

# THE BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 251851

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1967-03-20

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 39 Kendal Green  
Kendal  
Cumbria  
LA9 5PP

**Phone** 00496211812253

**Email** [secretary@bahs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bahs.org.uk)

**Website** <http://www.bahs.org.uk>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE TO PROMOTE, ENCOURAGE, FOSTER AND COORDINATE THE STUDY AND UNDERSTANDING OF AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL HISTORY, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE BRITISH ISLES.

**Activities:** To promote the study of all aspects of agricultural history and the history of the rural economy and society, through the publication of a biannual journal, a newsletter and a website.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

## Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-01-31	£45,451	£49,230	-	-
2024-01-31	£50,953	£33,227	-	-
2023-01-31	£36,340	£34,308	-	-
2022-01-31	£38,503	£36,636	-	-
2021-01-31	£34,368	£46,285	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Alex Spike Gibbs		2022-04-04
Dr Carol Beardmore		2025-04-25
Dr Derek Shepherd		2021-04-12
Dr Elizabeth Rhodes		2024-04-12
Dr Jane Rowling		2024-04-12
Dr John MORGAN		2020-06-01
Dr Mark Hailwood		2025-04-25
Dr Paul Simon WARDE		2019-04-08
Dr SARAH SPOONER		2025-04-25
Dr Samantha Shave BA MSc PhD		2022-04-04
Dr Sarah Holland		2022-04-04
Professor Annie Tindley		2021-04-12
Professor Nicola Verdon		2019-04-08

**THE BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 251851

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number: 251851

# The British Agricultural History Society

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 January 2025

**Peplows Ltd**  
Moorgate House  
King Street  
Newton Abbot  
Devon  
TQ12 2LG

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
1 February 2023 to 31 January 2025  
Charity Number 251851**

**Reference and Administrative Details**

**Contact Address**

British Agricultural Society  
Department of History  
University of Exeter  
Amory Building  
Rennes Drive  
Exeter EX4 4RJ

**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc  
1-2 Market Place  
Reading RG1 2EQ

**Examiner**

Mr Michael Denoon Young FCA  
Moorgate House  
King Street  
Newton Abbot  
Devon  
TQ12 2LG

**Executive Committee (Trustees) at year-end**

Prof Karen Sayer DPhil	EC Chair	Resigned (April 2023)
Dr Sarah Holland	EC Deputy Chair	
Professor Nicola Verdon	President	Resigned (December 2025)
Dr Samantha Shave BA MSc PhD	Trustee	
Dr Derek Shepherd	Treasurer	
Dr Alex Spike Gibbs	Secretary	
Professor Abigail Woods	Trustee	Resigned (April 2025)
Dr Danae Tankard	Trustee	Resigned (April 2025)
Professor Jordan Claridge	Trustee	Resigned (April 2025)
Professor Annie Tindley	Trustee	
Dr John Morgan	Trustee	
Dr Paul Simon Warde	Trustee	
Professor John Frederick Martin	Trustee	Resigned (April 2025)
Rebecca Ford	Trustee	Resigned (April 2025)
Prof. Richard Hoyle	Trustee	Appointed (April 2024)
Dr Bess Rhodes	Trustee	Appointed (April 2024)
Dr Jane Rowling	Trustee	Appointed (April 2024)
Dr Mark Haliwood	Trustee	Appointed (April 2025)
Dr Sarah Spooner	Trustee	Appointed (April 2025)
Dr Carol Beardmore	Trustee	Appointed (April 2025)

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025  
Charity Number 251851**

**Report on Activities during the Financial Year**

**Objects of the Society**

The Society exists to promote the study of agricultural history and the history of rural economy and society. It does this through the publication of its biannual journal *The Agricultural History Review*, and its newsletter, *Rural History Today*, and by holding at least two conferences each year. These activities are contained in the Society's constitution adopted at its foundation in 1953, and subsequently modified at the Society's Annual General Meetings in 2000 and 2016.

**Publishing**

This continues to be the principal means by which the Society fulfils its objectives. The Society published two issues of *The Agricultural History Review*, Volume 72 (2024) in June and January. Back numbers of the Review are freely available to all via the website, three years in arrears. The Society also published two issues of the newsletter *Rural History Today*, which is widely distributed beyond the membership of the Society and is freely available to all on the BAHS website. The website also, amongst other things, hosts LIBRAL (Library of Irish and British Rural and Agricultural Literature), which provides direct free access to digitized literature on the subject. During the year £5,092 was spent on LIBRAL development, scanning a wide range of works.

**Grants**

The Society offers grants to individuals, societies, and institutions in the furtherance of its objects. During the year, £920 of research grants were awarded. A Joan Thirsk Memorial prize award totaling £500 was made during the year as part of the normal operations of the Society.

**Membership**

The number of individual members fell from 371 to 306. The number of institutional members was also down slightly. Most new members continue to join through the website, paying by PayPal. Electronic access to the Review via Ingenta is provided free for individual members and institutional subscribers (Ingenta's costs are treated as part of the Production and Despatch of the Review).

