

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

**Report of the Society for the year ending 30 June 2018**

**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; David Bevan and then Frances Dismore the Botany section. Stuart Cole represented the Bookham Common Survey until standing down under rule 4(c) and the AGM and the post has remained unfilled since. The post of Entomology and Ecology Section representative was filled by Sarah Barnes until she stood down under rule 4(c) at the AGM and has remained unfilled since. The post of Hampstead Heath Survey representative remained unfilled in this year, although the good progress reinvigorating that survey continues.

No President was appointed at the 2015, 2016 or 2017 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 Ian Woodward, Jan Hewlett and Robin Blades are obliged to stand down from council at the 2018 AGM.

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

**Rules change**

At the 2017 AGM the society adopted its new rules which ensure that the society can operate in modern ways and continue to evolve. From 2018 the society has operated in accordance with the new rules.

**Membership**

## LNHS Annual Report to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018

95 new members joined during the year, compared with 86 last year. The number of individual members currently stands at 901, compared with 905 at the same time last year, and 921 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 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 – 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): Mrs Joan Cornford (1982), Mr Tom Fowler (1997), Mr Anthony Gibbs (1949), Mr Martin Grounds (2001), Mr Paul Jackson (1998), Mr Anthony Keeping (1958), Mr Glanville Locke (1985), Mrs Mary Usherwood (1979), Miss Barbara Villiers (1985), Mr Mark Warham (1997)

### **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 Annual Report to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018

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

The London Bird Atlas was published under a joint arrangement with John Beaufoy Publishing. The book was available from book sellers from the end of November 2017, and the society was able to offer a special discounted price for members. The publication has sold well and provides a wonderful example of all the work of amateur naturalists in our area. In addition complementary copies of the Atlas have been sent to libraries of other organisation in fulfilment of our charitable objectives. Thanks to the advertising support from 13 companies all of the costs have been covered and the publication made a profit for the society.

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 started a project at <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/gigl/london-bird-records> to convert the society's old record cards into a modern digital format to allow for easier analysis of this treasure trove of historic biological information. 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 96 (2017) was distributed to members in December 2017. The editorial team are continuing to produce a high quality journal of which the society can be proud.

The London Bird Report No 81 for the year 2017 was published in May 2018. 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.

## LNHS Annual Report to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018

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 2018**

**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 2018

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 2018, the total net assets of the Society as detailed in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities had declined by £6,704 to £364,477 compared with £371,181 the previous year. No withdrawals were made from the Society's investments, but the end of year valuation fell by £8,224 to £335,755, compared with £343,979 in the previous year.

The Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year show that receipts exceeded payments by £1,520 (compared with £11,811 in the previous year, when income was boosted by advertising revenue of £14,555 for The London Bird Atlas). An exceptional item this year was an accumulated surplus of £4,360 from past coach trips. Receipts from members and supporters totalled £20,548 (compared with £20,810). Total receipts in the year were £38,730, compared with £48,249 in the previous year.

Total expenditure totalled £37,210 this year which is comparable with £36,438 in the previous year. Overall costs of producing the Society's journals and newsletters, and mailing, were lower, but this was partly offset by the cost of complimentary copies of The London Bird Atlas for contributors and relevant outside organisations.

#### **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 2018****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 2018 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: 5 OCTOBER 2018



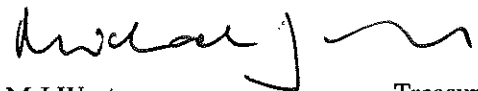
**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**As at 30th June 2018**

Notes	2018	2017
	£	£
<b>Monetary Assets</b>		
Bank Balances:		
National Westminster current account	60	239
National Westminster reserve account	28,255	26,339
Cash in hand	407	624
	<u>28,722</u>	<u>27,202</u>
<b>Investment Assets</b>		
M&G Charibond	131,949	136,681
COIF Fixed Interest Fund	184,341	187,833
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	<u>19,465</u>	<u>19,465</u>
	335,755	343,979
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u><u>£364,477</u></u>	<u><u>£371,181</u></u>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 4 October 2018

