

## Celebrating our Valuable Volunteers

On 5 December we celebrated International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development. International Volunteer Day (IVD) was designated by the United Nations in 1985 to observe and celebrate the power of volunteerism. The Linnean Society Collections Team is lucky to work with some enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers, and we wanted to take this opportunity to thank them and highlight their work. Like most charities, much of our work could not be achieved without them, though we are conscious they cannot be deployed like paid staff.

Retired individuals bring unparalleled expertise to their volunteering: Lynda Brooks and Sheila Meredith are retired librarians from the Linnean Society and Geological Society respectively, and can oversee complex projects. Lynda, who retired in July 2018, tackles difficult books whose catalogue records are not quite up to scratch, and Sheila has catalogued several donated collections in her careful and meticulous way: the Cloudsley-Thompson collection, and now the newly donated run of *New Naturalists*. Hazel Marsden helps us gather crucial statistics on the use of the Library. We are also lucky to have a former conservator from The National Archives: John Abbott has been steadily conserving our 18th- and 19th-century artworks.

The Linnean Society can boast to having a few very long-standing volunteers, who are full of anecdotes about its more recent history. Pia Wilson has been volunteering faithfully for over a decade, and in addition to working in the library two days a week, cataloguing incoming journals, and updating databases, she is always willing to help during the Society's events. David Pescod is the longest serving of all our staff and volunteers, having been involved with the Society since the 1960s. (As housekeeper, David even lived on the premises.) David was



once chair of the Library committee, and now lists the contents' of the Society's 'Presents books', a work that is invaluable to taxonomists and other researchers. Together with Honorary Archivist Gina Douglas (former Librarian and Archivist [1982–2007]), they are the institutional memory of the Society. Gina's memory is so legendary that Collections staff still routinely ask her where a particular book might be—and invariably, she will remember not only its whereabouts, but its size and the colour of its binding.

The Society also provides volunteering opportunities for early-career professionals and students in Libraries and Archives, who volunteer for a few weeks to a few months. This allows them to learn new cataloguing systems, get a flavour of a professional environment and overall enhance their employability skills. We also team up every year with

Just a few of our fantastic volunteers: Lynda Brooks, David Pescod and Pia Wilson  
© The Linnean Society of London.

King's College and host one or two of their Masters of Arts in History students, who spend 100 hours with the Society to catalogue and produce an output: previous students have produced podcasts and articles in *PuLSe*.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the fantastic work undertaken by our team of honorary curators, who voluntarily help us look after the biological and artefact collections: V&A's Glenn Benson (artefacts curator), NHM's Ollie Crimmen (fish and shells curator), NHM's Sue Ryder (entomology curator), and Dr Mark Spencer (botany curator).

It is lovely to hear from former volunteers, like Judith Thompson, who has now moved back to the U.S. and sends us regular emails updating us on Californian plant taxa and anything Society-related. We are grateful for all the enthusiasm, dedication and commitment of our volunteers – past and present.

Dr Isabelle Charmantier  
Head of Collections

# NATURE CHAMPIONS

The Linnean Society is teaming up with **London National Park City** to train the next generation of nature leaders, champions and enthusiasts.

This series is about connecting people with nature within their local surroundings, and using local community members to do so. We want to help support these community leaders by providing them with the expert training and necessary resources required to feel confident in leading walks and courses in their local community.

## Interested in getting involved?

- Do you have experience in organising and implementing nature walks, field courses and species identification workshops?
- Would you be interested in passing on your knowledge and training future nature champions?
- Are you able to travel to and around London? (Workshops will either be held at the Linnean Society or offsite within London, depending on the attendees and nature of workshop.)



We are looking for inspirational Linnean Society Fellows who can share their expertise and passion for nature with community leaders, so that they can go on to inspire others themselves.

If interested please email [events@linnean.org](mailto:events@linnean.org) stating your experience, topics you would be happy to cover and your availability.

ABOVE:

© Leanne Melbourne

BELOW:

© The Access Project

BOTTOM LEFT:

Dr Leanne Melbourne FLS © University of Bristol

BOTTOM RIGHT:

© University of Bristol

# THE ACCESS PROJECT

Did you have a mentor that changed your life? Would you like to inspire a young person? The Access Project can help.

