THE MALACOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF LONDON
Registered Charity No. 275980

Hon. Secretary
Dr Philip Hollyman

The 133rd Annual General Meeting of the Malacological Society of London took place on the 7th of April 2026 13:00 to 14:00 online via Microsoft Teams, following a talk from Dr Ruben Schols (ETH Zurich).

Present: Fiona Allan, Phil Hollyman, Katrin Linse, Dinarzarde Raheem, Tom White, Harriet Wood, Aidan Emery, James Witts, Alan Hodgson, Katie Collins, Giada Spagliardi, John Grahame, Andreia Salvador, Jon Ablett, Nathaniel Crook, Polycup Odongo.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from: Phil Fenberg, Rowan Whittle, Georges Dussart Crispin Little, Victoria Sleight.

2. Corrections to the Minutes of the 132nd AGM

The minutes were circulated, and no changes were proposed.

Proposed: Jon Ablett

Seconded: Katrin Linse

3. Matters arising

There are no matters arising.

4. Financial report

The financial status of the Society was presented by Tom White at the AGM and can found summarised below in the Annual report of council.

Proposed: Phil Hollyman

Seconded: Dinazarde Raheem

5. Annual report of Council for 2024/2025, delivered by the President, Jonathan Ablett

Membership reported by Harriet Wood

At the end of 2025, the Malacological Society of London had 77 members. The membership was made up of 55 ordinary members, 18 students and 4 honorary members (including the journal Editor). There were 25 new members, but the total was down by 14 members from the previous year and this was mainly a reduction in students.

This was the first year with the new membership fee of £29 for Student members and £50 for Ordinary members. The new 'membership level referral access system' ran smoothly through the year, giving new or renewing members immediate access to the journal. At the beginning

of 2026 a new subscription facility was added to the website, so members can now either continue to actively pay yearly or set up an automated yearly payment.

So far in 2026, we have 61 members. There were 2 student prizes awarded at the World Congress of Malacology in Sao Paulo (one postponed until next year) and the annual Oxford Prize and poster prize at the Molluscan Forum also included membership to the Society. In addition, we have had two successful applications for the Broadening Access Membership Scheme (BAMS), so there are eight places remaining for the year. We do encourage the membership to advertise this scheme to anyone who might be interested: Broadening Access Membership Scheme - The Malacological Society of London (malacsoc.org.uk)

Many thanks to all members for supporting the Society.

Finance for the financial year ending 31st December 2025 reported by Tom White

The Malacological Society's finances remained stable during 2025, with a pleasing increase of spending on its charitable objectives of ~£11,000, matched by a similar increase in income. The Society continues to be in excellent financial health, with plenty of reserves to ensure operation should income ever become an issue.

Overall income for 2025 was £56,171, an increase of ~£9,000 on 2024, primarily due to an increase in the profit share generated by Journal of Molluscan Studies. This enabled the Society to continue its recent pattern of increasing expenditure on awards and meetings year-on-year, with an increase of over £11,000 on research and travel awards.

As of 31st December 2025, the total funds available to the Malacological Society of London are £596,876.03, of which £138,109.18 are in cash deposits, and £458,766.85 in its COIF investment funds, which have decreased in value by ~£5,000 over the last year due to stock market fluctuations. No funds were transferred from the current account to savings accounts during 2025, and our cash reserve is stable.

In 2025 the main charitable activities were the funding of ECR and SCR grants (total cost of £24,802.47), travel awards to support conference attendance for students (£1,738), holding the annual Molluscan Forum (£5,048.55) and publishing the Society's newsletter, The Malacologist (£217.02). Separately, the profit-share from the publication of the Journal of Molluscan Studies (JMS) in 2025 provided the Society with most of its income to its cash account, contributing £47,527, a healthy increase on the £42,399 received in 2024. The Editor-in-Chief of the JMS, Dr Dinarzarde Raheem, and her Editorial Board, and the Editor of The Malacologist, Dr Georges Dussart, are to be commended for their hard work contributing to the publication of our scientific journal and newsletter.

Costs relating to council meetings was significantly lower in 2025 than in previous years due to the current composition of the Council (many members being relatively local to London) and the ability to hold hybrid meetings, with some council members attending online.

Overall, my aim to break even for the year in terms of relative income/expenditure was achieved, with significantly higher spending on the Society's charitable aims matched by an increase in income. The latter is difficult to predict, however, as the OUP profit share generated by the Journal varies considerably year-on-year, and the overall value of our investments fluctuates with the stock market. However, with our assets now approaching £600k, more can be done to increase spending in support of malacological research, and this will be a major topic of discussion at future Council Meetings.

