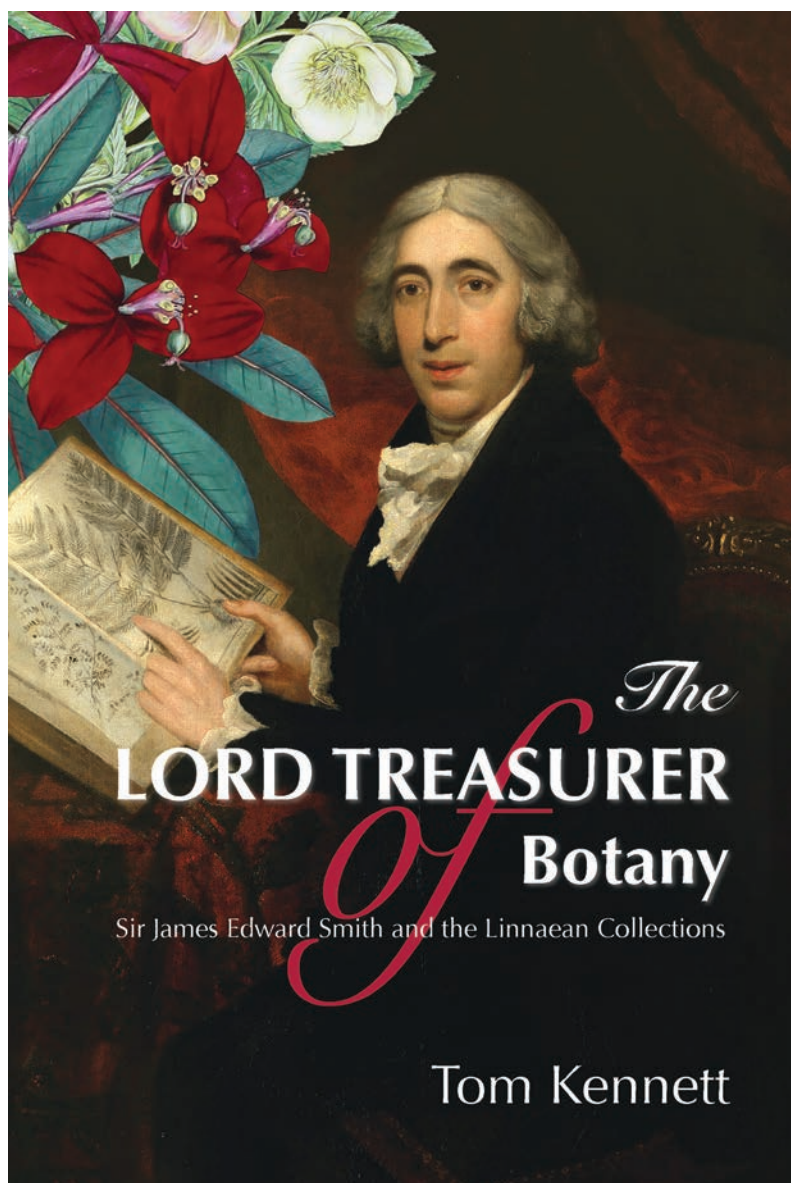


THE LORD TREASURER OF BOTANY

With the Linnean Society's biography *The Lord Treasurer of Botany: Sir James Edward Smith and the Linnaean Collections* now officially launched, and author and archivist Tom Kennett FLS touring the lecture circuit, we thought we'd share a short excerpt of the book with Fellows. We join Smith as a young man of 27 on his Grand Tour of Europe in December 1786, as he and his travelling companion William Younge make their way from Monaco into Italy:

