

society



BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Meet the recipients of RHASS awards and grants

- + News from the 2018 President's Initiative
 - + Report from South Africa Study Tour
 - + The Successes of the Royal Highland Centre
 - + Sir William Young Award Winner
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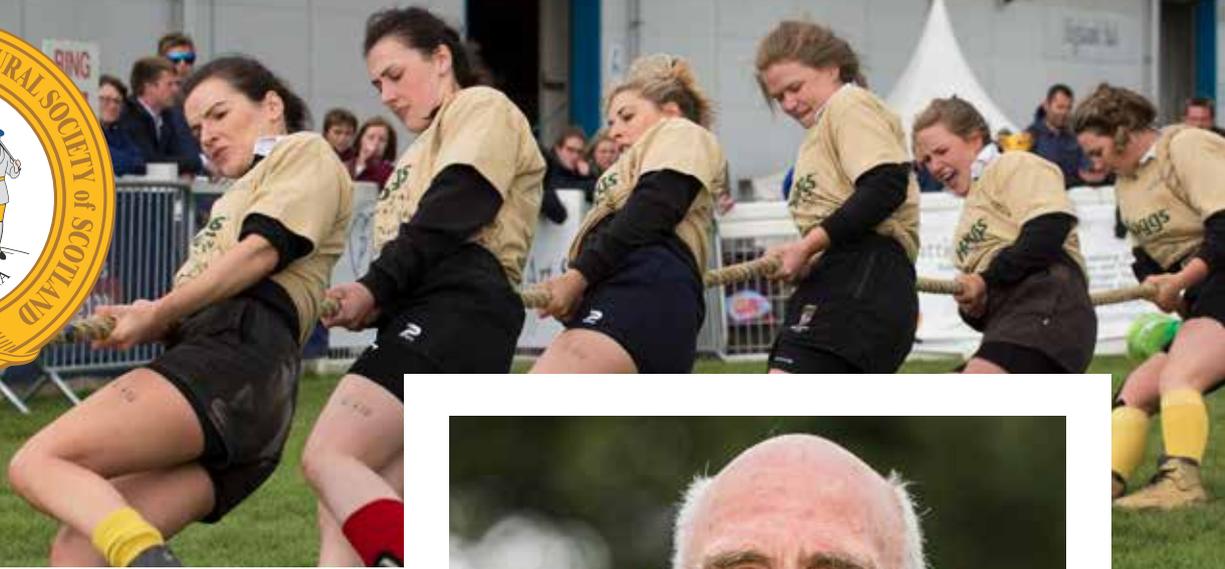
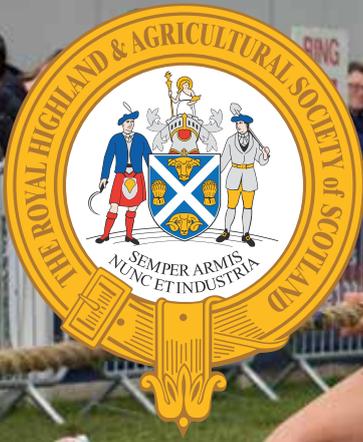
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Welcome

I am thrilled to welcome you to the latest issue of Society Magazine. Many of you will know I am deeply passionate about promoting our industry to the next generation and this issue is packed with enthusiastic young skilled individuals who will take the rural sector into the future with confidence.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our previous Chairman, Keith Brooke, for his hard work and dedication to RHASS. RHASS benefitted hugely from Keith's input as Chairman and I take over the role with great honour.

The Royal Highland Show gives us an invaluable opportunity every year to showcase the best of Scotland. From livestock and machinery to food and entertainment, we exhibit to the world the exceptional quality Scotland has to offer. This is ever more important as we enter into a new business world and I look forward to working alongside Scottish businesses to grow our industry.

I know the members' area is an issue close to the hearts of many RHASS members. I look forward to being closely involved in the future plans for this area and will ensure you are all updated as progress is made.

We must also remember that the Royal Highland Centre offers much more outside of the Royal Highland Show. With an ideal location, outstanding indoor and outdoor venue facilities and a skilled and professional management team, we can now provide a world class venue for anything from pop concerts to truck festivals. We have an amazing resource and its success enables RHASS to meet its charitable remit and support our core industry in many ways.



With an ideal location, outstanding indoor and outdoor venue facilities and a skilled and professional management team, the Royal Highland Centre provides a world class venue.

Farming is changing. A recent report showed that 50% of farm income is from non-agricultural activities. We have embraced many farm diversifications but it is important to continue looking 'over the dyke.' It's a changing landscape and as our industry evolves, it offers many new and exciting opportunities for those eager and willing to adapt. RHASS prides itself on supporting these individuals and I encourage you as members to work with us in this mission.

2018 is the Year of Young People. Youthful enthusiasm is the biggest asset any organisation can have, and I look forward to embracing all your combined talents in the coming months as we work towards making 2018's Show a real Highland Fling.

Scottish agriculture and rural businesses have proven to be incredibly resilient and innovative over centuries and I am in no doubt this will continue and we will go from strength to strength.

Jimmy Warnock, RHASS Chairman

NEW SENIOR STAFF AT RHASS

We are delighted to welcome three new members to our senior management team in the roles of Finance Manager, Fundraising & Partnerships Manager and Society Secretary.



Stuart Rae

Stuart Rae has joined us as Finance Manager. Stuart previously worked at Buccleuch Estates, where he was Group Financial Controller for six years and latterly Finance Controller for Buccleuch's energy projects.

A qualified chartered accountant, Stuart brings a wealth of experience from working within a number of industries during his career, both in the UK and overseas, including agriculture, property development and shipping.

Stuart said *"I am delighted to be joining such an established and highly respected organisation as RHASS at a time when there are so many opportunities to grow the business to help fulfil its charitable remit. RHASS is a financially strong charity that has made some significant capital investments in recent years, enabling it to offer world class facilities and remain competitive in a fast-changing industry. I look forward to being part of its future success."*



Jo Andrews

Jo Andrews, who joined us in November, has been appointed to the position of Fundraising & Partnerships Manager. She previously worked at UNICEF for 16 years and most recently with English National Ballet.

"I have many years of experience in fundraising and managing corporate partnerships and this is an exciting and important industry to be joining at this time. It is vital to promote and support rural industries in Scotland and to educate and inform Scotland's young people about their hugely important role and impact on people's lives."

I am thrilled to be bringing my skills and experience to such a motivated and driven organisation as RHASS. I am very much looking forward to building on RHASS' strong relationships within the industry and establishing new partnerships for future growth and success." says Jo.



Marie Livingstone

Taking over the role of Society Secretary is **Marie Livingstone**, a Chartered Secretary who has worked at Barnardo's for eleven years and has held the position of Company Secretary for the past three years. Marie will join at the beginning of January 2018. Her role at RHASS will involve developing and promoting membership of the organisation and supporting and advising the Board, CEO and senior team.

"RHASS offers an amazing opportunity to make a difference," says Marie. "This is an important industry, vital to Scotland's economy, which is steeped in tradition but with an incredibly positive and progressive outlook. RHASS has an ambitious remit and I look forward to working in a strong team, led by a young and ambitious Chief Executive and a new Chairman that is passionate about his industry. I am very much looking forward to this new challenge."



National Council of Rural Advisers

RHASS Chief Executive, Alan Laidlaw has been selected for the National Council of Rural Advisers. The role of the National Council will be to provide advice on the potential implications of Scotland leaving the EU as part of the UK, and make recommendations on future policy and support, with the aim of ensuring a vibrant, sustainable and productive rural economy. Alan joins a team of key industry individuals, who play a vital role in ensuring rural businesses are represented at Government level and voices are heard.



Scott Wilson, Sophie Brett, Carol-Anne Warnock, Lizzy Baxter, Jenny Brunton, Laura Mitchell, Janelle Anderson, Kirsty Kinloch, Jenny McKerr, Michael Halliday, Fraser Reed, Barclay Hamilton, Ian Cullens, Caroline Millar

RHASS Alumni

Past recipients of RHASS awards and grants, gathered at Ingliston House at the end of October to discuss the key factors that influence the future success of rural industries in Scotland.

The growing number of RHASS alumni, who have previously benefited from one of the organisation's many awards, were invited by newly appointed Chairman, Jimmy Warnock, to look at ways in which the Society can encourage making a difference and celebrate innovation.

