

Biodynamic Agricultural Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2024 - 71st AGM event

Held on Saturday 19th October, 2pm – 4pm 2024, in the 100th Anniversary Year of Biodynamics amidst a workshop with Vincent Masson

Venue: Clervaux Farm and Garden School, Off Jolby Ln, Croft-on-Tees, Darlington DL2 2TF

Present:

BDA Staff: Jessica Standing, Gabriel Kaye, Richard Swann, Gary Roberts

BDA Trustees: Jeremy Stephens, Jenni Rosenbrock, Ian Bailey, Richard Thornton Smith, Tom Petherick,

Attendees: Odilia Kirst, Ruairidh von Stein, Helen Hippax, Ted Gush, Jo Bradley, Deanna Coult Jan Troller, Gilberto Domingues, Nick Raeside, Douglas Davidson, Spencer Christy, Joe Wilkin, Richard Cowton, Noel Higgings, Helen Kippax, Tim Rahmsdorf, Jason Warland, Oscar Gush, Sam Gush, Hans Steenbergen, Briony Young, Martin Large, Jennifer Ruge, Poppy Nicol

Apologies: Chris Stockdale, Rosemary Usselman, Tom Raines, Elly Austin, Hannah Gutteridge, Dan Powell, Manuela Murray, Aonghus Gordon

1. Welcome - Helen Kippax and Gabriel Kaye

Helen welcomed everyone on behalf of Ruskin Mill Trust, Clervaux, and Aonghus Gordon who was not able to attend.

Gabriel welcomed everyone to the AGM. Attendees introduced themselves and said where they were from. Gabriel expressed warm thanks to Ruskin Mill Trust, Gilberto and Roberto from Clervaux for all their hard work in organising things, and how valuable it is to bring the Vincent Masson Preparation Workshop and the BDA AGM to the north of the UK.

Remembering those who has crossed the threshold - see slide

Michael Rust, Heather Macleod, Simon Hanks, Marina O'Connell, Phil Forder, Joan Checkley, Melissa Harwood. Special mention was made of Marina O'Connell in recognition of all she has done and achieved and the following link was shared so that members could read more about her life and her work -

<https://biodynamiclandtrust.org.uk/obituary-for-marina-oconnell-biodynamic-teacher-farmer-and-gardener>

It was noted that Tyll van der Voort was instrumental in creating the foundations of the gardens at Clervaux that would be seen and enjoyed later with the garden tour.

2. Address from the Chair – Jenni Rosenbrock - see slides

Minutes from the 2023 AGM held at the Woolbarn, RMT, Nailsworth

Vote to accept – carried.

Jenni reported on how the BDA had been working with its different strategy points (see below) and the main achievements for each strand – see slides. This strategy has been worked with since 2019.

Strategy 1: Making biodynamics more accessible to more people

Strategy 2: Engaging and sustaining new and existing biodynamic supporters

Strategy 3: Expanding and strengthening the biodynamic food network from producer to consumer

Strategy 4: Consolidating the biodynamic movement's position as pioneer, partner and influencer.

Strategy 5 i: Nurturing and sustaining the biodynamic organisational network and its people in the UK

Strategy 5 ii: Governance, charitable status, leadership and delegation

Highlights from the current year 2024 - BD100 events and more

There has been much biodynamic activity and many events held to celebrate 100 years of biodynamics including:

- Book launch of “ 100 years of biodynamics” by Bernard Jarman
- A stand at the Natural Organic Products Expo in London, promoting Demeter food and biodynamics. Warmest thanks to Clearspring who kindly donated a space on their stand to the BDA to enable us to be there.
- Nature Spirits workshop with Susan Raven in Dorset
- Jean Michel Florin workshop at Waltham Place, Berks and public lecture at Rudolf Steiner House
- Biodynamic PR day at Yatesbury Farm, Wiltshire
- BD100 2 day biodynamic conference at the Woolbarn, RMT, Glos with Ueli Hurter and many more inspiring contributors.

And events still to happen:

- Joyful Food Festival and BD100 Awards Ceremony at Rudolf Steiner House
- Webinars on key biodynamic books
- Natoora distribution workshop

Attention was drawn to the excellent 100 years of biodynamics in the British Isles poster that the BDA created for its anniversary year.

Looking Forward – see slide

Jenni highlighted some key issues and areas for the BDA including changes to the staff team, a large donation, strategic development and the increase in scientific research that is helping the biodynamic movement to get more recognition for the

valuable role it plays in improving soil, plant, animal and human health and care of biodiversity and nature.

Research and Conference - see slide

Jenni outlined some of the more recent research papers relating to biodynamics and mentioned that the BDA has collated them into a special exhibition and handout which was available to take from the BDA book stall for anyone interested.

2025 – the 3rd International Biodynamic Research Conference – Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Glos UK

This will take place next year in the UK and is a great opportunity to connect with biodynamic researchers and their research from across the world.

