

## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Society will be held at **18.30 on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022** by Zoom Video and Teleconference. Please sign up to attend at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ecology-and-natural-history-by-david-wilkinson-lnhs-agm-tickets-387722397127>

If you are unable to access the internet to book, please contact the LNHS Secretary (c/o London Natural History Society Library, Angela Marmont Centre, Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD) by 6<sup>th</sup> December for alternative arrangements.

### AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021
- 3 To receive and to adopt the Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities of the Society for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022
- 4 To elect Officers and other members to serve on Council for 2023  
[See LNHS website for details of nominees in December].
- 5 To elect an independent examiner for 2022-23
- 6 To adopt the proposed changes to the Society rules as circulated with the August 2022 LNHS Newsletter. See also <http://lnhs.org.uk/index.php/articles-british/672-changes-to-lnhs-rules>
- 7 Appointment of Honorary Vice Presidents
- 8 Reports from Sections
- 9 Any other business

The formal business of the meeting will be followed at approx. 7pm by  
**An address at the invitation of the President –  
by David Wilkinson “Ecology and Natural History”**

*Enclosures:*

- *Minutes of previous AGM held on 9 Dec 2021*
- *Annual Report for 2021-22*
- *Summarised statement of financial activities for 2021-22*
- *Membership renewal form (coloured paper)*

Nominations for candidates for council or officers to be received by the Secretary ([secretary@lnhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lnhs.org.uk)) no later than 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

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

**Report of the society for the year ending 30 June 2022**

**Objects**

The objects of the society are the study and recording of natural history, archaeology and other kindred subjects within twenty miles of St Paul's Cathedral, the promotion of scientific investigations, the appreciation and conservation of the natural environment and the publication in the society's journals of scientific and educational papers. Activities and achievements in respect of these objectives are described below.

**Governance: Council, Committees and Sections**

A Council of Trustees, comprising the officers (President Maria Roberts, Treasurer Mike West, & Secretary David Howdon handing over to Annie Wilson mid-term), up to ten members' representatives and one representative of each of the society's Sections (currently five) governs the society. Jo Hatton, Angela Linnell, David Bevan, Ian Woodward, Jan Hewlett, Wendy Knight and Robin Blades represent the members. Liz Andrew represented the London Bird Club section; Maureen Parry the Botany section, Anke Marsh the Ecology and Entomology section and Kat Duke the Hampstead Heath Survey section. The post of Bookham Commons representative remained unfilled.

As the President can serve for only two years, Maria will be stepping down at the end of the year and taking a break from the council. We thank her for the selfless energy and enthusiasm with which she has led the society. In accordance with rule 17(6), which limits elected membership of council to a continuous period of five years, we will also be saying farewell and thank you to Jo and Angela at the end of this year.

We would love to fill all the vacancies on Council, so we would welcome people coming forward to join us. We are looking for people with a range of skills and interests, but you do not need to be an expert in natural history.

The Administration and Finance Committee, chaired by Michael Wilsdon, meets five times a year to deal with delegated business.

Despite a relaxation of restrictions, most people's work patterns have not returned to the pre-covid norm and not everyone feels comfortable to use public transport, so the majority of society business has been conducted using Zoom technology. This can also make attendance easier for those who live further afield.

The society is exploring accessibility considerations for outdoor meetings and plans to arrange some field meetings which are programmed with accessibility in mind.

### **Finances**

The annual financial report accompanies this report. The society continues to receive a significant amount of income from members who pay under the gift aid scheme, and we are very grateful to them for doing this. Members who pay sufficient tax to be eligible to use the gift aid scheme but are not signed up are encouraged to consider doing so.

### **Activities**

The society continued to host fortnightly 'virtual' talks using Zoom. The talks remain very popular and continue to attract new audience members from more geographically diverse locations than in-person meetings. We extend our thanks to all of our speakers, who have generously shared their time and expertise to entertain us, and acknowledge the hard work of the virtual talks team to facilitate and support the talks.

In July 2021 most of our outdoor activities were suspended due to the pandemic (although some individuals continued to survey Hampstead Heath) so we were delighted when field meetings resumed in September and very pleased that they have been well supported. Many thanks to the walk leaders, new and old, and programme planners who volunteer their time and knowledge to make these events happen. New leaders and attendees are always welcome.

Regular monthly Saturday field meetings at Bookham Commons resumed in March 2022. The LNHS ecological survey of Bookham Commons, a Site of Special Scientific Interest near Leatherhead in Surrey, has been running continuously for eighty years with the result that Bookham Commons is one of the best-documented sites in the UK. The London Naturalist 100 included Steve Mellor's report on botanical records at Bookham Commons since 2002, comparing these with the three previous surveys back to 1953. Members are strongly encouraged to visit this wonderful site and contribute to the survey. We would love to be able to form a new committee to guide this work.