The sea was still rough when they departed Monaco on the morning of the 21st. Smith's refuge at the bottom of the boat no longer afforded relief and he spent the next eight leagues hanging over the side, though was rewarded with the sight of a very luminous sea before dawn, "which by far exceeded my expectations". At Sanremo, on the insistence of the sailors, they docked for another two days, but with the calming of the sea the wind had now moved round to the east, making sailing onwards to Genoa impossible. Smith, impatient and tired of feeling sick, resolved to travel the rest of the way by land, regardless of the accounts of "bad roads, precipices, robbers &c". When the wind allowed, Younge was to follow in the felucca with their baggage. Smith hired a guide and two mules, made a small parcel containing two shirts, razors, and other necessities, including his pistols, and set out at about 11 o'clock of the morning of 24 December. He followed a path along the rocky hills next to the sea, "more like a broken flight of steps or the [notoriously bad] pavement of Norwich than any thing else". That night, he stayed at an inn called the Crown, on whose promising sign was written "Ogn' offeria e buona, / Ma questa e la corona" ("Every inn is good, but this is the Crown, or the best of all"). Smith did not agree. He thought it a wretched place and got little sleep, thanks to the people in the street and the bells ringing for midnight masses. The next morning he was charged 6 livres of France (about £3) for his board and lodging, "the worst and dearest" he had ever had.

Smith spent Christmas Day travelling. Stopping at the Pinco de Genoa inn at Alassio, a letter of introduction from the Marquess Durazzo got him an invite to the landlord of the inn's Christmas dinner. The next morning, placing his confidence in his pistols (having been assured there were no robbers in the area), Smith set out for the town of Finale, alone and on foot. This was a full 20 miles away—when needed, Smith could be very intrepid. Unfortunately, on descending the hill that overlooked Finale he accidentally took the mule path, the bottom of which led through an icy rivulet. Rather than retrace his steps, Smith took off his shoes and stockings and waded across.



The Lord Treasurer of Botany is the first definitive biography of the Society's founder, owner and keeper of the Linnaean collections and its longest serving president.

To hear author Tom Kennett speak more of how Smith garnered the collections watch our video (<https://vimeo.com/167418683>) or to order your copy visit <https://www.linnean.org/shop/books/the-lord-treasurer-of-botany>.

AdoptLINN

Metamorphoses in progress

The Society's recently introduced adoption scheme is rapidly building momentum, and it's been a privilege to see how many people feel a deep affinity with the Society's collections. When seen as personalities rather than objects, it is not only each item's content that is interesting but also how it was made, treated and used. Connecting people with our collections in such a personal way has been fantastic.

The Story So Far...

To date, nine very generous supporters have joined us:

James Abell FLS
Benjamin Bather
Dr Mark Benecke FLS
Lord Cranbrooke HonFLS
Gina Douglas HonFLS
Jennifer Grundy FLS
Elaine Monaghan FLS
Professor Mark Otten FLS
Professor David Pye FLS

The adopted items themselves provide a snapshot of the breadth of the Society's collections, and natural history and general. An interesting example is John Ellis's *An essay towards a natural history of the corallines* (1755). It is one of the first works to outline the animal nature of corals, which had previously been regarded as marine plants. This particular copy had suffered an unhappy fate—once part of a circulating library, it was later 'restored' and most likely

over-bleached by an over-zealous seller who wanted perfectly white pages. As a result, the paper had become so brittle that it would crumble when touched. The paper needed to be de-acidified and reinforced, the book to be completely taken apart, re-sewn and re-bound.

Items have also been adopted in memory of someone special—the adoption of A.H. Hassall's *A History of the British Freshwater Algae* (1845), in memory of eminent freshwater phycologist Dr John W.G. Lund FLS, shows how important contributions can be celebrated and connections can continue.

Hassall, a physician, chemist and botanist, focussed his botanical studies on freshwater algae; this particular copy contains an original letter from the author. In 1850, Hassall also produced a work inspecting London drinking water through a microscope, which became instrumental in promoting water quality and reform.

AdoptLINN is already transforming items from our collections, not only by restoring them, but by adding new storylines to their already rich history.

Visit www.linnean.org/AdoptLINN to find out more about how you can be involved in the Society's adoption scheme, and to see what items are available.

