



**Croydon
Natural History
& Scientific
Society**

CNHSS.CO.UK

Directors' Report 2024 and AGM Notice



154th Annual General Meeting 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the AGM and receipt of the Directors' Report for the year 2024 will be held in the David Sweet Hall at East Croydon United Reformed Church – Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, on Thursday 1st May 2025, commencing at 19:45.

**For a full programme of walks and talks
please visit our website on www.cnhss.co.uk**

Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society Limited
A company limited by guarantee registered in London No. 922278
Registered Office: 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD
Registered Email address: information@cnhss.co.uk
Registered charity No. 260739

For ways of contacting the Society online see box on back cover

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To accept and agree the minutes of the AGM of 25th April 2024
The minutes are printed on page 3 of this Bulletin and are also available at cnhss.co.uk
3. To receive, consider, and (if approved) to adopt the Directors' Report, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Accounts, and the Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts for the year 2024, all of which documents are included herewith.

The elections in 4 below will be held en bloc unless there is dissention or if there is an excess of nominations received, in which case the posts will be considered individually.

4. To elect the President, the four Vice-Presidents (of which one is vacant), Hon. Curator, Hon. Editor, Hon. General Secretary, Hon. Librarian, Hon. Treasurer, and no fewer than five nor more than ten Ordinary Members of Council for 2025 / 2026. Valid online and postal votes will be combined with those voting at the meeting. [Officers and Members of the Council are Directors of the Company under the Companies Acts, and Trustees of the Charity under the Charities Acts.] Only Ordinary, Life or Honorary members are entitled to vote who have not already voted online or by post.

5. To re-appoint Donald MacLeod as Independent Examiner for 2025, and to authorise Council to fix his remuneration.

6. Presentation by the President of 50-year Membership Certificates. There are four this year.

Ian G PAYNE

Company Secretary &
Charity Commission Contact

Nominees for election are as follows [see page 4 for nomination procedures]:

President: Carole Roberts

Vice-Presidents:

**Brenda Hawkins, John Hickman,
Ian Payne, Vacant**

Hon. Curator: Esther Mann

Hon. Editor: Carole Roberts

Hon. General Sec: Tony Skrzypczyk

Hon. Librarian: Tony Skrzypczyk

Hon. Treasurer: Brenda Hawkins

**Ordinary Members of Council: Pamela Buttrey, Jorn Cooper, Pat Dennison,
Dawn Gibbons, Edward Hart, Liz Malarkey, Philip Swallow**

After the formal business meeting refreshments will be served. There will then follow the Presidential Address given by Carole A Roberts, entitled:

'North End, Croydon'



Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society
153rd Annual General Meeting Thursday 25th April 2024
Minutes (meeting delayed to 20:10 due to pass key difficulties)

Carole Roberts, President, welcomed members and guests.

31 members and 5 guests were present but prior votes had been received online and by post and were added to those at the meeting (without duplication).

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Pat Dennison, Rosemary Turner, Maureen O'Sullivan, Mark Tyson, Brian Lancaster, Ken Woodhams, Edward Handley, Graham Collins, Jovita Kaunang.

Announcements

Member deaths in 2023: Jim Davison, former Archaeology Section & Museum, Keith Doyle, Friderun Marson, Paul Rainey, former Director & Treasurer, Sue Turnbull. The following members died in 2022 but were not reported to us until 2023: Dorothy Tutt, John Kenneth Hayward.

A one minute silence was held for all our lost members.

* voting numbers below include the total of in-person, online and postal voting

2. *To accept and agree the minutes of the AGM of 20th April 2023

Proposed: Eleanor Redshaw, Seconded: John Hickman: For 45, Against 0, Abstain 4

3. *To receive, consider and to adopt the Directors' Report, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Accounts and the Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts for the year 2023.

