

The Stapledon Memorial Trust: The First 50 Years: 1962-2012

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The Stapledon Memorial Trust was set up to perpetuate the memory of Sir George Stapledon and to promote agricultural research and education.

Sir George had been a pioneer of grassland research and development. He was the founder and first Director of both the Welsh Plant Breeding Station (WPBS) at Aberystwyth and the Grassland Improvement Station, later to become the Grassland Research Institute (GRI), and was the first President of the British Grassland Society. He developed the concept of ley farming and highlighted the importance of grassland in the whole rural economy. A detailed account of Stapledon's life and philosophies is given in a biography by R Waller entitled 'Prophet of the New Age: The Life and Thought of Sir George Stapledon F.R.S.' published in 1962 by Faber and Faber.

This article details the formation of the Trust, the major activities over the 50-year period, the administration and management of the Trust and its current strategy.

Formation of the Trust

Following the death of Sir George in 1959 a meeting was held at the Farmers Club on 27 Oct 1960 to discuss 'a fitting memorial to the late Sir George Stapledon'. The meeting was chaired by J Houghton Brown (Farmer) with G Broome (Dunns Farm Seeds) as Secretary and was attended by representatives of 16 organisations. It was resolved 'That a Trust, to be known as the Stapledon Memorial Trust, be set up to perpetuate the memory of Sir George Stapledon'. Ideas on the appropriate form of memorial were exchanged. These included the establishment of a University Chair of Natural (or Rural) philosophy, travelling fellowships, funding for post-graduate research students and sponsoring memorial lectures. It was agreed that a General Committee be formed and organisations in farming, education, research, ancillary agricultural industries and the press would be asked to nominate members.

The General Committee met for the first time on 24 Jan 1961 with 30 organisations represented and with Sir James Scott-Watson (The Farmers Weekly) in the chair. The Committee discussed further the suggestions made at the first meeting. A new element was representation from the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth (RASC) and common interest with RASC in the possibility of Travelling Fellowships for researchers in Commonwealth countries. New suggestions were for the establishment of a Visiting Professorship in a UK University and support to establish a National Park in Wales. It was decided to form an Executive Committee and this was charged to explore further the suggested foci for a Memorial Trust and to make recommendations. This committee was set up with J Houghton Brown (Chairman), G Broome (Secretary), W Davies (GRI), PT Thomas (WPBS), HJ Cator (RASC), HR Gardiner (Council for the Protection of Rural England) and Lord Waldegrave, with Lady Stapledon and A Hobson (Secretary, RASC) as *ex officio* members.

The Executive Committee met on 20 April 1961 and agreed to recommend to the General Committee a proposal from W Davies 'that the proposed Memorial to the late Sir George Stapledon should take the form of a Travelling Fellowship(s) with particular emphasis on grassland research for Commonwealth Research Workers in Agricultural Sciences, aged in the region of 30/40 years in civil or government employment, such Fellowship(s) to be administered jointly by the Trust and the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth'. This proposal was agreed by the General Committee on 2 Nov 1961, together with proposals that the holder of a Travelling Fellowship should give a Stapledon Memorial Lecture on the completion of the Fellowship and that from time to time other Memorial Lectures would be given.

The formation of the Trust and its policies were further developed by the Executive Committee. The Trust was registered as a charity with the Trust Deed accepted on 28 Sept 1962. Although the decision had been made that the main focus of the Trust would be on funding Travelling Fellowships and Memorial Lectures, it was wisely decided to couch the objectives in very broad terms – 'for the promotion of Agricultural Research and education in memory of the late Sir George Stapledon'. The deed provided for two to four Trustees, to be supported by a larger Committee charged with the general management and control of the Trust. It is quite remarkable that the Trust still operates within this framework and there has only been one amendment to the deed. The Charity Commissioners agreed in 2007 to a proposal to allow independent examination of accounts rather than more expensive formal auditing. Furthermore the focus on Travelling Fellowships has been maintained since the foundation of the Trust. The initial Trustees were Lady Stapledon, W Davies, HR Gardner and J Houghton Brown.

An appeal for funds was launched on 16 Oct 1962 with Sir Richard Trehane (Milk Marketing Board and Farmer) as Chairman of the Appeals Committee, R Henson (Farmers Club) as Appeals Organiser and Lord Netherthorpe as Treasurer, with professional assistance given by the Graham Cherry Organisation. Some 30,000 appeals leaflets were distributed and many personal approaches were made.

Over the following five years a total of over 490 donations were received including those from 51 individuals and organisations making covenants to give donations annually, normally for seven years. The donations varied from 10 shillings to £5000. The largest donations were from Lady Stapledon and the National Seed Certification Authority with generous support coming from many individual farmers, land owners, seedsmen and scientists and from farming organisations and companies in ancillary industries. In addition, through the initiative of PT Thomas, the Aberystwyth Freedom from Hunger Campaign donated £6000, including proceeds of over £2000 from a University Rag. The seed trade provided important support, including the proceeds of around £3000 from a levy on stock seeds for two years and contributions from seed sales. Despite efforts to promote the appeal throughout the Commonwealth, practically all of the donations came from the UK, although there was a very welcome donation from the Jamaican Grassland Society. A separate appeal was made by the New Zealand Grassland Association in 1964 to pay tribute to PD Sears, an eminent New Zealand grassland scientist, and to Sir George. The proceeds of this appeal formed the Grassland Memorial Trust and were used to fund scientists and farmers for travel or to reward innovation to advance grassland farming. It was envisaged that there would be collaboration with the Stapledon Memorial Trust. Although a substantial number of New Zealand scientists were awarded Travelling Fellowships

and New Zealand was a popular destination for Fellows, contacts with the New Zealand Grassland Association were entirely informal.

By July 1965 the Trust Fund stood at £29,039. Lady Stapledon died on 29 July 1965 and in her will donated a further £5,000 to the Trust, together with the residue of her estate after other bequests - a total of nearly £23,000. The Trust in 1968 had a balance of £74,028.

The availability of Fellowships was advertised late in 1963 and a Selection Committee met in July 1964 to consider the first applicants.