Our UK team of organisers for this event are: Richard Swann, Gabriel Kaye, Jonathan Code, Julia Wright and Berni Courts, this is complemented by an international team. Everyone is warmly invited.

The Biodynamic Family and movement – UK and International – see slide

Jenni talked about and gave updates on:

Biodynamic Seeds – The Esk Seed Hub

Biodynamic Land Trust

Biodynamic Agriculture College

UK Agriculture Section / Experimental Circle

International Agriculture Section at the Goetheanum &

Biodynamic Federation Demeter International

Thanks - see slide

Jenni warmly thanked all those who have supported the work of the Biodynamic Association of the last year and also all those who are practising biodynamic farming, growing and gardening and making more biodynamic food available.

She went on to thank specific donors – see slide - and all individual members who regularly or annually donate more than £100.

Organisational Support – see slide

Warmest thanks to:

Ruskin Mill Trust and Aonghus Gordon, Mr & Mrs Oppenheimer at Waltham Place, Weleda UK, Miranda Brooks Landscape Design, Hermes Trust, and Rudolf Steiner House.

Staff – see slide

Jenni highlighted the current staff team in the BDA and Certification office teams, inspectors, the Cert Board and the new BDA Charity Manager Gary Roberts.

Trustees - see slide

Thanks were expressed to our outgoing trustee, Tom Petherick for all his great work and support and also to the existing Trustee team, our Patron Patrick Holden, our volunteers, Ian and Janette who carry the 'pack and dispatch' work for our web shop sales of books and preps, and last but not least, our faithful biodynamic preparation makers, Briony Young and Bernard Jarman.

BD100 Appeal – to farm with nature and living soils – see slide

Leaflets are available to take away – from the BDA bookstall and it is also featured in the Autumn issue of Star& furrow

Joyful Food Festival and BD 100 Awards – see slide. All welcome.

**Financial Report 1st April 2023 to 31st Dec 2023 – Jeremy Stephens, treasurer
Based on the unaudited accounts prepared by BK Plus Ltd (Andorran Ltd) - see slides and set of accounts**

Jeremy clarified that we were looking at a shorter financial year than usual, ie 9 months vs 12 months. This is because the BDA has changed its "financial" year to match with Certification's financial year, ie run from Jan to Dec.

He then went on to explain and convey things under the following headings:

- ***Investments & Reserves***
- ***Overview: Activities part 1***
- ***Overview: Activities part 2***
- ***Charity Overview : Income***
- ***Charity Overview: Costs***
- ***Certification Overview – Income vs Costs***
- ***Annual Outcome at Dec 2023***

Vote to accept the unaudited financial report – *Carried.*

Vote to continue using BK Plus Ltd - *Carried.*

Thanks were expressed to Jeremy in his role as treasurer.

Trustee Elections – *see slides.*

Standing for re-election: Ian Bailey

Standing for election after being co-opted: Mattias Emous

A vote was taken and both of the above were duly elected.



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‘Biodynamics and the Gift of the
Preparations at the Heart of it’

71st BDA AGM 2024 (Oct 19th)

Welcome from Ruskin Mill & the BDA

- Helen Kippax– on behalf of Aonghus Gordon and all at RMT
- Heart-felt thanks to them from the BDA and all of us for the use of this great venue and facilities and all the team support offered by RMT staff



Site Notes

- Respectful of the Garden School facilities and its environment
 - Safety/emergency exits etc
 - Toilets – where to find them
-
- Lift sharing in the evening
 - – if you have spaces
 - - if you need a lift

Remembering those who have passed

- At a previous AGM it was suggested we think of those dedicated to Biodynamics who have passed over to spirit this year, here are some we know of
 - Members:
 - Michael Rust, Ashford, Kent
 - Heather Macleod, Inverness
 - Simon Hanks, Stroud
 - Marina O'Connell, Dartington – see a tribute in S&F
 - Connected Non-member supporters
 - Phil Forder
 - Anyone else we would like to think of?

Maybe they are supporting our work from this other realm?

In celebration and recognition of Marina O'Connell, an inspiration to us all





AGM programme – 14.00 – 15.30

- 14.00 – Welcome to the AGM – **GK welcome**
- 14.05 - Honouring those biodynamically connected people who have died this year – **GK**
- 14.10 - **AGM Meeting** : welcome, apologies - **JR**
- Minutes from 2023 (Jan2023)* **(14.15) - vote**
- Trustees Report of Activity - Chair's address: Annual Report, Thanks and Looking Forward **(to 14.35)**
- Finance Report 2022-23* **Jeremy (14.35-14.50) - vote**
- Reappointment of Accountants – Andorran/BK Plus Limited* **GK - vote**
- Notification of Trustees current team – Jenni Rosenbrock, Ian Bailey, Richard Thornton Smith, Jeremy Stephens, Mattias Emous (coopted)
- Elections : Ian Bailey, Mattias Emous, ** **vote GK (14.55-15.05)**
- Q&A – **GK coord – to 15.15**
- 15.15 – **Book Launch - *Biodynamic Farming Handbook* - Martin Large presents**
- 15.30 - 17.00 *Farm Walk - Supper at 6pm for those booked in for the w/e*

Welcome

Welcome and apologies

Please give any apologies to Jessica
for the minutes





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AGM 2024: Chair's Address

Biodynamics:

**Strong on concepts, strong on ethics, strong on practice
Magic with the preparations**

Minutes from last AGM

Minutes from the AGM October 2023 were sent out in advance of the meeting and are available on the BDA website

Any queries?