  
D Howdon

- Secretary

  
M J West

- Treasurer

# LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th June 2018

RECEIPTS	2018		2017	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts from Members and Supporters:</b>				
Subscriptions		15,825		16,156
Donations		1,077		853
Tax recovered on Subscriptions and Donations under Gift Aid		3,308		3,337
Reading Circle receipts		135		141
London Bird Club – Meeting entry fees		203		323
		<u>20,548</u>		<u>20,810</u>
<b>Sales:</b>				
Journals		470		393
Previous publications		11		27
“The Birds of London” (Andrew Self)		-		70
Other Publications		-		12
Sales of surplus Library stock		-		49
<b>Other income:</b>				
“The London Bird Atlas” - Advertising revenue		-		14,455
“The London Bird Atlas” - Royalty Income		494		-
“The London Bird Atlas” - Members offer		1,860		-
Sundry receipt		45		24
Coach trips surplus		4,360		-
Refund of bank charges		396		-
		<u>7,636</u>		<u>15,030</u>
<b>Investment income:</b>				
Charities Fixed Interest Fund	6,033		7,134	
Charities Deposit Fund Interest	46		75	
Income from M&G Charibond	4,443		4,925	
Bank Deposit Account Interest	11		4	
Interest on Gift Aid tax recovered	13		13	
Residual Balance on Natwest Investments	-		258	
		<u>10,546</u>		<u>12,409</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<u>38,730</u>		<u>48,249</u>
<b>Less: Total Payments (Page 5)</b>		<u>(37,210)</u>		<u>(36,438)</u>
<b>Net Receipts for the year</b>		<u>1,520</u>		<u>11,811</u>
Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2017		<u>27,202</u>		<u>15,391</u>
<b>Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018</b>		<u><u>£28,722</u></u>		<u><u>£27,202</u></u>

## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 30th June 2018**

**PAYMENTS**

	<b>2018</b>		<b>2017</b>	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Meeting Costs, Sectional &amp; General Expenditure:</b>				
Hire of Halls and Rooms	1,272		1,265	
Lecturers' Fees and Expenses, Sectional Expenses etc.	417		569	
Reading Circle Journals	396		392	
Postage and Telephone	286		240	
Office Supplies and copying	843		248	
Services	62		101	
Independent Examiners' Fees	1,800		1,800	
Insurance	1,823		1,736	
Expense Allowances	71		86	
Bank charges	16		65	
Paypal account charges	88		93	
Refund of duplicate subscription	20		-	
	<hr/>	7,094	<hr/>	6,595
<b>Publications:</b>				
Printing and Expenses:				
"The London Bird Atlas" – Publishers advance	5,000		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. 95	-		3,866	
London Naturalist No. 96	3,784		-	
London Bird Report 2015	-		4,640	
London Bird Report 2016	4,595		-	
	<hr/>	17,074	<hr/>	13,506
Programme	698		635	
Newsletters	2,834		3,545	
Mailing	5,955		6,629	
	<hr/>	9,487	<hr/>	10,809
Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure		430		364
Library		1,867		1,461
Grant towards publication of Urban Fungi book		1,000		-
<b>Website costs:</b>				
Redesign	-		3,456	
Running costs	258		247	
	<hr/>	258	<hr/>	3,703
<b>Total Payments for the Year</b>		<hr/> <b>£37,210</b> <hr/>		<hr/> <b>£36,438</b> <hr/>



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**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018**

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities – continued**

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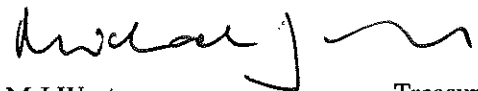
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Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 4 October 2018

  
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- Secretary

  
M J West

- Treasurer

# LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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## LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 30th June 2018**

**PAYMENTS**

	<b>2018</b>		<b>2017</b>	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Meeting Costs, Sectional &amp; General Expenditure:</b>				
Hire of Halls and Rooms	1,272		1,265	
Lecturers' Fees and Expenses, Sectional Expenses etc.	417		569	
Reading Circle Journals	396		392	
Postage and Telephone	286		240	
Office Supplies and copying	843		248	
Services	62		101	
Independent Examiners' Fees	1,800		1,800	
Insurance	1,823		1,736	
Expense Allowances	71		86	
Bank charges	16		65	
Paypal account charges	88		93	
Refund of duplicate subscription	20		-	
	<hr/>	7,094	<hr/>	6,595
<b>Publications:</b>				
Printing and Expenses:				
"The London Bird Atlas" – Publishers advance	5,000		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. 95	-		3,866	
London Naturalist No. 96	3,784		-	
London Bird Report 2015	-		4,640	
London Bird Report 2016	4,595		-	
	<hr/>	17,074	<hr/>	13,506
Programme	698		635	
Newsletters	2,834		3,545	
Mailing	5,955		6,629	
	<hr/>	9,487	<hr/>	10,809
Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure		430		364
Library		1,867		1,461
Grant towards publication of Urban Fungi book		1,000		-
<b>Website costs:</b>				
Redesign	-		3,456	
Running costs	258		247	
	<hr/>	258	<hr/>	3,703
<b>Total Payments for the Year</b>		<hr/> <b>£37,210</b> <hr/>		<hr/> <b>£36,438</b> <hr/>