Major activities of the Trust

Travelling Fellowships

The provision of Travelling Fellowships has been the main business of the Trust throughout the 50 years. Not surprisingly there have been changes in the conditions of award and the nature of support given over the years. Aspects of the objectives of the Fellowships, eligibility, duration and funding and how they have changed are discussed below.

Objectives The purpose of the Fellowships was to enhance the experience of researchers through spending a working period in a leading research centre in another country and so contribute to their development, bringing benefits both to their home country and the host country. This objective has not altered. Often the Fellowships have enabled scientists to master techniques that are new to them or to test their ideas using contrasting materials and ecosystems not available in their home countries. Lasting contacts and collaborations have often resulted from the Fellowships.

Eligibility The original focus was on grassland research and development, but from an early stage Fellowships were encouraged also for work on the social, economic and environmental implications of grassland and land use more generally. This is still the present policy and reflects the very broad interests of Sir George.

Initially the awards were restricted to scientists in Commonwealth countries who were in the 30-40 years age range. This approach had been strongly advocated by W Davies, who was very aware of the close contacts Sir George had with Commonwealth countries and the greater availability of other sources to support travel by early post-doctoral researchers and by well-established scientists. The Committee were also conscious that the mobility of many scientists in this age range was reduced by their family commitments. Fellows had to travel from one Commonwealth country to at least one other Commonwealth country. Although Fellows could visit several research centres (including centres in non-Commonwealth countries), they should generally have a single base and undertake a specific piece of research at that base.

There has been loosening of the age restriction but the target group has not materially altered. The current terms indicate that 'Applicants should normally be from the post-doctoral level through to mid-career'.

From the start, the policy was established that Fellowships would not be used to support visits where the main focus in the proposal was to participate in a conference, as other funding streams were available for this purpose. Also the Fellowships could not be used to fund the costs of undertaking research for higher degrees. This is still the present policy.

A major change in eligibility was made in 2005 when the Trust Committee removed the restriction of the scheme to Commonwealth countries, but introduced a requirement that applicants should either be based in the UK or that the host organisation would be in the UK. These changes were made following a two-year period when there had been only one application for a Fellowship. The change was also made to reflect the massive changes that had occurred over the years in agricultural research and development and the diminished importance of the Commonwealth in the collaborations and contacts required. It was also intended to increase the benefit of the scheme to the UK. The change resulted in an increase in the number of applicants.

Duration The initial call specified periods of from 3 months to 2 years, although most of the early Fellowships were for periods of about a year. With more rapid international travel (some early Fellows travelled to Australia and New Zealand by boat), and the generally increased pressure on the time of scientists with the development of contract research, the tendency has been for progressive shortening of the duration of Fellowships. They are now normally awarded for 1 to 6 months, but Fellows from developing countries are encouraged to spend periods approaching 6 months in the UK.

Funds Provided At the time of the Trust's foundation the cost of long-distance travel was very high. The Trust funded travel costs, and in early years sometimes included payment for the Fellow's family. Payments were not made for subsistence. With decrease in the relative cost of travel and increase in living costs, there has been some change in emphasis, with payments for subsistence being made to applicants, particularly those coming from developing countries. Until 2004, the Fellowship payments were made directly to the Fellow, with travel and accommodation bookings often being made by the Trust Secretary. The procedure was then changed so that the grants are now paid to the UK organisation involved, with the Fellow then having to claim from the organisation and the organisation having to account to the Trust for the expenditure incurred. This arrangement much simplified administration by the Trust and avoided the need for payments from the Trust in currencies other than sterling.

Fellowships Awarded The availability of Fellowships was advertised early in 1964 and a Selection Committee was appointed, to be chaired by Sir Anthony Hurd. This committee met on 23 July 1964. It agreed that, in view of the large contribution from the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, the initial awards should be made to scientists from developing countries. Rather surprisingly the first Fellowship taken up by RS Musangi from Uganda late in 1964 was of only one month's duration and for a tour of research stations in UK and Western Europe rather than for a specific piece of research. Two further fellowships were awarded - to JH l'Ons from Swaziland to Australia and New Zealand and to MA Owen from Tanganyika to Australia. These were for periods of several months and in line with the main Trust focus.

Fellowships were then advertised annually with circulation to agricultural research and educational centres throughout the Commonwealth. Until 1982 applications were considered by a Selection Committee and then by the main Trust Committee, with meetings generally held in December. Since 2010, applications can also be considered in mid-year. Over the last ten years the main methods of promotion of the Trust have been through the website and at International Grassland Congresses, European Grassland Federation Meetings and other events supported by the Trust.

The Fellowships awarded and their topics are given in Appendix 1. A feature has been fluctuation in the number of applications made. This has varied from zero in 2004 to 17 in 1977 and 18 in 1996, with an average of 7 applications per year from 1974 (records not available for all earlier years) to 2011. Although varying from year to year, there was not a distinct trend in the number of applicants until 2003, with only one applicant that year and none in the following year. The scheme was re-launched at the International Grassland Congress in Dublin in 2005 with eligibility not restricted to Commonwealth countries. Since then there has been an average of six applicants per year.

A total of 134 Fellowships has been awarded and taken up, an average of 2.7 per year. The number of Fellowships awarded each year has varied with the number and quality of the applicants and the funds available. Changes with time are given in Table 1 for the total number of Fellowships and the geographical origin of Fellows and their host countries. The time during which eligibility was restricted to Commonwealth countries is divided into three periods each of 14 years, with a further column for the most recent 7 years, since the re-launch in 2005. A country by country breakdown is given in Table 2. Two scientists, DR Rajapakse and AL Hart, have been awarded Fellowships on two occasions.

