

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Society will be held at 18.30 on 10th December by Zoom Video and Teleconference. Please sign up to attend at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bees-in-the-city-by-tony-madgwick-and-lnhs-agm-tickets-122361768343>.

If you are unable to access the internet to book please contact the Secretary prior to 7th December for alternative arrangements.

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11th December 2019
- 3 To receive and to adopt the Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities of the Society for the period 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2020
- 4 To elect Officers and other members to serve on Council for 2021
- 5 To elect an independent examiner for 2020-21
- 6 Any other business

The formal business of the meeting will be followed by

An address at the invitation of council – by Dr Tony Madgwick on Bees in the City

Enclosures:

- *Minutes of previous AGM*
- *Annual Report for 2019-20*
- *Summarised statement of financial activities for 2019-20*
- *Membership renewal form (coloured paper)*

Nominations for candidates for council or officers to be received by the Secretary no later than noon on 9th December

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on Wednesday December 11th 2019 at Swedenborg House, 20-21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH at 6.30pm.

Present: Secretary David Howdon, Treasurer, Mike West, Mike Wilsdon Minuting Secretary, Angela Linnell.

There were 39 members present.

- 1 **Apologies for absence** had been received from Kieron Brown, Keith Hyatt and Mick Massie.
- 2 **To Confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on December 11th 2019.** David Bevan pointed out that his name was misspelt “Beavan” in Item 5. The Minutes were approved *nem con*.
- 3 **Annual report and Statement of Accounts for July 1st 2018 to June 30th 2019**
David Howdon thanked all those involved in running the Society. Other societies admired the fact that the LNHS runs events most weeks of the year. He thanked Kat Duke for reviving the Hampstead Heath survey and Mike Wilsdon for all the work he does on the finances of the LNHS. He said that both the *London Naturalist* and the *London Bird Report* reach a very high standard. There are projects under way on both flora and butterflies. He urged the audience to recruit more members. He thanked David Allen for all his work on the LNHS library, and urged us to use it more. He thanked all the volunteers for their dedication to making the Society run smoothly. He said that Michael Wilsdon’s work in digitising the *London Naturalist* would be of great benefit and urged members to suggest other projects.
- 4 **To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities of the Society for the period July 1st 2018 to June 30th 2019.** Mike West introduced the accounts – for the 29th time, he told the audience. They have been signed off and approved by chartered accountants Meyer Williams. The key figure on page 4 was the increase in net assets from £364,477 in 2018 to £369,358 in 2019. He commented that while older members tend to renew every year, some new members never renew and it would be useful to find out why. Investment income was down by about £1,000 compared to 2018; The overall costs of sectional meetings had been significantly offset by the sponsorship organised by the London Bird Club chairman, Gehan de Silva. Expenditure on the hire of halls has increased and further increases are probable. The report was passed *nem con*.
- 5 **To elect the Officers and other members (other than Section representatives) to serve on Council in 2020.** David Howdon said that he intended to stand down as Secretary at the next AGM. The Society has not had a President for some years.

Kat Duke will stand down as Hampstead Heath Survey representative and Keiron Brown will take over. This was approved.

The confirmation of David Howdon as Secretary of the LNHS and of Mike West as Treasurer for the year 2019-20 and the following as representatives on Council were passed *nem con*.

Role	Nominee(s)
President	Vacant
Treasurer	Mike West
Secretary	David Howdon
Members other than Section representatives. Ten to be elected.	Clive Herbert
	Keiron Brown
	Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne
	Angela Linnell
	Ian Woodward
	Jan Hewlett
	Joanne Hatton
	Maria Roberts
	Nick Rutter
	Liz Andrew

There being no other candidates, the election of these Officers and other members to serve as trustees was passed *en bloc*.

6 To elect a new Independent Examiner for 2018-9. Mike West said that the Independent Examiner, Ralph Sears of Meyer Williams, had again done an excellent job. He had worked on the Society's accounts for many years, and his fee was very reasonable. The appointment was approved *nem con*.

