Hampstead Heath Survey Section AGM 2022

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

2. Minutes of the last AGM (11/11/2021)

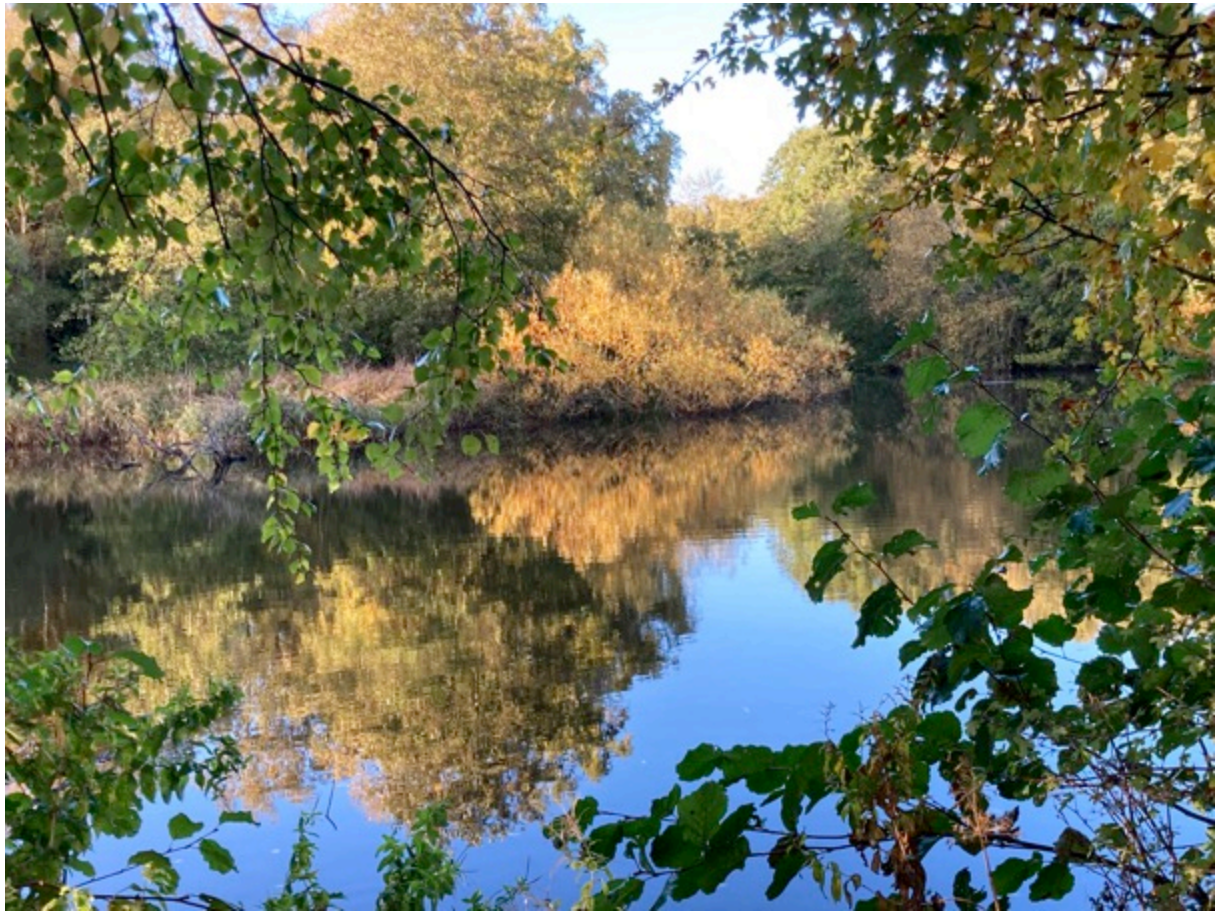
3. Chair's Annual Report – 2022

4. Election of Committee for 2023
   a. Officers: Liz Andrew (Chair), Jeff Waage (Secretary), Kat Duke (Representative to Council)
   b. Ordinary members: John Egginton, Jeff Duckett, Pete Mantle, Jo Maddox, Ben Gibb

