

Annual Review 2022

Communicating nature since 1788



PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

The
LINNEAN
SOCIETY
of London



President's Review | 2022

2022 has been an exciting year for the Linnean Society! Let me start by applauding Dr Sandra Knapp's magnificent leadership through the pandemic, the implementation of immense changes to our Society's governance, and her battle with breast cancer. Thank you, Sandy!

We happily reopened Burlington House to visitors, and, with a mix of in-person, hybrid, and online events, we've been able to engage our global membership with record online audiences while also enjoying our beloved post-lecture receptions in the library. We have also developed new partnerships to nurture a passion for the natural



world in diverse communities, and we will continue to grow these efforts in the coming years. Thanks to our wonderful staff for overcoming many challenges to achieve these ambitious goals!

Fittingly for the Society that published Darwin and Wallace's first description of the theory of evolution by natural selection, we launched the *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society*, our new fully open-access journal, and we hope to receive many submissions from our Fellows. The *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* also published its 200th volume—a remarkable accomplishment! We thank all our editors and editorial staff for their continued dedication and effort.

We are also indebted to Dr Mark Watson, who led the monumental effort of revising our Bye-Laws, which will also require changes to our Royal Charter. To put this into perspective, our Royal Charter has only been amended twice since first granted in 1802, with the first additional charter in 1904 extending fellowship to women.

The proposed Bye-Laws and Charter will continue this tradition of making our Society more accessible, efficient, and responsive to a changing world. Alongside the planned launch of a new strategy in 2023, these changes will be of ever-increasing importance as we draw on the vast expertise of our international membership to help combat the human-caused biodiversity crisis facing our planet. In doing so, we are led by the example of Professor Gren Lucas OBE, pioneering plant conservationist and stalwart supporter of the Linnean Society for over 60 years. Gren passed away in December 2022, and his dedication, generosity, and kindness will be sorely missed.

Despite the many challenges of recent years, including continued uncertainty in our long-term tenancy of Burlington House, 2022 was a year of great progress and we can look to the future confident in a Linnean Society that is inspiring, resilient and impactful as a global voice for the natural world.

Professor Anjali Goswami



CONTENTS

OVERVIEW 2022	4
RESEARCH & SPONSORSHIP	6
OUR FELLOWSHIP	10
RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE	12
A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE	14
A GLOBAL IMPACT	18
SHARING OUR EXPERTISE	22
INSPIRING OTHERS	28
FINANCIAL REVIEW	30
PUBLIC BENEFIT & STRATEGIC AIMS	35
PEOPLE	36
LOOKING FORWARD	39

Overview | 2022

Happily, 2022 marked a much-welcomed return of Fellows and visitors to our wonderful building. Reassessing how the world has changed since the pandemic, the Linnean Society continues to adapt and evolve in response to external changes. Thank you to all those helping to ensure the Society continues to thrive and deliver impact.

UPDATE ON BURLINGTON HOUSE LEASE

The most significant development of 2022 was a meeting on 30 June with the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP. The CEOs around the Courtyard collectively and clearly set out the importance of co-location for inter-disciplinary scholarship, which would also help to address the huge issues facing humanity. They outlined our

desire to increase public engagement and work imaginatively together, and clarified how the issues with the current leases have unfortunately been holding us back.

The Secretary of State seemed sympathetic to our cause, instructing us to work together with DLUHC officials on a business case to argue for a new, long-term and sustainable arrangement. As of the start of 2023, we are continuing discussions with the Department and by mid-January we will have welcomed a visit from the new minister assigned to this case, Baroness Scott of Bybrook.

REVISION OF OUR BYE-LAWS

As previously mentioned by the President, the Bye-Laws Revision Group have continued their efforts on drafting revised Bye-Laws for the Society. By December 2022, Fellows had sight of the proposed Bye-Laws and were invited to provide comments and feedback. The feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive and constructive. During 2023, the Fellowship will have further opportunities to comment

on proposed changes and to approve the resulting Bye-Laws at an Extraordinary General Meeting. Concurrent with updating the Society's Bye-Laws, a petition will be made to the Privy Council to update our Charter. The new Charter will recognise the Society's long and illustrious history but will also reflect that it is a modern and dynamic organisation fit for the years to come.

COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURE

One of the important tasks of our Trustees is to periodically review which affairs should be reserved for the Society's Council, and which can be delegated to senior managers, committees or individual Trustees, staff or volunteers. In this context, our Council reviewed the structure and purpose of the various committees supporting its work during 2022. Among the changes made were the renaming of the Finance Committee to the Finance & Risk Committee (reflecting its expanded role of risk management and operational policies) and the separation of the Nominations & Awards Committee into a Nominations Committee, dedicated to overseeing nominations to Council and succession planning, and a standalone Medals & Awards Committee. A new

Remuneration Committee was put in place to oversee staff reward and pay, and the Programme Committee and Education & Public Engagement Committee were combined into a singular Engagement Committee. Council also agreed upon:

- The dissolution of the Linnean Future Committee, with its operational and programme activities to be taken forward by the Finance & Risk Committee, and Engagement Committee, respectively.
- Updated terms of reference for the Safeguarding Committee, Collections Committee and Audit Committee.

Additionally, when the revised Bye-Laws are in place, a new Fellowship Committee is slated for the purpose of ensuring all Fellowship applications are more thoroughly scrutinised for eligibility.

GDPR UPDATE

Throughout 2022, we have been hugely appreciative of the generous assistance from Aju Omadeli, a volunteer who has been helping us to update our GDPR policies and compliance. Thanks to Aju we now have a robust system in place for handling personal

data as well as a clear, comprehensive and up-to-date privacy policy.

STAFF CHANGES

We were sad to say goodbye to several staff in 2022: Daryl Stenvoll-Wells, BioMedia Meltdown Project Manager left to pursue other opportunities in arts education; Joe Burton, Education Manager, left to take up a new role at Manchester-based Arts Emergency; Zia Forrai, Education Officer, left to undertake a PhD in the USA; and Cathy Youthed, Governance Manager, left to pursue a career as a deputy company secretary in the corporate sector.

We were delighted to welcome Anna Perman in the new role of Head of Engagement; Ayesha Meredith-Lewis as our new Education Manager; and Andrew Swan as our new Governance Manager. Hassan Rankou also moved into a new role managing the administration of our journals in house.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, ELIZABETH II

In September, we mourned the passing of our Royal Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, Elizabeth II. Upon ascending the throne in 1952, The Queen became a Patron of the

Linnean Society, but had been an Honorary Member since 1947. In 1988, we welcomed The Queen and HRH Prince Philip to the Society to be a part of its Bicentenary celebrations, where the Royal Party signed a specially designed page in our Roll and Charter book. After Her Majesty's passing, the Society wrote letters of condolence to His Majesty King Charles III and HRH The Princess Royal and received kind replies.



Research & Sponsorship

Since 1839, our journals have played a vital role in developing scientific knowledge, publishing important findings across biological, botanical, zoological, and now evolutionary research. The year saw a great deal of change to our journals and processes with the launch of our open access *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society* and changes to our editorial structure. We offer immense thanks to our editors, authors and reviewers for their support of our scholarly publishing.

In 2021, a task-and-finish group of our Council members conducted a scoping exercise to understand how our editorial arrangements compared with similar organisations. They made recommendations to improve our impact and keep in line with best practice in the sector. One recommendation was an in-house editorial office to manage the administration of all four of our journals, so that Editors-in-Chief could focus on strategic and scientific issues. Dr Hassan Rankou's role was moved into the newly formed Engagement Team, from focussing on the *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* to handling editorial processes across all of our titles. A Journal Officer role was also introduced, which will start early in 2023. We successfully moved three of our journals to the editorial office, with the fourth to follow.

