

RHASS MAGAZINE

SPRING 2019

society



THE COUNTRY'S BEST

179th Royal Highland Show Preview

+ 2019 Judges + What's New + Scotland's Larder Live!

+ RHASS Annual Report Pull-Out + Show Memories

+ Nuffield Scholar + 20 Years of RHET + RHC Upcoming Events

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CONTACT DETAILS: RHASS Society magazine is published by: The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh EH28 8NB
Tel: (0131) 335 6200
Email: info@rhass.org.uk
Web: www.rhass.org.uk
Charity No. SC004561

Written & produced by
Represent
57 Calton Road
Edinburgh EH8 8FJ
rhs@representcomms.co.uk



Chairman's Welcome

This past year has been one of significant investment and thereby progress at the RHASS, both in terms of our infrastructure and also our people and processes. The youthful enthusiasm of the Society in everything we do inspires me, and I am proud to be part of it.

It feels like only yesterday that I was getting ready for my first Royal Highland Show as Chairman of RHASS, but here I am again just weeks away from what is sure to be another fantastic event. The Royal Highland Show is a world-class showcase of our industry and RHASS is committed to pushing the boundaries to make it better every year for our visitors, exhibitors and partners.

When you come to the Royal Highland Centre this year, you'll see the exciting progress that is being made with Quadrant One, our new Members' pavilion and event facility, replacing the MacRobert Pavilion. We will be inviting all of you to come and hear about our plans and vision for the new facility at regional receptions later in the year and at a special exhibition we are holding during the Royal Highland Show. Find out more on page 12.

As a Society, we are hugely excited about the opportunities this new space creates for the agricultural industry and the role it will play in helping to attract future generations of bright, ambitious people who will propel our industry forward. We're in the process of organising a series of debates and lectures with key industry partners, which will be launched when the building opens in 2020, and I hope to see many of you there.



This year we celebrate RHET's 20 year anniversary and I could not be prouder of the impact this organisation has had on creating a food-literate society. The many hundreds of volunteers the length and breadth of Scotland enable RHET to carry out its remit – you are true champions of our industry and I would like to pay tribute to your efforts. RHASS is committed to continuing its support of RHET and assisting them in finding ways to engage with the wider industry, Government and individuals in helping us achieve our goals

Finally, we were deeply saddened to hear of the untimely death of John Hamilton of Aikengall, Dunbar. John was a longstanding RHASS Director, a well-respected farmer and a friend to many. His presence will be missed at the Sheep Lines at this year's Show.

On that note, I wish you a safe and successful run up to the Show and see you in June come rain or shine.

Jimmy Warnock, RHASS Chairman



Peter Scudamore, David Blair, Tom Best and Allan Murray

NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN AWARDS

It was brilliant to see such a large turnout again this year at the prestigious Horsescotland National Equestrian Awards 2019, which took place at the Doubletree Dunblane Hydro at the beginning of March.

The RHASS-sponsored awards celebrate and honour the outstanding contributions made to Scottish equestrianism throughout the year, by so many in the community.

The winners included:

- Equestrian Business of the Year - Lindores Equestrian
- Performer of the Year - Graham Babes
- Youth Volunteer of the Year - Alexandra MacMillan
- Lifetime Achievement - David Blair & Tom Best
- Board Special Recognition - Ursula XII
- RDA Scotland Outstanding Contribution - Susie Elliot MBE

SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS

RHASS was once again the headline sponsor of the 2019 Scottish Rural Awards, held in March at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. Now in their fifth year, the Awards represent the ultimate benchmark of excellence for the innovation, dedication and community spirit shown by those who live and work throughout Scotland's countryside.

With judges including the Editor of Scottish Field magazine, Richard Bath, and our very own Chief Executive, Alan Laidlaw, the awards involve a rigorous process that ensures they remain as the respected industry standard for excellence.

THE WINNERS INCLUDED:

- Rural Hero - Donna Ker-ramsay
- Business Diversification - Westfield Farms
- Rural Employer - Macphie
- Education - Breadalbane Academy
- Business Start-Up - Heb Shuttle
- Lifetime Achievement - Sir Ian Grant



Dougie Vipond, Sir Ian Grant and Claire Stewart

RHASS SUPPORTS INDUSTRY AWARDS LANTRA

RHASS proudly supports Lantra in its mission to promote the development of the agricultural sector through investing in upcoming young talent. The ceremony in March showcased the up-and-coming talents in Scotland's land-based industries, including winner of Agriculture Learner of the Year Amy Park, and Luke Taylor, winner of Environmental Conservation Learner of the Year. The awards also highlight the exciting career opportunities on offer and emphasise the benefits to businesses of supporting skills development.

RHASS has also committed to sponsoring the Farm Woodland Award within the Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, which celebrate the contribution that woodlands can make to the people, environment and economic prosperity of Scotland. The winners, runners-up and those commended by the judges will be presented with their prizes on Friday 21st June 2019 at the Royal Highland Show.



Secondary Schools Award Winners from Lockerbie Academy with Alan Laidlaw

NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION

RHASS is excited to be working with industry partners to develop a unique programme of lectures and debates on topics and issues facing the agricultural and rural industries.

The programme will be launched to coincide with the opening of the multi-use event space in 2020. This exciting new partnership initiative with the James Hutton Institute, the Moredun Research Institute, the Rowett Institute and the Roslin Institute will deliver a series of seminars which aims to engage and inspire the next generation of industry leaders, by providing them with insight and a safe space in which to learn and develop their skills.



AWARDS & GRANTS

RHASS is pleased to support the 200th Nairn Show with a small donation for medals for winners of Cattle, Sheep and Horse Sections. We have also committed to supporting the Clydesdale Horse Society for the Clydesdale Horse Celebration at the Royal Highland Show 2019.



MEMBER BENEFITS

Members of RHASS can claim a number of exclusive discounts:

DoubleTree by Hilton at Edinburgh Airport

– a 5% discount is available exclusively for RHASS members. To take advantage of this benefit, please email reservations@doubletreeedinburghairport.com stating you are a member of RHASS and quoting your RHASS membership number.

Holiday Inn Express at Edinburgh Airport

– RHASS members are entitled to a 10% discount on the best available rate. Call the Holiday Inn Express on 0131 333 4331 select option 1 or 4 and state that you are a member of the Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland.

Secure Airparks car parking for Edinburgh Airport

– to claim a special Members' discount of 15% on all bookings and products with Secure Airparks car parking for Edinburgh Airport and enter the discount code 'RHS' at www.secureairparks.com.

Note: all offers are subject to availability and may not be used in conjunction with any other offer. The hotel discounts are not available during the Royal Highland Show.

Correction: Kinross Show will take place on 10th August and not 10th September as published in Winter Society, pg. 16

SAYFC STUDY TRIP, CALIFORNIA



In November 2018, 16 young farmers embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime study tour to California with SAYFC, with help from RHASS and the Roy Watherston Memorial Trust. Nicky Wilson from Fife shared her Californian highlights with Society.

We are in uncertain times, with Brexit and the future of British Farming, subsidies and European labour all very much up in the air. With this in mind, it was decided that SAYFC's Rural and Agri-Affairs biannual international study trip would head to California, and I was lucky enough to be one of 16 Young Farmers from across Scotland to head out to the Golden State in November 2018.