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025  
Charity Number 251851**

**Report on Activities during the Financial Year (Cont.)**

**Accounts for the Year to 31 January 2025**

The Society made a loss of £3,779 in the year compared with a surplus of £17,726 in 2023-24. Compared with the previous year, subscriptions were down by £1,957 and journal sales by £3,556.

On the expenditure side, the costs of producing and dispatching both the Review and Rural History Today and the development of LIBRAL were all significantly higher than in 2023-24 (up by £13,007). As were the examiner's fees, at £3,264 (covering the years 2022-23 and 2023-24). Total expenditure was £49,230 compared with £33,227 in 2023-24.

Unrealized movements in investments showed a surplus of £6,591 compared with a surplus of £2,482 in 2023-24. Overall, the Society is in a healthy position with some £150,230 of cash and investments at current values (£147,418 in 2023-24).

**Reserves Policy**

The Society's policy is, taking one year with the next, to spend the income it receives in pursuit of its objectives, while setting aside any surpluses to cover future projects, and to generate future income to support the Society's grants and awards. The Society has no Restricted Funds. Its Unrestricted Funds currently stand at £150,230 out of which two Designated Funds have been set aside by the Trustees, as follows:

**Designated Projects and Initiatives Fund**

Currently standing at £30,989, this is set aside to pay for new and continuing activities which cannot readily be funded from in-year revenue. Expenditure from this fund is at the discretion of the Trustees.

**Research and Grants Fund**

Currently standing at £44,141, this is intended to be an investment fund, the income from which will be used for the provision of grants and donations to support new research, and events such as conferences, awards, and publications in the Society's area of agricultural and rural history.

**Unrestricted, Undesignated**

The balance of our reserves stands at £75,100, equivalent to significantly more than one year's current expenditure. It is the intention of the Trustees to aim to maintain this fund at a level sufficient to cover seasonal and unexpected fluctuations between income and expenditure, without having to sell any of our investments, which might incur significant losses.



.....  
Dr Derek B Shepherd - Trustee


Date: 15/10/2025

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025  
Charity Number 251851**

**Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 January 2025**

	£ 2024-25	£ 2023-24
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Treasurer's Account	28,265	32,045
M&G Charibond	46,834	42,963
CAF Income Fund	17,085	17,084
COIF Charities Ethical Investment Account	30,989	28,909
St. James Place - Unit Trust	27,057	26,417
	<u>150,230</u>	<u>147,418</u>
Less:		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Joan Thirsk Award Fund	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS less CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>150,230</u>	<u>147,418</u>
RESERVES as at 31 January 2024	147,418	127,210
Excess of Income over Expenses for the year	6,591	17,726
Sum of unrealised gains/losses on Investments	(3,779)	2,482
<b>RESERVES as at 31 January 2025</b>	<u>150,230</u>	<u>147,418</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Restricted Reserves	-	-
Designated Reserves	-	-
Research & Grants Fund	44,141	43,501
Projects & Initiatives Fund	30,989	28,909
Unrestricted, Undesignated Funds	75,100	75,008
	<u>150,230</u>	<u>147,418</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue and signed on their behalf by:

  
.....  
Dr Derek B Shepherd - Trustee

Date: 15/10/2025

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025  
Charity Number 251851**

**Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 January 2025**

	£ 2024-25	£ 2023-24
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	9,883	11,840
Journal Sales	25,092	28,648
Sales of Back Issues & Publications		45
Royalties	3,461	3,371
Gold Access	3,400	1,700
Gift Aid Refund	1,635	4,954
Donations	-	-
	<u>43,470</u>	<u>50,558</u>
<b>Spring Conference Fees</b>	3,949	4,020
Less Spring Conference Expenses	(3,975)	(5,286)
	<u>(26)</u>	<u>(1,266)</u>
<b>Winter Conference Fees</b>	-	453
Less Winter Conference Expenses	-	(714)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(261)</u>
<b>Interest Income</b>		
CCLA Investment	-	617
Interest on COIF Deposit	1,165	1,096
Interest on St James Place Fund	842	209
	<u>2,007</u>	<u>1,922</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>45,451</b>	<b>50,953</b>
<b>Total Expenditure as below</b>	<b>(49,230)</b>	<b>(33,227)</b>
<b>Net operating (Deficit) / Surplus</b>	<b>(3,779)</b>	<b>17,726</b>

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025  
Charity Number 251851**

**Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 January 2025 (Cont.)**

	£ 2024-25	£ 2023-24
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Production and Despatch Review	26,427	20,555
Rural History Today	4,068	2,933
Joan Thirsk award	500	1,000
Executive Committee Expenses		
Editors Remuneration		600
Assistant Treasurers' Fees	2,420	2,517
Examiners Fee	3,264	
Office Costs	587	639
Casual Labour	500	500
Website Maintenance	106	1,042
PayPal Management		184
Newsletters and other Mailings	5,114	1,440
Insurance		
PayPal charges	67	96
BALH Subscription	165	90
EHIO Subscription		
Research Grants	920	
Libral Development	5,092	1,631
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>49,230</u></b>	<b><u>33,227</u></b>
<b>Unrealised movements in Investments</b>		
M & G Charifund Loss/Gain	3,871	1,505
CAF Income Fund Loss/Gain	-	(1,948)
COIF Income Fund Loss/Gain	2,080	1,675
St James Place Unit Trust Loss/Gain	640	1,250
	<b><u>6,591</u></b>	<b><u>2,482</u></b>

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025  
Charity Number 251851**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The British Agricultural History Society**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....  
Michael Young FCA  
Independent Examiner

**Peplows Ltd**

Moorgate House  
King Street  
Newton Abbot  
Devon  
TQ12 2LG

Date:

15/10/2025

**THE BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 251851

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# Accounts

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The Society exists to promote the study of agriculture in Britain and Ireland and to support it by publishing books and journals, and by organising lectures and other activities. The Society was founded in 1933 and subsequently modified its objects and purposes in 2000 and 2017.

# The British Agricultural History Society

## Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 January 2024

### Publication

The Company is the principal means by which the Society fulfils its objectives. The Society's principal activity was the publication of the Agricultural History Review, Volume 17 (2023) in June and January. Back numbers of the Review are available for sale via the website. It was also published in 2023. The Society also published the journal of the British Agricultural History Society, which is widely regarded as the most authoritative journal of the Society and is freely available to all on the BAHS website. The Review also includes a section on the history of the British Agricultural Library of the Royal Society for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology. The Review also provides a platform for the publication of research on the history of agriculture. The Review is published twice a year, in June and January.

### Officers

The Society's officers are listed in the following table. The Review is published twice a year, in June and January. The Review is published twice a year, in June and January. The Review is published twice a year, in June and January.

### Members

The number of individual members is 1,234. However, the number of institutional members has remained stable. The Review is published twice a year, in June and January. The Review is published twice a year, in June and January. The Review is published twice a year, in June and January.

**Peplows Ltd**  
Moorgate House  
King Street  
Newton Abbot  
Devon  
TQ12 2LG

# **The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year**

**1 February 2022 to 31 January 2024**

**Charity Number 251851**

## **Report of the Trustees on Activities during the Financial Year**

### **Objects of the Society**

The Society exists to promote the study of agricultural history and the history of rural economy and society. It does this through the publication of its biannual journal *The Agricultural History Review*, and its newsletter, *Rural History Today*, and by holding at least two conferences each year. These activities are contained in the Society's constitution adopted at its foundation in 1953, and subsequently modified at the Society's Annual General Meetings in 2000 and 2016

### **Publishing**

This continues to be the principal means by which the Society fulfils its objectives. The Society published two issues of *The Agricultural History Review*, Volume 71 (2023) in June and January. Back numbers of the *Review* are freely available to all via the website, three years in arrears. The Society also published two issues of the newsletter *Rural History Today*, which is widely distributed beyond the membership of the Society and is freely available to all on the BAHS website. The website also, amongst other things, hosts LIBRAL (Library of Irish and British Rural and Agricultural Literature), which provides direct free access to digitized literature on the subject. During the year £1,631 was spent on LIBRAL development, scanning a wide range of works.

### **Grants**

The Society offers grants to individuals, societies, and institutions in the furtherance of its objects. During the year, an award of £500 was taken up. Joan Thirsk Memorial prize awards totaling £1,000 were made during the year as part of the normal operations of the Society.

### **Membership**

The number of individual members fell slightly. However, the number of institutional members has remained stable. Most new members continue to join through the website, paying by PayPal. Electronic access to the *Review* via Ingenta is provided free for individual members and institutional subscribers (Ingenta's costs are treated as part of the Production and Despatch of the *Review*).

## **Accounts for the Year to 31 January 2024**

The Society made a surplus of £17,726 in the year compared with a small loss of £810 in 2022-23. Compared with the previous year, subscriptions were up by £1,332 and journal sales by £8,096. The loss on the Spring Conference was lower than in the previous year, £1,266 compared with £2,842 in 2022-23.

Total expenditure for the year (£33,227) was broadly comparable with the previous year (£34,308).

Unrealized movements in investments showed a surplus on the previous year, £2,482 compared with a loss of £4,853 in 2022-23. Overall, the Society is in a healthy position, with some £147,418 of cash and investments at current values (£127,210 in 2022-23).

### **Reserves Policy**

The Society's policy is, taking one year with the next, to spend the income it receives in pursuit of its objectives, while setting aside any surpluses to cover future projects, and to generate future income to support the society's grants and awards. The Society has no Restricted Funds. Its Unrestricted Funds currently stand at £147,418 out of which two Designated Funds have been set aside by the Trustees, as follows:

#### **Designated Projects and Initiatives Fund**

Currently standing at £28,909 this is set aside to pay for new and continuing activities which cannot readily be funded from in-year revenue. Expenditure from this fund is at the discretion of the Trustees.

