



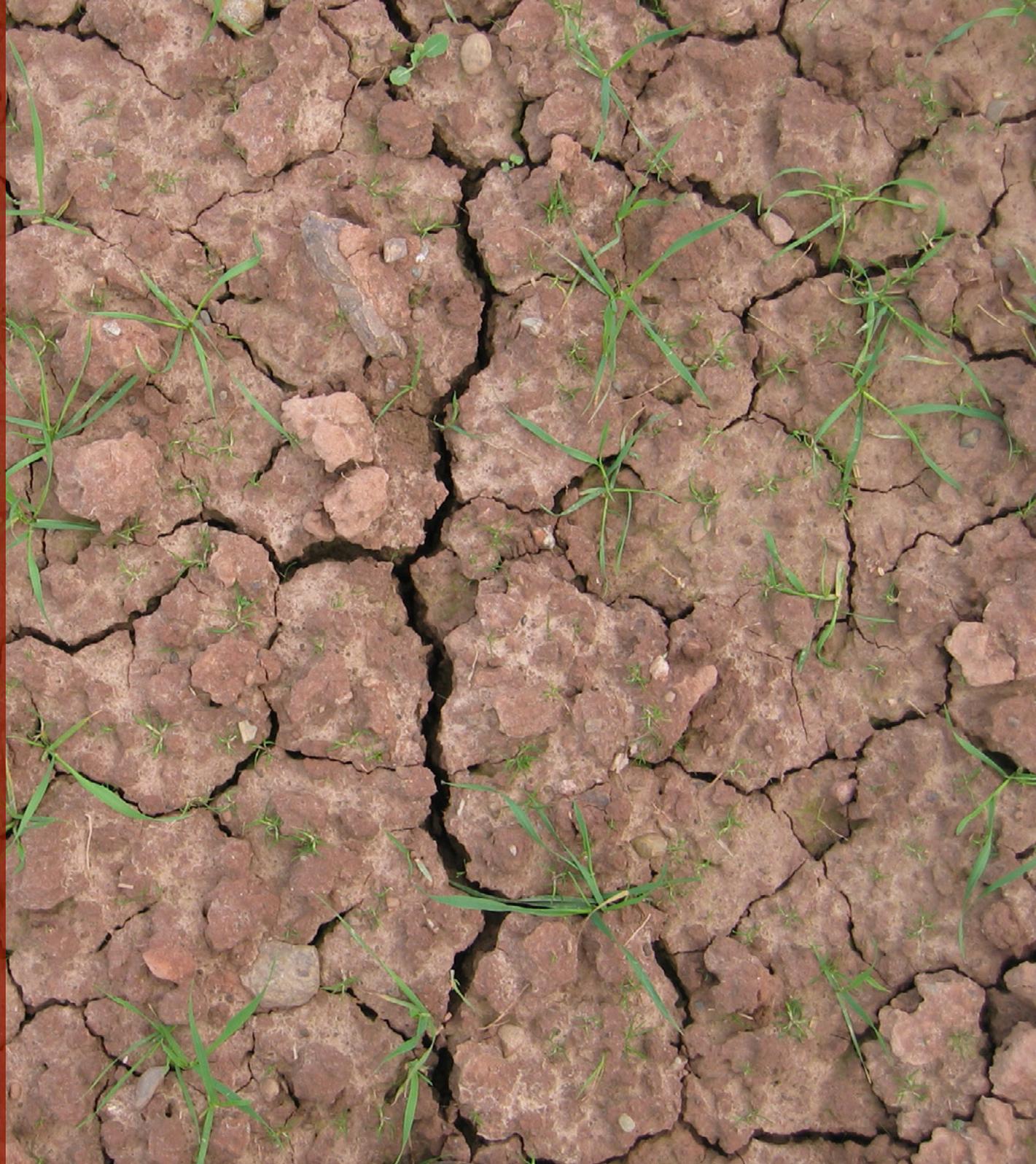
BRITISH  
SOCIETY  
OF SOIL  
SCIENCE

Annual Report  
**2020**



# Contents

Introduction from the Chairman .....	3
Introduction from the Executive Officer .....	4
Our strategy 2020 – 2025 .....	5
Our Key Achievements in 2020 .....	6
Seeking to publicise the key issues for the soil science community.....	8
Promoting change through knowledge exchange across all aspects of soil science .....	10
Hosting conferences and meetings focused on soils.....	12
World Congress of Soil Science.....	15
Supporting and encouraging the education of soil science.....	16
Inspiring the future generations of soil scientists .....	18
Ensuring high standards of professional practice for those working with soils.....	20
Financial review.....	22
About us .....	26
Our people.....	27



# Introduction from the Chairman

It goes without saying that 2020 has been an incredibly difficult year for the Society. As was the case for many other charities and professional bodies, we had to revisit all of our major plans for 2020.

Despite the challenges we have faced, this year has been very positive for the Society, allowed us to take stock and forced us to look at whether our services still met the requirements of our members and stakeholders. Our Board recognised the need to look at our internal processes, to maintain pace with the external environment, particularly in light of the new virtual world.

Much of the 2020 – 2025 strategy our Council developed, focused on delivering this change to modernise the Society and allowing us to continue delivering our charitable aims. I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress against the strategic actions we set ourselves in mid-2020.

This change has included investing in a new website to provide members with better access to their personal records and the ability to make online payments, enhanced backroom functionality and software which has allowed us to deliver online events. These have been absolute musts as we rapidly transitioned into a virtual world in 2020, one which it became clear, we would remain in for some time.

These changes have catapulted the Society into a space we have not occupied before. I have been impressed with the agility with which the Society was able to respond so well to these external forces, a response which has set us up well for the future, which will be very different to that which we had expected a year ago. Our online events have allowed us to promote the importance of soil science to the general public, and provided us with useful material to communicate via social media and enhance our reputation as the organisation which represents both professionals and non-professionals in soil science.

Despite the turbulent financial market, our finances have remained healthy and our audited 2020 financial report will be available later in the year. Our conservative investment policy has meant that although there has been a drop in the value of our investments and lower dividends than usual, we have weathered the storm to date without a significant impact on our financial standing.

The repercussions of the pandemic will be felt for many years to come and our Board is mindful that we must continue to adapt to ensure we remain a responsible and relevant contemporary society. This includes continuing to discuss and agree the most appropriate next steps for the face-to-face World Congress of Soil Science which is due to be held in

Glasgow in 2022. As the world around us continues to change, the Society Board and the Board of the entity set up to deliver the World Congress, will need to agree how it can be best delivered to meet the original aims for the event: to provide an inclusive environment for professionals from diverse backgrounds to discuss and share soil-related knowledge.

