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# Annual General Meeting 2022



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# Welcome and minutes

**Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow CBiol FRSB**  
President

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# Chief Executive report

**Dr Mark Downs CBiol CSci FRSB**



# Royal Society of Biology update

**Dr Mark Downs CBiol CSci FRSB**

Chief Executive

# Summary

- Parliamentary engagement
- *The Biologist*
- Science Policy
- Education Policy
- Regional branches
- Biology Week
- Membership
- Client Services
- Training
- Plant Health
- Accreditation
- Professional Registers
- Looking forward

# Parliamentary Engagement

Parliamentarians questioned  
at Voice of the Future



Engaging with each  
nation



An international focus for  
Parliamentary Links Day

# The Biologist

- Redesigned quarterly print issues, featuring branch reports and upcoming events
- New additional online content at [biologist.rsb.org.uk](http://biologist.rsb.org.uk): over 30 COVID Q&As, 'My lab unlocked' series, RSB staff & member profiles, and other shareable content
- Personal and institutional digital subscriptions available through Exact Editions

## OPINION

### 11 tips for choosing the right PhD



### My Lab Unlocked: Dr Parvez Alam FRSB

Searching the world for amazing organisms to inspire new materials, manufacturing and technology, with **Dr Parvez Alam FRSB**, University of Edinburgh

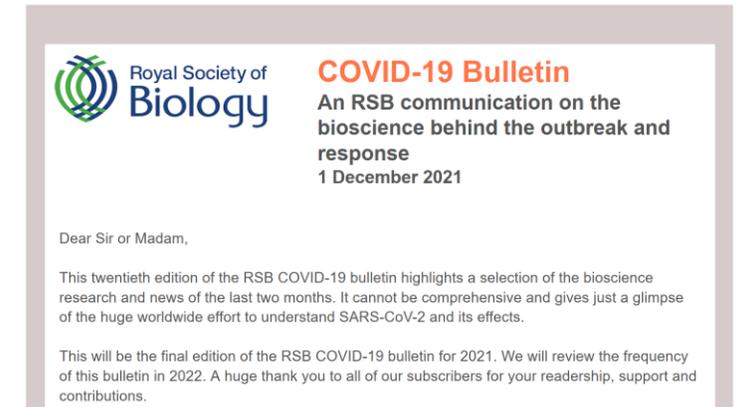


### Policy Profile: Lauren M'Leod MRSB

The RSB's head of education policy on her work to improve post-pandemic education

# Science Policy: 2021

- **Priority areas** included: the environment; equality, diversity and inclusion; research culture, funding and infrastructure; the use of genetic knowledge; and biosecurity.
- **#BiosciencesForAll initiative: supporting the visibility of underrepresented communities in the biosciences** by sharing information and practice, identifying critical areas for change, and amplifying initiatives through the year e.g. via our social media channels.
- **Countering misinformation through information sharing and increasing awareness:** 68 editions of our newsletters, 20,000+ subscribers.



Nominate a member

**Science Policy Newsletter – a weekly round-up of policy headlines and stories**

8 April 2022

Dear readers, the newsletter team will be taking a spring break before returning with the next edition on 6th May 2022. In the meantime, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your readership.

This newsletter provides links to published news articles from a range of sources. Views or opinions presented are those of the original author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the Royal Society of Biology.

News

Royal Society of Biology news

# Science Policy: 2021

- **Convening bioscientists to discuss current issues and evidence** with one another, and with policy makers: over 60 online events and meetings.
- **Bringing the expertise of our professional membership direct to policy makers** in Government, Parliament and beyond: 17 letters, statements, reports and responses, also searchable in our online RSB & MO Policy Resource Library.
- **Supporting the next generation of bioscientists** to gain policy experience and connections: 2 UKRI policy interns joined our staff team, 150 early career professionals formed a new plant health network, 10 students carried out summer projects meeting Defra science priorities through our Plant Health Undergraduate Studentships (PHUGS).

