

# society



## NEW ZEALAND IN SCOTLAND

**DOUG AVERY'S DROUGHT, ADVERSITY  
& BREAKING NEW GROUND TOUR**

- 
- + Looking Ahead To The 179th Royal Highland Show
  - + Long Service Awards + Sir William Young Award 2018 Winner
  - + RHET: Project Coordinators + RHC: Let The Music Play!
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## THE CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

By Jimmy Warnock

At this rapidly changing time  
I have decided to do my report in rhyme  
I ask you all when reading this new innovation  
To sit back, enjoy and use your imagination!

With political changes looming on the horizon,  
There's lots for us to keep our eyes on.  
This year's weather has been one of extremes,  
With snow and heat the major themes.

Our new centrepiece at the heart of the Show,  
Has got Planning Permission, so it's all systems go.  
The construction will start in the Spring of next year,  
With the temporary venue situated quite near.

The build-up has begun at a good steady pace,  
With stand holders looking for prime sites or more space.  
Our livestock exhibitors from both near and far,  
Take great pride in showing their new superstar.

The year of Young People is just newly past,  
But at the Royal Highland, it is going to last.  
Our many Young Handlers, super keen to compete,  
Have a new trophy to aim for - but only the elite.

The great work of RHET continues to grow,  
Believe it or not, it's their 20th Show!

International visitors' comments on the Show were all good,  
They liked the animals, the people and quality Scottish food.

A new venture for us to make people aware,  
Was to host meetings on Mental Health and Despair.  
Doug Avery travelled the country to speak at each session,  
2,000 people heard his thoughts on his fight with depression.

The RHC is buzzing with events for all ages,  
From concerts and dog shows to sea creatures in cages.  
Not to be missed is our industry's Agriscot,  
For innovation and advice, it's really got the lot.

My thanks to all Directors, stewards and staff,  
They are energetic, inspirational and enjoy a good laugh.  
Apologies to Rabbie Burns, whose poetry is top of the heap,  
After this attempt, I think I'll stick to counting sheep.  
Season's greetings to you all on behalf of the Highland Society  
And in 2019 make health and happiness your No.1 priority.

Jimmy Warnock, RHASS Chairman

# SPONSORSHIP UPDATE



Graham Babes competing at this year's Royal Highland Show

We are delighted to report that RHASS-sponsored horse rider, Graham Babes, 20, from Kilmarnock in Ayrshire, has helped the British Team win gold at the Young Rider European Championships in Fontainebleau in France, earlier this year.

The team's win highlights the incredible talent that we have coming up through the youth ranks, and their ability to achieve gold on a world stage. We look forward to watching Graham and his teammates continue with their successful careers in the equine arena.

## LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Over recent months we have seen a substantial increase in applications for RHASS Long Service Awards. This is hugely encouraging, and it's great to see so many employees being recognised for their commitment to the rural sector.

To ensure we can process the higher number of applications, we are now asking for applications to be lodged with RHASS at least 6 weeks before the proposed date of presentation. The application form and guidelines for the Long Service Award can be downloaded from [www.rhass.org.uk/awards-and-grants](http://www.rhass.org.uk/awards-and-grants).

A copy can be emailed to you on request by contacting April McKinven: [aprilm@rhass.org.uk](mailto:aprilm@rhass.org.uk).

See award recipients update on pages 13-14



Alexander (Sandy) McCarthy presented with his RHASS Long Service Award by HRH The Prince of Wales

## SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS

Once again, RHASS is honoured to sponsor the Scottish Rural Awards; an amazing event that recognises the incredible enterprise and innovation of those who live and work in rural Scotland.

For 2019, there is a total of 12 award categories, with businesses able to nominate themselves if they wish or be nominated by someone else.

The categories are Agriculture; Artisan Drink; Artisan Food; Business Diversification; Business Start-Up; Conservation and the Environment; Education; Rural Employer; Rural Enterprise and Innovation; Rural Hero; Rural Hospitality and Rural Tourism.

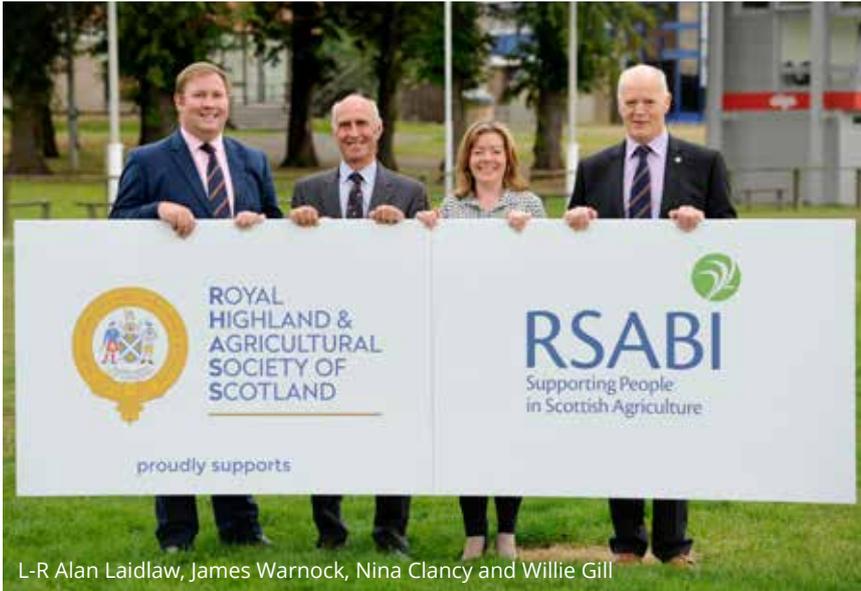
Finalists are selected in December with the winners announced at the gala dinner at Dynamic Earth, on 21 March 2019.

Further details: [www.scottishruralawards.org](http://www.scottishruralawards.org)



Scottish Rural Awards at Dynamic Earth

© mejdanikphotography.com



## INVESTING IN OUR INDUSTRY

For the future growth of the agriculture industry, it is vital that our sector receives support and encouragement, and RHASS is committed to providing grants and awards to ensure this is achieved.

One organisation that provides invaluable support and advice to our industry is RSABI (Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution), and RHASS is delighted to announce a total of £48,000 will be awarded to RSABI over the next three years to allow them to extend the support of their helpline. This follows a previous three-year programme of support of £42,000.

Nina Clancy, CEO of RSABI, said: "I am delighted and grateful that RHASS has again taken the important decision to support RSABI as this significant award means we are able to set up an outreach programme to connect with people that work in our sector who are isolated and lonely.

"Our helpline is the first contact we have with people who are looking for practical, emotional or financial support and we are busier than ever before. On behalf of the staff and Trustees of RSABI, I would like to thank everyone at RHASS for their support."

RSABI provides financial and practical support and friendship to over 600 individuals and their families.

For more information, please visit [www.rsabi.org.uk](http://www.rsabi.org.uk)

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

In 2016, RHASS confirmed funding for five years to support agricultural or equine study projects undertaken by senior students of the Schools of Veterinary Medicine at the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh.

This funding programme started in 2017, with £3,000 available per annum per school.

The 2017 project from the Glasgow Veterinary School looked at the effects of temperature and humidity on production output and disease incidence in dairy cows in Scotland.

RHASS welcomes new applications for awards and grants. For more information please see

<https://rhass.org.uk/awards-and-grants/>



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



## NOTICE OF ELECTION OF ORDINARY DIRECTORS

RHASS members are entitled to stand for election as an Ordinary Director for the area in which they are resident. Nominations are now open for Ordinary Directors for the term 2019-2023. The closing date for receipt of nominations is Wednesday 9th January 2019.

If you would like to be sent a nomination form or are interested in finding out more about becoming a director of RHASS or the election process please contact the Society Secretary, Marie Livingstone, on 0131 335 6200 or [mlivingstone@rhass.org.uk](mailto:mlivingstone@rhass.org.uk).