Two of our Editors-in-Chief, Professor Mike Fay (*Botanical Journal*) and Dr Maarten Christenhusz (*Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*), will be stepping down in 2023 and are to be profusely thanked for taking these journals from strength to strength over recent years.

After an open recruitment process, we appointed new Editors-in-Chief: Dr Steven Dodsworth to the *Botanical Journal* and Dr Jeffrey Streicher to the *Zoological Journal*. Already at the helm of our *Evolutionary Journal*, Steven's new appointment created a vacancy, and Professor Julia Day was recruited. We are excited to see Julia, Steven and Jeff take up their roles in 2023.

RESEARCH JOURNALS

The *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* (BioJLS), edited by Professor John Allen, achieved an increased Impact Factor in 2022 (2.28 vs 2.14), and published seven reviews and 141 original articles (not as many as in recent years, undoubtedly due to the effect of the pandemic on would-be authors). Articles that stirred great interest were on the unique feeding behaviour of a species of gecko, evolutionary change of shape in an invasive toad in Australia and the role of habitat in the evolution of the horns of vipers. Highlights for 2023 will include the delayed special issue on *Evolution 'on Purpose': Teleonomy in living systems*, based on papers presented at a 2021 Linnean Society online conference.

The *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* (BotJLS), edited by Professor Michael Fay, achieved a similar Impact Factor to the previous year (2.828 vs. 2.911). Highlights of the year included



the largest issue to date (a major special issue on Neotropical biodiversity published in May) and the publication of volume 200, three issues of which included invited reviews (on Asteraceae, hybridisation in the Neotropics and the role of sexual selection in the origin and evolution of angiosperms).

The *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* (ZooJLS), edited by Dr Maarten Christenhusz, received an increased Impact Factor (3.286 vs. 3.834). We maintain a high submission rate, with 356 submitted papers in 2022. Highlights of the year included a special issue on integrative approaches to mammalian systematics, ecomorphology and biomechanics, which included 14 novel and original articles, and a virtual issue on deep-sea discoveries. An invited review emphasised the history of queer zoology in Europe before the 19th century. Special issues to look out for in 2023 will focus on tardigrades and on South American tetrapod fossils.

The *Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society* (EvoJLS), was launched in 2022. By year's end, we had published several papers, covering topics like Cyto-nuclear incompatibilities across a bluebell hybrid zone in northern Spain and the evolution of Australian skipper butterflies—we are enthusiastic about the papers already submitted for 2023.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The *Zoological Journal* explored the integration patterns of cheek teeth and ecomorphological evolution in grinding herbivores in the rodent genus *Cavia*; the *Botanical Journal* focussed on Neotropical biodiversity in one of its special issues; and our *Biological Journal* featured a paper exploring whether habitat determines convergent evolution of horns in vipers.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SPONSORSHIP

LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund

In support of the study of biodiversity, taxonomy, systematics and evolutionary biology, the Society was once again delighted to contribute £30,508 towards the LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund, a co-initiative with the Systematics Association.

In 2022 we were able to award 39 grants, ranging from £500 to £1,500. Successful applications came in from all over the globe, including Argentina, Brazil, India, Malaysia, Nairobi, Poland, Turkey, UK and US. Research covered such varied topics as the cryptic diversity of ant species on the Canary Islands, deep-sea parasite-host relationships and the diversity of freshwater algae in ‘hidden treasure’ Fruška Gora National Park, Serbia.

- **POLET YAMALY BARRAGAN MARIN's** *The sea anemone Phymactis papillosa, a three-color palette in the Pacific Ocean*
- **DORA HLEBEC'S** *Explosive evolution of genus Neobisium (Arachnida: Pseudoscorpiones) in Dinaric Karst—when and why?*
- **VÍCTOR NOGUERALES'S** *Uncovering cryptic diversity and diversification of the Canarian Ants*
- **JEFFERSON SAUCEDA VALDERRAMA'S** *Taxonomic revision and phylogeny of Abana leafhoppers, a highly polymorphic group*
- **JAQUELINE VIEIRA'S** *Integrated studies in Ternstroemia (Pentaphylacaceae): uncovering neglected species of Neotropical flora*

The Sir David Attenborough Fieldwork Award

The LinnéSys project reports from the previous year are evaluated for this award. This evaluation was underway at time of publication and will be reported at a later date.





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

The John Topp Fund (Awarded to amateur or professional botanists or entomologists, with priority for any who serve or have served in Her Majesty's Royal Navy or the Army to undertake studies in the field.) The John Topp Fund was awarded to John Tennent to facilitate his field work on the distribution and diversity of butterfly fauna on the island of Niuafo'ou in the Pacific. Niuafo'ou is an active volcano some 8 km in circumference, which last erupted in 1985, lying between Fiji and Samoa and has a steep-sided caldera (250 m high at its highest point).

LEFT: The LinnéSys: Systematics Research Fund supported an incredible variety of projects in 2022, including Polet Yamaly Barragan Marin's study of the sea anemone species *Phymactis papillosa* and *TOP:* A study of the freshwater red algae of Serbia's Fruška Gora National Park. (Images: Shutterstock.com/Mirko Kuzmanovic; Yamaly Barragan.)

Alongside Lepidoptera, Odonata and other invertebrates will also be sampled or photographed and identified by specialists in the hope of ultimately presenting a record of the fauna of this isolated island, whose fauna is largely unknown. The results from Niuafo'ou may be published independently, though this research will also allow completion of a detailed manuscript of five months of previous fieldwork carried out on the many scattered islands of the southwest Pacific ('Operation Wallacea').

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

The upcoming year will see us support our new Editors-in-Chief as they settle into their roles. Together, we will review the scope and strategies of journals, ensuring that they continue to complement each other and meet the needs of our community. Moreover, our editorial office will work closely with our publisher, Oxford University Press, to provide the best possible author experience, including improved publication times and accuracy.

We have a close eye on publishing trends, such as open science and redefining impact, and are focussed on enhancing the impact of both our journals and grant opportunities through our engagement work.

Our Fellowship

The Society continues to be incredibly grateful for the support shown by our members. We are inspired by the number of individuals choosing to remain Fellows for decades and encouraged by so many people joining the Society for the first time. Sadly, we also lost several good friends of the Society in 2022, who will be greatly missed.

EXPANDING OUR MEMBERSHIP

We are delighted to report that 169 new Fellows joined in 2022 (32 women and 137 men), with backgrounds ranging from academics in the fields of natural sciences, the arts and humanities, the corporate world and in healthcare. Of special mention is new Fellow Will Beharrell, the Linnean Society's Librarian—congratulations Will! We also welcomed 48 Associates and 38 Student Associates, which was fantastic. There were sadly a number of deaths, resignations and defaulters who were removed, ending the year on a total membership of 3,086.

HIGHLIGHTING YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS

We are proud of the achievements of all of our members in 2022, so please continue to share them with us so that we may celebrate with you.

- Past President **Dr Sandra Knapp**, whose work has 'made major contributions to our understanding of plant evolution and tropical

biodiversity', was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS). She was also awarded the prestigious 2022 David Fairchild Medal for Plant Exploration by Hawaii's National Tropical Botanical Garden.

- **Dr Cary Woodruff, Dr Ewan Wolff** and their team published a groundbreaking paper in *Nature* on the first evidence of an avian-style respiratory infection in a dinosaur.
- **Miranda Lowe**, Principal Curator of Crustacea at London's Natural History Museum, was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her tireless work in championing both science and diversity in museums and heritage.
- **Prof Ben Sheldon**, whose work on wild bird populations has enormously advanced our understanding of their social behaviour, was also made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2022.

