

www.rsb.org.uk



Royal Society of Biology AGM

19 May 2021

This event will start at 11:05

#RSBagm21



Introduction

Dr Mark Downs CSci FRSB
Chief Executive



Welcome

**Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow CBiol FRSB
President**



CEO Report

Dr Mark Downs CSci FRSB
Chief Executive

Delivering on our objectives

Second year of the three year business plan



INSPIRE
Inspiring interest in bioscience and the natural world is a key part of what we do. Read more about our expanding programme of events and outreach work.



**BIOLOGY
CHANGING
THE WORLD**

ROYAL
SOCIETY
OF BIOLOGY
STRATEGIC
PLAN
2019-2021



EVOLVE
As well as growing our network and reach, we are making sure we are representative of modern bioscience and responsive to the evolving needs of the sector.



INFLUENCE
The RSB brings together views from across the life sciences into a unified voice to affect positive change. We are building on our reputation as a leading provider of evidence based advice.

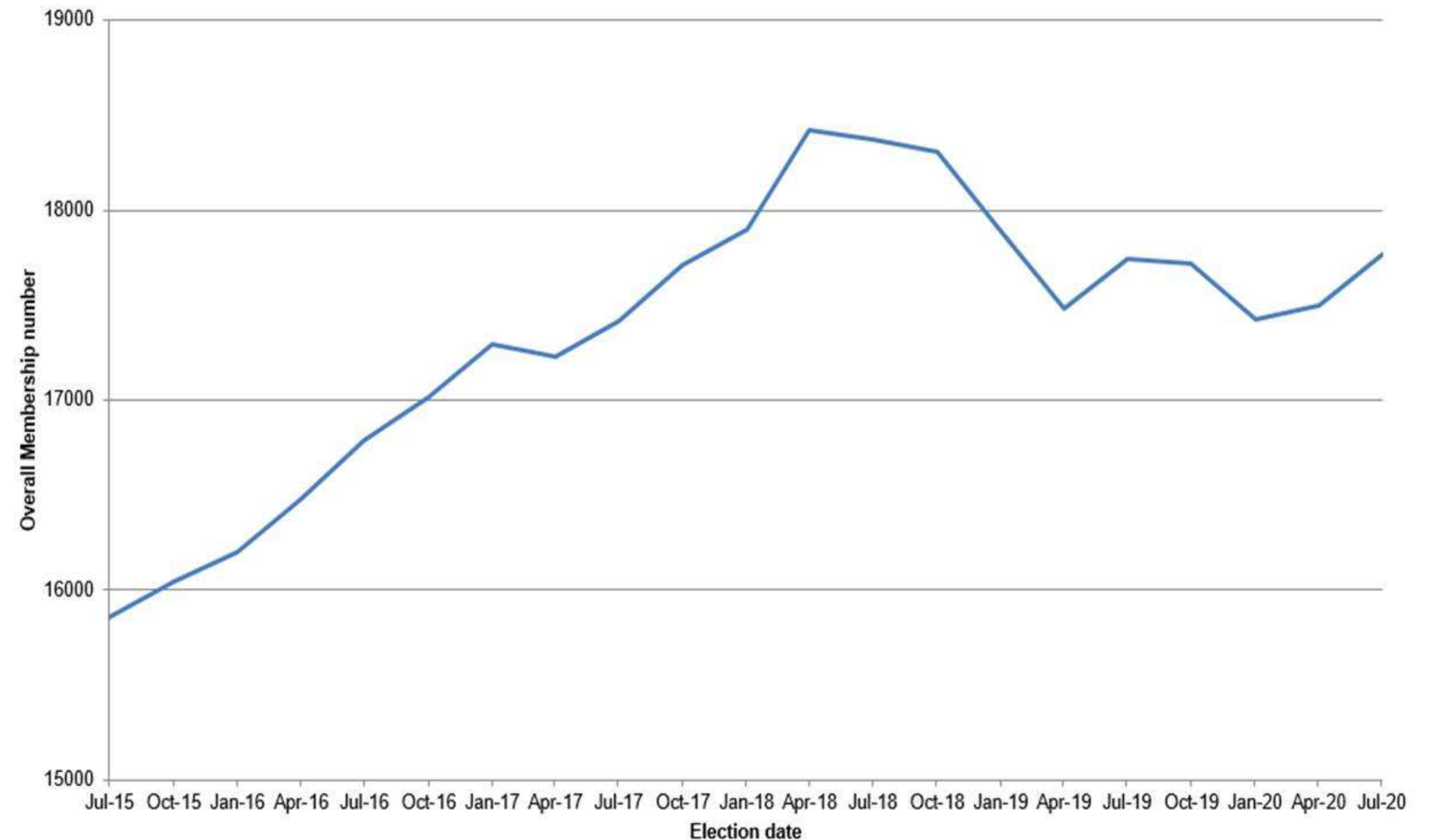


SUPPORT
We are providing more support and career development resources than ever, for biologists at all stages of their careers.