The Access Project is an innovative education charity that helps bright young people from disadvantaged backgrounds secure places at top universities. It works with highly motivated, dedicated and talented GCSE and A-level students from schools in London, Birmingham and the East Midlands.

Our programme relies on graduate volunteers who tutor their student for an hour a week (during term time). You can tutor online or face-to-face, and the students travel to meet you. Find out more on the Project's website (<https://www.theaccessproject.org.uk/>).

Your participation could make a real difference—an Access Project student is more than twice as likely to attend a top university than a student with a similar academic track record lacking the benefit of an Access Project tutor. Watch Zein's story to see the impact that having a tutor can make on a young person's life (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoTrfqP0bQQ>).



At the same time, you'll be developing your own communication, coaching and planning skills and getting real job satisfaction. Access Project volunteers often say tutoring is the most rewarding hour of their week.

You don't need any teaching experience; you'll receive training before you begin and as well as

ongoing support with lesson planning, topic guidance and resources.

To get involved, contact [volunteering@theaccessproject.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@theaccessproject.org.uk), visit the website at [www.theaccessproject.org.uk](http://www.theaccessproject.org.uk) or give The Access Project a call on 0203 960 6592.

# INSPIRATIONAL BRISTOL SCIENTISTS

In early October the University of Bristol's Faculty of Science named several dynamic young academics as *Inspirational Bristol Scientists*, and our own Leanne Melbourne was one of them. As part of Black History Month and following on from the Being BME in STEM report, this initiative showcased the brilliant contributions that BAME students have made to both the University of Bristol and the community at large. The event celebrated Bristol's most inspiring and influential Black and Minority Ethnic STEM individuals past and present, with Leanne (an alumnus of the university's Chemistry and Earth Sciences) being "Recognised for her work promoting diversity and inclusion in her role at the Linnean Society".





# TREASURES SELDOM SEEN

## Hidden Surprises in Joshua R. Gwatkin's Albums

By Judy Thompson, Volunteer

Enchanting surprises can be found in an album of watercolours by Joshua Reynolds Gwatkin (1855–1939), a descendent of the famous painter and founder of our courtyard neighbours, the Royal Academy of Arts. The watercolours are themselves a delight to see, with 21 volumes each holding 20–50 paintings depicting British flora, neatly labelled by hand with location, common and Latin names. The watercolours were painted and assembled from 1917–39 and bequeathed to the Society in 1940, a year after Gwatkin's death.

### What Lies Beneath

Within the 21 volumes, volume 18 holds a few hidden gems. Just visible beneath the watercolour painting of violet helleborine (*Epipactis purpurata*), no. 832, is a decorative frame printed on light green backing paper that appears to be from a much earlier age (perhaps 1830s). A peek beneath the watercolour (fortunately not glued to the backing paper) reveals a lovely pen and pencil sketch with white watercolour accents (in a style very different to Gwatkin's) of a rustic man, coach whip in hand, with title "A touch à la Morland". George Morland (1763–1804) was a well-known and prolific 18th-century painter of pastoral subjects. There are three initials at the bottom of the sketch which appear to be "JRS". It could also be "JRG" (our Joshua Reynolds Gwatkin), though the earlier style of the sketch suggests otherwise. Who is JRS, and how did this sketch come to be underneath?



### Puzzles and Poetry

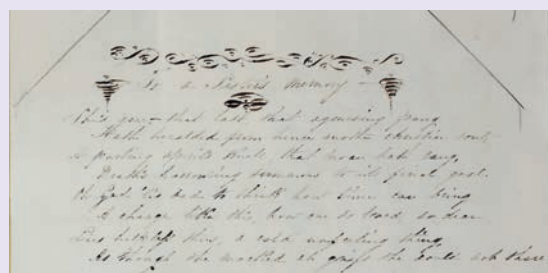
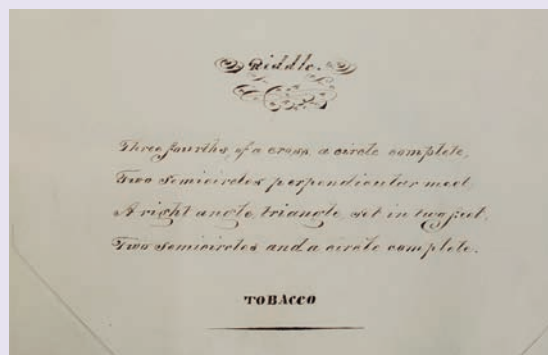
Other surprises to be found on the backing paper revealed themselves in the form of poems. One, discovered behind the Italian arum, (*Arum italicum*), is finely penned in tiny script, dated 1834. The five lines of the poem are upside down on the left, right side up on the right, with the word "Album" penned vertically in beautiful capital letters in the middle. The "A", "L", etc., of "Album" form the first letter of words in both sides of the lines. This curious technique must have been a fad or fashion of the day, no doubt for young ladies.

