2023 seems to have whizzed by, especially at the Linnean Society. As an Alfred Russel Wallace fan, I greatly enjoyed the Society’s exhibition and the multiple events celebrating the bicentenary of Wallace’s birth over this past year. My children still talk about the snakeskin on display during one of the Society’s family tours—the skin of the python that was pulled from Wallace’s hut.

They have been asking when they can come back ever since, and fortunately there have been many opportunities for them to do just that, including joint events with our courtyard neighbours like the ‘FloraNation’ celebration during HM The King’s Coronation weekend and the autumn Courtyard Open House.

On that same neighbourly theme, we continued to work closely with our fellow Courtyard Societies and the UK Government to secure a long-term lease in New Burlington House. It has been lovely to have many opportunities to show off our historic buildings and collections to visiting officials and to answer their questions about our work. This process also provided strong motivation to develop an ambitious and impactful new strategy that both celebrates our heritage and lays out a framework utilising our many assets to support positive action for the natural world.

This leads to another highlight of the year—a superb but intense weekend pulling the Society’s new strategy together at Hergest Croft Gardens, and I’m very proud of the result. I hope all of you will feel inspired to join us as we put this strategy into effect, ensuring that we are successful in our mission to cultivate a global community working towards a world where nature is understood, valued and protected.

A last personal highlight for me was delivering our first standalone President’s Lecture in September, which was accompanied by our first Fellows’ Admissions ceremony since the COVID-19 pandemic. As always, it was a joy to spend an evening with longstanding Fellows and to welcome new Fellows to the Society. I have never left a reception in the Library without feeling energised by the people I have spoken with—Fellows from abroad who are visiting while in the UK, new student members who tell me all about their exciting projects, or old friends who I never see often enough. All of this makes me very proud to lead the Society through this extraordinary period and hopeful that this next year will see us achieve even more of our vast potential.

Professor Anjali Goswami
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVERVIEW 2023</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH &amp; SPONSORSHIP</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUR MEMBERSHIP</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR OF WALLACE</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFFECTIVE CONNECTIONS</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCLUSIVE OUTREACH</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLECTIONS IN FOCUS</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASTING THE NET</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL REVIEW</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC BENEFIT &amp; STRATEGIC AIMS</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEOPLE</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOOKING FORWARD</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We made significant progress in several critical areas in 2023, including the new Charter and Bye-Laws, our new strategy and the New Burlington House lease negotiations. All of this work is key to ensuring the Society continues to be a driving force behind the understanding and protection of nature for generations to come.

**Progress on our New Charter and Bye-Laws**

In March 2023, an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) was organised, with support from Governance Manager Andrew Swan, to enable Fellows to ask questions about the proposed new Charter and Bye-Laws, and to give their approval. As explained to the Fellowship throughout the process, a review and modernisation of these documents was instigated by Council following an independent review in 2018 of the Society’s governance, which recommended several governance reforms to keep in line with best practice. The tenor of the EGM was generally positive and so, after a short discussion, Fellows voted to approve the changes. The Charter and Bye-Laws were then sent to the Privy Council, where, in late 2023, a petition appeared in the London Gazette for eight weeks. If no unfavourable counter-petitions are received, the final version will be sent to the Privy Council for approval. These documents will not come into effect, however, until they are transcribed onto vellum and sealed by the Crown Office. Meanwhile, work continues apace on the third level of governing documents, the Standing Orders. These will be sent to Council in early January 2024 for approval.

**A New Strategy**

With pro bono assistance from the Worshipful Company of Management Consultants (WCoMC), we embarked on a strategy development process involving Trustees, staff and our Honorary Curators. A whole-day brainstorming session with staff and Trustees, a meeting with our Honorary Curators and one-to-one Trustee interviews provided the necessary insight required to imagine what the Society should look like in the future. Led by the President and CEO, a small working group was formed to discuss the analysis. The working group met for a weekend at Hergest Croft Gardens to synthesise all the brilliant suggestions and ideas into a condensed strategy document, which was discussed by Council at their October meeting. We expect to have a final version available in January 2024, after which we will commence work on developing implementation plans. Importantly, we will also make the document public, so that our membership, visitors, volunteers and other supporters can discuss with us how we can all work together to achieve our ambitious plans. Our sincere thanks go out to Patrick Chapman and Ian White from WCoMC for their invaluable support, as well as to our Treasurer, Ed Banks, and his family for such generous hospitality at Hergest Croft Gardens.

**New Burlington House Lease**

We were delighted to welcome the Minister responsible for the New Burlington House
lease, Baroness Scott of Bybrook, to the Society in January. Climbing the stairs, she was one of the first to see the new display of heritage prints adorning the walls, and she showed a keen interest in our activities and collections. Together with the other Courtyard Societies, we discussed the lease situation with her, and were relieved to hear she wanted to resolve matters efficiently, urging us to work with her team to find a solution. Through the year, we were supported by our advisors, Capital Real Estates, and our lawyers, Farrer & Co. We continued to raise the profile of our campaign with MPs, various All Party Parliamentary Groups, including the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, and the Arts and Heritage Parliamentary Group. The chair of the former was so enthralled by our collections that he stayed long after the official visit had concluded. Throughout 2023 we made good progress on discussions and signed a Heads of Terms Agreement in March 2024.

**Welcomes and Farewells**

We were pleased to welcome several new staff to the Society this year: Georgia Cowie in the newly created role of Journal Officer; Ryan Li as Buildings Manager; Danielle Crowley as Education Officer; Christina McCulloch as Assistant Archivist; and Rowena Howie as Office and Facilities Manager.

After only three months covering Helen Shaw’s parental leave, Ryan Li was offered a permanent position elsewhere. We also said goodbye to our Digital Content Producer, Ross Ziegelmeier, and our Assistant Archivist Luke Thorne. We wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavours.

**ABOVE:** The team hard at work developing the Society’s new strategy at Hergest Croft Gardens.
Since 1839, our journals have played a vital role in developing scientific knowledge, publishing important findings across biological, botanical, zoological, and now evolutionary research. We welcomed our new Editors-in-Chief in 2023, as well as saying thank you to the Editors standing down. We also bedded in our new editorial office. We have a community of editors, authors and reviewers who make our journals possible, and we would like to thank them for their contributions this year.

At a time when the publishing world is seeing much volatility and change, our journals must move carefully to keep pace. Strategic conversations for each of our journals have been a core element of our activity, thinking about the future of each title, as well as the portfolio as a whole. This has included expanding the scopes for our Biological and Evolutionary journals, so that they are more clearly differentiated.

Our Editors-in-Chief (EiCs) have been core to this strategic work, with discussions involving both our incoming EiCs and those standing down. Our heartfelt thanks go to Professor Michael Fay, Dr Maarten Christenhusz and Professor John Allen, who left us in April and September 2023, respectively. Meanwhile Dr Jeffrey Streicher (Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society) and Professor Julia Day (Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society) have taken the reins, while Dr Steven Dodsworth moved to the Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, having led the Evolutionary Journal during its initial launch. We appointed Dr Karen Sears to take up the role of EiC of the Biological Journal of the Linnean Society, after Professor John Allen’s outstanding and dedicated leadership of the journal for over 25 years.