# BORDERS IN THE LIMELIGHT



Lord Lothian

Looking west over the River Tweed towards Melrose, Scottish borders. © Carol Ann at Airhouses

In August, RHASS announced the 2018-2019 Presidential Team, which will be led by The Most Honourable Michael Andrew Foster Jude Kerr, Marquis of Lothian (Lord Lothian), who will take the role of RHASS President alongside Vice Presidents Sir John Campbell, Jimmy McLean, Nigel Miller, Jeanna Swan and Chaplain Rev. Anna Rodwell.

The Presidential Team serves for one year and is made up of representatives from one of the geographical host areas where the Royal Highland Show would traditionally have been held when it travelled annually. This was before it moved to its permanent site at Ingliston, Edinburgh in 1960. The Royal Highland Show was last staged in the Borders at Kelso in 1952.

Lord Lothian, whose home is Monteviot House near Jedburgh, will preside over the 179th Royal Highland Show in 2019 with his home region of the Borders as the host area.

Commenting on his new appointment, Lord Lothian says, "I am very honoured to have been asked to be President of RHASS for 2018/19 and am very much looking forward to next year's Royal Highland Show."

*"Agriculture and rural life, in general, are facing great challenges at present, and it is a time for us to show boldness, courage and resilience in facing them over the years ahead. We remain a vital part of our national economy and our traditional way of life, and we need more than ever to stand up for our values in the face of adversity."*

*The Presidential team are seeking to understand the views of members in the Borders and I encourage all Borders members to fill in the online questionnaire on the RHASS website - [www.rhass.org.uk](http://www.rhass.org.uk)*

*"Finally, I look forward to playing my small part in this over the coming months, and I believe by working together we can look to the future with confidence."*

## The 2019 Presidential Initiative aims to

- Promote the charitable objectives of RHASS.
- Engage with the membership and wider rural community to understand their views on RHASS and how it might progress in the future.
- Focus on responsible access to the countryside by enabling and supporting some farm-based projects.

# FUNDED LEARNING

**In November, RHASS funded Rebecca Dawes to attend the 28th Commonwealth Agriculture Conference in Canada. We find out what the trip involved.**

The Royal Highland & Agricultural Society has a firm belief in the benefits of travel, sharing knowledge and learning from leading global experts, not only to the individual but also RHASS and the wider industry. RHASS has funded many trips over the years, and has seen huge rewards.

The latest funding was awarded to Rebecca Dawes, to attend this year's RASC (Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth) study tour which focussed on the success of Alberta and Canada's agriculture industries.

The conference also provided a forum for discussing mutual successes and challenges in agriculture around the world. Over 300 international delegates from across developed and developing nations of the Commonwealth attended this prestigious event, which offered the opportunity to join a series of fascinating tours and listen to wide range of industry speakers.

Rebecca, who attended the Next-Generation Sessions and the main conference, saw the first day kick-off with a Keynote Session: 'Is food making the world smaller?' Prof. David Hughes Emeritus Professor of Food Marketing at Imperial College London, addressed the delegates with his thoughts on the drivers shaping agriculture and food. This led to many thought-provoking discussions and prepared the visitors for a taste of what was to come.

Robert Saik, Canadian Agri-Marketer of the Year and Distinguished Agrologist was also a keynote speaker, with his presentation titled 'The Agriculture Manifesto'. This looked at understanding agriculture and understanding our future. With the world having more mouths to feed and fewer resources to do it, Robert covered the forces that he believes will drive the future of agriculture.

The main RASC conference, which was opened by the Government of Alberta with RASC President, HRH, The Princess Royal, in attendance, and addressed by Baroness Patricia J Scotland of Asthal, Commonwealth Secretary-General, followed and had some inspiring and fascinating sessions.



Rebecca Dawes, RHASS-funded conference attendee



Canadian Speckled Park Cattle

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## The RASC study tour focussed on the success of Alberta and Canada's agriculture industries

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'Bees, Berries, Bars & Beer – How Next Generation Entrepreneurs Are Shaping Agriculture' was a particularly inspiring session by Lee Townsend, TPLR Honey Farms Ltd; Andrew Rosychuk, Rosy Farms; Colleen Dyck, Gorp World and Matt Hamill, Red Shed Malting.

These young entrepreneurs shared their stories about how they have used their passion for agriculture, along with their leadership capabilities and perseverance to get themselves to where they are today.

This year's conference also looked at the complexity of managing an agricultural event, specifically event operations 'From Gate to Garbage and Crowds to Cows.' An interesting topic indeed, particularly to us at RHASS, and we look forward to hearing from Rebecca about the practices undertaken from our Commonwealth partners.

## RASC STUDY TOUR TO CANADA

RHASS is passionate about supporting and acknowledging technical innovation, and it's great to see this as a topic at such a leading event. Innovative Agriculture was discussed and how today's technology is supporting food security both locally and globally. The session featured some of the latest technologies as well as highlighting how some of the most remote communities are using technology. Scotland may not be as remote as Canada, but there is always the opportunity to improve our knowledge and understanding as to how best to use new technologies for our future success.

Katrina Barclay, Manager of Royal Highland Education Trust, was a guest speaker this year and, together with Lindsey Verhaeghe, Nutrien Journey 2050, and Terry Godwaldt, Executive Director Centre for Global Education, looked at the topic 'A New Age of Learning Through Innovation And Building Partnerships.'

An interesting session on Social License Agriculture looked at creating an Agriculture Movement through raising awareness and achieving acceptance. #AgMoreThanEver. This works hand in hand with the topic discussed in the next session 'Turning Up the Volume: Rebuilding Consumer Trust In Food & Farming.' Consumers are curious about the food they eat and serve to their families and this considered how consumers find out about their food - often getting answers from the wrong sources. The speaker stressed the importance of farmers sharing their stories and engaging in the conversation about agriculture - saying 'everyone must "get louder."'

The closing Keynote - 'I'm Farming & I Grow It: An Advocating Success Story' was aimed to highlight the power of social media within the agriculture industry. As the medium grows, it's important our industry embraces it and makes it work for us.



Canadian Country Farm



### **Rebecca Dawes** **RHASS Funding Recipient 2018** **RASC Study Tour, Canada**



With over 80% of Scotland's land mass in agricultural production and a food export target of £7.1 billion, agriculture has a key role to play in the future of Scotland. In order to better understand, and support, the sector, it is vital we engage with other countries, share collaborative thinking and build our networks so we can remain vibrant, efficient and mitigate the challenges that may lie ahead.

With RASC representing over fifty leading national and regional Agricultural Show Societies, Agricultural Associations and Research Bodies across twenty Commonwealth countries, there is no better event at which to share the Scotland story worldwide and hear from fellow peers across the globe.

As a young person working in the sector I am passionate about leadership and the next generation and was delighted that the RASC conference included a two-day Next Generation session with seminars looking at opportunities for young people starting out, developing an existing business or looking to lead in agriculture. As a consequence of my work in agricultural and rural communications, a farming background and being the current Scottish Coordinator for LEAF Open Farm Sunday, co-manager of the Rural Youth Project and a Scottish Enterprise Rural Leader Alumni, I was further delighted that RASC invited me to speak at the seminar.

**Throughout the trip I shared my journey via social media, vlogs and blogs - twitter: @rebeccajdawes or Instagram @rjdawes12**

# OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

**H**ere we talk to Mike Halliday, who was funded by RHASS to attend the 2014 RASC conference in Brisbane, Australia to find out how the trip impacted his life.

In 2014, Mike Halliday, from Thornhill in Dumfries and Galloway, and his family made the difficult decision to sell their dairy farm. Following the sale, Mike was lacking direction and was looking for new opportunities. It was a chance email from a RHASS employee that led him to apply for the RASC trip scholarship and win a trip that would make a significant difference on his future.