Membership

As of July 2020

- 17,764 members
- 42% female
- Overall retention 83%
- Over 90% for MRSB and FR SB
- 91 Member Organisations



Thank you to:



#RSBagm21

Client Services

- Membership administration
- CRM software for external users
- Financial administration
- Event management
- Grant administration
- A range of additional services including committee management, website hosting and maintenance of publication lists
- New client from summer 2021



Biology Week 2019

114

Events took place in the UK and abroad

12 Events ran by Royal Society of Biology regional branches

7 Events funded by the Biology Week Outreach and Engagement grant scheme



OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

500+ 

People attended events run by the RSB London office

114 

Politicians, members and stakeholders attended the Parliamentary reception

232 

People attended the annual Royal Institute debate 'Marine plastics: is it too late to save our oceans?'

107 

People attended the RSB Annual Awards Ceremony at the Francis Crick Institute, London

4828 

Votes cast in our favourite freshwater species poll, with the otter coming in first

80 

People attended Policy Lates: 'Insect declines in the headlights'

#IAMBIOLOGIST TWITTER CAMPAIGN

COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS



2590

Total competition entries
for Biology Week 2019



1959

Entries for the
RSB Photography
competition



565

Entries submitted
for the Nancy
Rothwell Award



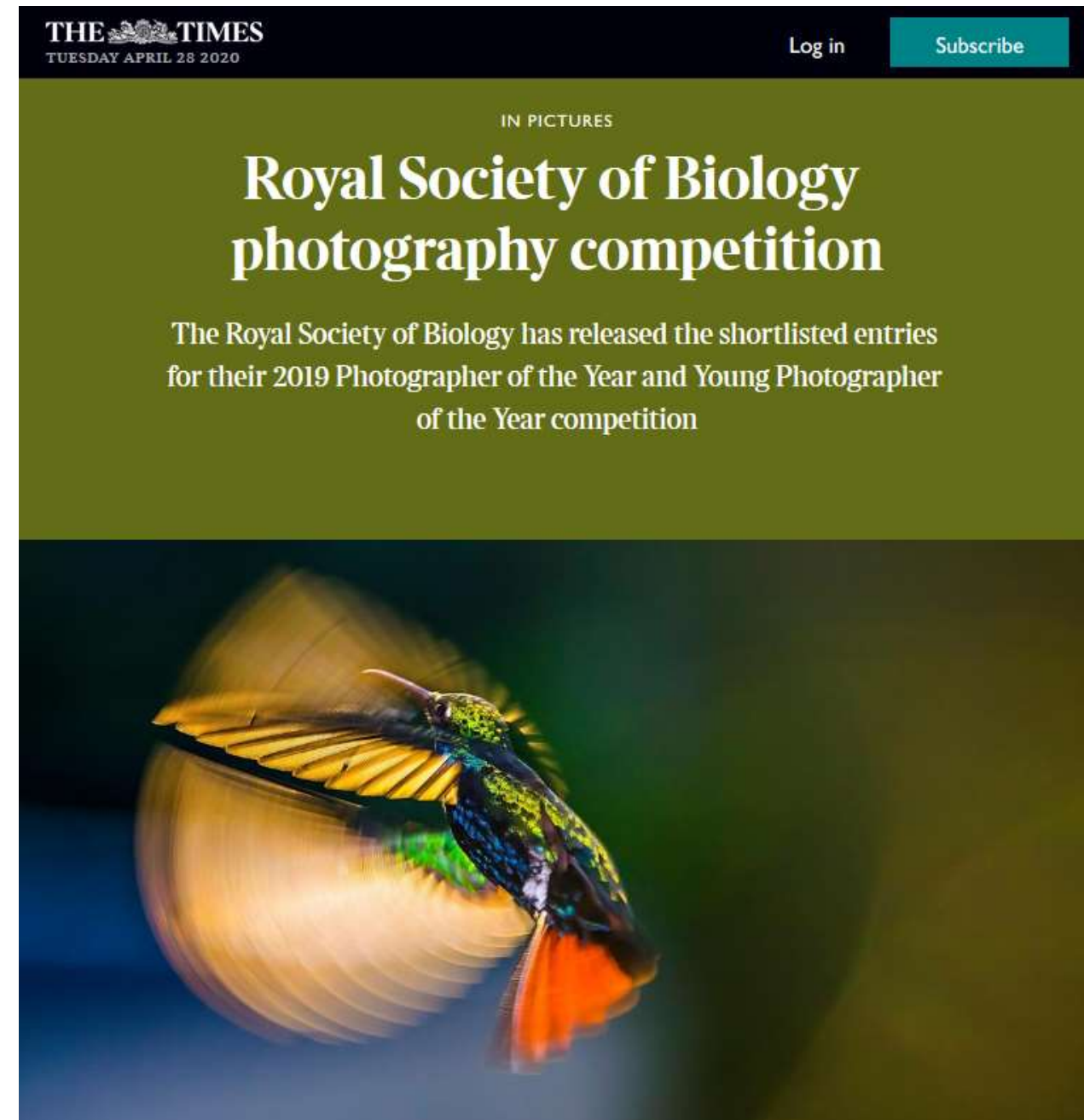
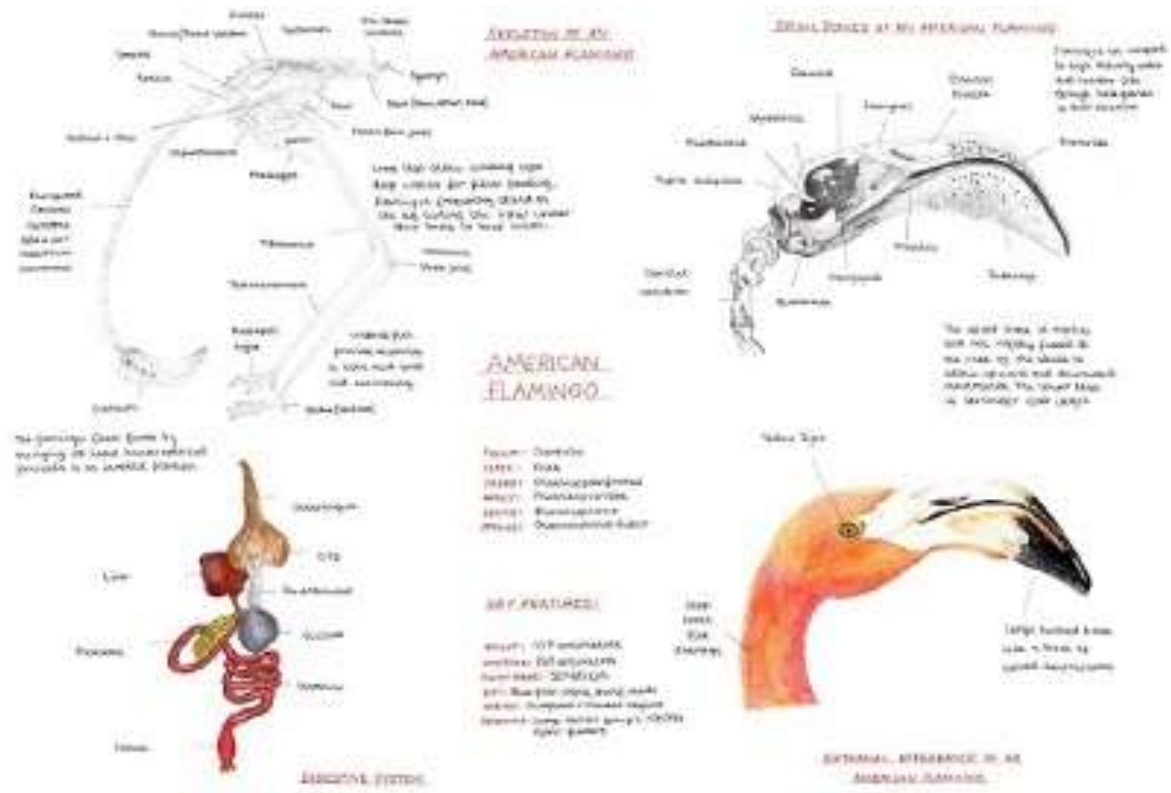
40

Entries for
#BioArtAttack
competition



26

Entries for the
Outreach and
Engagement Awards



Anniversary Year



Royal Society of Biology **10** YEARS A Decade of Growth

Anniversary Gala Dinner

3 March 2020 | Science Museum, London

Join us in celebrating the biosciences and the lifetime achievements of our Honorary Fellow **Sir David Attenborough**



