by the Society in-house, which has had a corresponding increase in our wage bill.

For our main journals, the Society continues a policy of hybrid publication, enabling those authors who wish to or are required to publish Open Access (OA) to do so, while maintaining a default policy of not economically disenfranchising those authors with no or low funding by not levying page charges. As the journals are our primary source of income, the Society, along with our publisher, keeps a close eye on the worldwide changing policies of OA. Our first online-only fully OA journal, the *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society,* has continued to develop during the year and is beginning to make a positive contribution to our finances.

Membership Contributions
The membership of the Society now stands at 3,055, compared with 3,168 at the end of 2023. This includes all fee and non-fee paying members. Of this number, there are 2,577 paying Fellows (2023: 2,632), 168 Associates (2023: 167), and 197 students (2023: 268). Membership contributions increased to £180,886 (2023: £168,170) as a result of the increased subscriptions introduced at our Anniversary Meeting in May 2023. Our membership platform has enabled us to improve our data, provide better ways for our members to engage with the Society and has also helped to make the collection of annual fees more efficient. However, the Society still has an issue with late payers and defaulters. There are currently 191 defaulters.

Donations and Legacies
Grants, donations and legacies play an important role in sustaining our charitable activities and we are most grateful to all those funders and donors who have supported the Society during the year. In particular, we received a residue sum from the estate of Ronald Ward Howlett. The AdoptLINN programme received £14,130 (2023: £11,183) to support the conservation of books and other important items in our collections.

Investments
As a result of an improvement in stock market conditions the value of our investments increased by £303,777 in 2024. After the sale of some investments, which had a corresponding increase in our cash balance, the net increase in the value of our investment portfolio held by our investment manager Evelyn Partners was £177,243 from £5,718,847 at the end of 2023 to £5,896,090 at the end of 2024.

During the year, we used the cash we had set aside in money market funds to make the initial payment of £1,750,000 for the purchase of the 999-year lease of New Burlington House (as well as to fund the associated costs). At the end of the year, our holding in money market funds had reduced to £1,642,000 from £2,995,500 at the end of 2023. These funds continue to provide us with high levels of liquidity with low levels of risk.

Total income from investments in 2024 was £235,105 (2023: £148,333), reflecting the increase in the size of the portfolio and the income from the money market funds. This is expected to reduce in 2025, following the reduction in the money market holding as set out above.

Investment policy
Our aim is to enhance the value of both capital and income on a long-term sustainable basis. In order to meet this aim, the investment portfolio is of a prudent nature avoiding over concentration in individual investments and is invested across asset classes to mitigate exposure to any one investment category. Although the Society accepts that investment involves some element of risk, the overall portfolio has a balanced approach across asset classes and markets in order to avoid excessive risk. More speculative investments are avoided.

During the year, we instructed Evelyn Partners to lower the risk level on our investment portfolio marginally. The investment strategy adopted by the Society now targets returns over the medium term of at least 2.5% per annum above inflation as measured by the UK consumer price index. This reduction in risk appetite reflected our reduced levels of liquidity following the transfer of £1,750,000 in cash to the Government for the New Burlington House lease and the outstanding amount of £2,250,000 which remains payable over the next 10 years. As a result of this change, the proportion of our investments held in fixed interest investments increased marginally relative to our holding of equities.

During the year, we have continued to implement the responsible investment policy that we adopted in 2020 to ensure that our investment strategy seeks to minimise and ideally eliminate irresponsible corporate behaviour. The policy is intended to be entirely consistent with the duty to secure maximum returns from the prudent investment of charitable funds. The Society positively supports investments in well managed companies that are ethically, environmentally and socially responsible. The Society expects Evelyn Partners, as part of its normal investment research and analysis process, to take account of social, environmental, ethical and governance considerations in the selection, retention and realisation of investments. This includes consideration of key issues such as: climate change, biodiversity, labour standards, human rights, racial or sexual discrimination, public health, corporate governance, executive pay and business ethics. The Society encourages Evelyn Partners to raise issues with organisations in which it invests, to raise standards in a way which is consistent with improvements in long term shareholder value. During the year, Evelyn Partners has made several adjustments to our portfolio to improve its overall environmental and social impact.

We will continue to review our investment policy and the use of any surplus cash, particularly in view of the outstanding balance for the acquisition of the Burlington House lease and the potential requirement for a significant capital investment from the Society in improvements to the building.

Other Income
Income from room hire and catering improved during the year to £26,684 compared with £16,161 in 2023. Although encouraging, this is still below pre-COVID levels.

Our in-house shop selling books and other merchandise associated with the Society is making a helpful contribution to our finances, and together with other trading activities, contributed £11,298 in 2024 (2023: £4,610).

EXPENDITURE

98% of the Society's expenditure was used to further our charitable objectives in 2024, with only £37,334 spent on managing investments.

Charitable Activities
Our seven core charitable activities reported in the Accounts are: Education, Publications, Scientific Meetings, Collections, Collections (Curatorial), Collections (Conservation & Digitisation), and Research Sponsorship. Our total expenditure on these charitable activities in 2024 was £1,851,618 (2023: £1,983,137). The work of the Society in safeguarding and promoting our heritage collections, advancing scientific knowledge and understanding, and engaging the public and educational outreach, is set out in detail in the President's and CEO's reports above.

We contributed £39,181 to the LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund, enabling us to make 37 grants ranging from £800 to £1,500 to support research projects across the globe. Total direct research sponsorship (before support costs) in 2024 came to £63,052.

Expenditure on staff salaries, National Insurance and pensions increased during the year to £932,337 (2023: £889,337), largely reflecting the new editorial structure and cost of living increases for all staff. The average number of employees in 2024 was 22.

Our direct (external) Editorial Costs reduced considerably to £61,539 (2023: £87,241) reflecting the new editorial structure, with much more of the editorial expense now incurred in-house through Linnean Society staff.

Burlington House

Rent paid to our (former) landlord, DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities), together with other premises costs amounted to £159,051 in 2024. This figure was significantly lower than 2023 (£397,126) as a result of the purchase of the new lease during the year and the release of a significant provision that we had made in 2023 in respect of back-rent that had been claimed by HM Government, but which we ultimately successfully argued was not payable.

As set out above, during the year, we purchased a 999-year lease of New Burlington House for a total price of £4,000,000. We paid £1,750,000 upfront from our cash reserves (mostly from liquidating money market funds held at Evelyn Partners), with the balance of £2,250,000 left outstanding and payable to the Government over 10 years. The outstanding balance attracts interest at the rate of 5.8% per annum.

As a result of this purchase, the fixed assets on our balance sheet increased by £4,000,000 and we recognised a long-term creditor of £2,250,000. In view of the ongoing interest charge on the outstanding balance, we will continue to review whether early repayment of some or all of this balance would be in the Society's interest, taking into account the other financial commitments and risks facing the Society.

Following the purchase of the New Burlington House lease, we will no longer pay any rent to occupy our premises, although other costs (such as insurance, rates, maintenance and utilities) will remain. We expect to have greater control over these costs in the future than we had when the building was owned by the Government. We will also need to invest in the building to improve its accessibility, sustainability and efficiency, so there is likely to be material capital expenditure that will be required over the coming years.

The new lease for New Burlington House is structured in such a way that the five "Courtyard Societies" (Linnean Society, Society of Antiquaries, Royal Astronomical Society, Geological Society and Royal Society of Chemistry) will act together on certain key aspects relating to our occupation of the premises. The DLUHC has granted a 999-year lease at a fixed peppercorn rent ("the New Headlease"), which is held jointly by all the Courtyard Societies as tenants in common. The Courtyard Societies have, in turn, jointly granted a new underlease for a term of 999 years (less one day) at a fixed peppercorn rent to each individual society (including the Linnean Society) in respect of the premises that such Society occupies. As a result, the Linnean Society has responsibilities to (a) the Government as a tenant under the New Headlease, (b) to the other Societies under our specific underlease, and (c) as a landlord (in common with the other Courtyard Societies) to each of the other societies.

FUNDS

The Society's reserves are split between Permanent Endowments and Restricted Funds. Restricted Funds amount to £2,404,022 (which includes heritage assets of £1,500,000 that cannot be monetised) and Unrestricted Funds amount to £7,743,634. Within Unrestricted Funds, the Society holds a designated reserve of £4,606,977 to reflect funds already deployed on fixed assets, including the new lease.

Reserves Policy

The Society's General Reserve is held to enable the Society to continue to operate effectively in the event that income is unexpectedly reduced as well as to provide income to support our day-to-day charitable activities. The level of contingency is set by Council after detailed consideration by and a recommendation from the Finance & Risk Committee. In determining the level, future income and expenditure is assessed for reliability and commitment respectively. In addition, future capital expenditure, other commitments and contingency are considered.

Under the Charities SORP 2019 free reserves are calculated as the total of investments and net current assets classified as unrestricted funds, less any assigned to designated funds.

Aside from general risks, the Society needs to maintain a General Reserve against the risk that we may need to replace a significant proportion of publication income if Open Access regulations threaten the current business model for academic journals. We also need to ensure that we have sufficient funds available to address required maintenance on our premises. The General Reserve is available to provide further financial support in relation to both these matters.

The Trustees consider that a minimum of six months of operational expenditure should be held in the General Reserve with a minimum of approximately £1,000,000. The General Reserve Fund now stands at £3,316,657 (2023: £4,704,438). This has reduced during 2024 as a result of the purchase of the lease (the value of which is now reflected in the Designated Reserve). The Trustees consider the current balance of the General Reserve to be reasonable in the context of the uncertainties facing the Society.

OUTLOOK

Whilst the Society remains in a relatively healthy financial position, there continue to be significant challenges ahead. We need to continue to find ways to grow our income streams, which remain heavily dependent on revenue from our journals and which are under long-term threat from trends in publishing. Our financial strategy needs to focus on income diversification in order to be able to continue and expand our activity and impact.

Whilst we continue to manage costs efficiently, we are not immune to inflationary pressures. We will have to absorb increased employer's National Insurance Contributions in 2025, which will inevitably impact on the funds available for charitable purposes. We are also investing in the future development of the Society with new staff hires, which we expect to increase our income over time, but which will have a cost impact in the short term. There are also likely to be maintenance and other costs for Burlington House that could be significant. As a result, we expect that the Society could be in a modest deficit on an 'operational' basis in 2025.

The resolution of the New Burlington House lease is a major financial (as well as strategic) event for the Society. It is likely that there will be further costs to maintain and improve the building in the future. Whilst this is an exciting and positive development for the Society, the financial consequences need careful management.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Trustees of the Society extend their gratitude to all the Officers and Staff for continuing to be so careful in control of expenditure in their areas of responsibility and to thank the volunteers for their much-appreciated contributions. Finally, it is appropriate to once again thank the Head of Finance, Priya Nithianandan, for his careful and constant oversight of all the Society's financial activities.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees regularly review the Risk Register, which summarises the major strategic, business and operational risks that the Society faces and have implemented appropriate systems and procedures to mitigate these risks. In 2024 the Trustees approved a new Risk Management Policy to guide their activity. The Society also has a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and a Disaster Plan, which were developed to enable the Society to continue normal operations in the event of a serious disruptive incident. These plans are regularly reviewed and updated as needed.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the surplus or deficit of the Society for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Responsibilities of the Treasurer

Bye-Law 15.1 states: The Treasurer shall generally be responsible for supervising the financial affairs of the Society and advising the Council on economic and financial questions. The roles, responsibilities and powers of the Treasurer are to be determined by the Council and set out in the Standing Orders. The Treasurer shall be appointed to hold office for a term of three years from the conclusion of the Anniversary Meeting at which they are elected. This term may be renewable by the Fellowship twice, giving a maximum period of office of nine years.

Audit Arrangements

As per Bye-Laws 17.2 and 17.4, Council has delegated responsibility for the annual financial audit to an Audit Committee, as set out in the Standing Orders and Terms of Reference for this committee. This Committee comprises three Council members and two Fellows (who are not members of Council) and may co-opt additional members to provide specialist advice on a particular matter or for succession planning purposes. The Committee reports to Council and then to Fellows at the Anniversary Meeting.

Knox Cropper were appointed as auditors at the Anniversary Meeting in May 2024, and have expressed willingness to be re-appointed. These accounts were approved by Council on 3 April 2025 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Edward Banks
_____ Treasurer

_____ President

Document Ref: CGDLW-LQJJZ-Z43IB-5HLDN

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have audited the financial statements of The Linnean Society for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND AUDITORS

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The Charity is required to comply with the charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charity complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities . This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees and members, as a body, in accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under Section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we may state to the Trustees and members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Trustees and members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Knox Cropper LLP

Knox Cropper LLP, Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Date: 3rd April 2025

Knox Cropper is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments From:						
Donations and Legacies	2	74,172	688	-	74,860	384,706
Charitable Activities						
Members' Contributions		180,886	-	-	180,886	168,170
Publications	3	1,718,019	-	-	1,718,019	1,691,017
Scientific Meetings		19,743	-	-	19,743	15,343
Library		5,907	-	-	5,907	15,633
Education		2,930			2,930	2,331
Other Trading Activities	4	38,060	-	-	38,060	16,968
Investments		191,592	43,513	-	235,105	148,333
Total Income and Endowments		2,231,309	44,201		2,275,510	2,442,501
Expenditure On:						
Raising Funds						
Investment Management Costs		26,676	10,658		37,334	25,480
Charitable Activities	6					
Education		273,640	-		273,640	257,867
Publications		437,797	-		437,797	499,540
Scientific Meetings		239,020	-		239,020	275,154
Collections		360,942	37,046		397,988	480,804
Collections: (Curatorial)		189,689	-		189,689	201,600
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)		220,917	-		220,917	183,739
Research Sponsorship		71,015	21,552		92,567	84,433
Total Expenditure		1,819,696	69,256		1,888,952	2,008,617
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Investment Gains/(Losses)		411,613	(25,055)	-	386,558	433,884
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments		217,059	39,465	47,253	303,777	369,345
Net Income/(Expenditure)		628,672	14,410	47,253	690,335	803,229
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		628,672	14,410	47,253	690,335	803,229
Fund balance brought forward at 31/12/2023		7,114,962	2,389,612	822,934	10,327,508	9,524,279
Fund balance carried forward at 31/12/2024		£7,743,634	£2,404,022	£870,187	£11,017,843	£10,327,508

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Heritage Assets	9		1,566,950		1,566,950
Tangible Fixed Assets	10		4,606,977		660,524
Investments	11		5,896,090		5,718,847
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	498,039		669,465	
Short Term Deposits		2,227,834		3,343,871	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		134,082		295,486	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		2,859,955		4,308,822	
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	13	(1,662,129)		(1,927,635)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			1,197,826		2,381,187
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due After One Year	14		(2,250,000)		(0)
NET ASSETS			£11,017,843		£10,327,508
CAPITAL FUNDS					
Endowments	15		870,187		822,934
INCOME FUNDS					
Restricted	15				
Other		904,022		889,612	
Heritage Fund		1,500,000		1,500,000	
			2,404,022		2,389,612
Unrestricted					
Designated	16	4,606,977		2,410,524	
General	17	3,136,657		4,704,438	
			7,743,634		7,114,962
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			£11,017,843		£10,327,508

These accounts were approved by Council on 3rd April 2025 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Edward Banks
Treasurer

President

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash generated from operations	19	89,168		392,166	
Interest paid		21,750		0	
Net Cash provided by (used in) operating activities			110,918		394,834
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		235,105		148,333	
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		(1,750,000)		(18,207)	
Proceeds from sale of investments	11	509,870		790,388	
Purchase of investments	11	(383,334)		(1,329,387)	
Net Cash provided by (used in) investing activities			(1,388,359)		(408,873)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
New Loans		(0)		(0)	
Net Cash provided by (used in) financing activities			(0)		(0)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(1,277,441)		(14,039)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			3,639,357		3,653,396
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			£2,361,916		£3,639,357

Analysis of Net Funds/(Debt)	**1st January 2024**	**Movement**	**31st December 2024**
	£	£	£
Short Term Deposit	3,343,871	(1,116,037)	2,227,834
Cash in Bank and in Hand	295,486	(161,404)	134,082
	3,639,357	(1,277,441)	2,361,916
Deferred Consideration	0	(2,250,000)	(2,250,000)
Net Funds/(Debt)	£3,639,357	(£3,527,441)	£111,916

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts are prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and in compliance with the Charities Act 2011. The Society is a Public Benefit Entity.

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write each asset down to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life as follows:

Property	50 years
Lift and associated refurbishment work	30 years
Furniture and Fixtures	10 years
Environmental Control	10 years
Office Equipment	3 years

Investments are stated at mid-market value. Gains and losses on disposals and revaluations of fixed asset investments are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities and added to the funds to which they relate.

Investment income is accounted for gross in the year of receipt.

Donations and legacies are accounted for when the Society is unconditionally entitled to receipt. No account is taken of stock held for resale. Contributions income is stated net of amounts received in respect of future years.

The Society is partially exempt for VAT purposes. Expenditure is stated net of VAT with irrecoverable VAT shown as a separate expense item.

Support costs are allocated to charitable activities on the basis of estimates of staff time spent on those activities and, in relation to accommodation costs, the relative space used by those activities.

Heritage assets donated to the Society are valued by an independent expert at the time of their donation.

Expenditure is accounted for when there is a constructive or contractual liability arising. A provision is made when the amount payable cannot be determined with certainty.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Other Funds for Grants and Awards	10,005	-	10,005	9,665
John Marsden Fund	-	688	688	499
Legacies	39,290	-	39,290	353,343
Other Donations	24,877	-	24,877	21,199
	£74,172	£688	£74,860	£384,706

3. PUBLICATIONS

	2024 £	2023 £
Joint Publication Account (Note 5)	1,715,363	1,693,472
Other Publication Sales	1,211	(3,062)
Royalties	1,445	607
	£1,718,019	£1,691,017

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Room Hire	25,257	15,527
Catering	1,427	634
Translation Gain/(Loss) – US Dollar	78	(3,803)
Other (merchandise and drinks)	11,298	4,610
	£38,060	£16,968

5. JOINT PUBLICATION ACCOUNT

	2024			2023		
	Total	**Publisher Share**	**Society Share**	**Total**	**Publisher Share**	**Society Share**
	£	£	£	£	£	£
SALES						
Journals	2,301,300	585,937	1,715,363	2,260,652	567,180	1,693,472
PUBLICATION COSTS						
Production and Distribution	(136,997)	(36,395)	(100,602)	(150,426)	(38,407)	(112,019)
SURPLUS	2,164,303	549,542	1,614,761	2,110,226	528,773	1,581,453
Other Costs Incurred by Society						
Editorial Costs			(61,539)			(87,241)
			£1,553,222			£1,494,212
SUMMARY						
Society's share of Income – Note 3			1,715,363			1,693,472
Society's share of Joint costs and other directly incurred costs			(162,141)			(199,260)
			£1,553,222			£1,494,212

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activities Undertaken Directly	Grant Funding Activities	Support Costs (Note 8)	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Education					
Education Costs	7,577	-	-	7,577	10,611
Support Costs	-	-	266,063	266,063	247,256
Total	7,577	-	266,063	273,640	257,867
Publications					
Joint Publication Account (Note 5)	162,142	-		162,142	199,260
The Linnean Newsletter and Pulse	12,401	-		12,401	17,926
Support Costs	-	-	263,254	263,254	282,354
	174,543	-	263,254	437,797	499,540
Scientific Meetings					
Expenditure	17,938	-		17,938	18,774
Support Costs	-	-	221,082	221,082	256,380
	17,938	-	221,082	239,020	275,154
Collections					
Expenditure	14,641	-	-	14,641	15,068
Conservation Archives Project		37,046		37,046	35,861
Support Costs			346,301	346,301	429,875
	14,641	37,046	346,301	397,988	480,804
Collections (Curatorial)					
The Linnaeus Link Project	8,490	-		8,490	5,835
Support Costs	-	-	181,199	181,199	195,765
	8,490	-	181,199	189,689	201,600
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)	65,502			65,502	44,799
Support Costs	-	-	155,415	155,415	138,940
	65,502	-	155,415	220,917	183,739
Research Sponsorship	-	63,052	29,515	92,567	84,433
Total	£288,691	£100,098	£1,462,829	£1,851,618	£1,983,137

6. **CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

The grants set out above include grants made by the Society to individuals. In total, grants were paid to 37 individuals during the year. (2023: 34)

7. **GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	2024	**2023**
	£	£
Expenses of Officers and Council	3,144	5,555
Audit Fee	7,100	6,600
Legal and Professional Fees	59,167	20,898
Staff and Other Related Costs	64,498	67,398
	£133,909	£100,451

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Education	Publications	Scientific Meetings	Library	Collections Curatorial	Collections Conservation & Digitisation	Research Sponsorship	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries and Wages	204,534	177,700	100,697	158,869	85,740	85,772	19,663	832,975	801,005
Premises Costs (depreciation)	23,525	18,731	25,949	27,813	25,995	29,107		151,120	143,226
Repairs and Maintenance	13,513	9,162	22,676	22,676	22,678	22,676		113,381	74,349
Office Costs		2,470	3,880	7,936	2,116	176	529	17,107	17,212
Other Costs (rent provision)		30,959	47,530	97,130	27,991	3,378	6,606	213,593	449,327
Governance Costs	24,491	24,232	20,350	31,877	16,679	14,306	2,717	134,652	100,534
	266,063	263,254	221,082	346,301	181,199	155,415	29,515	1,462,829	1,589,431
2023	247,256	282,354	256,380	429,875	195,765	138,940	35,001		1,589,431

SALARY COSTS	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£
Gross Salary	779,267	745,342
Employers National Insurance	80,788	77,860
Employers Pension Contribution	72,312	66,135
	£932,337	£889,337
Charged direct to projects	36,958	35,364
Charged to Support costs	832,975	801,005
Charged to Governance	62,404	52,968
	£932,337	£889,337

The average number of employees was 22 (2023: 23).

Two employees earned more than £60,000. The total emoluments of the senior management team amounted to £319,659 (2023: £306,124).

Council and Committee members provide their services gratis and receive only out of pocket expenses.

Travel and subsistence expenses claimed for by Officers and Council and Committee members in 2024 were £3,144 (2023: £5,555)

9. HERITAGE ASSETS

Heritage assets acquired since 2010		2024
		£
COST		
At 1st January 2021 made up of		
Darwin's Books	1,500,000	
Nepal Maps	21,000	
Smith Diaries	5,000	
Opie Paintings	25,000	
The Transylvania Florilegium Vol 1	5,475	
The Transylvania Florilegium Vol 2	5,475	
	-	
Tyley Drawing	5,000	
		1,566,950
DEPRECIATION (At 31st December 2024)		
At 1st January 2024		-
Charge for the Year		-
		-
NET BOOK VALUE (At 31st December 2024)		
At 31st December 2023		£1,566,950
At 31st December 2024		£1,566,950

In 2015, the Society received from the Charles Darwin Trust a gift of Darwinian and Wallacean material which contained many key works, manuscripts and letters which has been valued at £1,500,000. In accordance with FRS 102, donated heritage assets have been included at valuation.

The Society also holds a large number of scientific and historic assets which cannot easily be valued and which will not be sold because their maintenance is part of the primary objective of the Society. As a result, these heritage assets are not included in the Balance Sheet. These assets comprise:

a. biological specimens

b. books and periodicals

c. manuscripts, including notebooks, letters and artworks

d. portraits and busts

These heritage assets of the Society are of primary value, internationally, to the biological sciences, and in terms of cultural value, to the history of science. The main collections of dried plant material, preserved animal specimens, books and manuscripts and correspondence of Carl Linnaeus and Sir James Edward Smith provide the foundation for classification, taxonomy and nomenclature.

All this material is irreplaceable and so it is stored under optimum environmental conditions. The collections themselves are accessible physically by any *bona fide* research worker, accompanied by a curator or appropriate member of staff. The Society, with generous grant funding, has financed the digitisation of this material, and these images are accessible to all, at no charge, through the Society's website.

The Society's Collection Development Policy recommends that any additional material must be in fields relevant to existing material.

The Society's insurance policies cover damage to the fabric of the building and the seek-and-find or repair of the Library's book stock, manuscripts, paintings and busts, but not the plant and animal collections as they are unique and irreplaceable. As such, they are invaluable to research and science but are valueless for insurance purposes.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Leasehold Property	Lift Building Works	Office Equipment	Other	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST						
At 1st January 2024	518,854	-	225,752	210,464	317,297	1,272,367
Additions in Year	-	4,000,000	-	-	-	4,000,000
At 31st December 2024	435,095	4,000,000	225,752	210,464	317,297	5,272,367
DEPRECIATION						
At 1st January 2024	83,759	-	82,775	194,582	250,727	611,843
Charge for the Year	7,377	13,333	7,525	9,741	15,571	53,547
At 31st December 2024	91,136	13,333	90,300	204,323	266,298	665,390
NET BOOK VALUE						
At 31st December 2024	£427,718	£3,986,667	£135,452	£6,141	£50,999	£4,606,977
At 31st December 2023	£435,095	£-	£142,977	£15,882	£66,570	£660,524

The freehold property held by the Society comprises Toynbee House in Wimbledon London, which is currently used primarily to house some of the Society's collections. The leasehold property comprises the property at New Burlington House.

11. INVESTMENTS

Investments are held on a long-term basis to generate investment income for the Society.

	2024		2023	
	Book Cost	Market Value	Book Cost	Market Value
	£	£	£	£
UK Fixed Interest	511,491	538,023	271,035	293,955
UK Equities	2,689,513	3,226,320	2,834,273	3,379,795
Overseas Equities	989,696	2,131,747	1,088,766	2,045,097
	4,190,700	5,896,090	4,194,074	5,718,847
Investment Portfolio				
Market Value brought forward		5,718,847		4,810,503
Add: Acquisitions		383,334		1,329,387
Less: Disposals		(509,870)		(790,388)
Realised Gains (Losses) on Disposals		124,639		(113,440)
Gain (Loss) on Revaluation		179,140		482,785
Market Value carried forward		£5,896,090		£5,718,847

Realised Gains represent the difference between the sales proceeds and original cost of investments sold during the year. Revaluation gains and losses arise from the revaluation of investments to market value at the year-end.

12. **DEBTORS**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Due from Publisher	378,943	421,452
Prepayments	-	53,571
Other Debtors	119,096	194,442
	£498,039	£669,465

13. **CREDITORS:** Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Contributions received in advance	75,766	73,344
Publishing income received in advance	1,132,321	1,235,818
VAT	215,143	233,769
Deferred Expenditure	56,140	-
Service Charge	14,439	-
Other Creditors	168,320	384,704
	£1,662,129	£1,927,635

14.	**CREDITORS:** Amounts falling due after one year	£2,250,000	Nil

The £2,250,000 is the outstanding proportion of the £4,000,000 consideration payable in relation to the acquisition of the New Burlington House lease from HMG, which is payable in equal instalments over a 10-year period at 5.8% per annum.

15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS 2024

	Permanent Endowments				Restricted Funds				
	Balance at 1. 1.24	Endowments Received	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance 31.12.24	Balance at 1.1.24	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended & Transfers	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance at 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Westwood Fund	8,038	-	444	8,482	212	177	(177)		212
Trail-Crisp Fund	7,254	-	412	7,666	2,795	203	(85)	110	3,023
Hooker Fund	18,667	-	1,060	19,727	16,907	911	(289)	552	18,081
Goodenough Fund		-			34,778	665	(1,377)	1,730	35,796
Minchin Fund		-			1,623	34	(34)	92	1,715
Jane Jackson Fund	83,886	-	4,765	88,651	-	1,772	(1,772)		
The HH Bloomer Fund	19,978	-	1,113	21,091	6,590	551	(433)	331	7,039
P. Appleyard Fund	84,224	-	4,682	88,906	17,733	2,262	(2,858)	460	17,597
Dennis Stanfield Memorial Fund	48,660	-	2,727	51,397	5,171	1,094	(4,261)	121	2,125
Omer Cooper Fund		-			76,164	1,973	(1,973)	3,611	79,775
Bonhote Fund	33,876	-	1,839	35,715	1,137	817	(817)	17	1,154
Jill Smythies Prize Fund	56,313	-	3,199	59,512	1,136	1,202	(1,513)		825
Irene Manton Prize Fund	70,028	-	3,978	74,006	10,644	1,678	(1,711)	441	11,052
A.G. Side Fund		-			72,000	1,671	(1,671)	3,610	75,610
Jan Gillett Fund		-			10,273	330	(87)	441	10,957
Denis Owen Fund		-			2,240	120	(12)		2,348
Ivy Eleanor Sleep Fund	207,149	-	11,767	218,916	151,548	8,705	(6,131)	6,622	160,746
Trewavas/Greenwood Fund		-			40,216	1,065	(336)	1,871	42,816
Eleanor McMillan Fund		-			208,584	7,257	(39,174)	11,413	188,080
Zimmerman Fund	184,861	-	11,257	196,118	44,416	6,459	(2,029)		48,846
John Marsden Fund		-			31,903	1,317	(1,334)	1,646	33,532
The John Topp Fund		-			153,542	3,938	(1,182)	6,397	162,693
Gertrude Marsh-Looi Fund									
	822,934	-	47,253	870,187	889,612	44,201	(69,256)	39,465	904,022
HERITAGE ASSET									
Charles Darwin Trust	-	-	-	-	£1,500,000	-	-	-	£1,500,000
TOTAL	£822,934	£-	£47,253	£870,187	£2,389,612	£44,201	(£69,256)	£46,956	£2,404,022

15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS 2023

	Endowments				Restricted				
	Balance at 1. 1.23	Endowments Received	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance at 31.12.23	Balance at 1.1.23	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended & Transfers	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance at 31.12.23
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Westwood Fund	7,510	-	528	8,038	212	173	(173)		212
Trail-Crisp Fund	6,764	-	490	7,254	2,526	201	(63)	131	2,795
Hooker Fund	17,405	-	1,262	18,667	15,778	672	(200)	657	16,907
Goodenough Fund		-			32,834	660	(774)	2,058	34,778
Minchin Fund		-			1,513	35	(35)	110	1,623
Jane Jackson Fund	78,216	-	5,670	83,886	-	1,799	(1,799)		0
The HH Bloomer Fund	18,654	-	1,324	19,978	6,020	550	(374)	394	6,590
P. Appleyard Fund	78,653	-	5,571	84,224	15,792	2,018	(624)	547	17,733
Dennis Stanfield Memorial Fund	45,403	-	3,257	48,660	4,281	1,090	(344)	144	5,171
Omer Cooper Fund		-			71,867	1,493	(1,493)	4,297	76,164
Bonhote Fund	31,688	-	2,188	33,876	1,117	725	(725)	20	1,137
Jill Smythies Prize Fund	52,507	-	3,806	56,313	1,306	1,214	(1,384)		1,136
Irene Manton Prize Fund	65,295	-	4,733	70,028	9,966	1,684	(1,531)	525	10,644
A.G. Side Fund		-			67,705	1,438	(1,438)	4,295	72,000
Jan Gillett Fund		-			9,611	193	(56)	525	10,273
Denis Owen Fund		-			2,218	24	(2)		2,240
Ivy Eleanor Sleep Fund	193,149	-	14,000	207,149	138,601	7,309	(2,240)	7,878	151,548
Trewavas/Greenwood Fund		-			37,442	780	(232)	2,226	40,216
Eleanor McMillan Fund		-			203,527	4,908	(13,430)	13,579	208,584
Zimmerman Fund	171,467	-	13,394	184,861	41,122	4,687	(1,393)		44,416
John Marsden Fund		-			30,069	1,123	(1,247)	1,958	31,903
The John Topp Fund		-			143,992	2,735	(797)	7,612	153,542
Gertrude Marsh-Looi Fund					23,862		(23,862)		
	766,711	-	56,223	822,934	861,361	35,511	(54,216)	46,956	889,612
PROJECT FUNDS									
Student Membership Fund	-	-	-	-	70		(70)	-	0
	-	-	-	-	70	-	(70)	-	-
HERITAGE ASSET									
Charles Darwin Trust		-	-	-	1,500,000	-	-	-	1,500,000
TOTAL	£766,711	£-	£56,223	£822,934	£2,361,361	£35,511	(£54,286)	£46,956	£2,389,612

15. **ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Permanent Endowments represent capital funds where only the income arising may be spent. Unspent income balances are disclosed as separate restricted funds, available to be spent in the future, although, from time to time, unspent balances may be added to capital.

Restricted funds may only be spent for the purpose prescribed by the donor.

16. **DESIGNATED FUNDS**

	2024	**2023**
	£	£
Fixed Asset Fund	4,606,977	660,524
Building Fund	-	1,750,000
	£4,606,977	£2,410,524

The Fixed Asset Fund represents the extent to which the Society's general reserve has been utilised to acquire fixed assets. This ensures that the balance on the general reserve gives a better indication of the funds available to the Society. This fund increased significantly during the year as a result of the purchase of the 999-year lease of our premises at New Burlington House for £4,000,000. Other Designated Funds are established to reflect potential future costs and liabilities of the Society. The Building Fund was set up in 2017 to cover the financial risks and liabilities associated with our premises at New Burlington House. Following the purchase of the lease as set out above, this fund is no longer required, and we utilised the £1,750,000 to cover the upfront payment to HM Government for the lease.

17. GENERAL RESERVE	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance 1st January	4,704,438	3,828,623
Net Movement in funds for the year	628,672	718,824
Transfer from Designated Funds	1,750,000	320,000
Transfer (to) Designated Funds	(3,946,453)	(163,009)
Balance at 31st December	£3,136,657	£4,704,438

The Society needs to maintain a General Reserve to provide contingency funding for day-to-day expenses of the Society in the event of unforeseen negative developments and in order to have contingency plans in place to maintain or replace publication income if Open Access regulations threaten the current business model for academic journals. The Society may also need to make significant capital expenditures to maintain and improve our premises at New Burlington House. We also rely on the income from our general reserves to support certain of our charitable activities.

18. **ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2024**

	Investments	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment and Restricted Funds	1,480,197	1,500,000	294,012	-	3,274,209
Unrestricted Funds	4,415,892	4,673,927	2,565,943	(3,912,129)	7,743,634
	£5,896,090	£6,173,927	£2,859,955	(£3,912,129)	£11,017,843

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2023

	Investments	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment and Restricted Funds	1,610,623	1,500,000	319,757	-	3,212,546
Unrestricted Funds	4,108,845	727,474	3,989,065	(1,927,635)	7,114,962
	£5,718,847	£2,227,474	£4,308,822	(£1,927,635)	£10,327,508

19. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income for the reporting period	690,335	803,229
Adjustments for:		
Interest paid	(21,750)	-
Depreciation	53,547	44,990
(Gains)/Losses on investments	(303,777)	(369,345)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(235,105)	(148,333)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	171,426	(190,917)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(265,508)	255,210
	£89,168	£394,834

20. RELATED PARTY DECLARATIONS

There were no transactions with related parties during the year.

21. TAXATION

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Income and Endowments From:						
Donations and Legacies	2	384,207	499	-	384,706	35,009
Charitable Activities						
Members' Contributions		168,170	-	-	168,170	153,914
Publications	3	1,691,017	-	-	1,691,017	1,666,215
Scientific Meetings		15,343	-	-	15,343	5,642
Library		15,633	-	-	15,633	15,486
Education		2,331			2,331	2,597
Other Trading Activities	4	16,968	-	-	16,968	56,922
Investments		113,321	35,012	-	148,333	109,041
Total Income and Endowments		2,406,990	35,511		2,442,501	2,044,826
Expenditure On:						
Raising Funds						
Investment Management Costs		18,362	7,118	-	25,480	23,446
Charitable Activities	6					
Education		257,797	70	-	257,867	202,692
Publications		499,540	-	-	499,540	440,949
Scientific Meetings		275,154	-	-	275,154	220,164
Collections		444,943	35,861	-	480,804	371,573
Collections: (Curatorial)		201,600	-	-	201,600	160,924
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)		183,739	-	-	183,739	149,673
Research Sponsorship		73,196	11,237	-	84,433	82,193
Total Expenditure		1,954,331	54,286		2,008,617	1,651,614
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Investment Gains/(Losses)		452,659	(18,775)	-	433,884	393,212
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments		266,165	46,957	56,223	369,345	(564,683)
Net Income/(Expenditure)		718,824	28,182	56,223	803,229	(171,471)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		718,824	28,182	56,223	803,229	(171,471)
Fund balance brought forward at 31/12/2022		6,396,138	2,361,430	766,711	9,524,279	9,695,750
Fund balance carried forward at 31/12/2023		£7,114,962	£2,389,612	£822,934	£10,327,508	£9,524,279

Appendix: Full Listing of the Linnean Society's Meetings, Events and Workshops 2024

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2024		
18 January 2024 **Nature Reader**	Desire and Extinction in the Illicit Succulent Trade	Jared Margulies
23 January 2024 **Linnean Lens**	Edward Lear and his Magnificent Parrots	Will Beharrell
24 January 2024 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Reptiles on Islands: Gecko Stories from the Indian Ocean Islands	Ashwini Mohan
26 January 2024 **Evening Lecture**	Knowing and Naming: The Roots of Ethno-Ornithology	Andrew Gosler
08 February 2024 **Special Event (Tour and Quiz)**	Flirty Nature: Valentine's Day at the Linnean Society	Dani Crowley
09 February 2024 **Nature Reader**	Smoke and Ashes: Opium's Hidden Histories	Amitav Ghosh
14 February 2024 **Family Event**	Linnean Family Tour: Natural History with a Twist!	Dani Crowley
15 February 2024 **Evening Lecture**	Misreading Climate Change in Bangladesh	Camelia Dewan
28 February 2024 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Wild Echoes: Eco-Acoustic Monitoring and Ecological Mapping	Sarab Sethi
29 February 2024 **Day Meeting**	Tree Cultures: Words, Woods and Well-Being	The Linnean Society and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
12 March 2024 **Linnean Lens**	Rudbeckian Remains (Wood Blocks and Botany)	Roger Gaskell
13 March 2024 **Evening Lecture**	Data for Life: Open Data's role in Preserving Biodiversity	Quentin Groom
15 March 2024 **Exhibition Late**	Lovely as a Tree	The Linnean Society Team
28 March 2024 **Nature Reader**	Pathless Forest: The Quest to Save the World's Largest Flowers	Chris Thorogood
07 April 2024 **Nature Walk**	Botany and History Walk in Perivale Wood	Mark Spencer and Steph Holt

09 April 2024 **Family Event**	Create a Critter: Natural History with a Twist!	Alice Cheetham
11 April 2024 **Day Meeting**	Perspectives on Speciation	The Linnean Society with the Company of Biologists, the Integration of Speciation Research Network of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology and Oxford University Press
17 April 2024 **Lunchtime Lecture**	The Return of the Smooth-Coated Otter to Singapore	N. Sivasothi
23 April 2024 **Evening Lecture**	Women, Environment and Networks of Empire: Elizabeth Gwillim & Mary Symonds	Victoria Dickinsen and Anna Winterbottom
03 May 2024 **Evening Lecture and Discussion**	Alive at the End of the World: Eco-Anxiety and How We Got Here	Melanie Challenger, Caroline Hickman and Siddarth Shrikanth
08 May 2024 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Ocean's Twelve: Saving the World's Rarest Coral	Bry Wilson
13 May 2024 **Special Event**	Pint of Science | The Scent of a Species: Playing Sherlock in Nature	Joanne Littlefair and Steph Holt
14 May 2024 **Linnean Lens**	Drawn to Extinction: Depicting the Thylacine	Jack Ashby
16 May 2024 **Special Event**	London Craft Week | The Tree of Life Motif: Honouring Nature in the Home	Susanna Paisley
20 May 2024 **Partner Event**	What Can Bird Nests Teach Us About Evolution?	Catherine Sheard (With the British Ornithological Club)
24 May 2024 **Members' Event**	Anniversary Meeting and AGM	The Linnean Society Team
05 June 2024 **Evening Lecture**	Unravelling Diversification in Cassidine Beetles	Caroline Chaboo
06 June 2024 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Community-Based Conservation: Safeguarding the Snow Leopard in Kyrgyz-Alai	Fatima Mannapbekova

15 June 2024 **Nature Walk**	Botany Walk: Lee River Valley	Mark Spencer
20 June 2024 **Nature Reader**	Tenacious Beasts: Wildlife Recoveries and Hope	Christopher J. Preston
28 June 2024 **Special Event**	London Festival of Architecture: Open Evening at the Linnean Society	The Linnean Society Team
01 July 2024 **Evening Lecture**	The Darwin Correspondence Project: From Zero to 30 in Fifty Years	Anne Secord
10 July 2024 **Linnean Lens**	The Wondrous Birds of Elizabeth Gould	Andrea Hart
10 July 2024 **Nature Reader**	Groundbreakers: The Return of Britain's Wild Boar	Chantal Lyons
14 July 2024 **Nature Walk**	A Summertime Plant Hunt by the Seaside!	Mark Spencer
15 July 2024 **Day Meeting**	Natural History in the Age of Revolutions: 1776–1848	The Linnean Society and University of Cambridge
23 July 2024 **Special Event (Tour)**	Queer Ecology Evening at the Linnean Society	Dani Crowley
24 July 2024 **Nature Walk**	Sea Cucumbers: The 'Janitors of the Sea'	Cody Clements
25 July 2024 **Film Screening and Discussion**	Rewilding the Riverbanks	Tasha Philips, Mathew Frith and Derek Gow
31 July 2024 **Nature Walk**	A Fruity Walk Around the Secret Orchards of Bermondsey and Southwark Park	Divya Hariramani Herrero
09 August 2024 **Film Screening and Discussion**	Saging the World	Heidi Harper Lucero and Melissa Sherman
27 August 2024 **Family Event**	Create a Critter: Natural History with a Twist!	Alice Cheetham
04 September 2024 **Nature Walk**	Getting 'Batty' at Battersea: An Evening Bat Adventure	Georgia Cowie and Alice Cheetham
10 September 2024 **Linnean Lens**	The 'Curious' Life of Elizabeth Blackwell	Will Beharrell

11 September 2024 **Nature Walk**	Getting 'Batty' at Battersea: An Evening Bat Adventure	Georgia Cowie and Alice Cheetham
12 September 2024 **Evening Lecture**	Life: A History of Mergers	James McInerney
19 September 2024 **Members' Event**	President's Lecture | Artificial Intelligence meets the Natural World	Anjali Goswami
20 September 2024 **Nature Reader**	The Voices of Nature: How and Why Animals Communicate	Nicolas Mathevon
21 September 2024 **Special Event**	Open House at the Linnean Society	The Linnean Society Team
25 September 2024 **Nature Walk**	Getting 'Batty' at Battersea: An Evening Bat Adventure	Georgia Cowie and Alice Cheetham
27 September 2024 **Special Event**	Curator-Led Exhibition Tour: Still Life	Isabelle Charmantier
29 September 2024 **Nature Walk**	Autumn Walk: Identifying and Appreciating Fungi in Queen's Wood	Mark Spencer
30 September 2024 **Special Event**	Into The Light: Cyanotype Workshop from the Linnaean Collections	Martha Gray (With The London Alternative Photography Collective)
04 October 2024 **Nature Reader**	Moulds, Mushrooms, and Medicines: Our Lifelong Relationship with Fungi	Nicholas Money
09 October 2024 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Cracking the Code on Zombie Cicadas	Matt Kasson
16 October 2024 **Partner Event**	Irene Manton Lecture 2024: From Essex Orchids to Tropical Frogs	Amanda Bamford, Matthew O'Donnell, Maggy Fostier and Robbie Blackhall-Miles (With the University of Manchester and Manchester Museum)
17 October 2024 **Evening Lecture**	Botanical Architecture: Plants, Buildings and Us	Paul Dobraszczyk
25 October 2024 **Special Event**	African Lace Bark in the Caribbean: History, Art and Extinction	Mark Spencer, Steeve O. Buckridge and Charmaine Watkiss

29 October 2024 **Family Event**	Family Craft Workshop with Woodblocks	Scarlet Forrester
30 October 2024 **Special Event**	Halloween Special: How can a Vegetable be a Monster?	Stella Sandford
05 November 2024 **Linnean Lens**	Illustrating Indian Nature: The Work of Buchanan-Hamilton and Haludar	Mark Watson and Claire Banks
06 November 2024 **Partner Event**	Green Careers Conference 2024	The Linnean Society with the British Ecological Society
07 November 2024 **Nature Reader**	This Terrestrial Elysium: Dr Lettsom's Garden at Grove Hill	Clare Hickman
11 November 2024 **Special Event**	Workshop | A Time for Stitches: Embroidering Linnaeus' Floral Clock	Padma Ghosh and Alex Milne
13 November 2024 **Evening Lecture**	Exploring Chlorophyll Printing: An Herbarium Photo(synthesis) Album	Dianne Bos (With The London Alternative Photography Collective)
15 November 2024 **Special Event**	Curator-Led Exhibition Tour: Still Life	Isabelle Charmantier
27 November 2024 **Lunchtime Lecture**	The Return of the Siamese Crocodile	Pablo Sinovas
28 November 2024 **Partner Event**	The Origin and Evolution of Botanical Spirals	Sandy Hetherington (With the University of Edinburgh)
28 November 2024 **Exhibition Late**	Still Life: Late Opening	The Linnean Society Team
02 December 2024 **Special Event**	Founders Day Lecture | Ecologies of Display: Contemporary Art in Natural History Collections	Sarah Wade
12 December 2024 **Special Event**	Christmas Lecture | Finding Optimism at a time of Biodiversity Crisis	Dame E. J. Milner-Gulland
19 January, 01 February, 08 March, 04 April, 02 May, 06 June, 11 July, 01 August, 05 September, 03 October, 07 November, 04 December	Treasures Tours: Tours of our Library and collections were held on these dates throughout the year.	The Society's Collections Team

THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

England & Wales - Charity number 220509

Accounts

The LINNEAN SOCIETY of London

The Linnean Society of London

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the Year Ended

31 December 2023

Charity No. 220509

Company No. RC000313

(Royal Charter Company)

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Full listing of Linnean Society Events & Meetings for 2023	

1. LEGAL STATUS

The Linnean Society was founded in 1788, received a Royal Charter in 1802 and Additional Charters in 1904 and 2005. The Society is a registered charity, No. 220509.

2. ADDRESS

The Linnean Society of London
New Burlington House
Piccadilly
London W1J 0BF

3. PRINCIPAL ADVISERS

Bankers:	Barclays Bank Plc PO Box 13555 Acorn House 36–38 Park Royal Road London NW10 7WJ
Auditor:	Knox Cropper LLP 65 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD
Investment Managers:	Evelyn Partners Group Limited 45 Gresham Street London EC2V 7BG

4. PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS	YEAR OF APPOINTMENT
Professor Anjali Goswami	President (2022)
Edward Banks	Treasurer (2020)
Professor Jonathan Drori CBE	Scientific Secretary (2022)
Professor Stuart West	Editorial Secretary (From May 2023)
Dr Mark Watson	Collections Secretary (2022)
Professor Gail Cardew	CEO (2021)
Robbie Blackhall-Miles	Vice President (Retiring May 2024)
Dr Isabel Larridon	Vice President (Retiring May 2025)
Dr Howard Nelson	Vice President (Retiring May 2025)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

TRUSTEES

Council, composed of the Trustees of the Linnean Society, provides strategic direction for the Society. In 2023 there were 17 Fellows on Council. Most Fellows step down after a three-year term unless they are re-elected by the Fellowship at the Anniversary Meeting held annually on the 24 May (or the nearest working day).

Following their election to Council, all Trustees are provided with copies of key documents setting out the governance of the Society. These include essential Charity Commission documents (CC3: The Essential Trustee) and the Linnean Society's Charters and Bye-Laws. Council members receive a full induction to the Society, including a briefing on their duties as Trustees and meetings with staff, and they are required to sign up to the Trustee Code of Conduct.

At an Extraordinary General Meeting in March 2023, the Fellowship passed a motion to update the Charters and Bye-Laws, and to move to a three-tier governance structure (Charters, Bye-Laws and Standing Orders). Immediately afterwards, the new Charter and Bye-Laws were sent to the Privy Council and, as of January 2024, they are progressing towards approval. Meanwhile, Trustees continued to focus on reviewing and updating policies, monitoring major and strategic risks, and developing strategy.

The elected members of Council are the Trustees of the Charity and, **in addition to the Officers listed above**, those who served during the year are listed below:

	DUE TO RETIRE
Professor Paul Barrett	May 2025
Dr Rich Boden	May 2024
Professor Brycchan Carey	May 2024
Kevin Coutinho	Retired May 2023
Professor Julia Day	Resigned 20 January 2023
Dr Charlotte Grezo	Retired 24 May 2023
Andrea Hart	May 2025
Dr Blanca Huertas	May 2025 (Resigning May 2024)
Angus McCullough	Retired May 2023
Fiona McWilliams	May 2026 (From May 2023)
Professor Michael J. Reiss	May 2025
Philip Sadler	May 2024
Elaine Shaughnessy	Retired May 2023
Professor Baroness Kathy Willis	May 2026 (From May 2023)

ABBREVIATIONS

ACE	Arts Council England
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AHRC	Arts and Humanities Research Council
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
e.o.	Ex officio
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
FLS	Fellow of the Linnean Society
FMLS	Foreign Member of the Linnean Society
FRS	Fellow of the Royal Society
FRS 102	Financial Reporting Standard 102
HonFLS	Fellow *honoris causa*
HonMLS	Honorary Member of the Linnean Society
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ISAs	International Standards on Auditing
LSL	Linnean Society of London
MP	Member of Parliament
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
OA	Open Access
OUP	Oxford University Press
PLS	President of the Linnean Society
PPLS	Past President of the Linnean Society
PPAN	Plants and People Archive Network
PPLS	Past-President of the Linnean Society
SI	Special Issue
SOFA	Statement of Financial Activities
SORP	Statement of Recommended Practice
UCL	University College London
VI	Virtual Issue
WCoMC	Worshipful Company of Management Consultants

ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REVIEW 2023

2023 seems to have whizzed by, especially at the Linnean Society. As an Alfred Russel Wallace fan, I greatly enjoyed the Society's exhibition and the multiple events celebrating the bicentenary of Wallace's birth over this past year. My children still talk about the snakeskin on display during one of the Society's family tours—the skin of the python that was pulled from Wallace's hut. They have been asking when they can come back ever since, and fortunately there have many opportunities for them to do just that, including joint events with our courtyard neighbours like the 'FloraNation' celebration during HM The King's Coronation weekend and the autumn Courtyard Open House.

On that same neighbourly theme, we continued to work closely with our fellow Courtyard Societies and the UK Government to secure a long-term lease in New Burlington House. It has been lovely to have many opportunities to show off our historic buildings and collections to visiting officials and to answer their questions about our work. This process also provided strong motivation to develop an ambitious and impactful new strategy that both celebrates our heritage and lays out a framework utilising our many assets to support positive action for the natural world.

This leads to another highlight of the year—a superb but intense weekend pulling the Society's new strategy together at Hergest Croft Gardens, and I'm very proud of the result. I hope all of you will feel inspired to join us as we put this strategy into effect, ensuring that we are successful in our mission to cultivate a global community working towards a world where nature is understood, valued and protected.

A last personal highlight for me was delivering our first standalone President's Lecture in September, which was accompanied by our first Fellows' Admissions ceremony since the COVID-19 pandemic. As always, it was a joy to spend an evening with longstanding Fellows and to welcome new Fellows to the Society. I have never left a reception in the Library without feeling energised by the people I have spoken with—Fellows from abroad who are visiting while in the UK, new student members who tell me all about their exciting projects, or old friends who I never see often enough. All of this makes me very proud to lead the Society through this extraordinary period and hopeful that this next year will see us achieve even more of our vast potential.

Professor Anjali Goswami PLS

OVERVIEW 2023

We made significant progress in several critical areas in 2023, including the new Charter and Bye-Laws, our new strategy and the New Burlington House lease negotiations. All of this work is key to ensuring the Society continues to be a driving force behind the understanding and protection of nature for generations to come.

Progress on our New Charter and Bye-Laws

In March 2023, an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) was organised, with support from Governance Manager Andrew Swan, to enable Fellows to ask questions about the proposed new Charter and Bye-Laws, and to give their approval. As explained to the Fellowship throughout the process, a review and modernisation of these documents was instigated by Council following an independent review in 2018 of the Society's governance, which recommended several governance reforms to keep in line with best practice. The tenor of the EGM was generally positive and so, after a short discussion, Fellows voted to approve the changes. The Charter and Bye-Laws were then sent to the Privy Council, where, in late 2023, a petition appeared in the London Gazette for eight weeks. If no unfavourable counter-petitions are received, the final version will be sent to the Privy Council for approval. These documents will not come into effect, however, until they are transcribed onto vellum and sealed by the Crown Office. Meanwhile, work continues apace on the third level of governing documents, the Standing Orders. These will be sent to Council in early January 2024 for approval.

A New Strategy

With pro bono assistance from the Worshipful Company of Management Consultants (WCoMC), we embarked on a strategy development process involving Trustees, staff and our Honorary Curators. A whole-day brainstorming session with staff and Trustees, a meeting with our Honorary Curators and one-to-one Trustee interviews provided the necessary insight required to imagine what the Society should look like in the future. Led by the President and CEO, a small working group was formed to discuss the analysis. The working group met for a weekend at Hergest Croft Gardens to synthesise all the brilliant suggestions and ideas into a condensed strategy document, which was discussed by Council at their October meeting. We expect to have a final version available in January 2024, after which we will commence work on developing implementation plans. Importantly, we will also make the document public, so that our membership, visitors, volunteers and other supporters can discuss with us how we can all work together to achieve our ambitious plans. Our sincere thanks go out to Patrick Chapman and Ian White from WCoMC for their invaluable support, as well as to our Treasurer, Ed Banks, and his family for such generous hospitality at Hergest Croft Gardens.

New Burlington House Lease

We were delighted to welcome the Minister responsible for the New Burlington House lease, Baroness Scott of Bybrook, to the Society in January. Climbing the stairs, she was one of the first to see the new display of heritage prints adorning the walls, and she showed a keen interest in our activities and collections. Together with the other Courtyard Societies, we discussed the lease situation with her, and were relieved to hear she wanted to resolve matters efficiently, urging us to work with her team to find a solution. Through the year, we were supported by our advisors, Capital Real Estates, and our lawyers, Farrer & Co. We continued to raise the profile of our campaign with MPs, various All Party Parliamentary Groups, including the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, and the Arts and Heritage Parliamentary Group. The chair of the former was so enthralled by our collections that he stayed long after the official visit had concluded. Throughout 2023 we made good progress on discussions and signed a Heads of Terms Agreement in March 2024.

Welcomes and Farewells

We were pleased to welcome several new staff to the Society this year: Georgia Cowie in the newly created role of Journal Officer; Ryan Li as Buildings Manager; Danielle Crowley as Education Officer; Christina McCulloch as Assistant Archivist; and Rowena Howie as Office and Facilities Manager.

After only three months covering Helen Shaw's parental leave, Ryan Li was offered a permanent position elsewhere. We also said goodbye to our Digital Content Producer, Ross Ziegelmeier, and our Assistant Archivist Luke Thorne. We wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavours.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORSHIP

Since 1839, our journals have played a vital role in developing scientific knowledge, publishing important findings across biological, botanical, zoological, and now evolutionary research. We welcomed our new Editors-in-Chief in 2023, as well as saying thank you to the Editors standing down. We also bedded in our new editorial office. We have a community of editors, authors and reviewers who make our journals possible, and we would like to thank them for their contributions this year.