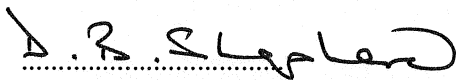
#### **Research and Grants Fund**

Currently standing at £43,501, this is intended to be an investment fund, the income from which will be used for the provision of grants and donations to support new research, and events such as conferences, awards, and publications in the Society's area of agricultural and rural history.

#### **Unrestricted, Undesignated**

The balance of our reserves stands at £75,008, equivalent to significantly more than one year's current expenditure. It is the intention of the Trustees to aim to maintain this fund at a level sufficient to cover seasonal and unexpected fluctuations between income and expenditure, without having to sell any of our investments, which might incur significant losses.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees



**Dr Derek B Shepherd - Trustee**

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024  
Charity Number 251851**

**Reference and Administrative Details**

**Contact Address**

British Agricultural Society  
Department of History  
University of Exeter  
Amory Building  
Rennes Drive  
Exeter EX4 4RJ

**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc  
1-2 Market Place  
Reading RG1 2EQ

**Examiner**

Mr Michael Denoon Young FCA  
Moorgate House  
King Street  
Newton Abbot  
Devon  
TQ12 2LG

**Executive Committee (Trustees) at year-end**

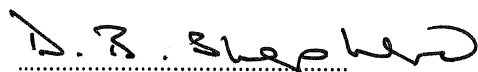
Prof Karen Sayer DPhil	EC Chair
Dr Sarah Holland	EC Deputy Chair
Professor Nicola Verdon	President
Dr Samantha Shave BA MSc PhD	Trustee
Dr Derek Shepherd	Treasurer
Dr Alex Spike Gibbs	Secretary
Professor Abigail Woods	Trustee
Dr Danae Tankard	Trustee
Professor Jordan Claridge	Trustee
Professor Annie Tindley	Trustee
Dr John Morgan	Trustee
Dr Paul Simon Warde	Trustee
Professor John Frederick Martin	Trustee
Rebecca Ford	Trustee

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024  
Charity Number 251851**

**Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 January 2024**

	£	£
	2023-24	2022-23
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Treasurer's Account	32,045	14,319
M&G Charibond	42,963	41,458
CAF Income Fund	17,084	19,032
COIF Charities Ethical Investment Account	28,909	27,234
St. James Place - Unit Trust	26,417	25,167
	<u>147,418</u>	<u>127,210</u>
Less:		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Joan Thirsk Award Fund	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS less CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>147,418</u>	<u>127,210</u>
RESERVES as at 31 January 2023	127,210	132,873
Excess of Income over Expenses for the year	17,726	(810)
Sum of unrealised gains/losses on Investments	2,482	(4,853)
<b>RESERVES as at 31 January 2024</b>	<u>147,418</u>	<u>127,210</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Restricted Reserves	-	-
Designated Reserves	-	-
Research & Grants Fund	43,501	44,199
Projects & Initiatives Fund	28,909	27,234
Unrestricted, Undesignated Funds	75,008	55,777
	<u>147,418</u>	<u>127,210</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue and signed on their behalf by:



Dr Derek B Shepherd - Trustee

Date: 28/11/2024

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024  
Charity Number 251851**

**Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 January 2024**

	£	£
	2023-24	2022-23
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	11,840	10,508
Journal Sales	28,648	20,552
Sales of Back Issues & Publications	45	102
Royalties	3,371	3,332
Gold Access	1,700	-
Gift Aid Refund	4,954	-
Donations	-	20
	<u>50,558</u>	<u>34,514</u>
<b>Spring Conference Fees</b>	4,020	-
Less Spring Conference Expenses	(5,286)	(2,842)
	<u>(1,266)</u>	<u>(2,842)</u>
<b>Winter Conference Fees</b>	453	646
Less Winter Conference Expenses	(714)	(608)
	<u>(261)</u>	<u>38</u>
<b>Interest Income</b>		
CCLA Investment	209	-
Interest on COIF Deposit	617	820
Interest on St James Place Fund	1,096	968
	<u>1,922</u>	<u>1,788</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<u><u>50,953</u></u>	<u><u>33,498</u></u>
<b>Total Expenditure as below</b>	<u><u>(33,227)</u></u>	<u><u>(34,308)</u></u>
<b>Net operating (Deficit) / Surplus</b>	<u><u>17,726</u></u>	<u><u>(810)</u></u>

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year**  
**1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024**  
**Charity Number 251851**

**Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 January 2024 (Cont.)**

	£	£
	2023-24	2022-23
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Production and Despatch Review	20,555	15,544
Rural History Today	2,933	4,662
Joan Thirsk award	1,000	500
Executive Committee Expenses	-	195
Editors Remuneration	600	3,807
Assistant Treasurers' Fees	2,517	2,403
Examiners Fee	-	200
Office Costs	639	792
Casual Labour	500	500
Website Maintenance	1,042	546
PayPal Management	184	-
Newsletters and other Mailings	1,440	335
Insurance	-	-
PayPal charges	96	53
BALH Subscription	90	75
EHIO Subscription	-	534
Research Grants	-	-
Libral Development	1,631	4,162
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>33,227</u></b>	<b><u>34,308</u></b>
<b>Unrealised movements in Investments</b>		
M & G Charifund Loss/Gain	1,505	(84)
CAF Income Fund Loss/Gain	(1,948)	1,026
COIF Income Fund Loss/Gain	1,675	(1,295)
St James Place Unit Trust Loss/Gain	1,250	(4,500)
	<b><u>2,482</u></b>	<b><u>(4,853)</u></b>

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024  
Charity Number 251851**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The British Agricultural History Society**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....  
Michael Young FCA  
Independent Examiner

**Peplows Ltd**  
Moorgate House  
King Street  
Newton Abbot  
Devon  
TQ12 2LG

Date: 28/11/2024

**THE BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 251851

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# Accounts

---

Charity registration number: 251851

# The British Agricultural History Society

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 January 2023

**Peplows Ltd**  
Moorgate House  
King Street  
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**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
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**Reference and Administrative Details**

**Contact Address**

British Agricultural Society  
Department of History  
University of Exeter  
Amory Building  
Rennes Drive  
Exeter EX4 4RJ

**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc  
1-2 Market Place  
Reading RG1 2EQ

**Examiner**

Mr Michael Denoon Young FCA  
Moorgate House  
King Street  
Newton Abbot  
Devon  
TQ12 2LG

**Executive Committee (Trustees) at year-end**

Prof Karen Sayer DPhil	Chair
Dr Sarah Holland	Trustee
Dr Samantha Shave BA MSc PhD	Trustee
Dr Alex Spike Gibbs	Trustee
Dr Derek Shepherd	Trustee
Professor Abigail Woods	Trustee
Dr Danae Tankard	Trustee
Professor Jordan Claridge	Trustee
Professor Annie Tindley	Trustee
Dr John MORGAN	Trustee
Professor Nicola Verdon	Trustee
Dr Paul Simon WARDE	Trustee
Professor John Frederick Martin	Trustee
Rebecca Ford	Trustee

## **The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year**

**1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023**

**Charity Number 251851**

### **Report of the Trustees on Activities during the Financial Year**

#### **Objects of the Society**

The Society exists to promote the study of agricultural history and the history of rural economy and society. It does this through the publication of its biannual journal *The Agricultural History Review*, and its newsletter, *Rural History Today*, and by holding at least two conferences each year. These activities are contained in the Society's constitution adopted at its foundation in 1953, and subsequently modified at the Society's Annual General Meetings in 2000 and 2016

#### **Publishing**

This continues to be the principal means by which the Society fulfils its objectives. The Society published two issues of *The Agricultural History Review*, Volume 70 (2022) in June and January. Back numbers of the *Review* are freely available to all via the website, three years in arrears. The Society also published two issues of the newsletter *Rural History Today* (Numbers 43 and 44), which is widely distributed beyond the membership of the Society and is freely available to all on the BAHS website. The website also, amongst other things, hosts LIBRAL (Library of Irish and British Rural and Agricultural Literature), which provides direct free access to digitized literature on the subject. During the year £4,162 was spent on LIBRAL development, scanning a wide range of works.

#### **Grants**

The Society offers grants to individuals, societies, and institutions in the furtherance of its objects. During the year, an award of £500 was taken up. A Joan Thirsk Memorial prize award of £500 was made during the year as part of the normal operations of the Society.

#### **Membership**

The number of individual members fell slightly. However, the number of institutional members has remained stable. Most new members continue to join through the website, paying by PayPal. Electronic access to the *Review* via Ingenta is provided free for individual members and institutional subscribers (Ingenta's costs are treated as part of the Production and Despatch of the *Review*).

### **Accounts for the Year to 31 January 2023**

The Society made a small loss of £810 in the year compared with a small surplus of £1,867 in 2021-22. Subscriptions were down by £1,809 and journal sales were broadly level compared with the previous year. The loss on the Spring Conference was higher than in the previous year, £2,842 compared with £918 in 2021-22.

On the expenditure side, the costs of producing and dispatching the Review, the maintenance of the website and the development of LIBRAL were all lower than in 2021-22. Total expenditure for the year was £34,308 compared with £36,636 in 2021-22.

Unrealized movements in investments showed a significant loss on the previous year, £4,853 compared with a gain of £9,096 in 2021-22. Overall, the Society is in a healthy position, with some £127,210 of cash and investments at current values (£132,873 in 2021-22).

### **Reserves Policy**

The Society's policy is, taking one year with the next, to spend the income it receives in pursuit of its objectives, while setting aside any surpluses to cover future projects, and to generate future income to support the society's grants and awards. The Society has no Restricted Funds. Its Unrestricted Funds currently stand at £127,210 out of which two Designated Funds have been set aside by the Trustees, as follows:

#### **Designated Projects and Initiatives Fund**

Currently standing at £27,234, this is set aside to pay for new and continuing activities which cannot readily be funded from in-year revenue. Expenditure from this fund is at the discretion of the Trustees.