Proposed: John Hickman, Seconded: Anne Ramon: For 45, Against 0, Abstain 3

The chair was passed to Ian Payne, Company Secretary, for item 4

4. There were no dissensions to voting for Council posts to being taken en bloc.

***To elect the President, the four Vice-Presidents, Hon. Curator, Hon. Editor, Hon. General Secretary, Hon. Librarian, Hon. Treasurer and Ordinary Members of Council for 2024/2025.** Proposed: John Hickman, Seconded: Liz Malarkey: For 47, Against 0, Abstain 0
The following were elected:

President: Carole Roberts

Vice-Presidents: Brenda Hawkins, John Hickman, Ian Payne, Vacant

Hon. Curator: Esther Mann

Hon. Editor: Carole Roberts

Hon. General Secretary: Tony Skrzypczyk

Hon. Librarian: Tony Skrzypczyk

Hon. Treasurer: Brenda Hawkins

Ordinary Members of Council:

Pamela Buttrey, Jom Cooper,

Pat Dennison, Edward Hart, Nicola Hunt,

Liz Malarkey, Kenneth Woodhams

5. *To re-appoint Donald MacLeod as Independent Examiner for 2024 and to authorise Council to fix his remuneration: Proposed: John Hickman, Seconded: Brenda Hawkins: For 47, Against 0, Abstain 1

6. Presentation by the President of 50 year Membership Certificates

Members who joined in 1974 were Ray Wheeler, Graham Collins, Maureen O'Sullivan. Maureen will be presented her certificate at her care home.

The AGM closed at 20:30.

Following an intermission, President Carole Roberts gave an illustrated talk entitled: 'Croydon's pleasure fairs to 1868'.

How to Vote

Only Ordinary, Life or Honorary members are entitled to vote.

In person voting at the AGM on 1st May 2025. If you have voted online or by post, you may attend the AGM but not vote.

Online voting will be available from 6th April and closes 27th April 2025. Please go to <https://www.cnhss.co.uk/members> and either log in or register to create your own personal login credentials.

Postal voting: please cut out the postal voting form on page 23 of this report. Postal voting forms must be received at the Society's Registered Office (see front cover) by 26th April 2025.

Following the AGM, minutes and other papers will be available at: <https://www.cnhss.co.uk/members>.

For other information and online contacts, please see back cover.

Nomination of Directors

Nominations for election of members as directors are submitted by Council prior to the AGM and will include valid nominations made prior to the Notice of AGM in accordance with the following.

Member nominations for Council may be made at any time only for and by fully paid up Ordinary, Life, or Honorary Members, and should be sent to the Honorary General Secretary at information@cnhss.co.uk or posted to the Hon. General Secretary at the Society's Registered Office; each such nomination should be accompanied by an emailed or written statement signed by the nominee certifying her or his willingness to stand for election; non-members, Associates, and Group Members may neither nominate nor be nominated. Council has the power to appoint validly nominated members as directors prior to the next AGM.

Membership Fees

Ordinary and Group membership **£18 p.a.**

Associate membership **£10 p.a.**

(living at the same address as an Ordinary, Life or Honorary Member)

Life membership **£250.**

Donations at Meetings

Costs of open meetings and particularly speaker fees cannot be fully met from membership fees, which have remained frozen.

Council have resolved that at meetings with a speaker, both members and non-members will be requested to make a donation of £3.

Directors' Report for 2024

The Directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024.

The Society is one of the oldest cultural societies in Croydon and was incorporated on 14th November 1967, under the Companies Acts, as consolidated by the Companies Act 1985, as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital, registered in England (922278). The Society is also registered in England as a charity (260739). Unlike many similar societies established during the reign of Queen Victoria, it has survived two world wars and entered the 21st century with, again unusually, an uninterrupted publishing programme (since 1871) and an actively maintained library and museum.

The Society traces its history continuously from the Croydon Microscopical Club (1870–1877), the Croydon Microscopical and Natural History Club (1877–1901), and the unincorporated Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society (1902–1967).

The principal work of the Society is, for the public benefit, the encouragement of the study of the natural and local history and archaeology of the Croydon area, by organising lectures, members' talks, discussions, exhibitions, field meetings and surveys, by issuing publications, by maintaining a library and a museum. The Society is unusual in owning property, a library and museum in one of the outer London Boroughs, and continuing to maintain a vigorous publishing programme.

We were very sad to be bereaved of six members this past year but pleased that total membership increased by nine – see Membership report. After many years of valuable service, Ken Woodhams has decided to step down as a CNHSS Director and chair of our premises committee.

The Society's responsibilities as a charity to benefit the public at large are met by, for example, collecting and arranging for the publication of biological records (primarily botanical and entomological); publishing materials of local historical interest; allowing access for researchers to materials held in the Society's library and museum; answering enquiries from members and the public; responding to consultations by Croydon Council and other bodies; delivering exhibitions, lectures and presentations for other

organisations including charities, schools and libraries.