RHASS is strongly committed to offering opportunities to enable individuals to advance their knowledge and understanding of our industry, and by doing so achieve a strong base from which to grow.

This event offered beneficiaries of our scholarships or bursaries, an opportunity to network, but also an unique chance for us, as a Society, to discuss how they have benefited from our support and what they feel could be done for the future sustainability and success of the rural sector.

We look forward to hosting more of these inspiring and thought provoking events in 2018.

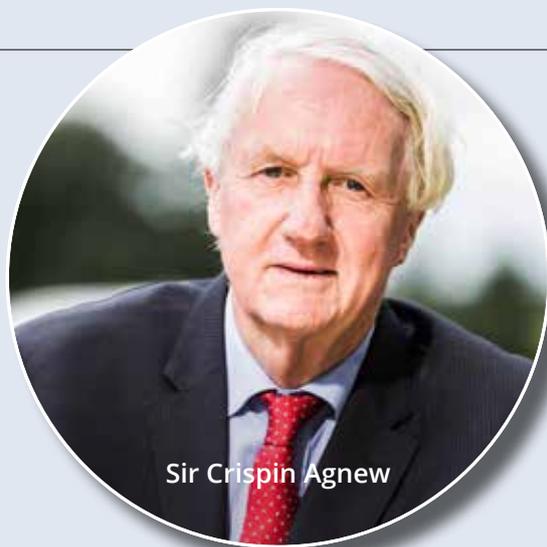
MOXY HOTEL

RHASS can confirm that Moxy Hotel, part of the IKEA group, is building a new hotel on RHASS land across from the Hilton Hotel at Ingliston. This deal will provide revenue to the Society over a period of many years and help ensure the Society continues to generate revenue to allow us to fulfil our charitable remit.



RHASS Directors Bill Gray and Andrew Hornall on site with Chief Executive Alan Laidlaw.

The Lothian Presidential Initiative 2018



The 2018 Lothian Presidential team is Sir Crispin Agnew, agricultural lawyer, Sir Robert Clerk, landowner and Lord Lieutenant of Midlothian, Professor Julie Fitzpatrick of the Moredun Institute, Louise Welsh, food industry adviser, and Charles Dudgeon of Savills. Their Presidential Initiative for 2018 is well underway and is building on the Scottish Government's designation of 2018 as the Year of Young People.

The initiative is an exciting and ambitious programme to promote work, careers and educational opportunities for young people in the Agricultural Industry. It is well known that the agricultural sector is struggling to attract young people in all aspects whether working on the land, the food industry or in scientific development. The initiative will target 16 to 26 year olds who are either school leavers, college or university graduates and are at the stage of wondering what to do next. Anecdotal research has shown that career decisions are frequently made by young people in this age bracket, after a few years of floundering.

At the core of the initiative has been the employment of a young person to promote the initiative in ways that appeal to her own age group. To this end, the Presidential team has employed Catriona O'Sullivan who lives in the Lothians and has a degree in Film, Television and Digital Production with an already impressive amount of experience. She is currently working on branding the initiative, developing a website and when these are finalised she will start promoting the campaign through social media, for instance snapchat, vlogging, blogging, Facebook and much more. She is also working on a film of about 30 interviews with young people who have already chosen a career in agriculture, the food industry, or agricultural science and who explain their work and their rationale for choosing their career route.

There will also be films of slightly older employees to demonstrate the potential for career progression. These films will be used to promote work and careers in all areas of food production and will be edited for a variety of uses including the website and for use at the Royal Highland Show as well. It is also hoped that

sufficient money will be raised from donors to be able to develop an app for the initiative. These assets will have the potential to be a legacy for RHASS to operate for 3 to 5 years after 2018.

Catriona has already been filming at James Logan's farm in East Lothian. James employs the son of a policeman who, as someone who has not been brought up in a farming community, is an unusual person to find working in the agricultural industry but is also the sort of person who may be inspired by this initiative. Catriona has also been filming and interviewing two young research workers at the Moredun Institute, a forester, dairy workers, and will be accumulating many more film clips in the next couple of months. She is also working collaboratively and is in contact with the Moredun Institute, Lantra, RHET and others who will be helping her to deliver the initiative and to complement other schemes which are also promoting agricultural careers. The Presidential team consider that having a young person to deliver this initiative who knows what will appeal to young people, will be the key to the success of this initiative.

Meanwhile, the Presidential team have been in contact with organisations such the Scottish Food & Drink Federation, Agrico and other potential supporters, for advice on taking the project forward. They are also fully supported by the Lothian directors who are helping to gather young participants for the film as well as contributing ideas and fundraising efforts. The Presidential team are aiming to raise £75,000 which will be used for Catriona's employment, filming and website costs, printed promotional material to be distributed at the Show and beyond, a tent at the Show, equipment for viewing the film at the Show, QR codes on notice boards at the Show to take people straight to the website and many more sundries.

Undoubtedly this is an ambitious initiative but one which the Presidential team feel strongly about and which they feel is very important to the future of the industry.

SCOTLAND'S YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE

<http://yoyp2018.scot/>





Study tour to South Africa



In August this year, Jenny McKerr, from Forth Mains Farm in Lanarkshire, was selected as the successful candidate for the RHASS sponsored study tour to South Africa.

Hosted by the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth (RASC) Next Generation forum, this tour gave candidates a unique opportunity to visit an agriculturally rich region of the world and learn about a wide range of farming systems. Jenny McKerr reports from her trip.

Why did you apply?

I applied for the South Africa mission because I wanted to learn about agriculture in a country with different challenges and see how they were overcoming them. I was also keen to meet other people in farming as part of the RASC Next Generation Group who shared a positive outlook.

What did you want to achieve?

I wanted to improve my understanding of agriculture in commonwealth countries and to take time away from our busy family / work life to consider our options as new entrant farmers in South Lanarkshire.



“A crop I had no knowledge of before the trip was Rooibus, a native plant that grows specifically in the Cederberg mountain”



What did you see?

We visited over 20 farms around the Western Cape with a diverse range of farming, from using traditional mules to more automated agri businesses. The land was harsh as the country was suffering from the worst drought in 100 years. The larger farms used centre pivot irrigation systems whilst the small farms tried to focus on growing native plants that could withstand the drought.

We saw Simbra (Simmental x Brahma) bulls, traditional shorter Angus cows and Santa cattle (Shorthorn x Boran). Finishers were aiming to kill out at 24 months at a liveweight of 450-500kg for the domestic market.

Most sheep farmers had flocks of Mutton Merinos or Dorpers. Lambs were finished off creep to 40kg plus straight to the abattoir fetching the equivalent of £5.33/kg deadweight! I was surprised that the prices farmers were trading livestock for was so high in a third world country.

Some of the predators on the farms were baboons, jackals, lynx and leopards. We saw a topper of a calf that had been chased and paralysed by a leopard's claw piercing its spine. Many of the farmers used Italian shepherd dogs to live outside with the livestock and deter any predators.

We visited the fruit and vegetable farmers in the Phillipi region in the Cape Flats. The land was sandy and they had moderate rainfall however they were in commuting distance to Cape Town and many farmers were selling land for urban development making it increasingly difficult to farm due to informal settlements, theft and congestion. They grew kale, spinach, cabbage, celery, broccoli, lettuce etc and supplied a local packhouse for the domestic market. Every crop was planted, maintained and harvested by hand and the farms

covered 3200ha. We visited the vegetable packhouses where they handled some of the finest produce in a very labour intensive set up. Coming from the meat industry, the focus is always on efficiency and keeping the process competitive due to constant price pressures from retailers, therefore visiting factories that were incentivised to employ as many people as possible was an eyeopener and reminder of the high levels of poverty and social issues in the country.

A crop I had no knowledge of before the trip was Rooibus, a native plant that grows specifically in the Cederberg mountain area that is now successfully processed for tea and exported around the world. Farmers employ locals on a piece rate to manually plant and harvest the crop which is then dried on large tea courts before being chopped into 1mm pieces for processing. One of the larger farms had built its own tea processing facility and was developing supply contracts with local farmers to sustain the export business they had developed.

Some of the smaller farmers were working with horses for ploughing and harvesting by hand. One of the farmers, Henke, demonstrated using his mules to walk round in circles over the oat straw to thresh out seed to replant. His mules were his main mode of transport and it was a 6 hour roundtrip to the local town of Clanwilliam so the community were self sufficient in most areas.