### **Journals and other publications**

The London Naturalist 100 (2021), ably edited by Nick Rutter for the final time, was distributed to members in December. It comprises annual reports from officers and articles of interest covering natural history and archaeology of the London area contributed by members. The editorial team continues to produce a high-quality journal of which the society can be proud.

The London Bird Report No 85 for the year 2020 was published in May 2022. This annual publication is a tribute to the many individuals who contribute, from the record submissions, verification, data manipulation, species accounts write up and review, to photo selection and design for printing and final dispatch. We thank everyone involved.

The Newsletter edited by Mark Burgess and published four times a year continued to provide members with regular news on the activities and operation of the society, and members' contributions. We encourage all members, old and new, to consider submitting items for publication. The August 2021 Newsletter was accompanied by the redesigned programme of events which has been well received.

Leslie Williams (LNHS Butterfly Recorder) is leading the project to update 'The Butterflies of the London Area', originally published in 1987. Colin Plant (LNHS Moth Recorder) and Les Evans Hill are updating the 'Larger Moths of the London Area' published in 1993 using data recorded up to 31st December 2022. Mark Spencer (LNHS Flowering Plant Recorder & Vascular Cryptogam Recorder) is working on an update to 'Flora of the London Area' published in 1983. Each of these publications will contribute to the conservation of London habitats and wildlife.

Keiron Brown and Anke Marsh have made great progress with the LNHS website re-design. The events calendar and news sections are proving very useful in keeping members and non-members up to date. And we thank our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram editors for their contributions too – they do achieve results in publicising the Society and its events! Mike Trier has also been creative in his exploration of new avenues for making the Society more widely known.

### **Membership**

177 new members joined the society during the year. This was down from last year's exceptionally high number of 245, but still significantly higher than the average of 98 new members per annum in the previous five years. We believe that many of the new members have joined because of the virtual talks programme and hope some have participated in field meetings and other in-person events as they resumed.

The total membership at 30 September 2022 was 1020, up slightly from 1008 at the same time in the previous year. This is a welcome increase from an average of 899 in the five years before that and continues to reverse a declining trend. We hope that the quality of our events and publications will continue to demonstrate the fascination of London's natural history and encourage people to maintain their membership.

While many new members are attracted by our website and social media presence, we are very grateful to existing members who recruit friends who they think will enjoy what we have to offer. We encourage people to keep doing this and help the Society to continue to grow. Everyone is welcome to join field meetings or virtual talks to get a taste of the Society before they join.

We are very sorry to record the deaths of the following members (date of joining in brackets) during the year and thank them for their support of the society, in several cases over many decades: Mrs Sue Adshead (1991), Mrs Margaret Bagley (2021), Mr Bruce Carson (2015), Mr Michael Deans (1980), Mr John Fitzpatrick (1975), Mr David Harris (1957), Dr Geoffrey Joyce (2004), Mr Peter Jupp (1979), Mrs Jean Neal (1964), Miss Mary Rawitzer (1998), Professor Richard Robinson (2004), Mr Colin Turner (1947), Mr Anthony Vaughan (1958), Mr Philip Vines (1991), Mr Jeffery Wheatley (1964), Dr Stephen Wood (1978).

### **Recording and research**

Thanks go to all of our recorders for their continuing hard work. They do an invaluable job of gathering data on most of the species to be found in the London area, ensuring that the information is shared, and generously help individuals with their enquiries.

In early 2022, the London Natural History Society was awarded a 30-month grant from the City of London Corporation for a pilot study to map key flora, fungi and lichens in the different habitats on the Heath. This study, known as the Millennial Flora of Hampstead Heath Project 2022 (in reference to the Society's previous survey in 2000), led by Liz Andrew (the Hampstead Heath Survey Chair) will provide a baseline to monitor changes that might occur in the future due to habitat degradation or/and climate change.

In 2022, the Rewild London Programme awarded LNHS and partners a project to map and improve hedgehog and wildlife populations in north London. Led by the Institute of Zoology and Jeff Waage, on behalf of LNHS, the project focuses on the possibility of improving and linking established populations in Regents Park and Hampstead Heath, particularly through local Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs). Camera traps have been set up in local SINCs and an online survey with local residents' associations had 200 responses, with about 25% of respondents reporting sightings in the past five years.

