

The Linnean Society of London

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS | AUTUMN–WINTER 2019



London National Park City–What If?

LUNCHTIME LECTURE 12:30–13:00 Wednesday 4 September 2019

In July 2019, London launched as the world's first National Park City. A place, a movement, a vision, National Park City is encouraging everyone in London to get involved: to enjoy London's great outdoors more and to make London greener, healthier and wilder. This talk will explain the vision and explore the importance of asking *what if?* What if our streets were amazingly more green? What if every child in London learned outdoors? You will leave with lots of ideas about how to get



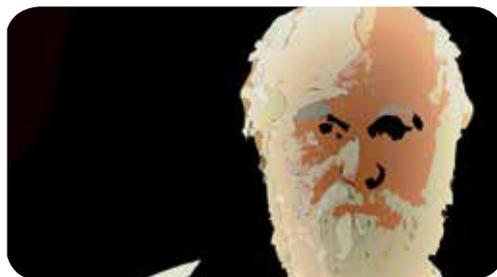
involved and make life better in London, for people, for nature and for wildlife. **Speaker: Steve Pocock**
This event is free. Please register via our website. Tea will be served in the Library following the lecture. Following our lecture will be a Treasures Tour (separate registration required). Image © Luke Massey.

Darwin Vexed: A History of Emotions and Anger

SPECIAL EVENT 17:30–20:00 Thursday 12 September 2019

In association with Queen Mary University of London (QMUL)

What can historical figures like Charles Darwin teach us about capturing and controlling our emotions? This is what the Living with Feeling project, based at QMUL, sets out to explore. This event will launch its new audio series, *The Sound of Anger*, including a radio play about Darwin's seminal book *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*. Join us for a live performance, a Q&A with historian **Prof Thomas Dixon** and playwright **Craig Baxter**, and a drinks reception.



This event is free. Please register via Eventbrite. Image © The Linnean Society of London.

Sampling the Deep

EVENING LECTURE 18:00–19:00 Thursday 19 September 2019

Research into ecological and physiological patterns in the deep sea suffers the restriction of limited access to the environment. Deep sea research remains a field where questions still greatly exceed answers and the interesting observation that data collected in the difficult winter season have invariably thrown up unexpected results. However, as technology advances the deep sea becomes steadily more accessible to both scientists and fishers. There is a real need for continuous and consistent



sampling of this ecosystem to understand the mechanisms driving community patterns, and ultimately, perhaps belatedly, the scale and extent of our own impact. **Speaker: Dr Kirsty Kemp**

This event is free. Please register via our website. Tea will be served in the Library from 17:30 and the lecture will be followed by a white wine reception. Image © Kirsty Kemp.

Open House 2019

SPECIAL EVENT 10:00–17:00 Saturday 21 September 2019

As part of Open House London, the Linnean Society of London will be throwing open its doors and welcoming anyone interested in exploring the building, its stunning rooms and enjoying fun pop-up activities.

This event is free. Last entry is at 16:30.

For more information please visit www.openhouselondon.org.uk.

Image © The Linnean Society of London.



Unravelling the Ecology of Invasive Non-native Species

LUNCHTIME LECTURE 12:30–13:00 Wednesday 9 October 2019

Invasive non-native species are increasing at unprecedented rates globally and there is no sign of saturation. The need to predict invasions to inform biosecurity is widely acknowledged but challenging; about 25% of all first records within a region are of non-native species that have no previous invasion history. Recent advances, combining impact assessments, expert intelligence and modelling approaches, have demonstrated the potential for horizon scanning and risk analysis to inform understanding of biological invasions and ultimately decision-making.

Speaker: Prof Helen Roy

This event is free. Please register via our website. Tea will be served in the Library following the lecture. Following our lecture will be a Treasures Tour (separate registration required). Image © Helen Roy.



Sixty Years in Asian Rainforests

SIR JULIAN HUXLEY LECTURE 18:00–19:00 Wednesday 16 October 2019

In association with the Systematics Association

Peter Ashton, one of the founders of tropical ecology, recounts how living in Borneo led to studying the family of dominant canopy emergent trees, the Dipterocarpaceae. The resulting body of research covers a broad range of fields including systematics, species interactions, evolutionary history, species diversity, biogeography and human impact. This talk will explore hypotheses on species diversity patterns in the Asian tropical forests, and how events over the past 60 years have constrained continuing research. It will also ask what must our priorities be for ensuring an Anthropocene future for this biome, its inhabitants and its students?