Following the Annual General Meeting held in April 2024, various non-AGM elected posts were confirmed, various members were confirmed as section heads and appointments were made to the various committees. General members in addition to directors may be requested to stand on the Society's committees. Council meetings of the Directors of the Company, who are also Trustees of the Charity, were held during the year either in-person or by Zoom. The Register of Directors' Interests is updated annually. During 2024 there were no additional Director declarations of interest at any Council meetings.

Premises

The Premises Committee was re-established in 2017 to take responsibility for the maintenance and repair of the Society's Headquarters and Library building at 96A Brighton Road, and of the Society's Museum in Chipstead Valley Road. The contents of 96A and of the Museum are the responsibility of the Library and Museum Committee. The Premises Committee met three times in 2024.

Work continued sorting out material at 96A and other locations, ahead of refurbishment and reorganisation to make it fit for purpose.

At 96A the wiring was inspected, the next test being due in 2028.

At the Museum, fluorescent tubes were replaced with LED tubes, and the heaters were checked ahead of turning on low during winter to protect paper items in the collection.

Library and Archives

Following a decision of the Council, a small working party of Tony Skrzypczyk (Hon. Librarian), Brenda Hawkins, Jim Bush and Ed Hart are continuing the work of identifying journals and books which we believe are readily available elsewhere, or not relevant to the area or the interests of the Society. We had little success rehoming our older journals, so they have been removed from the library.

We aspire to provide adequate working space for cataloguing and organising holdings and for more ease of accommodating visitors.

However, at present the premises are inadequate to satisfactorily accommodate the Society's archives and library and enable us to bring back those categories of materials that are currently dispersed. Also, there is a severely restricted working area and minimal space for library users to consult materials.

Museum

An Open Day was held on Saturday 13th July 2024. As the date could not be agreed with the school and advertised until three weeks beforehand, attendance was unfortunately low. Previously, we had managed to set the Open Day to coincide with the school's summer fair and thus attract many students and parents to our Museum.

The Society was contacted by two members of the public about identification of some of their archaeological artefacts and Chris Taylor, the Society's archaeological advisor, met them to go through the items and explain their prehistory.

One of the two members of the public requested a visit to the Society's Museum to see some of its artefacts and on 14th February Chris met with her and her family at the Museum and gave a talk on the prehistory of the area and some of the exhibits.

On 24th March 2024 Chris gave a talk on "Stones and Bones" to 90 children at Chipstead Valley Primary School, using artefacts from the Museum as exhibits. This was very well received and as a result a follow up talk has taken place in 2025.

In June, Chris exhibited a Palaeolithic ovate type handaxe, from the Museum, found at the famous site at Swanscombe, to the Lithics Group of the Surrey Archaeological Society.

The Society is considering future options for the Museum including its siting and appropriateness of holding some non-local items. Currently, curation is less than adequate and academic access is below optimal. We have sought professional advice from the British Museum in this respect. For a more detailed analysis, please see our Spring 2025 issue of the CNHSS Bulletin, Issue 179.

Entomology

These meetings have not resumed in 2024, however, entomology

enquiries continued to be answered by the Entomology Section. Contact Graham Collins at stigmella.aurella@tiscali.co.uk

Ornithology

The Ornithology Group visited 14 different venues during 2024. Some were local to Croydon including Selsdon Woods and South Norwood Country Park. Others more distant included Pagham RSPB Nature Reserve in Sussex, Kent Wildlife Reserve in Sevenoaks and Rye Harbour in East Sussex. In addition there were six repeat visits to some of the 14 venues.

The number of bird species seen reached 48 at Pulborough Brooks RSPB Reserve, and 47 on three other occasions, but could be affected by the weather.

One of the walks, in Woldingham, was specifically for butterflies on which nine species were seen, and some insects, plants or mammals seen were noted on other walks.

The Ornithology Group would welcome new members – contact information@cnhss.co.uk for a list of walks – also open to non-members.

The John Gent postcards collection

Croydon's year as the London Borough of Culture came to a close on 31st March. We are following the work of a proposed cultural consortium to continue its legacy.

