

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

**Report of the society for the year ending 30 June 2019**

**Objects**

The objects of the society are the study and recording of natural history, archaeology and other kindred subjects, especially 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, Treasurer, Secretary), up to ten representatives of the members at large and one representative of each of the society's Sections (currently five) governs the society. During the year Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne represented the London Bird Club section; Frances Dismore the Botany section and Clive Herbert the Ecology and Entomology section. The post of Bookham Common representative remained unfilled. The formal post of Hampstead Heath Survey representative remained unfilled in this year, although the good progress on that survey continues with efforts focusing on reinvigorating field recording taking priority over formal governance arrangements during the relevant year.

No President was appointed at the 2015, 2016, 2017 or 2018 AGMs and the society has operated with this post unfilled for the whole of the year.

Rule 17(6) which limits a continuous period of elected membership to five years, and came into force in December 2017 replacing rule 4(c) which made similar provision and had been in effect since December 2005. This limitation on terms for council members was first implemented at the AGM in 2010. Under this rule Kat Duke will stand down from council at the 2019 AGM.

The Administration and Finance Committee, chaired by Michael Wilsdon, dealt with much delegated business.

**Membership**

94 new members joined during the year, compared with 95 last year. The number of individual members currently stands at 895, compared with 901 at the same time last year, and 905 the previous year.

Although membership is down slightly it remains relatively steady which is encouraging after a few years where we have had concerns about a potential long term declining trend.

Council continues to explore ideas for encouraging and increasing our membership. This year the LNHS programme was redesigned to make it more visually attractive as a recruitment tool – the sheer number and variety of events this society offers is pretty special (particularly in the London area) so this offers a good way to promote our activities. However as previously commented in these reports membership and recruitment is not a matter for Council alone. We need members to tell us what they want from the society, what we should do more of and what would encourage people they know to join. Members who know people interested in natural history who are not LNHS members are encouraged to convince them to join us; you really are our best recruitment mechanism.

Remember that the society is not just for experts – meetings and workshops are planned with beginners in mind, and newcomers are always encouraged to play an active part in the society's affairs. If you know someone who is unsure whether to join invite them along to one of the field or indoor meetings.

We have been notified of and record with regret the deaths of the following members during the year to 30 June (date of joining in brackets): Mr Michael Flynn (2013), Mr Peter Gann (1963), Mr Gordon Neighbour (1985), and Mrs Audrey Platt (1984).

### **Finances**

The annual financial report accompanies this annual report. The society continues to receive a significant amount of income as a result of members who pay under the gift aid scheme, and members are thanked for doing so. Any members who pay sufficient tax to be eligible for the gift aid scheme but currently not signed up to it are encouraged to consider doing so.

### **Activities**

The Botany Section continued to focus on field work for the Flora of London Project aiming to produce a new flora of the London area to replace Rodney Burton's 1983 Flora of the London Area. The Flora remains a high profile and important society project, members are strongly encouraged to join our recording meetings or submit their own records.

The Ecology and Entomology section continued its well attended programme of field and indoor meetings covering a diverse range of taxa and developing a group of regular attendees as well as more occasional joiners. Catherine Schmitt again represented the LNHS at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological and Natural History Society. During the year work for the new Butterflies of the London Area has continued with support from GIGL the London records centre.

## LNHS Annual Report to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Under the brand of the London Bird Club the society has continued to run a series of field meetings showing the diversity of bird life that the LNHS area has to offer. Indoor meetings have continued to prove popular at their new location of Burgh House in Hampstead. The London Bird Club has a reading circle which any LNHS member can join. The journals are sent out to members to read for a small fee and then pass on to the next subscriber. The journals circulated are Ardea, Birdlife, British Birds, Dutch Birding, Ibis and Scottish Birds. Details of how to subscribe are in the LNHS programme.

At the initiative of the London Bird Club section, the society participated in the Saturday of Wildlife held at London Wetland Centre in June. A number of representatives of the society gave talks and helped lead walks during the course of a very full day.

The society was well represented to the first London Recorders Day in November, demonstrating and celebrating the work of the society recording wildlife in the London area. By the time this report is received by the AGM the second London Recorders Day will have happened and the society will again be present.

