

RHASS MAGAZINE

WINTER 2019

society



MEET THE SIR WILLIAM YOUNG AWARD WINNER

- + RHASS on tour ends a record-breaking year
- + RHASS to launch fundraising campaign
- + RHET celebrates major milestone
- + RHS unveils 2020 Presidential Initiative

Contents

3	Chairman's Welcome: Bill Gray
4	RHASS News
7	Local Agricultural Show Dates
8	RHS News
10	Presidential Initiative
12	Sponsor Focus, Andrew Black
14	RHASS on Tour
14	Awards & Grants
18	Supporting the work of RHASS
19	RHET Celebrates Major Milestone
24	RHC
26	Sir William Young Award, Jim Goldie
28	Best Young Beekeeper
30	RHASS Heritage
33	Sponsor Focus, Scottish Salmon
34	Members' Benefits
35	Last Word from Alan Laidlaw



10



14



19



26



28



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ROYAL HIGHLAND & AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND



Chairman's Welcome

Dear Member, I write this as our RHASS 2019 roadshow programme draws to a close.

I took great pleasure in touring the country with members of the RHASS team, engaging with and updating Members on our achievements and future plans and hearing their views on how best we can continue to deliver our charitable remit. I was hugely encouraged that the feedback on our presentation was universally positive, in particular with regard to the new Members' building which is on time and on budget. We will carry out a soft launch in the spring prior to its grand opening at the 2020 Royal Highland Show.

We all remember the 2016 Royal Highland Show when the result of the Brexit vote was announced. Three years on and rural industry is still unsure what the future will hold. The impact both personally and professionally cannot be underestimated.

I got the impression that our roadshows provided a perfect foil to the uncertainty surrounding the 'B' word and allowed Members to focus on the positivity around the Society and what we have both achieved over the years and what we hope to in the future. What struck me during the tour was the resilience demonstrated by those who attended. Farm concerns are very much front and centre of their thinking, but so too is the need to secure the future of their agri-businesses.

I am proud to be part of a sector that works together. As a recent Monitor Farmer, the concept of 'knowledge transfer' was a really important feature of our project. This sharing of practices

and experiences draws us together and helps in some of the more challenging decision-making processes. As an industry, we have weathered storms before – at the roadshow we made mention on many occasions of RHASS' transaction volumes, which include accounts of such times that our predecessors have experienced and managed to work through. RHASS' longstanding associations with organisations such as SAYFC and RSABI that can step in during times of need means that we are perfectly positioned to support the industry and I look forward to continuing to develop that during my chairmanship.

As we head towards the end of the year, I look forward with anticipation to 2020 – an iconic year in which we will see the new Members' Pavilion open and our 180th Royal Highland Show. I would like to extend my personal invitation to the RHASS AGM on the 29th of April - I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

My thanks go to all the Directors and staff for their commitment and achievements this year; a great advertisement for teamwork.

May I take this opportunity to wish you, your families and loved ones a very happy Christmas and prosperous 2020.

Bill Gray

Bill Gray, Chairman

29.04.2020

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 236th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland will be held on Wednesday 29th April 2020 at Ingliston.

Further details will be provided on the RHASS website and will be published in the Scottish Farmer at least ten days before the meeting.

All Members are most welcome to attend.

CORRECTION: In the last edition of Society, we featured an incorrect image for the Charollais sheep champion. We are pleased to print the correct details and apologise for our error.



Royal Highland Show 2019
Charollais - Champion, Misses E & E Duncan

WORLD PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Back in August, RHASS supported the Scotland Team to help them compete at the World Ploughing Championships in Lake of the Woods, Minnesota. Andrew Mitchell, from Forfar, took the conventional Championship title this year, having already been the reversible Champion six times over. Laurencekirk's Dave Carnegie also performed well, finishing 14th among some of the best competitors from around the world.



Dave Carnegie (L), RHASS Director John Sinclair (centre), Andrew Mitchell Snr (R)

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 2020-2024. The closing date for receipt of nominations is Wednesday 8th January 2020. We recognise the positive value of diversity and broad experience and we welcome applications from people of all backgrounds

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**.

THE 29TH COMMONWEALTH AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

30 JUNE – 11 JULY 2020, NORFOLK, ENGLAND, UK

Returning to the UK a decade after the RHASS hosted in 2010, this biennial conference is coming to Norfolk. Come and connect with business leaders, the Next Generation and members from agricultural associations to share knowledge and ideas that will shape and influence the future for agriculture at the 29th Commonwealth Agriculture Conference in 2020.

Bringing people together from across the globe, the Commonwealth Agriculture Conference addresses issues of major interest to anyone involved in food, farming and rural economies. In 2020 the focus will be on circular economies and agriculture in planning and growing a more sustainable future.

The conference will include tours to Sandringham Estate, the Royal Norfolk Show, a British Sugar manufacturing plant and NIAB in Cambridge as well as agri-businesses that have successfully integrated systems ensuring less waste and a closer link between production and consumer.

‘Norfolk has a remarkable history in the development of World Agriculture.’ states Sir Nicholas Bacon Bt OBE DL, Deputy President of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth (RASC) which will be hosting the conference in partnership with the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association. ‘Come to 21st Century Norfolk and immerse yourself in the extraordinary technological developments which have taken place in the last 250 years.’

Visit RASC2020uk.com for advance tickets and, as a RHASS member, you will get a further discount so book as soon as possible to ensure the best price!



Sir Nicholas Bacon



2018 Next Generation Delegates Edmonton, Canada

STUDENT FUNDING FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE

RHASS is funding agricultural or equine study projects undertaken by senior students of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Glasgow University over a period of five years (2017-2021) at £3,000 per annum. Topics covered to date include Teat Ultrasound, Heart Rate Variability and Total Protein and FPT in calves



Glasgow University vet student Andrea Frei at Cochno Farm, Clydebank

RSABI GREAT GLEN CHALLENGE

At the end of August, two RHASS teams, Team Royal and Team Highland, braved the Scottish weather to tackle the RSABI Great Glen Challenge. The teams walked, cycled, paddled and ran their way to the finish line, raising an incredible £3,000 in the process to support the amazing work that RSABI does.



Alan Laidlaw, Fiona Wallace, Bill Arnot, David Tennant, Mark Currie, Martin Hall, Katrina Barclay, Laura McCafferty & Jo Andrews

SHOW FORUM TO SHARE GOOD PRACTICE

The Royal Highland Show is proud to host the next Scottish Shows Forum to be held on Saturday 18th January 2020 at Royal Highland Centre. This is an open invitation to all Agricultural Show Organisers to come and network, share good practice and experience.