Early in 2024, following discussions with the Library & Archives services manager (Culture, Leisure & Libraries Culture & Community Safety, Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Recovery Directorate) CNHSS Council agreed the granting of £4,100 for arranging three rotating exhibitions in the borough's libraries. The funding would be for purchasing three sets of display boards and the reproduction of images from the John Gent postcards collection, associated wall-texts, information boards and publicity. The project will promote the society's objectives while also furthering a condition in John Gent's bequest.

The display boards were delivered to Croydon Central Library in March.

The project will initially be of images from photographs by Charles Harrison Price and *Croydon Times*. Discussion with Roger Packham led to the Bourne Society being included in two of the first exhibitions.

In discussion with Mike Ratcliffe of Snappy Snaps, Croydon, the curators secured generous sponsorship for images reproduction and accessory materials.

The first of these exhibitions will open in February 2025.

Discussions with managers of Stanley Arts, South Norwood resulted in our receiving a grant of £1,600 towards an exhibition, titled Shakespeare in South Norwood. The show will comprise images of outstanding photographs by C. H. Price of amateur actors at Stanley Hall in 1911, 1912 and 1913. Again, the society acquired sponsorship from Snappy Snaps, Croydon.

During discussion with Julia Tubman (Heritage, Museum and Collections Manager, Museum of Croydon) the society was offered a re-hang of our exhibition 'Croydon through the lens of Charles Harrison Price'. This hugely successful exhibition was initially opened in February 2020 but was closed early because of Sars-Covid19 restrictions.

In 2020 the Bourne Society joined CNHSS in producing this exhibition and will join us again in August 2025. The society will also embrace Museum of Croydon in the exhibition for their generous offer.

The society continues to support Croydon Conservation Department (L. B. Croydon) in providing images for the Webb Estate Conservation Area Advisory Management Plan Appraisal.

Meetings

The Society's general and other meetings are, with our publications and exhibitions, the main activities of which the membership at large is most aware. In 2024 we continued with a programme of walks, visits and in-person talks interspersed with Zoom talks.

During the year there were:

- 16 in-person talks or meetings
- 4 Zoom talks

- 8 walks, of which seven were Ecology walks (see Conservation Report)
- 1 visit
- In addition there were 20 Ornithology walks (see Ornithology Report).

Talks generally have a 19:45 start although there are occasional 14:30 Saturday in-person talks especially from January to March when it's cold and dark in the evenings.

Our in-person events were held at East Croydon United Reformed Church. The talks in the Small Hall were: A Gallop through the History of Carriage Driving; Planting for bees; Wilks, his Wilderness and its journey through to today; Merton Priory – the Latest Chapter; Mapping Urban Geology: building stones in London and beyond on London Pavement Geology; Christopher Wren, England's Leonardo; Badgers – Their Lives, Ecology, Rescue and Rehabilitation; The lost story of South London's technological excellence; Annabel Dott – a tiresome lady architect and vicar's wife; Continental Drift; Overhill in Warlingham – the land, the house and its residents; Engineering through history; The Post-Medieval Iron Industry in the Weald (1490-1828); and our Christmas talk was 'An A-Z of Pantomime'.

In the David Sweet Hall were held our AGM, at which the Presidential Address was 'Croydon's pleasure fairs to 1868', and our annual Focus meeting with the subject this year being 'The seeds of things to come', on the preservation of seeds and plants, with talks by the Millennium Seed Bank and the South London Botanical Institute.

Books and other items, surplus to our requirements, are usually offered to members at our indoor meetings in return for appropriate donations to be set against the cost of hiring the room and paying speakers' expenses and fees. Items offered are mostly duplicates from our library, or books bequeathed or donated by members or others.

Zoom talks allow our more distant members to attend these events and enable us to search farther afield for speakers. There were four Zoom talks, on the Mills of the River Wandle; A Lost Elysium? The impact of motoring on English landscapes in the inter-war years; Mapping the WW2 bombing of Surrey; and Nightjar ecology and movements.

In addition to the Ecology walks there was an Early Sunday morning

walk in North End Croydon, and an Evening visit to The Wilderness in Shirley, the subject of a talk in 2023.

Publications

We did not publish any 'Proceedings' this year.