### **Library**

The LNHS library, located in the Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity in the Natural History Museum, is an important resource for both the public (for reference) and LNHS members (for borrowing) providing access to a wide range of out of print and hard to find natural history titles. Following reduction of covid restrictions, under the care of Julie Berk the LNHS Librarian, the library re-opened to visitors in November 2021 on Wednesdays. From April 2022 the library also opened every third Saturday per month. We are now running additional activities such as visiting the wildlife garden and looking at specimens in collaboration with the Angela Marmont Centre, to attract more LNHS members to attend. Members are strongly encouraged to make use of this very valuable asset. Many thanks to Julie Berk for all her hard work.

### **Conservation of the natural environment**

Rich habitats are still under threat from developers. The society is often asked to lend its voice to protest against such developments. Council's view is that an appropriate campaigning body in such cases is the London Wildlife Trust, the LNHS being better placed to provide evidence-based advice if required. Our partnership with GiGL helps ensure that our high-quality validated records are available for such purposes.

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

Society Officers and Council Members - Elections 2023

**Officers**

President: vacant - nominations welcome

Treasurer: Mike West

Secretary: Annie Wilson

**Council - Section Representatives**, subject to confirmation at section AGMs (serves 5 years)

London Bird Club: Liz Andrew (2021 - 2025)

Botany: Maureen Parry (2022 - 2026)

Ecology & Entomology: Anke Marsh (2021 - 2025)

Hampstead Heath Survey: Kat Duke (2021 - 2025)

Bookham Common Survey: vacant

**Council - Elected Member Representatives** (serve 5 years)

Jan Hewlett (2020 - 2024)

Ian Woodward (2020 - 2024)

Robin Blades (2022 - 2026)

Wendy Knight (2022 - 2026)

David Bevan (2022 - 2026)

5 vacancies - nominations welcome

**Council - Elected Member Nominations**

Joanne Maddox

Pete Mantle

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

**Accounts**  
**For The Year Ended 30th June 2022**

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

**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY****TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022**

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

The COVID-19 restrictions continued to impact on the Society's activities through the year, and as a result income from potential sponsorship and expenditure on hall hire relating to a normal programme of events did not materialise.

Overall expenditure totalled £37,932 (compared to £28,656 last year). Receipts from members and supporters totalled £23,645 (compared with £21,856 last year). Subscription income again increased from £17,826 to £18,919 as significant numbers of new members were again attracted through the Society's successful programme of virtual online talks. In addition to this, a grant was awarded by The City of London Corporation for a survey of Flora on Hampstead Heath with the first two instalments received during the year, totalling £5,562. The nature of this income is restricted. Total receipts were £45,392 compared with £31,854 last year.

During the year the Society withdrew £15,000 from its CCLA COIF Charities Deposit Fund and reinvested £7,500 in its CCLA COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund and £7,500 in its M&G Charibond Fund. The value of the Society's investment assets fell by 11% during the year, and at the year end the total net assets of the Society as detailed in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities had decreased by £33,038 to £339,946 compared with £372,984 last year.

**Reserves Policy**

The London Natural History Society may hold funds in the form of cash, stocks, shares, bonds, collective funds and other classes of investment deemed from time to time to be appropriate (hereafter 'the reserves'). The reserves will be held for the purpose of providing an income stream to support the Society's activities and publications and maintain membership rates at affordable levels so as not to exclude people from the educational benefits of the Society, and to encourage increased and informed participation in wildlife recording activity.

Where income from the reserves is sufficient to meet these purposes the Society may make additional payments from the reserves to third parties to fund research and ecological study (with a particular emphasis on the London area) where such research is consistent with the objects of the Society.

The trustees may decide to use amounts held as part of the reserves to fund publications or other projects which further the Society's charitable aims. Funds from grants or bequests that have been accepted by the Society for specified charitable purposes or projects shall be retained and spent solely on such causes.

The Society uses investments specifically set up for charities, which invest in bonds and deposits, and not directly in the equity of individual companies. Each of these funds has associated ethical policies, and the Society considers this is a prudent and proportionate means of balancing our financial needs and ethical concerns.

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.



