



## President's Report for 2021

Happily, as we move towards the summer of 2022, we are able to contemplate a return to normality, or something close; a post-Covid future without the worst of the challenges and frustrations of the last couple of years. A future where we can once again come together as a community, sharing the core values of this Society, namely to celebrate Jersey's rural heritage and showcase the richness of its local produce.

I am very pleased to report that the Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society has remained resilient throughout this miserable period and emerges well positioned to continue meeting the needs of its members and the people of Jersey - by the provision of high quality services and excellent facilities for events at the Royal Jersey Showground. In short, to maintain its position as the natural home and beating heart that underpins Jersey's unique rural character and traditional values. A home that always has its doors open to its members and the public of Jersey alike.

In many ways the pandemic brought out the best in our Society. Our staff responded wonderfully, the different sections rising to meet every challenge that was thrown at them. An empty events calendar at the Royal Jersey Showground was seized on as an opportunity to carry out vital maintenance work, as well as making major improvements to the infrastructure of the facilities. We are grateful to the Government of Jersey's Fiscal Stimulus Fund for the financial support the Society has received to enable this investment to take place. Amongst other improvements, users of the Showground arena will enjoy greater comfort due to the new air conditioning system and better wifi coverage.

During the year the Society continued to carry out essential Herd Book functions to support the integrity of the Jersey breed on the island. It also continued to provide contracted services on behalf of government to assist the rural economy. These responsibilities come under the remit of the Dairy Services team which was delighted to be joined by Mariano Fernandes, on a permanent basis, in the role of milk recorder. He takes over this position from Jacey Copple who, now a mum, has decided to step down from that role. We offer Jacey and Steve our congratulations on the birth of young Aisling and thank Jacey for her excellent service as milk recorder.

The various committees, which make this Society tick, were glad to begin meeting in person once again – although it has to be said that Zoom proved to be a very useful stopgap. And, after missing a year, we were able to conduct the AGM with real people in the room! Speaking personally, it was an honour and delight for me to be appointed for a second term as President. After the usual AGM business had been transacted, the occasion was marked by a special presentation of a silver milk can to James Godfrey, a well deserved award in recognition of James' 25 years of truly outstanding service to this organisation. The meeting also conferred Honorary Life Membership on Steve Le Feuvre, acknowledging the significant contribution he has made over many years, and continues to make. Not only is Steve a

hugely keen and successful exhibitor but, as Treasurer of the Agriculture Department, his experience and judgement are invaluable to the Officer team.

2021 saw our “Dairy for Development” team (or “D4D”) make good progress in its important work as the delivery arm of Jersey Overseas Aid (JOA) projects, mainly in Africa, harnessing the advantages of the Jersey when used in cross-breeding programmes with the country’s indigenous cattle. Despite David Hambrook and Sam Thomson not being able to travel off island to monitor the various projects this was a busy and exciting year for the D4D team. Of particular note was the very successful African Jersey Forum (“AJF”) online conference held last November, based jointly in Jersey and Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, which attracted over one thousand virtual attendees over the two days of the conference. Sharing knowledge and best practice to a wide audience, the conference was able to demonstrate measurable positive outcomes arising from these projects. These were backed up by moving testimonials from smallholder farmers whose families have benefitted directly from the JOA / D4D partnership. With a growing workload, which included scoping new projects, in Africa and also Asia, the D4D team was pleased to enlist the help of Louise Agnes (former Horticulture Secretary) who made a welcome return to the office.

It was an immense joy to be able to hold our country shows once again! Despite the success of our virtual and online events, the welcome return of the Summer Flower Show, held at the earliest opportunity last August, signalled a move back towards normality. This was followed by the Autumn Fair in October – and what a showpiece event it was, undoubtedly the highlight of the Society’s year. It was great to see beautiful cattle once again gracing the Showground. An eager public turned out in great numbers to marvel at these, and the magnificent floral and horticultural displays and impressive entries of prize vegetables, cakes and so much more. No Covid after-effects evident there, if anything the enforced suspension had only served to reinvigorate member participation and public engagement. And as I write, hot on the heels of the 2022 Spring Flower Show, the first for two years, the feel-good atmosphere of that event still lingers in the air. It too was a great success, showcasing as it did the very best the island has to offer in springtime.

I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who helps make our shows such a success, for indeed it needs a super team effort to put them on. Thanks to the exhibitors of course, who continue to bring out top class entries in all sections. But I must not overlook the dynamic team of committee members and the wonderful band of volunteers who willingly pitch in and share the workload, before, during and after the event. Without their ongoing commitment we would see the shows fall into decline – whereas they are actually growing and getting better every year.

