

Society notices

The Society's conferences

In view of the on-going restrictions created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society has decided that it will not be able to hold its Spring Conference in the usual residential format in April 2021. We hope to be able to organize in-person events later in 2021, but instead of the Spring Conference, we propose to convene a number of half-day Zoom meetings in the Spring of 2021 starting with one to be held on the afternoon of Monday 12 April, which will be followed by the AGM for 2019–20 and 2020–21.

Full details of these meetings will be circulated with *Rural History Today* at the end of January 2021. They will also be posted on our website, and further circulated in the EURHO newsletter and in our own email newsletter. Members of the Society who have not already signed up to the email newsletter (and they are many) are very much encouraged to do so. The email newsletter will increasingly be the means by which we communicate with our members (and supporters) and bring to their attention news both of the Society and its activities but also developments elsewhere within the discipline as a whole. To sign up, please use the form on the Society's website (www.bahs.org.uk/newsletters.html).

The Executive Committee and Society Officers

At its next AGM, to be held on 12 April 2021, the Society wishes to reinforce its Executive Committee with new members. Whilst nominations of members of the society from all backgrounds and interests are welcome, for reasons of balance the Society would particularly welcome the nomination of younger members of the Society and women. The normal period of service is four years, re-electable once, after which a 'fallow' year must be taken. The committee is a working one and its members are ex-officio the trustees of the Society. Anyone who wishes to know more about what might be involved is invited to contact the Acting Secretary.

The Society also wishes to elect a new secretary to come into office no later than the 2022 AGM but who might shadow the Acting Secretary during 2021. Again, anyone interested is invited to contact the Acting Secretary.

Full details of the AGM, with nomination papers for the Executive Committee and officers, will be circulated to members at the end of January 2021.

To contact the BAHS and its officers and staff, please use the contact form at www.bahs.org.uk/contact.php.

Joan Thirsk Memorial Prize 2021

The British Agricultural History Society is pleased to invite submissions for its Joan Thirsk Memorial Prize, awarded annually for the best book in British or Irish, Rural or Agrarian History. Books published for the first time in 2020 in the broad area of British and Irish rural history, or which use Britain and Ireland as comparators, are eligible. Submission is by sending a pdf of the work to the secretary of the prize committee by noon on 11 January 2021. The Winner will be announced in April 2021. Full details of eligibility and how to submit can be found at www.bahs.org.uk/Thirskprize2021.pdf.

Previous winners of the prize have been

2017: Peter Jones, *Agricultural Enlightenment: Knowledge, Technology and Nature, 1750–1840* (OUP).

2018: Briony McDonagh, *Elite Women and the Agricultural Landscape, 1700–1830* (Routledge).

2019: Paul Warde, *The Invention of Sustainability: Nature and Destiny, c.1500–1870* (CUP).

2020: Rosamond Faith, *The moral economy of the countryside. Anglo-Saxon to Anglo-Norman England* (CUP).