



British Dragonfly Society

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2016



British Dragonfly Society

Annual Report 2016

British Dragonfly Society

Registered Charity No 800196

Patron

Sir David Attenborough OM CH FRS

Charity's principal address

23 Bowker Way, Whittlesey, Peterborough PE7 1PY

Trustees and Committee Members as at 31st March 2016

Trustee	Position
Vacancy	Chairman
Vacancy	Vice-Chairman
Mr H G Curry	Hon. Secretary
Mr B Walker	Hon. Treasurer
Dr P Taylor	Convenor of Dragonfly Conservation Group
Mr M Parfitt	
Mr C Tacconi	
Mr S Irons	
Mr N Scott	
Dr B Price	

Bankers

The Bankers of the Society are Lloyds plc.

Cover photos

Front: *BDS volunteers hold the second place award for Conservation Stands at the Rutland Birdfair 2015*

Back: *A Brown Hawker dragonfly larva (Aeshna grandis).*

1. About the Society

Aims

The aims of the British Dragonfly Society (BDS), as stated in Article II of our Constitution, are “to promote and encourage the study, conservation and understanding of Odonata and their natural habitats, especially in the United Kingdom, and to raise public awareness of dragonflies”. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the aims of the Society. The BDS is a non-profit making Society with no political affiliations or stance.

Study and conservation

Within the BDS there are two main inter-linked areas of interest, dragonfly recording and dragonfly conservation. The first of these consists of a dedicated group of individual enthusiasts each collecting and supplying records to a Dragonfly Recording Network (DRN) of Vice County Recorders (VCR). The purpose of these records is not simply to document what is present, but also to inform the second main area of interest, that of dragonfly conservation. Records help us to understand the value of a site and added notes about population size and breeding behaviour allow us to assess the importance of an area for species survival. Dragonflies are good indicators of the health of a habitat, so any variation in distribution or population size can indicate changes on a wider environmental scale. Education and training are important weapons in conservation. Raising public awareness is vital because people need to appreciate something in order to want to preserve it, so providing information to an ever widening audience is an important job for the BDS. We aim to share the knowledge gained with as many as possible of those whose job it is to take care of the environment. This is achieved both through direct contact and through public events, other meetings and publicity in the national press and social media.

2. Summary of Key Achievements

e-Newsletter

Our new Conservation Officer, Genevieve Dalley, joined us in July 2015. One of her first actions was to set up a monthly e-mail newsletter, sent to all our members but also open to anyone who requests it. The first issue was published in August, and since then feedback from members and recipients has been extremely positive.

Spring Meeting (formerly Recorders' Day)

This was held in March 2016 in Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking, Surrey. For the first time it was billed as the *Spring Meeting* to indicate that it was for all members, rather than appearing exclusively for recorders. There was a focus on the work needed to produce the *State of Dragonflies 2020* (the planned follow-up to our 2014 Atlas), as well as encouraging the use of BRC's recording software. Attendance was excellent, with over 60 people coming to the meeting, which covered topics such as migrant dragonflies, iRecord, the Great Fen Project, and finished with an expert panel answering questions .

Rutland Water Birdfair

Over the three days of this event in 2015 we attracted a good deal of interest and we were awarded a certificate as we gained the second place award for Conservation Stands.

Dragonfly Week 2015

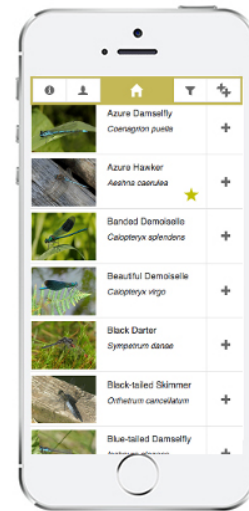
Our popular 'Dragonfly Week' in July hosted a number of guided walks and events, culminating in 'Dragonfly Day' at Wicken Fen in Cambridgeshire.