IN REMEMBRANCE

We said a sad goodbye to **Dr Jennifer (Jenny) Edmonds** in February, a botanist whose field of research included *Solanum nigrum*, and who coordinated the Society's Tercentenary celebrations in 2007. Plant taxonomist and biogeographer **Dr Ian Richardson** passed in March, and in April we lost celebrated Linnean scholar **Prof Gunnar Broberg**, Professor of History of Science and Ideas at Lund University. **Prof Vernon Heywood** passed in September, Chief Scientist at IUCN and a towering figure in plant taxonomy with nearly 30,000 citations. Finally, in December we were crushed by the loss of our friend **Prof Gren Lucas OBE**, a powerhouse plant conservationist and our beloved Treasurer (1995–2015)—he will be sorely missed.

MOVING FORWARD WITH OUR FELLOWSHIP

With progress on modernising the Bye-Laws, the introduction of the Members' Area on our website and the investment in a new

Engagement Team, we are hoping that foundations are in place to enable increased engagement with our Fellows. Mindful of the fact that so many people live far from London or don't wish to travel for various reasons, we will continue to organise stimulating online events, produce educational podcasts and videos, and feature inspiring content in *The Linnean*. However, we also hope to see more Fellows and members of the public visit the building, whether to attend Linnean Society events, book rooms for venue hire, carry out research in the Library or simply pop in to say hello.



LEFT (CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Miranda Lowe awarded CBE; Dr Ewan Wolff and Dr Cary Woodruff published a paper on the first evidence of a respiratory infection in a dinosaur.

ABOVE: In December we lost Prof Gren Lucas OBE (1935–2022), previous Keeper of the Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, plant conservationist and the Society's Treasurer for 20 years.

RIGHT: Dr Jennifer (Jenny) Edmonds (1944–2022), Fellow for 47 years, and organiser of the Society's Tercentenary events in 2007.



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.

Categories

THE LINNEAN MEDAL: For services to science

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

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

THE IRENE MANTON PRIZE: For the best doctoral thesis in botany in a UK university

THE JOHN C. MARSDEN MEDAL: For the best doctoral thesis in biology in a UK university

THE TRAIL-CRISP AWARD: For an outstanding contribution to biological microscopy

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

THE JILL SMYTHIES AWARD: Awarded to an amateur naturalist for an important contribution to biological knowledge.





- **The Linnean Medal in the Field of Zoology:** Rohan Pethiyagoda, *Australian Museum*
- **The Linnean Medal in the Field of Botany:** Professor Sebsebe Demissew, *Addis Ababa University*
- **The Darwin-Wallace Medal:** Professor David Jablonski, *The University of Chicago*
- **The Bicentenary Medal:** Dr James Rosindell, *Imperial College London*
- **The Irene Manton Prize:** Dr Bruno Pok Man Ngou, *RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science*
- **The John C. Marsden Medal:** Dr Timothy Lamont, *Lancaster University*
- **The Trail-Crisp Award:** Dr Frieda Christie, *Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh*
- **The H. H. Bloomer Award:** Geoffrey Kibby
- **The Jill Smythies Award:** Dr Andrew Brown

(The John Spedan Lewis Medal was reformulated during 2022, so no medal was awarded.)

Our winners joined us online and in person at the Anniversary Meeting in May 2022.

TOP ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): Rohan Pethiyagoda (The Linnean Medal—Zoology); Dr Frieda Christie (The Trail-Crisp Award); Dr James Rosindell (The Bicentenary Medal); Dr Andrew Brown (The Jill Smythies Award).

BOTTOM ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): Dr Timothy Lamont (The John C. Marsden Medal); Geoffrey Kibby (The H. H. Bloomer Award); Professor David Jablonski (The Darwin-Wallace Medal); Dr Bruno Pok Man Ngou (Irene Manton Prize); Professor Sebsebe Demissew (The Linnean Medal—Botany).

A Wealth of Knowledge

After two unusual years of intermittent closures, 2022 proved to be more of a return to pre-COVID times than a ‘bumper’ year. With increased readers, enquiries, outreach, cataloguing, additional staff, and more collaborations, the Collections Team ended the year with a great sense of achievement.

EXHIBITIONS GALORE

In May 2022, Eton College launched their exhibition *To Botany Bay and Back: The Worldwide Web of Sir Joseph Banks*, celebrating the bicentenary of Banks’s death (postponed since 2020). The exhibition, which reassessed Banks’s global impact after his voyage on the HMS *Endeavour*, featured several letters from Banks, books and two specimens from the Linnean Society’s seed and nut collections. The exhibition was one of Eton Library’s most successful, attracting over 2,000 visitors. Society staff were fortunate to be given a tour of the exhibition by George Fussey FLS, Curator of the Eton Natural History Museum, and Stephie Coane, Librarian.

Linnean Society items, including a drawing of the HMS *Beagle* and a mockup of a plate from our *Transactions*, also featured in the Royal Society’s exhibition *Plenty More Fish? A History of Scientific Marine Expeditions*, which coincided with the Royal Society’s Summer Exhibition. Louisiane Ferlier, Digital Archivist at the Royal Society, gave staff a personal tour of the exhibition.

ARCHIVE AMBITIONS

Archivists Liz McGow and Luke Thorne have been working hard on the Collected Archives, with two new archive collections now fully catalogued: the correspondence of botanist and physician, Richard Pulteney (MS/238); and the letters and journals of botanist and Linnean Society President, George Bentham (MS/322 and MS/328). Detailed summaries of each letter and journal entry are available on our archive catalogue.

Bentham’s accounts of his many trips abroad, by sea, road and rail, are fascinating and highlight the dangers of travel in the mid-19th century, and are not without humour. Of the Crimea he writes: ‘it is a tour much to be recommended to those who do not in the least care for any sort of comfort in eating, drinking, sleeping or moving about.’

The Society’s domestic archive also holds a wealth of knowledge on the history of the Society and this year we started an ambitious project to sort and catalogue the collection in the hopes that it can be more easily available to Fellows and researchers. Project Archivist Alex Milne has been making excellent progress with 135 boxes of new material sorted and catalogued as well as five drawers of plans, posters and paintings, nine shelves of minute books and ledgers, and a total of 1,352 new files listed so far.

Alex has been emptying cupboards and digging through drawers and shelves, rediscovering important records, like those outlining the history of our time at Burlington House with receipts for fittings and fixtures and reports of visitors, damage, thefts and renovation.



SPACE FOR GROWTH

We began a light-touch weed of our journals collection at Burlington House in 2021, with work continuing in 2022. The project is now nearly 75% complete and has been expertly overseen by Librarian Will Beharrell. The responsible disposal of mostly damaged and duplicated items will mean our remaining collections can be adequately and safely housed and give us much needed space for growth in the future.

CONSERVATION OF COLLECTIONS

Our collections sponsorship scheme, AdoptLINN, went from strength to strength in 2022. Throughout the year, £10,500 was pledged by 26 donors in four countries; a 30% increase on the total raised in 2021 and the largest amount ever raised by the scheme. Titles included Ulisse Aldrovandi's *Quadrupedum Omnium Bisulcorum Historia* (1621) and Charles Darwin's 6th edition, presentation copy of *On the Origin of Species* (1872). Every penny donated will go towards supporting vulnerable items in our historic collection of books, archival papers, artefacts, specimens and artworks. We'd like to extend our thanks to everyone who has supported AdoptLINN in 2022, as we look forward to further progress in 2023.



TOP LEFT: Project Archivist Alex Milne made huge inroads into sorting and cataloguing the Society's domestic archive in 2022, with 135 boxes of archives completed so far. *BOTTOM LEFT:* The Society's collections were popular in 2022, with several loans made to exhibitions, like the Royal Society's *Plenty More Fish? A History of Scientific Marine Expeditions*. Staff were given a private guided tour to see our collections on display, including our illustration of the HMS *Beagle*.