Acceptance of minutes of AGM 2023 held in October at the Woolbarn, RMT, Nailsworth.

Thanks to Jessica for taking these minutes.

Vote to accept Minutes – Vote

Reminder – Non-members please do not vote



Strategy 3: Expanding and strengthening the Biodynamic food network from producer to consumer

Main Achievements:

- ✓ **Farm Services offers** support for new & existing farmers, growers & licensees, including support for grant applications and Gov't funding.
- ✓ **Preparations and books** continue to be strong earners and promoters of biodynamics.
- ✓ **Demeter** 'top up' to Irish organic licensees is running well and Licensee numbers are stable.
- ✓ An increasing number of **biodynamic courses and trainings** are on offer through the Biodynamic Agricultural College, Ruskin Mill Trust, The Apricot Centre, Wholistic Living University, Waltham Place, Rudolf Steiner House and more.



Strategy 1: Making Biodynamics more accessible to more people

Main Achievements:

- ✓ The BDA office remains a strong first port of call.
- ✓ The Demeter and organic Certification activity is held by a team of many skills and much knowledge.
- ✓ Licensee numbers are similar to last year and individual BDA membership is a bit down but still very supportive.
- ✓ Farm Services has been a strong point; few farm events reflect the increased events organised by BD farms for 100 years and other workshops and celebrations organised by so many.
- ✓ Gardening Club continues strong with a solid team of professional advisors sharing information with a wider audience.



Strategy 2: Engaging and sustaining new and existing Biodynamic supporters

Main Achievements:

- ✓ The number of individual members has fallen slightly and new models of membership are under review.
- ✓ Informative and relevant Star & Furrow biannual publications and quarterly Newsletters stimulate lively debate and keep members updated.
- ✓ Online BD Bulletin e-news, Youtube channel, Gardening Club emails and Facebook and webinars offer many paths to greater knowledge and connection
- ✓ Increased social media presence - our annual online following remains high



Strategy 4: Consolidating the Biodynamic movement's position as pioneer, partner and influencer



• Main Achievements:

- ✓ Engagement in national policy development discussions with DEFRA, UKAS, English Organic Forum, Sustain, Beyond GM, and the Sustainable Food Trust events.
- ✓ Participation in ORFC January conference & 'In the Field' May 2023 and Groundswell Regen Ag Conf in June.
- ✓ Presentation of the UK research on "Being of Biodynamics" at the Annual Global Biodynamic Conference at the Goetheanum Feb 2023 & participation in Feb 2024.
- ✓ Representation on BFDI & Demeter International Standards, Accreditation, Research & Training committees.
- ✓ Participation Report to the BFDI Members' Assembly June 2023 (online) & 24 (in Poland) followed by a celebration in Germany.
- ✓ Ongoing participation as part of the English Organic Forum which is a stakeholder pressure group on UK organic policy.

Strategy 5: Nurturing and sustaining the Biodynamic organisational network and its people in the UK

Main Achievements:

- ✓ Collaboration with Ruskin Mill Trust to understand biodynamic history and enliven the biodynamic movement going forward through a 'Genius Persona' process of enquiry. This was a major focus in 2023 and at the AGM workshops.
- ✓ **Star and Furrow** continues to disseminate results of research projects and agricultural development through its articles.
- ✓ Taking on of a Project Manager for the **100 years events** and promotion project has increased staff capacity and numbers.
- ✓ Working with Marjatta von Boschoten on organisational matters has been very beneficial. The annual Certification staff and inspector training is a highlight of coming together of all staff and the Cert team in particular. (*training days meal*)
- ✓ Working with our Biodynamic partners in BD Agriculture College, BD Land Trust, Esk Seed Hub, RMT Colleges and Schools, Apricot Centre, and our Biodynamic Farms.