The Western Cape was rich with miles of vineyards and several wine production estates. We visited Du Toitskloof vineyard which is a Fair Trade project where we saw the positive impact that the scheme can deliver. The community housing had running water and electricity, they had a school and medical centre as well as a computer room to help develop knowledge in the community. It was great to see the results first hand and put a meaning to the Fair Trade logo.

We visited a 1400 cow Ayrshire dairy herd (Rhodes) near Cape Town which originated from 4 cows sourced from Ayrshire in the 1950s and shipped over. The farm had invested heavily in cubicle housing as they only had 106ha, imported semen to continuously develop the herds potential and installed a green bedding processing plant to dry manure to produce bedding.

We visited a successful community of 18 households (Agri Dwala) that were farming 1300ha of mixed arable and livestock on common land. They demonstrated to the Government they could run the business sustainably and gradually invested profits in their own machinery resulting in the Government gifting them the land into a trust. They now have equal shares in the farm and work together to pay it back to the community. They have built an orphanage onsite and actively support the local people through supplying food, creating employment, paying for college scholarships and are looking to build a school in the future.

We visited Mooresberg Show – a 4 day local show that attracts around 18,000 visitors and a fantastic show of Santa, Angus, Hereford cattle, Merino and Dorper sheep as well as goats. The local school gives children between 12-18 years old a practical agricultural education and the kids were demonstrating their skills in the young handlers event at the show.

The challenges we saw were the effects of drought, land encroachment through informal settlements, positive discrimination caused by Government supporting black farmers financially and overall a third world country supplying a first world market.

The focus was on job creation to break the unemployment cycle (currently around 35% in SA) and high levels of poverty in the country. Successful farmers were all very focussed on their community and sharing the wealth between the workforce to improve their standards of living.



What did you gain?

All of the farmers we visited had lived through Apartheid and knew what a society of hatred and divisions felt like. This background has shaped their positive outlook to look beyond their own farm gate and to ensure their farming business also has a positive impact on the surrounding community to bring about equality.

The proactive farmers that were diversifying to become price makers shared a common message; cooperate with people who share the same work values to become sustainable and grow opportunities, get the basics right then add value.

This point will remain with me, as often it can feel like you're on your own in farming and diversification is the only option to become sustainable. The South African farmers inspired me to look for the solutions, find people to work with in the supply chain with common values, get the basics right and most importantly, to make a start – a lot can evolve from 4 cows.



MEET RHASS ALUMNI



Laura Mitchell

Occupation: Agricultural Officer, Rural Payments and Inspections and also on the family farm

What funding did you receive from RHASS and when?
Roy Watherston Memorial Trust 2013

What exactly did this enable you to do?

I travelled to Australia and New Zealand to broaden my knowledge of the beef industry in these countries specifically focusing on the grading systems of the beef and the consideration of eating quality.

My interest in the topic arose during my final year studying Agriculture at Newcastle University, where I carried out my dissertation looking at the effects that farm factors such as feeding, gender and maturity have on eating quality parameters of beef (flavour, tenderness, marbling and nutritional qualities). In the UK carcasses are graded according to weight, conformation and fatness whereas in Australia eating quality is also taken into account.

I visited several farms, feedlots and an abattoir and met various industry experts on my travels. I also worked on a 1500 head dairy farm in New Zealand.

What did you gain from your experience?

The aspect of the trip I most enjoyed was meeting the people involved in the agricultural industry who were so passionate about the products they were producing. You can read as many books and reports as you like but getting to speak to the people involved in the industry from abattoir workers to the people who developed the MSA grading system in Australia was incredible. It was fantastic to see first-hand how their system works and the way it has been implemented in the country.

Has the experience led on to new opportunities and/or career options?

Travelling to Australia and New Zealand gave me an insight into agriculture in different countries which gave me the desire to experience the industry in other countries. I was lucky to be awarded a bursary from the Border Union Agricultural Society to travel to the RASC Commonwealth Agricultural Conference in Singapore last year. The technology and out of the box thinking in the industry over there is fascinating.

Any advice to others/comments?

I would encourage anyone thinking of applying for a study grant to grab the opportunity with open arms. I gained so much from the trip and met a huge variety of people during my time away.



Caroline Millar

Occupation: Run a luxury tourism business on the farm called The Hideaway Experience and a consultancy business called Go Rural.

What funding did you receive from RHASS and when?
Received a Nuffield Scholarship in 2012.

What exactly did this enable you to do?

Take part in the Nuffield Leadership programme, attending the Contemporary Scholars Conference in Canada for 10 days with 60 scholars from across the globe, undertaking 12 weeks of independent travel to ten countries to study "Adding Value to your Farming Asset" and specialising in farm and food tourism. This allowed me to become part of the Nuffield network for life.

What did you gain from your experience?

New leadership skills from a challenging programme. Building international networks. New knowledge in farm diversification from different farms globally. Researching resilience in businesses and meeting inspirational rural entrepreneurs. Gaining new ideas to develop food and agritourism in Scotland. Having time away from my own business to plan for the future and research areas for business growth.

Has the experience led on to new opportunities and/or career options?

I have used the experience and knowledge to lead the drive to develop farm tourism in Scotland, particularly farm tourism relating to food and drink tourism. The research gave me the knowledge to identify that Scotland lags behind in this market compared to other countries and that there is an economic opportunity for farmers, food and tourism businesses to take advantage of a growing world demand for this type of authentic holiday and leisure experience.

I spoke on my Nuffield topic at the 2014 Oxford Farming Conference and went on to become a volunteer Director of the Oxford Farming Conference, a post I have held for 3 years. In 2018 I will be the Chairman of this event which is the main agri-leadership event for our sector in the UK.

Any advice to others/comments?

My advice would be to apply for a Nuffield Scholarship. It is a unique opportunity to challenge and develop yourself, the personal and business benefits from being part of a global network of rural entrepreneurs for life are considerable. I would like to thank RHASS for supporting me in a life changing experience.

AWARDS

THE ROYAL NATIONAL MÒD

This year's Royal National Mòd in Lochaber was held in October and RHASS was in attendance to support this prestigious cultural event in Scotland.

Commonly known as 'Literature Day' at the Mòd, competitions include drama, poetry and storytelling. Competitions in singing were also held in venues across the area, with the coveted Gold Medal and Silver Pendant finals being presented in the Nevis Centre.

In both the Silver Pendant and Gold Medal finals, competitors are required to sing two songs, one prescribed and one of their own choosing. In addition, the Gaelic Learner of the Year award, sponsored by RHASS, acknowledges a Gaelic learner who's made significant steps to becoming fluent.

This year, the prize was awarded to Ross Christie, and presented by Kenneth Matheson, Area Director of RHASS for the Highlands. Ross started learning Gaelic just last year, and continues his studies now at Sabhal Mòr, Skye's Gaelic higher education college.

Kenneth Matheson said: *"As a charity with a remit to champion Scottish culture, as well as farming, food and rural life, we are proud to be associated with the Royal National Mod and congratulate Ross on his achievement."*

John Morrison, Chief Executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: *"The Gaelic Learner of the Year Award is a fantastic recognition, and Ross Christie is a deserving winner."*

This year's event also saw the first ever Charlie MacColl award being presented to the overall winner of the girls and boys traditional competition (ages 16-18). The trophy was presented by Charlie's wife Mairi, and son Calum, who also competed in the Traditional Singing Competitions.

Fringe events also featured in the schedule, with Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan reflecting on his background growing up in Caol, in his talk 'From Lochaber to the National Library of Scotland' – discussing his journey to the National Library of Scotland – via shinty, universities and broadcasting.



Diversification Farmer of the Year Finalist
- Simon & Jackie McCreery, Yester Farm Dairies

FARMING AWARDS

It's great to see so many RHASS members being recognised in national awards – it really shows how Scotland's farming and rural businesses are amongst the best in the UK.

THE FARMERS WEEKLY AWARDS

in London on 5 October proved to be an exceptional night for Scotland and the following members:

Ag Student of the Year – Finalist

Robbie Stevenson, Holm, Orkney

Diversification Farmer of the Year – Finalist

Simon & Jackie McCreery, Yester Farm Dairies, Haddington, E Lothian

THE BRITISH FARMING AWARDS

were held on 19 October, which also saw RHASS members being recognised for their efforts:

Beef Innovator of the Year – Finalist

Giles Henry, Oakwood Mill Farm

Agricultural Student of the Year – Finalist

Robbie Stevenson, Holm, Orkney

Congratulations from the RHASS team! Please let us know if you have been recognised in a national award or tag us on social media so we can spread the word!