Another charming poem, probably in the same hand, is entitled "Riddle". It reads:

*Three fourths of a cross, a circle complete,  
Two semicircles perpendicular meet;  
A right angle, triangle, set in two feet,  
Two semicircles, and a circle complete.*

Have you guessed it? The answer is 'TOBACCO'. This riddle is around even now, though is less well known; perhaps tobacco isn't such a favoured subject these days.

Yet another poem, artistically penned in a style that appears to be pre-1850, is found beneath no. 824, the arrowhead (*Sagittaria sagittifolia*). The poem, summarised here with just a couple of lines, is entitled:



### To a Sister's Memory

*She's gone—that last, that agonising pang...  
I've watched the height'ning of thy hectic bloom  
For fair a harbinger of grief to come...*

Two initials, perhaps "DH", are found at the end of the poem, penned on both sides of the backing paper. This appears to be an unpublished original piece, though Charles Dickens, under the pseudonym 'Timothy Sparks', used the unusual term "hectic bloom" in his 1836 pamphlet protesting the proposed removal of recreational activities on Sundays.

### Album of the Year

It seems that Gwatkin put his hands on earlier, second-hand albums, perhaps by the printers Remnant & Edmonds (from 1831) in London's Paternoster Row, which he re-purposed to house his watercolours. Could the pages of laboriously created poems and drawings of a bygone era have been the backing papers for his own work?

To learn how these poems and drawings came to be in this volume of watercolours is a research project in itself. Another time, perhaps.



ABOVE:  
A riddle and ...  
what seems to be an  
unpublished poem  
BOTTOM LEFT:  
Gwatkin's watercolour  
of *Sagittaria sagittifolia*  
hides...  
BOTTOM MIDDLE:  
..."A touch à la Morland";  
a rustic sketch found  
behind a botanical  
watercolour.  
BOTTOM RIGHT:  
The ornate cover of  
Gwatkin's volume 18.  
All images © The  
Linnean Society  
of London.



ABOVE:  
Portrait of Dillenius, Linnean Society of London  
© The Linnean Society of London.

RIGHT:  
Portrait of Dillenius, Oxford University Herbaria.  
By permission of Oxford University Herbaria and  
© Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford.



# Dillenius in Oxford

by Graham Avery

The meeting in Oxford's Botanic Garden in 1736 between the University's Professor of Botany Johann Jacob Dillenius (1684–1747) and Carl Linnaeus (1707–78) did not begin well. Dillenius, sceptical of Linnaeus' system of classification, remarked 'This is the young man who would confound the whole of botany'. But he was soon impressed by the visitor's botanical expertise, and Linnaeus later wrote 'There is nobody in England who understands or thinks about genera but Dillenius'. Their meeting led to a life-long friendship and exchanges of letters, publications, and herbarium specimens.