RSB Members: £60-£180 | Non-members: £240
Corporate tables available

Proceeds from this event will help the RSB's ongoing work supporting the global biosciences community

Tickets now on sale: rsb.org.uk/gala

Engaging the community



Royal Society of
Biology

Science at home

rsb.org.uk/science-at-home

Visit our online resource of 100+ free to access activities, worksheets, games, experiments, videos and more, suitable for all ages and abilities



RSB Policy Lates series
Discovery research in the era of COVID-19

Watch our panel discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic is remodelling the discovery research landscape

#PolicyLates



Royal Society of
Biology

Wallace and the Caterpillars

A South Wales branch event

www.rsb.org.uk/SouthWales



Accreditation

- 50% of institutions offering appropriate bioscience related programmes now hold accreditation
- International Degree Accreditation
- Joint Doctoral Training initiative with RSC and IoP
- Apprenticeships

Degree Accreditation



520 degrees at 54 unis

Advanced Degree Accreditation



239 degrees at 19 unis

International Degree Accreditation



11 degrees at 7 unis

Masters Degree Accreditation



32 degrees at 3 uni

Foundation Degree Accreditation



4 degree at 2 uni


Doctoral Training Accreditation




4 degree at 3 uni

Supporting professional progress

- 10 online training courses
- Industry Skills Certificate
- Changes to Chartered Biologist
- Professional registers



Introduction to Trusteeship and Governance 

An online course developed for trustees to become familiar with the the role and its requirements

This online course is based on modular learning with a variety of materials to help a trustee understand the role requirements in a more detailed fashion.

£50 (+VAT, Members), **£125** (+VAT, Non-members); other tariffs available

[View course](#)

RSB Professional Registers

Chartered Biologist

Qualified Person

UK Register of Toxicologists

Plant Health

Fetal Morphologists

Science Council Registers

Chartered Scientist

Registered Scientist

Registered Science Technician

Chartered Science Teacher

UPCOMING TRAINING COURSES

Leadership in a Laboratory Environment

A course for Laboratory team leaders who want to improve the way they manage their teams and those who aspire to team leadership positions.

Date: 7th June 2021

Location: Video Conferencing via Zoom

Price: Member - £90 (+VAT)

Non-Member - £180 (+VAT)



Education Policy

- 8 consultation responses
- Evidence to education committees in each nation
- Consistent calls for long term planning to mitigate COVID-19 impacts
- Focus on subject specific and content specific policy areas; working with other science bodies more broadly
- Reviewing education priorities (2017-2022)
- Curriculum Committee is developing a framework for a biology curriculum for 5-19

#BiosciencesForAll

The Committee seeks advice from researchers, educators, students, members and Member Organisations



Science Policy

- Consultation responses
 - animal and plant sciences, research funding, impacts of Brexit, genetic technologies, diversity and inclusion, biosecurity, career progression, innovation policy, Plan S
- 9 studentship places awarded on our Plant Health Undergraduate Studentships
- Diversity & Inclusivity: #BiosciencesForAll
- Policy resource library
- 3 Policy Lates events



Royal Society of Biology | **10 YEARS** A Decade of Growth | **The impact of... Science Policy**

Over the last decade, the RSB has become a focal point for advice and comment; working closely with supporting organisations to ensure the voice of the biosciences is heard by governments and policymakers.

The RSB provides evidence, challenges assumptions and increases awareness of the breadth of knowledge and innovation. We also support voices from diverse backgrounds and ensure they are represented across the biosciences.

200+ Policy outputs published since 2009, covering a wide range of topics

Ecology and Biodiversity | Valuing research | Food production | Biomedical science | Brexit and immigration

20,000+ Subscribers to our weekly Science Policy Newsletter

"The RSB's Science Policy Newsletter is invaluable as it provides a clear and efficient snapshot of the latest developments on a weekly basis – it is high on my 'must read' list." **Professor Julia Buckingham CBE FRSB**

Events

8 Voice of the Future events bringing younger scientists to Westminster

8 Parliamentary Links Days, connecting MPs, peers, and the STEM community

8 Policy Lates debate events, free and open to the public

8 We co-sponsor and provide senior representation at events across the UK

Influence The RSB brings experts together to advise policy and decision-makers in Government, Parliament, research funders and institutions, and other societies and organisations

28 Organisations in the **Animal Science Group**, that engages with the Home Office via the UK Bioscience Sector Coalition