At a time when the publishing world is seeing much volatility and change, our journals must move carefully to keep pace. Strategic conversations for each of our journals have been a core element of our activity, thinking about the future of each title, as well as the portfolio as a whole. This has included expanding the scopes for our *Biological* and *Evolutionary* journals, so that they are more clearly differentiated.

Our Editors-in-Chief (EiCs) have been core to this strategic work, with discussions involving both our incoming EiCs and those standing down. Our heartfelt thanks go to Professor Michael Fay, Dr Maarten Christenhusz and Professor John Allen, who left us in April and September 2023, respectively. Meanwhile Dr Jeffrey Streicher (*Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*) and Professor Julia Day (*Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society*) have taken the reins, while Dr Steven Dodsworth moved to the *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, having led the *Evolutionary Journal* during its initial launch. We appointed Dr Karen Sears to take up the role of EiC of the *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, after Professor John Allen's outstanding and dedicated leadership of the journal for over 25 years.

During 2023 we transitioned to a new editorial model, with our editorial office becoming fully established with Journal Editorial Manager Dr Hassan Rankou at the helm, and our new Journal Officer Georgia Cowie in post. The team have implemented changes such as a new template and style guide, as well as an online proofing tool, making it easier for authors to check their papers before publication.

Research Journals

The ***Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*** (*BioJLS*) achieved an Impact Factor in 2023 of 1.9. Papers included a study of body size and wing and leg structure in Darwin's finches, showing adaptations to different types of locomotion used during foraging, and sex reversal in size dimorphism and mobility in South American Allocosinae (Lycosidae) spiders. Other highlights included two special issues—'Teleonomy in Living Systems', dedicated to Professor Andrew Packard FLS, and 'Cuban Biodiversity', exploring the largest of the Caribbean Islands that constitutes one of the planet's biodiversity hotspots.

The ***Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*** (*BotJLS*) achieved an Impact Factor in 2023 of 2.4. The journal published several high impact research papers, including a paper investigating global patterns in orchid pollination biology that was picked up by several websites. A themed issue on European plants was also published and Professor Fay's own paper on the origins, hybridisation and biogeography of these plants performed well on social media.

The ***Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*** (*ZooJLS*) achieved an Impact Factor in 2023 of 2.8. Many papers saw good traction in the media, with one describing an almost complete skull of the Brazilian dinocephalian *Pampaphoneus biccai* highlighted by the *New York Post* and MSN. Another paper with an altimetric score of 1957 was picked up by *The Guardian*, who reported on the paper's revised phylogeny of the mole genus *Talpa* and two species, new to science, discovered in Turkey. Editorials were also published on the discussion surrounding changing taxonomic names that may spark offense on ethical grounds, stimulating a piece in *Science*, 'Should Beetles Be Named After Adolf Hitler?'

The ***Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society*** (*EvoJLS*) published five original articles, including a whole-genome phylogeography of the intertidal snail *Littorina saxatilis* and a genetic analysis of *Alseuosmia,* a plant genus endemic to New Zealand where some taxa appear to morphologically mimic unrelated species. Palaeontologist Professor David Jablonksi—2022 awardee of the Society's Darwin–Wallace Medal—contributed an editorial, 'Perfect Storms Shape Biodiversity in Time and Space', and a call for papers was announced ahead of the upcoming day meeting, 'Perspectives on Speciation', in April 2024.

LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund

Our co-initiative with the Systematics Association has allowed the Society to support the study of biodiversity, taxonomy, systematics and evolutionary biology in the field and in the lab. The Society was once again pleased to help fund the LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund, this year contributing £37,337.67.

In 2023 we were able to award 36 grants, ranging from £500 to £1,500. Successful applications came in from all over the globe, including Benin, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, India, Mexico, the Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, the UK and the US. Projects supported looked at the taxonomy of rain frogs, phylogeography of terrestrial mussels on the Mesoamerican land bridge and a study of the hemi-parasitic plant genus *Pedicularis* in the Himalayas, with a view to understanding how interspecific pollen transfer shapes this particular community.

Awardee	Country of residence	Title of project
Guilherme Azevedo	United States	Resolving recalcitrant nodes in the two-clawed spiders with new UCE probe set
Gabriela Bittencourt	United Kingdom	Untangling the taxonomy of the rain frogs
Javier Blasco Aróstegui	Spain	Venom as a tool for understanding diversification of Mediterranean Island *Euscorpius*
Mark Angelo Bucay	Philippines	Identifying triggers of archipelagic speciation of *Begonia* using machine learning and phylogenomics
Andressa Cabral	Germany	The spatio-temporal co-diversification of frugivory-related traits

Ritabrata Chowdhury	United Kingdom	Against All Odds: Unravelling the phylogeographic distribution of *Cataglyphis* ants in India
Bea Crisostomo	Philippines	A snapshot of the genetic diversity of natural eucheumatoid populations in Bohol
Piotr Cuber	United Kingdom	Green algae endophytes—a new and hidden world to discover
Landy Damian	United States	Towards a foundation phylogenetic monograph of New World Vanillas (Vanilloideae: Orchidaceae)
Michael Dantonio	United States	Reconstruction and systematics of enigmatic late Paleozoic plants from micro-computed tomography
Hospice Dassou	Benin	Taxonomic and distribution note of *Dioscorea dumetorum* Kunth Pax, Dioscoreaceae) in Benin
Celso Domingos de Souza Filho	Portugal	The Phoenix Project—disentangling a species complex in the deep Atlantic
Alba Enguídanos-García	Spain	From Jungle to Lab: Systematics, evolution, and conservation in Panama
Vinicius Ferreira	Denmark	FireflyDex: Integrating collections, community science and AI to identify endangered fireflies species
Andrés Fonseca Cortés	Brazil	Systematics of Macropsychanthus (Leguminosae): Phylogeny, biogeography and taxonomic revision
Andrea Goss	Germany	Phylogenetic analysis of the three symbionts of *Sticta canariensis*
Sebastian Hatt	United Kingdom	The molecular systematics of *Hydnora*: a bizarre parasitic plant native to Africa
Rafael Iwama	Brazil	Terrestrial leeches of the genus *Cylicobdella* (Cylicobdellidae) from the Brazilian Atlantic Forest
Jose Esteban Jimenez Vargas	United States	Understanding the diversity of the giant genus *Peperomia* (Piperaceae)
Sean Keogh	United States	Comparative phylogeography of freshwater mussels (Order Unionoida) on the Mesoamerican land bridge
Cedric Lee	United States	The Lithobiomorpha of California
Guillem Limia Russel	United Kingdom	Genetic analysis of hybrid zones in the white lipped pit viper complex
Annalie Melin	South Africa	Unravelling cryptic species in the oil-collecting bees of South Africa: *Rediviva parva*
Omar Ojeda	Mexico	Taxonomy and systematics of the family Eulimidae in the Tropical Eastern Pacific
Fúvio Oliveira-da-Silva	Brazil	Towards an integrative taxonomic revision of neotropical Radulaceae based on morphological and molecular evidence
Martina Pavlek	Croatia	The role of genome size in evolution of cave adaptations

Rhuthuparna S B	India	Integrating morphological, molecular and cytological approaches in delimiting species boundaries in *Didymocarpus* Wall.
Mark Scherz	Denmark	Revision of the *Anodonthyla boulengerii* species complex (Anura: Microhylidae: Cophylinae)
Hemant Singh	India	Phylogeny and community structure in the hemi-parasitic genus *Pedicularis*
Jeff Stallman	United States	Biodiversity and systematics of the genus *Ascocoryne*
Philippa Stone	Canada	Systematics and hybridisation in *Triantha* (Tofieldiaceae)
Hiranya Sudasinghe	Switzerland	Systematics and molecular phylogeny of the freshwater fish genus *Devario* (Teleostei: Danionidae) in Sri Lanka
Genevieve Theron	South Africa	Revision of the southern African endemic genus *Psilodera* (Diptera: Acroceridae)
Huiqing Yeo	Singapore	Cool genes: Phylogenetic relationships of *Stegomyia* and the evolution of cold adaptations
Jeanne Agrippine Yetchom Fondjo	Germany	Taxonomy, Phylogeny and Biogeography of the Grasshopper genus *Pteropera* Karsch, 1891 (Orthoptera)
Marcela Zichinelli	Brazil	Morphological adaptations of larval snail-killing flies (Diptera: Sciomyzidae)

The Year Ahead

In the upcoming year, our hope is for our journals to lead conversations within their communities. The planned April 2024 symposium on 'Perspectives on Speciation' will contribute to a special issue of the *Evolutionary Journal*, with speakers from a range of disciplines offering their views. We will continue the success of the *Zoological Journal*'s series on nomenclature ethics and consider how opinion pieces can lead debate across our journals. Discussions with the community around the *Botanical Journal* will help to ensure that its scope reflects today's research landscape. Meanwhile, we look forward to Dr Sears growing her editorial board to match the *Biological Journal*'s expanded scope.

OUR MEMBERSHIP

We are indebted to all our members for their support, whether they are individuals choosing to remain members for many years or those joining the Society for the first time. Each of them contributes to the wealth of expertise and diversity of backgrounds that make the Society so special.

Expanding our Membership

As overseen by Room Hire Manager and Membership Assistant Tatiana Franco, we are delighted to report that 167 new Fellows, 53 Associates and 71 Student Associates joined in 2023, with diverse backgrounds in academia, as well as those in the arts, corporate world, policy, healthcare and IT. Of special mention is the Society's CEO, Professor Gail Cardew. Congratulations to Gail on her Fellowship, and to Susan Gove, who was made *honoris causa* at the AGM in May. Unfortunately, 30 members resigned, giving a total number of 3,168 at the end of 2023, as compared to 3,086 in the previous year.

Celebrating your Achievements

We are always excited to celebrate the achievements of our membership, and are keen to share them with other Fellows, and beyond.

- Congratulations to Richard Barley FLS (Director of Gardens, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew), who was awarded an MBE in The King's Birthday Honours List in June 2023.
- Henrietta McBurney FLS was awarded the Society for the History of Natural History's Thackray Medal for her book *Illuminating Natural History: The Art and Science of Mark Catesby*.
- Jack Ashby FLS won the Zoological Society of London's Clarivate Award for Communicating Zoology for his book *Platypus Matters*.
- And Mark Chase FLS was honoured with the Asa Gray Award from the American Society of Plant Taxonomists for his outstanding accomplishments in the field of plant taxonomy.

In Remembrance

Sadly, in 2023, we lost **Dr Esmé Hennessy**, Professor of Botany and acclaimed botanical artist, and the first woman to hold the post of lecturer in Botany at University College, Durban. **Gail Bromley** passed in May, whose career began in taxonomy at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, before moving into outreach, for which she would be awarded an MBE and the Kew Medal. In June we lost **Professor Andrew Packard**, renowned teuthologist, whose study on cephalopod behaviour aided in understanding that colour change is not just about camouflage, but communication. **Professor Douglas Yen**, ethnobotanist and Fellow for 27 years, will be remembered for his research into early civilisations around the Pacific and their agriculture.

The Linnean

It was wonderful to see so many members contribute to *The Linnean* in 2023, with over 44,000 views of the issues. Well-received articles included Jane Jelley's piece about the colour system used in Ferdinand Bauer's botanical illustrations, Anton Pantaleon Hove's secret mission to Gujarat seeking out cotton by Dr Henry Noltie, and several articles about the research of our medal winners, like Frieda Christie, previous winner of the Trail–Crisp Award for microscopy, and Jill Smythies Prize winner Sue Wickison.

Central to our Success

We rely on our members to help deliver our charitable mission, whether through offering their expertise, contributing to our activities or financially supporting our work. Central to the new strategy unveiled in 2024 will be enhancing the level of this support and engagement. We will be inviting our membership to help us secure a successful future for the Society so that it can be enjoyed for generations to come.

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

Through sponsorship and awarding medals, the Society acknowledges and encourages excellence in all aspects of the science of natural history, with particular emphasis on evolution, taxonomy, biodiversity conservation and sustainability.

Medal and Award Winners 2023

Linnean Medal (For services to science)**:** Professor Sandra Díaz, *National University of Córdoba*

Darwin–Wallace Medal (For major advances in evolutionary biology)**:** Professor Ziheng Yang FRS, *University College London*

Bicentenary Medal (Awarded to an early-career scientist, in recognition of excellent research in the natural sciences): Dr Tanisha Williams, *Bucknell University (at time of award)*

Irene Manton Prize (For the best doctoral thesis in botany in a UK university)**:** Dr Brogan Harris, *University of Bristol*

John C. Marsden Medal (For the best doctoral thesis in biology in a UK university)**:** Dr Tomos Potter, *Florida State University*

Trail–Crisp Award (For an outstanding contribution to biological microscopy): Dr Lara González Carretero, *University of York*

H. H. Bloomer Award (Awarded to an amateur naturalist for an important contribution to biological knowledge)**:** Dr Margaret E. Bradshaw MBE

Jill Smythies Prize (To a botanical artist for outstanding, diagnostically relevant, published illustrations)**:** Sue Wickison

The John Spedan Lewis Emerging Leader Award (To an individual who is making a notable and innovative contribution to the UK natural environment): Kwesia (City Girl in Nature)

YEAR OF WALLACE

Naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace was born on 8 January 1823—during 2023 we celebrated the bicentenary of the birth of this remarkable Fellow of the Linnean Society, who changed the course of the history of biology.

Where's Wallace?

Laid out in our historic Library, 'The Life and Work of Alfred Russel Wallace (1823–2023)' exhibition ran from the end of June (coinciding with Dr Jim Costa's talk on the anniversary of the reading of the papers on the theory of evolution) until 20 December 2023. Publicised online and via a poster near our entrance on Piccadilly, more than 1,030 visitors dropped in to see it. Curated by Head of Collections Dr Isabelle Charmantier, the display included many of Wallace's books and manuscripts, from his travels to the Amazon, the Malay Archipelago, and the United States, to his relationship with Charles Darwin, and a unique manuscript lent by Lars Fjeldsoe-Nielsen. (The exhibition was paired with artist Simryn Gill's *Naga Doodles*, impressive nature prints of roadkill snakes in Indonesia, hung for a workshop on 'Extinction', co-organised with Dr Emilia Terraciano FLS.) Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with visitors saying 'Fascinating exhibition. I feel awed to be in this building' and 'The whole building is a treasure trove of information. I'm so pleased the exhibition lured me in.'

Watching Wallace
Wallace's bicentenary led to several special events at the Society, starting with a commemorative tree planting in Wallace's birthplace of Usk, Wales. Society Council member Robbie Blackhall-Miles FLS and Dr Sandra Knapp PPLS were present to mark the year at the new 'Wallace Arboretum', organised by the Usk Civic Society.

The Society also held several online 'Linnean Lens' events highlighting our Wallace-related materials, like Wallace's 'Palms of the Amazon' delivered by Sandra Knapp, 'Wallace's Remarkable Discoveries in the Malay Archipelago' by Dr George Beccaloni FLS and 'Annotations from Wallace's Personal Library' by Professor Jeb Bevers FLS.

The keynote address for this year was delivered by the aforementioned Jim Costa, based on his new book, *Radical by Nature: The Revolutionary Life of Alfred Russel Wallace* at the Society. The talk was followed by a drinks reception at the Reynold's Room in the Royal Academy of Arts, notably where Darwin and Wallace's papers on evolution were first read.

Research and Inspiration
We kicked off the 'Year of Wallace' at the very end of 2022 with a fantastic article in *The Linnean* by George Beccaloni on the fate of Wallace's legendary letter to Darwin from the island of Ternate. Later, Student Associate Karl Png wrote of the role Wallace played in inspiring his own career in biology, and our Librarian Will Beharrell compiled a blog and a more in-depth piece for *The Linnean* about Wallace's personal library, reunited from within the Society's collections.

AdoptLINN: Wallace Appeal
We continue to be bowled over by the generosity of our Fellows, members, and other benefactors. The AdoptLINN scheme to support vulnerable items in our collections raised £11,183 in 2023, exceeding our total for 2022. Overseen by Will Beharrell, of this, £7,650 was directed towards our appeal to conserve the personal library of Alfred Russel Wallace, in the bicentenary of his birth. This incredible support will make a profound difference to dozens of items across the collections, ensuring they can be studied and enjoyed for centuries to come. Special thanks to Conservator Janet Ashdown for her work on many of the items conserved.

EFFECTIVE CONNECTIONS

It has been wonderful to connect with people globally in 2023 via a love of natural history. Particularly international in their reach are our online events and digital offers, such as videos and blogs. We have made in-person connections, welcoming people to the building through our lectures, exhibitions, and collaborative events with other Courtyard Societies, but also broadening our reach into new spaces with our partnerships and nature walks.

Science, History and a Cup of Tea
The Society delivered a whopping 61 events through 2023, including 11 nature walks and four partner events with the University of Edinburgh, University of Manchester, the British Ornithological Club and the Beatrix Potter Society. Events and Communications Manager Padma Ghosh toggled between online, onsite and hybrid events. The turnout was high, with a total of 7,061 attendees (4,721 online and 2,340 in person). In February we launched the revamped staircase space, decorated with images from our collections, with a members-only event. Prints were made available to purchase alongside a raffle that raised money for our education outreach programme. 'FloraNation', our Courtyard Late,

celebrated the coronation of HM King Charles III, with a bespoke tea tasting designed by Mihail Bogdan Chirlomez FLS. Open House in September also drew a large crowd, with more than 1,000 pairs of feet in the building. And we ended the year with a brilliant natural-history themed Christmas Quiz, hosted by award-winning journalist Samanth Subramanian, which raised money for AdoptLINN.

Expertly Guided Walks

This year we spent a lot of time outdoors with botanical experts, community workers, urban landscape managers and our curators. It was a superb summer and all of our walks were sold out, which confirms the enormous interest in plants and the local environment. We took groups out to urban parks, marshes, estuaries and orchards, all within the bounds of London. On Earth Day, 22 April, we held a free guided nature walk in Green Park, in collaboration with the South London Botanical Institute, to explore central London wildflowers. And in another fresh new event format, we hosted a nature-based stroll through the Victoria and Albert Museum's vast collection, led by our Honorary Curator of Artefacts, Glenn Benson FLS. Our Honorary Curator of Botany Dr Mark Spencer FLS helped us deliver several of our botanical walks, extending from Chiswick all the way to Crayford Marshes.

Connecting with Like-Minded Organisations

As well as continuing our existing partnerships, we were grateful to be able to organise several visits to other institutions this year, enabling valuable connections and increased visibility amongst like-minded organisations. Highlights include the Swedenborg Society, named for philosopher and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg, a contemporary and relative of Carl Linnaeus. The team had a tour of Darwin's home of Down House to view a loan from the Society and learn more about this iconic Fellow. The British Library's team also showed us a selection of items from their nature collections, including items relating to the collection of nature sounds, and we were also welcomed by the Royal College of Surgeons.

Magnolia Box

Inspired by the redecoration of the Society's staircase at the start of 2023, and the successful merchandising of some of the selected images on display, we wanted to make more of our stunning collections available. After much research, we chose to partner with Magnolia Box, a print-on-demand service that delivers fine art reproductions for libraries, galleries and museums. Publications Manager Leonie Berwick and Digital Assets Manager Andrea Deneau have been managing this project and partnership, which includes selecting and photographing artwork from our collections, editing the images and creating detailed metadata. Our aim is to expand on the image options available over time.

Merchandise

With a renewed focus on utilising our collections and on our 'shop', investment into a more efficient card payment method for in-house purchases at the end of 2022 has proven transformative in 2023. September (our best performing month of the year) recorded net sales of £534.33 for 'merchandise', and book sales of £369.00. This represents a 366% increase on the same month the previous year. Contributing factors to the rise in sales are the increase in visitors generated by the advertised 'Wallace' exhibition and maximising opportunities during our Treasures Tours. The in-house shop was reconfigured by Office and Facilities Manager Rowena Howie in August, and targeted promotions were run online from September to December, trialling new product lines like notebooks.

New Treasures: Ray of Light

The Collections Team's 'Treasure of the Month' blogs have continued to promote items from within our Library, archives and specimens. One particular blog highlighted the recently acquired X-rays of Linnaean fish specimens, taken by our Honorary Curator of Fish and Shells, Oliver Crimmen FLS, in his

first role at London's Natural History Museum (NHM) in the 1970s. Chrissy Williams, also from the NHM, wrote a blog about the 168 X-rays that only made it back to the Society in 2023, which have also been digitised to make them more widely accessible. The radiographs give insight into not only the structure of the fishes themselves, but also to the preservation practices, providing a new dimension to our foundational collections.

Embracing our Future

Overseen by Head of Engagement Anna Perman, we're looking forward to delivering the Society's new strategy and working more with partners across Burlington Courtyard. We hope to continue to bring more people into the Society, and reach new audiences through events like our pop culture-focused tours and Lates. But we also look forward to exploring beyond our four walls, through our nature walks and partner events throughout the country. Our focus will be on our exhibitions and journals as anchors for our communications overall, and we are excited to be working with Fellows old and new to highlight their work.

INCLUSIVE OUTREACH

It has been thrilling to see families and young people engaging with nature in our building this year, through our Wild Wednesday projects with local schools, our curriculum-based workshops, and our tours and family activities. Nationwide, we connected through STEM Live, bringing Burlington House to schools around the country, and through grants supporting innovative UK-based community projects.

British Science Week and Conference Connections

Early in the year, Education Manager Ayesha Meredith-Lewis ran a successful 'Religion and the Big Bang' workshop for British Science Week in conjunction with Westminster Abbey, provided free to local primary schools in London. Run in two parts, the Society led a workshop for 63 students, covering classification and evolution, which was followed by a tour of Scientists' Corner in the Abbey.

We had another busy ASE conference in 2023, making some valuable connections with science teachers, educators and outreach specialists, including many who were later involved in our after-school workshops.

STEM Live

As a result of the ASE Conference, we also teamed up with STEM Live (a service that streams curriculum-based activities directly into classrooms) to deliver a live classification workshop, 'How to Classify a Sea Monster'. Facilitated by Society staff members Ayesha and Isabelle Charmantier, biologist and Sally-Ann Spence FLS presented the 45-minute session. A workshop allowed the students to come up with their own 'sea monster' and classify it using their newfound skills, with the most appropriately classified monster winning an exclusive Linnean Learning goodie bag. We were delighted that over 5,000 viewers watched it live throughout the British Isles.

Wild Wednesdays

In 2022 we were excited to be awarded a grant from the Art Fund's 'The Wild Escape' project, for which we ran workshops in 2023. Our Wild Wednesday workshop scheme was a six-week, after-school programme encouraging students in North Kensington to engage with nature by documenting their findings in nature journals, before presenting them at the Society in our Meeting Room. We were then

awarded a further grant to continue the project with another school in Deptford, where students took part in installing planters, hedgehog and bird boxes, and bug hotels. We have been in talks with UK examining body OCR to extend these after school clubs and champion the new GCSE option in Natural History, when it is launched.

The Wave Project

Our partnership with The Wave Project was in full swing in 2023, with our 'Keeping Touch with Nature' programme engaging 52 young people over five sessions in London. The project aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of young people, and the Society led night safaris in Peckham, as well as outings in Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park to learn all about migratory birds. These sessions keep young people—some with complex needs—engaged with nature, while maintaining vital peer support networks during the winter months. This is our second year working with the project, having enjoyed great feedback from participants and their parents.

It's Classified

After a trialling the scheme with teachers and incorporating their feedback, we launched our schools workshop spotlighting classification—'It's Classified'—in the autumn. This curriculum-linked workshop sees students explore items from within the Society's collections, then get hands on with classifying living things. Twelve schools have already taken part, with great feedback.

Supporting Homegrown Projects

We were overwhelmed with applications for Our Local Nature Grant scheme this year, managed by Education Officer Dani Crowley, with over 300 submissions from all over the UK. Four Youth Panel members, aged 16–18, were tasked with choosing from our shortlist of 100 applications. We finally decided on fully funding four projects, with an additional three being part funded. The projects ranged from biodiversity gardens to IUCN Red List art projects to dragonfly citizen science. We were impressed by not just the projects themselves, but the Youth Panel, who showed enthusiastic dedication. Well done to Sian, Sophie, Sharzad and Taha!

Unique Tours and Talks

We have had an exciting schedule for family and themed tours this year, showcasing the collections to a variety of new audiences. We've hosted four family tours during school holidays ('Cabinets of Curiosities'), that look at the more unusual aspects of the natural world, alongside some untold stories.

In June we ran 'Outside the Binary' with The Royal Parks to celebrate Pride Month, taking 25 participants on a tour of the Society and then on to St James's Park. We discussed the ways in which nature can surprise us and the stories of figures like Edward Lear and Rachel Carson; attendees described it as 'wonderful' and 'inspiring'.

We also ran a 'Halloween Spooktacular', featuring a tour with some of the scariest species found in nature, a quiz in our Meeting Room and Halloween-themed cocktails. The 26 guests were incredibly engaged, telling us they would love to see similar events in the future.

The Collections team also had a busy year giving tours to the general public (both private group tours and monthly Treasures Tours), as well as free educational tours to students, with many returning lecturers, integrating the tour into their seminars. The redecoration of the staircase has been included in the tour, enabling us to tell new stories around artworks which are not usually on display.

We have also continued to give talks at conferences and for external groups, including two about the history of the Linnean Society and its various homes, a talk to the Beatrix Potter Society, and an online talk about how to search for our collections, which now features on our website.

Creating Opportunities in 2024

Having been part of the advisory group leading to the adoption of the new GCSE qualification in Natural History, we are looking forward to continuing our engagement with it. This is a good opportunity for young people to engage with nature in the future. We hope to get more young people into the building, through our workshops, family and pop culture tours. And in 2024 we are planning an event with the British Ecological Society, showing the range of nature-related careers open to young people.

COLLECTIONS IN FOCUS

The year began with the inauguration of our redecorated staircase, showcasing wonderful images from our collections. Items from our collections also featured in well-reviewed national and international museum exhibitions, and we ended the year by completing the cataloguing of our Domestic Archives, and the deaccessioning of our journals.

Step by Step: A New Staircase Display

In working towards our strategy of an inclusive space that involves, informs and inspires visitors, the year started with a refresh of the Society's beautiful staircase. The large, dark portraits were relocated and replaced with 54 thoughtfully selected reproductions of artworks, plates and specimens from our collections, and their accompanying stories. The prints have brightened the space and QR codes to our website further enlighten visitors about each image and make the space and the Society more accessible. The new look was celebrated with a successful Fellows-only launch event on 23 February, which you will have read more about in 'Effective Connections'.

Objects on Loan

The Society was proud to loan some of its valued items to two acclaimed exhibitions. Carl Linnaeus's famous Lapland diary was one of three items loaned to Tate Modern for *Forms of Life: Hilma af Klint and Piet Mondrian* (April–September). In September, the exhibition moved to the Kunstmuseum in The Hague, and the Lapland diary was swapped for another Linnaean manuscript, 'Oeconomia Lapponica'.

In addition, the Society's newly acquired painting of the breadfruit tree by Antiguan artist John Tyley was loaned to Cambridge's Fitzwilliam Museum for their *Black Atlantic* exhibition. It was used for some of the museum's exhibition merchandise, and the Society will donate its share of the profits to the St Vincent Botanical Garden. The exhibition catalogue, which has an entry on the painting by Dr Julie Kim FLS and Isabelle Charmantier, has been highlighted as a book of the year by *The Art Newspaper*.

Domestic Archives and Mysterious Monks

Comprising over 4,300 records (including 4,050 individual files and items), the immense Domestic Archive collection has now been catalogued and packed into archival boxes by Project Archivist Alex Milne. Soon available to browse via our online catalogue, material can also be viewed onsite. The Society's history is now more accessible to researchers, having already been used extensively to answer enquiries, and has proven invaluable to more current work, such as the Burlington House Campaign and the drafting of our new Bye-Laws. The collection holds many fascinating records, including the possible theft of books from the Library by a mysterious man dressed as a monk!

Collected Archives and Arch Enemies
Archivist Liz McGow has been busy doing an audit of the Society's Collected Archives, with the aim of ensuring that all material is accounted for on the internal archive catalogue, adding to our understanding of what we hold, and making plans for future cataloguing.

Material was added to the online archive catalogue at the last update in March, the most notable being the papers of Richard Salisbury, an accomplished but controversial botanist, who became the arch enemy of our usually mild-mannered founder, Sir James Edward Smith.

Space for Growth: Journals Deaccessioning
Work on managing our fabulous collection of scientific journals continued apace in 2023, under the eye of Will Beharrell. Sensitive deaccessioning has given us valuable growth space for the future, with arrangements made for rarer material to be rehomed in larger libraries. Most importantly, all the titles that the Library plans to retain have now been electronically catalogued, so they can be searched for and accessed by all.

Sincere Thanks
We would not be able to undertake our work without the help of our honorary curators Glenn Benson, Ollie Crimmen, Gina Douglas, Suzanne Ryder and Dr Mark Spencer, who have dealt with scientific enquiries, advised us and promoted our collections through talks, blogs and articles. Our volunteers and interns have contributed vital work to the ongoing cataloguing and conservation work that goes on behind the scenes, including John Abbott, Sheila Meredith and Naomi Mitamura. Finally, it has been a pleasure to work with Jonn Gale, our first collaborative doctoral student.

As always, we remain grateful to everyone who has donated books. Donations in 2023 included works on marine biology from Dr Elaine Robson FLS, artbooks from Niki Simpson FLS and a beautiful set of early-printed botanical works from Keith Maybury FLS, among many others.

The Road Ahead
As the Society confirms its new strategy in 2024, a Collections strategy will also develop from it. Several strands are likely to emerge: capitalising on the success of the Wallace exhibition, we intend to hold other exhibitions that will continue to attract passing visitors, as well as interested stakeholders. Background infrastructure work will progress, ensuring that our collections are easily accessible, online and onsite, and that they are preserved for future generations through our AdoptLINN conservation programme. Collaborations with external partners are also key, alongside the encouraged study of our collections through events like Linnean Lens, and our catalogues.

CASTING THE NET

The Linnean Society supports research on our collections and on important topics for our times through national and international collaborations. 2023 has been a particularly fruitful year for partnerships and cooperation.

UNESCO Memory of the World
Led by Cambridge University Library, the Society was one of the project partners in the application to include Charles Darwin's documentary heritage in the UNESCO Memory of the World register. Other partners included Down House (English Heritage), NHM London and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG Kew). From the Society's Charles Darwin collection, we included the famous John Collier painting, manuscripts (mostly correspondence)—part of the original donation from the Charles Darwin Trust—

and Darwin's vasculum. The application has been approved by the UK Department of Culture, Media and Sport, and we now await UNESCO's decision in 2024.

Hidden Histories and St Vincent Botanical Garden

Our collaboration with Dr Christina Welch (University of Winchester), who spearheaded the NERC/AHRC-funded project 'Hidden Histories of Environmental Science', and with Julie Kim (Fordham University, NY) continued through 2023. Thanks to Dr Welch's project, the digitised manuscripts of Alexander Anderson were uploaded onto our Online Collections early in the year, attracting new researchers to the Library. Isabelle Charmantier and Julie Kim co-organised a workshop, inspired by John Tyley's painting of the breadfruit tree. The workshop, attended by 20 artists, historians, scientists, and staff from St Vincent Botanical Garden, was extremely fruitful and enabled further interpretation and reflection on this remarkable painting.

Networking

The Linnean Society Collections team is lucky to be part of several networks. The newest is Growing Networks, a group that brings together curators and archivists from European institutions that hold botanical art. We were extremely lucky to have three meetings in 2023, all supported by the Getty Art Fund. These meetings, organised by the Fitzwilliam Museum, took place in Cambridge and London (January), Edinburgh (October), and Paris (November). Isabelle Charmantier was in attendance; the meetings introduced participants to the collections of other institutions, with some good connections forged and a number of emerging ideas for collaborative projects.

Our Archives team members, Archivist Liz McGow and Assistant Archivist Christina McCulloch, have joined the Places, Plants and People Archive Network (PPPAN). This collaborative forum connects organisations with archives related to botany, horticulture and agriculture, as well as records of landscape preservation and management, community gardens and socio-cultural perspectives and heritage. The network allows institutions with similar collections to provide mutual support, share expertise, improve their outreach and engagement with audiences, and explore research and funding opportunities together.

Organised by Will Beharrell and Isabelle Charmantier, we were privileged to host the annual meeting of the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (EBHL) group in June 2023, in collaboration with the NHM London, RBG Kew and the Royal Horticultural Society. Over 80 delegates from 10 countries converged on London for a celebration of all things botanical, culminating in a day meeting at the Linnean Society on the topic of pressed plants (and other biological material) inserted into early-printed books. These delicate specimens pose a challenge to academics and heritage professionals, and it is hoped that draft guidance derived from the meeting can be published in 2024.

FEEDBACK

TALKS, LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

From 15th Century to Today: How to Find Treasures in Linnean Collections
'This was so helpful, thanks! I'm across the pond and I can attest to value of emailing with questions. I'm so grateful for the work you are doing to preserve your records, specimens and artefacts for future generations!'

The Little Owl: Small but Brave
'I just wanted to say that I thought the talk on Little Owls by Ronald Van Harxen yesterday was one of the best presentations I have ever seen! Lots of facts and figures, but delivered with a light touch. Thank you again for hosting such a fascinating talk.'

Some Like it Hot? Using Thermal Tolerance to Explain Insect Biodiversity
'The talk was excellent, a real case study in how to present complex science to an intelligent lay audience, make it exciting, interesting, and show its relevance.'

Linnean Lens
'I can't tell you how happy I was to find the Linnean Society talks and the Linnean Lens series. The talks were not only fascinating but informative and wide-ranging. What was most important to me was being part of a like-minded community and having the opportunity to continue to learn. Your series is truly a treasure and I am fortunate to have been able to join in. [The Society is] a place for investigation and engaging in new challenges.'

Step by Step: Staircase Launch (Members' Event)
'I for one had a wonderful time, really happy to be there for the first time since lockdown, among a friendly crowd as usual, who care about the same things. The three talks were superb too. I love the smart use of items involved in the staircase launch and overhaul for merchandise ideas.'

'I thought that it was an excellent evening—good talks and a fabulous new staircase—well done.'

'That was a wonderful evening with a very special feel to it.'

'In the Shade of the Breadfruit Tree' Interdisciplinary Workshop
'Thank you so much for organising such an engaging session! I'm eager to see how the story of John Tyley and the breadfruit tree continues to grow.'

'I thoroughly enjoyed the session on Friday afternoon, thanks very much for all your work in bringing it (and us) together. What a great group you compiled! The interdisciplinarity was very helpful, and I look forward to future collaborations inspired by this.'

THE LIFE AND WORK OF ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE: EXHIBITION

'Wow, wow, wow. Left speechless at such a unique collection. So much great information in such a great location and fabulous building.'

'Totally fantastic—what a charming display celebrating an extraordinary and somewhat undervalued genius. Thank you.'

'A wonderful exhibition on A. R. Wallace—along with many other treasures—in one of my favourite libraries of the world! Thank you.'

'The whole building is a treasure trove of information. I'm so glad the exhibition lured me in.'

TOURS AND WALKS

Westminster Abbey Volunteers
'Just to say thank you all for the tour today. I really enjoyed it and found it so interesting. I've just spent the last half an hour regaling my husband with all the stories. Ayesha was really brilliant.'

Treasures Tours
'Many thanks to you and your Archivist colleague for yesterday's fascinating Treasures Tour! To see close up the actual copy of *Origin of Species* that Darwin gave to Wallace was a real 'shiver down the spine' moment … and there could not possibly have been a better place to see it: Not in a sterile glass case, but right there in 'real life' looking straight back at us ... Thank you again. Please keep doing the 'magic'.'

Guided Walks
Queer Ecology with Royal Parks

'The tour leaders were so knowledgeable, kind and engaging. I'm sad that the event didn't last longer.'

'Both the speakers were really engaging. I liked that we walked around during [the event] so we could enjoy the park and the Linnean Society too.'

THE LINNEAN

'I felt I simply must write and congratulate you on a simply superb issue (September). Beautifully illustrated and every article a winner.'

'Congratulations on another fine publication!'

'Yet another fascinating and elegant publication.'

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Linnean Society contributes to scientific, cultural, economic and social well-being nationally and internationally through a broad programme of activities. Our unique ACE-designated biological collections and historical resources—and our strong focus on biodiversity conservation, sustainability and science outreach—support the care and understanding of our planet. The Society's key contributions to public benefit are:

- Safeguarding and promoting the Society's heritage collections, through cataloguing, conservation and digitisation, improving access to primary information, making collections freely available to view online.
- Advancing and disseminating knowledge through four world-class research journals and providing support and recognition through grant schemes and awards to emerging scientists and naturalists.
- Engaging the public through regular tours of the collections, conferences and free monthly public lectures, while our educational programme, which fuses science, history and art, reaches out to students of all ages and backgrounds, providing free resources in schools, in Burlington House and online.

The Society's activities contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through support for the natural world, and through unique resources that illuminate environmental and social change. The Society connects academia with a diverse public, informing UK Government policy and promoting the international profile of the UK as a pre-eminent international hub for expertise about the natural world.

CORE VALUES AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Society's vision, mission and values are:

Vision: A world where nature is understood, valued and protected
Mission: To inform, involve and inspire people of all ages and backgrounds about nature and its significance through our collections, programmes and publications
Values:

- We are a diverse community of people united by an active interest in nature, its management and conservation.
- We aim for excellence and integrity in all areas of our activity.
- We use our income and other finances to fulfil our charitable function and declared mission.
- We promote our science to all sectors of society.
- We value diversity and seek to broaden the inclusion of currently under-represented groups.
- We are an expert voice concerning relevant major issues and challenges of our time.

LOOKING FORWARD 2024

There are many reasons to be optimistic for the Society in 2024. First and foremost, we are excited about the final resolution of the lease situation, which will bring much-needed certainty for the Society's future. Visitors to the building in 2024 will note visible signs of our optimism, with a new exhibition in the Library, improved shop and refreshment facilities, and, thanks to the generosity of Gay Daniels—in memory of her husband, David—freshly reupholstered benches in the Meeting Room.

We are aiming to further increase the numbers of visitors to the building in 2024, with our imaginative and thought-provoking events, activities and exhibitions. Our ambition is not limited to Burlington House, however. Following the success of our regional public events in Manchester, Plymouth and now in Edinburgh, we hope to organise more events around the UK with the help of our members.

With new Editors-in-Chief at the helm of all our journals, and an editorial office ready to support them, we will be sharing leading papers with a wider audience, organising conferences to stimulate original thinking, and promoting our journals at leading international congresses. As a result, we will be encouraging new submissions, and increasing the reach and impact of our journals.

In order to achieve all of this, we will need to focus much of our efforts on diversifying and enhancing our sources of income. Legacies, for example, offer our supporters a way to contribute to the Society at a level that is affordable to them, and we were incredibly grateful to have received one in 2023. We will also need to explore other sources of fundraising, as well as developing our nascent ideas for commercial income.

Finally, thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Society in 2023. It is remarkable to see so many people—staff, Trustees, honorary curators, members, volunteers—give so much of their time, expertise and energy to the Society. Our mission to understand and protect nature has never been so important, and the people behind the support of this mission are what makes the Linnean Society so special.

Professor Gail Cardew FLS, CEO

PEOPLE

Officers and Council listed on pp. 3–4

Linnean Society Staff Team

CEO*	**Professor Gail Cardew (2021)**
Head of Finance*	**Priya Nithianandan (1991)**
Head of Collections*	**Dr Isabelle Charmantier (2017)**
Head of Operations*	**Helen Shaw (2017)**
Head of Engagement*	**Anna Perman (2022)**
Governance Manager	**Andrew Swan (2022)**
Room Hire Manager & Membership Assistant	**Tatiana Franco (2015)**
Office & Facilities Manager	**Ryan Li (April–July 2023)/Rowena Howie (August 2023)**
Communications & Events Manager	**Padmaparna Ghosh (2020)**
Librarian	**Will Beharrell (2019)**
Archivist	**Liz McGow (2016)**
Project Archivist	**Alex Milne (2021)**
Assistant Librarian & Archivist	**Luke Thorne (2019–Feb 2023)**
Assistant Archivist	**Christina McCulloch (May 2023)**
Digital Assets Manager	**Andrea Deneau (2010)**
Conservator	**Janet Ashdown (2002)**
Publications Manager	**Leonie Berwick (2007)**
Education Manager	**Ayesha Meredith-Lewis (2022)**
Education Officer	**Dani Crowley (2023)**
Multimedia Content Producer	**Ross Ziegelmeier (2015–July 2023)**
Journal Editorial Manager	**Dr Hassan Rankou (2022)**
Journal Officer	**Georgia Cowie (2023)**
Office Cleaner P/T	**Fatima Mendoca (2015)**

**Indicates a member of the Senior Management Team.*

Curators, Editors and Committees 2023

Curators

Fish, Shells & General Zoology	Oliver Crimmen (2017)
Insects	Suzanne Ryder (2017)
Plants	Dr Mark A. Spencer (2013)
Artefacts	Glenn Benson (2014)
Honorary Archivist	Gina Douglas (2009)

Editors

Biological Journal	Professor John A. Allen (1997–2023)/Dr Karen Sears (Sept 2023)
Botanical Journal	Professor Michael F. Fay (2008–2023)/Dr Steven Dodsworth (April 2023)
Zoological Journal	Dr Maarten Christenhusz (2018–2023)/Dr Jeffrey Streicher (April 2023)
Evolutionary Journal	Dr Steven Dodsworth (2022–2023)/Dr Julia J. Day (January 2023)
Synopses Series	Dr John Crothers (1991) & Dr Peter J. Hayward (2002)
The Linnean	Leonie Berwick (2022)

Committee Chairpersons

Audit	Professor Brycchan Carey
Collections	The Collections Secretary
Engagement	The Scientific Secretary
Finance & Risk	The Treasurer
Medals & Awards	Professor Paul Barrett
Nominations	The President
Publishing	The Editorial Secretary
Remuneration	The Treasurer
Safeguarding	Philip Sadler

The President and Treasurer are ex officio members of all Committees, with the exception of the Audit Committee, where the Treasurer is an attendee. The CEO is an invited attendee of all Committees. Staff also attend various Committees, but not as members.

Committee Members

Audit Committee

Professor Brycchan Carey (Chair)

Andrea Hart (2023)

Philip Sadler (2023)

Fellowship representative, Professor Gordon McGregor Reid

Fellowship representative, Professor Stella Sandford

The Treasurer (as an attendee)

A representative of Knox Cropper (Auditor)

Collections Committee

The Collections Secretary (Chair)

The Honorary Curators

Felix Driver (2023)

Louisiane Ferlier (2023)

Susan Gove (1983–2023)

Andrea Hart (2015)

Dr D. J. Nicholas Hind (1995–2023)

Debbie Lane (2020)

Chris Mills (2022)

Chris Saunders (2021)

Engagement Committee

The Scientific Secretary, Jon Drori (Chair)

Dr Howard Nelson (2023)

Lucy Carson-Taylor (2023)

Finance and Risk Committee

The Treasurer (Chair)

Giles Coode-Adams (2001)

Dr Charlotte Grezo (2020)

Edward Hoare (1998)

Fiona McWilliams (2023)

Eoin Murray (2023)

Elree Winnett Seelig (2023)

Medals and Awards Committee

Professor Paul Barrett (Chair)

Dr Rich Boden (2022)

Professor Kayla King (2022)

Dr Sandra Knapp (2022)

Nominations Committee

The President (Chair)

Steph Holt (2022)

Dr Howard Nelson (2022)

Kathy Willis (from May 2023)

Publishing Committee

The Editorial Secretary (Chair)

The Editor-in-Chiefs

Representatives from the publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP)

Professor Alistair Hetherington (2023)

Remuneration Committee

The Treasurer (Chair)

The President

Philip Sadler (2022)

Safeguarding Committee

Philip Sadler (Chair)

Designated Safeguarding Officer

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officers

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The full financial accounts were prepared to conform to the Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP – FRS 102), and are presented after the report of the External Auditors.

SUMMARY

The Society's income increased by £397,675 this year from £2,044,826 in 2022 to £2,442,501 in 2023. The increase was largely due to a significant legacy received during the year - total income before donations and legacies increased by £47,978 from £2,009,817 in 2022 to £2,057,795 in 2023. Our expenditure was up considerably on last year, increasing by £357,003 from £1,651,614 in 2022 to £2,008,617 in 2023. This increase was planned and expected, with increased spending on all major areas of our charitable activities as well as higher staff costs this year.

Overall, our surplus of income over expenditure (before movements in investments) in 2023 was £433,884 (2022: £393,212). Without the benefit of legacies and donations, our surplus would have been £49,178. This metric, which excludes net gains / losses on investments, is the best way to assess the ongoing 'operational' financial performance of the Society. At the start of the year, we forecast that the Society would be broadly break-even on an operational basis, so it is pleasing to have finished this year marginally ahead of this expectation.

The book value of our investments increased during the year by £369,345 (2022: loss of £564,683) taking the overall net surplus for 2023 to £803,229 (2022: deficit of £171,471).

Our unrestricted funds at the end of the year were £7,114,962 (2022: £6,396,138). We continue to try to balance the active use of our funds for charitable purposes with ensuring a sustainable financial position given the future challenges and uncertainties we face.

INCOME

Publications and Royalties

As usual, the overwhelming majority of our income came from our scientific research journals. Overall income from publications was broadly in line with last year at £1,691,017 (2022: £1,666,215). After deducting the direct production, distribution, and editorial costs payable by the Society, the net contribution of our journals was £1,494,212, an increase of 6.3% on 2022 (£1,404,641). This increase reflects new arrangements with our editors as well as a new editorial model under which many more of the editorial activities are conducted by the Society in-house, which has had a corresponding increase in our wage bill.

For our main journals, the Society continues a policy of hybrid publication, enabling those authors who wish to or are required to publish Open Access (OA) to do so, while maintaining a default policy of not economically disenfranchising those authors with no or low funding by not levying page charges. As the journals are our primary source of income, the Society, along with our publisher, keeps a close eye on the worldwide changing policies of Open Access. Our first online-only fully OA journal, the *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society,* is still in its development phase, and we continue to invest in this important initiative.

Membership Contributions

The membership of the Society now stands at 3,168, compared with 3,086 at the end of 2022. This includes all fee and non-fee paying members. Of this number, there are 2,632 paying Fellows (2022: 2,564), 167 Associates (2022: 154), and 268 students (2022: 254). Membership contributions increased to £168,170 (2022: £153,914) as a result of the growth in the membership and the increased subscriptions introduced at our Anniversary Meeting in May 2023. Our membership platform has enabled us to improve our data, provide better ways for our members to engage with the Society and has also helped to make the collection of annual fees more efficient. However, the Society still has an issue with late payers and defaulters.

Donations and Legacies

Grants, donations and legacies play an important role in sustaining our charitable activities and we are most grateful to all those funders and donors who have supported the Society during the year. In particular, we received generous bequests from the late Dr Olive Mary Hilliard Burtt, a noted botanist and taxonomist, and George Charles Philip Walker. The AdoptLINN Programme received £11,183 (2022: £10,500) to support the conservation of books and other important items in our collections, in particular the library of Alfred Russel Wallace in bicentenary of his birth.

Investments

As a result of a modest improvement in stock market conditions, the value of our investment portfolio increased by £369,345 in 2023, recovering much of the losses we suffered in 2022 following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

In addition to the increase in value of our portfolio, we also transferred some excess cash to our investment managers, Evelyn, during the year. As a result, the value of our portfolio at the end of the year had increased to £5,718,848 from £4,810,503 at the end of 2022.

During the year, we also transferred £3M to Evelyn to invest in money market funds in order to take advantage of the higher rate of income that this would generate relative to the cash remaining in our bank account. These funds are designed to provide us with high levels of liquidity with low levels of risk.

Total income from investments in 2023 was £148,333, a significant increase over 2022 (£109,041), reflecting the increase in the size of the portfolio and the income from the money market funds.

Investment policy

Our aim is to enhance the value of both capital and income on a long-term sustainable basis. In order to meet this aim, the investment portfolio is of a prudent nature avoiding over concentration in individual investments and is invested across asset classes to mitigate exposure to any one investment category. Although the Society accepts that investment involves some element of risk, the overall portfolio has a balanced approach across asset classes and markets in order to avoid excessive risk. More speculative investments are avoided. The investment strategy adopted by the Society targets returns over the medium term of at least 3% per annum better than inflation as measured by the UK consumer price index.

During the year, we have continued to implement the responsible investment policy that we adopted in 2020 to ensure that our investment strategy seeks to minimise and ideally eliminate irresponsible corporate behaviour. The policy is intended to be entirely consistent with the duty to secure maximum returns from the prudent investment of charitable funds. The Society positively supports investments in well managed companies that are ethically, environmentally and socially responsible. The Society expects Evelyn, as part of its normal investment research and analysis process, to take account of

social, environmental, ethical and governance considerations in the selection, retention and realisation of investments. This includes consideration of key issues such as: climate change, biodiversity, labour standards, human rights, racial or sexual discrimination, public health, corporate governance, executive pay and business ethics. The Society encourages Evelyn to raise issues with organisations in which it invests, to raise standards in a way which is consistent with improvements in long term shareholder value. During the year, Evelyn have made several adjustments to our portfolio to improve its overall environmental and social impact.

We have continued to work with Evelyn to develop measuring tools to assess the effectiveness of our responsible investment policy and evaluate our portfolio relative to external benchmarks. ESG data and analysis is a complex area, with significant subjectivity, and which continues to evolve. However, as of September 2023, and based on ratings and analysis from MSCI, the direct stocks in the portfolio have a higher average ESG score and ESG rating than a relative benchmark index. Exposure to companies considered ESG 'leaders' has risen over the past year and exposure to companies considered ESG 'laggards' has fallen (to zero exposure). Analysis of the fund holdings in the portfolio shows lower levels of ESG risk, as well as significantly less exposure to carbon producing industries, than the relative benchmark index.

We will continue to review our investment policy and the use of any surplus cash, particularly in view of the recent positive developments on the Burlington House lease, which, when finally concluded, will require a significant capital investment from the Society in both the lease itself and in improvements to the building.

Other income

Income from room hire, catering and other activities continued to be at a relatively depressed level compared with pre-Covid levels. Room hire and catering contributed £16,161 in 2023 (compared with £15,531 in 2022).

Our in house "shop" selling books and other merchandise associated with the Society was significantly upgraded during the year and is beginning to make a helpful contribution to our finances.

The Society is working hard to increase the revenue it generates from its digital assets, although this is yet to make a meaningful contribution.

EXPENDITURE

99% of the Society's expenditure was used to further our charitable objectives in 2023, with only £25,480 spent on managing investments.

Charitable Activities

Our seven core charitable activities reported in the Accounts are: Education, Publications, Scientific Meetings, Collections, Collections (Curatorial) Collections (Conservation & Digitisation), and Research Sponsorship. Our total expenditure on these charitable activities in 2023 was £1,983,137 (2022: £1,628,168). The work of the Society in safeguarding and promoting our heritage collections, advancing scientific knowledge and understanding, and engaging the public and educational outreach, is set out in detail in the President's and CEO's reports above.

We contributed £37,338 to the LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund, enabling us to make 36 grants ranging from £500 to £1,500 to support research projects across the globe. Total direct research sponsorship (before support costs) in 2023 came to £49,432.

Expenditure on staff salaries, National Insurance and pensions increased significantly during the year to £889,337 (2022: £769,386) reflecting the full year costs for some senior hires made in 2022, the new editorial structure described above, as well as cost of living increases for all staff. The average number of employees in 2023 was 23.

Our direct (external) Editorial Costs reduced considerably to £87,241 (2022: £170,010), reflecting the new editorial structure, with much more of the editorial expense now incurred in-house through Linnean Society staff.

Rent, and other charges by our Landlord, DLCHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities), amounted to £397,126 (2022: £210,912), which included some rental charges in respect of previous years which have been claimed by the agents representing DLUHC, although the amounts involved have not yet been determined. We also utilised a provision of £22,880 that we had previously made against these claims for back rent. As set out in the CEO's report, we have made significant progress towards a long-term resolution of the current situation at Burlington House. When this process is finalised, we expect to make a significant investment in the building to improve the facilities and shape them better for the future. There is also a lot of planned maintenance expenditure that has been deferred and will need to be incurred in subsequent years.

FUNDS

The Society's reserves are split between Permanent Endowments and Restricted Funds (of £3,212,546, which includes heritage assets of £1,500,000 that cannot be monetised) and Unrestricted Funds of £7,114,962. Within Unrestricted Funds, the Society holds designated reserves to reflect funds to be spent on fixed assets and earmarked for planned future expenditure, including that associated with the lease, and other financial liabilities. £2,410,524 of the Unrestricted Funds has been set aside in Designated Funds for this purpose.

Designated Funds

The Society has set up specific designated funds (a) to represent the extent to which the Society's general reserve has been utilised to acquire fixed assets (£661k) and (b) to cover identified potential future costs and liabilities of the Society that are not otherwise provided for in the accounts. The Building Fund of £1.75m is designed to address required maintenance on our premises as well as to provide for some of the costs that would be involved in the event of a successful resolution of the negotiations with DLUHC in relation to the Burlington House lease.

Reserves Policy

The Society's General Reserve is held to enable the Society to continue to operate effectively in the event that income is unexpectedly reduced. The level of contingency is set by Council after detailed consideration by and a recommendation from the Finance & Risk Committee. In determining the level, future income and expenditure is assessed for reliability and commitment respectively. In addition, future capital expenditure, other commitments and contingency are considered.

Under the Charities SORP 2019 free reserves are calculated as the total of investments and net current assets classified as unrestricted funds, less any assigned to designated funds.

Aside from general risks, the Society needs to maintain a General Reserve against two specific issues that it faces: Firstly, the need to have contingency plans in place to maintain or replace publication income if Open Access regulations threaten the current business model for academic journals; and secondly to address the long-term accommodation needs of the Society. The Building Fund detailed in note 17 is maintained to address required maintenance on our premises as well as provide for some

of the costs that would be involved in relation to the Burlington House lease, but the amount required for this purpose could significantly exceed the sums in this fund. The General Reserve is available to provide further financial support in relation to both these matters.

The Trustees consider that a minimum of six months of operational expenditure should be held in the General Reserve with a minimum of approximately £1m. This does not include any amounts required in respect of the Society's long-term accommodation needs in excess of the provision in the Designated Fund. The General Reserve Fund now stands at £4,704,438 (2022: £3,823,293). The Trustees consider the current balance reasonable in the context of the uncertainties facing the Society.

OUTLOOK

Whilst the Society remains in a relatively healthy financial position, there continue to be significant challenges ahead. We need to continue to find ways to grow our income streams, which remain heavily dependent on revenue from OUP, which is under long-term threat from trends in publishing. Our financial strategy needs to focus on income diversification in order to be able to continue and expand our activity and impact.

As expected, we expanded our charitable activities considerably in 2023, which led to increased expenditure in most areas, which we would expect to continue in 2024. As a result whilst we continue to manage costs efficiently, we are not immune to inflationary pressures in staff and other costs. We expect to be broadly break-even on an "operational" basis in 2024.

The resolution of the Burlington House lease will be a major financial (as well as strategic) event for the Society. We expect to make a significant up-front financial contribution to acquire the long leasehold as well as incurring ongoing costs to improve and maintain the building. Whilst this is an exciting and positive development for the Society, the financial consequences need careful management.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Trustees of the Society extend their gratitude to all the Officers and Staff for continuing to be so careful in control of expenditure in their areas of responsibility and to thank the volunteers for their much-appreciated contributions. Finally, it is appropriate to once again thank the Head of Finance, Priya Nithianandan, for his careful and constant oversight of all the Society's financial activities.