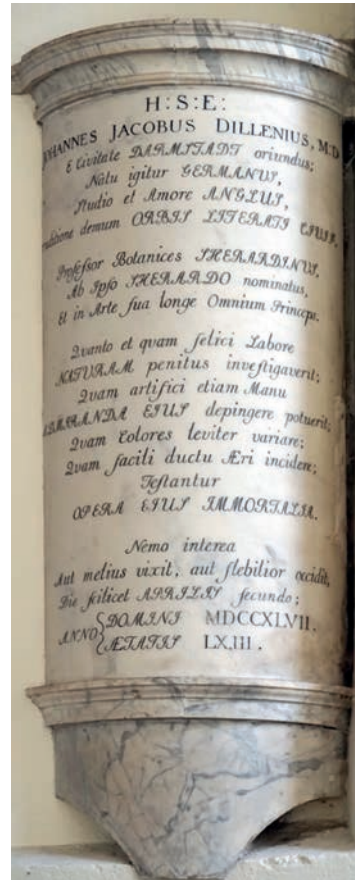
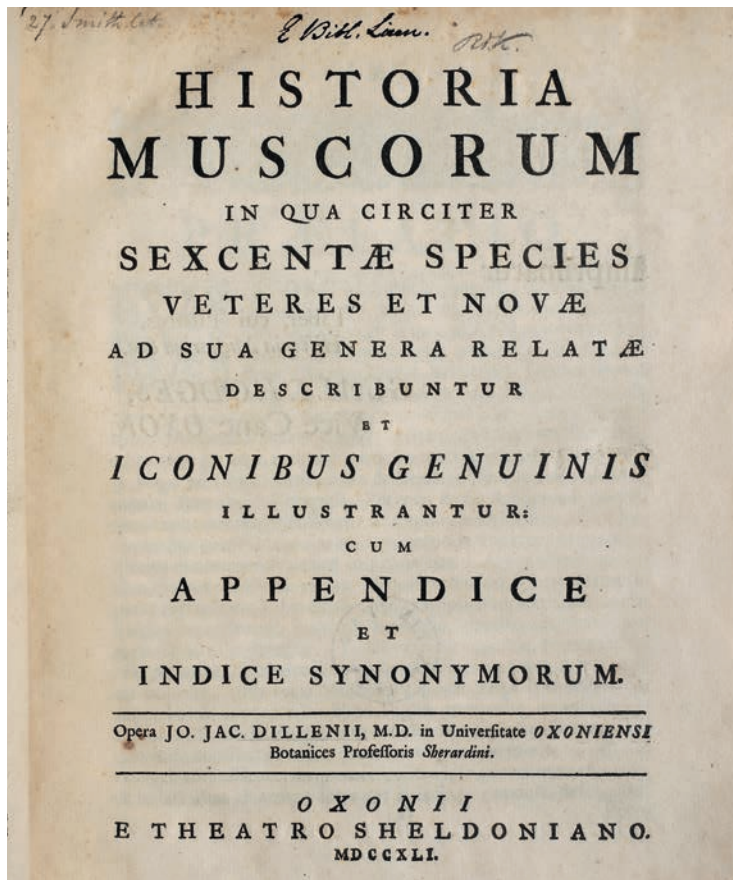
Visitors to Oxford University Herbaria, housed in the Plant Sciences Department, are greeted by a fine portrait of Dillenius. Visitors to the Linnean Society's offices in Burlington House in London are greeted by a similar portrait.

These portraits show him holding a drawing of the colourful Mexican plant *Sprekelia formosissima*, described by him in 1732. In the London portrait he is more rubicund and fuller in the face—a less flattering depiction than the Oxford version but possibly more authentic since he is said to have become somewhat corpulent.

Johann Jacob's father, Professor of Medicine at the University of Giessen, had changed the family name from Dillen to Dillenius, and his son studied at the same University and qualified as a doctor. After publishing several botanical works, he went to London in 1721 at the invitation of William Sherard to arrange his herbarium and it was for William's brother James that Dillenius wrote and illustrated the splendid book *Hortus Elthamensis*. In 1724 he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society, of which he became Foreign Secretary, and in 1734 he was appointed Sherardian Professor of Botany at Oxford, where he remained until his death.

Among the treasures of the Linnean Society's Library is Dillenius' book *Historia Muscorum* (Natural History of the Mosses) which introduced a new classification of the lower plants. Published in Oxford in 1741, it has 576 pages and 85 plates engraved by Dillenius. The Society's volume was sent by the author to Linnaeus, who cited it frequently in *Species Plantarum* (1753). After the collections of Linnaeus were sold in 1784, the volume returned to England. Over the years its condition deteriorated, but it has now been restored through a donation under the Society's 'Adopt LINN' conservation scheme.





LEFT:  
Title page of Dillenius' *Historia Muscorum* (1741).  
© The Linnean Society of London.

RIGHT:  
Memorial to Dillenius, St Peter-in-the-East, Oxford. Image by Annalisa Cecchi, reproduced by kind permission of the Principal and Fellows of St Edmund Hall.

