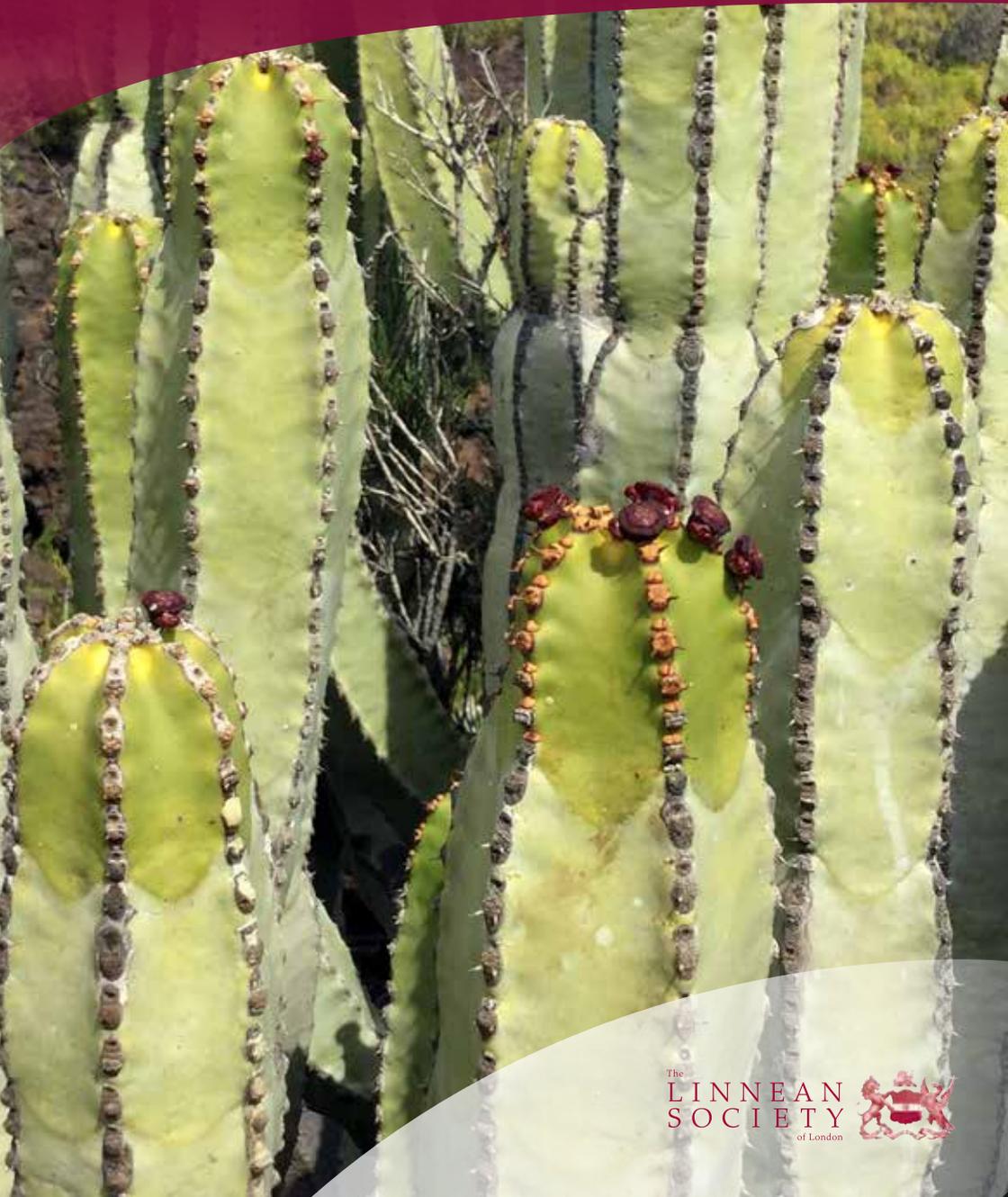


The Linnean Society of London

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS | SPRING–SUMMER 2020



Queer(y)ing Natural Histories

LUNCHTIME LECTURE 12:30–13:00 Wednesday 8 January 2020

Thinking critically about the narratives of natural history is key to understanding some of the assumptions that are made in studying natural history. Movements such as ‘Decolonize this Place’, exhibitions like ‘Displays of Power’ (Grant Museum) and texts like ‘Nature Read in Black and White’ (Das and Lowe, 2018) challenge the passive narrative of radicalised colonialism. This talk will explore how we can challenge other aspects of the cis-hetero-patriarchy in natural history museums,



using tours at the Sedgwick Museum as a case study. **Speaker: Ellie Armstrong**

This event is free. Please register via our website. Image © Dan Vo

Biodiversity Winners and Losers from Climate Warming

EVENING LECTURE 18:00–19:00 Thursday 16 January 2020

Many species are shifting their distributions due to changing climates, expanding northwards as new areas become suitable, but disappearing from other locations that become too hot and dry. Britain has a wealth of information about biodiversity changes over many decades because of the general public’s fascination with recording animals and plants—butterflies are a particular favourite. Such information helps us examine species’ responses and the factors responsible for species variation. This talk examines recent patterns of climate-driven range changes among species