Edward Banks FLS, Treasurer

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees regularly review the Risk Register, which summarises the major strategic, business and operational risks which the Society faces and have implemented appropriate systems and procedures to mitigate these risks. The Society also has a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and a Disaster Plan, which were developed to enable the Society to continue normal operations in the event of a serious disruptive incident. The BCP is also regularly reviewed and updated as needed.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the surplus or deficit of the Society for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Responsibilities of the Treasurer

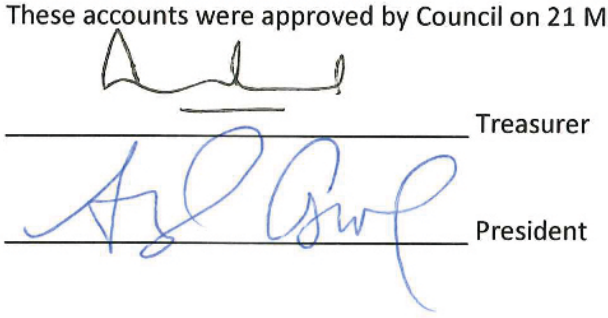
Fellows of the Society have, through the Society's Bye Laws (BL) accepted at a General Meeting of the Society held on 15 February 1990 and published in July 1991, agreed (BL Section 12) that "the Treasurer (of the Society) shall require the keeping of detailed accounts of all receipts and payments (BL 12.1), shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the Society and shall advise the Officers and Council both of the long term trends and matters of the moment concerning financial strategy. Taking advice from the Finance Committee and Professional advisers, when appropriate, the Treasurer shall act in the name of the Society on matters of investment (BL 12.3)".

Audit Arrangements

"A firm of chartered accountants shall be appointed by the Fellows at the Anniversary Meeting as Auditors for the following year (BL 12.5). Prior to their presentation to the Anniversary Meeting, the Annual Statement of Accounts and the report of the Professional auditors shall be examined by an Audit Review Committee of Fellows. This Committee, to be elected annually, shall consist of three members of Council (including the President or a Vice-President), and two Fellows who are not members of Council who shall be elected at a General Meeting. The Committee shall report to Council and Fellows at the Anniversary Meeting (BL 12.6)".

Knox Cropper LLP have expressed their willingness to be re-appointed as auditors.

These accounts were approved by Council on 21 March 2024 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by



Treasurer

President

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have audited the financial statements of The Linnean Society for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND AUDITOR

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The Charity is required to comply with the charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charity complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities . This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees and members, as a body, in accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under Section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we may state to the Trustees and members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Trustees and members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Knox Cropper LLP

Knox Cropper LLP, Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Date: 21 March 2024

Knox Cropper is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

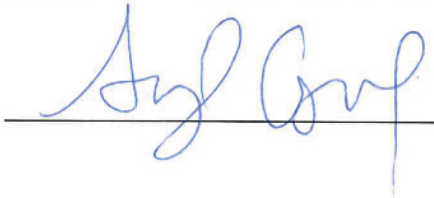
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments From:						
Donations and Legacies	2	384,207	499	-	384,706	35,009
Charitable Activities						
Members' Contributions		168,170	-	-	168,170	153,914
Publications	3	1,691,017	-	-	1,691,017	1,666,215
Scientific Meetings		15,343	-	-	15,343	5,642
Library		15,633	-	-	15,633	15,486
Education		2,331			2,331	2,597
Other Trading Activities	4	16,968	-	-	16,968	56,922
Investments		113,321	35,012	-	148,333	109,041
Total Income and Endowments		2,406,990	35,511		2,442,501	2,044,826
Expenditure On:						
Raising Funds						
Investment Management Costs		18,362	7,118	-	25,480	23,446
Charitable Activities	6					
Education		257,797	70	-	257,867	202,692
Publications		499,540	-	-	499,540	440,949
Scientific Meetings		275,154	-	-	275,154	220,164
Collections		444,943	35,861	-	480,804	371,573
Collections: (Curatorial)		201,600	-	-	201,600	160,924
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)		183,739	-	-	183,739	149,673
Research Sponsorship		73,196	11,237	-	84,433	82,193
Total Expenditure		1,954,331	54,286		2,008,617	1,651,614
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Investment Gains/(Losses)		452,659	(18,775)	-	433,884	393,212
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments		266,165	46,957	56,223	369,345	(564,683)
Net Income/(Expenditure)		718,824	28,182	56,223	803,229	(171,471)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		718,824	28,182	56,223	803,229	(171,471)
Fund balance brought forward at 31/12/2022		6,396,138	2,361,430	766,711	9,524,279	9,695,750
Fund balance carried forward at 31/12/2023		£7,114,962	£2,389,612	£822,934	£10,327,508	£9,524,279

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Heritage Assets	9		1,566,950		1,566,950
Tangible Fixed Assets	10		660,524		687,308
Investments	11		5,718,847		4,810,503
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	669,465		478,548	
Short Term Deposits		3,343,871		3,002,650	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		295,486		650,746	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		4,308,822		4,131,944	
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	13	(1,927,636)		(1,672,426))	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			2,381,186		2,459,518
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due After One Year	14		(0)		(0)
NET ASSETS			10,327,508		9,524,279
CAPITAL FUNDS					
Endowments	15		822,934		766,711
INCOME FUNDS					
Restricted	15				
Other		889,611		861,430	
Heritage Fund		1,500,000		1,500,000	
			2,389,612		2,361,430
Unrestricted					
Designated	16	2,410,524		2,567,515	
General	17	4,704,438		3,828,623	
			7,114,962		6,396,138
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			10,327,508		9,524,279

These accounts were approved by Council on 23rd March 2024 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Treasurer



President

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash generated from operations	20	392,166		395,018	
Interest paid		0		(8,900)	
Net Cash provided by (used in) operating activities			394,834		386,118
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		148,333		109,041	
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		(18,207)		(11,018)	
Purchase of Heritage Asset		-		-	
Proceeds from sale of investments	11	790,388		328,831	
Purchase of investments	11	(1,329,387)		(582,528)	
Net Cash provided by (used in) investing activities			(408,873)		(155,674)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Repayments of Borrowing		(0)		(220,353)	
Net Cash provided by (used in) financing activities			(0)		(220,353)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(14,039)		10,091
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			3,653,396		3,643,305
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			£3,639,357		£3,653,396

Analysis of Net Funds/(Debt)	**1st January 2023**	**Movement**	**31st December 2023**
	£	£	£
Short Term Deposit	3,002,650	341,221	3,343,871
Cash in Bank and in Hand	650,746	(355,260)	295,486
	3,653,396	(14,039)	3,639,357
Loans	0	0	0
Net Funds/(Debt)	£3,653,396	(0)	£3,639,357

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts are prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and in compliance with the Charities Act 2011. The Society is a Public Benefit Entity.

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write each asset down to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life as follows:

Property	50 years
Lift and associated refurbishment work	30 years
Furniture and Fixtures	10 years
Environmental Control	10 years
Office Equipment	3 years

Investments are stated at mid-market value. Gains and losses on disposals and revaluations of fixed asset investments are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities and added to the funds to which they relate.

Investment income is accounted for gross in the year of receipt.

Donations and legacies are accounted for when the Society is unconditionally entitled to receipt. No account is taken of stock held for resale. Contributions income is stated net of amounts received in respect of future years.

The Society is partially exempt for VAT purposes. Expenditure is stated net of VAT with irrecoverable VAT shown as a separate expense item.

Support costs are allocated to charitable activities on the basis of estimates of staff time spent on those activities and, in relation to accommodation costs, the relative space used by those activities.

Heritage assets donated to the Society are valued by an independent expert at the time of their donation.

Expenditure is accounted for when there is a constructive or contractual liability arising. A provision is made when the amount payable cannot be determined with certainty.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds £
Other Funds for Grants and Awards	9,665	-	9,665	9,518
John Marsden Fund	-	499	499	852
Legacies	353,343	-	353,343	19,332
Other Donations	21,199	-	21,199	5,307
	£384,207	£499	£384,706	35,009

3. PUBLICATIONS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Joint Publication Account (Note 5)	1,693,472	1,664,251
Other Publication Sales	(3,062)	1,627
Royalties	607	337
	1,691,017	1,666,215

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Room Hire	15,527	15,454
Catering	634	77
Lancaster Uni –Return of funds	-	8,978
Translation Gain – US Dollar	(3,803)	30,589
Other	4,610	1,824
	£16,968	£56,922

5. JOINT PUBLICATION ACCOUNT

	2023			2022		
	Total	**Publisher Share**	**Society Share**	**Total**	**Publisher Share**	**Society Share**
	£	£	£	£	£	£
SALES						
Journals	2,260,652			2,219,002		
	2,260,652	567,180	1,693,472	2,219,002	554,751	1,664,251
PUBLICATION COSTS						
Production and Distribution	150,426			119,467		
	150,426	38,407	112,019	119,467	29,867	89,600
SURPLUS	2,110,226	528,773	1,581,453	2,099,535	524,884	1,574,651
Other Costs Incurred by Society						
Editorial Costs			(87,241)			(170,010)
			£1,494,212			£1,404,641
SUMMARY						
Society's share of Income – Note 3			1,693,472			1,664,251
Society's share of Joint costs and other directly incurred costs			(199,260)			(259,610)
			£1,494,212			£1,404,641

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activities Undertaken Directly	Grant Funding Activities	Support Costs (Note 8)	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Education					
Education Costs	10,611	-	-	10,611	4,372
Support Costs	-	-	247,256	247,256	198,320
Total	10,611	-	247,256	257,867	202,692
Publications					
Joint Publication Account (Note 5)	199,260	-	-	199,260	259,610
The Linnean Newsletter and Pulse	17,926	-	-	17,926	13,166
Support Costs	-	-	282,354	282,354	168,173
	217,186	-	282,354	499,540	440,949
Scientific Meetings					
Expenditure	18,774	-	-	18,774	9,270
Support Costs	-	-	256,380	256,380	210,894
	18,774	-	256,380	275,154	220,164
Collections					
Expenditure	15,068	-	-	15,068	21,145
Conservation Archives Project		35,861		35,861	26,138
Support Costs			429,875	429,875	324,290
	15,068	35,861	429,875	480,804	371,573
Collections (Curatorial)					
The Linnaeus Link Project	5,835	-	-	5,835	2,769
Support Costs	-	-	195,765	195,765	158,155
	5,835	-	195,765	201,600	160,924
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)					
Support Costs	-	-	138,940	138,940	124,199
	43,799	-	138,940	183,739	149,673
Research Sponsorship	-	49,432	35,001	84,433	82,193
Total	£311,273	£85,293	£1,585,571	£1,983,137	£1,628,168

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

The grants set out above include grants made to individuals. In total, grants were paid to 34 individuals (2021: 37) during the year.

7. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Expenses of Officers and Council	5,555	3,541
Audit Fee	6,600	6,150
Legal and Professional Fees	20,898	4,800
Staff and Other Related Costs	67,398	55,068
	£100,451	£69,559

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Education	Publications	Scientific Meetings	Library	Collections Curatorial	Collections Conservation & Digitisation	Research Sponsorship	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries and Wages	202,615	172,761	92,986	148,229	84,466	81,594	18,354	801,005	697,642
Premises Costs	21,542	16,748	27,771	25,896	24,079	27,190		143,226	114,424
Repairs and Maintenance	7,435	7,435	14,870	14,870	14,870	14,870		74,349	57,806
Office Costs		2,484	3,904	7,985	2,129	177	532	17,212	22,975
Other Costs (depreciation, rent provision)		65,038	100,607	205,661	57,819	6,307	13,898	449,327	249,255
Governance Costs	15,645	17,888	16,242	27,234	12,402	8,802	2,217	100,534	69,560
	247,256	282,354	256,380	429,875	195,765	138,940	35,001	1,589,431	1,211,662
2022	£198,320	£168,174	£210,895	£324,289	£158,154	£124,198	£27,632	£1,211,662	

SALARY COSTS

	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£
Gross Salary	745,342	641,859
Employers National Insurance	77,860	69,518
Employers Pension Contribution	66,135	58,009
	£889,337	769,386
Charged direct to projects	35,364	25,095
Charged to support costs	801,005	697,642
Charged to Governance	52,968	46,649
	889,337	769,386

The average number of employees was 23 (2022: 23).

One employee earned more than £60,000. The total emoluments of the senior management team amounted to £306,124 (2022: £300,246).

Council and Committee members provide their services gratis and receive only out of pocket expenses.

Travel and subsistence expenses were claimed for by Officers and Council and Committee members in 2023 £5,555 (2022: 3,542)

9. HERITAGE ASSETS

Heritage assets acquired since 2010			2023
			£
COST			
At 1st January 2021 made up of			
Darwin's Books		1,500,000	
Nepal Maps		21,000	
Smith Diaries		5,000	
Opie Paintings		25,000	
The Transylvania Florilegium	Vol 1	5,475	
The Transylvania Florilegium	Vol 2	5,475	
Tyley Drawing		5,000	
At 31st December 2023			1,566,950
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st January 2023			-
Charge for the Year			-
At 31st December 2023			-
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st December 2023			£1,566,950
At 31st December 2022			£1,566,950

In 2015, the Society received from the Charles Darwin Trust a gift of Darwinian and Wallacean material which contained many key works, manuscripts and letters which has been valued at £1.5m. In accordance with FRS 102, donated heritage assets have been included at valuation.

The Society also holds a large number of scientific and historic assets which cannot easily be valued and which will not be sold because the maintenance is part of the primary objective of the Society. As a result, these heritage assets are not included in the Balance Sheet. These assets comprise:

a. biological specimens	b. books and periodicals	c. manuscripts, including notebooks, letters and artworks	d. portraits and busts

These heritage assets the Society are of primary value, internationally, to the biological sciences, and in terms of cultural value, to the history of science. The main collections of dried plant material, preserved animal specimens, books and manuscripts and correspondence of Carl Linnaeus and Sir James Edward Smith provide the foundation for classification, taxonomy and nomenclature.

All this material is irreplaceable and so it is stored under optimum environmental conditions. The collections themselves are accessible physically by any *bona fide* research worker, accompanied by a curator or appropriate member of staff. The Society, with generous grant funding, has financed the digitisation of this material, and these images are accessible to all, at no charge, through the Society's website.

The Society's Collection Development Policy recommends that any additional material must be in fields relevant to existing material.

The Society's insurance policies cover damage to the fabric of the building and the seek-and-find or repair of the Library's book stock, manuscripts, paintings and busts, but not the plant and animal collections as they are unique and irreplaceable. As such, they are invaluable to research and science but are valueless for insurance purposes.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Lift and Building Works	Air Conditioning	Office Equipment	Other	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST						
At 1st January 2023	518,854	225,752	57,759	192,257	317,297	1,311,919
Additions in Year	-	-	-	18,207	-	18,207
At 31st December 2023	518,854	225,752	57,759	210,464	317,297	1,330,126
DEPRECIATION						
At 1st January 2023	76,382	75,250	57,759	183,804	231,416	624,611
Charge for the Year	7,377	7,525	-	10,778	19,311	44,990
At 31st December 2023	83,759	82,775	57,759	194,582	250,727	669,601
NET BOOK VALUE						
At 31st December 2023	£435,095	£142,977	£-	£15,882	£66,570	£660,524
At 31st December 2022	£442,472	£150,502	£-	£8,453	£85,881	£687,308

The freehold property held by the Society comprises Toynbee House in Wimbledon London, which is currently used primarily to house some of the Society's collections.

11. INVESTMENTS

	2023		2022	
	Book Cost	Market Value	Book Cost	Market Value
	£	£	£	£
UK Fixed Interest	271,035	293,955	67,356	39,862
UK Equities	2,834,273	3,379,795	2,533,198	2,866,425
Overseas Equities	1,088,766	2,045,097	1,167,960	1,904,216
	4,194,074	5,718,847	3,768,514	4,810,503
Investment Portfolio				
Market Value brought forward		4,810,503		5,121,489
Add: Acquisitions		1,329,387		582,528
Less: Disposals		(790,388)		(328,831)
Realised Gains (Losses) on Disposals		(113,440)		40,352
Gain (Loss) on Revaluation		482,785		(605,035)

Market Value carried forward	£5,718,847	£4,810,503

Investments are held on a long-term basis to generate investment income for the Society. Realised Gains represent the difference between the sales proceeds and original cost of investments sold during the year. Revaluation gains and losses arise from the revaluation of investments to market value at the year-end.

12. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Due from Publisher	421,452	389,994
Prepayments	53,571	57,576
Other Debtors	194,442	30,978
	£669,465	£478,548

13. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Contributions received in advance	73,344	64,624
Publishing income received in advance	1,235,818	1,160,002
Rent Provision	-	22,880
VAT	233,769	219,529
Deferred Expenditure	-	16,500
Other Creditors	384,705	188,891
	1,927,636	1,672,426

14. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year

Nil Nil

15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS 2023

	Permanent Endowments				Restricted Funds				
	Balance at 1. 1.23	Endowments Received	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance 31.12.23	Balance at 1.1.23	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended & Transfers	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance at 31.12.23
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Westwood Fund	7,510	-	528	8,038	212	173	-173		212
Trail-Crisp Fund	6,764	-	490	7,254	2,525	201	-63	131	2,794
Hooker Fund	17,405	-	1,262	18,667	15,778	672	-200	657	16,907
Goodenough Fund		-			32,834	660	-774	2,058	34,778
Minchin Fund		-			1,513	35	-35	110	1,623
Jane Jackson Fund	78,216	-	5,670	83,886	-	1,799	-1,799		0
The HH Bloomer Fund	18,654	-	1,324	19,978	6,019	550	-374	394	6,590
P. Applevard Fund	78,653	-	5,571	84,224	15,792	2,018	-624	547	17,733
Dennis Stanfield Memorial Fund		-	3,257	48,660	4,280	1,090	-344	144	5,171
Omer Cooper Fund		-			71,867	1,493	-1,493	4,297	76,164
Bonhote Fund	31,688	-	2,188	33,876	1,117	725	-725	20	1,137
Jill Smythies Prize Fund	52,507	-	3,806	56,313	1,306	1,214	-1,384		1,136
Irene Manton Prize Fund	65,295	-	4,733	70,028	9,966	1,684	-1,531	525	10,644
A.G. Side Fund		-			67,705	1,438	-1,438	4,295	72,000
Jan Gillett Fund		-			9,610	193	-56	525	10,273
Denis Owen Fund		-			2,218	24	-2		2,240
Ivy Eleanor Sleep Fund	193,149	-	14,000	207,149	138,601	7,309	-2,240	7,878	151,548
Trewavas/Greenwood Fund		-			37,441	780	-232	2,226	40,216
Eleanor McMillan Fund		-			203,528	4,908	-13,430	13,579	208,584
Zimmerman Fund	171,467	-	13,394	184,861	41,121	4,687	-1,393		44,416
John Marsden Fund		-			30,070	1,123	-1,247	1,958	31,903
The John Topp Fund		-			143,995	2,735	-799	7,612	153,543
Gertrude Marsh-Looi Fund					23,862		-23,862		
	766,711	£-	56,223	822,934	861,360	35,511	-54,216	46,956	889,611
PROJECT FUNDS									
Student Membership Fund	-	-	-	-	70		-70	-	0
	£-	£-	£-	£-	£70	£-	£-70	£-	£0
HERITAGE ASSET									
Charles Darwin Trust	-	-	-	-	£1,500,000	-	-	-	£1,500,000
TOTAL	£766,711	£-	£56,223	£822,934	£2,361,360	£35,511	£(54,216)	£46,956	£2,389,611

15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS 2022

	Permanent Endowments				Restricted Funds				
	Balance at 1. 1.22	Endowments Received	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance 31.12.22	Balance at 1.1.22	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended & Transfers	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance at 31.12.22
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Westwood Fund	8,375	-	-865	7,510	212	175	-175		212
Trail-Crisp Fund	7,567	-	-803	6,764	2,602	206	-68	-215	2,525
Hooker Fund	19,472	-	-2,067	17,405	16,427	635	-209	-1,075	15,778
Goodenough Fund	-	-		-	36,407	682	-883	-3372	32,834
Minchin Fund	-	-		-	1,693	36	-36	-180	1,513
Jane Jackson Fund	87,504	-	-9,288	78,216	-	1,878	-1,878		-
The HH Bloomer Fund	20,824	-	-2,170	18,654	6,482	569	-387	-645	6,019
P. Appleyard Fund	87,779	-	-9,126	78,653	17,328	2,027	-2,667	-896	15,792
Dennis Stanfield Memorial Fund	50,738	-	-5,335	45,403	3,761	1,127	-371	-237	4,280
Omer Cooper Fund	-	-		-	78,906	1,423	-1,423	-7,039	71,867
Bonhote Fund	35,273	-	-3,585	31,688	1,150	732	-732	-33	1,117
Jill Smythies Prize Fund	58,742	-	-6,235	52,507	1,460	1,261	-1,415		1,306
Irene Manton Prize Fund	73,048	-	-7753	65,295	10,657	1,742	-1,573	-860	9,966
A.G. Side Fund	-	-		-	74,741	1,423	-1,423	-7,036	67,705
Jan Gillett Fund	-	-		-	10,353	174	-57	-860	9,610
Denis Owen Fund	-	-		-	2,218		0		2,218
Ivy Eleanor Sleep Fund	216,084	-	-22,935	193,149	146,595	7,303	-2,391	-12906	138,601
Trewavas/Greenwood Fund	-	-		-	40,593	737	-243	-3,646	37,441
Eleanor McMillan Fund	-	-		-	222,680	4,586	-1,493	-22,245	203,528
Zimmerman Fund	193,408	-	-21,940	171,467	38,144	4,437	-1,459		41,121
John Marsden Fund	-	-	-	-	33,076	1,501	-1299	-3208	30,070
The John Topp Fund	-	-	-	-	158,000	2,571	-4,107	-12,469	143,995
Gertrude Marsh-Looi Fund					50,000		-26,138		23,862
	£858,814	£-	-92,102	766,711	953,485	35,255	-50,428	-76,923	861,360
PROJECT FUNDS									
Student Membership Fund	-	-	-	-	475		-405	-	70
	£-	£-	£-	£-	£475	£-	£-405	£-	£70
HERITAGE ASSET									
Charles Darwin Trust	-	-	-	-	£1,500,000	-	-	-	£1,500,000
TOTAL	£858,814	£-	£-92,103	£766,711	£2,453,960	£35,225	£(50,834)	£-76,923	£2,361,430

15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS (CONTINUED)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Permanent Endowments represent capital funds where only the income arising may be spent. Unspent income balances are disclosed as separate restricted funds, available to be spent in the future, although, from time to time, unspent balances may be added to capital.

Restricted funds may only be spent for the purpose prescribed by the donor.

16. DESIGNATED FUNDS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Collections Fund	-	20,000
Development Fund	-	200,000
Fixed Asset Fund	660,524	497,515
Legal Costs Fund	-	100,000
Building Fund	1,750,000	1,750,000
	2,410,524	2,567,515

A Fixed Asset Fund has been set up as a separate designated reserve from 2013 to represent the extent to which the Society's general reserve has been utilised to acquire fixed assets. This ensures that the balance on the general reserve gives a better indication of the funds available to the Society. Other Designated Funds have been established to reflect potential future costs and liabilities of the Society. With the uncertainty over the affordability to the Society of the rent for New Burlington House, the Building Fund was set up in 2017 to cover the financial risks and liabilities associated with finding and moving to alternative premises if required. The balance of this fund now stands at £1.75M.

17. GENERAL RESERVE

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance 1st January	3,828,623	3,595,108
Net Movement in funds for the year	718,824	13,162
Transfer from Designated Funds	320,000	
Transfer (to) Designated Funds	(163,009)	220,353
Transfer from Restricted Funds		
Balance at 31st December	4,704,438	3,828,623

Aside from general risks, the Society needs to maintain a General Reserve against two specific issues that it faces: Firstly, the need to have contingency plans in place to maintain or replace publication income if Open Access regulations threaten the current business model for academic journals; and secondly to address the long-term accommodation needs of the Society. The Building Fund is maintained to address required maintenance on our premises as well as provide for some of the costs that would be involved in relation to the Burlington House lease, but the amount required for this purpose could significantly exceed the sums in this fund. The General Reserve is available to provide further financial support in relation to both these matters.

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2023

	Investments	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment and Restricted Funds	1,610,623	1,500,000	319,757	-	3,212,546
Unrestricted Funds	4,108,845	727,474	3,989,065	(1,927,636)	7,114,962
	£5,718,847	£2,227,474	£4,308,822	£(1,927,636)	£10,327,508

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2022

	Investments	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment and Restricted Funds	1,439,925	1,500,000	188,216	-	3,128,141
Unrestricted Funds	3,370,578	753,196	3,944,790	(1,672,426)	6,396,138
	£4,810,503	£2,253,196	£4,131,944	£(1,671,364)	£9,524,279

19. PREMISES

The Society currently has a long term (80 year) lease on its New Burlington House premises which was negotiated in 2005 with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, now administered by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The annual rent is based on Government accounting methodology involving annual valuations. Pending finalisation of the current negotiations with DLUHC this would be replaced with a 999 year lease over our current premises.

20. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the reporting period	803,229	(171,471)
Adjustments for:		
Interest paid	-	8,901
Depreciation	44,990	41,578
(Gains)/Losses on investments	(369,345)	564,683
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(148,333)	(109,041)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(190,917)	29,957
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	255,210	30,411
	394,834	395,018

21. RELATED PARTY DECLARATIONS

There were no transactions with related parties during the year.

22. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments From:						
Donations and Legacies	2	34,157	852	-	35,009	403,430
Charitable Activities						
Members' Contributions		153,914	-	-	153,914	154,753
Publications	3	1,666,215	-	-	1,666,215	1,834,095
Scientific Meetings		5,642	-	-	5,642	5,195
Library		15,486	-	-	15,486	8,285
Education		2,597	-	-	2,597	-
Other Trading Activities	4	56,922	-	-	56,922	10,612
Investments		74,666	34,375	-	109,041	84,174
Total Income and Endowments		2,009,599	35,227	-	2,044,826	2,500,544
Expenditure On:						
Raising Funds						
Investment Management Costs		16,209	7,237	-	23,446	23,586
Charitable Activities	6					
Education		202,287	405	-	202,692	272,710
Publications		440,949	-	-	440,949	406,910
Scientific Meetings		220,164	-	-	220,164	192,799
Collections		345,435	26,138	-	371,573	317,810
Collections: (Curatorial)		160,924	-	-	160,924	151,640
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)		149,673	-	-	149,673	141,671
Research Sponsorship		65,139	17,054	-	82,193	76,315
Total Expenditure		1,600,780	50,834	-	1,651,614	1,583,441
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Investment Gains/(Losses)		408,819	(15,607)	-	393,212	917,103
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments		(395,657)	(76,923)	(92,103)	(564,683)	442,962
Net Income/(Expenditure)		13,162	(92,530)	(92,103)	(171,471)	1,360,065
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		13,162	(92,530)	(92,103)	(171,471)	1,360,065
Fund balance brought forward at 31/12/2021		6,382,976	2,453,960	858,814	9,695,750	8,335,685
Fund balance carried forward at 31/12/2022		£6,396,138	£2,361,430	£766,711	£9,524,279	£9,695,750

Appendix: Full Listing of the Linnean Society's Meetings, Events and Workshops 2023

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2023		
10 January 2023 **Linnean Lens**	Alfred Russel Wallace's 'Palms of the Amazon'	Sandra Knapp
19 January 2023 **Evening Meeting**	Lizard Evolution in Real Time: Field Experiments on Evolutionary Process	Jonathan Losos
25 January 2023 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Some Like it Hot? Using Thermal Tolerance to Explain Insect Biodiversity	Alisha Shah
26 January 2023 **Nature Reader**	Is Wildlife Crime a Security Threat?	Rosaleen Duffy
09 February 2023 **Special Event**	Sugar Daddies and Sickle Cell Patients: Unpacking the Evolution of Homosexuality	Pieter Adriaens
15 February 2023 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Parasites in Biodiversity Conservation: Friend or Foe?	Joshua Brian
22 February 2023 **Nature Reader**	St Helena: Napoleon's Garden Island	Donal McCracken
23 February 2023 **Members' Event**	Step by Step: Staircase Prints	The Linnean Society Team
02 March 2023 **Nature Reader**	Magnificent Rebels: The First Romantics	Andrea Wulf
08 March 2023 **Evening Meeting**	A New Era for Biodiversity Conservation in Tunisia	Zakher Bouragaoui
14 March 2023 **Linnean Lens**	Wallace's Remarkable Discoveries in the 'Malay Archipelago'	George Beccaloni
23 March 2023 **Evening Meeting**	The Impact of European Colonialism on Global Plant Redistribution	Bernd Lenzner
12 April 2023 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Understanding our Urban Streams Through History, Geography and Ecology	Rebecca Hale

13 April 2023 **Evening Lecture**	Reinterpreting Anna Atkins: Pioneering Photographer and Botanist	Tom Pope and Matthew Benington
22 April 2023 **Nature Walk**	Earth Day Nature Walk: How Green is Green Park? (With SLBI)	Roy Vickery
23 April 2023 **Nature Reader**	How Ancient Forests Can Save Us If We Let Them	Peter Wohlleben
25 April 2023 **Evening Lecture**	Exploring the Coral Reef's Twilight Zone	Luiz Rocha
03 May 2023 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Is Timing Everything and How Can Spring-feeding Caterpillars Get it Right?	Jamie Weir
05 May 2023 **Special Event**	FloraNation: Coronation Courtyard Late	The Linnean Society Team
09 May 2023 **Linnean Lens**	The World in Scrapbooks: Albert Günther's Albums	Gina Douglas
09 May 2023 **Nature Walk**	Nature Walk: The Wild and Uncommon on Wimbledon Commons	Leif Bersweden
11 May 2023 **Evening Lecture**	Coral Reefs: A Canary in the Coal-Mine for the Anthropocene?	David Obura
23 May 2023 **Lunchtime Lecture**	The Linnaeus Household: Identity and Materiality	Annika Windahl Ponten
24 May 2023 **Members' Event**	Annual General Meeting	The Linnean Society Team
09 June 2023 **Day Meeting**	Symposium: Extinct: Empire, art and natural histories	Organised by Emilia Terracciano
18 June 2023 **Nature Walk**	Nature Walk: Hutchinson's Bank, Chapel Bank and Threecorner Grove	Mark Spencer
21 June 2023 **Nature Reader**	The Jewel Box: How Moths Illuminate Nature's Hidden Rules	Tim Blackburn
22 June 2023 **Day Meeting**	Flora in Folio: Biological Inserts in Books and Archives	European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Group and 26th Linnaeus Link Partners' Meeting

28 June 2023 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Rothschild's 'Fine Collection' of Cassowaries	Elle Larsson
30 June 2023 **Special Event**	Radical by Nature: A Celebration of Alfred Russel Wallace	James T. Costa
04 July 2023 **Linnean Lens**	Between Wallace's Lines: Annotations from a Personal Library	Jeb Bevers
12 July 2023 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Pessimistic Bees, Optimistic Bees	Vivek Nityanand
13 July 2023 **Nature Walk**	Nature Walk: Outside the Binary (with Royal Parks)	Dani Crowley
20 July 2023 **Evening Lecture**	Thomas Birch Freeman: Victorian Missionary and Botanist	Advolly Richmond
21 July 2023 **Evening Lecture**	Lunchtime Tour: NHM Explorers Summer Social	The Linnean Society Team
28 July 2023 **Evening Lecture**	Beatrix Potter's Mycological Explorations	Fred Rhoades
30 July 2023 **Nature Walk**	Nature Walk: History, Botany and Architecture: A Walk Through London's Marshes	Mark Spencer
9 August 2023 **Nature Walk**	Nature Walk: Urban Ecology, Habitats and Landscape Management	Richard Choksey
20 August 2023 **Nature Walk**	Nature Walk: Thames Walk: Grand River Views and Plant Life	Mark Spencer
30 August 2023 **Nature Reader**	The Little Owl: Small But Brave	Ronald van Harxen
13 September 2023 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Lightning Strikes in Tropical Forests: Expected Losses and Unexpected Gains	Eva Gora
16 October 2023 **Special Event**	Open House 2023	The Linnean Society Team
19 September 2023 **Nature Walk**	Nature Walk: A Fruity Walk Around the Secret Orchards of Bermondsey and Southwark Park	Divya Hariramani

21 September 2023 **President's Lecture**	The Speed of Life: A Deep-Time Perspective	Anjali Goswami
26 September 2023 **Linnean Lens**	Seals on Show: Carl Linnaeus's Correspondents in a Box	Isabelle Charmantier
26 September 2023 **Nature Reader**	Living Madagascar	Alison Richard
05 October 2023 **Partner Event**	Is Natural Selection a Team Sport? (Linnean Society and University of Edinburgh)	Jonathan Silvertown
09 October 2023 **Special Event**	From 15th Century to Today: How to Find Treasures in Linnean Collections	Isabelle Charmantier and Will Beharrell
21 October 2023 **Nature Walk**	Nature Walk: Indoor Nature Walk at the V&A (AM and PM Walks)	Glenn Benson
26 October 2023 **Evening Lecture**	Tundra Plant Responses to a Rapidly Warming Arctic	Isla Myers-Smith
27 October 2023 **Special Event**	Spooktacular Nature	Dani Crowley
31 October 2023 **Evening Lecture**	Ellen Willmott: An Influential but Undervalued Horticulturist	Sandra Lawrence
06 November 2023 **Partner Event**	A Wild Dove Chase (Special Event with British Ornithologists' Club)	William Smith
14 November 2023 **Linnean Lens**	The Enduring Nature of Gilbert White's Natural History of Selborne	Steph Holt
15 November 2023 **Lunchtime Lecture**	One-Way Mirror in the Room: How Language Barriers Impede Conservation	Tatsuya Amano
29 November 2023 **Nature Reader**	The Atlas of Early Modern Wildlife	Lee Raye
06 December 2023 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Elevating Science: The Power of Photography	Roberto Roa Garcia
07 December 2023 **Special Event**	Merry Quizmas 2023 (For the Love of Books)	Samanth Subramanian

15 December 2023 **Evening Lecture**	Wildlife, Warriors, and Women: Large Carnivore Conservation in Tanzania	Amy Dickman
02 February, 02 March, 06 April, 04 May, 24 May (*Members Only*), 01 June, 06 July, 03 August, 07 September, 21 September (*Members Only*), 05 October, 02 November, 07 December	Treasures Tours: Tours of our Library and collections were held on these dates throughout the year.	

THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

England & Wales - Charity number 220509

Accounts

The Linnean Society of London

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the Year Ended

31 December 2022

Charity No. 220509

Company No. RC000313

(Royal Charter Company)

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1. LEGAL STATUS

The Linnean Society was founded in 1788, received a Royal Charter in 1802 and Additional Charters in 1904 and 2005. The Society is a registered charity, No. 220509.

2. ADDRESS

The Linnean Society of London
New Burlington House
Piccadilly
London W1J 0BF

3. PRINCIPAL ADVISERS

Bankers:	Barclays Bank Plc PO Box 13555 Acorn House 36–38 Park Royal Road London NW10 7WJ
Auditors:	Knox Cropper LLP 65 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD
Investment Managers:	Tilney Asset Management Services Ltd 17th Floor 6 New Street Square New Fetter Lane London EC4A 3BF

4. PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS	YEAR OF APPOINTMENT
Dr Sandra Knapp	President (2018–May 2022)
Professor Anjali Goswami	President (May 2022)
Edward Banks	Treasurer (2020)
Professor Simon Hiscock	Scientific Secretary (2013–May 2022)
Professor Jonathan Drori CBE	Scientific Secretary (May 2022)
Professor Alan Hildrew	Scientific Secretary (2020)
Professor Mark Chase FRS	Editorial Secretary (2012–May 2022)
Professor Paul Barrett	Editorial Secretary (May 2022–Sept 2022)
Dr John David	Collections Secretary (2012–May 2022)
Dr Mark Watson	Collections Secretary (May 2022)
Professor Gail Cardew	CEO (2021)
Robbie Blackhall-Miles	Vice President
Dr Blanca Huertas	Vice President
Dr Howard Nelson	Vice President

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

TRUSTEES

Council, composed of the Trustees of the Linnean Society, provides strategic direction for the Society. It consists of 20 Fellows, five of whom step down each year and are replaced by five elected by the Fellowship at the Anniversary Meeting held annually on the 24 May (or the nearest working day).

Following their election to Council, all Trustees are provided with copies of key documents setting out the governance of the Society. These include essential Charity Commission documents (CC3: The Essential Trustee) and the Linnean Society's Charters and Bye-laws. Council members receive a full induction into the Society, including a briefing on their duties as Trustees and meetings with staff, and they are required to sign up to the Trustee Code of Conduct.

Governance improvements in 2022 included an overhaul of the Society's Bye-Laws. The Fellowship were encouraged to provide feedback on a draft circulated in November, and there will be an Extraordinary General Meeting in March 2023 to vote on the new Charter and Bye-Laws. Work continued on updating the Society's policies, with a new policy register created to monitor the review schedule. A working group was established by Council to review the committee structure; and new terms of reference were in place for all the committees by the autumn. Trustees continued to monitor the major and strategic risks facing the Society.

The elected members of Council are the Trustees of the Charity and, **in addition to the Officers listed above**, those who served during the year are listed below:

	DUE TO RETIRE
Professor Paul Barrett	24 May 2025 (from May 2022)
Robbie Blackhall-Miles	24 May 2024
Dr Rich Boden	24 May 2024
Professor Brycchan Carey	24 May 2024
Kevin Coutinho	24 May 2023
Julia Day	24 May 2025 (Resigned 19 January 2022)
Dr Natasha de Vere	Retired 24 May 2022
Mathew Frith	Retired 24 May 2022
Dr Charlotte Grezo	24 May 2023
Andrea Hart	24 May 2025 (from May 2022)
Professor Alistair Hetherington	Retired 24 May 2022
Dr Blanca Huertas	24 May 2025 (from May 2022)
Dr Isabel Larridon	24 May 2025 (from May 2022)
Angus McCullough	24 May 2023
Dr Howard Nelson	24 May 2025 (from May 2022)
Professor Michael J. Reiss	24 May 2025 (from May 2022)
Philip Sadler	24 May 2024
Elaine Shaughnessy	24 May 2023

ABBREVIATIONS

AGM	Annual General Meeting
BMM	BioMedia Meltdown
BSBI	Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland
COVID-19	The disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)
CPD	Continuous Professional Development
DBE	Dame of the British Empire
E&PE	Education & Public Engagement
e.o.	Ex officio
FLS	Fellow of the Linnean Society of London
FMLS	Foreign Member of the Linnean Society of London
FRS	Fellow of the Royal Society
FRS 102	Financial Reporting Standard 102
HonFLS	Fellow *honoris causa*
HonMLS	Honorary Member of the Linnean Society of London
ISAs	International Standards on Auditing
L: 50	L: 50 Objects, Stories and Discoveries from the Linnean Society of London
LSL	Linnean Society of London
MHCLG	Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government
NatSCA	Natural Sciences Collections Association
NBH	New Burlington House
OA	Open Access
OUP	Oxford University Press
PPLS	Past-President of the Linnean Society of London
PRISM	Preservation of Industrial and Scientific Material
SI	Special Issue
SOFA	Statement of Financial Activities
SORP	Statements of Recommended Practice
UCL	University College London
VI	Virtual Issue

ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REVIEW 2022

2022 has been an exciting year for the Linnean Society! Let me start by applauding Dr Sandra Knapp's magnificent leadership through the pandemic, the implementation of immense changes to our Society's governance, and her battle with breast cancer. Thank you, Sandy!

We happily reopened Burlington House to visitors, and, with a mix of in-person, hybrid, and online events, we've been able to engage our global membership with record online audiences while also enjoying our beloved post-lecture receptions in the library. We have also developed new partnerships to nurture a passion for the natural world in diverse communities, and we will continue to grow these efforts in the coming years. Thanks to our wonderful staff for overcoming many challenges to achieve these ambitious goals!

Fittingly for the Society that published Darwin and Wallace's first description of the theory of evolution by natural selection, we launched the *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society*, our new fully open-access journal, and we hope to receive many submissions from our Fellows. The *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* also published its 200th volume—a remarkable accomplishment! We thank all our editors and editorial staff for their continued dedication and effort.

We are also indebted to Dr Mark Watson, who led the monumental effort of revising our Bye-Laws, which will also require changes to our Royal Charter. To put this into perspective, our Royal Charter has only been amended twice since first granted in 1802, with the first additional charter in 1904 extending fellowship to women. The proposed Bye-Laws and Charter will continue this tradition of making our Society more accessible, efficient, and responsive to a changing world. Alongside the planned launch of a new strategy in 2023, these changes will be of ever-increasing importance as we draw on the vast expertise of our international membership to help combat the human-caused biodiversity crisis facing our planet. In doing so, we are led by the example of Professor Gren Lucas OBE, pioneering plant conservationist and stalwart supporter of the Linnean Society for over 60 years. Gren passed away in December 2022, and his dedication, generosity, and kindness will be sorely missed.

Despite the many challenges of recent years, including continued uncertainty in our long-term tenancy of Burlington House, 2022 was a year of great progress and we can look to the future confident in a Linnean Society that is inspiring, resilient and impactful as a global voice for the natural world.

Professor Anjali Goswami

OVERVIEW 2022

Happily, 2022 marked a much-welcomed return of Fellows and visitors to our wonderful building. Reassessing how the world has changed since the pandemic, the Linnean Society continues to adapt and evolve in response to external changes. Thank you to all those helping to ensure the Society continues to thrive and deliver impact.

Update on Burlington House Lease

The most significant development of 2022 was a meeting on 30 June with the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP. The CEOs around the Courtyard collectively and clearly set out the importance of co-location for inter-disciplinary scholarship, which would also help to address the huge issues facing humanity. They outlined our desire to increase public engagement and work imaginatively together, and clarified how the issues with the current leases have unfortunately been holding us back.

The Secretary of State seemed sympathetic to our cause, instructing us to work together with DLUHC officials on a business case to argue for a new, long-term and sustainable arrangement. As of the start of 2023, we are continuing discussions with the Department and by mid-January we will have welcomed a visit from the new minister assigned to this case, Baroness Scott of Bybrook.

Revision of our Bye-Laws

As previously mentioned by the President, the Bye-Laws Revision Group have continued their efforts on drafting revised Bye-Laws for the Society. By December 2022, Fellows had sight of the proposed Bye-Laws and were invited to provide comments and feedback. The feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive and constructive. During 2023, the Fellowship will have further opportunities to comment on proposed changes and to approve the resulting Bye-Laws at an Extraordinary General Meeting. Concurrent with updating the Society's Bye-Laws, a petition will be made to the Privy Council to update our Charter. The new Charter will recognise the Society's long and illustrious history but will also reflect that it is a modern and dynamic organisation fit for the years to come.

Committee Restructure

One of the important tasks of our Trustees is to periodically review which affairs should be reserved for the Society's Council, and which can be delegated to senior managers, committees or individual Trustees, staff or volunteers. In this context, our Council reviewed the structure and purpose of the various committees supporting its work during 2022. Among the changes made were the renaming of the Finance Committee to the Finance & Risk Committee (reflecting its expanded role of risk management and operational policies) and the separation of the Nominations & Awards Committee into a Nominations Committee, dedicated to overseeing nominations to Council and succession planning, and a standalone Medals & Awards Committee. A new Remuneration Committee was put in place to oversee staff reward and pay, and the Programme Committee and Education & Public Engagement Committee were combined into a singular Engagement Committee. Council also agreed upon:

- The dissolution of the Linnean Future Committee, with its operational and programme activities to be taken forward by the Finance & Risk Committee, and Engagement Committee, respectively.
- Updated terms of reference for the Safeguarding Committee, Collections Committee and Audit Committee.

Additionally, when the revised Bye-Laws are in place, a new Fellowship Committee is slated for the purpose of ensuring all Fellowship applications are more thoroughly scrutinised for eligibility.

GDPR Update
Throughout 2022, we have been hugely appreciative of the generous assistance from Aju Omadeli, a volunteer who has been helping us to update our GDPR policies and compliance. Thanks to Aju we now have a robust system in place for handling personal data as well as a clear, comprehensive and up-to-date privacy policy.

Staff Changes
We were sad to say goodbye to several staff in 2022: Daryl Stenvoll-Wells, BioMedia Meltdown Project Manager left to pursue other opportunities in arts education; Joe Burton, Education Manager, left to take up a new role at Manchester-based Arts Emergency; Zia Forrai, Education Officer, left to undertake a PhD in the USA; and Cathy Youthed, Governance Manager, left to pursue a career as a deputy company secretary in the corporate sector.

We were delighted to welcome Anna Perman in the new role of Head of Engagement; Ayesha Meredith-Lewis as our new Education Manager; and Andrew Swan as our new Governance Manager. Hassan Rankou also moved into a new role managing the administration of our journals in house.

Her Majesty The Queen, Elizabeth II
In September, we mourned the passing of our Royal Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, Elizabeth II. Upon ascending the throne in 1952, The Queen became a Patron of the Linnean Society, but had been an Honorary Member since 1947. In 1988, we welcomed The Queen and HRH Prince Philip to the Society to be a part of its Bicentenary celebrations, where the Royal Party signed a specially designed page in our Roll and Charter book. After Her Majesty's passing, the Society wrote letters of condolence to His Majesty King Charles III and HRH The Princess Royal and received kind replies.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORSHIP

Since 1839, our journals have played a vital role in developing scientific knowledge, publishing important findings across biological, botanical, zoological, and now evolutionary research. The year saw a great deal of change to our journals and processes with the launch of our open access *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society* and changes to our editorial structure. We offer immense thanks to our editors, authors and reviewers for their support of our scholarly publishing.

In 2021, a task-and-finish group of our Council members conducted a scoping exercise to understand how our editorial arrangements compared with similar organisations. They made recommendations to improve our impact and keep in line with best practice in the sector. One recommendation was an in-house editorial office to manage the administration of all four of our journals, so that Editors-in-Chief could focus on strategic and scientific issues. Dr Hassan Rankou's role was moved into the newly formed Engagement Team, from focussing on the *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* to handling editorial processes across all of our titles. A Journal Officer role was also introduced, which will start early in 2023. We successfully moved three of our journals to the editorial office, with the fourth to follow.

Two of our Editors-in-Chief, Professor Mike Fay (*Botanical Journal*) and Dr Maarten Christenhusz (*Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*), will be stepping down in 2023 and are to be profusely thanked for taking these journals from strength to strength over recent years.

After an open recruitment process, we appointed new Editors-in-Chief: Dr Steven Dodsworth to the *Botanical Journal* and Dr Jeffrey Streicher to the *Zoological Journal*. Already at the helm of our *Evolutionary Journal*, Steven's new appointment created a vacancy, and Professor Julia Day was recruited. We are excited to see Julia, Steven and Jeff take up their roles in 2023.

Research Journals

The **Biological Journal of the Linnean Society** (*BioJLS*), edited by Professor John Allen, achieved an increased Impact Factor in 2022 (2.28 vs 2.14), and published seven reviews and 141 original articles (not as many as in recent years, undoubtedly due to the effect of the pandemic on would-be authors). Articles that stirred great interest were on the unique feeding behaviour of a species of gecko, evolutionary change of shape in an invasive toad in Australia and the role of habitat in the evolution of the horns of vipers. Highlights for 2023 will include the delayed special issue on *Evolution 'on Purpose': Teleonomy in living systems*, based on papers presented at a 2021 Linnean Society online conference.

The ***Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*** (*BotJLS*), edited by Professor Michael Fay, achieved a similar Impact Factor to the previous year (2.828 vs. 2.911). Highlights of the year included the largest issue to date (a major special issue on Neotropical biodiversity published in May) and the publication of volume 200, three issues of which included invited reviews (on Asteraceae, hybridisation in the Neotropics and the role of sexual selection in the origin and evolution of angiosperms).

The ***Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*** (*ZooJLS*), edited by Dr Maarten Christenhusz, received an increased Impact Factor (3.286 vs. 3.834). We maintain a high submission rate, with 356 submitted papers in 2022. Highlights of the year included a special issue on integrative approaches to mammalian systematics, ecomorphology and biomechanics, which included 14 novel and original articles, and a virtual issue on deep-sea discoveries. An invited review emphasised the history of queer zoology in Europe before the 19th century. Special issues to look out for in 2023 will focus on tardigrades and on South American tetrapod fossils.

The ***Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society*** (*EvoJLS*) was launched in 2022. By year's end, we had published several papers, covering topics like Cyto-nuclear incompatibilities across a bluebell hybrid zone in northern Spain and the evolution of Australian skipper butterflies—we are enthusiastic about the papers already submitted for 2023.

LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund

In support of the study of biodiversity, taxonomy, systematics and evolutionary biology, the Society was once again delighted to contribute £30,508 towards the LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund, a co-initiative with the Systematics Association.

In 2022 we were able to award 40 grants, ranging from £500 to £1,500. Successful applications came in from all over the globe, including Argentina, Brazil, India, Malaysia, Nairobi, Poland, Turkey, UK and US. Research covered such varied topics as the cryptic diversity of ant species on the Canary Islands, deep-sea parasite-host relationships and the diversity of freshwater algae in 'hidden treasure' Fruška Gora National Park, Serbia.

Awardee	Country of residence	Title of project
Anirban Ash	India	Diversity, distribution and novelty of *Raphidascaris* species (Nematoda:Raphidascarididae) in West Bengal
Rafael Barbosa-Silva	Brazil	Evolution of the Pantepui flora: taxonomy, phylogenomics and biogeography of *Bonnetia* (Bonnetiaceae)
Polet Yamaly Barragan Marin	United States	The sea anemone *Phymactis papillosa*, a three-color palette in the Pacific Ocean
Franziska Bergmeier	Germany	Solving a taxonomic Bermuda triangle: collecting mesopsammic Solenogastres (Mollusca) on Bermuda

Melissa Betters	United States	Investigating the diversity of limpet-form gastropods at the Costa Rica Margin
Juliet Brodie	United Kingdom	Checklist of seaweeds and pioneering a seaweed herbarium of Sorsogon, Philippines
Sara Cabral	Portugal	The use of genotyping to distinguish *Cerastoderma* spp. specimens in Portugal
Mark Chapman	United Kingdom	Taxonomic and genetic constraints and outcomes of hybridisation in the British Flora
M Carmen Cobo	United States	An integrative taxonomic approach to the order Neomeniamorpha Salvini-Plawen, 1978 (Mollusca, Aplacophora)
Valerii Darmostuk	Poland	Molecular evolution and systematics of *Xenonectriella* (Hypocreales) in tropical forests of Bolivia
Emmanuel Delocado	Philippines	Integrative taxonomy of Hydrophilidae beetles of the Philippines
Regan Drennan	United Kingdom	From Sweden to the Antarctic: resolving long-standing issues in bamboo worm biogeography
Patricia Esquete	Portugal	Biodiversity in the deep ocean: discovering the Tanaidacea
Camilo Florez Valencia	United States	Ant-tragopine mutualism in the Colombian Lowland Rainforest and its consequence in colour variation
Tricia Goulding	United States	Systematics of the Epitoniidae: incorporating historical museum specimens into a phylogenetic framework
Jongkar Grinang	Malaysia	Species inventory of freshwater crabs in Borneo Island
Dora Hlebec	Germany	Explosive evolution of genus *Neobisium* (Arachnida: Pseudoscorpiones) in Dinaric Karst—when and why?
Erin Krichilsky	United States	A bilingual open-source checklist and digitisation of Taiwan's bee fauna
Ali Budhi Kusuma	Indonesia	Genome based-taxonomy of putatively novel extremophilic Actinomycete strains isolated from various types of extreme habitats in Indonesia
John Michael Lastimoso	Philippines	Taxonomy of the red seaweed *Hypoglossum* Kützing (Delesseriaceae, Rhodophyta) in the Philippines
Sabin Liulea	Spain	Long-term shifts of intertidal seaweeds at distribution limits (Portugal)
Wagner Magalhães	Brazil	Marine annelids from intertidal regions of Bahia, Brazil
Luciana Martins	Brazil	Minding the gap on the taxonomic diversity of Crinoidea (Echinodermata) in Brazil
Katherine Montana	United States	A systematic revision of the spider genus *Lathys*
Tanner Myers	United States	The genomic architecture of fence lizard speciation (genus *Sceloporus*)
Víctor Noguerales	Spain	Uncovering cryptic diversity and diversification of the Canarian Ants
Alexis Oetterer	United States	Green algal diversity along the Eastern Shore of Virginia
Ahmed Omotayo	Nigeria	Diversity and morphological characterization of cattle ticks from Lagos, South-West, Nigeria.
María Pía Pacheco	Argentina	A comprehensive phylogeographic study on Philisca spiders
Pantamith Rattanakrajang	Thailand	Phylogenetic relationships of *Neuropeltis* among intercontinental species and within Convolvulaceae
Jefferson Sauceda Valderrama	Brazil	Taxonomic revision and phylogeny of *Abana* leafhoppers, a highly polymorphic group

Luana Sauthier	Brazil	*Paepalanthus* subg. *Platycaulon* Mart. ex Körn. (Eriocaulaceae): taxonomy, phylogeny and biogeography
Ryan Schmidt	United States	Diversity of *Verbascum* in the Northern Mid-Atlantic United States
Sanja Sovran	Serbia	Hidden treasure of 'Fruška Gora' National Park—Diversity of freshwater red algae
Eva Stewart	United Kingdom	Deep-sea parasite-host relationships: A new genus of Myzostomida from the Pacific abyss
Mark Stukel	United States	Untangling hybridisation in New Zealand cicadas
Kailin Sun	Germany	Phylogeny and taxonomy of the genus *Myricaria*
Onur Uluar	Turkey	Genus *Poecilimon* (Orthoptera, Tettigoniidae): determining intra-generic diversity using comprehensive data
Jaqueline Vieira	Brazil	Integrated studies in *Ternstroemia* (Pentaphylacaceae): uncovering neglected species of Neotropical flora
Craig Wilding	United Kingdom	Uncovering cryptic species in the beadlet anemone *Actinia equina*

The John Topp Fund

(Awarded to amateur or professional botanists or entomologists, with priority for any who serve or have served in Her Majesty's Royal Navy or the Army to undertake studies in the field.) The John Topp Fund was awarded to John Tennent to facilitate his field work on the distribution and diversity of butterfly fauna on the island of Niuafo'ou in the Pacific. Niuafo'ou is an active volcano some 8 km in circumference, which last erupted in 1985, lying between Fiji and Samoa and has a steep-sided caldera (250 m high at its highest point).

Alongside Lepidoptera, Odonata and other invertebrates will also be sampled or photographed and identified by specialists in the hope of ultimately presenting a record of the fauna of this isolated island, whose fauna is largely unknown. The results from Niuafo'ou may be published independently, though this research will also allow completion of a detailed manuscript of five months of previous fieldwork carried out on the many scattered islands of the southwest Pacific ('Operation Wallacea').

Looking Ahead to 2023

The upcoming year will see us support our new Editors-in-Chief as they settle into their roles. Together, we will review the scope and strategies of journals, ensuring that they continue to complement each other and meet the needs of our community. Moreover, our editorial office will work closely with our publisher, Oxford University Press, to provide the best possible author experience, including improved publication times and accuracy.

We have a close eye on publishing trends, such as open science and redefining impact, and are focussed on enhancing the impact of both our journals and grant opportunities through our engagement work.

OUR FELLOWSHIP

The Society continues to be incredibly grateful for the support shown by our members. We are inspired by the number of individuals choosing to remain Fellows for decades and encouraged by so many people joining the Society for the first time. Sadly, we also lost several good friends of the Society in 2022, who will be greatly missed.