Table 1 Fellowships awarded and taken up over time and origins and destinations of Fellows

	1964-77	1978-91	1992-2005	2006-12	<i>Total</i>
No. Fellowships	22	42	45	25	<i>134</i>
No. Fellowships per year	1.6	3.0	3.2	3.6	<i>2.7</i>
Origin of Fellows (%)					
UK	45	29	27	32	<i>31</i>
Australia and New Zealand	14	45	33	8	<i>29</i>
Developing countries	36	26	38	32	<i>33</i>
Others	5	0	2	28	<i>7</i>
Destination of Fellows (%)#					
UK	32	50	44	68	<i>49</i>
Australia and New Zealand	68	36	29	4	<i>33</i>
Developing countries	5	10	20	8	<i>12</i>
Others	9	7	9	20	<i>10</i>

Some Fellows visited more than one region, so total %s may exceed 100

Table 2 Fellowships taken up according to country of origin and destination of Fellows

Origin		Destination#	
UK	42	UK	65
New Zealand	27	Australia	34
Australia	12	New Zealand	24
Nigeria	10	Canada	6
India	6	USA	5
Sri Lanka	6	India	4
Ethiopia	5	Ethiopia	3
Uganda	5	Kenya	3
China	3	Japan	2
Czech Republic	3	Nigeria	2
Ghana	3	South Africa	2
Canada	2	Zimbabwe	2
Tanzania	2	Bangladesh	1
Argentina	1	Bhutan	1
Guyana	1	France	1
Indonesia	1	Jamaica	1
Jamaica	1	Malawi	1
Pakistan	1	Sweden	1
South Africa	1	Tanzania	1
Swaziland	1		
Zambia	1		

The number of Fellowships per year has increased from 1.6 in the first period to 3.6 in the last seven years. The proportion of Fellows from developing countries was around one third for each of the four periods with 34% overall, rather similar to the number from the UK (30%) and Australasia (29%), although there was a big drop in Fellows from Australasia in the most recent period. Not surprisingly the percentage in the category 'Others' increased markedly following the change in Trust policy in 2005 to accept applications from any country.

The UK and Australasia dominated the countries of destination with overall 49% of Fellows visiting UK, 25% visiting Australia and 18% New Zealand (many visits combined Australia and New Zealand), with Fellowships in Australia and New Zealand being particularly important during the early years of the Trust. Fellowships in developing countries were 12% overall, fluctuating considerably between periods.

Doubtless this pattern has been influenced by (a) the vigour and nature of research carried out in different countries over time (influencing both the number of scientists in the target career stage and the experience that can be offered in the candidate host countries), (b) the awareness of the Trust, as influenced by publicity by the Trust and networking by previous Fellows, (c) availability of alternative sources of funds and (d) time pressures making it increasingly difficult for researchers to take extended periods overseas. It is not though possible to make a detailed analysis. It is notable

though that many of the Fellows developed to become prominent leaders of research in their home countries.

The duration of the Fellowships has varied from 0.5 to 24 months with a tendency for the mean duration to fall with time (Table 3). Whilst Fellowships lasting 12 months were quite frequent in the early period, only one Fellowship over the last 15 years has been for more than 6 months.

The grant given per Fellowship has been very variable ranging for £100 to £7700. The average grant in £ has increased with time, but when grants are adjusted for the change in the retail price index in the UK, there has been a large decrease in the value of the grants given. As noted earlier, however, the major item covered in the early Fellowships was for travel. There has been a large reduction in the real cost of air travel over this period, so that the decrease in real value of many of the grants would have been less than reflected in the adjusted figures in the table.

Table 3 The average duration of Fellowships and value of grants made

	1964-77	1978-91	1992-2005	2006-12
Duration of Fellowship (months)	7.3	7.0	3.7	4.2
Value of Grant				
£	1282	2889	2242	3791
£ adjusted to 2011 prices	14685	7204	3208	4163

The focus on grassland in the award of Fellowships has been maintained during the 50 years, but there has been some change in the topics examined. In the early years the Fellowships were almost all concerned with the genetics, physiology and agronomy of grasses and legumes and their utilisation by ruminants. Whilst interest in these topics has continued, there has been a progressive shift towards studies on grassland ecology and biodiversity, losses of nutrients, greenhouse gas dynamics, the range of factors affecting the nutrition and production of grass-fed ruminants and consideration of whole systems of land use, including modelling and socio-economic factors. There has also been an increase in the number of Fellowships that have concentrated on the development and use of new research techniques. The increased breadth of studies supported by the Trust is in line with the very broad interests of Sir George and has been encouraged by the Trust Committee.

Other Support

The Trust has been involved in the organisation and support of lectures and conferences and in providing funds for publications. It also provided support for a rural development project in Wales. These activities have always been subsidiary to the provision of Travelling Fellowships, but are now attracting a higher profile.

Meetings Organised by the Trust An early feature of the Trust was the organisation of a series of Stapledon Memorial Lectures. The first of these lectures was given in 1967 at the Farmers Club by Earl de la Warr on 'Future Uses of the Countryside', the second in 1972 by the then Environment Minister Mr P Walker on 'This green and pleasant land' and the third, jointly with the Farmers Club, in 1973 by Dr A Toepfer on 'Nature and Countryside Conservation under the CAP'. The prominence given to the environment in this series of Lectures is quite remarkable, as agricultural policy and land

use at that time was heavily focussed on increasing agricultural production. In addition to these Memorial Lectures, the Trust organised Lectures given by Fellows on their return to the UK. These were held either at the Farmers Club or at a research institute.

In 1974 a symposium was held jointly with the Institute of Environmental Science on 'Fertilisers, Food and the Environment' and in 1985 the Trust combined with the British Grassland Society in putting on a conference on 'Grassland Manuring' to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Trust and the 40th Anniversary of the Society. This was published as Occasional Symposium No. 20 of the British Grassland Society. Subsequently the Trust did not itself organise meetings, but from 1990 provided financial support for meetings relevant to the Trust's objectives and organised by other bodies.

Seminars and Meetings Supported by the Trust Meetings that have received financial support from the Trust are listed in Table 4, together with an indication of the nature of the support provided. This was commonly earmarked to support specific invited speakers or for the support of attendance by young delegates. A feature has been continued support from 1990 for a seminar series held at Aberystwyth and North Wyke. There has also been strong support for meetings of the British Grassland Society, the International Grassland Congress and other international meetings related to grassland and held in the UK.