California is a phenomenon in terms of agricultural productivity. With only 4% of the agricultural land in America, California is producing over a third of the USA's vegetables and two thirds of its fruit. California is also unique in its ability to produce and export products grown nowhere else in the world including almonds, walnuts, pomegranates and artichokes as well as being at the forefront of wine and milk production.

After an application and interview process, 16 of us headed to California in November with the trip theme of 'Improving efficiency by embracing technology'. With a diverse group covering dairy, organics, sheep, beef, vegetable and poultry, each member had a different idea of what the theme might mean for them and what they hoped to get out of the trip.

For me, working in the fruit and vegetable sector and being the daughter of a brassica grower, I was especially interested in how the state was tackling labour shortages and what technology was in place to eliminate the need for so many seasonal workers.

We arrived in San Francisco and, after a weekend of getting to know each other and seeing the famous San Francisco sights, we started our two-week, 1,200 mile tour of the state.

We crammed in a huge amount and saw a wide cross section of agricultural businesses including wine production, the largest cheese plant in the US, irrigation districts, the largest almond co-op, the world's largest carrot producer and Harris Ranch, where they finish 275,000 beef cattle a year. We also visited olive oil, dairy, mandarin, brassica, melon & egg production facilities.



Nicky Wilson, the SAYFC group and some photos from the tour

Whilst we saw a huge variety of businesses of different scales, from small family farms supplying to farmers markets to huge multi-billion-dollar cooperatives selling globally, I think we were all fairly surprised that, in a lot of cases, California was no more technologically advanced than here in the UK. Of course, there was scale; there were dairies milking 3,000 cattle in rotary parlours and fully automated egg processing facilities. But there were also workers stripping sprout stalks with knives and cutting broccoli and cabbage in the same way we do.

In a lot of cases, we found that growers had tried to use advanced technology and failed, either because the technology wasn't quite there yet or the costs to train staff to use and maintain the equipment meant it was unfeasible.

In all the successful, growing businesses we saw, they recognised that the key to success was to look after and retain staff; you can have all the technology in the world but if you have no one to operate it you will spend more money long term making it work. Some businesses incentivised staff financially; others gave free healthcare or

family benefits whilst some took a more visionary management style, allowing employees a greater sense of autonomy and self-control over their work.

In most cases, we found technology itself was not the answer to increased efficiency, more to use the technology to help make workers more efficient, introducing and upgrading machinery slowly to allow employees to get to grips with the equipment and feel comfortable using it. Just like in the UK, California has no golden nugget for efficiency but understanding the importance of staff engagement and retention as well as gradual changes in technology may be the answer.

Being given the chance to travel with SAYFC through Agri & Rural Affairs was definitely a once in a life time experience - we saw some amazing examples of agriculture, and the group will also be friends for life! The trip wouldn't have been possible without the generous support from all our sponsors, especially the Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland, Cameron Travel Scholarship Trust, AgriScot, International Trust and Roy Watherston Trust.

PENNY MONTGOMERIE



Penny Montgomerie with the finalists of SAYFC's new competition Young Farmer of the Year



Alan Laidlaw, Penny Montgomerie, Jimmy Warnock and Willie Gill

Having worked for SAYFC since 2002, I am passionate about driving the Association forward to meet the needs of our members and support British agriculture. Through my Nuffield Scholarship I aim to uncover what opportunities exist for young people in agriculture across the globe and the levels of support available.

Mr. R. F. Gregor, MBE, FRAGs undertook a similar extensive piece of work some decades ago and the results of his findings have had a lasting impact – including the creation of the SAYFC International Trust, which has assisted 800 young farmers travel internationally through the SAYFC International Travel programme.

Innovation and efficiency are key to the success of any farming businesses and we must create a thirst for knowledge that leads to a lifelong learning journey

SAYFC is an inclusive organisation, however our role is first and foremost to help young people within agriculture. An example of this vision in action is the setting up of an active Agri & Rural Affairs committee, which this year celebrated its 5th anniversary. In this short time, we have introduced an annual conference, secured a seat at the table at various industry group meetings and launched new training initiatives.

Innovation and efficiency are key to the success of any farming businesses and we must create a thirst for knowledge that leads to a lifelong learning journey. The skills our next generation learn now will need to be adapted in the future with global warming and changing markets, two challenges that come to mind. An open-minded approach is needed to embrace scientific advances to help profitability.

I have just returned from attending the Nuffield Farming International Pre-Contemporary Scholars conference in London then the Contemporary Scholars Conference in Iowa, USA. This provided a fantastic insight into British and global agriculture and allowed me to network with individuals from all backgrounds, industries and cultures.

Over the next twelve months, I will be embarking on ten weeks of independent travel before submitting my final report at the Nuffield Conference in 2020. Over the coming months I will be focusing on scoping out the work currently being done in the UK before my first overseas trip that takes me to New Zealand in June looking at New Zealand Young Farmers, Young Farmer of the Year and the Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme. Other travel plans include USA, Austria, Ireland and Trinidad.

I would like to thank RHASS for giving me this incredible opportunity and I look forward to updating you on my findings in due course.

SUPPORTING SCOTTISH AGRICULTURAL SHOWS

RHASS hosted another successful Scottish Shows Forum in February, bringing together local agricultural show organisers from across the country for a day of learning and collaboration. The significance of local shows cannot be emphasised enough – they bring to life the immense value of the rural sector to local communities and economies throughout Scotland.

The Forum was created in response to the growing need of local show organisers for advice on how to improve their shows' financial viability and deal with the challenges of hosting such complex events. The Scottish Shows Forum provides a sounding board for local show organisers, who are encouraged to offer each other support, share their experiences and work out the best path to success.

This year, attendees were treated to a programme that spanned a wide variety of topics: from how to make the most of your marketing budget to the importance of using quality show management software.

ATTENDEES PICKED UP SOME GREAT GUIDANCE FROM INDUSTRY EXPERTS AND FELLOW ORGANISERS ALIKE

Speakers included Jeremy Quinn, Director of consultancy firm Lowland Market Research, who discussed the results of a recent survey carried out by his company. David Carradice, Public Safety Manager for the Royal Highland Show, spoke about how keeping you, your volunteers, your visitors and your animals safe from start to finish should be a show organiser's top priority.

The day proved to be a valuable chance for attendees to pick up some great guidance from industry experts and fellow organisers alike. The Forum served to further stress just how important Scottish local shows are not only for rural communities, but for the enrichment of their associated local economies too.





"My very first memory of the Royal Highland Show was going with my father in 1939, when I was just 7 years old"

Willie Logan

70 years of Royal Highland Show memories

Ask any farmer across Scotland about the Royal Highland Show and chances are they'll have a story or two to tell you. As we look forward to a new era with Quadrant One replacing the iconic MacRobert Pavilion, we hear from some of our Show's longstanding attendees.

Willie Logan of East Lothian has attended the Royal Highland Show every year except one, since 1948. Willie shares with us some of his favourite Show memories from the last 70 years.