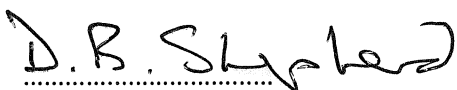
#### **Research and Grants Fund**

Currently standing at £44,199, this is intended to be an investment fund, the income from which will be used for the provision of grants and donations to support new research, and events such as conferences, awards, and publications in the Society's area of agricultural and rural history.

#### **Unrestricted, Undesignated**

The balance of our reserves stands at £55,777, equivalent to more than one year's current expenditure. It is the intention of the Trustees to aim to maintain this fund at a level sufficient to cover seasonal and unexpected fluctuations between income and expenditure, without having to sell any of our investments, which might incur significant losses.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees



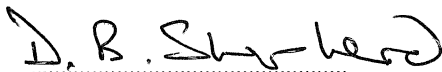
**Dr Derek B Shepherd - Trustee** 1 August 2024

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023  
Charity Number 251851**

**Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 January 2023**

	£ 2022-23	£ 2021-22
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Treasurer's Account	14,319	15,129
M&G Charibond	41,458	41,542
CAF Income Fund	19,032	18,006
COIF Charities Ethical Investment Account	27,234	28,529
St. James Place - Unit Trust	25,167	29,667
	<u>127,210</u>	<u>132,873</u>
Less:		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Joan Thirsk Award Fund	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS less CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>127,210</u>	<u>132,873</u>
 RESERVES as at 31 January 2022	 132,873	 121,910
Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	(810)	1,867
Sum of unrealised gains/losses on Investments	(4,853)	9,096
<b>RESERVES as at 31 January 2023</b>	<u>127,210</u>	<u>132,873</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Restricted Reserves	-	-
Designated Reserves	-	-
Research & Grants Fund	44,199	47,673
Projects & Initiatives Fund	27,234	28,529
Unrestricted, Undesignated Funds	55,777	56,671
	<u>127,210</u>	<u>132,873</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue and signed on their behalf by:



Dr Derek B Shepherd - Trustee

Date: 1 August 2024

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023  
Charity Number 251851**

**Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 January 2023**

	£	£
	2022-23	2021-22
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	10,508	12,317
Journal Sales	20,552	20,800
Sales of Back Issues & Publications	102	20
Royalties	3,332	2,910
Gold Access	-	1,700
Gift Aid Refund	-	-
Donations	20	20
	<u>34,514</u>	<u>37,767</u>
<b>Spring Conference Fees</b>	-	-
Less Spring Conference Expenses	(2,842)	(918)
	<u>(2,842)</u>	<u>(918)</u>
<b>Winter Conference Fees</b>	646	-
Less Winter Conference Expenses	(608)	(194)
	<u>38</u>	<u>(194)</u>
<b>Interest Income</b>		
HSBC Deposit	-	135
Interest on COIF Deposit	820	809
Interest on St James Place Fund	968	904
	<u>1,788</u>	<u>1,848</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<u><u>33,498</u></u>	<u><u>38,503</u></u>
<b>Total Expenditure as below</b>	<u><u>(34,308)</u></u>	<u><u>(36,636)</u></u>
<b>Net operating (Deficit) / Surplus</b>	<u><u>(810)</u></u>	<u><u>1,867</u></u>

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023  
Charity Number 251851**

**Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 January 2023 (Cont.)**

	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Production and Despatch Review	15,544	17,295
Rural History Today	4,662	2,029
Joan Thirsk award	500	500
Executive Committee Expenses	195	669
Editors Remuneration	3,807	3,130
Assistant Treasurers' Fees	2,403	2,428
Examiners Fee	200	175
Office Costs	792	874
Casual Labour	500	250
Website Maintenance	546	1,625
PayPal Management	-	-
Newsletters and other Mailings	335	384
Insurance	-	-
PayPal charges	53	101
BALH Subscription	75	75
EHIO Subscription	534	1,561
Research Grants	-	250
Libral Development	4,162	5,290
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>34,308</b>	<b>36,636</b>
<b>Unrealised movements in Investments</b>		
M & G Charifund Loss/Gain	(84)	6,648
CAF Income Fund Loss/Gain	1,026	(770)
COIF Income Fund Loss/Gain	(1,295)	2,585
St James Place Unit Trust Loss/Gain	(4,500)	633
	<b>(4,853)</b>	<b>9,096</b>

**The British Agricultural History Society Annual Report for the Financial Year  
1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023  
Charity Number 251851**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The British Agricultural History Society**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....  
Michael Young FCA  
Independent Examiner

**Peplows Ltd**  
Moorgate House  
King Street  
Newton Abbot  
Devon  
TQ12 2LG

Date: 1 August 2024

**THE BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 251851

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# Accounts

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**The British Agricultural History Society**  
**Annual Report for the Financial Year**  
**1 February 2020 to 31 January 2021**  
**Charity Number 251851**