To Botany Bay and Back: The Worldwide Web of Sir Joseph Banks



As the result of the flood damage to the Library in 2021, a number of books were in need of repair. The first to be tackled by Conservator Janet Ashdown were those that were more seriously damaged; some of these required aqueous treatments to remove heavy water stains and had to be totally dismantled, re-sewn and re-bound. In every case the original binding was repaired and re-instated.

FUTURE-PROOFING IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Behind the scenes, staff at the Society have been transforming how we go about managing our digital information. Overseen by Digital Assets Manager Andrea Deneau, a formal Records and Information Management programme was put into place—an undertaking of over 1.5 years, completed at the end of 2022. The project included an information inventory, restructuring the Society’s file plan, creating two new policies, a retention schedule and management rules, and plenty of staff training. There was also a very significant information clean-up, seeing a massive reduction in unnecessary files and folders, becoming an annual affair in our processes, across staff teams. With these official policies and procedures now in place, the Society has made great gains in future-proofing our digital records.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Other exhibitions utilising the Society’s collections included *To Botany Bay and Back: The World Wide Web of Sir Joseph Banks*, held at the Library of Eton College—items including specimens from our carpological (seed and nut) collections helped to tell the story of Banks’s impact on 18th-century science; The Society’s Honorary Curator of Botany, Mark Spencer, not only fielded botanical queries throughout 2022 but led several fascinating botanical walks for the Society, like this one in Walthamstow, East London.

A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

The Linnean Society could not function without its dedicated volunteers, some of whom were able to come back in a more regular capacity in 2022. We are immensely grateful to Sheila Meredith and David Pescod for their Library and Archives work, to John Abbott for his painstaking conservation work, and to our Honorary Curators and Archivist—Glenn Benson, Ollie Crimmen, Suzanne Ryder, Mark Spencer and Gina Douglas—who have fielded enquiries and committed their time to outreach events.

COLLECTION CONNECTIONS

In 2023, we aim to continue to make our collections as widely accessible as possible, through continued cataloguing, curation and conservation; through furthering research by collaborating with scholars, artists and students; and through engaging varied audiences via numerous avenues of outreach. We are looking forward to our staircase redecoration early in 2023, in order to showcase some of the wonderful and outstanding items in our collections, celebrating our 150 years in Burlington House. We also have exciting external loans lined up to big institutions such as Tate Modern, The Hague’s Kunstmuseum, and the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge.

A Global Impact

Like many across the world, this year we entered a post-pandemic ‘new normal’. We have been thrilled to return to in-person events and education programming, but we also continue to grow our international online presence. Our videos and online activities continue to gain traction as we work to benefit our expanding global membership and public audience.

TEAM PLAYERS

For the first time, our events, education, digital content, journals and publications have been brought together into one overall Engagement Team. Together, we will strive to help our audiences learn about the natural world, engage with our collections and be inspired by the work of our Fellows.

In May, Anna Perman joined us as Head of Engagement, having come from communications and engagement roles in the NHS and charity sector. This newly created role involves setting strategic goals across all areas of engagement. As seen in ‘Research and Sponsorship’, our Journals Editorial Manager Dr Hassan Rankou moved into the team in September. He and our new Journals Officer will further embed our journal content in our engagement work. We also welcomed Ayesha Meredith-Lewis as our new Education Manager, who joins us from the London Wetlands Trust and brings

a strong background in outreach to diverse young audiences. Ross Ziegelmeier (Multimedia Content Producer), Padma Ghosh (Events and Communications Manager) and Leonie Berwick (Publications Manager) round off the team.

WIDE-RANGING SCIENCE FOR A GLOBAL AUDIENCE

From pangolin conservation in Nigeria to naked mole-rats, bats in the Himalayas to the impact of climate change on sharks, our online, in-person and hybrid events covered our magnificently diverse natural world. Padma Ghosh developed and oversaw 40 events in 2022, which included evening lectures, lunchtime talks, nature walks, debates, book launches (‘Nature Readers’) and discussions, as well as collaborations with other organisations. On average, each event saw more than 180 attendees; in total, through 2022, we delivered our programme of events to 7,215 people across the world.

We also held several special events, from coral conservation to ‘Queer Zoology Since Aristotle’ to the natural history of tea. Among event highlights, our ‘Stories from Plant Collections’ brought together curators and researchers from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Rothamsted Research and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, and was a fantastic collaboration. We were relieved to be able to bring back in-person events after being scuppered by COVID, starting with our AGM, a terrific Nature Reader with ornithologist Tim Birkhead and our eye-opening Science Policy Lecture ‘Biodiversity and Finance: Making Space for a Common Planet’ with the Systematics Association. Our most well-attended event was the Nature Reader ‘The Mind of a Bee’ by Lars Chittka, with a whopping 520 people joining us online.



POTENTIAL IN PROFITABLE CONTENT

Our videos investigated our unique Inch Tea Library collection, and sang the praises of our medal winners—‘What do coral reefs sound like?’ celebrated the research of Dr Timothy Lamont (winner of the Society’s John C. Marsden Medal for the ‘best doctoral thesis in biology’) into underwater soundscapes. Ross Ziegelmeier also reached new audiences with the ‘Our Taxonomy Crisis’ animation, which explained the need for more trained taxonomists in the fight against global mass extinction, and was translated into Bulgarian, Spanish and Portuguese—it has already received over 1,095 views.

The Linnean Future podcast series was published in 2022, in response to the ongoing planetary emergency, and explored global stories that outlined the wide-ranging impacts of climate change. Vivid interviews, sharp opinions, current research and field science emphasised the complex and deeply intertwined relationship between humans and our planet. In his episode ‘A Deep History of Climate Change’, Dr Dagomar Degroot used historical records to give evidence of climate change before official records began. In another, multi-instrumentalist and composer Cosmo Sheldrake spoke about his dedication to improving humankind’s connection to nature through music.

The Society is set on generating income from its digital assets, and a complete review of these assets and our social media has been undertaken. During 2022, the Society made £371 from its YouTube channel, an increase from 2021, and we are keen to see this turnover continue to grow.

LEFT: Ornithologist Prof Tim Birkhead signed copies of his book *Birds and Us* for guests after his talk of the same name in July.

SOCIAL SKILLS

This year we have focussed on building up our social media audience across Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn. Facebook and Instagram accumulated 808 and 742 new followers respectively, but our Twitter account has seen the most growth, with 4,155 new followers! Our October tweet highlighting the Library as a warm space was most appreciated, with more than 950 retweets and almost 3,600 'likes'. Proportionately, the Library saw an escalated demand for readers, illustrating social media reach translating into real-world impact. And encouragingly, our Linnean News (monthly e-newsletter), increased its subscriber base from 968 to 1,500—a 55% increase!

THE LINNEAN

This year the Society's membership publication, *The Linnean*, became an interactive online title, incorporating articles looking at the current research of our members, external groups and collaborators, and new stories relating to our collections. Under editor Leonie Berwick, it saw a refreshed design, and the engagement with and feedback from members has been overwhelmingly positive: 'It is a fine combination of information, discussion, review and sheer beauty of imagery. You have set yourselves a high example to follow!'

EXPANDING ENGAGEMENT

As the climate and biodiversity crises deepen, the Society's history, publications and collective knowledge have a crucial role to play. We are working on audience and Fellow-led content across all

avenues of engagement to meet public needs as they change and develop, supported by the cutting-edge research in our journals.

Meanwhile, our exciting programme of events onsite and further afield will aim to deepen understanding of the natural world and involvement in protecting it. Our shift to online events during the pandemic gained us a diverse audience, which we hope to nurture and grow. Looking forward, we will continue to serve both our in-house participants and those online, fulfilling our vision of a membership that extends beyond borders and boundaries.

