



**THE  
SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF NATURAL HISTORY**

**Annual General Meeting**

**THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2022**

**To be held at 16:00 BST by Zoom**

c/o The Natural History Museum  
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK  
Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 210355

## Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Society for the History of Natural History will be held by Zoom at 4 pm (16:00 BST) on Thursday 30 June 2022. The formal business will be followed by presentations by those persons awarded the President's Award, the SHNH Natural History Book Prize, and Honorary Membership.

The meeting is open to all members in good standing. Please send apologies to the Secretary ([secretary@shnh.org.uk](mailto:secretary@shnh.org.uk))

### Agenda for the AGM 30 June 2022

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. A Word from the President
4. Minutes of the SGM and AGM held on 29 June 2021 by Zoom
5. Report of Trustees for 2021
  - 5.1. Legal Status
  - 5.2. Address
  - 5.3. Objectives & Activities
  - 5.4. Trustees
  - 5.5. President's Report
  - 5.6. Membership
  - 5.7. Publications & Communications
    - 5.7.1. Editor of Archives of Natural History
    - 5.7.2. Book Reviews
    - 5.7.3. Communications
  - 5.8. Meetings
  - 5.9. Awards
  - 5.10. International Representatives
  - 5.11. Treasurer's Report & Financial Statements for 2021
6. Elections to the Portfolios of Council & Election of Trustees
7. Election of Honorary Member
8. AOB

*Short break, to be followed by:*

9. Presentation of the Society's Awards
  - 9.1. Introduction to the Society's Awards by Helen Cowie
  - 9.2. Founders' Medal (Citation to be read by Gina Douglas)
  - 9.3. President's Award (Citation to be read by Malgosia Novak-Kemp)
  - 9.4. SHNH Natural History Book Prize (Citation to be read by Geraldine Reid)
10. Short talk/presentations by Awards' recipients
11. Short talk/ presentation by Honorary Membership recipient
12. Closing Remarks by Gina Douglas, President
13. Vote of Thanks and end of meeting

## 4. Minutes from Special and Annual General Meetings held 29 June 2021 by video-conferencing

### 1. Welcome by the President

Attendees were welcomed by the President.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Ann Datta, Jan Freedman, David Mabblerley and Herman Reichenbach. There were 44 members in attendance.

### 3. A Word from the President

The President reflected on the last three years, taking the opportunity to thank Council and individuals who have supported him in the role. It had been an honour and a privilege to be the Society's President. His 'President's Messages' appeared in the *Newsletter* from July 2018, and in that first issue he mentioned beginning a strategic review. Following discussions at Council a draft *Strategic Plan 2018–2021* was published in the January 2019 *Newsletter*. Looking back at the stated aims listed there, we have delivered on many of them – reviewing our awards, thanks to Helen Cowie; utilising social media to reach the membership and interested individuals; and creating guidelines for our International Representatives for example, thanks to Malgosia Nowak-Kemp. We have made considerable progress, but much remains to be done. The backdrop to our strategic discussions changed dramatically in 2020 as we were faced by the Covid pandemic; this meant we had to take action to ensure we continued to fully engage with our membership. Our Council meetings transferred online, as did our 2020 AGM, and has this AGM; *Archives of Natural History* and the *Newsletter* took on special significance as a key way of informing members, and the President expressed his gratitude to Elaine Shaughnessy and Charles Nelson for their work here. Currently the Society remains online for most of our functions, but is determined to return to meeting in person as soon as possible.

During 2020, society in general began to seriously consider, and react to major issues of diversity, equality and social injustice. Museums and heritage institutions in the UK began to re-consider the colonial histories of their collections, archives and exhibitions. With these concerns in mind, Council agreed that our mission statement must reflect social and cultural interests, and that we should make a firm statement about diversity in the draft Byelaws. We also created a new award – the President's Award – to honour those individuals making us think about diversity and equality issues and exposing hidden histories.

Council have been creative and hugely supportive as we have considered these significant changes. He thanked some individuals in particular - Gina Douglas for her hospitality and guidance; Geoff Hancock and Ann Sylph have been supremely efficient Secretaries; Elaine Shaughnessy's guidance through our strategic discussions. Our Treasurer, Bill Noblett, has been a steady and supportive influence throughout. We have benefitted from the energy and technical skills of Jo Hatton, Elle Larsson and Ann Sylph in the online world. When working on the revision of the Byelaws two individuals stand out: Felicity Roberts was a firm advocate for our social and cultural roles, and Jack Ashby's insights and careful reading of the documents were invaluable. The draft version of the Byelaws was created following sound advice from Arthur Lucas. The President noted he was indebted to all of them, and indeed all of Council. The President gave a personal thank you to Miranda Lowe, who has been our Membership Secretary for several years but is stepping down at this AGM. Not only has she acted in this capacity but she has been an important link into the Natural History Museum (NHM), the place where our Society began. This Society-NHM link is vital to us, and one we need to develop and strengthen in the future.

Following this SGM the Society will have a new mission statement and new Byelaws. Thanks to the membership survey (and Elle Larsson's work in particular) we know much more about our members, their interests and concerns. Following today's AGM we should have a smaller, but very talented and efficient Council, the profile of which (being predominately female and younger) is very different from that of the membership as a whole. We may also elect our first female President and our first female Editor. In our 85th year the Society has overcome major difficulties and responded to a changing world. It is very adaptable and is in very good shape. The President expressed his confidence that we can move on to reach other important milestones and he will look forward to celebrating those with you all.

The Zoom polling function was tested with a 'fun' vote. The dodo was voted as the extinct animal most people would like to see brought back to life. The meeting moved on to the SGM.

### 4. Special General Meeting

#### 4.a. Minutes of SGM, 23 March 2021

There were no comments or corrections on the minutes of the meeting. Their acceptance was proposed by Arthur Lucas and seconded by Charles Nelson. Using the Zoom polling function, the minutes were approved with 43 of those present voting unanimously to accept them as an accurate record of the meeting.

#### **4.b. Vote to adopt the Byelaws**

The Byelaws accepted at the SGM of 23 March had been agreed by the Charity Commission on 1 June so we can now move to vote to formally accept and adopt them. Arthur Lucas commented at the previous SGM that overall he was happy with them but he would revise some of the wording. He now provided some revised wording to be incorporated in any future revision of the Byelaws. The wording will apply to clause 9.f. to explain the term ‘non-prejudicial’ as “any reason associated with the performance of their duties or breach of the principles embedded in these byelaws”. There was no dissent from this interpretation.

