

# Annual Review 2019

*Communicating nature since 1788*



PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

The  
LINNEAN  
SOCIETY  
of London



# President's Review | 2019

**2019 has been a busy and challenging year all round, both for the Society, having initiated a review of its governance, and for me personally, having undergone treatment for breast cancer. Now, in a new decade, we are ready to tackle the challenges ahead.**

The 16 recommendations from the governance review report have been considered by the Society's Council, and a broad plan for implementation is being put in place. Governance systems, processes and policies (prioritising those necessary for compliance) will be assessed, and additional human resources support will be engaged in 2020, to ensure a smooth transition for the coming decades. Revisions to the



Byelaws will be necessary, with these likely being brought to the Anniversary Meeting (AGM) for approval in May 2021. Concomitant with the governance review, the Society has refreshed its vision and mission, and will be further consulting with our audiences through the next year.

The Executive Secretary led a tremendous team effort from staff and curators to provide the data necessary for an analysis undertaken by the Society, together with independent economist advisors, to assess our public benefit in financial terms—we are delivering around £8.2m-worth of public benefit through our charitable activities each year, an achievement of which the Society can be truly proud! The Society held a record-breaking number of events in 2019, including lunchtime and evening lectures (with three regional meetings), day meetings, and varied scientific workshops for students and teachers, as well as a number of art workshops. On 1 November we formally launched the Discovery Room, and this innovative space has been ideal for trialling the four new workshops devel-

oped for the upcoming cycle of BioMedia Meltdown, the Society's science-meets-art outreach project.

One of our major public benefits is advancing scientific knowledge, and our academic journals are key in achieving this, as well as providing the income needed to sustain the Society. Additionally, safeguarding and promoting our heritage collections is a fundamental aspect of our charitable purpose, and work continued throughout 2019 on *L: 50 Objects, Stories and Discoveries from the Linnean Society of London*, a book about the treasures we hold in trust. Although we had planned to launch this at the Anniversary Meeting in May, the coronavirus pandemic in early 2020 means that timing is now uncertain—but we will celebrate *L: 50* and our medal winners in due course.

As this new decade commences, the Society aims to work hard to ensure a world where nature is understood, valued and protected.

**Dr Sandra Knapp**



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# Research & Sponsorship

In line with our vision: *A world where nature is understood, valued and protected*, the Society continues to pursue the advancement of scientific knowledge and understanding through the publication of its three research journals, giving grants for scientific research and by welcoming research into our world-renowned collections.

## RESEARCH JOURNALS

In 2019, our journal publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP), continued work on solving production issues which remain a challenge for our stalwart editors. With the support of OUP, Dr Maarten Christenhusz, incoming Chief Editor of the Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society, worked hard to reduce the backlog facing that journal. A collaborative Virtual Issue (VI) drawing from all three journals was published, celebrating papers published by Fellows of the Society. Overall, we are pleased to report that re-subscription rates continue to be excellent, and sales are therefore in line with forecasts. The journals support the hybrid model, whereby Open Access (OA) options are available, although the rate of take-up continues to be low. We are pleased that OUP participates in a number of free or highly reduced access initiatives, such as INASP, eIFL and Research4Life, ensuring that non-profit research institutions in developing nations have access to research published in our journals. As a strategic initiative, aimed at embracing the



challenges and opportunities of OA, we are actively investigating the establishment of a new online-only, fully OA journal, and are working to identify an appropriate editor.

High-profile papers in the *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* included three reviews (systematics of Old World Ebenaceae; colonisation times in the Canary Islands and Hawaii; and the morphological relationship between carpels and ovules) and an editorial on population genetics, speciation, biogeography and conservation. A VI on pollination also reflected a current focus of the journal. Chief Editor Professor Michael Fay notes that after a relatively quiet start, the number of submissions increased as the year progressed, in part due to the submissions related to two large upcoming Special Issues on grasses and bromeliads based on papers presented at Monocots VI in Brazil in late 2018. The Impact Factor dropped slightly to 3.057 (the second year running that the journal has had an Impact Factor >3.0). The journal ranked 46th out of 226, a small drop of eight places relative to the preceding year.

The year saw the *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, edited by Professor John Allen, publish an 11-paper Special Issue (SI) on the evolution of grasping and manipulation, guest-edited by Emmanuelle Pouydebat and Ameline Bardo and focusing on primates, other mammals and frogs. A VI on Phylogeography featured two highly-cited 1990s papers by the late Godfrey Hewitt FLS, together with nine recent articles reflecting a broad range of

taxa and geographical locations. The two most highly cited papers were on the evolution of a mayfly family endemic to Japan and a test on the allometric constraint hypothesis in island vines. An article on the escape dynamics of free-ranging desert kangaroo rats evading rattlesnake strikes gained by far the most media attention. The submission rate of new manuscripts remained high, and the impact factor of 2.2 reflected its five-year average.

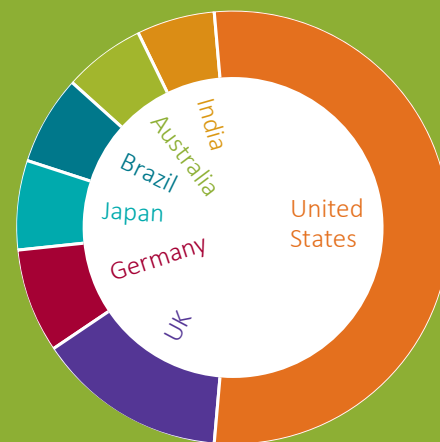
The *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* continues to have a high number of submissions. A VI on birds was highly successful and raised the profile of the journal in the USA. Papers included a study on skull shape variation in pangolins, a phylogeny of Neotropical orb-weaving spiders, palaeoproteomics of bird bones and a study on Darwin's collections of colourful marine planarians. Two SIs, one on Crocodylomorpha and one on Tardigrada will be published in early 2020. The impact factor increased to 2.909 (versus 2.685 the previous year) and the journal is still one of the top journals in its category (10th out of 170), an increase of six places.

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*CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:* Male bonobo displays grasping in the *Biological Journal*; Horsetails (*Equisetum* spp.) in the *Botanical Journal*; Skull shapes in pangolins in the *Zoological Journal* (Images: Ameline Bardo, La Vallée des Singes; Prof Mike Fay; Shutterstock)

## WORLD READERSHIP

The readership of the Society's three peer-reviewed journals spans the globe, as shown here (RIGHT), by country.



## SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SPONSORSHIP

Retaining its focus on taxonomy/systematics, evolutionary biology and biodiversity, the Society, together with the Systematics Association, co-administers the Systematics Research Fund, the parties contributing £24,000 and £7,000, respectively. From the 168 eligible applications from 32 countries, we were delighted to announce the 32 recipients of the 2018/19 SRF awards, ranging from £500 to £1,495, encompassing a wide range of plant, fungal and animal species across global geographies and habitats. A full listing of the recipients and their project titles can be found on the website. Examples of projects supported include:

- **CHRISTINA EGGER'S** *Molecular phylogeny of meiofaunal Caecidae snails (Truncatelloidea, Caenogastropoda)*
- **GISSELA NATHALI DE LA CADENA MENDOZA'S** *Untangling the hidden diversity of leaf beetles (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) in Ecuadorean dry tropical forests*
- **ANDREW SWEET'S** *Assessing the diversity of birds and their parasites in southern China*
- **ELIN THOMAS'** *Systematics of deep-sea holothurians in chemosynthetic environments*
- **PETER POCZAI'S** *Old World black nightshades (Morelloid clade of Solanum L., Solanaceae): evolution, origin and taxonomy*

**The Attenborough Award 2019** (for the best fieldwork project from last year's SRF recipients) was awarded to Dr Veronica Urgiles, Univ Central Florida, for her project *Molecular and morphological diversification of a cryptic group of terrestrial frogs in a high-altitude tropical hotspot*, undertaken in the Ecuadorian Andes,



on the *Pristimantis orestes* species group, which represent almost 40% of known amphibians, but is challenging due to complexes of cryptic species that are suggested to be a result of repeated environmental selection pressures across similar altitudes, leading to morphological convergence among species. Veronica collected samples from 35 localities, at elevations of 2,500 and 4,500m, and also visited various museum collections to view type specimens. She generated 480 new sequences and recovered 25 strongly

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**ABOVE (LEFT AND RIGHT):** The Systematics Research Fund announced 32 awardees in 2019; shown here is Christina Egger searching through sand samples at the Center for Marine Studies (CEM) in Pontal do Paraná, Brasil, for a study on the molecular phylogeny of Caecidae micro-snails



supported clades, 18 of which represent undescribed *Pristimantis* species. She also recorded and analysed their calls. She has already published descriptions on two new species, identifying their conservation status, and a further five are in progress. Both species are endemic to the montane forest of Ecuador and based on their very restricted distributions (<40km<sup>2</sup>), it is suggested that they should be considered as Near Threatened.

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

**Appleyard Fund** grants are made towards the expenses of research projects in the field of botany or zoology, to individuals who are not in full-time employment as biologists. Two Appleyard grants were made in 2019: one to Michael Pearson (UK) to cover the cost of DNA analysis in his project to investigate the diet of two lichenivorous moths (Common & Muslin Footman) living in drystone walls in the Yorkshire Dales; and the other to Marcelo Monge Egea (Brazil), also for sequencing, in his study on the evolution of Amazonian and Atlantic Forests, focusing on the historical biogeography of *Stiffitia* J.C. Mikan (Asteraceae).

The **Anne Sleep Award**, which is provided to young scholars to assist with biological research in the Middle or Far East, was won by Dr Han Hu, a PDRF at the University of New England, Australia, to enable him to visit Oxford University to pursue his quantitative research on cranial ecomorphology during the dinosaur-bird transition. Birds are the only extant group of dinosaurs and their enormous evolutionary success has been attributed to key anatomical features, including the specialised architecture of their

skull. The unparalleled Jehol Biota from China includes the most diverse known Cretaceous avifauna, revealing unprecedented data on the early evolution and diversity of birds, so this study has the potential to advance significantly our understanding of very early bird evolution.

#### AN INCREASE IN RESEARCH ON OUR COLLECTIONS

The number of researchers and readers in the Library has increased this year: 377 researchers in 2019 compared to 308 in 2018. In particular, we registered 41% more new readers in 2019 than in 2018. We attribute this to at least three factors: the continuing use of our Online Collections; the online accessibility of the Archives catalogue, which is regularly updated with newly catalogued manuscripts and archives; and the Library catalogue being available on Library Hub (formerly COPAC) since November 2019.

The research done by various authors for the Society's book of treasures, *L: 50 Objects, Stories and Discoveries from The Linnean Society of London*, by independent researchers and volunteers enabled us to delve deeper into our collections and reveal for instance, that our copy of Edward Lear's *Parrots* (1832) is one of only two in the world to have the full set of 42 colour plates, or that Gwatkins' botanical paintings covered earlier drawings, whose origins are still unknown. Katrin Böhme, from the Berlin Staatsbibliothek, also uncovered intriguing annotations by historical figures on some of our rare books while undertaking her audit.

# Collections & Heritage

**In 2019, Collections staff grew into a strong team, with invaluable support from its volunteers, honorary curators and the Collections Committee. The team ticked off many of its Collections Strategy objectives: joining Library Hub, conserving the carpological collection, updating its Collections Development Policy, restructuring the Society's image drive, cataloguing, and collaborating on the Society's upcoming publication, *L: 50 Objects, Stories and Discoveries from the Linnean Society of London*.**

## **A CONSERVED COLLECTION & ADOPTLINN**

March 2019 saw the completion of the conservation of the carpological collection, funded by an Arts Council PRISM grant. Conservator Janet Ashdown cleaned and re-boxed nearly 800 items, and new bespoke storage space was built for the collection.

AdoptLINN was again very successful in 2019, and we are grateful to the ten donors who adopted books like Johann Jacob Dillenius' *Historia Muscorum* (1741), manuscripts (James Edward Smith's annotated copy of copy of Linnaeus' *Flora Lapponica*, 1737) and artworks (Alexander Anderson's botanical drawings from the St Vincent botanical garden, 1800s). The copy of Per Krafft's portrait of Carl Linnaeus (found in our Meeting Room) came back from conservation, showing off his beautiful blue coat.

## **NEW STAFF**

Dorothy Fouracre left the Society in March 2019, and Will Beharrell joined us as our new Librarian from Magdalen College, Oxford, where he had been Assistant Librarian. We also welcomed Luke Thorne as part-time Assistant Archivist in October.

## **EQUIPMENT EXPANSION**

In January, our digitisation equipment was upgraded from an Atiz BookDrive Pro to a BookDrive Mark 2, which utilises two Canon 5DS cameras. We also purchased a new camera for use with our microscope to better help with requests from researchers. A new image request system was also implemented, with an updated webpage, clearer forms, and a new online payment system. Income from image requests for 2019 was £1,423.

In September, our Digital Assets Manager Andrea Deneau started a postgraduate certificate course in Digital Recordkeeping, which will allow us to make more informed decisions about our digital assets going forward.