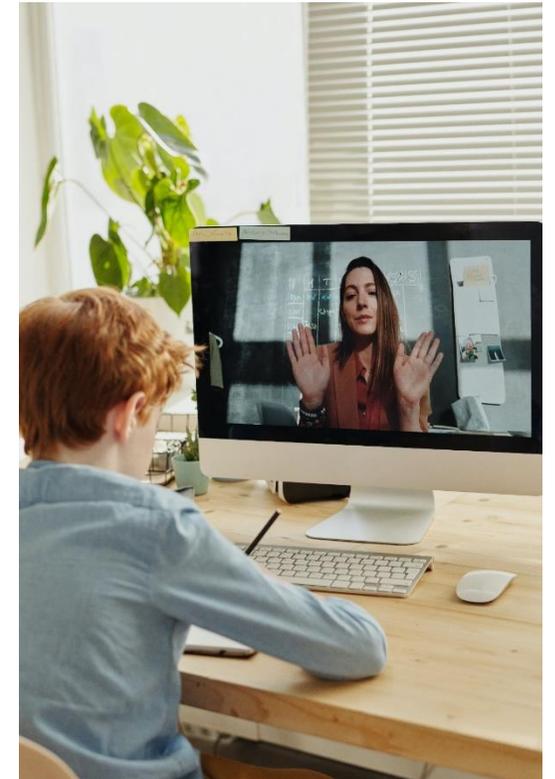
| Date        | Resource   | Type                  |
|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| 29 Mar 2022 | <a href="#">Submission by the Daphne Jackson Trust to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee inquiry into the UK's research and innovation system</a><br><i>parliamentary, policy, R&amp;D (research and development)</i><br><small>Link checked: 25 Apr 2022</small>         | Consultation response |
| 29 Mar 2022 | <a href="#">UKRI's draft Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy</a><br><i>diversity and inclusion, policy, R&amp;D (research and development)</i><br><small>Link checked: 24 Apr 2022</small>  | Consultation response |
| 28 Mar 2022 | <a href="#">Royal Society of Biology submission to UKRI draft EDI Strategy</a><br><i>diversity and inclusion, policy, R&amp;D (research and development)</i><br><small>Link checked: 24 Apr 2022</small>   | Letter                |
| 1 Mar 2022  | <a href="#">Association for Science Education, Institute of Physics, Royal Society of Biology and Royal Society of Chemistry response to The future of post-16 qualifications inquiry</a><br><i>education, policy</i><br><small>Link checked: 25 Apr 2022</small>                          | Consultation response |
| 14 Jan 2022 | <a href="#">Submission by the Daphne Jackson Trust to the Science and Technology Committee Call for Evidence into Diversity in STEM</a><br><i>diversity and inclusion, parliamentary, STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics)</i><br><small>Link checked: 24 Apr 2022</small> | Consultation response |
| 1 Dec 2021  | <a href="#">Royal Society of Biology response to the Defra consultation on a Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain</a><br><i>agriculture, biodiversity, forestry, horticulture, plant science</i><br><small>Link checked: 25 Apr 2022</small>                                       | Consultation response |
| 1 Dec 2021  | <a href="#">COVID-19 Bulletin (Issue 20)</a><br><i>biomedical science, collaboration, diagnostics, health, infection and disease, policy, vaccines</i><br><small>Link checked: 25 Apr 2022</small>   | Briefing note         |
| 20 Oct 2021 | <a href="#">Royal Society of Biology letter in advance of COP26</a><br><i>biodiversity, climate and energy</i><br><small>Link checked: 25 Apr 2022</small>   | Letter                |

# Science Policy: ongoing

- Supporting UKBSC to engage with Home Office: animal research policy and regulations.
- Engaging with UKCORI, UKRI and UKRN: research integrity.
- Engaging with Defra and Cabinet Office: biological security, including our response submitted to the call for evidence on the UK's Biological Security Strategy.
- Working with IOP and RSC gathering evidence and engaging policymakers: delays in Horizon Europe association; signatory to the 'Stick to Science' campaign.
- PHUGS programme continues: further funding means projects increased to 13.
- 2 new UKRI policy internships.
- Thank you to all our members, funders, supporters and collaborators across groups, initiatives, projects and programmes.