The society continues to grow its presence on social media with activity on Facebook, Twitter and the Meet Up platform used to promote our meetings and field trips.

### **Recording and recorders**

Thanks go to our recorders for all their continuing hard work.

The society has an ongoing project at <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/gigl/london-bird-records> to convert the society's old record cards into a modern digital format. Members are encouraged to sign up and help out (full instructions are provided and you don't need to be technically skilled to make a contribution).

### **Journals and other publications**

The London Naturalist 97 (2018) was distributed to members in November 2018. The editorial team are continuing to produce a high quality journal of which the society can be proud.

The London Bird Report No 82 for the year 2017 was published in May 2019. The editorial board continues its hard work getting these reports out in a timely fashion. There are a lot of stages necessary in getting these out involving record submission, verification, validation, processing, and subsequent writing up so it is a tribute to their work that this all gets turned around so effectively.

Work on the London Flora and Butterflies of the London Area continued and have been discussed in the Activities report above.

## **Library**

David Allen the LNHS librarian continues his excellent work operating and maintaining our library in its home in the Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity at the Natural History Museum's Darwin Centre Phase 2 making it available to the public (for reference) and LNHS members (for borrowing). The library is an important resource for members providing access to a wide range of out of print and hard to find natural history titles, and unlike many other libraries the Angela Marmont Centre is very welcoming of people bringing in specimens to try to identify. Members are encouraged to make use of it.

## **Conservation of the natural environment**

Rich habitats are still under threat from developers. The society is often asked to lend its voice to protests 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.*

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

**Accounts**  
**For The Year Ended 30th June 2019**

**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 2019**

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

At the end of the financial year on 30 June 2019, the total net assets of the Society as detailed in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities had increased by £4,881 to £369,358 compared with £364,477 the previous year.

The Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year show that payments exceeded receipts by £10,044 this was largely due to the purchase of M&G Charibond investment and COIF charities fixed interest fund units of £12,000. Receipts from members and supporters totalled £20,253 (compared with £20,548). Total receipts in the year were £31,719 compared with £38,730 in the previous year, of which £4,350 represented a one-off accumulated surplus from past coach trips.

Total expenditure totalled £41,763 (compared to £37,210 last year) which included the new investments of £12,000.

**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.

**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 2019**

**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 2019 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.

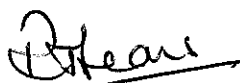
An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent 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: 2 October 2019



**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**As at 30th June 2019**

Notes	2019	2018
	£	£
<b>Monetary Assets</b>		
Bank Balances:		
National Westminster current account	-	60
National Westminster reserve account	18,515	28,255
Cash in hand	163	407
	<u>18,678</u>	<u>28,722</u>
<b>Investment Assets</b>		
M&G Charibond	138,775	131,949
COIF Fixed Interest Fund	192,440	184,341
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	<u>19,465</u>	<u>19,465</u>
	350,680	335,755
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u><u>£369,358</u></u>	<u><u>£364,477</u></u>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on... 1 Oct. 2019



D Howdon

- Secretary



M J West

- Treasurer

## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th June 2019

RECEIPTS	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts from Members and Supporters:</b>				
Subscriptions		15,686		15,825
Donations		1,043		1,077
Tax recovered on Subscriptions and Donations under Gift Aid		3,261		3,308
Reading Circle receipts		137		135
London Bird Club – Meeting entry fees		126		203
		<u>20,253</u>		<u>20,548</u>
<b>Sales:</b>				
Journals		562		470
Previous publications		2		11
<b>Other income:</b>				
“The London Bird Atlas” - Royalty Income		396		494
“The London Bird Atlas” - Members offer		-		1,860
Sundry receipt		111		45
London Bird Club meetings sponsorship		988		-
Coach trips surplus		-		4,360
Refund of bank charges		4		396
		<u>2,063</u>		<u>7,636</u>
<b>Investment income:</b>				
Charities Fixed Interest Fund	6,134		6,033	
Charities Deposit Fund Interest	125		46	
Income from M&G Charibond	3,101		4,443	
Bank Deposit Account Interest	30		11	
Interest on Gift Aid tax recovered	13		13	
		<u>9,403</u>		<u>10,546</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<u>31,719</u>		<u>38,730</u>
<b>Less: Total Payments (Page 6)</b>		<u>(41,763)</u>		<u>(37,210)</u>
<b>Net (Payments)/Receipts for the year</b>		<u>(10,044)</u>		<u>1,520</u>
Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2018		<u>28,722</u>		<u>27,202</u>
<b>Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019</b>		<u><u>£18,678</u></u>		<u><u>£28,722</u></u>

## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)

For the year ended 30th June 2019

## PAYMENTS

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Meeting Costs, Sectional &amp; General Expenditure:</b>				
Hire of Halls and Rooms	2,200		1,272	
Lecturers' Fees and Expenses, Sectional Expenses etc.	909		417	
Reading Circle Journals	415		396	
Postage and Telephone	347		286	
Office Supplies and copying	499		843	
Services	35		62	
Independent Examiners' Fees	1,800		1,800	
Insurance	1,910		1,823	
Expense Allowances	138		71	
Bank charges	-		16	
Paypal account charges	91		88	
Refund of duplicate subscription	16		20	
		8,360		7,094
<b>Publications:</b>				
Printing and Expenses:				
“The London Bird Atlas” – Publishers advance	-		5,000	
“The London Bird Atlas” – Members offer copies	-		1,736	
“The London Bird Atlas” – Complimentary copies	-		1,869	
“The London Bird Atlas” – Online Supplement	-		90	
London Naturalist No. 96	-		3,784	
London Naturalist No. 97	4,188		-	
London Bird Report 2016	-		4,595	
London Bird Report 2017	4,407		-	
		8,595		17,074
Programme	827		698	
Newsletters	2,737		2,834	
Mailing	6,575		5,955	
		10,139		9,487
Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure		363		430
Library		1,832		1,867
Grant towards publication of Urban Fungi book		-		1,000
Website costs		474		258
		29,763		37,210
<b>Asset and investment purchases:</b>				
Purchase of COIF charities fixed interest fund units		6,000		-
Purchase of M&G Charibond Investment		6,000		-
<b>Total Payments for the Year</b>		<b>£41,763</b>		<b>£37,210</b>

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(Charity Registration Number 206228)

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**For The Year Ended 30th June 2019**

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## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019**

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities – continued**

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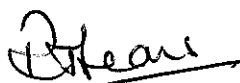
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SG13 7LA

Date: 2 October 2019

**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
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**As at 30th June 2019**

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Approved on behalf of the Trustees on... 1 Oct. 2019



D Howdon

- Secretary



M J West

- Treasurer



## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th June 2019

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<b>Net (Payments)/Receipts for the year</b>		<u>(10,044)</u>		<u>1,520</u>
Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2018		<u>28,722</u>		<u>27,202</u>
<b>Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019</b>		<u><u>£18,678</u></u>		<u><u>£28,722</u></u>

## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)

For the year ended 30th June 2019

## PAYMENTS

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Meeting Costs, Sectional &amp; General Expenditure:</b>				
Hire of Halls and Rooms	2,200		1,272	
Lecturers' Fees and Expenses, Sectional Expenses etc.	909		417	
Reading Circle Journals	415		396	
Postage and Telephone	347		286	
Office Supplies and copying	499		843	
Services	35		62	
Independent Examiners' Fees	1,800		1,800	
Insurance	1,910		1,823	
Expense Allowances	138		71	
Bank charges	-		16	
Paypal account charges	91		88	
Refund of duplicate subscription	16		20	
		8,360		7,094
<b>Publications:</b>				
Printing and Expenses:				
"The London Bird Atlas" – Publishers advance	-		5,000	
"The London Bird Atlas" – Members offer copies	-		1,736	
"The London Bird Atlas" – Complimentary copies	-		1,869	
"The London Bird Atlas" – Online Supplement	-		90	
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Programme	827		698	
Newsletters	2,737		2,834	
Mailing	6,575		5,955	
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Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure		363		430
Library		1,832		1,867
Grant towards publication of Urban Fungi book		-		1,000
Website costs		474		258
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<b>Asset and investment purchases:</b>				
Purchase of COIF charities fixed interest fund units		6,000		-
Purchase of M&G Charibond Investment		6,000		-
<b>Total Payments for the Year</b>		<b>£41,763</b>		<b>£37,210</b>