## **TALKS, TRIPS & TWEETS**

In addition to engaging visitors on site, the Collections team has been keen to participate in external conferences and training, attending the annual meetings of the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries and Linnaeus Link (Switzerland, June), and of the Natural Sciences Collections Association, *Dead Interesting: Secrets of Collections Success* (Dublin, May). A one-day conference on early-modern scientific illustration (Oxford, July), a workshop on *Preserving Historic Photographs* (British Library, November),



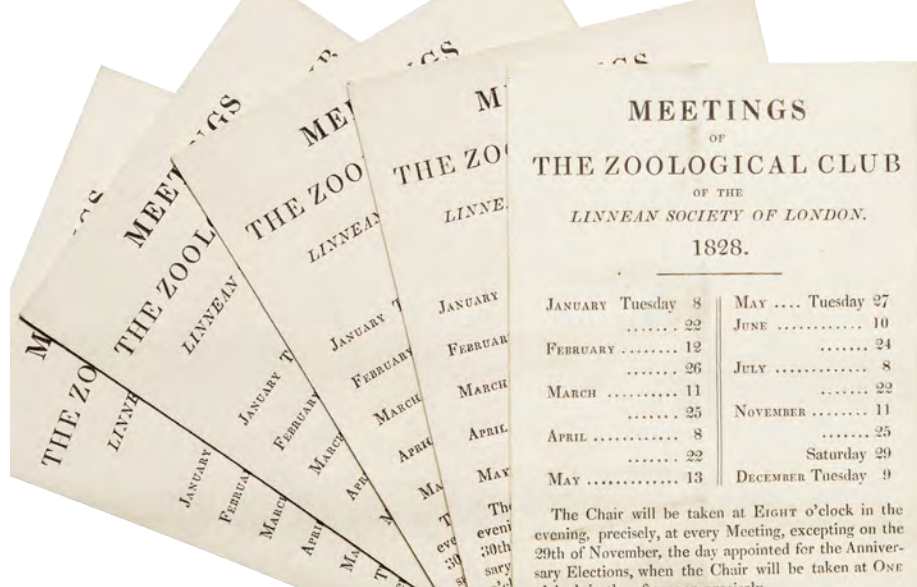
and a Catalogue Day at the National Archives (November) are just a handful of events attended by the team.

Talks were also given by Head of Collections Isabelle Charmantier on artworks by unknown indigenous and local artists in our collections (15th International Congress on the Enlightenment, Edinburgh, July) and on Carl Linnaeus (High Wycombe School, January, and Royal Society of Chemistry, November).

The Collections team has been active on social media, participating in the annual *Explore Your Archives* campaign in November, and writing numerous blogs. A sign of the times: we even responded to a handful of enquiries on Twitter!

## FUNDS FROM LIBRARY-LED ACTIVITIES

The Collections team has worked hard to fundraise in 2019: book sales have raised £723.40 for the Library since 1 January 2019 (£585.36 from donations for items on our book trolley, and £138.04 from the Anybook disposal service). Ten generous donors have contributed a total of £3,250 towards the AdoptLINN conservation scheme, and our Treasures Tours and other guided tours to non-educational organisations raised £2,270.



*TOP:* In 2019, King's College student Fred Yip catalogued and wrote about the Zoological Club of the Linnean Society (the forerunner of the Zoological Society of London); *BOTTOM:* (LEFT TO RIGHT) Janet Ashdown (Conservator), Will Beharrell (Librarian), Andrea Deneau (Digital Assets Manager), Isabelle Charmantier (Head of Collections) and Liz McGow (Archivist)



The Collections team has long organised displays to support evening or day meetings (like 2019's Alfred Russel Wallace celebration) and other outreach activities. Our new, bespoke cabinets can exhibit more than ever before, and to coincide with the Society's 2019 Founder's Day lecture, entitled '*Linnaeus in Lapland*', the Collections team put together a display celebrating Linnaeus' journey to Lapland. Beginning in Uppsala, Sweden, on Friday 12 May 1735, he would go on to cover 2,000 km in an expedition that would prove significant in his scientific career.

The display was spread across three main themes: Linnaeus' interests in natural history, his notes on the area's ethnography, and the journey itself. Items on show included maps drawn by Linnaeus, passports issued to him by various regional authorities, and a copy of Johannes Scheffer's *Lapponia id est, Regionis Lapponum et Gentis Nova et Verissima Descriptio* (1673), which Linnaeus bought and consulted to plan his trip (LEFT).

The Lapland journey diary, which Linnaeus never published, took pride of place, in company with one of his walking sticks, beautifully carved with Linnaeus' plant, the twinflower *Linnaea borealis*. Linnaeus' work on the parasitic reindeer warble fly (*Hypoderma tarandi*), was also on show alongside a drawing and several specimens.

*The display ran from December 2019 until March 2020, and the team hopes to arrange more long-term mini-exhibits in the year to come.*



## LIBRARY & ARCHIVE VOLUNTEERS

Our amazing volunteers did a tremendous amount of work in 2019, helping us to catalogue old and new donations for the Library (**Sheila Meredith**, **Pia Wilson** and **Lynda Brooks**), to list and catalogue archives (**David Pescod**, **Judy Thompson**, **Isla Macer Law**), to catalogue the carpological collection (**Kate Coss**), and to conserve artwork (**John Abbott**).

Led by Archivist Liz McGow, many new volunteers and students joined us in 2019 for very specific projects: **Sae Matsuno** catalogued Japanese books; Kings College MA History students, **Charlotte Robertson** and **Fred Yip**, catalogued the E.M. Holmes correspondence and Linnean Zoological Club, respectively; and University College London Archives trainee **Maria Anthony** catalogued miscellaneous material from the Lady Pleasance Smith archive.

We are always grateful for the work undertaken by our honorary curators, **Glenn Benson**, **Oliver Crimmen**, **Suzanne Ryder** and **Dr Mark A. Spencer**, who answer scientific enquiries, deal with visiting scientists, and curate our biological and artefacts collections.

## GROWING LINNAEUS LINK

This year we welcomed the Royal Horticultural Society's Lindley Library to the Linnaeus Link Union Catalogue, the collaborative resource that brings together institutions with significant Linnaean material. RHS Lindley are contributing nearly 200 records to the catalogue, with more items forthcoming. Highlights include several early editions of Linnaean works, such as the *Hortus Cliffortianus* from 1737. In total, Linnaeus Link now welcomes over 22 institutions globally.

## GIFTS & ACQUISITIONS

Probably the most striking new acquisition this year was a complete run of the much-loved *New Naturalist* series, famous for their vibrant dust-jackets, from Dr Clemency Fisher FLS. Dr Fisher is the daughter of the late James Fisher, an original editor of the series, and many copies bear evidence of his critical pencil! The books are currently on display in the Discovery Room while they are catalogued.

Other notable gifts came from Professor Peter Jewell and Dr Juliet Clutton-Brock (via their daughters, Sarah, Topsy and Rebecca Jewell); the estate of Professor Gwilym Evans; Lord Cranbrook, Duku Cultural Publishing Company Beijing; Dr. Ben Burt; the Jardin botanique alpin du Lautaret; the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew; Christopher Cleal; Barry Thomas; Randall Keynes; Dr Mark A. Spencer; and the estate of Dr David Frodin.

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Collections team have ambitious plans for 2020, having started the year with two weeks of housekeeping in order to reorganise sections of the Library. Internal objectives include updating the Disaster Plan, continuing cataloguing of the carpological collection, archives and library books, and recommencing cataloguing journals.

More outward-facing enterprises include an oral history project about the Society, collaboration with the project *Mollusca Types in Britain and Ireland* (with Jon Ablett, Natural History Museum, London) and The Watercolour World, and cultivating links with other heritage organisations.



# Connecting People

With over 40 onsite events in 2019, the Society continued to attract new audiences. While our regular programme drew attention to topics like comb jellies, bryophytes and deep sea organisms, we hosted a number of additional events that looked into human population and biodiversity loss, and what Charles Darwin taught us about the history of emotion.