**Contact Address**

British Agricultural Society      email: treasurer@bahs.org.uk  
Department of History  
University of Exeter  
Amory Building  
Rennes Drive  
Exeter EX4 4RJ

**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc  
1-2 Market Place  
Reading RG1 2EQ

**Examiner**

Mrs Zoe Crumby, FMAAT ATT  
Bridford Wood House  
Bridford  
Exeter  
Devon EX6 7ER

**Objects of the Society**

The Society exists to promote the study of agricultural history and the history of rural economy and society. It does this through the publication of its biannual journal *The Agricultural History Review*, and its newsletter, *Rural History Today*, and by holding at least two conferences each year. These activities are contained in the Society's constitution adopted at its foundation in 1953, and subsequently modified at the Society's Annual General Meetings in 2000 and 2016.

## **Executive Committee (Trustees) at year-end 2020-21**

Dr P Brassley (President)

Prof H French (Chair)

Dr W Shannon (Treasurer)

Dr J Bowen

Dr R Ford

Dr J Gayton

Dr C Griffin

Prof J Martin

Dr N Verdon

Dr N Whyte

Dr P Warde

Dr J Morgan

Prof R W Hoyle (Acting Secretary) stood down as a Trustee during the year

## **Report on Activities during the Financial Year**

### **Covid-19**

The pandemic had the effect of causing us to cancel the Spring Conference at short notice. All fees were reimbursed to those who had booked, but we had to forfeit the deposit we had paid to the venue. As a result of the cancellation of the Conference, no AGM was held. Instead, the Executive Committee (EC) met on 7 May by Zoom, and resolved to defer the AGM until 2021, with all officers and members of the EC remaining in place until then. The accounts for the year 2019-20 were accepted by the EC, as Trustees, subject to approval at the 2021 AGM; and it was agreed to send the annual report and accounts to the Charity Commission. The EC met on two other occasions during the year, by Zoom. The Winter Conference went ahead in ‘virtual’ form, by Zoom, the EC having taken the decision that access would be free, and that the costs of setting up the Zoom account, and other costs would be absorbed. It should be noted that the deficit for the Winter Conference in the accounts includes a late invoice for catering at the 2019 Winter conference, of £1095, paid in this financial year.

### **Publishing**

This continues to be the principal means by which the Society fulfils its objectives. The Society published two issues of *The Agricultural History Review*, Volume 68 (2020) in June and January. Back numbers of the Review are freely available to all via the website, three years in arrears: the website currently has copies up to 2017 (vol 65). The Society also published two issues of the newsletter *Rural History Today* (nos 39 and 40), which is widely distributed beyond the membership of the Society, and is

freely available to all on the BAHS website. The website also, amongst other things, hosts LIBRAL (Library of Irish and British Rural and Agricultural Literature), which provides direct free access to digitised literature on the subject. During the year £8546 was spent on LIBRAL development, scanning a wide range of works.

## **Grants**

The Society offers grants to individuals, societies and institutions in the furtherance of its objects. During the year no grants or bursaries were taken up. A prize award of £500 was made from the Joan Thirsk Fund, thus exhausting the balance in that fund. Awards in future will be paid for out of the society's revenues.

## **Membership**

The long-term decrease in Institutional members continued. However, the number of individual members rallied somewhat. Most new members continue to join through the website, paying by PayPal. Electronic access to the *Review* via Ingenta is provided free for individual members and institutional subscribers (Ingenta's costs are treated as part of the Production and Despatch of the *Review*).

## **Accounts for the Year to 31 January 2021**

Last year, on the advice of our Examiner, we changed our accounting method from accruals-based to 'receipts and payments', which is more appropriate for a society of our size, and allows better focus on the in-year operating surplus or deficit, rather than on the unrealised movements in the value of our investments. This year's accounts continue on this new basis.

The Society made a loss of £11,917 in the year compared with a surplus of £7,650 in 2019-20 (which had been affected in part by the decision to cease accruals). The effects of this can be seen in both Journal Sales (subscription to *Review* by institutions), which were boosted in 2019-20 by crediting advance subscriptions to the year in which they were received, rather than accruing them: and also in Spring Conference income and expenditure: the 2019-20 figure, as noted in last year's accounts, was boosted by discounting advance fees, balancing a loss the previous year (2018-19). The loss this year on the Spring Conference is mainly a result of lost deposit, plus reimbursement of some advance payments taken in the previous year. The loss on the Winter Conference is largely accounted for by the late invoice from the 2019 conference, as mentioned above, plus the costs of setting up the virtual 2020 conference.

On the expenditure side, *Review* costs showed an increase as a result of late invoicing of the despatch of AHR 67:2, resulting in the account carrying the costs of three lots

of postage & packing charges in the year, instead of two. Website costs increased, in part due to time spent on developing a new membership form, and other pages, plus the emailed Newsletter. The Society substantially increased its investment in Libral, amounting to £8546 this year.