BELOW:  
J.J.D. (Johann Jacob Dillenius) by Eric Gill, Radcliffe Science Library, Oxford  
© Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford.

Within the Herbaria of Oxford University are 26 herbarium specimens sent by Linnaeus to Dillenius. Elsewhere in Oxford, Dillenius is commemorated by a marble tablet in the Church of St Peter-in-the-East, now the Library of St Edmund Hall. This splendid memorial, with its fine eulogy in Latin, is not well-known—no image of it has previously been published. In translation it says:

*Here lies Johann Jacob Dillenius, Doctor of Medicine, who came from the city of Darmstadt. Thus by birth he was German, by study and affection English, and by scholarship a citizen of the world of letters. Chosen by Sherard himself as Sherardian Professor of Botany, he was an outstanding leader in his field. His immortal works bear witness to the success of his work in investigating nature in depth, his skill in depicting its wonders with subtle differences of colour, and his expertise in copper-engraving. At the same time, no-one led a better life, or was more mourned when he died, which was on the 2nd day of April 1747 A.D. at the age of 63.*

He is also commemorated in Oxford's Radcliffe Science Library on a set of wooden doors, designed in 1935 by Eric Gill, which includes a panel depicting Dillenius.





# A BOTANICAL DYNASTY

## THE LEGACY OF THE HANBURYS

By Dr John David FLS, RHS Wisley

It is a long-standing tradition in botany, as in other branches of science which describe new organisms, to name new discoveries after a person in recognition of their contribution to that science. The person honoured is often another researcher, but frequently can be someone whose contribution is more philanthropic. In the latter category belongs Sir Thomas Hanbury FLS (1832–1907). In La Mortola's heyday (the location of his private botanical garden, Giardini Botanici Hanbury, near Ventimiglia, Italy), particularly while Alwin Berger was Head Gardener, there were quite a number of new plants named for Sir Thomas, some of them by Berger. A quick search in the online plant databases (International Plant Names Index, Plants of the World Online) reveals 20 vascular plants linked to the name Hanbury, with half of them honouring Sir Thomas.

### Name Dropping

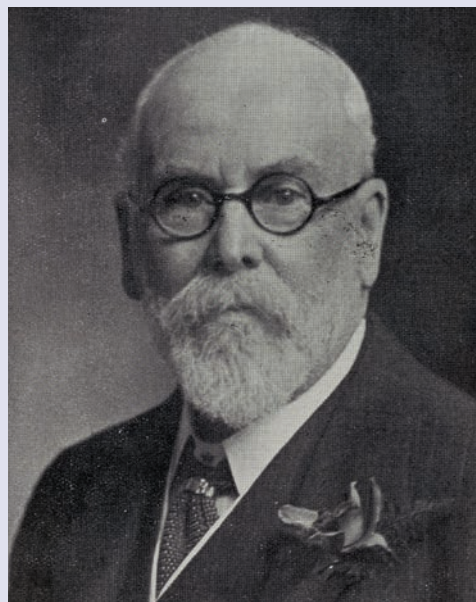
The species named for Sir Thomas include: *Acacia hanburyana* Winter ex A Berger (1919) [now *Acacia × hanburyana*], *Aloe hanburiana* Naudin (1875) [now *Aloe striata*], *Agave hanburii* Baker (1892) [*Agave triangularis*], *Aloe hanburyi* Borzi (1903) and *Senecio hanburyanus* Dinter (1898) [now *Curio hanburyanus*]. It may seem bewildering that the species names vary so much. As is well known, a formal scientific name for any organism has to be Latin in form. The formation of species epithets from a person's name can either be as an adjective, normally by adding the ending *-(i)anus/-i)ana/-i)anum* to the surname. On the other hand, it can be in the form of a noun: commonly by adding one, or two 'i's at the end, if male, or *-ae* if female. The precise rules trip many people up and there are examples where a female being so honoured that the species name is given a masculine ending! Another tricky question is the latinisation of names that include letters that were not used by the Romans, and Hanbury is a case in point. This is why there are two versions of the species name above: 'hanburii' and 'hanburyi'. I will not test your patience with an explanation of why this can happen but suffice it to say both are possible.

