

# Minutes from Annual General Meeting of the Earthworm Society of Britain



Date: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Time: 19.00

Venue: Virtual meeting on Zoom

Contact: Kerry Calloway, Secretary (ESBenquiries@gmail.com)

Committee Members: Frank Ashwood (FA), Gino Brignoli (GB), Keiron Brown (KB), Kevin R Butt (KRB), Kerry Calloway (KC), Claire Cornhill (CC), Aidan Keith (AK), Keith Lugg (KL), Anke Marsh (AM) and Emma Sherlock (ES).

## 1. Apologies for Absence

Frank Ashwood, Kevin R Butt, Claire Cornhill, Anke Marsh and Kenneth Heron.

## 2. Chair's Report (ES)

*ES gave the following report of the year. A recording of her Chair's Report can also be found on the ESB website - <https://www.earthwormsoc.org.uk/ESB-AGM-2024-Summary>*

Welcome to the earthworm Society of Britain's AGM 2024. Thank you all so much for attending, it gives everyone such a lift to see how many of you are prepared to join us of a Sunday evening! We really appreciate it and all your enthusiasm during the year.

You will be relieved to hear that I will be even briefer than usual with this report. As you know we are very much an earthworm recording society, and Keiron tonight will be giving us a full roundup of all the NERS activity in the last year, so there is not a huge amount for me to update you on.

However, I do just want to highlight how fantastic it is that the society is so respected and talked about whenever I travel to earthworm conferences and events, whether within the UK or abroad. I noticed the NERS dataset has 54 citations now in scientific papers, so all your hard work recording earthworms and sending in your data is really paying off not just for the society... although Franks paper came out this year, a brilliant open access paper using the NERS dataset to really start to interrogate not just the species and their habitat specificity themselves but also the bias that datasets can have. As a society we should be very proud of this work.

But also, to international scientists as well. Having such an accurate, well verified and comprehensive dataset for a country is a powerful resource. Having said that of course there is still plenty of blank spots on that map, so please keep collecting!!

We have I believe 805 people signed up to receive the NERS newsletter and 478 members. So a massive thank you to all of you for your support and your records. This is phenomenal.

I also want to thank very much our fabulous committee members, who give up their time for free. In particular Kerry taking on the arduous role of secretary still all the way from Ghana and of course Keiron for everything he does. You will hear from him of course later and you'll appreciate the amount of work that he takes on. Then we just found out tonight that sadly Keith Lugg will be leaving us. Thanks so much for supporting us all Keith, we will miss you and I do hope you will continue to join us as a member at our meetings.

But I promised to be quick and I have taken longer than I meant... As always! So, thank you to you all and I hope you enjoy the rest of the AGM.



### 3. Treasurer's Report (GB)

GB presented the accounts; a recording of his presentation can be found on the ESB website - <https://www.earthwormsoc.org.uk/ESB-AGM-2024-Summary>

A summary of accounts for the Earthworm Society of Britain from April 2023 to March 2024 are included here:

	Amount	Date
<b>Opening balance</b>	£13,795.15	1 Apr 2023
<b>Closing balance</b>	£15,028.60	31 Mar 2024
<b>Overall change</b>	£1,233.45	

Category	Income	Expenditure	Difference
Memberships	£1,988.94	£0.00	£1,988.94
Donations	£76.73	£0.00	£76.73
Grants	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Publishing	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Advertising	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Website	£0.00	£215.98	(£215.98)
Expenses	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Insurance	£0.00	£96.00	(£96.00)
Other	£0.00	£300.00	(£300.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,065.67</b>	<b>£611.98</b>	<b>£1,453.69</b>

#### Notes:

- Income from Memberships remains our largest income stream.
- The £300 in Other, is a ten-year membership to the NBN Trust.
- Website costs were higher than usual as late payment was made from the previous financial year when payments were brought in house.



#### 4. Appointment of Trustees (KB and KC)

Voting was carried out virtually using the survey tool on Zoom. Results are:

Nominated Trustees	Votes		
	For	Abstain	Against
Emma Sherlock – Chair	35	0	0
Kerry Calloway – Secretary	37	1	0
Gino Brignoli – Treasurer	37	1	0
Frank Ashwood	38	1	0
Keiron Brown	38	1	0
Kevin Butt	37	2	0
Aidan Keith	37	1	0
Anke Marsh	38	1	0

Therefore, all nominees were appointed.

#### Talks

After the formal AGM meeting three online talks were presented, recordings of these can be seen on the ESB website: <https://www.earthwormsoc.org.uk/ESB-AGM-2024-Summary>

- Earthworms 2024 – A Year in Review (Keiron Derek Brown)

2024 has been a busy year for earthworm recording, with projects focused on conservation, agriculture, park management and hay meadow restoration. Keiron Brown, Recording Officer for the Earthworm Society of Britain, will discuss what we've learned from these projects, present the latest stats for the National Earthworm Recording Scheme and let you know what the Earthworm Society has coming up.

- Keys to the agricultural environments in Europe (Emma Sherlock)

Producing a key to unlock meaningful earthworm surveys in disturbed / agricultural areas across Europe. Whilst there are hundreds of species recorded in Europe- most of the diversity is to be found in mountainous or undisturbed environments. This project hopes to encourage surveys across Europe to be carried out to species level, so providing much more meaningful data and generating greater earthworm knowledge, whilst still being accessible to all.

- Freshwater Leech Recording Scheme (Rachel Davies)

An introduction to the freshly launched freshwater leech recording scheme.