Two Bulletins were published in Spring and Autumn. As you can see with this Bulletin, we are experimenting with a new style. Issue 177 contained 72 pages and 11 articles. Issue 178 contained 60 pages and 12 articles.

In addition to Members' articles, relevant notices, announcements, letters and Society news may be submitted to the Bulletin editor. Submitted articles can be on any topic that may be of interest to members – don't forget to include suitable images (copyright free) to go with your article. The Bulletin editor would be glad to receive suggestions from members or feedback on previous articles or extending the subject matter thereof – see contact details on the back cover.

The Society is a member of 'Publishers' Licensing Services' (PLS) and receives fees for the right to use extracts of our published materials.

Rather than collating, envelope stuffing and affixing stamps (where hand delivery is impractical), we have now moved to direct mailing by our printer.

Publicity and Website

In addition to our own programme of events, the Society has a borough-wide and beyond outreach programme of talks available to libraries and other societies. During 2024 talks were given to: the Croydon Civil Service Pensioners Alliance (Croydon from the palette of Evacustes Phipson); classes at Kensington Primary School, Norbury (Norbury in the olden days); Rokewood Court Care Home (Croydon past); Croham Valley Explorer Scouts (South Croydon, Heathfield and Selsdon in the past); The Tuesday Guild at St Paul's URC (Croydon Pleasure Fairs to 1868); and Banstead U3A (The history of Croydon).

We worked with Pollock's Toy Museum in Croydon, initially providing

information for their Barton Toys of New Addington exhibition, and more substantially by working with them on a Walnut Fair exhibition. For this we provided input on the background to the fair, were recorded for audio accompaniments to the exhibits and gave a talk on the opening weekend 'Croydon's Walnut Fair to 1868', illustrated by images on boards.

We also took part in Croydon Council's Walnut Fair weekend in October, with a stall in Katharine Street on the Saturday and with a talk 'Croydon's pleasure fairs to 1868' at which Museum of Croydon arranged for an original painting of Croydon Fair in 1833 from their collection to be present.

Additionally stalls were held at Croydon Libraries' Go Explore event and the LAMAS Local History Conference.

In December 2024, CNHSS membership was suggested as a Christmas present on a companion website.

The Society's website holds the status of our events. It also shows our directory, information about the Society and logo, the Society's General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), how to join and the titles of our publications – the books, and our most recent Proceedings and Bulletins. During 2024 we commissioned an upgrade to the website with a refreshed design, and incorporating new pages for Croydon's Green Spaces on which we can build.

Conservation

The Society has continued to be an active member of the Association of Croydon Conservation Societies (ACCS), the umbrella group for local organisations concerned with green spaces in Croydon. All our meetings this year were held virtually, with good attendance from representatives of about 20 groups.

We continue in membership of the City of London's West Wickham, Spring Park and Coulsdon Commons Consultation Group, but no meetings were held this year.

We continue in membership of the Parks, Woodlands and Greenspaces Forum (Croydon Council), and we met once by Teams, in July. Croydon Council has reorganised the management of its Parks and Green Spaces. In June we welcomed Croydon's new

Community and Conservation Team Leader, who fills in the gap in ecological expertise, and a new Trees team was in place towards the end of the year.

We had a programme of seven Ecology walks: Winter trees and a historic landscape in Hamsey Green in February; Spring flowers and scenery at the Lawns, part of the Great North Wood in Upper Norwood in April; Bluebells and spring flowers in the grounds of Bethlem Royal Hospital in May; Meadows and Hedgerows in Lloyd Park in June; Another piece of the Great North Wood, Norwood Grove and Nettlefold Field in July (a joint meeting with the South London Botanical Institute); Heather on Shirley Heath in August; and Autumn fruits and fungi in Heathfield in October.

Representation on Other Bodies

The Society continues as a member of the Croydon Local Studies Forum, and is represented on the Association of Croydon Conservation Societies, the Croydon Parks, Woodlands and Greenspaces Forum, West Wickham, Spring Park and Coulsdon Commons Consultation Group, Friends of Farthing Downs & Happy Valley, Friends of Shirley Windmill and the Mid-Croydon Conservation Area Advisory Panel and the North Croydon Conservation Area Advisory Panel. Also the Society sends representatives to Culture Croydon, the successor to the Croydon Borough of Culture group.

