Notice of the Society's 2024 Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Society will be held in the Sir Emrys Jones Lecture Theatre, Royal Agricultural University, at approximately 8.45 pm on Wednesday 12th June, following the lecture given by Prof. Adam Hart. The plan is to keep the AGM as brief as possible hence two key reports are attached to this Notice. The AGM will be also be broadcast by Zoom and any questions may be raised online. There are two proposals that require members' approval.

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Chairman's Report
3. Programme
4. Visits Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Membership Report
7. Honorary Membership
8. Retiring Officers in June 2025 (Secretary and Treasurer)
9. AOB

Membership Secretary's report

- Membership renewals this year achieved a 92% renewal rate.
- Membership of the Society has grown slightly this year compared to last year, rising from 172 members in 22/23 to 177 this year.
- The membership list has seen a healthy influx of new members joining the Society during the past year.
- Membership to the Society currently stands at **177**.

Renewing Members	**154**
New members	**22**
Complimentary membership	**1**

- Attendance at monthly lectures has seen a healthy number of members and visitors present in the lecture theatre. Attendance figures have been further boosted by a varying number of Zoom attendees each monthly. However, this figure is usually lower than in-person attendance and can vary.

		Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24
Lecture Attendance	**Members**	55	57	35	47	71	42	38	39
	Guests	11	7	0	3	6	2	6	8
	Students		3						1
	Zoom	25	43	32	14	19	35	33	24
	Total	**91**	**110**	**67**	**64**	**96**	**79**	**77**	**72**

Andy Raggett
Membership Secretary.

Treasurer's Report

Current financial year (projected to 31 Aug)

Income (subs + GA) = £3,432
Expenses = £5,160 (Note: Expenses have greatly inflated post-Covid)
Projected end-of-year shortfall = £1,728
Investment growth + interest = £2,177

Overall position – the Society should break even in 2023-24 year, with perhaps £500 extra available for educational grants. However over the last 3 years, investments varied from plus £1,820 to minus £910, but averaged out at the same amount (~£450). This would have been generated more steadily by income units. Rather than effectively "gambling" each year, the Committee recommend the conversion to income units.

Vote 1: Do Members agree with transitioning from investments to income units?

If agreed, investment income + interest = est. £1,185 - i.e. there would still be a (smaller) shortfall. To stay afloat financially in the long-term, we either increase subs or steadily sell our funds; there are three basic options:

(1) Subs remain at **£15/yr** – will need to start selling investments. The Society would use up the investments and run out of funds in **est. 20 years**.
(2) Subs increase to **£17.50/yr** - Society continues long-term with grants at approx. £200/yr
(3) Subs increase to **£20/yr** – Society continues long-term with grants at approx. £700/yr

For information, subscriptions have stayed at £15 since at least 2011. The Committee recommend adopting option 2.

Vote 2: Which of the three options would members prefer?

James Thomson
Treasurer