23 Member Organisations share best practice through our Diversity and Inclusion Working Group **#biosciencesforall**

21 Member Organisations collaborate through the **UK Plant Sciences Federation (UKPSF)**

2 Major reports published on the future potential of the UK plant science sector

24 meetings and 3 summits organised by the **Natural Capital Initiative** to discuss ecosystem management

RSB Policy Resource Library

Consultation responses | Letters and comments | Strategies and reviews | Guidance and briefing notes

25+ Organisations' published resources which are freely available

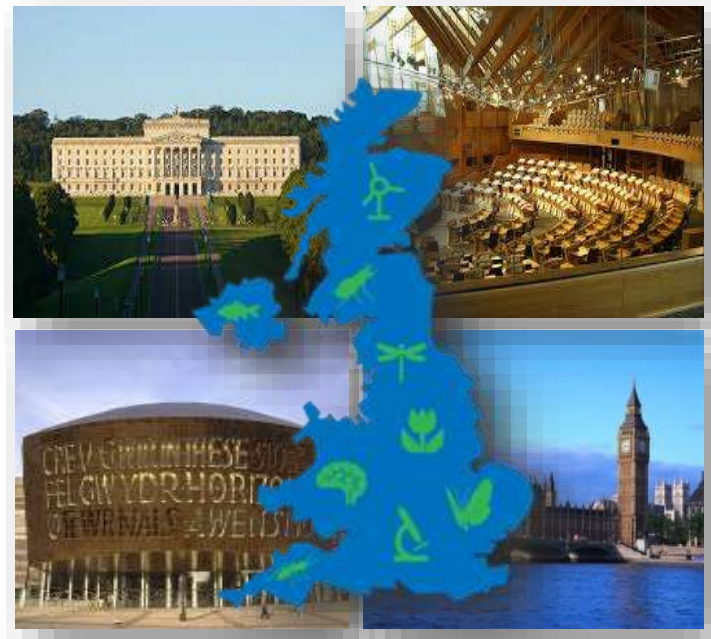
800+ Collected policy resources available to search and read

Explore the RSB's free Policy Resource Library rsb.org.uk/policylib

To find out more about our science policy activity and how to get involved: policy@rsb.org.uk rsb.org.uk/policy

Our Impact | A Decade of Growth

Parliamentary Engagement



Engaging with each
nation



Biology Week discussion
with Science Minister
and Brexit Committee Chair



Member Q&As with
Select Committee
Members



Diversity and Inclusion (D&I)

- **#BiosciencesForAll**
- Internal and external focus
- Board Champion and D&I network of representatives on every committee across the RSB
- Membership of sector and STEM groups - signatory to Science Council declaration; member of Athena Forum, STEM Disability Advisory Committee, Edis, etc
- D&I Working Group of MO reps and a network of ambassadors across all committees and groups to advise



Membership & Professional Affairs Committee



Chair: Professor Richard Reece CBiol FRSB

- Made up of MRSB and FRSB members from varying professional backgrounds
- Oversight of membership, registers, training and regions
- Key outputs over the last year
 - Reviewed process and rationale for honorary membership
 - Input to the biennial membership survey
 - Proposed ongoing use of outbound calling provider for renewals
 - Input to branch and regions governance development
 - Input to new membership strategy development



Education and Science Policy Committee

Chair: Professor Jon Scott FRSB

Former Chair: Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore FRSB (to April 2021)

- Consultation responses on education and science policy issues
- Direction setting on priority topics
- Receives and reviews reports from the Accreditation Committee, Animal Science Group, Biologist Board, Curriculum Committee, D&I Working Group, Education Policy Advisory Working Group, JBE Board, Natural Capital Initiative, Outreach and Engagement Working Group, Plant Science Group
- Advice and agreement for briefing notes and statements
- Advises on topics and focus for Policy Lates events
- Advises Council and ensures Council priorities guide activities



RSB and COVID-19



COVID-19 Bulletin

An RSB communication on the
bioscience behind the outbreak and
response
5 May 2021

Dear

This eighteenth edition of the RSB COVID-19 bulletin highlights a selection of the bioscience research and news of the last month. It cannot be comprehensive and gives just a glimpse of the huge worldwide effort to understand SARS-CoV-2 and its effects.

We can all contribute to the response to COVID-19 by engaging with sound science, countering misinformation and increasing awareness. We hope this bulletin is helpful in this.

- COVID-19 bulletin
- Online education resources
- 25 interviews on COVID-19 science
- Video interviews on vaccination with Early Career Scientists as part of their **#ExploreVaccines** initiative with BSI
- Survey on funding, research and career impacts of the pandemic
- Policy consultation responses
- Online events will continue through 2021

Thank you to all our members
and volunteers!