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Dragonfly Recording 'App'

We were excited to partner the release of the new *iRecord Dragonfly App*, which allows users to input and upload dragonfly records in the field. With excellent identification information, the app is easy to use by amateurs and experts alike. Created by the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH), the Biological Records Centre (BRC) and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) in association with BDS, the app has extensive photo galleries for each species, along with flight season graphs, habitat information and distribution maps. Photos can be uploaded to confirm records, and there are advanced features such as the ability to record life-stage, behaviour and species counts. This ties the app in with our *DragonflyWatch* recording network and renders it useful for all levels of recording. The app can also be used for uploading old records which have not yet been added to our database. As it runs from a website, it is available for field use on smart phones such as those based on Android & iOS systems, but it will also run on laptop and desktop personal computers. To help introduce this new app we also took part in an instructional video about how to use iRecord; this also explains the benefits and how users can easily become a part of the overall recording process.



Annual Meeting & AGM 2015

Our 32nd Annual Meeting (formerly known as Member's Day) and 28th AGM, open to all, was held in mid November at University of Suffolk Campus, a new venue for us in East Anglia. The meeting included talks ranging from the study of dragonfly DNA, Dark Spreadwing in Andalucia, to top tips on taking the perfect dragonfly photograph.

Fundraiser

To fully take advantage of the legacies received, we held interviews in 2015 for a person to fill our new part-time fundraiser post. Unfortunately, the chosen candidate subsequently had to decline our offer, so we are looking to re-advertise the post.

Membership Survey

A survey form was sent out with the Autumn 2015 edition of Dragonfly News and was also made available to all attendees at the Annual Meeting & AGM in November. Approximately 1600 were distributed and 97 were returned, around a 6% response rate. The survey focused chiefly on three main areas, asking members for their views on (i) our three publications, (ii) the two main annual meetings, and (iii) our website.

Due to the relatively low response rate, and the fact that this survey was only for our members, we have been cautious about drawing any conclusions which might suggest making immediate or drastic changes. However, we have decided to look at some of the stronger suggested areas of improvement and we also recognise that we need to consider how we engage with non-members through Dragonfly News and the BDS Journal. We are considering running Focus Groups with members of other similar organisations and a short survey of visitors during Dragonfly Week.

The key finding is that we don't need to make much change, as the survey results clearly indicated that our membership is very happy with our current publications, meetings and website.

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Dragonfly Centre 2015

The Centre, a converted fenman's cottage on the marvellous National Trust land of Wicken Fen in Cambridgeshire, was manned from May through to September by our band of stalwart volunteers. It was again extremely popular, especially with younger visitors who enjoy looking at our raised pond and seeing the fascinating range of aquatic wildlife at eye level.

Trustees

The earlier difficulties in attracting Trustees has now largely been overcome, and with the impending proposal to change to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) we anticipate greater flexibility of roles within the governing board. A ballot form will be sent in the Spring 2016 edition of Dragonfly News asking for members to endorse the proposed change to a CIO.

3. Conservation

England

Southern Damselfly: We set up a 'Southern Damselfly (SD) Group' in Dorset so work could be better co-ordinated in the longer term. Various groups and local experts met in December 2015. We polled landowners and managers for pertinent information, and following this we constructed a report on best habitat management methods. We plan a session in the spring to train National Trust volunteers to carry out SD transects across Purbeck. Funding for equipment is now available, but not yet for RSPB time to run the course, nor for creation of a Living Record project where the data can be pooled. We therefore plan to put together a funding bid for HDH Wills to support these activities. In the meantime Dorset County Council has suggested they may support the project by providing interim funding. We also plan to carry out habitat surveys of land surrounding the main Purbeck site, Hartland.

