

Annual Review 2017

A forum for natural history



PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

The
**LINNEAN
SOCIETY**
of London



President's Review | 2017

In my final stretch as President of the Linnean Society, I'm delighted to report that the Society has had another excellent year in terms of providing for all its stakeholders, be these Fellows and their guests, researchers and students, or the general public.

We are proud to have been able to connect with people onsite, online or via our three impactful scientific journals, now published by Oxford University Press. Though the latter have experienced some technical problems, we continue to be greatly indebted to our incredibly hard-working

journal Editors—Prof Mike Fay, Prof John Allen and Dr Louise Allcock—and our Editorial Secretary Prof Mark Chase FRS.

The hugely committed team of staff and volunteers work unstintingly to ensure the smooth running of the Society, and to offer a friendly welcome to all visitors. The team continues to evolve, as we said sad good-byes to our amazing Events & Communications Manager, Alicia Fernández, and Education & Public Engagement Manager, Dr Rhys Grant. In their stead we were pleased to welcome Dr Leanne Melbourne and Joe Burton, respectively. Another addition to the education team is Elisa Jones, having joined us in June to manage the second phase of the BioMedia Meltdown Project, generously funded by John Lyon's Charity. On the Office & Buildings Manager front, we have been lucky to recruit Helen Shaw, while Victoria Smith has taken on a virtual role as Office Consultant.

During 2017 the Society was very grateful to have received grants and donations via the AdoptLINN initiative, the British Society for the History of Science Fellowship and the Patron's Fund, as well as from Jenny Grundy FLS, who generously supported the purchase of a 3D printer for Linnean Learn-

ing. Also, after what has seemed a long and frustrating gestation, preparatory work for our basement education space was completed in 2017, with the display cabinet installation process due to take place in spring 2018. The Society is indebted to both the Wolfson Foundation and Garfield Weston Foundation for providing generous financial support for this project.

Our strategic planning session in October revealed a plethora of possibilities for the future of the Society, once the Courtyard Societies are able collectively to resolve their long-term tenure issues. The continuing uncertainty throughout 2017 (now into 2018) undoubtedly stifles development of this wonderful Cultural Campus. However, the Society is in rude health and we look forward to continuing and expanding our role in the promotion of the science of natural history.

Over the last three years I have enjoyed my time as President, and as I hand over (in May 2018) to my successor Dr Sandra Knapp—a dynamic botanist of global renown from the Natural History Museum, London—I know the Society will be under fantastic leadership.

Professor Paul Brakefield FRS





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Research & Sponsorship

As the Society continues to expand its promotion of the scientific study of the natural world, our focus in 2017 remained on maintaining the high standard of our journals and in-house publications. Our grants continue to support projects globally, and our incredible Collections—available online and in-house—help to bring together the work of all naturalists, both professional researchers and enthusiastic amateurs alike.

RESEARCH JOURNALS

In 2017 our journal publisher became Oxford University Press (OUP) but the move was unfortunately plagued by production issues associated with copy-editing and typesetting, causing much stress to our stalwart Editors, Prof Mike Fay, Prof John Allen and Dr Louise Allcock. Supported by our Editorial Secretary, Prof Mark Chase FRS, they battled on despite these frustrations. However, we are pleased to report that sales are in line with forecasts. The journals continue to support the hybrid model (whereby *Open Access* options are available), although the rate of take-up has been low. We are pleased that OUP participates in a number of free or heavily-reduced rate access initiatives, such as INASP, eIFL and Research4Life, ensuring that non-profit research institutions in developing nations have access to critical research.

Despite the problems with production, the *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* had a solid year with papers, including a global study of monocot diversity showing that geography explains patterns better than biology or environment (and numerous other papers on biogeography), a critical review of New Caledonian endemic genera, and genome gigantism in whisk-ferns. The impact factor is likely to return to its 'normal' level after a decrease last year (2.277), with the journal ranking 62nd out of 212 journals in the category 'Plant Sciences', a decrease of 14 places from last year.

Papers with high altmetrics scores (measuring media impact) published in the *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* include topics such as the phylogeography of New Zealand giraffe weevils, and the rise of spiny ants. Papers published in previous years are also attracting high altmetric scores, such as those on sexual selection on forelimb muscles of western grey kangaroos (Skippy was clearly a female) [2013], and a cautionary note on the use of Uhlenbeck models in macroevolutionary studies [2016]. The impact factor was 2.288, making it 32nd out of 43 journals in the category 'Evolutionary Biology', a decrease of one place from last year.

Several articles from the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* have made a substantial impact in the media, including an article on marine iguanas, one describing a new family of fishes, and another featuring new spiders named after famous people including Barack Obama. The impact factor rose slightly to 2.711 following a slight dip the previous year, but remains close to its five-year average of 2.6, which places it 11th out of the 163 journals in the category 'Zoology', an increase of five places from the previous year.

Additionally, to mark the centenary of the foundation of the Swedish Linnaeus Society in 2017, virtual issues of the journals were made freely

available online, showcasing examples of recent work by researchers based in Sweden that have been published in our journals.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SPONSORSHIP

The Society aims to promote the study of all aspects of the natural world, with particular emphasis on evolution, taxonomy and biodiversity. This is achieved in part by the awarding of grants for research work, the main source being the Systematics Research Fund (SRF), which the Society administers in collaboration with the Systematics Association, the parties contributing £25,390 and £9,000, respectively [total £34,390]. We were delighted to announce in April, from the 190 eligible applications, the 31 recipients of the 2016/17 SRF awards, ranging from £750-£1,500, encompassing a wide range of plant, fungal and animal species across global geographies. Full details of the recipients and their project titles can be found on the website. Supported projects included:

- **SERJOSCHA EVERS'** 'A new fossil dermochelyid indicates slow rates of morphological evolution in leatherback sea turtles'
- **MARIE LOUIS'** 'Carbon-dating of sub-fossil samples to improve mutation rate estimates of dolphin phylogenies'
- **LARA SHEPHERD'S** 'Systematics of *Alseuosmia*, a New Zealand plant genus of Batesian mimics'

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: SRF supports a study on slow rates of morphological evolution in leatherback sea turtles; Genome gigantism in whisk-ferns in the *Botanical Journal*; Marine iguanas in the *Zoological Journal* (Images: Shutterstock)



The Attenborough Award 2017 (for the best field work project from last year's SRF recipients) was awarded to Daniel Huston, a PhD student at the University of Queensland, Australia, for his efforts to elucidate cryptic speciation among Great Barrier Reef gorgocephalid trematodes, having first had to catch a number of the host fish *Kyphosus* spp. Following morphological and molecular studies on the parasites he collected in the field, Daniel uncovered a new gorgocephalid life cycle at the first intermediate gastropod host stage (implications for understanding host specificity) and likely two new species of *Gorgocephalus*.

Other projects from 2016 that involved fieldwork and are yielding interesting data included Cristina Roquet's study into the evolution of orophytic plants, using *Saxifraga* as a model system, in order to understand the main drivers of its diversification; Dr Roquet used the £1,015 of SRF funding to extend her sampling. Gabriel Ferreira's project evaluated the dermal scales of extant and extinct turtles with a view to using their characteristics in phylogenetic studies using natural history collections. His £800 SRF grant allowed him to visit the Smithsonian National Museum and other US institutions.