The society itself is a member of the British Association for Local History and the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The Society is a non-profit making organisation and as such is not registered under the GDPR. However, the Society needs to keep personal information about its members to ensure the smooth running of the Society. This includes name and address and (if provided) telephone number(s) and email address. The Society also keeps a record of the members' subscription payments, including any Gift Aid donations.

Any member may request a copy of the information that the Society

holds about him or her: such requests should be made in writing to the Company Secretary at the Society's registered office (see front cover). Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

The Society implements its obligations under the GDPR by issuing the following Data Privacy Statement.

Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society (CNHSS – The Society) Data Privacy Statement – July 2018

The Society holds the following data on its Members: Name, Address, Telephone Number(s), Email Address, Membership type, Subscription record.

Only Council Members, Trustees and Post Holders who require access to this personal data needed to carry out their role within the Society are provided with access to the data. This includes mailings of CNHSS publications, maintaining membership and subscription records and contact details for finding volunteers for specific purposes.

Information will not be shared with third parties without express permission from the member concerned.

Finance and Insurance

The Finance Committee is responsible for: ● Scrutiny of annual accounts ● Determination of Reserves Policy ● Consideration of necessary transfers between funds ● Consideration of cash flow and future expenditure affordability ● Scrutiny of value of investments ● Transfers of investments or re-investment of maturing monies. The committee reports and makes recommendations to CNHSS Council regarding all the above.

The Society maintains a Reserves Policy to ensure adequate free reserves* to manage any reasonably foreseeable contingency and comply with Charity Commission guidance. Taking into account the investment market situation, the Society appraises its investment strategy with particular emphasis on generating income so as to cover annual running costs. *Free reserves are Unrestricted Reserves excluding reserves allocated to the acquisition of Tangible Fixed Assets and Funds allocated for designated purposes.

The Society has recently been the recipient of several large legacies. These monies are currently credited to a Legacy Fund (see Financial

Statements). Suitable medium-term investments have been sought with a view to the long term strategy needs of the Society.

The Society's insurance requirements are reviewed annually in respect of buildings, contents and other liabilities including a sum of £5 million in respect of public liability.

Membership

All membership rates remained unchanged in 2024.

At 31 December 2024 there were 244 (236) members, of whom 136 (139) were ordinary members, 22 (21) associates, 68 (58) life, 11 (11) group and 7 (7) honorary members. Figures in brackets are those at 31 December 2023. 66% of our members live in the London Borough of Croydon.

We regret to report the deaths of Margaret Brooker, Sean Creighton, David Emery, Friderun Marson (2023), Maureen O'Sullivan, Richard Verrall and Muriel Woolven (learned in 2024).

Membership recruitment fell slightly in 2024, with 20 new members (22 in 2023). We are grateful for the support of our existing members.

We are extremely grateful to those members who have signed a Gift Aid declaration, because CNHSS then benefits from some money that would otherwise have been paid in Income Tax, but we can only claim Gift Aid if you pay tax. The Personal Tax Allowance increases each year, so if your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax, please let us know and we won't claim Gift Aid from your subscription.

Directors and Secretary

During the year the Directors have been P Buttrey, J.G. Cooper, P.R. Dennison, E.A. Hart, B.J. Hawkins (Hon. Treasurer), J.I. Hickman (VP), N.R. Hunt, E. Malarkey E. Mann, I.G. Payne (VP : Company Secretary), C.A. Roberts (President), A. Skrzypczyk (Hon. General Secretary : Hon. Librarian), M.A. Tyson to 24th April 2024 and K.E. Woodhams.

*Ian G Payne / Company Secretary
on behalf of the Directors and Charity Trustees*

**Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society Limited
(A Company Limited by Guarantee Without Share Capital)**

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31st December 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the directors, who are also the trustees, of Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society (Charity Number 260739; Company Number 922278)

I report to the charity's directors on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2024, as set out on Accounts pp 2 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's directors and trustees of the Company you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act).

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.....

Date 25th March 2025.....