That the Byelaws be adopted by the Society was proposed by Felicity Roberts and seconded by Bob Peck. 40 of those present voted, unanimously voting to accept and adopt the Byelaws, they were hence formally adopted by the Society. The President thanked everyone present for their support for the change.

### **5. Annual General Meeting**

#### **Minutes of 2020 AGM held via videoconferencing, 26 June 2020**

There were no comments or corrections and so after being proposed by Bill Noblett and seconded by Geraldine Reid, 39 members present voted, unanimously approving the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

#### **6. Report of Council for 2020**

The President pointed out that this would be the last separate reports for Council and Trustees. Now that the new Byelaws have been adopted, all members of Council will be Trustees and so in the future the Trustees report only will be produced. There were no queries. The Council Report as circulated was accepted after being proposed by Charles Nelson and seconded by Arthur Lucas. 39 members present voted unanimously to accept the Report.

#### **7. Trustees Annual Report including the financial statement for 2020**

Arthur Lucas queried the expenditure on a domain name. Elaine Shaughnessy explained this was a one-off payment to purchase the domain name outright to protect the Society’s digital assets and prevent reputational risk. The President thanked Elaine for identifying that the domain name was for sale and arranging the purchase. The Trustees Report as circulated was accepted unanimously after being proposed by Malgosia Nowak-Kemp and seconded by Pat Morris. 39 members present voted unanimously to accept the Report.

### **8. Election to the Portfolios of Council**

Three members of Council (Jan Freedman, Stanislav Strekopytov and Geraldine Reid) were elected as ordinary members of Council in 2019, they have one year remaining to serve and are re-elected automatically

The following nominations had been received for the Portfolios of Council listed below, all being a three-year term:

President Gina Douglas has been nominated by Bill Noblett and seconded by Peter Davis.

Secretary: Ann Sylph has been nominated by Peter Davis and seconded by Gina Douglas.

Treasurer: Bill Noblett has been nominated by Peter Davis and seconded by Geraldine Reid.

Editor Anne Secord has been nominated by Charles Nelson and seconded by Peter Davis.

Book Reviews Editor: Maggie Reilly has been nominated by Malgosia Novak-Kemp and second by Jeanne Robinson.

Newsletter Editor/ Website Secretary: Elaine Shaughnessy has been nominated by Gina Douglas, seconded by Peter Davis.

Awards and Grants Secretary: Helen Cowie has been nominated for election by Peter Davis, seconded by Ann Sylph.

International Representatives Secretary: Malgosia Novak-Kemp has been nominated for election by Margarita Hernández-Laille and seconded by Carlo Violani.

Social Media, Communications and Promotions Secretary: Elle Larsson has been nominated by Peter Davis and seconded by Elaine Shaughnessy.

Meetings Secretary: Joanne Hatton has been nominated by Clem Fisher and seconded by Malgosia Novak-Kemp

Membership Secretary: Jeanne Robinson has been nominated by Gina Douglas and seconded by Geoff Hancock

The posts were not contested, there were no additional nominations, so the President proposed that this composition of Council was elected *en bloc*. Arthur Lucas advised that as there were no additional nominations there was no need for a vote and all were elected to Council.

### **9. Welcome to the Incoming President**

The President welcomed Gina Douglas as the new President of the Society, the first female President in the Society's 85 year history. He looked forward to seeing how the Society develops under her capable leadership. Gina commented on how honoured she is to accept the role and thanked Peter Davis for his amazing achievements in moving the Society forward over the previous three years.

## **10. Any Other Business**

There was none there was a short break before resuming and opening up the meeting to non-members for the Society's Awards.

## **11. Presentation of Awards**

This part of the meeting was opened up to non-members to allow the attendance of friends and supporters of the award winners. 74 people attended. Peter Davis welcomed back members and guests. He then introduced Helen Cowie, newly elected as Awards and Grants Secretary.

### **A. Introduction to the Society's Awards**

Helen introduced the Society's Awards and reflected on changes made during the strategic review, making the process more streamlined and the awards more accessible to a more diverse audience. The awards are:

- **Stearn Essay Prize for post-graduates:** the 2020 winner was Amelia Urry for her essay *Hearsay, Gossip, Misapprehension: Alfred Newton's secondhand histories of extinction* [This will be published in the next issue of *Archives of Natural History*]. The closing date for the 2021 award is end of July.
- **SHNH Natural History Book Prize:** not awarded in 2020, closing date for nominations this year is the end of July.
- **Founders' Medal:** which we are to award today.
- **President's Award:** a new award for 2021, also to be awarded today.

### **B. Presentation of the Founders' Medal**

Founders' Medals are awarded to persons eminent in the fields of the history and/or bibliography of natural history; the award recognises the following achievements:

- A sustained record of high-quality publications in the field of the history of natural history.
- A sustained contribution to dissemination of the history of natural history through practice or curation. The Judging Panel decided to award two medals, recognising that none were awarded last year, that the two outstanding candidates both more than fulfilled the required achievements and that awarding two medals coincided with the 85th anniversary of the SHNH.

**Gina Douglas, read the citation for the first, Robert McCracken Peck (Bob Peck). This was followed by a short recorded talk by Bob Peck.**

**The second was presented to E. Geoffrey (Geoff) Hancock. Jack Ashby read a citation for Geoff and this was followed by a short recorded talk by Geoff.**

### **C. Presentation of the President's Award**

Peter Davis gave an introduction to the President's Award, its origin in the strategic review and how this new award attracted a great deal of interest, with seven individuals putting forward nominations for consideration. The Judging Panel took particular note of the stated criteria for the President's Award, in particular the emphasis on diversity, inclusion, engagement and impact. The Panel recognised that there was merit in all the nominations, but that two projects were outstanding in terms of their impact and hence two awards were presented.

Malgosia Nowak-Kemp read a citation to the first team of winners – Felix Driver (Royal Holloway), Lowri Jones (University of Oxford) and Vandana Patel (Museum of London) for their work together to develop the theme *Hidden Histories of Exploration*, the focus of this project being to reveal the lives of indigenous peoples who aided the travels, activities and aims of well-known explorers. This was followed by a short live talk by Felix Driver expanding on the work of the project.

Jo Hatton read the citation for the next recipients, Subhadra Das and Miranda Lowe, for their landmark paper *Nature Read in Black and White*, (*Journal of Natural Science Collections*, 6, 4-14) which explored the theory and practice of decolonising museums; they have both provided leadership and an inspirational foundation for future work. This was followed by two short live talks by Subhadra and then Miranda reflecting on and about their more recent and current work.