Unrealised movements in investments showed a significant loss on our M&G Charifund holding, which wiped out much of the gain on the previous year. Investment income was also down on the previous year. The balance sheet reflects both the operational loss made on the year, and also the unrealised losses in the value of our investments. Nevertheless, the society continues to be in a healthy position, with some £121,910 of cash and investments at current values (£138,630 in 2019-20).

### **Reserves Policy**

The Society's policy is, taking one year with the next, to spend the income it receives in pursuit of its objectives, while setting aside any surpluses to cover future projects, and to generate future income to support the society's grants and awards. The Society has no Restricted Funds. Its Unrestricted Funds currently stand at £121,910 out of which two Designated Funds have been set aside by the Trustees, as follows

**Designated Projects and Initiatives Fund**, currently standing at £18,776 (invested in COIF). This is set aside to pay for new and continuing activities which cannot readily be funded from in-year revenue. Expenditure from this fund is at the discretion of the Trustees, but in particular is expected to provide for the future development of the website, and the LIBRAL digitisation project.

**Research and Grants Fund**, currently standing at £47,810 (invested in CAF and St James Place). This is intended to be an investment fund, the income from which (£1450 in the current year) will be used for the provision of grants and donations to support new research, and events such as conferences, awards and publications in the Society's area of agricultural and rural history.

The **Unrestricted, Undesignated** balance of our reserves stands at £48,156, equivalent to approximately one year's current expenditure. It is the intention of the Trustees to aim to maintain this fund at a level sufficient to cover seasonal and unexpected fluctuations between income and expenditure, without having to sell any of our investments, which might incur significant losses.

**Dr William D Shannon**

**March 2021**

# THE BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JANUARY 2021

	£		£	
	2020-21		2019-20	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Treasurer's Account	13261		25548	
M&G Charibond	34895		40060	
CAF Income Fund	18776		18723	
COIF Charities Ethical Investment Account	25944		25030	
St. James Place - Unit Trust	29034	121,910	29269	138,630
Less:				
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Joan Thirsk Award Fund	0	0	370	370
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>				
less CURRENT LIABILITIES				
		121910		138260
RESERVES as at 31 January 2020		138260		117394
Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year		-11917		7650
Sum of unrealised gains/losses on Investments		-4433		13216
<b>RESERVES as at 31 January 2021</b>		<b>121910</b>		<b>138260</b>
Represented by:				
Restricted Reserves		0		0
Designated Reserves:				
Research & Grants Fund		47810		47992
Projects & Initiatives Fund		25944		25030
Unrestricted, Undesignated Funds		48156		65238
		121910		138260

The above Balance Sheet is in accordance with the books and records furnished to me and is correct to my knowledge and belief

Z.CRUMBY FMAAT ATT, Examiner  
16 February 2021

# THE BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the period 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2021

INCOME	£		£		EXPENDITURE	£	
	2020-21		2019-20			2020-21	2019-20
Subscriptions	11743		11929		Production and Despatch Review	24097	21599
Journal Sales	19875		24910		Rural History Today	3893	3937
Sales of Back Issues & Publications	216		11		Joan Thirsk award	130	0
Royalties	3258		3114		Executive Committee Expenses	23	1190
Gift Aid Refund	1473		1287		Editors Remuneration	2370	2370
Donations	170				Assistant Treasurers' Fees	1943	1981
Spring Conference Fees	-900	13115			Examiners Fee	250	175
Less Spring Conference Expenses	<u>2292</u>	<u>-3192</u>	<u>6876</u>	6239	Office Costs	526	581
Winter Conference Fees	0	1450			Casual Labour	560	500
Less Winter Conference Expenses	<u>1549</u>	<u>-1549</u>	<u>1999</u>	-549	Website Maintenance	2792	1035
Interest on CAF Deposit Account	464		500		PayPal Management	90	223
Interest on COIF Deposit	924		771		Newsletters and other Mailings	982	890
Interest on St James Place Fund	986		1168		Insurance	0	193
					PayPal charges	83	417
					BALH Subscription	0	75
					Research Grants	0	1308
					Libral Development	8546	5256
						<u>46285</u>	<u>41730</u>
<b>Net Operating Deficit</b>	<b>11917</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>Net Operating Surplus</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7650</b>
	<u>46285</u>		<u>49380</u>			<u>46285</u>	<u>49380</u>
<b>Unrealised movements in Investments</b>							
M & G Charifund Loss/Gain	-5165		7488				
CAF Income Fund Loss/Gain	53		1067				
COIF Income Fund Loss/Gain	914		3358				
St James Place Unit Trust Loss/Gain	-235		1303				
	<b>-4433</b>		<b>13216</b>				



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

On accounts for the year ended

31.1.2021 Charity no (if any) 251851

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31.1.21.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Independent examiner's statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: ZOE CRUMBY Date: 16.2.21

Name: ZOE CRUMBY

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

FMAAT ATT

Address:

BRIDFORD WOOD HOUSE
BRIDFORD
EXETER EXG TER