Elaine Charwat, Deputy Librarian
elainec@linnean.org



ABOVE A.H. John Ellis's *An essay towards a natural history of the corallines* (1755) will now be conserved thanks to our AdoptLINN supporters

© Elaine Charwat

BioMedia Meltdown

Digital Botanical Illustration



LEFT Niki Simpson's digital illustrations of the common red poppy (*Papaver rhoeas* L.) and briar rose (*Rosa rubiginosa* L.), which she is allowing the Society to use as part of an education activity

© Niki Simpson

Digital botanical illustrator Niki Simpson FLS is currently collaborating with the Society's Education Project Officer on developing an education activity as part of the BioMedia Meltdown project. The project, which has been funded by John Lyon's Charity, aims to deliver lessons about the natural world through the use of creative media and is being run in the London boroughs of Ealing, Brent, Hammersmith and Fulham.

One of the primary aims is to work with schools that may not have access to certain scientific or multi-media equipment, and to work alongside teachers within these schools to inspire more young people to take an interest in the field of natural history. The BioMedia Meltdown project is developing a new activity book that will include lessons on plant anatomy, and Linnean Society Fellow Niki Simpson is helping the project to develop an activity that will encourage students to look closely at plants and be inspired by her work to create their own versions. Niki's stunning digital botanical illustrations combine traditional botanical art with new technology, enabling students to observe specimens in great detail making them perfect for education. The activity will focus on plant reproduction and the sexual structures found in flowers in particular, and will include instructions on how the plants should be dissected, presented and photographed.

Very generously, Niki is allowing the Society to use two of her composite images as examples for this activity—a huge thank you to Niki for supporting this project. If there is anything in our education programme to which you could lend your expertise, please contact either myself or Education Officer Rhys Grant (rhys@linnean.org).

Ross Ziegelmeier, Education Project Officer
ross@linnean.org

Niki Simpson's new book, *Nuphar lutea: botanical images for the digital documentation of a taxon* can be found here: <http://www.visualbotany.co.uk/>

Unsolved Mystery

The Portrait in the Office

In late 2014 I took up the role of Curator of Artefacts for the Society, and on one of my first visits to the Society's rooms in that capacity (I have been a Fellow since 1995) I was asked what I thought of 'the unknown young man' in the Executive Secretary's office. It was with some trepidation that I stepped into the Executive Secretary's office and was duly pointed towards a painted portrait located on the south wall of her office. But who is he?

It seems that over the years there has been much speculation as to who this portrait features, and indeed written on the back of the frame, in a bold hand, it says: 'William Curtis by Johann Zoffany.' However William Curtis FLS (1746–99) has been described as "short, well built, and neat, with a full and ruddy face", which would not fit our mystery sitter, and the portrait does not look to be the work of the great 18th-century portraitist Johann Zoffany RA (1733–1810).

In an attempt to discover the identity of our mystery man I approached the fashion curators of the Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A) in South Kensington, London, to date his clothes. His wig was dated to the period 1769–75, and his shirt to the 1760s/1770s, as it is edged with fine French lace in the 'point d'Alençon' style. The informal frock coat, decorative silk embroidered waistcoat, and the fine lace shirt trimmings all suggest that the sitter was a stylish young Frenchman. Other enquiries regarding the style of the table on which the sitter rests, the landscaped viewed through the window and the room in which the sitter is placed all proved to be inconclusive as to the identity or nationality of the sitter.



ABOVE **Mystery portrait at the Society**
© The Linnean Society of London

LEFT **Peter Forsskål**
WikiMedia Commons/
PS Burton

What of his pose? The sitter's right hand rests inside his waistcoat, a pose that became increasingly popular in portraiture after the publication of Francois Nivelon's *A Book of Genteel Behaviour* (1738), in which he describes the "hand-inside-vest" pose as conveying "manly boldness tempered with modesty". In British 18th-century portraiture this pose signified the good breeding of the subject. It is worth comparing our portrait with that of Peter Forsskål (1732–63), one of the Apostles of Linnaeus, painted in 1760, who strikes a similar pose, with a similarly fashioned wig, but wears more conservative clothes. No fancy French lace for him.