# Education Policy

- Working with other societies, we called for an uplift in funding for **science CPD for teachers**, provide evidence for the **review of 2020 qualifications** in Scotland and the **Curriculum for Excellence**.
- Produced briefings on STEM education for MSP candidates in May and on **Level 3 Qualifications** in applied sciences for the Department for Education.



# Education Policy

- Kept watching brief on exam disruptions and engaged directly with DfE on proposals to reform **Initial Teacher Training in England** and Qualifications Wales regarding their **new qualifications for Wales**.
- As host organisation for collaborative education policy work of ASE, IOP, RS, RSB and RSC we commissioned research into **entry requirements for post-16 qualifications across all four UK nations**.

# Regional branches

## Events and Branches



**7778**

People registered  
online for

**145**

Society and  
regional branch  
events

Online events



**18**

Branches across the  
UK and abroad

**100**

Online branch talks,  
quizzes and panel  
discussions

Regional branches

# Biology Week 2021

# 25

**Hong Kong branch: Phytopathology**  
- a story of bad mushrooms

#iamabiologist social media campaign

**RSB Annual Awards Ceremony**

Events took place across the world

Policy Lates 'Rethinking our food system'

**North Western branch: Honeybee anatomy**

West Midlands branch: Spinal Muscular Atrophy

**Wessex branch: Antarctic marine animals**

School Biology Teacher of the Year Awards

**Outreach and Engagement Awards**



# 227



People attended events run by the RSB, including branch events

# 60



People tested their knowledge as part of the RSB's Big Biology Quiz

# 8270+



Total views of celebration videos as part of the virtual Annual Awards Ceremony

# 103



People attended Biology Week's Policy Lates: 'Rethinking our food system'

**Biology Week**

# 2616

Total competition entries in 2021

## Interconnected

**The theme of the 2021 Photography Competition**



**Vishwanath Birje** Photographer of the Year  
**Roan Jones** Young Photographer of the Year  
**Anoushka Kumar** Nancy Rothwell Award: 7-11 age category  
**Amelia Hayman** Nancy Rothwell Award: 12-14 age category  
**Alice White** Nancy Rothwell Award: 15-18 age category  
**Elizabeth Mills** Outreach and Engagement Award: New Researcher  
**Dr Andreia de Almeida** Outreach and Engagement Award: Leadership

# 1689



Entries for the RSB Photography competition

# 727



Entries submitted for the Nancy Rothwell Award

# 183



Entries for #BioArtAttack competition

# 17



Entries for the Outreach and Engagement Awards

# 1629



Number of times #iamabiologist was used during the social media campaign

# 800+



Number of biologists who shared a photo of themselves in action as part of the campaign



# 2,626,146

Total reach of the #iamabiologist campaign (number of people who saw at least one #iamabiologist tweet)