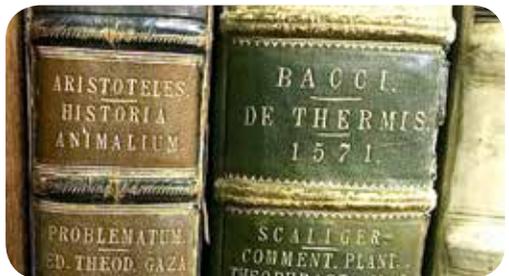
and how this knowledge is being used to inform conservation. **Speaker: Prof Jane Hill**

This event is free. Please register via our website. Image © Leonie Berwick.

From Logic to Nature: ‘Genus’ and ‘Species’ in Philosophy and Biology

LUNCHTIME LECTURE 12:30–13:00 Wednesday 5 February 2020

How did Aristotle’s logical categories of ‘genus’ and ‘species’ become the taxonomical categories of Linnaeus’ classification system? Using books from Linnaeus’ own library, this talk will explore the transformation of these philosophical categories into the familiar binomial nomenclature terms and the problems associated with that transformation. Linnaeus’ rules for genera determination and species identification also rely on aspects of Aristotle’s philosophy and zoology—the basis of some of the most trenchant criticism of Linnaeus’ system. However the influence of Aristotle’s philosophy is still evident in many other areas of contemporary natural history. **Speaker: Prof Stella Sandford**



areas of contemporary natural history. **Speaker: Prof Stella Sandford**

This event is free. Please register via our website. Image © Stella Sandford

Linnean Society Student Conference

DAY MEETING 09:30–17:30 Friday 7 February 2020

Come and listen to the next generation of natural historians speak about their research. For the second year, we will be testing research students' public engagement skills through both oral and poster competitions. Support these up-and-coming scientists and learn about the latest natural history research. The conference will end with a guest lecture by last year's winner **Alex McGoran**.

Registration includes lunch, refreshments and a drinks reception. Please register via our website. Image © The Linnean Society of London



The Botanical History of the Gin & Tonic

SPECIAL EVENT 18:00–20:00 Thursday 13 February 2020

Kim Walker and **Prof Mark Nesbitt FLS**, Kew botanists and authors of *Just the tonic: A natural history of tonic water* (Kew Publishing, 2019) explore the history of the popular effervescent mixer, believing that tonic water has been the unjustly overshadowed partner in the famous gin and tonic. The cocktail is thought of as a quintessentially English drink, yet its origins lie in the cinchona trees of eastern slopes of the Andes and the malarial landscapes of Asia. In this richly



illustrated talk, Kim and Mark cut through centuries of legends to reveal a history of botany, medicine, empire and drinking to discover how the tree came together with alcohol and soda to create the perfect gin and tonic.

Registration includes a free gin cocktail/ mocktail. Please register via our website, cost is £5. Image © The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

The Ecological Effects of Ocean Acidification

EVENING LECTURE 18:00–19:00 Thursday 27 February 2020

This talk will explore the impact of ocean acidification on marine organisms through investigating the areas acidified by underwater volcanoes. These natural gradients of carbon dioxide are like a time machine, showing which organisms can survive, and what coastal habitats might look like in the future. Results have shown that some organisms benefit, e.g. jellyfish and algae, but, overall, a loss of marine biodiversity is seen. Key groups, like hard corals, sea urchins and coralline algae, are outcompeted and fish reproduction impacted. These findings are being used to inform policy-makers and the people most affected, like those who rely on fisheries and coastal tourism. **Speaker: Prof Jason Hall-Spencer**



This event is free. Please register via our website. Image © G Caramana

The World Beneath

LUNCHTIME LECTURE 12:30–13:00 Wednesday 4 March 2020

A Marriage of Underwater Photography and Marine Biology

This richly illustrated talk will investigate the smaller, often overlooked animals that inhabit coral reefs, focusing on the biology and conservation of pygmy seahorses, fishes so small they barely stretch across a five pence piece, to other cryptic and diminutive habitat specialists that are being discovered regularly thanks to recreational divers. During our journey through the Pacific Ocean's Coral Triangle, we will encounter many newly discovered fishes, parasites and unusual reef creatures and how their discoveries have come about. However, as the oceans change, the habitats these animals depend upon are becoming ever more uncertain.