Speaker: Prof Peter Ashton FLS

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This event is free. Please register via our website. Tea will be served in the Library from 17:30 and the lecture will be followed by a white wine reception. Image © Peter Ashton.



Badgers, Bees and Biodiversity

SCIENCE POLICY LECTURE 18:00–19:00 Thursday 17 October 2019

In association with the Systematics Association

This talk will explore the interplay between science and policy in the environment. Using examples from contested areas such as bovine TB, insecticide policy and how best to protect biodiversity in a crowded island, we will discuss the different roles of the academic and broader research community in providing evidence that in combination with economic considerations and political judgement influence policymakers.

Speaker: Prof Charles Godfray FLS

This event is free. Please register via our website. Tea will be served in the Library from 17:30 and the lecture will be followed by a white wine reception. Image © Pixabay.



Palaeobotany and Palynology Specialist Group Meeting

SPECIALIST GROUP MEETING 23–24 October 2019

This year the Linnean Society Palaeobotany and Palynology Specialist Groups will be holding a joint meeting. The focus of the talks will be current techniques in palaeobotany and palynology and the importance of collections in research. This meeting is being held in celebration of the life of the highly-esteemed and much-loved Cedric Shute (1937–2019), former Curator of Palaeobotany at the Natural History Museum, London. Cedric played a key role in UK palaeobotany, and the meeting aims to reflect Cedric's passion for enhancing the collections and making them available for research, along with his keen interest in the mastering of new techniques to further our knowledge.

This event is free. Image © Peta Hayes.



Not the Sincerest Form of Flattery: The Puzzle of Imperfect Batesian Mimicry

LUNCHTIME LECTURE 12:30–13:00 Wednesday 30 October 2019

Cheating is rife in nature. For example, some palatable prey deceive predators by resembling defended or unpalatable “model” species. This form of deception, known as Batesian mimicry, provides some exquisite examples of evolution by natural selection. However, many conspicuous mimics are far from perfect imitations of their supposed models. So why have they not evolved to be better? Here, we will explore possible answers and show that imperfect mimicry is a powerful test-case for our understanding of how natural selection shapes the appearance of organisms in the natural world.

Speaker: Dr Tom Reader

This event is free. Please register via our website. Tea will be served in the Library following the lecture. Following our lecture will be a Treasures Tour (separate registration required). Image © Tom Reader.



The Wonderful Biology of Bryophytes

LUNCHTIME LECTURE 12:30–13:00 Wednesday 6 November 2019

This talk explores the biology of the second most speciose group of land plants, bryophytes. Understanding their biology is the key to explaining how plants colonised land 480 million years ago. Despite their small size, they are vital to many terrestrial ecosystems. Bryophytes are important indicators of air quality, with London as a particularly good barometer. After mass extinctions due to coal-burning, the distributions of bryophytes in urban areas are increasing due to emissions from car exhausts. **Speaker: Prof Jeff Duckett FLS**

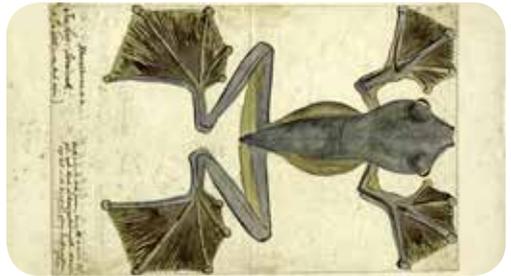


This event is free. Please register via our website. Tea will be served in the Library following the lecture. Following our lecture will be a Treasures Tour or an optional Field Trip (separate registrations required). Image © Jeff Duckett.