**Biology Week**



Royal Society of  
**Biology**

#RSBAGM22

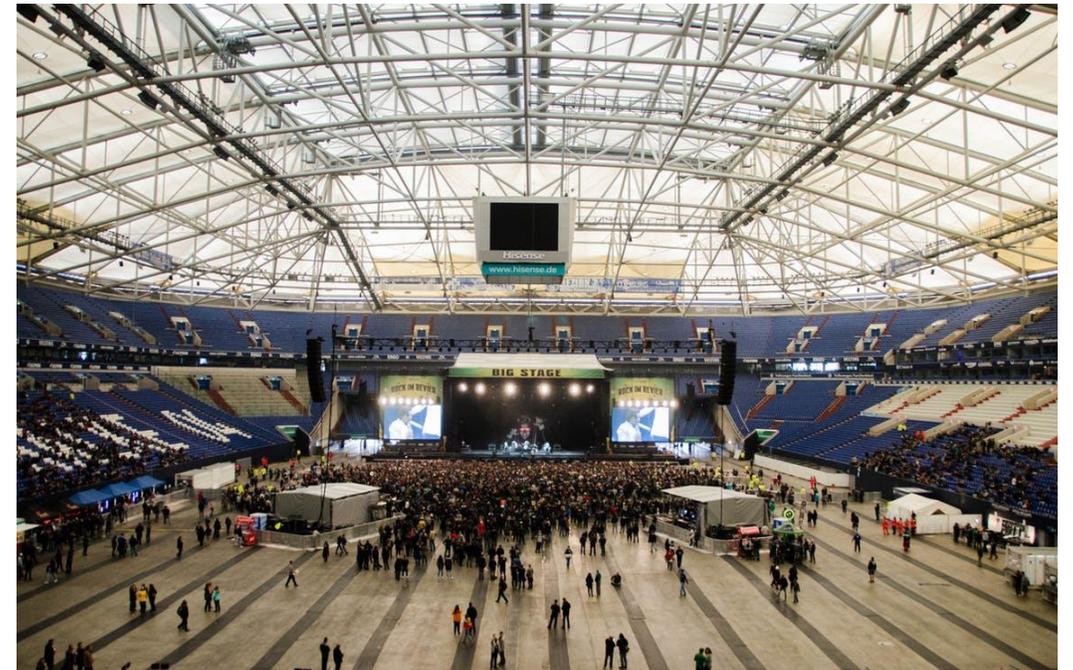
# Membership

- 84 Member Organisations
  - 57 Full (including 10 Strategic Partners)
  - 22 Supporting
  - 5 Affiliated
- There is a 32% success rate for previous branch speakers who have been invited to become members
- 8 out of 25 previous branch speakers have signed up for membership



# Client services

- 10 external membership clients with 14,000 members of their own
- Online, hybrid and in person event delivery offering



# Training

The RSB runs a number of training programmes, both online and in person:

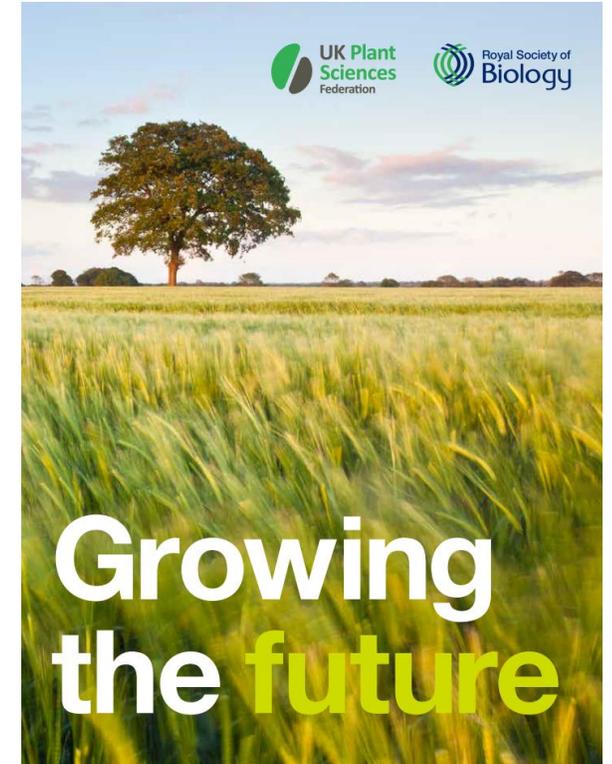


The team has launched a recruitment process for new trainers, in areas of sustainability, biodiversity and ecology which have been identified as areas of interest by our members.

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- Introduction to Reproducible Analyses in R
- Data analysis, regression and statistics in R
- Leadership in a Laboratory Environment
- Programming for Biologists
- Data exploration, analysis and visualisation for biologists
- Laboratory Health and Safety (& COSHH)
- Practical Skills: Aseptic Techniques
- Practical Skills: Cell/Tissue culture: The Basics
- Practical Skills: The Basics of Immunoassays
- Practical Skills: The Light Microscope, all you need to know
- Practical Skills: Experimental Design in the Bioscience
- Online: Persuasive Scientific Writing
- Online: Core Business Skills for Biologists

# Plant Health

- A new plant health grant has been secured from Fera/Defra which will run for three years. This grant will support RSBs work in three key areas:
  - Plant Health network and events
  - Plant Health Professional Register
  - Plant Health Undergraduate Studentships