5. Any other business

6. Date of next meeting

HHSS Chair's Report 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022



2022 Field Meetings

- Ants – Mike Fox
- Plant Galls –Tommy Root
- Spiders and Weevils – David Carr
- Fungi – Mario Tortelli
- Bryophytes – Jeff Duckett
- Bees and Flies – Tony Madgwick
- Butterflies – Jo Maddox and Jeff Waage
- Birds – Pete Mantle and Kennedy Cruickshank
- Lichens – John Skinner

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2022 Field Meetings – Highlights 1

	No.	New record for the Heath	
Ants	6	*Lasius emarginatus*	First recorded in London 2008
Plant Galls	34	6 gall types, including:	
		- *Dryocosmus kuriphilus*	First UK record 2015
		- *Obolodiplosis robiniae*	First UK record 2007
Spiders	71	*Philodromus buxi*	Adult female
		Salticus zebraneus	Nationally scarce
		Marpissa muscosa	Last recorded on HH in 1995
		Nesticus cellulanus	Last recorded on HH in 1995
		Trematocephalus cristatus	Nationally scarce

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2022 Field Meetings – Highlights 2

	No.	New record for the Heath	
Fungi	112	*Phleogena faginea*	
		Leotia lubrica	
Bryophytes	146	*Pellia endiviifolia*	
		Bryum violaceum	
		Dicranella howei	
Lichens	>58	*Lecanora barkmaniana*	Scarce in Southeast
		Usnia esperantiana	
Birds		*Buteo buteo*	First breeding Buzzard record in living memory

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2022 Surveys

- Weekly monitoring – Heath Hands
  - Amphibians
  - Butterflies
  - Dragonflies
  - Reptiles

- Kenwood Bat Survey - Heath & Hampstead Society
  - Huma Pearce, Jeff Waage
- Sphagnum Bog SSSI - Jeff Duckett, Liz Andrew
- Millennial Flora Project - City of London Corporation,
  - LNHS, Liz Andrew
  - Heath Hands

Heath Hands

Est. 1897

ENGLISH HERITAGE

CITY OF LONDON

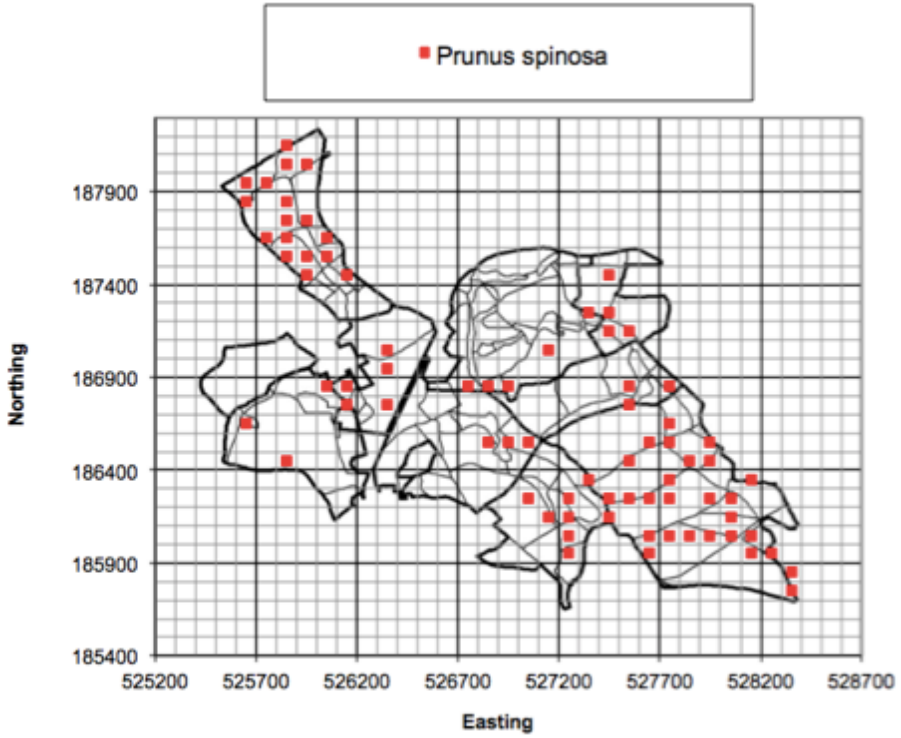
LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Millennial Flora Project

Background

Between 1997 and 2003 members of the London Natural History Society recorded and mapped the vascular plants (flowering plants and ferns) growing on Hampstead Heath, and the places where they were found.

