

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity 206228

Report of the Society for the year ending 30 June 2016

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 Sarah Barnes represented the Ecology & Entomology section, Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne the London Bird Club section and David Bevan the Botany section. Stuart Cole remained as representative for the Bookham Common Survey. The post of Hampstead Heath Survey representative remained unfilled in this year.

Helen Baker continued as President until the end of 2015 when her term ended. No President was appointed at the 2015 AGM and the society has operated with this post unfilled for the remainder of the year.

Rule 4(c), limiting a continuous period of elected membership to five years, came into force in December 2005 and was first implemented at the AGM in 2010. Under this rule John Edgington, Keith Hyatt and Maria Roberts are obliged to stand down from council at the 2016 AGM.

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

Membership

120 new members joined during the year, compared with 73 last year. The number of individual members currently stands at 921, compared with 874 at the same time last year, and 917 the previous year.

This is the largest number of new members in recent memory and contributed to the reversal of what had been an emerging trend of declining membership. Whether this reversal is a positive change or just blip in an otherwise worrying pattern is not clear. Council has been undertaking various projects, including starting work on revamping and

LNHS Annual Report to 30th June 2016

modernising our website to make it more attractive and developing our social media presence which should help recruit a new generation of members. However 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; to point out the obvious as in previous years if every member recruited just one other person we would double our membership.

Remember that the Society is not just for experts – field meetings 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 Len Frusher (1976), Mr Peter Maynard (1947), Mr Michael Michaels (1966), Mr John Rogers (1991).

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 using it are encouraged to consider it.

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. The section 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 started, this will be an update to society's earlier publication authored by Colin Plant.

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; in September 2016, the venue for these meetings changed from the Education Centre in Hyde Park to Burgh House in

LNHS Annual Report to 30th June 2016

Hampstead.) A permit system for access to Thames Water's Queen Mary reservoirs was implemented in Summer 2016 – members wishing to access this reserve to observe and record wildlife should follow the procedure explained in the London Bird Club section of our website

The London Bird Atlas is making good progress to be finalised in early 2017, with publication in the second quarter of 2017. Council approved a proposal to reduce the expense to the LNHS by taking in full page advertisements and principal sponsors/advertisers who will in addition have their logo on the title page. It was also agreed to have it published as a joint publication between the LNHS and John Beaufoy Publishing.

Recording and recorders

During the year Roger Payne (18 April 2016) took on the role as bird recorder for Hertfordshire.

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

Journals and other publications

The London Naturalist **94** (2015) was distributed to members. This was the first under our new editorial board led by receiving editor Nick Rutter. Nick and the board have maintained the high standards of this publication and it is good to know that the society's long established prestigious journal remains in good hands.

The London Bird Report for 2014 was published. The editorial board continues its hard work getting these reports out in a timely fashion. There is 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.

The Administration and Finance committee has been looking into options for digitising back issues of our journals and making them available online. Michael Wilsdon has led on this work. Watch the newsletter for news on this project.

Work on the London Flora, London Bird Atlas and Butterflies of the London Area continues and is 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

LNHS Annual Report to 30th June 2016

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 2016

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

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2016

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 2016, the total net assets of the Society as detailed in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities had risen by £25,026 to £363,955 compared with £338,929 the previous year. £16,723 of this rise reflects an increase in the value of the Society's investments (to £348,564, compared with £331,841 in the previous year).

The Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year show that receipts exceeded payments by £8,303, whereas in the previous year payments had exceeded receipts by £5,835. Receipts from members and supporters totalled £20,591 (compared with £19,580 in the previous year), with a welcome 8% increase in subscription income, from £15,053 to £16,269. Total receipts in the year were £34,769, compared with £34,252 in the previous year.