"Actually, my very first memory of the Royal Highland Show was going with my father in 1939, when I was just 7 years old. It was still a travelling show back in those days and that year it was in Edinburgh. I don't remember much, just that we spent a lot of time looking at horses!

"That was the last Show before World War II and by the time the next Show came around, I was 16. It was 1948 and I remember travelling up to Inverness where it was being held. I remember my father was a judge for the Clydesdale horses – he particularly loved the Clydesdales. This was the year that I was gifted a lifetime membership of RHASS, for seven guineas, that's £7.35 for life membership of the Society!

"In Dundee in 1957 it was my turn to be a judge and I found myself in the Young Farmers' Beef Stock Judging Team. Judging took me all the way to the Royal Show in Norfolk where I was a young judge of the dairy class.

"In those days the Show took place from Monday to Thursday and I remember the first day was very much a Fashion Show - the ladies always wore their best outfits. It was the 1959 Show that I met Betty, who I remember was working on the stand of the Gas Board. We married in Annan in Dumfriesshire exactly five years later and went on honeymoon to Ireland – so I can't tell you anything about the Show in 1964 as it was the only one I have missed!

"The Royal Highland Show was always somewhere you would go with a big group of friends and that was important. The MacRobert was very much a place where you would congregate and catch up

with friends and acquaintances you hadn't seen for a while. You would have lunch and a drink at the Open Arms Pub and get to sample the first of the season in berries and potatoes from East Lothian.

"In 1953 I bought my first combine harvester at the Show with my brother. In those days machinery manufacturers were keen to do deals at the Show, so you tried to get a favourable price, but it was still a big investment and my father said it would never work! I think it was hard for him to embrace change. Sadly, my dad passed away before the next year's harvest so he never saw it in action."

Willie has a long association with RHASS. He was a RHASS Director between 1984 and 1998 holding the position of Assistant Chief Steward and then Chief Steward of Show Jumping. "It was a great honour to represent the area, we all made friends for life and I still keep up with my contemporaries from that time."

He concludes: "It is so important to keep members engaged as they are the key to RHASS' success. It was set up as a community and it must continue to be that to succeed. We look forward to a new Members' Area as it is very important to have a building – a place to gather – where you know you're likely to find somebody that you know. The Show gives you a chance to talk about how good or bad things are. These conversations are very important.

"We must encourage the next generation into the industry, as it is their enthusiasm and drive which is so vital. Education is very important, as our industry is changing dramatically and very quickly, as a result of modern communication and new technology. I struggle with this at my age - but it is the future. Hopefully, the new facility will be a place where those of all ages can learn from one another, share ideas and enjoy some well-earned socialising."



Our vision for the new Members' Pavilion and multi-use event space is to give the industry a home which is fit for the future, and a place where we can engage and empower the next generation of industry leaders.

We are looking forward to sharing this journey with our members and RHASS' many stakeholders, who have done so much to build, promote and safeguard Scottish agriculture.

We are holding a series of member events over the coming months, to share our vision for the new building and to let RHASS members know how they can get involved.

At the 2019 Royal Highland Show in June, a **Members' Exhibition** will take place showcasing the new building, and will include a display of members' stories and images from the last 50 years and more. This will be an opportunity for our members to hear more about Quadrant One and to register interest in supporting the project.

Inspired by the events RHASS supported last year, when Doug Avery, the 'resilient farmer', travelled

around Scotland to raise awareness about mental health issues, we will be holding a series of events across Scotland, to allow members and interested parties to hear more about the plans and vision for Quadrant One.

Full details of the **Quadrant One Roadshow** will be available on the RHASS website from the end of August 2019.

A membership appeal for support will be launched in the second half of 2019 and there will be opportunities for supporters to have their name associated with the new development.

The involvement and support of RHASS members in achieving this vision will be a powerful and fitting reminder of our industry's tradition of one generation helping the next.

If you would like to register your interest in supporting the project, please do so by emailing: quadrant@rhass.org.uk

RHET celebrate 20 years



TRACTOR RUN TO RAISE FUNDS

RHET Chair, George Lawrie, is taking his tractor on tour around Scotland's schools to raise funds for The Royal Highland Education Trust. From 12th to the 19th June, George will cover around 600 miles visiting two schools per day.

Joining George on the road is a very special Highland cow created by Kev Paxton from ArtFe, made from recycled farm metal donated by farmers throughout Scotland.

To sponsor George on his journey visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rhet20tractortour

Established in 1999 as the educational charity of RHASS, RHET has been providing young people in Scotland with the opportunity to visit a local working farm, to understand their local farming community and to see what's involved in growing and rearing their food for 20 years now.

In this time RHET has achieved great things: from the first visit with Ratho Primary School in 1999 to where RHET is today with over 19,000 pupils visiting the countryside each year.

Schools the length and breadth of Scotland have built strong connections with the work and people of RHET and we continue to be proud of the commitment and dedication of teachers, industry professionals and volunteers for sharing their enthusiasm for food, farming and the countryside.

What follows is a snapshot of the work we are undertaking, the people that make it happen and how you can get involved.



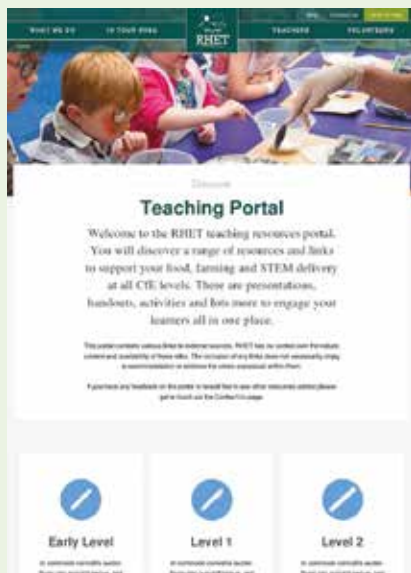
STRAWBERRY GROWING PILOT IN ANGUS

RHET Angus Countryside Initiative (ACI) has launched a new pilot program. Working alongside Angus Soft Fruits, the project will involve five schools in Angus and five in Dundee planting and growing strawberries in the class. Follow our progress on Facebook. www.facebook.com/RHETAngusCI



NEW PORTAL FOR TEACHERS

A dedicated teaching portal for Scotland's teachers has been created in collaboration with a number of organisations. The exciting online resource covers all the areas of the curriculum relevant to food, farming and the countryside. Our RHET portal, launched in April, provides valuable resources, activity ideas and information to support teachers, making the task of researching for lessons much easier. The portal can be accessed via the RHET website.



BECOME A RHET VOLUNTEER

The work of RHET is brought to life by the hundreds of talented and dedicated volunteers undertaking the many roles required to make RHET function, from setting up sheep pens for a food and farming day, to minute-taking at a local meetings.

RHET has volunteering opportunities for everyone both on the farm and in the classroom. We provide resources and a great support network, to find out more visit rhet.org.uk/volunteers

STORY OF RATHO SCHOOL

As we reflect on 20 years of RHET, we are celebrating a long standing relationship with Ratho Primary by growing some tasty vegetables from the Scottish Ark of Taste list, that are culturally important varieties to the heritage of Scotland.