"I studied Agriculture at Aberdeen, then spent nine months in New Zealand on a dairy farm, before returning to work on the family farm for 15 years," explains Mike. "During this time, I went on the Scottish Enterprise Rural Leadership Programme, and this really opened my eyes to opportunities in the industry and gave me some great contacts. I met a RHASS employee who encouraged me to apply for a RHASS scholarship, so when she emailed me the details of the RASC conference, I immediately applied.

"It was at a time when we had just sold the farm, and I had no other commitments, so the trip seemed an amazing chance to travel, learn more about the industry from a global perspective and also add a RHASS-funded scholarship to my CV – which is widely respected and recognised as a worthy addition.

"I hadn't expected it to be so life-changing. The tour introduces you to people, places and farming systems you would never get the chance to see otherwise. You meet so many young, inspiring and interesting people and it's so motivating. It gave me a completely new confidence to come back and pursue a job in farm advisory. I wanted to share knowledge and that came from what I experienced on the trip.

"There are a couple of standout moments from the trip. The large-scale beef farming was amazing, and although the systems cannot be replicated here, we can really learn from the efficiencies. The other was on the topic of staff management – something very topical just now in Scotland. They talked a lot about what motivates, particularly young people. Money is not necessarily the main motivator. They want to be engaged and valued and have the chance to improve through training.

"The trip was hugely worthwhile and I have since self-funded a trip to Papua New Guinea on an 'Understanding and Assistance' mission, which is offered to RASC conference alumni. I cannot encourage people enough to apply for these opportunities. We are so lucky to have the chance to travel the world and learn from our counterparts."

Mike currently works as a Land Agent/Farm Consultant for Youngs RPS, is a Director of the Scottish Tenants Farmers Association and rears beef cattle on a rented farm.



Crocodile farm near Lae, Papua New Guinea



Farm visit in the Highlands of PNG (organised by NARI - National Agricultural Research Institute)



Gala dinner during the Brisbane Conference. L to R Leona Dargis (Canada), Mike Halliday (Scotland), Lauren Hennig (Canada), Alan Murray RHASS / Scotland, Hannah Barber (Australia), Breyton Milford (South Africa)



# Drought, Adversity & Breaking New Ground – Doug Avery Tour

**M**any RHASS members and others had the pleasure to hear RHASS-sponsored speaker Doug Avery, who toured around Scotland in September. Here we summarise his thoughts on how to be a resilient farmer in the modern world.

If you want optimism and inspiration look no further than New Zealand farmer Doug Avery, who made quite an impression with members at his recent meetings, held all over Scotland.

In 2001, Doug's farm, Bonavaree, had experienced years of extreme drought, he battled with poor mental health, and his business was facing financial difficulties, Doug made some life-changing decisions that saved him and his business. Admirably, he is willing to share his story, so others don't suffer as he did.

"Seventeen years ago, I had a destroyed farm, a destroyed bank account and destroyed hopes. I couldn't afford to move, so I decided to make good of what

I had," he says. But this was a process, and Doug is keen to talk about his experience with Scottish farmers in the hope others can improve their lives and their businesses. "I have accumulated much knowledge over the years, and I want to invest that back into an industry I love. I wish I had known a lot of what I know now when I was at breaking point. By giving people tools to cope, they will be able to live a much more productive and happier life - but the first step is admitting you're not OK - and this can be a huge hurdle.

"Just remember, that we live in a world of accelerated change, and yet we aren't given the skills to help manage our ability to adapt. Change can be incredibly stressful, and people find it hard, so as a society it's important that we learn how to cope.

"The past is a great teacher, but it's a horrible master. Living in the clutches of the past can shackle your imagination and relegate you

to thinking small. But you need to learn to let go and move on. Focus on what you can influence. To get myself right, I had to learn to stop worrying about what I couldn't control - it's such a waste of time and energy. Learn to accept change and think about actions you can take that are positive.

"This requires teamwork, and I talk a lot about the V shape used by geese when in flight. Geese work together and by doing so fly higher, faster and further. In fact, they achieve 71% greater flying reach as a team. They take turns to fly at the front (the hardest work) and honk if they need help. In summary, they share the burden, both physically and emotionally.

**There will always be mountains and valleys in everyone's life - we can't change that, but we can change how we react**



Doug Avery addresses guests at Ingliston House

### 8 THINGS RESILIENT PEOPLE DON'T DO!

1. Waste time feeling sorry for themselves
2. Shy away from change
3. Waste time on things they can't control
4. Dwell on the past
5. Make the same mistakes, over and over
6. Resent other people's success
7. Give up after failure
8. Feel the world owes them something

### SIX WAYS TO WELL BEING

1. Connect
2. Give
3. Take notice
4. Don't personalise problems that are not yours
5. Keep learning
6. Be active

"We as humans can learn so much from this. There will always be mountains and valleys in everyone's life – we can't change that, but we can change how we react. The first step though is to say I need help. Build your team and do this when you are on a mountain – feeling good. This will ensure you have support when things don't go so well. We live in an amazing world, and I understand fully that we can't always see that. However having your team (or V) will give you a much better ability to deal with future challenges.

"I am evidence that having a new mindset can absolutely change the fortunes of your life and your business. We have transformed Bonavaree to a place of huge success, economically and environmentally. With the right support, Scottish farmers can do the same." he stresses.

In 2017, Doug was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to agriculture and mental health. His contribution to his industry is outstanding, from sharing financial advice, informing and educating about environmental issues to mentoring on succession planning. RHASS have been

honoured to host him on his tour, in the hope Scottish rural business will benefit.

"Some people at the Scottish meetings have told me they went home and had a sleepless night," he adds. "This is good – it means they have been challenged to think about their own perspective and coping strategies. Some people have come along for more than one meeting because they needed more time to absorb the messages. I hope I have given people food for thought and that leads to some positive changes."

Commenting on what has been most memorable about his trip to Scotland, Doug says, "There's a Maori saying – he tangata, he tangata, he tangata (translates to "It is the people, it is the people, it is the people). This has been my first trip to Scotland, and I have to tell you it's such a beautiful place with incredible people and landscape. I have been welcomed with open arms, and people have embraced what I have had to say. I can't wait to come back again."

<https://www.resilientfarmer.co.nz/>

Check out page 30 to win one of Doug's books.

# RHASS LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Farming is still an industry that can offer a job for life – as our most recent Long Service Awards demonstrate



## WHAT AN ACHIEVEMENT!

Six employees from Fife Tractors have collectively worked an impressive 249 years. Their efforts were recognised at a presentation at Fife Show in May with other long service award winners. Pictured, they are: Bill Arnot, RHASS (presenting awards); Allan Forret, Easter Lathrisk; John Maxwell, Woodbank Farm; Douglas Clacher, Drumrack Farm; Alexander Bissett, Strathvie Mains; John Ferguson, Fife Tractors; David Ferguson, Fife Tractors; David Whyte, Fife Tractors; Ronnie Steedman, Fife Tractors; Ian Wallace, Fife Tractors; James Swinton, Fife Tractors; Kenneth Thomson, Wellsgreen Farm and David Law, Nethermyres Farm.

## ROYAL APPRECIATION

Alexander (Sandy) McCarthy has completed thirty two years' uninterrupted employment at Longoe Farm, Castle of Mey, near Caithness, originally with Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and subsequently The Castle of Mey Trust. Sandy, who started work on 28 April 1986, was presented with his RHASS Long Service Award on 4 August by HRH The Prince of Wales, the President of the Trust, during his annual stay at the Castle.





## 60-YEAR MEDAL

Jimmy Hutchinson, a tractor enthusiast from Crieff, received a rare 60-year service award at Perth Show in August.

Jimmy (75) started his working life when he secured work with Tainsh Contractor Farmers – originally at The Holdings with the late Jimmy Tainsh Snr. He has now worked with 4 generations of the family, who are now based at Drummond Earnoch, near Comrie.

"It wasn't until I was 15 years old that I could go to work full time – for a starting wage of £4 a week. I've always loved tractors and I've always loved the outdoors. Farm tractor man was my ideal job.