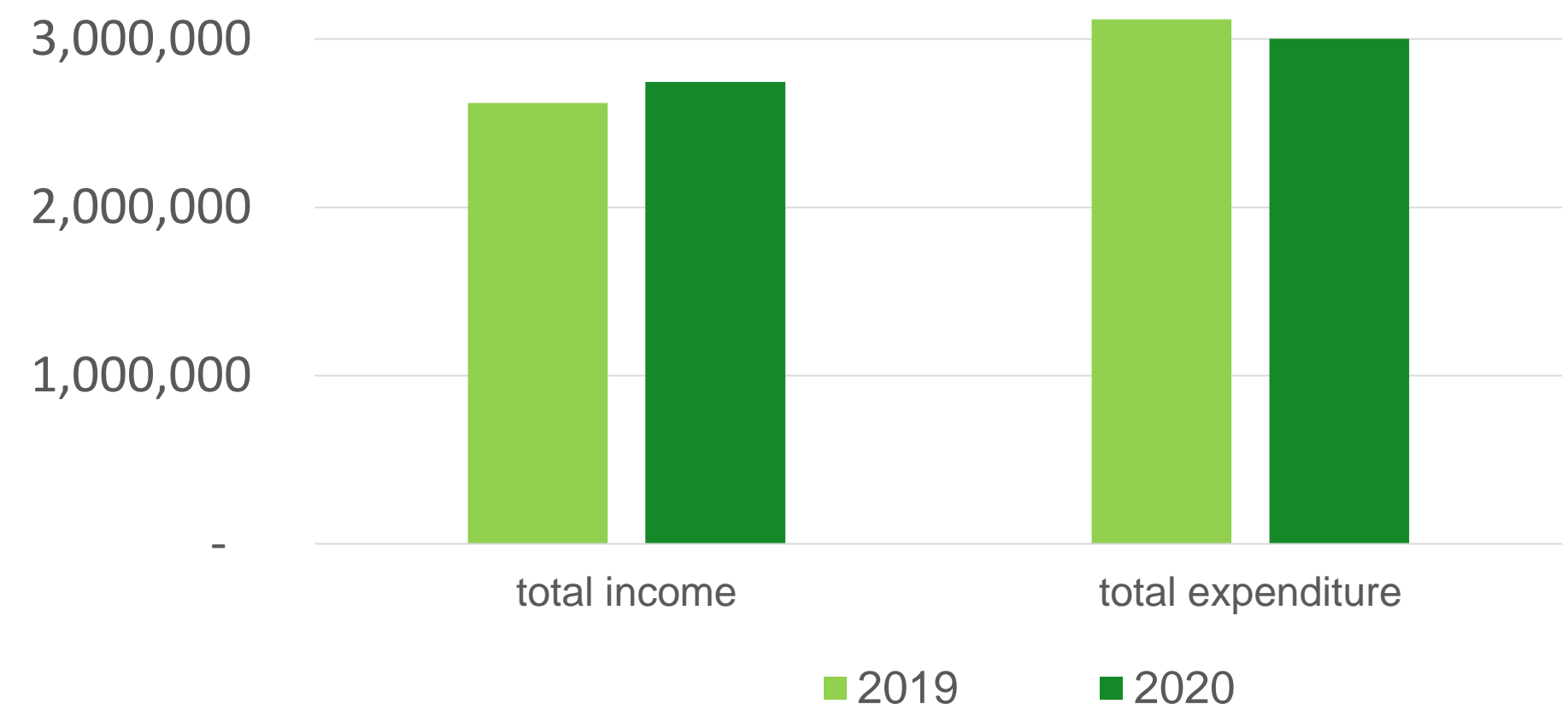
Annual Report and Accounts

Dr Paul Brooker CBiol FRSB
Honorary Treasurer

Overview

- Financial year 1 October 2019 – 31 September 2020
- Better than budgeted year with small operational cash surplus
- Modest growth in income compared to previous year

Income and expenditure comparison (£)



The financial year

Income:

- Drop in income from Registers, Exam QP Vivas, conferences
- Accreditation income exceeded budget, membership on track
- Legacy income of £85k
- CCLA investment income of £30k