With the help of Fife chef Wendy Barrie, Ratho Primary and RHET hope to have some of the produce on display at the Discovery Centre during the Show - if the growing conditions are in our favour!



MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

"I began volunteering with RHET in early 2017 after a career as a teacher of Home Economics. Shadowing an existing RHET volunteer was invaluable, particularly as I had no personal experience of farming, production of crops and livestock. Being able to gather knowledge from highly experienced volunteers has allowed me to be much more confident that I am giving accurate information!"



Christine Eccles, RHET Lothian volunteer



SUPPORT RHET AND BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL!

The work of RHET is unique, there is no other charitable organisation quite like it. Covering the length and breadth of Scotland with 12 Countryside Initiatives (including RNCI in the North East), we offer FREE visits to working farms and rural businesses for school pupils, as well as classroom visits and other events.

12,000+

CHILDREN VISITED
A WORKING FARM

6,500

CHILDREN ATTENDED
A FOOD AND
FARMING EVENT

1,500+

SCHOOLS HOSTED A
CLASSROOM VISIT BY
A LOCAL FARMER

700+

TEACHERS ATTENDED
OUR TRAINING
SESSIONS

30,000

CHILDREN VISITED
THE ROYAL
HIGHLAND SHOW





HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP



RHET SUPPORTER SCHEME

Annual payment of either £25, £50, £100 (money raised this way stays in your local area)

MAKE A ONE-OFF DONATION

You can make a contribution either online by visiting justgiving.com/rhet or by sending us a cheque.

RHET CORPORATE SUPPORTER SCHEME

Businesses and organisations can purchase a corporate membership for £1000. We will acknowledge your company on the RHET Website and on a Supporter Wall at the Royal Highland Show as well as on our social media channels with a total of over 30,000 followers.

RAISE FUNDS FOR FREE WHILE SHOPPING ONLINE

Sign up to easyfundraising to raise money for RHET, with a portion of your purchase donated at no cost to you. Head over to easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rhetnational/ to learn more and sign up.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

You can also support us by volunteering your time by hosting a school visit on your farm, supporting a farm event, joining your local committee or volunteering at the Royal Highland Show. Read more about our volunteers on page 14.

LEGACY GIFTS

Leaving a gift in your will is a valuable and lasting way to support our work in years to come.

For further details on any of the above please email: rhetinfo@rhass.org.uk or check online at rhet.org.uk/how-to-help

Annual Review 2018

4 Page Summary Pull-out

A path of major *investment*

RHASS is committed to developing its commercial approach to ensure the long-term sustainability of the charity.

The completion of the Moxy Hotel on RHASS' ground on Eastfield Road in December 2018 will provide stable revenue for RHASS for many years. It will also have the added benefit of increasing the availability of accommodation for visitors to the Royal Highland Show and the growing portfolio of events at the Royal Highland Centre.

The sale of the digital advertising screen on the outskirts of the Ingliston site generated significant funds that have been allocated towards the build of the replacement for the MacRobert Pavilion.

RHASS has made good progress towards its vision to create an inspiring new building at the heart of the Showground with delivery anticipated for the 2020 Royal Highland Show. The project has been taken from concept to appointing a preferred contractor within this financial year.

The project was given the go-ahead by the RHASS Board in December 2018 and a comprehensive funding strategy has been developed and approved by the Board, including the sale of the digital advertising screen and the arrangement of medium-term financing alongside planned fundraising from members and stakeholders. Robust supply chain management has mitigated Brexit-related risks around cost and procurement of materials.

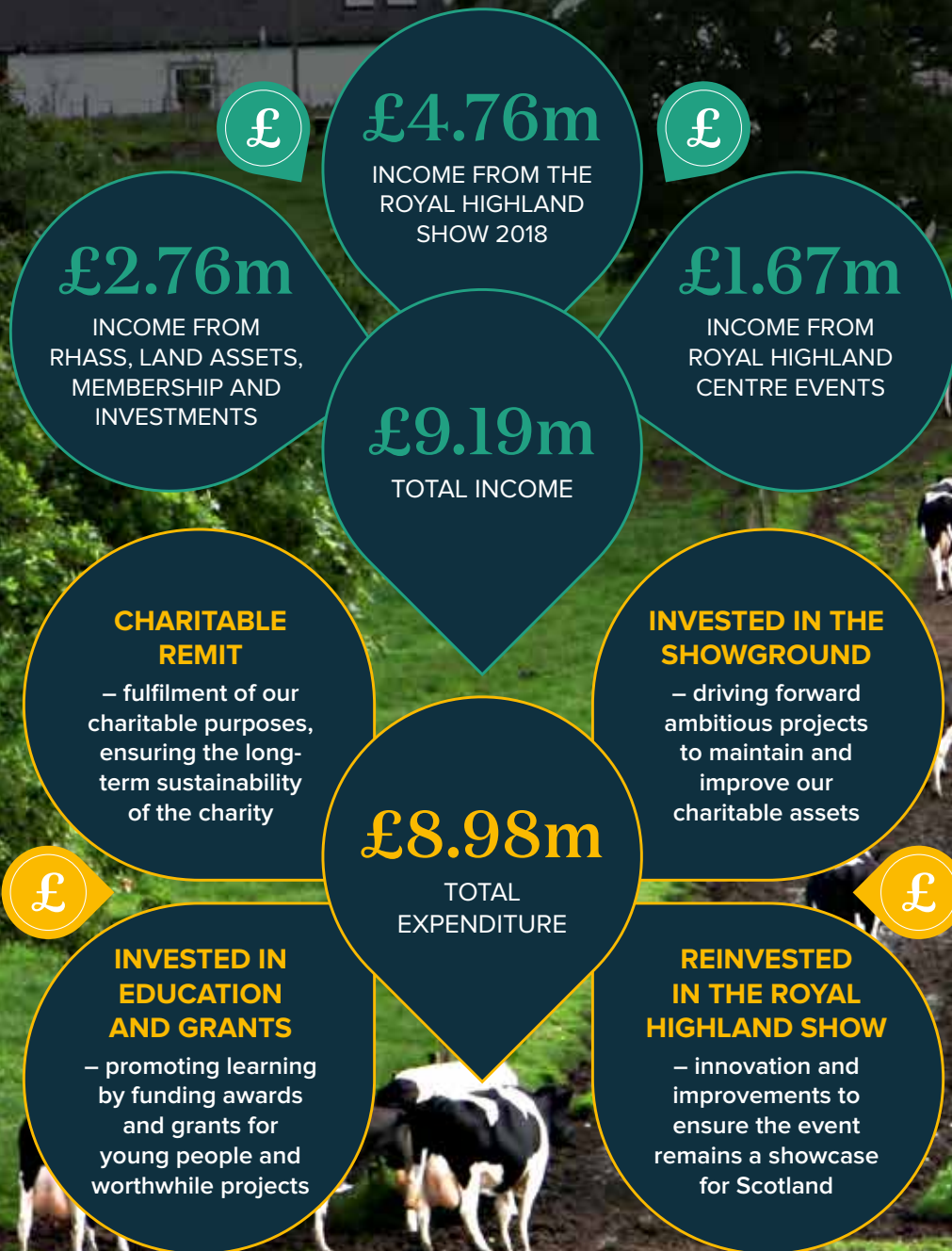
The space will be a place to celebrate the agricultural industry of Scotland and an opportunity to generate income outwith the four days of the Show to support fulfilment of our charitable purposes.