Expanding our Membership

We are delighted to report that 169 new Fellows joined in 2022 (32 women and 137 men), with backgrounds ranging from academics in the fields of natural sciences, the arts and humanities, the corporate world and in healthcare. Of special mention is new Fellow Will Beharrell, the Linnean Society's Librarian—congratulations Will! We also welcomed 48 Associates and 38 Student Associates, which was fantastic. There were sadly a number of deaths, resignations and defaulters who were removed, ending the year on a total membership of 3,086.

Highlighting Your Achievements

We are proud of the achievements of all of our members in 2022, so please continue to share them with us so that we may celebrate with you.

- Past President **Sandra Knapp**, whose work has 'made major contributions to our understanding of plant evolution and tropical biodiversity', was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS). She was also awarded the prestigious 2022 David Fairchild Medal for Plant Exploration by Hawaii's National Tropical Botanical Garden.
- **Cary Woodruff**, **Ewan Wolff** and their team published a ground-breaking paper in *Nature* on the first evidence of an avian-style respiratory infection in a dinosaur.
- **Miranda Lowe**, Principal Curator of Crustacea at London's Natural History Museum, was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her tireless work in championing both science and diversity in museums and heritage.
- **Ben Sheldon**, whose work on wild bird populations has enormously advanced our understanding of their social behaviour, was also made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2022.

In Remembrance

We said a sad goodbye to **Jennifer (Jenny) Edmonds** in February, a botanist whose field of research included *Solanum nigrum*, and who coordinated the Society's Tercentenary celebrations in 2007. Plant taxonomist and biogeographer **Ian Richardson** passed in March, and in April we lost celebrated Linnaean scholar **Gunnar Broberg**, Professor of History of Science and Ideas at Lund University. **Vernon Heywood** passed in September, Chief Scientist at IUCN and a towering figure in plant taxonomy with nearly 30,000 citations. Finally, in December we were crushed by the loss of our friend **Gren Lucas**, a powerhouse plant conservationist and our beloved Treasurer (1995–2015)—he will be sorely missed.

Moving Forward with our Fellowship

With progress on modernising the Bye-Laws, the introduction of the Members' Area on our website and the investment in a new Engagement Team, we are hoping that foundations are in place to enable increased engagement with our Fellows. Mindful of the fact that so many people live far from London or don't wish to travel for various reasons, we will continue to organise stimulating online events, produce educational podcasts and videos, and feature inspiring content in *The Linnean*. However, we also hope to see more Fellows and members of the public visit the building, whether to attend Linnean Society events, book rooms for venue hire, carry out research in the Library or simply pop in to say hello.

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

Through sponsorship and awarding medals, the Society acknowledges and encourages excellence in all aspects of the science of natural history, with particular emphasis on evolution, taxonomy, biodiversity conservation and sustainability.

Categories

- The Linnean Medal: For services to science
- The Darwin-Wallace Medal: For major advances in evolutionary biology
- The Bicentenary Medal: In recognition of the work of a biologist under 40 years of age
- The Irene Manton Prize: For the best doctoral thesis in botany in a UK university
- The John C. Marsden Medal: For the best doctoral thesis in biology in a UK university
- The Trail-Crisp Award: For an outstanding contribution to biological microscopy
- The H. H. Bloomer Award: Awarded to an amateur naturalist for an important contribution to biological knowledge
- The Jill Smythies Prize: To a botanical artist for outstanding, diagnostically relevant, published illustrations

Medal and Award Winners 2022

Linnean Medal (Zoology): Dr Rohan Pethiyagoda, *Australian Museum*

Linnean Medal (Botany): Professor Sebsebe Demissew, *Addis Ababa University*

Darwin-Wallace Medal: Professor David Jablonski, *University of Chicago*

Bicentenary Medal: Dr James Rosindell, *Imperial College London*

Irene Manton Prize: Dr Bruno Pok Man Ngou, *RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science*

John C. Marsden Medal: Dr Timothy Lamont, *Lancaster University*

Trail-Crisp Award: Dr Frieda Christie, *Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh*

H. H. Bloomer Award: Mr Geoffrey Kibby

Jill Smythies Prize: Dr Andrew Brown

A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE

After two unusual years of intermittent closures, 2022 proved to be more of a return to pre-COVID times than a 'bumper' year. With increased readers, enquiries, outreach, cataloguing, additional staff, and more collaborations, the Collections Team ended the year with a great sense of achievement.

Exhibitions Galore

In May 2022, Eton College launched their exhibition *To Botany Bay and Back: The Worldwide Web of Sir Joseph Banks*, celebrating the bicentenary of Banks's death (postponed since 2020). The exhibition, which reassessed Banks's global impact after his voyage on the HMS *Endeavour*, featured several letters from Banks, books and two specimens from the Linnean Society's seed and nut collections. The exhibition was one of Eton Library's most successful, attracting over 2,000 visitors. Society staff were

fortunate to be given a tour of the exhibition by George Fussey FLS, Curator of the Eton Natural History Museum, and Stephie Coane, Librarian.

Linnean Society items, including a drawing of the HMS *Beagle* and a mockup of a plate from our *Transactions*, also featured in the Royal Society's exhibition *Plenty More Fish? A History of Scientific Marine Expeditions*, which coincided with the Royal Society's Summer Exhibition. Louisiane Ferlier, Digital Archivist at the Royal Society, gave staff a personal tour of the exhibition.

Archive Ambitions

Archivists Liz M^{c}Gow and Luke Thorne have been working hard on the Collected Archives, with two new archive collections now fully catalogued: the correspondence of botanist and physician, Richard Pulteney (MS/238); and the letters and journals of botanist and Linnean Society President, George Bentham (MS/322 and MS/328). Detailed summaries of each letter and journal entry are available on our archive catalogue.

Bentham's accounts of his many trips abroad, by sea, road and rail, are fascinating and highlight the dangers of travel in the mid-19th century, and are not without humour. Of the Crimea he writes: 'it is a tour much to be recommended to those who do not in the least care for any sort of comfort in eating, drinking, sleeping or moving about.'

The Society's domestic archive also holds a wealth of knowledge on the history of the Society and this year we started an ambitious project to sort and catalogue the collection in the hopes that it can be more easily available to Fellows and researchers. Project Archivist Alex Milne has been making excellent progress with 135 boxes of new material sorted and catalogued as well as five drawers of plans, posters and paintings, nine shelves of minute books and ledgers, and a total of 1,352 new files listed so far.

Alex has been emptying cupboards and digging through drawers and shelves, rediscovering important records, like those outlining the history of our time at Burlington House with receipts for fittings and fixtures and reports of visitors, damage, thefts and renovation.

Space for Growth

We began a light-touch weed of our journals collection at Burlington House in 2021, with work continuing in 2022. The project is now nearly 75% complete and has been expertly overseen by Librarian Will Beharrell. The responsible disposal of mostly damaged and duplicated items will mean our remaining collections can be adequately and safely housed and give us much needed space for growth in the future.

Conservation of Collections

Our collections sponsorship scheme, AdoptLINN, went from strength to strength in 2022. Throughout the year, £10,500 was pledged by 26 donors in four countries; a 30% increase on the total raised in 2021 and the largest amount ever raised by the scheme. Titles included Ulisse Aldrovandi's *Quadrupedum Omnium Bisulcorum Historia* (1621) and Charles Darwin's 6th edition, presentation copy of *On the Origin of Species* (1872). Every penny donated will go towards supporting vulnerable items in our historic collection of books, archival papers, artefacts, specimens and artworks. We'd like to extend our thanks to everyone who has supported AdoptLINN in 2022, as we look forward to further progress in 2023.

As the result of the flood damage to the Library in 2021, a number of books were in need of repair. The first to be tackled by Conservator Janet Ashdown were those that were more seriously damaged; some of these required aqueous treatments to remove heavy water stains and had to be totally dismantled, re-sewn and re-bound. In every case the original binding was repaired and re-instated.

Future-Proofing in a Digital World

Behind the scenes, staff at the Society have been transforming how we go about managing our digital information. Overseen by Digital Assets Manager Andrea Deneau, a formal Records and Information

Management programme was put into place—an undertaking of over 1.5 years, completed at the end of 2022. The project included an information inventory, restructuring the Society's file plan, creating two new policies, a retention schedule and management rules, and plenty of staff training. There was also a very significant information clean-up, seeing a massive reduction in unnecessary files and folders, becoming an annual affair in our processes, across staff teams. With these official policies and procedures now in place, the Society has made great gains in future-proofing our digital records.

A Little Help from Our Friends

The Linnean Society could not function without its dedicated volunteers, some of whom were able to come back in a more regular capacity in 2022. We are immensely grateful to Sheila Meredith and David Pescod for their Library and Archives work, to John Abbott for his painstaking conservation work, and to our Honorary Curators and Archivist—Glenn Benson, Ollie Crimmen, Suzanne Ryder, Mark Spencer and Gina Douglas—who have fielded enquiries and committed their time to outreach events.

Collection Connections

In 2023, we aim to continue to make our collections as widely accessible as possible, through continued cataloguing, curation and conservation; through furthering research by collaborating with scholars, artists and students; and through engaging varied audiences via numerous avenues of outreach. We are looking forward to our staircase redecoration early in 2023, in order to showcase some of the wonderful and outstanding items in our collections, celebrating our 150 years in Burlington House. We also have exciting external loans lined up to big institutions such as Tate Modern, The Hague's Kunstmuseum, and the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge.

A GLOBAL IMPACT

Like many across the world, this year we entered a post-pandemic 'new normal'. We have been thrilled to return to in-person events and education programming, but we also continue to grow our international online presence. Our videos and online activities continue to gain traction as we work to benefit our expanding global membership and public audience.

Team Players

For the first time, our events, education, digital content, journals and publications have been brought together into one overall Engagement Team. Together, we will strive to help our audiences learn about the natural world, engage with our collections and be inspired by the work of our Fellows.

In May, Anna Perman joined us as Head of Engagement, having come from communications and engagement roles in the NHS and charity sector. This newly created role involves setting strategic goals across all areas of engagement. As seen in 'Research and Sponsorship', our Journals Editorial Manager Hassan Rankou moved into the team in September. He and our new Journals Officer will further embed our journal content in our engagement work. We also welcomed Ayesha Meredith-Lewis as our new Education Manager, who joins us from the London Wetlands Trust and brings a strong background in outreach to diverse young audiences. Ross Ziegelmeier (Multimedia Content Producer), Padma Ghosh (Events and Communications Manager) and Leonie Berwick (Publications Manager) round off the team.

Wide-Ranging Science for a Global Audience

From pangolin conservation in Nigeria to naked mole-rats, bats in the Himalayas to the impact of climate change on sharks, our online, in-person and hybrid events covered our magnificently diverse natural world. Padma Ghosh developed and oversaw 40 events in 2022, which included evening lectures, lunchtime talks, nature walks, debates, book launches ('Nature Readers') and discussions, as well as collaborations with other organisations. On average, each event saw more than 180 attendees; in total, through 2022, we delivered our programme of events to 7,215 people across the world.

We also held several special events, from coral conservation to 'Queer Zoology Since Aristotle' to the natural history of tea. Among event highlights, our 'Stories from Plant Collections' brought together curators and researchers from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Rothamsted Research and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, and was a fantastic collaboration. We were relieved to be able to bring back in-person events after being scuppered by COVID, starting with our AGM, a terrific Nature Reader with ornithologist Tim Birkhead and our eye-opening Science Policy Lecture 'Biodiversity and Finance: Making Space for a Common Planet' with the Systematics Association. Our most well-attended event was the Nature Reader 'The Mind of a Bee' by Lars Chittka, with a whopping 520 people joining us online.

Potential in Profitable Content

Our videos investigated our unique Insch Tea Library collection, and sang the praises of our medal winners—'What do coral reefs sound like?' celebrated the research of Timothy Lamont (winner of the Society's John C. Marsden Medal for the 'best doctoral thesis in biology') into underwater soundscapes. Ross Ziegelmeier also reached new audiences with the 'Our Taxonomy Crises' animation, which explained the need for more trained taxonomists in the fight against global mass extinction, and was translated into Bulgarian, Spanish and Portuguese—it has already received over 1,095 views.

The Linnean Future podcast series was published in 2022, in response to the ongoing planetary emergency, and explored global stories that outlined the wide-ranging impacts of climate change. Vivid interviews, sharp opinions, current research and field science emphasised the complex and deeply intertwined relationship between humans and our planet. In his episode 'A Deep History of Climate Change', Dagomar Degroot used historical records to give evidence of climate change before official records began. In another, multi-instrumentalist and composer Cosmo Sheldrake spoke about his dedication to improving humankind's connection to nature through music.

The Society is set on generating income from its digital assets, and a complete review of these assets and our social media has been undertaken. During 2022, the Society made £371 from its YouTube channel, an increase from 2021, and we are keen to see this turnover continue to grow.

Social Skills

This year we have focussed on building up our social media audience across Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn. Facebook and Instagram accumulated 808 and 742 new followers respectively, but our Twitter account has seen the most growth, with 4,155 new followers! Our October tweet highlighting the Library as a warm space was most appreciated, with more than 950 retweets and almost 3,600 'likes'. Proportionately, the Library saw an escalated demand for readers, illustrating social media reach translating into real-world impact. And encouragingly, our Linnean News (monthly e-newsletter), increased its subscriber base from 968 to 1,500—a 55% increase!

The Linnean

This year the Society's membership publication, *The Linnean*, became an interactive online title, incorporating articles looking at the current research of our members, external groups and collaborators, and new stories relating to our collections. Under editor Leonie Berwick, it saw a refreshed design, and the engagement with and feedback from members has been overwhelmingly positive: 'It is a fine combination of information, discussion, review and sheer beauty of imagery. You have set yourselves a high example to follow!'

Treasures: A Little 19th-Century Humour

The Collections Team have continued to produce 'Treasure of the Month' blogs promoting some of the lesser known and more unusual 'treasures' from the Society's collections. In April, Assistant Archivist Luke Thorne wrote about a scientific paper from the archives that had actually been sent to the Society as an April Fool's joke by C. T. Druery in 1883. The paper described the uncovering of fossils

belonging to a series of chimeric creatures—the 'Elegator', 'Crocodars' and 'Cockerel Salmon'. Other hoax-related items from the archive were also highlighted, including a letter from Richard Murray to Edward Morell Holmes about the origins of the 'Shapwick Monster'; a case of mistaken identity involving a group of fearful villagers and a lost crab, and another hoax paper about the murder of Cock Robin, which amused the Fellows present at that particular meeting, but sadly resulted in the resignation of then-Secretary Alexander Macleay.

Expanding Engagement

As the climate and biodiversity crises deepen, the Society's history, publications and collective knowledge have a crucial role to play. We are working on audience and Fellow-led content across all avenues of engagement to meet public needs as they change and develop, supported by the cutting-edge research in our journals.

Meanwhile, our exciting programme of events onsite and further afield will aim to deepen understanding of the natural world and involvement in protecting it. Our shift to online events during the pandemic gained us a diverse audience, which we hope to nurture and grow. Looking forward, we will continue to serve both our in-house participants and those online, fulfilling our vision of a membership that extends beyond borders and boundaries.

Our online Members' Area has also played a positive role in helping the Society improve its engagement with the Fellowship. Overseen by Room Hire Manager and Membership Assistant Tatiana Franco, the platform offers everyone the opportunity to engage with the Society and other members, through the newsfeed, event booking and other services, and we hope to do more in 2023.

SHARING OUR EXPERTISE

In 2022 we said farewell to our previous Education Team, Joe Burton and Zia Forrai, and welcomed a new Education Manager, Ayesha Meredith-Lewis. In the autumn she hit the ground running, taking our Special Species workshop to a local library and to Big Biology Day in Cambridge, the first time these events had been held since 2019.

Natural History GSCE

Excitingly, in April 2022, the UK government's Department for Education confirmed that there will be a new General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) in Natural History. The news came after a decade-long campaign by naturalists, and a proposal coordinated by Oxford, Cambridge and RSA (OCR), a leading UK Awarding Body. The Linnean Society has been a key partner on the advisory board for the GCSE.

The next step of the process is a consultation on the content of the GCSE syllabus, with initial teaching of the new qualification to be in place by autumn 2025. The Society is collaborating with other partners on the advisory board to help shape the content of the syllabus, contributing topics and ideas from both historical and current research. In tandem, we are also considering how our content, including activities and lesson plans (as well as audiovisual content), can support the teachers delivering the GCSE.

Joseph Banks's Icelandic Anniversary

At the invitation of the British Embassy in Iceland, we ran a two-hour workshop in November in Reykjavik, celebrating the 250th anniversary of Joseph Banks's and Daniel Solander's Icelandic expedition in 1772. The workshop saw students embark on an imaginary journey to an 'undiscovered' island off the coast of Iceland, finding many weird and wonderful species. To learn about Banks, botany and binomial naming, they were tasked with drawing and recording these species and

describing their habitat. The finished species were assembled and presented in a large art display that will hang in the British Embassy in Reykjavik.

Engaging with Nature at a Local Level

The Our Local Nature grant scheme is designed to provide young people with the opportunity to lead on projects that involve their local nature and natural spaces, and to have their voices heard. The scheme funds innovative projects designed and led by young people in the UK, increasing access to natural spaces and improving understanding of the local biodiversity.

During the 2022 round we received over 65 fantastic applications, and our four dedicated Youth Panel members combed through every single one. They awarded nine grants in total, with the £6,000 fund going towards projects including a coastal clear up in the Shetland Islands, and the building of sensory nature gardens.

Celebrating 'Nature Heroes'

This year our annual portrait competition asked 8–13-year-olds to create a portrait of their nature hero—someone who had had an impact on their understanding of the natural world. Sixty entrants from across the world entered their artwork, from the UK to India, Sweden, Canada and Ukraine.

Heartfelt congratulations to winner Sigge Lovevind (13) from Sweden, whose amazing graffiti portrait of Carl Linnaeus and Greta Thunberg wowed our judging panel with its creativity and message for the future. Congratulations also go to our runners-up, Jasmine (11, UK) and Leya (8, Ukraine).

A Team Effort

Our Collections Team was delighted to resume its outreach activities, delivering five Linnean Lens events highlighting items in our collections, nine lectures and talks at conferences, and 42 guided tours of the Society and its collections.

Talks allowed the team to share their expertise: Archivists Alex Milne and Liz M^{c}Gow outlined archival materials in Linnean Lens talks; Librarian Will Beharrell outlined the Linnean Lens series to the Historic Libraries Forum conference; and Head of Collections Isabelle Charmantier expanded upon our collections and place in the history of science for a meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, and other online conferences.

The Linnean Lens series, which originally began in 2021 as a means of virtually connecting people with our collections during the pandemic, is now a firm and successful fixture in the Society's calendar. These interactive, online events pair an item from our collections with an expert curator, who guides us through its unique and sometimes surprising history. Highlights this year included an investigation of Charles Darwin's vasculum, used to collect plant specimens whilst on board the HMS *Beagle*; an 18th-century manuscript damaged during the Blitz; and a whistle-stop tour of Alexander Garden's remarkable fish specimens. Over 519 people attended the five Linnean Lens lectures in 2022, with well over a thousand more more catching up with the recordings on YouTube—a fantastic turnout. We look forward to revealing more of our treasures throughout the coming year.

Guided tours were split between our monthly Treasures Tours for the general public, private tours (for Friends of Imperial College in coordination with the Royal Astronomical Society, Friends of St Nicholas Church in Chiswick, and the Worshipful Company of Gardeners), and recurring yearly tours for history, art and biology university students. Amongst the newcomers this year were the School of Science and Acting and the London Rare Books School.

Connecting Through Collections

Linnaeus Link, the online catalogue of Linnaean materials, sprang back into life in 2022. The international collaboration, which now boasts 20 contributing partners spanning three continents, saw its first in-person meeting in over three years, hosted as part of the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (EBHL) conference at the Meise Botanic Garden in Brussels. We were incredibly

delighted to welcome our first contributing partner from South America, the Instituto de Botánica Darwinion in Argentina. The catalogue itself now hosts over 18,300 records of works by or about Carl Linnaeus and provides a vital resource for scholars around the world.

The Year to Come

Going forward, we intend to build on the progress we've made with our outreach, and are keen to partner with other organisations in order to engage with new audiences. From an education standpoint, in spring 2023 we will be working with Grow2Know, a North Kensington Community Interest Company (CIC) established after the Grenfell Tower fire in London, where we will run an Art Fund-supported nature club at a local school, culminating in a visit to the Society. We will also be working with The Wave Project on workshops for young people with mental health needs, and our trial run for family 'Cabinets of Curiosity' tours in 2023 will show a different side to our history.

INSPIRING OTHERS

Through our collections, the knowledge of our Fellows, staff and other stakeholders, we are keen to foster collaborations, conceive innovative ideas and cultivate interdisciplinary projects. In 2022 we saw many projects born, while others came to fruition.

Progress Through Partnerships

Inspiring new research topics and fruitful collaborations through access to our collections is one of the most rewarding aspects of running a Library and Archives. Such collaborations are a rewarding way of furthering knowledge of our own collections and within a larger discipline.

In 2022, we were partners in four such projects, including Christina Welch's project on the Alexander Anderson botanical manuscripts. Funded by the AHRC-NERC 'Hidden Histories' programme, the project resulted in these manuscripts being reordered, fully digitised and partly transcribed. The Society has also been participating in the bid, led by the University of Cambridge Library, to have Charles Darwin's manuscripts inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World register. Finally, in October, two other projects began: Fellows Edwin Rose and Staffan Müller-Wille's AHRC-funded 'Nature in the Age of Revolutions', and the Linnean Society's first ever Collaborative Doctoral Award student, Jonn Gale. With Emily Senior, Sarah Thomas (both Birkbeck University) and Isabelle Charmantier as co-supervisors, Jonn will be researching 'Black and Indigenous Collectors in the Linnean Society's Archives'.

Our collections have always been an inspiration for artists, and in 2022 Lena Granefelt photographed hundreds of Linnaean herbarium specimens for her show *A Linnean Collection*, opening in Gallery Glas in Stockholm in February 2023.

Biodiversity and Finance: Comfortable Bedfellows?

The 2022 Science Policy Event, in collaboration with the Systematics Association, was a slight departure from the norm. Instead of a straightforward lecture, we hosted a debate on whether the worlds of biodiversity and finance were making space for a common planet. With Elree Winnett Seelig (Global Head of Environmental, Social and Governance for Citi's Markets franchise), Mike Maunder (Executive Director of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative), and Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker (Editor of *Responsible Investor*), this in-person event attracted 85 engaged audience members, with further views of the recording online. Several attendees expressed interest in more events of this nature.

Elree Winnett-Seelig was also interviewed for one of our podcast episodes (#53: 'What's being done about the energy crisis?'). We were very encouraged by the enthusiasm and participation of the audience at this event, and we hope to be able to continue these relevant and dynamic discussions at the Society.

Bristol Natural History Consortium
The Bristol Natural History Consortium is a natural partner for the Linnean Society, with both groups providing a meeting place for those working in natural history and focussing on organisations and individuals respectively.

In August, we collaborated on a podcast about Overstory, an artwork in Bristol produced using microscopic imagery of trees. The podcast, promoted amongst BNHC networks, was one of our most popular of the year.

Later in November, Anna Perman and Isabelle Charmantier led a roundtable on collections and the natural world at the Consortium's Communicate Conference, helping to raise the Society's profile within this professional audience.

Ties That Bind
As the year started to feel like the world was truly 'getting back into the swing of things', we were able to connect with more groups in person, including those in book conservation. In February, Janet Ashdown gave a presentation on the history of paper to members of the Florilegium Society at London's Chelsea Physic Garden, where participants could handle many samples made from a variety of raw materials; they later visited our home at Burlington House in October and were given a demonstration of book and paper repairs. We also welcomed The Worshipful Company of Gardeners for a display on bookbinding and book repair in our Discovery Room.

Step by Step
In 2021, Isabelle Charmantier proposed a bold refresh of the Society's main staircase. The idea was to respectfully relocate the portraits that have long adorned the staircase and use the space to showcase images from our wonderful, but sometimes unseen, collections. The aim was to more clearly outline our work as a natural history society and provide a welcoming space to visitors. Leonie Berwick and Andrea Deneau spent much of 2022 choosing the themes and images, photographing and preparing them for print, and writing the accompanying narratives. Under the supervision of Janet Ashdown, the portraits were relocated at the end of the year and 51 new framed prints went up in their place. When you are next at the Society, we hope you enjoy the new display, peppered with treasures from our collections.

FEEDBACK

Tours
'Thank you for the wonderful afternoon you gave us. When we asked students on the last day what aspect they had enjoyed most, two said the Linnean afternoon—both the material in the library (and the library itself) and also Isabelle's tour and the privilege of seeing the Linnaean archive. It was so very good of you to help as you did (especially with the difficulties posed by the strikes) and hugely appreciated. Thank you *very* much!'

'This tour was an amazing opportunity to see the precious collections of Carl Linné and to understand his invaluable contribution to the study and knowledge of all living creatures. Thanks to you both we understood Linné's intellectual progress during this great age of classification and taxonomy, we saw precious specimens which are nearly 300 years old, and we explored this incredible purpose-built building where so many biologists and naturalists met and shared their knowledge. It has been an immense privilege to discover such an institution in a building that is part of the cultural heritage of this country and that is still a hub for today's scientists: we will never forget our visit!'

On Twitter
'As a Fellow of that wonderful society, I highly encourage you take a tour. In addition to fantastic life scientists, several of the fellows are botanical artists and historians of science. It is a very inclusive place.'

Events
'I have enjoyed your online lectures so much! I watched the lepidopterist discussion this morning and it inspired me to make a Lepidopterist tea blend! I also enjoyed your seminar regarding tea and history. Thank you so much for what you provide to the world.'

'Yesterday's [Linnean Lens] presentation was fascinating—a great idea to have archivist and conservator talking about the botanical [manuscript] together.'

'One of the best climate change lectures I have ever listened to. I deeply congratulate [Professor Rebecca Willis] for a super-articulated speech and insightful engagement. Many thanks @FBMH_SR and @LinneanSociety for organising this Irene Manton Lecture 2022!'

The Linnean
'I just wanted to say how impressed I am by the 'The Linnean'—I had never seen it before, but I've really enjoyed reading it. What a huge effort to produce that!'

'Delighted to be receiving the new issues of 'The Linnean', the online format is very pleasing. I always look forward to its arrival.'

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Linnean Society contributes to scientific, cultural, economic and social well-being nationally and internationally through a broad programme of activities. Our unique ACE-designated biological collections and historical resources—and our strong focus on biodiversity conservation, sustainability and science outreach—support the care and understanding of our planet. The Society's key contributions to public benefit are:

- Safeguarding and promoting the Society's heritage collections, through cataloguing, conservation and digitisation, improving access to primary information, making collections freely available to view online.
- Advancing and disseminating knowledge through three world-class research journals and providing support and recognition through grant schemes and awards to emerging scientists and naturalists.
- Engaging the public through regular tours of the collections, conferences and free monthly public lectures, while our educational programme, which fuses science, history and art, reaches out to students of all ages and backgrounds, providing free resources in schools, in Burlington House and online.

The Society's activities contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through support for the natural world, and through unique resources that illuminate environmental and social change. The Society connects academia with a diverse public, informing UK Government policy and promoting the international profile of the UK as a pre-eminent international hub for expertise about the natural world.

CORE VALUES AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Society's vision, mission and values are:

Vision: A world where nature is understood, valued and protected
Mission: To inform, involve and inspire people of all ages and backgrounds about nature and its significance through our collections, programmes and publications
Values:

- We are a diverse community of people united by an active interest in nature, its management and conservation.
- We aim for excellence and integrity in all areas of our activity.
- We use our income and other finances to fulfil our charitable function and declared mission.
- We promote our science to all sectors of society.
- We value diversity and seek to broaden the inclusion of currently under-represented groups.
- We are an expert voice concerning relevant major issues and challenges of our time.

The Society will re-start its strategy process in early 2023 at a combined Council and staff meeting, with continued expert assistance from the Worshipful Company of Management Consultants (WCoMC). We had hoped to commence strategic planning in earnest during 2022, but competing priorities and a change in personnel at WCoMC somewhat stymied our progress. The Society remains extremely grateful for the generous ongoing support from WCoMC.

LOOKING FORWARD 2023

'*The way the Linnean Society draws people together is one of its strengths*.'
Mark Fox FLS on Twitter

This was the response to an online event during which attendees introduced themselves from places as far away as Italy, Puerto Rico, Mexico City, Punjab North India, Bulgaria, Argentina and Brazil. It's also fantastic to see the rooms busy once more with people attending our activities, tours of our wonderful collections and venue hire clients organising a range of stimulating meetings. Watch out for further developments, including 'Cabinets of Curiosities' (a set of family tours of the Society), the stunning display of artwork from our collections adorning the walls of the staircase, and news of school children visiting the building to celebrate their own nature-based activities.

Ensuring the Society remains a welcoming and inspiring organisation for people across disciplines, backgrounds and ages globally, is key to the organisation's future. We must remain 'tuned into' the changing needs of both people and the planet. Staff and Council will work together in 2023 on a strategy to address this, and we will need help from our membership and stakeholders. Whether it's through contributing expertise, helping to grow our Fellowship, supporting the modernisation of our governance, submitting papers to our journals, venue hire, donating to the care of our precious collections, or simply spreading the word about our wonderful organisation, all your help is appreciated.

Our strategy will also focus on income diversification in order to continue (and hopefully expand!) our activity and impact. Despite the creativity and hard work of everyone involved in the Society's activities, we are facing uncertain times: rising inflation and energy bills, as well as increased rents and lack of resolution on the Burlington House lease, are all putting pressure on the organisation's finances. We are indebted to the people who have left generous legacies and donations to the Society in 2022, enabling us to continue our charitable work. Indeed, thank you to everyone, and particularly the Fellowship, Council and staff, for your ongoing support.

Professor Gail Cardew FLS, CEO

PEOPLE

Officers and Council listed on pp. 3-4

Linnean Society Staff Team

CEO	**Professor Gail Cardew (2021)**
Head of Finance	**Priya Nithianandan (1991)**
Head of Collections	**Dr Isabelle Charmantier (2017)**
Head of Operations	**Helen Shaw (2017)**
Head of Engagement	**Anna Perman (May 2022)**
Governance Manager	**Cathy Youthed (2021–July 2022)**
Governance Manager	**Andrew Swan (Nov 2022)**
Room Hire Manager & Membership Assistant	**Tatiana Franco (2015)**
Communications & Events Manager	**Padmaparna Ghosh (2020)**
Librarian	**Will Beharrell (2019)**
Archivist	**Liz M^{c}Gow (2016)**
Archivist (Maternity Cover)	**Alex Milne (2021)**
Assistant Librarian & Archivist	**Luke Thorne (2019)**
Digital Assets Manager	**Andrea Deneau (2010)**
Conservator	**Janet Ashdown (2002)**
Publications Manager	**Leonie Berwick (2007)**
Education Manager	**Joe Burton (2017–July 2022)**
Education Manager	**Ayesha Meredith-Lewis (Sept 2022)**
Multimedia Content Producer	**Ross Ziegelmeier (2015)**
BioMedia Meltdown Project Manager	**Daryl Stenvoll-Wells (2019–Feb 2022)**
Education Assistant	**Zia Forrai (2018–July 2022)**
Editorial Assistant (*Botanical Journal*); Journal Editorial Manager	**Dr Hassan Rankou (2012–Aug 2022; Sept 2022)**
Office Cleaner P/T	**Fatima Mendoca (2015)**

Curators, Editors and Committees 2022

Curators

Fish, Shells & General Zoology	Oliver Crimmen (2017)
Insects	Suzanne Ryder (2017)
Plants	Dr Mark A. Spencer (2013)
Artefacts	Glenn Benson (2014)
Honorary Archivist	Gina Douglas (2009)

Editors

Biological Journal	Professor John A. Allen (1997)
Botanical Journal	Professor Mike Fay (2008)
Zoological Journal	Dr Maarten Christenhusz (2018)
Evolutionary Journal	Dr Steven Dodsworth (2020)
Synopses Series (2002)	Dr John Crothers (1991) & Dr Peter J. Hayward
The Linnean	Leonie Berwick (2022)

Committee Chairpersons

Editorial	The Editorial Secretary (e.o.)
Finance	The Treasurer (e.o.)
Collections	The Collections Secretary (e.o.)
Programmes	One of the Scientific Secretaries (e.o.)
Education & Public Engagement	One of the Scientific Secretaries (e.o.)
Nominations & Awards	The President (e.o.)
Linnean Future	A member of Council (e.o.)

The CEO as well as the Officers are currently ex officio members of all Committees.

Committee Membership

Editorial Committee

The Editorial Secretary (e.o.) (Chair)

The Editors (e.o.)

Representatives from the publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP)

Dr Rebecca A. Farley-Brown (2001)

Note: Editorial Committee to be renamed the Publishing Committee from 2023.

Finance Committee

The Treasurer (e.o.) (Chair)

Head of Finance (e.o.)

Giles Coode-Adams (2001)

Dr Charlotte Grezo (2020)

Edward Hoare (1998)

Professor Gren Lucas OBE HonFLS (1995)

Collections Committee

The Collections Secretary (e.o.) (Chair)

The Curators (e.o.)

Collections staff, and Engagement staff (e.o.)

Susan Gove (2001)

Andrea Hart (2015)

Dr D. J. Nicholas Hind (1995)

Debbie Lane (2020)

Chris Saunders (2021)

Nominations Committee

The President (e.o.) (Chair)

Steph Holt (2022)

Howard Nelson (2022)

Elaine Shaughnessy (2022)

Medals and Awards Committee

The President (e.o.) (Chair)

Engagement staff

Rich Boden (2022)

Julia Day (2022)

Kayla King (2022)

Sandra Knapp (2022)

Programmes Committee*

Scientific Secretary, Prof Alan Hildrew (Chair)

Events & Communications Manager (e.o.)

Education Manager (e.o.)

Head of Collections (e.o.)

Professor Jeff Duckett (2018)

Dr Michelle Jackson (2021)

Dr Leanne Melbourne (2020)

Education and Public Engagement Committee*

Scientific Secretary, Professor Simon Hiscock (Chair)

Engagement staff, and Collections staff (e.o.)

Lyn Baber (2018)

Charlotte Coales (2019)

Michael Holland (2020)

Susie Kelpie (2019)

Geoff Lockwood (2013)

Dr Jonathan Mitchley (2020)

Professor Dawn Sanders (2019)

Dr Jane Taylor (2013)

**Note: Programmes Committee and Education and Public Engagement Committee were disbanded in 2022. The new Engagement Committee will be formed in 2023.*

Safeguarding Committee

Education Manager (Chair)

Governance Manager

Head of Operations

Engagement staff (e.o.)

Philip Sadler (2021)

Remuneration Committee

The Treasurer (Chair)

The President

CEO

Head of Finance

Philip Sadler (2022)

Audit Review Committee

The President (Chair)

The Treasurer

Professor Brycchan Carey (2021)

Dr Natasha de Vere (2020)

Fellowship representative, Dr Tiina Särkinen (2021)

Fellowship representative, Mr Simon King (2021)

A representative of Knox Cropper (Auditors) and Head of Finance in attendance

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The full financial accounts were prepared to conform to the Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP – FRS 102), and are presented after the report of the External Auditors.

SUMMARY

As expected, the Society's income fell in 2022 following the end of the transition payments of £150,000 per annum from our publisher Oxford University Press that we received for the five years up to 2021. Total income before donations and legacies was down £87,297 to £2,009,817 (2021: £2,097,114). Donations and legacies added £35,009 (2021: £403,430), taking the total income to £2,044,826 (2021: £2,500,544). Our expenditure was up £68,173 on last year to £1,651,614 (2021: £1,583,441), with increased spending on our publications, collections, scientific meetings and research sponsorship being offset by lower educational expenditure this year.

Overall, our surplus of income over expenditure (before movements in investments) in 2022 was £393,212 (2021: £917,103). This metric, which excludes net gains / losses on investments, is the best way to assess the ongoing 'operational' financial performance of the Society.

The book value of our investments reduced during the year by £564,683 (2021: gain of £442,962) taking the overall net deficit for 2022 to £171,471 (2021: surplus of £1,360,065).

As a result of investment losses impacting restricted funds to a greater extent than our unrestricted funds, our unrestricted funds actually increased marginally year on year to £6,396,138 (2021: £6,382,976). We continue to try to balance the active use of our funds for charitable purposes with ensuring a sustainable financial position given the significant future challenges and uncertainties we face, particularly in relation to the lease for Burlington House.

INCOME

Publications and Royalties

As usual, the overwhelming majority of our income came from our scientific research journals. As a result of the conclusion of transitional payments in 2021, total income from publications in 2022 decreased by 9.2% in 2022 to £1,666,215 (2021: £1,834,095). After deducting production, distribution, and editorial costs payable by the Society, the net contribution of our journals was £1,404,641, a decrease of 3.5% on 2021 (£1,454,964).

For our main journals, the Society continues a policy of hybrid publication, enabling those authors who wish to or are required to publish Open Access to do so, while maintaining a default policy of not economically disenfranchising those authors with no or low funding by not levying page charges. As the journals are our primary source of income, the Society, along with our publisher, keeps a close eye on the worldwide changing policies of Open Access. The initial launch of our first online-only fully OA journal, the *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society,* is yet to make a material contribution, but we continue to invest in this this important initiative.

This coming year will see changes to the Editors in Chief of several of our journals. The Society extends particular thanks to Professor Mike Fay and Dr Maarten Christenhusz who will be stepping down this year, and welcomes Dr Jeffrey Streicher, Julia Day and Seven Dodsworth to their new posts.

Membership Contributions

The membership of the Society now stands at 3,086, compared with 3,145 at the end of 2021. This includes all fee and non-fee paying members. Of this number, there are 2,564 paying Fellows (2021: 2,801), 154 Associates (2021: 133), and 254 students (2021: 240). Membership contributions were down fractionally to £153,914 (2021: £154,753). Our "customer relationship management" system has enabled us to improve our data, provide better ways for our members to engage with the Society and has also helped to make the collection of annual fees more efficient. However, the Society still have an issue with late payers and defaulters.

Donations and Legacies

Grants, donations and legacies play an important role in sustaining our charitable activities and we are most grateful to all those funders and donors who have supported the Society during the year. In particular, we received generous bequests from the late Mr JA Barkar (final payment) and Professor DT Donovan totalling £19,332. The AdoptLINN Programme received £10,500 to support the conservation of books and other important items in our collections, a significant increase over 2021.

Investments

As a result of stock market falls following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and increased interest rates across the globe, the value of our investment portfolio fell by £564,683 during the year. Whilst disappointing, this compares with aggregate gains over the previous three years of just under £1 million.

The fall in the value of our investments in the year was offset by transfers of cash to our investment managers, Evelyn (the new name for Tilney), for investment. As a result, at the end of the year, the market value of our investments stood at £4,810,503 (2021: £5,121,489).

Encouragingly, we have already re-couped some of the losses we suffered in 2022 in the first two months of 2023. Nevertheless, markets remain volatile and it is inevitable that our portfolio will suffer losses from time to time.

Investment policy

Our aim is to enhance the value of both capital and income on a long-term sustainable basis. In order to meet this aim, the investment portfolio is of a prudent nature avoiding over concentration in individual investments and is invested across asset classes to mitigate exposure to any one investment category. Although the Society accepts that investment involves some element of risk, the overall portfolio has a balanced approach across asset classes and markets in order to avoid excessive risk. More speculative investments are avoided. The investment strategy adopted by the Society targets returns over the medium term of at least 3% per annum better than inflation as measured by the UK consumer price index.

During the year, we have continued to implement the ethical investment policy that we adopted in 2020 to ensure that our investment strategy seeks to minimise and ideally eliminate irresponsible corporate behaviour. The policy is intended to be entirely consistent with the duty to secure maximum returns from the prudent investment of charitable funds. The Society positively supports investments in well managed companies that are ethically, environmentally and socially responsible. The Society expects Evelyn, as part of its normal investment research and analysis process, to take account of social, environmental, ethical and governance considerations in the selection, retention and realisation of investments. This includes consideration of key issues such as: climate change, biodiversity, labour standards, human rights, racial or sexual discrimination, public health, corporate

governance, executive pay and business ethics. The Society encourages its Evelyn to raise issues with organisations in which it invests, to raise standards in a way which is consistent with improvements in long term shareholder value.

We have been working with Evelyn to develop measuring tools to assess the effectiveness of our ethical investment policy and evaluate our portfolio relative to external benchmarks. This is a complex area and reliable data are hard to establish. As at September 2022, our portfolio was ranked in line with relative benchmarks according to MSCI ratings, and we have subsequently made several adjustments to the portfolio to improve our overall rating.

We expect to continue the policy of making regular transfers of surplus cash to Evelyn for investment, particularly in view of the potential for higher levels of inflation to affect the real value of our cash.

Other income

Income from room hire, catering and other activities continued to be negatively affected by the residual impact of the pandemic, but did show a marked improvement over 2021. We also benefitted from a foreign exchange gain of £30,589 from a holding of US dollars (which has been converted into Sterling after the year end).

The Society is working hard to increase the revenue it generates from its digital assets, although this is yet to make a meaningful contribution.

EXPENDITURE

Over 98% of the Society's expenditure was used to further our charitable objectives in 2021, with only £23,446 spent on managing investments.

Charitable Activities

Our seven core charitable activities reported in the Accounts are: Education, Publications, Scientific Meetings, Collections, Collections (Curatorial) Collections (Conservation & Digitisation), and Research Sponsorship. Our total expenditure on these charitable activities in 2022 was £1,628,168 (2021: £1,559,855). The work of the Society in safeguarding and promoting our heritage collections, advancing scientific knowledge and understanding, and engaging the public and educational outreach, is set out in detail in the President's and CEO's reports above.

We contributed £30,508 to the LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund, enabling us to make 34 grants ranging from £500 to £1,500 to support research projects across the globe. Total direct research sponsorship (before support costs) in 2022 came to £54,562.

Expenditure on staff salaries, National Insurance and pensions increased significantly during the year to £769,386 (2021: £705,178), reflecting higher average staff numbers during the year and cost of living increases for all staff. In 2022, we welcomed Anna Perman as Head of Engagement, a new position created during the year, Ayesha Meredith-Lewis as our new Education Manager, and Andrew Swan as our Governance Manager, who has taken over from Cathy Youthed. The average number of employees in 2022 was 23 versus 21 in 2021.

Our direct Editorial Costs increased during the year to £170,010 (2021: £121,566), in part reflecting the investment in the new *Evolutionary Journal.* This increase was partially offset by lower production and distribution costs incurred on our behalf by OUP.

Rent, and other charges by our Landlord, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, amounted to £210,912 (2021: £200,167). Significant uncertainty remains over future rental costs with no resolution of the ongoing dialogue.

As in previous years, a lot of planned maintenance expenditure was deferred and will be incurred in subsequent years.

FUNDS

The Society's reserves are split between Permanent Endowments and Restricted Funds (£3,128,141, including heritage assets of £1,500,000 that cannot be monetised) and Unrestricted Funds of £6,396,138. Within Unrestricted Funds, the Society holds designated reserves to reflect funds to be spent on fixed assets and earmarked for planned future expenditure. £2,567,515 (2021: £2,787,868) of the Unrestricted Funds has been set aside in Designated Funds to cover this future expenditure, including that associated with the lease, and other financial liabilities.

Designated Funds

The Collections Fund stands at £20,000. The Development Fund stands at £200,000. With the uncertainty over the affordability to the Society of the rent for New Burlington House in the medium term, the Building Fund was set up in 2017 to cover the financial risks and liabilities associated with finding and moving to alternative premises if required. The balance of this fund now stands at £1.75M The Legal Fund stands at £100,000 to cover the costs of renegotiating the lease on New Burlington House if a satisfactory agreement can be reached with our landlord.

During the course of the year, we took the decision to pay off our mortgage on Toynbee House in full in response to the rising interest rate we were paying. The total amount required for this was £220,353, which came from the Mortgage Liability Fund, reducing the balance on this fund to nil.

Reserves Policy

The Society's General Reserve is held to enable the Society to continue to operate effectively in the event that income is unexpectedly reduced. The General Reserve is also held to provide funding for projects which have not attracted external funding. The Trustees consider that a minimum of five months of operational expenditure should be held in the General Reserve with a minimum of approximately £600k to £800k. Encouragingly, the General Reserve Fund now stands at £3,823,293 (2021: £3,595,108). The Trustees consider the current balance reasonable in the context of budgeted costs and uncertainty over continued occupation of Burlington House.

OUTLOOK

The Society remains in a relatively healthy financial position, but there continue to be significant challenges ahead. We need to continue to find ways to grow our income streams, which remain heavily dependent on revenue from OUP, which is under long-term threat from trends in publishing. Our financial strategy needs to focus on income diversification in order to be able to continue and expand our activity and impact.

We expect our charitable activities to increase in 2023, as the residual effects of the Covid-19 pandemic continue to fade, which will result in increased expenditure in some areas. Our employment

costs will rise through the cost of living increases we implemented in 2022 and as we reflect market forces in our compensation levels. Inflation in fuel bills and elsewhere will add to our costs and we continue to discuss the ever-increasing rental and other charges associated with Burlington House with the Government. As a result, we expect to be broadly break-even on an "operational" basis in 2023.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Trustees of the Society extend their gratitude to all the Officers and Staff for continuing to be so careful in control of expenditure in their areas of responsibility and to thank the volunteers for their much-appreciated contributions. Finally, it is appropriate to once again thank the Head of Finance, Priya Nithianandan, for his careful and constant oversight of all the Society's financial activities.

Edward Banks FLS, Treasurer

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees regularly review the Risk Register, which summarises the major strategic, business and operational risks which the Society faces and have implemented appropriate systems and procedures to mitigate these risks. The Society also has a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and a Disaster Plan, which were developed to enable the Society to continue normal operations in the event of a serious disruptive incident. The BCP is also regularly reviewed and updated as needed.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the surplus or deficit of the Society for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Responsibilities of the Treasurer

Fellows of the Society have, through the Society's Bye Laws (BL) accepted at a General Meeting of the Society held on 15 February 1990 and published in July 1991, agreed (BL Section 12) that "the Treasurer (of the Society) shall require the keeping of detailed accounts of all receipts and payments (BL 12.1), shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the Society and shall advise the Officers and Council both of the long term trends and matters of the moment concerning financial strategy. Taking advice from the Finance Committee and Professional advisers, when appropriate, the Treasurer shall act in the name of the Society on matters of investment (BL 12.3)".

Audit Arrangements

"A firm of chartered accountants shall be appointed by the Fellows at the Anniversary Meeting as Auditors for the following year (BL 12.5). Prior to their presentation to the Anniversary Meeting, the **Annual Statement of Accounts and the report of the Professional auditors shall be examined by an Audit Review Committee of Fellows. This Committee, to be elected annually, shall consist of three members of Council (including the President or a Vice-President), and two Fellows who are not** members of Council who shall be elected at a General Meeting. The Committee shall report to Council and Fellows at the Anniversary Meeting (BL 12.6)".

Messrs. Knox Cropper have expressed their willingness to be re-appointed as auditors.

These accounts were approved by Council on 23 March 2023 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Edward Banks

Treasurer

President

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have audited the financial statements of The Linnean Society for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND AUDITORS

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The Charity is required to comply with the charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charity complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities . This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees and members, as a body, in accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under Section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we may state to the Trustees and members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Trustees and members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Knox Cropper LLP

Knox Cropper LLP, Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Date: 23 March 2023

Knox Cropper is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments From:						
Donations and Legacies	2	34,157	852	-	35,009	403,430
Charitable Activities						
Members' Contributions		153,914	-	-	153,914	154,753
Publications	3	1,666,215	-	-	1,666,215	1,834,095
Scientific Meetings		5,642	-	-	5,642	5,195
Library		15,486	-	-	15,486	8,285
Education		2,597	-	-	2,597	-
Other Trading Activities	4	56,922	-	-	56,922	10,612
Investments		74,666	34,375	-	109,041	84,174
Total Income and Endowments		2,009,599	35,227	-	2,044,826	2,500,544
Expenditure On:						
Raising Funds						
Investment Management Costs		16,209	7,237	-	23,446	23,586
Charitable Activities	6					
Education		202,287	405	-	202,692	272,710
Publications		440,949	-	-	440,949	406,910
Scientific Meetings		220,164	-	-	220,164	192,799
Collections		345,435	26,138	-	371,573	317,810
Collections: (Curatorial)		160,924	-	-	160,924	151,640
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)		149,673	-	-	149,673	141,671
Research Sponsorship		65,139	17,054	-	82,193	76,315
Total Expenditure		1,600,780	50,834	-	1,651,614	1,583,441
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Investment Gains/(Losses)		408,819	(15,607)	-	393,212	917,103
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments		(395,657)	(76,923)	(92,103)	(564,683)	442,962
Net Income/(Expenditure)		13,162	(92,530)	(92,103)	(171,471)	1,360,065
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		13,162	(92,530)	(92,103)	(171,471)	1,360,065
Fund balance brought forward at 31/12/2021		6,382,976	2,453,960	858,814	9,695,750	8,335,685
Fund balance carried forward at 31/12/2022		£6,396,138	£2,361,430	£766,711	£9,524,279	£9,695,750

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Heritage Assets	9		1,566,950		1,566,950
Tangible Fixed Assets	10		687,308		717,869
Investments	11		4,810,503		5,121,489
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	478,548		508,505	
Short Term Deposits		3,002,650		2,995,330	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		650,746		647,975	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		4,131,944		4,151,810	
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	13	(1,672,426)		(1,642,015))	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			2,459,518		2,509,795
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due After One Year	14		-		(220,353)
NET ASSETS			9,524,279		£9,695,750
CAPITAL FUNDS					
Endowments	15		766,711		858,814
INCOME FUNDS					
Restricted	15				
Other		861,430		953,960	
Heritage Fund		1,500,000		1,500,000	
			2,361,430		2,453,960
Unrestricted					
Designated	16	2,567,515		2,787,868	
General	17	3,828,623		3,595,108	
			6,396,138		6,382,976
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			9,524,279		£9,695,750

These accounts were approved by Council on 23rd March 2023 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Edward Bauks Treasurer

President

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash generated from operations	20	395,019		791,082	
Interest paid		(8,901)		(8,202)	
Net Cash provided by (used in) operating activities			386,118		782,880
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		109,041		84,174	
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		(11,018)		(3,111)	
Purchase of Heritage Asset		-		(5,000)	
Proceeds from sale of investments	11	328,831		596,031	
Purchase of investments	11	(582,528)		(1,240,261)	
Net Cash provided by (used in) investing activities			(155,674)		(568,167)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Repayments of Borrowing		(220,353)		(10,275)	
Net Cash provided by (used in) financing activities			(220,353)		(10,275)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			10,091		204,438
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			3,643,305		3,438,867
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			£3,653,396		£3,643,305

Analysis of Net Funds/(Debt)	**1st January 2022**	**Movement**	**31st December 2022**
	£	£	£
Short Term Deposit	2,995,330	7,320	3,002,650
Cash in Bank and in Hand	647,975	2,771	650,746
	3,643,305	10,091	3,653,396
Loans	(220,353)	220,353	-
Net Funds/(Debt)	£3,422,952	£230,444	£3,653,396

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts are prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and in compliance with the Charities Act 2011. The Society is a Public Benefit Entity.

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write each asset down to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life as follows:

Property	50 years
Lift and associated refurbishment work	30 years
Furniture and Fixtures	10 years
Environmental Control	10 years
Office Equipment	3 years

Investments are stated at mid-market value. Gains and losses on disposals and revaluations of fixed asset investments are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities and added to the funds to which they relate.

Investment income is accounted for gross in the year of receipt.

Donations and legacies are accounted for when the Society is unconditionally entitled to receipt. No account is taken of stock held for resale. Contributions income is stated net of amounts received in respect of future years.

The Society is partially exempt for VAT purposes. Expenditure is stated net of VAT with irrecoverable VAT shown as a separate expense item.

Support costs are allocated to charitable activities on the basis of estimates of staff time spent on those activities and, in relation to accommodation costs, the relative space used by those activities.

Heritage assets donated to the Society are valued by an independent expert at the time of their donation.

Expenditure is accounted for when there is a constructive or contractual liability arising. A provision is made when the amount payable cannot be determined with certainty.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2022 Unrestricted Funds £	2022 Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
Other Funds for Grants and Awards	9,518	-	8,927
John Marsden Fund	-	852	485
Insurance Claim		-	26,726
Student Members Donations	-	-	475
Legacies	19,332	-	355,328
Other Donations	5,307	-	11,489
	£34,157	£852	£403,430

3. PUBLICATIONS

	2022 £	2021 £
Joint Publication Account (Note 5)	1,664,251	1,682,863
Contract Publication Income	-	150,000
Other Publication Sales	1,627	850
Royalties	337	382
	£1,666,215	£1,834,095

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2022 £	2021 £
Room Hire	15,454	5,634
Catering	77	371
Student Research Conference	-	1,398
Lancaster Uni –Return of funds	8,978	-
Translation Gain – US Dollar	30,589	-
Other	1,824	3,209
	£56,922	£10,612

5. JOINT PUBLICATION ACCOUNT

	2022			2021		
	Total	**Publisher Share**	**Society Share**	**Total**	**Publisher Share**	**Society Share**
	£	£	£	£	£	£
SALES						
Journals	2,219,002			2,243,817		
	2,219,002	554,751	1,664,251	2,243,817	560,954	1,682,863
PUBLICATION COSTS						
Production and Distribution	119,467			141,778		
	119,467	29,867	89,600	141,778	35,445	106,333
SURPLUS	2,099,535	524,884	1,574,651	2,102,039	525,509	1,576,530
Other Costs Incurred by Society						
Editorial Costs			(170,010)			(121,566)
			£1,404,641			£1,454,964
SUMMARY						
Society's share of Income – Note 3			1,664,251			1,682,863
Society's share of Joint costs and other directly incurred costs			(259,610)			(227,899)
			£1,404,641			£1,454,964

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activities Undertaken Directly	Grant Funding Activities	Support Costs (Note 8)	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Education					
Education Costs	4,372	-	-	4,372	21,520
Local Nature Grant	-	-	-	-	6,000
Lancaster University Science Hunter	-	-	-	-	16,920
Stemettes	-	-	-	-	23,000
Science Writers	-	-		-	7,810
Support Costs	-	-	198,320	198,320	197,460
Total	4,372	-	198,320	202,692	272,710
Publications					
Joint Publication Account (Note 5)	259,610	-	-	259,610	227,899
The Linnean Newsletter and Pulse	13,166	-	-	13,166	21,024
Support Costs	-	-	168,173	168,173	157,987
	272,776	-	168,173	440,949	406,910
Scientific Meetings					
Expenditure	9,270	-	-	9,270	3,922
Support Costs	-	-	210,894	210,894	188,877
	9,270	-	210,894	220,164	192,799
Collections					
Expenditure	21,145	-	-	21,145	8,899
Cataloguing	-	-	-	-	579
Conservation Archives Project	-	26,138		26,138	-
Support Costs	-	-	324,290	324,290	308,332
	21,145	26,138	324,290	371,573	317,810
Collections (Curatorial)					
The Linnaeus Link Project	2,769	-	-	2,769	10,250
Support Costs	-	-	158,155	158,155	141,390
	2,769	-	158,155	160,924	151,640
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)					
Hosting of images	25,474	-	-	25,474	30,980
Insurance damage	-	-	-	-	5,715
Support Costs	-	-	124,199	124,199	104,976
	25,474	-	124,199	149,673	141,671
Research Sponsorship	-	54,562	27,631	82,193	76,315
Total	£335,806	£80,700	£1,211,662	£1,628,168	£1,559,855

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

The grants set out above include grants made to individuals. In total, grants were paid to 34 individuals (2021: 37) during the year.

7. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Expenses of Officers and Council	3,541	-
Audit Fee	6,150	5,900
Legal and Professional Fees	4,800	13,555
Staff and Other Related Costs	55,068	44,976
	£69,559	£64,431

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Education	Publications	Scientific Meetings	Library	Collections Curatorial	Collections Conservation & Digitisation	Research Sponsorship	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries and Wages	159,719	100,488	105,108	150,273	84,741	79,688	17,625	697,642	669,382
Premises Costs	19,299	13,798	22,516	20,098	17,321	21,392	-	114,424	36,956
Repairs and Maintenance	7,917	4,891	9,781	9,781	12,718	12,718	-	57,806	66,497
Office Costs	-	3,316	5,211	10,659	2,841	237	711	22,975	23,180
Other Costs (depreciation, rent provision)	-	36,026	56,172	114,861	31,454	3,033	7,709	249,255	265,349
Governance Costs	11,385	9,655	12,107	18,617	9,079	7,130	1,587	69,560	64,176
	£198,320	£168,174	£210,895	£324,289	£158,154	£124,198	£27,632	£1,211,662	£1,125,540
2021	£197,460	£157,987	£188,877	£308,332	£141,390	£104,976	£26,518	£1,125,540	

SALARY COSTS	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£
Gross Salary	641,859	582,678
Employers National Insurance	69,518	69,663
Employers Pension Contribution	58,009	52,837
	£769,386	£705,178
Charged direct to projects	25,095	-
Charged to support costs	697,642	669,382
Charged to Governance	46,649	35,796
	£769,386	£705,178

The average number of employees was 23 (2021: 21).

One employee earned more than £60,000. The total emoluments of the senior management team amounted to £300,246 (2021: £210,428).

Council and Committee members provide their services gratis and receive only out of pocket expenses.

Travel and subsistence expenses claimed for by Officers and Council and Committee members in 2022 amounted to £3,541 (2021: 0)

9. HERITAGE ASSETS

Heritage assets acquired since 2010			2022
			£
COST			
At 1st January 2022 made up of			
Darwin's Books		1,500,000	
Nepal Maps		21,000	
Smith Diaries		5,000	
Opie Paintings		25,000	
The Transylvania Florilegium	Vol 1	5,475	
The Transylvania Florilegium	Vol 2	5,475	
Tyley Drawing		5,000	
At 31st December 2022			1,566,950
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st January 2022			-
Charge for the Year			-
At 31st December 2021			-
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st December 2021			£1,566,950
At 31st December 2022			£1,566,950

In 2015, the Society received from the Charles Darwin Trust a gift of Darwinian and Wallacean material which contained many key works, manuscripts and letters which has been valued at £1.5m. In accordance with FRS 102, donated heritage assets have been included at valuation.

The Society also holds a large number of scientific and historic assets which cannot easily be valued and which will not be sold because the maintenance is part of the primary objective of the Society. As a result, these heritage assets are not included in the Balance Sheet. These assets comprise:

a. biological specimens	b. books and periodicals	c. manuscripts, including notebooks, letters and artworks	d. portraits and busts

These heritage assets the Society are of primary value, internationally, to the biological sciences, and in terms of cultural value, to the history of science. The main collections of dried plant material, preserved animal specimens, books and manuscripts and correspondence of Carl Linnaeus and Sir James Edward Smith provide the foundation for classification, taxonomy and nomenclature.

All this material is irreplaceable and so it is stored under optimum environmental conditions. The collections themselves are accessible physically by any *bona fide* research worker, accompanied by a curator or appropriate member of staff. The Society, with generous grant funding, has financed the digitisation of this material, and these images are accessible to all, at no charge, through the Society's website.

The Society's Collection Development Policy recommends that any additional material must be in fields relevant to existing material.

The Society's insurance policies cover damage to the fabric of the building and the seek-and-find or repair of the Library's book stock, manuscripts, paintings and busts, but not the plant and animal collections as they are unique and irreplaceable. As such, they are invaluable to research and science but are valueless for insurance purposes.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Lift and Building Works	Air Conditioning	Office Equipment	Other	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST						
At 1st January 2022	518,854	225,752	57,759	181,239	317,297	1,300,901
Additions in Year	-	-	-	11,018	-	11,018
At 31st December 2022	518,854	225,752	57,759	192,257	317,297	1,311,919
DEPRECIATION						
At 1st January 2022	69,005	67,725	57,759	176,437	212,106	583,032
Charge for the Year	7,377	7,525	-	7,367	19,310	41,579
At 31st December 2022	76,382	75,250	57,759	183,804	231,416	624,611
NET BOOK VALUE						
At 31st December 2022	£442,472	£150,502	£-	£8,453	£85,881	£687,308
At 31st December 2021	£449,849	£158,027	£-	£4,802	£105,191	£717,869

11. INVESTMENTS

Investments are held on a long-term basis to generate investment income for the Society.

	2022		2021	
	Book Cost	Market Value	Book Cost	Market Value
	£	£	£	£
UK Fixed Interest	67,356	39,862	67,356	44,717
UK Equities	2,533,198	2,866,425	2,170,950	2,843,342
Overseas Equities	1,167,960	1,904,216	1,236,169	2,233,430
	£3,768,514	£4,810,503	£3,474,475	£5,121,489
Investment Portfolio				
Market Value brought forward		5,121,489		4,034,297
Add: Acquisitions		582,528		1,240,261
Less: Disposals		(328,831)		(596,031)
Realised Gains (Losses) on Disposals		40,352		109,685
Gain (Loss) on Revaluation		(605,035)		333,277
Market Value carried forward		£4,810,503		£5,121,489

Realised Gains represent the difference between the sales proceeds and original cost of

investments sold during the year. Revaluation gains and losses arise from the revaluation of investments to market value at the year-end.

12. DEBTORS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Due from Publisher	389,994	440,979
Prepayments	57,576	52,549
Other Debtors	30,978	14,977
	£478,548	£508,505

13. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Contributions received in advance	64,624	60,317
Publishing income received in advance	1,160,002	1,184,657
Rent Provision	22,880	22,880
VAT	219,529	225,519
Deferred Expenditure	16,500	16,500
Other Creditors	188,891	132,142
	£1,672,426	£1,642,015

14. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Mortgage on Toynbee Property	-	220,353
	£-	£220,353

The Toynbee mortgage was paid off in full in the latter part of 2022.

15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS 2022

	Permanent Endowments				Restricted Funds				
	Balance at 1. 1.22	Endowments Received	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance 31.12.22	Balance at 1.1.22	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended & Transfers	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance at 31.12.22
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Westwood Fund	8,375	-	(865)	7,510	212	175	(175)		212
Trail-Crisp Fund	7,567	-	(803)	6,764	2,602	206	(68)	(215)	2,525
Hooker Fund	19,472	-	(2,067)	17,405	16,427	635	(209)	(1,075)	15,778
Goodenough Fund	-	-		-	36,407	682	(883)	(3,372)	32,834
Minchin Fund	-	-		-	1,693	36	(36)	(180)	1,513
Jane Jackson Fund	87,504	-	(9,288)	78,216	-	1,878	(1,878)	-	-
The HH Bloomer Fund	20,824	-	(2,170)	18,654	6,482	569	(387)	(645)	6,019
P. Applevard Fund	87,779	-	(9,126)	78,653	17,328	2,027	(2,667)	(896)	15,792
Dennis Stanfield Memorial Fund	50,738	-	(5,335)	45,403	3,761	1,127	(371)	(237)	4,280
Omer Cooper Fund	-	-		-	78,906	1,423	(1,423)	(7,039)	71,867
Bonhote Fund	35,273	-	(3,585)	31,688	1,150	732	(732)	(33)	1,117
Jill Smythies Prize Fund	58,742	-	(6,235)	52,507	1,460	1,261	(1,415)	-	1,306
Irene Manton Prize Fund	73,048	-	(7,753)	65,295	10,657	1,742	(1,573)	(860)	9,966
A.G. Side Fund	-	-		-	74,741	1,423	(1,423)	(7,036)	67,705
Jan Gillett Fund	-	-		-	10,353	174	(57)	(860)	9,610
Denis Owen Fund	-	-		-	2,218	-	-		2,218
Ivy Eleanor Sleep Fund	216,084	-	(22,935)	193,149	146,595	7,304	(2,391)	(12,907)	138,601
Trewavas/Greenwood Fund	-	-		-	40,593	737	(243)	(3,646)	37,441
Eleanor McMillan Fund	-	-		-	222,680	4,587	(1,494)	(22,245)	203,528
Zimmerman Fund	193,408	-	(21,941)	171,467	38,144	4,437	(1,460)	-	41,121
John Marsden Fund	-	-	-	-	33,076	1,501	(1,299)	(3,208)	30,070
The John Topp Fund	-	-	-	-	158,000	2,571	(4,107)	(12,469)	143,995
Gertrude Marsh-Looi Fund					50,000	-	(26,138)	-	23,862
	£858,814	£-	£(92,103)	£766,711	953,485	£35,227	£(50,429)	£(76,923)	861,360
PROJECT FUNDS									
Student Membership Fund	-	-	-	-	475		(405)	-	70
	£-	£-	£-	£-	£475	£-	£(405)	£-	£70
HERITAGE ASSET									
Charles Darwin Trust	-	-	-	-	£1,500,000	-	-	-	£1,500,000
TOTAL	£858,814	£-	£(92,103)	£766,711	£2,453,960	£35,227	£(50,834)	£(76,923)	£2,361,430

15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS 2021

	Permanent Endowments				Restricted Funds				
	Balance at 1. 1.21	Endowments Received	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance 31.12.21	Balance at 1.1.21	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended & Transfers	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance at 31.12.21
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Westwood Fund	7,659	-	716	8,375	212	146	(146)	-	212
Trail-Crisp Fund	6,902	-	665	7,567	2,318	171	(65)	178	2,602
Hooker Fund	17,761	-	1,711	19,472	15,211	529	(203)	890	16,427
Goodenough Fund	-	-	-	-	34,054	568	(1,006)	2,791	36,407
Minchin Fund	-	-	-	-	1,544	30	(30)	149	1,693
Jane Jackson Fund	79,816	-	7,688	87,504	-	1,564	(1,564)	-	-
The HH Bloomer Fund	19,028	-	1,796	20,824	5,856	474	(382)	534	6,482
P. Appleyard Fund	80,224	-	7,555	87,779	15,545	1,687	(646)	742	17,328
Dennis Stanfield Memorial Fund	46,321	-	4,417	50,738	2,987	938	(360)	196	3,761
Omer Cooper Fund	-	-	-	-	73,080	1,185	(1,185)	5,826	78,906
Bonhote Fund	32,305	-	2,968	35,273	1,123	609	(609)	27	1,150
Jill Smythies Prize Fund	53,581	-	5,161	58,742	813	1,049	(402)	-	1,460
Irene Manton Prize Fund	66,630	-	6,418	73,048	10,051	1,450	(1,556)	712	10,657
A.G. Side Fund	-	-	-	-	68,916	1,185	(1,185)	5,825	74,741
Jan Gillett Fund	-	-	-	-	9,551	145	(56)	713	10,353
Denis Owen Fund	-	-	-	-	2,218	-	-	-	2,218
Ivy Eleanor Sleep Fund	197,099	-	18,985	216,084	135,191	6,033	(5,313)	10,684	146,595
Trewavas/Greenwood Fund	-	-	-	-	37,196	614	(235)	3,018	40,593
Eleanor McMillan Fund	-	-	-	-	201,956	3,745	(1,435)	18,414	222,680
Zimmerman Fund	175,246	-	18,162	193,408	35,855	3,712	(1,423)	-	38,144
John Marsden Fund	-	-	-	-	30,652	1,025	(1,256)	2,655	33,076
The John Topp Fund	-	-	-	-	145,789	2,099	(210)	10,322	158,000
Gertrude Marsh-Looi Fund	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	50,000
	£782,572	£-	£76,242	£858,814	£830,118	£78,958	£(19,267)	£63,676	£953,485
PROJECT FUNDS									
Student Membership Fund	-	-	-	-	-	475	-	-	475
	£-	£-	£-	£-	£-	£475	£-	£-	£475
HERITAGE ASSET									
Charles Darwin Trust	-	-	-	-	£1,500,000	-	-	-	£1,500,000
TOTAL	£782,572	£-	£76,242	£858,814	£2,330,118	£79,433	£ (19,267)	£63,676	£2,453,960

15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS (CONTINUED)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Permanent Endowments represent capital funds where only the income arising may be spent. Unspent income balances are disclosed as separate restricted funds, available to be spent in the future, although, from time to time, unspent balances may be added to capital.

Restricted funds may only be spent for the purpose prescribed by the donor.

16. DESIGNATED FUNDS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Mortgage Liability	-	220,353
Collections Fund	20,000	20,000
Development Fund	200,000	200,000
Fixed Asset Fund	497,515	497,515
Legal Costs Fund	100,000	100,000
Building Fund	1,750,000	1,750,000
	£2,567,515	£2,787,868

A Fixed Asset Fund has been set up as a separate designated reserve from 2013 to represent the extent to which the Society's general reserve has been utilised to acquire fixed assets. This ensures that the balance on the general reserve gives a better indication of the funds available to the Society. Other Designated Funds have been established to reflect potential future costs and liabilities of the Society. With the uncertainty over the affordability to the Society of the rent for New Burlington House in the medium term, the Building Fund was set up in 2017 to cover the financial risks and liabilities associated with finding and moving to alternative premises if required. The balance of this fund now stands at £1.75M.

17. GENERAL RESERVE

	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance 1st January	3,595,108	3,241,724
Net Movement in funds for the year	13,162	1,159,981
Transfer from Designated Funds	-	43,403
Transfer (to) Designated Funds	220,353	(850,000)
Transfer from Restricted Funds	-	-
Balance at 31st December	£3,828,623	£3,595,108

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2022

	Investments	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment and Restricted Funds	1,439,925	1,500,000	188,216	-	3,128,141
Unrestricted Funds	3,370,578	754,258	3,943,728	(1,672,426)	6,396,138
	£4,810,503	£2,254,258	£4,131,944	£(1,672,426)	£9,524,279

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2021

	Investments	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment and Restricted Funds	1,750,122	1,500,000	62,652	-	3,312,774
Unrestricted Funds	3,371,367	784,819	4,089,158	(1,862,368)	6,382,976
	£5,121,489	£2,284,819	£4,151,810	£(1,862,368)	£9,695,750

19. PREMISES

The Society has a long term (80 year) lease on its New Burlington House premises which was negotiated in 2005 with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, now administered by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The annual rent is based on Government accounting methodology involving annual valuations. Negotiations are continuing with DLUHC with the aim of acquiring an affordable and sustainable updated lease.

20. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period	(171,471)	1,360,065
Adjustments for:		
Interest paid	8,901	8,202
Depreciation	41,579	46,513
(Gains)/Losses on investments	564,683	(442,962)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(109,041)	(84,174)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	29,957	(18,671)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	30,411	(77,891)
	£395,019	£791,082

21. RELATED PARTY DECLARATIONS

There were no transactions with related parties during the year.

22. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments From:						
Donations and Legacies	2	352,470	50,960	-	403,430	244,981
Charitable Activities						
Members' Contributions		154,753	-	-	154,753	149,557
Publications	3	1,834,095	-	-	1,834,095	1,807,830
Scientific Meetings		5,195	-	-	5,195	1,418
Library		8,285	-	-	8,285	6,055
Other Trading Activities	4	10,612	-	-	10,612	8,703
Investments		55,701	28,473	-	84,174	86,370
Total Income and Endowments		2,421,111	79,433	-	2,500,544	2,304,914
Expenditure On:						
Raising Funds						
Investment Management Costs		16,136	7,450	-	23,586	11,443
Charitable Activities	6					
Education		272,710	-	-	272,710	242,684
Publications		406,910	-	-	406,910	419,258
Scientific Meetings		192,799	-	-	192,799	188,646
Collections		317,810	-	-	317,810	304,117
Collections: (Curatorial)		151,640	-	-	151,640	156,157
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)		141,671	-	-	141,671	148,001
Research Sponsorship		64,498	11,817	-	76,315	76,630
Total Expenditure		1,564,174	19,267	-	1,583,441	1,546,936
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Investment Gains/(Losses)		856,937	60,166	-	917,103	757,978
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments		303,044	63,676	76,242	442,962	71,563
Net Income/(Expenditure)		1,159,981	123,842	76,242	1,360,065	829,541
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		1,159,981	123,842	76,242	1,360,065	829,541
Fund balance brought forward at 31/12/2020		5,222,995	2,330,118	782,572	8,335,685	7,506,144
Fund balance carried forward at 31/12/2021		£6,382,976	£2,453,960	£858,814	£9,695,750	£8,335,685

Appendix: Full Listing of the Linnean Society's Meetings, Events and Workshops 2022

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2022		
19 January 2022 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Nigeria's Role in Global Pangolin Trafficking	Charles Emogor
20 January 2022 **Evening Meeting**	The Case for Conservation Optimism	Martin Harper
27 January 2022 **Nature Reader**	Crooked Cats: Beastly Tales from India	Nayanika Mathur
08 February 2022 **Linnean Lens**	Describing Nature—Aspects of the Linnean 'Society Papers' Collection	Alex Milne
17 February 2022 **Evening Meeting**	Caught in the Middle: Oceanic Sharks, Climate Warming and Fishing	David Sims
22 February 2022 **Special Event**	Queer Zoology Since Aristotle	Ross Brooks
23 February 2022 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Energy and the Changing Climate	Chris Rhodes
25 February 2022 **Nature Reader**	Invisible Empire: Natural History of Viruses	Pranay Lal
07–11 March 2022 **Day Meeting**	The Student Futures and Research Conference 2022	In collaboration with the British Ecological Society
17 March 2022 **Evening Meeting**	Captured Sunshine: Productivity and Energy Flow of Tropical Forests	Yadvinder Malhi
30 March 2022 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Are Plants Intelligent?	Stella Sandford
31 March 2022 **Nature Reader**	A World Without Soil	Jo Handelsman
13 April 2022 **Lunchtime Lecture**	The Naked Mole-Rat: Animal Superhero	Chris Faulkes

15 April 2022 **Special Event**	Bats of Western Himalaya: Stories from an Under-surveyed Region	Rohit Chakravarty
21 April 2022 **Evening Lecture**	Can We Plant Our Way out of Climate Change?	Forrest Fleischmann
26 April 2022 **Linnean Lens**	Alexander Garden's Fishes	Ollie Crimmen and Isabelle Charmantier
28 April 2022 **Nature Reader**	Sounds Wild and Broken	David G. Haskell
10 May 2022 **Special Event**	Stories from Plant Collections: Science, History and Culture	Zoë Goodwin, Yvette Harvey, Mark Nesbitt, Anneke Prins, Mark Spencer and Jonathan Drori (Chair)
12 May 2022 **Nature Reader**	The MOSAiC Expedition	Markus Rex
13 May 2022 **Botany Walk**	Parkland Walk: A Stroll Through 150 years of London's Natural History	Mark Spencer
19 May 2022 **Evening Meeting**	The Potato Plague: A Painfully Interesting Subject	Jean Ristaino
20 May 2022 **Special Event**	How to Bee-Friendly: The Best Plants for Bees and Other Pollinators	Natasha De Vere
24 May 2022 **Members' Event**	Annual General Meeting	Linnean Society Staff
25 May 2022 **Lunchtime Lecture**	A (Clumsy) Journey of a Biologist in the World of Mathematics	Juliano Morimoto
01 June 2022 **Special Event**	Saving Corals: From the Lab to the Field	Jeremy Horowitz and Roshni Yathiraj
08 June 2022 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Indispensable Sanctuaries	Sheri Speede
14 June 2022 **Linnean Lens**	Charles Darwin's Vasculum	Régine Fabri and Glenn Benson

16 June 2022 **Evening Meeting**	New Insights into the Thiotrichales including Hydrothermal Vent Species	Rich Boden
22–24 June 2022 **Day Meeting**	Tea: Nature, Culture, Society	Richard Coulton, Romita Ray, Jordan Goodman and Isabelle Charmantier
29 June 2022 **Nature Reader**	The Mind of a Bee	Lars Chittka
06 July 2022 **Special Event**	NHM Explorers lunch	Anjali Goswami and Linnean Society Staff
07 July 2022 **Evening Meeting**	The Hidden World of Parasites	Beth Okamura
14 July 2022 **Nature Reader**	Birds and Us: Our Relationships with Birds	Tim Birkhead
20 July 2022 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Discovering Mexico's Smallest Frogs	Tom Jameson
22 July 2022 **Botany Walk**	Walthamstow Marshes Walk: An Overlooked and Ancient Biodiversity Hotspot	Mark Spencer
07 September 2022 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Law and Botany: An Entangled History	Jocelyn Bosse
13 September 2022 **Linnean Lens**	Miracle in the Margins: Richard Dreyer's Illuminated *British Flora*	Will Beharrell
17 September 2022 **Special Event**	London Open House	Linnean Society Staff
22 September 2022 **Evening Meeting**	The Big Pause: Tracking Wildlife During COVID-19 Lockdowns	Christian Rutz
28 September 2022 **Nature Reader**	A Biography of the Living Earth	Elsa Panciroli
05 October 2022 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Carrion Beetles: Nature's Undertakers	Ashleigh Whiffin

06 October 2022 **Special Event**	Jared Diamond on the Marvel of New Guinea Birds	Jared Diamond (In collaboration with the British Ornithologists' Club)
25 October 2022 **Science Policy Event**	Biodiversity and Finance: Making Space for a Common Planet	Elree Winnett Seelig, Mike Maunder and Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker (Chair) (In collaboration with the Systematics Association)
02 November 2022 **Lunchtime Lecture**	Amateur Lepidopterists and Museums: Past and Present	Erica Fischer
09 November 2022 **Nature Reader**	Plagues upon the Earth: The Natural History of Human Germs	Kyle Harper
14 November 2022 **Linnean Lens**	Botanical Notebooks of Frank Nicholls	Liz M^{c}Gow and Janet Ashdown
24 November 2022 **Evening Meeting**	How Genome Size Constrains Plant Ecology and Distribution	Andrew Leitch
02 December 2022 **Evening Lecture**	Founder's Day Lecture: Linnaeus on Human Diversity	Isabelle Charmantier and Staffan Muller-Wille
8 December 2022 **Special Event**	Irene Manton Lecture: Can Democracy Save Us from Climate Change?	Rebecca Willis (At the University of Manchester)
15 December 2022 **Evening Lecture**	Christmas Lecture: A World of Urban Birds	David Lindo
01 September, 05 October, 03 November, 01 December	Treasures Tours: Tours of our library and collections were held on these dates throughout the autumn/winter.	

THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

England & Wales - Charity number 220509

Accounts

The Linnean Society of London

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the Year Ended

31 December 2021

Charity No. 220509

Company No. RC000313

(Royal Charter Company)

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1. LEGAL STATUS

The Linnean Society was founded in 1788, received a Royal Charter in 1802 and Additional Charters in 1904 and 2005. The Society is a registered charity, No. 220509.

2. ADDRESS

The Linnean Society of London
New Burlington House
Piccadilly
London W1J 0BF

3. PRINCIPAL ADVISERS

Bankers:	Barclays Bank Plc PO Box 13555 Acorn House 36–38 Park Royal Road London NW10 7WJ
Auditors:	Knox Cropper LLP 65 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD
Investment Managers:	Tilney Asset Management Services Ltd 17th Floor 6 New Street Square New Fetter Lane London EC4A 3BF

4. PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS	YEAR OF APPOINTMENT
Dr Sandra Knapp	President (2018)
Professor Anjali Goswami	President-elect (24 May 2021)
Edward Banks	Treasurer (2020)
Professor Simon Hiscock	Scientific Secretary (2013)
Professor Alan Hildrew	Scientific Secretary (2020)
Professor Mark Chase FRS	Editorial Secretary (2012)
Dr John David	Collections Secretary (2012)
Dr Elizabeth Rollinson	Executive Secretary (2011–February 2021)
Professor Gail Cardew	CEO (from April 2021)
Professor Alan Hildrew	Vice President
Elaine Shaughnessy	Vice President
Dr Natasha de Vere	Vice President
Professor Max Telford	Vice President

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

TRUSTEES

The Council provides strategic direction for the Society. It consists of 20 Fellows, five of whom step down each year and are replaced by five elected by the Fellowship at the Anniversary Meeting held annually on the 24 May (or the nearest working day).

Following their election to Council, all Trustees are provided with copies of key documents setting out the governance of the Society. These include essential Charity Commission documents (CC3: The Essential Trustee) and the Linnean Society's Charters and Bye-laws. Council members receive a full induction into the Society, including a briefing on their duties as Trustees and meetings with staff, and they are required to sign up to the Trustee Code of Conduct.

The Society undertook a governance review during 2018/2019. Recommendations approved by Council in October 2019 were implemented during 2020 and 2021, and further governance reform is ongoing. The role of Executive Secretary has been removed, a new role of CEO has been created and the role of Financial Controller has been re-defined as Head of Finance. In 2021 a staff restructure took place. New positions included a Governance Manager (recruited in summer 2021), Head of Operations (recruited at the end of 2021) and a Head of Engagement (to be recruited in early 2022).

The elected members of Council are the Trustees of the Charity and, **in addition to the Officers listed above**, those who served during the year are listed below:

	DUE TO RETIRE
Robbie Blackhall-Miles	24 May 2024 (from May 2021)
Dr Rich Boden	24 May 2024 (from May 2021)
Professor Brycchan Carey	24 May 2024 (from May 2021)
Kevin Coutinho	24 May 2023
Dr Natasha de Vere	24 May 2022
Mathew Frith	24 May 2022
Dr Olwen Grace	Retired 24 May 2021
Dr Charlotte Grezo	24 May 2023
Professor Paul Henderson	Retired 24 May 2021
Professor Alistair Hetherington	24 May 2022
Stephanie Holt	Retired 24 May 2021
Angus McCullough	24 May 2023
Dr Silvia Pressel	Retired 24 May 2021
Philip Sadler	24 May 2024 (from May 2021)
Elaine Shaughnessy	24 May 2023
Professor Max Telford	24 May 2022
Dr Mark Watson	24 May 2024 (from May 2021)

ABBREVIATIONS

AGM	Annual General Meeting
BMM	BioMedia Meltdown
BSBI	Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland
COVID-19	The disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)
CPD	Continuous Professional Development
DBE	Dame of the British Empire
E&PE	Education & Public Engagement
e.o.	Ex officio
FLS	Fellow of the Linnean Society of London
FMLS	Foreign Member of the Linnean Society of London
FRS	Fellow of the Royal Society
FRS 102	Financial Reporting Standard 102
HonFLS	Fellow *honoris causa*
HonMLS	Honorary Member of the Linnean Society of London
ISAs	International Standards on Auditing
L: 50	L: 50 Objects, Stories and Discoveries from the Linnean Society of London
LSL	Linnean Society of London
MHCLG	Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government
NatSCA	Natural Sciences Collections Association
NBH	New Burlington House
OA	Open Access
OUP	Oxford University Press
PPLS	Past-President of the Linnean Society of London
PRISM	Preservation of Industrial and Scientific Material
SI	Special Issue
SOFA	Statement of Financial Activities
SORP	Statements of Recommended Practice
UCL	University College London
VI	Virtual Issue

ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REVIEW 2021

The past year has been one of great change for the Linnean Society, and for society at large. We have been busy implementing recommendations from the 2018 Governance Review (about which I spoke last year). In February we said goodbye to Executive Secretary Elizabeth Rollinson after nine years of sterling service to the Society, and welcomed Gail Cardew in the role of CEO, the first in the Society's history. A working group led by Council member Mark Watson began a review of the Bye-Laws, and we also welcomed Cathy Youthed as our first Governance Manager, who has already done a huge amount to ensure that we are in line with charity best practice. The staff team worked hard to keep the Society running safely, with the Library opening to visitors several days a week, and room hire starting up again in a limited capacity in the autumn.

Events have remained online, and while this is disappointing for Fellows and supporters who regularly attend events at Burlington House, our virtual lectures have reached larger, more diverse audiences over the last year. Online events ranged across the science of natural history, from trees to road verges to Caribbean birds, ending the year with Merlin Sheldrake's marvellous Christmas Lecture on fungi and their importance to our everyday lives. While it was sad not to be together in Burlington House for this event (it was originally intended to be in-person) the number of Fellows who were able to attend from all over the world was testament to our expanding reach. The Education team has continued to deliver quality events online, including the workshops and award ceremonies for our art-meets-science BioMedia Meltdown Project, which underwent a successful external evaluation in 2021; we can benefit from lessons learned and consider the next phases.

The team has been working incredibly hard on liaising with our landlords over our future in Burlington House, and our Burlington House campaign started in earnest early in the year—to all those Fellows who wrote to their MPs or to members of the Government on the Society's behalf, we offer heartfelt thanks. Discussions continue, so do keep in touch. This is my last year as President, and my sincere thanks go to all the staff, who have done so much to move the Society forward over the last four years—our next President will find a dedicated, engaged and wonderful team.

Sandra Knapp, President

OVERVIEW 2021

2021 was a year of adjustment for the Linnean Society. In February, we said goodbye to Elizabeth Rollinson, who had served as the Society's Executive Secretary for over nine years. Elizabeth always gave a warm welcome to Fellows and guests, and encouraged all to become members of the Society. We hope she will return to visit us often.

In April, the Society welcomed its first CEO, Gail Cardew, previously at the Royal Institution. Gail worked hard in 2021 to start realising the goals of the Society's Governance Review. She also embarked on a staff restructure that included the creation of several new posts such as Governance Manager, Head of Operations and Head of Engagement.

Save Burlington House

The 'Burlington House campaign' was launched on 24 February, as, after more than 145 years of continuous occupation at Burlington House, the Society now faces being priced out of its London home due to unaffordable and rapidly rising rents. Over 600 letters were written to local MPs and Lords encouraging the Government to provide us with a suitable long-term solution. The story has been covered by multiple news outlets including *The Observer*, *The Critic* and *Museums Journal*, and testimonials from our Fellows and the public were published on our website. It has been truly uplifting to hear of the impact the building has had on our visitors, and we sincerely thank all our Fellows for their continued support.

Many events in the campaign have been successful in gaining the attention of the Government: on 8 June, the debate 'The Future of the Learned Societies at Burlington House' was held at Westminster Hall, having been secured by Tim Loughton MP, and on 7 July, Sir David Attenborough HonMLS wrote to Prime Minister Boris Johnson, urging him to intervene. The PM responded, voicing his support in finding a 'mutually beneficial solution for all'. On 30 July, Professor Brian Cox was interviewed on BBC Radio 4 on behalf of the campaign. Gail Cardew has been working alongside our fellow courtyard societies to sustain the momentum of this progress, and we are now in communication with the Government on the matter. Our fantastic staff have kept our website and social media pages updated as we progress; special thanks go to Head of Operations Helen Shaw, Events and Communications Manager Padma Ghosh and Head of Collections Isabelle Charmantier. It has been a wonderful exercise in highlighting the amazing work we do here at Burlington House, and why it is so important we remain.

Governance and Bye-Laws

As a result of the 2018 Governance Review, the Society employed a Governance Manager in 2021. Cathy Youthed is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the recommendations of the review, the administration of the Society's governance activities, and for supporting Council and staff to ensure the Society complies with its governing documents and regulatory requirements.

The same review also precipitated the need to change the Society's Bye-Laws. A Bye-Laws Revision Group, led by Mark Watson, was therefore established to take this work forward. The group had a busy year reviewing the governance documents of 12 similar organisations, looking back at previous amendments to the Society's Royal Charters and Bye-Laws, and understanding the legal processes for making future changes. However, once drafting of the new Bye-Laws began, it soon became evident that Council input was needed in key areas such as the Society's governance structure, Fellowship and Membership, Council and Officers, and General Meetings. As a result, an Extraordinary Meeting of Council took place in December 2021 to discuss these issues and formulate recommendations, so that drafting could continue. Once complete, the new Bye-Laws will be presented to the Fellowship for approval before becoming part of the governance framework of the Society.

After the Flood

The Society suffered a serious water leak in June, with our library badly affected. Some 250 books required immediate care, with 17 crates of material sent away for freezing and later conservation. Remarkably, the reading room was able to reopen within a week of the flood, and the books—carefully dried and cleaned—were returned to the Society in November. Detailed contingency planning, supportive insurers and contractors, and the hard work of staff (many of whom left their usual duties to lend a hand in the immediate aftermath) helped avert a greater disaster. We are grateful to all of them!

Our 'Disaster Plan', revised in May 2021, helped the team deal with the flood efficiently and calmly. Moreover, Anna Atkins's *Photographs of British Algae* (1843–53) would have been damaged had it not been removed, along with other valuable items, to the Collections Store as part of the plan. On a positive note, this potentially catastrophic event has helped to improve the 'Disaster Plan' and our response to any future disasters.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORSHIP

Despite concerns relating to the pandemic, all issues of all three journals were produced on schedule. A cross-journal Virtual Issue (VI) of previously published papers related to extinction, endangered species, biodiversity and climate change marked the launch of the Linnean Society's new committee, 'Linnean Future' (The Planetary Emergency Response Committee).

Overall, we are pleased to report that resubscription rates are excellent, and income is therefore in line with forecasts. All three journals support the hybrid model, whereby Open Access (OA) options are available, although the rate of take-up is low but increasing, especially for the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* (*ZooJLS*). Our publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP), has signed several Read and Publish agreements which provide funding for OA publication, and participates in many free or highly reduced access initiatives.

The *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society*, our new online-only, fully OA journal, has begun accepting papers and is expected to issue its first volume later in 2022. Mark Chase is completing his term as Editorial Secretary and a successor will assume these responsibilities from June 2022. We'd like to wholeheartedly thank Mark for his many years of dedication.

The *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* (*BioJLS*, Impact Factor 2.14), edited by John Allen, produced a VI to celebrate the previous editor, the late David Lees, and contributed to a joint Linnean VI on 'Extinction, Endangered Species and Climate Change'. A 393-page Special Issue (SI) on 'OCBIL Theory: A New Science for Old Ecosystems' included several high-impact articles, eight of which were in the journal's top 10 most highly cited papers of the year. Three articles with high media coverage were on phylogenomics of peacock spiders, impact of introduced honeybees on native pollinators in Australia, and estimating vertebrate biodiversity. Highlights for 2022 will include a Special Issue on 'Evolution 'On Purpose': Teleonomy in Living Systems', based on papers presented at a recent Linnean Society virtual conference.

In 2021, the *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* (*BotJLS*), edited by Michael Fay, received a major increase in its Impact Factor (>40%, 2.046 to 2.911). Highlights of the year included an invited review on crop wild relatives and a special issue entitled 'Plant Anatomy: Traditions and Perspectives' which included three review papers. Upcoming highlights for 2022 include a major SI on Neotropical biodiversity. The final issue of the year will be volume 200, and we are planning a series of invited reviews to mark this milestone.

The *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* (*ZooJLS*), edited by Maarten Christenhusz, received an increased Impact Factor (from 2.99 to 3.286). We maintain a high submission rate, with 423 submitted papers in 2021. Highlights of the year included an invited review on Charles Darwin's *The Descent of Man* (1871), to coincide with the 150th anniversary of its publication. An editorial addressing the taxonomic impediment signed by over 100 researchers was published in October. Upcoming highlights for 2022 include several invited reviews and SIs on tardigrades and on South American dinosaur fossils. A virtual issue on deep sea discoveries is also planned.

LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund

Retaining its focus on biodiversity, taxonomy/systematics and evolutionary biology, the Society was once again delighted to contribute £37,698 towards the LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund, a co-initiative with the Systematics Association.

Over 138 applications were received, allowing us to make 34 grants, ranging from £500 to £1,500. The research projects funded encompass a wide range of plant, animal and fungal groups across the globe, from neotropical tar spot fungi in Costa Rica to pseudoscorpions in South India to morning glories in Congo-Kinshasa. The winning researchers reflect this international focus and support our commitment to funding excellent researchers from countries with fewer funding opportunities.

Awardee	Country of residence	Title of project
Patrick Arnold	Germany	Revealing cryptic diversity in elephant-shrews (Macroscelidea) using ancient DNA from historical specimens
Alberto Collareta	Italy	Unraveling the evolutionary history of shell architecture in turtle and whale barnacles
Annabelle de Vries	United Kingdom	Observing the extinction of *Trochetiopsis erythroxylon* more closely
Fabricius Domingos	Brazil	Cryptic species and mitogenomic evolution in the *Eptesicus brasiliensis* complex (Chiroptera: Verpertilionidae)
Carolina de la Hoz	Portugal	DNA barcoding to explore elasmobranch diversity in eDNA off the Banc d'Arguin
João Farminhão	Portugal	Taxonomic novelties in the Speciosae-Diffusae-Supinae clade of *Linaria* in Western Iberia
Heloísa Fernandes Flores	Brazil	Morphological feeding adaptations of jackal flies (Diptera, Milichiidae)
Stephen Garrett	Denmark	Global Evolutionary History of *Euphrasia*: a Parasitic Plant Complex
Stefan Graf	Germany	Comparative morphology and phylogenetic significance of modified ocelli in digger wasps
Alice Guzzi	Italy	Is brittle star evolution being forced by a sponge symbiont?
Gustavo Heiden	Brazil	Systematics of South American Astereae (Asteraceae): new species, phylogenetic relationships and updated taxonomic synopsis
Thomas Hitch	Germany	Automated taxonomic assignment of Archaea based on genome sequences
Jithin Johnson	Germany	Systematics and Biogeography of Pseudoscorpions in the Western Ghats of South India
Jan Korba	Czech Republic	Integrative taxonomy of the tarantula genus *Ischnocolus* (Araneae: Theraphosidae)
Nefeli Kotitsa	Bulgaria	Islands within islands: The evolution of the Cretan endemic *Eupholidoptera* (Orthoptera)

Kara Layton	United Kingdom	Special sea slugs: Cryptic diversity and ecological specialization in the sea lemons
Melissa Mardones-Hidalgo	Costa Rica	Molecular phylogeny and evolution of neotropical tar spot fungi (Phyllachorales, Ascomycota) with special focus on species associated with magnoliids host plants
Sonia Molino	Spain	Disentangling morphological affinity in the *Parablechnum loxense* complex (Blechnaceae) across the Pacific
Thomas Murphy	United States	Systematics and Phylogeography of a Ubiquitous Liana, *Smilax* (Smilacaceae), in Peru
Jean Claude Ithe Mwanga-Mwanga	Congo - Kinshasa	Field guide of Convolvulaceae from D. R. Congo
Libby Natola	Canada	Genetic determination of plumage traits in a group of diversifying woodpeckers
Patrícia Nogueira	Portugal	Biodiversity of estuarine phytoplankton – the Guadiana estuary case study
Chinonyelum Oforka	Nigeria	Utilizing Morphological Keys for Mosquito Surveillance in Urban Lagos, Nigeria
Edmund O'Malley	United Kingdom	Using phylotranscriptomic approaches to resolve Seychelles caecilian (Amphibia: Gymnophiona: Indotyphlidae) phylogeny
Volkan Özen	Germany	Genus *Pyxilla* (Bacillariophyta): Systematics and end-Eocene events
Catarina J. Pinho	Portugal	Big and small – An integrative framework for investigating character displacement
Paula C. Rodríguez Flores	Spain	Speciation and connectivity in deep-sea cosmopolitan and vicariant squat lobsters
Christophe Ronez	Argentina	Enlightening the systematics of insular Sigmodontinae (Rodentia, Cricetidae) housed in European collections
Kagame Samuel Paul	China	Systematics and diversification of East African *Ipomoea* L. (Convolvulaceae)
Kevin Sánchez	Argentina	Cryptic diversity and evolutionary history of a Patagonian lizard radiation (Squamata: Liolaemini: *Liolaemus kingii* group)
Thomas Sauvage	Brazil	Booting up molecular systematics of algae in South America's largest barrier-lagoon
Eugenio Valderrama Escallón	United States	Unraveling the Spiraling Radiation: Taxonomy and Phylogenomics of Neotropical Costaceae Nakai
Timothy Whitfield	United States	Deciphering the mahoganies in New Guinea's lowland rainforest
Georgios Xenikoudakis	United Kingdom	Using ancient DNA to resolve the taxonomy of extinct Malagasy hippos

Sir David Attenborough Fieldwork Award

The LinnéSys project reports from the previous year are evaluated for this award. However, due to the pandemic and associated limitations, the 2020 LinnéSys awardees were given two years to access workspaces, collections and field work, and will therefore only submit their reports in 2022. There was therefore no Sir David Attenborough Fieldwork award made in 2021.

Appleyard Fund

(Awarded to Fellows or Associates of the Society who are not in full-time employment as biologists): to Mr Alex Inzani FLS, who is presently retired, towards the cost of improving and replacing camera traps, cage traps and mist nets for a Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) study of marsh tits *Poecile*

palustris dresseri around Weston Colville, England. Nationally, marsh tits have undergone a 70% decline over the last 40 years, putting them on the IUCN Red List. In contrast to this trend, the population of birds around Weston Colville appear to be thriving. Through colour-ringing, releasing and retrapping birds, this study will monitor the abundance, productivity and survival of the Marsh Tit in the area. The automated camera traps are an invaluable aid in this process given the difficulty of resighting enough of the rare birds for statistical analysis. It is hoped that determining the reasons for Marsh Tit success in Weston Colville could help reverse the deep decline of these birds elsewhere in the UK and contribute towards developing a national conservation strategy for the Marsh Tit.

Anne Sleep Award
(Awarded to scholars to assist with biological research in the Middle or Far East): to Dr Hiva Faizi (Razi University, Iran) for his project 'Femoral gland secretions and chemical signals in the Persian racerunner *Eremias persica* Blanford, 1875 complex: implications for potential sexual isolation and cryptic speciation in a species complex', which aims to determine whether closely related species have species-specific chemical components in their gland secretions, and whether this variation is enough to explain existing patterns of isolation in sympatric and allopatric species across the study area.

The Year to Come
Looking ahead, the Society is excited to be launching its OA journal, the *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society*, and working with Editor Dr Steven Dodsworth. The staff team at the Society will be working more closely with the team at OUP in the coming year, collaboratively ensuring that our publications are promoted in as many ways as possible. Later in the year we will be asking Fellows for their input into nominations for our medals and awards—please do get involved, and nominate a scientist, amateur naturalist or artist that you think deserves to be recognised.

OUR FELLOWSHIP

While it was impossible to foresee the length of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society continues to be incredibly grateful for the support shown by our members. We have been inspired to see our Fellows so engaged with our online events, our resources, and with our new Fellows' Area. Sadly, we also lost a few good friends of the Society in 2021, who will be greatly missed.

Fellows Inspiring Fellows
We always draw inspiration from the accomplishments of our members, and would like to you to join us in celebrating:

- Writer and broadcaster **Geoffrey Munn FLS**, who was honoured with the Jewellery in Culture and Heritage award at the UK jewellery industry's The Leopard Awards.
- Biologist **Merlin Sheldrake FLS**, awarded the Royal Society Science Book Prize in November for his book, *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds and Shape Our Futures*, which explores the 'surreal world of fungi' and the vastness of mycelium, or fungal networks.
- **Jonathan Drori FLS**, who followed up his book *Around the World in 80 Trees* with the equally stunning *Around the World in 80 Plants*, which was shortlisted for the Waterstones Book of the Year 2021.
- President-elect **Anjali Goswami FLS**, who was awarded the President's Medal of the Paleontological Association.
- **Miranda Lowe FLS**, with Subhadra Das, who was awarded the newly founded President's Award from the Society for the History of Natural History that recognises a 'contribution and impact in promoting and improving accessibility, inclusivity and diversity to the study of the history of natural history'.

Joining the Society

Despite the pandemic, our membership increased in 2021 by 142 newly elected Fellows (an increase on 2020). People have joined from all over the world, and Room Hire and Membership Assistant Tatiana Franco, who will have been your main point of contact on all things membership, reported that there were also 42 new Associates of the Society and 82 new Student Members. We welcome everyone with an interest in studying, exploring and protecting nature.

Fellows We Have Lost

At the very start of the year we lost **Brian Gardiner**, past President of the Society, first editor of the Society's publication *The Linnean*, and giant in the field of palaeontology, whose work transformed how we see evolutionary relationships. Sadly we also lost **David Lees** who had edited the *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* from 1990–97. Botanist **Desmond Meikle OBE** (who served on Council from 1957–60) passed away in February 2021, having dedicated 30 years to his 'magnum opus' *Flora of Cyprus*. We learned of the death of **William 'Bill' Stern** towards the end of the year; Bill served as President of the Botanical Society of America (1985–86), was a founding member of the Association for Tropical Biology and founded and edited *Biotropica*. At the very end of the year we were saddened by the deaths of two of our most eminent Foreign Members, **Sherwin Carlquist**, giant of plant anatomy whose work on islands transformed understanding of island evolution, and **Edward O. Wilson**, ant taxonomist and passionate advocate for biodiversity and its conservation, whose lifetime of work did so much to promote the study and understanding of natural history.

Future Fellows

During 2022, work on the Society's Bye-Laws by the 'Bye-Laws Revision Group' (work that will enable the Society to grow and evolve) will continue, and once ready, their labour will be circulated to the Fellowship. This is an exciting time for the Society, offering the chance to assess what has worked well, and what could be improved upon.

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

Through sponsorship and awarding medals, the Society acknowledges and encourages excellence in all aspects of the science of natural history, with particular emphasis on evolution, taxonomy, biodiversity conservation and sustainability.

Categories

- The Linnean Medal: For services to science
- The Darwin-Wallace Medal: For major advances in evolutionary biology
- The Bicentenary Medal: In recognition of the work of a biologist under 40 years of age
- The Irene Manton Prize: For the best doctoral thesis in botany in a UK university
- The John C. Marsden Medal: For the best doctoral thesis in biology in a UK university
- The Trail-Crisp Award: For an outstanding contribution to biological microscopy
- The H. H. Bloomer Award: Awarded to an amateur naturalist for an important contribution to biological knowledge

Medal & Award Winners 2021

Linnean Medal (Botany): Dr Shahina Ghazanfar, *Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew*
Linnean Medal (Zoology): Dr Mary Jane West-Eberhard, *Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute*
Darwin-Wallace Medal: Dr Sarah P. Otto, *University of British Columbia*
Bicentenary Medal: Dr Scott Taylor, *University of Colorado, Boulder*
Irene Manton Prize: Dr Sophie Harrington, *University of East Anglia*
John C. Marsden Medal: Dr Benjamin Van Doren, *University of Oxford*
Trail-Crisp Award: Dakota E. McCoy, *Harvard University*
H. H. Bloomer Award: David Lindo
David Attenborough Fieldwork Award: Paola Sáez Fernandez (2020–2021)

Due to COVID-19-related restrictions, the Society's Medals and Awards for both 2020 and 2021 were presented at a virtual Anniversary Meeting in May, with each winner accepting their award with a short speech. Citations for all awardees are available on our website.

OPENING UP

2021 finished as it started, with the Library forced to close due to surging cases of a new variant of COVID-19. Throughout the year, the team remained flexible, adapting to lockdown work, incrementally reopening the library and embarking on new projects while continuing those already in progress.

Reopening the Library
The Library reopened to the public on 14 April, initially for two days a week, with limited readers for social distancing and with COVID-19 safety measures in place. We were gradually able to open for longer hours, opening from Tuesday–Friday, 10am–5pm by September. The Library was steadily busy, benefiting from other similar libraries (e.g. Natural History Museum, London and Zoological Society of London) remaining closed throughout the summer. Many readers, reassured by our safety measures, commented on the joy of returning to London and using library facilities for the first time in months.

As always, we continue to be amazed by the breadth and variety of our visitors' interests. In a difficult and disrupted year for researchers, over 200 people have beaten a path to our door, researching such diverse subjects as the ecology of Nepal and Tibet, early botany in Cambridge, land use conservation, the history of London Zoo and wildlife protection in Sri Lanka, among many others. We can't wait to see what the coming year will bring!

Teamwork Keeping You Connected
There were some changes in the Collections team, with Archivist Liz McGow going on maternity leave in March, and her maternity cover Alex Milne starting in early July. Alex was able to dive straight into cataloguing more of our collected archives.

Staff would not have been able to achieve as much without the invaluable help of volunteers and honorary curators. Special mention goes to indefatigable volunteers David Pescod and Sheila Meredith, who spent time on Society projects almost every day of 2021, respectively summarising our historic 'presents books' for archival records, and helping with the clean-up of Library indices and journals deaccessioning. We were also glad to welcome volunteers John Abbott, Naomi Mitamura and Kate Coss back to the building in the autumn. Our honorary curators Mark Spencer, Glenn Benson, Ollie Crimmen and Suzanne Ryder have continued to reply to enquiries, and help us with research on specimens and artefacts in our collections.

Improving our Resources
The year was split between offsite 'lockdown' cataloguing from OCR-ed finding aids and checking those lockdown records against the material (as well ongoing onsite cataloguing once the building had reopened). Archivist Alex Milne catalogued the manuscripts of botanist Alexander Anderson (MS/609), including the 148 botanical drawings related to his work at the Botanical Gardens of St Vincent. Letters relating to Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace were also added to the catalogue, including the notable find of a letter from Darwin to Wallace gifting a copy of *On the Origin of Species*, which was located in our Library. Assistant Archivist Luke Thorne undertook extensive work reviewing and refining the Edward M. Holmes (MS/235) and Nathaniel Winch (MS/321) records, which had been catalogued in lockdown. Both archivists worked together to transfer the 'Society Papers' (SP) from the Library to the archive catalogue, elaborating on previous descriptions and reuniting the papers with their original artworks.

A Good Year for AdoptLINN
Our AdoptLINN scheme for the care and restoration of vulnerable items within our collections is now entering its sixth year and going from strength to strength. We continue to be amazed by the support and generosity of our donors; £7,580 was received in 2021. Highlights include a copy of *Species*

Plantarum, copiously annotated by the Cambridge botanist Thomas Martyn, and a scarce copy of Robert Thornton's stunning *Temple of Flora*. At the end of 2021, our President Sandy Knapp pledged £1,500 for the conservation of our portrait of Scottish botanist and plant-hunter Francis Masson. The generous support of our 'adopters' will see these works carefully stabilised and conserved, ensuring their survival for study and enjoyment for centuries to come. If you would like to show your support of our collections, please contact the Collections team, or visit our website.

Alongside the books and manuscripts conserved thanks to AdoptLINN donations, a deep clean of the Collections Store was commenced by Conservator Janet Ashdown, including a condition survey and inventory of the books. Other notable conservation projects involved an examination of 10 boxes of over 525 glass plate positives (lantern slides), used to illustrate Society talks from the early 1900s to the 1960s, with each plate photographed and assessed.

A Little Bibliographical Weeding

The Society is rightly proud of its extensive journals collection, boasting nearly 4,000 titles in natural history and the life sciences. But with four basement stores full to overflowing, it was clear some 'light touch' weeding was required! Led by Librarian Will Beharrell, and scrutinised by our Collections Committee, the deaccessioning of modern, commonly held material began in May. This will give the Society much-needed space for growth, and allow remaining material to be properly catalogued, and housed adequately and safely for the future.

What will 2022 Bring?

Our goal for 2022 is to keep improving the accessibility of our collections through cataloguing, digitisation and conservation, as many of our collected and domestic archives are yet to be catalogued. We will also continue to collaborate with academics who research our collections; we are a project partner on Dr Tina Welch's 2022 AHRC/NERC funded project, which you can read more about in the section 'A Closer Look'. Whilst carrying out these activities, we need to be mindful of the uncertainty of our future at Burlington House, so will also have to assess the collections for a potential move. Additionally, the Collections team will play a part in determining the future strategy of the Society, upon which our Collections strategy will then rest.

Blogspot: Treasures of the Month

Each month, the Collections team publishes a blog on a little known 'Treasure', often happened upon by staff in the midst of their day-to-day tasks. In November, Digital Assets Manager Andrea Deneau chose to highlight the much-loved collection of small *cartes de visite*, professional hard-backed black and white photographs donated by newly elected Fellows to the Society. Spanning from the early days of photography to the late 20th century, these were taken by professional photographers, most prominently Maull & Polybank's, whose studio was conveniently placed on Piccadilly. The photographs feature well-known (Charles Darwin) and lesser-known Fellows (Walter G. Ridewood), and also many of the first female Fellows, like Grace Frankland, elected in the early 1900s. The solemn pose of the individuals, sometimes lifted by a furtive smile, makes these little photographs moving archival objects.

NETWORKS OF KNOWLEDGE

All the Society's activities are rooted in knowledge sharing, whether by way of our events, online activities or collections research, or through our Fellowship connecting via our bespoke Members' Area that launched in May.

While we had optimistically hoped to hold some events onsite at Burlington House in 2021, due to COVID-19 restrictions our events continued to be held online. Happily though, our audiences not only stayed steadfast, but increased. Alongside our regular Evening Meetings, Lunchtime Lectures and Nature Reader events, we also held three Day Meetings.

Brilliantly overseen by Events and Communications Manager Padma Ghosh, an upshot of holding our events online is that we have been able to accommodate a much larger audience than for those held onsite. Our Christmas Lecture by Merlin Sheldrake on his book *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds, and Shape Our Futures* drew a whopping 416 viewers via Zoom webinar. Our Nature Reader events by Jon Drori (*Around the World in 80 Plants*), and Bernd Brunner (*Taming Fruit: From Fruit Forests and Oases to Orchards*) were also amongst some of the most popular events. Our YouTube viewership also continues to develop year on year; subscribers to our channel grew by 59%. Our most popular event on YouTube this year was the 'Linnaeus, Race and Sex' day meeting, which found a superb viewership of 2,312 views. The second most watched lecture was Laurence Hill's 'Exploring the Future of Botanical Image Making' with 1,080 views.

Plant Awareness and Insect Week UK

Inspired by an article in *PuLSe*, on 13 April (Plant Appreciation Day) we held a special event entitled 'Plant Blindness: How to Put Plants Back in the Picture', where four researchers—Dawn Sanders, Geetanjali Sachdev, Sven Batke and Sophie Leguil—from different disciplines (art, education, design and science) discussed the diverse ways in which we can make plant life, often quite 'invisible', more 'present' to humans. As part of the session, we also launched the book *Beyond Plant Blindness: Seeing the Importance of Plants for a Sustainable World* by Dawn Sanders, Bryndís Snæbjörnsdóttir and Mark Wilson, which seeks to provoke plant-based thinking across disciplines and use art to rethink approaches to plants and botanical science. This virtual event had 158 participants.

From 21–27 June Insect Week (UK), we hosted a week-long celebration of the world of insects. Through a series of talks, we explored the insect collections of Carl Linnaeus and James Edward Smith, forensic entomology, and how gardens are a refuge for pollinators. We also investigated technology inspired by flies, and emotions and gender in entomology. Visit our YouTube channel to find out more: www.youtube.com/LinneanSociety.

Building Better Connections

Since the first journal-inspired animation was published in January 2020, Digital Content Producer Ross Ziegelmeier has created a further 11 videos as we seek to engage a wider audience with research papers from our journals. By working with our journal editors to highlight specific papers, our aim is to help promote our world-class publications in an accessible and distinct way; for example, the paper 'Phylogenomics of peacock spiders and their kin (Salticidae: *Maratus*), with implications for the evolution of male courtship displays' from the *BioJLS*, inspired a series of animated shorts in the style of a competitive drag queen pageant. One YouTube user commented: 'I like how you folks are always coming up with unique ideas.' The ongoing support of the editorial team and publishing team at OUP will continue to be crucial as we create more targeted content.