THE SOCIETY ALSO PRESENTED TWO AWARDS FROM ITS DESIGNATED FUNDS, WHICH ARE MADE POSSIBLE FROM SPECIFIC BEQUESTS:

The **Anne Sleep Award**, which focuses on supporting field work in the Middle/Far-East, provided a grant of £2,023 to Dr Shahina Ghazanfar FLS (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) for her project to update the *Flora of Oman* with new distribution records, and to provide a searchable online reference to the plant life of Oman for national and international users.



The grant made possible a visit to Oman in September 2017, where, in addition to a new distribution record for *Nanorrhinum hastata* in Wadi Ayun, Dr Ghazanfar also found that an alien invasive species, *Parthenium hysterophorus* (native to Central and South America), has taken over large areas of the mist-affected grasslands of the Dhofar mountains, adversely affecting the abundance of several

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: The Attenborough Award 2017 went to a study that uncovered a new gorgocephalid life cycle in the Great Barrier Reef; The Anne Sleep Award supported a trip to Oman to update the *Flora of Oman*

native species of annuals there. Dr Ghazanfar first recorded this invasive species in Oman in 1998 as a roadside weed, most likely introduced with imported agricultural produce.

A grant of £1,000 from the **Appleyard Fund**, which supports Fellows and Associates not in full-time employment as biologists, together with a further contribution of £350 from the Society's education budget, was awarded to Bethan Stagg FLS (Bristol) for an innovative educational research project to teach primary school children about Carl Linnaeus through drama. A non-drama workshop with similar content was used as a control.

A total of 197 Year 6 children in nine schools in Devon and one school in Manchester participated in the project during September and October 2017. Bethan found that there was a substantial increase in children's knowledge about plant classification as a result of participating in the drama workshop, as well as a significant increase in positive attitudes towards plants; while the non-drama workshops were also enjoyed by learners and contributed to learning, these did not share some of the benefits of the drama experience. The elements that especially benefited learning and enjoyment were the first-hand experiences with plants, physical qualities of the drama activities, problem-solving activities and participatory design of the drama workshop.

ONSITE RESEARCH

In 2017, the Society's Library welcomed nearly 300 readers, 40 of whom were new, and about 50% were Fellows. Researchers came from all over the globe: Europe (France, Germany, Sweden, and UK), North America (Canada, USA), Latin America (Brazil), Asia (India,

Nepal) and Australia. All aspects of the collections were accessed—more than 400 Library books were retrieved, and one reader made particularly extensive use of the Inch Tea Library.

A total of 470 manuscripts were consulted including letters from our correspondence collections (such as those of John Ellis and Linnaeus), the notebooks of Peter Collinson and Alfred Russel Wallace, and more contemporary material such as the IUCN archives. Artworks included James Sowerby's botanical illustrations, maps, and photographs of Burlington House, and researchers examined specimens from the Linnaean and Smith collections, including the carpological (fruits and seeds) collection on which staff have also been undertaking research. We are glad to be able to foster strong relationships with researchers, with one visitor emailing the Library staff to thank them "*for making my visit to the Archives so memorable and useful for my book*".

SUPPORTING FUTURE RESEARCH

Our aim for 2018, and beyond, is to secure further grant funding for education and public engagement projects and events through which we can connect with future Fellows of, and visitors to, the Society.

Our own internal stable of funding opportunities will proudly continue to support scientific research, something which we would like to be able to expand upon in the future, but current returns on capital invested continue to make this challenging.

Collections & Heritage

2017 was a busy year for the Collections team, which was joined by two new members of staff—Dr Isabelle Charmantier as Deputy Librarian & Collections Manager in March, and Elaine Charwat returning to work on a six-month cataloguing project in October—and six new volunteers. Alongside supporting researchers on- and off-site, cataloguing, undertaking 76 tours of the collections, organising five mini exhibitions and many blog posts, the team also worked hard on re-shelving projects to create much needed space, and unveiled the Society’s first online archives catalogue.

ADOPTLINN & CONSERVATION

AdoptLINN raised a further £5,785 towards the repair and conservation of the Society’s printed collections, and we are hugely grateful to everyone who has supported this initiative. Many of the books adopted during 2016 have now been conserved and returned to the Library. The most recent adoption is a 1491 copy of *Ortus Sanitatus* (or *Garden of Health*) from the Linnaean Collections, one of the oldest books in our care. An important work and popular item with visitors, many years of handling, albeit careful, has taken its toll and repairs are essential if it is to continue to be accessible.

General conservation of books and manuscripts has continued throughout 2017 under the guidance of Conservator Janet Ashdown.

The Society also played host to Camberwell MA Conservation students again this year and Solange Masher, who graduated in 2017, continued to volunteer before taking up a post at the British Library.

COLLECTIONS OUTREACH

Throughout the year, the Library regularly updated its displays to showcase its collections and illustrate evening lectures (Tasmanian Devils; Tree of Life; birds’ eggs) and other events (Courtyard Late on Colour; launch of the *Linnean Learning* video series). Library staff were also actively involved in conveying the richness and relevance of the Library and Archives collections to students (History Day at Senate House, University of London, October), researchers (Explore Your Archive, November) and the wider public (Fun Palaces, October; educational and Treasures Tours). Members of staff gave talks about Linnaeus and the collections at the Essex Branch of the English Speaking Union, at New Networks for Nature (Stamford Arts Centre, November) and at the Oy Festival (Orkney, November).

LINNAEUS LINK

Linnaeus Link, the international Union Catalogue for Linnaean publications managed by the Society, has continued to grow in 2017, with the addition of a new partner, the Musée et jardin botanique de Lausanne. Seventeen partners now contribute their records to the catalogue, with Google Analytics revealing nearly 145,000 page views over the year.

The 2017 Linnaeus Link Partners’ Meeting took place at the Conservatory and Botanical Garden of Geneva, Switzerland, in conjunction with the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries

(EBHL) Annual Meeting. The 2018 Annual Meeting will be hosted by New York Botanical Garden in conjunction with EBHL and the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL).

CALMVIEW: NEW ACCESS TO OUR ARCHIVES

We are delighted to announce that the Linnean Society's first online archive catalogue is now up and running, meaning that our archive collections are now available to everyone online for the very first time.

Containing full-text searchable descriptions, as well as contextual information about the creator of the items, many parts of the archive are already available on the catalogue but with such an abundance of material it is an ongoing project. This includes Linnaeus' manuscripts and Smith's correspondence (previously catalogued by Dr Isabelle Charmantier and Tom Kennett FLS) as well as additional material—being worked on by Archivist Liz McGow, Archive and Library Assistant Elaine Charwat, and a team of volunteers—including series from the Society's Domestic Archive such as election records, correspondence and Society Papers. Explore our archives: www.linnean.org/archives. Happy searching!

DIGITAL ASSETS

ULCC (now CoSector Digital Services) completed an audit of our Online Collections, which reported more than 41,000 missing

TOP: The library team hard at work cleaning and re-shelving the library—a mammoth (and occasionally dirty) task; *BOTTOM:* Worthy AdoptLINN scheme adoptee *Ortus Sanitatis* or *Garden of Health* (1491)



images; the major task for Digital Assets Manager Andrea Deneau in 2017 was to determine what was really missing. In some cases, it was a matter of analysing individual image files, in others it was obvious that entire collections had been duplicated during past ingestions. Only 2,600 images were actually missing and are now available online.