In what has been a trying year for many of us, I am incredibly proud of our volunteers, staff and members who have rallied round to support the Society. The support of all, but particularly our volunteers, who have continued to support us, whilst managing the challenges associated with the pandemic, has been inspiring. Our volunteers continue to be our biggest asset.

I would like to end by thanking our outgoing President, Prof. Sacha Mooney, who led us through one of the most challenging years in the Society's history. Sacha's strategic vision and genuine desire to do the right thing for our members, was the strong leadership the Society needed in 2020.

**Dr Bruce Lascelles**  
Chair of the Board of Trustees 2021 - 2022

*"I have been impressed with the agility with which the Society was able to respond so well to these external forces, a response which has set us up well for the future"*



# Introduction from the Executive Officer

So much has changed since our 2019 report; as Bruce has already stated the pandemic provided the Society with a need to change its way of working, and I was delighted to join in May 2020 and be tasked with undertaking a complex change programme. As we were also transitioning through an office restructure which began in mid-2019 and ended with the recruitment of our newest staff member in September 2020, the extent of the work required, should not be underestimated.

In addition to providing our members with better products and services, the change programme has streamlined the office processes and procedures, leading to increased efficiency. This has provided our small team with more time to focus on delivering the Society's charitable aims, examples of which are set out in this new-look Annual Report.

Pre-pandemic many of our members were already well-versed in using technology to communicate and collaborate. As the pandemic continued, this way of working quickly spread to all of us. Our Council, Board and our committees, with the exception of the early part of the year, met exclusively online in 2020. As a Society which understands the impact which climate change has on the environment and particularly the soil, the pandemic has done wonders for reducing our carbon footprint.

As you will see from this report, the Society agreed an Environmental Policy in 2020 and we have been conscious of implementing this at every opportunity. We provided two issues of The Auger in 2020, both of them online only editions, with printed copies only available for those who expressed a real need for a physical version. The printed copies which we did issue were printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper stock from 100% recycled fibre and printed by a printing press which has a net positive carbon impact.

As we hopefully start to leave the pandemic behind us in 2021, there will be elements of our revised service which we expect to continue to deliver to support a reduced carbon footprint: fewer face-to-face committee meetings, more webinars and digital content. We do understand that networking over Zoom is almost impossible, and as we head into 2021, are hoping to combine these virtual elements with resuming some of our face-to-face events and training courses.

I hope that the new format for the Annual Report more clearly demonstrates to our members and stakeholders the value we are delivering and the progress we are making against our strategic goals.

As always, we continue to welcome your feedback on the work we are doing, where we can improve and how we can continue to share our soil science knowledge with both the scientific and non-scientific communities.

We look forward to working with you in 2021.

**Sarah Garry**  
Executive Officer



*“As we hopefully start to leave the pandemic behind us in 2021, there will be elements of our revised service which we expect to continue to deliver to support a reduced carbon footprint: fewer face-to-face committee meetings, more webinars and digital content.”*

# Our strategy 2020 – 2025

In 2020, for the first time, we published our mission alongside a seven-point, five-year strategy to focus our efforts and activities:

The British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) is the UK's leading body in the area of Soil Science with a global reach. We strive to secure the future of soils by promoting an enhanced understanding of the critical importance of soils in delivering the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals and supplying knowledge, through our science, to support efforts to halt and repair soil degradation. We aim to make a positive difference in the sustainable management and long-term security of soils that is critical to solving the environmental and societal challenges we face today. We will achieve this through:

- 1 Seeking to publicise the key issues for the soil science community**
- 2 Promoting change through knowledge exchange across all aspects of soil science**
- 3 Hosting conferences and meetings focused on soils**
- 4 Supporting and encouraging the education of soil science**
- 5 Inspiring the future generations of soil scientists**
- 6 Ensuring high standards of professional practice for those working with soils**
- 7 Leading on the social and environmental responsibilities of a contemporary society.**

Our Council set out a number of key actions and activities to support us on our journey to achieve our strategy.