Over 650 species:
- native plants typical of the various habitats
- garden escapes
- accidental introductions
- alien plants that have colonised the Heath
- amenity planting
- reintroduction of extinct native plants



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Millennial Flora Project

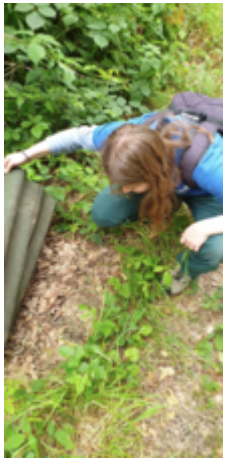
- **2022 Millennial Flora Revisited**

  In March 2022 LNHS was awarded a 30-month grant from City of London for a pilot study on the Heath to provide baseline data for monitoring future changes:

  1. map key flora, fungi and lichens
  2. National Vegetation Classification (NVC) surveys of meadow, heath and wood
  3. phenology: date of emergence of leaves and flowers in areas with different microclimates

Millennial Flora Project

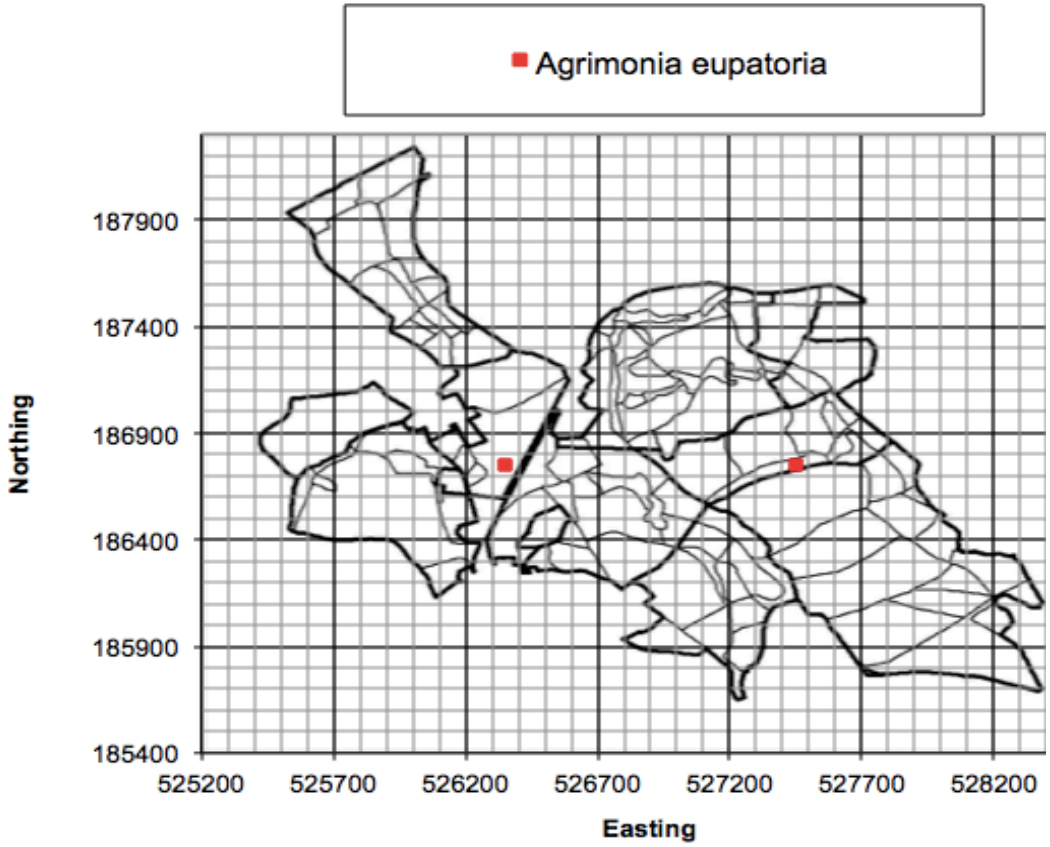
- **The Millennial Flora Project is run in collaboration with Heath Hands**:
  - New lab space at the Hive
  - Assistance with management and coordinating volunteers
  - Provision of ID charts, lenses and other kit