Some purchases from late 2016 and early 2017 have helped to enhance our digitisation capability, including a Canon EOS 5D digital SLR camera with studio lights, ABBYY FineReader OCR software (optical character recognition), and our own web-link to WeTransfer, for image transfers.

LIBRARY & ARCHIVE VOLUNTEERS

The Linnean Society is immensely thankful to all its Library and Archive volunteers, without whom a lot of the daily care of the collections could not be achieved.

Gina Douglas Hon FLS continues in her role of Honorary Archivist, and **David Pescod Hon FLS** is transcribing elements of the Council Minutes and the list of gifts to the Society. Library volunteers **Pia Wilson** and **Sheila Meredith** have continued to be invaluable cataloguers, working on the books of Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace, and those of Prof John Cloudsley-Thomson.

The new team of archive volunteers is undertaking vital cataloguing to facilitate access to various parts of the archive collections. Volunteers, many of whom are gaining experience prior to applying for the Archives and Records Management course, include **Ali Ahsan, Fiona Byers, Anne Courtney, Joe Dance, Madeleine Lecouturier** and **Ruth Younger**.

COLLECTIONS PLANNING

For two weeks in October, the Library was closed to readers to enable staff and enthusiastic volunteers to make more space for incoming books. Seven major sections of the Library (equating to c. 450m of shelves) were re-shelved in more capacious areas. At the same time, books and shelves were cleaned of their Piccadilly grime. We aim to tackle more sections in the future, with time allotted at the start of 2018 and beyond.

During 2017, members of the Collections Committee, in consultation with Librarian Lynda Brooks and staff, produced a comprehensive Collections Strategy document, covering all aspects of the future development of the collections working in accordance with the Society's overall Strategic Plan.

Ten Work Packages (derived from the Collections Strategy) will ensure delivery of the objectives, covering development, safeguarding and conservation of the collections; cataloguing of artefacts, specimens, library material and archives; display and engagement; digital infrastructure; resources and governance. One member of staff will have lead responsibility for each Work Package to ensure its progress, in turn allowing us to share these incredible collections more effectively with our Fellowship and the public.



In 2017, Tom Kennett FLS was awarded the John Thackray Medal from the Society for the History for Natural History for his work on our publication *The Lord Treasurer of Botany*. Following this success, the team at the Linnean Society then set to work on a new publication.

With all of our Treasures Tours, academic and knowledge exchange tours and general open days, we are often asked by visitors for mementoes of their visit to the Society, so we felt that it was high time to create a short souvenir publication of our collections. Special Publications Manager Leonie Berwick and Deputy Librarian & Collections Manager Isabelle Charmantier submitted a proposal for the publication which was approved in 2017. Much of the work will occur in-house, and research began shortly after approval; a shortlist of beautiful and fascinating items has been outlined.

The book will be authored by our Fellows, staff and other experts, and will provide an affordable, appealing journey through our collections, archives and history. We hope the book will offer insight to both Fellows and everyday guests, help inspire Fellowship in researchers and academic patrons and further engagement with our more casual visitors. The Society has such a rich set of materials, artefacts, specimens and stories—some of them well known but others less so—that they deserve to be shared on a wider scale.

Cultivating Engagement

Our programme of events in 2017 was inspired and diverse, with speakers like Celia Joicey, Head of the Fashion and Textile Museum who spoke about Joseph Frank's fabulous textile designs influenced by Carl Linnaeus, and 'From Genome Evolution to Animal Diversity' by Prof Peter Holland FRS FLS, also popular online with nearly 400 views.

Also successful were the annual Sir Julian Huxley Lecture on 'Fungi in the Oceans Deep' with Prof Tom Richards (organised with the Systematics Association) and the Annual Debate on Big Data [London Evolutionary Research Network (LERN)]. The general trend this year has been a fantastic increase in the number of members of the public attending Society meetings.

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

Our Meeting Room was the perfect setting for Dr Elizabeth Murchison's (University of Cambridge) **Evening Lecture** on cancer in Tasmanian Devils, as the first written account of the species was sent to the Linnean Society in 1808. Conservation was key in 2017, as alongside welcoming cheetah conservationist HRH Princess Michael of Kent as a Fellow, the most popular lecture of 2017 was

Dr Lynn Dick's 'Plan Bee: How can Society Respond to Pollinator Decline?', showing just how far this issue has moved into the public consciousness.

The University of Sheffield's Prof Tim Birkhead gave a fascinating lecture on the diversity of bird eggs, and Queen Mary University of London's Dr Elizabeth Clare FLS found herself surrounded by an engaged audience after her Hallowe'en-themed talk about the diversity of bat ecology. One of the most well-attended **Lunchtime Lectures** was Jack Ashby's (Grant Museum, London) talk on museums and the future of digital collections.

A FORUM FOR SCIENCE

Our fantastic day meeting 'Conservation 2037' brought together students from five Masters Courses on conservation. During the event a new generation of conservationists were encouraged to voice and reflect upon the values, issues and practices they would like to see at the centre of conservation in 20 years' time.

Also popular in 2017 were the Plenary Meeting of the Taxonomy and Systematics Committee (looking at biological surveys), where many of the attendees were young researchers, and the British Society of Parasitology's Autumn Symposium, which celebrated the contribution of Prof David Rollinson, marking over 40 years of parasitological research.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP (LEFT): Celia Joicey speaks about Linnaeus' impact on Swedish designer Josef Frank; Prof Tim Birkhead's lecture showed why birds' eggs are a testament to the power of natural selection (© Tim Birkhead, Emily Glendenning & Jamie Thompson); The panel at the 'Conservation 2037' meeting



COURTYARD LATE: COLOURS OF BURLINGTON HOUSE

The Courtyard Societies around Burlington House collaborated in July for our second annual 'Courtyard Late' event, based this time around the theme of 'colour'. The Linnean Society's role in the event was led by Alicia Fernández and Leonie Berwick, and included stunning displays put together by Dr Isabelle Charmantier, hands-on experiments, and exclusive talks and information sessions with Prof Paul Henderson FLS and Dr John David FLS.

The team showcased original and printed materials by botanical artist James Sowerby, including his famous uniquely devised colour system, alongside modern-day schemes used for recording plant colours by the Royal Horticultural Society. In the Discovery Room, visitors turned their hand to making their own paints with natural ingredients like egg, spirulina and cochineal, and painted reproductions of the Society's collections.



ROOMS & COLLECTIONS TOURS

Library staff conducted ten **Treasures Tours** throughout 2017, held after the monthly lunchtime lectures, attracting about 140 members of the public and Fellows alike. Staff also led numerous educational tours for University students, professional tours for other archive and library staff, as well as private tours for Fellows and for the Swedish Ambassador. In total, more than 950 visitors came to admire the Library, and more than 630 were admitted in the Collections Store.

In the autumn we once again participated in **Open House London** and a record 1,408 people visited the Society's rooms, and viewed mini-exhibitions alongside activities in the Library and in the Discovery Room.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISCOVERY ROOM

Development of the Discovery Room, our education and public engagement space, has been slow but steady, with the majority of the work in 2017 happening under the guidance of Helen Shaw. The building work has been completed and our large touch screen computer has also been fitted. Installation of the museum-standard display cabinets is now expected in April of 2018.

The addition of this fantastic resource is due to generous donations from the Garfield Weston Foundation (£50,000) and a pledge from the Wolfson Foundation (£75,000). After a period of trials and testing, we are hoping to have the room open for use after Easter.