RHASS Director Kenneth Matheson presents Ross Christie with his medal.

HUGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCOTTISH AGRICULTURE

Alan Laidlaw, Chief Executive of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, discusses his thoughts on the future opportunities in agriculture and the rural sector.

With 16,000 members, RHASS is a leading organisation within the rural sector in Scotland and represents a huge range of farming and rural business, in terms of size, structure and success. For all these members, I believe the current political climate is an ideal time to reflect and assess the future options for their businesses.

Know what you want from your business and then be ready to make informed decisions on how to move forward. Change is inevitable, and although we are not in a position to know all the details, it's a fair assumption a change to the support system will occur. Traditional agricultural support payments will undoubtedly change and those that adapt, innovate and manage efficient enterprises have an incredibly positive future.

Expectations of farming enterprises and rural businesses will change, and I believe any future financial support will have more emphasis on health and social benefits, landscape management or the marketing of high quality food – so into new territory.

It is the responsibility of each and every business to assess how their business can grow and succeed, and look for support wherever available. This shouldn't be a concern; by identifying how your business can thrive, you will have new opportunities.

Look at your skill set, your asset base and the market demand for your product and consider your options. There are many rural businesses that now add value to their products and maybe that's an option for you. If not, maybe you need to look at how you can produce more efficiently and ensure a return on investment.

Regardless of who you sell to, it's more vital than ever you understand what your customers want and produce it.



Having lived across the UK, what stands out in Scotland is the incredible ability of the people to think outside the box. Maybe it's due to the geographical challenges, but I continue to be amazed with how determined business owners are to succeed. If we don't have local markets we make sure we get to them. The recent success of export sales from Scotland illustrates this – we are a nation of do-ers and that stands us in good stead for post Brexit future.

As well as a strong belief that educating consumers is the responsibility of everyone, I have been witness to how rewarding it can be to get a chance to meet the next generation, engage with them and interact with them about how and why you manage your business as you do. For the kids, it can be truly life changing and inspire them into a career in the rural sector. If you are in any doubt and have a rural business, I would strongly recommend hosting a Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) event.

This is key to our success - a continued supply of enthusiastic, committed and knowledgeable new entrants to continue growing our industry.

I have first-hand experience of seeing young scholars from RHASS and new start-ups at the Royal Highland Show, which gives me great confidence in the future. I also see the breadth of career opportunities available to new entrants. The food industry, as an example, has 27,000 job openings predicted in the sector over the next 10 years. This illustrates the significant number and variety of career options for young people who are passionate about rural Scotland.

I would encourage any young person to look at all their options, try different things, call, email or LinkedIn industry leaders to ask for advice, contact your local RHASS director and speak to a whole host of associations such as the SAYFC that can all help you with your options.

There are many career choices within the sector. I am extremely proud to support rural businesses while being actively involved in agriculture and I feel I am in a position to add value to the industry which I am so passionate about. I want to encourage anyone with energy, passion and fresh ideas to engage and step forward.

Celebrating a Centenary

To celebrate 100 years of the Scottish Women's Institutes, a prize for the best overall entry submitted by an SWI Member was specially created for the 2017 Handcrafts Competition.

The SWI have for many years organised not only the Handcrafts Competition but also staffed the Handcrafts Pavilion during the Royal Highland Show.

The 2018 Handcrafts Schedule and entry form are now available at www.royalhighlandshow.org/competitions/competitordownloads



SWI National Chairman Linda Retson with Marian Stringer, holding her winning appliqué gilet and prize card.



A perfect and unique gift for Christmas

To celebrate and commemorate the 175th Royal Highland Show, we designed and produced the 'Royal Highland Herd' of Highland Cows. Designed by a local blacksmith Kevin Paxton, each cow is individually produced, marked and authenticated.

Standing 500mm tall to the withers and made of mild steel, the cows will naturally weather to a rich patina in keeping with the colours of the real animal, or they can be sealed or galvanised depending on your preference.

There are still a few head of cattle left to choose from and would make a unique gift and appreciate in price over the years. Price is £1,175 including VAT. Delivery extra depending on location.

Trade Stands Team

Trade packs for our 2018 Show were issued at the beginning of November, and the processing of returning exhibitors' applications is now well under way! We are extremely proud that over 80% of our exhibitors return year on year.

Remember all our 2017 exhibitors' details are still on our website, so if you are struggling for that elusive last minute gift idea please have a look. You will also find our 2018 trade packs available to download at www.royalhighlandshow.org

The Royal Highland Show is one of the premier agricultural business to business events in Europe with support from manufacturers, dealers and farmers alike. There is a full range of livestock equipment and machinery for all farming sectors as well as Scotland's biggest display of forestry machinery and equipment.

With over a hundred producers exhibiting in Scotland's Larder Live, selling the best produce and flavours from around Scotland and beyond, there is something for everyone's taste.

There is also a wide variety of quality shopping within our 13th Avenue Arcade and Marquee, for all budgets and styles and our ever popular Equestrian Village has everything for the horse lover.

Scottish Farriers on Top of the World again!

The Scottish Team set off for the 38th British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association International Team Horseshoeing at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire as reigning champions.

The masters team led by Team Manager Jim Balfour comprised Lewis Balfour, Devin Crerar, David Varini, Grant Watt and Andrew Tennant as Reserve. The apprentices, who had Andrew Dryburgh as Team Manager, were: Alistair Ross, Matt Argo, Harry Crombie and Eli Wilson. RHASS gives a grant each year to the apprentice farriery team to assist them with the expenses of travelling to compete.

Competition was as fierce as ever. The apprentice team came second with the best specimen shoe in the team horseshoe forging competition and then were placed third in the combined scores for the individual and the team, with Harry coming a very creditable fourth and Matt fifth.

On the first day in the open shoeing competition the Scottish masters team took second place, but on the second day they upped their game and lifted first. They also won the Team Gas Forge shoemaking competition. In the individual competition, Grant Watt took second place, Lewis Balfour third and David Varini fifth place, giving us three of the top placings.

After all the scores were finalised in a nail biting finish, Scotland inched over the line in first place to much celebrating, making this a triple whammy of wins!



Left to right: Lewis Balfour, Grant Watt, Devin Crerar, Davie Varini, Jim Balfour

2017 ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

Every three years the RHS undertakes a major market research study. The results help us to plan future shows, give us a better understanding of our audiences and how the different parts of the Show are perceived.

The results are very robust, as a total of **6,446 completed questionnaires were received**. This consisted of **1,019 face to face interviews** conducted during the 2017 Show and **5,427 online responses**.

If you took part in the survey thank you very much and we are always very interested to hear from anyone about any aspect of their experience at the Show.



41% of Show visitors are from a rural background and 59% are from urban areas.

66%

of those surveyed were classified as being in the socio-economic grouping of ABC1



Areas of residence for Show visitors were:

52% from the Central Belt
36% from the rest of Scotland
8% from elsewhere in the UK
4% international

78%

of respondents had previously visited the show on at least one other occasion

80%

of respondents were of the opinion that the ticket price was good value for money. This is up from 76% in 2014 and 72% in 2007

61%

of respondents said that free admission for children was very important in their decision to visit



Visitors from the farming community are most likely to visit the Show to view livestock, leading to a future purchase (23%) and to view or purchase machinery (27%)



Also 51% of the rural audience said that the Show was a major event in the social calendar



Rating their experience at the Show on a five-point scale from very poor to very good, 73% of visitors said the Show was Very Good and a 23% said Good



RHET continues to work in partnership with the General Teaching Council of Scotland to deliver the Good Food Champions training programme for teachers across Scotland.

Teachers from Lanarkshire, Glasgow, Dumbaron and Argyll schools were recently recognised for completing the year-long GTCs-accredited course. The teachers were part of the programme's 'soil to plate' journey. This covered all aspects of food education, from planting and harvesting through to manufacturing, food preparation and tasting.

The programme is currently running in the Forth Valley area and teachers have already had butchery demonstrations, visited a dairy and a beef farm, and explored food growing projects in their local areas.

Throughout the programme they also hear from local experts producing and manufacturing food. Over the course of the year the teachers learn and gather information, which can be disseminated and shared back in their schools.