**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY****TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022****Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities – continued**

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- c) make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- e) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**(Charity Registered Number – 206228)**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
London Natural History Society**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the London Natural History Society ('the charity') for the year ended 30 June 2022 which comprise of receipts and payments and the statement of assets and liabilities.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('The Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

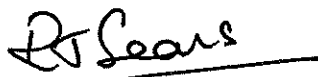
An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently, I express no audit opinion on the accounts and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



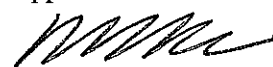
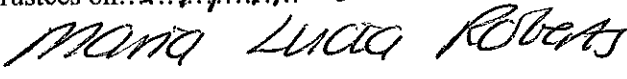
R J Sears FCCA  
Meyer Williams  
Chartered Accountants  
Stag House,  
Old London Road  
Hertford,  
Herts,  
SG13 7LA

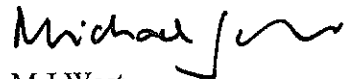
Date: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**As at 30th June 2022**

	Notes	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Monetary Assets</b>					
Bank Balances:					
National Westminster current account		-		-	
National Westminster reserve account		27,270		19,770	
Cash in hand		459		499	
		<u>27,729</u>		<u>20,269</u>	
<b>Investment Assets</b>					
M&G Charibond		134,018		138,069	
COIF Fixed Interest Fund		176,008		195,181	
COIF Charities Deposit Fund		<u>4,465</u>		<u>19,465</u>	
		314,491		352,715	
Trade Creditor		(2,274)		-	
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>339,946</u>		<u>£372,984</u>	
<b>Funds</b>					
Unrestricted		334,384		372,984	
Restricted		5,562		-	
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>339,946</u>		<u>£372,984</u>	

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on... 27/9/2022

   
M L Roberts - President

  
M J West - Treasurer

## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
For the year ended 30th June 2022

RECEIPTS	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts from Members and Supporters:</b>				
Subscriptions		18,919		17,826
Donations		1,068		1,027
Tax recovered on Subscriptions and Donations under Gift Aid		3,552		2,849
Reading Circle receipts		106		154
		<u>23,645</u>		<u>21,856</u>
<b>Sales:</b>				
Journals		436		426
<b>Other income:</b>				
“The London Bird Atlas” - Royalty Income		65		122
Refund of contribution from the London Bird Club		264		-
Refund of cancelled Hall and Room booking		-		60
Restricted Grant income – City of London Corporation		5,562		-
		<u>6,327</u>		<u>608</u>
<b>Investment income:</b>				
Charities Fixed Interest Fund	5,330		6,010	
Charities Deposit Fund Interest	8		9	
Income from M&G Charibond	2,565		3,360	
Bank Deposit Account Interest	8		2	
Interest on Gift Aid tax recovered	9		9	
		<u>7,920</u>		<u>9,390</u>
<b>Asset and Investment disposals</b>				
Disposal of COIF Investment		7,500		-
		<u>45,392</u>		<u>31,854</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>				
		<u>45,392</u>		<u>31,854</u>
<b>Less: Total Payments (Page 6)</b>		<u>(37,932)</u>		<u>(28,656)</u>
<b>Net Receipts for the year</b>		<u>7,460</u>		<u>3,198</u>
Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2021		<u>20,269</u>		<u>17,071</u>
<b>Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022</b>		<u>£27,729</u>		<u>£20,269</u>
		<u>1,898</u>		<u>3,198</u>
Unrestricted Net Receipts		<u>5,562</u>		<u>-</u>
Restricted Net Receipts				
<b>Total Net Receipts for the year</b>		<u>£7,460</u>		<u>£3,198</u>

## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 30th June 2022**

**PAYMENTS**

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Meeting Costs, Sectional &amp; General Expenditure:</b>				
Lecturers' Fees and Expenses,				
Sectional Expenses etc.	466		360	
Reading Circle Journals	435		328	
Postage and Telephone	93		131	
Office Supplies and copying	1,176		614	
Services (including Zoom costs)	611		419	
Independent Examiners' Fees	1,800		1,800	
Insurance	1,846		1,810	
Expense Allowances and Honoraria payment	59		-	
Paypal account charges	180		165	
	<hr/>	6,666	<hr/>	5,627
<b>Publications:</b>				
Printing and Expenses:				
London Naturalist No. 100	4,920		-	
London Naturalist No. 99	-		4,389	
London Bird Report 2020	5,567		-	
London Bird Report 2019	-		4,522	
	<hr/>	10,487	<hr/>	8,911
Programme	605		-	
Newsletters	3,101		3,427	
Mailing	7,108		7,809	
Publicity	-		288	
	<hr/>	10,814	<hr/>	11,524
Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure		497		471
Library		1,608		1,632
Website costs		360		491
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		30,432		28,656
<b>Asset and investment purchases:</b>				
Payment into M&G Charibond investment account		7,500		-
		<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Total Payments for the Year</b>		37,932		£28,656
		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 18.30 on Thursday December 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 by Zoom.