# Accreditation

## UK Accreditation

| Route         | HEI | Degree |
|---------------|-----|--------|
| Foundation    | 2   | 4      |
| Accreditation | 56  | 527    |
| Advanced      | 19  | 240    |
| Masters       | 4   | 34     |
| Doctoral      | 3   | 4      |

## International Accreditation

| Route         | HEI | Degree |
|---------------|-----|--------|
| International | 10  | 14     |

# Professional registers

## RSB Professional Registers

Chartered Biologist

Qualified Person

UK Register of Toxicologists

Plant Health

Fetal Morphologists

## Science Council Registers

Chartered Scientist

Registered Scientist

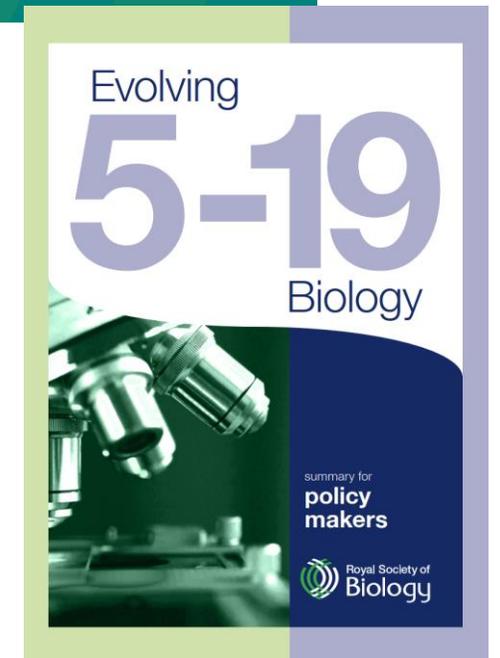
Registered Science Technician

Chartered Science Teacher

- The Chartered Biologist register was thoroughly reviewed last year to ensure the register is fit for purposes and reflects what is expected of individuals at a senior level in the biosciences.
- Changes brought in: update to the competences and assessment process, and CPD requirement for all on the register.
- A new Biorisk register is currently being explored with stakeholders.

# Looking forward

- Three-year business plan
- Launch of the RSB's framework for 5-19 biology
- Support for ASE webinars around practical work during remote teaching
- Integrated campaigns
- Professional standards
- New grants
- Society-wide investment
- Four-day week pilot



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# Summary of the Annual Report and Accounts

