

University of Manchester
Social Responsibility
Making a Difference Award Panel

13 January 2022

To the members of the Panel:

Re. Nomination of Sam Franklin for the Making a Difference Award

I would likely to heartily support the nomination of Sam Franklin for this award. She has been instrumental in driving forward and consolidating the partnership with the University and the Linnean Society of London through our annual Joint Irene Manton Lecture, which brings our Society to a new and diverse audience and has hugely benefited our interaction with those interested in the natural world in the Manchester area.

The lecture celebrates Prof. Irene Manton, the first female President of the Linnean Society and as such is a way for us to advocate not only for women in STEM, but for diversity more generally across the board, especially to young people. I am only the third female President of the Society, and the lecture series was started with our second female President, Prof. Dianne Edwards.

Sam has been a key figure in planning, promoting and running the series – now almost a decade old. Her enthusiasm and drive have made such a difference for us, and we always look forward to the lecture every year!

She is a most deserving recipient of an award dedicating to making a difference.

Sincerely yours,



Dr Sandra Knapp
President, Linnean Society of London