To register please contact David Tennant:
davidt@rhass.org.uk



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHOWS & AGRICULTURAL EVENTS



FEBRUARY 2020	
Royal Northern Spring Show	26 Feb
APRIL 2020	
Kilmaurs Show	17 Apr
Ochiltree Show	22 Apr
Beith Show	25 Apr
MAY 2020	
Neilston Show	02 May
Ayr Show	09 May
Kilmalcolm Show	09 May
Dalry Show	16 May
Fife Show	23 May
Stewarton & Dunlop Show	23 May
Northumberland County Show	25 May
Drymen Show	30 May
Lesmahagow Show	30 May
New Cumnock YFC Show	30 May
RNAS Countryside Live	31 May
JUNE 2020	
Campsie Show	06 Jun
Newmilns Show	06 Jun
Angus Show	06 Jun
Carsphairn Show	06 Jun
Central and West Fife Show	06 Jun
Alyth Show	13 Jun
Cumberland County Show	13 Jun

Stirling Show	13 Jun
Largs Show	13 Jun
Kilbarchan Show	20 Jun
Haddington Show	27 Jun
JULY 2020	
Doune and Dunblane Show	04 Jul
Fettercairn Show	04 Jul
Dalkeith Show	11 Jul
Echt, Skene and Midmar Show	11 Jul
Biggar Farmers Show	18 Jul
Kirriemuir Show	18 Jul
Fenwick Show	18 Jul
Newtown St Boswells & District Farmers Show	18 Jul
New Deer Show	18-19 Jul
Border Union Show	24-25 Jul
Banchory Show	25 Jul
Sutherland Show	25 Jul
East Kilbride Open Cattle Show	25 Jul
Stranraer Show	29 Jul
Perth Show	31 Jul - 1 Aug
AUGUST 2020	
Dumfries Show	01 Aug
Nairn Show	01 Aug
Turriff Show	2-3 Aug
Wigtown Show	05 Aug
Black Isle Show	06 Aug

Dounby Show	06 Aug
Kintyre Show	07 Aug
Aberfeldy Agricultural Show and Highland Games	7-8 Aug
Kinross Show	08 Aug
Mid Argyll Show	08 Aug
Orkney Show	08 Aug
Sunart Show	08 Aug
Tarland Show	08 Aug
Grantown Show	13 Aug
Islay Show	13 Aug
Peebles Show	15 Aug
Coylton Show	15 Aug
Abington Show	22 Aug
Moffat Show	29 Aug
Westruther Show	29 Aug
SEPTEMBER 2020	
Dalmally Show	05 Sep
Westmorland County Agriculture Show	10 Sep
Langholm Show	26 Sep
OCTOBER 2020	
Yetholm Border Shepherds' Show	03 Oct
Scottish Ploughing Championships	23-24 Oct
NOVEMBER 2020	
Agriscot	18 Nov

These dates and details are correct at the time of going to press

TAKING THE LEAD FOR 180TH ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW



ROYAL
HIGHLAND
SHOW 2020
PARTNER SINCE 1981
 Royal Bank
of Scotland

RHASS has announced details of a restructuring of the senior team tasked with delivering the Royal Highland Show

Under the new organisational plan, Mark Currie, RHASS Operations Director will be responsible for the overall event delivery of RHS with David Tennant, Competitions Manager, who leads on all competitions including livestock, Scottish Dairy Championships, poultry and technical innovations.

An experienced event professional, Mark cut his teeth at DF Concerts before joining RHASS in 2016. Since joining RHASS, he has successfully delivered large

scale events at the Royal Highland Centre including Little Mix, Terminal V and the record-breaking 2019 Royal Highland Show.

David has been a permanent member of the RHS Livestock Team since 2015 having initially worked on a temporary contract to cover the Show period in 2010. David took charge of delivering the competition element of the event in 2019, including planning and overseeing over 900 competitions.

We look forward to hearing more about Mark and David's plans for the Show in the next edition of Society.



David Tennant & Mark Currie

CELEBRATIONS ON TRACK FOR RHS

Tickets are on sale now for the event that in 2020 marks not only 180th show, but 60 years at its permanent home at Ingliston.

Entries are open now for the bread and handcrafts competitions and trade packs have been issued. Here are some dates to be aware of:

31st January	Closing date for Trade Stand applications for returning exhibitors
6th March	Catering applications closing date
March	Entries for Livestock and Competitions open
28th April	Cattle, sheep, equine closing date
May	All other competition applications close

To find out more about exhibiting at the show, trade pack information can be found on the show website:

royalhighlandshow.org/exhibitors

ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW PARKING & TRANSPORT SURVEY

As all who drive to the Show will know, space for parking is always at a premium and congestion on roads around the Show a real challenge.

For these reasons and to ensure we continue to provide a great experience for our members we are looking to enhance still further our public transport offering, which we are creating in collaboration with stakeholders including Edinburgh Airport, Transport Scotland, public transport providers and Police Scotland.

We would very much welcome members' views on car parking and public transport to help us determine how best to address the parking and congestion issues and minimise the impact of the Show on the local community and businesses.

To share your views on parking at and transport to the Show, please complete our online survey which will be available from Monday 9 December at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RHSParkingandTransportSurvey>



Royal Highland Show

— CELEBRATING 180 YEARS —

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

18-21 JUNE 2020

ROYALHIGHLANDSHOW.ORG




DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE

Fiona Armstrong
Lady MacGregor of MacGregor,
Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries

Well, the team is in place and here in Dumfries and Galloway we are looking forward to being the 'host' region at the 2020 Royal Highland Show.

It is a great honour - and also a great challenge! 2020 sees the opening of the new Members' Pavilion. Eagle eyes will perhaps be trained more keenly on Ingliston and we have to get it right...

For most of my young life I lived in cities. Then, at the age of 28, this townie became a country girl. I started work at ITV Border which covers the mainly rural areas of Cumbria and the south of Scotland. Over the years I reported on the dreaded foot and mouth outbreak, but also covered happier farming stories. I learned to fish, and I found farming friends. For me, rural life is the best and I am full of admiration for the way you feed us and look after the land.

FOOD, HERITAGE & CULTURE

Our Presidential aim is to generate interest and excitement about Scottish farming and the countryside. Crucially, we also want to raise awareness of RHASS and the fantastic work it does.

Playing this prominent role in Scotland's largest outdoor event will also allow us to shout about D&G. We want to engage and inform, to showcase our food, heritage and culture: Castle Douglas is our Food Town; Wigtown is Scotland's Book Town; Kircudbright is the Artists' Town and Gretna is the country's wedding capital.