Meetings

The AGM reported on by Fiona Allen

The 133 AGM was held as a hybrid meeting on 7th April 2026. The AGM and associated talk were part of the British Society for Parasitology (BSP) Spring meeting, University of Glasgow, Scotland. MSL would like to thank the BSP organising committee for allowing us to join in with their meeting.

The invited talk was from:

Ruben Schols: "Why parasitologists appreciate molluscs (and malacologists)".

Which included content invasive snails in Africa and their impact on disease transmission

1. The importance of malacologists for parasitology
2. The freshwater snail microbiome
3. New position at ETH: EPIMIC – unravelling EPIgenetic and MICrobial drivers of adaptation in Bulinus truncatus, a snail host of Schistosoma haematobium

The Molluscan Forum reported on by Aiden Emery

The 27th annual molluscan forum was held on the 5th of November 2025 at the Flett Lecture theatre, Natural History Museum organised by James Witts with help from Aidan Emery, Giada Spagliardi, Jon Ablett and Andreia Salvador.

Around 90 people registered in advance to attend the forum where we enjoyed a diverse programme of 24 full and quick-fire talks with 8 poster presentations. The prize for best talk went to Amal Shakir for his talk entitled: "Mapping the presence of calcite in order Mytilida" and best poster to Katie Smith for a poster entitled "Regressive Evolution of Eye Loss in Deep Sea Snails"

Publications

The Malacologist reported on by Georges Dussart

Issue 85 (August 2025) of The Malacologist was thinner than usual, partly because there was no conference associated with the AGM, so there were no abstracts to report. Nevertheless, Angus Davison, Associate Professor and Reader at the University of Nottingham gave a talk at the AGM on *Left right asymmetry in mirror-image snails* and an abstract of the talk appeared in issue 85. As usual, the August issue included the Annual Report of Council together with a report from the President, Dr Fiona Allan. This Annual Report revealed a small, active Society fulfilling its objectives to support research in malacology. These efforts were evidenced by articles published in *The Malacologist* which described support for education through the Global Participation Postgraduate Student Scheme, travel to conferences (as reported by Sally Henderson on her supported trip to the *14th International Temperate Reefs Symposium* 2025, Brest, France) and research (such as the work reported by Piero Amodio on Seeking the social octopus in the wild).

If issue 85 was 'light' (twenty pages), issue 86 (February 2026) was the opposite (fifty pages). The 2025 Molluscan Forum, organised by the Malacological Society of London

(MSL) featured in this issue. It comprised a hybrid meeting of 'in person' and 'on-line contributors'. The Forum, held at the Natural History Museum of London (NHM), was well-supported and resulted in 15 pages of illustrated abstracts in issue 86. Alongside these were research reports from early career researchers whose work had been partly or wholly financially supported by the MSL. Examples include Sonia M. Landro & Florencia Arrighetti of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Buenos Aires who reported on *The mussel Brachidontes rodriguezii as a sentinel of microplastic contamination*, Casey Richards of the University of Chicago who reported on the *Characterization of advantageous traits across heterogenous environments in the intertidal bivalve, Mytilus californianus*, Giada Spagliardi of the Naturalis Biodiversity Centre, Leiden in the Netherlands who reported on *Integrative taxonomy of cold-water Limacina: type material and historical collections* and Chiara Pinkau of the Ludwig-Maximilian-University in Munich, Germany who reported on *Exploring molluscan biodiversity of a protected pre-alpine landscape in Southern Bavaria*.

The MSL also supports more senior researchers. For example, issue 86 included reports by Dr Ting Hui Ng of the Universiti Malaysia Sabah on *Aquatic shelled molluscs of Tioman Island, Peninsular Malaysia*, and Dr Crispin Little (University of Leeds) and colleagues from several other institutions on *Mineral coatings on gastropods at hydrothermal vent sites and the implications for fossilization processes*.

The MSL supports the scientific travel aspirations of young researchers. Awardees are encouraged to submit reports of their travels to be published in The Malacologist. Thus issue 86 included a report from Abril Luján Soria of the Universidad Nacional del Sur, Bahía Blanca, Argentina who described her attendance at the *XXII World Congress of Malacology, São Paulo, Brazil* and Renato Dantas of the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, Brazil who described his attendance at *The Cephalopod International Advisory Council Conference* 2025 in Okinawa, Japan.

The above account covers reports from awardees from seven different countries and four continents.