Table 4 Seminars and meetings supported by the Trust

		Year		Grant (£)
Aberystwyth and North Wyke	Seminar Series	1990 to 2012	Contribution to speaker expenses	13800
	Research Colloquium	2000	Contribution to speaker expenses and publication	1350
	EGF General Meeting to be held in Aberystwyth	2012 for Meeting in 2014	Advance payment of grant of £10000 towards general expenditure	2000
British Grassland Society	Research Conference	1992, 1993, 1997, 1999, 2006, 2009	Invited speaker to give Stapledon Memorial Lecture	5000
	Research Conference	2011	Attendance of young delegates	1500
	50 th Anniversary Conference	1994	Delegate support	2500
	60 th Anniversary Summer meeting	2005	Young delegates as Junior Stapledon Fellows	1400
British Society of Animal Science	International Conference on Fertility in Cattle	2007	Attendance of farmer delegates	750

Council for the Awards of the Royal Agricultural Societies, Wales	Conference	1997	General support	200
European Grassland Federation	General Meeting in Germany	2010	Fund Leader of Masterclass for young scientists	1000
Exeter Univ	Seminar on High Natural Value Grassland	2009	General support	2240
Grassland Society of Southern Australia	Conference	2003	Speaker from UK who gave Stapledon Memorial Lecture	950
International Grassland Congress	Canada	1996	Invited speaker and attendance by a young delegate	3000
	Ireland and UK	2005	General support	7000
	China	2008	Invited speaker	1300
International Silage Conference	Ayr	2001	Speaker support	1000
International Symposium on Nutrition of Herbivores	Aberystwyth	2011	Invited speaker	1500

Publications The Trust has been involved since its inception both in its own publications and making financial contributions to other publications. The Trust itself published the Proceedings of the Memorial Lectures held in the late 60s and early 70s, the Fellowship report from P Hebblethwaite in 1980 and a paper by JP Cooper, a trustee, 'The Stapledon Memorial Trust: A Progress Report' in 1989. In addition the Trust purchased copies of Stapledon's book 'Human Ecology' and Waller's biography of Stapledon, 'Profit of a New Age', and made them available to Colleges at a subsidised price. Since 1998 the Trust has provided financial support for a number of grassland-related publications, with this increasing markedly in the last five years (see Table 5).

Table 5 Publications supported by the Trust (in addition to those associated with meeting support)

			Grant (£)
International Grassland Congress	Proceedings of Congress in Canada	1998	2000
British Grassland Society	Support for 'Grass and Forage Farmer'	1999-2001	6000
Royal Society	Book 'Sustainable Agriculture'	2007	1000
Rothamsted Research	Book 'The Hurley and North Wyke Story: 60 years of Grassland Research'	2010	2000

	<u>'1949-2009'</u>		
European Forum of Nature Conservation and Pastoralism	Book 'High Nature Value Grassland'	2011	600
D Blakesley and P Buckley	Handbook 'Guide to Managing and Restoring Semi-natural Dry Grassland in Britain'	2012	500

Development Project From 1970 to 1988 the Trust provided financial support to a total of £5800 for a rural development project to encourage employment in the Upper Ithon Valley, Radnor, Wales. This project was championed by HR Gardiner and PT Thomas from the Trust Committee and developed initially by I Trant and from 1978 by TS Davis. The Upper Ithon, like many rural areas in Wales, was threatened with depopulation and depression. The Trust took the initiative in setting up a local project group. This addressed the problems of preventing depopulation, making life more full for people living in the valley and improving the lot of farmers. This was in line with Sir George's interests and philosophy and was very forward looking, taking place well before the time when integrated rural studies became a focus in development programmes.

Local residents and a range of organisations were represented on the steering group. In association with this development the Trust combined with the European Working Party for Landscape Husbandry in organising a conference held in the Ithon Valley in July 1970. The initiative sought to tackle ecological, agricultural and sociological problems and considerable emphasis was given to opening up the countryside to tourists and to encouraging employment.

Over the years the Trust supplied small sums of money for (a) environmental improvement, through work done by the Conservation Corps, (b) for agricultural improvement, through funding visits by valley farmers to see new techniques being developed in other parts of UK and through provision of grants to facilitate international exchanges by Young Farmers Club members and (c) the provision of training and the purchase of equipment for people seeking to set up small non-agricultural businesses in the area. It was reported to the Trust in 1980 that many of the initial problems still persisted, but there had been a small increase in the number of people living in the area. Increased agricultural support from the EU in the early 80s then had very positive benefits. The last input from the Trust to this project was the co-funding with the Countryside Commission of a research review on socio-economic aspects of the area, carried out by the University of Aberystwyth. This emphasised the importance of good communications and the encouragement of non-agricultural activities, with particular attention given to tele-cottaging.

Stapledon Archives In 2005 the Trust contracted A Spedding to produce an index to archival material relating to Sir George. Materials held variously in the Welsh National Library and the libraries of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, the Museum of English Rural Life (Reading University) and the Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Research, Aberystwyth, were collated and an index prepared. This is a great aid for researchers seeking to learn more about Stapledon and his work. It can be accessed through the Trust website – www.stapledontrust.org.uk.

Vacation Bursaries The Trust Committee in 2009 saw a need to provide experience in grassland-related research for advanced undergraduate students in the UK to encourage them towards a career in grassland research. An initial studentship was granted in 2010 to A Carswell from Exeter University to carry out a project on the impact of re-wetting soils on N and P leaching at Rothamsted Research, North Wyke. This was highly successful and the Bursar is now carrying out PhD research in this area. The intention is for the Trust to expand the Vacation Bursary scheme.

Trends in Expenditure on Other Activities There has been a large increase in the support provided by the Trust for activities other than Fellowships, with the average annual expenditure increasing from £66 for 1964-77 to £640 (1978-91), £2977 (1992-2005) and £3863 (2006-12). However, even in the most recent period, the spend on Other Activities was only 27% of that on Fellowships.

Management of the Trust

Throughout this period the Trust has been managed, as determined by the Trust Deed, by up to four Trustees and a wider Committee with about 10 members in all. An Appeal Committee operated from 1962-66, a Selection Committee from 1964-82 and a Finance Sub-committee from 2008-10.

The Chairmen, Trustees and members of the Committee are listed in Appendices 2-4. The Trust has benefitted from long and dedicated service by several people. J Houghton Brown was central to the formation of the Trust and was its Chairman for 20 years. There have only been 15 Trustees over the 50-year period, with the longest serving being Sir Richard Trehane (33 years), WF Raymond (31) and PT Thomas (27). Some 42 people have been on the Trust Committee, with the longest serving being Sir Richard Trehane (38 years), WF Raymond (35), G Broome (34), PT Thomas (31), H Burt (26) and JHD Prescott (25). When WF Raymond retired as a Trustee and Committee Member in 2011, he was made an Honorary Stapledon Fellow. Meetings of the Committee have been held annually with occasional additional meetings.