## A YEAR OF COLLABORATION

The Society hosted and organised a wide variety of events in 2019, with evening lectures covering such diverse topics as deep sea sampling, the origin and early evolution of snakes and the adaptations of mammals to urban environments. We partnered with other institutions for several events, including the 7th International Orchid Conservation Congress at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and a series of lectures on nature in green belts at Birkbeck, University of London. The Society also played host to *Darwin Vexed: A History of Emotions and Anger* in association with Queen Mary University of London. Additionally, this year included the launch of our collaborative cross-courtyard Burlington House Lecture, in which Professor Richard Evershed, Professor Andy Beeby and Dr Helen Fraser took us on *A Molecular Journey through History*.

Our Christmas lecture was another standout event with Paul Barritt, classic violinist and Permanent Guest Leader of the Hallé Orchestra, exploring the use of bird song and sounds in classical music. Our

most popular lunchtime lectures focused on the history of seed exchange with Professor Maria Zytaruk and the plants of the Qur'an with Dr Shahina Ghazanfar FLS.

## DISCUSSING & CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

In March, our aim was to celebrate diversity within science with a day meeting focusing on the contributions of ethnic minorities to the study of natural history. *Diversity within Natural History* was led by Events and Communications Manager Dr Leanne Melbourne, and this fruitful day concentrated on uncovering hidden figures, learning about current experiences for ethnic minorities, the initiatives available to help support these groups and discovering what's next for the future. On display were works from the Society's collections by some known artists of colour, like John Tyley in St Vincent, and Haludar in India and Nepal, but the majority remain unknown.

Other successful day meetings looked into the evolution of snakes and celebrated the 150th anniversary of Alfred Russel Wallace's *The Malay Archipelago*.

## COLLECTIONS FOR ALL

2019 saw the Collections team give 62 tours of the Collections, including 11 Treasures Tours. Tours were given to University

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*CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:* Speakers for the Society's conference, *Diversity within Natural History* (LEFT TO RIGHT)—Dr Ernesto Schwarz-Marin, Claire Banks, Miranda Lowe, Prof Rich Pancost, Kevin Coutinho FLS and organiser Dr Leanne Melbourne; Dr Shahina Ghazanfar FLS on the plants of the Qur'an; How have mammals adapted to urban environments in the UK? (Shutterstock)



students from US, UK and Japanese institutions, University of the Third Age, and private groups. More than 1,100 visitors toured the Society, either in an organised group or simply to have a look around the Library. The Library also organised detailed displays for the Society's new art-meets-science classes.

“It was a truly **UNIQUE** experience ...  
the students absolutely loved it and  
got so much out of your passion and  
knowledge and having access to **SUCH**  
**A WONDERFUL COLLECTION.**”

As already seen, the new display cases were put to good use, hosting exhibitions that complemented events such as *Conserving the carpological collection*, and *Alfred Russel Wallace* to mark the 150th anniversary of his book *The Malay Archipelago*. Artworks were also on display in support of events, like the illustrations for *Francis Buchanan-Hamilton's Fishes of the Ganges*, and items available for adoption under the AdoptLINN scheme. The Discovery Room's cabinets were used to exhibit a complete run of the *New Naturalist* series, which are undergoing cataloguing and are available for study.

## EXPANDING MERCHANDISE

Overseen by Buildings and Office Manager Helen Shaw, a gentle expansion to our range of merchandise resulted in a pleasing increase in sales in 2019. For the first time in recent years, Society

Christmas cards were available and were a success; as a result we will be continuing this range in 2020. Our newly purchased display cabinet has been of great benefit, allowing visitors to clearly view our small range of merchandise. Books continue to be a sizable proportion of our sales, which we hope will continue to grow with the release of *L: 50 Objects, Stories and Discoveries from The Linnean Society of London* in 2020. We hope this new item will appeal to Fellows and visitors alike, richly illustrated with stunning pictures of our collections.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In 2020, work will continue on diversifying and expanding our audiences. Our aim is to be a hub for anyone interested in natural history, a goal we will support by continuing our annual student conference and skills workshops.

Inclusivity will be key as we shine a light on hidden figures throughout history via our blogposts and activities. 2020 will see us expand our events programme to new audiences, through initiatives like our *Food for Thought* series, where thought-provoking lectures will be combined with tasting sessions.

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*OPPOSITE (LEFT TO RIGHT):* Steve Tatman of the The Carnivorous Plant Society set up a stunning display of species for our Courtyard Late on *Elements*; Visitors enjoyed carbon neutral mojitos as they tried activities in the Library



## COURTYARD LATE 2019: ELEMENTS

Our annual Courtyard Late is always one of the highlights of the year, where all of the neighbouring institutions around Burlington House Courtyard (Royal Astronomical Society, Geological Society of London, Royal Society of Chemistry, Society for Antiquaries of London and Royal Academy of Arts) participate in a late night joint event.

In the International Year of the Periodic table, the general theme was *Elements*. Looking specifically at the role of elements in extreme environments, guests were invited to look through an

amazing display of carnivorous plants and talk to experts Fred Rumsey (Natural History Museum, London) and Steve Tatman (The Carnivorous Plant Society). In our Library guests sampled special carbon neutral mojitos and played a giant game of 'guess who' using different species. Our Discovery Room was transformed into an escape room, where participants were encouraged to follow clues recorded by Dr Rich Boden FLS, work out riddles and 'escape' Molecule Cave in Romania, an environment high in hydrogen sulphide and carbon dioxide, but low in oxygen.

The event was fun, engaging and informative, and incredibly, the Society played host to a record 352 participants in a single evening.



# Discovering More

At the start of 2019 the Education team welcomed Daryl Stenvoll-Wells as the new BioMedia Meltdown Manager (see 'Innovations'). We have also been busy revealing new stories about both our collections and the world of biology through our digital media, publishing our first activity book for parents, and hosting creative events in our wonderful Discovery Room.

## UNIQUE RESOURCES

The Linnean Learning team focusses on producing unique resources, using taxonomy as the starting point to understand the breadth and importance of nature. In 2019, we launched our fifth Discovery Kit for primary school teachers, this time studying Evolution. These loan kits provide UK schools with the ability to teach more difficult scientific subjects in a unique and engaging way.

We also released the educational publication, *Linnaeus at Home*, put together by Education and Public Engagement Manager Joe Burton, and developed to help parents reconnect with nature and encourage their children to explore the natural world, right outside their door. The book and all of the activities are free to view online.

## LEARNING ONLINE

Our media content, overseen by Multimedia Content Producer Ross Ziegelmeier, delved deep into our collections this year to







produce animations featuring Linnaeus' raccoon Sjupp, as well as promotional videos for events, and many podcasts exploring the scientific treasures in our vault and the research by our Fellows.

A particular highlight was the creation of three animations exploring the synergy between art and science. Produced to support the BioMedia Meltdown project, the background scenery was created using students' work.