A “Central and Controlling Incident”: Celebrating *The Malay Archipelago* and the Intellectual Legacy of Alfred Russel Wallace

DAY MEETING 09:30–17:30 Thursday 7 November 2019

2019 is the 150th anniversary of Alfred Russel Wallace’s landmark travel memoir *The Malay Archipelago*, chronicling his eight years of exploration in southeast Asia; the watershed experience that he later famously called “the central and controlling incident of my life”. Marking this anniversary is *An Alfred Russel Wallace Companion* (Chicago), offering new insights into Wallace’s life and thought. Wallace may be most famous as co-discoverer of the principle of natural selection and founder of the field of evolutionary biogeography, but the depth and breadth of his later contributions are equally impressive. This day meeting celebrates the legacy of Wallace’s “central and controlling incident” through the lens of the *Wallace Companion*, with talks by the book’s contributors and other scholars, exploring Wallace’s interests scientific and social and what they mean for us today. **Speakers include: Dr Andrew Berry FLS, Dr David Collard, Prof James T. Costa FLS, Eleanor Drinkwater, Prof Martin Fichman, Prof Dr Matthias Glaubrech, Dr Richard Milner FLS, and Prof Robert Smith**, with a keynote address by National Geographic photographer **Clay Bolt**. *Registration (£25; £15 students) includes lunch, refreshments and a drinks reception. Please register via our website. Image © Wallace Memorial Fund.*



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DISCOVERY WORKSHOPS

The Linnean Society hosts a variety of interesting workshops related to natural history. This autumn, discover our art classes covering nature printing, drawing, water-colour painting and Intaglio Printmaking, and gain a brief insight into our wonderful collections. Visit www.linnean.org/discover for more details. *Image © The Linnean Society of London*



The Genetics of Schizophrenia: Darwin, Linnaeus and Precision Psychiatry

DARWIN LECTURE 18:30–19:30 Wednesday 20 Nov 2019

In association with the Royal Society of Medicine

Schizophrenia is a severe and frequently disabling psychiatric condition that is highly heritable. Recent studies are revealing its complex genetic architecture. In this talk, we will show how they are solving the evolutionary puzzle of how a heritable disorder, associated with reduced reproductive success, is maintained in the population. We will also indicate how genomics challenges current diagnostic systems and taxonomy, review how findings illuminate our understanding of potential disease biology and suggest how genomic discoveries may impact on psychiatry practice. **Speaker: Prof Michael Owen**

*This event is free. Please register via the RSM website. Registration opens at 18:00 with a drinks reception following the lecture. Image © RSM. **Please note that this meeting is being held at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, W1G 0AE.***

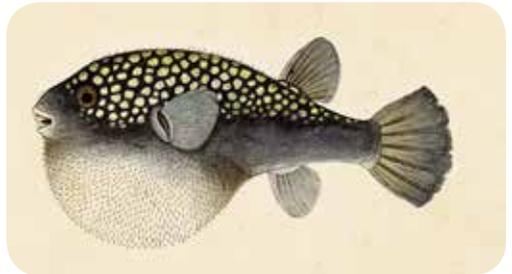


Francis Hamilton's Gangetic Fishes

EVENING LECTURE 18:00–19:00 Thursday 21 Nov 2019

Francis Hamilton was a Scottish naturalist employed as a Surgeon of the Honourable East India Company. Starting off as a botanist, he soon developed an interest in ichthyology and began collecting and documenting the fish species he encountered. In all he covered a total of 272 species. The results of his two visits to India were published in a monograph in 1822. The talk will discuss the background and the interesting facets of the history of Hamilton's Gangetic Fishes on the occasion of the publication of a new coloured edition. **Speaker: Dr Ralf Britz**

This event is free. Please register via our website. Tea will be served in the Library from 17:30 and the lecture will be followed by a white wine reception. Image © The British Library.



LINNEAN SOCIETY TREASURES TOURS

13:30–15:00 Wednesdays (4 September, 9 October, 30 October, 6 November and 11 December 2019)

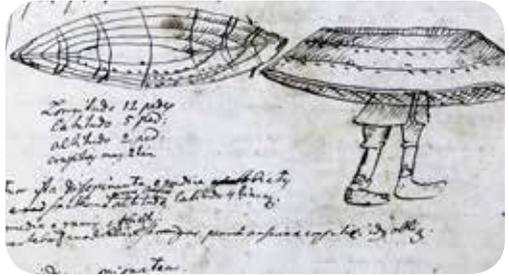
These ever-popular tours include a visit to the Meeting Room, complete with portraits of Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace; the Linnaean Collections, housed in an underground bomb-proof strongroom; and the Library Reading Room, a stunning room that never fails to impress visitors and researchers alike. *Registration for the tours is essential via our website. Tours are held after our Linnean Lunchtime Lectures. Image © The Linnean Society of London.*