Our online Members' Area has also played a positive role in helping the Society improve its engagement with the Fellowship. Overseen by Room Hire Manager and Membership Assistant Tatiana Franco, the platform offers everyone the opportunity to engage with the Society and other members, through the newsfeed, event booking and other services, and we hope to do more in 2023.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: John C. Marsden Medal winner Timothy Lamont explored his work in the Society's video 'What do coral reefs sound like?', revealing the differences in underwater soundscapes; An unhealthy reef (RIGHT) is almost silent compared to the lively hum of a healthy reef (LEFT)—Lamont's work on bioacoustics can help monitor the health of reefs, allowing us to intervene and try to restore them where possible.



TREASURES: A LITTLE 19TH-CENTURY HUMOUR

The Collections Team have continued to produce 'Treasure of the Month' blogs promoting some of the lesser known and more unusual 'treasures' from the Society's collections.

In April, Assistant Archivist Luke Thorne wrote about a scientific paper from the archives that had actually been sent to the Society as an April Fool's joke by C. T. Druery in 1883. The paper described the uncovering of fossils belonging to a series of chimeric creatures—the 'Elegator', 'Crocodars' and 'Cockerel Salmon'.

Other hoax-related items from the archive were also highlighted, including a letter from Richard Murray to Edward Morell Holmes about the origins of the 'Shapwick Monster'; a case of mistaken identity involving a group of fearful villagers and a lost crab, and another hoax paper about the murder of Cock Robin, which amused the Fellows present at that particular meeting, but sadly resulted in the resignation of then-Secretary Alexander Macleay.



ABOVE: An 'Elegator' from C. T. Druery's April Fool's joke of 1883.

Sharing Our Expertise

In 2022 we said farewell to our previous Education Team, Joe Burton and Zia Forrai, and welcomed a new Education Manager, Ayesha Meredith-Lewis. In the autumn she hit the ground running, taking our Special Species workshop to a local library and to Big Biology Day in Cambridge, the first time these events had been held since 2019.

NATURAL HISTORY GCSE

Excitingly, in April 2022, the UK government's Department for Education confirmed that there will be a new General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) in Natural History. The news came after a decade-long campaign by naturalists, and a proposal coordinated by Oxford, Cambridge and RSA (OCR), a leading UK Awarding Body. The Linnean Society has been a key partner on the advisory board for the GCSE.

The next step of the process is a consultation on the content of the GCSE syllabus, with initial teaching of the new qualification to be in place by autumn 2025. The Society is collaborating with other partners on the advisory board to help shape the content of the syllabus, contributing topics and ideas from both historical and current research. In tandem, we are also considering how our content, including activities and lesson plans (as well as audiovisual content), can support the teachers delivering the GCSE.

JOSEPH BANKS'S ICELANDIC ANNIVERSARY

At the invitation of the British Embassy in Iceland, we ran a two-hour workshop in November in Reykjavik, celebrating the 250th anniversary of Joseph Banks's and Daniel Solander's Icelandic expedition in 1772. The workshop saw students embark on an imaginary journey to an 'undiscovered' island off the coast of Iceland, finding many weird and wonderful species. To learn about Banks, botany and binomial naming, they were tasked with drawing and recording these species and describing their habitat. The finished species were assembled and presented in a large art display that will hang in the British Embassy in Reykjavik.

ENGAGING WITH NATURE AT A LOCAL LEVEL

The Our Local Nature grant scheme is designed to provide young people with the opportunity to lead on projects that involve their local nature and natural spaces, and to have their voices heard. The scheme funds innovative projects designed and led by young people in the UK, increasing access to natural spaces and improving understanding of the local biodiversity.

During the 2022 round we received over 65 fantastic applications, and our four dedicated Youth Panel members combed through

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Our 2022 Portrait Competition winner, Sigge Lovevind from Sweden, chose Carl Linnaeus and Greta Thunberg as his 'nature heroes'; In November we ran a workshop in Reykjavik, to celebrate Joseph Banks's and Daniel Solander's expedition to Iceland; Librarian Will Beharrell led our Linnean Lens talk on Richard Dreyer's illustrated copy of *Illuminated British Flora* in September; Head of Collections Isabelle Charmantier led a personalised tour for the Royal College of Arts.



every single one. They awarded nine grants in total, with the £6,000 fund going towards projects including a coastal clear up in the Shetland Islands, and the building of sensory nature gardens.

CELEBRATING ‘NATURE HEROES’

This year our annual portrait competition asked 8–13-year-olds to create a portrait of their nature hero—someone who had had an impact on their understanding of the natural world. Sixty entrants from across the world entered their artwork, from the UK to India, Sweden, Canada and Ukraine.

Heartfelt congratulations to winner Sigge Lovevind (13) from Sweden, whose amazing graffiti portrait of Carl Linnaeus and Greta Thunberg wowed our judging panel with its creativity and message for the future. Congratulations also go to our runners-up, Jasmine (11, UK) and Leya (8, Ukraine).

A TEAM EFFORT

Our Collections Team was delighted to resume its outreach activities, delivering five Linnean Lens events highlighting items in our collections, nine lectures and talks at conferences, and 42 guided tours of the Society and its collections.

Talks allowed the team to share their expertise: Archivists Alex Milne and Liz McGow outlined archival materials in Linnean Lens talks; Librarian Will Beharrell outlined the Linnean Lens series to the Historic Libraries Forum conference; and Head of Collections Isabelle Charmantier expanded upon our collections and place in the history of science for a meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, and other online conferences.

The Linnean Lens series, which originally began in 2021 as a means of virtually connecting people with our collections during the pandemic, is now a firm and successful fixture in the Society’s calendar. These interactive, online events pair an item from our collections with an expert curator, who guides us through its unique and sometimes surprising history. Highlights this year included an investigation of Charles Darwin’s vasculum, used to collect plant specimens whilst on board the HMS *Beagle*; an 18th-century manuscript damaged during the Blitz; and a whistle-stop tour of Alexander Garden’s remarkable fish specimens. Over 519 people attended the five Linnean Lens lectures in 2022, with well over a thousand more more catching up with the recordings on YouTube—a fantastic turnout. We look forward to revealing more of our treasures throughout the coming year.

Guided tours were split between our monthly Treasures Tours for the general public, private tours (for Friends of Imperial College in coordination with the Royal Astronomical Society, Friends of St Nicholas Church in Chiswick, and the Worshipful Company of Gardeners), and recurring yearly tours for history, art and biology university students. Amongst the newcomers this year were the School of Science and Acting and the London Rare Books School.

CONNECTING THROUGH COLLECTIONS

Linnaeus Link, the online catalogue of Linnaean materials, sprang back into life in 2022. The international collaboration, which now boasts 20 contributing partners spanning three continents, saw its first in-person meeting in over three years, hosted as part of the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (EBHL) conference at the Meise Botanic Garden in Brussels. We were incredibly delighted

to welcome our first contributing partner from South America, the Instituto de Botánica Darwinion in Argentina. The catalogue itself now hosts over 18,300 records of works by or about Carl Linnaeus and provides a vital resource for scholars around the world.

THE YEAR TO COME

Going forward, we intend to build on the progress we've made with our outreach, and are keen to partner with other organisations in order to engage with new audiences. From an education standpoint, in spring 2023 we will be working with Grow2Know, a North Kensington Community Interest Company (CIC) established after the Grenfell Tower fire in London, where we will run an Art Fund-supported nature club at a local school, culminating in a visit to the Society. We will also be working with The Wave Project on workshops for young people with mental health needs, and our trial run for family 'Cabinets of Curiosity' tours in 2023 will show a different side to our history.