Dunns Farm Seeds, for whom Sir George had acted as a consultant, were a major player in establishing the Trust and provided the secretarial and administrative services through G Broome until 1965 when this role was taken over by the Farmers Club, developing an already close relationship between the Trust and the Farmers Club. Four successive Chief Executives of the Farmers Club were Secretaries of the Trust – RL Henson (1965-83), JLS Andrews (1984-90), GB Murray (1991-94) and GP Carson (1994-2001) – with support over most of that period being provided by HTC McCulloch. A modest payment was made to the Farmers Club for providing secretarial services. From the discussion on founding the Trust until 2010, practically all meetings of Trust committees were held in the Farmers Club. With changed circumstances the Farmers Club became unable to continue to provide the Trust Secretary and this role was provided from 2002-07 by the British Grassland Society, reinforcing another long-standing association with the Trust. JM Crichton was Secretary from 2002 until her death in 2005 and her successor J Buss until 2007. Different options were then considered by the Trust and, following competition, a contract for secretarial services was awarded to A Hopkins, GES Consulting, a former member of staff of Hurley and North Wyke and a Stapledon Fellow in 1988.

At the formation of the Trust it was envisaged that the Fellowships would be administered jointly by the Trust and the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth (RASC). HJ Cator (Executive Chairman, RASC) was on the Trust Committee from 1961 to 62 with A Hobson (Secretary, RASC) an *ex officio* member from 1961 to 1969. Sir A Hurd (Executive Chairman, RASC) was a committee member from 1963 to 1966 and J Everall from 1969 to 1983, but the anticipated joint management of the Fellowship scheme never developed and the link with RASC finished with J Everall's resignation in 1983.

Financial Strategy Generally the Trustees have sought to maintain the capital value of the fund and to support Fellowships, other activities and running costs from dividends and interest payments. There was an exception in that the donation received from the Freedom from Hunger Campaign was spent in funding a number of the initial Fellowships for applicants from developing countries rather than being added to the capital fund. This was extremely helpful in getting the Fellowship scheme off the ground. Although the fund has increased over the years, in real terms the funds are now considerably less than after the receipt of the bequest from Lady Stapledon in 1966.

The initial appeal for funds was made in the context of support for Travelling Fellowships. Although the terms of the Trust Deed are much wider than this, the featuring of Travelling Fellowships in the appeal was a considerable constraint to the approach of the Trust in the early years. This link with Travelling Fellowships did not apply to the bequest made in the will of Lady Stapledon and from that time the Trust was able to give more consideration to funding activities in addition to Travelling Fellowships.

After the initial appeal, the Trust has not actively sought additional capital, but the bequest from Lady Stapledon had a major effect. A donation of £3250 was also made to the Trust in 1984 by JL Rees, an Aberystwyth graduate then living in Australia.

A bank account was set up in 1962 with Lloyds and they are still the Trust's bankers. Advice on the investment programme was provided by the stockbrokers Rowe and Pitman and a policy of investment of 50% of funds in fixed interest investments, 40% in investment trusts and 10% in equities was initially implemented, with Trustees being required to agree investment proposals made by Rowe and Pitman. It appears though that the investment in equities was soon increased and in 1965 the Trust had shares in 12 companies, increasing to 19 companies in 1966, with addition of shares from the bequest of Lady Stapledon.

This arrangement with Rowe and Pitman was maintained until 1972 when the Trust agreed that financial management be taken over by Warburg Investment Management Ltd. The investment objective was defined as to maintain income in real terms whilst achieving the best possible capital growth. Their investment manager presented a report in person to the AGM for discussion and written performance reports were made twice yearly. From 1984 these reports were generally presented by AJF Roe, who maintained responsibility for the Trust's portfolio until 2008, despite takeovers meaning that Warburg's changed to Mercury Asset Management, Merrill Lynch and Black Rock in succession. In 1984 the investment objective changed somewhat to seek increased income whilst achieving capital growth in line with inflation. The Trust's investments changed from holdings of shares in individual companies to holding collective funds with, from the mid-90s, this strategy

resulting in some 20-25% of the funds being in investments oriented towards income with the remainder oriented towards growth.

The performance of the portfolio was considered by the Trust to be disappointing over a number of years early this Century and this, together with imposition of new charges, led to the Trust seeking alternative arrangements. Following competition, the Trust's investments were moved in 2008 to M& G Investment Management, who provide advice and reports on performance of the investments. Their manager has reported in person annually either to the Trust Investment Sub-Committee (2008-10) or to the annual meeting of the Trust Committee.

Changes with time in the value of the Trust's investments are given in Table 6. Whilst the investments increased from £29000 in 1965 to £471000 in 2011, when adjusted for changes in the retail price index the increase was only 9%. The real value was considerably higher about 1970 following the bequest from Lady Stapledon, but there has been considerable fluctuation in value affected by changes in investment policy and stock market performance, with the investments doing particularly well in the 90s. In addition to invested funds, the Trust has normally held some £10000 to £30000 in its bank accounts.

Table 6 Changes in value of the Trust investments

Year	£ (thousand)	£ (thousand) real terms#
1965	29	460
1970	73	905
1975	66	422
1980	81	248
1985	140	349
1990	168	310
1995	292	464
2000	444	617
2005	459	670
2011	471	494

Adjusted to 2011 values on basis of changes in UK Retail Price Index

Current Policy

The Trust is maintaining the Travelling Fellowship scheme following the current criteria for eligibility and granting Fellowships to applicants of high calibre, depending on the funding available. The Trust is increasing the emphasis given to encouraging bright young students towards grassland research and helping their career development. We are seeking to expand the Vacation Bursary scheme and the targeting of conference support to help young scientists. The Trust is continuing to support meetings, conferences and publications relating to grassland and land use, particularly where environmental and socioeconomic factors are linked with production of food and feed. In these ways, the Trust is continuing to develop the interests of Sir George in agriculture within the whole context of rural sustainability and development.