Millennial Flora Project

1. **map key flora, fungi and lichens**

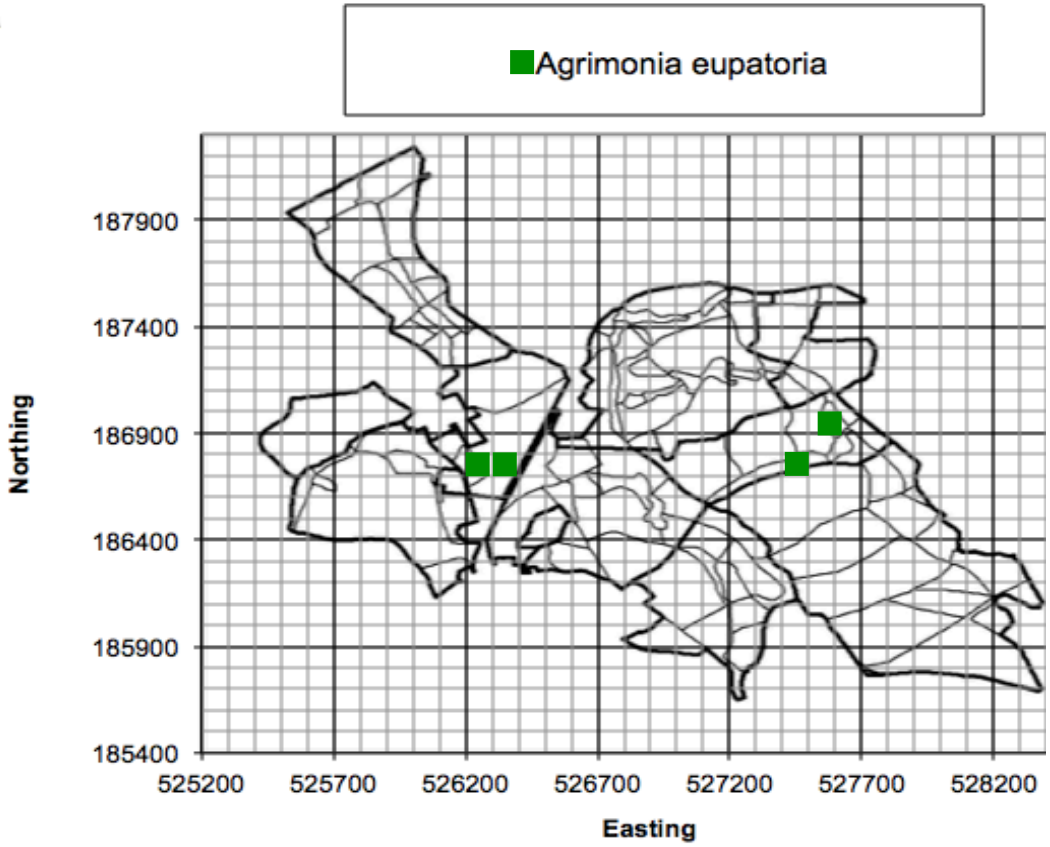
2000 - 2 locations



Millennial Flora Project

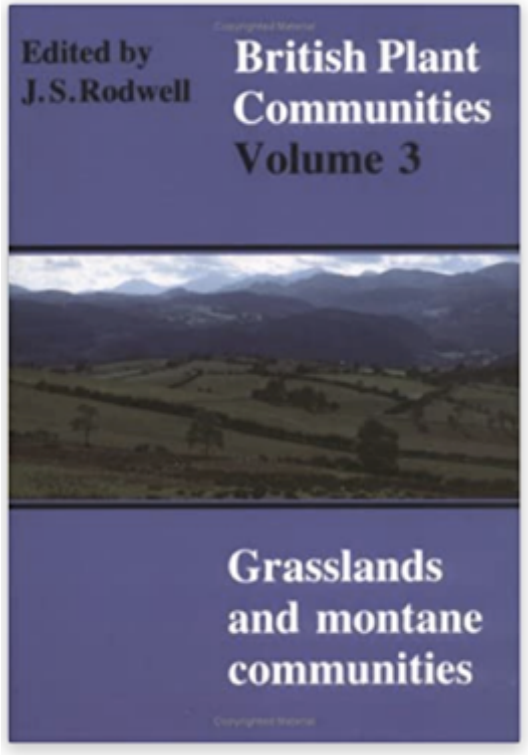
1. **map key flora, fungi and lichens**

2022 - 4 locations



Millennial Flora Project

2. **National Vegetation Classification (NVC) surveys of meadow, heath and wood**
   - type of vegetation (British Plant Communities)
   - Nature Conservancy Council 1975-1992