**Dr Paul Brooker CBiol FRSB**

Honorary Treasurer

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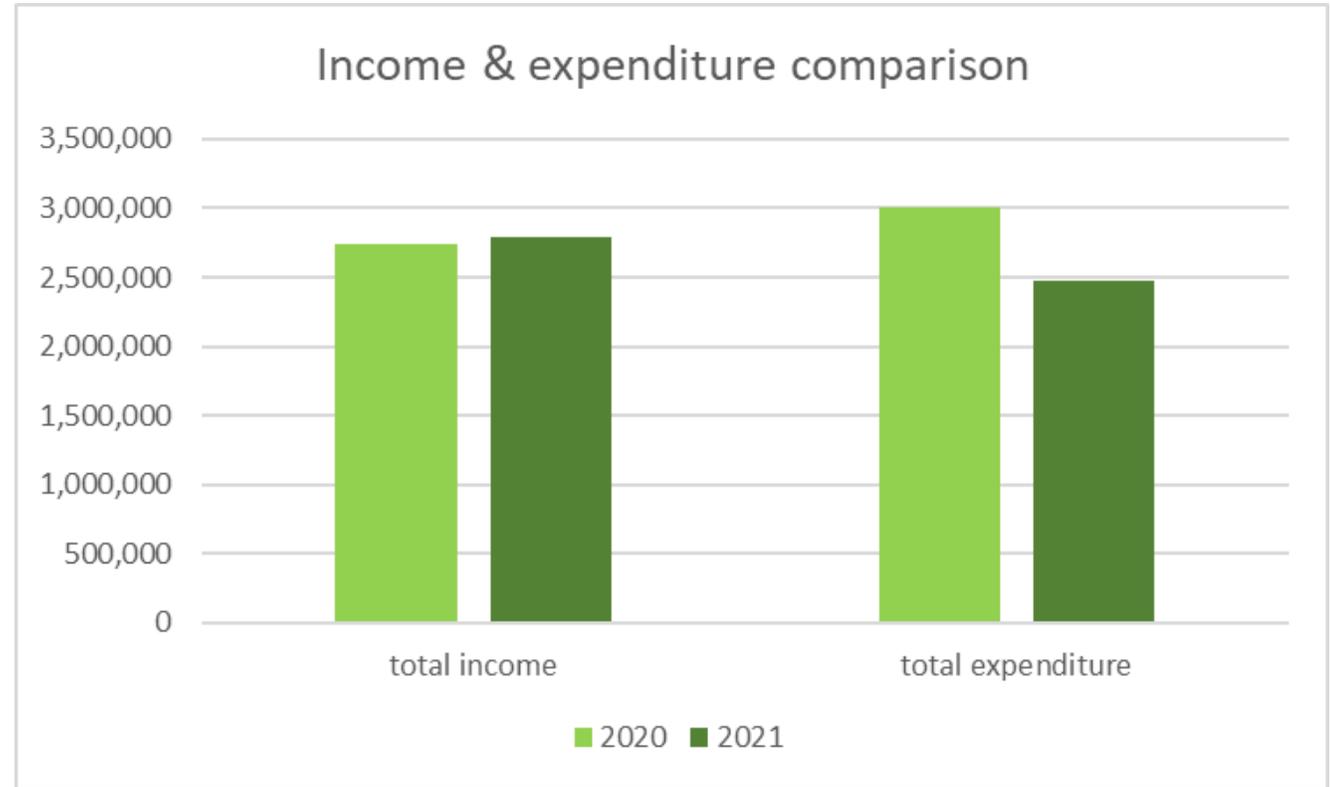