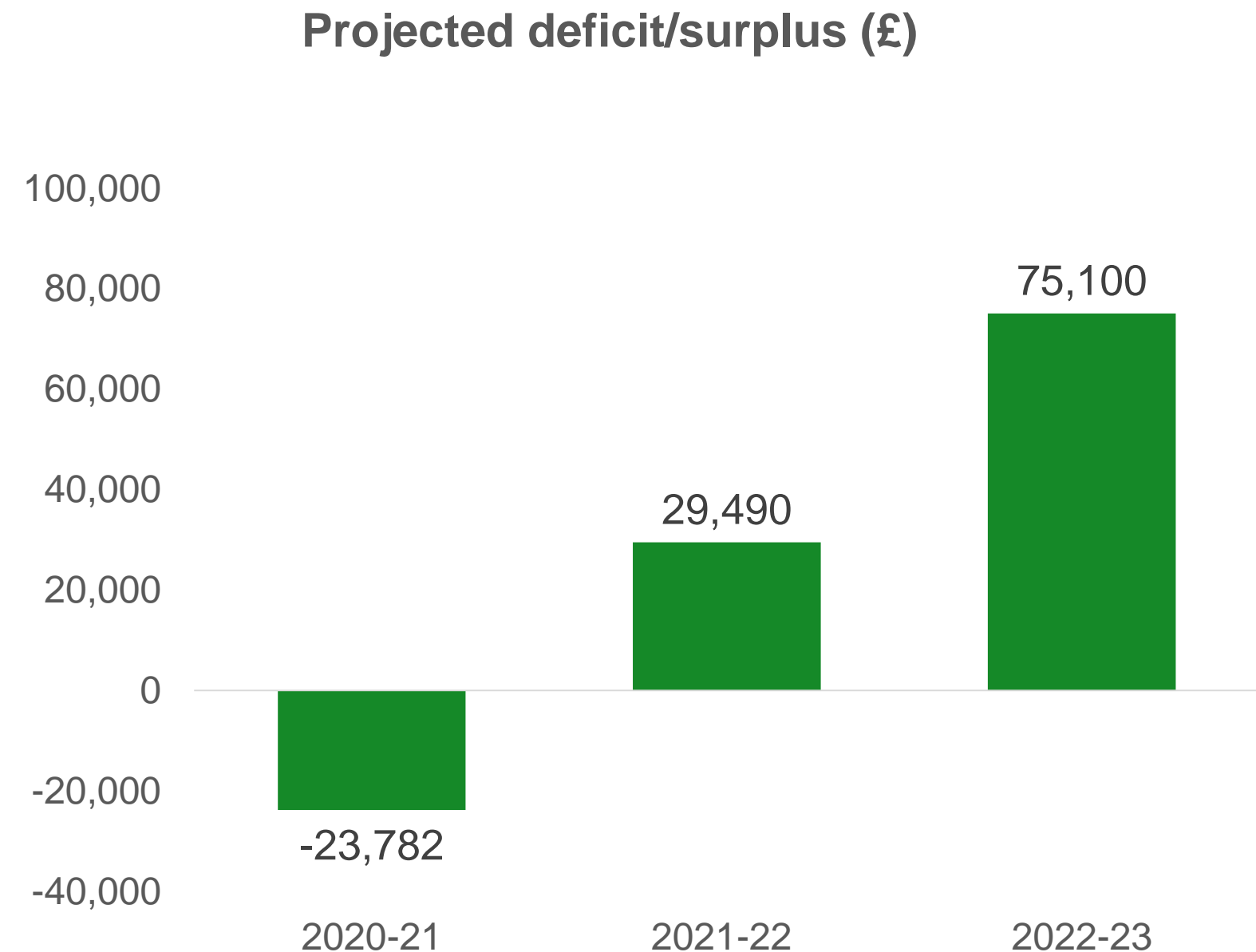
Expenditure:

- Significant savings on events due to the pandemic
- Staff expenditure reduced to 58.5% of total costs
- Grant to UKBC of £189k

Total loss of £180k against a budgeted deficit of £340k

Planning ahead

- A return to surplus in 2022
- Two generous legacies, with thanks to Dr Ann Burgess FRSB and Mr John Barker FRSB and their families
- Defined benefit pension scheme showing small surplus