## LINNAEUS REIMAGINED

Following the success of the 2018 portrait competition, this year we asked children aged 8–11 to create a new contemporary portrait of Carl Linnaeus. The winner was a wonderful reimagining of

*CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:* Linnaeus reimagined—the winner of the 2019 portrait competition; A still from *Birds and their Bones*, an animation using students' artwork from the BioMedia Meltdown project; Workshops in our newly-launched Discovery Room

Linnaeus as a modern woman, produced by 10-year-old Olivia from Lightcliffe Primary School in West Yorkshire.

## LIFE IN THE DISCOVERY ROOM

In November 2019, we formally launched our Discovery Room. Acting as a mini-museum showcasing the Society's collections, the aim of this space is to inspire as many people as possible to embrace an interest in nature.

The Discovery Room was in use for over 100 days of the year—over 35 workshops—engaging with teachers wanting to improve their knowledge of relevant topics, university students keen to develop their public engagement skills, and all those brushing up on their skills through nature-based art classes.

In 2020, we will continue to ramp up the use of this space, working both with previous partners and seeking out new ones in order to offer an increasingly wide variety of workshops.

## YEAR TO COME

We're heading into 2020 with a clear vision of how we will encourage a deeper engagement with the natural world. We will be achieving this by making use of our building as a hub for education, by producing unique digital resources, and by reaching out to new audiences across the UK.

We are aiming to build on our current connections with teachers through CPD sessions, and to continue to engage students with our content, workshops and events.



# Our Fellowship

**Our focus on diversity was reflected in the successful conference in March on *Diversity in Natural History*, which celebrated the contributions of ethnic minorities to natural history, past and present, while a thorough strategic review of the Society's membership is planned during 2020, to consider ways of enhancing the diversity and engagement of our Fellowship.**

## INCREASING FELLOWSHIP

The Society's esteemed Fellowship continues to grow, under the administrative eye of Room Hire and Membership Assistant Tatiana Franco, with 174 FLS newly-elected (137 paid-up) in 2019, bringing the total number of members to 2,921. It's especially encouraging to see increasing numbers of Student Associates, with 49 becoming members in 2019, bringing the total student members to 128. The Fellowship continues to have wide geographic spread around the globe, on all seven continents.

## FELLOWS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

We applaud the passion of our Fellows for the natural world and celebrate their contributions and achievements. Some notables in 2019 include:

- **Margaret E. Cooper LLB FLS** (elected 1998) was made a Fellow of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine (FFLM) of the Royal College of Physicians of London, together with her veterinarian

husband John E. Cooper, in recognition of their contribution to forensic medicine over the past 30 years.

- **Dr Leanne Melbourne FLS** (elected 2019), our Events & Communications Manager, was recognised by Bristol University Faculty of Science as one of their young and dynamic BAME (Black & Minority Ethnic) *Inspirational Bristol Scientists*.
- A special Festschrift for **Professor David Mabberley FLS** (elected 1974) was published in 2019 in the *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore*, stating of him that '*no one alive in our field ... has achieved so brilliant and sustained a torrent of work ... his contribution is almost unimaginable*'.
- **Gina Douglas HonFLS** (elected 1974), Archivist Emerita, was elected President of The Ray Society, which exists to publish books on natural history with special, but not exclusive, reference to the flora and fauna of the British Isles.

## IN REMEMBRANCE

Sadly, we lost a number of eminent FLS during the year, including the 'Father of the Society', i.e. the longest serving member, Dr Stanley Hughes, a mycologist, elected in 1951, a Fellow for over 68 years. Other notable losses included botanist and 2019 Linnean Medal winner Dr Vicki Funk (elected 1992), botanist and broadcaster Dr David Bellamy HonFLS (elected 1960) who died aged 86, and the botanist Dr David Gamman Frodin FLS (elected 1970)—'*David was our Wikipedia before the internet*'. We also pay our respects to Mr Bob Johns (elected 1983), an enthusiast for the flora, fauna and people of New Guinea.



## MEMBERSHIP STRATEGY & POLICY

The Society undertook an extensive review of its Governance during 2019, and one of the resulting recommendations highlighted the need to develop a clear membership strategy and policy. In implementing this recommendation, we will undertake an extensive stakeholder survey and analysis during 2020. We welcome your thoughts on how to improve our value proposition for members.

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Dr David Frodin FLS (1940–2019) © RBG, Kew/ Andrew McRobb; Kirsten Marie is admitted as a Fellow by Dr Sandra Knapp PLS; Dr Leanne Melbourne FLS is named an *Inspirational Bristol Scientist* © University of Bristol; Gina Douglas HonFLS is elected President of The Ray Society



## SOCIAL STATS

Increase in followers in 2019

656



1,157



1,219



412



95

**BIOMEDIA MELTDOWN**  
workshops completed in  
**42 SCHOOLS**

## Tours of the COLLECTIONS



62

Images supplied through  
reprographics  
requests

683



35

Events &  
workshops in  
the Society's

**DISCOVERY ROOM**



£3,250

Money raised through  
**ADOPTLINN**





23,880  
Website views of  
Educational  
Resources

41% ↑

Increase in registered  
readers in the Library

4,088

Participants  
& audience  
members  
at in-house  
Society  
events



Views of Linnean Society  
education videos &  
scientific lectures



70,000

32 Awardees of grants  
from the **SYSTEMATICS**  
**RESEARCH FUND**



7 New Linnean  
Learning podcasts  
on **SOUNDCLOUD**

9 New Linnean  
Learning videos  
on **YOUTUBE**

It was such  
an **ENJOYABLE**  
**DAY**, and we learned a lot.  
It's a **TERRIFIC** class size & room  
to work in. I look forward to the next  
workshop! (*Discovery Workshop attendee*)

# Innovations

Alongside all of our other activities, research and conservation work, the Society's special projects aim to increase engagement with our own collections and history, and natural history in general.

## THE BIOMEDIA MELTDOWN PROJECT 2019–20

The Society's flagship school and community outreach project, our BioMedia Meltdown competition (BMM), continued to expand its reach and impact during its fifth year (with this cycle being funded by the Society). BMM Project Manager Daryl Stenvoll-Wells designed four new workshops and three new sets of downloadable learning materials, covering topics such as under-recognised biologists, the wonders of fungi, convergent evolution, and taxonomy. With the help of Engagement Research and Delivery Officer Zia Forrai, as well as volunteer assistants, 95 workshops were delivered at 42 venues including schools, libraries, community groups and our first hospital school. We also hosted six Discovery Room workshops at Burlington House for young people, including excluded youth and home schoolers, as well as mainstream pupils.

In addition to our extensive workshops for young people, BMM furthered its capacity through outreach to teachers and learning coordinators across the capital, including presentations to ASCEL (the Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians) and a teachers' evening at Chelsea Physic Garden. Through a teacher training grant from *Artsmark: A New Direction*, BMM partnered





## FIRST ANNUAL STUDENT CONFERENCE

In February 2019 we were proud to launch the Society's inaugural student conference. A competition for students studying for natural history-related masters or PhDs, they were invited to present their research either through spoken presentations or engaging posters in an appealing way to a broad audience. The day was a major success, with all participants enjoying the idea of presenting to a wider audience than their usual peers. Audience members all commented on the high quality of research and how effectively the students presented their work.