During 2023 we transitioned to a new editorial model, with our editorial office becoming fully established with Journal Editorial Manager Dr Hassan Rankou at the helm, and our new Journal Officer Georgia Cowie in post. The team have implemented changes such as a new template and style guide, as well as an online proofing tool, making it easier for authors to check their papers before publication.

Research Journals

The Biological Journal of the Linnean Society (BioJLS), achieved an Impact Factor in 2023 of 1.9. Papers included a study of body size and wing and leg structure in Darwin’s finches, showing adaptations to different types of locomotion used during foraging, and sex reversal in size dimorphism and mobility in South American Allocosinae (Lycosidae) spiders. Other highlights included two special issues—‘Teleonomy in Living Systems’, dedicated to Professor Andrew Packard FLS, and ‘Cuban Biodiversity’, exploring the largest of the Caribbean Islands that constitutes one of the planet’s biodiversity hotspots.

The Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society (BotJLS), achieved an Impact Factor in 2023 of 2.4. The journal published several high impact research papers, including a paper investigating global patterns in orchid pollination biology that was picked up by several
websites. A themed issue on European plants was also published and Professor Fay’s own paper on the origins, hybridisation and biogeography of these plants performed well on social media.

The *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* (*ZooJLS*), achieved an Impact Factor in 2023 of 2.8. Many papers saw good traction in the media, with one describing an almost complete skull of the Brazilian dinocephalian *Pampaphoneus biccai* highlighted by the *New York Post* and MSN. Another paper with an altimetric score of 1957 was picked up by *The Guardian*, who reported on the paper’s revised phylogeny of the mole genus *Talpa* and two species, new to science, discovered in Turkey. Editorials were also published on the discussion surrounding changing taxonomic names that may spark offense on ethical grounds, stimulating a piece in *Science*, ‘Should Beetles Be Named After Adolf Hitler?’

The *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society* (*EvoJLS*) published five original articles, including a whole-genome phylogeography of the intertidal snail *Littorina saxatilis* and a genetic analysis of *Alseuosmia*, a plant genus endemic to New Zealand where some taxa appear to morphologically mimic unrelated species. Palaeontologist Professor David Jablonksi—2022 awardee of the Society’s Darwin–Wallace Medal—contributed an editorial, ‘Perfect Storms Shape Biodiversity in Time and Space’, and a call for papers was announced ahead of the upcoming day meeting, ‘Perspectives on Speciation’, in April 2024.

*Clockwise from Top Left:* In 2023 our journals studied species like the *Allocosa senex* spider; the intertidal snail species *Littornia saxatilis*; patterns in orchid pollination, including *Epidendrum piliferum*; and a revised phylogeny of the mole genus *Talpa*. (Images: Marcelo Casacuberta, SaudhRecon, A.P. Karremans, Gündüz et al.)
Scientific Research Sponsorship

LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund

Our co-initiative with the Systematics Association has allowed the Society to support the study of biodiversity, taxonomy, systematics and evolutionary biology in the field and in the lab. The Society was once again pleased to help fund the LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund, this year contributing £37,337.67.

In 2023 we were able to award 36 grants, ranging from £500 to £1,500. Successful applications came in from all over the globe, including Benin, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, India, Mexico, the Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, the UK and the US. Projects supported looked at the taxonomy of rain frogs, phylogeography of terrestrial mussels on the Mesoamerican land bridge and a study of the hemi-parasitic plant genus Pedicularis in the Himalayas, with a view to understanding how interspecific pollen transfer shapes this particular community. Other projects included:

- Gabriella Bittencourt’s Untangling the taxonomy of the rain frogs
- Sebastian Hatt’s The molecular systematics of Hydnora: A bizarre parasitic plant native to Africa
- Annalie Melin’s Unravelling cryptic species in the oil-collecting bees of South Africa: Rediviva parva
- Hemant Singh’s Phylogeny and community structure in the hemi-parasitic genus Pedicularis
- Hiranya Sudasinghe’s Systematics and molecular phylogeny of the freshwater fish genus Devario (Teleostei: Danionidae) in Sri Lanka
The Year Ahead

In the upcoming year, our hope is for our journals to lead conversations within their communities. The planned April 2024 symposium on ‘Perspectives on Speciation’ will contribute to a special issue of the *Evolutionary Journal*, with speakers from a range of disciplines offering their views.

We will continue the success of the *Zoological Journal*’s series on nomenclature ethics and consider how opinion pieces can lead debate across our journals. Discussions with the community around the *Botanical Journal* will help to ensure that its scope reflects today’s research landscape. Meanwhile, we look forward to Dr Sears growing her editorial board to match the *Biological Journal*’s expanded scope.

Clockwise from Far Left: The LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund supported 36 diverse projects in 2023, including Sebastian Hatt’s study of the parasitic genus *Hydnora*; Gabriella Bittencourt’s study aiming to solve the conundrums of a taxonomically problematic group of African rain frogs; and Hiranya Sudasinghe’s project exploring the diversity, systematics and phylogenetic relationships of *Devario* fishes in Sri Lanka. (Images: Sebastian Hatt; Gabriella Bittencourt; Dayesha Abhayasundara.)
Our Membership

We are indebted to all our members for their support, whether they are individuals choosing to remain members for many years or those joining the Society for the first time. Each of them contributes to the wealth of expertise and diversity of backgrounds that make the Society so special.

Expanding our Membership

As overseen by Room Hire Manager and Membership Assistant Tatiana Franco, we are delighted to report that 167 new Fellows, 53 Associates and 71 Student Associates joined in 2023, with diverse backgrounds in academia, as well as those in the arts, corporate world, policy, healthcare and IT. Of special mention is the Society’s CEO, Professor Gail Cardew. Congratulations to Gail on her Fellowship, and to Susan Gove, who was made honoris causa at the AGM in May. Unfortunately, 30 members resigned, giving a total number of 3,168 at the end of 2023, as compared to 3,086 in the previous year.

Celebrating Your Achievements

We are always excited to celebrate the achievements of our membership, and are keen to share them with other Fellows, and beyond.

- Congratulations to Richard Barley FLS (Director of Gardens, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew), who was awarded an MBE in The King’s Birthday Honours List in June 2023.
- Henrietta McBurney FLS was awarded the Society for the History of Natural History’s Thackray Medal for her book **Illuminating Natural History: The Art and Science of Mark Catesby**.
- Jack Ashby FLS won the Zoological Society of London’s Clarivate Award for Communicating Zoology for his book **Platypus Matters**.
- And Mark Chase FLS was honoured with the Asa Gray Award from the American Society of Plant Taxonomists for his outstanding accomplishments in the field of plant taxonomy.