7 Any other business. Kat Duke said she had found some items relating to the Bookham Common survey amongst the paperwork for the Hampstead Heath surveys. It was decided that the items are better in the safe keeping of Kat for the time being. She said that the walks on Hampstead Heath encouraged people they met to ask about what they saw and she liked to give them a copy of the LNHS brochure. However, she thought it was out of date and suggested that it should be reprinted. This was approved, subject to negotiations on the cost. Mike Wilsdon raised the question of the LNHS and ethical investment and it was agreed to pursue this objective.

The AGM was followed by a talk by Peter Eeles on **Life cycles of British and Irish butterflies**.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity 206228

Report of the society for the year ending 30 June 2020

Objects

The objects of the society are the study and recording of natural history, archaeology and other kindred subjects, especially within twenty miles of St Paul's Cathedral, the promotion of scientific investigations, the appreciation and conservation of the natural environment and the publication in the society's journals of scientific and educational papers. Activities and achievements in respect of these objectives are described below.

Governance: Council, Committees and Sections

A Council of Trustees, comprising the officers (President, Treasurer, Secretary), up to ten representatives of the members at large and one representative of each of the society's Sections (currently five) governs the society. During the year Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne represented the London Bird Club section; Frances Dismore the Botany section, Clive Herbert the Ecology and Entomology section and Keiron Brown the Hampstead Heath Survey section. The post of Bookham Common representative remained unfilled.

No President was appointed at the 2015-2019 AGMs and the society has operated with this post unfilled for the whole of the year.

Rule 17(6) which limits a continuous period of elected membership to five years, and came into force in December 2017 replacing rule 4(c) which made similar provision and had been in effect since December 2005. This limitation on terms for council members was first implemented at the AGM in 2010.

The Administration and Finance Committee, chaired by Michael Wilsdon, dealt with much delegated business.

Membership

96 new members joined during the year, compared with 94 last year. The number of individual members currently stands at 798, compared with 895 at the same time last year, and 901 the previous year.

The significant drop in the number of members is at least in part accounted for by the decision, at a time when we had not yet created our virtual meetings talk, to not chase payments from those members who would normally have received a reminder. In effect we have allowed these to remain in membership until the end of the year rather than removing them. However these members are not included in the total above. Council continues to explore ideas for encouraging and increasing our membership. This year we

LNHS Annual Report to 30th June 2020

started work on redesigning and generating new content for the LNHS website to better reflect what the society does and make it more effective as a recruitment tool. The society's Facebook page provides another way of showing all the activities of the organisation and is an effective way of engaging with a wider community. However as previously commented in these reports membership and recruitment is not a matter for Council alone. We need members to tell us what they want from the society, what we should do more of and what would encourage people they know to join. Members who know people interested in natural history who are not LNHS members are encouraged to convince them to join us; you really are our best recruitment mechanism.

Remember that the society is not just for experts – meetings and workshops are planned with beginners in mind, and newcomers are always encouraged to play an active part in the society's affairs. If you know someone who is unsure whether to join invite them along to one of the field or indoor meetings (when they are running again) or to attend one of our virtual talks.

We have been notified of and record with regret the deaths of the following members during the year to 30 June (date of joining in brackets): Ms Kathleen Black (2002), Mr Philip Draper (2004). Mrs Pamela Freshwater (1959), Mr William Howard (1994), Dr Margaret Macpherson (1975) and Mr John Martin (1978).

Finances

The annual financial report accompanies this annual report. The society continues to receive a significant amount of income as a result of members who pay under the gift aid scheme, and members are thanked for doing so. Any members who pay sufficient tax to be eligible for the gift aid scheme but currently not signed up to it are encouraged to consider doing so.

Activities

The Botany Section continued to focus on field work for the Flora of London Project aiming to produce a new flora of the London area to replace Rodney Burton's 1983 Flora of the London Area. The Flora remains a high profile and important society project, members are strongly encouraged to join our recording meetings or submit their own records.