Donald Iain MacLeod
FCA
Member of the Institute of Chartered
Accountants in England and Wales

22 Bowes Wood
New Ash Green
Longfield
Kent DA3 8QJ

Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society Limited
(A Company Limited by Guarantee Without Share Capital)

Statement of financial activities (including summary income and expenditure account)
For The Year Ended 31st December 2024

	Notes	2024	Fund	2023
Income — unrestricted funds				
		£		£
Investment income		8,515	1/3G=B=F	4,980
Interest income		5,405	1/3G=B=F	1,160
Subscriptions		2,716	General	2,701
Donations		744	General	292
Book sales		1,458	Fagg	2,232
Exhibition Grants		800	General	300
Legacy	[2]	69,331	Legacy	261,447
Gift Aid	[3]	452	General	0
Lectures		145	General	80
Royalties		32	Fagg	409
		89,598		273,601
Expenditure — unrestricted funds				
		£		£
Website and computer sundries		4,595	General	185
Meetings		2,561	General	2,337
Postage and telephone		1,080	General	881
Printing and stationery		0	General	276
Rates and rent	{	1,368	Bennett	1,409
		0	Legacy	-985
Light and Heat	{	1,595	Bennett	2,544
		217	Legacy	477
Depreciation		27	General	35
		611	Bennett	236
Repairs and Renewals	{	0	Legacy	1,440
		0	Fagg	0
Proceedings		198	General	223
Subscriptions		13	General	820
Professional fees	{	9,657	Legacy	26,452
		0	General	0
Bank charges		300	General	300
Examiner's remuneration		2,293	General	1,277
Insurance	{	643	Legacy	628
		822	General	771
Programmes		1,583	General	1,480
Bulletins		1,796	General	100
Exhibitions		44	General	200
Donations and Grants		20	General	9
Sundries		29,423		41,095
Excess of income over expenditure		60,175		232,506
Of which Legacy Fund		58,814		233,435
Of which balance		1,361		-929
Fund Balances				
		2024		2023
Balance at 1st January 2024		£434,671		£202,165
Excess of income over expenditure		60,175		232,506
Balance at 31st December 2024		£494,846		£434,671
of which General Fund		£47,273		£53,108
of which Bennett Fund	[2]	£50,878		£49,812
of which Fagg Fund	[2]	£54,394		£48,264
of which Legacy Fund	[2]	£342,301		£283,487

Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society Limited
(A Company Limited by Guarantee Without Share Capital)
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	[5]	1,125	1,152
Fixed Asset Investments	[6]	174,638	124,638
		175,763	125,790
Current Assets			
Stocks		2,000	2,000
Debtors		452	0
Bank and cash	[7]	318,053	334,682
		320,505	336,682
Other creditors	[8]	– 1,422	– 27,801
Net current assets		319,083	308,881
Total assets less current liabilities		494,846	434,671
NET ASSETS		<u>£494,846</u>	<u>£434,671</u>
Financed by — unrestricted funds			
General Fund		47,273	53,108
Bennett Memorial Fund		50,878	49,812
C C Fagg Memorial Fund		54,394	48,264
Legacy Fund		342,301	283,487
		<u>£494,846</u>	<u>£434,671</u>

**Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society Limited
(A Company Limited by Guarantee Without Share Capital)**

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024 (continued)

The company is entitled to exemption from audit for the year ended 31st December 2024 under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

These financial statements have been approved by Council.

Treasurer  B.J. Hawkins

Company Secretary  I.G. Payne

28 February 2025

**Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society Limited
(A Company Limited by Guarantee Without Share Capital)**

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with: Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), SORP FRS102, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

INCOME

- i. Recognition of income – Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:
 - The charity becomes entitled to the resources;
 - It is more than likely that the trustees will receive the resources;
 - The monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- ii. Offsetting: There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS102 SORP or FRS 102.
- iii. Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income criteria are met.
 In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognized to the extent that the charity has provided the specific goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met.
 Legacies are included in the SoFA when receipt is probable, that is, when there are sufficient assets in the estate and any conditions attached to the legacy are in the control of the charity or have been met.
- iv. Tax reclaims on donations and gifts Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be a part of that gift and is treated as part of the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.
- v. Income from interest, royalties and dividends. These are included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.
- vi. Income from membership subscriptions Membership subscriptions received in the nature of a gift are recognized in Donations and Legacies. Membership subscriptions which give a member the right to buy services

or other benefits are recognized as income earned from the provision of goods or services as income from charitable activities.

EXPENDITURE

- i. Liability Recognition- Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable accuracy.