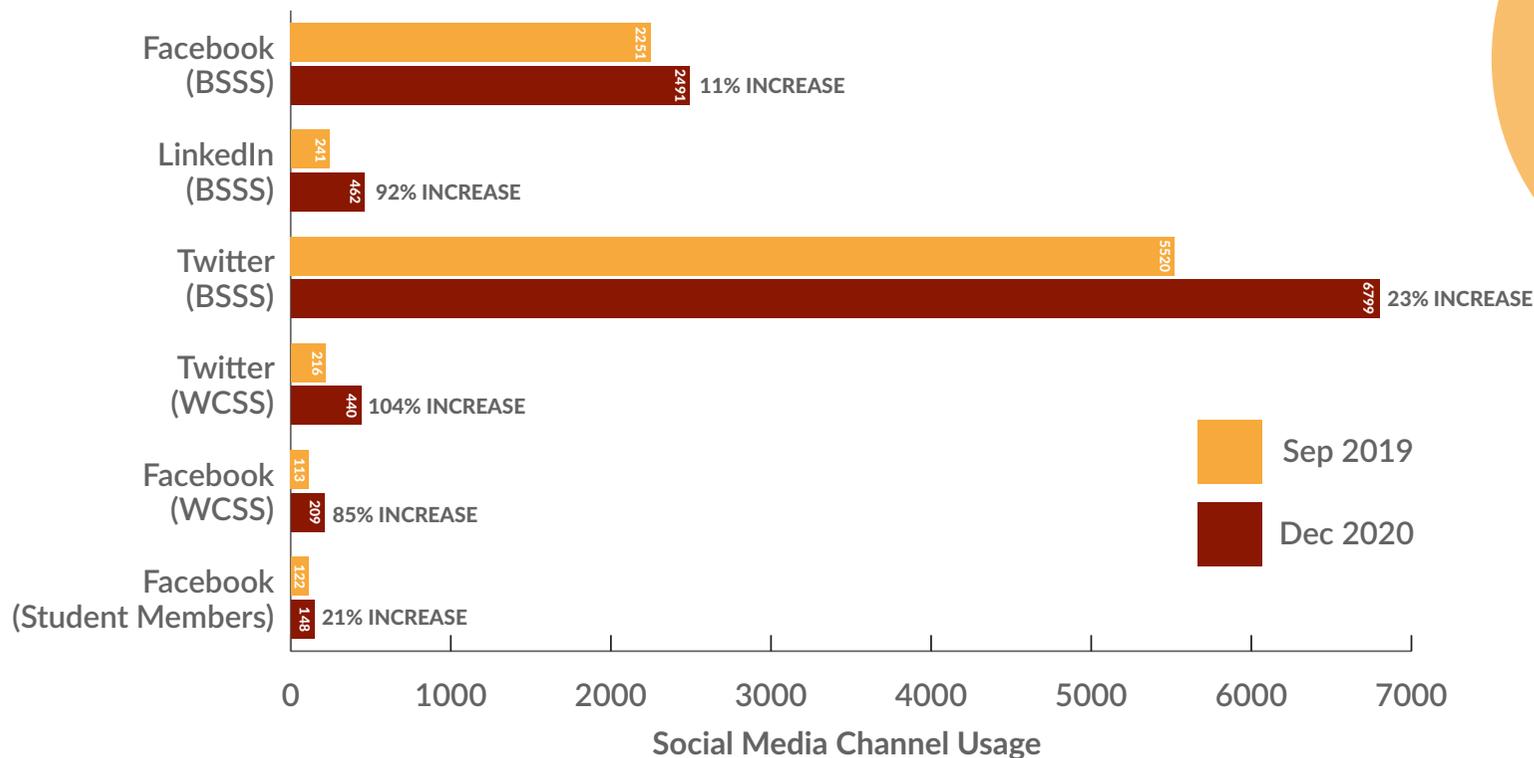
# Our Key Achievements in 2020

- » 493 people attended our three live Zoom into Soil webinars
- » Over 800 people had watched Zoom into Soil content online between July and December 2020
- » Support from famous faces Lizzie Daly, TV wildlife presenter, and Riverford Organics for our new video #Grounded which was viewed 450 times on YouTube over its launch weekend in December 2020
- » 5 new Society Fellowships were awarded this year
- » 1 new Honorary member – Professor Bernard Tinker
- » 47 Chartered Scientists – compared to 44 in 2019
- » Increase in usage across our social media channels

## BSSS WEBSITE USAGE

33,087  
SEP 2019

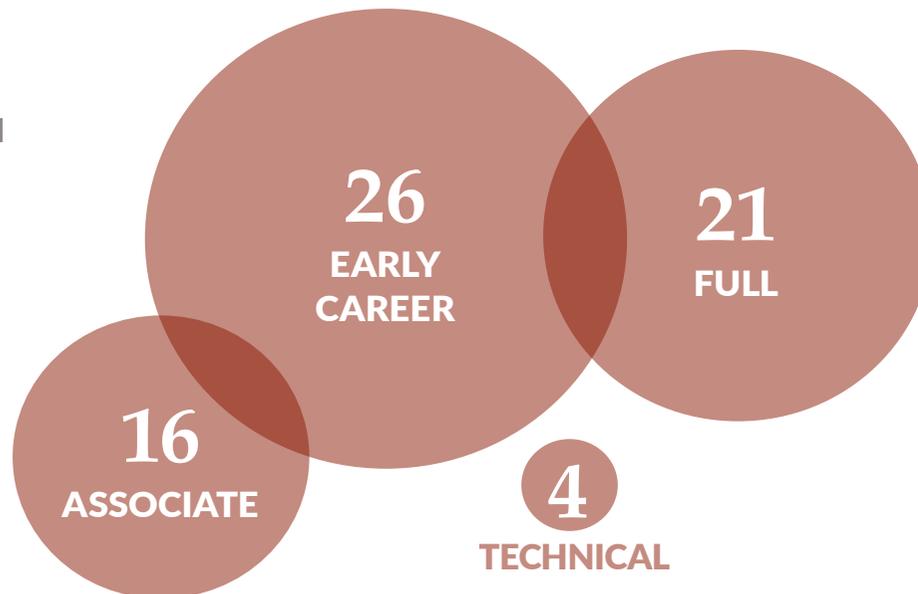
50,095  
DEC 2020  
51% INCREASE



At 31 December 2020,  
BSSS represented **776 members**  
in the following categories:



During 2020, BSSS welcomed  
**67 new members** in the  
following categories:



BSSS members stretch  
far and wide across the  
globe with members  
in 37 countries.

At the end of 2020, 69%  
of our members were  
male and 30% female  
with 1% preferring not to  
say. Amongst our Early  
Career members, we had  
an equal gender split of  
male and female members,  
with 2% preferring not  
to specify their gender.

# Seeking to publicise the key issues for the soil science community

## What we set out to achieve

We will raise the profile of the important soil issues via our two prestigious journals (European Journal of Soil Science and Soil Use & Management), our bi-annual member's newsletter (the Auger), our new website, an enhanced social media presence and by hosting regional, national and international conferences. We will actively engage with the media by responding quickly to enquiries, providing factsheets and policy notes ensuring we are acknowledged as the UK's leading authority on soil science.



## What we delivered:

- » Effective Twitter communications to promote our Journals with over 1,400 European Journal of Soil Science (EJSS) and 537 Soil Use and Management (SUM) followers
- » Received an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) for The Auger, preserving its future with issues being available to researchers via the British Library
- » Free access to both journals for all Society members
- » Published two issues of The Auger, our twice annual members' publication. The few issues we did print were using a net-carbon positive process
- » A number of virtual special issues including the cross-journal special, virtual issue, Opportunities and Challenges in No-Till Farming
- » Our Board members were featured in magazines and newspapers discussing soil health including the i newspaper and Scientia magazine.
- » Representation from EJSS and SUM authors Alexandre Wadoux and John Boardman at the Annual Conference 2020
- » Produced two new guidance notes, Assessing Agricultural Land Classification and Soil and Land Quality

At the time of writing, the 2020 Impact Factor had not been released. The 2019 Impact Factors were 3.742 for the European Journal of Soil Science (33% increase) and 1.690 for Soil Use and Management (14% decrease).

*We received an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) for The Auger, preserving its future with issues being available to researchers via the British Library*



## In 2021, we will:

- » Develop a strategy for the journals to comply with the emerging Open Access agenda
- » Ensure our journal authors are widely featured in The Auger and at our events
- » Ensure the impact of the grants we awarded are promoted via The Auger
- » Encourage corporate engagement with The Auger to ensure it provides all types of soil science news
- » Publish further guidance notes on topics to meet our members' needs.

## CASE STUDY

### Society for the Environment

Mike Palmer, Incoming Chair of the Professional Practice Committee, was nominated to join the Society for the Environment's Soils and Stones Task Group. Mike sat on the 'Healthy soils, natural capital and carbon management' sub-group and the group's Chair, Martin Ballard, Group Environment Manager at Willmott Dixon, presented the group's proposed 2021 Soil and Stones Report to the Society Annual Conference on Friday 4 December.