Southern Damselfly: We are assisting with suggested management plans for St Faith Meadows, near Winchester for SD. This is on the Itchen Navigation, a site without trees, potentially an important site to allow the population to expand. Hampshire and I.O.W Wildlife Trust (WT) have a 10 year lease on the site from 2012; trees have been removed and there are cattle on site but the ditches are blocked with brash and broken sluices. There is local pressure on the site owners, the local council, to insist that the WT undertake a hydrological survey and then carry out more management.

Southern Damselfly: were translocated this summer from the New Forest to Hense Moor (Blackdown Hills, Devon). This was carried out under the guidance of Professor Dave Thompson of Liverpool University,

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using the same protocols as the previous translocation to Devon and some of the Environment Agency funds left for Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) translocations. Any remaining funds will be transferred to BDS with the recommendation that they be used for monitoring the success of both translocations.

Norfolk Hawker: We put in a bid to Natural England for Norfolk Hawker surveys to be carried out in 2016. This is aimed at discovering possible new breeding sites, as yet unrecorded.

White-faced Darter: (i) The Cumbria re-introduction is going very well. (ii) Delamere Forest has not yet produced any significant results, with only a handful of adults seen this year, however there is a further year for this project to run.

Scotland

We have established two new 'Dragonfly Hotspots', respectively at Scotstown Moor in Aberdeen and at Trottick Mill Ponds in Dundee. To allow us to carry out volunteer tasks we have applied for a grant for equipment. We've also arranged for volunteer tasks to be carried out at four existing Hotspots throughout November. We organised a volunteer day at Lochan Buidhe (Key Site Logierait Mires SSSI) with the Bog Squad & five dragonfly volunteers. As a result of this a ditch was dammed to raise the water table to encourage return of the Northern Damsely to the lochan.



Wales

Natural Resources Wales have raised sufficient funding to carry out habitat management for Southern Damsely at Cefn Bryn. They have used digging equipment to open up streams which were deeply incised, and worked on areas upstream of the current population stronghold in that area. Sediment moving downstream was a potential problem, and we suggested the use of sediment traps to minimise this effect. The local recorder is monitoring the work due to concerns about disturbing the current population.

4. Training & Education

Children's Education: We have developed a presentation to be used by teachers on the subject of dragonflies, together with the teachers notes to accompany it. Following advice from various teachers we have updated the education activities we currently have so they more clearly support the curriculum.

Website: We sent a questionnaire out in the e-newsletter for members' opinions on the website and as a result we've designed a rough draft of the required changes and how the revised version should look, with a new navigation style. We are currently assessing how and when the changes will be made.

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Scotland:

We delivered educational talks to Angus & Dundee Scottish Wildlife Trust Group, Perth Scottish Wildlife Trust Group, Tullibody Gardening Club, Scottish Invertebrate Conference in Oban. We also delivered training events to Dundee Ranger Service, the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative (identification & recording in each case) and held a Continuing Professional Development Training session for Angus teachers at Crombie Country Park. And we ran guided walks / training events at Flanders Moss, new Aberdeen Hotspot, Scotstown Moor, Gartcosh Hotspot, Morton Lochs Hotspot and Riverside Nature Park, Dundee.

Wales:

Our Conservation Officer is planning to jointly run an identification course for adult attendees at Ebbw Vale Wildlife Trust in June 2016.

5. Publicity & Outreach

Enquiries

We continue to receive a significant number of queries from the general public and our voluntary service is well respected in providing not only general answers but also identification of a wide range of dragonfly and damselfly photographs, many of which are of non-UK species.

Social Media

The BDS **Facebook** page has a wide following and carries regular posts from our Conservation Officer & Scotland Officer. We also regularly post items of interest to our members and other dragonfly followers on our BDS **Twitter** account. Additionally we have a BDS **Flickr** page where people post a wide range of high quality dragonfly-related photographs.

Children's Outreach: We have created a 'young persons' section in our magazine (Dragonfly News) and the aim is to recruit a young volunteer who, with the help of our Editor and Conservation officer, will maintain and edit it.