This year sees the Platinum Jubilee of our Patron, HM Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty has always taken a keen interest in the work of this Society and of course we had the honour of having Her officially open the Showground in 2001. To mark this important Anniversary the Society planted an English Oak tree at the Showground in April. Later in the year we are planning to add to this a planted area of 70 trees, on the slope towards the southern part of the Showground, to mark the 70 years of Her reign. We hope this will form part of the Queen’s Green Canopy project and members will be invited to participate.

An undoubted strength of the Society is our excellent team of staff, so ably led by James Godfrey. With such a varied and busy workload it is a credit to the team at the Showground office that they achieve this in such an effective way, while at the same time keeping our headquarters and the facilities at Trinity so pristine and welcoming. I have mentioned some

during this report but space does not allow me to mention them all, suffice to say that everyone makes a valuable contribution and is only too happy to support one at busy times.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to my fellow officers, the Council and all committee members for their valued support and continued commitment to our Society. As I have said before, we are fortunate in having people of such ability and experience offering their time and input, as the Society moves forward in line with its guiding principles, upholding Jersey's core values and rural traditions.

Robert Perchard  
President

## Report of the Council for 2021

The Council has overall responsibility for the policy of the Society and co-ordination of the work of the two departments. This includes specific responsibility for finances, employment and real estate as well as membership and the RJA&HS Trust Fund.

The Annual General Meeting was eventually held in July 2021 as soon as COVID-19 restrictions permitted the gathering of members for an 'in person' event and a series of rule changes were introduced to enable the Society to undertake business 'virtually' should the need arise again. The year was characterised by the lifting of restrictions and the re-starting of events. The enthusiasm of members to stage shows and observe prime specimens of the Jersey breed on display once again was evident by the popularity of the shows programme which goes from strength to strength.

The activities of the Agricultural & Horticultural departments are described in more detail in their respective departmental reports. In the Agricultural Department it is impressive to note the continuing improvement of the Jersey breed resulting from the ongoing efforts and investment by cattle breeders, and also how the positive attributes of the breed continue to contribute globally as the Dairy for Development team expand their work. In the Horticultural Department the growth of interest is evident by the increasing popularity of the shows and competitions programme.

### Terms of Office:

The following list details the Officers and committee members together with their term of office, noting that office is assumed at the AGM in the first year of the term and held until the AGM following the last year of the term. Those highlighted in bold are therefore completing their term of office at the AGM in 2022.

Council	Responsibilities	Term of Office (COVID extended by 1 year)	Attendance
R Perchard *+~	President	2021 - 2023	2 of 3 meetings
R Leith *~	Vice President	2019-2021 (2022)	2 of 3 meetings
M Preisig *~	Vice President	2019-2021 (2022)	3 of 3 meetings
S Le Feuvre *+~	Treasurer (Ag)	2021 - 2023	2 of 3 meetings
J Neil *+~	Treasurer (Hort)	2019-2021 (2022)	2 of 3 meetings
<b>D Leng</b>		<b>2018-2020 (2021)</b>	<b>2 of 3 meetings</b>
R Houzé		2019-2021 (2022)	0 of 3 meetings
K Roberts		2021-2023	3 of 3 meetings

\* Members of Officers Committee.

+ Members of Finance Sub-committee. Peter Williams is a co-opted member of the Finance Committee

~ Members of Employment Sub-committee.

Agricultural General Committee	Responsibilities	Term of Office (COVID extended by 1 year)	Attendance
R Perchard	President		2 of 2 meetings
R Leith	Chairman		2 of 2 meetings
S Le Feuvre	Treasurer		2 of 2 meetings
<b>Sarah Le Feuvre</b>		<b>2018-2020 (2021)</b>	<b>2 of 2 meetings</b>
J McMullon		2019-2021 (2022)	2 of 2 meetings
T Perchard		2019-2021 (2022)	1 of 2 meetings
C Le Boutillier		2021 - 2023	0 of 2 meetings
L Agnes		2021 - 2023	2 of 2 meetings
D Leng	Co-opted from Council		
R Houzé	Co-opted from Council		

Horticultural General Committee	Responsibilities	Term of Office (COVID extended by 1 year)	Attendance
R Perchard	President		3 of 8 meetings
M Preisig	Chairman		8 of 8 meetings
J Neil	Treasurer		4 of 8 meetings
<b>S Falle</b>		<b>2018-2020 (2021)</b>	<b>8 of 8 meetings</b>
<b>G Queree</b>		<b>2018-2020 (2021)</b>	<b>8 of 8 meetings</b>
C de la Haye		2019-2021 (2022)	7 of 8 meetings
T Robinson		2019-2021 (2022)	5 of 8 meetings
Jennifer Rendell		2021 - 2023	7 of 8 meetings
Kevin Roberts	Co-opted from Council		

### Strategy Working Group – Cultivate Programme:

This sub-committee, led by the President, includes Martin Preisig, Steve Le Feuvre, Jennifer Ellenger and Becky Houzé has remained largely ‘stood down’ as the pandemic prevented development of large events involving schools during 2020 and 2021. The start of 2022 was equally uncertain in terms of restrictions in force and the need for schools to catch up on lost curriculum time.