In Remembrance

Sadly, in 2023, we lost Dr Esmé Hennessy, Professor of Botany and acclaimed botanical artist, and the first woman to hold the post of lecturer in Botany at University College, Durban. Gail Bromley passed in May, whose career began in taxonomy at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, before moving into outreach, for which she would be awarded an MBE and the Kew Medal. In June we lost Professor Andrew Packard, renowned teuthologist, whose study on cephalopod behaviour aided in understanding that colour change is not just about camouflage, but communication. Professor Douglas Yen, ethnobotanist and Fellow for 27 years, will be remembered for his research into early civilisations around the Pacific and their agriculture.

The Linnean

It was wonderful to see so many members contribute to *The Linnean* in 2023, with over 44,000 views of the issues. Well-received articles included Jane Jelley’s piece about the colour system used in Ferdinand Bauer’s botanical illustrations, Anton Pantaleon Hove’s secret mission to Gujarat seeking out cotton by Dr Henry Noltie, and...
several articles about the research of our medal winners, like Frieda Christie, previous winner of the Trail–Crisp Award for microscopy, and Jill Smythies Prize winner Sue Wickison.

**Central to our Success**

We rely on our members to help deliver our charitable mission, whether through offering their expertise, contributing to our activities or financially supporting our work. Central to the new strategy unveiled in 2024 will be enhancing the level of this support and engagement. We will be inviting our membership to help us secure a successful future for the Society so that it can be enjoyed for generations to come.


*Below Right:* Susan Gove celebrating being made *honoris causa* in 2023.

*Right:* Botanist and artist Dr Esmé Hennessy (1933–2023), a Fellow of the Linnean Society for 38 years. (Image: Timothy Hennessy.)

*Below:* Professor Andrew Packard (1929–2023) whose research into cephalopod behaviour transformed our understanding of the use of colour change in communication. (Image: May Lorimor)
Recognising Excellence

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

Our 2024 Medal and Award Recipients

The Linnean Medal (for services to science): Professor Sandra Díaz

The Darwin–Wallace Medal (for major advances in evolutionary biology): Professor Ziheng Yang FRS

The Bicentenary Medal (awarded to an early-career scientist, in recognition of excellent research in the natural sciences): Dr Tanisha Williams

The Irene Manton Prize (for the best doctoral thesis in botany in a UK university): Dr Brogan Harris

The John C. Marsden Medal (for the best doctoral thesis in biology in a UK university): Dr Tomos Potter

The Trail–Crisp Award (for an outstanding contribution to biological microscopy): Dr Lara González Carretero

The H. H. Bloomer Award (awarded to an amateur naturalist for an important contribution to biological knowledge): Dr Margaret E. Bradshaw

The Jill Smythies Award (awarded to a botanical artist for outstanding, diagnostically relevant, published illustrations): Sue Wickison

The John Spedan Lewis Emerging Leader Award (awarded to an individual who is making a notable and innovative contribution to the UK natural environment): Kwesia (City Girl in Nature)

Our winners joined us online and in person at the Anniversary Meeting in May 2023.
Year of Wallace

Naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace was born on 8 January 1823—during 2023 we celebrated the bicentenary of the birth of this remarkable Fellow of the Linnean Society, who changed the course of the history of biology.

Where’s Wallace?

Laid out in our historic Library, ‘The Life and Work of Alfred Russel Wallace (1823–2023)’ exhibition ran from the end of June (coinciding with Dr Jim Costa’s talk on the anniversary of the reading of the papers on the theory of evolution) until 20 December 2023. Publicised online and via a poster near our entrance on Piccadilly, around 1,030 visitors dropped in to see it. Curated by Head of Collections Dr Isabelle Charmantier, the display included many of Wallace’s books and manuscripts, from his travels to the Amazon, the Malay Archipelago, and the United States, to his relationship with Charles Darwin, and a unique manuscript lent by Lars Fjeldsoe-Nielsen. (The exhibition was paired with artist Simryn Gill’s Naga Doodles, impressive nature prints of roadkill snakes in Indonesia, hung for a workshop on ‘Extinction’, co-organised with Dr Emilia Terraciano FLS.) Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with visitors saying ‘Fascinating exhibition. I feel awed to be in this building’ and ‘The whole building is a treasure trove of information. I’m so pleased the exhibition lured me in.’
**Watching Wallace**

Wallace’s bicentenary led to several special events at the Society, starting with a commemorative tree planting in Wallace’s birthplace of Usk, Wales. Society Council member Robbie Blackhall-Miles FLS and Dr Sandra Knapp PPLS were present to mark the year at the new ‘Wallace Arboretum’, organised by the Usk Civic Society.

The Society also held several online ‘Linnean Lens’ events highlighting our Wallace-related materials, like Wallace’s ‘Palms of the Amazon’ delivered by Sandra Knapp, ‘Wallace’s Remarkable Discoveries in the Malay Archipelago’ by Dr George Beccaloni FLS and ‘Annotations from Wallace’s Personal Library’ by Professor Jeb Bevers FLS.

The keynote address for this year was delivered by the aforementioned Jim Costa, based on his new book, *Radical by Nature: The Revolutionary Life of Alfred Russel Wallace* at the Society. The talk was followed by a drinks reception at the Reynold’s Room in the Royal Academy of Arts, notably where Darwin and Wallace’s papers on evolution were first read.

**Research and Inspiration**

We kicked off the ‘Year of Wallace’ at the very end of 2022 with a fantastic article in *The Linnean* by George Beccaloni on the fate of Wallace’s legendary letter to Darwin from the island of Ternate. Later, Student Associate Karl Png wrote of the role Wallace played in inspiring his own career in biology, and our Librarian Will Beharrell compiled a blog and a more in-depth piece for *The Linnean* about Wallace’s personal library, reunited from within the Society’s collections.

**AdoptLINN: Wallace Appeal**

We continue to be bowled over by the generosity of our Fellows, members, and other benefactors. The AdoptLINN scheme to support vulnerable items in our collections raised £11,183 in 2023, exceeding our total for 2022. Overseen by Will Beharrell, of this, £7,650 was directed towards our appeal to conserve the personal library of Alfred Russel Wallace, in the bicentenary of his birth. This incredible support will make a profound difference to dozens of items across the collections, ensuring they can be studied and enjoyed for centuries to come. Special thanks to Conservator Janet Ashdown for her work on many of the items conserved.

---

*Top Left:* Dr Isabelle Charmantier and Andrea Deneau piece together the Alfred Russel Wallace exhibition in June 2023. *Top Right:* The exhibition poster. *Bottom:* There was a long queue for signed copies of Dr Jim Costa’s book, *Radical by Nature*, after his talk at the Society. Shown here is the room in the Royal Academy of Arts believed to be where the Darwin–Wallace papers were first read.
Effective Connections

It has been wonderful to connect with people globally in 2023 via a love of natural history. Particularly international in their reach are our online events and digital offers, such as videos and blogs. We have made in-person connections, welcoming people to the building through our lectures, exhibitions, and collaborative events with other Courtyard Societies, but also broadening our reach into new spaces with our partnerships and nature walks.