EXPANDING OUR AUDIENCE

The Society's events programme strives to deliver high quality scientific meetings and to be considered an unmissable venue for natural history events. As our regional meetings in Cardiff, Plymouth, Leeds and Manchester continue to grow, our aim is to multiply and diversify our audiences.

Future expansion of our growing roster of successful partnerships (with the London Evolutionary Research Network (LERN), Centre for Ecology and Evolution (CEE) and the MSc programme in Plant and Fungal Taxonomy, Diversity and Conservation, delivered by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Queen Mary University of London) is a priority, alongside the development of events celebrating diversity, such as our spring 2018 meeting honouring the Society's first female Fellows.

CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Students from Harvard University explore the Society's Reading Room; Open House London attracts a record number of visitors in 2017; Visitors try out James Sowerby's Chromatometer

Encouraging Discovery

Linnean Learning had a particularly busy year, kicking off with the ASE Conference where we handed out over 900 resource packs, and ending with the launch of our new education video series. In between, we've taken part in nine science festivals, launched our collaboration with OneZoom, and hosted two student internships. Sadly, we said goodbye to Dr Rhys Grant this year, but we're pleased to welcome Joe Burton as our new Education & Public Engagement Manager for what's shaping up to be an exciting 2018!

RESOURCEFUL OUTREACH

Linnean Learning continues to extend the Society's reach through hands-on exhibits for local and national science festivals. Once again we participated at the Association for Science Education (ASE) Conference, worked with the UK-Japan Young Scientists Workshop in Cambridge and collaborated with Westminster Abbey to teach young explorers about Charles Darwin's work in 'Super Scientists'. Our Student Lecture series welcomed financial expert **MUSTAFA ZAIDI** who spoke about balancing financial growth with environmental conservation. The series also premiered the short documentary 'Shared Horizons', where experts addressed how the people most affected by climate change are learning how to adapt to it.

Throughout 2017 our focus was on diversifying our portfolio of events and disseminating our education resources; our activities

and resources reached nearly 4,000 people directly, with a further 11,000 downloads of our resources online. Alongside our usual roster of events we also took part in the Cambridge Science Festival, and Dr Rhys Grant also visited several schools to talk about careers in science. The summer saw the *Linnean Learning* team support 'Fascination of Plants Day' at Oxford Botanic Garden, joining forces with *New Phytologist* and a team from the University of Oxford's Department of Plant Sciences (led by Dr Charlotte Kirchhelle) where the public were invited to look *Inside a Plant Cell* using modern microscopy techniques. Later in the year *Linnean Learning* participated in two *Fun Palaces* events, aimed at uniting science, technology, heritage and art and, for one weekend, putting it at the heart of a community. None of these events would have been as successful without the support of our outstanding volunteers, in particular **Melissa Antoniou-Kourouniotti**, **Santiago Caño-Muñiz** and **Yan Liu**, to whom we are hugely grateful.

Also during 2017, the team acquired new equipment in the shape of a 3D printer (thanks to funds donated by Jenny Grundy FLS, amongst others) to print new learning tools, and a fantastic touch screen computer from our successful bid to the Patron's Fund.

ONEZOOM & THE TREE OF LIFE

In the autumn, evolutionary biologist Prof Yan Wong and researcher Dr James Rosindell FLS came to the Society to speak to

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Dr Charlotte Kirchhelle invites visitors to look *Inside a Plant Cell*; The short documentary about communities adapting to climate change, 'Shared Horizons', was unveiled at the Society (© Jacopo Pasotti, 2017); Dr Rhys Grant talks to teachers about our resources at ASE





students about their charity OneZoom and the 'Tree of Life' project, which the team at the Society had helped to launch at Burlington House earlier in the year. A searchable interactive database of the evolutionary connections and branches of 1.8 million species, the 'Tree of Life' truly is an instrument of digital discovery. Each species can also be 'adopted', and a Linnean-specific version can be found at <http://www.onezoom.org/linnean>.

BSHS ENGAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP

For several months during 2017 we hosted the inaugural British Society for the History of Science (BSHS) Engagement Fellowship. Verity Burke took up the post and, through analysing representations of mythical beasts, alongside Linnaeus' evidentiary approach to classification, her project demonstrated how Linnaeus' *Systema Naturae* changed how we see the natural world. Using Linnaeus' systematic approach to taxonomy and the mythological animals in his *Paradoxa* (unicorn, hydra) as a jumping off point, the project resulted in the mini-exhibition 'Unnatural Histories'. For more information on this project, watch <http://bit.ly/LinnBSHS>.

CALLING ALL FUTURE FELLOWS

The goal for *Linnean Learning* in 2018 will be to strengthen and make use of our extensive educational resources to engage with a diverse range of audiences. We will be aiming to partner with

organisations to connect with disadvantaged young people in London and beyond, and to build on our teacher base, with our projects team continuing to provide high quality science engagement both in schools and online.

Under the guidance of new Education & Public Engagement Manager Joe Burton, a fresh initiative will be developed in 2018, *Linnaeus at Home*, whereby accessible guides around field techniques will be devised and provided for families in order to connect with and explore the natural world at home.

As reported, the Discovery Room (our new education space) is set to come alive within our Burlington House premises in early 2018. In collaboration with staff and volunteers across the Linnean Society, we will be creating content to attract teachers, students, working professionals and interested amateurs through our tailored programmes.

CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Our 3D printed skulls for loan kits; OneZoom's Tree of Life collaboration with the Society; Prof Richard Dawkins FRS attends the OneZoom launch; Our terrific volunteers at the Cambridge Science Festival in 2017

ON COURTYARD LATES—

It was such a superbly put together, creative event, with so many details perfectly thought through. It was fun, relaxing and informative...so many people got right into it...it seemed a welcome change from their usual world, but it was presented in a way that everyone could relate to. BRAVO!

ON BIOMEDIA MELTDOWN—

There was a lovely introduction at the beginning [of the workshop] that introduced biological keywords very nicely. I think [the students] gained an understanding that biology can be fun and incorporated into art and creativity.

ON ONEZOOM/TREE OF LIFE—

Staff were very professional and I thoroughly enjoyed what I think was an historic talk. It was a pleasure to be able to listen to Yan and James explain their ground-breaking research. Kudos to the Society for supporting them.

ON FASCINATION OF PLANTS DAY—

Very informative. You changed the way I look at plants.

Records now available on our
online archive catalogue

5,468



70%



INCREASE IN **TWITTER**
FOLLOWERS IN 2017

METRES OF BOOKS MOVED AND RE-SHELVED BY LIBRARY STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS



450

INCREASE IN **FACEBOOK** FOLLOWERS IN 2017



101%

Audience reached through onsite events

3,239



Online education resource downloads



11,053



640

Competition entries into the **BioMedia Meltdown Project**

NEW IMAGES ADDED TO OUR ONLINE COLLECTIONS, **LINNEAN ONLINE** ([HTTP://LINNEAN-ONLINE.ORG/](http://linnean-online.org/))

2,600



APPLICATIONS TO THE **SYSTEMATICS RESEARCH FUND** (THE SOCIETY PROVIDED **£25,390** IN SUPPORT)

190

@LinneanLearning
impressions on Twitter

349,883

Special Projects

Though we already run a plethora of projects, activities, publications and events, when funding allows, the team at the Society strive to produce new initiatives to engage with as many audiences as possible.