Present: President, Maria Roberts, Secretary, David Howdon, Treasurer, Mike West,

There were up to 132 members and non-members present during the AGM. The motions to confirm various items on the agenda were conducted by online polls, only LNHS members being allowed to vote. Due to the way that Zoom is set up, the four people designated as hosts (Maria Roberts, David Howdon, Anke Marsh, Keiron Brown) were not able to vote in the poll but had declared their votes separately in advance. A summary of results of all votes appears on page 6.

**1 Apologies for absence** had been received from Liz Andrew.

### **2 To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10th December 2020**

The Minutes were proposed by David Howdon, seconded by Keiron Brown and approved *nem con*.

### **3 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the period 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021**

David Howdon said that he had expected to report another depressing year as many of our activities were again curtailed by the pandemic. However, with a second season of talks held on Zoom we attracted viewers from all over Britain and even from overseas. Thanks were due to all the organisers of the virtual talks and activities without whose expertise we would have been unable to attract so many newcomers. This had resulted in a great increase in members. Field meetings had now restarted but after the period covered by the report. More were planned for 2022 though indoor meetings were still on hold. We have an attractive quarterly Newsletter which informs members of all our activities. We also have an annual publication on birds, *The London Bird Report*, and articles on all aspects of natural history in the annual *The London Naturalist*. These activities all depend upon an army of volunteers, who had coped well in very challenging circumstances.

Membership increased considerably in the last two years from a low point of about 800 members in 2020. Membership now stands at about 1,000. We think this increase was largely due to the virtual talks. David Howdon urged non-members watching the AGM on Zoom to join the Society.

- a) Library** David Allen, the LNHS Librarian, said that it had not been possible to reopen the LNHS Library until July 2021. The Library is based at the Angela Marmont Centre in the Natural History Museum in London. The Museum had stockpiled the post and David was delighted to find that nothing had gone missing. He had acquired 36 new books for the Library. He and Julie Berk had maintained the enquiry service during the pandemic and in recent months had been able to take bookings for visits to the Library on Wednesdays but, owing to the new pandemic restrictions, this is expected to be temporarily on hold again. Enquiries could still be sent by email. After eight years, stocktaking was almost complete, and the catalogue had now been checked and brought up to date. He was very pleased to announce that the new librarian would be Julie Berk.

Maria expressed gratitude for all David's hard work for the Society over many years. He had steered the move from Imperial College to its new home and the updated catalogue would be a real asset to the Society. There is public access to the collection at the Angela Marmont Centre. The digitisation of *The London Bird Report* and *The London Naturalist* had been accomplished and considerable work had been done on the transcription of our historical bird records with the help of a large number of volunteers. David also had a significant presence on the Society's Facebook group where he posted details of our new books and other items of interest. He had also written an article in *The London Naturalist 2021* on one hundred years of natural history publishing.

Maria said a small token of our appreciation was on its way to David. She then welcomed Julie Berk as the new Librarian. Julie had worked well with David for some time so the transition should be a very smooth one.