We plan to celebrate our identity as a productive, green, rural region. To communicate that food and farming, fishing and forestry, tourism, coast and countryside are intertwined and mutually dependent.

The beautiful landscapes and the green open spaces are sculpted by nature but tended by man. No farming - no bread or whisky. No sheep - no tartan or lamb. No cows - no ice cream or milk...



WE'RE GROWING TOGETHER

Our strapline is 'Dumfries & Galloway - We're Growing Together' and we will involve schools, particularly in urban areas, with a series of art and story-telling competitions for young people.

Inclusivity is the word. Here in the region, we have a high number of military veterans, some of whom suffer from mental health issues. The Dumfries Veterans' Garden is where they can put their hands in the soil and start to heal. In 2020 these former servicemen and women will plant a special garden at the Show.

Dumfries & Galloway is the heartland of Scotland's milk production - and that theme will feature. We boast world-leading livestock genetics. And we can lay claim to the 'Oreo Cow'. The iconic Belted Galloway is a sure head-turner. Watch out for the #SelfiewiththeBeltie'. It's coming to Edinburgh!

In the run-up to 2020 we hope to engage audiences old and new with a social media film. In it we'll highlight rural life and major events like the Stranraer Oyster Festival and the Big Burns Supper.

In short, we want to ensure that visitors have a strong sense of our D&G message. In 'Scotland's Larder Live' they can sample our food and drink products, cheese and ice-cream, jam and pickles, whisky and gin. You name it, we make it. And keep your eyes peeled for a dramatic Saturday night production in the Main Ring.

My Vice Presidents all have business and farming experience in the region. They are Alistair Marshall, Hugh Ramsay, Percy Weatherall and Alasdair Houston. We are ably supported by RHASS regional directors, past and present: Matthew Currie, Heather Wildman, James Dunlop, Ian Beck, Jim Hastings and Liz Vance, with John Mackie and Lorraine Mair, whilst Rev. Alex Cairns is our chaplain. With luck and a fair wind, these ideas will be delivered by the team.

MEET LONG-TERM SPONSOR ANDREW BLACK

Andrew Black has been involved with Royal Highland Show for a long time – in fact, he's visited the Show almost every year since 1948 when, as a 19-year-old farm worker, he and three friends drove up to Inverness by pooling their petrol rations to make it all the way.

His involvement deepened when he decided to sponsor the Andrew Black show jumping speed class, A&B Stakes, in the Main Ring thirty years ago, when his daughter Isabel began competing at the Show at the age of 8. The equine legacy continued with Moira, John and Andrew competing in the junior and horse classes, and now granddaughter Ailsa is the Scottish National Ladies Champion, competing at this year's Horse of the Year Show.

From starting his haulage business in 1958 with one wagon, Andrew Black Haulage now boasts a fleet of 24 forty-four ton articulated lorries, that cover the whole of the UK, with a staff of 30 employees. With wife Janet and twin sons John and Andrew Jnr on the Board, the business is certainly a family affair.

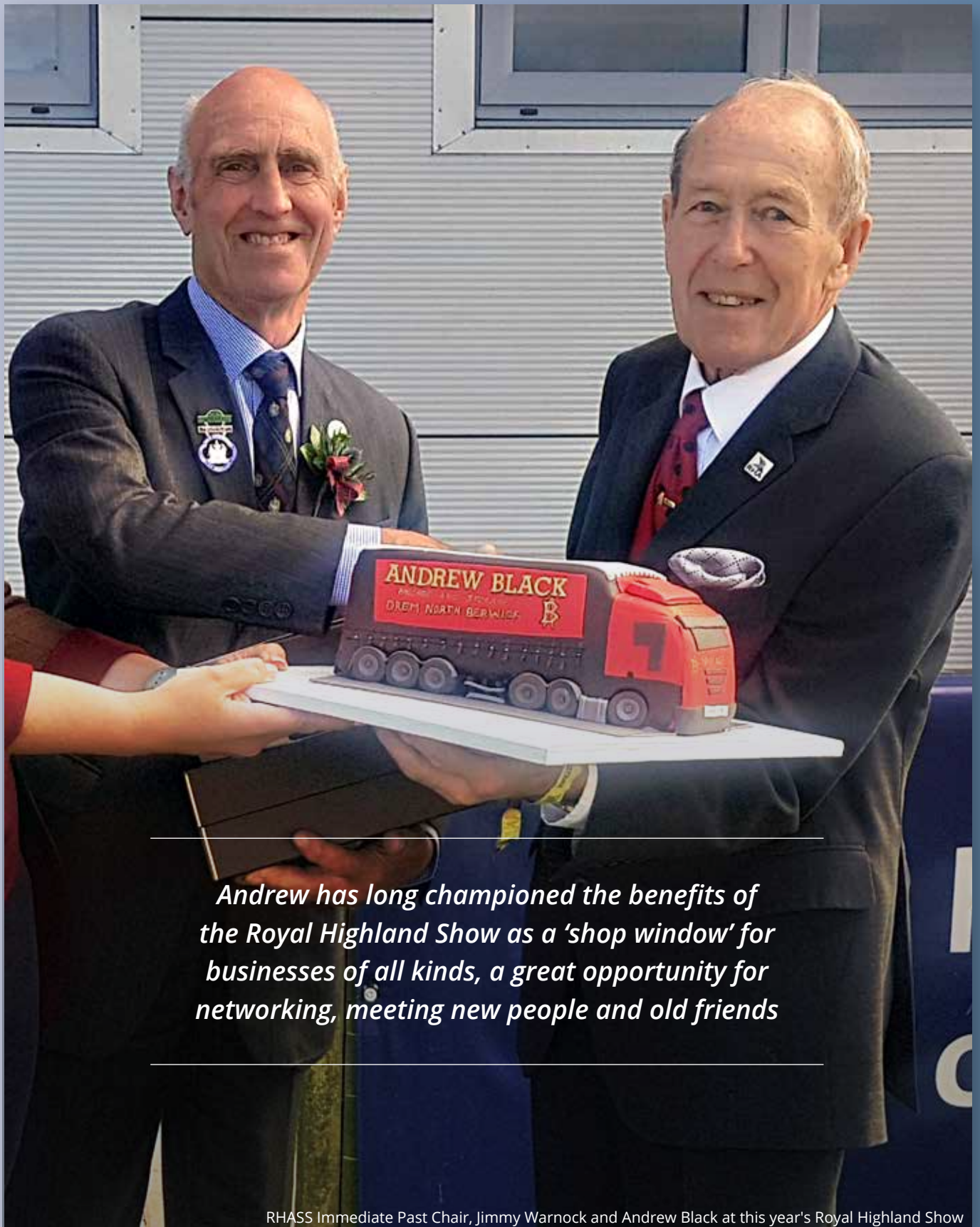
He credits their business success over the years to hard work, prioritising customers' needs and following the mantra 'never put off until tomorrow what you can do today'. You can still find him down at the haulage yard even on Saturdays, as Andrew is still dedicated to overseeing the business.