In light of these difficulties, the Cultivate Programme, driven by Jess McGovern, has rotated to deliver series of smaller career focus events for young people including support with establishing horticultural apprentices. Jess is now preparing a thorough investigation into the demand for, and provision of, training in agriculture & horticulture. This will be developed into a series of recommendations, the development of which the Society will seek engagement with a broad range of interested parties in the island in order that an agreed strategy can be developed.

The original aims of the group were drawn from the ‘think tank’ process in 2018, at which members indicated they would like to see the Society focus on four main themes; *update the Society’s image* (inc. promotion, new media etc), *develop Society activities* (inc. shows, events etc), *increase membership* (inc. benefits, new members etc) and *establish an education programme* (inc. schools, adult etc.).

**Finance Sub-committee:**

This Sub-committee, led by the President, includes Steve Le Feuvre, Jeremy Neil with Peter Williams co-opted for his long experience with the investment of the Society assets.

The main investment portfolio, managed by Rathbones, returned some 9% which is retained within the portfolio.

The Committee met, mostly as the Officer Team, to review Society finances. Budgets and forecasts were monitored regularly with special attention paid to the Fiscal Stimulus Fund award.

The Society was awarded a grant of £495,000 from the Fiscal Stimulus Fund to undertake a programme of significant refurbishment at the Showground, which covered four main areas;

- Establishment of a new catering facility in the event support building attached to the two exhibition halls to enable catering and serving for large banquets,
- Installation of an air handling system (ventilation, heating and cooling) in the main exhibition hall,
- Construction of a covered walkway along the southern side of the building to provide sheltered connection of the west hall to the front of the building and members room,
- Upgrading of various support services, including the broadband WIFI system and water saving services.

The project will be completed by April 2022 and will bring significant benefits to the users of the Showground. The financial results for 2021 are described in more detail in the Treasurers' Report which follows the Council Report.

**Employment Sub-committee:**

This Sub-committee, led by the President, includes Richard Leith, Martin Preisig, Steve Le Feuvre and Jeremy Neil. It met periodically during the year to consider a number of staff employment matters.

Congratulations to Jacey Copple and her partner Steve, on the birth of their daughter Aisling. Jacey, although not returning full time as our main herd recorder, will be keeping in touch with the Society and undertaking various 'ad hoc' tasks in support of the Livestock Services team. Mariano Fernandes will be continuing as the main herd recorder, a role which he has taken on admirably.

Annual staff appraisals were undertaken, following external advice regarding employment terms, with the staff team being recognised as a highly motivated, professional and cohesive team working across a broad range of activities in support of the Society's objectives. The Committee records their sincere thanks to all the staff, on behalf of the membership, for their efforts and commitment during another extraordinary year.

**Real Estate:**

Day to day management of the Society's real estate portfolio is undertaken by the respective general committee to which the benefit of the real estate accrues.

**Representation:**

The Society maintains important links with Jersey breed associations and is a full member of both the World Jersey Cattle Bureau and the European Jersey Forum. In Jersey the Society is represented on the Action for Cleaner Water Group and regularly contributes to various government requests for consultation.

Of particular note during the year were the Bridging Island Plan, the Jersey Climate Conversation, and the tree strategy. The Society has enjoyed an excellent working

relationship with both the Jersey Milk Marketing Board and the Jersey Farmers Union in helping to promote interests of the agricultural industry.

### **Membership Report:**

Memberships	2017	2018	2019	2020	<b>2021</b>
Hon. Life Members	8	8	9	9	<b>9</b>
Full Members (inc Life & Patrons)	286	267	237	232	<b>223</b>
Joint Members (No.x2)	197	207	196	206	<b>226</b>
Junior Members	25	30	28	25	<b>36</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>493</b>

### **RJA&HS Trust Fund:**

Trustees, the Society Officers, are to consider how the fund is applied as part of a review of overall funding of activities to be prepared during 2022. The fund stands at some £115,000.

### **Thank you:**

The President held a drinks reception on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 for members who serve on Society committees, help out at shows or give their time in other voluntary roles. On this occasion members joined in planting an English Oak (*Quercus Robur*) in front of the Showground building to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM The Queen. Plans are also prepared to give all members the opportunity to plant one of 70 trees during the '22/'23 season to create a new woodland area at the southern end of the Showground as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project.

**James Godfrey**

**Chief Executive & Secretary**

## Treasurers' Report 2021

Overall, a very positive and encouraging financial situation for 2021 with all areas of the Society's income generating streams showing strong results. The Society remains in a secure financial position, but as members would quite rightly expect, we do not sit on our laurels, and constant updates of budgets and spending plans take place at both general committee and Council levels.

