

London Natural History Society
(Charity Registration Number 206228)

Accounts
For The Year Ended 30th June 2017

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

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2017

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 30th June 2017, the total net assets of the Society as detailed in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities had risen by £7,226 to £371,181 compared with £363,955 the previous year. £11,811 of this rise reflects an increase in the value of the Society's monetary assets. The end of year valuation of the Society's investments reduced by £4,585 to £343,979, compared with £348,564 in the previous year.

The Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year show that receipts exceeded payments by £11,811 (compared with £8,303 in the previous year). Receipts from members and supporters totalled £20,810 (compared with £20,591). Total receipts in the year were £48,249, compared with £34,769 in the previous year. The increase is principally due to £14,455 received for advertising in the forthcoming London Bird Atlas, for which an advance payment of £5,000 has been made, but a further £5,000 is not due until publication.

Total expenditure was considerably higher this year at £36,438 (£26,466 in the previous year). This includes London Bird Atlas costs mentioned above, website redesign costs of £3,456, and increased costs of publishing and mailing the Society's journals. A reduction in expenditure on hire of halls and rooms arose from having pre-booked and paid for a number of events in the previous year, to pre-empt a forecast price rise.

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.

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2017****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 30th June 2017 as set out on pages 4 to 6.

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.

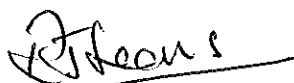
BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

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
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Herts,
SG13 7LA

Date: 5th October 2017

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
As at 30th June 2017

| | Notes | 2017 | 2016 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| Monetary Assets | | | |
| Bank Balances: | | | |
| National Westminster current account | | 239 | 97 |
| National Westminster reserve account | | 26,339 | 14,715 |
| Cash in hand | | 624 | 579 |
| | | <u>27,202</u> | <u>15,391</u> |
| Investment Assets | | | |
| M&G Charibond | | 136,681 | 137,923 |
| COIF Fixed Interest Fund | | 187,833 | 191,176 |
| COIF Charities Deposit Fund | | <u>19,465</u> | <u>19,465</u> |
| | | <u>343,979</u> | <u>348,564</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u><u>£371,181</u></u> | <u><u>£363,955</u></u> |

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 3 October 2017


D Howdon - Secretary


M J West - Treasurer

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th June 2017

| RECEIPTS | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Receipts from Members and Supporters: | | |
| Subscriptions | 16,156 | 16,269 |
| Donations and other income | 853 | 837 |
| Tax recovered on Subscriptions and Donations under Gift Aid | 3,337 | 3,151 |
| Reading Circle receipts | 141 | 108 |
| London Bird Club – Meeting entry fees | 323 | 226 |
| | <u>20,810</u> | <u>20,591</u> |
| Sales: | | |
| Journals | 393 | 590 |
| “Atlas of Breeding Birds of the London Area ” | 19 | - |
| “London’s Changing Natural History” | 8 | 11 |
| “The Birds of London” (Andrew Self) | 70 | 40 |
| Other Publications | 12 | - |
| Sales of surplus Library stock” | 49 | - |
| Other income: | | |
| Advertising Revenue- “London Bird Atlas” | 14,455 | - |
| Sundry receipt | 24 | - |
| | <u>15,030</u> | <u>641</u> |
| Investment income: | | |
| Charities Fixed Interest Fund | 7,134 | 7,501 |
| Charities Deposit Fund Interest | 75 | 88 |
| Income from M&G Charibond | 4,925 | 5,931 |
| Bank Deposit Account Interest | 4 | 6 |
| Interest on Gift Aid tax recovered | 13 | 11 |
| Residual Balance on Natwest Investments | 258 | - |
| | <u>12,409</u> | <u>13,537</u> |
| Total Receipts | <u>48,249</u> | <u>34,769</u> |
| Less: Total Payments (Page 5) | <u>(36,438)</u> | <u>(26,466)</u> |
| Net Receipts for the year | <u>11,811</u> | <u>8,303</u> |
| Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 1 st July 2016 | <u>15,391</u> | <u>7,088</u> |
| Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 30th June 2017 | <u><u>£27,202</u></u> | <u><u>£15,391</u></u> |