"My first new tractor was a £600 Super Major, and I thought it was the best thing ever because it had a cab and a windscreen wiper. Nowadays, a tractor will do a huge field in a day, and they're luxurious machines to drive – it's very different times.

Maureen, Jimmy's wife of 53 years, is given credit, "She deserves this medal just as much as me. She had to deal with me working all hours," he says.

"The Tainsh family still call on me to do work, and when they stop making those calls, I'll know the time has come to step off the tractor for good."

In the meantime, you can see Jimmy on a tractor out and about in Crieff, driving a little red 1970 Massey Ferguson 135 which he has bought and restored.

### IMAGE: PERTH SHOW 60 & 30 LONG SERVICE AWARD (L-R)

William Foster, 31 years, Farm Grieve with Murray Lyle, Mid Cambushinnie, Dunblane.

Gregor Stewart, 30 years, Farm Manager with Alan Dunnet, Grange of Elcho, Perth.

David Armstrong, Perth Show President who presented the awards

James Hutchison, 60 years, Tractorman, with James Tainsh & Sons, Comrie.

Ian Carrie, 40 years, Tractorman, with Peter Grewar, East Ardler, Meigle.

Charles Morrison, 54 years, Farm Worker with George Angus, Binzian Farm, Forgandenny.

John Ritchie, Chairman, Perth Show 2018

## **ROBERT GRIERSON**

One of the country's best known stockman, Robert Grierson, is retiring after 42 years' service with the Biggar family, who farm at Chapelton and Grange Farms at Haugh of Urr, near Castle Douglas.

Over the years, Robert has shown the Chapelton pedigree herds of Beef Shorthorn and Angus cattle at all the major shows in the UK with tremendous success. He brought out many breed and inter-breed champions at the Royal Highland Show, the English Royal and several local Shows, including winning the prestigious overall individual beef championship at the Royal Show with Hereford bull, Louada Sensation.

Robert has been an integral part of the team, especially when the herds were rebuilt after the losses of the 2001 FMD outbreak. His efforts were rewarded at a BBQ held at the Grange, where the Biggar family, Chapelton staff and the farm vets were among the guests celebrating the presentation of his Long Service Award from RHASS.



Jimmy Warnock, RHASS Chairman, (centre) makes the presentation to Robert Grierson who has worked for the Biggar family for 42 years. Donald Biggar (right)

## **40 YEAR AWARD AT ALLATHAN ASSOCIATES**

On 10th April this year, Rosemary McKay notched up 40 years' unbroken service as book-keeper and office manager for Turriff Farm Consultants, Allathan Associates. Rosemary is the first office administrator recipient of a Long Service Award in RHASS history.



Pictured - RHASS Director, Eric Mutch presenting Rosemary McKay with her RHASS Long Service Award.

## **ABERFELDY AWARD**

Gordon Barrack was recognised for his 30 years of service to the Duncan Millar family at a presentation at this year's Aberfeldy Show in Perthshire. Dr Hamish McBride, the Aberfeldy Show and Games Chieftain, presented the award and congratulated Gordon, who has worked for Ian and Hazel Duncan Millar of Tirinie, on his commitment.



# THE 179th ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

For 178 years, the Royal Highland Show has delivered the best of farming, food and rural life, and 179th Show will be no different. In 2019 we look forward to celebrating:

- **20 years** of the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET)
- **Zwartbles** National Sheep Competition
- **100 years** of the Forestry Commission, set up in the wake of the First World War
- **Clydesdale Horses** as the power behind farming at the turn of the century (in association with the Clydesdale Horse Society)
- **The Presidential Area** is the Borders region with a special President's Salute being planned for Sunday 23rd June
- The return of the **Best Ice Cream Sundae** Competition judged by young people
- The biggest and most diverse exhibition of **farm machinery and equipment** in the UK
- The best **'Food To Go'** of any event in Scotland

There's still much more to come – watch out for updates over the next few months.

## 2019 TRADE STANDS

Trade packs for the 2019 Royal Highland Show were issued in November and planning is well underway for what will be the 179th Show. We have a great relationship with our exhibitors with over 80% of trade exhibitors returning year on year.

For those interested in finding out more about exhibiting at the Show, trade pack information can be found at:

[www.royalhighlandshow.org/exhibitors](http://www.royalhighlandshow.org/exhibitors)

## KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2019

Trade Stands (bonus tickets)  
- Friday 11 January

Trade Stand, returning exhibitors  
- Thursday 31 January

Catering - Friday 8 March

Technical Innovations - Friday 12 April

# AGRICULTURAL SHOWS DIARY – 2019

## YOUR GUIDE TO NEXT YEAR'S EVENTS

FEBRUARY	
27	Royal Northern Spring Show
APRIL	
20	Kilmaurs Show
24	Ochiltree Show
27	Dundonald
27	Beith Show
MAY	
4	Neilston
4	Catrine
11	Ayr
11	Kilmacolm and Port Glasgow
18	Fife
18	Stonehouse
18	Dalry
25	Drymen
25	Stewarton & Dunlop
25	Lesmahagow
25	New Cumnock
27	Northumberland
JUNE	
1	Central & West Fife
1	Newmilns
1	Gargunnoch
8	Angus
8	Stirling
8	Straiton
8	Largs
12	NSA Highland Sheep
15	Kilbarchan
15	Alyth
15	Cumberland
20-23	Royal Highland Show
29	Haddington
JULY	
1	Campsie
6	Doune and Dunblane
13	Dalkeith
13	Kirriemuir
13	Echt
19	Tiree
19-20	Caithness
20	Biggar
20	Sutherland
20	Newtown ST Boswells
20	Fenwick
20-21	New Deer
26-27	Border Union
27	Banchory
27	Braco
27	Nairn
27	East Kilbride
31	Stranraer

AUGUST	
1	Black Isle
1	Stewartry
2	Kintyre
2-3	Perth
3	Dumfries
3	Lorn
3	Berwickshire
4-5	Turriff
7	Arran
7	Wigtown
8	Grantown
8	Dounby
8	Islay
9-10	Aberfeldy
10	Orkney
10	Mid-Argyll
10	Tarland
10	Craigie Show
10	Sunart
10	Colmonell and Ballantrae
11-12	Keith
14	Bute
17	Coylton
17	Peebles
17	Killin
17	Glenkens
17	Appin
17	Chapelton
24	Lochaber
31	Moffat
31	Muirkirk
31	Abington
31	Westruther
SEPTEMBER	
7	Dalmally
7	Strathaven
10	Kinross
12	Westmorland County
28	Langholm
28	Tarbolton
OCTOBER	
5	Yetholm
NOVEMBER	
9 (TBC)	Stars of the Future Calf show
20	Agriscot
22 (TBC)	Black Beauty Bonanza

All dates correct as of 6/11/18



### SPONSOR FOCUS – SPIRE

In 2018, the Royal Highland Show welcomed a new partnership with Spire Edinburgh Hospitals. Here we talk to Rachel McDonald, from the Spire Edinburgh Hospitals, to find out about their first year as a Show sponsor.

“The Spire Edinburgh Hospitals were looking for an opportunity to be involved in such an iconic event and recognised the value of aligning ourselves with a renowned brand” explains Rachel.

“We chose the Grand Prix for a number of reasons but largely due to its appeal to seasoned equestrians, RHASS members and wider Show audiences. It’s one of the real highlights of the equestrian schedule. Our sponsorship saw the Grand Prix change its name to The Spire Edinburgh Hospitals Grand Prix for the 2018 Show.

“We’ve been delighted with how our first year as a sponsor has gone; it has allowed us to get a feel for what being involved entails and provided an opportunity to make Royal Highland Show attendees aware of self-funding options for healthcare.

“The Grand Prix has been picked up in many farming and equestrian publications, our banners even made it onto television on Landward.

“We’ve had positive feedback from our consultants and staff who attended, who were delighted to see Spire Edinburgh Hospitals be a part of such an iconic event. It was also fantastic to see our social media followers enjoy and contribute to our online activity surrounding the Show.