Gina Douglas thanked the speakers; the outgoing members of Council – Jack Ashby, Miranda Lowe and Felicity Roberts. She also thanked the outgoing President, Peter Davis.

Peter Davis congratulated all the award winners and thanked the speakers. He will be continuing his involvement with the Society as a member and with an editorial role for *Archives of Natural History*. Many of the speakers emphasised the Society's role in facilitating networks, with this in mind there will be an 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting in September.

## 5. Report of Trustees for 2021

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 December 2021.

### 5.1 Legal Status

The Society for the History of Natural History was founded in 1936. The Society is a registered charity, No. 210355.

### 5.2 Address

c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

### 5.3 Objectives & Activities

The Society is instituted for the historical and bibliographical study of all branches of natural history, including their social and cultural aspects, across all cultures.

The Society achieves its mission, and serves its membership, by:

- The publication of a journal, *Archives of Natural History*
- The circulation of a *Newsletter* to members
- Utilising electronic communication effectively to promote our interests and values
- Holding an Annual Conference and other meetings on relevant themes
- Funding relevant research as finances allow
- Encouraging younger scholars through the presentation of dedicated awards and prizes
- Giving a range of public awards to recognise scholarship, reward excellence and to promote the history of natural history to a wide constituency
- Partnering with relevant organisations to further our mission
- Monitoring and responding to new opportunities to further the Society's mission

Further details of each of these activities can be found below.

### 5.4 Trustees (as of 31 December 2021)

Trustees	Year of Appointment
Ms Gina Douglas	President (2021)
Mr William Noblett	Vice President & Treasurer (2021)
Professor Helen Cowie	Awards Secretary (2021)
Ms Joanne Hatton	Meetings Secretary (2021)
Dr Eleanor Larsson	Communications, Promotion and Social Media Secretary (2021)
Dr Malgosia Nowak-Kemp	International Representatives Secretary (2021)
Ms Margaret Reilly	Book Reviews Editor (2021)
Ms Jeanne Robinson	Membership Secretary (2021)
Dr Anne Secord	Editor Elect (2021)
Ms Elaine Shaughnessy	Newsletter and Website Editor (2021)
Ms Ann Sylph	Secretary (2021)
Mr Jan Freedman	Trustee (2019)
Dr Geraldine Reid	Trustee (2019)
Dr Stanislav Strekopytov	(Trustee 2019)

In addition to the Trustees listed above, those who served during the year are listed below:

Professor Peter Davis	Retired 29 June 2021
Ms Miranda Lowe	Retired 29 June 2021
Ms Felicity Roberts	Retired 29 June 2021
Mr Jack Ashby (Co-opted)	Retired 29 June 2021

The Trustees who served the charity during the year are as listed above.

Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, especially as it relates to the charitable purpose "the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science" specified in the Charities Act 2011.

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The Society for the History of Natural History requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Society's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the charity will not continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity, and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable law and the Society's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **5.5 President's Report 2021**

Taking over from Past President Peter Davis midway through our 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, has made me appreciate even more fully the immense amount of work undertaken during his Presidency including a full review of our Governance and developing our first Strategic Plan for Development (2018–2021). Those tasks included a complete revision of our Byelaws, approved by the Members at the Society's Special General Meetings on 23 March and 29th June 2021 and agreed by the Charity Commission. These changes now define the roles and responsibilities of the Trustees, with detailed role descriptions for all portfolios, but retaining three places for Trustees without specific roles, to support the Society's development and growth. The Trustees settled into their formalized roles very quickly after the AGM and the new Council structure is working very well.

Helen Cowie's leadership in revising the criteria and processes associated with the Society's Awards and Prizes continues. There has been an increased awareness of the Society's awards as reflected by a growing number of nominations including for the SHNH Natural History Book Prize (John Thackray medal). This has led to the development of an intermediary screening process before the Committee selection process. Our new President's Award – to recognise an individual or team's contribution to promoting and improving accessibility, inclusivity and diversity to the study of the history of natural history – was presented for the first time at the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Society, with two teams of winners, an especially suitable celebration for the Society's Anniversary year. The Founder's Medal was also awarded to two worthy recipients.

The covid pandemic continued to restrict meeting in person, but we held two very successful Special General Meetings and our 2021 AGM on Zoom. It was a great pleasure to welcome members from overseas and we were delighted that our medal and prize winners could also present short talks as part of the AGM. We are beginning to explore how we can hold in person meetings in future and explore hybrid platforms to widen participation by members. We were unable to hold our 2020–2021 meeting in person "Pioneering Naturalists: Champions of Conservation and Environmental Engagement" with increasing restrictions to travel and meetings disrupting plans throughout. However, I am glad to report that the Society was able to recently hold the event online with great success.

The results of the Membership Survey (2020) continue to support development of priorities for the future. The Survey confirmed that issuing print copies of *Archives of Natural History* remains a key factor in our Members' enjoyment of the Society. The results of the Survey were shared with our publishers Edinburgh University Press who have regular discussion with us on ways of supporting our members and improving services. Our new Membership Secretary, Jeanne Robinson is working closely with members, fielding enquiries, and helping resolve any membership matters with Edinburgh University Press.

In 2021, volume 48 (parts 1 and 2) of *Archives of Natural History* was published (April and October) and submissions remain strong. Our special thanks go once more to Elaine Shaughnessy and to Charles Nelson for providing unstinting support for producing *Archives* and assisting other members of the editorial team. The work involved has impacted on the ability to issue a *Newsletter* in 2021 but new ways have been developed to reach members through electronic newsletters. Many thanks also to Maggie Reilly for producing such a wide range of book reviews, hugely valued as available through open access, and receiving significant numbers of downloads.

Our “International Representatives” keep in touch through the work of our International Representative’s Co-ordinator, Malgosia Nowak-Kemp. We thank them all for their work in promoting the Society and our objectives, in their respective countries.

Our profile, especially on social media continues to grow through the efforts of our Communications Team, led by Elle Larsson, who is modernising the Society’s approaches and tools. Ann Sylph has continued to promote our journal articles through social media channels to great effect.

My thanks go also to all Society members joining the 2022 AGM to help elect new Trustees, celebrate our awards and be informed about the continuing progress and achievements of the Society. Thanks must also be expressed to outgoing Trustees, Jan Freedman, Stanislav Strekopytov and Geraldine Reid and to our current Trustees who work so hard on the Society’s behalf.

Gina Douglas President

## **5.6. Membership**

The Society had 343 individual members at 31 December 2021, including 9 Honorary Members and the Patron. The Society had 89 institutional subscribers, with *Archives of Natural History* being made available in 2021 to an additional 36 institutions through subject collections and consortia; including Scottish Higher Education Digital Library (SHEDL), JISC Collections, CNP eReading and Edinburgh University Press Journal Collections; and a further 326 via EBSCO.