There is one important difference between these portraits, our mystery man's left hand holds a scroll on which there are depicted two botanical illustrations. The index finger of the left hand points quite deliberately to the scroll, upon which appears to be illustrations of *Iris germanica* and *Narcissus poetica*, both described by Linnaeus. The waistcoat too might hold a clue; it is covered in stylised embroidered flowers of myositis, dianthus, campanula and viola, all plants described by Linnaeus—even the ivy (*Hedera helix*) that climbs in through the window. Could there be a reason for all these Linnaean connections? I am going to be brave and put my cards on the table, and say I think this is a portrait of a twenty-something Linnaeus, depicted in a manner favourable to the patron, the original location or purpose. Do you agree?

Glenn Benson, Curator of Artefacts

Thank you to Susan North and Kate Coombs of the V&A and Lynda Brooks and David Pescod at the Society for their contributions to this article.

Increases and Changes to Membership Rates and Categories

As announced at the Society's Anniversary Meeting on the 24 May 2016, the annual contribution rates for Fellows will increase from the 24 May 2017. Standard **Fellowship** rates will rise from £50 to £55. (The rates for lower contribution countries will also change: *Lower Income* – will stay at £20; *Middle Income* – will increase from £20 to £25; *Upper Income* – will rise from £20 to £35.)

The **Associate** category has changed; Associates are currently defined as 'aged between 18 and 29 years old', and pay a reduced Contribution. The age cap has been removed, and Associates will pay the same contribution as Fellows (£55 per annum effective 24 May 2017). The **Student Associate** rate will remain at £10, and the age cap has been removed so that mature students can also join the Society. However, there will be no formal election process for Associates and Student Associates but they may apply for Fellowship at any time and must then go through the usual formal process of election and admission. For further information contact Priya Nithianandan (priya@linnean.org)

Anita Walsmit Sachs FLS

The Linnean Society would like to congratulate Anita Walsmit Sachs FLS who was made a Knight of the Royal Order of Orange-Nassau in April this year. Anita, the founding President of the Dutch Society of Botanical Artists (Vereniging van Botanisch Kunstenaars Nederland or VBKN), was awarded with the honour at the 10th jubilee of the VBKN by Mrs Lies Spruit, Mayor of Lisse.

The award reflects Anita's unwavering commitment to botanical art and illustration, including her encouragement of artistic study in the Netherlands by setting up an association, exhibitions, lectures and courses for a large audience. To further inspire others she published the book *Observation with pen and brush* (2014). She has received two gold medals from the Royal Horticultural Society and several other awards from the UK's Society of Botanical Artists and the American Society of Botanical Artists and Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

Congratulations to Anita from everyone at the Linnean Society.



LEFT **Anita Walsmit Sachs FLS awarded her honour by Mrs Lies Spruit, Mayor of Lisse in April this year**
Image from www.anitawalsmitsachs.com



LADY ANNE MONSON

“A phoenix among women”

In 1774, Carl Linnaeus put pen to paper, writing to the object of his affections, “Nature has never produced a woman who is your equal”. He went on to ask, “that I may be permitted to join with you in the procreation of just one little daughter to bear witness of our love”. The recipient of the letter was Lady Anne Monson, a botanist and natural historian, and their daughter was a flower she had collected on the Cape that was to become her namesake, “a little Monsonia, through which [her] fame would live for ever in the Kingdom of Flora...”.

The most extraordinary thing about this letter and indeed the relationship between Linnaeus and Lady Anne was that they never met. It was a relationship based instead on the highest mutual regard through shared connections in the world of science. Lady Anne was said to be “always studying Linnaeus’s publications” and sent him various species from her collections. Although she was by no means the only woman of her day interested in botany (until the publication of Linnaeus’s sexual system of plant taxonomy, it was considered a safe and reputable interest for women to have), she was one of few women whose contribution to the subject was thought of as more than mere frivolity. Even so, the legacy of this “phoenix among women”, who challenged the norms of her day in both her private and professional life, has fallen into history’s shadows.

She was born on 25 June 1726 to the 1st Earl of Darlington and his wife Lady Grace Fitzroy, a granddaughter of Charles II. Little is known about the early life of Lady Anne Vane as she was then known, though we may presume her strong will was ever present. According to one source she eloped with her first husband, an older widower by the name of Charles Hope-Vere. They married on 20 March 1746 when she was 19 and had two sons, Charles and Henry.