“We’ve got off to a great start this year and are looking forward to 2019; an ongoing relationship with the Royal Highland Show is very much in our plans.”

# RHET - SPOTLIGHT ON OUR PROJECT COORDINATORS



## OUR COUNTRYSIDE INITIATIVES

The RHET network comprises 11 different areas which we call Countryside Initiatives that cover all of Scotland, with our friends at the Royal Northern Countryside Initiative covering Aberdeenshire.

In each of these areas is a local Board, as well as a Project Coordinator, with some areas also having the help of Assistant Project Coordinators.

Each Project Coordinator is responsible for fulfilling RHET's national aims and objectives in their respective areas. They coordinate and support local volunteers to provide farm visits for classes, to visit schools to deliver educational talks and presentations and they also organise agricultural and countryside events, such as our food and farming days, farmers markets and more.

Our team of Project Coordinators have different backgrounds and experiences, but they have the common goal of educating the consumers of tomorrow as to where their food comes from and highlighting the dedication of Scotland's farming community. Without their hard work, none of what RHET does would be possible.

# PROJECT COORDINATOR SPOTLIGHT



**AYRSHIRE & ARRAN**  
– Elaine Bryson

Elaine has been a Project Coordinator for Ayrshire & Arran for almost three years. Before joining RHET, she worked for 15 years as a Classroom Assistant in Darvel Primary School in East Ayrshire and worked at Royal Bank of Scotland before that.

Education and farming are both of Elaine's great passions, and by working with RHET, she can combine the two. A typical week for Elaine includes meeting with teachers to best plan a visit, talk or event, helping at farm visits, delivering talks or presentations or checking in with her board chairman or secretary.

Elaine enjoys interacting with pupils and seeing them experience a visit to a working farm – in particular, children who are not settled in a class environment or have additional support needs totally engaging with a farmer. She also delights in witnessing how proud RHET volunteers are when talking to pupils about their animals and the work they do.



**CLYDE**  
– Kris Paterson

Kris has been a Project Coordinator for RHET Clyde for 14 years – one of our longest serving contractors.

She grew up on a farm with store cattle and was member of East Kilbride Young Farmers Club. She then worked in banking and ended up working in operations or financial management with a series of blue-chip companies like Sky Television, Marks & Spencer and Zurich Insurance.

Kris changed tack after having children and decided to be a milk recorder whilst her kids were all still young. When her children started going to school, Kris decided to take on more work and applied for the Project Coordinator role at RHET Clyde.

A typical week for Kris includes meeting new potential classroom speakers, liaising with schools and farmers to organise visits, looking at locations for food and farming days and attending committee meetings. The great team of volunteers and the committee Kris works with in Clyde are what she appreciates most about the job, and feedback received from schools in Glasgow and Lanarkshire make it all worthwhile.



**FORTH VALLEY**  
– Katie Brisbane

Katie landed her dream job as Project Coordinator for Forth Valley in February 2017 having volunteered for RHET since 2013.

Farming is her life – having been born and brought up on a small mixed farm near Stirling, then travelling the rural areas of Australia, South America and Europe before helping her family set up and run The Farmlife Centre. This is when Katie really appreciated what a fabulous childhood she had and how little the public knew about where their food comes from and rural life in general.

Katie herself is married to a beef and arable farmer with four adult children. As well as organising farmers to schools, schools to farms, and food and farming events, Katie has continued to work 2-3 day per week at Briarlands Farm, an open farm near the Safari Park in Stirling.

Her favourite parts of working with RHET have been seeing a child's face when they touch a warm freshly laid egg, feel a sheep's wool, smell silage or taste an oatcake they have made themselves. "It's that experience that creates real understanding and memories that words and pictures can't," Katie says.

## ORGANISING A FUNDRAISING EVENT?

RHET relies on the generosity of individuals and businesses to achieve our national aims and objectives each academic year.

If you are organising a fundraising event, celebrating a milestone or would just like to show your support you can do this via the JustGiving platform.

You can set up a fundraising page via JustGiving where you can specify RHET as your chosen charity. This will create your own page where you can customise your overall message as well as give you a place to direct people to when reaching out for support.

Please visit [www.justgiving.com/rhet](http://www.justgiving.com/rhet) to show your support, or if you would like to find out more about setting up your own fundraising page for RHET please get in touch via our website: [www.rhet.org.uk](http://www.rhet.org.uk). Thank you for your support!

### JustGiving™



## RAISE MONEY FOR RHET WHEN YOU SHOP ONLINE

Are you doing some of your Christmas shopping online? Planning a trip and need to book a rail ticket or hotel? If you sign-up to support RHET through easyfundraising, the supplier of the goods will donate a percentage of your spend directly to us! Join over 50 people already using the app and see if you can take the top of the leader board.

More people than ever use their phones and tablets to shop online so our mobile app makes it even easier for supporters to raise donations for you when they shop on the go. It's free to download so simply search your app store, open the app, search the retailer and everything else is done automatically!

Raise funds for  
Add your good cause here  
every time you  
shop online

Find us on easyfundraising to start:

ENTER YOUR CAUSE PAGE LINK HERE



Shop with over 3,300 online stores



easyfundraising  
feel good shopping

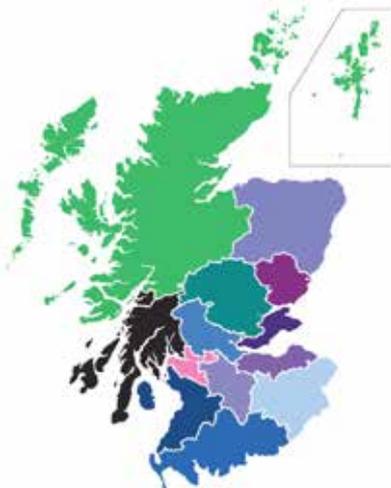
£20 Million raised

1.2 Million users

100,000 causes



## What is **RHET** ?



Supported by RHASS



ROYAL  
HIGHLAND &  
AGRICULTURAL  
SOCIETY OF  
SCOTLAND

### A network of Countryside Initiatives:

1. Angus
2. Argyll & Bute\*
3. Ayrshire & Arran
4. Clyde
5. Dumbarton, Lomond & Renfrew
6. Dumfries & Galloway
7. Fife
8. Forth Valley
9. Highland
10. Lothians
11. Perth & Kinross
12. Scottish Borders

& RNCI (Aberdeenshire)

\*under development



Establishment year,  
and operating year-  
round



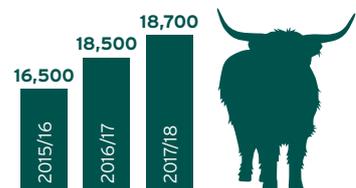
Local authority  
areas covered  
across Scotland



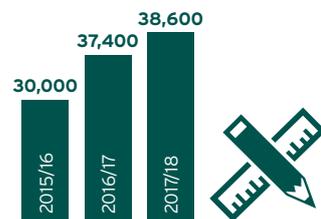
Volunteers providing  
farm visits and  
classroom talks



Milkable  
fibreglass  
cows



Pupils who visited the  
working countryside



Pupils engaged in school



2016/17  
5,700

2017/18  
5,100

Adults engaged at school or  
working countryside

# LET THE MUSIC PLAY



Since the 1960s the Royal Highland Centre (RHC) has a long history of welcoming many famous musicians, band and acts through its doors. To date, the venue has played host to a wide range of artists including David Bowie, The Jacksons, Boyzone, Queen, Rainbow, Oasis, Pulp, Big Country, Rush, Electric Light Orchestra, Iron Maiden, Billy Idol, The Police, Madness and Roxette.

Music has always been a key area of business for the RHC and its newly formed South Arena in 2017 saw the world's biggest girl band, Little Mix, as the first performers to take to the stage in front of a crowd of 15,000.