The Journal of Molluscan Studies reported on by Dinarzarde Raheem

The ISI impact factor for the Journal in 2024 decreased to 1.2 (compared with 1.9 in 2023, 1.2 in 2022, 1.631 in 2021 and 1.348 in 2020). The Journal stands at number 85 in the ISI list of 182 zoological journals (it was 31 out of 180 in the previous year).

Circulation for the Journal in 2025 was 21 institutional and 77 membership subscriptions (compared with 25 and 90 respectively for 2024). In addition, a further 3,587 institutions have electronic access to the Journal through publishers' collections (includes migrated figures; compared with 2,624 in 2024), and institutions in 107 eligible countries have access through OUP's Developing Countries Offer, which constitutes free or reduced rate access (for details see https://academic.oup.com/pages/purchasing/low-and-middle-income-countries-initiative).

The new pricing structure has been fixed for 2026. The cost for an online-only subscription is £678 /$1,291/€1,019 for institutional subscriptions. Please see https://academic.oup.com/mollus/subscribe for more information.

Volume 91 (2025) contained 35 papers in 4 issues. In total, 133 manuscripts were submitted in 2025 (a decrease of 13% on the 152 in 2024) and the acceptance rate was 26%. The image of the pelagic octopod genus Argonauta (family Argonautidae) on the cover of Volume 92 was kindly donated by Mike Bartick.

Our board of Associate Editors is now: Coenraad Adema (immunology, genomics, parasitology), Thierry Backeljau (molecular phylogenetics, genetics), Liz Boulding (population and reproductive biology, intertidal ecology), Richard Cook (agricultural malacology, physiology, feeding behaviour), Simon Cragg (marine bivalves, life histories, sense organs), John Grahame (littorinids, population genetics, morphometrics), Liz Harper (marine bivalves, palaeontology), Gerhard Haszprunar (microanatomy, 3D reconstruction, minor molluscan classes), Bernhard Hausdorf (terrestrial gastropods), Michal Horsák (ecology and biogeography of terrestrial gastropods), Yasunori Kano (systematics of vetigastropods, tropical ecology), Joris Koene (reproductive behaviour of gastropods), Kara Layton (heterobranch systematics and biology), Nicole Limondin-Lozouet (Quaternary palaeoecology), Manuel Malaquias (opisthobranchs), Peter Marko (marine biogeography, phylogenetics), Pablo Martín (freshwater ecology, life history), Ellinor Michel (ecology, freshwater gastropods), Jeff Nekola (community ecology of terrestrial gastropods), Thomas Neubauer (freshwater gastropods, evolution, biogeography), Nicolas Puillandre (neogastropods), Ellen Strong (freshwater and marine caenogastropods), Janet Voight (cephalopods), Janice Voltzow (microscopic anatomy), Tony Walker (biochemistry, immunology, cytology), Suzanne Williams (molecular phylogenetics, genetics) and Yoichi Yusa (ecology, behaviour) and Alexandra Zieritz (freshwater mussels, biogeography, conservation).

I would like to thank all the members of the editorial board and those members of the international malacological community who have contributed to the review process. At Oxford University Press, I would like to thank Jennifer Paxton-Boyd (Publishing Director), Sadie Griffiths and Eleanor Lambert (Publishers); James Fellows (System Manager); Cindy Hyde (JMS editorial office); and Hannah Chippendale and Amy Young (OUP Production Specialist Team). My thanks also to Gulshan Kumar and the production team at Aptara Incorporated for their work on the Journal.

FA thanked DR for her hard work on the *Journal of Molluscan Studies.*

Website reported on by John Grahame

The website has been the subject of routine maintenance of information, with revisions of our Research Grant application documents posted and two issues of The Malacologist posted at the appropriate times. Work on restructuring the Awards page and the Journal information display is pending but will not be done in time for the AGM.'

FA thanked JG for his hard work on the website.

Facebook & Twitter reported on by Phil Hollyman on behalf of Vicky Sleight

Twitter/X followers = 191

Facebook followers = 3,384

We now have two new social accounts:

Instagram, followers = 346 (@malacsoc)

Bluesky, followers = 89 (@https://uk01.l.antigena.com/l/dS41y4P6yHtbyuodaES-DfkcMB54PCmOvKcEOcmELQu_fw_586a1A1Y6r7wHT-kgJ8QVPs3cQDlPnz1B2PjPmiDSe9D7PEjAj5bVGMnuIK2e6U9VttGF--HPUN1zRKzs7msYnkL)

VS will use content from The Malacologist to populate social sites, as well as continue to use for advertising events/news.