Total expenditure was considerably lower this year at £26,466 (£40,087 in the previous year). This includes the cost of publishing and mailing one issue of the London Bird Report in the period, compared with two in the previous year, and significantly reduced production costs for the London Naturalist. A reduction in expenditure on hire of halls and rooms arose from having pre-booked a number of events in the previous year, to pre-empt a forecast price rise.

Reserves Policy

The Society's unrestricted general funds can be regarded as expendable endowment since they are invested to provide a regular source of income as well as capital growth, over time.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

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

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

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
(Charity Registered Number – 206228)

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

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2016 as set out on pages 3 to 5.

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.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ('The 2011 Act') and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state where particular matters have come to my attention.

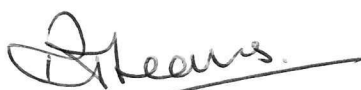
BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeks explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



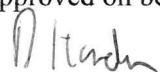
R J Sears FCCA
Meyer Williams
Chartered Accountants
Stag House,
Old London Road
Hertford,
Herts,
SG13 7LA

Date: 18 OCTOBER 2016

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
As at 30th June 2016

Notes	2016	2015
	£	£
Monetary Assets		
Bank Balances:		
National Westminster current account	97	104
National Westminster reserve account	14,715	6,587
Cash in hand	579	397
	<u>15,391</u>	<u>7,088</u>
Investment Assets		
M&G Charibond	137,923	132,302
COIF Fixed Interest Fund	191,176	180,074
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	<u>19,465</u>	<u>19,465</u>
	348,564	331,841
Net Assets	<u><u>£363,955</u></u>	<u><u>£338,929</u></u>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on... 17 October 2016



D Howdon

- Secretary



M J West

- Treasurer

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th June 2016

RECEIPTS

	2016		2015	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts from Members and Supporters:				
Subscriptions		16,269		15,053
Donations and other income		837		935
Tax recovered on Subscriptions and Donations under Gift Aid		3,151		3,294
Reading Circle receipts		108		78
London Bird Club – Meeting entry fees		226		220
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		20,591		19,580
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Sales:				
Journals		590		477
“Atlas of Breeding Birds of the London Area”		-		12
“London’s Changing Natural History		11		9
“The Birds of London”		40		-
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		641		498
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Investment income:				
Charities Fixed Interest Fund	7,501		7,092	
Charities Deposit Fund Interest	88		131	
Income from M&G Charibond	5,931		6,937	
Bank Deposit Account Interest	6		6	
Interest on Gift Aid tax recovered	11		8	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		13,537		14,174
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total Receipts		34,769		34,252
Less: Total Payments (Page 5)		(26,466)		(40,087)
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Net Receipts / (Payments) for the year		8,303		(5,835)
Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 1 st July 2015		7,088		12,923
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 30th June 2016		£15,391		£7,088
		<hr/>		<hr/>

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)
For the year ended 30th June 2016

PAYMENTS

	2016		2015	
	£	£	£	£
Meeting Costs, Sectional & General Expenditure:				
Hire of Halls and Rooms	1,373		3,311	
Lecturers' Fees and Expenses,				
Sectional Expenses etc.	532		714	
Reading Circle Journals	313		233	
Postage and Telephone	244		260	
Office Supplies and copying	801		706	
Services	222		592	
Independent Examiners' Fees	1,560		1,560	
Insurance	1,728		1,624	
Honorarium and Expense Allowances	156		124	
Bank charges	58		55	
Paypal account charges	93		61	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		7,080		9,240
 Publications:				
Printing and Expenses:				
London Naturalist No. 93	-		7,456	
London Naturalist No. 94	3,129		-	
London Bird Report 2012	-		4,017	
London Bird Report 2013	-		4,527	
London Bird Report 2014	4,551		-	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		7,680		16,000
 Programme	652		630	
Newsletters	3,392		3,691	
Mailing	5,823		7,947	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		9,867		12,268
 Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure		410		402
 Library		1,429		1,602
 Digitisation of old records		-		575
 Total Payments for the Year		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>
		£26,466		£40,087