Budgeting during the Covid-19 pandemic has been extremely difficult, especially with the constantly changing restrictions on the use of our headquarter facilities which has been a reliable and important source of income in the past. However, with sensible financial planning and a cautious approach to spending we have navigated our way through the 2021 financial year, and this has resulted in a turnaround of results.

All areas/pillars of our activities have contributed to a very healthy surplus of £125,123 in the consolidated P&L account, compared to the small loss of £1,467 experienced in 2020. This has resulted in a 2.92% increase in our balance sheet value, now sitting at a healthy £4,406,742. We are grateful to all the staff and committee and Council members who have enabled this through hard work and financial diligence.

It is good to see an increase of 40% in income from our real estate to £254,528, and a 78% improvement in return from our investment fund, as shown on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 at £104,252. However, more challenging trading conditions are being experienced during the first quarter of 2022 with rising prices and inflation worldwide and the effects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine which will no doubt have long-lasting effects on all our lives for many years to come.

Our Dairy for Development Programme is continuing to expand, and this is not only providing the Society with good PR here in Jersey and globally, but is also contributing to income through the small but vital margins we charge for coordinating and operating this wide range of projects.

As reported last year, the Society has been successful in securing support from the Government of Jersey's Fiscal Stimulus Fund to enable investment in much needed upgrades to the Showground facilities, and works have largely been carried out during the early part of 2022. This is reported in more detail elsewhere, but suffice to say that this significant injection of capital is being spent wisely for upgrades to our 20+ year old facilities which will hold us in good stead in the future to continue to realise more income from this vital asset. Our bookings calendar for 2022 and beyond is very healthy, and all members should be proud that the Society continues to offer the public of Jersey a top class events venue.

We would like to thank all the staff for their support and commitment in these still troubled times as we navigate our way out of the pandemic, and particular mention has to go to James Godfrey who has risen to the challenge yet again by juggling his many responsibilities to provide sound counsel and advice enabling the Council to make reasoned and balanced decisions to not only safeguard the Society's assets, but also to ready us for moving out of the troubled waters caused by the pandemic.

## Balance Sheet Comparison (£)

<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Tangible Assets	3,292,884	3,166,018
Investments	1,265,954	1,120,298
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>4,558,838</b>	<b>4,286,316</b>
Current Assets / Stock	22,132	26,861
Debtors & Prepayments	123,850	260,413
Cash at Bank (& broker)	1,158,579	645,111
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,304,561</b>	<b>932,385</b>
<b>Creditors</b>	<b>1,456,657</b>	<b>937,082</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>4,406,742</b>	<b>4,281,619</b>

## Profit & Loss Comparison (£)

<b>Income</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
JIG Trading	1,673,334	1,482,546
Real Estate	254,528	182,350
Herd Book	27,124	26,468
Investment Income	16,515	8,839
Investment Net Gains	87,737	49,566
Shows & Events	19,251	720
Members Subscriptions	11,091	12,226
Misc & Merchandise	34,660	72,069
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,124,240</b>	<b>1,834,784</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
JIG Trading	1,409,328	1,260,112
Real Estate	54,016	52,500
Shows & Events	21,259	3,513
Herd Book	17,475	19,542
Breed Improvement	680	500
Merchandise & PR	22,280	13,864
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,525,038</b>	<b>1,350,031</b>
<b>Overheads</b>		
Employment	305,194	305,203
General Overheads	119,082	124,812
Finance	1,918	3,759
Depreciation / write off	47,885	52,446
<b>Total Overheads</b>	<b>474,079</b>	<b>486,220</b>
<b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>125,123</b>	<b>(1,467)</b>

Respectfully submitted.

**Stephen Le Feuvre (Treasurer - Agriculture)**

### **RJA&HS Horticultural Department:**

2021 proved to be a better year financially for the Horticultural Department than forecasted by the budget. With uncertainty over the covid situation and the extent to which restrictions might ease, the budget was deliberately conservative. A modest net profit was estimated.

The Spring Show was in a virtual format, but the Early Summer Show, the Summer Flower and Produce Show and the Autumn Fair were all held at the Showground 'in person'. In addition, the garden, schools and plots competitions all fully resumed. Consequently, the

shows and events income far exceeded budget. Good attendance levels to shows, entrants to competitions and take up of trade stands all bolstered the income.

Rental income increased on one of the two properties and fees for the plots at the FJ Ahier Country Gardens increased with effect from 1st January 2021.

Expenses relating to shows and events were correspondingly higher than budget, given that shows were somewhat 'back to normal'. However, expenses overall were generally lower than forecasted and some accrual for future expenditure has been achieved.

Actual net profit for the year of £4,114 is a very good result and a much improved position on the prior year's profit of £930.

**Jerry Neil (Treasurer - Horticulture)**