Speaker: Dr Richard Smith FLS

This event is free. Please register via our website. Image © Richard Smith



The Science behind Sparkling Wine

SPECIAL EVENT 17:30–20:00 Thursday 12 March 2020

This talk will explore the science of sparkling wine (the wine at the heart of the English wine industry) and the effects of climate change. We will go on a journey from flowering and berry development through to second fermentation and aging on lees (yeast) to, finally, the sensorial appreciation. **Speaker: Dr Gregory Dunn**

*This event will include champagne tasting with *The Real Grape*. Please register via our website, cost is £30. Image © Greg Dunn*



The Past, the Present and a Disturbing Glimpse into the Future

EVENING LECTURE 18:00–19:00 Thursday 19 March 2020

The Importance of Long-term Studies in Orchid Conservation Research

The early spider orchid, *Ophrys sphegodes*, UK range has declined by two-thirds in the last 80 years. This talk reviews some insights from a 30-year field-based study to develop a conservation strategy. The effects of different grazing regimes and annual weather conditions on population dynamics will be described. In addition, long-term weather records, herbarium and museum data, and field study results will be combined to show that climate change poses a potentially catastrophic threat to the orchid's sophisticated pollination mechanism and future reproductive success. **Speaker: Prof Michael Hutchings**

This event is free. Please register via our website. Image © Michael Hutchings



The Inside Out of Flies and Why It Matters

LUNCHTIME LECTURE 12:30–13:00 Wednesday 1 April 2020

This presentation explores the biology of the Flies, arguably the most distrusted creatures on the planet by the public, but some of the most important creatures in understanding us and the world around us. In this lecture, Erica hopes to highlight not only their ecological importance, e.g. in pollination and decomposition, but also how their morphology has enabled them to be some of the most vital species for these processes. From their elongated mouthparts, to their ability to hover, and their amazing adaptability to new habitats, flies dominate the planet and are an essential, but neglected part of it.

Speaker: Dr Erica McAlister FLS

This event is free. Please register via our website. Image © Erica McAlister

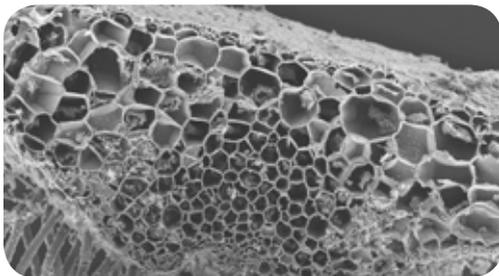


Key Land Plant Innovations in Bryophytes

EVENING LECTURE 18:00–19:00 Thursday 16 April 2020

Bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) occupy a key evolutionary position, being widely regarded as the closest extant relatives of the first land plants. However, their order of divergence and whether or not they constitute a monophyletic group have been hotly debated for over half a century. The latest molecular evidence now provides support for a mosses-liverworts clade, with the position of hornworts remaining uncertain and monophyly gaining renewed support. In this talk we will discuss how current hypotheses on the origin and evolution of key land plant innovations fit into these emerging evolutionary scenarios, focusing on bryophyte mycorrhizal-like associations and the stomatal apparatus. **Speaker: Dr Silvia Pressel FLS**

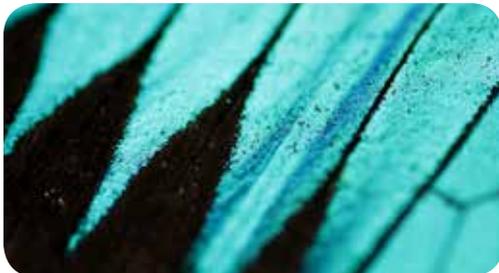
This event is free. Please register via our website. Image © Silvia Pressel



LINNEAN SOCIETY TREASURES TOURS

13:30–15:00 Wednesdays (8 January, 5 February, 4 March, 1 April, 6 May and 3 June 2020)

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.*



Some Adventurous Fellows

LUNCHTIME LECTURE 12:30–13:00 Wednesday 6 May 2020

The image we have in our own minds of some of our eminent past Fellows is often influenced by the latter years' portraits: genteel, statesmanly, (mainly) gentlemen sitting benignly behind their desks. Using the Society's collection to illustrate the talk, Glenn Benson, our Curator of Artefacts, will explore the actual lives of endeavour, endurance, hardship, valour and adventure that some of our past Fellows of eminence truly faced. **Speaker: Glenn Benson FLS**

This event is free. Please register via our website.