- b) Virtual Natural History Talks** Keiron Brown reported on the LNHS virtual natural history talks. There had been some fascinating virtual talks and the recordings could be viewed on our YouTube channel. There were 27 talks in 2021 attended by over 5,000 people. These attendees included people not only from London but from elsewhere in Britain and from the rest of the world. There was an average of 202 people watching each talk. There were 553 new subscribers on our YouTube channel, and we had 16,700 video views and 2,500 'watch hours'. Anyone watching the AGM on Zoom was invited to join the mailing list. In 2022 we expect to hold at least one virtual meeting a month. There would be a talk on brown hares in February, one on the consequences of feeding garden birds in March, one on Identifying British ferns in June and one on microfossils and ancient natural histories in July. Mark Spencer would be giving a series of talks on habitats and grasslands. Keiron urged volunteers to come forward to help. All the talks were free for both members and non-members, but he urged non-members to join the Society to support our work. Maria added that she was pleased that new members could see all the previous talks.
- c) Ecology and Entomology** Keiron Brown reported on the work of the Ecology and Entomology Section which covers all animals except birds. He mentioned some particular highlights. A bug had been found in the LNHS recording area which was new to Britain. This was *Penestrangia apicalis*, a North American leafhopper and it was found by Tristan Bantock. A new spider for London, *Pandava laminata*, had also been discovered. It is an exotic and Keiron said it would be interesting to see if it established itself in the UK. Leslie Williams had been working during the pandemic on the London Butterfly Atlas and some photographs were still required for this.
- d) Botany Section** The President reported on behalf of the Botany Section. At the Section AGM, the outgoing Chair, David Bevan, had given a talk on '*The ancient woodlands of North London*'. There had been an outdoor meeting at Brompton Cemetery in March 2020 and then a gap until September 2021 when there was a meeting on Box Hill. During the year there had been the usual winter events the Best Botanical photos meeting and the quiz, but they took place on Zoom. The Best Botanical Photographs meeting for January 2022 was open for booking. Andy Overall had surveyed the fungi of Richmond Park in 2020 and 2021. Superficially little had changed since the 2008 survey but there had been huge numbers of visitors during lockdown, including some who had disturbed the fungi on the roadside verges. There was also increased traffic pollution. Nevertheless, the survey produced positive results. A species of *Amanita* thought to be new to science had been found and the rather rare species *Rubroboletus legaliae* recorded. The roughs of the golf course had yielded some good finds including *Amanita simulans*, *Agaricus porphyryzon* and *Naucoria bohemica*. In total at the end of the survey there were 407 species determined from 806 records of which 50 were new to Richmond Park and 19 new to Greater London. Maria thanked Sarah Graham-Brown, who had been the Secretary of the Botany Section for many years and who was stepping down this year. Her hard work was much appreciated, especially by David Bevan during his time as Chair of the Section.
- e) Hampstead Heath Survey.** The President read out the report from Liz Andrew. Liz had taken over from Kat Duke as Chair, Jeff Waage from Clive Herbert as Secretary, and Kat Duke from Keiron Brown as representative on Council. We also welcomed two new members, Jo Maddox and Pete Mantle (and said goodbye to Clive and Keiron). It had been difficult to conduct group surveys owing to the pandemic. However, some individuals had managed to continue surveying. The Hampstead Heath team wanted to thank the City of London and English Heritage and Heath Hands, for all their help and collaboration. A survey of fungi had noted 123 species, three new to the Heath. There were also the first records on the Heath of

five species of Bryophytes including *Pellia neesiana* in its only known London location, the colonies of Purple Hairstreak had been mapped and there were first records for the Heath of the spiders *Anyphaena sabina* and *Araneus triguttatus*. David Carr found *Anyphaena sabina*, first recorded in Britain in 2011, in a small garden opposite Jack Straw's car park - a first for the Heath. *Araneus triguttatus*, first recorded in the UK in 1864 was found on the Heath for the first time in June 2021 and for the second time in April 2022 (both times also by David Carr). In addition, 150 camera traps had been set on the Heath to find hedgehogs.

**f) Bookham Commons** Maria Roberts reported that there had been no Saturday meetings because of the pandemic. However, some LNHS members were able to visit the site and there were some local people who had shown interest in surveying. The three-year project *Life on the Edge* had made a positive impact on the area and nightingales had returned. The Society hopes to hold meetings in 2022 but needed volunteers to carry out the surveys and to form a new committee to run them. Maria noted that the locals know the area as "Bookham Commons" in the plural and the LNHS might consider this term when compiling our reports. Steve Mellor had been leading a team of botanists which produced some fantastic records and the latest survey on the flora was now complete. During the 80 years of continual botanical investigation of the site by the LNHS, over 700 plant taxa had been recorded. There was an article in *The London Naturalist 2021* which gives details of the latest survey. Maria also discussed the importance of the plains at the site. These are wet meadows, which had been formed originally by cattle grazing on the common land and later by rabbits. The National Trust had reinstated grazing and had been working hard on restoration. The botanists had re-found plants not seen on the commons for a long time. The LNHS had held one field meeting at the site in 2021 which looked at plant galls. It was hoped there would be a London Bird Club walk in 2022 and a Recorders' Day was planned for May 14th. Maria said that as LNHS President she had given a short talk on Bookham Commons at the London Recorders Day on 30th October 2021.