The Ecology and Entomology section continued its well attended programme of field and indoor meetings covering a diverse range of taxa and developing a group of regular attendees as well as more occasional joiners. Catherine Schmitt again represented the LNHS at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological and Natural History Society. During the year work for the new Butterflies of the London Area has continued with support from GIGL, the London records centre.

LNHS Annual Report to 30th June 2020

Under the brand of the London Bird Club the society has continued to run a series of field meetings showing the diversity of bird life that the LNHS area has to offer. Indoor meetings have continued to prove popular at their new location of Burgh House in Hampstead. The London Bird Club has a reading circle which any LNHS member can join. The journals are sent out to members to read for a small fee and then pass on to the next subscriber. The journals circulated are *Ardea*, *Birdlife*, *British Birds*, *Dutch Birding*, *Ibis* and *Scottish Birds*. Details of how to subscribe are in the LNHS programme.

The society was well represented to the first London Recorders Day in November, demonstrating and celebrating the work of the society recording wildlife in the London area.

The London Bird Club reading circle now has 15 members, having lost one member and gained two more in 2020. We may face a problem if *Ibis* discontinues its print version and is restricted to an on-line version.

Coronavirus

The arrival in the UK of the covid-19 global pandemic and the associated government restrictions had a significant impact on the society's activities from March until the end of the reporting year. All field and indoor meetings were suspended, and the various administrative committees of the society were unable to meet in presence. Restrictions at the Natural History Museum meant that members, and our librarian, were unable to access the library from March onwards.

The society acquired a subscription to the Zoom online conferencing facility which allows us to continue with the necessary business. Beyond the period covered by this annual report the society has used that account to run a highly successful series of online talks, a fuller report on these will be included in next year's annual report.

Recording and recorders

Thanks go to our recorders for all their continuing hard work.

The society has an ongoing project at <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/gigl/london-bird-records> to convert the society's old record cards into a modern digital format. Members are encouraged to sign up and help out (full instructions are provided and you don't need to be technically skilled to make a contribution).

Journals and other publications

LNHS Annual Report to 30th June 2020

The London Naturalist 98 (2019) was distributed to members in November 2019. The editorial team are continuing to produce a high quality journal of which the society can be proud.

The London Bird Report No 83 for the year 2018 was published in 2020. The editorial board continues its hard work getting these reports out in a timely fashion. There are a lot of stages necessary in getting these out involving record submission, verification, validation, processing, and subsequent writing up so it is a tribute to their work that this all gets turned around so effectively.

Work on the London Flora and Butterflies of the London Area continued and have been discussed in the Activities report above.

Library

David Allen the LNHS librarian continues his excellent work operating and maintaining our library in its home in the Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity at the Natural History Museum's Darwin Centre Phase 2 making it available to the public (for reference) and LNHS members (for borrowing). The library is an important resource for members providing access to a wide range of out of print and hard to find natural history titles, and unlike many other libraries the Angela Marmont Centre is very welcoming of people bringing in specimens to try to identify. Members are encouraged to make use of it, subject to any restrictions from the current situation.

Conservation of the natural environment

Rich habitats are still under threat from developers. The society is often asked to lend its voice to protests against such developments. Council's view is that an appropriate campaigning body in such cases is the London Wildlife Trust, the LNHS being better placed to provide evidence-based advice if required. Our partnership with GiGL helps ensure that our high quality validated records are available for such purposes.

This report has been prepared with due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

London Natural History Society
(Charity Registration Number 206228)

Accounts
For The Year Ended 30th June 2020

Meyer Williams
Chartered Accountants
Stag House
Old London Road
Hertford
Hertfordshire
SG13 7LA

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

The Society's accounts are again presented on a receipts and payments basis, as permitted by the Charity Commission.

At the end of the financial year on 30 June 2020, the total net assets of the Society as detailed in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities had increased by £11,405 to £380,763 compared with £369,358 the previous year.

The Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year show that payments exceeded receipts by £1,607 this was largely due to the purchase of COIF charities fixed interest fund units of £5,000. Receipts from members and supporters totalled £23,687 (compared with £20,253) and included a legacy of £5,000. Total receipts in the year were £35,131 compared with £31,719 in the previous year.

Total expenditure totalled £36,738 (compared to £41,763 last year) which included the new investments of £5,000.

The COVID-19 restrictions were beginning to impact on the Society's activities in the final 3 months of the year, and much of the sponsorship income and hall hire expenditure relates to events that have had to be postponed until next year.

Reserves Policy

The London Natural History Society may hold funds in the form of cash, stocks, shares, bonds, collective funds and other classes of investment deemed from time to time to be appropriate (hereafter 'the reserves'). The reserves will be held for the purpose of providing an income stream to support the Society's activities and publications, and maintain membership rates at affordable levels so as not to exclude people from the educational benefits of the Society, and to encourage increased and informed participation in wildlife recording activity.

Where income from the reserves is sufficient to meet these purposes the Society may make additional payments from the reserves to third parties to fund research and ecological study (with a particular emphasis on the London area) where such research is consistent with the objects of the Society.

The trustees may decide to use amounts held as part of the reserves to fund publications or other projects which further the Society's charitable aims.

The Society uses investments specifically set up for charities, which invest in bonds and deposits, and not directly in the equity of individual companies. Each of these funds has associated ethical policies, and the Society considers this is a prudent and proportionate means of balancing our financial needs and ethical concerns.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities – continued

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- c) make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- e) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
(Charity Registered Number – 206228)**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
London Natural History Society**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the London Natural History Society ('the charity') for the year ended 30 June 2020 which comprise of receipts and payments and the statement of assets and liabilities.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('The Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

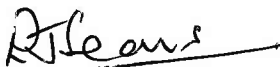
An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no audit opinion on the accounts and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



R J Sears FCCA
Meyer Williams
Chartered Accountants
Stag House,
Old London Road
Hertford,
Herts,
SG13 7LA

Date: 27 OCTOBER 2020

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
As at 30th June 2020

Notes	2020	2019
	£	£
Monetary Assets		
Bank Balances:		
National Westminster current account	-	-
National Westminster reserve account	16,773	18,515
Cash in hand	298	163
	<u>17,071</u>	<u>18,678</u>
Investment Assets		
M&G Charibond	140,230	138,775
COIF Fixed Interest Fund	198,997	192,440
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	<u>24,465</u>	<u>19,465</u>
	363,692	350,680
Net Assets	<u><u>£380,763</u></u>	<u><u>£369,358</u></u>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on... 7 October 2020


D Howdon - Secretary


M J West - Treasurer

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th June 2020

RECEIPTS	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts from Members and Supporters:				
Subscriptions		14,047		15,686
Donations		1,222		1,043
Legacy income		5,000		-
Tax recovered on Subscriptions and Donations under Gift Aid		3,262		3,261
Reading Circle receipts		156		137
London Bird Club – Meeting entry fees		-		126
		<u>23,687</u>		<u>20,253</u>
Sales:				
Journals		581		562
Previous publications		9		2
Other income:				
“The London Bird Atlas” - Royalty Income		122		396
Sundry receipt		20		111
Sponsorship of Meetings and Events		1,188		988
Refund of bank charges		-		4
		<u>1,920</u>		<u>2,063</u>
Investment income:				
Charities Fixed Interest Fund	6,234		6,134	
Charities Deposit Fund Interest	108		125	
Income from M&G Charibond	3,136		3,101	
Bank Deposit Account Interest	35		30	
Interest on Gift Aid tax recovered	11		13	
		<u>9,524</u>		<u>9,403</u>
Total Receipts		<u>35,131</u>		<u>31,719</u>
Less: Total Payments (Page 6)		<u>(36,738)</u>		<u>(41,763)</u>
Net (Payments) for the year		<u>(1,607)</u>		<u>(10,044)</u>
Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 1 st July 2019		<u>18,678</u>		<u>28,722</u>
Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 30th June 2020		<u>£17,071</u>		<u>£18,678</u>