Andrew has long championed the benefits of the Show as a 'shop window' for businesses of all kinds, a great opportunity for networking, meeting new people and old friends, and for creating new business opportunities. He has never been able to quantify the value of the sponsorship to the business – but he knows its worth instinctively, and it has allowed him to be supported by and involved with the Show over the years.

In his years as a Chair at the British Show Jumping Association, Andrew was a leading light in the organisation of the show jumping classes at the Royal Highland Show. His involvement in these classes is a great source of pride and enjoyment, and he sees his sponsorship as a way to thank farmers and the agricultural community for their business over the years.

From starting his haulage business in 1958 with one wagon, Andrew Black Haulage now boasts a fleet of 24 forty-four ton articulated lorries





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RHASS Immediate Past Chair, Jimmy Warnock and Andrew Black at this year's Royal Highland Show

AWARDS & GRANTS

Mod Winner

Congratulations to Jenny Black, 22 years old, from Brechin in Angus who was awarded the RHASS-sponsored Gaelic Learner of the Year in the adult competitions at this year's Royal National Mod.

The Edinburgh University student studies Gaelic Media Education and has been learning the indigenous language for the last four years. She has previously taught students at a local Gaelic school.

The advancement and preservation of the Gaelic language goes all the way back to RHASS' roots with reference to 'the language, poetry and music of the Highlands' made in the minutes of the Society's general meeting of January 1785. Various medals have been awarded for essays on Gaelic at times throughout RHASS' long history up to the introduction of Gaelic Learner of the Year award.

Nuffield Farming Scholar

Emma Patterson Taylor from Edinburgh has been awarded the RHASS funding for the 2020 Nuffield Farming Scholarship.

Emma, a project manager from the Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society (SAOS), will undertake a study into the position of farming in the public consciousness.

RHASS is proud to support those with an ambition to expand their knowledge in support of the food and farming industry.

Emma was not born into a farming family yet has chosen to work in the sector so has a unique perspective on our industry. We very much look forward to the findings of her study as this is something we need to understand to help us build a deeper understanding between producer and consumer.



RASC Next Generation Scholar

Laura Ritchie, 25, from Dunfermline has been chosen to attend the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth (RASC) Next Generation Conference 2019 in the Caribbean.

A RHASS member, Laura has attended the RHS ever since she was born and worked as an assistant livestock and competitions co-ordinator in 2015 and 2016.

That experience really opened her eyes to the huge amount of work that goes on behind the scenes and has made her appreciate the Show in a completely different way.



SUPPORTING THE WORK OF RHASS

The Quadrant One development will be completed in spring 2020, with the delivery of an iconic new building at the heart of the Showground.

We are now delighted to launch our membership fundraising campaign in support of this new facility. The Society welcomes your support and is offering a number of ways in which you can get involved.

This project will connect rural Scotland and support it to succeed, with a strong focus on young people. We want to engage the next generation and give them the skills and encouragement they need to grasp opportunities and to meet the challenges ahead.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT



FOR MEMBERS

The new building creates a high quality and welcoming Members' pavilion for the Society's Members, providing them with a place to meet and socialise during the Royal Highland Show – to see old friends, to share success, and to find support and a sense of connection with the rural community. Its position overlooking the Main Ring and its fabulous outdoor terrace, will offer the 'best seat in the house' during the Royal Highland Show.

Outwith the Show, the space will be available for Members to gather and meet year round, as well as offering a superb events space, which Members can hire for family weddings and other special occasions.



FOR THE SOCIETY

Quadrant One will provide a multi-use conference and meeting space, which will deliver a commercial income to the Society for many years to come, assuring our financial viability and a sustainable future. Located next to an expanding airport with global connections, the building delivers a flexible event space, which will attract prestigious and valuable events business from Scotland, the UK and Europe. Once completed, the building will be one of the largest spaces of its type in Edinburgh, with leading communication links and the only one with on-site parking.

Market research has shown strong demand for a space of this type and the Society hopes to generate over £150,000 per annum from commercial events. Marketing of the event space has begun in earnest.



FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

For young people, the building will be a safe place for debate and a place to learn, be inspired and encouraged. Plans are in hand for an annual programme of lectures, debates and conferences in partnership with leading Scottish agricultural organisations. We will be inviting prominent guest speakers from the UK and beyond, to help ensure we inspire the next generation to think innovatively about the future of rural business and to challenge convention.





FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The overall cost of the building is £5 million, with £4 million raised in cash or firm pledges, leaving us with £1m still to find.

To help raise this challenging sum, we are offering a limited number of opportunities for supporters to have their name, or that of a loved one, publicly associated with the new building, as follows:

- Naming in Society Magazine (up to £999)
- Naming on virtual wall on RHASS website (£1000)
- Naming on External Terrace Wall (£5000 and above)
- Naming on Principal Donor Board (£25,000 and above)

This is a once in a generation opportunity to support RHASS in creating a beautiful and welcoming home for its Members, and a commercial event space for the future. Your support for the new pavilion will inspire and serve as a reminder of the farming tradition of one generation helping the next. Please join us if you can.



HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

The simplest way to make a donation is online by visiting www.rhass.org.uk/gettinginvolved and donating through the Virgin Giving link.

Gifts made by UK taxpayers are eligible for Gift Aid, which can enhance your gift to RHASS by 25p in every £.

We can also accept donation by cheque or bank transfer. Please contact quadrant@rhass.org.uk for further information.

For gifts of £5000 and above, please contact Joanne Andrews at jandrews@rhass.org.uk. If there is any aspect of the project or the campaign that you would prefer to discuss directly with me, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Alan Laidlaw, Chief Executive

This is a once in a generation opportunity to support RHASS in creating a beautiful and welcoming home for its Members, and a commercial event space for the future



RHASS ON TOUR

Building on last year's successful series of roadshows featuring Doug Avery, key staff and local directors toured Scotland during October and November to hear from Members on their home turf.

The aim of the events was to understand what people value about being a member of RHASS, let them know how to get involved, as well as updating attendees on key initiatives such as grants and awards, RHASS' support of RHET and the new Members' Pavilion.