Awards reported by Alan Hodgson

Early Career Research (EC) Applications

Sixteen eligible applications for a 2025 ECR award were received. The applications came from 10 countries including Argentina, UK, Philippines, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, USA, Germany, Japan and Sri Lanka. Of the applicants, 4 were postdocs, 8 PhD students, 3 MSc and 1 teaching assistant on contract. After review 7 applicants were awarded funding that totalled £11814.

Senior Research Awards

Five applications from researchers in four countries (Czech Republic, UK, USA, Sri Lanka) were received for Senior Research Awards. After review all applications were deemed to be worthy of funding. The total amount of funding awarded was £8664.

Travel Awards

Eight applications (7 for March deadline and 1 for September deadline) were received in 2025. Of these 5 were from members of the Malacological Society and 3 from non-members. Four of the applications were funded (total amount awarded = £1238) to enable applicants to attend the following meetings:- Cephalopod International Advisory Council Conference, Japan; Temperate Reef Symposium, France; World Congress of Malacology, Brazil; Cephalopod Neuroscience, Gordon Research Conference.

Workshop Organisation

Funding (£580) was provided in support of the following workshop:- Identification of Western Ghats' land snails: a workshop forming part of the "VAJRA 2.0 Seminar 2025: 21st Century Collection-based Natural History". This was held at the Central University of Kerala, Kerala, India in February 2025.

Presidents Report

In my second year as President, I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to the wonderful people who make up the council. It is a true privilege to serve in this role, and I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to continue into the coming year. The dedication and support of my fellow council members make everything we do possible. I am especially grateful to Jon Ablett and Tom White for their guidance, discussions, and unwavering support over the past year—it is remarkable how much we have navigated together.

As highlighted by Alan Hodgson, this year the society's awards have provided invaluable support to students, early career researchers, and senior researchers, enabling them to advance their work

and share knowledge. I am incredibly appreciative of the vibrant and diverse research showcased at the Molluscan Forum, which stands as a testament to the strength of our community. It is particularly inspiring to see researchers at all stages supported, and I was delighted that the best talk award was presented to a master's student—an excellent reminder that outstanding science can come from any level. The many reports produced for the Malacologist further demonstrate the important role our society plays in supporting and promoting molluscan research.

It has been another rewarding and fulfilling year as President, and I am truly thankful for the continued enthusiasm and commitment of our members. Thank you all for being part of the society and for the contributions you make. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire council—your time, effort, and dedication are deeply appreciated and are the foundation of all we achieve together.

End of Report

6. Awards

See above

7. Election of Council

Council in April 2026, and nominations going forward to 2027:

Year of existence	2025-2026	2026-2027
	131	132 PROPOSED
President	Fiona Allan (2)	Fiona Allan (3)
Vice Presidents	Victoria Sleight (1)	Victoria Sleight (2)
	Aidan Emery (2)	Aidan Emery (3)
Ex officio		
Councillors (6)	Katrin Linse (1)	Katrin Linse (2)
	Phil Fenburg (2)	Phil Fenburg (3)
	Crispin Little (2)	Crispin Little (3)
	Katie Collins (2)	Katie Collins (3)
	James Witts (2)	James Witts (3)
EC-Rep	Giada Spagliardi (2)	Giada Spagliardi (3)
Co-opted (4)	Lauren Sumner-Rooney (2)	Lauren Sumner-Rooney (3)
	John Grahame (1)	John Grahame (2)
	Rowan Whittle (1)	Rowan Whittle (2)
	Jon Ablett (1)	Jon Ablett (2)
Journal Editor	Dinazarde Raheem	Dinazarde Raheem
Bulletin Editor	Georges Dussart	Georges Dussart
Hon.Treasurer	Tom White (2)	Tom White (3)
Membership Secretary	Harriet Wood	Harriet Wood
Hon. Secretary	Philip Hollyman	Philip Hollyman (2)
Web manager	John Grahame (web)/ Victoria Sleight (Facebook)	John Grahame (web)/ Victoria Sleight (Facebook)

Awards Officer	**Alan Hodgson (2)**	**Alan Hodgson (3)**
Archivist	**Andreia Salvador**	**Andreia Salvador**

Numbers indicate years in post; posts are for 3 years.

Proposed: Tom White
Seconded: Harriet Wood

8. Honorary Memberships

None awarded

9. Any other business

None

Malacological Society of London AGM 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT for 2025 by MSL Honorary Treasurer, Dr Tom S. White

Finance for the financial year ending 31st December 2025

The Malacological Society's finances remained stable during 2025, with a pleasing increase of spending on its charitable objectives of ~£11,000, matched by a similar increase in income. The Society continues to be in excellent financial health, with plenty of reserves to ensure operation should income ever become an issue.