THE BIOMEDIA MELTDOWN PROJECT 2017–18

The BioMedia Meltdown Project (BMM) returned for a third competition in 2017, achievable through generous funding from John Lyon's Charity, for which the Society is very grateful. Two brand new interactive workshops were assiduously developed and delivered by BMM Project Officer Elisa Jones to Key Stage 3 (11–14 yrs) students in John Lyons' Charity's beneficial boroughs in North West London. The students were challenged to take social media by storm, designing an infographic about biodiversity, or to channel their inner Banksy by creating street art showing the importance of pollinators.

Promoting the competition through social media and various teacher and STEM networks, the BMM pages on the Society's site drew 1,902 unique page views. Two excellent volunteers were also recruited to assist with the delivery of the workshops: Julia Ostmann, who recently graduated from the University of Cambridge with an MA in History of Science, and Myrofora Drakopoulou whose background in fine art and psychology and previous workshop experience have been invaluable to the successful delivery of the project.

The project has attracted a fantastic 16 schools—including 11 schools new to BMM—with five schools returning from the previous competitions. The workshops have been well received by the students and their teachers, with 85% of students and 100% of teachers describing them as excellent or very good.

Overall, 46 workshops were delivered—39 in schools, two at youth groups and five in libraries. The BMM project was also a part of two Fun Palaces (community-based SciArt events linked through the Fun Palaces network). The London-based locations were ArtsDepot in Barnet, which welcomed almost 500 visitors, and St James' Church in Westminster where c. 100 visitors learnt about pollinators through the BMM resources.

In total, c. 1,080 young people have taken part in a BMM creative science workshop for this single competition (workshops for the previous two BMM competitions garnered 1,106 participants combined). We have received over 640 incredible entries to this unique SciArt competition, including those from the workshops, but also paintings, sculptures, dioramas and even original music.

LINNEAN LEARNING VIDEO SERIES

The *Linnean Learning* video series is a project initiated by Ross Ziegelmeier and Leonie Berwick with the aim of sharing the Linnean Society's incredible collections with a greater number and wider constituency of people. The videos have been stunningly animated and produced by Ross, with help and support from the team at the Society.

Ross produced three distinct series in 2017 with specific target audiences: the general public, secondary and primary education. The first, *Life Underground*, tells strange-yet-engaging stories about



Linnaeus' specimens that are housed in a vault below the streets of London. *Clever Collections* highlights the importance of some of the Society's key artefacts and their continuing relevance, and *The Curious Cases of Carl Linnaeus* breaks down elements of Linnaeus' journey of scientific exploration.

Overall, the three series tell 13 stories unique to the Society. Each video highlights the work of one of eight exceptional Fellows of the Linnean Society and five external partners, whilst making use of over 600 of the Society's images. Through collaboration across the Society's team and with its Fellows, *Linnean Learning* was able to bring different facets of our collections to life. At time of going to press, the number of views approached 7,000.

These videos have been—and will continue to be—heavily promoted through educational events and a variety of social media platforms. *The Curious Cases of Carl Linnaeus* will be accompanied by worksheets that are tied into the National Curriculum, offering an interactive educational resource available to teachers and families everywhere.

From a wider perspective, the overall aim of these videos is to work towards solidifying the Society's global digital brand. With so many more great stories just waiting to be discovered, the potential for such multimedia projects is vast. Our goal is to welcome audiences who want to learn more about, be a part of, or support the Linnean Society of London.



TOP: Participants in this year's fantastic street art workshop on pollinators as part of the BioMedia Meltdown Project; *BOTTOM:* A still from Ross Ziegelmeier's beautifully animated *Linnean Learning* video series, *The Curious Cases of Carl Linnaeus*

Recognising Excellence

Through sponsorship and awarding medals, the Society acknowledges and encourages excellence in all aspects of the biological sciences, with particular emphasis on evolution, taxonomy, biodiversity conservation and sustainability.

Categories

THE LINNEAN MEDAL: For services to science

THE DARWIN-WALLACE MEDAL: For major advances in evolutionary biology

THE BICENTENARY MEDAL: In recognition of the work of a biologist under 40 years of age

THE JOHN SPEDAN LEWIS MEDAL: For a significant and innovative contribution to conservation in the UK

THE TRAIL-CRISP AWARD: For an outstanding contribution to biological microscopy, published in the UK

THE HH BLOOMER AWARD: Awarded to an amateur naturalist for an important contribution to biological knowledge

THE JILL SMYTHIES AWARD: A £1,000 prize to a botanical artist for outstanding illustrations

THE IRENE MANTON PRIZE: A £1,000 prize and work of art for the best doctoral thesis in botany

THE JOHN C. MARSDEN MEDAL: A £1,000 prize for the best doctoral thesis in biology

MEDAL & AWARD WINNERS 2017

- **Linnean Medal in the Field of Botany:** Dr Charles Jarvis, *Natural History Museum, London*
- **Linnean Medal in the Field of Zoology:** Professor David Rollinson, *Natural History Museum, London*
- **Darwin-Wallace Medal:** Professor John Thompson, *University of California, Santa Cruz*
- **Bicentenary Medal:** Professor Claire Spottiswoode, *University of Cambridge*
- **John Spedan Lewis Medal:** Dr Edgar Turner, *University of Cambridge*
- **Irene Manton Prize:** Dr Steven Dodsworth, *Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew*
- **John C. Marsden Medal:** Dr Kwaku Aduse-Poku, *University of New York*
- **Trail-Crisp Award:** Dr Johannes Girstmair, *University College, London*
- **H. H. Bloomer Award:** John Waters
- **Jill Smythies Award:** Karin Douthit and David Williamson

Full citations are available in the October 2017 issue of *The Linnean* (33[2]: 33–44). www.linnean.org/thelinnean

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Medal and Award Winners— (LEFT TO RIGHT) Prof David Rollinson, Tim Douthit (*for Karin Douthit*), Dr Sonia Rowley (Attenborough Award 2016), John Walters, Dr Lynn Dicks, Dr Steven Dodsworth, Prof John Thompson, Prof Paul Brakefield FRS PLS, Prof Claire Spottiswoode, Dr Johannes Girstmair, Dr Kwaku Aduse-Poku, Dr Charles Jarvis and David John (*for David Williamson*); Dr Charles Jarvis receives the Linnean Medal (Botany); Karin Douthit's winning image of *Diplopterys cabrerana*; Dr Kwaku Aduse-Poku is awarded the John C. Marsden Medal



Diplopterys cabrerana (Cuatrec.) B. Gates



Financial Review

Largely driven by the move of the Society's journals publishing activities to OUP, income increased significantly, from £1,013,224 in 2016 to £1,731,701 in 2017. Expenditure decreased by £222,843, largely reflecting an apparent reduction in Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Expenses costs of £148,417, but this is an anomaly caused by the continuing lack of clarity over the Society's terms of tenure at New Burlington House, explained below. In addition, the Society wrote back a provision for legal costs, set aside in 2016.

FELLOWS, DONATIONS CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS

There were 2,512 paying Fellows at the end of the year, with a further 27 Associates and 72 Student members, 119 new Fellows were elected (and paid up), and there were 27 resignations and 21 deaths. The total number of members, with Honorary and other non-paying members included, is 2,770 (2,608 in 2016). Contributions Income rose to £138,392 from £130,906 in 2016, with £8,333 tax recovered.