Beginning in Strathclyde on October 23rd and ending on November 14th in Stirling, the events were very well attended with lots of questions around RHASS' charitable remit, our role in driving innovation across the sector and how best to encourage new entrants into the industry. All of these themes will be explored in future editions of Society.

Here is a selection of pictures taken at one of the events.



RHASS Chairman Bill Gray, RHASS Partnerships & Fundraising Manager Jo Andrews & RHASS Chief Executive Alan Laidlaw



RHASS Regional Roadshow



ROYAL
HIGHLAND &
AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY OF
SCOTLAND

Ayr
Castle
Douglas
Inverness
Thurso
Dalkeith
Kelso
Lanark
Thainstone
Perth
Stirling

RHET CELEBRATES MAJOR MILESTONE

THE LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE ROYAL HIGHLAND EDUCATION TRUST (RHET)

RHET takes school children out to working farms across the country to learn more about food, farming and the countryside.

The large and experienced network of volunteers also visit classes in school to deliver educational talks and provide activities at educational events.

RHET is a registered Scottish charity, and while some of the core costs are generously funded by RHASS, a significant proportion of fundraising relies on donations from the general public and those involved the agricultural sector to continue the vital work delivered across the country.

Celebrating 20 years with a visit from Her Royal Highness Princess Anne in September, RHET marked 20 years of its work by hosting a visit from their Royal Patron, HRH the Princess Royal.

The schoolchildren discovered first-hand about the various enterprises on farm and visited the hens, pigs, soft fruit tunnels, the jam kitchen and apple pressing room

What better way to showcase the work undertaken by the charity than for Princess Anne to join a class of 30 P5 pupils from Queensferry Primary School on their visit to Craigie's Farm, near Kirkliston.

Lord Provost Frank Ross welcomed the Princess Royal and introduced her to Craigie's Managing Director, John Sinclair, who accompanied HRH for the duration of the farm walk. The schoolchildren discovered first-hand from the staff about the various enterprises on farm, whilst visiting the hens, pigs, soft fruit tunnels, the jam kitchen and apple pressing room, followed, of course, by a trip in the tractor-trailer.

Princess Anne, in discussion with the children, explored which fruit and vegetables grown on the farm would they eat. Despite being a little shy, the children soon forgot their nerves, offering up stories of their favourite things to eat, and explained their successful growing project at school.

George Lawrie, RHET Chairman, and Katrina Barclay, RHET Executive Officer, presented HRH with a hamper of local produce to mark the occasion.

Representatives from RHASS were able to join the visit, providing a great opportunity to inform Her Royal Highness about the work both organisations are involved in to support Scottish agriculture through education and investment. It also gave a chance to share news of the forthcoming RHET Gala, which RHASS is proudly supporting.

GET BEHIND OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS IN THE FARMING SECTOR IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER

At this year's Royal Highland Show our revamped supporter scheme was unveiled. Various levels of support have now been added, each with their own rewards for signing up.

If you are unable to volunteer with RHET through hosting children on your farm or by visiting a class in school to deliver a talk, why not sign up and support us through one of the options on the right:

BECOME A SUPPORTER



Be part of something special!

All our work relies on the generosity of individuals and businesses. Without this much needed support we would not be able to reach as many young people across Scotland as we do.

To sign up visit rhet.org.uk/supporter, contact us on 0131 335 6227 or email rhetinfo@rhass.org.uk

INDIVIDUAL

Choose from **£25, £50 or £100 annually**

- Money allocated to be used in your local area
- RHET pin badge issued
- Gift aid eligibility
- Ideal gift!

BUSINESS

£150 annually

- RHET window sticker
- Listed as a RHET supporter
- Personalised certificate

FARM VISIT

£300 annually

- Money allocated to a farm visit in your area
- Letter from supported school
- RHET window sticker
- Listed as a RHET supporter
- Personalised certificate
- Metal pin badge

CORPORATE

£1000 annually

- RHET window stickers
- Listed on supporters' wall at the Royal Highland Show
- Listed on RHET website
- Personalised certificate
- Metal pin badges
- Royal Highland Show package

CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF "TAKING THE CLASSROOM TO THE COUNTRYSIDE"

SAVE THE DATE! 21 February 2020

RHET's 21st birthday is at the start of next year, and to celebrate we're hosting a spectacular Gala Dinner.

An amazing evening is planned for the 21st of February 2020 with exceptional auction lots up for grabs for attendees.

Tickets are £85 per person available now online and each table can seat up to 10 guests.

www.jumblebee.co.uk/RHETGALA21.

If you or your business are keen to support the event or to supply us with a service on the night, please get in touch.

Call: 0131 335 6227

Email rhetgala@rhass.org.uk



**SAVE
the
DATE**

Gala Dinner

3 course meal
& drinks reception

Lowland Hall
Ingliston

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



**CHILDREN
VISITED A FARM**



**BUS TRIPS
TO FARMS & EVENTS**



**CHILDREN RECEIVED
CLASSROOM TALKS**



6,000+

**YOUNG PEOPLE GET
INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES IN
THE DISCOVERY CENTRE**

AT THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW



40+

**HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES FOR
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE
TO PARTICIPATE IN**



300+

**SCHOOL GROUPS
ENGAGED WITH ON THE
THURSDAY & FRIDAY**

REINDEER DUST PROVING POPULAR IN FORTH VALLEY

RHET Forth Valley has unveiled a new project that has proved phenomenally popular with Primary Schools in their local area.

The Reindeer Dust School Project provides free kits and training sessions to make 'reindeer dust' – a combination of Hamlyn's porridge oats, Halley's Timothy chaff and other secret ingredients provided by the local Tesco stores. Each packet of reindeer dust is then packed into paper bags provided by Booker Wholesale Stirling.

The project aims to teach pupils how farmers grow food for us and other animals, how food grown locally is better for you and the planet and how eating the right food can make you strong and healthy.

Sessions will be delivered in the classroom and will provide an opportunity for pupils to try some healthy food, teach them how to make environmentally conscious choices around food and will be an overall fun and interactive lesson. For younger nursery students, there will be a magic Christmas-themed activity provided.

The project was launched mid-September with more than 75 classes and 2300 children signing up to participate after only a few days. The teacher training sessions are running through the second week in November.

The idea for the project came from Hamish, a 4 year old Shetland pony, who wanted to be one of Santa's Reindeer. An email from Santa sent Hamish on a journey to discover how reindeer live, grow and fly. He learned from the "farmer elves", that a healthy diet and correct environment are important for all animals. The story of this very cute pony's dream to be the 10th Reindeer gives the project a festive and engaging theme.