Two other members of the Hanbury family are also honoured with plants named after them. Sir Thomas's older brother, Daniel Hanbury FLS, FRS (1825–75), was a well-respected botanist, his main research was on plants and their pharmacological properties. It was this work that led to his being honoured by one genus, *Hanburia* Seem. (1858) and two species being named after him: *Garcinia hanburyi* Hook.f. (1875), arising from Daniel's investigations of the resin which is the source of gamboge; and a ginger relative *Aframomum hanburyi* K. Schum. (1904)—the golden-flowered Grain of Paradise, a renaming of a species originally described by J.D. Hooker and Daniel Hanbury in 1861. The latter is now known as *Aframomum angustifolium*. The genus *Hanburia* comprises

seven species in the cucumber family (Cucurbitaceae) from Central and South America which oddly don't have any particular pharmacological use but are noted for their spiny fruits. Daniel also collected plants in the Middle East during his expedition to the Holy Land with J.D. Hooker in the autumn of 1860, and as a result had a squill named for him, *Scilla hanburii* Baker,

ABOVE:  
Frederick Hanbury from *Orchid Review* 42, 1934. © RHS Lindley Collections.

BELOW:  
*Aloe × hanburyana*, found in Sir Thomas' botanical garden. © John David.





in 1872. It is now known as *Prospero hanburii*. Daniel Hanbury was a member of the Linnean Society of London from 1855 until his death, at which time he was serving as its Treasurer. He was closely involved with the move of the Society's premises to its current location in Burlington House in 1873.

The Third Hanbury

The third Hanbury has the rare distinction of having two hawkweeds (*Hieracium*) named for him, one being the Scottish endemic, *Hieracium hanburyi*, named in 1942 by Pugsley—its English name is Hanbury's hawkweed. This is Frederick Janson Hanbury FLS, VMH (1851–1938), who turns out to be a second cousin of Sir Thomas. He was Chairman and Director of the family firm, Allen & Hanbury (1916–37) and was most noted for growing orchids. Prior to branching out into horticulture he was a keen and industrious field botanist and specialised in hawkweeds, naming many new species and publishing privately *An illustrated monograph of the British Hieracia* (1889–98) with 24 hand-coloured lithograph plates. The reason he is honoured with a second hawkweed is because in 1889 Frederick Hanbury described the Caithness hawkweed as a new species, *H. proximum*. This was mistakenly renamed later as *H. hanburyanum*, and Hanbury's earlier name remains the correct one for the plant. He also was the author of the *Flora of Kent* (1899). His specimens of British plants were donated the Natural History Museum in London, but his collection of 12,000 specimens of plants native to Europe were donated the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) in 1936. The RHS still holds these specimens in its herbarium at Wisley, and during the process of digitising them discovered a few specimens which were collected by Sibthorp & Smith in the early 1800s, as part of their work on the unsurpassed *Flora Graeca*. Hanbury's garden (Brockhurst, East Grinstead, Sussex) had a famous rock garden, as well being where he grew his extensive collection of orchid hybrids. It was written up with photographs in the RHS's Journal in 1917, and he subsequently privately published a book on the garden in 1924.

Family Ties

While the lives of all three members of the Hanbury family, and their contribution to botany and horticulture are well known, the connection



LEFT:  
Sir Thomas' older brother, Daniel.  
© The Linnean Society of London.

BOTTOM LEFT:  
Palazzo Orengo in Sir Thomas' Italian home and botanical garden, La Mortola.  
© John David.

BOTTOM RIGHT:  
Frederick, Daniel and Sir Thomas' Linnean Certificates of Recommendation.  
© The Linnean Society of London.

BELOW:  
An unpublished photo of Sir Thomas Hanbury at Lantosca, Upper Parkstone, Dorset.  
© RHS Lindley Collections.

between Frederick Hanbury and Daniel Hanbury had not been evident prior to writing this article. Both were connected to the firm of Allen & Hanbury, and both were interested in botany, even though Frederick was 24 when Daniel died. The Linnean Society records show that Daniel Hanbury was a proposer for Frederick when he became a Fellow of the Linnean Society in January 1873, and it would seem therefore that Daniel encouraged Frederick in his botanical work. The link to horticulture is also significant in that Sir Thomas enabled the RHS to acquire the Wisley estate, to which it moved in 1904 and Frederick was an active member of the RHS, serving on its Council for ten years, as well as being a member of its Orchid, Scientific and Wisley committees.