In 1754 her husband embarked on a tour of Europe with the architect Robert Adam, leaving his family for two years. He returned to find his wife pregnant...and the inescapable conclusion was made. She gave birth to a son. To this day the identity of his father is unknown, as is the child’s fate. Charles demanded a divorce, a devastating event in the mid-18th century which required the passing of an Act of Parliament. In 1757 the divorce came through and in the same year, having turned 31, Lady Anne married Captain George Monson, an Indian officer four years her junior. The scandal rocked the country and was later immortalised in 19th-century caricaturist George Cruikshank’s ‘Exhibition in the horticultural



room’ (1826). In the upper right corner Cruikshank depicts her as *Arethusa bulbosa*—which he satirically describes as “a species of egg plant” that “hatches and bears fruit in all climates”.

In 1758, a year after their marriage, Captain Monson left for India. Lady Anne had been forced to give up all her children. She was not only considered beyond redemption by the Hope-Veres (no reference to her remains in the annals of their family history) but she also had much to prove to the Monsons who were deeply concerned that she would ruin her husband’s promising naval career. The only thing she could do was retire to the country (at this time West London) and let the scandal pass. She took her horse and cart to Chiswick.

It was during this time of great personal upheaval that her scientific interests started to blossom. She assisted her friend James Lee, the proprietor of the Vineyard Nursery in Hammersmith, in translating Linnaeus’s *Philosophia Botanica*. Published in 1760, Lee acknowledged Lady Anne anonymously in the preface. She later left her collection of Bengal insects to Lee’s daughter, Ann



(in all likelihood named after her). In 1762 she was one of the first two women to be admitted to the British Museum library. Linnaean 'Disciple' Clas Alströmer wrote in 1764 that she had made greater progress in botanical science than any other woman, "not superficially ... but in a close and profound way". It was said that the first toast at every meal at her table was to Linnaeus, a compliment he would more than repay a few years later.

Lady Anne's husband meanwhile became lieutenant-colonel in September 1760 and two years later he distinguished himself at the capture of Manila. In 1769 George was promoted to colonel and aide-de-camp to the King who said of him, "though not a strong man he had excellent brains". Lady Anne and George were soon to start a new life in India but in 1774, on her way there, Lady Anne was diverted to Cape Town to botanise with Carl Peter Thunberg and Francis Masson—she was 47 years old. Thunberg was considered the 'father of Cape Botany' and he and Lady Anne were very fond of one another. She gifted him a ring to commemorate their time together. In Thunberg's words: "The learned lady, during the time she staid there, made several very fine collections, particularly in the animal kingdom."

In one of these "fine collections" was the *Monsonia speciosa* and it was following this trip that Linnaeus felt compelled to write his botanical love-letter. Doubtless he was spurred on by more than just admiration. In a letter from Clas Alströmer suggesting the namesake to Linnaeus, he writes, "She deserves it" but also that "it should encourage her to sacrifice life and property to Science". The enthusiasm of Linnaeus's letter shows him to be in firm agreement. Though there is also the possibility the letter was never sent. The only copy known about was in his possession and sits in the archive at the Linnean Society of London to this day. History eludes us and we do not know how she responded to the birth of their daughter in the kingdom of flora.

On 19 October 1774, Lady Anne and George arrived in Calcutta, and George was named as one of the supreme council of Bengal. Warren Hastings was governor-general at the time and had previously been acquainted with Lady Anne, so warmly welcomed the couple. However things soon cooled as factions appeared in the British India community. George sided with the diplomat Lieutenant General Sir John Clavering and politician Sir Philip Francis in opposition to Hastings. Lady Anne was a dinner party delight, aiding her husband's cause by telling tales of Hastings's doubtful parentage. She was also "a very superior whist-player". In her two short years in India it seems she made a great impression on those around her. When she died, Sir Philip's brother-in-law Alexander Macrabie wrote in his diary remorsefully, "Lady Anne is no more [...] The loss of such a woman is generally felt by the whole Settlement, but we who had the honour and pleasure of her intimacy are deprived of a comfort which we shall long regret".