Acknowledgements This paper draws on archival records of the Trust held by the Trust Secretary and on papers by JP Cooper 'The Stapledon Memorial Trust; A Progress Report ' published by the Trust in 1989 and an unpublished paper by WF Raymond written in 1985 and entitled 'A Brief History of the Stapledon Memorial Trust'.

Appendix 1

Travelling Fellowships granted and taken up

Year	Name	Fellowship		Grant made (£)	Duration (months)	Main purpose
		From	To			
1964	RS Musangi	Uganda	UK, Europe	100	1	Visit research institutes
1965	JH l'Ons	Swaziland	Australia, NZ	1000	4	Improvement of natural grassland
1965	MA Owen	Tanzania	Australia	1650	12	Pasture legumes – semi arid regions
1966	RR Appadurai	Sri Lanka	Hurley, Hannah, UK	935	6	Physiological aspects of pasture production
1966	ME Castle	Hannah Dairy Research Institute, UK	NZ	700	3	Feeding of dairy cows at pasture
1966	DI Drayton	Guyana	Hurley, UK, USA, Australia, Jamaica	900	6	Incorporation of legumes into feeding systems for cattle
1966	DB Edmond	NZ	Hurley, Aberystwyth, UK, Australia	1000	6	Effects animal treading on pastures
1966	DStL McLeod	Jamaica	Hurley, UK	900	24	Grassland management
1967	GJA Ryle	GRI, Hurley, UK	Australia	1000	12	Physiological control of grass growth
1968	MD Hayward	WPBS, Aberystwyth, UK	Japan	150	0.5	International Genetics Conference
1968	DJ Hill	WPBS, Aberystwyth, UK	Japan	150	0.5	International Genetics Conference
1968	A Sithanparanathan	Sri Lanka	Australia	500	5	
1969	OR Jewiss	GRI, Hurley, UK	Australia	1800	12	Control of grass growth and development
1970	DIH Jones	WPBS, Aberystwyth, UK	NZ, Australia	1900	13	Techniques of pasture evaluation
1971	J Eadie	Hill Farming	Australia, NZ	1250	3	Hill country research and

		Research Organisation, Edinburgh, UK				development
1971	P Hayes	Queens Univ, Belfast, UK	Australia	1750	6	Plant competition in grassland communities
1973	GCM Latch	NZ	Aberystwyth, UK	1950	12	Diseases of pasture plants
1975	TN Barry	NZ	Hurley, UK	2000	12	Nutritive value of silage
1976	DE Beever	GRI, Hurley, UK	Australia	1850	12	Digestion and utilisation of forages
1976	AF Stewart	Canada	Australia	750	1	Grassland technology
1977	JMM Munro	WPBS, Aberystwyth, UK	Australia, NZ	3153	12	Herbage breeding and testing for problem areas
1977	AP Singh	India	Australia	2817	4	Evaluation and breeding of tropical grasses
1979	R Biswas	Nigeria	Kew, Hurley, UK	550	3	Annotation of gramineae on campus of Univ Nigeria
1979	PD Hebblethwaite	Nottingham Univ, UK	NZ	3500	3	Herbage seed production in NZ
1979	ABJ Jayawardena	Sri Lanka	Kenya, Nigeria, India, Bangladesh	2000	3	Dairy farming systems in developing countries
1979	RG Keogh	NZ	Hurley, UK, Australia	3890	15	Feeding behaviour of sheep in relation to pasture utilisation
1980	PJ Mitchell	Australia	Hurley, UK	2000	12	Grazing studies
1980	G Moseley	WPBS, Aberystwyth, UK	NZ	3500	12	Improving nutritive value of grasses and clovers
1981	H Dove	Australia	Hill Farming Research Organisation, Edinburgh, UK	6000	12	Problems associated with hill farming of sheep
1982	CJ Korte	NZ	Hurley, UK	2000	7	Gas exchange of grazed ryegrass-white clover swards
1982	GW Sheath	NZ	Hurley, UK, USA	2500	3	Pasture legume genetics and agronomy relating to persistence and growth
1983	MB Adjei	Ghana	Australia	4100	6	Forage seed production and technology in Queensland
1983	JD Morton	NZ	UK	2000	18	Performance of Yorkshire fog and ryegrass under sheep grazing
1985	TC Reid	NZ	North Wyke, UK	3000	12	Pasture growth and utilisation on wet soils
1984	AJ Parsons	GRI, Hurley, UK	NZ	800	1	Grazing studies
1984	AL Hart	NZ	Sheffield Univ,	2000	12	Use of NMR to study phosphate

			UK			in legumes
1984	S Peel	GRI, North Wyke, UK	NZ	2500	5	Grass production and utilisation on farms
1985	DR Kemp	Australia	Aberystwyth, UK	3000	6	Regulation of grass growth in winter and spring
1985	CM Munyabuntu	Uganda	Nigeria	3000		N and S utilisation in fertilised range forages
1985	DR Lauren	NZ	Canada	3500	12	Mycotoxins in pasture
1986	RJ Smith	Australia	Wye College, UK	1491	6	Case studies on preserving agricultural land
1986	E Adebowale	Nigeria	Rowett, UK	5500	10	Improvement of low-quality forages
1986	IA Davidson	GRI, Hurley, UK	Australia	1600	6	C partitioning and energy metabolism of clover subjected to grazing pressures
1986	EM Gill	GRI, Hurley, UK	Canada	1800	6	Mathematical model of maintenance expenditure in forage-fed ruminants
1986	W Rumball	NZ	NIAB, Cambridge, UK	4000	5	Selections from pasture species unfamiliar to British agriculture
1987	P Ball	NZ	Hurley, UK	1440	12	Nutrient cycling in grasslands
1987	J Dixon	UWIST, Newbridge on Wye, UK	NZ	400	1	Agriculture and nature conservation issues in hill country
1987	PC Flinn	Australia	Univ Aberdeen, UK	1500	2	Near infra red reflectance spectroscopy
1987	JC Hampton	NZ	UK	2000	1	Herbage seed production techniques
1987	DP Poppi	NZ	Hurley, UK	1450	10	Intake regulation of forages by ruminants
1987	JHM Thornley	AGRI, Hurley, UK	Australia	1800	12	Forage crop modelling with respect to water
1988	AW Illius	University of Edinburgh, UK	Australia, NZ	1710	7	Foraging behaviour and dietary choice of herbivores
1988	DA Davies	WPBS, Aberystwyth, UK	NZ, Australia	1976	7	Utilisation of clover-based pastures
1988	A Hopkins	IGER, North Wyke, UK	NZ, Australia	1200	6	Pasture production and growth of Lotus spp
1988	AU Okorie	Nigeria	Australia,	3990	6	Herbage production, conservation and utilisation
1988	DR Rajapakse	Sri Lanka	India	1814	1.5	Grassland science and entomology
1988	NM Clarkson	Australia	UK	1000	2	Visit grassland research centres
1988	RJ Simpson	Australia	Aberystwyth, UK	1200	6	Fructan metabolism in senescing grass leaves