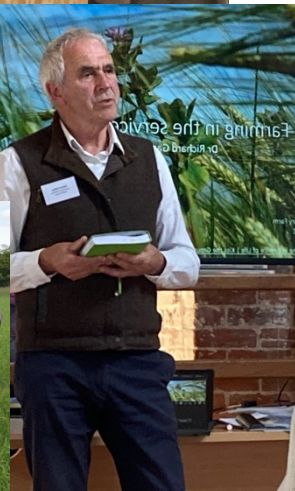
Strategy 5 (part II) : Governance, Charitable status, Leadership and Delegation



Trustees and staff eat together after a Vision and Strategy meeting Sept 2024

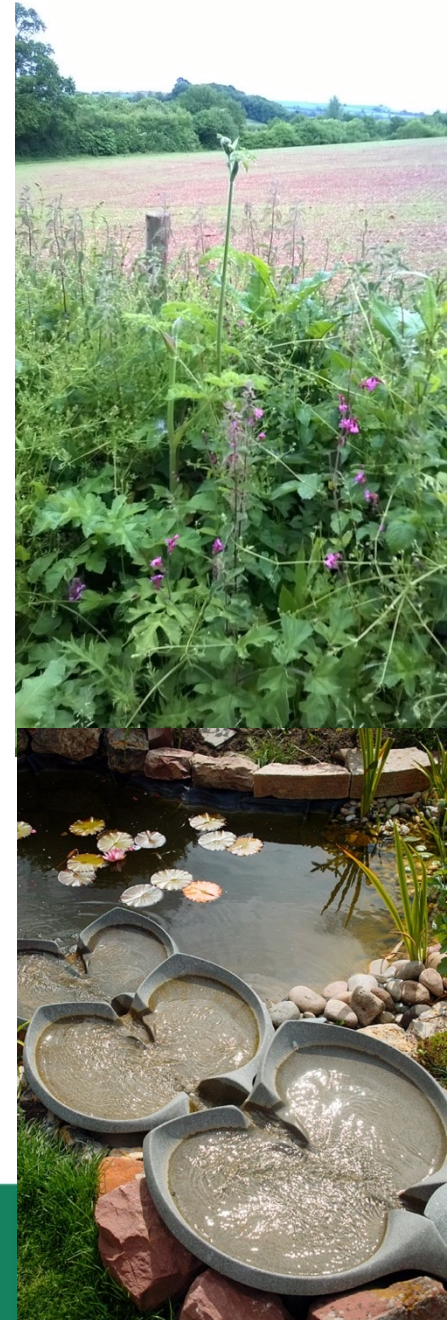
- Engaging with governance for greater clarity and suitable delegation, Trustees have worked to make the detail effective.
- This work is still in the process of being developed and improved in relation to changes in staffing. As before:
 - Trustees are responsible for overall strategy, legal alignment, overall employment terms, good governance, etc of the whole organisation.
 - The day-to-day work of this is delegated to the lead employees, currently the Executive Director and Cert Manager.
 - Within this, for the distinct certification operation, the leadership in quality and impartiality is delegated to the Certification Board
- This is in line with Charity Commission guidance but also needs our own BDA specifics and ethos.
- There is now a closer working relationship between the Certification Board and the Council of Trustees with several people sitting on both bodies.

This current year - 2024 - highlights - 100 year events and more



Looking forward

- **Staff changes:** *Gratitude to our anonymous donor of October 2023 for a substantially enabling donation (£185,000) designated to help: staffing; 100 years celebrations; and promoting biodynamics. Trustees have apportioned its use over several years.*
- **Recruitment and Selection** process for a new Certification Manager completed in Dec 2023. Hannah Gutteridge has been in place as the Certification Manager since January 2024.
- Our next recruitment has been for a Charity Manager to relieve Gabriel of some of the responsibilities she has held for so long and to take on the main leadership and management of the charitable activity.
- **Strategic Developments:** Renewing our Vision and the development of new Strategy –arrangements have been made with an outside agency to enable full staff and trustee collaboration. This work has started with staff and Trustees working together.
- **Looking forward to events:** - International collaboration over production and launch of new translation of 'The Agriculture Course' as part of the 100 Years Celebration
- Active member of the International Biodynamic Research Alliance, part of BFDI and the International Agriculture Section
- Annual participation at UK agricultural events: ORFC, Groundswell, and more.
- **Recognition** - At last we can begin to experience a bit more **recognition for Biodynamics in the UK** as an organic method that improves soil, plant, animal health and nature. Scientific Research has shown it.



Research + Conference

So much good research is now available. There is always some referred to in each S&F.

As Science becomes more subtle and effective at measuring the micro so more can be measured and recorded of the effects of Biodynamics – the Magic becomes discernible.

Recent Papers on: Microbiome; Soil enzymes with preparations; Metabarcoding horn manure preparation (the horn is vitally important); The Food organism. These are fascinating, so we have collated an exhibition and handout to share, please take one and look at our “posters”.

2025 – the 3rd International Biodynamic Research conference is to take place next September in the UK. This is a great opportunity to make a stronger connection with Researchers. Our UK team is Jonathan Code, Julia Wright, Berni Courts, Richard Swann and Gabriel Kaye. Together with the international team, we invite you to join us for this event.

*The whole
and its parts*

**RESEARCHING
BIODYNAMIC AGRICULTURE**

3rd International Biodynamic Research Conference

Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester, UK
From 31 August to 4 September 2025


*Save
the date*

Holistic perspective: Research in biodynamic agriculture requires a holistic perspective – not only to account for the many dimensions of farming but also to embrace the potential contributions of diverse knowledge systems to truly understand, develop, and transform the field.