It has seen such interest in the Forth Valley area that it is now fully booked for the rest of the year. However, RHET are looking into running similar projects across Scotland.

Katrina Barclay, RHET Executive Officer, said, "These hands-on teacher workshops are a great way to get children thinking about food production as well as promoting the benefits of making a reindeer dust without glitter."

If your school would like a training session, please get in touch with RHET on 0131 335 6290.



RHET & SRUC PARTNER UP ON NEW STEM RESOURCE



Data4Schools

An exciting new resource is available for schools across Scotland, thanks to a partnership programme between RHET and Scotland's Rural College (SRUC).

The Data 4 Schools programme has transformed real life agricultural data, collected from SRUC farms across Scotland, into data sets and questions that can be utilised in the classroom.

The official launch of the resource in early October coincided with Maths Week Scotland, which is a celebration of the importance of maths in our everyday lives.

SRUC collects a vast array of data on a wide range of topics and this data has been transformed into a learning resource to highlight to pupils how agriculture works. It will also further facilitate the teaching of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects in the classroom.

Professor Dave Roberts, SRUC's Head of Agriculture and Business Management, said: "It is great to have our research data being made available as a resource for use in schools to develop maths skills and a better understanding of food and farming."

As well as graphed data and questions, the raw data is provided to encourage interpretation and debate.

Sara Smith, RHET's Learning & Development Coordinator, said, "We were pleased to be given the opportunity to work with SRUC on this vital resource aimed at secondary teachers with a STEM remit. This information illustrates just how important STEM is to the agriculture sector, so we hope that it makes pupils excited about how these skills can be applied outside of the classroom."

The Data 4 Schools programme currently looks at data collection for the dairy, beef, upland sheep and arable sectors and is available online at:

www.rhet.org.uk/data-4-schools



Hugh McClymont (SRUC) and Fiona Armstrong
Data 4 Schools - The Role of Data
in Sustainable Food Production
<http://bit.ly/Data4Schools>

LESS 'THINGS' MORE 'DO' CONSUMERS ARE SPENDING MORE ON EXPERIENCES

Lorne Scott - RHASS Commercial Director

We've seen dramatic changes in consumer behaviour over the past year, with spending on entertainment and experiences in the UK up 12.5%. As experienced hosts with over 50 years in the industry, RHC is the venue of choice for up to 200 events and one million visitors annually.

Why Have We Stopped Buying 'Stuff'?

I was listening to Costing the Earth on BBC Radio 4 a while back, and I was interested to hear what Paul Lockstone from Barclaycard had to say. He was talking about the growth of the experience economy and suggesting that as consumers we're spending less on 'stuff' and putting our money towards experiences and memories. He noted that since 2017 spending on entertainment had grown by around 12.5% - a huge change that reflects a cultural shift. As consumers, we are placing higher value on experiences that we can share with friends and family, particularly on social media.

So, what's changed? Why aren't we purchasing material goods at the previous rate? Lockstone mentioned comments made by IKEA's Steve Howard that as western consumers, we may have reached 'peak stuff' - many of us are simply fed up of the number of things we own and are finding that they don't fulfil us the way they used to. Another theory is that Millennials, who tend to have less cash, are looking for more life-enhancing ways of spending their money; to have an exhilarating, unique experience (and to be seen doing it) is much more important to millennials than having say, a designer handbag or a shiny new car.

According to the researchers, experiences create more lasting happiness because they are more

open to positive reinterpretation; they tend to become more meaningful parts of one's identity; and they do more to foster social relationships. Experiences help us learn, grow and connect with each other, so it's no surprise we choose to spend our money and time on them.

How Can We Prepare For This Change In Customer Demand?

Those of us who already work in the events industry - event operators and hosts alike - will be aware of the increased appetite for experiential events and this is something we see at the Royal Highland Centre (RHC) where event organisers are looking to our large, modern exhibition space, beautiful 110-acre parkland, track area, and main arena as a blank canvas for their event.

With its accessible location, close proximity to Edinburgh Airport and the motorway, and strong links to both Edinburgh and Glasgow the RHC has appeal for a wide variety of events. While the Centre is best known as the venue for the Royal Highland Show, increasingly you are as likely to visit the RHC for a music festival, or to take part in a unique experience as for one with an agricultural theme.

We're noticing a demand for the use of our facilities to host a wide variety of weird and wonderful events. This year, we have played host to a plethora of performances, conventions and sporting shows with everything from a Supercar Drive Day, Elrow - an out of this world outdoor carnival and music festival - to Pretty Muddy - a charity obstacle race - as well as a healthy calendar of regular events, such as Truckfest, Terminal V and Gardening Scotland. The RHC's versatility makes it the venue of choice for a whole host of dynamic experiences.



Organisers are looking to our large, modern exhibition space, beautiful 110-acre parkland, track area, and main arena as a blank canvas for their event



MEET JIM GOLDIE, SIR WILLIAM YOUNG AWARD WINNER

Leading pedigree cattle and sheep breeder, Jim Goldie, has been named the recipient of the prestigious Sir William Young Award for his outstanding contribution over more than 50 years to Scotland's livestock industry.

Jim, aged 79, was born into a farming family in Dumfriesshire. He has dedicated his life to producing top quality livestock and is highly respected for his breeding expertise. Farming at South Bowerhouses and Townfoot in partnership with his sons Hamish and Bruce, Jim is married to Kay and has five grandchildren.

As a Young Farmer, Jim represented Scotland at international stock judging competitions for beef, sheep and dairy. Since then he has judged cattle and sheep at all major pedigree shows around the UK including all four Royal Shows, Smithfield and three breeds at the Paris Show.

In 1969 he was one of the first breeders to import Charolais cattle to UK followed in 1977 by Limousin cattle and later Bleu du Maine and Rouge sheep - He has shown Champions in all these breeds at the Royal Highland Show and Royal Agricultural Show, including the very first Charolais championship at the Royal Highland show in 1972, the first ever win for a continental breed in the famous Burke Trophy at the Royal Show in 1976 and the first ever individual sheep interbreed at the Royal Show in 1990 with a Bleu du Maine ewe.

The Goldies' prefix is engrained in the pedigrees of a huge number of Charolais and Limousin cattle with Charolais bulls selling to 38,000gns as well as sons of the homebred Charolais bull Goldies Formidable selling for 26,000gns and 23,000gns on the same day. Limousin bulls have sold to 30,000gns and the Limousin heifer Goldies Victoria was exported to Texas in 1985 for £38,000 which was a record for a heifer at that time. Jim also bred Goldies Comet who sired the 125,000gns world record for a beef female.