**g) London Bird Club** Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne, the Chair of the London Bird Club (LBC), thanked all concerned in the running of the LBC. He particularly wanted to thank Donna Zimmer and Pippa Jacks for our big social media presence. The LBC would normally have held six talks between September and March, but no live talks had been held during the pandemic. The field meetings also had to be postponed. Gehan thanked Shalmali Paterson for her work as organiser of the walks and welcomed Amy Muiy Liu as her replacement. Some walks were held from September 2021 and there were some new and exciting destinations for 2022. He thanked all the leaders for their time and effort. The walks were ideal for finding birds and up to 125 different species may be seen on them during the year. They were usually to places that were also generally good natural history sites. *The London Bird Report* [LBR] for 2019 was published in 2021. It involves a huge team of volunteers. The Secretary of the LBR Editorial Board was now Annie Wilson. Derek Coleman, Ian Woodward and Sally Middleton were now editors of *Birds of the London Area*. The committee was very grateful for the assistance provided by Pete Lambert, who is now an Editor of the 'Remaining Sections' and brings his considerable experience as the former chair of the LBR committee. There was still a vacancy for the Chair of the LBR Editorial Board. Gehan said that the LBR offers an opportunity for members to learn about preparing papers and how to analyse data and write up the results. Liz Andrew would welcome submissions to the LBR. The reports for 2001 to 2018 are now available online on the LNHS website and *The London Bird Report* and *The London Naturalist* are now available on the Biodiversity Heritage Library website. There was a Reading Circle run by Angela Linnell. Bird journals such as *British Birds* are available for £6.75 a year instead of the £63 per year for a personal subscription. The Dutch scientific journal *Ardea* costs only £1.50 instead of 62 euros. Members who were interested in the Reading Circle were invited to email Angela.



Gehan also thanked all the postholders of the LBC. They helped make the LNHS one of the most active societies of its kind in the world. He thanked George Kalli, who was stepping down as LBC treasurer, and welcomed Nirma de Silva the new treasurer. He noted that anyone who was interested in the vacancies could contact him as Chair of the LBC.

- h) The resolution to receive and adopt the Annual Report** was moved by David Howdon and seconded by Michael Wilsdon and passed *nem con*.

#### **4 To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Statement of the Financial Activities of the Society for the period July 1st 2020 to June 30th 2021**

Mike West said that the annual report and statement of accounts had been approved by Council in September 2021 and were signed off by the President and himself, before being sent to the independent examiner.

Mike West was delighted to announce that receipts were much boosted by new subscriptions. Our income amounted to nearly £3,800 higher than the previous year and this increase in membership was mainly due to the virtual talks. There had been no legacy or sponsorship income and investment income was slightly less. However, there were no payments for hire of halls or speakers. Zoom had cost the Society nearly £400 but was obviously of great benefit (and less than the cost of room hire). The cost of printing *The London Bird Report* and *The London Naturalist* was down slightly. The cost of mailing had increased partly due to Royal Mail price increases but also because we had many new members. Our overall assets were 2% less compared with the previous year. At the end of the year, they were down to £372,000 from £380,000 due to a drop in the value of our investments. The reason we hold the investments is to generate income to support all our activities and publications and to keep the membership rates at affordable levels.

The resolution to adopt the Annual Report and statement of the Financial Activities was moved by Mike West and seconded by Jan Hewlett and passed *nem con*.

#### **5 To elect Officers and other members (other than Section representatives) to serve on Council for 2022**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Nominee(s)</b>
President	<b>Maria Roberts</b>
Treasurer	Mike West
Secretary	Vacant
<b>Members other than Section representatives. (Ten may be elected.)</b>	Jo Hatton, Jan Hewlett, Angela Linnell, Nick Rutter, Ian Woodward

Before the elections the President paid a tribute to a long-standing member, Keith Hyatt, who had died in 2021. His obituary appeared in *The London Naturalist 2021*.

She also explained that Council had decided that it would like to recognise the great contributions made by two individuals, David Montier and Colin Bowlt, to the LNHS by inviting them to become Honorary Vice Presidents. Both individuals have assisted the Society over many years in several roles and offered much wise advice. Michael Wilsdon kindly supplied the following biographical details.

David Montier joined the Society in 1960 and is best known as the editor of *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in the London Area* published in 1977 and established the baseline for all the subsequent atlases. A successful publication and extremely popular. David was to be a thoughtful and enthusiastic President in 1980 and 1981, a very conscientious and thorough member of the Administration and Finance Committee, and from 1991 the Ornithology Indoor Meetings Secretary and Editor of the Ornithology Bulletin. Apart from the LNHS, his other main ornithological connection has been with the BTO, serving on its Council for seven years in the late 1970s/1980s, the last four years of which were as Hon. Treasurer (which was a supervisory role). Later though he was a hands-on Hon Treasurer of the British Ornithologists' Club. In that position he was a member of a joint BOU/BOC Publications Committee dealing with BOU Checklists. And naturally David would wish to pay tribute to his wife Mary – herself the LBR Secretary - so very much a team effort.

