

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)

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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).

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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.



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Dr Derek B Shepherd - Trustee

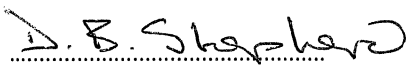
Date: 15/10/2025

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Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 January 2025

	£ 2024-25	£ 2023-24
CURRENT ASSETS		
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:		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Joan Thirsk Award Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL ASSETS less CURRENT LIABILITIES	<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
RESERVES as at 31 January 2025	<u><u>150,230</u></u>	<u><u>147,418</u></u>
Represented by:		
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><u>150,230</u></u>	<u><u>147,418</u></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

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Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 January 2025

	£	£
	2024-25	2023-24
INCOME		
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>
Spring Conference Fees	3,949	4,020
Less Spring Conference Expenses	(3,975)	(5,286)
	<u>(26)</u>	<u>(1,266)</u>
Winter Conference Fees	-	453
Less Winter Conference Expenses	-	(714)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(261)</u>
Interest Income		
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>
Total income	<u><u>45,451</u></u>	<u><u>50,953</u></u>
Total Expenditure as below	<u><u>(49,230)</u></u>	<u><u>(33,227)</u></u>
Net operating (Deficit) / Surplus	<u><u>(3,779)</u></u>	<u><u>17,726</u></u>

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

	£ 2024-25	£ 2023-24
EXPENDITURE		
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
Total Expenditure	49,230	33,227
Unrealised movements in Investments		
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
	6,591	2,482

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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

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Devon
TQ12 2LG

Date:

15/10/2025