**SocEnv**  
Society for the Environment



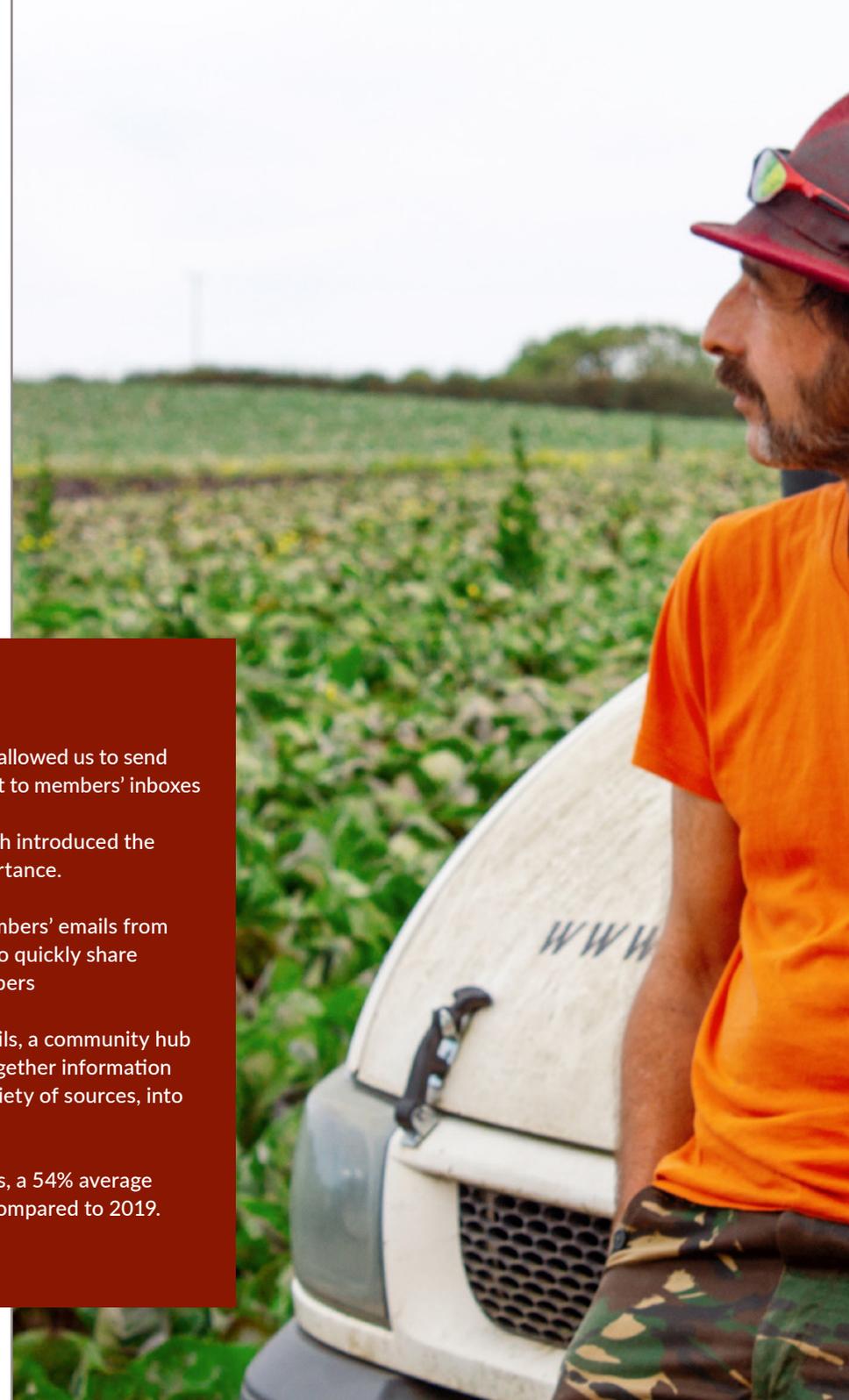
# Promoting change through knowledge exchange across all aspects of soil science

## What we set out to achieve:

We will seek to support knowledge exchange in soil science through targeted engagement with industry, policy makers, government and educators. We will promote soil science across a range of disciplines using our website, social media and newsletters, with reference to the appropriate scientific research published in our Journals. We will make the latest knowledge available to a wider community audience and provide a forum for debate and to develop new partnerships. We will also monitor government progress in developing new policies and ensure we feed into this process.

## What we delivered:

- » #Grounded, a video aimed at the general public to foster understanding of the importance of soil and the actions which we can all undertake to support soil
- » A Public Engagement Grant available exclusively to members to promote soil science
- » A new website which included:
  - » A detailed individual profile, giving our members the ability to update their details and make online payments
  - » Find an Expert – an updated tool to allow the public the ability to contact an expert for their soil-related queries
  - » Online event booking and payment
  - » Ability to apply for a grant or award, directly from the website
- » An integrated email system which allowed us to send professional looking emails straight to members' inboxes
- » Frequently Asked Questions which introduced the general public to soil and its importance.
- » Increased the frequency of our members' emails from monthly to fortnightly, to allow us to quickly share relevant information with our members
- » Support for the new initiative, uksoils, a community hub for all things soil. The hub brings together information and educational material from a variety of sources, into one central space for soil
- » Growth in our social media channels, a 54% average increase across all channels when compared to 2019.





## In 2021, we will:

- » Develop further content to support the #Grounded series and introduce different aspects of soil health to the general public
- » Provide additional content on our website including educational resources and an introduction to the wide-range of careers available working with soil
- » Prepare for COP 26. We recognise the significance of the conference and the impact which any policy decisions will have for the world around us. We will work with the Science Council to demonstrate a strong, scientific community response to climate change challenges
- » Retain our membership of other professional and scientific associations which will allow us to have a strong voice in policy debate. This includes the International Union of Soil Science, Science Council, Parliamentary and Scientific Committee and the Royal Society of Biology.



## CASE STUDY

### #Grounded

Our short video, #Grounded, was developed with young people and the climate conscious in mind. Many do not realise that soil stores more carbon than all of the world's vegetation and forests combined. Developed with Earth Minutes, an environmental communications agency, the video highlights the impact which soil has on the world around us: the challenges which farmers face due to poor soil management, the impact of flooding, erosion and biodiversity. The video featured TV wildlife presenter Lizzie Daly, social media influencer Tolga Aktas and Ed Shaw, Assistant Harvest Manager at Riverford Organics, alongside respected soil scientist Jane Rickson and Natalia Falagan, a food scientist.

The video will be used to promote the importance of soil to the general public and support our communications in the run up to COP 26 in Glasgow and the World Congress of Soil Science, 2022.

# Hosting conferences and meetings focused on soils

## What we set out to achieve

We aim to grow participation in our regional and annual meetings. We will act to develop communication pathways with a wide range of stakeholders and use our meetings to foster debate in the latest scientific and practical issues in soil science. Working with the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and other international societies, we are committed to delivering the best possible World Congress of Soil Science in Glasgow in 2022 and ensuring this provides a comprehensive legacy for the Society and its members.