RIGHT: Régine Fabri (formerly of Belgium's Meise Botanic Garden) and our Honorary Curator of Artefacts Glenn Benson gave our Linnean Lens talk in June, looking at the history and use of the vasculum (an 18th- and 19th-century botanist's best friend), while focussing on one of the Society's most precious artefacts—the vasculum of Charles Darwin.



2022

in numbers

Items **RETRIEVED FOR LIBRARY
READERS & RESEARCHERS**

973 BOOKS

932 MANUSCRIPTS
& ARCHIVES

275 SPECIMENS



Requests for digitised images
**OF LINNEAN SOCIETY
COLLECTIONS**

134



1,576

new records added to
Archive Catalogue

SOCIALS



↑ 4,155
new subs



↑ 742
new subs



↑ 808
new subs

135

boxes of **DOMESTIC
ARCHIVE** materials
sorted & catalogued

40

grants awarded
via the **LINNÉSYS:
SYSTEMATICS
RESEARCH FUND**



169 NEW **FELLOWS**

52 NEW **ASSOCIATES**

68 NEW **STUDENT
MEMBERS**

attendees of our
EVENTS & TALKS
from

28
countries



Partners
participating in
LINNAEUS LINK

20



↑ 26%
increase in Library
enquiries



7,215

£10,500

raised via donations
to our **collections**
conservation
scheme **AdoptLINN**



APPLICATIONS
to the 'Our Local
Nature' grant scheme

65

'As a Fellow of that wonderful Society, I highly encourage you take a tour. In addition to fantastic life scientists, several of the Fellows are botanical artists and historians of science. It is a very inclusive place.'

—on Twitter

Inspiring Others

Through our collections, the knowledge of our Fellows, staff and other stakeholders, we are keen to foster collaborations, conceive innovative ideas and cultivate interdisciplinary projects. In 2022 we saw many projects born, while others came to fruition.

PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Inspiring new research topics and fruitful collaborations through access to our collections is one of the most rewarding aspects of running a Library and Archives. Such collaborations are a rewarding way of furthering knowledge of our own collections and within a larger discipline.

In 2022, we were partners in four such projects, including Christina Welch's project on the Alexander Anderson botanical manuscripts. Funded by the AHRC-NERC 'Hidden Histories' programme, the project resulted in these manuscripts being reordered, fully digitised and partly transcribed. The Society has also been participating in the bid, led by the University of Cambridge Library, to have Charles Darwin's manuscripts inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World register. Finally, in October, two other projects began: Fellows Edwin Rose and Staffan Müller-Wille's AHRC-funded 'Nature in the Age of Revolutions', and the Linnean Society's first ever Collaborative Doctoral Award student, Jonn Gale. With Emily Senior, Sarah Thomas (both Birkbeck University) and Isabelle Charmantier as co-supervisors, Jonn will be researching 'Black and Indigenous Collectors in the Linnean Society's Archives'.



Our collections have always been an inspiration for artists, and in 2022 Lena Granefelt photographed hundreds of Linnaean herbarium specimens for her show *A Linnean Collection*, opening in Gallery Glas in Stockholm in February 2023.

BIODIVERSITY AND FINANCE: COMFORTABLE BEDFELLOWS?

The 2022 Science Policy Event, in collaboration with the Systematics Association, was a slight departure from the norm. Instead of a straightforward lecture, we hosted a debate on whether the worlds of biodiversity and finance were making space for a common

planet. With Elree Winnett Seelig (Global Head of Environmental, Social and Governance for Citi's Markets franchise), Mike Maunder (Executive Director of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative), and Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker (Editor of Responsible Investor), this in-person event attracted 85 engaged audience members, with further views of the recording online. Several attendees expressed interest in more events of this nature.

Elree Winnett-Seelig was also interviewed for one of our podcast episodes (#53: 'What's being done about the energy crisis?'). We were very encouraged by the enthusiasm and participation of the audience at this event, and we hope to be able to continue these relevant and dynamic discussions at the Society.

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

The Bristol Natural History Consortium is a natural partner for the Linnean Society, with both groups providing a meeting place for those working in natural history and focussing on organisations and individuals respectively.

In August, we collaborated on a podcast about Overstory, an artwork in Bristol produced using microscopic imagery of trees. The podcast, promoted amongst BNHC networks, was one of our most popular of the year.

Later in November, Anna Perman and Isabelle Charmantier led a roundtable on collections and the natural world at the Consortium's

Communicate Conference, helping to raise the Society's profile within this professional audience.

TIES THAT BIND

As the year started to feel like the world was truly 'getting back into the swing of things', we were able to connect with more groups in person, including those in book conservation. In February, Janet Ashdown gave a presentation on the history of paper to members of the Florilegium Society at London's Chelsea Physic Garden, where participants could handle many samples made from a variety of raw materials; they later visited our home at Burlington House in October and were given a demonstration of book and paper repairs. We also welcomed The Worshipful Company of Gardeners for a display on bookbinding and book repair in our Discovery Room.

STEP BY STEP

In 2021, Isabelle Charmantier proposed a bold refresh of the Society's main staircase. The idea was to respectfully relocate the portraits that have long adorned the staircase and use the space to showcase images from our wonderful, but sometimes unseen, collections. The aim was to more clearly outline our work as a natural history society and provide a welcoming space to visitors. Leonie Berwick and Andrea Deneau spent much of 2022 choosing the themes and images, photographing and preparing them for print, and writing the accompanying narratives. Under the supervision of Janet Ashdown, the portraits were relocated at the end of the year and 51 new framed prints went up in their place. When you are next at the Society, we hope you enjoy the new display, peppered with treasures from our collections.

LEFT: (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) Elree Winnett Selig, Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker (Chair) and Mike Maunder all joined the Society in October for our Science Policy Lecture with the Systematics Association, a debate on whether the worlds of biodiversity and finance can truly coexist.

Financial Review

As expected, the Society's income fell in 2022 following the end of the annual transition payments of £150,000 from our publisher Oxford University Press in 2021. Total income before donations and legacies was down £87,297 to £2,009,817 (2021: £2,097,114). Donations and legacies added £35,009 (2021: £403,430), taking the total income to £2,044,826 (2021: £2,500,544). Our expenditure was up £68,173 on last year to £1,651,614 (2021: £1,583,441), with increased spending on our publications, collections, scientific meetings and research sponsorship being offset by lower educational expenditure this year.

Overall, our surplus of income over expenditure (excluding net gains / losses on investments) in 2022 was £393,212 (2021: £917,103). This metric is the best way to assess the ongoing 'operational' financial performance of the Society.

The book value of our investments reduced during the year by £564,683 (2021: gain of £442,962) taking the overall net deficit for 2022 to £171,471 (2021: surplus of £1,360,065).

INCOME

As usual, the overwhelming majority of our income came from our scientific research journals. As a result of the conclusion of the OUP transitional payments, total income from publications decreased 9.2% in 2022 to £1,666,215 (2021: £1,834,095). After production and editorial costs payable by the Society, the net contribution of our journals was £1,404,641, a decrease of 3.5% on 2021 (£1,454,964).

Membership contributions were down fractionally to £153,914 (2021: £154,753). Grants, donations and legacies play an important role in sustaining our charitable activities and contributed £35,009 this year. We are most grateful to all those donors who have supported the Society, both directly and through the AdoptLINN programme.

Income from room hire, catering and other activities continued to be negatively affected by the residual impact of the pandemic, but did show a marked improvement over 2021. We are also working hard to increase the revenue we generate from our digital assets, although this is yet to make a meaningful contribution.

INVESTMENTS

Due to stock market falls following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and increased interest rates globally, the value of our investments fell by £564,683 in 2022. Whilst disappointing, this follows aggregate gains over the previous three years of nearly £1 million.