This is yet another example of where the organisation is making best use of its charitable assets 365 days a year, for the benefit of RHASS, its beneficiaries and its members. It is these decisions, taken by our Directors and informed by robust professional and commercial advice, that will ensure the continued sustainability of the charity and allow RHASS to drive forward ambitious projects that will make a positive impact on the sector.



TO DOWNLOAD THE COMPLETE ANNUAL REVIEW 2018
IN PDF FORMAT, VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.rhass.org.uk

Creating a *sustainable charity*



Record Show *sponsorship*

Sponsorship at the Royal Highland Show offers businesses a platform to promote their business and showcase their brand. The Show has built a hugely successful sponsorship programme. The number of returning sponsors is testament to that.

**TOTAL SPONSORSHIP £498,000,
AN INCREASE OF 9.5% FROM 2017**



**88.5% OF SPONSORS
RETURNED FOR 3RD YEAR**



**11 NEW SPONSORS
INVESTED £43,900**



**GIFT IN KIND SUPPORT
ESTIMATED VALUE £77,000**

Grants *awarded*

The Society makes awards and grants in line with its charitable objectives to support development, innovation and excellence. During the 2017-2018 year, awards of £312,059 were awarded. A breakdown is outlined below. An additional £171,704 in prize money was presented at the Royal Highland Show.

EDUCATION		
	£/2018	£/2017
Royal Highland Education Trust	226,569	150,656
Royal Highland Education Trust – Countryside Initiatives	-	5,000
LANTRA	1,000	2,042
Nuffield Scholarship 2017	12,000	
Nuffield Scholarship 2018	12,000	
Glasgow and Edinburgh Veterinary Schools	6,000	6,000
Academic Achievement Medals	426	1,329
SAYFC Study Tour, California	1,600	
SAYFC Cultivating Leaders	2,700	-

CULTURE & CITIZENSHIP

	£/2018	£/2017
RSABI	-	14,000
Grant to attend RASC Agricultural Conference, Canada	4,245	2,538
Oxford Farming Conference Delegate Grant	1,512	885
Scottish Farriery Awards	1,000	2,000
Long Service Certificates and Ploughing Medals	10,461	6,325
Scottish Shearing Circuit Committee	2,000	1,100
Horse Scotland	5,000	-
Doug Avery Resilience Seminars	10,646	-
RHASS Presidential Initiative - Jobfarm	10,000	-
Scotland's Finest Woodlands	2,500	-
Graham Babes – European Championship Support	1,000	-
Others - Miscellaneous	1,400	1,250
TOTALS	312,059	193,125

The year in numbers



190,000

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF
ATTENDEES AT THE 178TH
ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

£498,000

GENERATED IN SPONSORSHIP
FROM THE ROYAL
HIGHLAND SHOW

£55.7M

ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR
SCOTLAND FROM THE
ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

26,139

CHILDREN AGED 15 AND
UNDER ATTENDED THE
SHOW FOR FREE

£425,000

LEGACY RECEIVED AND
COMMITTED TO REPLACEMENT
FOR MACROBERT PAVILION

6,400

CHILDREN ATTENDING
AS PART OF ORGANISED
SCHOOL VISITS



ROYAL
HIGHLAND &
AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY OF
SCOTLAND

£48,000

COMMITTED TO THE ROYAL
SCOTTISH AGRICULTURAL
BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION

£226,000

SUPPORT PROVIDED TO
THE ROYAL HIGHLAND
EDUCATION TRUST

2,000

PEOPLE ATTENDED
RHASS-SUPPORTED
DOUG AVERY TOUR

108

AWARDS FOR
LONG SERVICE
PRESENTED

16,000

APPROXIMATE
NUMBER OF
RHASS MEMBERS



£11M

INVESTED IN THE INGLISTON
SITE OVER LAST THREE YEARS

£5M

COMMITTED TO NEW EVENT
SPACE AND REPLACEMENT
FOR MACROBERT PAVILION

LOOKING FORWARD to the 179th Royal Highland Show

The countdown is on to the country's biggest celebration of farming, food and rural life



Preparations for the 179th Royal Highland Show are being finalised and we are just weeks away from another spectacular celebration of the Country's best in farming, food and rural life.

Over four days, visitors will experience country life at its most vibrant, embracing a huge range of sectors across the agricultural industry, from food and fashion to tractors and technology.

This year, in association with the Clydesdale Horse Society, the Show will place a special emphasis on the Clydesdale Horse, Scotland's national draught breed, as the power behind the agricultural sector at the turn of the 20th century.

We will also be celebrating the centenary of the creation of the Forestry Commission and

marking a new chapter of huge investment in the industry, which is working towards securing the next 100 years in the future of Scotland's forests.

The Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) Discovery Centre will provide children with the opportunity to learn all about the countryside, featuring interactive games, food samples and demonstrations. This year we are delighted to be celebrating RHET's 20th anniversary, honouring two decades of its staff and volunteers' dedication to providing children with the chance to learn about Scotland's countryside.

As always, the stars of the Show are our animals, of which there will be over 6000 of the finest cattle, sheep, goats, horses and poultry competing and parading for the public to see.

Shindig at the Show

On the Friday night of the Royal Highland Show, feast your eyes on our Eightsome Reel extravaganza. Taking place in the Main Ring at 7pm, dancers will be piped in before kicking off the traditional dance to the sound of a ceilidh band. This will then be followed by further entertainment from a singer and ceilidh band.

Church Service at the Royal Highland Show

We would like to extend a warm invitation to the Church Service that takes place in the marquee behind Ingliston House on Sunday 23rd June. Starting at 10am, the service is an oasis of calm within the Show and an opportunity to give thanks and celebrate all that is great about our industry. All are welcome.

LIVESTOCK UPDATE

From Orkney to Cornwall: top UK judges announced for 2019 Show

Over 110 of the most experienced names in the UK's judging world will travel to Edinburgh this summer to judge at this year's Royal Highland Show. Two new competition sections will make their debut this year: the Overall Young Handler and Dairy Cattle Any Other Breed sections.

This year, the 'face' of the Show will be an icon of Scottish agriculture, the Highland Cow. As we celebrate this exemplar breed, here are a few other highlights from the cattle sections:

The new Dairy Cattle Any Other Breed section will be judged by Murray Cochrane of Ayrshire, a successful fifth-generation breeder who has also spent 19 years as a classifier for Holstein UK.

Paul Harrison of Northumberland, well known for his 'Chilshillways' Holsteins and 'Breckney' Dairy Shorthorns, will be placing the Overall Dairy.

The privileged task of placing the Overall Beef Interbreed and

Interbreed Teams falls to Stewart Wood of Garston Farm, Orkney, with the Beef Interbreed Pairs in the capable hands of former RHASS Director Rob Forest, Duns.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE SCOTTISH EQUESTRIAN CALENDAR

The equestrian sections of the Show always prove to be some of the most popular with show-goers, and it's no surprise – the Show Jumping Grand Prix is one of the largest events of its kind in Scotland and the North of England, with competitors travelling from across the UK to take part.