1989	GR Saul	Australia	Hill Farming Research Organisation, Edinburgh, UK	1273	6	Better grassland utilisation by manipulating sward height
1989	R Senaratne	Sri Lanka	Australia	3000	1	Pasture improvement through incorporation of legumes
1989	V Singh	India	Australia	3282		Ecology and ecophysiology of sub-tropical grassland
1990	A Younger	Univ Newcastle upon Tyne, UK	NZ	2210	7	Tissue turnover studies to characterise production of grass swards
1990	FB Bareeba	Uganda	Kenya, Tanzania	1650	6	Screening Sesbania species for fodder
1991	A Kibon	Nigeria	Rowett, Aberdeen Univ, UK	3660	9	Animal nutrition
1992	N Prashad	India	Australia	2789	3	Micro-nutrition of lucerne
1992	SW Hena	Nigeria	India	1904	4	Production of leucaena
1992	P Lusembo	Uganda	Ethiopia	1448	1	Seed production from prostrate climbing legumes
1992	J Lee	NZ	Univ Surrey, UK	1615	2	Analysis stable isotopes in sheep tissue
1992	AL Hart	NZ	Cranfield Institute of Technology, UK	1300	10	Techniques of biosensor research
1993	RD Bardgett	IGER, Aberystwyth, UK	NZ	1000	3	Heavy metals and biological populations and processes in pasture soils with sewage sludge
1993	P Barnes	Ghana	Australia, Ethiopia	7742		Germination of browse plants, propagation and forage quality
1993	GD Buchan	NZ	Aberystwyth, Macaulay, UK	1700		Energy and water balance in grasslands
1993	D Scott	NZ	Sheffield Univ, UK, France	1500	2	Fungal biological weed control
1993	M Wood	Univ Reading, UK	Australia, NZ	1500		Legumes on acid soils
1994	SO Adewole	Nigeria	Aberystwyth, Univ. Reading, UK	3000	3	Bibliographic survey of African grassland research perspectives
1994	JT Amodu	Nigeria	Kenya	1577	4	Agroforestry R & D; range management
1994	MO Akerdow	Nigeria	Zimbabwe	2500	2	
1994	DE Hume	NZ	Australia	1000	7	Grass-endophyte interactions
1995	WD Kemball	IGER, Aberystwyth, UK	NZ	1400	7	Genotypic variation of vascular architecture and influence on resource integration in white clover

1995	H Moller	NZ	Univ Aberdeen, UK	1600	7	Role of wild animals in spreading bovine TB
1995	AD Moore	Australia	Macaulay, UK	1600	6	Farm-based decision support systems
1995	SJR Woodward	NZ	North Wyke, UK	1600	2	Pasture modelling
1995	J Beyunga	Uganda	Ethiopia	1600	2	Nutritional evaluation of Elephant grass hybrids
1996	DJ Hatch	IGER, North Wyke, UK	NZ	1545	1.5	Isotopes for measuring N-cycling processes
1997	RS Antil	India	North Wyke, UK	4500	7	Organic matter dynamics under grazed pastures
1996	WC McNabb	NZ	Rowett, SAC, UK, Canada	1500	4	Milk protein synthesis in cows fed fresh forages
1997	RHS Rajapakse	Sri Lanka	India	1200	1	Comprehensive pest management for grassland insect pests
1996	JS Rowarth	NZ	Canada, UK	1500	1	Nitrogen impacts on grass seed yield, seed quality and the environment
1997	J Vipond	SAC, Edinburgh, UK	NZ, Australia	1500	3	Control of worms in sheep
1997	TJ Clough	NZ	Queens Univ Belfast, UK	2500	1	Fate of nitrate and nitrite in leachates from pasture soils
1998	R Collins	IGER, Aberystwyth, UK	NZ	2000	6	Clover evaluation and breeding
1998	CKB Kahwa	Tanzania	South Africa	1500	3	Histochemical and monoclonal antibody techniques
1998	SR Smith Jr	Canada	Australia	5000	6	Breeding and ecology of native grasses; lucerne seed production
1999	GA Benn	South Africa	Wye College, UK	800	3	Conserving avian fauna in multi-use landscapes
1999	EC Chileshe	Zambia	Malawi, Zimbabwe	3000	6	Management of community-owned grazing resources
1999	BL Smith	NZ	Manchester Univ, UK	1000	1	Bracken problems particularly toxicology
2000	J I Brookman	IGER, Aberystwyth, Manchester Univ, UK	Australia	1500	1	Anaerobic gut fungi in herbivores
2000	SM Odeyinka	Nigeria	Macaulay, UK	6500	6	Nutritive value of multi-purpose trees
2000	R Rao	India	Canada	6000	6	Grass silage fermentation and protection of fatty acids from biohydrogenation
2001	PR Espie	NZ	North Wyke, UK	2450	5	Grassland management and restoration of biodiversity