## We delivered:

- » Three Zoom into Soil sessions on Nutrient Efficiency, Erosion and Zero Tillage, and made content available on our YouTube channel after the events
- » A half-day, virtual online Annual Conference, exclusively for members, including presentations from academics and those working with soil in practice
- » A mapping exercise to understand our current and future stakeholders
- » Delivered the IUSS Inter Congress (see page 14)
- » Continued to plan the World Congress of Soil Science 2022 (see page 15).

## In 2021, we will:

- » Extend the Zoom into Soil series with free, monthly events including sessions highlighting the latest research from our journals, the European Journal of Soil Science and Soil Use and Management
- » Deliver virtual events from our Regional Groups, offering an opportunity to share local knowledge and network with colleagues from the same region
- » Offer a face-to-face, two-day Annual Conference and Gala Dinner in September in Glasgow (Covid restrictions dependent)
- » Send quarterly emails to our stakeholders and donors, to raise the profile of the Society and highlight our achievements over the previous quarter.



*We will act to develop communication pathways with a wide range of stakeholders and use our meetings to foster debate in the latest scientific and practical issues in soil science.*



## CASE STUDY

### Zoom into Soil

As our events couldn't be delivered face-to-face, we took the opportunity to launch Zoom into Soil, a monthly lunchtime webinar series, highlighting the latest research in a specific soil-related topic. The events featured one scientist presenting the latest research in a discipline and one non-scientist setting out how they had implemented research in their day-to-day practice.

The webinars demonstrate our members' strengths and expertise: providing a platform for both established and early career researchers, whilst highlighting the Society's breadth and depth of experience.

With videos available free of charge post-event on our YouTube channel, the webinars are a key demonstrator of how we are achieving our charitable aims; they are providing a lasting legacy for future researchers, scientists and practitioners.

## CASE STUDY

### IUSS Inter Congress

In November, the Society delivered a successful four-day virtual conference alongside the International Union of Soil Scientists (IUSS). The inter congress usually takes place in the host city of the upcoming World Congress of Soil Science and in 2020, this should have been Glasgow. Due to the pandemic, we worked with IUSS member and our Congress Organiser Speakeasy to deliver a four-day event, with member delegates from over 40 countries in attendance.

The event included an update on the planning for the World Congress in Glasgow and we produced two videos showcasing the best that Glasgow and Scotland have to offer.



# World Congress of Soil Science

The World Congress of Soil Science 2022 (WCSS 22) is a leading international soil science conference, held every four years in different countries and attended by over 3,000 soil scientists from around the globe. The next Congress is being organised by the British Society of Soil Science on behalf of the International Union of Soil Sciences.

The Congress theme, 'Soil Science – crossing boundaries, changing society' will focus on the link between soil and society, with sessions covering soil systems, soil processes, soil management and how we interact with and use soils around the world. There will be opportunities for specialist workshops and discussion sessions across a wide range of soil disciplines. The core programme is supported by tours and a cultural and arts programme for delegates and the wider public to explore our diverse environment and culture.

We aim to deliver the best possible World Congress of Soil Science in Glasgow in 2022 and ensure this provides a comprehensive legacy for the Society and its members.

However we appreciate that this may mean that the Congress is very different to the ones which have gone before and we will consider how the Congress can remain inclusive and represent diverse nations and disciplines.

In 2020, we registered a separate legal entity and charity, World Congress of Soil Science 2022, which will take responsibility for the delivery of the Congress.

In 2021, we will issue programme and abstract submission details and launch opportunities to support the Congress and its accompanying arts and tours programme.



# Supporting and encouraging the education of soil science

## What we set out to achieve:

We will support the education of soil science across a wide range of individuals and age groups. We will provide information and resources to teachers, farmers, agronomists, growers, industry and land managers and the public via grants, outreach events, training courses and teaching materials.

## We delivered:

- » Our response to the OCR Natural History consultation, which focused on the importance of soil knowledge for understanding various aspects of natural history education and its importance for many occupations
- » A presentation at the Making Natural History festival, organised by Lord Lucas. Our presentation on 10 November introduced the importance of soil to teachers and other interested parties
- » The Great Worm Hunt resource to support teachers, students and home educators in assessing the range and type of earthworms in their gardens
- » Support to the virtual LEAF Open Farm Sunday event on 20 September, highlighting the important link between good soil health, farming and food production
- » Promotion of the scientific work of our members across our social media channels, alongside soil-focused articles and documentaries aimed at the general public from well-known bodies such as National Geographic and Netflix
- » Promotion of the UN-organised World Soil Day on 5 December and coordinated the launch of our new website, Public Engagement Grant and #Grounded video to coincide.

## In 2021, we will:

- » Work with Awarding Bodies including OCR to influence plans for the proposed Natural History GCSE and with City & Guilds via its Employer and Industry Board for land-based industries
- » Continue to support LEAF with its Open Farm Sunday events, both virtually and face-to-face where possible
- » Government restrictions dependent, attend external events including Groundswell and Contamination Expo to raise the profile of soil science as a discipline
- » Review our existing educational resources and update these where required.





## CASE STUDY

### Review of Educational Materials

In mid-2020, the Society commissioned a review and curation of existing soils educational material for school-aged children. ADAS was awarded the tender and in early 2021 will set out the materials it recommends the Society promotes to children and teachers, along with gaps in soil teaching across the UK curricula, which will influence the Society's future work with awarding bodies across the four nations.

# Inspiring the future generations of soil scientists

## What we set out to achieve:

We will continue to support the development of early career members working in soil science. We will fund a biennial conference dedicated to (EC) and give them prominence at our Society Annual meeting. Through our education committee, we will support teachers and engage in community projects to inspire the next generation of soil scientists.

In 2020, we began planning the (EC) Conference 2021, continued to offer conference travel grants and expanded our grant portfolio to include a Public Engagement Grant. We also demonstrated the outcomes from our grant support, by using case studies on our website to showcase how the money had been spent in meeting our charitable aims.

As the grants we offer are primarily to support face-to-face education or training, we were unable to offer as many grants in 2020 as we usually would. We have made a commitment to review the terms of our grants in 2021 to ensure they remain accessible to our members, particularly as virtual event attendance becomes the new norm.



*We have made a commitment to review the terms of our grants in 2021 to ensure they remain accessible to our members, particularly as virtual event attendance becomes the new norm.*

## CASE STUDY

### 2020 Award Winners

We sponsor a number of awards within academic institutions and despite Covid-19 meaning some of these awards weren't presented in 2020, we were delighted to present five awards:

- » Ecem Asma, Harper Adams University  
**Masters Award**
- » Annabel Landless, Royal Agricultural University  
**Best Student in Soil Science**
- » Geoff Lovett, University of Reading  
**MSc Dissertation Award**
- » Timo Makower, Lancaster University  
**Undergraduate Award**
- » James Willis, Harper Adams University  
**Undergraduate Award**

Each Award winner received a free, two-year Early Career membership of the Society, enabling them to attend the bi-ennial Early Career Conference in 2021.