Colin Bowlt joined the Society in 1975 and was to join the LNHS Council in 1991. Initially in the background, but perhaps because of inadvertently asking a rather clever question at an extraordinary meeting of the Society, Colin was co-opted on to the Administration & Finance Committee and was later to be an excellent Chair of that committee. By then he had been President in 1995 and 1996, and chaired Council (essentially acting as President) in 2001 and 2002 after David McClintock died before he could give his Presidential address (which was then read by Colin, with a tribute to David at the AGM). This address was about Buckingham Palace Garden - the Society's survey, published in 1999 and 2001, which was led by Colin and David. Also worthy of mention is Colin's review of urban woodlands in London (LN 77), a seminal piece of work. We would also draw attention to his work as Chair of the Hampstead Heath Survey and his role in organising the transfer of the Society Archives to London Metropolitan Archives and the Library from Imperial to NHM - both of these were serious logistical challenges. The 150th anniversary LN "London's changing natural history" included Colin's paper on London's missing starlings as well as Colin's wife Eileen's article on London's churches. Colin and Eileen have been driving forces in local studies in Ruislip (as is evident online) and very involved with LAMAS (the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society).

Maria welcomed both as Honorary Vice Presidents and thanked them for their contributions.

Maria then paid tribute to another key member of the Society who died this year. This was Ian (D. I. M.) Wallace, who was editor of *The London Bird Report* from 1960 (when David Montier joined the Society). Excellent recent obituaries have covered many of his achievements, but for the LNHS his determination to record the visible migration over mainly Central London has remained a great strength of recording in the London Area which we will not forget.

The meeting then dealt with the election of Officers and other members [other than Section representatives] to serve on Council for 2022

The President had sent attendees via email a list of those to be elected at the AGM.

The current president was Maria Roberts. She was appointed at the AGM in December 2020 and the president's term of office is two years.

The Secretary and the Treasurer retire each year and are then eligible for re-election.

The Secretary, David Howdon, was stepping down and the post of Secretary was now vacant.

Maria said that for over a decade David Howdon had been a lynchpin of the Society. He had a key role in making it run smoothly. He was the main point of contact for non-members and was also working full time while involved with other organisations, including the Selborne Society. He had

also given the LNHS's first virtual talk, which was on *The Lepidoptera of Perivale Wood*. His efficiency and far-sightedness enabled him to meet the challenges of the job.

**Vote to elect the Secretary** David Howdon was stepping down as secretary and was not seeking re-election. No nominations for this post had been received. This post was therefore vacant.

**Vote to elect the nominee for Treasurer [Single Choice]** Mike West was seeking re-election as Treasurer. He was proposed by Keiron Brown, seconded by Helen Baker and re-elected *nem con*.

**Vote to approve the election of the representatives to Council [Single Choice]** The representative for the Ecology and Entomology group was Anke Marsh, for the London Bird Club Liz Andrew, for Hampstead Heath Survey Kat Duke. There were no nominees for representatives for the Botany section or for the Bookham Commons Survey section.

**Vote to re-elect the nominees for ordinary members of Council.** In addition, there are up to 10 trustees representing the members at large. Ian Woodward and Jan Hewlett were retiring but both are seeking re-election. So, the five trustees seeking re-election were Jo Hatton, Jan Hewlett, Angela Linnell, Ian Woodward and Nick Rutter. Maria said there had been no new nominees proposed but new volunteers were very welcome. The existing trustees were proposed *en bloc* by David Howdon and seconded by Kat Duke and were re-elected *nem con*.

**To elect the nominated Independent Examiner [Single Choice]** Our independent Examiner was Ralph Sears of Meyer Williams accountants in Hertford and Mike West said they had always worked well together. It was also useful during the pandemic that the firm was located near to him. Mike proposed his re-election, David Howdon seconded it and Ralph Sears was re-elected *nem con*.

## **6. Any Other Business**

Keiron Brown said that the postponed Brad Ashby Memorial Lecture would be held online in January 2022. It was titled '*I'm not a spider*' and would be given by Paul Richards.

Kat Duke said she would like to thank Maria Roberts for taking on the role of President as she was so enthusiastic and proactive.

The AGM closed at 7.35pm

It was followed by a virtual talk on Zoom at the invitation of the President by Thea Cox and Hannah McCormick entitled '*Beneath its Murky Waters: Fish of the Tidal Thames*'.

## **VOTING FIGURES**

### **Minutes**

22 [18+4] people voted in favour of the resolution, none were against and there were two abstentions

### **Annual Report**

64 [60+4] people voted to adopt the annual report with none against and two abstentions

### **Financial activities.**

64 [60+4] people voted to adopt the annual report with none against and two abstentions

### **Treasurer**

66 [62+4] people voted in favour with none against and no abstentions.

### **Council members**

65 [61+4] members voted in favour with none against and no abstentions.

### **Independent Examiner**

66 [62+4] members voted in favour with none against and no abstentions.