Science, History and a Cup of Tea

The Society delivered a whopping 61 events through 2023, including 11 nature walks and four partner events with the University of Edinburgh, University of Manchester, the British Ornithological Club and the Beatrix Potter Society. Events and Communications Manager Padma Ghosh toggled between online, onsite and hybrid events. The turnout was high, with a total of 7,061 attendees (4,721 online and 2,340 in person). In February we launched the revamped staircase space, decorated with images from our collections, with a members-only event. Prints were made available to purchase alongside a raffle that raised money for our education outreach programme. ‘FloraNation’, our Courtyard Late, celebrated the coronation of HM King Charles III, with a bespoke tea tasting designed by Mihail Bogdan Chirlomez FLS. Open House in September also drew a large crowd, with more than 1,000 pairs of feet in the building. And we ended the year with a brilliant natural-history themed Christmas Quiz, hosted by award-winning journalist Samanth Subramanian, which raised money for AdoptLINN.

Expertly Guided Walks

This year we spent a lot of time outdoors with botanical experts, community workers, urban landscape managers and our curators. It was a superb summer and all of our walks were sold out, which confirms the enormous interest in plants and the local environment. We took groups out to urban parks, marshes, estuaries and orchards, all within the bounds of London. On Earth Day, 22 April, we held a free guided nature walk in Green Park, in collaboration with the South London Botanical Institute, to explore central London wildflowers. And in another fresh new event format, we hosted a nature-based stroll through the Victoria and Albert Museum’s vast collection, led by our Honorary Curator of Artefacts, Glenn Benson FLS. Our Honorary Curator of Botany Dr Mark Spencer FLS helped us deliver several of our botanical walks, extending from Chiswick all the way to Crayford Marshes.

Connecting with Like-Minded Organisations

As well as continuing our existing partnerships, we were grateful to be able to organise several visits to other institutions this year,
enabling valuable connections and increased visibility amongst like-minded organisations. Highlights include the Swedenborg Society, named for philosopher and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg, a contemporary and relative of Carl Linnaeus. The team had a tour of Darwin’s home of Down House to view a loan from the Society and learn more about this iconic Fellow. The British Library’s team also showed us a selection of items from their nature collections, including items relating to the collection of nature sounds, and we were also welcomed by the Royal College of Surgeons.

**Magnolia Box**

Inspired by the redecoration of the Society’s staircase at the start of 2023, and the successful merchandising of some of the selected images on display, we wanted to make more of our stunning collections available. After much research, we chose to partner with Magnolia Box, a print-on-demand service that delivers fine art reproductions for libraries, galleries and museums. Publications Manager Leonie Berwick and Digital Assets Manager Andrea Deneau have been managing this project and partnership, which includes selecting and photographing artwork from our collections, editing the images and creating detailed metadata. Our aim is to expand on the image options available over time.

**Merchandise**

With a renewed focus on utilising our collections and on our ‘shop’, investment into a more efficient card payment method for in-house purchases at the end of 2022 has proven transformative in 2023. September (our best performing month of the year) recorded net sales of £534.33 for ‘merchandise’, and book sales of £369.00. This
represents a 366% increase on the same month the previous year. Contributing factors to the rise in sales are the increase in visitors generated by the advertised ‘Wallace’ exhibition and maximising opportunities during our Treasures Tours. The in-house shop was reconfigured by Office and Facilities Manager Rowena Howie in August, and targeted promotions were run online from September to December, trialling new product lines like notebooks.

**Embracing our Future**

Overseen by Head of Engagement Anna Perman, we’re looking forward to delivering the Society’s new strategy and working more with partners across Burlington Courtyard. We hope to continue to bring more people into the Society, and reach new audiences through events like our pop culture-focused tours and Lates. But we also look forward to exploring beyond our four walls, through our nature walks and partner events throughout the country. Our focus will be on our exhibitions and journals as anchors for our communications overall, and we are excited to be working with Fellows old and new to highlight their work.

---

**New Treasures: Ray of Light**

The Collections Team’s ‘Treasure of the Month’ blogs have continued to promote items from within our Library, archives and specimens. One particular blog highlighted the recently acquired X-rays of Linnaean fish specimens, taken by our Honorary Curator of Fish and Shells, Oliver Crimmen FLS, in his first role at London’s Natural History Museum (NHM) in the 1970s.

Chrissy Williams, also from the NHM, wrote a blog about the 168 X-rays that only made it back to the Society in 2023, which have also been digitised to make them more widely accessible. The radiographs give insight into not only the structure of the fishes themselves, but also to the preservation practices, providing a new dimension to our foundational collections.

---

*Top:* In 2023, the Society developed new items of merchandise, like these notebooks, to help support our activities, with a Christmas promotion and revised shop space at Burlington House. *Bottom:* Our Curator of Artefacts Glenn Benson FLS led two guided ‘nature tours’ of the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington, which sold out almost immediately. *Right:* X-ray of the red hind (*Epinephelus guttatus*) from the Linnaean fish collection (LINN SKIN 146).
Inclusive Outreach

It has been thrilling to see families and young people engaging with nature in our building this year, through our Wild Wednesday projects with local schools, our curriculum-based workshops, and our tours and family activities. Nationwide, we connected through STEM Live, bringing Burlington House to schools around the country, and through grants supporting innovative UK-based community projects.

**British Science Week and Conference Connections**

Early in the year, Education Manager Ayesha Meredith-Lewis ran a successful ‘Religion and the Big Bang’ workshop for British Science Week in conjunction with Westminster Abbey, provided free to local primary schools in London. Run in two parts, the Society led a workshop for 63 students, covering classification and evolution, which was followed by a tour of Scientists’ Corner in the Abbey.

We had another busy ASE conference in 2023, making some valuable connections with science teachers, educators and outreach specialists, including many who were later involved in our after-school workshops.

**STEM Live**

As a result of the ASE Conference, we also teamed up with STEM Live (a service that streams curriculum-based activities directly into
classrooms) to deliver a live classification workshop, ‘How to Classify a Sea Monster’. Facilitated by Society staff members Ayesha and Isabelle Charmantier, biologist and Sally-Ann Spence FLS presented the 45-minute session. A workshop allowed the students to come up with their own ‘sea monster’ and classify it using their newfound skills, with the most appropriately classified monster winning an exclusive Linnean Learning goodie bag. We were delighted that over 5,000 viewers watched it live throughout the British Isles.

**Wild Wednesdays**

In 2022 we were excited to be awarded a grant from the Art Fund’s ‘The Wild Escape’ project, for which we ran workshops in 2023. Our Wild Wednesday workshop scheme was a six-week, after-school programme encouraging students in North Kensington to engage with nature by documenting their findings in nature journals, before presenting them at the Society in our Meeting Room. We were then awarded a further grant to continue the project with another school in Deptford, where students took part in installing planters, hedgehog and bird boxes, and bug hotels. We have been in talks with UK examining body OCR to extend these after school clubs and champion the new GCSE option in Natural History, when it is launched.

