

The British Agricultural History Society
Annual Report for the Financial Year
1 February 2016 to 31 January 2017
Charity Number 251851

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Examiner

Mrs Zoe Crumby, FMATT
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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) after elections at the AGM 30 March 2016

Dr J Broad (President)

Prof H French (Chair)

Dr N Verdon (Secretary)

Dr W Shannon (Treasurer)

Prof R W Hoyle (Editor)

Dr B McDonagh (Book Review Editor)

Dr J Bowen

Dr P Brassley

Dr R Ford

Dr J Gayton

Dr C Griffin

Dr C Griffiths

Prof A Howkins

Prof K Sayer

Dr P Warde

Dr N Whyte

Report on Activities during the 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 64(20165) in June and December. The Society also publishes the newsletter *Rural History Today* twice yearly, which is widely distributed beyond the membership of the Society; and operates a website which, amongst other things, is hosting LIBRAL (Library of Irish and British Rural and Agricultural Literature). This provides direct free access to existing digitised literature on the subject, currently comprising more than 200 titles.

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. The society also supports EURHO (The European Rural History Organisation) with a grant/subscription: and during the year joined the British Association for Local History.

Conferences

The Annual Conference was held at Wortley Hall, Sheffield, in April 2016 and the Winter Conference at the Senate House, University of London in December 2016.

Membership

Subscription for individual members currently remains at £20 per year for UK members, £30 for European members and £40 for other members worldwide, with a reduced subscription of £5 for students. Most new members join through the website, paying by PayPal. The Society continues to provide the journal to institutions worldwide. Electronic access to the journal via Ingenta is provided free for individual members and institutional subscribers.

Accounts for the Year to 31 January 2017

The Society made a surplus of £11,890 – a significant increase upon last year (£4893). Our Membership numbers remained at the same level as last year, although our institutional subscribers again reduced in numbers. Our Spring Conference made a small surplus and our Winter Conference a small loss. There were no significant differences in the costs of administration, and officers' expenses. There were no significant items of income not yet received or expenditure not yet invoiced other than those indicated in the balance sheet, and the Society has no significant advanced commitments. We hold a conservative, largely risk-free, range of investments on which we make notional gains and losses year by year. These gains can only be realised by sale. During the year, a COIF Investment Fund was opened, reducing our cash balances held at the bank. The Joan Thirsk Fund set up to make an annual award for the best book on Agrarian History, grew somewhat, to £1870. As yet, no award has yet been made.

Reserves Policy

The Society's policy is to spend the income it receives each year in pursuit of its objectives, while setting aside surpluses to generate future income to support the society's grants and awards. Whilst a level of cash is required to meet all short-term demands, these have been historically at too high a level, and do not need to be equivalent to more than a year's expenditure. Our policy is to maintain an adequate level of reserves to generate income and to allow for the periodic funding of major initiatives. Our reserves, all of which are unrestricted, currently stand at £114,791 (£102,901 last year).

Dr William D Shannon

April 2017

THE BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JANUARY 2017

	£	£
	2016-17	2015-16
CURRENT ASSETS		
Treasurer's Account	40355	37721
CAF Deposit Account	0	7848
M&G Charibond	31872	28346
NS Income Bond	26000	26000
CAF Income Fund	18452	18182
COIF Investment Account	20000	0
Cash in hand	192	192
	136,871	118,289
Debtors & Prepayments	1187	5047
	<u>138,058</u>	<u>123,336</u>
Less:		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Subscriptions in advance	16362	17590
Spring conference Fess in Advance	720	
Joan Thirsk Award Fund	1870	805
Sundry Creditors	3884	1690
Review & RHT Production	720	150
Examiners Fee	1870	200
Casual labour	281	0
Ingenta		
	<u>23267</u>	<u>20435</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>119363</u></u>	<u><u>102901</u></u>
less CURRENT LIABILITIES		
RESERVES as at 31 January 2016	102901	98008
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	11890	4893
RESERVES as at 31 January 2017	<u><u>114791</u></u>	<u><u>102901</u></u>

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
Examiner

Date 27/2/2017

		£		£				£		£	
		2016-17		2015-16				2016-17		2015-16	
INCOME						EXPENDITURE					
Subscriptions		8919		8963		Production and Despatch Review		14442		17743	
Journal Sales		22566		24326		Copy Editing the Review		1250		2600	
Sales of Back Issues & Publications		0		111		Rural History Today		5380		4965	
Royalties		2370		7945		Executive Committee Expenses		2346		2975	
Gift Aid Refund		1188		1159		Editors Expenses				0	
Gold Open Access		0		0		Assistant Treasurers' Fees		1709		2077	
Spring Conference Fees		8349		6766		Examiners Fee		150		130	
Less Spring Conference Charges				6630		Office Costs		555		358	
Spring Conference Expenses		7722		336		Casual Labour		400		400	
		627		-200		Publication Purchased				0	
Winter Conference Fees		960		1102		Website Maintenance		1134		686	
Less Winter Conference Charges				1039		PayPal Set-up & Maintenance				1710	
Winter Conference Expenses		1223		0		Marketing Costs				1249	
		-263		63		EURHO Grant and Subscription		570		432	
2014 Winter Conference Charges				-1514		Thirsk Memorial Award Leaflet				278	
						RWH Project Labour				803	
						Bank Charges				19	
Interest on CAF Deposit Account		632		17		PayPal charges		234		31	
Interest on National Savings Bond		288		325		BALH Subscription		65		65	
Interest on CAF Bond Income Fund		1		525		Research Grant				500	
M & G Charifund Gain		3526		1220		Cambridge Conference Contribution				500	
CAF Income Fund Loss/Gain		271		-526		Excess of Income over Expenditure		11890		4893	
		40125		42414				40125		42414	



Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity Name

BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

On accounts for the year ended

310117

Charity no (if any)

251851

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention ~~(other than that disclosed below*)~~:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, 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

Date

27.2.17

Name

Z. CRUMBY

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

FMAAT ATT

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EXETER
EX6 7ER