This is the third year that RHET have been involved in delivering the course, which also includes a host of other educational institutions and the support of local businesses and individuals.



If you or your organisation would like to work more closely with RHET, perhaps to provide a grant, sponsorship or a donation in a specific area, please get in touch by emailing rhetinfo@rhass.org.uk and follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date with the next RHET fundraiser in your area.

 [TheRoyalHighlandEducationTrust](https://www.facebook.com/TheRoyalHighlandEducationTrust)  [@theRHET](https://twitter.com/theRHET)



Local area fundraising successes



Perth and Kinross Tractor Run



Vintage Tractor Club Presentation Ayr Show



Forth Valley RHEA Run

With the huge amount of work invested by RHEA volunteers every year, additional support is always greatly appreciated by each of the 12 regional areas we cover as RHEA and RNCI.

In addition to the core funding provided by RHASS, the Scottish Government and other trusts and grants, contributions from local businesses and individuals help to fuel our work across Scotland.

Earlier this year, RHEA Fife were the lucky recipients of contributions from the Fife Garden Trail, the Anstruther Rotary Club and NFU Mutual. They also received assistance to run their Countryside Day from Al Maktoum College Community Fund via Foundation Scotland.

RHEA have been overwhelmed with support in Ayrshire & Arran. Cheques were received during Beith Show from the Beith YFC 75th Anniversary Committee and again at Ayr Show from the Ayrshire Vintage Tractor Club. A colouring competition was held for children attending the Ayr Farmers' Speed Shear, with proceeds to be shared between Epilepsy Scotland & RHEA Ayrshire & Arran.

A recent tractor run organised by NFU Scotland's Highland Perthshire branch has raised thousands for local charities, including RHEA Perth & Kinross. A cheque was also presented to RHEA Perth & Kinross during Aberfeldy Show.

The first ever RHEA Run took place in Forth Valley, with runners from all ages taking part in either a 5 or 10km run around Blair Drummond Safari Park. All of the proceeds went toward continuing RHEA's work in the area, and the next event is already pencilled in for the 16th of June 2018.

On behalf of all of RHEA's Countryside Initiatives, a big thank you to everyone involved in these donations and fundraisers. This support is vital in continuing the work of RHEA in educating Scotland's young people. Keep an eye on our social media pages for news in your local area.

New Website Resources

Our core focus throughout the academic year is to coordinate farm visits and classroom talks, alongside our team of over 800 volunteers across Scotland. In addition to this work, we also develop resources for teachers to use in the classroom to aid in teaching food and farming topics.

The newest of these resources are helpful and engaging worksheets linking farming to both science and mathematics. The worksheets use various tasks, such as fertiliser application, planting crops and crop yields, to demonstrate just how useful maths is on the farm.

We have also produced some educational comic strips that detail how professionals in agri-business use both science and maths on a daily basis in the workplace. These comic strips include quizzes for children to answer and fill out in the classroom.

These resources and more are available to download free of charge via our website: www.rhet.org.uk/teachers/resources

We are on the lookout for more individuals involved in agriculture to create more educational comic strips. If you or anyone you know of would make a good case study please get in touch by email: rhetinfo@rhass.org.uk

MEET FIN: HE FARMS 1980 HECTARES (HA) AROUND EASTER RHYNID IN PERTHSHIRE.

HE IS A MIXED ARABLE FARMER, GROWING WHEAT, SPRING OATS, BARLEY, SPRING BEANS AND VEGETABLES.

FIN MAPS HIS SOILS. THE DENSITY OF THE SOIL IS MAPPED USING CONDUCTIVITY. THIS LETS FIN KNOW HOW HEAVY OR LIGHT SOILS ARE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE FIELD.

THE AMOUNT OF CROP GROWN (YIELD) IS MAJOR. THE CROP IS HIGH USING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY. FIN USES TECHNIQUES TO ENSURE HE OBTAINS THE BEST YIELD. HE USES TECHNIQUES TO VARY THE YIELD.

MEET KAREN: GLENRA ORGANIC COGS ARE COGNAC QUALITY (BRI).

SHE LOOKS AFTER A LOT OF CHICKENS. SHE IS PART OF THE GLENRAITH FARMING TEAM, WHICH IS A FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS, PRODUCING OVER A MILLION EGGS A DAY.

THE EGGS ARE LAID, TESTED, SORTED AND PACKED AT SOURCE. THIS INVOLVES DISCARDING ANY DIRTY EGGS, SCANNING FOR CRACKS USING LASERS, CHECKING FOR BLOOD SPOTS, SORTING INTO SIZES. THE SETUP IS HIGHLY RELYING ON PROGRAMMED MACHINES AND ROBOTS TO SORT, STAMP AND PACK THE EGGS.

ALL THE EGGS ARE STAMPED WITH A LION MARK WHICH SHOWS THE HENS ARE VACCINATED AGAINST SALMONELLA AND A BEST BEFORE DATE.

THEY ALSO HAVE A CODE. THE FIRST NUMBER SHOWS THE METHOD OF PRODUCTION, THE LETTERS ARE FOR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND THE NUMBERS AT THE END TELL YOU THE FARM YOUR EGG WAS LAID AT.

Fertiliser Application
Fin needs to spread some fertiliser on the field.
One bag of nitrogen fertiliser weighs 600kg and costs £200 per tonne.
He needs to apply the nitrogen at a rate of 140kg N/hectare (kg nitrogen per hectare) to get the best yield.

a. How much fertiliser does Fin need to put on per hectare to achieve 140kg N/hectare, if one tonne contains 34.5% Nitrogen.

b. How big an area will one bag cover?

c. Fin has an area of 11,666ha so how much will he need to spend on fertiliser?

Net income what remains after subtracting all the costs from live weight

Farming in Action RHET



Updated Volunteer Pack

The success of RHET is mainly thanks to the farmers and volunteers who give their time to engage with school groups, sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for food and farming.

We are always looking to make engaging with RHET as easy as possible. To facilitate this, we have recently reviewed the sign up process for new volunteers.

We have created a new volunteer pack, which consists of our standard volunteer form, descriptions of roles within the charity, a contact list and information on how to sign up to the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme. Signing up to the scheme helps to ensure that we are providing the best and safest possible service for schools.

All of this information has been streamlined into one simple document that can be printed and filled out or completed digitally and emailed directly to the Project Coordinator in your area.

We are always looking for new faces to join the network and if this is something which interests you do get in touch – it's now simpler than ever to sign up to volunteer with us!

RECENT FOOD & FARMING DAY EVENTS



Thanks to the continued support of the Scottish Government Food & Drink Industry Division, RHET have organised a number of Food & Farming Days across the country again this year.

One such event was at Duchlage Farm for schools in Dumbarton, Lomond & Renfrew, Inverclyde and Argyll & Bute. The two day event saw children take part in a variety of hands on activities in an attempt to build bridges and understanding between consumers, farmers and producers. Sessions covered dairy, beef, sheep, venison, machinery and bio-diversity.

Further north in Quoybrae, the annual RHET Highland Food & Farming Day took place at the local mart. A mock auction started the day, before 120 children from local primary schools enjoyed the many activities covering cereals, beef, sheep, dairy and pollination. Teachers at the event were impressed with how the various sessions tied in with the world of work, the journey of food, estimating in maths and reading scales.

Food & Farming Days take place in every area covered by RHET. If you'd like to get involved please get in touch with your local Project Coordinator via our website: www.rhet.org.uk/in-your-area

SUPPORTERS SCHEME

Looking for that ideal Christmas gift? Why not sign up your friends and family to be a Supporter of RHET!

From as little as £25 a year, your contribution will help fund our free services to young people in your local area. Teachers tell us the farm visits, events, growing activities, talks and training RHET provide really do help bring learning to life for their pupils.

"Experiences like this are so important for young students, particularly those from city areas. Nothing compares to the real 'hands on' experiences provided by true experts. An incredibly worthwhile venture."

– Gerry Coyle, teacher at St Vincent's Primary School

All supporters will receive a bi-annual newsletter as well as a metal Supporter of RHET pin badge. Your support is greatly appreciated.

To request a signup form email rhetinfo@rhass.org.uk or visit <https://www.rhet.org.uk/how-to-help/become-a-supporter/>



BUILDING LEGACY



Lorne Scott, Commercial Director of RHASS introduces us to the RHC

Attracting over 1 million visitors each year to nearly 220 events, the Royal Highland Centre is fast becoming a game changer for Edinburgh, and for the Society itself.