*Clockwise from Far Left:* Our Wild Wednesdays six-week after school programme culminated in each school presenting nature journals in our historic Meeting Room—the students were a joy to welcome to the Society; Sally-Ann Spence FLS and Education Manager Ayesha Meredith-Lewis being filmed for our STEM Live session; Students learning about classification and nature in our Library.
**The Wave Project**

Our partnership with The Wave Project was in full swing in 2023, with our ‘Keeping Touch with Nature’ programme engaging 52 young people over five sessions in London. The project aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of young people, and the Society led night safaris in Peckham, as well as outings in Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park to learn all about migratory birds. These sessions keep young people—some with complex needs—engaged with nature, while maintaining vital peer support networks during the winter months. This is our second year working with the project, having enjoyed great feedback from participants and their parents.

**It’s Classified**

After a trialling the scheme with teachers and incorporating their feedback, we launched our schools workshop spotlighting classification—‘It’s Classified’—in the autumn. This curriculum-linked workshop sees students explore items from within the Society’s collections, then get hands on with classifying living things. Twelve schools have already taken part, with great feedback.

**Supporting Homegrown Projects**

We were overwhelmed with applications for Our Local Nature Grant scheme this year, managed by Education Officer Dani Crowley, with over 300 submissions from all over the UK. Four Youth Panel members, aged 16–18, were tasked with choosing from our shortlist of 100 applications. We finally decided on fully funding four projects, with an additional three being part funded. The projects ranged from biodiversity gardens to IUCN Red List art projects to dragonfly citizen science. We were impressed by not just the...
projects themselves, but the Youth Panel, who showed enthusiastic dedication. Well done to Sian, Sophie, Sharzad and Taha!

**Unique Tours and Talks**

We have had an exciting schedule for family and themed tours this year, showcasing the collections to a variety of new audiences. We’ve hosted four family tours during school holidays (‘Cabinets of Curiosities’), that look at the more unusual aspects of the natural world, alongside some untold stories.

In June we ran ‘Outside the Binary’ with The Royal Parks to celebrate Pride Month, taking 25 participants on a tour of the Society and then on to St James’s Park. We discussed the ways in which nature can surprise us and the stories of figures like Edward Lear and Rachel Carson; attendees described it as ‘wonderful’ and ‘inspiring’.

We also ran a ‘Hallowe’en Spooktacular’, featuring a tour with some of the scariest species found in nature, a quiz in our Meeting Room and Halloween-themed cocktails. The 26 guests were incredibly engaged, telling us they would love to see similar events in the future.

The Collections team also had a busy year giving tours to the general public (both private group tours and monthly Treasures Tours), as well as free educational tours to students, with many returning lecturers, integrating the tour into their seminars. The redecoration of the staircase has been included in the tour, enabling us to tell new stories around artworks which are not usually on display.

We have also continued to give talks at conferences and for external groups, including two about the history of the Linnean Society and its various homes, a talk to the Beatrix Potter Society, and an online talk about how to search for our collections, which now features on our website.

**Creating Opportunities in 2024**

Having been part of the advisory group leading to the adoption of the new GCSE qualification in Natural History, we are looking forward to continuing our engagement with it. This is a good opportunity for young people to engage with nature in the future. We hope to get more young people into the building, through our workshops, family and pop culture tours. And in 2024 we are planning an event with the British Ecological Society, showing the range of nature-related careers open to young people.
2023

VISITORS
1,024 TO OUR OPEN HOUSE
1,030 TO ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE EXHIBITION
1,833 TO THE COLLECTIONS

92,373 views of our YouTube channel (Most viewers aged 18–44)

61 ONSITE & OFFSITE EVENTS

18,768 users of our ONLINE COLLECTIONS

5,000 viewers of our STEM LIVE EVENT

Membership
167 New Fellows
53 New Associates
71 New Student Members

4,050 individual items catalogued in the DOMESTIC ARCHIVE
The whole building is a treasure trove of information. I'm so glad the exhibition lured me in.

The talk was excellent, a real case study in how to present complex science to an audience, make it exciting, interesting, and show its relevance.

Thank you so much for organising such an engaging session! I'm eager to see how the story of John Tyley and the breadfruit tree continues to grow.
The year began with the inauguration of our redecorated staircase, showcasing wonderful images from our collections. Items from our collections also featured in well-reviewed national and international museum exhibitions, and we ended the year by completing the cataloguing of our Domestic Archives, and the deaccessioning of our journals.

**Step by Step: A New Staircase Display**

In working towards our strategy of an inclusive space that involves, informs and inspires visitors, the year started with a refresh of the Society’s beautiful staircase. The large, dark portraits were relocated and replaced with 54 thoughtfully selected reproductions of artworks, plates and specimens from our collections, and their accompanying stories. The prints have brightened the space and QR codes to our website further enlighten visitors about each image and make the space and the Society more accessible. The new look was celebrated with a successful Fellows-only launch event on 23 February, which you will have read more about in ‘Effective Connections’.

**Objects on Loan**

The Society was proud to loan some of its valued items to two acclaimed exhibitions. Carl Linnaeus’s famous Lapland diary was one of three items loaned to Tate Modern for *Forms of Life: Hilma af Klint* and *Piet Mondrian* (April–September). In September, the exhibition moved to the Kunstmuseum in The Hague, and the Lapland diary was swapped for another Linnaean manuscript, ‘Oeconomia Lapponica’.

In addition, the Society’s newly acquired painting of the breadfruit tree by Antiguan artist John Tyley was loaned to Cambridge’s Fitzwilliam Museum for their *Black Atlantic* exhibition. It was used for some of the museum’s exhibition merchandise, and the Society will donate its share of the profits to the St Vincent Botanical Garden. The exhibition catalogue, which has an entry on the painting by Dr Julie Kim FLS and Isabelle Charmantier, has been highlighted as a book of the year by *The Art Newspaper*.

**Domestic Archives and Mysterious Monks**

Comprising over 4,300 records (including 4,050 individual files and items), the immense Domestic Archive collection has now been catalogued and packed into archival boxes by Project Archivist Alex Milne. Soon available to browse via our online catalogue, material can also be viewed onsite. The Society’s history is now more accessible to researchers, having already been used extensively to answer enquiries, and has proven invaluable to more current work, such as the Burlington House Campaign and the drafting of our new Bye-Laws. The collection holds many fascinating records, including the possible theft of books from the Library by a mysterious man dressed as a monk!
Collected Archives and Arch Enemies

Archivist Liz McGow has been busy doing an audit of the Society’s Collected Archives, with the aim of ensuring that all material is accounted for on the internal archive catalogue, adding to our understanding of what we hold, and making plans for future cataloguing.