Our aim is to enhance the value of both capital and income on a long-term sustainable basis. We try to take a prudent approach, with investments balanced across asset classes and markets in order to avoid excessive risk. The investment strategy targets returns over

the medium term of at least 3% per annum above inflation. During the year, we have continued to implement the ethical investment policy that we adopted in 2020 to ensure that our investment strategy seeks to minimise irresponsible corporate behaviour.

EXPENDITURE

Over 98% of the Society's expenditure was used to further our charitable objectives in 2022, with only £23,446 spent on managing investments. Total expenditure on our seven core charitable activities (Education, Publications, Scientific Meetings, Collections, Collections (Curatorial) Collections (Conservation & Digitisation), and Research Sponsorship) was £1,628,168 (2021: £1,559,855).

Staff costs increased during the year to £769,386 (2021: £705,178), reflecting higher employee numbers and cost of living increases. Our direct editorial costs increased to £170,010 (2021: £121,566), in part reflecting the investment in the new *Evolutionary Journal*. This increase was partially offset by lower production and distribution costs incurred on our behalf by OUP.

Rent and other charges by our Landlord, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, amounted to £210,912 (2021: £200,167). Significant uncertainty remains over future rental costs.

FUNDS

The Society's reserves are split between Permanent Endowments and Restricted Funds (£3,128,141, including heritage assets of £1,500,000 that cannot be monetised), and Unrestricted Funds of £6,396,138. Within Unrestricted Funds, the Society holds designated reserves to reflect funds to be spent on fixed assets and earmarked for planned future expenditure of £2,567,515 (2021: £2,787,868).

OUTLOOK

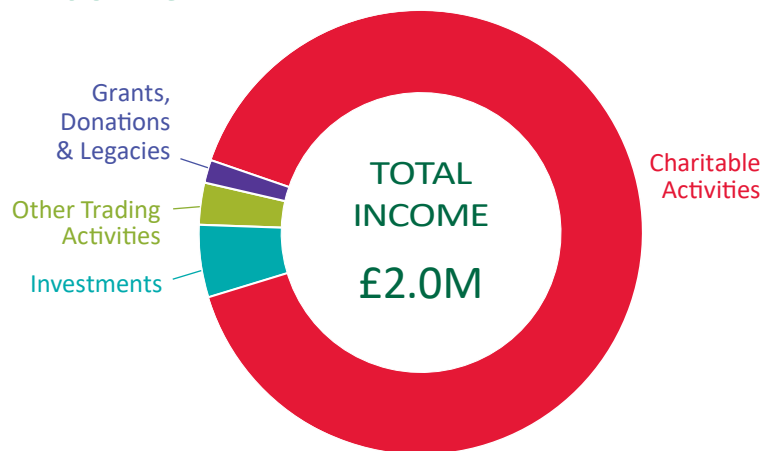
The Society remains in a relatively healthy financial position, but there are significant challenges ahead. We need to find ways to grow our income, which remains heavily dependent on revenue from OUP, which is under long-term threat from trends in publishing. We expect our charitable activities to increase in 2023, as the residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to fade, which will result in increased expenditure in some areas. Our employment costs will rise through the cost of living increases we implemented in 2022 and as we reflect market forces in our compensation levels. Inflation in fuel bills and elsewhere will add to our costs and we have not yet reached a resolution with Government over the ever-increasing rental and other charges associated with Burlington House. As a result, we expect to be broadly break-even on an 'operational' basis in 2023.

ANNUAL REPORT & AUDITORS

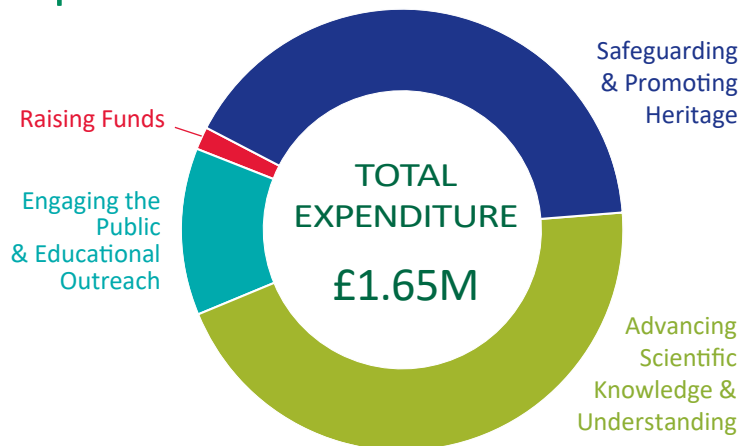
Further details of the Society's finances are set out in the *Annual Report and Accounts 2022*, available on the Society's website. We thank Priya Nithianandan, our Head of Finance, for his continued careful oversight of our finances.



Income



Expenditure



Summarised Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

	2022	2021
	£	£
INCOME FROM		
GRANTS, DONATIONS AND LEGACIES	35,009	403,430
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		
MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS	153,914	154,753
SAFEGUARDING & PROMOTING OUR HERITAGE COLLECTIONS	15,486	8,285
ADVANCING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING	1,674,454	1,839,290
INVESTMENTS	109,041	84,174
OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES	56,922	10,612
TOTAL INCOME	2,044,826	2,500,544

EXPENDITURE ON		
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		
SAFEGUARDING & PROMOTING OUR HERITAGE COLLECTIONS	682,170	611,121
ADVANCING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING	743,306	676,024
ENGAGING THE PUBLIC & EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH	202,692	272,710
RAISING FUNDS	23,446	23,586
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,651,614	1,583,441

SOFA Cont'd	2022	2021
	£	£
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) BEFORE GAINS (LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	393,212	917,103
GAINS (LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	(564,683)	442,962
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(171,471)	1,360,065

Summarised Balance Sheet

FIXED ASSETS		
HERITAGE ASSETS	1,566,950	1,566,950
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	687,308	717,869
INVESTMENTS AT MARKET VALUE	4,810,503	5,121,489
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	7,064,761	7,406,308
CURRENT ASSETS		
DEBTORS	478,548	508,505
SHORT TERM DEPOSITS	3,002,650	2,995,330
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	650,746	647,975
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	4,131,944	4,151,810

Balance Sheet Cont'd	2022	2021
	£	£
OTHER LIABILITIES		
CREDITORS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	(1,672,426)	(1,642,015)
CREDITORS DUE AFTER ONE YEAR	-	(220,353)
NET ASSETS	9,524,279	9,695,750
FUNDS		
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	766,711	858,814
RESTRICTED FUNDS	2,361,430	2,453,960
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	6,396,138	6,382,976
TOTAL FUNDS	9,524,279	9,695,750

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 2022*. The *Annual Report and Accounts 2022* 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.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: A leafhopper, photographed as part of Jefferson Saucedá Valderrama's LinnéSys Fund project to perform a taxonomic revision and phylogeny of *Abana* leafhoppers in Brazil (© Jefferson Saucedá Valderrama); Engaged audience members got involved with our Science Policy Lecture on 'Biodiversity and Finance', with the Systematics Association; Photographer Lena Granefelt did a close up study of some of Carl Linnaeus's plant specimens for her exhibition *A Linnean Collection*; and our badge making stand connected visitors of all ages with our collections at Open House London in September.

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 three world-class research journals and providing support and recognition through grant schemes and awards to emerging scientists and naturalists.
- Engaging the public through regular tours of the collections, conferences and free monthly public lectures, while our educational programme, which fuses science, history and art, reaches out to students of all ages and backgrounds, providing free resources in schools, in Burlington House and online.

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

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.