RHASS Immediate Past Chair, Jimmy Warnock and Jim Goldie

Tragically in 2001 more than 30 years of pedigree breeding was wiped out when his entire herd of 720 pedigree Charolais and Limousin and 536 pedigree Texel and Bleu du Maine sheep were hit with Foot and Mouth disease. It was sheer dedication and the love of cattle and sheep that encouraged Jim and his sons to start again and rebuild their herds of Charolais and Limousin cattle and Texel and Lleyen sheep.

His vision has enabled his two sons Hamish and Bruce to continue the Goldies success story and grow the family business into two separate successful enterprises. A regular at the shows and sales, Jim continues to enjoy the fruits of the next generation's successes.

Jim's favourite part of livestock breeding is planning genetics, putting together the parts of the jigsaw and being able to observe quality livestock on the family farms. He is proud of the fact that his sons Hamish and Bruce and their families show great enthusiasm and commitment to continuing the family farms and he thinks the secret to being a successful farmer is dedication and hard work.

"Livestock is Jim's passion, which is reflected in the world class animals he produces," says RHASS immediate Past Chairman, Jimmy Warnock. "His achievements are remarkable and to be consistently leading the way in his industry is credit to a man who is truly committed to excelling in livestock management.

"He has shown true resilience and his understanding and insight into livestock breeding is evident in the success he has enjoyed. Jim is a true asset and very worthy of this year's Sir William Young Award."

Jim is delighted to have received the prestigious Sir William Young award and honoured to have been selected from the industry which has so many outstanding and dedicated livestock breeders.





In 1969 he was one of the first breeders to import Charolais cattle to UK followed in 1977 by Limousin cattle and later Bleu du Maine and Rouge sheep

MEET SCOTLAND'S BEST YOUNG BEEKEEPER MARTIN LEAHY

Bees and other pollinating insects play a crucial role in the long-term food security of our country – they fulfil the essential role of crop pollination in agriculture and reflect the health of our environment as a whole.

That's why the work that the Scottish Beekeepers' Association (SBA) undertakes in promoting the plight of bees and supporting beekeepers around the country is so important. Their initiatives are showcased every year in the Honey Marquee at the Royal Highland Show, where visitors can find displays, activities, information and items for sale all related to bees and beekeeping.

2019 has been a positive year for Scottish beekeepers – in July the Scotland team, consisting of Emily Oakes (14), Jaimee Kirk (13) and Martin Leahy (15), attended the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers (IMYB) in Slovakia, with the support of RHASS and the SBA. The team triumphed, with Martin being crowned the winner of the individual competition and proclaimed Young Beekeeper of the Year.

We spoke to Martin to find out a bit more about him and his beekeeping journey.

Martin was only eight years old when he started beekeeping, his interest being sparked after accompanying his mum when she started attending beekeeping classes. He found it fascinating, and his love for the practice of beekeeping has grown over the years.

Now 15, Martin feels that his win at the IMYB is a way of saying thank you to everyone who has helped him progress as a beekeeper so far and was very proud to represent both his local beekeeping group, Tarland Bee Club, and Scotland as a whole.

Martin's win was widely covered in the Scottish media, and he stressed the importance of beekeeping being brought to the attention of the general public. He highlighted that more beekeepers are always needed, as are landowners who are willing to help by allowing hives to be set up on their land.

"Even if you don't want to take up beekeeping there is always something you can do, such as planting bee friendly plants" Martin explained. He also pointed out that it's important that the complexities of beekeeping are likewise showcased: "The last thing we'd want is people getting a hive and some bees and then never doing inspections, swarm prevention, disease checks and other necessary hive maintenance."

Martin has also been visiting some primary schools to help teach younger children about beekeeping, which has been a hit with the school children. Many of them have asked him if they can have a look inside a hive and parents have told them that the children have come home and told them a fact about bees.

Martin suggested: "I think the children love seeing someone who is closer to their age talk about beekeeping, and it seems to inspire them" - he said they have even gone on to plant bee-friendly plants and leave water out for thirsty bees in hot weather.

Although winning an international competition is exciting, Martin's favourite thing about beekeeping is queen rearing. This delicate process, known as grafting, involves taking a worker bee larva and turning it into one which will produce a queen bee. This process is incredibly rewarding, and he is currently attempting to raise queen bees from native Scottish species and reintroduce them to his current hives.

Beekeeping does come with its own set of difficulties however, and Martin's biggest challenge at the moment is finding suitable and convenient places to keep his hives – the site needs to be secure, but also have enough forage for the bees in the surrounding area. Of course, there's the obvious risk too: "Getting stung isn't very enjoyable, but if proper precautions are taken it can be minimised - and it's not too bad after you get used to it!"

Clearly, Martin is a fantastic ambassador for these incredible little insects, and young people like him and the rest of the Scotland team at this year's IMYB are paving the way for the future of beekeeping. If we can embrace beekeeping as much as the children on Martin's school visits, then both our bees and our environment will feel the benefits.

Team Scotland were also successful in the mixed international teams' category, with Martin part of the team who placed 2nd and Jaimee Kirk in the 3rd placed team. The IMYB, now in its tenth year, encourages the entrance of more young people into the world of beekeeping and places emphasis on the appreciating of different cultures around the world.



A man in a dark blue suit and striped tie stands in a library, holding an open antique book. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. Behind him are tall wooden bookshelves filled with many old, leather-bound books. The lighting is warm and focused on the man and the book he is holding.

UNVEILING OUR RICH HERITAGE

Meet Alain Wright, House
and Heritage Officer at
RHASS HQ, Ingliston House

RHASS HERITAGE

The RHASS headquarters at Ingliston House is a treasure trove of historic artefacts, from books and paintings to trophies and beautiful stained glass windows. The collection has grown over the Society's rich 235-year-old history, and is now overseen by Alain Wright, who is the House and Heritage Officer at Ingliston.

As the 235th anniversary year of RHASS comes to a close, we caught up with Alain to find out a more about his job role and the amazing range of items inside Ingliston House.

What did you do before you came to RHASS?

"I was company Stock Controller for Hamilton & Inches for just over 19 years. Part of my role was looking after the RHASS trophies which are now cared for by the Society, so I jumped at the chance to come and work directly for RHASS."

What is your main role at RHASS?

"My main role is overseeing the trophy collection – I see to their engraving, maintenance and cleaning. But the day-to-day running of Ingliston House is part of my role, so making sure all our visitors and guests are met and made to feel welcome. Managing the house itself is a great challenge due to its age, as there is always something that needs looking after, sorted or fixed."