However, it is not just playing host to a wide variety of musicians that the RHC has become well-known for. Since 2016, the RHC, through Highland Centre Limited, has supported music charity Nordoff Robbins Scotland, through its sponsorship of the SSE Scottish Music Awards. Recognising the power of music and music therapy, the RHC has presented music legend Jim Diamond, and Rolling Stones' founding member Ian Stewart, with its prestigious Hall of Fame award.

Jim's wife Cynthia said: "Stu would have loved the fact this award came from the Scottish music industry more than you will ever know.

"He was a Scot to his true heart. Everything about Stu started in Scotland. He was born in his grandparents' home at Kirkclatch Farm and as a child learned to play by ear on an old upright piano there.

"This is one award we know Stu would have absolutely loved".

This year, Nordoff Robbins will be celebrating its 20th year, and the RHC is looking forward to continuing its support. RHASS commercial director Lorne Scott, said: "Music is a platform that has no boundaries, the positive impact that it makes on the lives of individuals and the work that everyone at Nordoff Robbins does is extremely important and the RHC is proud to be a part of that".

2019 is set to be another bumper year for music at the RHC- watch this space for further announcements.

To find out more about supporting Nordoff Robbins visit [www.nordoffrobbinsscotland.org.uk](http://www.nordoffrobbinsscotland.org.uk)

For information on all events held at the RHC visits [www.royalhighlandcentre.co.uk](http://www.royalhighlandcentre.co.uk)

# A BLOOMING PARTNERSHIP WITH GARDENING SCOTLAND

The Royal Highland Centre is delighted to announce a three-year deal with Gardening Scotland to continue to host the event at the RHC.

Next year marks the 20th anniversary of Gardening Scotland and tickets to the national festival of gardening, and outdoor living have gone on sale at a very special price.

*Two decades of bringing Scotland's gardeners, top quality horticulture and plants*

To mark two decades of bringing Scotland's gardeners, top quality horticulture and plants, tickets are available until 31 March for just £14 - a saving of £3 for every visitor.

There are great deals to be had too on group bookings – starting at just £11.60 per person for every group of more than ten. And weekend tickets, hospitality and afternoon tea packages are also available.

Gardening Scotland organiser Martin Dare said: "We have a superb show lined up for 2019 and we hope to welcome back gardeners who have been with us from the very start, along with the many new visitors who have joined us since then.

"Since the very first Gardening Scotland at Ingliston in 2000 the show has become a fixture on the gardening calendar, and we have just signed a new three-year deal with the RHC that will see the show remain here where it started."

Gardening Scotland brings together top nurseries from across the UK including renowned Scottish growers of specialist plants, and its mix of talks, workshops, entertainment and advice has something for everyone, from knowledgeable gardeners to complete beginners.

**Gardening Scotland 2019 will take place from Friday, 31 May until Sunday, 2 June.**

**TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR GARDENING SCOTLAND 2019**

For tickets and more information visit [www.gardeningscotland.com](http://www.gardeningscotland.com).





# SIR WILLIAM YOUNG AWARD 2018

**Here we meet up with Ian and Patsy Hunter to find out about the story behind their remarkable success in sheep breeding.**

Ian and Patsy Hunter were awarded the prestigious Sir William Young Award this year at the Royal Highland Show, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to livestock breeding. They follow in the footsteps of many of Scotland's leading farmers, including last year's winner, Dr Robert Graham from Airthrey Kerse Farm, near Stirling, and 2016 winner, renowned sheep breeder James (Jimmy) Gray Douglas from Fraserburgh.

Many RHASS members will know the Hunters as prominent blackface breeders, however, this hasn't always been the case. One thing people often don't know is that Ian was not brought up with Blackface sheep breeding. In fact, Dalchirla, his family farm, was a commercial sheep farm initially based on Blackies that were mostly crossed. So, while Patsy was born into breeding and showing Blackface sheep with her late father and previous Sir William Young Award recipient, Graham McClymont, Ian started completely from scratch.

It is nevertheless through Blackface sheep that they met in the mid-1980s. On leaving school, Ian went to work for the McCall Smith family at Connachan, Crieff, under shepherd Sandy Paterson. However, desperate to have his own flock, he built up foundation stock in the 1990s mainly buying draft ewes from Patsy's father, Connachan and the Wights at Midlock.

With his older brother Alan working at home on the 1500 acre unit at Dalchirla, Ian continued working at Connachan until 2002 while still building up the Blackie flock at home. It was only when he and Patsy bought Meikle Fieldie at Glenfarg, at the end of 2001, that they moved to Dalchirla, and Alan and his wife and family moved to the new farm, around 25 miles away, which is more of a cattle farm.

Dalchirla is now home to 700 Blackface ewes, with a further 400 Blackies running at Fieldie, with all kept pure. Cattle numbers stand at 120 Limousin, Salers and British Blue crosses which are bulled to mostly Limousin, British Blue and Simmental bulls to breed home-bred replacements and finished cattle. Over the past 10 years the business has diversified into Texel and Beltex cross sheep, with 200 ewes run to produce cross-bred shearling rams and gimmers.

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**A recent highlight was selling the £160,000 record priced ram lamb**

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Last year they also bought another unit at Glenfarg with the total farming enterprise now comprising of 1500 acres at Dalchirla, which is a tenanted unit on the Drummond Estates, and over 1000 acres owned at Glenfarg. Very much a family unit, Ian and Patsy live at Dalchirla, where Ian's parents, Sandy and Eileen help out, and Ian's brother Alan, his wife Lorraine, and their daughters May and Jill, are based at the Glenfarg unit.

The flock has been built on some strong breeding stock rams such as Midlock's Nutter, bought as a lamb in a three-way split; and home-bred rams including The Tiger, and a son of The Tiger, known as Kingsmill; a £28,000 Midlock shearling ram; a share of a £22,000 Connachan shearling; and a share of the £24,000 Elmscleugh lamb.

Others include the sire of the record-priced £160,000 Dalchirla lamb which was a home-bred son of £50,000 Dalwyne. More recently, a £10,000 Nunnerie lamb bought at Dalmally and his home-bred son retained for breeding, known as Boris.

The couple have many highlights from their farming career and looking back on the 30 years Ian has been selling Blackface rams, they have some special memories that stand out.

"I really enjoyed 1989, my first year," explains Ian. "There was no pressure to produce the goods, with my first tup selling for £650 to the MacLartys, at Little Port. However, it has to be said the pressure and stress to continually improve has increased ever since!

"Since that first sale there have been numerous highlights with the more recent ones including, selling a £90,000 record priced shearling ram; a natural born and reared set of twin ram lambs that sold for £90,000 and £60,000, the £160,000 record priced ram lamb and the record-priced female, a ewe hogg at £12,000."

Speaking about her love for the Blackface breed, Patsy says, "We wouldn't think of having any other breed. Even when we were looking to buy a farm, it had to be a farm suited to Blackface sheep. The breed is changing though and has to change with the times. Good tight coats, open horn, size and breed character are very much key at present.

As for winning the Sir William Young Award – that came completely out of the blue. "It meant so much to my father," adds Patsy, "I remember vividly when he won it 20 years ago, which was also the same year we were married. We never ever, ever thought we would be worthy of such an accolade and still can't quite believe it.

As for the future, both are of the opinion it's very much a case of head down and get on with it with the determination to continually to improve always at the back of their mind.

They are nevertheless also aware of how lucky they have been, in the past, in the stock tups they have acquired over the years and how breeding Blackface sheep is becoming increasingly difficult year on year.

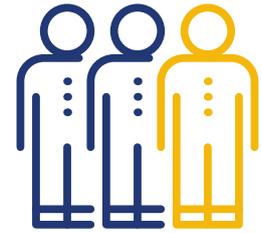


The record Blackface priced ram - £160,000, Dalchirla ram lamb sold at Dalmally in 2015 to Willie Dunlop, Elmscleugh; Hugh and Alan Blackwood, Auldhouseburn, and John Murray, Crossflatt.