Discovering various dimensions: With the aim of discovering new perspectives in biodynamic agriculture research, the conference will place special emphasis on holistic approaches and study concepts. We welcome research exploring various dimensions of biodynamics – whether ecological, artistic, humanistic, or economic – as well as research employing diverse methodologies and knowledge systems.

Open for all researchers interested in biodynamic food and farming: Both researchers in the field of biodynamics and those who are not currently doing research in the biodynamic field but are interested and want to gain new perspectives are welcome to attend the conference.

LEARN MORE

 www.biodynamic-research.org

 For any questions, please feel free to contact us at biodynamic.research@goetheanum.ch

BD family and movement, UK and international

- **Seeds – Esk Seed Hub** – The Seed Coop is not yet totally put to bed – the administration process is dragging on. But seeds are needed every year, so Hans Steenbergen has got a team together and created Esk Seeds – they have a webshop and are selling UK and EU Demeter and organic Seed. Do have a look.
- **BD Land Trust** is working with small farms across the country looking at and for succession solutions to keep land in biodynamic, organic and ecological Farming.
- **BD Agriculture College:** James is the new administrator for the online side and they have some great online and mixed online/on-farm ones too. The Work-based Diploma still has places – earn while you learn!



- **UK Agriculture Section/Experimental Circle** are active with monthly zoom meetings and annual circle meetings. 28 Feb-2 March book to join a 3-day conference with Christine Henesch, plant and preparation researcher.
- **International Agriculture Section at Goetheanum** organise the annual Agriculture conference in February in Dornach. Inspiration, research and sharing. Networking and mutual support.
- **BFDI:** This is our international biodynamic organisation for associations and certification across the globe. They work closely with the IBDA and International Agriculture Section. The BDA is a full member, supports it and benefits from this international cooperation.

With thanks...

Thank you to all those who have supported our work over the last (short) year, and also who have practised biodynamic farming and promoted biodynamic produce in so many ways.

Donations:

Thanks to all our members who have made donations, anonymously or otherwise

- **Our anonymous Big Donor**
- **Newton Dee Camphill community**
- **Botton Camphill - CVT**
- **Dewcross Centre for Moral Technology** generously supports our printed newsletters
- **Lots Rd Auctions** in London (Roger Ross)

We would like to **particularly thank** all those individual members who regularly or annually make donations of £100 and more, of which there were 20 this last year. And all members who help support our work in so many ways, thank you. This makes a big difference to our membership income and helps pay for great things like Star and Furrow.

We also thank the family of Amelia Heaton Renshaw, John and Vicky Heaton Renshaw for the GoFundMe donation to the BDA. We were sad to hear of her death but will continue to remember her zest for life.



Organisational Support

Ruskin Mill Trust and Aonghus Gordon – on a variety of projects including the step by step gardening courses, supporting the Genius Loci process with the BDA, Goethean science training for staff, making the Wool Barn available as a meeting venue, The Field Centre for Certification meetings, etc

Mr and Mrs Oppenheimer at Waltham Place and their supportive staff

Weleda – for supporting the Garden Club Activity

Organisational/Corporate members this year were **Weleda** and **Miranda Brooks Landscape Design**, we would love to have more organisational members.

Grants:

Hermes Trust for their grant support for the 100 years project manager post.

Rudolf Steiner House for supporting 100 years events.

And so many others, in so many ways

Thank you



Staff

Thanks to all of our amazing staff who run the whole show.

Specifically, **Gabriel Kaye, Jessica Standing, Richard Swann, Dan Powell** in Farm Services, and **Isla Pearson** on membership support and Cert admin support. And to **Manuela Murray** who joined taking over from **Ben Monks** on the 100 years Project.

Plus, behind the scenes **Beatrix Szasz** from BSB Accounting who does the bookkeeping.

In BD Certification, **Hannah Gutteridge** (since Jan 2024) **Margaret McGair, Lillie Bellamy, Alessandro Casentini and Richard Swann**. Thanks particularly to Margaret and Richard for taking on extra management responsibilities while we had no Cert manager and to Isla for an admin support. We also thank **Tom Petherick** and **Page Dyskra** for their technical back up for the licensee work, and of course, **the inspectors** who see what is happening on farm, in trading and processing set-ups, **and the Cert Board team who assure the necessary impartiality and quality control in Certification**

As the new Charity Manager (Gary Roberts, who came in May 2024) takes on the co-leadership with the Certification Manager of the organisation, Gabriel step back but continue to support the knowledge and promotion of Biodynamics, as it is so core to our work and our new managers are learning. These roles report directly to the trustees.