The Society will re-start its strategy process in early 2023 at a combined Council and staff meeting, with continued expert assistance from the Worshipful Company of Management Consultants (WCoMC). We had hoped to commence strategic planning in earnest during 2022, but competing priorities and a change in personnel at WCoMC somewhat stymied our progress. The Society remains extremely grateful for the generous ongoing support from WCoMC.

People

President ✧

Dr Sandra Knapp (until May)
Professor Anjali Goswami
(from May)

Vice Presidents

Robbie Blackhall-Miles
Dr Blanca Huertas
Dr Howard Nelson

Treasurer ✧

Edward Banks

COUNCIL

The Officers (✧)

Professor Paul Barrett (from May)
Robbie Blackhall-Miles
Dr Rich Boden
Professor Brycchan Carey
Kevin Coutinho
Professor Julia Day (resigned Jan 2023)
Dr Natasha de Vere (retired 2022)
Mathew Frith (retired 2022)
Dr Charlotte Grezo

SECRETARIES

Scientific ✧

Professor Alan Hildrew
Professor Simon Hiscock (until May)
Professor Jonathan Drori (from May)

Editorial ✧

Professor Mark Chase FRS (until May)
Professor Paul Brakefield (May–Sept)

Collections ✧

Dr John David (until May)
Dr Mark Watson (from May)

Andrea Hart (from May)
Professor Alistair Hetherington
(retired 2022)
Dr Blanca Huertas (from May)
Dr Isabel Larridon
Angus McCullough
Dr Howard Nelson (from May)
Professor Michael J. Reiss (from May)
Philip Sadler
Elaine Shaughnessy

THE TEAM

CEO

Professor Gail Cardew (from April)

Head of Collections

Dr Isabelle Charmantier

Head of Finance

Priya Nithianandan

Head of Operations

Helen Shaw

Head of Engagment

Anna Perman (from June)

Librarian

Will Beharrell

Archivist

Liz M^cGow

Project Archivist

Alex Milne

Assistant Archivist

Luke Thorne

Digital Assets Manager

Andrea Deneau

Publications Manager

Leonie Berwick

Communications & Events Manager

Padmaparna Ghosh

Multimedia Content Producer

Ross Ziegelmeier

Education Manager

Joe Burton (until July)
Ayesha Meredith-Lewis (from Sept)

BioMedia Meltdown Manager

Daryl Stenvoll-Wells (until Feb 2022)

Governance Manager

Cathy Youthed (until July)
Andrew Swan (from Nov)

Room Hire & Membership Assistant

Tatiana Franco

Conservator

Janet Ashdown

Education Assistant

Zia Forrai (until July)

Editorial Assistant (*Botanical Journal*)/Journal Editorial Manager

Dr Hassan Rankou (2012–Aug 2022; Sept 2022)

Office Cleaner

Fatima Mendoca

CURATORS

Fish, Shells & General Zoology	Oliver Crimmen
Insects	Suzanne Ryder
Plants	Dr Mark A. Spencer
Artefacts	Glenn Benson
Honorary Archivist	Gina Douglas

EDITORS

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

Committee Membership

The CEO, as well as The Officers (✧), are ex officio (e.o.) members of all Committees. Our Committee members are drawn from a wide variety of institutions.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE*

The Editorial Secretary (e.o.) (Chair)
The Editors (e.o.)
Representatives from the publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP)
Dr Rebecca A. Farley-Brown (2001)

*Note: Editorial Committee to be renamed the Publishing Committee from 2023.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Treasurer (e.o.) (Chair)
Head of Finance (e.o.)
Giles Coode-Adams (2001)
Dr Charlotte Grezo (2020)

Edward Hoare (1998)
Professor Gren Lucas OBE HonFLS (1995)

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

The Collections Secretary (e.o.) (Chair)
The Curators (e.o.)
Collections staff, and Engagement staff (e.o.)
Susan Gove (2001)
Andrea Hart (2015)
Dr D. J. Nicholas Hind (1995)
Debbie Lane (2020)
Chris Saunders (2021)

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The President (e.o.) (Chair)
Steph Holt (2022)
Dr Howard Nelson (2022)
Elaine Shaughnessy (2022)

MEDALS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

The President (e.o.) (Chair)

Engagement staff

Dr Rich Boden (2022)

Professor Julia Day (2022)

Professor Kayla King (2022)

Dr Sandra Knapp (2022)

PROGRAMMES COMMITTEE**

Scientific Secretary, Prof Alan Hildrew (Chair)

Events & Communications Manager (e.o.)

Education Manager (e.o.)

Head of Collections (e.o.)

Professor Jeff Duckett (2018)

Dr Michelle Jackson (2021)

Dr Leanne Melbourne (2020)

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Scientific Secretary, Professor Simon Hiscock (Chair)

Engagement staff, and Collections staff (e.o.)

Lyn Baber (2018)

Charlotte Coales (2019)

Michael Holland (2020)

Susie Kelpie (2019)

Geoff Lockwood (2013)

Dr Jonathan Mitchley (2020)

Professor Dawn Sanders (2019)

Dr Jane Taylor (2013)

**Note: Programmes Committee and Education and Public Engagement Committee were disbanded in 2022. The new Engagement Committee will be formed in 2023.

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

Education Manager (Chair)

Governance Manager

Head of Operations

Engagement staff (e.o.)

Philip Sadler (2021)

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

The Treasurer (Chair)

The President

CEO

Head of Finance

Philip Sadler (2022)

AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

The President (Chair)

The Treasurer

Professor Brycchan Carey (2021)

Dr Natasha de Vere (2020)

Fellowship representative, Dr Tiina Särkinen (2021)

Fellowship representative, Simon King (2021)

A representative of Knox Cropper (Auditors) and Head of Finance in attendance

Looking Forward | 2023

'The way the Linnean Society draws people together is one of its strengths.'

—Mark Fox FLS on Twitter

This was the response to an online event during which attendees introduced themselves from places as far away as Italy, Puerto Rico, Mexico City, Punjab North India, Bulgaria, Argentina and Brazil. It's also fantastic to see the rooms busy once more with people attending our activities, tours of our wonderful collections and venue hire clients



organising a range of stimulating meetings. Watch out for further developments, including 'Cabinets of Curiosities' (a set of family tours of the Society), the stunning display of artwork from our collections adorning the walls of the staircase, and news of school children visiting the building to celebrate their own nature-based activities.

Ensuring the Society remains a welcoming and inspiring organisation for people across disciplines, backgrounds and ages globally, is key to the organisation's future. We must remain 'tuned into' the changing needs of both people and the planet. Staff and Council will work together in 2023 on a strategy to address this, and we will need help from our membership and stakeholders. Whether it's through contributing expertise, helping to grow our Fellowship, supporting the modernisation of our governance, submitting papers to our journals, venue hire, donating to the care

of our precious collections, or simply spreading the word about our wonderful organisation, all your help is appreciated.

Our strategy will also focus on income diversification in order to continue (and hopefully expand!) our activity and impact. Despite the creativity and hard work of everyone involved in the Society's activities, we are facing uncertain times: rising inflation and energy bills, as well as increased rents and lack of resolution on the Burlington House lease, are all putting pressure on the organisation's finances.

We are indebted to the people who have left generous legacies and donations to the Society in 2022, enabling us to continue our charitable work. Indeed, thank you to everyone, and particularly the Fellowship, Council and staff, for your ongoing support.

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 WWW.LINNEAN.ORG/ANNUALREPORT

Twitter: @LinneanSociety | @LinneanLearning

Facebook: /LinneanSociety

YouTube: /LinneanSociety

Instagram: linneansociety

The Linnean Society of London | Burlington House | Piccadilly | London W1J 0BF

Tel: +44 (0)20 7434 4479 | Email: info@linnean.org | Web: www.linnean.org



Charity Reference No. 220509 | VAT Registration No. 512524678



Linnean*Learning*