Acknowledgment  
Thank you to Dr Isabelle Charmantier,  
Head of Collections at the Linnean Society of London

A longer version of this article will be published by the Amici of the Giardini Botanici Hanbury in their publication *Notiziario* in late 2019.



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2020

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|--|--|
| <b>8 Jan</b><br>Lunchtime Lecture<br>12.30-13.00 | <b>Queer(y)ing Natural Histories</b><br><b>Speaker:</b> Ellie Armstrong, <i>UCL</i>  |
| <b>16 Jan</b><br>Evening Lecture<br>18.00-19.00  | <b>Biodiversity Winners and Losers from Climate Warming</b><br><b>Speaker:</b> Prof Jane Hill, <i>University of York</i>   |
| <b>5 Feb</b><br>Lunchtime Lecture<br>12.30-13.00 | <b>From Logic to Nature: 'Genus' and 'Species' in Philosophy and Biology</b><br><b>Speaker:</b> Prof Stella Sandford, <i>Kingston University London</i>                                  |
| <b>7 Feb</b><br>Day Meeting<br>09.30-17.30       | <b>Student Spotlights: Discover the Next Generation.</b><br>See the research of the next generation of natural historians.   |
| <b>13 Feb</b><br>Special Event<br>18.00-20.00    | <b>The Botanical History of the Gin and Tonic</b><br><b>Speaker:</b> Kim Walker and Prof Mark Nesbitt FLS<br><i>Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew</i>   |
| <b>27 Feb</b><br>Evening Lecture<br>18.00-19.00  | <b>The Ecological Effects of Ocean Acidification</b><br><b>Speaker:</b> Prof Jason Hall-Spencer, <i>University of Plymouth</i>   |
| <b>4 Mar</b><br>Lunchtime Lecture<br>12.30-13.00 | <b>The World Beneath: A Marriage of Underwater Photography and Marine Biology</b><br><b>Speaker:</b> Dr Richard Smith FLS, <i>IUCN Seahorse, Pipefish and Seadragon Specialist Group</i> |
| <b>12 Mar</b><br>Special Event<br>17.30-20.00    | <b>The Science behind Sparkling Wine</b><br>£30 registration fee includes champagne tasting and canapes<br><b>Speaker:</b> Dr Gregory Dunn, <i>Plumpton College</i>                      |
| <b>19 Mar</b><br>Evening Lecture<br>18.00-19.00  | <b>The Past, the Present and a Disturbing Glimpse into the Future</b><br><b>Speaker:</b> Prof Michael Hutchings, <i>University of Sussex</i>   |
| <b>1 Apr</b><br>Lunchtime Lecture<br>12.30-13.00 | <b>The Inside Out of Flies and Why It Matters</b><br><b>Speaker:</b> Dr Erica McAlister FLS FRES, <i>Natural History Museum, London</i>  |

**REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL EVENTS:**

<https://www.linnean.org/events>

**Please check our website for other events not listed here**

## Welcome to... Luke Thorne



The latest addition to the team is Assistant Archivist Luke Thorne. Luke's foray into the world of archives has been a recent, but rewarding one; he says, "I took an interest in the profession as it seemed closely connected to my enthusiasm for history and literature."

Luke previously volunteered at the archives of the Guardian Newspaper, the Welcome Collection, Transport for London, UCL Special Collections, Senate House Library, the National Theatre Studio and the Imperial War Museum Film Archive.

After completing his post graduate in Archives and Records Management at UCL, and having also volunteered for a period at the Society, Luke has accepted the role of Assistant Archivist. In the short time Luke has been at the Society he has taken a special interest in cataloguing the Society for Promoting Natural History collection, which holds a multitude of scientific papers from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Luke says: "I hope to actively contribute in delivering a good quality archival service and gain more knowledge about the profession through my work here at the Society." Welcome Luke!

[luke@linnean.org](mailto:luke@linnean.org)

## Holiday Wishes from the Linnean Society

**Thank you so much for supporting the Society's events and activities throughout 2019!**

We will be closed from 1pm on Christmas Eve, reopening on 2 January 2020. (Please note that the library will be closed all day on Christmas Eve.) We wish you all the very best for the holiday season and look forward to seeing you again in 2020.



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