Though the pandemic had an impact on filming in-person projects this year, we still produced a number of videos in support of the Society's mission. One of these was 'John Tyley and the Breadfruit Tree', which explored the cultural and historical significance of a newly acquired watercolour painted

by Tyley. Also produced was 'The Linnean Society of London in Burlington House', which illustrated the story of the Society's home on London's Piccadilly; both can be viewed on our YouTube channel.

Podcast Stories

Stimulated by the Linnean Future Committee, we started a new podcast series by the same name. The Linnean Future series offers vivid interviews outlining current research and field science that will help to analyse and explain some of the most complex relationships on our planet. We launched the series with Professor Mark Maslin of University College London, who broke down the long history of international climate negotiations, including the challenges faced by COP26, and what it hopes to achieve. Episodes will be released monthly throughout the start of 2022 on our SoundCloud page (https://soundcloud.com/user-679811756) or at www.linnean.org/podcasts.

In addition to the Linnean Future series, podcasts inspired by papers published in the Society's journals were also produced. Future podcasts will be shorter in length, and will aim to open our journal content to a wider audience. Linnean Podcast #38 'Whale Pop Culture and Intelligence' featuring Hal Whitehead and Matthew McCurry and #39 'Sensitive Sea Snake' featuring Jenna Crowe-Riddell are prime examples of how our journal papers can be interpreted in a different format.

Our New Members' Area

At the end of 2020, we started work on implementing a new customer relationship management (CRM) system, to improve our data and provide betters ways for our members to engage with the Society and each other. After months of careful planning, data clean up and transfer, the new Members' Area was successfully launched at the 2021 Anniversary Meeting in May. The response has been fantastic, with 2,289 members successfully signed up so far. We invite members to join the platform if you haven't already, and make the most of what the new Members' Area has to offer, as future updates and additions are planned.

The Linnean* and *PuLSe

At the end of 2021, our stalwart Editor of *The Linnean*, Gina Douglas, decided to step down from the role to pursue her position as President of the Society of the History of Natural History. Gina has been Editor for six years, and is to be thanked for her sterling work on the publication. She is handing over to Publications Manager Leonie Berwick, who produced *L: 50 Objects, Stories and Discoveries of the Linnean Society of London* with Isabelle Charmantier in 2020, and who has worked with Gina on *The Linnean* since 2014. *PuLSe* and *The Linnean* are being integrated into one publication in 2022, so our members will continue to receive great *PuLSe* articles like 'Ancient Oaks and Biodiversity', 'Taming Chaos: Mycology and Linnaeus' and 'Psychedelic Research and its Biocolonial Legacies'.

New Year, New Ideas

As we continue to strengthen links with our journals through animations and short podcasts, we will also be testing some new live action video ideas that aim to celebrate research projects supported by the Society. We will also be starting 2022 by participating in the 7th LGBTQ+ STEMinar that celebrates the achievements of LGBTQ+ people in science.

ADAPTING TO CHANGE

We took the opportunity to be a little experimental this year, with a serialised format for the BioMedia Meltdown Project, a reinvented student conference experience and a new social media adventure. We have also been fortunate to collaborate with wonderful partners in a variety of exciting projects for young people.

BioMedia Book Arts and Courageous Conservationists

Pre-COVID-19, the BioMedia Meltdown (BMM) Project featured live art/science workshops in London KS3 classrooms, libraries, hospitals and community centres. Between November 2020 and May 2021, BMM Manager Daryl Stenvoll-Wells reconfigured these workshops, partnering with Linnean Fellows Ania Driscoll-Lind (Science and Outdoor Learning Specialist) and Michael Holland (Ecologist and Botany Expert) to produce nine 15-minute instructional videos covering botanical and zoological topics. The project was flexible enough for both classroom and home use, utilising topics and specimens that were easy to find in any UK setting. Schools were provided with materials for distribution by teachers, while individual participants on a limited income were able to request free kits.

Over 420 pupils and 60 home educators participated, with more than 100 beautiful, original hard-bound books entered into the competition. Entries were judged by an expert panel of scientists, artists, publishing and conservation experts, who determined the top entries for Scientific Merit, Artistic Merit, Creative Writing and Graphic Design. The winners were awarded tailored prizes in an online celebration event in July, including local wildlife foundation memberships, outdoor equipment, field guides, books and art supplies.

Daryl also continued delivery of live virtual classroom workshops, including 'Courageous Conservationists,' which used the art of wood photo transfer to introduce under-recognised community conservationists to students. Teachers and participants in both projects expressed gratitude for the creative cross-curricular content, reflecting that it provided relief from the pressurised, post-lockdown academic calendar. Stakeholders generally reflected that it reinvigorated a joy for learning that students needed in this time of crisis.

'Our Local Nature' Grants

This grant scheme enables young people to take the reins on projects that increase access to local natural spaces and encourage a deeper connection to nature. From buying equipment for ecological surveys to festivals of nature, it has been uplifting to hear about last year's projects coming to fruition. Grant recipient Claire Unwin from West Suffolk Hive, said:

'It has been a wonderful year for us at our site as we created a pond, which brought in the most incredible array of dragon flies and other insects, aquatic life and plants. We have enjoyed surveying the pond as it has developed, as well as the wild meadow and the woods.'

Ten new projects were funded in 2021, selected by our exceptional Youth Panel, made up of Leigh Balment, Deborah Kargbo, Georgia Gargett, Cheska Golding, Antonia Maddan and Sophie Robertson.

National Literacy Trust

In collaboration with the National Literacy Trust, the Linnean Society recruited 11 professional science writers to receive workshop development training so that they could then create their own bespoke science-writing workshops. Despite tough regulations in mid-2021, the writers were able to deliver sessions in 18 schools across Birmingham, Nottingham, the North East and the North West, reaching over 2,000 students.

Impressed by the interdisciplinary nature of the Society, the Trust has since commissioned a short film featuring several Society staff members talking about the importance of literacy in their careers for a teacher-training package on scientific literacy.

The 'Discover More' Series

'Discover More' was a seven-part series of animations, blogs and interviews put together by Education Manager Joe Burton and Education Assistant Zia Forrai (supported by Ross Ziegelmeier) that explored a different topic each month, across Twitter, Instagram and TikTok, as well as on our website, accruing over 15,000 views. Aimed at secondary school-age people and their teachers, each topic explored a compelling aspect of the natural world, from mutualist viruses to microplastic pollution. These were accompanied by interviews with relevant experts from across the globe, offering insight alongside a sense of potential career trajectories within the natural sciences.

Virtual Tours and Re-opening

Giving tours has always been an integral part of the Society's remit, and we felt the absence of such interactions acutely in 2021. Fortunately, the Collections team (with Ross Ziegelmeier) had produced a virtual tour video at the end of 2020 that provided a detailed look through our building and the Linnaean collections, as well as two short videos that focused on rare books and archives. These monthly virtual tours via Zoom started in January, but ended in June due to decreasing attendance. Virtual tours were also given to artists, students, civil servants from Defra and other groups. In total, 14 virtual tours were given to a total of 212 attendees throughout the year.

Once the building started to reopen, we were able to hold a controlled number of in-person tours, for groups of students from UCL, the History and Philosophy of Science Department (University of Cambridge) and the Royal Drawing School. The Collections Store was kept out of bounds, in order to maintain social distancing.

Linnean Lens

With our usual programme of in-person activities disrupted by the pandemic, the Society experimented with new ways of bringing our collections to a wider audience. In July, replacing the Virtual Tours, the Collections team held the first of the 'Linnean Lens' online events, using a specially designed document camera to host interactive, 'hands-on' sessions with rare and special collections items. We began, appropriately enough, by delving into Carl Linnaeus's fascinating student notebooks, with further sessions encompassing Anna Atkins's beautiful cyanotype photographs, Linnaeus's annotated *Species Plantarum*, Peter Collinson's commonplace books and the Shortt Collection of Indian bird paintings on mica. With uniformly positive feedback, and strong attendance throughout—over 130 logged in for the sessions on Atkins and the *Species Plantarum*—we look forward to expanding the programme in the New Year**.**

Representing the Society

Head of Collections Isabelle Charmantier was invited to talk at several virtual conferences and to sit on the jury panel of Did van Triip's PhD thesis on early modern ichthyology, in October. Also in October, she participated in the conference 'Towards a Cultural History of Early Modern Ichthyology (1500–1800)', which allowed her to research and present on the fishes of Alexander Garden in the Linnaean collections.

Utilising Expertise in 2022

The expertise of our Fellows means a great to deal to us, so in 2022 we are aiming to reach out and utilise that knowledge, whether through education outreach projects or through initiatives like Linnean Lens. We hope to form closer bonds with our membership and the growing network of young people affiliated with the Society's projects.

A CLOSER LOOK

The Society's collections are deeply embedded within the British colonial world of the 18th and 19th centuries. Historians have long studied the lives of individuals who helped naturalists investigate the world around them, and in 2021 the Society continued in its endeavour to enrich our knowledge about our collections, through a new acquisition, events and collaborating with academics.

Natural History from the Margins

Like other institutions such as the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew or the Natural History Museum, London, the Society is keen to unearth the untold stories behind our specimens, artworks and manuscripts, stories of local, indigenous and overlooked participants who actively contributed to the quest for natural historical knowledge. One such individual was the Antiguan artist John Tyley, who worked for Alexander Anderson, superintendent of St Vincent Botanic Gardens in the late 18th century.

Tyley was our person of the year at the Society, as he was the nexus for a new acquisition, a day meeting and a successful funding bid. The Society was incredibly fortunate to acquire a Tyley painting in June 2021 (from the auction house Rosebery's), significant for its image of the breadfruit tree, imported to St Vincent to feed the enslaved population. Tyley was also the inspiration behind 'Natural History and Visual Arts from the Margins', a day-meeting co-organised by Head of Collections Isabelle Charmantier and Julie Chun Kim, Associate Professor at Fordham University, New York. Initially planned for 2020, it was eventually held virtually in September 2021.

Finally, through a partnership with Tina Welch (University of Winchester) and the Hidden Histories project (a programme run by The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)), the Society was awarded an initial seed funding grant in 2021. The project 'Unearthing the contribution of indigenous and enslaved African knowledge systems to the Saint Vincent Botanical Garden under Dr Anderson (1785–1811)' allowed us to digitise the Alexander Anderson manuscripts held in the Society's collections, which included descriptions of the islands of Barbados, Grenada, St Lucia and Guiana, and papers and paintings related to the St Vincent Botanic Gardens. Many of the 148 plant drawings in Anderson's *Hortus St Vincentii* were drawn by local or indigenous artists, and unusually for a black artist at that time, Tyley's signature appears on 11 of them. These 14 manuscripts, comprising 2,190 images, will be made available through our Online Collections by the end of 2022. The manuscripts were also catalogued and their records can be accessed via our Archives Catalogue. The bulk of the Hidden Histories project will be funded by the main NERC/AHRC grant from 2022 to 2023, with one of the objectives being to make transcriptions of many of the manuscripts available through our Online Collections.

Collections on Show

Our collections are special to us, and we try to highlight them whenever and however we can, so in addition to talks, online and onsite tours and events, blogs and social media posts, we were keen to repopulate the display cases in the Library Reading Room, for the benefit of readers and visitors. Following the publication of our 'book of treasures', *L: 50 Objects, Stories & Discoveries from the Linnean Society*, we were keen to show off some of the items that feature in the book: the artworks sent back from India with papers to be read at the Society meetings by Major General Hardwicke; some of Linnaeus's specimens of plants, fish and beetles; diaries of travellers and artists such as Charles Darwin, Alfred Russel Wallace and Emilia Noel; and of course, our new acquisition of Tyley's breadfruit tree.

While many organisations postponed their planned exhibitions, the Gilbert White House went ahead with their year-delayed tercentenary celebrations of Gilbert White. Several letters in the Gilbert White

collection, which is on long-term loan to the Society by the Selbourne Society, featured in the 'Flora Selborniensis' exhibition from July to September 2021.

Linnaeus, Sex and Race

Yet another aspect of taking a closer look at our collections has been to untangle Carl Linnaeus's classification of humans within his printed books (*Systema Naturae* in particular) and manuscripts. An essay on the subject had already been published online in the summer of 2020, and Isabelle Charmantier expanded upon this in a talk given to the Anglo-Swedish Society in February 2021. A day meeting at the Society on 'Linnaeus, Sex and Race' was organised by Stella Sandford, Professor at Kingston University and a regular Library user. Originally planned for 2020, this day meeting was finally moved online in March 2021. It brought together researchers from different disciplines (natural sciences, evolutionary biology, philosophy, history of science and gender studies) to discuss 'race' and 'sex' in Linnaeus's work and beyond. All the talks are available on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/LinneanSociety.

FEEDBACK

AdoptLINN:
"Thank you for your help in 'matching' me to an appropriate book for adoption. I now realise what a lovely scheme this is and feel happy to be able to contribute to the amazing Linnean Library collection in this way."

Events:
Linnean Lens
"Seeing the book of SPECIES PLANTARUM made me almost weep. The Linnean Lens lecture made it possible for members all over the world to share the knowledge and joy of the binominal system."
"I joined the Linnean Society, and participated in the last two events. Wonderful topics and great speakers. Thanks so much for making these events happen!"
Virtual Tours
"Thank you so much for the Zoom tour of the Linnean—it was brilliant! We only had positive feedback, the participants said they learnt so much and enjoyed finding out about the Society and seeing what lies behind those big wooden doors!"

Reopening the Library:
"This will be my first day working away from home since early December. It is amazing how exciting a trip to the library can seem!"
"Very grateful to the staff @LinneanSociety for keeping the library open as much as possible and providing a safe, friendly space to read and work."

Podcasts/videos:
"WELL DONE!! on the Tyley video. So interesting, v attractive to watch, and very good editing. I assume you have specialists for all of that in house, and they really put something together that focuses on the object, its history, and all the information that you and the specialist speakers provide."

Education:
Student Conference
"*This conference was brilliant—it made me aware of so many different options when considering careers in industry and in postgraduate study. Not only did it make me aware, but the networking opportunity has provided me with so many resources to research my future, I feel very hopeful and motivated!*"
National Literacy Trust, Science Writers in Schools
"Science Writers in Schools has been a really fantastic initiative to be a part of - thank you for making it happen and for your support and encouragement, particularly in my first schools workshop. Both the training beforehand and the kind positive feedback afterwards really boosted my confidence."

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Linnean Society contributes to scientific, cultural, economic and social well-being nationally and internationally through a broad programme of activities. Our unique ACE-designated biological collections and historical resources—and our strong focus on biodiversity conservation, sustainability and science outreach—support the care and understanding of our planet. The Society's key contributions to public benefit are:

- Safeguarding and promoting the Society's heritage collections, through cataloguing, conservation and digitisation, improving access to primary information, making collections freely available to view online.
- Advancing and disseminating knowledge through three world-class research journals and providing support and recognition through grant schemes and awards to emerging scientists and naturalists.
- Engaging the public through regular tours of the collections, conferences and free monthly public lectures, while our educational programme, which fuses science, history and art, reaches out to students of all ages and backgrounds, providing free resources in schools, in Burlington House and online.

The Society's activities contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through support for the natural world, and through unique resources that illuminate environmental and social change. The Society connects academia with a diverse public, informing UK Government policy and promoting the international profile of the UK as a pre-eminent international hub for expertise about the natural world.

CORE VALUES AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Society's vision, mission and values are:

Vision: A world where nature is understood, valued and protected
Mission: To inform, involve and inspire people of all ages and backgrounds about nature and its significance through our collections, programmes and publications
Values:

- We are a diverse community of people united by an active interest in nature, its management and conservation.
- We aim for excellence and integrity in all areas of our activity.
- We use our income and other finances to fulfil our charitable function and declared mission.
- We promote our science to all sectors of society.
- We value diversity and seek to broaden the inclusion of currently under-represented groups.
- We are an expert voice concerning relevant major issues and challenges of our time.

In late 2021 the Worshipful Company of Management Consultants confirmed its pro bono support to assist with strategic planning and implementation throughout 2022. The Society is extremely grateful for this generous support. A core Working Group composed of senior staff will form in 2022 to guide the process, and the early stages will include consultation with the Society's many different stakeholders.

LOOKING FORWARD 2022

Let me start by saying thank you to all the staff, volunteers, Fellows and Council for welcoming me so warmly to the Linnean Society. For me, 2021 was such a brilliant experience, as I learned more about all the fantastic projects and people that make this unique organisation so impactful. I can't wait to embark on 2022 and see what the year brings.

We have several interesting plans afoot already and, by the time you read this, we will have appointed the Society's first Head of Engagement. Our online events continue to attract people from all over the world, and it has been uplifting to see everyone asking questions and engaging with both the event speakers and each other. But we can, and should, do more. With the Head of Engagement in place, we aim to build on this success by developing plans to reach more people, share our stories about nature more widely and raise our visibility. Whilst doing so, we also need to be thoughtful about connecting more with under-represented audiences. Our communications team has already been busy liaising with our publisher Oxford University Press to brainstorm how we might develop even more engaging stories inspired by papers from our journals that are suitable for a wider audience, including those from the newly launched *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society*.

Good governance has been a driving factor throughout the year, and will continue to be as the Society evolves. The Bye-Laws Revision Group will keep up the momentum of the hard work they've started, resulting in Bye-Laws that will encompass everything we plan to be in the future.

On the topic of planning, we are grateful for the assistance of the Worshipful Company of Management Consultants, who have offered pro bono support to help us develop and invigorate our strategy. We are facing some challenges—the lease at Burlington House, the need to think about diversifying our income, to name but a few—so it will be important to focus not just on short-term activities, but on longer-term planning to ensure that our wonderful organisation thrives.

Gail Cardew, CEO

PEOPLE

Officers and Council listed on pp. 3–4

Linnean Society Staff Team

CEO	**Professor Gail Cardew (from April 2021)**
Executive Secretary	**Dr Elizabeth Rollinson (2011–until February 2021)**
Head of Finance	**Priya Nithianandan (1991)**
Head of Collections	**Dr Isabelle Charmantier (2017)**
Head of Operations	**Helen Shaw (2017)**
Governance Manager	**Cathy Youthed (2021)**
Room Hire Manager & Membership Assistant	**Tatiana Franco (2015)**
Communications & Events Manager	**Padmaparna Ghosh (from June 2020)**
Librarian	**Will Beharrell (2019)**
Archivist	**Liz M^{c}Gow (2016)**
Archivist (Maternity Cover)	**Alex Milne (2021)**
Assistant Librarian & Archivist	**Luke Thorne (2019)**
Digital Assets Manager	**Andrea Deneau (2010)**
Conservator	**Janet Ashdown (2002)**
Publications Manager	**Leonie Berwick (2007)**
Education Manager	**Joe Burton (2017)**
Multimedia Content Producer	**Ross Ziegelmeier (2015)**
BioMedia Meltdown Project Manager	**Daryl Stenvoll-Wells (2019)**
Education Assistant	**Zia Forrai (2018)**
Editorial Assistant (*Botanical Journal*)	**Dr Hassan Rankou (2012)**
Office Cleaner P/T	**Fatima Mendoca (2015)**

Curators, Editors and Committees 2021

Curators

Fish, Shells & General Zoology	Oliver Crimmen (2017)
Insects	Suzanne Ryder (2017)
Plants	Dr Mark A. Spencer (2013)
Artefacts	Glenn Benson (2014)

Editors

Biological Journal	Professor John A. Allen (1997)
Botanical Journal	Professor Mike Fay (2008)
Zoological Journal	Dr Maarten Christenhusz (2018)
Evolutionary Journal	Dr Steven Dodsworth (2020)
Synopses Series	Dr John Crothers (1991) & Dr Peter J. Hayward (2002)
The Linnean	Gina Douglas (2013)
PuLSe	Leonie Berwick (2009)

Committee Chairpersons

Editorial	The Editorial Secretary (e.o.)
Finance	The Treasurer (e.o.)
Collections	The Collections Secretary (e.o.)
Programmes	One of the Scientific Secretaries (e.o.)
Education & Public Engagement	One of the Scientific Secretaries (e.o.)
Nominations & Awards	The President (e.o.)
Linnean Future	A member of Council (e.o.)

The CEO as well as the Officers are currently ex officio members of all Committees.

Committee Membership

Editorial Committee

The Editorial Secretary (e.o.)

The Editors (e.o.)

Representatives from the publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP)

Dr Rebecca A. Farley-Brown (2001)

Finance Committee

The Treasurer (e.o.)

Head of Finance (e.o.)

Mr Giles Coode-Adams (2001)

Dr Charlotte Grezo (2020)

Mr Edward Hoare (1998)

Professor Gren Lucas OBE HonFLS (1995)

Collections Committee

The Collections Secretary (e.o.)

The Curators (e.o.)

Collections staff, and Education staff (e.o.)

Gillian Furlong (2006 – resigned 2022)

Susan Gove (2001)

Andrea Hart (2015)

Dr D.J. Nicholas Hind (1995)

Tom Kennett (2017 – resigned 2021)

Debbie Lane (2020)

Dr Richard Preece (2017 – resigned 2022)

Chris Saunders (2021)

Dr Anke Timmermann (2019 – resigned 2021)

Dr Mark Watson (2016)

Programmes Committee

Scientific Secretary, Prof Alan Hildrew

Events & Communications Manager (e.o.)

Education Manager (e.o.)

Head of Collections (e.o.)

Professor Jeff Duckett (2018)

Dr Michelle Jackson (2021)

Dr Leanne Melbourne (2020)

Education & Public Engagement Committee

Scientific Secretary, Professor Simon Hiscock (Chair)

Education staff, and Collections staff (e.o.)

Lyn Baber (2018)

Charlotte Coales (2019)

Michael Holland (2020)

Susie Kelpie (2019)

Geoff Lockwood (2013)

Dr Jonathan Mitchley (2020)

Professor Dawn Sanders (2019)

Dr Jane Taylor (2013)

Linnean Future: the Planetary Emergency Response Committee (expansion of the Taxonomy & Systematics Committee)

Dr Charlotte Grezo, Chair (2021)

Events & Communications Manager (e.o.)

Head of Operations (e.o.)

Dr Andy Purvis

Dr John Box

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The full financial accounts were prepared to conform to the Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP – FRS 102) and are presented after the report of the External Auditors.

2021 was another positive year for the Society's finances, notwithstanding the ongoing impact of the pandemic. Our income before donations and legacies was marginally up on 2020 to £2,097,114 (2020: £2,059,933). Donations and legacies added a further £403,430 (2020: £244,981), taking the total income to £2,500,544 (2020: £2,304,914). Expenditure was also up marginally on 2020 to £1,583,441 (2020: £1,546,936), but once again some projects had to be postponed and other activities curtailed due to COVID-19, which meant that, like last year, we have generated a much higher surplus than normal.

Overall, our surplus of income over expenditure in 2021 was £917,103 (2020: £757,978). This was enhanced by a gain on investments of £442,962 (2020: £71,563) due to the strong performance of our portfolio during the year. We have therefore been able to increase our unrestricted funds to £6,382,976 (2020: £5,222,995). We continue to try to balance the active use of our funds for charitable purposes with ensuring a sustainable financial position given the significant future challenges and uncertainties we face, particularly in relation to the lease for Burlington House.

INCOME

Publications and Royalties

As usual, the overwhelming majority of our income came from our scientific research journals. Total income from publications increased by 1.5% in 2021 to £1,834,095 (2020: £1,807,830). After deducting production, distribution and editorial costs payable by the Society, the net contribution of our journals was £1,454,964, an increase of 3.2% on 2020 (£1,410,480). Oxford University Press again contributed an additional £150,000 in 2021 to cover transitional costs. This is the last year in which we will receive this transitional payment.

For our main journals, the Society continues a policy of hybrid publication, enabling those authors who wish to or are required to publish Open Access (OA) to do so, while maintaining a default policy of not economically disenfranchising those authors with no or low funding by not levying page charges. As the primary source of income, the Society, along with our publisher, keeps a close eye on the worldwide changing policies of Open Access and in 2022 we will begin publishing our first online-only fully OA journal, the *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society.*

The Society extends thanks and appreciation to the Editors, Professor John Allen, for the *Biological Journal*, Professor Mike Fay for the *Botanical Journal* and Dr Maarten Christenhusz for the *Zoological Journal*. Led by Professor Mark Chase FRS, the Editorial Secretary, and supported by their editorial offices and reviewers, the Editors work tirelessly to maintain the quality of the Society's journals.

Membership Contributions

The membership of the Society now stands at 3,145, compared with 3,014 at the end of 2020. This includes all fee and non-fee paying members. Of this number, there are 2,801 paying Fellows (2020: 2,636), 133 Associates (2020: 91) and 240 students (2019: 172). Membership contributions increased to £154,753 (2020: £149,557). Our new CRM system has enabled us to improve our data, provide better ways for our members to engage with the Society and has also helped to make the collection of annual fees more efficient.

Donations and Legacies
Grants, donations and legacies play an important role in sustaining our charitable activities and we are most grateful to all those funders and donors who have supported the Society during the year. In particular, we received generous bequests from the estates of Mr John Barker of £218,818, Mr Robert Desmond Meikle of £55,510 and Mrs Gertrude Marsh-Looi of £50,000. The AdoptLINN Programme received £7,580 to support the conservation of books and other important items in our collections.

Investments
During the year, we have continued to implement the ethical investment policy that we adopted in 2020. We have been working with our investment advisers, Tilney, to develop measuring tools to assess its impact. This is a complex area, but we are committed to ensuring that our investments are ethically, environmentally and socially responsible as well as generating an acceptable return for the Society. Our aim is to enhance the value of both capital and income on a long-term sustainable basis. Investments are of a prudent nature, with a moderate level of risk, and we try to avoid more speculative investments.

During the year, we decided to allocate some of our existing cash holdings to Tilney for investment, particularly in view of the potential for higher levels of inflation to affect the real value of our cash. At the end of the year, the market value of our investments stood at £5,121,489 (2020: £4,034,297). The increase over 2020 was attributable to gains on investments of £442,962 in the year, with the balance being due to transfers of cash to Tilney for investment.

Other income
As in 2020, income from room hire, catering and other activities was inevitably significantly reduced by the necessity to close Burlington House to visitors for extensive periods. Nevertheless, income from these sources was generally above 2020 levels, as restrictions eased during the year, and amounted to £24,092 (2020: £16,176). We are hopeful that the worst of the pandemic is now behind us and we look forward to a steady recovery in this income stream in 2022. We also received a payment from our insurers of £26,726 towards the costs of repair of books damaged by the serious water leak in June.

EXPENDITURE

Once again, over 99% of the Society's expenditure was used to further our charitable objectives in 2021, with only £23,586 spent on managing investments.

Charitable Activities
Our seven core charitable activities reported in the Accounts are: Education, Publications, Scientific Meetings, Collections, Collections (Curatorial), Collections (Conservation & Digitisation) and Research Sponsorship. Our total expenditure on these charitable activities in 2021 was £1,559,855 (2020: £1,535,493). The work of the Society in safeguarding and promoting our heritage collections, advancing scientific knowledge and understanding, and engaging the public and educational outreach, is set out in detail in the President's and CEO's reports.

We once again contributed £37,698 to the LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund, enabling us to make 34 grants ranging from £500 to £1,500 to support research projects across the globe. Total research sponsorship in 2021 came to £49,797.

We continued our support of the Science Hunters project with Lancaster University to the tune of £16,920 and contributed £23,000 to a mentoring scheme in partnership with Stemettes, a social enterprise which encourages girls and young women aged 5–25 to pursue careers in Science,

Technology, Engineering and Maths. We continued to fund 'Our Local Nature', to support youth-led projects that aim to increase access to local natural spaces and encourage a deeper appreciation and understanding of nature.

Expenditure on staff salaries, National Insurance and pensions increased significantly during the year to £705,178 (2020: £617,042), reflecting new recruits that have joined during the year and cost of living increases for all staff. During the year we welcomed Gail Cardew as our CEO and Cathy Youthed as our Governance Manager, both of which were new positions created during the year, as well as Alex Milne as maternity cover for our Archivist Liz M^{c}Gow. The average number of employees in 2021 was 21 versus 19 in 2020.

Rent, and other charges by our Landlord, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, amounted to £200,167 (2020: £201,961). Significant uncertainty remains over future rental costs with no resolution of the ongoing dialogue.

As in 2020, a lot of planned maintenance expenditure was deferred and will be incurred in subsequent years.

FUNDS

The Society's reserves are split between Permanent Endowments (£858,814), Restricted Funds (£2,453,960, including heritage assets of £1,500,000 that cannot be monetised) and Unrestricted Funds of £6,382,976. Within Unrestricted Funds, the Society holds designated reserves to reflect funds to be spent on fixed assets and earmarked for planned future expenditure. £2,787,868 (2020: £1,981,271) of the Unrestricted Funds has been set aside in Designated Funds to cover this future expenditure, including that associated with the lease, and other financial liabilities.

Designated Funds

The Mortgage Liability Fund stands at £220,353. The Collections Fund stands at £20,000. The Development Fund stands at £200,000. With the uncertainty over the affordability to the Society of the rent for New Burlington House in the medium term, the Building Fund was set up in 2017 to cover the financial risks and liabilities associated with finding and moving to alternative premises if required. The balance of this fund now stands at £1.5M. The need to set aside money to address the long term situation at Burlington House provides a brake on our ability to deploy funds for other charitable activities. The Legal Fund stands at £100,000 to cover the costs of renegotiating the lease on New Burlington House if a satisfactory agreement can be reached with our landlord.

Reserves Policy

The Society's General Reserve is held to enable the Society to continue to operate effectively in the event that income is unexpectedly reduced. The General Reserve is also held to provide funding for projects which have not attracted external funding. The Trustees consider that a minimum of six months of operational expenditure should be held in the General Reserve with a minimum of approximately £1M. The General Reserve Fund now stands at £3,595,108 (2020: £3,241,724). The Trustees consider the current balance reasonable in the context of budgeted costs and uncertainty over continued occupation of Burlington House.

OUTLOOK

The Society had a strong year financially in 2021, but it was in many ways an exceptional year and there are significant challenges ahead. Our publication income will fall in 2022, as we received the last

of the £150,000 annual transition payments from our publishers, Oxford University Press, in 2021. Our charitable activities will, we hope, revert to more normal levels following the removal of COVID-related restrictions which will result in increased expenditure in some areas. Our employment costs will rise as new recruits join (including the new Head of Engagement) and we reflect market forces in our compensation levels. We will also have the start-up costs associated with the OA journal, the *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society*. Inflation in fuel bills and elsewhere will add to our costs and we continue to discuss the ever-increasing rental and other charges associated with Burlington House with the Government. As a result, we do not expect to generate a significant surplus in 2022.

AUDITORS

During the year, we conducted a tender process for our auditors. We received high quality tenders from a range of candidates and were pleased to re-appoint Knox Cropper, who continue to provide an appropriate level of challenge and represent value for money.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Trustees of the Society extend their gratitude to all the Officers and Staff for continuing to be so careful in control of expenditure in their areas of responsibility and to thank the volunteers for their much-appreciated contributions. Finally, it is particularly appropriate to once again thank the Head of Finance, Priya Nithianandan, for his careful and constant oversight of all the Society's financial activities.

Edward Banks, Treasurer

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees regularly review the Risk Register, which summarises the major strategic, business and operational risks which the Society faces and have implemented appropriate systems and procedures to mitigate these risks. The Society also has a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and a Disaster Plan, which were developed to enable the Society to continue normal operations in the event of a serious disruptive incident. The BCP is also regularly reviewed and updated as needed.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the surplus or deficit of the Society for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Responsibilities of the Treasurer

Fellows of the Society have, through the Society's Bye Laws (BL) accepted at a General Meeting of the Society held on 15 February 1990 and published in July 1991, agreed (BL Section 12) that "the Treasurer (of the Society) shall require the keeping of detailed accounts of all receipts and payments (BL 12.1), shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the Society and shall advise the Officers and Council both of the long term trends and matters of the moment concerning financial strategy. Taking advice from the Finance Committee and Professional advisers, when appropriate, the Treasurer shall act in the name of the Society on matters of investment (BL 12.3)".

Audit Arrangements

"A firm of chartered accountants shall be appointed by the Fellows at the Anniversary Meeting as Auditors for the following year (BL 12.5). Prior to their presentation to the Anniversary Meeting, the Annual Statement of Accounts and the report of the Professional auditors shall be examined by an Audit Review Committee of Fellows. This Committee, to be elected annually, shall consist of three members of Council (including the President or a Vice-President), and two Fellows who are not members of Council who shall be elected at a General Meeting. The Committee shall report to Council and Fellows at the Anniversary Meeting (BL 12.6)".

Messrs. Knox Cropper have expressed their willingness to be re-appointed as auditors.

These accounts were approved by Council on 24 March 2022 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Edward Bauks
_____ Treasurer

Saudy Knapp
_____ President

Document Ref: EYCLC-5DE5B-EGBTH-BUNPB

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have audited the financial statements of The Linnean Society for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND AUDITORS

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 33, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The Charity is required to comply with the charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charity complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities . This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees and members, as a body, in accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under Section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we may state to the Trustees and members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Trustees and members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Knox Cropper LLP

Knox Cropper LLP, Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Date: 24 March 2022

Knox Cropper is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments From:						
Donations and Legacies	2	352,470	50,960	-	403,430	244,981
Charitable Activities						
Members' Contributions		154,753	-	-	154,753	149,557
Publications	3	1,834,095	-	-	1,834,095	1,807,830
Scientific Meetings		5,195	-	-	5,195	1,418
Library		8,285	-	-	8,285	6,055
Other Trading Activities	4	10,612	-	-	10,612	8,703
Investments		55,701	28,473	-	84,174	86,370
Total Income and Endowments		2,421,111	79,433	-	2,500,544	2,304,914
Expenditure On:						
Raising Funds						
Investment Management Costs		16,136	7,450	-	23,586	11,443
Charitable Activities	6					
Education		272,710	-	-	272,710	242,684
Publications		406,910	-	-	406,910	419,258
Scientific Meetings		192,799	-	-	192,799	188,646
Collections		317,810	-	-	317,810	304,117
Collections: (Curatorial)		151,640	-	-	151,640	156,157
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)		141,671	-	-	141,671	148,001
Research Sponsorship		64,498	11,817	-	76,315	76,630
Total Expenditure		1,564,174	19,267	-	1,583,441	1,546,936
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Investment Gains/(Losses)		856,937	60,166	-	917,103	757,978
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments		303,044	63,676	76,242	442,962	71,563
Net Income/(Expenditure)		1,159,981	123,842	76,242	1,360,065	829,541
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		1,159,981	123,842	76,242	1,360,065	829,541
Fund balance brought forward at 31/12/2020		5,222,995	2,330,118	782,572	8,335,685	7,506,144
Fund balance carried forward at 31/12/2021		£6,382,976	£2,453,960	£858,814	£9,695,750	£8,335,685

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Heritage Assets	9		1,566,950		1,561,950
Tangible Fixed Assets	10		717,869		761,271
Investments	11		5,121,489		4,034,297
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	508,505		489,834	
Short Term Deposits		2,995,330		1,631,399	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		647,975		1,807,468	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		4,151,810		3,928,701	
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	13	(1,642,015)		(1,719,906)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			2,509,795		2,208,795
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due After One Year	14		(220,353)		(230,628)
NET ASSETS			£9,695,750		£8,335,685
CAPITAL FUNDS					
Endowments	15		858,814		782,572
INCOME FUNDS					
Restricted	15				
Other		953,960		830,118	
Heritage Fund		1,500,000		1,500,000	
			2,453,960		2,330,118
Unrestricted					
Designated	16	2,787,868		1,981,271	
General	17	3,595,108		3,241,724	
			6,382,976		5,222,995
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			£9,695,750		£8,335,685

These accounts were approved by Council on 24th March 2022 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Edward Banks Treasurer

Saudy Knapp President

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash generated from operations	20	791,082		580,702	
Interest paid		(8,202)		(8,951)	
Net Cash provided by (used in) operating activities			782,880		571,751
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		84,174		86,370	
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		(3,111)		(7,173)	
Purchase of Heritage Asset		(5,000)		-	
Proceeds from sale of investments	11	596,031		303,598	
Purchase of investments	11	(1,240,261)		(362,591)	
Net Cash provided by (used in) investing activities			(568,167)		20,204
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Repayments of Borrowing		(10,275)		(10,433)	
Net Cash provided by (used in) financing activities			(10,275)		(10,433)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			204,438		581,522
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			3,438,867		2,857,345
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			£3,643,305		£3,438,867

Analysis of Net Funds/(Debt)	**1st January 2021**	**Movement**	**31st December 2021**
	£	£	£
Short Term Deposit	1,631,399	1,363,931	2,995,330
Cash in Bank and in Hand	1,807,468	(1,159,493)	647,975
	3,438,867	204,438	3,643,305
Loans	(230,628)	10,275	(220,353)
Net Funds/(Debt)	£3,208,239	£214,713	£3,422,952

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts are prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and in compliance with the Charities Act 2011. The Society is a Public Benefit Entity.

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write each asset down to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life as follows:

Property	50 years
Lift and associated refurbishment work	30 years
Furniture and Fixtures	10 years
Environmental Control	10 years
Office Equipment	3 years

Investments are stated at mid-market value. Gains and losses on disposals and revaluations of fixed asset investments are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities and added to the funds to which they relate.

Investment income is accounted for gross in the year of receipt.

Donations and legacies are accounted for when the Society is unconditionally entitled to receipt. No account is taken of stock held for resale.
Contributions income is stated net of amounts received in respect of future years.

The Society is partially exempt for VAT purposes. Expenditure is stated net of VAT with irrecoverable VAT shown as a separate expense item.

Support costs are allocated to charitable activities on the basis of estimates of staff time spent on those activities and, in relation to accommodation costs, the relative space used by those activities.

Heritage assets donated to the Society are valued by an independent expert at the time of their donation.

Expenditure is accounted for when there is a constructive or contractual liability arising. A provision is made when the amount payable cannot be determined with certainty.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2021 Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Restricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Other Funds for Grants and Awards	8,927	-	9,539
John Marsden Fund	-	485	1,679
PRISM Project grant	-	-	844
Insurance Claim	26,726	-	-
Student Members Donations	-	475	-
Legacies	305,328	50,000	228,552
Other Donations	11,489	-	4,367
	£352,470	£50,960	£244,981

3. PUBLICATIONS

	2021 £	2020 £
Joint Publication Account (Note 5)	1,682,863	1,656,895
Contract Publication Income	150,000	150,000
Other Publication Sales	850	362
Royalties	382	573
	£1,834,095	£1,807,830

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2021 £	2020 £
Room Hire	5,634	6,467
Catering	371	536
Student Research Conference	1,398	227
Other	3,209	1,473
	£10,612	£8,703

5. JOINT PUBLICATION ACCOUNT

	2021			2020		
	Total	Publisher Share	Society Share	Total	Publisher Share	Society Share
	£	£	£	£	£	£
SALES						
Journals	2,243,817			2,209,193		
	2,243,817	560,954	1,682,863	2,209,193	552,298	1,656,895
PUBLICATION COSTS						
Production and Distribution	141,778			174,418		
Editorial				13		
Publishers' Overheads	-			-		
	141,778	35,445	106,333	174,431	43,608	130,823
SURPLUS	2,102,039	525,509	1,576,530	2,034,762	508,690	1,526,072
Other Costs Incurred by Society						
Editorial Costs			(121,566)			(115,592)
			£1,454,964			£1,410,480
SUMMARY						
Society's share of Income – Note 3			1,682,863			1,656,895
Society's share of Joint costs and other directly incurred costs			(227,899)			(246,415)
			£1,454,964			£1,410,480

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activities Undertaken Directly	Grant Funding Activities	Support Costs (Note 8)	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Education					
Education Costs	21,520	-	-	21,520	24,175
Local Nature Grant	6,000	-	-	6,000	5,998
Lancaster University Science Hunter	16,920	-	-	16,920	10,952
Stemettes	23,000	-	-	23,000	-
Science Writers	7,810	-		7,810	-
One Direction Grant	-	-	-	-	844
Support Costs	-	-	197,460	197,460	200,715
Total	75,250	-	197,460	272,710	242,684
Publications					
Joint Publication Account (Note 5)	227,899	-	-	227,899	246,415
The Linnean Newsletter and Pulse	21,024	-	-	21,024	20,984
Support Costs	-	-	157,987	157,987	151,859
	248,923	-	157,987	406,910	419,258
Scientific Meetings					
Expenditure	3,922	-	-	3,922	4,356
Support Costs	-	-	188,877	188,877	184,290
	3,922	-	188,877	192,799	188,646
Collections					
Expenditure	8,899	-	-	8,899	8,503
Cataloguing	579	-	-	579	922
Support Costs			308,332	308,332	294,692
	9,478	-	308,332	317,810	304,117
Collections (Curatorial)					
The Linnaeus Link Project	10,250	-	-	10,250	9,518
Support Costs	-	-	141,390	141,390	146,639
	10,250	-	141,390	151,640	156,157
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)					
Hosting of images	30,980	-	-	30,980	36,413
Insurance damage	5,715	-	-	5,715	-
Support Costs	-	-	104,976	104,976	111,588
	36,695	-	104,976	141,671	148,001
Research Sponsorship	-	49,797	26,518	76,315	76,630
Total	£384,518	£49,797	£1,125,540	£1,559,855	£1,535,493

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

The grants set out above include grants made to individuals. In total, grants were paid to 34 individuals (2020: 37) during the year.

7. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Expenses of Officers and Council	-	3,341
Audit Fee	5,900	5,700
Legal and Professional Fees	13,555	26,810
Staff and Other Related Costs	44,976	26,092
	£64,431	£61,943

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Education	Publications	Scientific Meetings	Library	Collections Curatorial	Collections Conservation & Digitisation	Research Sponsorship	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries and Wages	163,556	97,293	97,472	140,905	79,345	74,729	16,082	669,382	598,883
Premises Costs	12,730	4,627	5,501	7,308	1,707	5,083	-	36,956	108,233
Repairs and Maintenance	9,916	5,289	10,577	10,577	15,069	15,069	-	66,497	85,411
Office Costs	-	3,346	5,257	10,754	2,868	239	716	23,180	15,363
Other Costs (depreciation, rent provision)	-	38,424	59,299	121,207	34,340	3,871	8,208	265,349	241,150
Governance Costs	11,258	9,008	10,771	17,581	8,061	5,985	1,512	64,176	61,943
	£197,460	£157,987	£188,877	£308,332	£141,390	£104,976	£26,518	1,125,540	£1,110,983
2020	£200,715	£151,859	£184,290	£294,692	£146,639	£111,588	£21,200	£1,110,983	

SALARY COSTS

	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£
Gross Salary	582,678	519,738
Employers National Insurance	69,663	52,350
Employers Pension Contribution	52,837	44,954
	705,178	£617,042
Charged direct to projects	-	-
Charged to support costs	669,382	598,883
Charged to Governance	35,796	18,159
	£705,178	£617,042

The average number of employees was 21 (2020: 19).

One employee earned more than £60,000. The total emoluments of the senior management team amounted to £210,428 (2020: £161,647).

Council and Committee members provide their services gratis and receive only out of pocket expenses.

No Travel and subsistence expenses were claimed for by Officers and Council and Committee members in 2021 (2020: 7) amounting in total to £0 (2020: £3,341).

Redundancy costs in 2021 were £10,895 (2020: £0).

9. HERITAGE ASSETS

Heritage assets acquired since 2010			2021
			£
COST			
At 1st January 2021 made up of			
Darwin's Books		1,500,000	
Nepal Maps		21,000	
Smith Diaries		5,000	
Opie Paintings		25,000	
The Transylvania Florilegium	Vol 1	5,475	
The Transylvania Florilegium	Vol 2	5,475	1,561,950
Addition 2021			
Tyley Drawing			5,000
At 31st December 2021			1,566,950
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st January 2020			-
Charge for the Year			-
At 31st December 2021			-
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st December 2020			£1,561,950
At 31st December 2021			£1,566,950

In 2015, the Society received from the Charles Darwin Trust a gift of Darwinian and Wallacean material which contained many key works, manuscripts and letters which has been valued at £1.5m. In accordance with FRS 102, donated heritage assets have been included at valuation.

The Society also holds a large number of scientific and historic assets which cannot easily be valued and which will not be sold because the maintenance is part of the primary objective of the Society. As a result, these heritage assets are not included in the Balance Sheet. These assets comprise:

a. biological specimens	b. books and periodicals	c. manuscripts, including notebooks, letters and artworks	d. portraits and busts

These heritage assets the Society are of primary value, internationally, to the biological sciences, and in terms of cultural value, to the history of science. The main collections of dried plant material, preserved animal specimens, books and manuscripts and correspondence of Carl Linnaeus and Sir James Edward Smith provide the foundation for classification, taxonomy and nomenclature.

All this material is irreplaceable and so it is stored under optimum environmental conditions. The collections themselves are accessible physically by any *bona fide* research worker, accompanied by a curator or appropriate member of staff. The Society, with generous grant funding, has financed the digitisation of this material, and these images are accessible to all, at no charge, through the Society's website.

The Society's Collection Development Policy recommends that any additional material must be in fields relevant to existing material.

The Society's insurance policies cover damage to the fabric of the building and the seek-and-find or repair of the Library's book stock, manuscripts, paintings and busts, but not the plant and animal collections as they are unique and irreplaceable. As such, they are invaluable to research and science but are valueless for insurance purposes.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Lift and Building Works	Air Conditioning	Office Equipment	Other	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST						
At 1st January 2021	518,854	225,752	57,759	178,128	317,297	1,297,790
Additions in Year	-	-	-	3,111	-	3,111
At 31st December 2021	518,854	225,752	57,759	181,239	317,297	1,300,901
DEPRECIATION						
At 1st January 2020	61,628	60,200	57,759	167,850	189,082	536,519
Charge for the Year	7,377	7,525	-	8,587	23,024	46,513
At 31st December 2020	69,005	67,725	57,759	176,437	212,106	583,032
NET BOOK VALUE						
At 31st December 2021	£449,849	£158,027	£-	£4,802	£105,191	£717,869
At 31st December 2020	£457,226	£165,552	£-	£10,278	£128,215	£761,271

11. INVESTMENTS

	2021		2020	
	Book Cost	Market Value	Book Cost	Market Value
	£	£	£	£
UK Fixed Interest	67,356	44,717	67,356	49,385
UK Equities	2,170,950	2,843,342	1,474,458	1,930,407
Overseas Equities	1,236,169	2,233,430	1,178,645	2,054,505
	£3,474,475	£5,121,489	£2,720,459	£4,034,297
Investment Portfolio				
Market Value brought forward		4,034,297		3,903,741
Add: Acquisitions		1,240,261		362,591
Less: Disposals		(596,031)		(303,598)
Realised Gains (Losses) on Disposals		109,685		(71,428)
Gain (Loss) on Revaluation		333,277		142,991
Market Value carried forward		£5,121,489		£4,034,297

Investments are held on a long-term basis to generate investment income for the Society. Realised Gains represent the difference between the sales proceeds and original cost of investments sold during the year. Revaluation gains and losses arise from the revaluation of investments to market value at the year-end.

12. DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Due from Publisher 2021	440,979	389,590
Prepayments	52,549	40,730
Other Debtors	14,977	59,514
	£508,505	£489,834

13. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Contributions received in advance	60,317	59,411
Publishing income received in advance	1,184,657	1,285,550
Rent Provision	22,880	22,880
VAT	225,519	209,729
Deferred Expenditure	16,500	49,433
Other Creditors	132,142	92,903
	1,642,015	£1,719,906

14. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Mortgage on Toynbee Property	220,353	230,628
	£220,353	£230,628

The Toynbee mortgage is payable at 3.56% above base rate over 25 years and is secured on the property.

15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS 2021

	Permanent Endowments				Restricted Funds				
	Balance at 1. 1.21	Endowments Received	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance 31.12.21	Balance at 1.1.21	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended & Transfers	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance at 31.12.21
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Westwood Fund	7,659	-	716	8,375	212	146	(146)	-	212
Trail-Crisp Fund	6,902	-	665	7,567	2,318	171	(65)	178	2,602
Hooker Fund	17,761	-	1,711	19,472	15,211	529	(203)	890	16,427
Goodenough Fund	-	-	-	-	34,054	568	(1,006)	2,791	36,407
Minchin Fund	-	-	-	-	1,544	30	(30)	149	1,693
Jane Jackson Fund	79,816	-	7,688	87,504	-	1,564	(1,564)	-	-
The HH Bloomer Fund	19,028	-	1,796	20,824	5,856	474	(382)	534	6,482
P. Applevard Fund	80,224	-	7,555	87,779	15,545	1,687	(646)	742	17,328
Dennis Stanfield Memorial Fund	46,321	-	4,417	50,738	2,987	938	(360)	196	3,761
Omer Cooper Fund	-	-	-	-	73,080	1,185	(1,185)	5,826	78,906
Bonhote Fund	32,305	-	2,968	35,273	1,123	609	(609)	27	1,150
Jill Smythies Prize Fund	53,581	-	5,161	58,742	813	1,049	(402)	-	1,460
Irene Manton Prize Fund	66,630	-	6,418	73,048	10,051	1,450	(1,556)	712	10,657
A.G. Side Fund	-	-	-	-	68,916	1,185	(1,185)	5,825	74,741
Jan Gillett Fund	-	-	-	-	9,551	145	(56)	713	10,353
Denis Owen Fund	-	-	-	-	2,218	-	-	-	2,218
Ivy Eleanor Sleep Fund	197,099	-	18,985	216,084	135,191	6,033	(5,313)	10,684	146,595
Trewavas/Greenwood Fund	-	-	-	-	37,196	614	(235)	3,018	40,593
Eleanor McMillan Fund	-	-	-	-	201,956	3,745	(1,435)	18,414	222,680
Zimmerman Fund	175,246	-	18,162	193,408	35,855	3,712	(1,423)	-	38,144
John Marsden Fund	-	-		-	30,652	1,025	(1,256)	2,655	33,076
The John Topp Fund	-	-		-	145,789	2,099	(210)	10,322	158,000
Gertrude Marsh-Looi Fund						50,000	-	-	50,000
	£782,572	£-	£76,242	£858,814	£830,118	78,958	£(19,267)	£63,676	953,485
PROJECT FUNDS									
Student Membership Fund	-	-	-	-		475		-	475
	£-	£-	£-	£-	£-	£475	£-	£-	£475
HERITAGE ASSET									
Charles Darwin Trust	-	-	-	-	£1,500,000	-	-	-	£1,500,000
TOTAL	£782,572	£-	£76,242	£858,814	£2,330,118	£79,433	£(19,267)	£63,676	£2,453,960

15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS 2020

	Permanent Endowments				Restricted Funds				
	Balance at 1. 1.20	Endowments Received	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance 31.12.20	Balance at 1.1.20	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended & Transfers	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance at 31.12.20
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Westwood Fund	7,526	-	133	7,659	212	150	(150)	-	212
Trail-Crisp Fund	6,779	-	123	6,902	2,151	176	(42)	33	2,318
Hooker Fund	17,444	-	317	17,761	14,633	545	(132)	165	15,211
Goodenough Fund	-	-	-	-	34,104	584	(1,152)	518	34,054
Minchin Fund	-	-	-	-	1,516	31	(31)	28	1,544
Jane Jackson Fund	78,390	-	1,426	79,816	-	1,610	(1,610)	-	-
The HH Bloomer Fund	18,695	-	333	19,028	5,587	488	(318)	99	5,856
P. Appleyard Fund	78,822	-	1,402	80,224	16,091	1,737	(2,421)	138	15,545
Dennis Stanfield Memorial Fund	45,502	-	819	46,321	4,219	966	(2,234)	36	2,987
Omer Cooper Fund	-	-	-	-	71,999	1,220	(1,220)	1,081	73,080
Bonhote Fund	31,754	-	551	32,305	1,118	627	(627)	5	1,123
Jill Smythies Prize Fund	52,623	-	958	53,581	932	1,143	(1,262)	-	813
Irene Manton Prize Fund	65,439	-	1,191	66,630	9,787	1,493	(1,361)	132	10,051
A.G. Side Fund	-	-	-	-	67,835	1,219	(1,219)	1,081	68,916
Jan Gillett Fund	-	-	-	-	9,306	149	(36)	132	9,551
Denis Owen Fund	-	-	-	-	2,218	-	-	-	2,218
Ivy Eleanor Sleep Fund	193,577	-	3,522	197,099	131,500	6,211	(4,502)	1,982	135,191
Trewavas/Greenwood Fund	-	-	-	-	36,157	632	(153)	560	37,196
Eleanor McMillan Fund	-	-	-	-	195,617	3,855	(932)	3,416	201,956
Zimmerman Fund	171,876	-	3,370	175,246	32,762	4,032	(939)	-	35,855
John Marsden Fund	-	-	-	-	30,108	2,172	(2,121)	493	30,652
The John Topp Fund	-	-	-	-	142,235	2,161	(522)	1,915	145,789
	£768,427	£-	£14,145	£782,572	£810,087	£31,201	£(22,984)	£11,814	£830,118
PROJECT FUNDS									
One Direction Projection	-	-	-	-	844	-	(844)	-	-
	£-	£-	£-	£-	£.844	-	£(844)	-	-
HERITAGE ASSET									
Charles Darwin Trust	-	-	-	-	£1,500,000	-	-	-	£1,500,000
TOTAL	£768,427	£-	£14,145	£782,572	£2,310,931	£31,201	£(23,828)	£11,814	£2,330,118

15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS (CONTINUED)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Permanent Endowments represent capital funds where only the income arising may be spent. Unspent income balances are disclosed as separate restricted funds, available to be spent in the future, although, from time to time, unspent balances may be added to capital.

Restricted funds may only be spent for the purpose prescribed by the donor.

16. DESIGNATED FUNDS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Mortgage Liability	220,353	230,628
Collections Fund	20,000	20,000
Development Fund	200,000	200,000
Fixed Asset Fund	497,515	530,643
Legal Costs Fund	100,000	100,000
Building Fund	1,750,000	900,000
	£2,787,868	£1,981,271

A Fixed Asset Fund has been set up as a separate designated reserve from 2013 to represent the extent to which the Society's general reserve has been utilised to acquire fixed assets. This ensures that the balance on the general reserve gives a better indication of the funds available to the Society. Other Designated Funds have been established to reflect potential future costs and liabilities of the Society. With the uncertainty over the affordability to the Society of the rent for New Burlington House in the medium term, the Building Fund was set up in 2017 to cover the financial risks and liabilities associated with finding and moving to alternative premises if required. The balance of this fund now stands at £1.75M.

17. GENERAL RESERVE

	2021	2020
	£	£
Balance 1st January	3,241,724	2,654,248
Net Movement in funds for the year	1,159,981	796,209
Transfer from Designated Funds	43,403	-
Transfer (to) Designated Funds	(850,000)	(208,733)
Transfer from Restricted Funds	-	-
Balance at 31st December	£3,595,108	£3,241,724

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2021

	Investments	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment and Restricted Funds	1,750,122	1,500,000	62,652	-	3,312,774
Unrestricted Funds	3,371,367	784,819	4,089,158	(1,862,368)	6,382,976
	£5,121,489	£2,284,819	£4,151,810	£(1,862,368)	£9,695,750

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2020

	Investments	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment and Restricted Funds	1,493,816	1,500,000	118,874	-	3,112,690
Unrestricted Funds	2,540,481	823,221	3,809,827	(1,950,534)	5,222,995
	£4,034,297	£2,323,221	£3,928,701	£(1,950,534)	£8,335,685

19. PREMISES

The Society has a long term (80 year) lease on its New Burlington House premises which was negotiated in 2005 with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, now administered by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The annual rent is based on Government accounting methodology involving annual valuations. Negotiations are continuing with DLUHC with the aim of acquiring an affordable and sustainable updated lease.

20. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period	1,360,065	829,541
Adjustments for:		
Interest paid	8,202	8,951
Depreciation	46,513	48,440
(Gains)/Losses on investments	(442,962)	(71,563)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(84,174)	(86,370)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(18,671)	(70,238)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(77,891)	(78,059)
	£791,082	£580,702

21. RELATED PARTY DECLARATIONS

There were no transactions with related parties during the year.

22. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2020 Total £
Income and Endowments From:					
Donations and Legacies	2	243,302	1,679	-	244,981
Charitable Activities					
Members' Contributions		149,557	-	-	149,557
Publications	3	1,807,830	-	-	1,807,830
Scientific Meetings		1,418	-	-	1,418
Library		6,055	-	-	6,055
Other Trading Activities	4	8,703	-	-	8,703
Investments		56,848	29,522	-	86,370
Total Income and Endowments		2,273,713	31,201	-	2,304,914
Expenditure On:					
Raising Funds					
Investment Management Costs		7,292	4,151	-	11,443
Charitable Activities	6				
Education		241,840	844	-	242,684
Publications		419,258	-	-	419,258
Scientific Meetings		188,646	-	-	188,646
Library		304,117	-	-	304,117
Collections: (Curatorial)		156,157	-	-	156,157
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)		148,001	-	-	148,001
Research Sponsorship		57,797	18,833	-	76,630
Total Expenditure		1,523,108	23,828	-	1,546,936
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Investment Gains/(Losses)		750,605	7,373	-	757,978
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments		45,604	11,814	14,145	71,563
Net Income/(Expenditure)		796,209	19,187	14,145	829,541
Transfers		-	-	-	-
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		796,209	19,187	14,145	829,541
Fund balance brought forward at 31/12/2019		4,426,786	2,310,931	768,427	7,506,144
Fund balance carried forward at 31/12/2020		£5,222,995	£2,330,118	£782,572	£8,335,685

Appendix: Full Listing of the Linnean Society's Meetings, Events and Workshops 2021

20 January 2021 Lunchtime Lecture	**Exploring the Future of Botanical Image Making** Laurence Hill, Botanical Photographer and Artist
21 January 2021 Evening Meeting	**Climbing Slippery Surfaces: The Biomechanics of Insect-Plant Interactions** Dr Walter Federle, University of Cambridge
10 February 2021 Lunchtime Lecture	**Citizen Science for Natural History and Conservation in India** Suhel Quader, Nature Conservation Foundation
18 February 2021 Evening Meeting	**Climate Change and Marine Turtles** Dr Annette Broderick, University of Exeter
25 February 2021 Nature Reader	**JBS Haldane: The Last Man who Knew all there was to be known** Samanth Subramanian, Journalist and author
3 March 2021 Special Event	**Linnean Future Launch Event** Linnean Future Committee
4 March 2021 Evening Meeting	**Snake Venoms in Attack and Defence** Dr Wolfgang Wüster, Bangor University
12 March 2021 Day Meeting	**Linnaeus, Race and Sex** Organised by Stella Sandford and Isabelle Charmantier
18 March 2021 Lunchtime Lecture	**Encounters at a Regional Botanical Reintroduction Programme** Joshua Styles, Botanist
1 April 2021 Evening Meeting	**Movements and habits of plants and axons: A unified theory of tropism and taxis** Professor Alain Goriely, University of Oxford
13 April 2021 Special Event	**Plant Blindness: How to Put Plants Back in the Picture** Dawn Sanders, Geetanjali Sachdev, Sven Batke, Sophie Leguil
14 April 2021 Lunchtime Lecture	**Why the World Should be Harnessing the Predatory Power of Wasps** Professor Seirian Sumner, UCL

22 April 2021 Nature Reader	**Around the World in 80 Plants** Jon Drori, Conservationist/writer
5 May 2021 Lunchtime Lecture	**What were Mesozoic Mammals Eating?** Dr Nuria Melisa Morales-García, University of Bristol
13 May 2021 Evening Meeting	**Herbaria: Collectively Saving Plant and Fungal Biodiversity** Dr Barbara Thiers, New York Botanical Garden
16 June 2021 Lunchtime Lecture	**Corfu Butterfly Conservation** Dr Dan Danahar, Biodiversity Educationist
21 June 2021 Insect Week Special	**Put a Pin in it: Exploring the Insect Collections of Linnaeus and Smith** Sue Ryder, Natural History Museum, London
22 June 2021 Insect Week Special	**Forensic Entomology: Insect Deputies can Solve Crimes** Dr Mark Benecke, Forensic Biologist
22 June 2021 Insect Week Special	**Gardens: A Vital Refuge for Pollinators** Nick Tew, University of Bristol
23 June 2021 Insect Week Special	**'We the Tormentors': Death, Emotions, and Gender in Entomology** Joanne Green, Univeristy of Cambridge
24 June 2021 Insect Week Special	**Fly on the Ceiling: How Insects can Inspire Technology** Professor Stanislav Gorb, Univeristy of Kiel
28–29 June 2021 Day Meeting	**Evolution 'On Purpose': Teleonomy in Living Systems** Peter Corning and Dick Vane-Wright
8 July 2021 Evening Meeting	**The Return of Nature** Isabella Tree, Conservationist and Author
14 July 2021 Lunchtime Lecture	**Borderlands: Road Verges as Highways for Wildlife** Dr Phil Sterling, Butterfly Conservation

15 July 2021 Nature Reader	**The Wardian Case: A Simple Box that Moved Plants and Changed the World** Luke Keogh, Curator and Historian
20 July 2021 Linnean Lens	**Linnean Lens: Carl Linnaeus's student manuscript** Dr Isabelle Charmantier
4 August 2021 Lunchtime Lecture	**New and Emerging Threats to Plant and Tree Health in the UK** Professor Nicola Spence, Chief Plant Health Officer, DEFRA
24 August 2021 Linnean Lens	**Linnean Lens: Anna Atkins's Cyanotype Impressions** Will Beharrell
2 September 2021 Evening Meeting	**Richard Spruce on the Rio Negro: Reanimating Biocultural Collections** Luciana Martins, Mark Nesbitt and William Milliken
8 September 2021 Lunchtime Lecture	**Niche Partition without Speciation: Web Polymorphism on an Island Spider** Darko Cotoras, California Academy of Sciences
21 September 2021 Linnean Lens	**Linnean Lens: *Ortus Sanitatis* (1491)** Dr Isabelle Charmantier
23 September 2021 Evening Meeting	**The Global Heritage of British Natural History** Professor Pratik Chakrabarti, University of Manchester
24 September 2021 Day Meeting	**Natural History and Visual Art from the Margins** Organised by Julie Kim and Isabelle Charmantier
7 October 2021 Nature Reader	**Nature & The Psyche: Why Our Minds Need the Wild** Lucy Jones (Writer) and Dr Mark Spencer
14 October 2021 Science Policy Lecture	**The Role of Science in Government** Professor Ian Boyd, University of St Andrews
11 November 2021 Evening Meeting	**Unmaking the Ocean: A Law of the Sea for the Anthropocene** Dr Surabhi Ranganathan, University of Cambridge

18 November 2021 Nature Reader	**Taming Fruit: From Fruit Forests and Oases to Orchards** Bernd Brunner, Writer
23 November 2021 Linnean Lens	**Linnean Lens: Carl Linnaeus's *Species Plantarum* and Naming Nature** Dr Mark Spencer, Botanist
24 November 2021 Lunchtime Lecture	**The Journey of a Golden Fish in a Mystical Land** Dr Julie Claussen, Fisheries Conservation Foundation
9 December 2021 Christmas Lecture	**Entangled Life: How Fungi Change our Minds and Shape our Futures** Dr Merlin Sheldrake, Biologist and Writer
14 December 2021 Linnean Lens	**Paintings of Indian Birds: the Shortt Collection** Dr Henry Noltie, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

England & Wales - Charity number 220509

Accounts

The Linnean Society of London

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the Year Ended

31st December 2020

Charity No. 220509

Company No. RC000313

(Royal Charter Company)

Document Ref: WVZ8Z-U8WRH-DEDDT-NBQRZ

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1. LEGAL STATUS

The Linnean Society was founded in 1788, received a Royal Charter in 1802 and Additional Charters in 1904 and 2005. The Society is a registered charity, No. 220509.

2. ADDRESS

The Linnean Society of London
New Burlington House
Piccadilly
London, W1J 0BF

3. PRINCIPAL ADVISERS

Bankers:	Barclays Bank Plc PO Box 13555 Acorn House 36-38 Park Royal Road London, NW10 7WJ
Auditors:	Knox Cropper LLP 65 Leadenhall Street London, EC3A 2AD
Investment Managers:	Tilney Asset Management Services Ltd 17th Floor 6 New Street Square New Fetter Lane London, EC4A 3BF

4. PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS	YEAR OF APPOINTMENT
Dr Sandra Knapp	President (2018)
Dr Mark Watson	Treasurer (May 2019 - May 2020)
Edward Banks	Treasurer (from 24th May 2020)
Professor Simon Hiscock	Scientific Secretary (2013)
Dr Malcolm Scoble	Scientific Secretary (2009 – May 2020)
Professor Alan Hildrew	Scientific Secretary (from 24th May 2020)
Professor Mark Chase FRS	Editorial Secretary (2012)
Dr John David	Collections Secretary (2012)
Dr Elizabeth Rollinson	Executive Secretary (2011)
Professor Anjali Goswami	Vice President
Dr Olwen Grace	Vice President
Professor Simon Hiscock	Vice President
Professor Max Telford	Vice President

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

TRUSTEES

On 24th May each year (or the nearest working day) the Anniversary Meeting, which all Fellows of the Society are invited to attend, elects a Council of 20 Fellows (including the Officers) to provide strategic direction for the Society.

Following their election to Council, all Trustees are provided with a copy of the Charity Commission's *CC3 – The Essential Trustee: what you need to know*, and *CC20 – Charity Fundraising – a guide to Trustee Duties*, together with a copy of the Linnean Society's Charters and Bye-laws, which sets out the governance of the Society. Council members are carefully briefed on their duties as Trustees of the Society.

The Society undertook an in-depth governance review during 2018/2019. Certain of the recommendations from this Review were approved by Council in October 2019 and are being implemented during 2020 and 2021. The role of Executive Secretary has been removed and a new role of CEO is being created and the role of Financial Controller has been re-defined as Head of Finance.

The elected members of Council are the Trustees of the Charity and, **in addition to the Officers listed above**, those who served during the year are listed below:

	DUE TO RETIRE
Dr Colin Clubbe	Retired 24th May 2020
Mr Kevin Coutinho	24th May 2023 (from 24th May 2020)
Dr Natasha de Vere	24th May 2022
Mr Mathew Frith	24th May 2022
Professor Beverley Glover	Resigned October 2020
Professor Anjali Goswami	24th May 2022
Dr Olwen Grace	24th May 2021
Dr Charlotte Grezo	24th May 2023 (from 24th May 2020)
Professor Paul Henderson	24th May 2021
Professor Alistair Hetherington	24th May 2022
Ms Stephanie Holt	24th May 2021
Dr Blanca Huertas	Retired 24th May 2020
Professor Dame Georgina Mace FRS	Retired 24th May 2020 (deceased 2020)
Mr Angus McCullough	24th May 2023 (from 24th May 2020)
Dr Silvia Pressel	24th May 2021
Ms Elaine Shaughnessy	24th May 2023 (from 24th May 2020)
Professor Max Telford	24th May 2022

ABBREVIATIONS

AGM	Annual General Meeting
BMM	BioMedia Meltdown
BSBI	Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland
COVID-19	Coronavirus
CPD	Continuous Professional Development
DBE	Dame of the British Empire
E&PE	Education & Public Engagement
e.o.	Ex officio
FLS	Fellow of the Linnean Society of London
FMLS	Foreign Member of the Linnean Society of London
FRS	Fellow of the Royal Society
FRS 102	Financial Reporting Standard 102
HonFLS	Fellow *honoris causa*
HonMLS	Honorary Member of the Linnean Society of London
ISAs	International Standards on Auditing
L: 50	L: 50 Objects, Stories and Discoveries from the Linnean Society of London
LSL	Linnean Society of London
MHCLG	Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government
NatSCA	Natural Sciences Collections Association
NBH	New Burlington House
OA	Open Access
OUP	Oxford University Press
PPLS	Past-President of the Linnean Society of London
PRISM	Preservation of Industrial and Scientific Material
SI	Special Issue
SOFA	Statement of Financial Activities
SORP	Statements of Recommended Practice
UCL	University College London
VI	Virtual Issue

ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REVIEW 2020

Well, 2020 was quite a year! I would like to thank all our amazing staff for their agility, resilience and commitment to delivering our charitable objectives by adapting our activities through the several London lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We discovered a lot about what worked and what didn't, all of which will serve us well in this changing world.

We said goodbye to Dr Leanne Melbourne who left the Society in March, and in June welcomed Padma Ghosh as Events and Communications Manager. Our events have been virtual since March, which has brought some benefits! We had more than 200 Fellows from more than 40 countries attending the Anniversary Meeting—including many more in the decision-making processes of electing Council and Officers. Fellows passed a resolution to focus on the threats facing our planet, such as climate change and biodiversity loss, which will allow the new Linnean Future Committee to take this work forward.

The education team pivoted seamlessly to virtual life, with Youth Panels, learning workshops and the BioMedia Meltdown (BMM) competitions and celebratory events moving online. We even had a 20% increase in engagement with BMM during the lockdowns! The lunchtime and evening lecture series continued with much larger audiences than we would have been able to accommodate at Burlington House—a testament to the excellence of the programme.

The tragic events in 2020 that focused attention on inequalities of opportunity for black and minority ethnic people led us to examine our own privilege. It galvanised our intention to improve diversity and inclusion, both in the Society and the field of natural history more generally. A panel discussion in September examined priority actions for the Society, and we launched our first survey of Fellows to assess diversity within our own ranks. We will share the results of this with you over the next year.

Our journals went from strength to strength, and the editorial team, together with our publishers Oxford University Press, are working to launch a new Open Access journal, broadening our base in the rapidly changing publications environment. Last, but not least, the Society launched a landmark book, *L: 50 Objects, Stories & Discoveries from the Linnean Society of London*. With 37 contributors drawn from Fellows and curators of the Society's collections, this richly illustrated book highlights the treasures held in our care; it's a must-have volume! Despite this unusual year, we look forward to the next decade in the knowledge that the Society remains vibrant and resilient in the face of incredible change.

Sandra Knapp, President

AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

The past year saw the staff of the Society cope with the significant challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, closing Burlington House and moving all our events and activities online. Despite this, the activities and achievements have been many and varied, and business as usual has carried on. This is all down to the dedication and commitment of the staff, who are to be hugely congratulated.

RESEARCH & SPONSORSHIP

The Society is redoubling its efforts to support researchers by significantly increasing the amount of funding for research grants, as well offering options for Open Access publishing, while continuing to enhance virtual access to extensive metadata on our internationally recognised collections, library and archives through our online catalogues.

Research Journals

In 2020, our journal publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP), has continued to improve production. We have renewed our contract with them for another five years, after which we will put the contract out to tender. Despite initial concerns relating to the pandemic, issues of all three journals have been produced more or less on schedule. Recent papers from across the journals featured in a joint Virtual Issue (VI) on micro-computed tomography.

Overall, we are pleased to report that resubscription rates are excellent, and income is therefore in line with forecasts. The journals support the hybrid model, whereby Open Access (OA) options are available, although the rate of take-up is low. OUP has signed a number of Read and Publish agreements and participates in many free or highly-reduced access initiatives. As a strategic initiative, we are establishing a new online-only, fully OA journal, *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society*, and have engaged Dr Steven Dodsworth as the founding editor.

The ***Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*** (*BioJLS*, Impact Factor 1.96)**,** edited by Professor John Allen, produced its own VI on Ecomorphology. A paper on the evolution of brain size in primates attracted the most citations and another, on the life-history evolution of geckos on islands, received the most media attention. A comprehensive Special issue (SI) entitled 'OCBIL theory: a new science for old ecosystems' is scheduled to be published by mid-2021, guest edited by Fernando Silveira (Brazil).

The **Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society** (*ZooJLS*), edited by Dr Maarten Christenhusz, published two Special Issues , one based on Tardigrada and another on evolution of Crocodylomorpha. Four papers were published on *Scelidosaurus*, the earliest complete dinosaur, while others addressed Cretaceous beetles found in amber, *Gasteruption* wasps and their hosts, the origins of Afrotropical fishes and olfaction in raptors. A VI on Acoustics and Vocalisation was accompanied by a symphony of sounds composed by Multimedia Content Producer Ross Ziegelmeier based on sounds used in these studies. High impact papers included contributions on aquatic spiders, European earwigs and several on genetics of endangered mammal species. The Impact Factor dropped slightly to 2.824 and the journal ranks 7th out of 168, up three places.

Special issues on grasses and bromeliads and a themed issue on flowers and inflorescences in eudicots were published in the ***Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*** (*BotJLS*), edited by Professor Michael Fay. Other high-profile papers included reviews on pollen diversity and demographics of terrestrial orchids. A VI on the use of herbarium samples in evolutionary botany focused on novel uses for historical collections. The Impact Factor dropped to 2.046, as a result of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group IV (APG IV) paper falling out of the window in which citations are recorded. Upcoming highlights

for 2021 include an important review on crop wild relatives and an SI 'Plant Anatomy: Traditions and Perspectives'.

Scientific Research Sponsorship

Conscious of the importance of better understanding biodiversity through studies on taxonomy/systematics and evolutionary biology, the Society almost doubled the funds it makes available to the LinnéSys Fund (formerly Systematics Research Fund), which the Society co-administers with the Systematics Association, contributing £34,000 and £7,000, respectively. From the 160 eligible applications, we were delighted to award 37 grants ranging from £500 to £1,500 for the 2019/20 LinnéSys round. The research funded encompasses a wide range of plant, fungal and animal groups across global geographies and habitats and increases funding for researchers from non-High Income (as defined by the World Bank) countries as compared to last year (22% - 2019; 35% - 2020). The projects supported were:

Awardee	**Country of residence**	**Title of project**
Pilar Alda	Argentina	The freshwater snails *Galba cubensis/viator* and *Galba cousini/meridensis*: two or four species?
Camilla Alves Souto	United States	Dead clade walking: inferring a time-calibrated phylogeny of the cassiduloid echinoids
Pau Balart	Spain	Illuminating the origin of the most diverse clade of subterranean beetles
Jacob Blokland	Australia	A phylogenetic investigation to inform on the origins of the Rallidae (Aves)
Amrut Bhosale	India	Distribution and taxonomy of the landsnails of the northern Western Ghats, India
Gabriela Bittencourt	United Kingdom	Solving the *Brasilotyphlus* problem
Diana Catarino	Portugal	Resolving taxonomic uncertainties using molecular tools in the deep-sea elasmobranchs of Azorean assemblages
Giovanni Coletti	Italy	Integrated taxonomy of extant and extinct barnacles from the western Mediterranean Sea
Thomas Edison de la Cruz	Philippines	Taxonomy and DNA barcoding of soil and litter-inhabiting myxomycetes from urban green spaces
Alejandra Fabres	Chile	Decoding the evolutionary history of the populations of *Orestias agassii* Valenciennes, 1946 (Cyprinodontidae) of Chile and Bolivia
Rodrigo Faustini	Brazil	A taxonomic riddle called *Lysmata vittata*
Dario Ruben Faustino Fuster	Brazil	Phylogenetic relationship and taxonomic revision of the of Neotropical three-barbeled catfishes *Pariolius* Cope 1872 (Siluriformes: Heptapteridae)
Robert Fernandez Vilert	Spain	Taxonomic assessment of *Spiraphiline* (Gastropoda, Heterobranchia) in Antarctica
Simona Georgieva	Bulgaria	Life-cycles of trematode parasites in Lake Tanganyika: novel insights in taxonomy
Nicholas Gladstone	United States	Phylogenomic Reconstruction of the Ornate Rocksnail (Pleuroceridae: Lithasia)
Danny Haelewaters	United States	Species discovery and improved phylogeny of hyperparasitic fungi on bats

Annemarie Heiduk	South Africa	Corona structures within Ceropegieae (Apocynaceae) – A comparative taxonomic study to unravel shape-pollinator correlations
Daniel F. Marchán	Spain	Missing links in Lumbricidae: Phylogenetic relationships of southern France endemic earthworm genera
Roksana Majewska	South Africa	Sea turtle-associated diatoms from Southern Africa: taxonomy, ecology and biodiversity
Sandra McInnes	United Kingdom	Sub-Antarctic Tardigrades: recent invaders or vicariant survivors?
Musa Mlambo	South Africa	Taxonomic revision of the frehwater amphipods (Paramelitidae and Sternophysingidae).
Juan Benito Moreno	United Kingdom	Obscure North American Ornithurae and the origin of modern birds
Aisha O' Connor	United States	Levantine coralline algal diversity
Eva Paulus	Germany	The secret lives of viperfish – an integrative taxonomic revision of the genus *Chauliodus*
Martina Pavlek	Croatia	Tracing back the origins of Dinaric cave-dwelling Dysderidae spiders
Anna Penna	United States	How many babies in the bush? Systematics of cryptic dwarf bushbabies (*Galagoides*)
Luciana Pereira da Silva	Brazil	Phylogeny, biogeography and diversification patterns of the diverse *Cyperus* s.l. (Cyperaceae)
John Phillips	United States	Evolution, Systematics and Biogeography of South American Land Snails
Lenka Raabová	Slovak Republic	Taxonomy of extremophile cyanobacteria in cooling towers of the Nuclear Power Station Jaslovske Bohunice in Slovakia
Auguste Botovao Ramiandrisoa	Madagascar	Building local knowledge baseline for savanna grasses of north-western Madagascar
Rodrigo Salvador	New Zealand	Untangling the phylogenetic relationships of Cystopeltidae, a newly-identified land snail family
Natalie Saxton	United States	Shedding a Light on *Magnalata* Ballantyne in the South Pacific
Sofia Paz Sedano	Spain	Shedding light on the family Goniodorididae (Mollusca; Nudibranchia) using micro-computed tomography
Silvia Adrián Serrano	Spain	Integrative revision of *Kaemis*, a poorly known edaphic spider genus of uncertain affinities
Riccardo Virgili	Italy	Molecular phylogeny and taxonomic revision of the genus *Dorometra* (Crinoidea)
Brett Wilson	United Kingdom	Resolving the taxonomy of the *Orithyia* subgenus to direct wild tulip conservation
Meghan Yap-Chiongco	United States	Taxonomic Revision of the Genus *Wirenia*: Integrating Modern and Classical Taxonomic Techniques

The Attenborough Award 2020 (for outstanding fieldwork) was awarded to Paola Sáez González, Universidad de Chile, for her project 'Phylogeny of the *Telmatobius marmoratus* species complex, a group of Andean amphibians of extreme heights'. Due to the low oxygen pressure, high solar radiation and evaporation that exists in this ecosystem, these species have adapted to an exclusively aquatic

life, with low vagility, and are interesting from the evolutionary point of view. The project objective was to study the species complex throughout its distribution, so specimens were collected from 46 localities between 13º-19ºS latitude. Results showed the existence of eight lineages: with those in the centre of the plateau and western slopes showing absence of reciprocal monophyly, reflecting a common past history. An unexpected result was that two of the eight lineages do not correspond to the *marmoratus* complex. These lineages are found only in Peru and could be new entities, so species delimitation analyses are now underway. This grant allowed Paola to obtain the sequences for the four genes included in this study.

The Society presented three awards from its designated funds, which are made possible from specific bequests:

Appleyard Fund (to individuals who are not in full-time employment as biologists) to Eve Hills MRes, presently a foster carer, towards the costs of a PhD and conservation project scoping study on what leopards eat, to meet with the partners and visit potential field sites in Kenya—this is a collaboration between Brighton University, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Dr Joseph Ogutu (University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart) and Dr Elena Chelysheva, founder of the Meru Cheetah Project. It is hoped that this work will contribute to resolution of human-wildlife conflict and leopard conservation and leave a legacy of pastoralist engagement with, and stewardship of, leopard populations.

Anne Sleep Award (to young scholars to assist with biological research in the Middle or Far East): to Dr Seyyed Saeed Hosseinian Yousefkhani (Damghan University, Iran) for his project 'Ecological associations among morphology and microhabitat use in lizards of the genus *Darevskia',* to cover costs of 20 days fieldwork and subsequent micro-CT-scan photography, to elucidate questions relating to coevolution of form and function, the relationship between habitat preferences and morphological traits of these lizards.

Dennis Stanfield Memorial Fund (for research on tropical African plants) to Dr Alejandra Pascual-Garrido (University of Oxford), to conduct a pioneering investigation of the mechanical properties of the plants used by wild chimpanzees to manufacture tools to exploit termite mounds in west Tanzania, visiting two ecologically and geographically distinct habitats. This project involves collaboration between experts in biomechanics, botany, and primatology from Universities across different continents (US, UK and Africa), including Dr Frank Mbago of University of Dar es Salaam. This study will also help to highlight the importance of continuing to preserve culturally healthy wild chimpanzee populations, maintaining their ability to access the plants upon which their traditions depend.

Quote from a grant recipient:
I really can't tell you how much receiving this award has lifted my spirits and renewed my hope after what has been a very challenging year for us all.

Increasing Impact & Open Access
Subject to attaining our goal of a sustainable future in our home in New Burlington House, and thus being able better to plan our use of available resources, the Society will strive to allocate even more funds to research grants which will benefit our understanding of biodiversity and the impacts on it of climate change and human activity. Launch of our new fully Open Access journal of evolutionary biology is anticipated in 2021.

OUR FELLOWSHIP

The Society remains committed to enhancing the diversity and engagement of our Fellowship. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented us from engaging in person, we have been pleased

to receive your enthusiastic feedback on our virtual events—we will certainly be ensuring that all future events at NBH are live-streamed, to ensure that all our Fellows are able to be 'in the room'.

Celebrating the Fellowship

We applaud the fact that the contributions of our Fellows are recognised and celebrated by others, including:

Sir David Attenborough HonMLS, was made Knight Grand Cross of the Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George (GCMG) in the Queen's Honours List.

Professor Else Marie Friis FMLS, Emeritus Professor, Department of Palaeobiology, Swedish Museum of Natural History, and Department of Geoscience, University of Aarhus, has been elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society.

Dr Elizabeth Rollinson was granted the Freedom of the City of London in February and is becoming a liveryman in the Worshipful Company of Gardeners. She has also been accepted as an Individual Member of the Parliamentary & Scientific Committee.

Dr Vaughan Southgate DL PPLS was recognised in the Queen's Honours list, receiving an OBE for services to the community in Bedfordshire.

Dr Ray Williams was awarded a DSc by Brunel University for his 50 years of 'amateur' unaffiliated private research in Marine Zoology and Historiography of Biosciences.

Membership Increase

Tatiana Franco, our Room Hire and Membership Assistant, continues to administer membership with meticulous care, with 130 FLS newly-elected (110 paid-up) in 2020, bringing the total number of members to 3,014. There were 30 new Associates in 2020, bringing the total to 91. We are delighted to see increasing numbers of Student Associates, with 59 becoming members in 2020, bringing the total student members to 171. The Fellowship continues to have wide geographic spread around the globe, on all seven continents.

In Remembrance

Sadly, a number of eminent FLS passed away during the year, in particular **Professor Dame Georgina Mace DBE FRS**, whose contributions to the Society as a Fellow and recently as a Trustee were characterised by their integrity, insightfulness and inspiration. **The Right Honourable Lord May of Oxford** (**Professor Sir Robert (Bob) May FRS)**, former President of the Royal Society, was an eminent theoretical ecologist and previous Government Chief Scientific Advisor. **Eve Williams**, born in Guyana, of French and Amerindian ancestry, was initially clerk and then long-term volunteer at the Society, and is remembered for her sharp wit, distinctive laugh and sartorial style. **Ray Desmond MBE** served on the Library Committee of the Linnean Society (1977–97), and was appointed as Librarian at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in 1961. In retirement he became Honorary Archivist of the Linnean Society (1986–96) and was then elected as a Fellow *Honoris causa*. We also lost **Trevor James**, former Editor of BSBI News, dedicated member of the Society's Taxonomy & Systematics Committee and a great proponent for Citizen Science. He was awarded the National Biodiversity Network's Gilbert White Award in 2018.

Raising our Game

We were delighted with the response we had to the membership survey we undertook during late 2020, and the results will be analysed anonymously in early 2021. We hope to gain insight into our membership demographic, what your perceptions of the Society are, and how we can support you more effectively, identifying the aspects of the Society on which we can expand or improve. We are introducing further benefits for members, including discounts on reprographics.

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RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

Through sponsorship and awarding medals, the Society acknowledges and encourages excellence in all aspects of the science of natural history, with particular emphasis on evolution, taxonomy, biodiversity conservation and sustainability.

Categories

The Linnean Medal: For services to science

The Darwin-Wallace Medal: For major advances in evolutionary biology

The Bicentenary Medal: In recognition of the work of a biologist under 40 years of age

The HH Bloomer Award: Awarded to an amateur naturalist for an important contribution to biological knowledge

The Jill Smythies Award: A £1,000 prize to a botanical artist for outstanding diagnostic illustrations

The Irene Manton Prize: A £1,000 prize and work of art for the best doctoral thesis in botany in a UK university

The John C. Marsden Medal: A £1,000 prize for the best doctoral thesis in biology in a UK university

Medal & Award Winners 2020

Linnean Medal in the Field of Botany: Professor Juliet Brodie, Natural History Museum, London

Linnean Medal in the Field of Zoology: Professor Ben Sheldon, University of Oxford

Darwin-Wallace Medal: Professor Spencer Barrett, University of Toronto

Bicentenary Medal: Professor Kayla King, University of Oxford

Irene Manton Prize: Dr James Clark, University of Oxford

John C. Marsden Medal: Dr Patrick Kennedy, University of Bristol

H.H. Bloomer Award: Hans de Blauwe, Belgium

Jill Smythies Award: Alice Tangerini, USA

David Attenborough Fieldwork Award: Dr Veronica Urgiles, University of Central Florida, USA

Medals and Awards are usually presented at the Society's Anniversary Meeting in May, but unfortunately, due the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to celebrate with our winners during 2020. Citations are available on our website.

IMPROVING RESOURCES

2020 was a year of 'behind the scenes' projects. The Collections team, led by Head of Collections Dr Isabelle Charmantier, surmounted the difficulties of working from home (childcare, home schooling, internet issues, lack of access to the collections) to adapt successfully to new ways of working, proactively finding and achieving new projects, while continuing to provide vital services and supporting our Fellows. As a result, more cataloguing and metadata cleaning was done than in any other year.

Archive Updates

With physical access to our collections being restricted in 2020, we have been working hard to improve remote access via our online archive catalogue and Online Collections (www.linnean-online.org). Led by Archivist Liz M^{c}Gow with support from Assistant Archivist Luke Thorne, our archive catalogue has had two major updates, adding many new collections for researchers to explore. These include the correspondence collections of Lady Pleasance Smith (MS/314), Henry Prestoe (MS/320), E.M. Holmes (MS/235) and Nathaniel Winch (MS/321); 21 volumes of drawings of plants by J.R.G. Gwatkin (MS/411); two commonplace books by Peter Collinson (MS/323a-b); papers of the Selborne Society (SS), and The Society for Promoting Natural History (SPNH); amongst many others. Thanks go out to our volunteers: Madeleine Shanks, Callum Hodson, Janette Ames, Judy Thompson and Laura Housden, who worked on some of these projects when onsite working was possible, and to David Pescod HonFLS, who continues to work remotely on our Presents Books using digitised files.

Cleaning our Catalogue

One project that we were able to pursue remotely has been the improvement of our library metadata, and, under the keen eye of Librarian Will Beharrell, 2020 saw nearly 23,000 catalogue records reviewed, revised, or updated. In particular, we have worked to improve the keywords associated with our library book descriptions, through the implementation of uniform Library of Congress Subject Headings. The use of this controlled vocabulary will help researchers navigate the full breadth of our holdings, while making sure our data can be usefully exported to union catalogues around the world. We're indebted to our volunteer, Sheila Meredith, for her help in revising nearly 2,200 entries from the library's author index.

CRM

The Fellowship has always been at the heart of the Linnean Society and in recent years we have seen a positive increase in its membership, welcoming new Fellows, Associates and Student Members from all over the world. In response to these changes, and led by Head of Finance Priya Nithianandan and Tatiana Franco, the Society started moving across to a new customer relationship management (CRM) system in 2020. The CRM system will help us work more efficiently, reach more people and improve our service, so our members can make the most of their Fellowship for many years to come. Launching in 2021, Fellows will be able to update their details more easily so we can always stay connected, and as we continue to improve on our events (virtual and physical), we will be able to target our audiences better than ever before.

Conservation in Isolation

Conservation of the Society's collections continued without too much disruption during 2020 as Conservator Janet Ashdown was able to work remotely in her home studio facilities. A number of books and manuscripts have been repaired and several bespoke archival boxes made.

Independent conservator, Naomi Mitamura, volunteered her time repairing books at Burlington House during the few weeks in 2020 when restrictions were relaxed. She was also able to continue

working from her private studio repairing books and documents as part of our AdoptLINN scheme. Two books repaired by Naomi and adopted by supporters in the USA were George Wolfgang Wendell's *Theoremata Medica* (1662), adopted by Dr Gary Tigges in Texas, and the East India Company draft on vellum (1832), adopted by Judith Thompson in California.

AdoptLINN in Lockdown

While the Society's collections may have been closed to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic, the continuing support we have received from our Fellows, Associate Members, and other friends has been hugely encouraging. The lockdown period has been a particularly productive one for AdoptLINN, our collections adoption scheme, with nearly £4,234 raised in 2020.

It was also gratifying to see past 'adoptees' returning from conservation. The return to the Society of our 1499 *Ortus Sanitatis* saw a volume completely transformed. Thanks are due to Tony Bish for his conservation work and David Goldsmith ALS for his financial support. (To see a full list of adoptees visit www.linnean.org/adoptlinn.)

The Society is enormously grateful to all our AdoptLINN benefactors, particularly in such a trying year; their generosity will help conserve an array of precious-yet-vulnerable works for future study and enjoyment.

Linnaean Correspondence

Metadata (data about information objects) is fundamental to library, archives, and museum collections, and having good and accurate metadata determines how well we can share our information objects with others. The Online Collections is one platform from which we share our rich resources of specimens, manuscripts, correspondence, and artwork. For various reasons, the information available for each collection type is not equal, and retroactively 'cleaning up' and standardising the metadata across the collections features in our Collections Strategy. During this year of remote working, unable to engage directly with the collections, we seized the opportunity to start the metadata clean-up in earnest. One such unscheduled 'lockdown project', overseen by Digital Assets Manager Andrea Deneau, involved cleaning up the Linnaean Correspondence—a collection of over 4,100 records. With the central goal being standardised metadata, these types of collections-focused projects will significantly enrich the Online Collections for researchers globally, paving the way for greater usability and collaborations.

Linnaeus Link on Hold

Sadly, the 2020 Linnaeus Link Partners' Meeting (due to take place in Belgium in May) was cancelled, but, undeterred, we reconvened in November for an online videoconference. Partners discussed new guidance for contributing libraries, and the ingest of journal articles. We hope to meet again—hopefully in person—in 2021.

Brighter Days

Continuing into 2021, when onsite working may be once again possible, we will be focusing on some exciting projects, namely the cataloguing of our nature conservation archives, the digitisation of some of our artefact collections, and sorting through some of our journals. We have identified a number of 'remote working' projects, including ongoing cataloguing and metadata improvements. We plan to continue to explore our collections in new ways, with the help of our curators Glenn Benson, Oliver Crimmen, Suzanne Ryder and Dr Mark A. Spencer. We will also be investigating the links between slavery and past Linnean Society Fellows, and planning an event about indigenous artists, which will showcase artworks from our archives and library.

STAYING CONNECTED

As is the ongoing theme, 2020 supplied many obstacles which the Society's team worked hard to overcome. Previous Events and Communications Manager Dr Leanne Melbourne left early in the year and was replaced by Padmaparna Ghosh, who hit the ground running by transferring our event programme online and working collaboratively with the team on other online resources and media.

Virtually Together

The sudden nature of the UK lockdown in March meant that, on the events front, the Society had to swiftly adapt to a more virtual arena. Moving our audiences and event booking processes weren't without their teething problems, but by June we had transferred to the commonly-used online event marketplace Eventbrite, which considerably eased any issues. In the latter part of 2020 we also moved to the efficient Zoom Webinar interface for all of our lectures.

Due to improved accessibility, our events (once limited to those who could travel into London) have been streamed across the globe. We have received numerous emails from both Fellows and the general public extolling how included they feel now that they can attend an event as it is conducted. Organised and overseen by Padmaparna Ghosh, the Society's events have covered varied interests, from the history of setting up Afghanistan's first national park, to patriarchy in natural history, to the natural history of a gin and tonic. We explored natural capital and celebrated the important legacy of parson-naturalist Gilbert White. By year's end, our real-time viewership expanded to 220+ for each talk, up to 281 for the launch of our 'book of treasures', *L:50 Objects, Stories & Discoveries*. Going forward, our aim is to make our Lunchtime Lectures virtual only, as attendance online has been much higher than when these events were held in Burlington House.

Journey through our Collections

In 2020, a shorter format of podcast was adopted, allowing us to tell more stories in an accessible way, with our primary focus being on the Society's collections. With 17 new podcasts released, devised and produced by Multimedia Content Producer Ross Ziegelmeier, our track list accumulated over 6,324 listens.

Many of the podcasts featured our honorary curators, who revealed the stories behind their favourite items and topics, from Hercules beetles to slipper orchids. Library collection displays from the start of 2020, like 'Linnaeus in Lapland', were also explored. Peppered throughout the year were a selection of slightly longer podcasts that delved into special items from our collections including 'F. Edwards: A Whaler's Lesson Learnt in Time' and 'Linnaeus' Private Collection'. We finished the year with the first podcast created in collaboration with our publisher OUP, entitled 'Field Recording Archives—An Animal Soundscape', which looked at the importance of field recordings in this age of extinction.

The 'Science' of Social Distancing

This unusual year pushed all of the Society's activities online, and Ross Ziegelmeier worked hard to create supporting content. Six videos delved into our collections, including specific tour videos allowing virtual visitors to engage while the Society was closed. Promotional videos for our new publication *L: 50 Objects, Stories & Discoveries from the Linnean Society of London* looked into Charles Darwin's methods of working; Ross led educational workshops on animal illustration online; and an Instagram story series on viruses was timely.

The year also saw the beginning of a major ongoing collaboration with our publishers OUP, to produce varied content (animations and podcasts) based on papers from the Society's world-class scientific journals (*Biological*, *Botanical* and *Zoological*). Videos featuring organisms such as mind-controlling wasps, pollen-carrying butterflies, blood flowers and hummingbirds all stemmed from journal papers—as well as a very apt animation about tuco tucos, 'social distancing' rodents.

Global Connections

For the first time ever, we held our Anniversary Meeting virtually: although unable to celebrate in person with our medal winners, we were able to connect with many more FLS than usual—over 200 FLS attended from more than 40 countries. In addition to approving the *2019 Annual Report and Accounts,* Fellows passed a resolution to focus on the planetary emergency, and also elected 53 new Fellows.

***Pulse* & *The Linnean*: Virtual Ventures**

Our publications took a two-pronged approach this year, by taking a closer look at items within our collections while the Society was closed, and by virtually venturing further afield while it was not possible otherwise.

In *Pulse*, edited by Special Publications Manager Leonie Berwick, the miniature world of pygmy seahorses was brought to life by Dr Richard Smith FLS (www.oceanrealmimages.com), outlining recent discoveries like *Hippocampus japapigu* (Japan) and *H. nalu* (South Africa). Later in the year, the Eden Project North's Richard Scott extolled the importance of wildflower gateways, particularly in times like these, and Professor Chris Rhodes FLS looked into the 'plastic problem', including new threats introduced by nanoplastics.

In *The Linnean*, edited by Gina Douglas HonFLS, Dr Henry Noltie FLS explored Francis Buchanan Hamilton's *An Account of the Fishes Found in the River Ganges and its Branches* (1822), Mandy Henshall celebrated the 20th anniversary of the National Biodiversity Network, and Katrin Böhme revealed the parallels between the Linnean Society and the Gesellschaft Naturforschender Freunde zu Berlin. Dr Graham Rowe FLS took a closer look at Linnean Society founder Sir James Edward Smith's family, and the portrait of Smith by Anna Louisa Lane found within our collections.

Getting Vocal

Though working remotely, our team has been steadily developing new content in collaboration with our publisher OUP, and we will continue to work together throughout 2021 to create vivid scientific content. To further support this, Padmaparna Ghosh has been creating short audiovisual social media campaigns to highlight significant papers in our journals.

Going forward, the Society's podcasts will also be presented by Padma, giving them continuity in terms of voice and personality, which will be crucial for new content produced for Linnean Future—our committee dedicated to sustainability and highlighting the planetary emergency.

GOING THE DISTANCE

In 2020 we were thankful for (and in awe of) the teachers and young people that have taken active roles within our education and public engagement programmes during this tumultuous time. As we reflect on this tough year, we appreciate how central collaboration is to our way of working.

Online Adventures

From January to March, the education team enjoyed a handful of physical events, including our annual student conference (congratulations to Chawatat Thanoosing for his win), a variety of BioMedia Meltdown workshops, as well as public workshops in our Discovery Room.

The majority of 2020, however, involved adventures online! We pushed forward with a variety of virtual events, ranging from science festivals, celebration events, streamed workshops, video projects, mentoring and teacher CPD. One favourite, enthusiastically led by Education and Public Engagement Manager Joe Burton, was our collaboration with the Courtyard Societies to organise 'Burlington House: Lunchtime Scientist' for GCSE and A-Level students, which involved short talks with professionals from each Society.

Sharp Focus on Science, Art and Nature

2020 put the BioMedia Meltdown Project (BMM) to the test, requiring flexibility and innovation to keep our unique programme afloat through a year of uncertainty. Despite multiple school closures and the rise of the virtual classroom, we still found teachers, librarians and parents eager to embrace an offer of quality interdisciplinary learning. Schools' heroic efforts to continue educating through the crisis sharpened our focus on producing creative and accessible cross-curricular content, deepening teachers' understanding of integrated learning and young peoples' connection to the natural world.

We were preparing for the previous cycle's judging and celebration events in March when the first UK lockdown was announced. Recognising the need to move these online, more than 300 shortlisted entries were formatted and displayed on social media, with 75 entries per week featured during the month of June. Eighty finalists were selected by the public, from which our prizewinners were chosen by a panel of art and science professionals. The resulting online celebration event and award ceremony was better attended than previous years' live ceremonies.

With uncertainty about the possibility of physical workshops during the autumn term, BMM Manager Daryl Stenvoll-Wells took a two-pronged approach to this year's cycle. 'Courageous Conservationists' introduced students to under-recognised biologists across the globe working to protect endangered species; it was delivered via live virtual sessions throughout the term. 'BioMedia Book Arts' became our first sequential project, working with the same cohort of students over time. Over 420 Key Stage 3 students in seven schools received materials kits, instructional videos and accompanying resources to complete 'chapters' of their own BioMedia Book, a combination sketchbook/nature journal to be completed in class or at home. The videos feature guest experts—mostly Linnean Fellows—introducing plant and animal families, with Daryl demonstrating related art activities for each unit. Nine video 'chapters' will be produced, and completed books will be eligible for awards and prizes at our next celebration event (summer 2021).

Our Local Nature

The Society launched a new grant scheme for youth-led projects which aim to increase access to local natural spaces and encourage a deeper appreciation and understanding of nature. Eleven inspirational projects from across the UK have been selected for funding, and we can't wait to watch them come into fruition in 2021. We must add our utmost thanks to our dedicated Youth Panel who were integral to the decision-making process: Oliwia Charowska, Rebecca Davies, Elisheeba Ijekhuemen, Ridhka Kakkar, Sathvika Krishnan, Ethan Mitchell-Innes and Theo Sandhu.

Stemettes

In August 2020, Joe Burton arranged for 14 members of the Society to take part in a short mentoring experience with several groups of young women across the country. The success of this event has led to an expansion of this initiative in 2021 by working with the charity Stemettes, to run a four-month mentoring programme for 20 young women and non-binary people. We hope that this will be the beginning of an enduring connection with the Linnean Society from which young people can learn, and be inspired by, our esteemed Fellowship.

Portrait Competition: Sjupp

Every year we invite young people to create a new portrait to commemorate something connected to Carl Linnaeus or our collections. This year the subject was Linnaeus' furry friend, Sjupp the raccoon, given to him by the Crown Prince of Sweden. We crowned four global winners who received certificates and prizes:

Emily, 7, Edinburgh, Scotland (Age 5–7 category)
Imogen, 11, Cambridge, England (Age 8–11 category)
Carys, 12, Massachusetts, USA (Age 12–14 category)
Saanvi, 15, Uttar Pradesh, India (Age 15–18 category)

History Day

In what has been a rather isolated time for many, online conferences and events have been a lifeline for scholars and students alike. History Day, run by the Institute of Historical Studies, was one such event to make the move online, and provided a valuable opportunity for Will Beharrell, Liz M^{c}Gow, and Andrea Deneau to showcase some treasured items from our collections. With some element of social distancing set to continue into the future, we hope History Day may set a template for further events and exhibitions online.

Virtual Tours

In the first two months of 2020, the Collections team (led by Isabelle Charmantier) incredibly gave 18 tours to the general public and to humanities students of King's College London, UCL, and Queen Mary. In each case, the Discovery Room was used by their tutors to hold an hour's seminar before the tour. This wonderful connection with tutors teaching history of science, Nordic Landscapes, and 18th-century studies began in 2019 and has been encouraging in its success. This year, the tutors made particular use of the exhibition on 'Linnaeus in Lapland' in the Library.

Unfortunately, tours came to an abrupt halt in March. In mid-August, during limited socially-distanced visits to Burlington House, we took steps to organise online virtual tours. Ross Ziegelmeier filmed three videos with the Collections team (a general collections tour, and two shorter 'extras' on rare books and the archives), which were trialled later in the year. The first half of 2021 will see these virtual tours available to the general public on a monthly basis.

Connecting through Conferences

Some summer conferences that Society team members were to attend were rescheduled to become virtual ones in the autumn. Head of Collections Dr Isabelle Charmantier gave the following papers: a talk on Linnaeus for the Hitchin U3A (Hertfordshire); a paper on 'The Lost Artists of British Enlightenment Natural History' at the NatSCA conference on 'Decolonising Natural Science Collections'; participation in the roundtable on 'Semantics and Beyond: Modeling and enriching longue-durée biocultural data for answering interdisciplinary and epistemic research questions convened', at the 'Collect and Connect' international conference.

Looking Ahead

We are excited to expand our portfolio of interdisciplinary learning through exciting collaborative projects with the National Literacy Trust (Science Writers) and Lancaster University (Science Hunters). 2021 will also offer new opportunities for the Society's members to engage with and inspire future naturalists through bespoke mentoring experiences.

Members and the general public will also be able to register for the monthly virtual Treasures Tours, as well as more tailored virtual tours of the collections for university groups and local associations. The Collections team will continue to participate in heritage and history of science conferences, to both share and incite new research about our collections.

COLLECTION CONNECTIONS

Connecting our Fellows and the public to our Collections has always been important; the Collections are what makes our Society so unique. So, through blogs, social media, and a very special book, we worked hard to find ways to uphold this essential connection during a rather disconnected year.

War, Peace and Daring Journeys

Without the medium of displays and exhibitions, we produced an increased number of blogs to keep our Fellows informed and engaged with our Collections. Blogs were written to promote newly catalogued archive collections (The Society for Promoting Natural History, as well as the collections of Peter Collinson, and Francis Buchanan-Hamilton), to share research (Metal and Memories, which looked at WW2 shrapnel found amongst our artefacts, and Adventurous Fellows, exploring the daring journeys of Fellows like Sir Charles Wyville Thomson on the *Challenger* Expedition), and to reflect on current events through the lens of the past (blogs on the Linnean Society during World War II, and Black Lives in our Collections). 'Treasure of the Month', a new feature appearing in *Linnean News*, was also added to the website. In total, 26 blogs and news updates were produced in 2020.

Social Media Climbing

Our Twitter following has expanded enormously—growing from 9,949 in January 2020 to 11,800 by the end of the year, an increase of 18.6%. Our Instagram audience has grown as well, from 1,474 in January 2020 to 2,301 in December 2020—a pleasing increase of 56%. We have been showcasing our Collections through stories and images, and in collaboration with other institutions through campaigns such as #collectionsunited and #archivesexplored. Social media posts that straddle the intersection of curious objects, hidden histories, learning tools, quirky personalities and humour are the best received—for instance, our story series on Advent Sundays, our video of bromeliads and our posts on Mary Anning.

L:50 Objects, Stories & Discoveries

Two years in the making, 2020 saw the publication of our 'little book of treasures', *L:50 Objects, Stories & Discoveries from the Linnean Society of London*. Compiled and edited by Head of Collections Dr Isabelle Charmantier and Special Publications Manager Leonie Berwick, *L:50* was devised as a compendium of some of the Society's best-known and lesser-known artefacts, manuscripts, books and specimens for Fellows and visitors to purchase as a reminder of their visit to the Society. Each item appears chronologically (to offer an overview of both the Society and the study of natural history over the centuries), and has a fascinating story, as told by our curators, Fellows, researchers and staff. A sturdy, full-colour paperback at 124 pages with 37 superb contributors, it is packed with original photography of some beautiful, unique and poignant items.

After delaying the launch of the book earlier in 2020 due to obvious reasons, we decided to work towards launching it in November instead. Isabelle and Leonie, together with Padmaparna Ghosh (and including promotional support from Ross Ziegelmeier and merchandising support from Helen Shaw),

organised the virtual launch in a way that offered bite-sized introductions to several items from the book. We were grateful to our speakers for their fantastic 'mini talks': Glenn Benson FLS, Ranit Bhuyan FLS, Elaine Charwat FLS, Stephanie Holt FLS, Dr David Lowther FLS and Dr Mark A. Spencer FLS, as well as to Council Member Dr Olwen Grace and President Dr Sandra Knapp for opening and closing the launch. The feedback from the event was fantastic, with a record 281 people joining us online. At £12 per copy, we hope you have managed to purchase yours.

Exhibitions

Our Library usually puts on two or three displays per year. 2020 began with a wonderful display on 'Linnaeus in Lapland' which unfortunately had to be dismantled in mid-March. The Linnean Society also had external loans to four organisations in the pipeline for 2020, but as exhibitions were postponed, only one materialised: three books were lent to the Camden Arts Centre in London for *The Botanical Mind* exhibition, which ran from September to December. The books included Anna Atkins's *Photographs of British Algae* (vol. 1, 1843), Ernst Haeckel's *Kuntsformen der Natur* (1899) and the 1511 edition of *Ortus Sanitatis*.

Blog Highlight: Adventurous Fellows

Curator of Artefacts Glenn Benson wrote several fascinating blogs for the Society throughout the year. His series on 'Adventurous Fellows' looked at different types of investigation, through the lens of our artefacts, still giving us the chance to explore when we couldn't physically do so.

One such tale was revealed through a relatively unassuming medal in the Society's holdings. It was the story of one of the greatest adventures ever undertaken by any Fellow, and in our case, actually pertains to two. Sir Charles Wyville Thomson FLS (1830–82) had led the civilian scientific team on board the HMS *Challenger*, on what would become known as the *Challenger* Expedition (1872–76). The expedition measured the depths of the oceans, and in the process, discovered and described over 4,000 new species.

Around 100 scientists were involved in examining the findings, and a series of reports on the expedition were written, filling 50 volumes as 'thick as a family bible'. One of these scientists, and the recipient of our medal, was marine biologist Walter Percy Sladen FLS (1849–1900), for his work on the Asteroidea (Starfish) found during the expedition, a task that took him nearly a decade to complete.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION

The Black Lives Matter movement in the summer of 2020, demanding the uprooting of systemic racism, encouraged us to consolidate and step up our endeavours to make the Society as diverse and inclusive as we can. This affects all our activities, from organising events, to membership, and to cataloguing and promoting our collections.

Diversity Matters

In early September, we held our first diversity and inclusion panel discussion, which included members of the Society's council, staff and five external speakers from varying backgrounds and experiences: Kevin Coutinho, Prem Gill, Dr Leanne Melbourne, Professor Robert Mokaya, Dr Howard Nelson, Lateesha Osbourne and Dr Craig Poku. This panel was the first step towards strengthening and implementing the Society's vision and mission to represent our diverse society in every way possible, and as such was open to all Fellows to attend. This stakeholders' consultation was, at its core, an opportunity to learn, but resulted in a brainstorming session that is leading us to evidence-based diversity and inclusion initiatives.

There were compelling and revealing discussions on the systemic barriers in STEM education, and what can be done to lower or remove those barriers. The panel and attendees looked at whether targeted funding was the answer to improved access to higher education, and relayed the possibilities within collaborative initiatives. Most importantly, the event looked at how the Society can use its resources (including its staff expertise, membership and Collections), to the best advantage of under-represented groups. We will continue this throughout 2021 and beyond.

Unsung Scientists and Changing Perceptions

In June, Forbes Online featured an article on the BioMedia Meltdown project which shared information on the Society's flagship education programme with an international audience. Science writer Eva Amsen interviewed BMM Manager Daryl Stenvoll-Wells for the piece, 'London School Children Celebrate Unsung Scientists and Biology Through Art'. It highlighted the project's goals of reaching underserved communities and making life sciences more accessible through visual art. 'It is about changing long-term attitudes and perceptions about who becomes a scientist and who is recognised for their work.'

Decolonising Collections

Historians and heritage practitioners are assimilating the wave of events that, in the last few decades, have endeavoured to make our society more diverse and inclusive, from feminism, to LGBT+, and Black Lives Matter. A blog on 'Black Lives Matter in our Collections' reflected the summer's events and the ensuing readjustment to curating collections, acknowledging the rarely recognised but crucial role of black, indigenous and other minority-ethnic people in our understanding of natural history. Two further blogs dealt with the question of race: a long piece explored the role of Linnaeus' classification of man as the foundation of scientific racism; another, written for Black History Month, focused on Amelia Newsham, an albino girl who piqued the curiosity of 18th-century naturalists, including Linnaeus himself.

Dr Isabelle Charmantier was able to share research in this field and present a paper on the 'Lost Artists of British Enlightenment Natural History' at the conference 'Decolonising Natural Science Collections', organised by Natural Sciences Collections Association (NATSCA) in November 2020.

Pursuing these avenues of research in the future, both with our own collections and by collaborating further with other organisations, will be vital in allowing these hidden lives to be uncovered, and for their stories to be celebrated at last.

Membership Survey

In the latter part of the year a survey was conducted in 2020 to gather information about our membership's perspective and engagement with the Society, as well as demographic data. Together, this information will enable us to understand the lived experiences of our membership and whether this impacts engagement with the Society's activities, and how we can support and engage more effectively with our members. A full analysis of the 838 responses we received will be available in 2021, but we are already aware of the need for a value-added membership proposition, especially to attract younger and more diverse members.

Picture This

It would be easy to assume that women have played only a small part in the Linnean Society's history and achievements, so rare are their portraits throughout our premises at Burlington House.