Millennial Flora Project

2. NVC surveys of meadow, heath and wood

- In each quadrat:
  - identify all plant species
  - assess percentage cover of each species (Domin scale)
- feed data into MATCH software

Two surveys on meadows before June 30th 2022

Results: U1 or U4 base-poor, summer-parched grassland communities

- **U1:** *Festuca ovina-Agrostis capillaris-Rumex acetosella*
- **U4**: *Festuca ovina-Agrostis capillaris-Galium saxatile*

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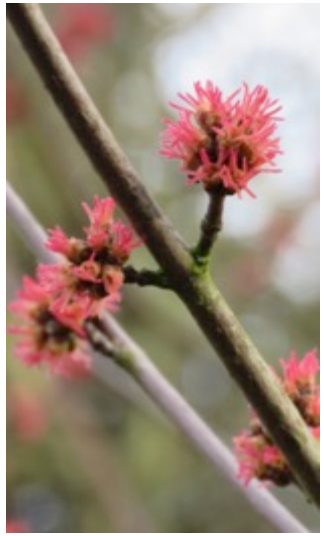
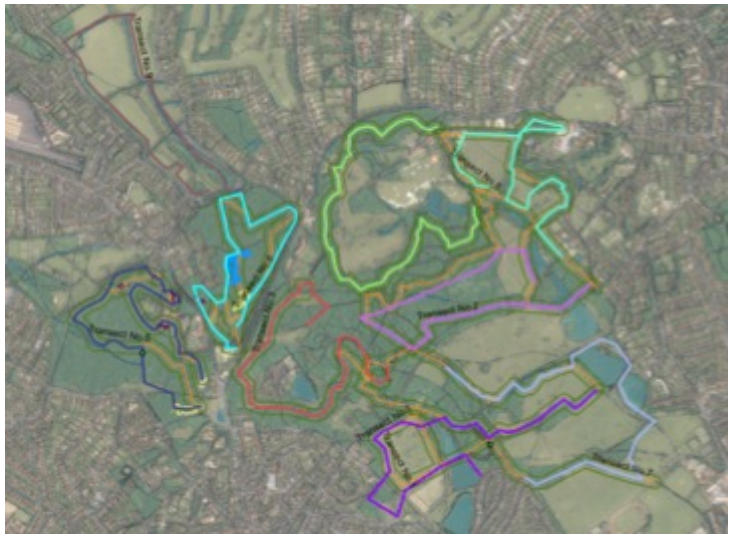
Millennial Flora Project

3. **phenology: date of emergence of leaves and flowers in areas with different microclimates**



Weekly phenology transect walks starting in January 2023



Hampstead Heath Surveys

- Special thanks to
  - All HHSS Field Meeting Leads
  - LNHS Botany Section
  - LNHS Recorders
  - Heath Hands
  - City of London Corporation
  - Kenwood gardening team at English Heritage
  - Heath & Hampstead Society
  - Ecology & Conservation Studies Society
  - HHSS Committee, LNHS Council and Administration & Finance

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5. Any other business

6. Date of next meeting

Election of Officers for 2023

Position	**Nominee**
Chair	Liz Andrew
Secretary	Jeff Waage
Representative on LNHS Council	Kat Duke
Ordinary members	Jeff Duckett
	Jo Maddox
	Pete Mantle
	Ben Gibb
	John Egginton

HAMPSTEAD HEATH SURVEY SECTION
LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Hampstead Heath Survey Section held on 11th November 2021, at 18:30, virtually via Zoom.

Present: Liz Andrew, Jeff Duckett, Kat Duke, Pete Mantle, Jo Maddox, Jeff Waage and 27 other members of the Society at the start of the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from John Egginton.

2. Minutes of the last AGM (11/12/19)

The minutes of the last AGM were approved without amendment. Proposed by Keiron Brown, seconded by David Howdon, and adopted unanimously by online poll.