What are the most important artefacts at RHASS and why?

"That is difficult, and I could be biased and say the trophies - as a collection they are one of the best examples of silver in the country - but the main collection of paintings by Gourlay Steell is one of the best collections in private ownership. The whole library collection, be it the transactions books or the library itself, is also an amazingly diverse and unique asset to have as a resource, it covers not only agriculture, but forestry, veterinary science and Scottish history."



What makes the RHASS collection unique?

"Variety - and the unique nature of the collection, which is so important to our Members and scholars of agriculture."



What is the most unusual artefact?

"I'd say the painting of four alpacas from 1840, painted by celebrated animal painter Jacques Laurent Agasse. Very little was known about these animals at the time and only a few were held in zoos (Queen Victoria owned two!), so from an agricultural point of view this was highly significant, as the Society would, from 1841, give a gold medal for the 'satisfactory account founded upon actual observation and experiment, of any attempt to naturalise in Scotland'."



What is your long-term vision to promote and protect the items of interest at RHASS?

"I'd love to see a permanent display of some of our trophies that are no longer awarded - we are looking at how we could incorporate this, which is very encouraging and exciting."

"A new home for the library to make it more accessible would also be ideal and a dedicated heritage area more usable for visitors would be a great way to promote our heritage to a wider audience, but this needs a lot of thought to ensure it has longevity for future development and expansion."



MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

We are always delighted to welcome Members to RHASS HQ to see the paintings, browse the archives and library or have a tour of Ingliston House and grounds. Contact Alain in advance to arrange a visit on 0131 335 6277 or email awright@rhass.org.uk.

Historical Transactions of the Society can be found on www.rhass.org.uk/archive/

SCOTTISH SALMON

The RHASS celebrates the best in farming, food and rural life. As the leading producer of the finest sea loch fresh salmon, The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) is proud to be part of the farming community.

Whether in agriculture or fish farming, all farmers are stewards of the natural environment. The farming industry is a success story for Scotland, supporting employment for tens of thousands of people and contributing billions to the economy each year.

While farming has been the lifeblood of Scotland for centuries, salmon farming is a relatively new industry which has come a long way in a short time. Contributing £595m to the local supply chain and supporting over 10,000 jobs, the sector's significance is clear.

With people at its heart, SSC employs 650 staff across 60 rural and remote sites in the west coast of Scotland and Hebrides, in areas which are often classed as economically fragile.

The waters of the remote Hebridean islands are the perfect environment to rear Native Hebridean Salmon, a pedigree breed with unique origin and heritage. The result of a ten-year broodstock programme, this award-

winning salmon is descended from the wild salmon of North Uist, reared in their native environment and traceable to the Hebridean islands. It takes three years to raise a Native Hebridean Salmon from egg to plate, with a focus on slow, healthy growth. The resulting salmon has a firm texture and delicate fresh taste and is available fresh at Waitrose or smoked at the Harris & Lewis Smokehouse.

Native Hebridean is about much more than developing a unique strain of Salmon. It is about protecting Hebridean provenance and ensuring true sustainability by adding value in remote and rural communities, developing specialist skills, and creating long term employment. SSC has also invested in the development of a new Family Breeding Facility on Uist and the Harris & Lewis Smokehouse in Stornoway. These investments create and retain value in the rural areas in which SSC operates. In fact, SSC is the largest private employer in the Outer Hebrides, with 220 staff across 25 sites.

The Scottish Salmon Company views Native Hebridean Salmon as a long-term investment, not just in the business, but in rural Scotland.





MEMBER OFFERS

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As the end of 2019 draws near, it is naturally a time for reflection. What strikes me when reading my Last Word from Society Magazine in Autumn 2018 is how little seems to have changed. Brexit loomed large 12 months ago and still it occupies much of our column inches. Uncertainty in the sector is without doubt having a significant impact on farmers, their business and most importantly their wellbeing, and RHASS will continue to play an active part in initiatives that support our Members and those who work in the sector.

You will have seen on social media that the reaction to the RHASS on Tour initiative has been hugely positive. We want to get out and about to meet Members on their own patch and to engage, as without our Members and our links through the Directors, we are much poorer as a Society. We have had some interesting suggestions as to how we can improve as a charity and increase membership engagement, and we have also significantly improved understanding of RHASS commercial activities and how they help us deliver on behalf of rural Scotland. This isn't a one off, so if you want to hear more, or for us to be involved, please do speak to us directly.

Back at home, RHASS continues to build on three years of significant investment in the infrastructure of the showground. We are making good progress with our plans and have been pleased with the member engagement in what we are doing and hoping to achieve. To do this we need to ensure we invest wisely and make positive long term decisions - just like many of you do in your own businesses!

The most obvious example of this investment is the new Pavilion which will host our Members in style during the four days of the Show, from 2020. It will also provide an important hub for our industry to gather to debate the key issues that face our sector and also celebrate our successes. Please do let us know if you can help us fund this building.

This year, RHET marks a significant milestone and we look forward to gathering to celebrate all of its achievements at a fundraising dinner on 21 February 2020. RHASS is proud to be a major funder of RHET, however we know we cannot do this alone so we are pleased RHET has received funding from Scottish Government, industry businesses and individuals to ensure RHET's work can continue. With more resources, RHET and RHASS can deliver more, our role of promotion and education remains as relevant today as it did when we were founded 235 years ago.

As we say goodbye to 2019 and welcome in the opportunities 2020 brings, I would like to pay tribute to my team who have worked tirelessly to deliver not only a record-breaking show, but also the on-track delivery of the new Pavilion, a busier-than-ever events schedule and a membership drive that continues to grow. It is with great pride we see our team identify and implement innovative ways to drive the Society forward, and we celebrate their efforts alongside those across the Society in all of our various sections. Recognising, investing in and nurturing our own talent is one way we can ensure we can have the best people, in both the Society and sector, for the job.

I take this opportunity thank you, our Members, for putting your trust in the Directors and staff to carry on RHASS' charitable remit - we take this responsibility seriously and will continue to drive advancement and protect the interests of the agricultural sector.

I wish you and yours the very best for Christmas and the coming year.

Alan Laidlaw, Chief Executive



This is farming

You'll find Lynn in the field, the factory or the boardroom. It's her products that belong in the kitchen. With our industry specialists, we're proud to help women in agriculture thrive, like Supernature Oils' Lynn Mann.

#ThisIsFarming

Lynn Mann, Supernature Oils

Partner of the Royal
Highland Show since 1981



Royal Bank
of Scotland