This year, our long-time course designer, Mark McGowan, will be joined by Olaff Hermann, international level 3 FEI course designer, who will be designing the International Stairway competition, as well as some of our national classes. Olaff will also assist Mark with the Spire Edinburgh Hospitals Grand Prix on the Saturday of the Show. The courses are set to be challenging, thereby providing a real test of skill for the qualifying horses and riders.

CLYDESDALE HORSE CELEBRATION

We are excited to announce that this year's Show will feature a Clydesdale Horse Celebration, organised by the Clydesdale Horse Society (CHS). This thrilling performance will salute the role of the Clydesdale as the historical power behind farming, showcasing the evolution of its use over the years, right up until the present day.

The display will take place in the main ring on the Friday afternoon and will feature both the horses and the farming machinery that was once powered by the Clydesdales. The finale will involve a drill ride by the Strathorn Drill Display Team, which promises to be a stirring display of the breed's power and beauty. The machinery will also be on exhibition after the performance beside the CHS trade stand so visitors can have a close-up look at the technology that has shaped the farming industry we know today.





Tim Stockdale



Skye of Little Rannoch with owner Donald MacNaughton

TIM STOCKDALE (1964 – 2018)

In November 2018, top show jumper, presenter and British Show jumping ambassador Tim Stockdale tragically passed away. A regular competitor at the Royal Highland Show, Tim had an incredible show jumping career, representing the UK in over 50 Nations Cup teams, the World Equestrian Games, European Championships and the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Tim was also a highly respected trainer and enthusiastic ambassador for the sport, bringing show jumping to a wider audience over the last 25 years by presenting several television documentaries. The future of his riding career looked in doubt when he broke his neck in a fall in 2011, but Tim defied expectations by making an astonishing recovery, getting back in the saddle only 4 months later.

After being declared a leading rider at the Show in 2015, he competed every year since, coming 2nd in the Show Jumping Grand Prix in 2017. Tim was also very involved in developing young horses, and he judged the Potential Sports Horse class at the 2018 Show.

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AT THE SHOW



2,029
SHEEP



1,100
CATTLE



137
GOATS



1,900
HORSES

MEET SKYE - THE FACE OF RHS 2019

This year's advertising creative is a series of stunning artist's impressions of Show scenes and one of Scotland's most iconic native breeds, the Highland.

We caught up with the artist's muse, Skye of Little Rannoch, last year's Highland Champion and her proud owner, Donald MacNaughton, at their farm in Fife.

Tell me about your farm?

"Cocklaw Mains Farm is a rented farm where I rear my herd of Highland Cattle. I have two sons – Bryon and Malcolm – who also farm and share my love of the breed."

Where did your love for Highlanders come from?

"My mother bred Highlanders, so I grew up with them and they are very much in my heart. I trained and worked as a pipe layer but have always kept my own herd of Highlanders ever since the tender age of twenty-four."

Tell us about the breed?

"Each and every Highlander is different with their own characteristics. They are big softies really and love attention."

What makes Skye special?

"Her mother was special and so was her grandmother before her – both were multi award-winners, so I wasn't surprised when Skye scooped the Champion prize at the Royal Highland Show last year. I was nevertheless very proud to come home with the rosette... who knows she might win again this year."

What did you think of the artist's drawing of Skye?

"I thought he made her look older than she is and no lady wants that! Genuinely I really liked it and look forward to seeing it on giant billboards in Edinburgh – that will be good to see."

The Country's Best Day Out for...

FOOD & DRINK

Scotland's Larder Live! is the country's largest food and drink festival and has become one of the biggest celebrations of Scottish provenance, regionality and seasonality. This year will play host to another fantastic line-up of demonstrations, talks and more from some of Scotland's greatest chefs in the Cookery Theatre. Thistle Regional Winners for Best Restaurants Paul Newman of Errichel, and Neil Forbes from Café St Honoré will be taking the stage, as well as Regional Thistle Ambassador Wendy Barrie and Craig Wilson of Eat on The Green, with many more in the line-up. Once you have sampled your way around Scotland's Larder Live!, be sure to watch the exciting results of this year's Scottish Bread, Cheese, Butter and Ice Cream Championships unfold.



SHOPPING

For many, one of the Show's highlights is the array of shopping on offer – from garden to home, fashion to art and so much more. What's more, many exhibitors provide significant discounts and show offers so it is a real opportunity to grab some top-quality bargains.

ENTERTAINMENT

The music programme at the 2019 Royal Highland Show has something for every musical taste. From ceilidh to contemporary, jazz to jiving, the stages will come alive with entertaining performances across the four days of the Show.

Returning popular acts include Edinburgh Academy School Band, Farmers Choir, Pipers Trail and the Fife Ukulele Orchestra.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Last year the Show welcomed visitors from across the globe who made their way to Edinburgh to experience Scottish rural living at its most vibrant. Many had connections with Scotland and farming and they took the opportunity to meet the people involved in the industry at various receptions held at the International Members' Pavilion overlooking the Main Ring. It is important that Scotland's position at the forefront of our global agricultural sector is highlighted and the Show has a valuable role to play in building this reputation.

Spotlight on the Scottish Borders at 2019 Show



Lord Lothian, RHASS President

This year's Presidential Team hail from the Borders and the Presidential Initiative this year focusses on promoting RHASS' charitable remit, responsible access to the countryside and the showcasing of the Borders' unique heritage and culture.

Common Ridings date back to the 13th century when the Scottish Border towns patrolled their boundaries with large groups of horse riders to fend off invaders. Today, they continue the tradition, riding through the streets and surrounding countryside in an unforgettable spectacle of horsemanship, pageantry and community spirit.

A highlight for visitors to this year's Show will be a Commons Riding display in the Main Ring on Sunday. Riders from towns in the Borders will participate in the spectacle, which promises to be a

fantastic sight to behold with riders galloping around the arena and recreating the atmosphere of the traditional Common Ridings.

The Borders Presidential Team will also be posing a Textile Design Challenge at the Show this year in a celebration of the Border's wool and textile heritage. The brief to students of Borders' College and Heriot Watt College of Textiles and Design is to create an urban/rural jacket for the 2020s, with the top ten designs being displayed at the Show and valuable awards for the best three entries.

Additionally, the long-standing relationship between the Royal Highland Centre, RHASS and motorsport in the Borders will be on show, including displays of several vehicles and other exhibits from the Jim Clark Trust, the Borders Vintage Automobile Club, the Borders Vintage Agricultural Association and



Photo Credit: VisitScotland, Kenny Lam

related parties. The racetrack and roadways installed in 1965 at the Royal Highland Centre were largely funded by parties in the Borders and that connection continues to this day. The re-opening of the Jim Clark Rooms in the town of Duns this year was supported by many of the same farming families who helped fund the track at Ingliston, and the reinstating of the Jim Clark Rally makes it a good time to reinforce and recall those connections.

