

**The British Agricultural History Society**  
**Annual Report for the Financial Year**  
**1 February 2015 to 31 January 2016**  
**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, FMATT  
Woodcote  
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. During the year, the current version, which was approved at the Society's Annual General Meeting in 2000, was revised and presented to the 2016 AGM for adoption.

## **Executive Committee (Trustees) after elections at the AGM 30 March 2015**

Prof M Overton (President)

Prof H French (Chair)

Dr N Verdon (Secretary)

Dr W Shannon (Treasurer)

Prof R Hoyle (Editor)

Dr Briony McDonagh (Book Review Editor)

Dr J Bowen

Dr P Brassley

Dr J Broad

Dr J Gayton

Dr C Griffin

Dr C Griffiths

Prof A Howkins

Prof K Sayer

Dr P Warde

Dr N Whyte

(one vacancy)

## **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 62 (2015) 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 currently provides direct free access to existing digitised literature on the subject, and during the year added a large number of newly scanned and digitised works, including volumes from the Royal Agricultural Society of England library.

### **Grants**

The Society offers grants to individuals, societies and institutions in the furtherance of its objects. During the year two grants, each of £500 were made to assist in the financing of conferences, while the society also supports EURHO (The European Rural History Organisation) with a grant/subscription. Three bursaries were awarded to allow students to attend the Annual Conference.

## **Conferences**

The Annual Conference was held at the University of Bangor, North Wales, in March/April 2015 and the Winter Conference at the Senate House, University of London in December 2015.

## **Membership**

Subscription for individual members remains at £20 per year, with a reduced subscription of £5 for students. 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 2016**

The Society made a surplus of £4893 – an increase upon last year (£3376). Our Membership numbers fell slightly, while institutional subscribers reduced significantly. During the year we set up on-line payment facility through PayPal and it is expected that more members will join/renew in that way in future. Our Spring Conference made a small loss and our Winter Conference a small surplus. Following the handing over of the Treasurer role, more of the day-to-day book-keeping is done by an assistant Treasurer, with a consequent increase in fees but office and casual labour costs are down. 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 Fund was set up to make an annual award for the best book on Agrarian History, in memory of Joan Thirsk. Donations were invited, and currently stand at £805. 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. However, as there is generally a lag between receipt of income and expenditure on projects, because membership numbers can fluctuate from year to year, and also because of periodic funding of major initiatives, an adequate level of reserves are required. These currently stand at £102,901 (£98,008 last year). These funds, currently equivalent to more than two years' expenditure, are unrestricted.

**Dr William D Shannon**

**April 2016**

# THE BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JANUARY 2016

	£	£
	2015-16	2014-15
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Treasurer's Account	37721	32207
CAF Deposit Account	7848	7831
M&G Charibond	28346	27126
NS Income Bond	26000	26000
CAF Income Fund	18182	18708
Cash in hand	192	192
	118,289	112,064
Debtors & Prepayments	5,047	5,017
	123,336	117,081
Less:		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Subscriptions in advance	17590	14905
Joan Thirsk Award Fund	805	
Sundry Creditors	1690	3718
Review & RHT Production	150	150
Examiners Fee	200	0
Casual labour	0	300
Winter Conference	0	0
	20435	19073
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	102901	98008
RESERVES as at 31 January 2014	98008	94632
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	4893	3376
<b>RESERVES as at 31 January 2015</b>	102901	98008

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

23.2.16

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## THE BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the period 1 February 2015 to 31 January 2016

INCOME	£	£	EXPENDITURE	£	£
	2015-16	2014-15		2015-16	2014-15
Subscriptions	8963	8609	Agricultural History Review	20343	21096
Journal Sales	24326	25978	Rural History Today	4965	5644
Sales of Back Issues & Publications	111	180	Executive Committee Expenses	2975	2996
Royalties & Gold Open Access	7945	3188	Editors Expenses	0	0
Gift Aid Refund	1159	1087	Assistant Treasurers' Fees	2077	1628
Spring Conference Fees	6766	8482	Office Costs	358	448
Less Spring Conference Charges	6630	10440	Casual Labour	1203	1854
Spring Conference Expenses	336	890	Examiners Fee	130	150
	-200	-2848	Marketing Costs	1527	0
Winter Conference Fees	1102	1020	Website Maintenance	686	1000
Less Winter Conference Charges	1039	300	PayPal Set-up & Maintenance	1710	0
Winter Conference Expenses	0	425	EURHO Grant and Subscription	432	500
	63	295	BALH Subscription	65	0
2014 Winter Conference Charges	-1514		Publication Purchased	0	350
			Research Grants & Donations	1000	0
Interest on CAF Deposit Account	17	12	Bank Charges	19	19
Interest on National Savings Bond	325	325	PayPal charges	31	0
Interest on CAF Bond Income Fund	525	524	Excess of Income over Expenditure	4893	3376
M & G Charifund Gain	1220	1206			
CAF Income Fund Loss/Gain	-526	505			
	<u>42414</u>	<u>39061</u>		<u>42414</u>	<u>39061</u>



# 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

3 1 0 1 1 6

Charity no (if any) 2 5 1 8 5 1

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

*Zoe Crumby*

Date 23.2.16

Name

ZOE CRUMBY

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

FMATT ATT

Address

WOODCOTE  
BRIDFORD  
EXETER  
EX6 7ER