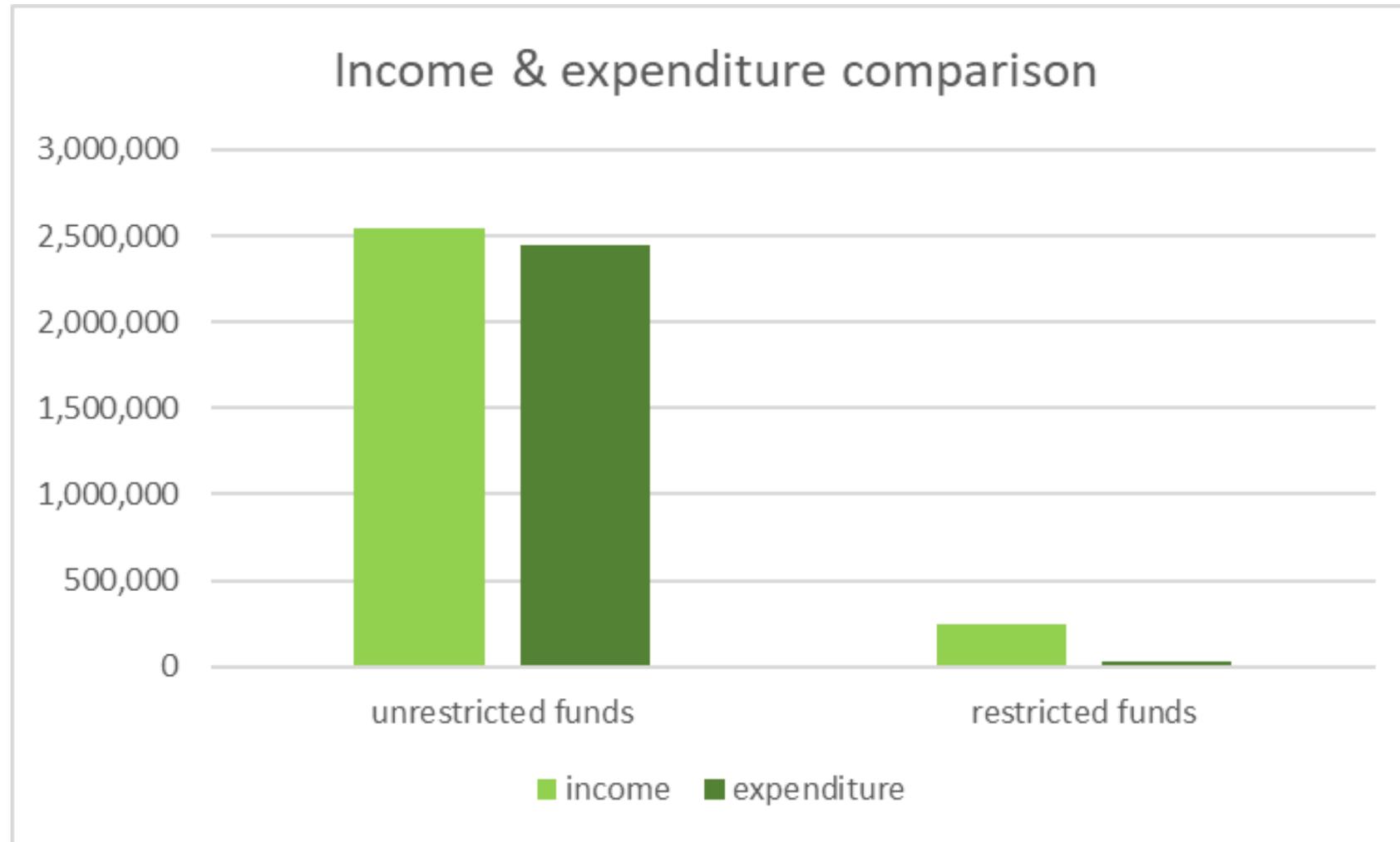
# Annual Report and Accounts

**Dr Paul Brooker CBiol FRSB  
Honorary Treasurer**

# Overview

- Financial year 1 October 2020 – 31 September 2021
- Better than budgeted year with small operational cash surplus of £82k
- Modest growth in income compared to previous year
- Significant reduction in expenditure





# The financial year

## Income:

- Drop in income from courses and conferences (due to the pandemic)
- Accreditation and membership on track
- Legacy income of £228k
- CCLA investment income of £32k and an overall capital gain of £138k