Despite being well-known for its international festivals, the city of Edinburgh has always struggled to attract major live music acts.

Thanks to a significant investment by RHASS, the new South Arena at the RHC is a viable and attractive venue for live music, as proven by the sell-out Little Mix concert that put the venue firmly on the map with music promoters earlier this year.

The work continues: our team on the ground are forging robust relationships with key influencers in this sector and the benefits are significant, not just for economic vibrancy of Edinburgh but also for the Society itself.

"RHASS had significant insight by acquiring the site at Ingliston", says Lorne, "and it is our role to ensure that this initial investment and the financing of the recent upgrade to the site is repaid in full by making this asset work hard for the Society. The revenue generated by the RHC allows RHASS to carry out its charitable remit. It is all about creating a sustainable charity that delivers for its members.

"One area of focus for the RHC is to deliver a great experience for visitors. This includes improving the car parks, creating robust public transport plans, offering Wi-Fi and working with event organisers to ensure consumers are made to feel welcome, safe and ready to return to future events.

"The RHC has focused heavily on marketing, including social media, which allows consumers to connect with the venue and share their experiences. Third party endorsement is important in establishing RHC as a venue of choice.

"We recognise the strength of our team who, as experienced event organisers, plan and manage Scotland's largest outdoor event, the Royal Highland Show. Our team provide an exceptional service to event planners. Our in-depth knowledge of the site and our proven track record in crafting events from live performance, theatre and dance, to exhibitions and sporting events, gives our clients access to team members that understand what goes into making exceptional events.

"This partnership approach is important and is a culture we are driving forward in the business. Taking ownership and delivering excellence will give the RHC a competitive edge."

This approach is paying dividends, with the RHC generating over £1.6m in income for the Society in the last financial year.



A DIVERSE LINE-UP OF EVENTS

In the final quarter of 2017, events at the RHC included Pretty Muddy, Agriscot, Elrow and the Homebuilding & Renovating Show. It is the diversity of these events that gives the RHC its clear positioning in the market.

"It's all about changing gear", Lorne comments. "The RHASS Directors have given the RHC their backing by investing to make the RHC a venue that's fit for purpose. Our role is to now inspire event organisers by showing them what the venue can accommodate. This, backed by robust customer satisfaction figures, and our relationships with media owners and partners such as Edinburgh Trams and Lothian Buses will ensure seamless delivery for our clients."

One such customer is Les Kidger who commented:

"The RHC has a great infrastructure from transport in and out to close proximity to the Airport and Edinburgh itself. The flexibility and blank canvas works well for our artists. We can create an event and we can make it spectacular"

– Les Kidger, Director, LCC Live Events (Little Mix).

Lorne concludes: "There is nothing we can't do within the parameters of 250 acres and it is with this 'can do' attitude and an eye on the cost of sales that we will continue to thrive and maximise the value of this incredible asset for the benefit of the Society and its members."





THE SOUTH ARENA

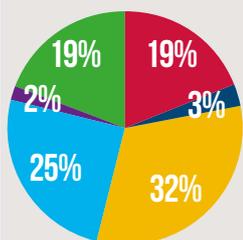
The newly formed South Arena, formally launched in June, saw chart topping girl band Little Mix playing the inaugural concert to over 17,000 fans, less than a week after the record-breaking Royal Highland Show.

£9 million investment programme includes

- North Car Park upgrade
- Underground connectivity for utilities
- Internal refurbishment of the Lowland Hall
- Creation of livestock crossing & pedestrian underpass
- Installation of biomass energy
- Improved signage
- Creation of South Arena



RHC EVENTS AT A GLANCE



Conference & Banqueting: **19%**
 Performance & Music: **3%**
 Sport & Leisure: **32%**
 Show & Outdoor: **25%**
 Other: **2%**
 Trade & Exhibitions: **19%**

RHC – A VENUE OF CHOICE

ADMIT 2 **81%** of RHC events from 2016 returned again in 2017

9 out of the top RHC clients returned in 2017

+150% year on year increase in RHC performance and music events

HOSTING 220 EVENTS EVERY YEAR

The high-quality facilities at the Royal Highland Centre make it a vibrant events venue attracting over 1 million visitors each year. The large number of national events bring trade and opportunity to Scotland.



INVESTED IN EDUCATION AND PROVIDING GRANTS

Income funds RHET to deliver hands-on learning for young people, and the grants we offer to worthwhile projects.



REINVESTED IN THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

Income generated each year is invested in innovation and improvements to ensure the Royal Highland Show remains a showcase for Scotland.



£1.2M RENTAL INCOME IN 2016

Rental income generated by RHC is reinvested in our core functions of promoting food, farming and rural life.



INVESTED IN THE SHOWGROUND

Making sure our greatest asset remains a safe and welcoming place for visitors.

START PLANNING YOUR 2018 EVENTS AT THE RHC

TRADE & EXHIBITION

Scotplant

Vintage Truck Exhibition

Kidz Scotland

SPORT & LEISURE

Pretty Muddy

Young Driver – Junior driving lessons for under 17s

Caledonian Dog Show

RHASS Equestrian Events

Edinburgh Antiques & Collectors Fair

Scottish Kennel Club

SHOWS & OUTDOOR

Royal Highland Show 2018

Ingliston Revival

Gardening Scotland

Scottish Motorcycle Show

ScotFest

Scottish Car Show

Working Breeds Dog

Scottish Landrover Show

MCN Festival

Truckfest

CONFERENCE & BUSINESS

AgriScot

Visit royalhighlandcentre.co.uk for dates and further details



NEW LANDSCAPE – NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Society Magazine talks to Jeremy Moody, Secretariat, CAAV (The Central Association of Agricultural Valuers) to hear his views on the future career opportunities in the rural sector for new entrants.

Interesting times may be a curse in China but for farming today they offer challenge and opportunity for the young – indeed, willing new entrants of any age. The expectation is that Brexit will accelerate the pressures for change, bringing a more challenging and a more commercial environment. At the same time, we appear to be on the edge of a new technological revolution. This combination creates chances for the energetic, the able and the trained to start and build the farming, food and land use businesses of the next generation, answering the productivity problems we face. Those chances may be directly in farming or in the related professions and businesses.

We are likely to see the farming world respond to economics by becoming more diverse in what and how it produces, with a keener eye to alternatives to commodity product markets and seeking flexibility in getting access to land as landownership and farming use may tend to separate.

A key Irish economic study has shown that there is on average a 12 per cent gain in yield where land moves into the hands of the trained, significantly more than from moving it down a generation. The increased numbers of agricultural students coming through the colleges in recent years seem to offer a quality, energy and business awareness to do this.

Confidence in getting the best from the new technologies will be important. That is not only social media for marketing but being able to use precision farming of grass land as well as arable for profit and environmental management. The machinery being developed using digital and optical technology will need users with new skills while new avenues may open with developments such as controlled environment farming.

There will be opportunities:

- to enter farming directly as a business on your own account, often hard in any line, of business. There are more opportunities than is often thought but they may come in new shapes, not the traditional routes. Buying land may often be unrealistic, while there could be better uses for the money in building a business, but there are many possible arrangements between landowners and farmers over access to land.
- within other people's farming businesses, as being employed in farm management or ancillary trades. This can offer satisfying careers, as well as provide good tiring for a move into farming on your own.
- as self-employed in the countryside, providing specialist services, contracting or in other ways, dealing with varied situations and working with many people.

These all require building practical and business experience and reputation, as well as a fresh mind, seizing opportunities and always, always looking around and learning. It may be a mix of these, including looking at how best to get a range of income from available land, buildings, skills and capital.

Farming sits in a larger agricultural ecology of rural businesses with vets, accountants, banks, lawyers and others. Among these is the professional agricultural valuer, advising on or acting for agricultural, rural land and property interests. While the profession is as old as farming, there are many young valuers, with 40 per cent of CAAV members below 36, and half of those female. Usually after a degree in land management, it then involves in-work training before qualification.

The work can include working for farmers, tenants, landowners, environmental and other charities, public sector bodies, utilities and dealing with sales, tenancies and other arrangements for land as well as livestock, machinery, crops, taxation, compulsory purchase and compensation claims, lending, planning, renewable energy and so on – all revolving around the rural economy and being out of doors, seeing and meeting. At root though, it is a profession about people: what does the client, family and others want? what are all the relevant issues? what is the right practical advice to give?