Image © The Linnean Society of London



Anniversary Meeting

SPECIAL MEETING 15:30–19:00 Friday 22 May 2020

This event is the Linnean Society of London's Annual General Meeting. The event begins with the AGM and will be followed by the presentation of annual medals—recognising outstanding contributions to the Natural Sciences—and the Presidential Address from **Dr Sandy Knapp PLS**.

This meeting is for Fellows only, registration via our website for the event dinner is essential.

Image © The Linnean Society of London



The Lost Art of Nature Printing

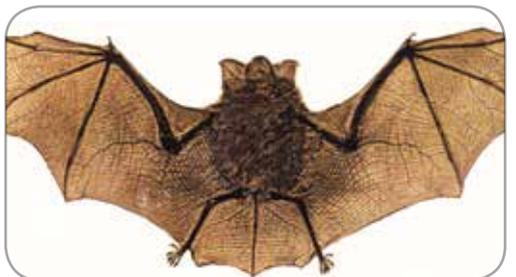
LUNCHTIME LECTURE 12:30–13:00 Wednesday 3 June 2020

Nature printing is a unique and historic way of taking prints from natural objects, which creates images of great likeness and detail. In Europe, nature printing first appeared in early Renaissance Italy, where it was used by herbalists to record medicinal and other useful plants. This talk will introduce the colourful history of nature printing with emphasis on a later refined method invented in Vienna in 1853. Brought to London by a Fleet Street printer, the introduction of this new form of representation

and the curious images it produced, is a tale of industrial espionage, ferns and roofing lead.

Speaker: Pia Östlund

This event is free. Please register via our website. This talk will also be accompanied by a nature printing workshop in our discovery room. Separate registration required for the workshop. Image © Pia Östlund



Life on Islands: Cycles of Arrival, Change and Loss

EVENING LECTURE 18:00–19:00 Thursday 18 June 2020

Remote islands provide some of the finest 'natural experiments' on Earth. Ever since Charles Darwin, island biologists have drawn on islands for inspiration and as test systems for understanding how the fundamental processes of dispersal, speciation and extinction interact. Recently, increased attention has been given to how the dynamics of the islands themselves in turn affect the biogeographical play. We will review recent advances in the study of island life and what generalisations are emerging.

Speaker: Prof Robert Whittaker

This event is free. Please register via our website. Image © Robert Whittaker



Tea: Nature, Culture, Society, 1650–1850

DAY MEETING 09:30–18:00 Thursday 25 June 2020

This international meeting will address natural, cultural and social histories of tea between the mid-17th and mid-19th centuries. Arguably the first truly modern globalised commodity, the process by which tea attained such pre-eminence depended not just upon the commercial efforts of merchants, but also upon a cultural framework of knowledge and practice constructed primarily in China, Britain, Europe, and India. Among other topics, the meeting will explore natural histories of the tea plant; European attempts to cultivate tea;



imaginaries of tea in literature and art; tea and material culture; tea, identity, and the formation of the British Empire. This meeting is generously co-sponsored by the Linnean Society, Syracuse University (USA), Queen Mary University of London, and Oak Spring Garden Foundation (USA). The conference organisers would also like to thank Todd B. Rubin for his generous support. **Speakers: Bettina Dietz, Markman Ellis, Jacqueline van Gent, Jordan Goodman, Andrew Liu, Emma Newport, Romita Ray, Josepha Richard, Wouter Ryckbosch.**

Please register via our website. Registration will include lunch, refreshments and a drinks reception. Image © Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Upperville, Virginia

DISCOVERY WORKSHOPS

The Linnean Society hosts a variety of interesting workshops related to natural history, with something on offer for everyone. Discover our art and craft classes, student skills sessions, exploring ideas workshops or teacher courses. Every workshop includes a tour of our special building and its wonderful collections. Visit www.linnean.org/workshops for more details.

Image © The Linnean Society of London



Conversazione 2020: Banks' Botanical Bonanza

SPECIAL SUMMER MEETING Date and Time: TBC

Sir Joseph Banks (1743–1820) was an English botanist known for his strong promotion of the natural sciences. Whilst President of the Royal Society, a position he held for over 40 years, he advocated the importance of scientific travel and collecting. He himself is known for accompanying Captain Cook on his first great voyage on the HMS *Endeavour* to Australia, collecting over 30,000 specimens on that same trip.



2020 marks the bicentenary of Sir Joseph Banks' death. Help us celebrate this great natural historian and his contributions to the Society.

This event includes refreshments, canapes and a drinks reception. Please register via our website, cost is £30. Image © The Linnean Society of London

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