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)
For the year ended 30th June 2017

PAYMENTS

| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
|--|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Meeting Costs, Sectional & General Expenditure: | | | | |
| Hire of Halls and Rooms | 1,265 | | 1,373 | |
| Lecturers' Fees and Expenses, Sectional Expenses etc. | 569 | | 532 | |
| Reading Circle Journals | 392 | | 313 | |
| Postage and Telephone | 240 | | 244 | |
| Office Supplies and copying | 248 | | 801 | |
| Services | 101 | | 102 | |
| Independent Examiners' Fees | 1,800 | | 1,560 | |
| Insurance | 1,736 | | 1,728 | |
| Honorarium and Expense Allowances | 86 | | 156 | |
| Bank charges | 65 | | 58 | |
| Paypal account charges | 93 | | 93 | |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | 6,595 | | 6,960 |
| Publications: | | | | |
| Printing and Expenses: | | | | |
| "The London Bird Atlas" – Publishers advance | 5,000 | | - | |
| London Naturalist No. 94 | - | | 3,129 | |
| London Naturalist No. 95 | 3,866 | | - | |
| London Bird Report 2014 | - | | 4,551 | |
| London Bird Report 2015 | 4,640 | | - | |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | 13,506 | | 7,680 |
| Programme | 635 | | 652 | |
| Newsletters | 3,545 | | 3,392 | |
| Mailing | 6,629 | | 5,823 | |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | 10,809 | | 9,867 |
| Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure | | 364 | | 410 |
| Library | | 1,461 | | 1,429 |
| Website costs: | | | | |
| Redesign | 3,456 | | - | |
| Running costs | 247 | | 120 | |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | 3,703 | | 120 |
| Total Payments for the Year | | <hr/> £36,438 <hr/> | | <hr/> £26,466 <hr/> |

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity 206228

Report of the Society for the year ending 30 June 2017

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, although good progress reinvigorating that survey itself is being made.

No President was appointed at the 2015 or 2016 AGMs and the society has operated with this post unfilled for the whole 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 Catherine Schmitt, David Bevan, Sarah Barnes and Stuart Cole are obliged to stand down from council at the 2017 AGM.

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

Membership

86 new members joined during the year, compared with 120 last year. The number of individual members currently stands at 906, compared with 921 at the same time last year, and 874 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. However as previously commented in these reports

LNHS Annual Report to 30th June 2017

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): Professor Harry Bradford (1986), Mr Ken Hill (1984), Mr Jack Laundon (1953), Mr Tim Neal (1964), Mrs Henrietta Phipps (1975), Mr Leslie Rodgers (1972), Miss Hilda Rutland (1961), Miss Mary Seaton (1978), Mr Ron Todd (1978), Mr Peter Walding (1984), Mr David Wills (1982), and Mrs Elinor Wiltshire (1988)

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.

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

LNHS Annual Report to 30th June 2017

meetings have continued to prove popular at their new location of Burgh House in Hampstead.

The London Bird Atlas was finalised and has gone into print under the joint publishing arrangement with John Beaufoy Publishing. The book will be available from book sellers from the end of November 2017 (so strictly outside the period covered by this report). Thanks to the advertising support from 13 companies all of the costs have been covered and the publication is in profit.

The Society added to its presence on social media by setting up a group on the Meet Up platform to promote out meetings and field trips. This has proved successful in attracting new people to LNHS events.

Recording and recorders

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

Journals and other publications

The London Naturalist **95** (2016) was distributed to members. The new editorial team are continuing to produce a high quality journal of which the society can be proud.

The London Bird Report for 2015 was published. 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, London Bird Atlas 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

LNHS Annual Report to 30th June 2017

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.