The record priced Blackface female, a Dalchirla ewe hogg sold at United Auctions, Stirling, in 2017, to Billy Macfarlane, Drumgrange

# HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A LEADER?



The SAYFC Cultivating Leaders Programme is widely recognised for its ability to offer a unique training ground for future industry challenges. It addresses the skills needed for leadership such as business plans, succession, the process of bank loans and tenancy agreements and gives individuals a positive environment in which to consider their abilities in leadership. Here we visit two recent graduates from the Leaders Programme to find out more.

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**Kirsty Kinloch,**  
**Wester Coldrain Farm, Kinross**  
**Occupation: Farmer**

I heard about Cultivating Leaders through the SAYFC newsletter as at the time I was the Chairperson of my local young farmers club.

What attracted me to the programme was the opportunity to meet new people with similar beliefs and at the time I felt like I was stuck in a bit of a rut with work. It was a great opportunity to meet financial advisors and solicitors which could help further down the line starting a new business venture.

I met lots of likeminded people who also had ambition and goals, a good network of contacts.

The programme gave me access to information I would not otherwise have. For example, the different details that can be included in partnership agreements. Also, the difference in having a will and the effect it can have on inheritance tax. We also went through financial accounts.

At the time I was Chairperson of my local young farmers, and I felt this helped me with building confidence to set an example to my younger members. I think it has changed my outlook as well, in that, if you want something, it is only you that stops yourself.



At the time I was working in an office, but I felt that I had reached the limits of my potential there. The course offered me the opportunity to assess alternative options and realise the viability of following my dream to be actively involved in agriculture.

The most valuable lesson I learnt is that there are people out there that can help if you ask, and advice is free to a certain level. I felt it really encouraged people to go after their goals since they meet really helpful and informative people who can help. I recommend anyone to apply.

I felt that the course was spaced out well and it didn't take up too much time as the days were combined. I was working full time in the office. The course was very well organised and the speakers I felt were very important people to make connections with and beneficial in the future.

**Ian Cullens**  
**Dollarbank Farm**  
**Occupation: Farmer**

I heard about the course through SAYFC and applied in late summer 2017. I had heard very positive reviews from friends who had been on the course the previous year and always aim to further my skills and knowledge within the industry.

I now have a better understanding in running our own business and look at different aspects of it in depth to see where improvements can be made. If any new opportunities / challenges were to arise I would feel confident in approaching them in the correct manner.

Being a firm believer of learning from others and taking advice wherever possible I met a whole new bunch of people on the course including the professionals running it and other participants.

Seeing as I always shy away from number crunching, being able to understand profit and loss accounts and making business plans or engineering regular meetings gave me skills that are now part of the business.

I like getting involved in new things that are going to help others and myself and enjoy feeling a sense of achievement. I believe good leaders are always open to listen to others and take advice when necessary and this course has certainly improved my ability to go about my business whether at home or out and about.

The world is full of opportunities; it's just how and when you take them is the big question. There have been no major changes to our business as of yet but with huge uncertainty in the industry we have to be able to adapt when appropriate and hopefully I will be ready for that when need be.



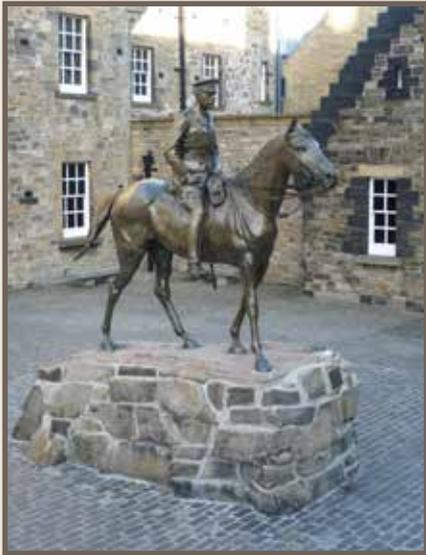
The saying 'work smarter not harder' really is important and farmers can be busy fools, and I fall into that category at times but when I have some spare time I make every effort to think about all aspects of what we do as a business and where changes can be made to make things as simple and efficient as possible.

It's always difficult finding spare time when you have a farm to run but in my mind a small time spent improving skills and knowledge might just go a long way in the future.

Investment in these programmes ensures that the future of Scottish farming is in safe hands giving young farmers great opportunities to learn and improve skills within agriculture.

Cultivating Leaders can take you out of your comfort zone slightly but having completed it I feel ready for the future. It was great to meet like-minded people and share stories with them all, so if you want to be progressive sign up for the next session that is run and the only quality you need is to be able to listen to all the great advice that is given to you throughout the course.





## RHASS World War One Centenary Commemorative Exhibition

*'The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland is to be warmly congratulated for its efforts to educate a wide public, as well as today's farmers, about the profound effects the First World War brought to agriculture and the people who sustained it one hundred years ago. The war changed Scottish farming in fundamental ways, many of whose effects are still with us.'*

Professor Sir Hew Strachan, DL, FRSE, FRHistS, FBA

In 2015, RHASS made the decision to commemorate the centenary of World War One. Conscious of the fact that many of the events organised to mark the centenary focused on the Armed Forces, the view was taken that the exhibits for the Royal Highland Show should recognise the impact the war had on Scottish agriculture, rural Scotland and its people.

The Royal Highland Show requested that Jim McKay, a life member of RHASS and member of the Countryside and Forestry Committee, create a series of exhibits for display as a feature of the Royal Highland Show over the following four years from 2015 onwards.

Staff and students from SRUC Oatridge Campus planted and cultivated vegetables, potatoes and cereals that were grown during World War One in the garden of the Countryside Cottage in the Showground. Staff and students were in attendance each of the four years to answer questions and explain cultivation techniques to Show visitors.

Stonemason trainees from St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral demonstrated stone carving and masonry techniques used in the early 20th century as part of each exhibit.

A display of agricultural equipment was displayed each year to demonstrate how labour-intensive farming methods were during that period.

Within the Countryside Cottage itself, the following exhibits were displayed:

### 2015 - 'OUR PARISH' 100 YEARS OF OUR LOCAL FARMS:

Eddleston Primary School from Peeblesshire researched a number of the local farms in their area. They investigated the impact WW1 had on their community and its people, in particular focusing on farming and food production in the Parish, and compared the differences in agriculture in 1915 and 2015. The history of Cringletie House, one of the Parish's main estates, was researched by the pupils. This research has since inspired the pupils to design a historical nature trail extending to one mile through the grounds of Cringletie House which, once complete, will provide a recreational and environmental resource available to the school and wider community.

Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal visited the exhibit during her attendance at the 2015 Show, chatted with the children and complimented them on all their hard work.



### 2016 'WORK AND WAR HORSES':

The exhibit examined the role of the horse in Scotland since the beginning of the 20th century and specifically during WW1, the war's impact on Scotland's horse population, and how the role of the working horse in Scotland was to change forever.

At the beginning of the 20th century horses were one of the primary sources of power for agriculture, forestry, mining, transport and industry.

In 1911 Scotland was recorded as having 140,000 working horses, most of which were Clydesdales. Horses were the most important animal on any Scottish farm. They were the power that pulled the heavy farm machinery – ploughs, hay rakes, carts and buggies; they pulled them all.

At the outbreak of WW1 in 1914, the British Army had just 25,000 horses and only 80 motorised vehicles at its disposal. The War Office's immediate task was to source another half a million equines to go to the Western

Front, drafted from the British countryside. Many hundreds of thousands were also imported from the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, India, Portugal and Spain.

Horses were transported by road or train to ports from where they were shipped to the Western Front. The organisation and transport logistics highlights the value and importance of horses to the war effort.

The exhibit emphasised that not all of the horses were used on the battlefield. Ninety thousand were used for carrying guns and heavy artillery, while another 100,000 were used for transporting ammunition and food supplies to soldiers, or bearing the wounded across the trenches to field hospitals.

### 2017 'LASSIES ON THE LAND':

The 2017 exhibit paid tribute to the role of women in Scottish agriculture during WW1, focusing on the centenary of the formation of the Women's Land Army in 1917, which was formed due to

the shortage of labour on farms, as more and more men went into the Armed Forces. There was also a great need to grow more food due to German U-Boat blockades.