There will also be a farm access project near Jedburgh for horse riders and walkers. This initiative will include the development of a signposted, safe, multi-access circular route around Monteviot, using Harestanes as the primary access point, where it will then cross several farms and take in many aspects of our countryside, from the arable land beside the Tweed, past grassland with its quality beef and lamb production, and on through forest to the hills above.

It is envisioned that this initiative will lead to other such routes being created with support from Society members and thereby enable more people to enjoy safe and responsible access to their own countryside.

As part of the ongoing charitable remit of RHASS and to ensure that it continues to be relevant, resilient and wholly engaged with all its stakeholders, the Borders Presidential Team are also contacting their existing members and other local stakeholders, including organisations involved with outdoor recreation, land management, other rural businesses, allied trades, tourism, education and conservation to garner their views on the RHASS and to understand what the wider rural community and general public want from it. They are doing this by way of an online survey which can be found on the RHASS website on the President's Initiative page.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

This year is the centenary of the founding of the Forestry Commission, marking 100 years of development in Scottish forest management. It heralds a new chapter of huge investment in the industry, which is now working towards securing the next 100 years in the future of Scotland's woodlands.

NEW FORESTRY STRATEGY

Forests are so essential to our country - supplying resources for manufacturers, inspiring children and providing the world with massive carbon stores to help offset climate change. It is encouraging to see that the Scottish Government has announced that it is investing heavily in the future of forestry through a new Forestry Strategy to help secure wood supplies for the next generation. The strategy sets out the Government's approach to the next decade of forestry, outlining a plan to expand, protect and enhance the country's woodlands.

SCOTTISH SCHOOL OF FORESTRY

In March, eight successful applicants were welcomed to the Scottish School of Forestry at Inverness College, marking the first year of a new Modern Apprenticeship in Trees and Timber. It is anticipated that industry support for the two-year programme will continue to grow, enabling the industry to meet the rising demand for skilled workers within the forestry sector.

FORESTRY AT THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

Forestry has always been an integral part of the Royal Highland Show, with the Forestry Arena witnessing record-breaking attempts at the Scottish Pole Climbing and Utility Pole Climbing Championships. The Arena also hosts forestry demonstrations, giving visitors a chance to gain an understanding of an industry that is often out of sight of the general public.



MEET THE CHIEF STEWARD

RHASS Director and director of Argyll Holidays, Keith Campbell runs a large Holiday Home and Leisure business with his two younger brothers. They diversified from a hill sheep farm into tourism to make the most of the beauty of the surrounding area within the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

"My role at the show this year is to oversee the Forestry, Countryside and Lifestyle areas, where I am responsible for looking after the exhibitors and their stands, the health and safety of everyone and ensuring all visitors have a memorable experience.

"I am looking forward to showcasing the upgraded forestry arena and demonstrating a wide range of skills, including pole climbing, chain saw crafts, logging and timber processing. These are exciting activities to watch as they are hugely competitive and attract a large audience each year. The commentary is always very educational and highlights all aspects of this huge industry within Scotland.

"The general public should support this sector to gain a better understanding of what is involved as it plays a huge part within the Scottish economy. There are so many uses for timber products and wood used for renewable energy."



Keith Campbell

INVESTING IN INNOVATION



McVeigh Parker's Geoff Goodfellow & Robin Craig



Clipex fencing solution

Every year, RHASS celebrates the outstanding innovation in the industry with its Technical Innovation Awards, presented at the Royal Highland Show.

Last year we awarded two Golds, five Silver and three Certificates of Commendations. As we approach the 2019 ceremony, we caught up with Chris Hambridge from McVeigh Parker, farm and fencing specialists, who won Gold in the Technical Innovation Awards last year with their revolutionary Clipex fencing solution.

Tell us a bit about your company?

"McVeigh Parker specialises in the wholesale and retail of farm and fencing supplies. We employ approximately 100 staff across seven branches nationwide. We have been trading for 40 years, having established in February 1979."

What led you to develop your product and how is it helping the industry?

"In Clipex, we developed a whole fencing solution that would last at least 30 years. It was initially considered because of the poor quality of timber treatment on offer, and the general shortage of timber due to biomass demands.

"We combined the latest innovations, including the strongest, longest-lasting wire in the market,

XFENCE, with the unique quick-clip and all galvanised steel intermediate posts of Clipex. We completed the product with our own designed all-steel strainer and strut system. Initially we were looking for a long-lasting solution, however this system has not only proved to offer longer life but can also be erected in half the time, whilst demonstrating up to 50% savings in both lifetime costs and labour."

Why did you apply for the RHASS Technical Innovation Award?

"We applied for the award as it was a nationally recognised award with robust judging criteria. We were confident our Triple X Fencing System of XFENCE, Clipex posts and steel strainers would stand up to the RHASS scrutiny."

Has winning made a difference to your business?

"It has certainly increased the profile of our company and the products we promote. It has given validity and assurance to the end user by ensuring that the awarded products have stood up to independent testing."

We look forward to announcing the winners of the 2019 Technical Innovation Awards at the Royal Highland Show at an award reception at Ingliston House on Saturday 22nd June.

MEMBERS' AREA

A popular place to meet with friends, socialise, eat and drink and relax; we know how much our members value their Members' Area during the Show. We look forward to unveiling our new modern facility and event space at the 2020 Show. In the meantime, we will be providing a great temporary Members' area at this year's Show, along similar lines as last year, but with some changes to the layout and footprint to accommodate the construction of the new permanent building.

MEMBER BADGES

We want our members to have an enjoyable visit to the Show so please be aware of the processes you need to follow to give you access to the Showground and the exclusive Members' Area. If you have any queries, please visit the Membership Office near the Members' Area.

You are required to wear your QR-coded badge at all times to access the Showground and in the Members' Area. Your badge, like your membership of RHASS, is unique to you and non-transferable. We are aware that in previous years some members have passed their badge to others to enable them to gain access to the Members' Area. We have a strict process in place to check badges and will confiscate badges that are misused in this way. The Board of Directors reserves the right to take further action.

All badges are cross-referenced with the members' database and there are regular spot checks across the four days of the Show. Please treat your badge with care before and during the Show as lost or stolen badges cannot be replaced.

Badges will be scanned once per day for entry; thereafter re-entry on the same day will be by handstamp.



ELROW TOWN FESTIVAL

Freddie Norris, UK Bookings and Marketing Manager, elrow

What can we expect at the upcoming elrow Town event?

"We will be bringing our biggest ever production to the Royal Highland Centre for the first elrow Town festival in Scotland! There will be a huge house on the outdoor Green Lawn from our whackiest theme Singermorning, featuring crazy characters popping out from the windows of the house, giant stiltwalkers amongst the crowd, countless inflatables bouncing everywhere, massive puppets towering over you, hundreds of performers handing out fancy dress, tonnes of confetti showers (cover your drink!) and lots of Singermorning games for the crowd to take part in and win exclusive elrow prizes! Plus, the Town will feature numerous pop up venues, such as our inflatable pink cathedral, where you can dance to disco music from day into night with our glamorous dancers. This will be the weirdest but most fun day out you could imagine and is not to be missed!"

What inspires the elrow events?