Lancaster District Magazine: We produced an article for the magazine on dragonflies in general.

Bug Club Magazine: The Amateur Entomologists Society (AES) produces 6 'Bug Club' magazines per year. They have a strong following of young entomologists, so to reach these youngsters we have written an article for inclusion in their magazine about dragonfly phenology. Afterwards we have suggested that the children can conduct their own home experiments by noting down the first dates in the year when they observe a particular dragonfly species, where they have seen it, and the prevailing temperature & weather conditions.

Scotland : Our Scotland Officer constructed an Outdoor Education pack, a set of habitat guides for the website, and an interpretation panel design for the Gartcosh site. We provided press releases for Aberdeen Press & Journal the STV website (dragonfly-hotspot), The Courier (Tayside & Fife), the St Andrews Citizen (Fife), and the Arbroath Herald (Angus). There is now a thriving Scottish Group and we hold regular communication with Scottish members about targeted recording & Area Co-ordinators; some members are now covering key and/or under-recorded sites. We also contacted Scottish Schools Education Research Centre about Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and the Scottish Education Pack was promoted through the Scottish Countryside Rangers Association and sent to Dundee Ranger Service.

6. Recording

The Biological Records Centre has taken custody of our database and we are encouraging recorders and VCRs to use their iRecord online input facility. In addition, their dragonfly recording app was launched in September, allowing records to be input electronically either in the field or at home, via smartphone, tablet or desktop computer.

An urgent need to train VCRs and other users in the use of iRecord and in record validation was identified, and as a result a session was arranged in November 2015 at Attenborough Field Centre in Nottingham, with further local sessions planned.

7. Publications

We supply three publications to all our members :

Dragonfly News - this twice-yearly magazine remains a firm favourite with the readership and is about to reach its 69th edition. It has a style appealing to all levels from absolute beginner to dedicated enthusiast. Society news, information regarding meetings, ideas for where to see dragonflies and reports of guided walks are provided, together with a selection of members' articles and photographs. The content is varied and the presentation professional thanks to our excellent editor.

BDS Journal - this is our internationally acclaimed twice-yearly peer-reviewed scientific publication, currently at volume 31. It is widely read and accepted as an important journal in the world of Odonatology.

Darter Magazine - published annually, this magazine specifically reviews data from our Recorders and their achievements in each year together with the outlook for the forthcoming recording season.

8. Outlook - Future Plans

Scotland:

Following the first very successful meeting in 2014, we are now planning to hold our second Scottish Dragonfly Conference in April 2016.

Dragonfly Centre

We intend to review the displays both inside and especially outside the Centre, with a view to updating them. We also plan to review the Video display and plan to install a larger TV and improve the layout.

Finance:

General expenditure continues to run at a similar level to 2014-15. Apart from the substantial legacies, we appear to have less income in 2015/16 than in the previous year. Part of this is accounted for by lower shop sales because we do not have new books to sell in the way that we had last year, although the sales figure is almost certainly understated at present. The remainder of the difference mainly comes from a reduction in donations. Expenditure came out higher than in 2014-15, mainly due to the need to upgrade our website at the end of the year. For our staff account, income is very close to the pattern last year. Expenditure is well down on last year as our Records Officer retired, we were without a Conservation Officer for some months and our Scotland Officer had to reduce her working hours. However, we now have a new Conservation Officer, our Scotland Officer has increased to 3 days per week, and we have recruited a new Records Officer, therefore expenditure will rise again.

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Fundraiser – new post proposed

We intend to make best use of our legacies by growing the Society, and to this end we intend to recruit a fundraiser in 2016.

President

We are actively searching for a new President to represent, promote and publicise the work of the Society, and hope to make announcements towards the summer of 2016.

CIO

Once we receive a mandate from the members, we intend to move to become a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) as we believe this will give the Society and its management team greater flexibility and security.

9. Accounts

For information regarding our Accounts for this financial year please see the associated document “BDS Accounts 2015-2016”.