The Society received a generous bequest from Elizabeth Young of £5,000, and is appreciative of the anonymous donations and those received through the AdoptLINN initiative. Jenny Grundy FLS generously contributed £1,000 towards the purchase of a 3D printer, while John Lyon's Charity awarded the Society a £60k grant for the BioMedia Meltdown Project. A generous grant and pledge

were received from the Garfield Weston Foundation and Wolfson Foundation, respectively, to facilitate the ongoing refurbishment of a dedicated education space.

The Society awarded £34,357 as Linnean and Systematics Research Fund grants, of which £9,000 was contributed by the Systematics Association.

PUBLICATIONS & ROYALTIES

Publishing income is a critical source of revenue. Net income from OUP for the Society's scientific journals was £1,303,000, compared with the £737,960 received in 2016 from Wiley. OUP contributed an additional £150,000 in 2017 to cover transitional costs. The Society received £567 in royalties, while total expenditure on its Special Publications (*The Linnean*, *PuLSe* and the *Synopses*) was £20,759. Libraries continue to buy access licenses to the digital archives of the *Transactions* and *Proceedings*.

ROOM HIRE

Room hire remained steady at £35,901 in 2017 (£35,558 in 2016), thanks to the diligent efforts of Tatiana Franco, Room Hire Manager and Membership Assistant, supported by the Office team.

INVESTMENTS

The Society continues to receive good management of its investments through the services of our nominated advisor Gregor McNie, under the auspices of Tilney. The Book value of the Shares increased by £29,751 from £2,125,585 to £2,155,336, while the Market value increased to £3,266,539 compared with £3,001,660 at the end of 2016. The Society also has on deposit a further £147,698 to deal with any buying opportunities. The return on investments as a whole was 4.3% compared with 4% last year. The increased investment income available to the General Fund is £56,725

compared with £49,001 for 2016, while the total income from all investments, both for the General and Trust and Special Funds was £94,603 compared with £80,703 earned in 2016.

SALARIES & NATIONAL INSURANCE

Expenditure on Salaries, National Insurance and Pensions for non-project staff rose to £514,415 in 2017 compared with £444,477 in 2016. Additional permanent staff members were appointed, namely an Archivist and a Digital Assets Manager in late 2016, and 2017 sees the first year of their full costs. In addition, a temporary six-month cataloguing post was created in October 2017. Employment costs amounted to 30% of the total Society income in 2017 and accounted for 52% of total Society expenditure.

LEGAL & RELATED PROFESSIONAL FEES

Following a ruling on costs associated with the arbitration process, the Society received a partial repayment for costs amounting to £43,000. This figure netted off against other professional costs results in the net income of £20,085 shown under this heading.

BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE

The full costs of running and maintaining the Society's premises came to £193,516 in 2017 compared to £168,832 in 2016. Website development and hosting and maintenance costs were £35,470 in 2017. The 2017 account shows a significant reduction in the DCLG costs. Provision was made in the 2016 accounts for rents due under the previous lease which expired in 2015. The Society received the memoranda for those years in late 2017, though invoices have yet to be issued. In the absence of any information on the proposed rent for 2015 or any mechanism for calculating annual increases, estimates of the likely liability have been based on the last known procedure used by HMG. The funds against rent liabilities will, necessarily, remain ring-fenced while the Society waits to hear from DCLG.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Mortgage Liability Fund stands at £258,000 to meet the outstanding mortgage repayment of £267,383. The Development Fund stands at £200,000, and is expected to be spent over the next 4 years. With the uncertainty over rents for New Burlington House from 2015 onwards, a Designated Fund of £300,000, the Building Fund, has been set up to cover the financial risks associated with the lease. The Society has set up a further Designated Fund of £100,000, The Legal Fund, to cover the expected costs of renewing the current lease.

RESERVES POLICY

The current balance on the general reserve is just over £2M, which the Trustees consider reasonable in the context of budgeted costs, given that 5 months of operational expenditure is approximately £400k to £600k.

ACCOUNTS

The full accounts were prepared to conform to the Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP – FRS 102). The abbreviated accounts below show how much was spent on various items, and they reconcile with the SORP. The SORP figures (see p. 30) provide a greater understanding of the relative spend allocated to each of the Society's seven core functions, amounting to around £1.2M in 2017.

To conclude, the Society extends its thanks to all the Officers and Staff for continuing to be so careful in control of expenditure and to thank the volunteers for their much appreciated contributions, and, of course, the Financial Controller, Priya Nithianandan, for his careful and constant oversight of all the Society's financial activities.

Summary Accounts

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

GENERAL FUNDS	2017	2016
INCOME	£	£
CONTRIBUTIONS (INCL TAX RECOVERED)	146,725	138,406
PUBLICATIONS* (INCL TRANSFER FEES, £150K)	1,453,000	737,960
BACK ISSUES & OTHER PUBLICATIONS (NET)	212	747
CONTRIBUTION TOWARD GRANT EXPENDITURE	12,167	9,209
INVESTMENT INCOME	56,725	49,001
DONATIONS & LEGACIES RECEIVED	10,933	10,708
USE OF ROOMS	35,901	35,558
ROYALTIES	567	2,559
CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SPECIAL LIBRARY EXP & FACILITIES	7,939	14,698
CONTRIBUTION TO MEETINGS	1,000	3,000
OTHER INCOME	26	4,431
CATERING (NET)	6,506	6,947
TOTAL INCOME	1,731,701	1,013,224

EXPENDITURE	2017	2016
	£	£
SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS (NET)	11,928	19,703
MEDALS	2,073	4,122
LIBRARY EXPENDITURE	20,522	12,981
<i>THE LINNEAN</i>	10,186	8,579
<i>PULSE</i>	7,747	8,630
<i>SYNOPSIS</i>	2,826	-
SALARIES & NATIONAL INSURANCE	514,415	444,477
TRAINING	3,783	3,182
FINANCIAL SERVICES	8,094	6,998
LEGAL & RELATED PROFESSIONAL FEES***	(107,085)	62,515
MORTGAGE INTEREST – TOYNBEE HOUSE	10,017	10,753
TOYNBEE HOUSE MAINTENANCE EXP	6,497	9,958
PRINTING, STATIONERY, POSTAGE, OFFICE EQUIP, PHOTOCOPYING & TELEPHONE	18,609	23,558
GENERAL RATES	42,571	30,235
WATER, ELECTRICITY & GAS	17,134	12,455
REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE & RENEWALS, CLEANING & REFUSE	46,411	34,289
DEPRECIATION	40,449	38,310
COMMITTEE EXPENSES	22,710	19,008
MISCELLANEOUS	2,383	3,882
AFFILIATION FEES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	1,396	1,006
SOCIETY OF BIOLOGY DUES	3,677	3,641
LINNEAN & SRF GRANTS	34,357	29,909
DCLG** EXPENSES (RENT, INSURANCE & FIRE ALARM)	110,338	258,755