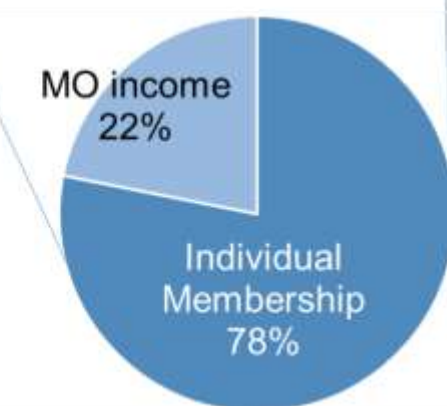
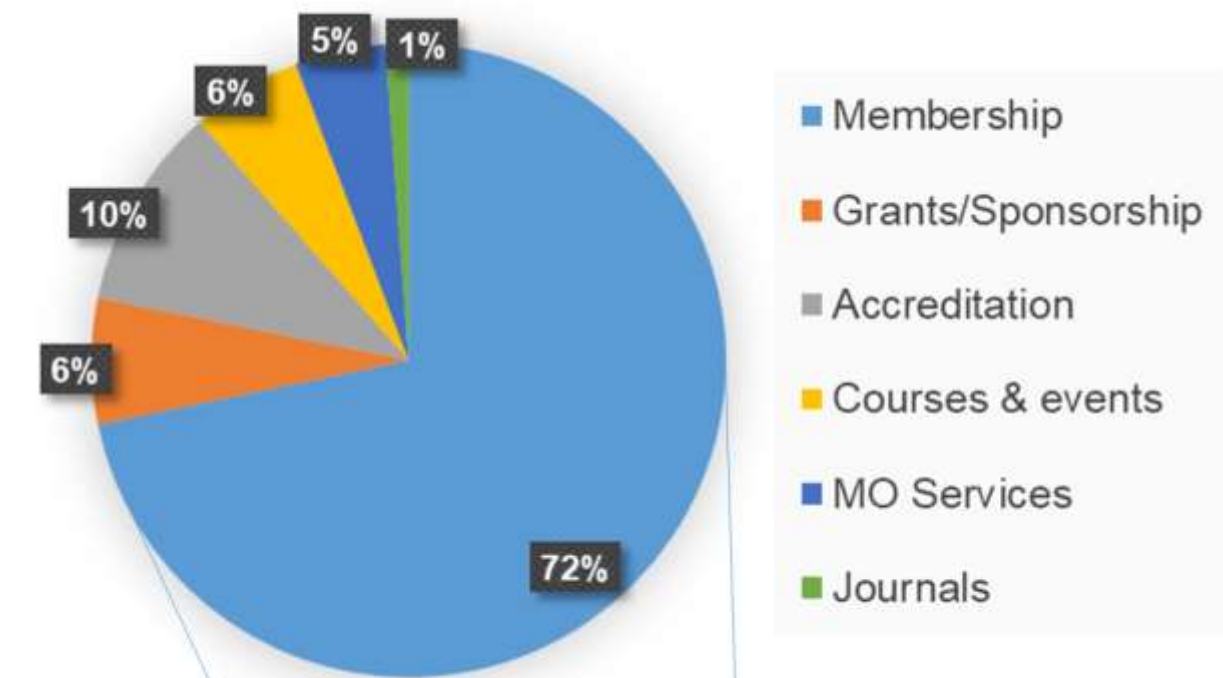


Thank you to

- Members and Member Organisations
- Strategic partners:



Membership subscriptions are the largest source of income



Thank you to

- Dr Mark Downs, Surinder Sohal and the executive team
- Finance Committee
- Audit Committee, including chair Dr Rodney Eastwood
- Auditors haysmacintyre



Voting on Resolutions

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow CBiol FRSB
President

- **Resolution:** This meeting approves the Annual Reports and Accounts for the financial year October 2019 – September 2020.
- **Resolution:** This meeting authorises the RSB's Council to appoint haysmacintyre as the RSB's auditors for the financial year October 2020 - September 2021 and to set their remuneration.



Election of new Council members

**Professor Richard Reece CBiol FRSB
Honorary Secretary**

College of Individual Members

Professor Louise Cosby FRSB

Lucy Hudson MRSB

College of Member Organisations

Dr Suzy Claire Moody

Chair: Education and Science Policy Committee

Professor Jon Scott FRSB





Announcement of President-elect

**Professor Richard Reece CBiol FRSB
Honorary Secretary**

Professor Sir Ian Boyd FRSB





Confirmation of the Honorary Officers

**Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow CBiol FRSB
President**



Q & A Session

President

Honorary Officers

Chief Executive



Award of the President's Medal

**Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow CBiol FRSB
President**



**Congratulations to
Professor Jack Jackson
OBE FRSE CBiol FRSB**



Charter Lecture: Bioengineering Human Tissues in the Laboratory

Professor Stefan Przyborski FRSB



Thank you for attending the Royal Society of Biology virtual AGM

19 May 2021

Please complete our short survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rsbAGM21>