Since taking over membership in April last year I have been enjoying welcoming new members to our ranks and dealing with membership queries as they arise. This would not be possible without the support and very helpful staff at EUP and I am very grateful for their time and expertise.

Jeanne Robinson, Membership Secretary

## **5.7 Publications and Communications**

### **5.7.1 Editors’ Report**

In 2021, volume 48 (parts 1 and 2) of *Archives of Natural History* was published (April and October). Despite continuing concerns relating to the pandemic, the issues were published close to schedule, with many thanks to our journal publisher, Edinburgh University Press. The increase in the journal’s pagination to 224pp per part has been welcomed. In 2021, 25 articles, 7 short notes, and 34 book reviews (open access) were published. Also included were a Patron’s Review article and a Stearn Essay Prize article. The Editorial Board Meeting with Edinburgh University Press was held in October. It was reported that there had been a further increase in digital downloads and that the open access book reviews and virtual issues continue to prove very popular. The SHNH Communications Team has promoted articles through social media channels, particularly Twitter.

Dr Anne Secord was elected Editor Elect at the 2021 AGM and will fully take up her post in October 2022. In 2021, the journal was managed by the Associate Editors Dr E. Charles Nelson (past Editor of *Archives*), Elaine Shaughnessy and Ingvar Svanberg. Dr Isabelle Charmantier retired during the year and is thanked for her contribution to maintaining the scholarship of the journal. In the autumn of 2021, the team welcomed Professor Peter Davis (past Editor of *Archives*) as both an Associate Editor and as Receiving Editor. The book reviews continued to be managed by the Book Reviews Editor Maggie Reilly. All the editors and referees (whose names are listed in each completed volume) are thanked for their work in reviewing, and editing and preparing *Archives of Natural History* for press.

Elaine Shaughnessy, Associate Editor on behalf of the Editors

### **5.7.2 Book Reviews**

Thirty-four books were reviewed for *Archives of Natural History* volume 48 and as noted elsewhere, these reviews are open access and continue to attract increased digital use. I would like to thank publishers for sending books out to our reviewers despite disruptions due to the pandemic. Many thanks to the reviewers themselves for their work and timely submission of copy. Ongoing thanks to Council and Advisory Board members, and especially to the editorial team, for their suggestions of suitable titles and good advice. Council is advancing the idea of running a wider range of reviews on non-English language publications, to widen our scope.

Maggie Reilly, Book Reviews Editor



### 5.7.3 Communications, Promotion & Social Media

The SHNH Communications Team (Elle Larsson, Ann Sylph and Elaine Shaughnessy) have continued efforts to increase the Society's digital outreach, as meetings have continued to be difficult to host due to the ongoing uncertainty caused by the pandemic. The team were pleased to be able to support Jo Hatton (Meetings Secretary) in organising and hosting Pioneer Naturalists: Champions of Conservation and Environmental Engagement, on 11 May 2022, which was rescheduled from 2020. We have also continued to promote the Society's activities via the website, Twitter and Facebook accounts and our email discussion list (<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/hist-nat-hist>) continues to be a great vehicle for sharing Society news and for fielding enquires among members. Our Twitter following on @SHNHSocNatHist has increased to 4,064 and the team have continued to focus on promoting the Society's activities, including the medals and competitions, small research fund, Archives of Natural History and the Newsletter. In particular, Ann Sylph has worked tirelessly to promote articles – both recent and older ones – from Archives and we have also encouraged authors to promote their articles. The latest innovation to be introduced was setting up a Mail Chimp account to enable quicker communication with members. This has already been used to great effect to invite members to the Pioneer Naturalists meeting, to announce the award winners and a save the date for the AGM. We thank the Communications Team for their work and successful initiatives to widen the society's outreach and engagement.

Elle Larsson, Communications, Promotion and Social Media Secretary

### 5.8 Meetings

The global pandemic continued to impact on the Society's ability to hold in person meetings in 2021 and the majority of our business continued to take place online. On 23rd March we held an SGM on the videoconferencing platform Zoom with the purpose of voting to adopt the new Society Byelaws. 36 members attended, and tuned into a summary of the membership survey coordinated and presented by Elle Larsson, with a lively and useful discussion taking place afterwards.

On 29th June, the formal business of the AGM was also conducted online and included the adoption of the new Byelaws and election of Councillors as well as other AGM business, including the presentation of the Society's awards. Pre-recorded presentations were given by the joint Founders Medal awardees Geoff Hancock and Bob Peck on their large bodies of research and contributions to the Society, followed by live presentations and thanks from the inaugural President's Award winners, Felix Driver and the team, Lowri Jones and Vandana Patel, for their 'Hidden Histories of Exploration' project and Subhadra Das and Miranda Lowe, in recognition of their collective and extensive contributions to decolonising natural history in more recent years.

Joanne Hatton, Meetings Secretary

### 5.9. Awards

The society awarded prizes this year as follows:

- **Stearn Essay Prize: Max Long**, for his essay: "Nature on the airwaves: natural history and the BBC in interwar Britain".
- **SHNH Founders' Medal: Professor Emeritus Theodore (Ted) W. Pietsch** in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, and Curator Emeritus of Fishes at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, University of Washington.
- **SHNH President's Award: Madeline Hutchins** for her work on Ellen Hutchins and Bantry Bay and creation of the website [www.ellenhutchins.com](http://www.ellenhutchins.com)
- **SHNH Natural History Book Prize (John Thackray Medal): Dr Jordan Goodman** for *Planting the World: Joseph Banks and his Collectors: An Adventurous History of Botany* (Harper Collins, 2021, ISBN 978-0-00-757883-2).

We also awarded **small research grants** to Alison Bennett, Lee Raye and Claire Banks to fund travel to archives. Since the overhaul of prizes in 2020-2021, and the increase in funds for the Small Research Fund to £500 per application, we have received a higher number of applications of our awards, enhancing the Society's profile.

I would like to record my thanks to all Society members who have assisted in assessing nominations and applications, and in particular to Geraldine Reid, Bill Noblett and Gina Douglas for chairing the judging panels.

Helen Cowie, Awards and Grants Secretary:

## 5.10 International Representatives

As the only international society devoted to the history of botany, zoology and geology, natural history collections, exploration, art and bibliography, the SHNH draws its membership from several countries across the world. The Society's International Representatives (IR) are appointed to facilitate the flow of information between the Society and its overseas members, to promote the aims and objectives of the Society, and to encourage growth of the Society's membership in their region.