Material was added to the online archive catalogue at the last update in March, the most notable being the papers of Richard Salisbury, an accomplished but controversial botanist, who became the arch enemy of our usually mild-mannered founder, Sir James Edward Smith.

Space for Growth: Journals Deaccessioning

Work on managing our fabulous collection of scientific journals continued apace in 2023, under the eye of Will Beharrell. Sensitive deaccessioning has given us valuable growth space for the future, with arrangements made for rarer material to be rehomed in larger libraries. Most importantly, all the titles that the Library plans to retain have now been electronically catalogued, so they can be searched for and accessed by all.

Sincere Thanks

We would not be able to undertake our work without the help of our honorary curators Glenn Benson, Ollie Crimmen, Gina Douglas, Suzanne Ryder and Dr Mark Spencer, who have dealt with scientific enquiries, advised us and promoted our collections through talks, blogs and articles. Our volunteers and interns have contributed vital work to the ongoing cataloguing and conservation work that goes on behind the scenes, including John Abbott, Sheila Meredith and Naomi Mitamura. Finally, it has been a pleasure to work with Jonn Gale, our first collaborative doctoral student.

As always, we remain grateful to everyone who has donated books. Donations in 2023 included works on marine biology from Dr Elaine Robson FLS, artbooks from Niki Simpson FLS and a beautiful set of early-printed botanical works from Keith Maybury FLS, among many others.

The Road Ahead

As the Society confirms its new strategy in 2024, a Collections strategy will also develop from it. Several strands are likely to emerge: capitalising on the success of the Wallace exhibition, we intend to hold other exhibitions that will continue to attract passing visitors, as well as interested stakeholders. Background infrastructure work will progress, ensuring that our collections are easily accessible, online and onsite, and that they are preserved for future generations through our AdoptLINN conservation programme. Collaborations with external partners are also key, alongside the encouraged study of our collections through events like Linnean Lens, and our catalogues.
The Linnean Society supports research on our collections and on important topics for our times through national and international collaborations. 2023 has been a particularly fruitful year for partnerships and cooperation.

UNESCO MEMORY OF THE WORLD
Led by Cambridge University Library, the Society was one of the project partners in the application to include Charles Darwin’s documentary heritage in the UNESCO Memory of the World register. Other partners included Down House (English Heritage), NHM London and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG Kew). From the Society’s Charles Darwin collection, we included the famous John Collier painting, manuscripts (mostly correspondence)—part of the original donation from the Charles Darwin Trust—and Darwin’s vasculum. The application has been approved by the UK Department of Culture, Media and Sport, and we now await UNESCO’s decision in 2024.

HIDDEN HISTORIES AND ST VINCENT BOTANICAL GARDEN
Our collaboration with Dr Christina Welch (University of Winchester), who spearheaded the NERC/AHRC-funded project ‘Hidden Histories of Environmental Science’, and with Julie Kim (Fordham University, NY) continued through 2023. Thanks to Dr Welch’s project, the digitised manuscripts of Alexander Anderson were uploaded onto our Online Collections early in the year, attracting new researchers to the Library. Isabelle Charmantier and Julie Kim co-organised a workshop, inspired by John Tyley’s painting of the breadfruit tree. The workshop, attended by 20 artists, historians, scientists, and staff from St Vincent Botanical Garden, was extremely fruitful and enabled further interpretation and reflection on this remarkable painting.

NETWORKING
The Linnean Society Collections team is lucky to be part of several networks. The newest is Growing Networks, a group that brings together curators and archivists from European institutions that hold botanical art. We were extremely lucky to have three meetings in 2023, all supported by the Getty Art Fund. These meetings, organised by the Fitzwilliam Museum, took place in Cambridge and London (January), Edinburgh (October), and Paris (November). Isabelle Charmantier was in attendance; the meetings introduced participants to the collections of other institutions, with...
some good connections forged and a number of emerging ideas for collaborative projects.

Our Archives team members, Archivist Liz McGow and Assistant Archivist Christina McCulloch, have joined the **Places, Plants and People Archive Network (PPPAN)**. This collaborative forum connects organisations with archives related to botany, horticulture and agriculture, as well as records of landscape preservation and management, community gardens and socio-cultural perspectives and heritage. The network allows institutions with similar collections to provide mutual support, share expertise, improve their outreach and engagement with audiences, and explore research and funding opportunities together.

Organised by Will Beharrell and Isabelle Charmantier, we were privileged to host the annual meeting of the **European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (EBHL)** group in June 2023, in collaboration with the NHM London, RBG Kew and the Royal Horticultural Society. Over 80 delegates from 10 countries converged on London for a celebration of all things botanical, culminating in a day meeting at the Linnean Society on the topic of pressed plants (and other biological material) inserted into early-printed books. These delicate specimens pose a challenge to academics and heritage professionals, and it is hoped that draft guidance derived from the meeting can be published in 2024.

---

**OPPOSITE:** Charles Darwin’s vasculum is part of the application to the UNESCO Memory of the World register, in partnership with other organisations; **ABOVE LEFT:** Alexander Anderson’s botanical manuscripts were added to our online collections in 2023; **BELOW LEFT:** Our highly successful specialist workshop, ‘Under the Breadfruit Tree’, inspired 20 attendees from different institutions all over the world.
OPPOSITE: The European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries group meet at the day conference on pressed specimens found in books; This Page (Clockwise From Far Left): Divya Hariramani Herrero leads a ‘Fruity Walk’ for the Society around the historic and secret orchards found London; Will Beharrell and Professor Jeb Bevers FLS prepare for a Linnean Lens on Alfred Russel Wallace; The LinnéSys Systematics Research Fund supported Annalie Melin’s research into the oil collecting bee species *Rediviva parva* (Image: Annalie Melin).
Financial Review

The Society’s income increased by nearly £400,000 this year to £2,442,501. This increase was largely due to £384,706 of donations and legacies, before which our income was £2,057,795 in 2023. Our expenditure was up considerably on 2022, increasing by £357,003 to £2,008,617. This was planned and expected, with increased spending on all major areas of our charitable activities as well as higher staff costs.

Overall, our surplus of income over expenditure (excluding gains on investments) in 2023 was £433,884 (2022: £393,212). Without the benefit of legacies and donations, our surplus would have been £49,178. This metric is the best way to assess the ongoing ‘operational’ financial performance of the Society. At the start of the year, we forecast that we would be broadly break-even on an operational basis this year, so it is pleasing to have finished marginally ahead of this expectation.

The value of our investments increased by £369,345 (2022: loss of £564,683), taking the overall surplus for 2023 to £803,229 (2022: deficit of £171,471).

INCOME

As usual, the overwhelming majority of our income came from our scientific research journals. Overall income from publications was similar to last year at £1,691,017 (2022: £1,666,215). Membership contributions increased to £168,170 (2022: £153,914) due to the growth in the membership and increased subscriptions introduced in May 2023.

