

## Conchological Society of Great Britain & Ireland

### *Report of the Council 2020*

#### *Council Positions*

Dr MJ Willing began his third year as President of the Society. The following Society Officers were elected: Hon. General Secretary Miss R E Hill, Hon. Treasurer Mr N Light, Hon. Membership Secretary Ms B M Eastabrook, Hon. Editor (*Journal*) Ms AM Holmes, Hon. Editor (*Mollusc World*) Mr P Topley, Hon. Marine Recorder Mr S. Taylor, Hon. Non-Marine Recorder Dr B Rowson, Hon. Conservation Officer Mrs M Cousins, Hon. Programme Secretary Dr S Payne, followed by Meetings Group and Hon. Webmaster Dr P Lightfoot. New Ordinary members of Council were Mr PD Barfield, Dr PJ Cosgrove and Dr RC Honnor. Prof RAD Cameron, Ms ICN Cavadino, Mr IJ Killeen began their second year. Mr R Carr, Dr C Gleed-Owen and Dr TM Walker began their third year.

#### *Publications*

Two issues of the *Journal of Conchology* (Volume 43: 5-6) and three issues of *Mollusc World* (Numbers 52-54, March, July and November) were published. The Society's website [www.conchsoc.org](http://www.conchsoc.org) will be updated soon and will be the place to check if field meetings are able to run later in the year. Please send any contributions to the Webmaster.

#### *Other Council Matters*

Three Council meetings were held, two of which were virtual because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Amongst the matters considered by Council were the pandemic and its effect on meetings; new approaches to the digital publication of the *Journal of Conchology*; Society finances and the need for a new Treasurer; website updating; and a mollusc species champion.

Three applications for research grants were received in 2020 and two grants have been awarded: Aimee Tonks – Investigating the homing behaviour of slugs within domestic gardens; and Danielle Sloan – Investigating protandrous hermaphroditism in a molluscan priority marine feature *Limaria hians*.

The deaths of the following members were announced at Indoor Meetings:

Prof. John Allen member since 1962

Rev. Graham Long member since 1974

Paul Warriss member since 1967

Fred Woodward President in 1992-3 and member since 1958

I would like to thank all members of Council and Society volunteers for their contributions without which the Society could not achieve its aims. If anyone would like to help in the running of the Society, please contact the President or any of the Society Officers. If anyone is interested in assisting with the production of *Mollusc World* please would you contact the current Editor, Peter Topley.

Rosemary Hill, March 2021

### **Health and Safety Report, Field Season 2020**

There were ten Conchological Society field meetings planned in 2020. Only the Bembridge Ledges, Isle of Wight meeting was able to be held. Risks were assessed for the Bembridge Ledges meeting by the organiser, briefings were held at the start of the meeting, and there are no incidents to report.

Martin J Willing

### **'Programme Secretary's' Report 2020**

The Society's meetings programme was heavily curtailed in 2020 by the Covid-19 pandemic. There were two indoor meetings in the Angela Marmont Centre at the Natural History Museum on Saturday

25<sup>th</sup> January when John Llewellyn-Jones gave a talk on ‘Pearls and Jewellery Made with Pearls Through the Ages’ and on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February when Amy-Jane Beer gave a talk on ‘Slugs, Snails and Saving the Planet.’ Exceptionally the AGM business was completed by a second electronic / postal vote. The Society is now in a position to use virtual technology for meetings and special thanks is due to Peter and Caren Topley and Imogen Cavadino for hosting Zoom meetings for us. These meetings were on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October when Damien Leech gave a talk on ‘Structural Colour in Nacre and Nature’ and Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December when David Holyoak gave a talk from Portugal on ‘Ten Years of Snail Collecting in Portugal’. The advantage of the virtual technology is that members who could not readily attend meetings in London are now able to participate. The possibility of holding face-to-face meetings in London with a Zoom component is under investigation. A full field meetings programme had been arranged but only one meeting was able to go ahead because of Covid-19 regulations. This was a meeting to Bembridge Ledges, Isle of Wight, leader Bas Payne. Ideas for meetings are always welcomed by the Meetings Team. Currently please contact Martin Willing or Rosemary Hill.

Rosemary Hill on behalf of the Meetings Team, March 2021