We are very aware that in many parts of the world the subject of the history of natural history does not exist as an academic discipline, and it is difficult to recruit members and representatives who are engaged professionally in this subject. Most of our existing IRs are professionals, variously engaged in teaching, research or caring for collections of museum specimens and archives, spanning all fields of natural history. Others are deeply committed amateurs, who also possess the knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment to contribute to the wellbeing of our Society. They are all well positioned to interact with people to stimulate interest in the history of natural history thanks to their publications, public speaking, and displays. From mounting exhibitions, through meetings and their research work they communicate with a wide audience of people and encourage interest in and thus the aims of the Society for the History of Natural History.

### **Alicja Zemanek – Poland**

Although in 2021 the Jagiellonian University worked very successfully on-line, it has now returned to normal lectures. In spite of Covid, the Botanic Garden with its Museum continued to be open to visitors. The celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Polish Botanical Society (PBS) (1922–2022) will take place in Warsaw at the end of June, and researchers are busy working on the preparation of materials, among them the compilation list of all members of PBS, with short biographic information. Many botanists are also working on the final version of the "Dictionary of Polish botanists", which will be published this year, under the editorship of Piotr Köhler, the Head of the History of Botany Section. A two-volume book on the history of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of Stefan Batory University (SBU) in Wilno (1919–1939), written by several authors, was published by Mikołaj Kopernik University in Toruń. The SBU, which is now the Lithuanian Vilniaus Universitetas, was a Polish university during that period.

### **Margarita Hernandez Laille – Spain**

In the last year there was a slow but noticeable return to normality in Spain. The libraries and museums are opened but certain restrictions still continue. The Natural Sciences conferences have begun at the MNCN in Madrid <http://www.sam.mncn.csic.es/conferencias.php> and the "Book Fair of Madrid" had been inaugurated after two years of absence. On 12th February Darwin's Day was celebrated and the readings of Darwin's works, which was initiated by Margarita some years ago, took place, too. The permanent exhibition curated by Margarita in 2019 "Darwin una mirada que cambió el mundo" continues to attract visitors with its celebration of Darwin's Birthday. <https://www.mncn.csic.es/sites/default/files/2022-02/CenaDarwin2022%20%283%29.pdf>  
<https://www.mncn.csic.es/es/visita-el-mncn/actividades/dia-de-darwin-2022>

Margarita has been studying Epicuro and Lucrecio as possible precursors of Charles Darwin and was re-examining José Mendive's "The Vindicated Religion of Rationalist Deceptions" (1883), that attempted to refute Darwin's theory of evolution.

### **Christa Dorn – Central Europe**

The museums and cultural institutions were finally open to the public again. The 200th anniversary of the foundation of Brazil will be celebrated by several exhibitions in Austrian museums. The Exhibition at the Natural History Museum will open in June, and the Schönbrunn Garden (former Imperial Garden) will also have an exhibition about the Austrian Expedition to Brazil 1817. Some of the plants collected during the expedition will also be featured. The Exhibition at the Natural History Museum deals with the History of Austrian scientific research in Brazil (1817 up to the mid-20th century) and the Brazilian Flora and Fauna.

### **Sergio Zagier – Argentina**

There is not much to report concerning natural history events in Argentina. Museums are slowly reopening and the Argentine Book Fair will be open to the public again this year. It is usually a big event full of opportunities to find books and was a must for young people, but it is not anticipated that it will be as well attended as in the past.

### **Carlo Violani – Italy**

Due to safety measures the access to museums, libraries and other research locations has been denied or seriously limited during the past months. In the past few months the general situation seems to be under control and several events regarding the study of natural history and biology are cautiously taking place *in loco* "in remote" in Italy. Some of these events which have resulted in great success with the general public were:

- The opening of the ancient Museum of Natural History of the University of Pavia to the public, students and school groups.

- The return of the stuffed female Indian elephant christened “Shanti” from the loan to Versailles for a special exhibit dealing with historical animals from Louis XV's menageries. After her accidental death by drowning in a pool in Versailles, her skin was prepared and eventually donated to the University of Pavia by the emperor Napoleon the First; recently this animal has been the main subject of an historical essay "L'elefante di Napoleone" by professor Paolo Mazzarello.
- Another historical specimen, a stuffed hippopotamus, dating from the XVII century (or possibly earlier), has been sent from Pavia to Mantua for a six month long loan. It will be seen set in the middle of the "Sala del caval marino" (Hall of the sea horse) where it had been originally placed in the Dukes' palace, in a special exhibit recreating the Wunderkammer and the art gallery owned by the Gonzaga dynasty during the Baroque era.
- A celebration of the famous Italian collector and zoologist Ettore Arrigoni degli Oddi was recently held in Verona Museum of zoology, attracting several scholars and enthusiasts of ornithology and bird taxidermy.
- The Museum of Natural History in Genoa has just concluded an unusual exhibit attracting a good attendance of (masked) public. This event called "Mythos" included a collection of modern specimens of mythological creatures (mermaids, griffins, dragons, basilisks and various monsters) artistically composed with parts of real stuffed animals combined with man-made wings, claws, crests and various body parts. The same “Mythos” specimens have been sent on loan for a second exhibit to the Pisa University Museum of Natural History in Calci, where they will undoubtedly raise equal interest among the public.
- The zoological collections in Genoa Museum have now been reopened for scientific study to scholars by appointment. The rich bird material is now the subject of a revised catalogue of type specimens by Enrico Borgo, in particular the avifauna from Indonesia and New Guinea (birds from Java, Sumatra, Moluccas and Papuan region collected by O. Beccari, L. M. d’Albertis and A. A. Brujin and studied by T. Salvadori in the late 1800s.
- A biography of Cecilia Picchi and the whereabouts of her private bird skin collection is in press in Florence; the publication by Pietro Giovacchini will focus on the life and scientific activity of this female collector. Picchi was in touch with the most famous ornithologists of her time in Italy; her valuable collection was unfortunately sold and dispersed soon after her death in 1924; originally it included many Italian rarities and type material, and it has emerged partially in American and European museums and private collections, thanks to the presence of her handwritten labels.

#### **Elizabethanne Boran – Ireland**

For many months most of the activities were curtailed, but some continued online and a few exhibitions were available, such as: Irish Fauna and Mammals of the World.