Donations and legacies, which totalled £384,706 in 2023, play an important role in sustaining our charitable activities and we are most grateful to all those who have supported the Society during the year. In particular, we received a generous bequest from Dr Olive Mary Hilliard Burtt, a noted botanist and taxonomist. The AdoptLinN programme received £11,183 (2022: £10,500) to support the conservation of books and other important items in our collections.

Income from room hire and catering continued at a relatively depressed level, contributing £16,161 in 2023 (2022: £15,531). Our in house ‘shop’ has been upgraded and is beginning to make a helpful contribution.

INVESTMENTS

A modest improvement in stock markets led to our investment portfolio increasing in value by £369,345 in 2023, recovering much of the losses from 2022. We also transferred some excess cash to our investment portfolio during the year. The value of our portfolio at the end of the year was £5,718,847 (2022: £4,810,503). Income from investments was £148,333, a significant increase over 2022 (£109,041).
Our investment strategy aims to enhance the value of capital and income on a long-term sustainable basis, targeting medium term returns of at least 3% p.a. above inflation. We continue to implement the responsible investment policy that we adopted in 2020 to seek to minimise and ideally eliminate irresponsible corporate behaviour.

**Expenditure**

99% of the Society’s expenditure was used to further our charitable objectives in 2023, with only £25,480 spent on raising funds. Total expenditure on our charitable activities was £1,983,137 in 2023 (2022: £1,628,168). This includes expenditure on staff of £889,337 (2022: £769,386), with the increase reflecting the full year costs for senior hires made in 2022, a new editorial structure, and cost-of-living increases for staff.

Our direct external editorial costs reduced considerably to £87,241 (2022: £170,010), reflecting the new editorial structure, with more of the editorial expense now incurred in-house.

Rent and other charges by our Landlord, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, amounted to £397,126 (2022: £210,912), which included some rent claimed by DLUHC in respect of previous years.

**Funds**

The Society’s reserves are split between Permanent Endowments/Restricted Funds of £3,212,546 (which includes heritage assets of £1,500,000 that cannot be monetised) and Unrestricted Funds of £7,114,962. Within Unrestricted Funds, the Society holds designated reserves of £2,410,524 to reflect funds already spent on fixed assets and earmarked for planned future expenditure. The General Reserve therefore stands at £4,704,438 (2022: £3,828,623).

We expect to use a considerable proportion of this reserve towards the purchase of the long leasehold of Burlington House and further investment to improve its facilities and shape them better for the future. There is also significant planned maintenance expenditure that has been deferred and will need to be incurred in the future.

**Outlook**

Whilst the Society’s finances are currently relatively healthy, significant challenges remain. We must find ways to grow our income, which remains heavily dependent on revenue from OUP, which is under long-term threat from publishing trends.

As expected, we expanded our charitable activities considerably in 2023, which led to increased expenditure in most areas, which will continue in 2024. Whilst we try to manage costs efficiently, we are not immune to inflationary pressures. As a result, we expect to be broadly break-even on an ‘operational’ basis in 2024.

The resolution of the Burlington House lease will be a major financial event for the Society. We expect to make a significant up-front payment to acquire the long leasehold as well as incurring costs to maintain and improve the building.

**Annual Report and Accounts**

Further details of the Society’s finances are set out in the Annual Report and Accounts 2023, available on the Society’s website. We thank the Head of Finance, Priya Nithianandan, for his continued careful oversight of all the Society’s financial activities.
### Summarised Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income from</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants, Donations &amp; Legacies</td>
<td>£384,706</td>
<td>£35,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable Activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members' Contributions</td>
<td>£168,170</td>
<td>£153,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safeguarding &amp; Promoting our Heritage Collections</td>
<td>£15,633</td>
<td>£15,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancing Scientific Knowledge &amp; Understanding</td>
<td>£1,708,691</td>
<td>£1,674,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>£148,333</td>
<td>£109,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Trading Activities</td>
<td>£16,968</td>
<td>£56,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>£2,442,501</strong></td>
<td><strong>£2,044,826</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Expenditure on</strong></th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charitable Activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safeguarding &amp; Promoting our Heritage Collections</td>
<td>£866,143</td>
<td>£682,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancing Scientific Knowledge &amp; Understanding</td>
<td>£859,127</td>
<td>£743,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging the Public &amp; Educational Outreach</td>
<td>£257,867</td>
<td>£202,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising Funds</td>
<td>£25,480</td>
<td>£23,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>£2,008,617</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,651,614</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 2023. The Annual Report and Accounts 2023 can be downloaded from the Society’s website (www.linnean.org/annualreport), and a paper copy can be supplied upon written request to the Head of Finance.

### Surplus (Deficit) for the Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus (Deficit) before Gains (Losses) on Investments</td>
<td>£433,884</td>
<td>£393,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gains (Losses) on Investments</td>
<td>£369,345</td>
<td>(£564,683)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus (Deficit)</strong></td>
<td>£803,229</td>
<td>(£171,471)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summarised Balance Sheet

**Fixed Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Assets</td>
<td>£1,566,950</td>
<td>£1,566,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible Fixed Assets</td>
<td>£660,524</td>
<td>£687,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments at Market Value</td>
<td>£5,718,847</td>
<td>£4,810,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td>£7,946,321</td>
<td>£7,064,761</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Current Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>£669,465</td>
<td>£478,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Term Deposits</td>
<td>£3,343,871</td>
<td>£3,002,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank and in Hand</td>
<td>£295,486</td>
<td>£650,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>£4,308,822</td>
<td>£4,131,944</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creditors due within one year</td>
<td>(£1,927,636)</td>
<td>(£1,672,426)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors due after one year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>£10,327,508</td>
<td>£9,524,279</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Funds</td>
<td>£822,934</td>
<td>£766,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Funds</td>
<td>£2,389,612</td>
<td>£2,361,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Funds</td>
<td>£7,114,962</td>
<td>£6,396,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funds</strong></td>
<td>£10,327,508</td>
<td>£9,524,279</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clockwise from Bottom Left: Visitors to the Society for London Open House trying out nature-based activities, and learning about our building and its history; Supported by the LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund, Hemant Singh’s project studying the hemi-parasitic plant genus Pedicularis looks at how interspecific pollen transfer shapes Pedicularis communities (Image: Hemant Singh); Artists Tom Pope and Matthew Benington take a closer look at the work of pioneering photographer and botanist Anna Atkins, weaving together stories from their research and a showcase of collaboratively made new cyanotypes.
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 ACE-designated biological collections and historical resources—and our strong focus on biodiversity conservation, 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 four 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 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.

Core Values & Strategic Planning

The Society’s vision, mission and values are:

**Vision:** A world where nature is understood, valued and protected.

**Mission:** To inform, involve and inspire people of all ages and backgrounds about nature and its significance through our collections, programmes and publications.