EXPENDITURE cont'd	2017	2016
	£	£
WEBSITE & HOSTING COSTS	35,470	53,611
PROVISION FOR VAT	1,660	4,951
EDUCATION	24,317	9,857
HEALTH AND SAFETY	1,066	1,029
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	893,551	1,116,394
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE BEFORE REFURBISHMENT & PROJECT COSTS	£838,150	£(103,170)
REFURBISHMENT COSTS		
EXPENSES RELATING TO BURLINGTON HOUSE	1,287	9,992
INCOME: GRANT GARFIELD WESTON, PLEDGE WOLFSON—WEST BASEMENT EDUCATION ROOM	(33,150)	-
EXPENDITURE: GRANT GARFIELD WESTON, PLEDGE WOLFSON—WEST BASEMENT EDUCATION ROOM	33,150	-
TOTAL REFURBISHMENT COSTS	1,287	9,992
PROJECT COSTS		
IT CONSULTANT & PROJECT HARDWARE	1,008	821
THE LINNAEUS LINK PROJECT	5,860	5,749
BIOMEDIA MELTDOWN PROJECT 1 (SUPPORTED BY JOHN LYON'S CHARITY)	-	40,309
BIOMEDIA MELTDOWN PROJECT 1 (SUPPORTED BY JOHN LYON'S CHARITY)	-	(40,309)

	2017	2016
	£	£
BIOMEDIA MELTDOWN PROJECT 2 (SUPPORTED BY JOHN LYON'S CHARITY)	(32,838)	-
BIOMEDIA MELTDOWN PROJECT 2 (SUPPORTED BY JOHN LYON'S CHARITY)	32,838	-
READ PROJECT	-	5,929
READ PROJECT	-	(10,833)
BIOGRAPHY OF SIR J E SMITH	-	11,297
BIOGRAPHY OF SIR J E SMITH	-	(3,822)
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	6,868	9,141
NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES		
BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS & LOSSES	£829,995	£(122,303)
RESTRICTED & ENDOWMENT FUNDS		
INCOME RECEIVABLE UNSPENT & HERITAGE ASSET GIFT DURING THE YEAR	84,252	111,699
INVESTMENT ASSETS		
(LOSS)/GAIN REVALUATIONS & DISPOSALS OF FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS	245,896	424,575

* Publication Income includes Editorial costs netted off of £118,585 (2016: £96,364) which were incurred by the Society.

** Department for Communities and Local Government.

*** Provision for legal expenses of £87,000 set aside in 2016 written back in 2017.

Balance Sheet

	2017	2016
	£	£
ASSETS		
HERITAGE ASSETS*	1,551,000	1,551,000
INVESTMENTS	3,266,539	3,001,660
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (EQUIPMENT & REFURBISHMENT)	199,931	204,822
FIXED ASSETS LAND & PROPERTY	542,200	544,376
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS	885,071	(8,253)
LONG TERM LIABILITIES	(258,376)	(267,383)
	<u>£6,186,365</u>	<u>£5,026,222</u>
FUNDS		
GENERAL	1,705,177	1,128,626
DESIGNATED (1) (4)	1,391,179	998,246
ENDOWMENTS (2)	746,961	688,979
RESTRICTED (3)	2,343,048	2,210,371
	<u>£6,186,365</u>	<u>£5,026,222</u>

NOTES:

(1) Designated Funds are those funds which have been earmarked for specific purposes by the Trustees and, together with the General Funds, comprise the Unrestricted Funds.

(2) Endowments represent capital funds where only the income arising may be spent.

(3) Restricted Funds may only be spent for the purposes prescribed by the donors.

(4) A Fixed Asset Fund has been set up as a separate designated reserve from 2013 to represent the extent to which the Society's general reserve has been utilised to acquire

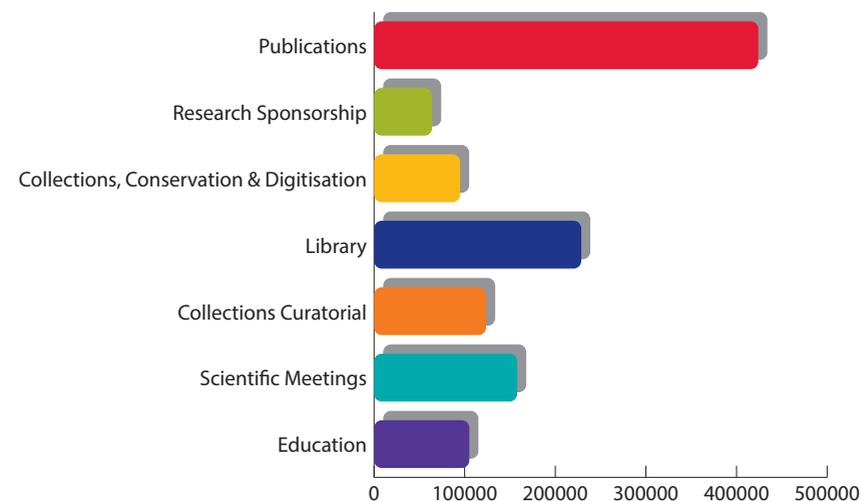
fixed assets. This ensures that the balance on the general reserve gives a better indication of the funds available to the Society.

* In accordance with FRS 102, donated heritage assets have been included at valuation. These are held on trust and cannot be sold.

The figures above are a summary of information extracted from the Society's abbreviated annual accounts for Fellows. Copies of the full annual report, the Financial Statements for the YE 31.12.2017, can be obtained from the Executive Secretary or, following the Anniversary Meeting, from the Charity Commission's website.

Expenditure allocation 2017 (from SORP)

Core Activities (TOTAL SPEND £1.2M)



Public Benefit

The Linnean Society seeks to interact with all those interested in the natural world by fusing new research with the rich history of its unique scientific and heritage holdings. Our aim is to encourage and communicate scientific advances through our three world-class journals, special publications and events, as well as reaching out to future biologists through schools and public engagement programmes. Support and recognition is given to those engaged in scientific study through grant schemes, and through medals and awards. The Society's activities contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Strategic Aims

The Council, Officers and Committees of the Society have continued to use the Strategic Plan, first laid out in 2008, revised in 2012, and revisited in 2017, as a tool for guidance and management leading to achievement of the strategic goal of the Society as stated in its original Charter:

The Cultivation of the Science of Natural History in all its Branches.

Led by Strategic Planning Officer, Professor David Cutler PPLS, the Strategic Plan was reviewed by members of Council, Officers and Committees of the Society, together with the staff, in October 2017, and a number of proposals were made which will be followed up in 2018, especially with regard to governance and membership. In the interim, Professor Cutler continues to ensure that the Society's Committees regularly monitor their responsibilities under the plan, and look ahead to develop the plan as circumstances change.

- 1. Be an inspiration for the scientific study of natural history and widen the appeal of the Society**
- 2. Be an informed, independent voice in matters relating to natural history**
- 3. Be a forum for our Fellows and others interested in natural history**
- 4. Be a centre for the study for natural history**
- 5. Provide long-term user access to the Society's rooms at Burlington House**

People

President ✧

Prof Paul Brakefield FRS

President-Elect ✧

Dr Sandra Knapp

Vice Presidents

Ms Rosie Atkins

Prof Juliet Brodie

Prof Simon Hiscock

Dr Malcolm Scoble

Treasurer ✧

Ms Deborah Wright

COUNCIL

The Officers (✧)