The wide range of topics included bioprospecting, West African monkeys, animal pollination and anthropomorphic orchids, all presented by students from around the UK, and at different stages of their career. The winners of the poster and oral competition both came from the Natural History Museum, London: Ana Serra Silva created a captivating poster on the evolution of body shape in cichlid fishes, while Alex McGoran gave an informative talk on the ingestion of plastic by fish. The day ended with a keynote speech by Professor Mike Benton on the evolution of bird feathers.

The run up to the conference also provided the opportunity for the Society to start a series of student skill sessions, aimed at helping students with the tools they need for a successful career in academia, including thesis writing, tackling imposter syndrome and how to effectively communicate your research.

with the Geological Society to host a fully-booked INSET day for 24 teachers from all over London. Participants learned about the importance of cross-curricular strategies for all three key stages, experimenting with a wide range of techniques. These events enabled BMM to reach the goal of 100 events for the 2019–20 project cycle, developing sustainable strategies to stimulate STEAM learning, and increase access to the biological sciences for under-represented groups while maintaining project quality.

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*OPPOSITE TOP:* Artwork produced during one of the Society's BioMedia Meltdown workshops; *OPPOSITE BOTTOM:* A student proudly displays her portrait of an 'unsung' biologist; *ABOVE (LEFT TO RIGHT):* The cohort for the first annual student conference—Jason Irving, Joe Millard, Joyce Dickson, Leif Bersweden, Alexandra McGoran, Camilla Blasi Foglietti, Fiona Jones and Oliver Wilson



# 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 2019

- **Linnean Medal in the Field of Botany:** Dr Vicki Funk, *National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institute*
- **Linnean Medal in the Field of Zoology:** Professor Samuel Turvey, *Zoological Society of London*
- **Darwin-Wallace Medal:** Professor Svante Pääbo, *Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology* & Professor David Reich, *Harvard University*
- **Bicentenary Medal:** Dr Steve Portugal, *Royal Holloway University of London*
- **John Spedan Lewis Medal:** Dr John Burton, *World Land Trust*
- **Irene Manton Prize:** Dr Leanne Melbourne, *University of Bristol and Natural History Museum, London*
- **John C. Marsden Medal:** Dr Sarah Hill, *University of Oxford*
- **H. H. Bloomer Award:** Goronwy Wynne
- **Jill Smythies Award:** Deborah Lambkin

Full citations are available in the October 2019 issue of *The Linnean* (35[2]: 41–50). [www.linnean.org/thelinnean](http://www.linnean.org/thelinnean)

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*MEDAL AND AWARD WINNERS: Medal and Award Winners—(LEFT TO RIGHT)*  
Dr John Burton, Dr Leanne Melbourne, Dr Sarah Hill, Deborah Lambkin,  
Dr Steve Portugal, Professor Samuel Turvey and Goronwy Wynne

# Financial Review

**The Society has maintained its income (£2,102,109; 2018: £2,140,280) and has shown a modest increase in expenditure in 2019; (£1,577,506; 2018: £1,449,821), largely driven by increasing its charitable activities. The Society has been able to increase its unrestricted reserve funds (£4,426,786; 2018: £3,589,302), in line with its Reserves Policy, which strikes a balance between ensuring a sustainable financial position in the light of uncertainty over future rent, and use of funds for our charitable purposes.**

## INCOME

Income from our activities in advancing scientific knowledge and understanding, largely through our scientific research journals produced by Oxford University Press, rose 1.4% in 2019 to £1,755,688 (2018: £1,731,660). The Society's membership continues to grow: the numbers of Fellows rose from 2,872 (2018) to 2,921, making members contributions the second most important income stream for the Society (£152,012; 2018: £148,196).

Grants, donations and legacies play a potentially important role in the development of the Society's portfolio of charitable activities, notably in education and outreach (such as the *Artsmark: A New Direction* grant of £1,500), and the Society is most grateful to all those funders and donors who have munificently supported the Society during the year. In 2019, the Society received bequests from the estate of Mr Robert Thompson of £5,542 and a further £2,000 from

the estate of Dr Stanley John Hughes from Canada. The AdoptLINN Programme received £3,250, supporting important conservation work. The Discovery Room, made possible by generous grants from the Wolfson and the Garfield Weston Foundations, is also generating revenues from public workshops, with surplus income being used to support free workshops for students.

The Society's Investment Policy is to enhance the value of both capital and income on a long-term basis, with prudent investments offering no more than moderate risk. The Society continues to receive good advice and management of its investments from Tilney, with a yield on investments as a whole in 2019 of 3.8% (2018: 3.7%). Total investment income rose to £109,436 (2018: £105,303), showing a 3.9% increase.

## EXPENDITURE

99.3% of the Society's £1,577,506 expenditure was used in support of its charitable objectives, with only £11,315 spent on managing investments to raise funds. The many activities of the Society in safeguarding and promoting our heritage collections, advancing scientific knowledge and understanding, and engaging the public and educational outreach, are highlighted within the pages of this *Annual Review*. These activities, and their costs, are detailed in the *Annual Report and Accounts 2019*, available on the Society's and Charity Commission's websites.

Although uncertainty over the back rent was resolved in 2019, with the arrears of £372,853 for 2013–2018 being paid off (mainly from provisions set up in previous years), uncertainty remains over future rental costs; the ongoing dialogue with the landlord, Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), to resolve



the issues over long term tenure, continues. Expenditure on direct salaries and National Insurance for core staff rose from £569,089 in 2018 to £612,748 in 2019, reflecting the salary costs that the Society has now taken on as a result of funding the BioMedia Meltdown project which was previously funded by John Lyon's Charity. Employment costs amounted to 39% of total expenditure for 2019.

For the year under review, the Trustees report a surplus of £985,450 (2018: £334,329) after gains on Investments. The surplus on income over expenditure was £524,603 (2018: £690,459), and there was a net gain on investments of £460,847, compared with an unrealised loss in 2018 of (£356,130). Net Assets at year-end stood at £7,506,144 (2018: £6,520,694).