NHM also offered extensive online activities for families and children under their ‘Museum at Home’ link:

1. Birdsong challenge activity
2. Make your own Giant Irish Deer antlers
3. My Secret Garden activity sheet
4. My favourite toy animal activity sheet
5. Make your own polar bear mask
6. Make your own brown bear mask
7. Arts and crafts colouring sheet: basking shark

#### **JIANG Che – China**

In October 2021, European Research Centre for Chinese Studies (ERCCS) organised the 199th event of its lecture series, with the topic “Botanical Knowledge of Food Plants in Middle and Late Imperial China”, with talks from scholars from China and Europe.

The “Natural History Culture & Ecoliterature Reading Group”, that was organised in May 2021 by the Natural History Culture Commission of the Chinese Society for Dialectics of Nature/Philosophy of Nature, Science and Technology (CSDN/PNST), started to regularly hold meetings, with the 9th to 14th reading sessions taking place between September 2021 and April this year.

16 new books have been published as well as the 6<sup>th</sup> volume of the Chinese Journal of Natural History in the last few months. There were also 4 books translated into Chinese:

- Merrill, L. *The romance of Victorian natural history*. Translated by ZHANG Xiaotian. Beijing: China Science and Technology Press, 2021.
- Anderson, J. G. T. *Deep things out of darkness: A history of natural history*. Translated by FENG Qianli. Shanghai: Shanghai Jiaotong University Press, 2021.
- Shteir, A. B. *Cultivating Women, cultivating science: Flora's daughters and botany in England, 1760 to 1860*. Translated by JIANG Hong. Chengdu: Sichuan People's Publishing House, 2021.
- Ogilvie, B. W. *The science of describing: Natural history in Renaissance Europe*. Translated by JIANG Che. Beijing: Peking University Press, 2021.

#### Meetings:

- October 23–24, 2021, Beijing & Hybrid: 5th Natural History Culture Conference  
The annual Natural History Culture Conference is a flagship event for researchers in the history and philosophy of natural history as well as contemporary practitioners of natural history. This conference is co-organised by four institutions: (1) the magazine *Natural History*; (2) National Zoological Museum of China; (3) the Natural History Culture Commission; (4) the *Journal of Dialectics of Nature*. The Institute of Zoology and the Institute of Geography of the Chinese Academy of Sciences provided the venue for the conference. The conference was also streamed live online and had over 81,600 views.
- November 5–7, 2021, Shenzhen & Hybrid: 8th Chinese Conference on Science Communication: Theory and Practice of Science Communication for Ecological Civilization  
This conference is jointly organised by the Center for the Humanities, Southern University of Science and Technology (SUS Tech), the *Journal of Dialectics of Nature*, and the Chinese Society for Dialectics of Nature/Philosophy of Nature, Science and Technology (CSDN/PNST). One of the main topics of the conference was the communication of science in the perspective of natural history.

#### Exhibitions:

- May 18–September 21, 2021 “Visualizing Herbalism: Images of Medicinal Plants in the East and West”, Tsinghua University Science Museum, Beijing
- June 18, 2021 “Creation from Creature: Plants and Animals on the Silk Road”, China National Silk Museum, Hangzhou
- September 3, 2021 “A Century of Scientific Endeavours: Contributions of Scientists from the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences”, National Zoological Museum of China, Beijing
- August 6–November 7, 2021, Shenzhen Museum & Tianjin Natural History Museum: “Botanical Illustrations Preserved in Musée Hoangho Paiho”
- September 19–October 31, W SQUARE Gallery, Shanghai: “The Glory of Civilisation: Pierre-Joseph Redouté’s works”
- September 28–November 30, Zhejiang Museum of Natural History: “Reflecting the World of Plants: A Brief History of Botanical Illustrations in China and the West”

#### New Course at Tsinghua University

In March 2021, Dr JIANG Che started to offer a new undergraduate course “The History of Natural History” at Tsinghua University. This is the first university course bearing such a name in China. The course consists of 15 lectures and deals with the intellectual traditions of natural history in East Asia and the West. This course is planned to be offered on a yearly basis.

Malgosia Nowak-Kemp  
International Representatives Co-ordinator

#### 5.11 Treasurer’s Report & Financial Statements

##### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31st December 2021

	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2020	2021
	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
EUP	12071.97	11973.45
Other incoming resources <sup>1</sup>	19.12	1570.00
	-----	-----
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>12091.09</b>	<b>13543.45</b>

## RESOURCES EXPENDED

Archives	540.99	7199.21
Awards and Prizes <sup>2</sup>	468.00	1116.00
Bank Charges	60.00	97.00
Council Administration	390.07	NIL
Domain Name <sup>3</sup>	4858.56	261.89
Medals & engraving	2305.74	274.69
Newsletter <sup>4</sup>	3973.21	12.40
Postage	23.00	51.00
Website	2166.67	1599.60
ZOOM Subscription	143.88	143.88
	-----	-----
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>14930.12</b>	<b>10805.67</b>
<b>Net Incoming Resources</b>	<b>(2839.03)</b>	<b>2737.78</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>		
Totals brought forward	15144.25	12305.22
Total funds carried forward	12305.22	15043.00
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank	<b>12305.22</b>	<b>15043.00</b>

## Notes to the 2021 Accounts

1. Made up of two generous donations – one of £500 and one of £1070 – from two members of the Society.
2. Includes £300 to the Stearn Essay winner, £540 taken from the Small Research Fund, £136 sponsorship of the NHM Graduate Students' annual conference and £190 to EUP to pay for illustrations for the Stearn Essay and Patron's Review.
3. Cost of purchase of domain names additional to the original purchase in 2020.
4. No newsletters were published in 2021 due to the demands on the Newsletter Editor by necessary editorial and administrative work on the *Archives of Natural History*.

As a result of Corona Virus there was no expenditure on conference and no spending on Council Meetings.

## 6. Election to Portfolios of Council & Election of Trustees

The following nominations have been received for the Portfolios of Council listed below, all being a three-year term:

### **Secretary:**

Will Beharrell FLS proposed by Ms Gina Douglas and seconded by Dr Isabelle Charmantier.

I would be honoured to be considered for the position of Secretary of the Society for the History of Natural History. I am the current Librarian at the Linnean Society of London, and I would look to strengthen the ties between us and the SHNH, building on many years of fruitful past collaboration. I already act as a *de facto* secretary and minute-taker for the Linnean Society's Collections Committee, and as minute-taker for the newly established London Independent Libraries and Archives (LILA) group, and would be pleased to draw on this past administrative experience in a position with the SHNH. I hope you will consider my application.