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)
For the year ended 30th June 2020

PAYMENTS

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Meeting Costs, Sectional & General Expenditure:				
Hire of Halls and Rooms	2,121		2,200	
Lecturers' Fees and Expenses, Sectional Expenses etc.	953		909	
Reading Circle Journals	345		415	
Postage and Telephone	126		347	
Office Supplies and copying	689		499	
Services	179		35	
Independent Examiners' Fees	1,800		1,800	
Insurance	1,764		1,910	
Expense Allowances	148		138	
Paypal account charges	49		91	
Refund of duplicate subscription	-		16	
		8,174		8,360
Publications:				
Printing and Expenses:				
London Naturalist No. 97	-		4,188	
London Naturalist No. 98	5,019		-	
London Bird Report 2017	-		4,407	
London Bird Report 2018	4,401		-	
		9,420		8,595
Programme	688		827	
Newsletters	3,407		2,737	
Mailing	6,874		6,575	
		10,969		10,139
Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure		354		363
Library		1,716		1,832
Grant towards publication of Hawkweed book		500		-
Bookham hut expenses		423		-
Website costs		182		474
		31,738		29,763
Asset and investment purchases:				
Payment into COIF charities deposit fund account		5,000		-
Purchase of COIF charities fixed interest fund units		-		6,000
Purchase of M&G Charibond Investment		-		6,000
Total Payments for the Year		£36,738		£41,763

London Natural History Society
(Charity Registration Number 206228)

Accounts
For The Year Ended 30th June 2020

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LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities – continued

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RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('The Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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R J Sears FCCA
Meyer Williams
Chartered Accountants
Stag House,
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Herts,
SG13 7LA

Date:

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th June 2020

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Charities Fixed Interest Fund	6,234		6,134	
Charities Deposit Fund Interest	108		125	
Income from M&G Charibond	3,136		3,101	
Bank Deposit Account Interest	35		30	
Interest on Gift Aid tax recovered	11		13	
		<u>9,524</u>		<u>9,403</u>
Total Receipts		<u>35,131</u>		<u>31,719</u>
Less: Total Payments (Page 6)		<u>(36,738)</u>		<u>(41,763)</u>
Net (Payments) for the year		<u>(1,607)</u>		<u>(10,044)</u>
Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 1 st July 2019		<u>18,678</u>		<u>28,722</u>
Cash at Bank and in Hand as at 30th June 2020		<u>£17,071</u>		<u>£18,678</u>

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)

For the year ended 30th June 2020

PAYMENTS

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Meeting Costs, Sectional & General Expenditure:				
Hire of Halls and Rooms	2,121		2,200	
Lecturers' Fees and Expenses, Sectional Expenses etc.	953		909	
Reading Circle Journals	345		415	
Postage and Telephone	126		347	
Office Supplies and copying	689		499	
Services	179		35	
Independent Examiners' Fees	1,800		1,800	
Insurance	1,764		1,910	
Expense Allowances	148		138	
Paypal account charges	49		91	
Refund of duplicate subscription	-		16	
		8,174		8,360
Publications:				
Printing and Expenses:				
London Naturalist No. 97	-		4,188	
London Naturalist No. 98	5,019		-	
London Bird Report 2017	-		4,407	
London Bird Report 2018	4,401		-	
		9,420		8,595
Programme	688		827	
Newsletters	3,407		2,737	
Mailing	6,874		6,575	
		10,969		10,139
Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure		354		363
Library		1,716		1,832
Grant towards publication of Hawkweed book		500		-
Bookham hut expenses		423		-
Website costs		182		474
		31,738		29,763
Asset and investment purchases:				
Payment into COIF charities deposit fund account		5,000		-
Purchase of COIF charities fixed interest fund units		-		6,000
Purchase of M&G Charibond Investment		-		6,000
Total Payments for the Year		£36,738		£41,763