"The Monsons were the first to go" was how the deaths of Lady Anne and George were described in a contemporary diary. They were followed by so many of the early East India Company British who died of "the climate" that was said to be especially dangerous to those over 35. Lady Anne was buried in South Park Street Cemetery where seven months later George joined her. And so in a moss covered cemetery in the tropics ended a remarkable life — one that deserves to be remembered alongside her contribution to science. As James Lee's partner John Kennedy wrote, her enthusiasm, "knew no bounds, and [her] liberal and fostering hand contributed more, perhaps, than any of her contemporaries, by her encouragement and example to the... study of botany".

Isabella Monson
isabellamonson@gmail.com

LEFT George Cruikshank's 1826 caricature 'Exhibition in the horticultural room' where Lady Anne Monson is depicted in the top right-hand corner as a plant that "bears fruit in all climates" By permission of the British Library

PARADISE LOST?



THE BATTLE FOR BEDDINGTON FARMLANDS

The commercial, public and governmental sectors are historically not always easy bedfellows, but when it comes to preserving biodiversity there is often also a timeline to factor in, with a countdown on the clock. Whilst conservation projects gain increasing space in the media, how hard is it to oversee the implementation of these projects at a ground roots level? With many interested parties, how are different interests being served, and how is progress overseen? The difficulties in the general process of conservation can be observed in a case study that I have been involved with.

Beddington Farmlands: An Overview

Beddington Farmlands is a 400 acre site in South London, designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), is Metropolitan Open Land and has a total of over 2,029 recorded species including 258 bird species (eight red data list breeding species including northern lapwing [*Vanellus vanellus*] and tree sparrow [*Passer montanus*] and nationally important wintering populations of green sandpiper [*Tringa ochropus*], Caspian Gull [*Larus cachinnans*] and water pipit [*Anthus spinoletta*]), 526 species of moths and butterflies, 361 species of diptera, 262 species of coleoptera and 99 species of hymenoptera.

The Past

In 1995, Viridor, a waste management company, applied for permission to landfill the area on the condition that it would be restored to a public nature reserve by 2015. Following a Public Enquiry, permission was granted with several stipulations, including the creation of a number of biodiversity action plan habitats such as wet grassland, acid grassland and reed beds. At that time, a comprehensive Conservation Management Plan was drawn up and various target species were selected for conservation, and they would be monitored to measure the success of the restoration.





ABOVE The mound at Beddington Farmlands, a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) with over 2,029 recorded species

FAR LEFT A northern lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) photographed at Beddington Farmlands

Ten years later, Viridor applied for permission to extend waste management on site until 2023, delaying the opening of the public nature reserve. In 2012 an application was put forward to build a 300,000 tonne incinerator on the site of the wet grassland. Though there was local opposition, permission was granted to build the incinerator in 2013 and, after a judicial review, work commenced in 2015. However concurrent to this, a complaint was made to the local ombudsman about how the area was being affected ecologically. According to an extract from the Planning Officer's Report for the site, final dates of restoration put forward in the 1995 proposal ranged from 2003 for the Southern Lake, with actual restoration occurring in 2009, to 2011 for the proposed area of wet grassland, for which restoration has yet to begin. The Southern Lake, however, has been restored in both 2000 and 2009, as proposed.

The Present

The lack of enforcement behind the proposed restoration to the Farmlands has contributed to a collapse in the population of the majority of target species. In table 1, the impact of this stasis of restoration can be clearly seen in the decline and extinction of several bird species in the area. Sadly, in 2014 the Tree Sparrow population—the iconic species of Beddington and the mascot of the local naturalist community—crashed to only one pair, yet as recently as 2007 there had been a thousand birds in the post-breeding season.

At present the conditions at Beddington Farmlands have not improved. Viridor have verbally offered to amend the situation and local government has pledged to encourage the company to fulfil their future planning obligations, but without immediate action the situation continues to deteriorate. With new threats on the horizon—including the de-designation of Metropolitan Open Land along the east boundary of the site, and the phasing out of sewage disposal in an area that makes up nearly 50% of the SINC—the idea of Beddington Farmlands as a major urban nature reserve in South London seems almost lost. Its fate represents the enormous difficulties that can occur where pressures on 'open' land can literally build up, with conservation needs and public concerns needing to be reconciled with both commercial interests and those of local authorities.