Linnaeus in Lapland: Parasites, Reindeer and People

FOUNDER'S DAY LECTURE 18:00–19:00 Monday 2 December 2019

Carl Linnaeus's travel account of Lapland is a founding piece of Swedish literature. Through its lively narrative, keen eye for detail and the animated portrayal of rural and nomadic life, it gives the impression of entering a new world. During this trip Linnaeus was hosted by bureaucrats, pastors and reindeer herders and always accompanied by local guides and translators. In this talk, we will trace how Linnaeus used knowledge extracted from local informants to construct



complex theories of the ecology and life history of particular species. This not only shows another side of Linnaeus as a gifted biologist—often neglected by historians, but also shows how biological knowledge depends on field work that generates intersections among diverse cultures and languages.

Speaker: Prof Staffan Müller-Wille FLS

This event is free. Please register via our website. Tea will be served in the Library from 17:30 and the lecture will be followed by a white wine reception. Image © The Linnean Society of London.

Butterflies and Biodiversity: The Challenges and Opportunities

LUNCHTIME LECTURE 12:30–13:00 Wednesday 11 December 2019

Butterflies are charismatic insects that engage public interest, hence they are used as a flagship for conservation in many developed nations. However, even in butterfly species-rich areas, their full potential has not been quantified due to scarce information and resources available. Whilst most funding programmes prioritise innovative research to mitigate threats for humans and the planet, research to fill knowledge gaps in core disciplines remains undervalued and underfunded. Likewise, building capacity to study biological diversity is also often belittled. Using butterflies, we will present practical examples of the challenges but also opportunities when studying biological diversity in hyper-diverse areas.



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Speaker: Dr Blanca Huertas FLS

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SAVE THE DATE

DISCOVERY ROOM LAUNCH (DAY MEETING)

Friday 1 November 2019

MURDER MOST FLORID: BOTANY AND THE CRIME SCENE (NATURE READER)

Thursday 28 November 2019

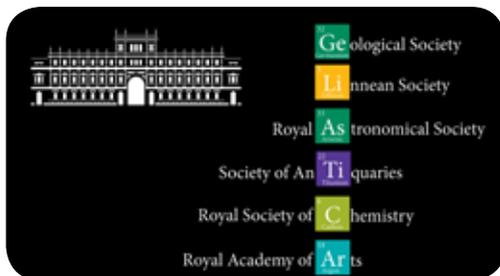
FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL: THE VITALITY OF FIELD STUDIES FOR NATURE (DAY MEETING)

Wednesday 4 December 2019

The Inaugural Annual Burlington House Lecture

SPECIAL EVENT 18:00–21:00 Wednesday 11 December 2019

This autumn the first annual Burlington House Lecture will celebrate the collaborative relationship which exists between the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Academy of Arts, the Linnean Society, the Geological Society, the Royal Astronomical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry. For the International Year of the Periodic Table 2019, we will have three interdisciplinary talks that explore the beauty and relevance of the periodic table and the chemical elements. **Speakers: Prof Richard Evershed, Prof Andy Beeby and Dr Helen Fraser**



This event will be held at the Royal Academy of Arts, is free, open to the public and includes a wine reception. Further details to follow on www.burlingtonhouse.org. Image © The Linnean Society of London.

Music and Birds: A Violinist's View

CHRISTMAS LECTURE 18:00–19:00 Thursday 12 December 2019

In this talk we explore the connections between great composers of both the human and avian worlds: from Mozart's beloved pet starling to Vaughan Williams' ascending lark. Do female birds sing or was Darwin accurate by portraying them as far too coy compared to their ardent males? **Speaker and violinist: Paul Barritt**

This event is free. Please register via our website. Tea will be served in the Library from 17:30 and the lecture will be followed by a white wine reception. Image © Paul Barritt.



REGIONAL LECTURES

IRENE MANTON LECTURE

John Rylands Library, Manchester
Thursday 5 December 2019 17:00–19:00

Hosted by University of Manchester. **Speaker: Jan Bradley, Professor of Parasitology**
Registration via Eventbrite.

Stay up to date by signing up to our e-newsletter <https://www.linnean.org/meetings-and-events>
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