### **Meetings Secretary:**

Elle Larsson proposed by Elaine Shaughnessy and seconded by Gina Douglas

Dr Elle Larsson is a historian of science, specialising in the history of natural history and animals. She completed her PhD, 'Collecting, Curating and the Construction of Zoological Knowledge: Walter Rothschild's Zoological Enterprise, c.1878–1937', at King's College London in April 2020. Elle has since joined the Graduate School at the University of Westminster where she is actively involved in supporting Doctoral Research. Through previous roles and as a co-founder of the Animal History Group (<https://animalhistorygroup.org/>), Elle has extensive experience of organising in-person and online events and has just successfully run a week-long Festival for Doctoral Researchers featuring both online and in-person events (<https://blog.westminster.ac.uk/graduateschoolfestival/>). Elle is keen to bring that experience to SHNH and revitalise its meetings programme following the pandemic. Elle has previously acted as SHNH Communications, Promotion and Social Media Secretary where she introduced new tools and activities to strengthen the role and has provided support to the current Meetings Secretary as part of the SHNH Communications Team. In 2021, Elle's Patron's Review paper "On Deposit": animal acquisition at the Zoological Society of London, 1870–1910" was published in *Archives of Natural History*, **48**: 1–21.

### **Social Media, Communications and Promotions Secretary:**

VACANT. This post will be covered by existing council members until a suitable candidate can be found/comes forward.

The post has been advertised through our social media channels <https://shnh.org.uk/assets/uploads/CE-22-SHNH-Charity-Trustee-Comms-2.pdf>.

### **Trustee Without Portfolio 1 of 3**

Geraldine Reid proposed by Clemency Fisher and seconded by Helen Cowie.

Geraldine Reid is Lead Curator of Botany, Geology and Science at World Museum, National Museums Liverpool. She is responsible for the curation, development, research and interpretation of these diverse collections. Her main research interest is diatom systematics which has been the focus of her career. She is interested in the role of collectors and collections to tell hidden stories. She is currently researching the history of the phycologists in the World Museum collections. She has been a member of Council since 2019 and currently is the chair of the Best Book award and co-ordinator of the small research fund.

### **Trustee Without Portfolio 2 of 3**

Nathan Smith proposed by Anne Secord and seconded by Elaine Shaughnessy.

Nathan Smith is a researcher, curator, and educator with an interest in the history of mycology (the study of fungi) and mycologists. His doctoral thesis (2020) included both a genetic analysis of *Boletus edulis* Bull. and a study of the origins

of British mycology. He was awarded the William T. Stearn Essay prize in 2019 and was a runner-up for the *Notes and Records* essay prize and Rose book collecting prize. He is currently digitising the collections in the Fungarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and is engaged in research focusing on how mycology functioned in the context of empire.

### ***Trustee Without Portfolio 3 of 3***

Joanne Hatton proposed by Jeanne Robinson and seconded by Geoff Hancock.

Jo Hatton is keeper of Natural History at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in south east London, She is responsible for managing, interpreting and making accessible around a quarter of a million specimens. Her interests include the history of taxidermy and entomological collecting, biological recording and its links to environmental conservation. Jo is a long-standing member of the Society, serving on Council for many years. She took over the role of Meetings Secretary and has planned and delivered many popular and successful meetings, helping to widen our appeal and attract a greater diversity of people to our meetings in line with our new mission.

## **7. Election of Honorary Member**

### **Rules governing Honorary Members**

- Persons who have performed signal services to the Society may be elected as Honorary Members and shall not be required to pay an annual subscription.
- Election of Honorary Members shall be at a General Meeting of the Society, on the nomination of the Council. The names of all such persons nominated for election as Honorary Members shall be published on the notice calling the Meeting.
- The number of Honorary Members shall not at any time exceed ten.

### **Nomination for Honorary membership of the Society for the History of Natural History**

Professor Peter Davis is currently Emeritus Professor at the University of Newcastle and has supported the Society for the History of Natural History over many years, serving on Council (1983–1985 and 1987–1989), Meetings Secretary (1985–1987), Book Review Editor (1996–2001) Editor of *Archives of Natural History* (2012–2017), Vice President (1987–1989) and President (2018–2021).

During his Presidency, Peter took on the task of developing the Society's first Strategic Plan for Development (2018–2021) and updating our governance, including new Byelaws and accompanying schedules for both Portfolios of Council and our Awards.

Peter continues to serve as an Associate Editor for *Archives of Natural History* as well as maintaining his research interests in natural history museums, the history of natural history, and biography of key 19th century collectors. Council has recommended that Peter Davis be nominated as an Honorary member in recognition of his signal services to the Society for the History of Natural History.

## **8. Any Other Business**

## **9. Presentation of Awards**

### **9.1 An Introduction to the Society's Awards by Helen Cowie**

### **9.2 Presentation of the Founders' Medal**

Founders' Medals are awarded on the nomination of Council to persons eminent in the fields of the history and/or bibliography of natural history; the award recognises the following achievements:

- A sustained record of high-quality publications in the field of the history of natural history.
- A sustained contribution to dissemination of the history of natural history through practice or curation.

Professor Emeritus Theodore (Ted) W. Pietsch has had a career that embodies the two selection criteria: (1) a sustained record of high-quality publications, (2) a sustained contribution to dissemination of the history of natural history through practice or curation.

Ted Pietsch is Professor Emeritus in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, and Curator Emeritus of Fishes at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, University of Washington. He is a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences, the Linnean Society of London, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the University of Washington Teaching Academy, and an Honorary Member of the Ichthyological Society of Japan.

He is interested primarily in marine ichthyology, especially the biosystematics, zoogeography, reproductive biology, and behavior of deep-sea fishes. Ted is the world's expert on anglerfishes (Antennariidae), writing *Oceanic Anglerfishes: Extraordinary diversity in the Deep Sea* (2009) and on the related *Frogfishes: Biodiversity, Zoogeography, and Behavioral Ecology* (2020). He has described 72 new fish species and 14 new genera, with six species and two genera named for Pietsch (eponyms). He has led 10 consecutive NSF-funded expeditions to survey the biodiversity of the Russian Kuril Islands resulting in a major paper in the *Journal of Biogeography*.

As former curator of the Fish Collection of the University of Washington Burke Museum of Natural History (UWFishCollection.org), he is also interested in natural history collections and collection building, and in biotic survey and inventory, the latter best exemplified by a decade-long series of expeditions to collect plants and animals on the islands of the Kuril Archipelago in the Russian Far East. Ted also led a two-year floral and faunal survey of the Elwha River Valley on the Olympic Peninsula in Western Washington State. A book on the *Fishes of the Salish Sea: Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca* was published in 2019 by the UW Press.