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Published by:

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of British Dragonfly Society

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2016, which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: *Tim Schofield*

Relevant professional qualification or body: *LLB, ACA*

Address: *11b Lymington Rd, Havant, Hants.*

Date *6/9/16.*

British Dragonfly Society - General Account

A1: Receipts & Payments, 2015/16 & 2014/15 (year ending 31st March)

Receipts	2015/16 £	2014/15 £	Payments	2015/16 £	2014/15 £
Subscriptions			Printing and related costs:		
Subscriptions	27,436.00	28,110.00	a. Journal & Dragonfly News		
	27,436.00	28,110.00	Printing	7,206.00	7,232.00
Donations			Handling & Mailing	3,059.37	2,518.09
General	6,520.42	7,397.95	d. Other printing & handling	525.60	192.00
Members' day	564.00	565.00		10,790.97	9,942.09
From royalties on publications*		700.00	Exhibitions & Fairs	1,867.00	1,159.04
Dragonfly Project		1,500.00	Members' Day, costs/facilities	619.60	1,485.47
	7,084.42	10,162.95	Dragonfly Centre	1,910.75	1,520.13
Inland Revenue Gift Aid	6,263.55	6,240.77		4,397.35	4,164.64
Interest			Trustees & DCG expenses		
COIF General and Life Funds	690.43	608.90	General	70.00	147.11
Sales			Job advert	365.00	
Larvae Field Guide	1,150.00	1,603.50	Meeting venues	361.88	
Other books & DVDs	5,251.40	7,971.85		796.88	147.11
Other Goods	1,344.75	2,058.80	Cost of:		
Postage & packing	483.45	742.00	Shop goods & expenses	5,257.77	7,060.91
	8,229.60	12,376.15		5,257.77	7,060.91
Other			Other:		
Adverts (Dragonfly News)			Membership Office	2,408.51	2,199.11
Suspense a/c	290.00	324.00	Website	2,976.00	
Courses	1,030.00	1,480.00	Insurance	701.35	678.93
Miscellaneous	10.00		Bank Charges (incl. Paypal)	878.73	1,013.69
Refund for erroneous payments	414.57		Refund of overpayments	175.00	20.00
Legacy	97,143.75	51,007.62	Subscriptions		
Bank charge refund		1.60	Advertisement		
	98,888.32	52,813.22	Erroneous direct debits	414.57	
			Recruitment		
				7,554.16	3,911.73
Sub-total: Current Receipts	148,592.32	110,311.99	Sub-total: Current Payments	28,797.13	25,226.48
<i>Current surplus (defecit)</i>		<i>85,085.51</i>			
Capital			Sub-total: Capital Payments		0.00
Sub-total: Capital Receipts		0.00			
Total Receipts	148,592.32	110,311.99	Total Payments	28,797.13	25,226.48

Surplus: Current & Capital

119,795.19	85,085.51
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(A)

***Publication Royalties donated to BDS**

Publication		
Total	0.00	

British Dragonfly Society - CONSOFF Account

B1: Receipts & Payments, 2015/16 & 2014/15 (year ending 31st March)