The Future

The Farmlands offer the opportunity to be both of huge benefit to the local community and to preserve one of the most important locations for biodiversity in London. It is an area which ranks alongside the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds's (RSPB) Rainham Marshes in Purfleet and the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust's (WWT) London Wetland Centre in Barnes as one of the most significant places for birds in London, though this status is rapidly slipping away. This seems slightly at odds with the fact that Viridor also offer funding to organisations, through the Viridor Credits scheme, for Community, Heritage or Biodiversity projects. In order to resuscitate the situation, biodiversity action plan habitats need to be

created, and fundamental changes need to be driven by more than just verbal commitment.

Could Beddington Farmlands be a glimpse of the future for the rest of the UK? In many ways the commercial corporations are just doing their job, but it comes at such a high cost that it is worth asking: what must the conservation community do to curtail similar damage from happening in years to come? While it is disheartening to think that 'the Battle of Beddington Farmlands' has been lost, in an ideal world the conservation community needs to remodel itself and move away from its reliance on corporate funding to survive. Perhaps the answer lies in involving as many people as possible, at all levels, in the conservation and ownership of these places of biological interest. If there is enough public pressure and benefit, not all may be lost. In order to build a nature reserve, we need to build an active and vocal community.

Peter Alfrey

Naturalist and Director of Little Oak Environmental Services

<http://www.peteralfreynature.co.uk/>



LEFT The tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*) is the mascot of the local naturalist community

BELOW The site is one of the most important locations for biodiversity in London and benefits naturalists and the local community alike



Breeding pairs of the target species for selected years (extracted from BBS data)

	1995	2000	2005	2010	2014	2015	Notes on breeding population
Little Ringed Plover	1	1	1	0	0	0	Extinct
Ringed Plover	0	1	0	0	0	0	Failed
Lapwing	11	18	22	14	10	10	Initial improvement now declining
Redshank	4	1	2	0	0	0	Extinct
Common Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	Failed
Yellow Wagtail	5	0	0	0	0	0	Extinct
Sedge Warbler	11	25	1	2	0	0	Extinct
Reed Warbler	31	19	13	32	13	32	Fluctuating
Whitethroat	73	76	66	55	41	53	Declining
Tree Sparrow	83	52	75	80	1	1	Near-extinct
Reed Bunting	23	17	5	3	2	2	Near-extinct

Farewell to Hazel Leeper...

In June we bid a fond farewell to Hazel Leeper, the Society's Education Officer. Hazel joined the Society in October 2012, having previously worked as a Science Communicator at Dundee Science Centre in her native Scotland. Hazel was originally employed part-time but that was soon increased to working full-time on the education programme, in particular the primary loan kit scheme. The Society's school loan kit scheme was taken forward by Hazel who developed four themed kits around Classification, Plants, Habitats and Life Cycles—all topics relating to the UK's primary school curriculum. Amongst other things Hazel carried on existing activities such as acting as the Society's voice within the Nucleus Group (a group of learned societies and non-profit organisations concerned with science education and

dissemination), overseeing the student lecture programme and manning the Society's stand at the annual Association for Science Education (ASE) conference. In 2016 she was the Society's presence at the BioBlitz held at Brompton Cemetery, London, and also oversaw a 'Bug Club' event at Burlington House, with the Amateur Entomologists' Society. Hazel is now taking all of her school engagement experience and moving into teaching, where she will teach secondary level science. With her PGCE beginning in September, we wish Hazel all the best for her new life as a teacher—we know she'll be a great one.



© Leonie Berwick

...and Welcome to Rhys Grant!

Rhys Grant joined the Linnean Society in July as the new Education Officer. Rhys grew up in Hertford and attended Richard Hale School as a member of Wallace House, named after the school's former student Alfred Russel Wallace, where he developed a passion for communicating science and engaging the public with biology. After gaining an A-level in the public understanding of science (amongst A-levels in the more traditional sciences!) and the opportunity to curate some of Wallace's personal animal specimens, Rhys moved to the University of Cambridge to read Natural Sciences, specialising in biochemistry. He completed his Ph.D. in genetics and has spent the last year working as a researcher in pharmacology, where he earned Chartered Biologist status.