We were also pleased to agree a new award with Cranfield University for students within the MSc Environmental Engineering programme. The Award, the British Society of Soil Scientist Award for the Most Promising Soil Scientist will be awarded in 2021, retrospectively to a member of the 2019/20 cohort.



# Ensuring high standards of professional practice for those working with soils

## What we set out to achieve

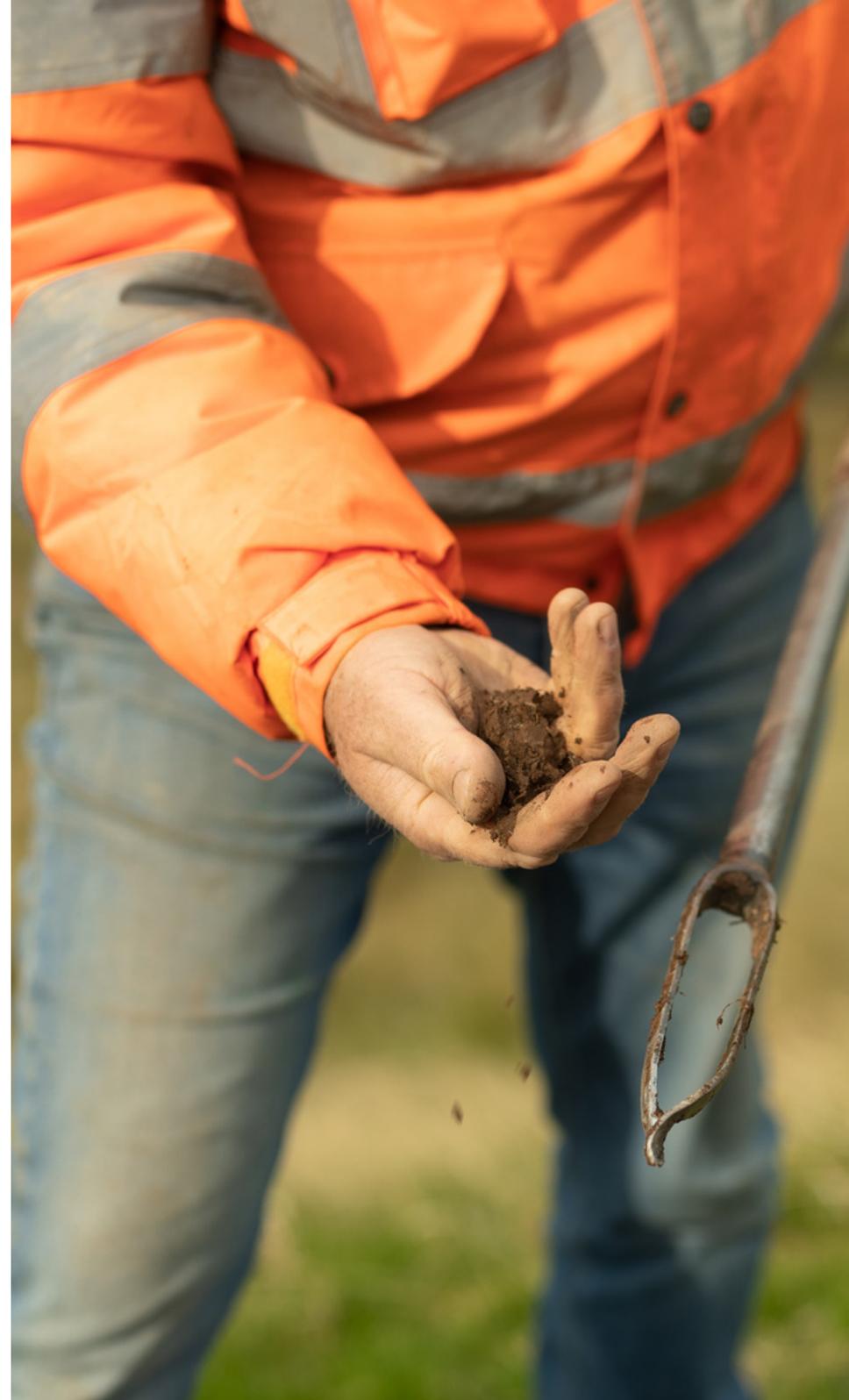
We will provide dedicated training courses such as our Working with Soils series, as well as industry focused events in support of Continued Professional Development, providing high professional standards and assisting with maintaining Chartered Scientist registration.

### We delivered:

- » Reviewed 25 new membership applications and 2 new Science Council registrations
- » An annual review of Chartered Scientist members' CPD, all of which met the standards required by the Science Council
- » A strong working relationship with the Science Council
- » An updated membership application process via our website: making it easier for potential members to submit their application and pay for their membership
- » Provided members and potential members with more choice on how to record their gender. We have committed to use this data confidentially, to help us make the Society an inclusive environment for current and future members.

### In 2021, we will:

- » Continue to work with the Science Council, supporting the Employer Champion programme, highlighting the benefits of Chartered Scientist registration and working with them to review our members' CPD
- » Review how our Working with Soils and Agricultural Land Classification courses are delivered
- » Ensure our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy is embedded into our membership and renewal processes.



# Leading on the social and environmental responsibilities of a contemporary society

## What we set out to achieve:

We will provide leadership in the areas concerning the socio-economic responsibilities of a modern Society. We will ensure all members have equality of opportunity, irrespective of age, race, disability, sex, religion or other protected characteristics. We will ensure our activities are planned with issues of equality, inclusion and diversity at the forefront of all decision making and that we act environmental responsible and achieve carbon neutrality where possible.

## We delivered:

- » Updated Terms of Reference for our Regional Groups and World Congress of Soil Science Working Group
- » Agreed four new policies: Environmental, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, Ethics and Procurement. The policies outline our commitment to operate a fair, sustainable and ethical workplace for our staff and volunteers, and where our members feel included and supported, however they choose to engage with the Society
- » A virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) which had the largest attendance of any AGM in our history.

## In 2021, we will:

- » Update the Terms of Reference for our Council and all other committees
- » Ensure our approved policies are implemented into the working practices for all committees. For example, ensuring we deliver diverse presenter representation at our meetings, events and in our journals and that good governance is maintained for our membership and grants and awards processes
- » Update our Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures
- » Work to understand and reduce the Society's carbon impact.