**Values:**

- We are a diverse community of people united by an active interest in nature, its management and conservation.
- We aim for excellence and integrity in all areas of our activity.
- We use our income and other finances to fulfil our charitable function and declared mission.
- We promote our science to all sectors of society.
- We value diversity and seek to broaden the inclusion of currently under-represented groups.
- We are an expert voice concerning relevant major issues and challenges of our time.
People

President ✧
Professor Anjali Goswami

Vice Presidents
Robbie Blackhall-Miles
Dr Isabel Larridon
Dr Howard Nelson

Treasurer ✧
Edward Banks

SECRETARIES
Scientific ✧
Professor Jonathan Drori CBE

Editorial ✧
Professor Stuart West
(From May 2023)

Collections ✧
Dr Mark Watson

COUNCIL
The Officers (∫)
Vice Presidents
Professor Paul Barrett
Dr Rich Boden
Professor Brycchan Carey
Kevin Coutinho
(Retired May 2023)
Professor Julia Day
(Resigned 20 January 2023)
Dr Charlotte Grezo
(Retired May 2023)
Andrea Hart

Dr Blanca Huertas
(Resigning May 2024)
Angus McCullough
Fiona McWilliams
(From May 2023)
Professor Michael J. Reiss
Philip Sadler
Elaine Shaughnessy
(Retired May 2023)
Professor Baroness Kathy Willis
(From May 2023)

THE TEAM

CEO*
Professor Gail Cardew

Head of Collections*
Dr Isabelle Charmantier

Head of Finance*
Priya Nithianandan

Head of Operations*
Helen Shaw

Head of Engagement*
Anna Perman

Librarian
Will Beharrell

Archivist
Liz Mc’Gow

Project Archivist
Alex Milne

Assistant Librarian & Archivist
Luke Thorne (Until March 2023)

Assistant Archivist
Christina McCulloch
(From May 2023)

Digital Assets Manager
Andrea Deneau

Office & Facilities Manager
Ryan Li (April–July 2023)/Rowena Howie (From August 2023)

Communications & Events Manager
Padmaparna Ghosh

Publications Manager
Leonie Berwick

Multimedia Content Producer
Ross Ziegelmeier (Until July 2023)

Education Manager
Ayesha Meredith-Lewis

Education Officer
Dani Crowley (From April 2023)

Governance Manager
Andrew Swan

Room Hire & Membership Assistant
Tatiana Franco

Conservator
Janet Ashdown

Journal Editorial Manager
Dr Hassan Rankou

Journal Officer
Georgia Cowie

Office Cleaner
Fatima Mendoca

*Indicates a member of the Senior Management Team.
**CURATORS**

**Fish, Shells & General Zoology**
Oliver Crimmen

**Insects**
Suzanne Ryder

**Plants**
Dr Mark A. Spencer

**Artefacts**
Glenn Benson

**Honorary Archivist**
Gina Douglas

---

**EDITORS**

**Biological Journal**
Professor John A. Allen (1997–2023)/Dr Karen Sears (From Sept 2023)

**Botanical Journal**
Professor Michael F. Fay (2008–2023)/Dr Steven Dodsworth (From April 2023)

**Zoological Journal**
Dr Maarten Christenhusz (2018–2023)/Dr Jeffrey Streicher (From April 2023)

**Evolutionary Journal**
Dr Steven Dodsworth (2022–2023)/Dr Julia J. Day (From January 2023)

**Synopses Series**
Dr John Crothers & Dr Peter J. Hayward

**The Linnean**
Leonie Berwick

---

**Committee Membership**

*The President and Treasurer are ex officio members of all Committees, with the exception of the Audit Committee, where the Treasurer is an attendee. The CEO is an invited attendee of all Committees. Staff also attend various Committees, but not as members.*

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Professor Brycchan Carey (Chair)
Andrea Hart (2023)
Philip Sadler (2023)
Fellowship representative, Professor Gordon McGregor Reid
Fellowship representative, Professor Stella Sandford
The Treasurer (as an attendee)
A representative of Knox Cropper (Auditor)

**COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE**

The Collections Secretary (Chair)
The Honorary Curators
Felix Driver (2023)
Louisiane Ferlier (2023)
Susan Gove (1983–2023)
Andrea Hart (2015)
Dr D. J. Nicholas Hind (1995–2023)
Debbie Lane (2020)
Chris Mills (2022)
Chris Saunders (2021)
**Engagement Committee**
The Scientific Secretary, Jon Drori (Chair)
Dr Howard Nelson (2023)
Lucy Carson-Taylor (2023)

**Finance and Risk Committee**
The Treasurer (Chair)
Giles Coode-Adams (2001)
Dr Charlotte Grezo (2020)
Edward Hoare (1998)
Fiona McWilliams (2023)
Eoin Murray (2023)
Elree Winnett Seelig (2023)

**Medals and Awards Committee**
Professor Paul Barrett (Chair)
Dr Rich Boden (2022)
Professor Kayla King (2022)
Dr Sandra Knapp (2022)

**Nominations Committee**
The President (Chair)
Steph Holt (2022)
Dr Howard Nelson (2022)
Kathy Willis (from May 2023)

**Publishing Committee**
The Editorial Secretary (Chair)
The Editors-in-Chief
Representatives from the publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP)
Professor Alistair Hetherington (2023)

**Remuneration Committee**
The Treasurer (Chair)
The President
Philip Sadler (2022)

**Safeguarding Committee**
Philip Sadler (Chair)
Designated Safeguarding Officer
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officers
There are many reasons to be optimistic for the Society in 2024.

First and foremost, we are excited about the final resolution of the lease situation, which will bring much-needed certainty for the Society’s future. Visitors to the building in 2024 will note visible signs of our optimism, with a new exhibition in the Library, improved shop and refreshment facilities, and, thanks to the generosity of Gay Daniels—in memory of her husband, David—freshly reupholstered benches in the Meeting Room.

We are aiming to further increase the numbers of visitors to the building in 2024, with our imaginative and thought-provoking events, activities and exhibitions. Our ambition is not limited to Burlington House, however. Following the success of our regional public events in Manchester, Plymouth and now in Edinburgh, we hope to organise more events around the UK with the help of our members.

With new Editors-in-Chief at the helm of all our journals, and an editorial office ready to support them, we will be sharing leading papers with a wider audience, organising conferences to stimulate original thinking, and promoting our journals at leading international congresses. As a result, we will be encouraging new submissions, and increasing the reach and impact of our journals.

In order to achieve all of this, we will need to focus much of our efforts on diversifying and enhancing our sources of income.

Legacies, for example, offer our supporters a way to contribute to the Society at a level that is affordable to them, and we were incredibly grateful to have received one in 2023. We will also need to explore other sources of fundraising, as well as developing our nascent ideas for commercial income.

Finally, thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Society in 2023. It is remarkable to see so many people—staff, Trustees, honorary curators, members, volunteers—give so much of their time, expertise and energy to the Society. Our mission to understand and protect nature has never been so important, and the people behind the support of this mission are what makes the Linnean Society so special.

Professor Gail Cardew
CEO
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 linnean.org/annualreport

Images © The Linnean Society of London unless otherwise stated.