Now that Rhys has contributed towards advancing the fields of cell division and cancer cell biology he is focusing on his true love and will be utilising his 17 years' experience in science communication and engagement for his new career within the Society. His recent successes include setting up a new popular science blog, delivering lectures and demonstrations at schools in Cambridgeshire to supplement their curriculums, running scientific research seminar series for lay audiences, and leading innovative outreach exhibits—his personal highlight being an interactive practical to teach the public about Green Fluorescent Protein, fluorescence microscopy and their essential importance to biological research, which was attended by over 2,000 people at this year's Cambridge Science Festival. Rhys has already begun work to bring an exciting new version of this practical to the Linnean Society in the near future.



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2016

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 Sept
Day Meeting
14.00–17.00 | RBG Kew/QMUL MSc Student Project Presentations: Plant and Fungal Taxonomy, Diversity and Conservation
Partner Event with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Queen Mary University of London
Registration is essential: https://www.linnean.org/Events |
| 15 Sept
Evening Meeting
18.00–19.00 | Sex, Drugs, and Ecosystem Services: the Sweet Poisons in Nectar
Speaker: Professor Philip Stevenson FRES
No registration required |
| 17 Sept
Special Event
10.00–17.00 | Open House London 2016
The Society opens its doors as part of Open House London
No registration required |
| 22 Sept
Day Meeting
11.00–17.30 | Understanding and Implementing Current Environmental Legislation – Biology, Borders and Ownership
Plenary Meeting of the Taxonomy and Systematics Committee of the Linnean Society of London
Registration is essential: https://www.linnean.org/Events |
| 29 Sept
Nature Reader
18.00–19.00 | Wild New Territories: Portraits of the Urban and the Wild
BOOK LAUNCH
Registration is essential: https://www.linnean.org/Events |
| 10 Oct
Day Meeting
10.00–18.30 | What Should Be in Your Digital Toolbox?
In collaboration with the Transcribe Bentham initiative at University College London (UCL)
Keynote Speaker: Professor Melissa Terras, Director of UCL Centre for Digital Humanities
Registration is essential: https://www.linnean.org/Events |
| 12 Oct
Evening Meeting
18.00–19.00 | Sir Julian Huxley Lecture: Dosage Sensitive Genes in Evolution and Disease
Partner event in association with The Systematics Association
Speaker: Professor Aoife McLysaght, Head of Genetics, University of Dublin
No registration required |
| 20 Oct
Evening Meeting
18.00–19.00 | The Feminisation of Nature
Speaker: Professor Charles R. Tyler, Deputy Head of Biosciences, University of Exeter
No registration required |
| 27 Oct
Nature Reader
18.00–19.00 | Wildflowers in the Western Mediterranean
Speaker: Dr Chris Thorogood FLS, University of Bristol
No registration required |

Please check our website for other events not listed here

Herbationes Upsalienses: Botanical Art at Hammarby until 28 August

Until 28 August 2016 art lovers can visit *Herbationes Upsalienses*, an exhibition at Carl Linnaeus's Hammarby estate in Uppsala, Sweden. Hosting an array of botanical illustrations by Dr Margaretha Bååth FLS, *Herbationes Upsalienses* follows Linnaeus's botanical excursions around Uppsala. The exhibition showcases these stunning illustrations alongside unique Linnaean quotations sourced by Mariette Manktelow FLS.



About the artist:

Magaretha works mainly with Swedish flora; she studied botanical illustration at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and lives in Stockholm. Don't miss the final weeks of this lovely exhibition in this stunning historical location.

To read more about Linnaeus's excursions visit: http://www.linneastigarna.se/stigarnas_historia/index_eng.php

For information on the exhibition and Hammarby itself visit:

<http://www.hammarby.uu.se/LHeng.html>

The
**LINNEAN
SOCIETY**
of London



PULSE

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