To redress this imbalance, the Library now showcases black and white photographic portraits of 10 early female Fellows, including Marian Farquharson, Grace Frankland and Dr Margaret Benson. Unfortunately, the exhibition was put up the week we closed to the public. But the women are here to stay, and will welcome Fellows and visitors back into the Library when we reopen.

LINNEAN FUTURE

The perfect storm of the planetary emergency of climate change, biodiversity loss and the unpredictability of disease emergence has profoundly changed our lives. The Trustees resolved to use the Society's platform to highlight and facilitate transformative action by addressing the impacts of the planetary emergency on our natural world, and by furthering our vision of a world where nature is understood, valued and protected.

Planetary Emergency Group: Linnean Future

In response to the current planetary emergency, the Society has formed a new committee, named by our Fellows as 'Linnean Future: The Planetary Emergency Response Committee of the Linnean Society'. Work began in 2020, and this initiative will be formally launched in March 2021.

Linnean Future has four core areas of work:

- **Practising what we preach:** improving the sustainability of ways of working in the Linnean Society
- **Research in action:** supporting collaboration and research that address the planetary emergency
- **Sharing our expertise:** ensuring the Society acts as a forum and focus for scientific debate, practical discussion, and policy advice regarding biodiversity and climate change at a national and a global scale.
- **Inspiring action:** engaging and involving the public in debate and learning.

Although already taking actions to improve sustainable practices over the past few years, the Society has formalised this intention in a Carbon Action Plan, formulated throughout 2020, and launched in January 2021. The Carbon Action Plan includes a bespoke Carbon Footprint Calculator, innovatively created by Office and Buildings Manager Helen Shaw and Committee member John Box, which uses a variety of activity data to calculate the carbon emissions generated by the Society from 2018 to present. The Society will seek to reduce its emissions by at least 25 tonnes/year or more by 2030, to review the carbon emissions annually, and all unavoidable carbon emissions will be offset using a set of agreed offsetting principles from 2022.

As part of Linnean Future's work, a webpage has been developed to be a hub for sharing the work of the Linnean Society and its Fellows regarding the planetary emergency (www.linnean.org/lf).

Improved Practice, Better Society

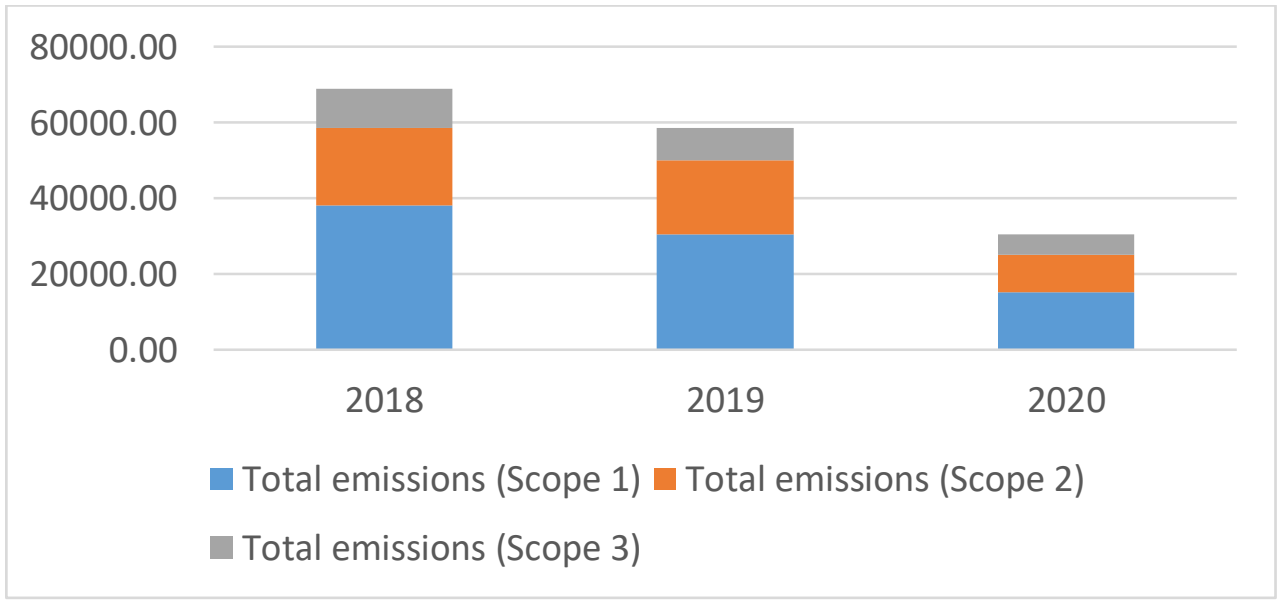
Driven by investigations made by Office and Buildings Manager Helen Shaw, the Society has been working hard towards making Burlington House more environmentally friendly, by:

Changing suppliers: In summer 2020, the Society completed a building deep clean, choosing a green, ethical cleaning company that shares our values. The company uses non-harmful products and ethically supports its employees. The Society is also looking at changing suppliers for gas and electricity to a company that supports renewable energy sources, which will likely have a large impact on our carbon emissions. Other suppliers being examined for their suitability include stationery and courier services.

Altering processes: In 2018, the Society replaced its publication wrapping from plastic to sustainably sourced biofilm. In the same year, we also stopped the use of single use plastic bottles in our room hire catering. This has saved an average of 220 bottles going to landfill every year since. We have also provided additional recycling facilities on site, including specialist coffee cup recycling in 2019. The year 2020 came with many challenges, but it has helped reduce paper printing at BH. We hope to see a similar trend in our membership administration with the launch of our new CRM system in 2021.

Upgrading technology: The Society replaced its old boiler in September 2019, and we have since seen a dramatic reduction in our gas consumption: from 33,765 kWh in 2018 to 19,620 kWh in 2019, and down to 18,893 kWh in 2020. We are also looking to analyse and upgrade IT equipment and other items of plant, as they reach their end of life.

Improved reporting: Details of the results from our Carbon Footprint Calculator can be found on the Linnean Future webpage, which is publicly available and will be regularly updated.



The emissions are separated into three scopes:

- Scope 1: direct emissions of CO2 (kg) annually from fuel combustion.
- Scope 2: indirect emissions of CO2 (kg) annually from purchased electricity.
- Scope 3: other indirect emissions of CO2 (kg) annually: for example, transport-related activities in non-owned vehicles, national grid transmission and distribution, outsourced activities, water, waste disposal.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Linnean Society contributes to scientific, cultural, economic and social well-being nationally and internationally through a broad programme of activities. Our unique ACE-designated biological collections and historical resources—and our strong focus on biodiversity conservation and sustainability, and science outreach—support the care and understanding of our planet. The Society's key contributions to public benefit are:

- Safeguarding and promoting the Society's heritage collections, through cataloguing, conservation and digitisation, improving access to primary information, making collections freely available to view online.
- Advancing and disseminating knowledge through three world-class research journals, and providing support and recognition through grant schemes and awards to emerging scientists and naturalists.
- Engaging the public through regular tours of the collections, conferences and free monthly public lectures, while our educational programme, which fuses science, history and art, reaches out to students of all ages and backgrounds, providing free resources in schools, in Burlington House and online.

The Society's activities contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through support for the natural world, and through unique resources that illuminate environmental and social change. The Society connects academia with a diverse public, informing UK government policy and promoting the international profile of the UK as a pre-eminent international hub for expertise about the natural world.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025

The Strategic Planning process was initiated in 2020 and will be completed in 2021, following the appointment of the new CEO. The first part of the process involved a membership survey, which was undertaken in late 2020. This will be followed in 2021 by an extensive stakeholder survey, together with SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) and PESTEL (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, Legal) analyses, before a brainstorming session with staff, Council, Committees and other stakeholders to hone the strategic plan for 2021-2025.
The Society has already refreshed its strapline, vision, mission and values, as shown here.

Communicating nature since 1788

Vision: *A world where nature is understood, valued and protected*

Mission: *To inform, involve and inspire people of all ages and backgrounds about nature and its significance through our collections, programmes and publications*

Values:

** We are a diverse community of people united by an active interest in nature, its management and conservation.*

** We aim for excellence and integrity in all areas of our activity.*

** We use our income and other finances to fulfil our charitable function and declared mission.*

** We promote our science to all sectors of society.*

**We value diversity and seek to broaden the inclusion of currently under-represented groups.*

** We are an expert voice concerning relevant major issues and challenges of our time.*

LOOKING FORWARD 2021

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead (1901–78)

Little did I anticipate that, when drafting this piece for last year's Annual Review, we would still be in the grips of COVID-19. Forward planning for 2021 is difficult, but the Society will continue to exploit the opportunities of the virtual world – especially the ability to connect with Fellows and others across time zones. Once back in Burlington House (BH), we plan to live-stream all our events—and will of course be able to live-stream speakers from around the globe into BH.

As part of implementing the governance review recommendations, we will be welcoming a new CEO in 2021 and completing the strategic review we commenced in 2020, which included the membership survey—thank you to all who participated. Developing our membership value proposition is a key objective for 2021.

While we remain optimistic about resolving our lease issues in Burlington House, the Society has decided to join its courtyard neighbours in motivating the government in its response in 2021.

Pending restrictions, the staff team will largely continue to work remotely, and we have new initiatives for students, such as that of science writers in collaboration with the National Literacy Trust, while consolidating relationships developed in 2020, such as with Stemettes. Major areas of future focus will be the whole Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity agenda and, of course, the planetary emergency.

The Society is well placed to address the growing global concern regarding the state of the planet. Indeed, we have a hugely important role to play in promoting understanding. Launch of the Society's newest Committee, *Linnean Future*, will herald a number of initiatives to help ameliorate biodiversity loss and climate change, working towards our vision of *a world where nature is understood, valued and protected*.

On a personal note, as I step down as Executive Secretary, I would like to thank all the lovely people I've met and worked with over the past nine years—it has been an honour and a privilege to have this role. I will certainly be keeping in touch with the Society and look forward to attending and meeting many of you when we are able to reopen our doors.

Dr Elizabeth Rollinson, Executive Secretary

PEOPLE

Officers and Council listed on pp. 3-4

Linnean Society Staff Team

Executive Secretary	**Dr Elizabeth Rollinson (2011)**
Head of Finance & Membership Officer	**Mr Priya Nithianandan (1991)**
Head of Collections	**Dr Isabelle Charmantier (2017)**
Office & Buildings Manager	**Ms Helen Shaw (2017)**
Room Hire Manager & Membership Assistant	**Ms Tatiana Franco (2015)**
Communications & Events Manager	**Dr Leanne Melbourne (2017 – March 2020)**
Communications & Events Manager	**Padmaparna Ghosh (from June 2020)**
Librarian	**Mr Will Beharrell (2019)**
Archivist	**Mrs Liz M^{c}Gow (2016)**
Assistant Librarian & Archivist	**Mr Luke Thorne (2019)**
Digital Assets Manager	**Ms Andrea Deneau (2010)**
Conservator	**Ms Janet Ashdown (2002)**
Special Publications Manager	**Ms Leonie Berwick (2007)**
Education & Public Engagement Manager	**Mr Joseph Burton (2017)**
Multimedia Content Producer	**Mr Ross Ziegelmeier (2015)**
BioMedia Meltdown Project Manager	**Mrs Daryl Stenvoll-Wells (2019)**
Engagement Delivery & Research Officer	**Mr Zia Forrai (2018)**
Botanical Journal Editorial Assistant	**Dr Hassan Rankou (2012)**
Office Cleaner P/T	**Ms Fatima Mendoca (2015)**

Curators, Editors and Committees 2020

Curators

Fish, Shells & General Zoology	Mr Oliver Crimmen (2017)
Insects	Ms Suzanne Ryder (2017)
Plants	Dr Mark A. Spencer (2013)
Artefacts	Mr Glenn Benson (2014)

Editors

Biological Journal	Professor John A Allen (1997)
Botanical Journal	Professor Mike Fay (2008)
Zoological Journal	Dr Maarten Christenhusz (2018)
Evolutionary Journal	Dr Steven Dodsworth (2020)
Synopses Series	Dr John Crothers (1991) & Dr Peter J Hayward (2002)
The Linnean	Ms Gina Douglas (2013)
PuLSe	Ms Leonie Berwick (2009)

Committee Chairpersons

Editorial	The Editorial Secretary (e.o.)
Finance	The Treasurer (e.o.)
Collections	The Collections Secretary (e.o.)
Programmes	One of the Scientific Secretaries (e.o.)
Education and Public Engagement	One of the Scientific Secretaries (e.o.)
Nominations	The President (e.o.)
Taxonomy & Systematics*	A member of Council (e.o)

The Executive Secretary as well as The Officers, are currently ex officio members of all Committees.

Professor David Cutler PPLS stood down from his role as Strategic Planning Officer in 2020.

*This Committee has been repositioned as Linnean Future: Planetary Emergency Response Committee, and is chaired by Stephanie Holt, currently a Trustee.

Committee Membership

Editorial Committee

The Editorial Secretary (e.o.)

The Editors (e.o.)

Representatives from the publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP)

Dr Rebecca A Farley-Brown (2001)

Finance Committee

The Treasurer (e.o.)

The Financial Controller (Head of Finance) (e.o.)

Mr Giles Coode-Adams (2001)

Dr Charlotte Grezo (2020)

Mr Edward Hoare (1998)

Professor Gren Lucas HonFLS OBE (1995)

Mr N Keith Maybury (2008) – resigned 2020

Collections Committee

The Collections Secretary (e.o.)

The Curators (e.o.)

Library & Collections and Education & Public Engagement staff (e.o.)

Ms Gillian Furlong (2006)

Mrs Susan Gove (2001)

Ms Andrea Hart (2015)

Dr D.J. Nicholas Hind (1995)

Mr Tom Kennett (2017)

Ms Debbie Lane (2020)

Mr Chris Mills (2006)

Dr Richard Preece (2017)

Dr Anke Timmermann (2019)

Dr Mark Watson (2016)

Programmes Committee

Scientific Secretary, Prof Alan Hildrew (Chair from May 2020); Dr Malcolm Scoble 2009-2020

Events & Communications Manager (e.o.)

Education & Public Engagement Manager (e.o.)

Head of Collections (e.o)

Professor Jeff Duckett (2018)

Dr Leanne Melbourne (2020)

Education & Public Engagement Committee

Scientific Secretary, Professor Simon Hiscock (Chair)

Education & Public Engagement, and Library & Collections staff (e.o.)

Ms Lyn Baber (2018)

Ms Charlotte Coales (2019)

Mr Michael Holland (2020)

Mrs Susie Kelpie (2019)

Mr Geoff Lockwood (2013)

Dr Jonathan Mitchley (2020)

Professor Dawn Sanders (2019)

Dr Jane Taylor (2013)

Linnean Future: the Planetary Emergency Response Committee (expansion of the Taxonomy & Systematics Committee)

Ms Stephanie Holt, Chair (2019)

Events & Communications Manager (e.o.)

Office & Buildings Manager (e.o.)

Dr Andy Purvis

Dr John Box

Other Fellows TBC following formal launch of this Committee in March 2021.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The full financial accounts were prepared to conform to the Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP – FRS 102), and are presented after the report of the External Auditors.

SUMMARY

2020 was a positive year for the Society's finances, notwithstanding the impact of the pandemic. Our income was ahead of last year (£2,304,914; 2019: £2,102,109), although it would have fallen slightly without some generous bequests. Expenditure was in line with 2019 (£1,546,936; 2019: £1,577,506), but some projects had to be postponed and other activities curtailed as a result of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has increased the surplus this year.

Overall, our surplus of income over expenditure in 2020 was £757,978 (2019: £524,603). This was enhanced by a modest gain on our investments of £71,563 (2019: £460,847). The Society has therefore been able to increase its unrestricted funds in 2020 (£5,222,995; 2019: £4,426,786). We continue to try to strike a balance between the active use of funds for our charitable purposes and ensuring a sustainable financial position in light of the uncertain economic environment and the potential for future rent increases at Burlington House.

INCOME

Publications and Royalties

Total income from publications rose to £1,807,830 compared with £1,747,209 in 2019. The income from the publishers of the Society's journals provides a critical source of support for the Society. After deducting production, distribution, and editorial costs payable by the Society, the net contribution of our journals was £1,410,480, an increase of 4.8% on 2019 (£1,344,935). Oxford University Press again contributed an additional £150,000 in 2020 to cover transitional costs. The Society continues a policy of hybrid publication, enabling those authors who wish to or are required to publish Open Access to do so, while maintaining a default policy of not economically disenfranchising those authors with no or low funding by not levying page charges. As the primary source of income, the Society, along with our publisher, keeps a close eye on the worldwide changing policies of Open Access. The Society remains committed to providing no-cost or low-cost access to qualifying institutions under various international philanthropic publishing programmes. The Editorial team is continuing to investigate with OUP ways to expand our presence in the Open Access publishing arena.

The Society extends particular thanks and appreciation to the Editors, Professor John Allen, for the *Biological Journal*, Professor Mike Fay for the *Botanical Journal*, and Dr Maarten Christenhusz for the *Zoological Journal*. Led by Professor Mark Chase FRS, the Editorial Secretary, and supported by their editorial offices and reviewers, the Editors work tirelessly to maintain the quality of the Society's journals.

Membership Contributions

The membership of the Society now stands at 3,014 compared with 2,921 at the end of 2019. This includes all fee and non-fee paying members. Of this number, there are 2,636 paying Fellows (2019: 2,606), 91 Associates (2019: 67) and 172 students (2019: 128). Membership contributions fell slightly in 2020 to £149,557 (2019: £152,012) reflecting the deferral of dues from Fellows who had been financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Society looks forward to collecting these dues as soon as circumstances permit. In extreme cases, the Society has used funds from the Goodenough Fund to assist with the dues of those members facing serious financial difficulty.

Donations and Legacies

Grants, donations and legacies play an important role in sustaining our charitable activities and we are most grateful to all those funders and donors who have supported the Society during the year. In particular, we received generous bequests from the estate of Mr Campbell Smith of £192,552 and from the estate of Mr Robert Ward-Howlett of £36,000. Donations of were received from The Edward Hoare Charitable Fund (£1,500) and £2,000 from two anonymous Fellows. The AdoptLINN Programme raised £4,234 to support the conservation of books and other important items in our collections.

Investments

During the year, the Society adopted an Ethical Investment Policy which seeks to minimise and ideally eliminate irresponsible corporate behaviour. The Society positively supports investments in well-managed companies that are ethically, environmentally and socially responsible. Our aim is still to enhance the value of both capital and income on a long-term sustainable basis. Investments are to be of a prudent nature, offering no more than a moderate risk and avoiding more speculative investments. The Society continues to receive good advice and management of its investments through the services of our Investment advisor Gregor McNie under the auspices of Tilney.

The market value of our investments at 31 December 2020 was £4,034,297 (2019: £3,903,741). Income from investments was £86,370 (2019: £109,438), a return of 2.1%, reflecting a reduction in dividends and interest rates across the market.

Other trading activities

Despite all the hard work of the team, income from room hire, catering and other trading activities was inevitably significantly reduced by the necessity to close Burlington House to visitors for extensive periods during 2020. Total income from these sources was £16,176 (2019: £73,034). We look forward to a steady recovery in this income stream as lockdown measures are eased in 2021.

EXPENDITURE

Once again, over 99% of the Society's expenditure was used to support its charitable objectives in 2020, with only £11,443 (2019: £11,315) spent on managing investments to raise funds.

Charitable Activities

Our seven core charitable activities reported in the Accounts are: Education, Publications, Scientific Meetings, Library, Collections (Curatorial) Collections (Conservation & Digitisation), and Research Sponsorship. The Society spent £1,535,493 on these charitable activities in 2020 (2019: £1,566,191). Of particular note were a contribution of up to £45,796 over three years (of which £10,953 was paid in 2020) to the Science Hunters project with Lancaster University and the "Our Local Nature" grant of £5,998 to support youth-led projects aiming to increase access to local natural spaces and encourage a deeper appreciation and understanding of nature.

Council decided to increase the Society's contribution to the LinnéSys Fund (formerly Systematics Research Fund) grants to £34,000 per year from its normal contribution of £24,000. The Systematics Association contributed £7,000 and income received from the Trust and Special Fund amounted to £2,439. A total of 37 individuals were supported during the year with most of the research being carried out in spite of the pandemic.

2020 saw the publication of the Linnean Treasures book, *L:50*. The launch of this book was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic but it was decided to launch it virtually in November. The publication was very well received with sales of over £3,500 in less than two months. Credit must be given to the

editors Dr Isabelle Charmantier and Ms Leonie Berwick, who have created a wonderful publication. Total expenditure on publications, including *The Linnean* and Pu*LS*E, came to £26,369 as compared with £14,307 in 2019, an increase largely linked to printing and distribution costs.

Expenditure on direct salaries and National Insurance for staff was steady at £617,042 (2019: £612,748). During the year Dr Leanne Melbourne, the Society's Events & Communication Manager, left the Society to return to the University sector and we welcomed Ms Padmaparna Ghosh in her place.

Rent and other charges by our Landlord, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), amounted to £201,961 (2019: £180,537). Significant uncertainty remains over future rental costs with no resolution of the ongoing dialogue.

Due to the lockdown, a lot of planned maintenance expenditure had to be deferred, such as the reupholstering of the meeting room benches which was deferred as the contracted company faced a shortage of foam due to demand for NHS beds. The total amount deferred for the year was just under £50,000. It is anticipated that this expenditure will occur in 2021.

FUNDS

The Society's reserves are split between Permanent Endowments (£782,572), Restricted Funds (£2,330,118, including heritage assets of £1,500,000 that cannot be monetised) and Unrestricted Funds of £5,222,995. Within Unrestricted Funds, the Society holds designated reserves to reflect funds to be spent on fixed assets and earmarked for planned future expenditure. £1,981,271 (2019: £1,772,538) of the Unrestricted Funds has been set aside in Designated Funds to cover this future expenditure, including that associated with the lease.

Designated Funds

The Mortgage Liability Fund stands at £230,628. The Collections Fund stands at £20,000. The Development Fund stands at £200,000. With the uncertainty over the affordability to the Society of the rent for New Burlington House in the medium term, the Building Fund was set up in 2017 to cover the financial risks and liabilities associated with finding and moving to alternative premises if required. The balance of this fund now stands at £900,000. The Legal Fund stands at £100,000 to cover the costs of renegotiating the lease on New Burlington House if a satisfactory agreement can be reached with our landlord

Reserves Policy

The Society's General Reserve is held to enable the Society to continue to operate effectively in the event that income is unexpectedly reduced. The General Reserve is also held to provide funding for projects which have not attracted external funding. The Trustees consider that a minimum of five months of operational expenditure should be held in the General Reserve with a minimum of approximately £600k to £800k. Encouragingly, the General Reserve Fund now stands at £3,241,724 (2019: £2,654,248). The Trustees consider the current balance reasonable in the context of budgeted costs and uncertainty over continued occupation of Burlington House.

Acknowledgements

The Trustees of the Society extend their gratitude to all the Officers and Staff for continuing to be so careful in control of expenditure in their areas of responsibility and to thank the volunteers for their much-appreciated contributions. Finally, it is particularly appropriate to thank the Head of Finance, Priya Nithianandan, for his careful and constant oversight of all the Society's financial activities, and special acknowledgement goes to Dr Mark Watson, who stepped down as Treasurer during the year.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees regularly review the Risk Register, which summarises the major strategic, business and operational risks which the Society faces and have implemented appropriate systems and procedures to mitigate these risks. The Society also has a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and a Disaster Plan, which were developed to enable the Society to continue normal operations in the event of a serious disruptive incident. The BCP is also regularly reviewed and updated as needed.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the surplus or deficit of the Society for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Responsibilities of the Treasurer

Fellows of the Society have, through the Society's Bye Laws (BL) accepted at a General Meeting of the Society held on 15th February 1990 and published in July 1991, agreed (BL Section 12) that "the Treasurer (of the Society) shall require the keeping of detailed accounts of all receipts and payments (BL 12.1), shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the Society and shall advise the Officers and Council both of the long term trends and matters of the moment concerning financial strategy. Taking advice from the Finance Committee and Professional advisers, when appropriate, the Treasurer shall act in the name of the Society on matters of investment (BL 12.3)".

Audit Arrangements

"A firm of chartered accountants shall be appointed by the Fellows at the Anniversary Meeting as Auditors for the following year (BL 12.5). Prior to their presentation to the Anniversary Meeting, the Annual Statement of Accounts and the report of the Professional auditors shall be examined by an Audit Review Committee of Fellows. This Committee, to be elected annually, shall consist of three members of Council (including the President or a Vice-President), and two Fellows who are not members of Council who shall be elected at a General Meeting. The Committee shall report to Council and Fellows at the Anniversary Meeting (BL 12.6)".

Messrs. Knox Cropper have expressed their willingness to be re-appointed as auditors.

These accounts were approved by Council on 25th March 2021 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Edward Bauks
_____ Treasurer

Sandra Knapp
_____ President

Document Ref: WVZ8Z-U8WRH-DEDDT-NBQRZ

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have audited the financial statements of The Linnean Society for the year ended 31st December 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31st December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorized for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND AUDITORS

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 33, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Document Ref: WVZ8Z-U8WRH-DEDDT-NBQRZ

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The Charity is required to comply with the charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charity complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities . This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees and members, as a body, in accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under Section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we may state to the Trustees and members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Trustees and members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Knox Cropper LLP, Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Date: 25th March 2021

Knox Cropper is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2020 Total	2019 Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments From:						
Donations and Legacies	2	243,302	1,679	-	244,981	20,416
Charitable Activities						
Members' Contributions		149,557	-	-	149,557	152,012
Publications	3	1,807,830	-	-	1,807,830	1,747,209
Scientific Meetings		1,418	-	-	1,418	8,479
Library		6,055	-	-	6,055	7,542
Other Trading Activities	4	8,703	-	-	8,703	57,013
Investments		56,848	29,522	-	86,370	109,438
Total Income and Endowments		2,273,713	31,201	-	2,304,914	2,102,109
Expenditure On:						
Raising Funds						
Investment Management Costs		7,292	4,151	-	11,443	11,315
Charitable Activities	6					
Education		241,840	844	-	242,684	250,103
Publications		419,258	-	-	419,258	419,738
Scientific Meetings		188,646	-	-	188,646	214,751
Library		304,117	-	-	304,117	309,637
Collections: (Curatorial)		156,157	-	-	156,157	159,190
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)		148,001	-	-	148,001	141,631
Research Sponsorship		57,797	18,833	-	76,630	71,141
Total Expenditure		1,523,108	23,828	-	1,546,936	1,577,506
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Investment Gains/(Losses)		750,605	7,373	-	757,978	524,603
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments		45,604	11,814	14,145	71,563	460,847
Net Income/(Expenditure)		796,209	19,187	14,145	829,541	985,450
Transfers		-	-	-	-	-
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)		-	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		796,209	19,187	14,145	829,541	985,450
Fund balance brought forward at 31/12/2019		4,426,786	2,310,931	768,427	7,506,144	6,520,694
Fund balance carried forward at 31/12/2020		£5,222,995	£2,330,118	£782,572	£8,335,685	£7,506,144

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Heritage Assets	9		1,561,950		1,561,950
Tangible Fixed Assets	10		761,271		802,538
Investments	11		4,034,297		3,903,741
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	489,834		419,596	
Short Term Deposits		1,631,399		1,201,517	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		1,807,468		1,655,828	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		3,928,701		3,276,941	
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	13	(1,719,906)		(1,797,965)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			2,208,795		1,478,976
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due After One Year	14		(230,628)		(241,061)
NET ASSETS			£8,335,685		£7,506,144
CAPITAL FUNDS					
Endowments	15		782,572		768,427
INCOME FUNDS					
Restricted	15				
Other		830,118		810,931	
Heritage Fund		1,500,000		1,500,000	
			2,330,118		2,310,931
Unrestricted					
Designated	16	1,981,271		1,772,538	
General	17	3,241,724		2,654,248	
			5,222,995		4,426,786
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			£8,335,685		£7,506,144

These accounts were approved by Council on 25th March 2021 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by

Edward Bauks
_____ Treasurer

_____ President

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash generated from operations	20	580,702		33,007	
Interest paid		(8,951)		(10,379)	
Net Cash provided by (used in) operating activities			571,751		22,628
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		86,370		109,438	
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		(7,173)		(98,424)	
Purchase of Heritage Asset		-		(5,475)	
Proceeds from sale of investments	11	303,598		254,782	
Purchase of investments	11	(362,591)		(278,542)	
Net Cash provided by (used in) investing activities			20,204		(18,221)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Repayments of Borrowing		(10,433)		(8,727)	
Net Cash provided by (used in) financing activities			(10,433)		(8,727)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			581,522		(4,320)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			2,857,345		2,861,665
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			£3,438,867		£2,857,345

Analysis of Net Funds/(Debt)	**1st January 2020**	**Movement**	**31st December 2020**
	£	£	£
Short Term Deposit	1,201,517	429,882	1,631,399
Cash in Bank and in Hand	1,655,828	151,640	1,807,468
	2,857,345	581,522	3,438,867
Loans	(241,061)	10,433	(230,628)
Net Funds/(Debt)	£2,616,284	£591,955	£3,208,239

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts are prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and in compliance with the Charities Act 2011. The Society is a Public Benefit Entity.

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write each asset down to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life as follows:

Property	50 years
Lift and associated refurbishment work	30 years
Furniture and Fixtures	10 years
Environmental Control	10 years
Office Equipment	3 years

Investments are stated at mid-market value. Gains and losses on disposals and revaluations of fixed asset investments are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities and added to the funds to which they relate.

Investment income is accounted for gross in the year of receipt.

Donations and legacies are accounted for when the Society is unconditionally entitled to receipt. No account is taken of stock held for resale.

Contributions income is stated net of amounts received in respect of future years.

The Society is partially exempt for VAT purposes. Expenditure is stated net of VAT with irrecoverable VAT shown as a separate expense item.

Support costs are allocated to charitable activities on the basis of estimates of staff time spent on those activities and, in relation to accommodation costs, the relative space used by those activities.

Heritage assets donated to the Society are valued by an independent expert at the time of their donation.

Expenditure is accounted for when there is a constructive or contractual liability arising. A provision is made when the amount payable cannot be determined with certainty.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2020 Unrestricted Funds £	2020 Restricted Funds £	2019 Total Funds £
Other Funds for Grants and Awards	9,539	-	7,100
John Marsden Fund	-	1,679	-
PRISM Project grant	844	-	-
One Direction Project	-	-	1,500
Legacies	228,552	-	7,625
Other Donations	4,367	-	4,191
	£243,302	£1,679	£20,416

3. PUBLICATIONS

	2020 £	2019 £
Joint Publication Account	1,656,895	1,595,628
Contract Publication Income	150,000	150,000
Other Publication Sales	362	955
Royalties	573	626
	£1,807,830	£1,747,209

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2020 £	2019 £
Room Hire	6,467	40,437
Catering	536	4,859
Botanical Art Course	227	8,713
Other	1,473	3,004
	£8,703	£57,013

5. JOINT PUBLICATION ACCOUNT

	2020			2019		
	Total	**Publisher Share**	**Society Share**	**Total**	**Publisher Share**	**Society Share**
	£	£	£	£	£	£
SALES						
Journals	2,209,193			2,127,504		
	2,209,193	552,298	1,656,895	2,127,504	531,876	1,595,628
PUBLICATION COSTS						
Production and Distribution	174,418			182,002		
Editorial	13			197		
Publishers' Overheads	-			-		
	174,431	43,608	130,823	182,199	45,550	136,649
SURPLUS	2,034,762	508,690	1,526,072	1,945,305	486,326	1,458,979
Other Costs Incurred by Society						
Editorial Costs	(115,592)			(114,044)		
Supplement charge						
Excess page charge						
Charges by publisher for issues supplied to members	-			-		
	£1,410,480			£1,344,935		
SUMMARY						
Society's share of Income – Note 4	1,656,895			1,595,628		
Society's share of Joint costs and other directly incurred costs	(246,415)			(250,693)		
	£1,410,480			£1,344,935		

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activities Undertaken Directly	Grant Funding Activities	Support Costs (Note 8)	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Education					
Education Costs	24,175	-	-	24,175	18,456
Local Nature Grant	5,998	-	-	5,998	-
Lancaster University Science Hunter	10,952	-	-	10,952	-
BioMedia Meltdown (John Lyon's	-	-	-	-	-
Charity) 2	-	-		-	9,389
Wolfson gGrant; Garfield Weston	-	-	-	-	21,330
Grant					
One Direction Grant	844	-	-	844	656
Botanical Art Course	-	-	-	-	4,440
Support Costs	-	-	200,715	200,715	195,832
Total	41,969	-	200,715	242,684	250,103
Publications					
Joint Publication Account (Note 5)	246,415	-	-	246,415	250,693
The Linnean Newsletter and Pulse	20,984	-	-	20,984	14,307
Synopses	-	-	-	-	-
Support Costs	-	-	151,859	151,859	154,738
	267,399	-	151,859	419,258	419,738
Scientific Meetings					
Travel Grants	4,356	-	-	4,356	23,168
Support Costs	-	-	184,290	184,290	191,583
	4,356	-	184,290	188,646	214,751
Collections					
Expenditure	8,503	-	-	8,503	16,103
Cataloguing	922	-	-	922	-
PRISM Project	-	-	-	-	4,768
Support Costs	-	-	294,692	294,692	288,766
	9,425	-	294,692	304,117	309,637
Collections (Curatorial)					
The Linnaeus Link Project	9,518	-	-	9,518	11,518
Support Costs	-	-	146,639	146,639	147,672
	9,518	-	146,639	156,157	159,190
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)					
Hosting of images	36,413	-	-	36,413	29,182
Support Costs	-	-	111,588	111,588	112,449
	36,413	-	111,588	148,001	141,631
Research Sponsorship	-	55,430	21,200	76,630	71,141
Total	£369,080	£55,430	£1,110,983	£1,535,493	£1,566,191

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

The grants set out above include grants made to individuals. In total, grants were paid to 37 individuals (2019: 31) during the year.

7. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Expenses of Officers and Council	3,341	8,138
Audit Fee	5,700	5,700
Governance Review	-	8,876
Legal and Professional Fees	26,810	43,217
Staff and Other Related Costs	26,092	25,137
	£61,943	£91,068

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Education	Publications	Scientific Meetings	Library	Collections Curatorial	Collections Conservation & Digitisation	Research Sponsorship	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries and Wages	156,148	87,837	82,217	124,142	72,028	64,426	12,085	598,883	595,091
Premises Costs	21,066	11,562	19,678	21,178	15,577	19,172	-	108,233	120,587
Repairs and Maintenance	12,310	6,971	13,941	13,941	19,124	19,124	-	85,411	67,012
Office Costs	-	2,217	3,485	7,127	1,901	158	475	15,363	27,701
Other Costs (depreciation, rent provision)	-	34,805	54,694	111,874	29,833	2,486	7,458	241,150	210,516
Governance Costs	11,191	8,467	10,275	16,430	8,176	6,222	1,182	61,943	90,956
	£200,715	£151,859	£184,290	£294,692	£146,639	£111,588	£21,200	£1,110,983	£1,111,863
	£195,832	£154,738	£191,583	£288,766	£147,672	£112,449	£20,823	£1,111,863	

SALARY COSTS	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£	£
Gross Salary	519,738	515,321
Employers National Insurance	52,350	52,298
Employers Pension Contribution	44,954	45,129
	£617,042	£612,748
Charged direct to projects	-	-
Charged to support costs	598,883	595,091
Charged to Governance	18,159	17,657
	£617,042	£612,748

The average number of employees was 19 (2019: 22).

No employee earned more than £60,000. The total emoluments of the senior management team amounted to £161,647 (2019: £163,012).

Council and Committee members provide their services gratis and receive only out of pocket expenses.

Travel and subsistence expenses were paid to 7 (2019: 8) Officers and Council and Committee members amounting in total to £3,341 (2019: £8,138).

There were no redundancy costs in 2020 (2019: £Nil).

9. HERITAGE ASSETS

Heritage assets acquired since 2010

			2020 £
COST			
At 1st January 2020 made up of			
Darwin's Books		1,500,000	
Nepal Maps		21,000	
Smith Diaries		5,000	
Opie Paintings		25,000	
The Transylvania Florilegium	Vol 1	5,475	
The Transylvania Florilegium	Vol 2	5,475	
			1,561,950
At 31st December 2020			1,561,950
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st January 2020			-
Charge for the Year			-
At 31st December 2020			-
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st December 2020			£1,561,950
At 31st December 2019			£1,561,950

In 2015, the Society received from the Charles Darwin Trust a gift of Darwinian and Wallacean material which contained many key works, manuscripts and letters which has been valued at £1.5m. In accordance with FRS 102, donated heritage assets have been included at valuation.

The Society also holds a large number of scientific and historic assets which cannot easily be valued and which will not be sold because the maintenance is part of the primary objective of the Society. As a result, these heritage assets are not included in the Balance Sheet. These assets comprise:

a. scientific collections b. books and periodicals c. portraits and busts

These heritage assets the Society are of primary value, internationally, to the biological sciences, and in terms of cultural value, to the history of science. The main collections of dried plant material, preserved animal specimens and correspondence to Carl Linnaeus and Sir James Edward Smith provide the foundation for classification, taxonomy and nomenclature.

All this material is irreplaceable and so it is stored under optimum conservation conditions. The collections themselves are accessible physically by any *bona fide* research worker, accompanied by a curator or appropriate member of staff. The Society, with generous grant funding, has financed the preparation of digitised images of this material, and these are accessible to all, at no charge, through the Society's website.

The Society's Acquisitions Policy recommends that any additional material must be in fields relevant to existing material. Archives of those individuals who have worked or are working in the science of natural history, including conservation, are also welcomed.

The Society's insurance policies cover damage to the fabric of the building and the seek-and-find or repair of the Library's book stock, paintings and busts, but not the plant and animal collections as they are unique and irreplaceable. As such, they are invaluable to research and science but are valueless for insurance purposes.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Lift and Building Works	Air Conditioning	Office Equipment	Other	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST						
At 1st January 2020	518,854	225,752	57,759	170,955	317,297	1,290,617
Additions in Year	-	-	-	7,173	-	7,173
At 31st December 2020	518,854	225,752	57,759	178,128	317,297	1,297,790
DEPRECIATION						
At 1st January 2020	54,251	52,675	57,759	157,642	165,752	488,079
Charge for the Year	7,377	7,525	-	10,208	23,330	48,440
At 31st December 2020	61,628	60,200	57,759	167,850	189,082	536,519
NET BOOK VALUE						
At 31st December 2020	£457,226	£165,552	£-	£10,278	£128,215	£761,271
At 31st December 2019	£464,603	£173,077	£-	£13,313	£151,545	£802,538

11. INVESTMENTS

	2020		2019	
	Book Cost	Market Value	Book Cost	Market Value
	£	£	£	£
UK Fixed Interest	67,356	49,385	159,777	148,434
UK Equities	1,474,458	1,930,407	1,384,190	1,876,671
Overseas Equities	1,178,645	2,054,505	1,189,271	1,878,636
	£2,720,459	£4,034,297	£2,733,238	£3,903,741
Investment Portfolio				
Market Value brought forward		3,903,741		3,419,134
Add: Acquisitions		362,591		278,542
Less: Disposals		(303,598)		(254,782)
Realised Gains (Losses) on Disposals		(71,428)		(37,907)
Gain (Loss) on Revaluation		142,991		498,754
Market Value carried forward		£4,034,297		£3,903,741

Investments are held on a long-term basis to generate investment income for the Society. Realised Gains represent the difference between the sales proceeds and original cost of investments sold during the year. Revaluation gains and losses arise from the revaluation of investments to market value at the year-end.

12. **DEBTORS**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Due from Publisher 2020	389,590	393,633
Prepayments	40,730	-
Other Debtors	59,514	25,963
	£489,834	£419,596

13. **CREDITORS:** Amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Contributions received in advance	59,411	61,418
Publishing income received in advance	1,285,550	1,436,482
Rent Provision	22,880	12,327
VAT	209,729	205,134
Deferred Expenditure	49,433	-
Other Creditors	92,903	82,604
	£1,719,906	£1,797,965

14. **CREDITORS:** Amounts falling due after one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Mortgage on Toynbee Property	230,628	241,061
	£230,628	£241,061

The Toynbee mortgage is payable at 3.56% above base rate over 25 years and is secured on the property.

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15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS 2020

	Permanent Endowments				Restricted Funds				
	Balance at 1. 1.20	Endowments Received	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance 31.12.20	Balance at 1.1.20	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended & Transfers	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance at 31.12.20
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Westwood Fund	7,526	-	133	7,659	212	150	(150)	-	212
Trail-Crisp Fund	6,779	-	123	6,902	2,151	176	(42)	33	2,318
Hooker Fund	17,444	-	317	17,761	14,633	545	(132)	165	15,211
Goodenough Fund	-	-	-	-	34,104	584	(1,152)	518	34,054
Minchin Fund	-	-	-	-	1,516	31	(31)	28	1,544
Jane Jackson Fund	78,390	-	1,426	79,816	-	1,610	(1,610)	-	-
The HH Bloomer Fund	18,695	-	333	19,028	5,587	488	(318)	99	5,856
P. Appleyard Fund	78,822	-	1,402	80,224	16,091	1,737	(2,421)	138	15,545
Dennis Stanfield Memorial Fund	45,502	-	819	46,321	4,219	966	(2,234)	36	2,987
Omer Cooper Fund	-	-	-	-	71,999	1,220	(1,220)	1,081	73,080
Bonhote Fund	31,754	-	551	32,305	1,118	627	(627)	5	1,123
Jill Smythies Prize Fund	52,623	-	958	53,581	932	1,143	(1,262)	-	813
Irene Manton Prize Fund	65,439	-	1,191	66,630	9,787	1,493	(1,361)	132	10,051
A.G. Side Fund	-	-	-	-	67,835	1,219	(1,219)	1,081	68,916
Jan Gillett Fund	-	-	-	-	9,306	149	(36)	132	9,551
Denis Owen Fund	-	-	-	-	2,218	-	-	-	2,218
Ivy Eleanor Sleep Fund	193,577	-	3,522	197,099	131,500	6,211	(4,502)	1,982	135,191
Trewavas/Greenwood Fund	-	-	-	-	36,157	632	(153)	560	37,196
Eleanor McMillan Fund	-	-	-	-	195,617	3,855	(932)	3,416	201,956
Zimmerman Fund	171,876	-	3,370	175,246	32,762	4,032	(939)	-	35,855
John Marsden Fund	-	-	-	-	30,108	2,172	(2,121)	493	30,652
The John Topp Fund	-	-	-	-	142,235	2,161	(522)	1,915	145,789
	£768,427	£-	£14,145	£782,572	£810,087	£31,201	£(22,984)	£11,814	£830,118
PROJECT FUNDS									
One Direction Projection	-	-	-	-	844	-	(844)	-	-
	£-	£-	£-	£-	£.844	-	£(844)	-	-
HERITAGE ASSET									
Charles Darwin Trust	-	-	-	-	£1,500,000	-	-	-	£1,500,000
TOTAL	£768,427	£-	£14,145	£782,572	£2,310,931	£31,201	£(23,828)	£11,814	£2,330,118

15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS 2019

	Permanent Endowments				Restricted Funds				
	Balance at 1. 1.19	Endowments Received	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance 31.12.19	Balance at 1.1.19	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended & Transfers	Gain/(Loss) on MV	Balance at 31.12.19
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Westwood Fund	6,658	-	868	7,526	210	197	(195)	-	212
Trail-Crisp Fund	5,973	-	806	6,779	3,273	233	(1,571)	216	2,151
Hooker Fund	15,369	-	2,075	17,444	12,986	717	(150)	1,080	14,633
Goodenough Fund	-	-	-	-	30,820	764	(865)	3,385	34,104
Minchin Fund	-	-	-	-	1,336	40	(40)	180	1,516
Jane Jackson Fund	69,066	-	9,324	78,390	-	2,093	(2,093)	-	-
The HH Bloomer Fund	16,517	-	2,178	18,695	6,732	639	(2,432)	648	5,587
P Appleyard Fund	69,661	-	9,161	78,822	15,595	2,274	(2,678)	900	16,091
Dennis Stanfield Memorial Fund	40,146	-	5,356	45,502	2,986	1,259	(263)	237	4,219
Omer Cooper Fund	-	-	-	-	64,912	1,609	(1,588)	7,066	71,999
Bonhote Fund	28,155	-	3,599	31,754	1,079	822	(816)	33	1,118
Jill Smythies Prize Fund	46,364	-	6,259	52,623	819	1,407	(1,294)	-	932
Irene Manton Prize Fund	57,656	-	7,783	65,439	8,385	1,945	(1,407)	864	9,787
AG Side Fund	-	-	-	-	60,758	1,601	(1,587)	7,063	67,835
Jan Gillett Fund	-	-	-	-	8,285	198	(41)	864	9,306
Denis Owen Fund	-	-	-	-	2,214	4	-	-	2,218
Ivy Eleanor Sleep Fund	170,553	-	23,024	193,577	115,017	8,123	(4,596)	12,956	131,500
Trewavas/Greenwood Fund	-	-	-	-	31,837	832	(172)	3,660	36,157
Eleanor McMillan Fund	-	-	-	-	169,248	5,096	(1,058)	22,331	195,617
Zimmerman Fund	149,850	-	22,026	171,876	28,806	4,997	(1,041)	-	32,762
John Marsden Fund	-	-	-	-	27,185	869	(1,166)	3,220	30,108
The John Topp Fund	-	-	-	-	127,454	2,856	(593)	12,518	142,235
	£675,968	£-	£92,459	£768,427	£719,937	£38,575	£(25,646)	£77,221	£810,087
PROJECT FUNDS									
PRISM Project	-	-	-	-	4,768	-	(4,768)	-	-
Wolfson/Garfield Weston	-	-	-	-	21,330	-	(21,330)	-	-
John Lyon's Charity	-	-	-	-	9,389	-	(9,389)	-	-
ArtsMark: A New Direction grant	-	-	-	-	-	1,500	(656)	-	844
	£-	£-	£-	£-	£35,487	£1,500	(£36,143)	-	£844
HERITAGE ASSET									
Darwin-Wallace Collection	-	-	-	-	£1,500,000	-	-	-	£1,500,000
TOTAL	£675,968	£-	£92,459	£768,427	£2,255,424	£40,075	£(61,789)	£77,221	£2,310,931

15. ENDOWMENTS & RESTRICTED FUNDS (CONTINUED)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Permanent Endowments represent capital funds where only the income arising may be spent. Unspent income balances are disclosed as separate restricted funds, available to be spent in the future, although, from time to time, unspent balances may be added to capital.

Restricted funds may only be spent for the purpose prescribed by the donor.

The transfer from the Wolfson restricted grant represents the funds spent on fixed assets which are held in the General Fund and being depreciated.

16. DESIGNATED FUNDS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Mortgage Liability	230,628	241,061
Collections Fund	20,000	20,000
Fellows Appeal	-	-
Development Fund	200,000	200,000
Fixed Asset Fund	530,643	561,477
Legal Costs Fund	100,000	100,000
Building Fund	900,000	650,000
	£1,981,271	£1,772,538

A Fixed Asset Fund has been set up as a separate designated reserve from 2013 to represent the extent to which the Society's general reserve has been utilised to acquire fixed assets. This ensures that the balance on the general reserve gives a better indication of the funds available to the Society. Other Designated Funds have been established to reflect potential future costs and liabilities of the Society. With the uncertainty over the affordability to the Society of the rent for New Burlington House in the medium term, the Building Fund was set up in 2017 to cover the financial risks and liabilities associated with finding and moving to alternative premises if required. The balance of this fund now stands at £900,000.

17. GENERAL RESERVE

	2020	2019
	£	£
Balance 1st January	2,654,248	2,184,048
Net Movement in funds for the year	796,209	837,484
Transfer from Designated Funds	-	-
Transfer (to) Designated Funds	(208,733)	(367,284)
Transfer from Restricted Funds	-	-
Balance at 31st December	£3,241,724	£2,654,248

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2020

	Investments	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment and Restricted Funds	1,493,816	1,500,000	118,874	-	3,112,690
Unrestricted Funds	2,540,481	823,221	3,809,827	(1,950,534)	5,222,995
	£4,034,297	£2,323,221	£3,928,701	£(1,950,534)	8,335,685

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS 2019

	Investments	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment and Restricted Funds	1,377,735	1,500,000	201,623	-	3,079,358
Unrestricted Funds	2,526,006	864,488	3,075,316	(2,039,024)	4,426,786
	£3,903,741	£2,364,488	£3,276,939	£(2,039,024)	7,506,144

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19. PREMISES

The Society has a long term (80 year) lease on its New Burlington House premises which was negotiated in 2005 with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, now administered by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The annual rent is based on Government accounting methodology involving annual valuations. During the year, both the current year and arrears invoices were paid. Negotiations are continuing with MHCLG with the aim of an affordable and sustainable updated lease agreement.

20. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2020 £	2019 £
Net income for the reporting period	829,541	985,450
Adjustments for:		
Interest paid	8,951	10,379
Depreciation	48,440	52,092
(Gains)/Losses on investments	(71,563)	(460,847)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(86,370)	(109,438)
(Increase) in Debtors	(70,238)	88,877
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(78,059)	(533,506)
	£580,702	£33,007

21. RELATED PARTY DECLARATIONS

There were not any transactions with related parties during the year.

22. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
		£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments From:					
Donations and Legacies	2	18,916	1,500	-	20,416
Charitable Activities					
Members' Contributions		152,012	-	-	152,012
Publications	3	1,747,209	-	-	1,747,209
Scientific Meetings		8,479	-	-	8,479
Library		7,542	-	-	7,542
Other Trading Activities	4	57,013	-	-	57,013
Investments		70,863	38,575	-	109,438
Total Income and Endowments		2,062,034	40,075	-	2,102,109
Expenditure On:					
Raising Funds					
Investment Management Costs		7,149	4,166	-	11,315
Charitable Activities	6				
Education		218,728	31,375	-	250,103
Publications		419,738	-	-	419,738
Scientific Meetings		214,751	-	-	214,751
Library		304,869	4,768	-	309,637
Collections: (Curatorial)		159,190	-	-	159,190
Collections: (Conservation & Digitisation)		141,631	-	-	141,631
Research Sponsorship		49,661	21,480	-	71,141
Total Expenditure		1,515,717	61,789	-	1,577,506
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Investment Gains/(Losses)		546,317	(21,714)	-	524,603
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments		291,167	77,221	92,459	460,847
Net Income/(Expenditure)		837,484	55,507	92,459	985,450
Transfers		-	-	-	-
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		837,484	55,507	92,459	985,450
Fund balance brought forward at 1/1/2019		3,589,302	2,255,424	675,968	6,520,694
Fund balance carried forward at 31/12/2019		£4,426,786	£2,310,931	£768,427	£7,506,144

Appendix: Full Listing of the Linnean Society's Meetings, Events and Workshops 2020

Date	Type of Event	Speaker (s)/ Organisers	Title
8th January	Lunchtime Lecture	Ms Ellie Armstrong	Queer(y)ing Natural Histories
16th January	Evening Meeting	Professor Jane Hill	Biodiversity Winners and Losers from Climate Warming
21st January	Discovery Workshop	Dr Rebecca Jewell and Ms Sandy Ross Sykes	Drawing and Painting a Nature Tableau
28th January	Discovery Workshop	Mr Stephen Hall	Drawing Nature: Teaser Workshop
4-5 February	Discovery Workshop	Dr Rebecca Jewell and Ms Sandy Ross Sykes	Drawing and Painting Mythical Creatures
5th February	Lunchtime Lecture	Professor Stella Sandford	From Logic to Nature: 'Genus' and 'Species' in Philosophy and Biology
7th February	Day Meeting	Linnean Society Student Conference	Student Spotlights 2020: Discover the next generation of natural historians
13th February	Special Event	Ms Kim Walker and Professor Mark Nesbitt FLS	The Botanical History of the Gin & Tonic
14th February	Lunchtime Lecture	Dr Alex Dehgan	The Snow Leopard Project and other Adventures in Warzone Conservation
25th February	Discovery Workshop	Mr Stephen Hall	Drawing Nature: Accuracy, Proportion and Scale
27th February	Evening Meeting	Professor Jason Hall-Spencer	The Ecological Effects of Ocean Acidification
4th March	Lunchtime Lecture	Dr Richard Smith FLS	The World Beneath: A Marriage of Underwater Photography and Marine Biology
12th March	Special Event	Dr Gregory Dunn	The Science behind Sparkling Wine
7th May	Linnean Learning	Mr Joe Burton	Primary School Session: Special Species
20th May	Discovery Workshop	Mr Angelo Vermeulen	BH Lunchtime Scientist: Angelo Vermeulen
22nd May	Special Event		Anniversary Meeting 2020
10th June	Lunchtime Lecture	Ms Pia Östlund	The Lost Art of Nature Printing
18th June	Evening Meeting	Professor **Robert J. Whittaker**	Life on Islands: Cycles of Arrival, Change and Loss

22nd June	In association with Royal Society of Biology South West Branch	Eleanor Drinkwater	Wallace & the Caterpillars: A Colourful History of Discovery
3-28 August	Linnean Learning	Mr Joe Burton	Nature Weeks for 12-16 year olds
12th August	Linnean Learning	Mr Joe Burton	A Beginner's Guide to Drawing Animals
9th September	Lunchtime Lecture	Dr Erica McAlister FLS FRES	The Inside Out of Flies and Why They Matter
24th September	Evening Meeting	Dr Silvia Pressel FLS	Key Land Plant Innovations in Bryophytes
6th October	Science Policy Lecture in association with the Systematics Association	Prof Dieter Helm CBE	Natural Capital, Biodiversity & Net Zero: Foundations of a Green Economy
7th October	Lunchtime Lecture	Dr Matt Doggett	Underwater Photography for Science and Conservation
28th October		Ms Jo Wilbraham	Desmid algae: Jewels in the Bog
4th November	Lunchtime Lecture	Prof Sophien Kamoun FRS	Keeping up with the Plant Killers
12th November	Darwin Lecture in association with the Royal Society of Medicine	Professor Michael Hochberg	Cancer Evolution: From Cells to Species and Back
16th November	Evening Meeting in association with the British Ornithologists Club	Professor Jon Fjeldså	The Evolution of Passerine Birds Explained
18th November	Lunchtime Lecture	Mr Andrew Lewis FLS, Mr Vijay Ramesh and Ms Pooja Choksi	Sounds of the Wild
20th November	Special Event: Launch of Treasures Book	Society staff and curators	L: 50 Objects, Stories and Discoveries from the Linnean Society of London
26th November	Evening Meeting	Dr Nathalie Pettorelli	Climate change and its impacts on biodiversity - a bird's eye view
2nd December	Founder's day Lecture	Prof Brycchan Carey	Gilbert White of Selborne: Poet, Preacher, and Naturalist
9th December	Lunchtime Lecture	Dr Ellie Devenish-Nelson and Dr Howard Nelson	Challenges and opportunities for Caribbean endemic bird conservation
17th December	Christmas Lecture	Prof Samuel Turvey	Learning from the Past - Environmental Archives and Historical Baselines

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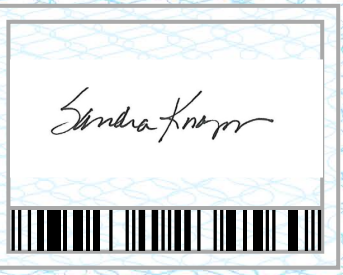

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