ASSETS

- i. Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity – These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year. They are valued at cost.
- ii. Depreciation – Depreciation is calculated to spread the cost of the following assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rates:
 - Furniture and equipment – 25% of written down value;
 - Computer equipment – 25% of purchase value.
- iii. Fixed Asset Investments have been valued at cost.
- iv. Stocks – Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.
- v. Debtors – Debtors are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount.

2. (a) Legacy Fund

During the year, the Society received monies from the bequest of Paul Sowan via the estates of his family which had hereunto not been realised. Monies were also received from the bequest of John Collett. The monies less expenses are shown as income in the Income and Expenditure Account but are allocated to the Legacy Fund. Further amounts are expected from the bequests when legal ownership of various assets is settled.

(b) Bennet (Memorial) Fund this is the Society's Premises Fund for future property needs including maintenance.

(c) Fagg (C.C. Fagg Memorial) Fund is the Society's Publications, Research, Education and Projects Fund.

3. Gift Aid

Gift Aid has yet to be claimed for the years ending 31 December 2022 and 31 December 2023. The deadlines for making these claims are 31 December 2026 and 31 December 2027 respectively.

4. Related Party Transactions

Where it has proved difficult for the Society to make prompt one-off payments, some expenses have been paid online by individual trustees. All such expenses have subsequently been reimbursed upon proof of payment. There were no other related party transactions during the year (2023 – nil).

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

5. Tangible Fixed Assets	Freehold 96a Brighton Road	Furniture and Equipment	Total
At cost Jan 1	1,046	14,011	15,057
Additions			
At cost Dec 31	<u>1,046</u>	<u>14,011</u>	<u>15,057</u>
Depreciation at January 1	0	13,905	13,905
Charge for year 2024	<u>0</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>
At 31 Dec 2024	<u>0</u>	<u>13,932</u>	<u>13,932</u>
Net Book Value:			
31 Dec 2024	£1,046	£79	£1,125
31 Dec 2023	£1,046	£106	£1,152

The freehold premises are stated at cost as, in the directors' opinion, market value would not be appropriate.

6. Fixed Asset Investments	Market value 31 Dec 2024	Cost 2024	Cost 2023
19913 M & G Charibond	21,486	25,000	25,000
8378 Charifund units	174,166	144,638	94,638
(3451 units purchased Dec 2024 for £50,000)			
National Savings Bond	5,000	5,000	5,000
	£200,652	£174,638	£124,638

7. Cash at bank	2024	2023
Santander deposit account	68,017	67,310
Bank current account	13,512	185,257
Bank deposit account	133,757	81,995
Bank 95 day liquidity account	102,747	0
Cash in hand	20	120
	£318,053	£334,682

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
Subscriptions in advance	310	328
Sundry creditors	1,112	27,473
	£1,422	£27,801

154th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

POSTAL VOTING FORM – Please vote online if you are able

(see page 4 of Directors' Report)

Please complete this form and send it to:

CNHSS Company Secretary
96A Brighton Road
South Croydon CR2 6AD

Only Ordinary, Life or Honorary members are entitled to vote.
Postal votes, to be eligible, must be received no later than 26th April 2025

Motions (motion 1 is for use at AGM only)

2. To accept and agree the minutes of the AGM of 25th April 2024
The AGM 2024 minutes are printed on page 3 of Directors' Report 2024

Accept and Agree = Y : Disagree = N : Abstain = blank

3. To approve the Directors' Report, Balance Sheet, Statement of Account and Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts for the year 2024

Approve = Y : Disagree = N : Abstain = blank

4. To elect 'en bloc' as per the nominations: the President, four Vice-Presidents, Hon. Curator, Hon. Editor, Hon. General Secretary, Hon. Librarian, Hon. Treasurer and Ordinary Members of Council

Elect = Y : Disagree = N : Abstain = blank

5. To re-appoint Donald MacLeod as Independent Examiner for 2025, and to authorise Council to fix his remuneration.

Re-appoint = Y : Disagree = N : Abstain = blank

Please complete:

Name: Phone:.....

Address:

Email address:





Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society

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Large Print Copy

If any member wishes to have a large print copy of the documents in this issue of the Bulletin would they please contact the Company Secretary at Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society Ltd, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD or email co-secretary@cnhss.co.uk or phone 01737 554449.

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today and tomorrow'**
 Founded in 1870.