## CASE STUDY

### Virtual Annual General Meeting

Members turned out in record numbers to support the Society's first ever virtual AGM. Almost 100 delegates attended the meeting in person, which saw Dr. Jack Hannam elected as President Elect and Dr Lynda Deeks elected Chair of the South West Soils Discussion Group. Members voted overwhelmingly in favour of electing Prof. Bernard Tinker an Honorary member of the Society.

# Financial review

## Investment performance

The Society has obtained banking and other interest from bank and building society accounts held amounting to £3,255 (2019 - £3,272).

The Society was also in receipt of distributions from its investment portfolio of £16,949 (2019 - £16,358), representing a 6.26% (2019 - 5.00%) return on capital invested into the fund at the beginning of the financial year.

The investment portfolio has suffered capital decline of £60,527 (2019 growth - £46,641), representing a decline 22.38% (2019 - gain 14.25%) return on capital invested into the fund at the beginning of the financial year.

## Financial position

The tangible fixed assets net book value of £282 (2019 - £376) remains comparable with the prior year.

The balance sheet position shows an increased net current assets position of £945,610 (2019 - £964,897), resulting from an decrease in the value of investments to £270,505 (2019 - £327,288), combined with an increase in cash at bank and in hand to £519,138 (2019 - £447,803) and a decrease of debtors to £198 (2019 - £782).

Creditors due within one year as at the balance sheet date have increased to £128,691 (2019 - £63,931) due to an increase in accruals to £101,488 (2019 - £31,415).

At the year end the Society has freely available current reserves of £957,619 (2019 - £951,817) which excludes tangible fixed assets of £282

(2019 - £376). Given the Society's current levels of expenditure of £312,345 (2019 - £340,398) this would allow for approximately 37 months (2019 - 33 months) of continuing operations without further freely available reserves becoming available.

As at the year end the Society had unrestricted funds totalling £957,901 (2019 - £952,193) and restricted funds totalling £12,615 (2019 - £13,080) as detailed further in the notes to the financial statements. The total funds of the Society has increased to £970,516 (2019 - £965,273).

As noted in the reserves policy, these reserves are being held to support the Society when hosting the World Congress of Soil Science in 2022.





# Financial review

## Principal funding sources

The Society's principal funding sources continue to be income received in respect of publications produced, membership subscriptions, admission fees to meetings and conferences, fees for the provision of training courses, and the supplementary investment income, which the trustees note will help to facilitate the hosting of the World Congress of Soil Science in 2022.

Total incoming resources in the financial year amounted to £317,588 (2019 - £439,187). The decrease in the year is a result of the share revaluation loss amounting to £60,527 (2019 gain - £46,641).

The net incoming resources for the year amounted to £5,243 (2019 - £98,789), of which loss of £465 (2019 - £478 profit) relates to restricted funds.

The Society's membership subscription income of £36,108 (2019 - £34,739) has maintained consistent with prior years.

Total incoming resources from donations and legacies has decreased to £36,598 (2019 - £36,811) as a result of decreased donations to the Brian Chambers Soil Fund, which amounted to £490 (2019 - £2,072) in the year.

# Financial review

## Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>				
Donations and legacies	36,108	490	36,598	36,811
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Publications	320,878	-	320,878	313,576
Meetings and conferences	424	-	424	15,807
Training courses	-	-	-	6,680
Other trading activities	11	-	11	42
Investment income	(40,368)	45	(40,323)	66,271
<b>Total</b>	<b>317,053</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>317,588</b>	<b>439,187</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>				
Raising funds	8,140	-	8,140	7,075
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Membership and subscriptions	103,223	-	103,223	99,506
Publications	86,694	-	86,694	112,859
Meetings and conferences	64,623	-	64,623	103,601
Training courses	3,992	-	3,992	5,258
Provision of grants	44,673	1,000	45,673	12,099
<b>Total</b>	<b>311,345</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>312,345</b>	<b>340,398</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	<b>5,708</b>	<b>(465)</b>	<b>5,243</b>	<b>98,789</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
Total funds brought forward	952,193	13,080	965,273	866,484
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>957,901</b>	<b>12,615</b>	<b>970,516</b>	<b>965,273</b>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 7 September 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

*Dr D B Lascelles* – Trustee

# Financial review

## Balance Sheet

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2020 Total funds	2019 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Intangible assets	24,624	-	24,624	-
Tangible assets	282	-	282	376
	<u>24,906</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,906</u>	<u>376</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	198	-	198	-
Investments	270,505	-	270,505	327,288
Prepayments and accrued income	284,460	-	284,460	252,955
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>506,523</u>	<u>12,615</u>	<u>519,138</u>	<u>447,803</u>
	1,061,686	12,615	1,074,301	1,028,828
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year	(128,691)	-	(128,691)	(63,931)
	<u>932,995</u>	<u>12,615</u>	<u>945,610</u>	<u>964,897</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
	932,995	12,615	945,610	964,897
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	957,901	12,615	970,516	965,273
	<u>957,901</u>	<u>12,615</u>	<u>970,516</u>	<u>965,273</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>				
	<u>957,901</u>	<u>12,615</u>	<u>970,516</u>	<u>965,273</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds			957,901	952,193
Restricted funds			<u>12,615</u>	<u>13,080</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>970,516</u>	<u>965,273</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

# About us

The British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) was founded in 1947 and is an established international membership organisation and charity committed to the study of soil in its widest aspects. The society brings together those working within academia, practitioners implementing soil science in industry and all those working with, or with an interest in soils.

Research on soils and enhanced understanding and engagement with soils is essential for agricultural, landscaping, construction, remediation, conservation and archaeological projects, as well as policy direction on critical topics such as climate change.

We promote research and education, both academically and in practice, and build collaborative partnerships to help safeguard our soil for the future. This includes hosting the World Congress of Soil Science 2022 in Glasgow, where those with an interest in soil science can meet

to discuss the critical global issues relating to soil including; managing soils sustainably, preserving its ecosystem, and mitigating against climate change.

Anyone with an interest in soil is welcome to become a member and attend our conferences and webinars, receive complimentary access to our two scientific journals, the European Journal of Soil Science and Soil Use and Management and a host of other benefits.