Trustees - Thanks

Trustees

Warm thanks to our outgoing trustee, **Tom Petherick** who kindly agreed to support us for a further year after it was no longer convenient for him to be a trustee, having moved. The other trustees - all of whom go out of their way to contribute to the running and success of the organisation: **Ian Bailey, Richard Thornton Smith, Jeremy Stephens, and Mattias Emous** many of whom play several roles to support the BDA and the BD movement behind the scenes. *(And to Jenni Rosebrock our chair of trustees).*

Patrick Holden, our Patron, for his ongoing support and his work in promoting Sustainable Food and Farming through the SFT.

Volunteers: Ian Bailey and Jeanette Hall who are carrying our 'pack and dispatch' work for the preparations and book sales, especially Ian who is also coordinating the webshop and supplies in coordination with Jessica.

Many thanks also to Briony Young and Bernard Jarman, our faithful and capable preparation makers, and to Hawkwood College for the storage space and annual Preparation meeting space.



Food Festival, Awards & Appeal

Join us in celebrating Biodynamics and Biodynamic Heros in London on 10th November. Help us fund Biodynamics, the Association and its work into the future so that Biodynamics can share its gifts and solutions for healthy people, nature and the planet for another 100 years. Support our Appeal.



Our Appeal to Farm with Nature & Living Soils

Going Beyond Organic: Biodynamic Farming for Our Planet,
Our Food Health & Our Future Generations
Help Biodynamic Association Raise £100,000

Earth faces not only a **climate emergency**. It faces a **global nature crisis**, **food security** issues and the potential **collapse** of its **healthy, nutritious food systems**. Our wildlife and ecosystems are being driven to the brink of extinction. Healthy, living, food-growing soils turned to dust and destroyed. We do have choices though. Together we can make decisions to deliver solutions that restore nature and encourage health-sustaining biodynamic farming practices. Biodynamic methods restore soil life, plant and animal health using natural preparations. Through biodynamic farming – farmers, growers, and gardeners aim to produce delicious, healthy, nutritious foods. Growing food in harmony with nature without using chemical fertilisers and pesticides – benefits us and our planet.

Our Appeal to Farm with Nature & Living Soils Seeks to Raise £100,000 £100,000 to enable the Biodynamic Association to engage with and support farmers, gardeners and growers to produce healthy, nutritious food in harmony with nature and climate using living soils.

Priority Projects for Biodynamic Association

- Nature-Loving Climate Solutions, Living Soils & Nature Restoration Programme.
- Food Health & Security Campaign.
- Biodynamic farm community education events.
- Farm services advice and consultancy development.
- International Biodynamic Research Conference.
- Certification: support for growers, farmers, producers going through conversion to biodynamic status.
- Support for young biodynamic farmers, growers and gardeners.

A Centenary of Biodynamic Agriculture

Biodynamics represents an ancient way of managing land and food produce organically with a modern approach. Respect is at its very core, while good practice, scientific and nature-based understanding, with a recognition of the spirit, seek to balance the harmony of nature. It was in 1924 that the Austrian philosopher and scientist, Dr. Rudolf Steiner first indicated how to develop this new agricultural approach, in a series of lectures given to farmers in 1924, which is now practised:

- in 55 countries and
- on over 251,000 hectares of biodynamic farmland and market gardens.

“I created Hampstead Tea to bring organic teas that are ethical and delicious. Biodynamic farming is my passion. It ensures that you put more in than you take out. The animals, plants, people and soil all work together in harmony to create a forever living environment. Biodynamic is super organic”.

Kiran Tawadey
Founder of Hampstead Tea

Importantly, with your help and generous gift, the Biodynamic Association can now look beyond the first 100 years to ensure farming and gardening is fit for future generations to enjoy sustainably and in harmony with our Earth; its living soils, nature and its life-sustaining climate. We need you to help the Biodynamic Association realise our vision. Any donation, of any value, supports our ambition to deliver ‘Our Appeal to Farm with Nature & Living Soils’. To raise our £100,000 target the BDA seeks to nurture and grow partnership opportunities with companies, our members, supporters and donors, and the wider public.



We urgently need your support. To make a donation please go to the Biodynamic Association's website: www.biodynamic.org.uk or phone: 01453 759501

Cheques can be sent to: BDA, Painswick Inn, Gloucester Street, Stroud GL5 1QG



We need to be strong on concepts, strong on ethics, strong on practices

- To contribute a holistic perspective that embraces the metaphysical as well as the physical dimensions
 - To contribute a cohesive framework for healing and regeneration
 - To contribute a methodology for a deeper connection with nature and with ourselves
 - To contribute a production system that provides nutritious food for all





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Finance Management Report
as per Annual Accounts
1st April 2023 – 31st December 2023

Based on the Unaudited Accounts prepared by BK Plus Ltd (Andorran Ltd)

Registered Charity Number: 1158301
Registered Company Number: CE 001656

Investments & Reserves

These 'investments' are designated as the Charity's emergency reserves as required by Charity Commission. They cover approximately 6 months of emergency operations and the charity's responsibilities. They come from the GKK Fund and saved Legacy Funds.