Ted has also published extensively on the history of science, especially the history of ichthyology. Among the latter are works on the French comparative anatomist Georges Cuvier (1769–1832) and his 22-volume *Histoire naturelle des poissons* (1828–1849); bookdealer, publisher, and secret agent Louis Renard (1678/79–1746) and his *Fishes, crayfishes, and crabs*; the unpublished manuscripts of the seventeenth-century explorer-naturalist Charles Plumier (1646–1704); and on the history of natural history collection-building. His current efforts are directed toward an annotated, illustrated, English translation of Cuvier's five-volume *Histoire des sciences naturelles, depuis leur origine jusqu'à nos jours* (1841–1845), the first three volumes of which have already been published.

Definitive works on early ichthyologists include on: Peter Artedi (1705–1735), David Starr Jordan (1851–1931), Charles Henry Gilbert (1859–1928), and Edwin Chapin Starks (1867–1932). Ted is also a regular contributor to *Archives of Natural History* published by Edinburgh University Press and his forthcoming article (ANH 49.1 2022 in press) is 'Charles Plumier's anatomical drawings and description of the American crocodile, *Crocodylus acutus* (1694–1697)'. Ted's publications number 232 since 1969 and the complete list of citations formed an 11-page supplement to his nomination. Ted's work is and continues to be a great service to science by combining both taxonomic and historical scholarship.

### 9.3 Presentation of the President's Award

The SHNH President's Award recognises an individual or team's contribution and impact in promoting and improving accessibility, inclusivity and diversity to the study of the history of natural history.

Madeline Hutchins, winner of the 2022 President's award of the Society for the History of Natural History for her work on Ellen Hutchins and Bantry Bay [www.ellenhutchins.com](http://www.ellenhutchins.com).

The panel reviewing the President's award were unanimous in awarding the 2022 award to Madeline Hutchins for her work in promoting and celebrating the botanical history and biodiversity of Bantry Bay, West Cork, Ireland, through the story of her great-great-grand-aunt Ellen Hutchins (1785–1815) of Ballylickey ([www.ellenhutchins.com](http://www.ellenhutchins.com)). The project's inclusivity appeals to a wide audience (both children and adults), by showing various aspects of life in Ireland and through educational activity. It also shines a spotlight on the ways in which a woman could participate in science in a period when scientific societies were exclusively male.

Prior to Madeline's work, only a handful of historians of botany were aware of Ellen Hutchins and the contributions she made to Dawson Turner and William Jackson Hookers' monographs on seaweeds and liverworts, and through her regular correspondence with Turner during the last seven years of her short life. Both sides of this correspondence exist <https://www.ellenhutchins.com/ellens-letters/> and extracts now available online reveal both botanical practices of the early nineteenth century and Ellen Hutchins' independent thought. These show how a highly competent woman, whose gender prohibited her entry into learned institutions, was able to participate in botanical science. She was celebrated for finding numerous new species and as an accomplished botanical artist.

The website created by Madeline Hutchins ([www.ellenhutchins.com](http://www.ellenhutchins.com)) draws on these resources and aims to be as inclusive as possible, recognising that a figure like Ellen Hutchins has the potential to attract a range of audiences to natural history. It uses videos such as the one titled 'She Gathered Seaweeds on the Sea Shore' (<https://www.ellenhutchins.com/the-early-1800s/>) with re-enactors bringing home the realities of past life in Bantry Bay and what it was like to be a woman collector in the early 1800s, one of several giving insight into her life. Audiences are encouraged to investigate the plants that Ellen



Hutchins studied (seaweeds, mosses, liverworts, and lichens) in the ‘Explore the Botany of Bantry Bay’ section: <https://www.ellenhutchins.com/explore-the-botany-of-bantry-bay/>.

The ‘For Kids’ section: <https://www.ellenhutchins.com/for-kids/> stresses the importance of paying attention to nature in the ‘schools page’. The website also details the ways in which Ellen Hutchins is now commemorated in the places with which she was associated and how her life has inspired a novel (2020) and poetry.

Madeline Hutchins has also arranged exhibitions on Ellen Hutchins in Dublin, Cork, and Kew. The greatest impact is through her organisation of the nine-day *Ellen Hutchins Festival* held annually (since 2015) at: <https://www.ellenhutchins.com/ellen-hutchins-festival/> in Bantry Bay during Ireland’s Heritage Week. The value of using the life of a historical figure to encourage an interest in the natural world is clear on the Ellen Hutchins website and comes fully to life in the festival.

## **9.4 Presentation of the SHNH Natural History Book Prize (John Thackray Medal)**

The prize is awarded to the book which contributes most significantly to the history of natural history. Significance will be assessed on the basis of:

- Originality
- Organisation and presentation of information
- Excellence of intellectual content
- Contribution to the literature of the field.

The Society for the History of Natural History is very pleased to announce that our prestigious Book Prize (the John Thackray Medal) will this year be awarded to Dr Jordan Goodman for his *Planting the World: Joseph Banks and his Collectors: An Adventurous History of Botany* (Harper Collins, 2021, ISBN 978-0-00-757883-2). Dr Goodman is Honorary Research Associate in the Department of Science and Technology Studies at University College London. It was a bumper year for nominations and no fewer than eight books were put up for the award. The Awards Panel unanimously agreed however, that *Planting the World* was the clear winner.

The work tells the story of how Sir Joseph Banks sent collectors and gardeners overseas to find and acquire plants new to Europe. They could then be studied and grown at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. It is a very thoroughly researched and referenced work, full of detail which, according to one judge, ‘sparkles with the untold stories of many unknown collectors’. This was echoed by another judge who said ‘I enjoyed the fact that the book was pulling together the stories of so many different botanists and gardeners’.

This detail, as all the judges agreed, means that as well as being an impressive and satisfying monograph, the book is very useful as a reference work. One judge said they had ‘looked up a couple of things in it already!’ All in all, *Planting the World: Joseph Banks and his Collectors: An Adventurous History of Botany* is a very impressive book and we are very happy to award our Society for the History of Natural History Book Prize (Thackray Medal), and our congratulations, to Dr Jordan Goodman.

## **10. Short talk/presentations by Awards’ recipients**

- Gina Douglas to read a statement from Ted Pietsch, winner of the Founder’s Medal.
- Madeline Hutchins, winner of the 2022 President’s award.
- Dr Jordon Goodman, winner of the 2022 Natural History Book Prize.

## **11. Short talk/ presentation by Honorary Membership recipient**

- Professor Peter Davis

## **12. Closing Remarks by Gina Douglas, President**

## **13. Vote of Thanks and end of meeting**