## Join us on social media:



@BritishSoilScience  
@soilunderfoot  
@WCSS2022



@Soil\_Science  
@WorldSoils2022  
@ECSoil\_Sci



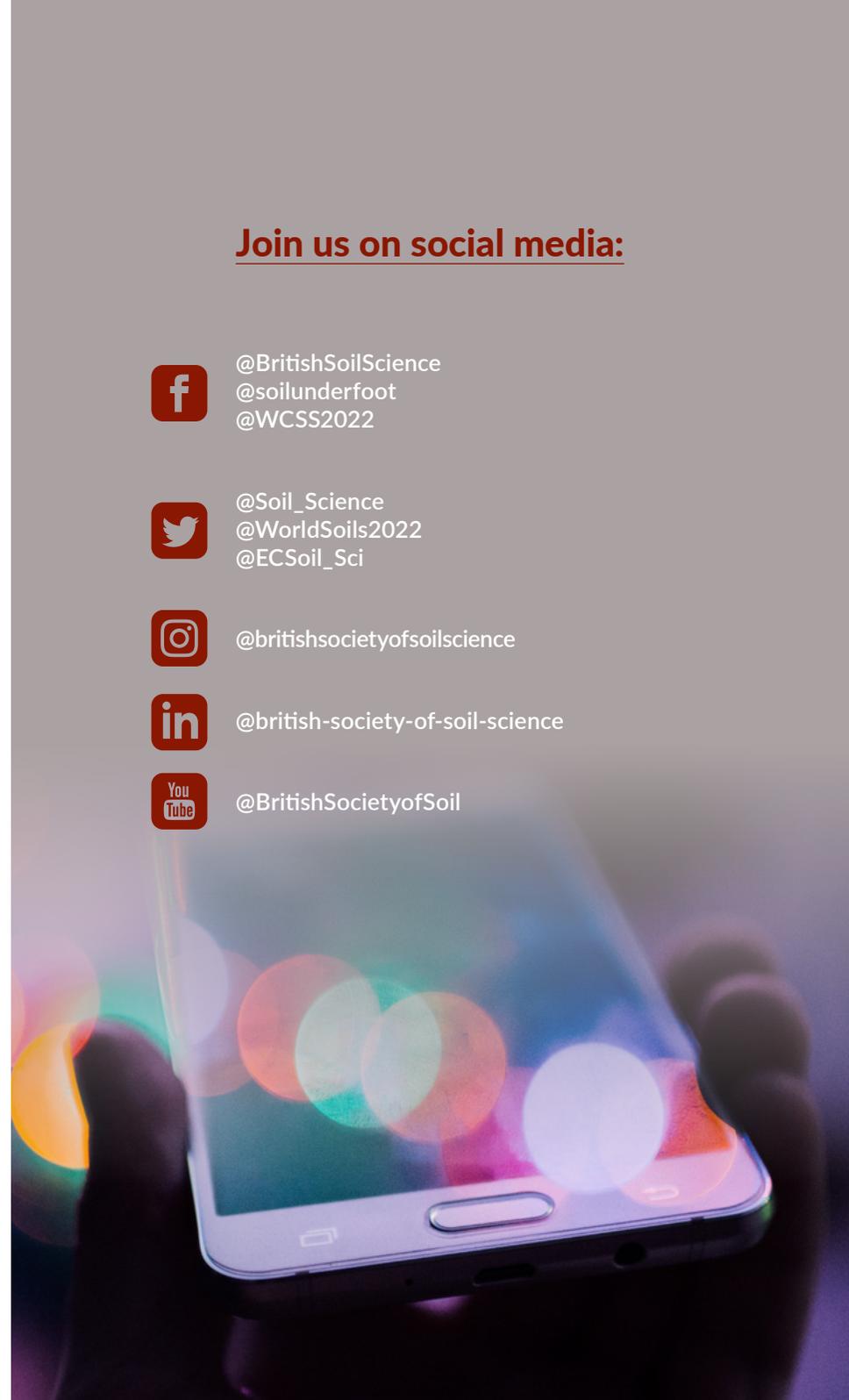
@britishsocietyofsoilscience



@british-society-of-soil-science



@BritishSocietyofSoil



# Our people

## Our Trustees

**Sacha Mooney**  
President 2019/20

**Wilfred Otten**  
Past President

**Bruce Lascelles**  
Incoming President 2021/22

**Tom Aspray**  
Professional Practice Committee Trustee

**Anna Becvar**  
Finance Trustee

**David Hopkins**  
Governance Trustee

## Our Council – 2020

**Sacha Mooney**  
Trustee and Chair

**Tom Aspray**  
Trustee

**Anna Becvar**  
Trustee

**Sarah Buckingham**  
Scottish Soil Discussion  
Group Chair

**Robert Cochrane**  
Ordinary Council Member

**Lynda Deeks**  
South West Soil Discussion  
Group Chair

**Jenni Dungait**  
Editor, European Journal of  
Soil Science

**Dan Evans**  
Early Careers Chair

**Leila Froud**  
South East England Soil  
Discussion Group Chair

**Sarah Garry**  
Executive Officer

**Jack Hannam**  
Education Committee Chair

**David Hopkins**  
Trustee

**Deyi Hou**  
Editor, Soil Use and Management

## Our Executive Office

**Sarah Garry**  
Executive Officer

**Natalie Coles**  
Senior Administrative Assistant

**Lynne Boshier**  
Membership and Events Officer (until 30 June 2020)

**Judith Simpkins**  
Accounts Technician (until 30 June 2020)

**Kim Spooner**  
Administrator (until 31 January 2020)

**Bruce Lascelles**  
Trustee

**Manoj Menon**  
Northern Soil Network Chair

**Wilfred Otten**  
Trustee

**Xavier Portell-Canal**  
Ordinary Council Member

**Eleanor Reed**  
Ordinary Council Member

**Ian Rugg**  
Welsh Soil Discussion Group

**Andy Tye**  
Midlands Soil Discussion  
Group Chair

## Our Committees

Our committees are led and managed by our volunteers who deliver the strategy of the Society through the groups. Thank you to all of our volunteers who gave their time to our various committees in 2020.

The Chair of each Committee is also a member of the Society Council.

**Early Careers Committee**  
Chair: Daniel Evans (until October 2020), Daniel Wardak (November onwards)

**Education Committee**  
Chair: Jack Hannam

**Grants and Awards Committee**  
Chair: Bruce Lascelles

**Professional Practice Committee**  
Chair: Tom Aspray

**Publications Committee**  
Chair: Wilfred Otten

**World Congress of Soil Science  
2022 Working Group**  
Chair: Bruce Lascelles

## Our Regional Groups

We operate six Regional Groups and each of the Chairs is also a member of the BSSS Council and implements the Society's strategy, regionally.

**Midlands Soil Discussion Group**  
Chair: Andy Tye

**Northern Soil Network**  
Chair: Manoj Menon

**Scottish Soil Discussion Group**  
Chair: Sarah Buckingham

**South East England Regional  
Group (SEESOIL)**  
Interim Chair: Leila Froud  
(from September 2020)

**South West Soils Discussion Group  
(SWSDG)**  
Chair: Leila Froud  
(until September 2020)

Chair: Lynda Deeks  
(from September 2020)

**Welsh Soil Discussion Group**  
Chair: Ian Rugg (until December 2020)



**BRITISH  
SOCIETY  
OF SOIL  
SCIENCE**

## Contact us

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