2002	T Adegola-Bessa	Ghana	Univ Reading, UK	3600	6	Predicting nutritional quality of browse plants using gas production technique
2002	AJ Duncan	Macaulay Institute, Aberdeen, UK	Australia	1600	6	Inter-animal variation in detoxification capacity related to diet selection
2002	AO Jolaosho	Nigeria	Univ. Leeds, UK	3700	5	Intake regulation
2002	W Martindale	MPC Research, Ipswich, UK	Australia	1500	1.5	Extension methods and frameworks for the livestock sector
2003	MR Hutchings	SAC, Edinburgh, UK	NZ	2000	2	Effect of genetic resistance to parasites on grazing behaviour
2003	FM Kelliher	NZ	North Wyke, UK	1000	1	Nitrous oxide emissions from grassland
2003	I King	IGER, Aberystwyth, UK	Australia, NZ	1500	1	Physical mapping of large genome grass species
2004	A Thompson	Australia	North Wyke, UK	2000	1	Grazing behaviour and biodiversity
2004	RA Champion	IGER, North Wyke, UK	NZ	1600	6	Operant conditioning technique to assess animal welfare at pasture
2006	MRF Lee	IGER, Aberystwyth, UK	USA	2750	2	Effect of polyphenol oxidase on lipolysis in red clover
2006	Wenju Liu	China	Queens Univ Belfast, UK	5000	6	Nutrients in cut grassland receiving long-term manure applications
2006	K Tozer	Australia , NZ	North Wyke, UK	3000	3	Botanical diversity in grassland
2006	B Shenkute Gameda	Ethiopia	Macaulay, UK	4800	6	Assessing the nutritive value of rangeland feeds
2007	T Lemma Gesese	Ethiopia	Aberystwyth , Bristol Univ, UK	5500	6	Effect of diet on beef quality
2007	AE Gedda	Ethiopia	Macaulay, UK	5400	6	Use of markers and in vitro gas production techniques for measuring nutritional characteristics of grazing animals
2007	S Johnson	Scottish Crops Research Inst, Dundee, UK	NZ	2390	4	Will climate change cause a surge in UK clover weevil populations
2007	C Stevens	Open Univ, Milton Keynes, UK	USA	1820	1	Impact of point source nitrogen pollution on prairie grasslands
2007	J Bennett	Coventry Univ, UK	South Africa	1500	1	Socio-economic constraints to the effective functioning of common property regimes for

						managing the grazing of livestock
2008	F Hou	China	Aberystwyth, UK	3000	9	Methane emissions when using grasses differing in composition
2008	GT Yadete	Ethiopia	SAC, UK	5500	6	Effects of introducing cattle to a sheep grazed hill
2008	B Xue	China	AFBNI, Hillsborough, UK	5464	6	Systems to determine the ME concentration in fresh grass
2008	G Crossman	Exeter Univ, UK	Sweden	2912	3	The socio-economic contribution of the equine sector in Sweden in relation to grass-based agriculture
2008	N Maczey	CABI, Ascot, UK	Bhutan	2600	1	Ecological studies in alpine grasslands of Bhutan
2009	P Aikman	Reading Univ, UK	Canada	2000	2	Effect of sub-acute ruminal acidosis challenge on the pathogenicity of rumen E coli populations in dairy cows
2009	Kustantinah	Indonesia	Macaulay, UK	6050	6	Methodology to measure rate of passage in the ruminant digestive tract
2009	JH Pagella	Argentina	Macaulay, UK	5900	6	Development of a method of ruminal degradability in situ for dietary plant material
2009	MG Geda	Ethiopia	SAC, UK	5700	5	Variation in vertebrae number and length and relationships to meat yield in different sheep breeds and crosses
2010	S Hejduk	Czech Republic	Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, UK	2000	2	Evaluation of root zone mixes and water retentive amendment materials in sports surface constructions
2011	IA Mian	Pakistan	North Wyke, UK	6200	4	Effects of drying and re-wetting on N, P and C in grassland soils and impacts on their gaseous outputs
2012	J Mladek	Czech Republic	James Hutton, UK	2090	3	Plant traits connected to palatability under grazing and mowing regimes
2012	V Pavlu	Czech Republic	Aberystwyth, UK	2800	3	Changes in sward composition in relation to ingestive behaviour and methane emissions of grazing stock
2012	JL Firn	Australia	Lancaster Univ, UK	2800	1.5	Species composition and functional traits in grassland communities
2012	SS Dagar	India	Aberystwyth, UK	5800	6	Plant-based factors which promote anaerobic fungal colonisation of ryegrass

2012	J Dungait	Rothamsted Research, North Wyke, UK	USA	1400	6	Erosion as a source or sink of carbon dioxide in C ₄ grasslands
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Appendix 2
Trust Chairmen

J Houghton Brown	1961-80
Sir WR Trehane	1981-84
WF Raymond	1985-93
JHD Prescott	1994-2004
RJ Wilkins	2005-11
C Thomas	2012-

Appendix 3
Trust Trustees

G Broome	1972-94
W Davies	1963-68
HR Gardiner	1963-71
J Houghton Brown	1963-79
JD Leaver	2011-
CJ Pollock	2005-10
JHD Prescott	1993-2004
WF Raymond	1980-2010
Lady D Stapledon	1963-1965
JL Stoddart	1995-2004
C Thomas	2011-
PT Thomas	1966-1992
GN Trehane	2001-
Sir WR Trehane	1968-2000
RJ Wilkins	2004-

Appendix 4
Members of Trust Committee

M Abberton	2011-
JLS Andrews	1983-2002 inc Secretary
G Broome	1961-94 inc Secretary
H Burt	1961-86
E Bushby	1982-91
RQ Cannell	1984-88
H Cator	1961-62

JP Cooper	1976-93
D Cray	1988-96
W Davies	1961-68
TS Davis	1981-2001
J Everall	1969-83
HR Gardiner	1961-71
EM Gill	2001-
PM Haygarth	2011-
RL Henson	1964-82
A Hobson	1961-70
F Horne	1964-75
J Houghton Brown	1961-80
Sir A Hurd	1963-66
JD Ivins	1977-86
R Keatinge	2011-
A Lazenby	1979-82
JD Leaver	1990-
JP Merricks	2002-
Lord Netherthorpe	1961-80
CD Older	1992-2001
CJ Pollock	1995-2010
JHD Prescott	1987-2011
WF Raymond	1976-2010
J Rowsell	1970-88
Lady Stapledon	1961-65
JL Stoddart	1988-2005
C Thomas	2007-
PT Thomas	1961-1991
GN Trehane	1994-
Sir WR Trehane	1964-2001
R Waller	1969-76
Lord de la Warr	1961-72
RJ Wilkins	1996-
M Winter	2005-
A Younger	2002-