So, especially with the challenges expected, the farming world is likely to offer opportunities for the resourceful, the practical and the trained who will be at the cutting edge of that change.

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT



RHASS & MOREDUN COLLABORATE

Members of RHASS are now eligible to become Associate Members of Moredun as an additional membership benefit.

The partnership, which was recently announced, will allow RHASS members access to a wealth of information including livestock health news sheets, magazines, e-newsletters and online webinars via the members' area on the Moredun website.

In addition, RHASS members will also be able to apply for the Moredun Foundation award scheme to enable short term travel or personal projects to improve education and experience in livestock health and welfare.

Commenting on the partnership, RHASS Chairman, Jimmy Warnock said: "The Moredun Institute is a respected research organisation that provides a valuable service to the industry. We believe this will be of great benefit to our members. Moredun and RHASS have worked collaboratively for many years and we look forward to building on this foundation to support the industry through research, education and travel."

Ian Duncan Millar, Chairman of the Moredun Foundation added: "Moredun are delighted to build on the many successful partnerships we have had with RHASS over the years with this new collaboration, which will benefit the members of both organisations as well as the wider livestock industry by sharing knowledge and developing joint initiatives."

The Moredun Foundation is a registered charity supporting livestock health and welfare through research and education.

Formed by farmers for farmers in 1920, the Moredun Foundation is dedicated to improving the understanding, treatment and prevention of infectious diseases by developing a variety of outreach programmes for farmers, vets and the general public; and supporting a broad and varied range of research initiatives within the Moredun Research Institute.

Moredun has always maintained a close working relationship with the farming community. They continue to be very active in this area of knowledge exchange to ensure that our research remains rooted in the practical needs of livestock farming today.

Its strong links with those actively involved in livestock health are enhanced by a variety of initiatives:

- Moredun has an active group of over 40 volunteer regional advisors throughout the UK who serve as a direct link between Moredun and livestock farmers.
- Many farmers have been active in helping its scientists with surveys and providing valuable samples for study. This service has proven to be a valuable aid for its research.
- In its commitment to support the next generation of farmers and vet scientists, it delivers lectures at vet schools and agricultural colleges, hosts student visits and support dissertation projects.
- The Moredun Foundation Award Scheme provides an opportunity for members to carry out a project to enhance their personal and professional development whilst bring benefit and insight to a livestock health issue.

Scottish Forestry – rediscovering a woodland culture

We talk to Simon Oldham, Technical Director of Scottish Woodlands Ltd to look at opportunities within the Forestry and Woodland industry

Scottish Forestry is enjoying something of a renaissance now, invigorated by the legacy of commercial forests that were planted between the late 1960's and mid 80's when land owners were encouraged by tax concessions to commit land to forestry crops. Although there was justifiable criticism of some aspects of this expansion at the time, where forestry design and location was not always done with enough environmental sensitivity, the resource that was successfully established has fuelled substantial economic development throughout Scotland as timber processing businesses have established and grown, investing in cutting edge technology to convert the raw timber crop to a wide range of globally competitive and renewable products.

Whether this is biomass fuel products for renewable heat and power or kiln-dried, stress-graded sawn timber products for the construction industry, the development of processing capacity in Scotland and North England has helped to drive the industry to its current level which contributes around £1bn in GVA to the Scottish Economy each year and employs 25,000.

“For forest managers that we employ I think we're probably recruiting approx. 70% with a recognised forestry qualification and the balance with other relevant qualifications. We then typically arrange further forestry specific training for those that need it (part-time via academic institutions) as well as providing work time training and development”



Simon Oldham,
Technical Director of Scottish Woodlands Ltd

While most of these jobs are in main stream forestry and timber processing which includes nursery production of tree seedlings to the planting, managing and harvesting of forests and a wide range of value-added activities such as sawmilling, board, pulp and biofuel manufacturing, approximately 6,000 are now employed in forestry related recreation and tourism. The capacity of forests to deliver a timber crop at the same time as a resource for recreational activity is well known. We're still learning though about some of the other benefits and features of forestry land use such as the beneficial effects on mental health and for flood prevention.

Scottish foresters talk of our 'lost woodland culture'. For a nation whose land was once densely covered with woodlands, the demands of various historic conflicts have decimated tree cover right across the UK. In Scotland, forestry now contributes 18% of the land area. Significantly higher than the 12% in England & Wales but still well short of the European average of 32%. The Scottish Government have recognised the economic, environmental and social potential associated with an increase in forestry land area. Current work is focused on streamlining the planning process and improving access to grant funds for land owners so that an annual target of 10,000ha of new woodland planting, increasing to 15,000ha by 2025 might be achieved.



Commercial cycle for conifers in Scotland is approximately 40 years but we are now planting genetically improved varieties that we expect to deliver 20% improvement in yield and quality for the next generation of commercial conifer trees.



As trees grow they fix atmospheric carbon dioxide into the timber structure, releasing oxygen at the same time. While trees are growing and the timber they produce is used, this carbon is safely removed from the atmosphere. This attribute is helping timber to compete effectively against other materials like steel and concrete which don't share the same sustainability credentials. However, the realisation of this value by the land owner has, until recently, been limited. All that is beginning to change since the development of a Woodland Carbon Code in the UK which has defined the standard for measuring a woodland's contribution to climate change mitigation. With this framework comes demand from carbon producing enterprises who are keen to offset their emissions and increasingly to pay for the carbon rights associated with new woodland creation projects.

In common with agriculture and other land based industries, the forest industry in Scotland is addressing the problem of an ageing workforce and a shortage of younger, suitably equipped employees to meet the demands of this growing industry. A new generation of foresters is increasingly coming with a diverse background of previous employment and training.

At Scottish Woodlands, we are celebrating a 50th birthday in 2017. Originally growing from a forest owner's cooperative and commercially constituted in 1967, the organisation has grown to its current position as a major timber supplier (1M+tonnes/year) and forest manager with specialist divisions providing investment services as well as contract services for utility providers and house builders. Still mainly employee owned, the ownership structure of the company is a significant feature that attracts new forestry recruits and helped to encourage a number of new graduates taken on this year to help us meet the demand for our services.

The importance of employee development is much better understood now, such that these new recruits will benefit from a structured programme of on the job training to ensure they are suitably equipped to play their part in the next exciting phase of Scottish forestry development. Scotland's 'woodland culture' may not have been completely lost. It is this new generation of foresters, land owners and managers who will help to re-establish this culture such that forestry isn't seen as something other people do but rather it provides us all with opportunities for the future.

BREAKDOWN OF JOB TYPES WITHIN FORESTRY	
Category	Employment (FTEs)
Forest Owners	1,700
Forestry Commission	2,000
Other forestry management	500
Planting and establishment	3,000
Timber harvesting	2,000
Timber haulage	1,200
Civil engineering	500
Sawmilling	3,500
Panel board, pulp & paper	1,800
Recreation and tourism	6,300
Miscellaneous	2,500
TOTAL:	25,000

**Figures do not include the arboriculture / urban tree management sector which is also significant in Scotland and tends to overlap with forestry employment*

DR ROBERT GRAHAM RECEIVES TOP AWARD



Dr Robert Graham from Airthrey Kerse Farm, near Stirling, has been announced as the 2017 recipient of one of the livestock industry's most prestigious prizes, the Sir William Young Award.

The award, which is presented by RHASS, recognises outstanding contribution to livestock breeding and commemorates the service to Scottish agriculture by the late Sir William Young. Last year, renowned sheep breeder James (Jimmy) Gray Douglas from Fraserburgh, won the award.

As Chairman of Graham's The Family Dairy, Dr Robert Graham is one of the most recognisable faces in Scotland's farming and dairy community. He has made an outstanding contribution toward growing the three-generation strong family business to become the thriving success it is today, impacting farming not just locally, but across Scotland.

Highly respected for his knowledge of Scotland's dairy and farming industry, he is also internationally recognised for his expertise in livestock management, developing the quality of breeds for which Scottish farming is renowned.

Such is Robert Graham's knowledge that he regularly shows and judges; a passion of Robert Graham's, which has seen Samy, one of his prize Limousin bulls, win the Burke award 3 years in a row at the Royal Show; the only animal of any breed to achieve such success. Robert Graham has judged cattle and sheep at every one of Britain's Royal Shows and became the first non-Frenchman to judge at the Paris Show.