Fixed Assets Investments <i>(p11 top)</i>	Unrestricted 9 months Funds£	Restricted 9 months Funds £	31.12.2023 9 months Total Funds £	31.03.2023 12 months Total Funds £
Investments value	44,756	133,103	177,859	183,830
Social Investments		76,000	76,000	76,000
Total	44,756	209,103	253,859	259,830

The Social Investments are shares held in Seed Coop (£75,000) and Tablehurst and Plawhatch Coop (£1,000). Neither provide interest. The Seed Cooperative shares will be returned at the completion of the administration process at an undefined % of their value. The Trustees will then need to see what best to do with these funds.

Investments & Reserves

These ‘investments’ are designated as the Charity’s emergency reserves as required by Charity Commission. They cover approximately 6 months of emergency operations and the charity’s responsibilities. They come from the GKK Fund and saved Legacy Funds.

The incomes from interest on ‘investment’ helps the running costs and provides funds for bursaries offered to students or entrant farmers.

The value of the “investments” varies according to stock market valuations (end of financial year ie Dec 23).

Investment Income (p15)	9 months	12 months
	31.12.2023	31.03.2023
	£	£
Donations for Seed Coop	-	2,880
Income from listed Investments	8,986	10,349
Deposit Account Interest	667	459
Total	9,653	13,658

Overview – Activities (pt 1)

Donations & Legacies (p15)	9 months	12 months
Income	31.12.2023	31.03.2023
	£	£
Donations & Legacies	201,336	33,896
Grants – Defra	20,662	27,438
Subscription & Membership	20,938	23,932
Fundraising Income	2,043	0
Total	244,979	85,266

Notes : a donation was received in October of £185,000 from an anonymous known donor. This was designated to support staffing, 100 year celebrations and long-term stability. This enabled a Christmas bonus and higher increase of salaries for 2024 to help with ‘cost of living’ and taking on a charity manager while still having an Executive Director. (p15)

Overview from Activities (pt2)

Charitable
Income
versus
Expenditure

Income & Endowments from (p10)	9 months	12 months
	31.12.2023	31.03.2023
Income	£	£
Donations & Legacies	201,336	33,896
Charitable Activities		
Charitable Activities	311,644	335,301
Investment Income	9,653	13,688
Total	522,633	434,255
Expenditure On		
Raising Funds	1,792	(2,572)
Charitable Activities		
Charitable Activities	344,402	468,574
Total	346,194	466,002

Charity Overview - Income

Observations:

All BDA activity is charitable. The certification part of the activity is a significant part of the whole and is part organic, part Demeter. (Note all licensees paid annual fees in 2023, hence similar income yet lower on most other lines.)

The BFDI recharge is a fully refunded service from BDA to BFDI – employing a seconded person for their international work, (ie a zero cost in and out cost).

Income from Charitable Activities (p16)	9 months 31.12.2023	12 months 31.03.2023
Education Income - Training	7,313	670
Books & Preparations	22,723	35,609
Certification Activities	236,770	230,704
Advertising Income	2,726	3,244
Gardening Club	242	1,035
Farm Services	1,008	1,899
Genius Loci grant	0	0
BFDI Recharge	40,862	62,140
Total	311,644	335,301

Charity Overview – Costs

Notes:

Education income – most of this is the Step by Step Garden course that BDA take bookings for RMT which then gets paid on to them. These are great courses but not real income to BDA.

Gardening Club is a free service for members as part of promoting BD.

Farm Services is being run as a separate but connected service.

Outreach is events and social media

Direct Costs of Charitable Activities (p17)	9 months	12 months
	31.12.2023	31.03.2023
Education, Training & Bursaries	1,200	310
Books & Preparations	16,508	25,362
Gardening Club	4,215	3,520
Farm Services	1,355	8,945
Genius Loci	30	0
Project Costs	0	4,000
Participation & Subscriptions	1,302	600
Star & Furrow and Newsletter	12,790	12,533
Seed Coop Donations	0	1,868
Outreach	16,315	18,932
Total	53,715	76,070
Support Costs - Management		
Staff Costs	40,617	62,481
Office Costs	8,627	13,172
Total	49,244	75,653

Certification Overview – Income v Costs

Over the last five years, the Certification activity has made an annual surplus. This has helped support the promotion of biodynamics and the charitable aims and activities. Prior to that, its income was not so stable. This is now enabling an increase in staffing in this area of activity.

Certification Activities (p24 -25)	31.12.2023 9 months	31.03.2023 12 months
Income - all categories	236,770	230,704
Defra service grant	20,662	27,438
Total	257,432	258,143
Direct costs		
Staff costs	73,541	119,404
Accreditation	9,768	7,416
Office costs	8,929	9,243
Promotion	1,026	1,198
Management and Cert workshops (MA)	1,284	11,779
International representation	4,205	2,836
Inspectors' fees	57,970	56,175
Inspectors' expenses	25,415	34,785
Other costs incl BFDI recharge	46,573	62,254
Total	228,711	305,090

Annual Outcome at Dec 2023

Annual Outcome

Thanks to the level of donations the overall outcome was £214,111.