Vice Presidents

Dr Paul Bates

Dr Francis Brearley

Prof Juliet Brodie

Dr Maarten Christenhusz

Dr Colin Clubbe

Dr Nick Crumpton

Ms Laura D'Arcy

Prof Jeffrey Duckett

Prof Michael Fay

SECRETARIES

Scientific ✧

Prof Simon Hiscock

Dr Malcolm Scoble

Editorial ✧

Prof Mark Chase FRS

Collections ✧

Dr John David

Strategy

Prof David Cutler

Dr Blanca Huertas

Dr Zerina Johanson

Prof Dame Georgina Mace FRS

Dr Christopher Michaels

Dr Paul Smith

Professor Max Telford

Dr Rosie Trevelyan

Dr Mark Watson

THE TEAM

Executive Secretary

Dr Elizabeth Rollinson

Librarian

Mrs Lynda Brooks

Deputy Librarian & Collections Manager

Dr Isabelle Charmantier

Archivist

Ms Liz McGow

Special Publications Manager

Ms Leonie Berwick

Digital Assets Manager

Ms Andrea Deneau

Education & Public Engagement Officer

Dr Rhys Grant (until Sept 2017);

Mr Joe Burton

Education Project Officers

Mr Ross Ziegelmeier &

Ms Elisa Jones

Library & Archives Assistant

Mrs Elaine Charwat

Financial Controller & Membership Officer

Mr Priya Nithianandan

Buildings & Office Manager

Ms Victoria Smith (until May 2017); Ms Helen Shaw

Communications & Events Manager

Ms Alicia Fernández (until Nov 2017); Dr Leanne Melbourne

Room Hire & Membership Assistant

Ms Tatiana Franco

Conservator

Ms Janet Ashdown

Botanical Journal Assistant

Dr Hassan Rankou

Archivist *emerita*

Ms Gina Douglas

Office Cleaner

Ms Fatima Mendoca

CURATORS

Fish, Shells & General Zoology	Mr Oliver Crimmen
Insects	Mrs Suzanne Ryder
Plants	Dr Mark Spencer
Artefacts	Mr Glenn Benson

EDITORS

<i>Biological Journal</i>	Professor John A Allen
<i>Botanical Journal</i>	Professor Mike Fay
<i>Zoological Journal</i>	Dr Louise Allcock
<i>Synopses Series</i>	Dr Peter J Hayward
<i>The Linnean</i>	Ms Gina Douglas
<i>PuLSe</i>	Ms Leonie Berwick
Book Reviews	Dr Maria Vorontsova

Committee Membership

The Executive Secretary and Strategic Planning Officer, as well as The Officers (✧), are ex officio (e.o.) members of all Committees

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Professor Mark Chase FRS, the Editorial Secretary (e.o.)
The Editors (e.o.) & editorial staff
Representatives from the publisher, OUP
Dr Rebecca A. Farley-Brown, FSC

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Treasurer (e.o.)
The Financial Controller (e.o.)
Mr Giles Coode-Adams
Mr Edward Banks
Mr Edward Hoare

Prof Gren Lucas OBE
Dr N Keith Maybury
Mr John Beswick

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

Dr John David, the Collections Secretary (e.o.)
The Curators (e.o.)
Library & Collections and E&PE staff
Mrs Gina Douglas
Mrs Susan Gove
Mr John Collins
Ms Gillian Furlong, formerly UCL
Dr D J Nicholas Hind, RBGK
Mr Chris Mills, formerly RBGK
Ms Andrea Hart, NHM
Mr Tom Kennett, Archivist
Dr Richard Preece
Dr Mark Watson

PROGRAMMES COMMITTEE

Dr Malcolm Scoble, Scientific Secretary (Chairman)

Events & Communications Manager (e.o.)

Education & Public Engagement Manager (e.o.)

Prof Anjali Goswami

Dr Nick Crumpton

Prof Dianne Edwards

EDUCATION & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Prof Simon Hiscock, Scientific Secretary (Chairman)

Education & Public Engagement, and Library & Collections staff

Prof Beverley Glover, Cambridge Botanic Garden

Dr Jane Taylor, Lancaster Univ

Geoff Lockwood, independent school master

Sarah Thomas, ZSL

Suzie Kelpie, RBGE

Ed Sentry, NHM

Julia Willison, RBGK

TAXONOMY & SYSTEMATICS COMMITTEE

Prof David Cutler, Chairman

As appropriate, representatives from research institutions (NHM, RBGK, RBGE), universities (Oxford, Cardiff, Herts), museums with natural history collections (NMWales, UCL/Grant, Oxford, Horniman, NMIreland) and other bodies concerned with T&S, biodiversity and conservation, such as NatSCA, FSC, Natural England, NFBR.



Looking Forward | 2018

“The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man’s foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher.”

—Thomas Henry Huxley (1825–95)

In an increasingly digital world, the Linnean Society is not hesitating to invest in developing further online resources based around its world-famous collections, using the knowledge base and passion of its Fellowship, staff and volunteers. Following our video series launched in 2017, we will also be developing a series of podcasts, rooted in our collections but covering a broad range

of current topics. We will continue to develop the successful SciArt project ‘Bio-Media Melt-down’ (generously funded to date by John Lyon’s Charity), show-



ing students that studying bioscience opens up many career paths, including those in the digital and creative world.

The refurbishment of the basement area and new display cabinets in the Library in 2018 will allow the Society to increase its public engagement potential, offering a small room of scientific refuge for Fellows and interested parties, as well as workshops and CPD sessions for teachers, their students and the general public.

Plenty of innovative ideas were discussed at the Society’s Strategic Planning Day in October 2017, attended by the Trustees, Committee members, staff and volunteers. However with the continuing lack of clarity on the lease and rent situation at Burlington House, it is difficult to commit funds to new initiatives while the uncertainty remains. While we expect the mists to clear somewhat during 2018, we should not underestimate the challenges that lie ahead if we are to remain at Burlington House, and plan how best to enhance the space for our Fellows and visitors. In the interim, the

Society has a full programme of events for 2018, and is already considering proposals for 2019—the Society’s overall purpose ‘to cultivate the science of natural history in all its branches’ gives us huge scope in programming. And building on the success of the Courtyard Late event in 2017, we look forward to leveraging common themes with the other Courtyard Societies, as we augment the Cultural Campus events programme at our shared home on Piccadilly.

Professor Paul Brakefield FRS is to be applauded for completing his three-year term as President with aplomb and charisma. Dr Sandy Knapp takes the reins from May 2018, and during her year as President-Elect Sandy has already identified a number of things she would like to implement. One of her key strategies is to effect a full and independent governance review, which is timely with the Society’s plans to increase its charitable activities and impact. As we celebrate the 230th anniversary of the Society’s foundation in 2018, the team is doubly enthusiastic about our future in this Information Age.

Dr Elizabeth Rollinson
Executive Secretary

WHO WE ARE

The Linnean Society of London embraces the entire sweep of the natural world, encompassing science, history and art. Our Fellowship ranges from leading professional scientists to amateur naturalists, artists and historians.

WHAT WE DO

We publish three academic journals and other quality publications, as well as host meetings and events for scientists and the general public. We provide free education resources for primary school students to tertiary level and beyond, and we support scientific excellence through awarding grants and medals.

WHERE WE CAME FROM

Founded in 1788, we were built on the collections and library of the great Swedish taxonomist, Carl Linnaeus. An historic institution with a modern focus on biodiversity, evolution, taxonomy, science policy, conservation and sustainability, we are proud of our past and enthusiastic about our future.

**OUR FULL ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS CAN BE VIEWED ON THE
UK CHARITY COMMISSION'S WEBSITE FROM JUNE 2018**

Twitter: @LinneanSociety | @LinneanLearning

Facebook: /LinneanSociety

YouTube: /LinneanSociety

Instagram: linneansociety

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