3. Chair's Annual Report - 2020

Liz Andrew presented a summary of the past year's (1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021) activities and achievements. Fungal surveys in November and December 2020 with Mario Tortelli turned up 123 species of fungi, three new to the Heath, and five species of slime moulds. Bryophyte surveys with Jeff Duckett identified five new species records from the Heath, and discovered both male and female plants of *Pellia neesiana*, a first for London. Surveys also revealed that another species, *Orthotrichum lyellii*, which was extinct in London until 1992, is now widespread on the Heath. Jo Maddox organized the annual survey of butterflies, which ran roughly weekly along a newly-created transect designed to survey a range of habitats. This turned up 21 of the 28 species that have been recorded on the Heath. Purple Hairstreak (*Favonius quercus*) colonies were mapped, and elms on the Heath were mapped for future surveys of White-letter Hairstreak (*Satyrium w-album*). Tony Madgwick surveyed bees, and recorded species of *Andrena (6), Nomada (3), Bombus (3) and Osmia bicornis*. A lack of hot sunny days made it a poor year for odonates, and Jeff Waage and Heath Hands volunteers obtained evidence of breeding for only seven of the 16 species recorded from the Heath. Spider surveys led by David Carr turned up two new species for the Heath, *Anyphaena sabina* and *Araneus triguttata,* and good populations of the nationally scarce *Nigma puella*. The 2020 Bird Nesting Survey was repeated with additional transects which added Lesser Whitethroat as new nesting species. Two UK Birds of Conservation Concern red-listed species and six amber listed species were recorded nesting on the Heath. Survey of reptiles and amphibians continued, including weekly grass snake monitoring, and recording of common frog, common toad and smooth newt. A Heath-wide camera trapping exercise was undertaken to estimate hedgehog distribution and abundance, the first since 2018. Other mammal species noted during surveys on the Heath included bats (of which there are nine recorded Heath species), grey squirrel, brown rat, field mouse, field vole, common shrew, mole, rabbit, fox and muntjac.

4. Election of Officers for 2021

Liz Andrew was nominated as Chair, Jeff Waage as Secretary and Kat Duke as Council Representative. Proposed by Liz Valentine, seconded by Jo Maddox, and elected *nem.con.* by online poll.

5. Election of Committee for 2021

Jeff Duckett, John Egginton, Jo Maddox and Pete Mantle were nominated as ordinary members of the committee. Proposed by Keiron Brown, seconded by Kat Duke and elected *nem.con.* by online poll.

6. Any other business

In response to a question regarding other taxa that members would be interested to see monitored on the Heath, there were suggestions that it would be interesting to know more about the ferns and beetles, and to know more about the rabbit population. Tony Madgwick expressed an interest in more studies of bees and flies and invited interested volunteers to contact him. Regarding ferns, of which 11 species have been recorded on the Heath, Keiron Brown mentioned that a Field Studies Council online seminar on fern identification was scheduled for 2022.

8. Date of next meeting

The next Sectional AGM was provisionally set for early November 2022, the precise date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 18:50, after which a presentation by Rory Dimond entitled "Widllife Monitoring on Hampstead Heath" was received. 71 members and non-members participated in this event. The Virtual Talks Host, Maria Roberts (President of the LNHS), introduced Rory Dimond as Project Officer in Heath Hands, with responsibility for coordination of wildlife interpretation and wildlife monitoring programmes, and supervision of volunteer sessions. Rory explained the role of Heath Hands and its collaboration with City of London and English Heritage, and focused on the key role that its volunteers play in wildlife monitoring. He described in detail several specific monitoring programmes. Grass snakes, the only native reptile recorded on the Heath, became extinct during the 20th Century and were re-introduced in 1985. Annual surveys involving weekly monitoring of transects from April to October were started by Heath Hands in 2011. There is good evidence that populations have bred and generally increased and spread on the Heath, but some recent evidence that building around the Heath has caused local declines in records. He also reviewed hedgehog monitoring using camera trapping, footprint tunnels and torchlight surveys, in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London, and gave details on regular monitoring of odonates and butterflies, the methods used, and the species seen in different parts of the Heath. Rory focused in on recent monitoring of the alien invasive Oak Processionary Moth, which supports efforts by City of London to manage it biologically. Finally, he described Heath Hands' growing programme with youth volunteers, which included activities such as building bird and hedgehog nest boxes, and externally funded projects to engage young people and raise the profile of the Heath's wildlife. There was a lively discussion of particular species and further surveying opportunities, and the host formally thanked the speaker for his talk and interesting information on Heath Hands, its monitoring programme and opportunities to join this.