## RESERVES

The Society's reserves are split between Endowment (£768,427), Restricted (£2,310,931), and Unrestricted Funds (£4,426,786). Restricted Funds (excluding Heritage Assets of £1,561,950, which are held in trust and cannot be monetised) contributed £23,338 to the £71,141 (2018: £77,287) given in research sponsorship. Within

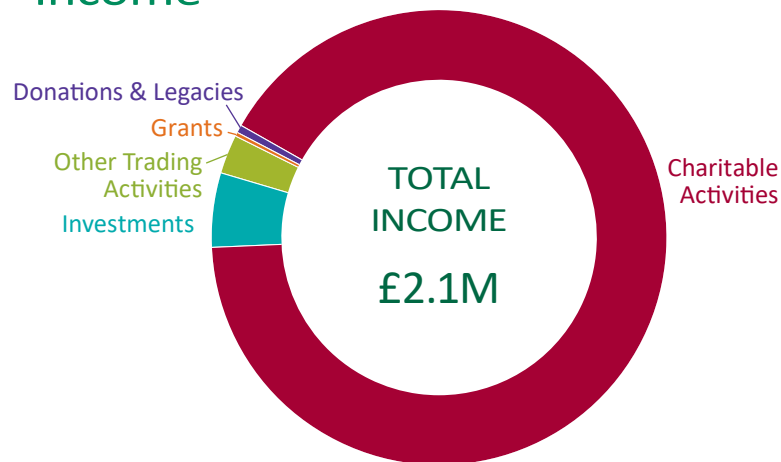
Unrestricted Funds, £1,772,538 (2018: £1,405,254) has been set aside as Designated Funds to cover future expenditure associated with the Society's buildings, and other financial liabilities, including that associated with the lease at New Burlington House. Encouragingly, the General Reserve Fund stands at £2,654,248 (2018: £2,184,048). The Trustees consider the current balance reasonable in the context of budgeted costs and uncertainty over continued occupation of New Burlington House.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

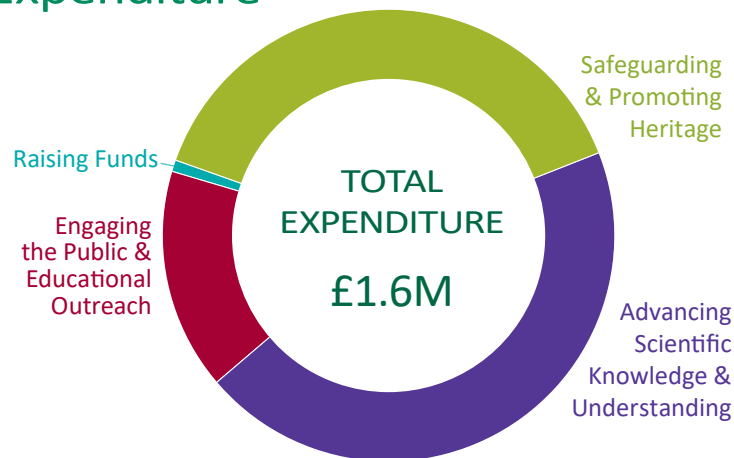
The Trustees of the Society extend their gratitude to all the Officers and Staff as well as to the volunteers. The Financial Controller, Priya Nithianandan, is thanked for his careful oversight of the Society's financial activities, and special acknowledgement goes to Dr Mark Watson, both as Interim Treasurer and subsequently as Treasurer. Dr Watson's outstanding commitment and contribution to the Society's financial and governance activities cannot be overestimated—the Society is truly indebted to him.



## Income



## Expenditure



## Summarised Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

	2019	2018
	£	£
<b>INCOME FROM</b>		
GRANTS	8,600	91,384
DONATIONS AND LEGACIES	11,816	11,530
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		
MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS	152,012	148,196
SAFEGUARDING & PROMOTING OUR HERITAGE COLLECTIONS	7,542	11,552
ADVANCING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING	1,755,688	1,731,660
INVESTMENTS	109,438	105,303
OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES	57,013	40,655
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,102,109</b>	<b>2,140,280</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>		
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		
SAFEGUARDING & PROMOTING OUR HERITAGE COLLECTIONS	610,458	579,607
ADVANCING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING	705,630	659,742
ENGAGING THE PUBLIC & EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH	250,103	202,651
RAISING FUNDS	11,315	7,821
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,577,506</b>	<b>1,449,821</b>

**SOFA Cont'd**

	2019	2018
	£	£
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) BEFORE GAINS (LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	524,603	690,459
GAINS (LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	460,847	(356,130)
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>985,450</b>	<b>334,329</b>

**Summarised Balance Sheet**

<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
HERITAGE ASSETS	1,561,950	1,556,475
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	802,538	756,206
INVESTMENT AT MARKET VALUE	3,903,741	3,419,134
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>6,268,229</b>	<b>5,731,815</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
DEBTORS	419,596	508,473
SHORT TERM DEPOSITS	1,201,517	984,163
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	1,655,828	1,877,502
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>3,276,941</b>	<b>3,370,138</b>

**Balance Sheet Cont'd**

	2019	2018
	£	£
<b>OTHER LIABILITIES</b>		
CREDITORS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	(1,797,965)	(2,331,471)
CREDITORS DUE AFTER ONE YEAR	(241,061)	(249,788)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>7,506,144</b>	<b>6,520,694</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	768,427	675,968
RESTRICTED FUNDS	2,310,931	2,255,424
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	4,426,786	3,589,302
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>7,506,144</b>	<b>6,520,694</b>

The Society's Summarised Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Balance Sheet are presented here in a simplified format designed to give an overview of the Society's financial situation. These reconcile with the full financial accounts, which were prepared to conform to the Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP – FRS 102). The full financial accounts, and a more detailed Financial Review, are included in the Society's *Annual Report and Accounts 2019*. The *Annual Report and Accounts 2019* can be downloaded from the Society's website ([www.linnean.org/annualreport](http://www.linnean.org/annualreport)), and a paper copy can be supplied upon written request to the Executive Secretary.





*LEFT:* Charles Darwin and his daughter Henrietta joined us for Open House London; *CENTRE:* Marcelo Monge Egea (*BOTTOM*) was awarded a grant from the Appleyard Fund to study the historical biogeography of the genus *Stiffia* (*TOP*); Speakers for our meeting celebrating the life and work of Alfred Russel Wallace (*LEFT TO RIGHT*): Dr Richard Milner, Dr Andrew Berry, Clay Bolt, Professor James T. Costa, Professor Martin Fichman, Eleanor Drinkwater, Professor Dr Matthias Glaubrech and Dr David Collard

## Public Benefit

The Linnean Society contributes to scientific, cultural, economic and social well-being nationally and internationally through a broad programme of activities. Our unique biological collections and historical resources—and our strong focus on biodiversity conservation and sustainability, and science outreach—support the care and understanding of our planet. The Society's key contributions to public benefit are:

- Safeguarding and promoting the Society's heritage collections, through cataloguing, conservation and digitisation, improving access to primary information, making collections freely available to view online.
- Advancing and disseminating knowledge through three world-class research journals, and providing support and recognition through grant schemes and awards to emerging scientists and naturalists.
- Engaging the public through regular tours of the collections, conferences and free monthly public lectures, while our educational programme, which fuses science, history and art, reaches out to students of all ages and backgrounds, providing free resources in schools, in Burlington House and online.

The Society's activities contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through support for the natural world, and through unique resources that illuminate environmental and social change. The Society connects academia with a diverse public, informing UK government policy and promoting the international profile of the UK as a pre-eminent international hub for expertise about the natural world.

## 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 followed up in 2018, especially with regard to governance and membership. It is anticipated that a full strategic review will take place in 2020/2021, following the recommendations of the governance review.