"elrow takes inspiration from the whacky and crazy to deliver a WOW experience and really immerse the audience into a full 360 degree show of colour, chaos and confetti! It's an experience like no other and is constantly evolving and developing both new themes, of which there are over 20 already including a space theme called RowsAttacks, Chinese Row Year, Enchanted Forest, Psychedelic Trip and a Brazilian Samba jungle

theme! The team in Barcelona are constantly building bigger and better stages and costumes for each theme and character, developing the storylines for the shows, plus using the latest innovations to bring even more life and colour to the show and make magic happen!"

Why do you think Edinburgh is an attractive City for music events?

"As the capital city of Scotland, Edinburgh has a great scene for music events. Promoters like Terminal V and Fly are really pushing the boundaries bringing world class talent to the city. We made our Edinburgh debut in 2017 on Halloween bringing a massive Haunted House to the Lowlands Hall and partnered with local promoters Terminal V. The show had a lot of hype and sold out very quickly. The audience response was really positive, and we made a connection both with the crowd and the city and are very excited to be returning with our debut Festival in Scotland."

What makes the Royal Highland Centre an ideal venue for your events?

"The Royal Highland Centre is HUUUGE!! It allows us to really think big and be able to bring in our biggest and best Festival stages. There is so much space for activities, which are a key part of the elrow Festival experience and it gives us scope to grow the event in the future. It is also really well located next to Edinburgh airport and has great travel links to the centre of town and for the other major cities near Edinburgh, such as Glasgow, which is another big audience for us."

**"WE WILL BE BRINGING
OUR BIGGEST EVER
PRODUCTION TO THE ROYAL
HIGHLAND CENTRE"**



WHAT'S ON AT THE ROYAL HIGHLAND CENTRE



BRITISH SHOW JUMPING'S SCOTTISH SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA

The Scottish Summer Extravaganza returns for another year at the RHC. Held from the 18th-20th July, it promises to be an exciting round of classes that will include qualifiers for the Horse of the Year Show (HOYS). The show attracts exhibitors from across the UK and spectators are welcome to attend for free.



COMIC CON

The world-famous Comic Con is coming to the RHC this October! From the 12th-13th October you can get exclusive sneak peeks of TV and film world premieres, listen to Q&As and meet some VIP guests. It's going to be a fantastic day out for all comic book, film and TV enthusiasts.



ELROW TOWN EDINBURGH

The first ever elrow Town festival lands in Edinburgh on the 27th July. Everyone is invited (minimum age 18) to what is going to be an unforgettable day of dancing, games and lots of special surprises! This event will definitely sell out so grab your ticket while they're still available.



CHEESE FEST UK

The country's cheesiest food festival is coming to the RHC! Featuring the UK's best cheese-themed street food, artisan cheese makers and meet and greets with Wallace and Gromit themselves, this is an unmissable event for all cheese lovers. It will take place on the 9th of November and tickets are available now.

COMPETITION WINNERS



DOUG AVERY BOOK COMPETITION WINNER

The lucky winners of RHASS' Winter competition to win Doug Avery's Resilient Farmer book were chosen at the beginning of the year. **Congratulations to Mr Andrew Paton, Mrs Margaret McGregor, Mr Bruce McConnach, Mr Hugh Neilson and Mrs Kay Adam.**

KUONI COMPETITION WINNER

In Society's Summer 2018 issue, the lucky winner of the Kuoni holiday competition featured was **Mary Corsar of Edinburgh**. Mary has been a member of RHASS for many years, having grown up in a dairy farming family in Lothian. Mary has attended the Royal Highland Show on many occasions and was the organiser, for a number of years, of volunteers for three WVRS information centres at the Show. Mary's late husband was a supporter of the Show Arena party, and son, George Corsar, still farms in Midlothian, having worked for many years for the James Hutton Institute.

Mary and her daughter were thrilled to find themselves planning a week in Mauritius during a cold Scottish November last year. RHASS' Fundraising and Partnerships Manager, Jo Andrews, met Mary to find out how the holiday had gone and was pleased to hear that Mary and her daughter had a fabulous time and were very impressed by the fantastic support they received from Kuoni in the organisation of the holiday.

Kuoni will be at the Royal Highland Show this year, where they will be offering visitors a chance to win a holiday in the US in 2020!



KUONI BRINGS THE USA TO SCOTLAND

With three Kuoni stores now in Scotland – Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen – RHASS is delighted to welcome Kuoni as an exhibitor at the Royal Highland Show for the first time.

Kuoni specialise in tailor-made holidays designed for each individual traveller. With a real focus on quality and service, Kuoni has been voted one of the best large holiday companies in the UK.

Speaking about their involvement at this year's Show, Kuoni's Brian Woodhouse said: "The Royal Highland Show will be a great chance for the Kuoni team to meet new people and share what we're all about, as well as talking about new destinations and the types of holidays on offer, from exclusive islands in the Maldives to escorted small group tours, cruises, villa holidays and tailor-made adventures."

"We are really proud to support such an iconic event in Scotland and our stand's theme will be Great American Road Trips by Kuoni, so pop along to meet the team and learn all about the different States you can visit on an epic self-drive."



THE LAST WORD



The Show countdown has begun for what will be the biggest celebration of our industry and I for one cannot wait.

What strikes me each year is the palpable excitement that builds in the months leading up to June as our extensive plans come together. The Show is a well-oiled machine that's for sure, but that doesn't mean we don't take every opportunity to innovate and bring something unexpected to what is a winning formula.

The Presidential Initiative this year is particularly thrilling. Bringing to life the culture of the Borders, we see Common Ridings share the spotlight with the area's strong motorsport history and look forward to showcasing the Borders at the 2019 Show.

Our Chairman, the most energetic man I know, is again bringing big ideas to the Main Ring. It is Jimmy's last year as RHASS Chairman, and he is going out on a whirl ... literally. I would encourage as many of you as possible to sign up to the Shindig at the Show. I know I will be there come rain or shine.

Education and connecting our rural and urban audiences to build awareness and trust in our farming sector is an important part of our charitable remit for RHASS. As main supporter of RHET, we join with the many volunteers and staff to celebrate its 20th year. If you don't support RHET yet, why not think about how you can. It's key to our industry success.

When you visit the Showground, you will see big changes – two new hotels on the perimeter of the site and work on the new Quadrant One building, the new Members' and multi-use space, well underway. The investment RHASS has made in our site is unprecedented and underlies our ambition for the sector. The new facility will allow us to achieve even more and we look forward to meeting members throughout Scotland later in the year to share with you our plans.

Finally, we have completed another successful financial year and as you will see we have taken bold financial decisions. Those working in this sector will know better than most that standing still is not an option and RHASS will continue to capitalise on our assets to secure a sustainable future for the charity.

I would like to finish by giving my grateful thanks to the members who continue with us on this journey – RHASS Board and staff appreciate your support and take seriously the responsibilities we hold to drive this Society forward.

I wish you a very successful Show and look forward to seeing you in June.

Alan Laidlaw, Chief Executive

We're helping Scottish agriculture to grow

**We've been working with the
Scottish agricultural industry
for nearly 300 years, and we
understand the challenges
farmers face better than
most. So if you're looking to
grow your business, we're
here to help.**

**Find out how we could help your business.
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