The Trustees have again budgeted to spread this exceptional income over 3 years to help in particular with the level of staffing to support the charitable aims – promotion of Biodynamics.

The level of donations is not something to count on, so other forms of income are needed. Grant application and an appeal are underway as part of this.

Governance costs (p25)	31.12.2023 9 months	31.03.2023 12 months
Accountancy & Bookkeeping	4,963	6,480
Costs of Trustees' Meetings	2,744	1,419
Bank Charges	184	263
Legal & Finance	4,841	3,599
Total	12,732	11,761
Total Resources Expended	346,194	466,002
Net Balance before Gains & Losses	220,082	(31,747)
Realised Recognised Gains & Losses		
Realised Gains/(Losses) On Fixed Asset Investments	(5,971)	(11,966)
Net Balance	214,111	(43,713)

Votes on Finances

= agree to Unaudited Financial Report

= agree to continue using BK Plus Ltd

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE001656 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1158301

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

FOR
BIODYNAMIC AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
TRADING AS THE BIODYNAMIC ASSOCIATION OR BDA



"Biodynamics: working with stone and meadow diversity at Yatesbury House Farm"

BK Plus Limited
6 Manor Park Business Centre
Mackenzie Way
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 9TX

Standing for re-election is

Ian looks after and dispatches the biodynamic preparations and books on behalf of the BDA coming into the office 2-3 times a week. He was also the BDA treasurer between 1999 and 2015 and still keeps a keen eye on the Association's governance. He is passionate about the planets and stars and especially how they influence biodynamic growing through the biodynamic planting calendar. On this he has given many workshops and courses to biodynamic apprentices and others over the years. Ian came to biodynamics after a 20 year period in Birmingham involved in wholefoods and Friends of the Earth campaigns. He worked for a while in the garden at the Grange growing seeds before working in the Grange office for many years from which he has retired and moved to Stroud. He still supports people with extra needs and is involved in many community and Camphill connected activities and initiatives.



Ian Bailey, as per agreement at AGM 2021 a third term is allowed.

Standing for election after having been co-opted :

Mattias Emous (apologies from Mattias who is unable to be here today)

My name is Mattias Emous, I am excited to be standing for election as a Trustee of the BDA. I have nearly three decades of experience in biodynamic and organic horticulture and land stewardship in England and abroad. Over the last 20 years, I had the privilege to develop and manage the therapeutic gardens at Ruskin Mill following biodynamic methods and practice. Witnessing first-hand the profound benefits of gardening on individuals' well-being. I am particularly interested in initiatives that increase accessibility to biodynamic practices, educate the public on the benefits, and foster intersections between biodynamics and other regenerative agricultural models.



Election votes

Votes for :

- **Ian Bailey**

- **Mattias Emous**

We thank all trustees, certification board members and volunteers who are supporting the activity of the BDA, with your help we can better fulfil our objectives.

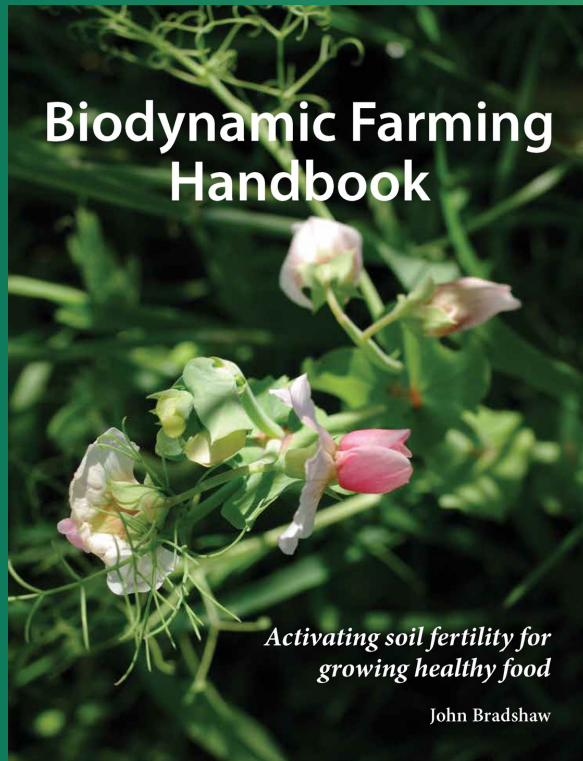
This is the end of the AGM



biodynamic^{uk}
association

We hope you have enjoyed it
Do share thoughts and feedback
Ideas for the next 100 years and our
next AGM

Thank you for being a part of BDA



Book Launch for a new Biodynamic Book that
resonates perfectly with this weekend's
workshop.

Presented by Hawthorn Press
a **Biodynamic Farming Handbook**
&

Then for the Farm Walk