*The main elements of the current Strategic Plan are:*

- 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** ✧

Dr Sandra Knapp

## **Vice Presidents**

Dr Olwen Grace

Dr Blanca Huertas

Professor Paul Henderson

Dr Malcolm Scoble

## **Treasurer** ✧

Dr Mark Watson

## **COUNCIL**

### *The Officers* (✧)

Dr Colin Clubbe

Dr Natasha de Vere

Mathew Frith

Professor Beverley Glover

Professor Anjali Goswami

Dr Olwen Grace

Professor Paul Henderson

Professor Alistair

Hetherington

Professor Alan Hildrew

## **SECRETARIES**

### **Scientific** ✧

Professor Simon Hiscock

Dr Malcolm Scoble

### **Editorial** ✧

Professor Mark Chase FRS

### **Collections** ✧

Dr John David

Dr Blanca Huertas

Professor Dame Georgina  
Mace FRS

Dr Silvia Pressel

Dr Paul Smith

Professor Max Telford

Dr Rosie Trevelyan

Stephanie West

## **THE TEAM**

### **Executive Secretary**

Dr Elizabeth Rollinson

### **Head of Collections**

Dr Isabelle Charmantier

### **Librarian**

Dorothy Fouracre (until March);  
Will Beharrell

### **Archivist**

Liz McGow;

### **Assistant Archivist**

Luke Thorne

### **Special Publications Manager**

Leonie Berwick

### **Digital Assets Manager**

Andrea Deneau

### **Education & Public Engagement Manager**

Joe Burton

### **Multimedia Content Producer**

Ross Ziegelmeier

### **BioMedia Meltdown Manager**

Daryl Stenvoll-Wells

### **Financial Controller & Membership Officer**

Priya Nithianandan

### **Buildings & Office Manager**

Helen Shaw

### **Communications & Events Manager**

Dr Leanne Melbourne

### **Room Hire & Membership Assistant**

Tatiana Franco

### **Conservator**

Janet Ashdown

### **Engagement Research & Delivery Officer**

Zia Forrai

### **Botanical Journal Assistant**

Dr Hassan Rankou

### **Office Cleaner**

Fatima Mendoca



## CURATORS

<b>Fish, Shells &amp; General Zoology</b>	Oliver Crimmen
<b>Insects</b>	Suzanne Ryder
<b>Plants</b>	Dr Mark A. Spencer
<b>Artefacts</b>	Glenn Benson

## EDITORS

<b><i>Biological Journal</i></b>	Professor John A. Allen
<b><i>Botanical Journal</i></b>	Professor Mike Fay
<b><i>Zoological Journal</i></b>	Dr Maarten Christenhusz
<b><i>Synopses Series</i></b>	Dr John Crothers & Dr Peter J. Hayward
<b><i>The Linnean</i></b>	Gina Douglas
<b><i>PuLSe</i></b>	Leonie Berwick

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## Committee Membership

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

*Our Committee members are drawn from a wide variety of institutions.*

### EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dr Mark Watson, the Treasurer (Chair)  
The Financial Controller (e.o.)  
Edward Banks  
Giles Coode-Adams  
Edward Hoare

Professor Gren Lucas OBE  
N. Keith Maybury

### COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

Dr John David, the Collections Secretary (Chair)  
The Curators (e.o.)  
Library & Collections, and Education & Public Engagement staff  
Gina Douglas  
Gillian Furlong  
Susan Gove  
Andrea Hart  
Dr D.J. Nicholas Hind  
Tom Kennett  
Chris Mills  
Dr Richard Preece  
Dr Anke Timmermann  
Dr Mark Watson

## PROGRAMMES COMMITTEE

Dr Malcolm Scoble, Scientific Secretary (Chair)  
Events & Communications Manager (e.o.)  
Education & Public Engagement Manager (e.o.)  
Head of Collections (e.o.)  
Professor Jeff Duckett  
Professor Alan Hildrew

## EDUCATION & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Professor Simon Hiscock, Scientific Secretary (Chair)  
Education & Public Engagement, and Library & Collections staff  
Lyn Baber  
Charlotte Cotes  
Prof Beverley Glover  
Geoff Lockwood  
Stephanie Pace  
Dawn Sanders  
Dr Jane Taylor  
Julia Willison

## TAXONOMY & SYSTEMATICS COMMITTEE

Stephanie West (Chair)  
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: NatSCA, FSC, Natural England and NFBR participate in this committee.



# Looking Forward | 2020

**“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.”**

—Albert Einstein (1879–1955)

Building on the foundations of the recent governance review, the Society is well placed to advance into the next decade. We intend to explore all strategic opportunities that will allow the Society to enhance its impact in the wider natural world, especially given the challenges of the biodiversity crisis and climate change, and the ever increasing demands of the global population. We

applaud the recent initiative of *Earthshot Prize: a decade of action to repair the Earth*, as well as the establishment of a GCSE in Nat-

ural History. Through delivering on its key charitable objectives—advancing scientific knowledge and understanding, as well as public and educational outreach—the Society intends to inform and involve where it can, in parallel with our newly-defined vision: *A world where nature is understood, valued and protected*.

We will be undertaking an in-depth review of our strategy to ensure that we are ‘on mission’: To inform, involve and inspire people of all ages about nature and its significance through our collections, programmes and publications. Albeit, planning is challenging due to the continuing uncertainty over our future tenancy at Burlington House (BH): although we started 2019 working positively with the Government towards securing sustainable long-term tenure at BH, disappointingly, the process stalled with the turmoil over Brexit and the UK election. However, we will be re-engaging with our landlord early in 2020.

The Society, together with its publishing partner, Oxford University Press, is working hard to embrace the challenges and opportunities of Open Access (OA), and is developing plans to launch a new fully-OA journal, to complement our existing scientific journals.

Membership matters remain high on the agenda and the Society is acutely aware of the need to retain and expand its Fellowship, and move towards a more diverse demographic. Of course, the unprecedented situation with the coronavirus pandemic in early 2020 has significantly impacted the Society’s events programme and way of working. We now plan to hold the AGM virtually in May and look forward to launching *L: 50* and presenting our medals later in the year. In the interim, whether you are a specialist or generalist, please share our passion for the natural world through the amazing free resources on our website. We will look forward to welcoming you back to BH and wish you well in these challenging times.

**Dr Elizabeth Rollinson**

Executive Secretary





## OUR VISION

A world where nature is understood, valued and protected.

## OUR MISSION

To inform, involve and inspire people of all ages about nature and its wider interactions through our collections, programmes and publications.

## ABOUT US

Since its foundation in 1788, The Linnean Society of London has been dedicated to the promotion of the study of nature. Through the expertise of our wide Fellowship and the heritage of our unique collections, we are a hub for the communication of science, via our lectures, tours, workshops, conferences and our 'Linnean Learning' educational resources. We aspire to inspire by bringing together all those enthusiastic about the natural world.

**DOWNLOAD OUR FULL ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS AT [WWW.LINNEAN.ORG/ANNUALREPORT](http://WWW.LINNEAN.ORG/ANNUALREPORT)**

**Twitter:** @LinneanSociety | @LinneanLearning

**Facebook:** /LinneanSociety

**YouTube:** /LinneanSociety

**Instagram:** linneansociety

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Charity Reference No. 220509 | VAT Registration No. 512524678



Linnean*Learning*