## Expenditure:

- Significant savings on events due to the pandemic

# Financial activity

Finances

**£2,780k**

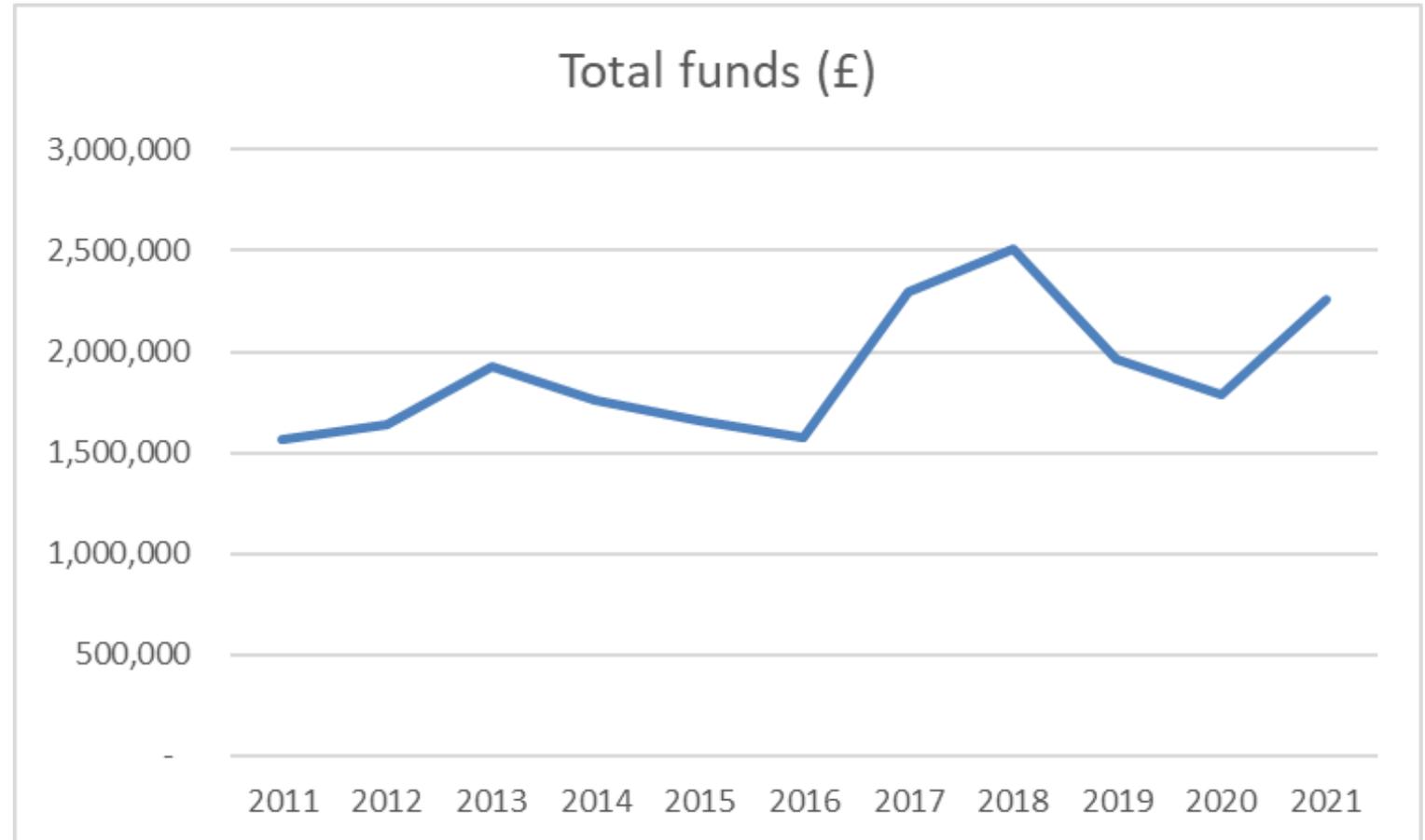
Income

**£2,478k**

Expenditure

**£2,258k**

Total funds this year



# Defined Benefit Pension Plan



# Planning ahead

From a strong balance sheet, significant investment is planned:

- Website
- Education
- Science policy engagement
- Communications
- Membership support and recruitment

# Thank you to

- Members and Member Organisations
- Strategic partners:



# Thank you to

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



# Question and answer session

**Honorary Officers and Chief Executive**



# Voting on resolutions

**Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow CBiol FRSB**  
President

- **Resolution:** This meeting approves the Annual Reports and Accounts for the financial year October 2020 - September 2021
- **Resolution:** This meeting authorises the RSB's Council to appoint haysmacintyre as the RSB's auditors for the financial year October 2021 - September 2022 and to set their remuneration

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# Confirmation of Honorary Officers

**Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow CBiol FRSB**  
President

# Honorary officers

Honorary Treasurer

**Dr Paul Brooker CBiol FRSB**

Fifth year



Honorary Secretary (incoming)

**Professor Claire Wathes FRSB**

First year



Honorary Secretary (outgoing)

**Professor Richard Reece CBiol FRSB**

Fifth year completed



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# Election of Council Members

**Emeritus Professor Claire Wathes FRSB**  
Honorary Secretary

# Council members

College of organisational members



**Professor Patricia Kuwabara FRSB**

Second term



**Professor Yvonne Barnett CSci FRSB**

Second term



# Announcement of new President

**Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow CBiol FRSB**

Outgoing President

**Professor Sir Ian Boyd FRSB**

Incoming President

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# Any other business

**Professor Sir Ian Boyd FRSB**

President

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# President's Medal

**Professor Sir Ian Boyd FRSB**

President



# Charter Lecture

*Celebrating diversity: the joys of  
being a zebra among horses*

**Dr Suzy Moody MRSB**

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**Thank you**