Overall income for 2025 was £56,171, an increase of ~£9,000 on 2024, primarily due to an increase in the profit share generated by *Journal of Molluscan Studies*. This enabled the Society to continue its recent pattern of increasing expenditure on awards and meetings year-on-year, with an increase of over £11,000 on research and travel awards.

As of 31st December 2025, the total funds available to the Malacological Society of London are £596,876.03, of which £138,109.18 are in cash deposits, and £458,766.85 in its COIF investment funds, which have decreased in value by ~£5,000 over the last year due to stock market fluctuations. No funds were transferred from the current account to savings accounts during 2025, and our cash reserve is stable.

In 2025 the main charitable activities were the funding of ECR and SCR grants (total cost of £24,802.47), travel awards to support conference attendance for students (£1,738), holding the annual Molluscan Forum (£5,048.55) and publishing the Society's newsletter, *The Malacologist* (£217.02). Separately, the profit-share from the publication of the *Journal of Molluscan Studies* (*JMS*) in 2025 provided the Society with most of its income to its cash account, contributing £47,527, a healthy increase on the £42,399 received in 2024. The Editor-in-Chief of the *JMS*, Dr Dinarzarde Raheem, and her Editorial Board, and the Editor of *The Malacologist*, Dr Georges Dussart, are to be commended for their hard work contributing to the publication of our scientific journal and newsletter.

Costs relating to council meetings was significantly lower in 2025 than in previous years due to the current composition of the Council (many members being relatively local to London) and the ability to hold hybrid meetings, with some council members attending online.

Overall, my aim to break even for the year in terms of relative income/expenditure was achieved, with significantly higher spending on the Society's charitable aims matched by an increase in income. The latter is difficult to predict, however, as the OUP profit share generated by the Journal varies considerably year-on-year, and the overall value of our investments fluctuates with the stock market. However, with our assets now approaching £600k, more can be done to increase spending in support of malacological research, and this will be a major topic of discussion at future Council Meetings.

Malacological Society of London
Accounts 2025 (01.01.2025 – 31.12.2025)

Income

	Subscriptions						
2025	Subs (direct)	Subs (Stripe)	**Profit share (Journal)**	**Book sales (NHBS)**	**COIF investments**	**Bank repayment**	
Jan	£425.00	£1,151.90					
Feb	£45.00	£398.02		£7.80	£884.88		
Mar		£438.31					
April		£5.00					
May		£77.41			£960.01		
June		£125.58					
July		£76.91		£9.20			
Aug			£47,527.00		£1,110.28	£1,800	
Sept		£48.55					
Oct							
Nov		£56.72			£926.62		
Dec		£97.60					
Totals	**£470.00**	**£2,476.00**	**£47,527.00**	**£17.00**	**£3,881.79**	**£1,800.00**	**£56,171.79**

Expenditure

		Awards		**Publications**		**AGM/Forum**		**Council**		**Admin**			
2025	Research Awards	Travel Awards	Annual Award	JMS	Malacologist	Travel bursaries	Catering	Travel to meetings	AGM dinner	Bank charges	Payment charges	Accountant	
Jan				£904.00				£316.00		£11.00			
Feb	£580.00				£217.02					£11.00			
Mar										£11.00			
April	£8,815.63	£438.00								£5.00	£17.48		
May	£4,399.84									£5.00	£17.24		
June		£300.00								£5.00	£17.00		
July				£904.00				£110.80		£5.00			
Aug	£3,500.00	£500.00								£5.00	£17.00		
Sept	£1,800.00												
Oct	£2,343.00			£904.00			£2,881.80	£142.04					
Nov	£3,364.00	£500.00				£1,259.29	£153.46	£659.62			£34.72		
Dec						£754.00					£17.48	£500.00	
Totals	**£24,802.47**	**£1,738.00**	**£0.00**	**£2,712.00**	**£217.02**	**£2,013.29**	**£3,035.26**	**£1,228.46**	**£0.00**	**£58.00**	**£120.92**	**£500.00**	**£36,425.42**

Furtherance of objectives	**£34,518.04**
Cost of Council meetings	**£1,228.46**
Management and admin	**£678.92**

Assets (as of 31st Dec. 2024)

COIF Investment Fund	£348,699.82
COIF Bond Fund	£107,638.33
COIF Deposit Fund	£2,428.70
Bank (HSBC Current Account)	£138,109.18
Total	**£596,876.03**