Receipts	2015/16 £	2014/15 £	Payments	2015/16 £	2014/15 £
Grants			DCO & DIF Projects		
Dragonfly Conservation Officer			Salaries	30,074.15	40,621.97
and			Employer's NIC		465.23
Dragonflies in Focus			Employer's Pension Contributions	815.10	2,220.27
			Storage	1,053.12	775.52
			Conference & Training	215.00	145.00
Other			Subscriptions	52.00	52.00
			Payroll and other Administration	288.00	188.40
SNH	8,465.21	11,956.94	Travel & subsistence	5,856.57	5,329.02
NRW	512.00	7,368.00	Books, equipment & software	918.94	376.74
Sub-total	8,977.21	19,324.94	Insurance	490.51	587.21
			Office expenses	155.09	470.73
Projects			Meetings	254.38	320.77
Course Fees		951.55	Bank Charges	146.40	165.30
Wildlife Trusts Wales			Services	2,148.56	
Grants for work in Scotland	944.00		Job adverts	600.00	
Beaver Introduction		1,100.00	Miscellaneous		34.81
Sub-total	944.00	2,051.55	Sub-total	43,067.82	51,752.97
			Other projects		
Grants received in year	9,921.21	21,376.49	Darter	1,262.00	1,739.41
			Web based Recording		
			Beaver Introduction Survey		1,100.00
			Southern Damselfly Projects	49.68	
			Postcard survey & pamphlets		343.00
			Costs for courses		332.30
			Projects in Scotland	452.39	
			Hotspots		1,162.00
			Display materials		146.40
			Refund		
			Other		
Total receipts in year	13,987.08	22,707.01	Total Payments in the year	44,831.89	56,576.08

Surplus receipts over Payments

-30,844.81	-33,869.07
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(B)

Key Organisation

NRW Natural Resources Wales

SNH Scottish Natural Heritage

British Dragonfly Society Accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2016

C1 STATEMENT OF ASSETS

Assets		As at 31-Mar-16 £	Movement £	Transfers £	As at 31-Mar-15 £
Life Fund (COIF)	(1)	31,893.57	0.00	0.00	31,893.57
BDS General Fund (COIF)	(2)	232,000.00		120,000.00	112,000.00
BDS General a/c		41,179.68	109,408.06	-136,590.00	68,361.62
Cash on hand		38.30			38.30
Paypal	(6)	994.42	10,387.13	-9,850.00	457.29
Sum held by CONSOFF					
BDS General Funds	(3)	42,212.40			68,857.21
General Fund		306,105.97	119,795.19	-26,440.00	212,750.78
CONSOFF dep a/c (COIF)	(4)	15,000.00	(A)		15,000.00
CONSOFF current a/c		6,715.20	-30,844.81	26,440.00	11,120.01
Sum paid for BDS					
CONSOFF funds	(5)	6,715.20			11,120.01
Consoff fund		21,715.20	-30,844.81	26,440.00	26,120.01
			(B)		
TOTAL CASH		327,821.17	88,950.38	0.00	238,870.79

Assets	c/f 31-Mar-16 £	Stock donated ** £	Cost of stock sold £	Stock adjustment * £	New stock purchased £	c/f 31-Mar-15 £
TOTAL STOCK	6,940.13		4,351.97	7.52	4,039.00	7,245.58
TOTAL ASSETS	334,761.30					246,116.37

C2 BANK RECONCILIATION

Bank & Deposit Fund Statements - Accounts	A/c ref	2015/16 £	2014/15 £
BDS			
Life Fund (COIF) per statement & accounts 31st March	(1)	31,893.57	31,893.57
BDS General Fund (COIF) per statement & accounts 31st March	(2)	232,000.00	112,000.00
BDS a/c per bank statement at 31st March		41,439.28	68,361.62
Held by CONSOFF a/c			
Unpresented cheques		-259.60	
Cash on Hand		38.30	38.30
Paypal balance	(6)	994.42	457.29
Accounts total	(3)	42,212.40	68,857.21
CONSOFF			
CONSOFF Fund (COIF) per statement & accounts 31st March	(4)	15,000.00	15,000.00
CONSOFF a/c per bank statement at 31st March		8,175.46	12,866.72
Held for BDS a/c			
Unpresented cheques		-1,460.26	-1,746.71
Accounts total	(5)	6,715.20	11,120.01

Note: The 2014/15 accounts contained an error in that the sum in the CONSOFF current a/c was double counted. This means that CONSOFF funds were overstated by £11,120.01 and total cash assets were £238,870.79 rather than the £249,990.80 originally shown. The 2014/15 accounts have been corrected in the figures above.