He has worked hard to highlight the development of all types of livestock, and is a past chairman of both the Murray Grey Beef Cattle Society and the Berrichon du Cher Society. Furthermore, he is the founding chairman of the British Rouge de L'Ouest Society, established over twenty years ago to promote the exceptional breed's purity.





Dr Robert Graham receives his award from past RHASS Chairman Keith Brooke and Director Anne Logan.

His award-winning Limousin herd, which was established in the late 1970s, is recognised around the world for its quality. Robert Graham regularly holds Limousin production sales at Carlisle, with trade peaking at 32,000gns for Grahams Lilly in 2016 at the Red Ladies show.

Robert Graham's dedication has also ensured a strong demand for his Limousin bulls. Grahams Samson broke world records when he sold for 55,000gns back in 2003. Many of the herd have hit the headlines over the years, including Grahams Unbeatable and Grahams Ultra which made 35,000gns and 22,000gns respectively in 2004; Grahams Arkle, a 26,000gns seller in 2005; Grahams Dublin reached 26,000gns in 2010; and Grahams Humphrey sold for 37,000gns in February 2014. More recently, Grahams Lorenzo sold for 40,000gns, a record price in 2016, with all of these successful and prolific sales testaments to the quality of stock.

Over his career showing livestock, Robert Graham has also had significant success with various sheep breeds - he was awarded 10 championships for his Rouge de L'Ouest from 1987 to 1994 with a top price of 10,000gns, 5 championships for his Bleu du Maine from 1988 to 1994 with a top price of 8,000gns, and 6 championships to date for his Berrichon du Cher.

In 1994, Robert Graham achieved a fantastic result winning three Breed Championships at the Royal Welsh Show for his Berrichon du Cher, Rouge de L'Ouest, and Jersey cattle.

In 2016 he also hosted the UK Jersey and World Jersey Cattle Bureau, presenting the Graham's Gold Top Invitational Auction sale to those who took part in the Scottish tour. This followed several national events hosted by Robert Graham including the International Limousin Congress in 2004 and Scotsheep in 1997 – a great honour to be asked to host three events across three different livestock.

"Livestock is Robert Graham's passion, which is reflected in the world class animals he has produced," says past Chairman of RHASS, Keith Brooke. "His achievements are remarkable, and to be consistently leading the way in his industry is credit to a man who is truly committed to excelling in livestock management.

"His understanding and insight into livestock breeding is significant and he contributes so much to the livestock sector – he is a true asset and very worthy of this year's Sir William Young Award."

Robert Graham adds, "UK livestock is renowned all over the world for the quality of livestock that it produces, so it is a great honour and privilege to not only be nominated, but to be presented with the prestigious Sir William Young Award; especially with there being so many other worthy breeders.

"Livestock breeding in the UK has never looked stronger and with Brexit, there could now be opportunities to export more livestock and livestock products around the world. I have been breeding cattle and sheep for 50 years and during that period livestock has changed quite dramatically, with the introduction of new techniques to assist the breeding, which has made competition much higher. These new techniques and the precision that goes into preparation for breeding puts the UK in very strong position."

The Sir William Young Award was instituted in 1983. Previous recipients include Archie MacGregor, Billy Macpherson, Ian Gilmour, Jim Swanney, Dr Bill Martin, John Cameron, Jack Lawson, Prof. Ian Cunningham, Dr John Robinson, Harry P Sleigh, James Biggar, James Arnott Barron, John Ewart, Kenneth Mair, Mrs Margaret Runcie, Charles Scott, Neil Massie, Graham McClymont, Prof. Ian Wilmut, the Cadzow Brothers, Andrew Dunlop, James Jeffrey, Keith Jamieson, John and Allan Wight, the Waxwing Stud, Jack Rennie, Ronnie BlackJim Guthrie, Drew Adam, Dougal Dick, William McLaren, Dugald & Jacky Low-Mitchell and John Elliot.

Christmas canapés - Duck rillettes

STAR ANISE SPICED RILLETTES OF SLOW COOKED DUCK, BRANDY SOAKED SULTANAS, AELDER JELLY AND CANDIED CLEMENTINE

INGREDIENTS

<p>Duck 2 duck legs</p> <p>Marinade 1 bay leaf Couple of sprigs of lemon thyme The juice of 6 clementines 2 cloves of garlic 1 large shallot 6 crushed peppercorns 2 sticks of celery 1 carrot 12 star anise</p>	<p>Sultanas 35g of sultanas 50ml of brandy ½ Cinnamon stick</p> <p>Candied clementine 75g caster sugar 75ml water 2 clementines</p> <p>Aelder jelly 300ml Aelder 40g caster sugar 25ml sherry vinegar 3 1/2 gelatine leaves</p>
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METHOD

Leave the 2 duck legs in the marinade overnight.

To make the sultanas - put the brandy, cinnamon and sultanas in a pan. Bring to almost boiling then flambé. Simmer gently until almost all the liquid has been evaporated. Cover whilst still warm, leave for 24 hours. Remove the sultanas and gently squeeze excess liquid off.

Remove the duck legs from the marinade. Pat dry on kitchen paper and put aside. Transfer the marinade to a pot.

Sear the legs in very hot oil until well coloured and add to the marinade. Pour a little light chicken stock in so that the legs are half covered. Bring this to the boil, put a lid on and transfer to oven at 140° for 2 hours.

Remove the legs from the pot, allow to cool slightly, then strip all the meat whilst still warm. Run a knife through the mix to keep all the pieces small.

Strain what's left in the pot into a small clean pan. Boil the liquid until you have 70ml of juice. Whisk in 25g of butter and season. Season the meat a little if needed. (Don't add salt before this point - it will become concentrated as evaporation occurs). Add the warm reduced stock and sultanas to the meat. Mix thoroughly.

Form the meat into a sausage shape and wrap tightly in cling film. Aim for approx. 3cm diameter. Chill for at least 4 hours then carve into 2cm sized slices.

For the candied clementine - peel 2 clementines. Scrape off the pith and thinly shred. Bring the sugar and water to the boil then lightly simmer. Add the clementine strips and leave it to sit just below simmering point for 2 hours. Allow to cool. Keep in the syrup until needed.

For the Aelder jelly - Put the gelatine into cold water to soften and bring the rest of ingredients almost to boil and remove from heat. Squeeze all the liquid from the gelatine and stir into the warmed ingredients to dissolve. Pour the mixture into a cling film lined shallow tray and place in the fridge to set. Once set slice into any shape that you like.

To assemble - place the jelly on to the duck slice and add a couple of strips of peel. Finish with fresh herbs and fashionable flowers.

Courtesy of award-winning caterers,
Hickory - hickoryfood.co.uk





The Last Word

with Chief Executive Alan Laidlaw

I hope you will agree this special Young Person edition of Society has been inspiring and incredibly positive - I am filled with pride when I see the young talent within our industry and the opportunities that it offers.

It also shows how our industry has adapted and progressed over the years to become a modern, professional and skilled sector ready to take on the global opportunities and challenges that are presented to us.

This can also be said for RHASS. We have an amazing foundation to work from at this organisation, with strong traditions, values and beliefs. This has held us in good stead to embark on future growth and development. Our unique asset, that is our location and facility, offers us fantastic opportunities for the future and in my first year as Chief Executive I have been very excited about the investments we have made at the Royal Highland Centre to attract high profile events to Scotland. The success of the venue allows us to support all of our charitable objectives, which is increasingly important in an ever-changing world.

Ensuring our next generation is educated, informed and skilled will determine the future of our industry and we are committed to ensuring we offer a range of programmes to support this. I strongly encourage all members to talk to us about scholarships and awards that are available from RHASS and any new ideas you may have for future initiatives.



Having completed a full year in my role, I have been honoured to represent the membership at many events, conferences and discussions, not only in Scotland, but across the UK. It has reinforced my belief that Scotland is a world leader in our sector and that the next generation is more than capable of continuing in this vein.

The team at RHASS has never been stronger, and we have recently attracted some amazing individuals to join our vastly experienced team – professionals that are drawn to RHASS and Scotland, demonstrating not only the strength of the Scottish brand and our sector, but also the appeal of RHASS as a good employer with a clear and positive future. I am confident that the RHASS team is relevant and successful in meeting the modern day needs of our industry and our members.

I wish you all a healthy and enjoyable Christmas, and all the very best for 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Laidlaw'.

Alan Laidlaw, Chief Executive

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