The exhibit traced the origins of the WLA, the training given to recruits, and examined what life was like for WLA girls, and paid tribute to the 3,000 who enlisted along with the 19,000 other women already employed in agricultural occupation throughout Scotland during WW1.

The exhibit also highlighted other themes of relevance to 1917 – food shortages and rationing, the formation of the Scottish Women's Institute and the increasing use of mechanisation in agriculture, in particular, the tractor.

Research was carried out by pupils of Greyfriars R.C Primary School, St Andrews, investigating tractors and machinery displayed at the Highland Society's tractor trials in 1917. All of the information collected by the children was displayed in the cottage garden as part of the overall exhibit.



## 2018 'HOMECOMING':

The 2018 exhibit detailed the effect the end of WW1 had on Scottish agriculture, a time when many persons involved in farming were returning from the war.

The exhibition within the Countryside Cottage examined what life was like for the returning soldiers and their families, the challenges they faced and provided an insight into the most significant social and economic changes in Scotland in 1918 and the immediate post-war years. Emigration, votes for women, the Land Settlement Act, increased mechanisation and the impact on other industries such as fishing and coal mining also featured.

Appropriately, given the Show's featured region for 2018 of the Lothians, the exhibition also looked at one Midlothian farm, occupied by the same family for over 100 years. Using interviews and archives from both the family and other sources such as that of Penicuik Estate, this part of the exhibition illustrated some of the changes in practice and diversification of farming up to the present day.

The role of RHASS in Scottish agriculture was interpreted and in particular, the role played in assisting the Flanders area of Belgium to reinstate their agricultural industry in areas torn apart by war. RHASS cooperated with the Scottish Agricultural Committee for relief of Allies in organising the despatch of livestock, food and grains supplied by farmers.

Over the last four years, RHASS has staged these exhibits to provide Royal Highland Show visitors with a glimpse back in time to an era of major change for the agricultural industry, rural Scotland and its people. RHASS is proud to have staged displays to commemorate all those who served in WW1 both on the front and at home on the land of Scotland.

'We will remember them'

The Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland is indebted to the following organisations without whose help the exhibits over the last four years would not have been possible; The MacRobert Trust, City of Edinburgh Council, Cringletie House Hotel.

An accurate count of people who visited the Countryside Cottage over the last duration of the last four Royal Highland Shows revealed that over 20,000 viewed the exhibits. Feedback from visitors has been highly positive, and the exhibits have since been loaned out for display to the British Horse Society, Peeblesshire Agricultural Society's annual Show and Cupar Heritage Trust. The RHASS library at Ingliston House should be contacted by any organisation wishing to borrow the exhibits.

**THE RESILIENT  
FARMER BOOK  
FREE PRIZE DRAW**

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**WIN DOUG  
AVERY'S BOOK  
FOR THE  
NEW YEAR**

If you were lucky enough to attend one of Doug Avery's 'Drought, Adversity & Breaking New Ground' talks you will already know some of the contents of the book. But there is so much more in it. If you didn't manage to get along this is for you.

We're running a prize draw open to all our members to win one of five Resilient Farmer books. To enter the draw all you have to do is email [competition@rhass.org.uk](mailto:competition@rhass.org.uk) with the **subject line: Doug Avery Competition**. Please also include your name, address and phone number in the email to enter. Check out the terms and conditions on the RHASS website ([www.rhass.org.uk](http://www.rhass.org.uk)) before entering.

**The competition closes on the 10th January 2019.**

## RHASS ON-SITE INVESTMENT MUES



- A place to hold lectures and debates on topics of interest to the industry and beyond.
- A place to bring farming and rural working practices to life for young people and the future generation of industry leaders.
- Flexible event space which can be used to promote Scotland's farming, food and rural life.
- A raised viewing gallery with views over the Main Ring.

### CREATING A SPACE FOR ALL

In 2019, The Royal Highland & Agricultural Society (RHASS) will launch a generational investment, with a new permanent facility at the heart of the Royal Highland Showground. This exciting project will furnish RHASS members with a contemporary new space in which to meet and connect year round. It will be a showcase for all of Scotland's rural industry and a versatile event space, which meets the demands of our growing commercial events business, across Scotland and beyond.

Ours is an industry facing constant challenges: technological, political, environmental. We have always understood from the time of our founding in 1784, that changing, evolving and taking opportunities are the key to moving us forward. It is our vision, to create an inspiring new hub for RHASS, which will celebrate the agricultural industry of Scotland and prepare the next generation for its future.

A safe place for debate, where members, businesses and organisations from across Scotland can connect on matters of importance to farming, food

and rural life. A place where ideas, innovation and inspiration can thrive. A place where the next generation can learn and be inspired to continue the journey started by our members and their forebears before them.

We want to invest in the next generation, just as you have invested in your business. We want to celebrate, support and grow RHASS membership, so that it can equip and inspire our young people to continue the entrepreneurship and innovation, for which Scottish agriculture is known.

### A CENTRE FOR INNOVATION AND INDUSTRY

The new facility will offer 3,000sqm of flexible space, which will allow RHASS to flourish and continue to support a thriving and innovative rural economy.

The new development will offer:

- Multi-use conference and meeting space for businesses and organisations.
- An opportunity to generate income to further the charitable activities of RHASS - to support Scottish agriculture and rural industry.

### DELIVERING OUR AMBITION

RHASS has invested over £12 million in the infrastructure of the Showground in recent years. This next phase will bring to fruition a highly anticipated Multi Use Event Space while offering a unique opportunity for legacy for the Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland and those it supports. RHASS has already secured £3 million towards the cost of the building, further investment of £1.5 million will be sought during the next 18 months to allow this project to come to fruition. If you would like to be a part of this unique opportunity to create a legacy for the next generation of Scotland's rural industry, we would like to hear from you.

**For more information,  
please contact Jo Andrews  
on 0131 335 6214**



A CLEAR AMBITION FOR, AND DETERMINATION TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF, FOOD AND FARMING THROUGHOUT THE INDUSTRY

**If ambition is anything to go by, Scotland can look forward to a bright future**

As this section is entitled the Last Word, I get the opportunity to review the content and sum up the themes that run through the magazine.

What strikes me from looking at what we have featured is that there is a clear ambition for, and determination to secure the future of, food and farming throughout the industry.

From the launch of RHASS' Capital Fundraising Campaign to build a new flagship building, to the successes of Patsy and Ian Hunter, who are driving quality through their farming business, to the recipients of RHASS' Cultivating Leaders programme: if ambition is anything to go by, Scotland can look forward to a bright future.

However, we are living in times of unprecedented change and as the recent Doug Avery tour of Scotland highlighted, challenging trading environments can, and do, have a detrimental impact on business and the wellbeing of our community. Doug's message of remaining positive in the face of adversity is an important one.

Change is inevitable, and as Doug has demonstrated, it is only by embracing new ideas that positive outcomes can be achieved.

RHASS prides itself on being at the forefront of tackling thorny issues that have the potential to damage our industry. The disconnect between producers and consumers was identified twenty years ago, and we set up RHET to change that.

Also critically important is the need to provide a support system

for our farmers and this is why RHASS was only too pleased to fund the Doug Avery tour. We hope that connections made in marts and villages halls during Doug's tour will mean that more farmers feel better connected and less isolated as a result.

And so, as we say goodbye to 2018 and look forward to 2019, we do so safe in the knowledge that we are part of an important sector for Scotland and by hard work, innovation and working together we can drive change to become more resilient in the future.

On behalf of RHASS, I wish you a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Alan Laidlaw, Chief Executive

# Putting the white in your flat whites

Supporting the farmers behind  
your favourite baristas



Alistair Reid, Glen Farm  
and Jak Camoletto, Artisan Roast

Partner of the Royal  
Highland Show since 1981

 Royal Bank  
of Scotland