

society



THE RETURN OF THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

- + 8-page Show pull out + Lighting up Scotland with RHS Illuminated
- + What members can expect this year

Contents

3	Chairman's Welcome
4-5	News
6-7	Royal Highland Show Illuminated
8	Be Your Best Self programme
9	2021 Annual Review
10	Bicentennial Fund
11-18	Royal Highland Show pull out
19-21	Royal Highland Education Trust
22-23	Royal Highland Centre
24-25	2022 Presidential Initiative
26	Royal Highland Show TV
27	Chief Executive's Last Word



4



6



19



24



26



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

FRONT COVER - The Royal Highland Show Illuminated at Alloa Tower





ROYAL
HIGHLAND &
AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY OF
SCOTLAND

DEAR MEMBERS

As I sit down to write my last introduction to Society magazine, I am struck by the excitement and anticipation that the upcoming Royal Highland Show, RHS 200, is generating.

The recent 'Royal Highland Show Illuminated' project that we have taken to our 8 regions - re-connecting with you, our members, while at the same time bringing the Show back to the fore - has been a real highlight.

The history and the heritage of the Show was brought to life in vivid detail and gave us a real sense of looking back and celebrating the legacy of the first Show, founded in 1822 by the gentlemen of the Highland Society of Edinburgh as it was then. What would they think if they were able to time travel to today and see what a mighty oak their little acorn has grown into?

To be able to celebrate the 200th anniversary of that first Show is really special – not just for us as directors, staff and members of the Society but also for the wider communities that have missed the opportunity to get out and about and meet one other.

As I said often during our tour of Scotland, it is for those people who have a connection to the Society, very often spanning many generations, that we hold this magnificent event every year (well almost!), and I'm sure, like me, you can't wait until the 23rd of June.

I have also been reflecting on my time as Chairman of this illustrious Society. When I took the chair in July 2019, I, like everyone else, could not have envisaged what was to befall us with the arrival of the Covid pandemic. The effect on all our lives has been dramatic and, as we have documented many times in the past two years, the effect on the Society was equally significant. I look back on the various milestones since then with a huge amount of pride – not personal,



but for the collective courage and commitment shown by the Board of Directors and staff to plot a way through some pretty dark corridors and, with the support of the membership, to find that light at the end of the tunnel, emerging intact having weathered the storm.

The strength of the Society sits with all of us, members, directors and staff, and we have all played our part in the recovery thus far. As a result, we can look forward with confidence to the future. I feel humbled and privileged to have been able to lead RHASS through this momentous period of its history.

Speaking of privilege, the Chief Executive and I were invited to represent the Society at the memorial service for The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh at Westminster Abbey in March. We were honoured and delighted to be able to do that on all of our behalf – a very special, albeit sombre, occasion.

Finally - and I make no excuse for this – back to the RHS 200. The absolute highlight of this year's Show will be the chance to show off our new pavilion to our members and guests. It is a wonderful building and fitting to be at the heart of our showground at Ingliston. Let's meet there, celebrate and be proud to be part of this wonderful organisation.

I'll see you there!

Bill Gray, Chairman

UNVEILING THE PAVILION AT INGLISTON



The official name for the new RHASS members building has been revealed.

The Pavilion at Ingliston is the centrepiece of the showground and has been designed as the focal point for our members during the Royal Highland Show, while providing a state-of-the-art events space capable of hosting conferences, meetings, and gala dinners throughout the year. Read more about The Pavilion on pg 22.

THE NEW RHASS MEMBERS BUILDING, THE PAVILION

AWARDS & GRANTS

APPLY NOW FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDY TOUR FUNDING

As part of its commitment to supporting Scottish agriculture and our rural communities, the RHASS Board has unveiled a new award to enable RHASS members to apply for funding to finance a structured study trip to a Royal Agricultural Society (or equivalent) annual show event, to develop relationships and bring back ideas and observations which can make a tangible difference to RHASS and/or Scottish Agriculture.

This idea arose from a self-funded trip by Matthew Currie, RHASS Director, to the Royal Perth Show in Western Australia in 2018, from which he brought back a number of ideas which RHASS implemented. Reflecting its charitable remit, RHASS believes that such opportunities should not be restricted to those who are in the fortunate position of being able to afford such a trip.

Expressions of interest may be sent to the Secretary at awards@rhass.org.uk with "international study tour" in the subject line with an outline of the aims and objectives.



HEATHER WILDMAN, ONE OF THE SIX CANDIDATES ATTENDING THE WOMEN IN FOOD & AGRICULTURE SUMMIT LATER THIS YEAR

WOMEN IN FOOD & AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

RHASS has awarded funding for six candidates to attend the Women in Food & Agriculture Summit – Alix Ritchie, Judith Taylor, Chloe Stewart, Heather Wildman, Lesley Mitchell and Carole Brunton have been announced as the candidates who have earned their place on the trip.

Taking place in Frankfurt, Germany from 14-15 June 2022, the funding will provide the opportunity for the chosen candidates to network and learn from other women working across the worldwide food and agricultural sector.

EVENTS & SPONSORSHIP

SCOTTISH SHOWS FORUM

The 2022 Scottish Shows Forum took place this February, bringing together over 80 delegates representing 40 Scottish agricultural shows from across the country.

Established in 2016, the Forum provides a free platform for Scottish agricultural show organisers to come together, share best practice and learn from one another. RHASS facilitates the Forum to enable knowledge transfer among local show teams and support their common goal of educating the public about the origins of their food.

SCOTLAND FOOD & DRINK EXCELLENCE AWARDS

RHASS is delighted to once again be sponsoring the Scotland Food & Drink Excellence Awards, taking place 8th September 2022.

The event will celebrate the companies, teams, individuals, and employers who are raising the bar and helping to build Scotland's reputation as a land of food and drink.



LANTRA SCOTLAND ALBAS

RHASS is proud to be associated with the Lantra Scotland Awards for Land-based and Aquaculture Skills (ALBAS), which support young people living, learning, and working in rural Scotland.

RHASS supports two ALBAS categories – one being through CARAS (Council for Awards of Agricultural Societies) award, which was established by the UK's four agricultural societies. This year's winner was Alicja Blaszczyk, aged 24 from Ormiston in East Lothian, who has been undertaking a Modern Apprenticeship in General Agriculture at George Brown & Sons through Borders College. She was also awarded the Modern Apprentice of the Year and Agriculture Learner of the Year prizes.

The other is the Secondary Schools Award, given in recognition of schools with exceptional standards in rural skills training. This year the award had joint winners - Wallace Hall Academy in Dumfries and Galloway and The Nicolson Institute in Stornoway.

LONG SERVICE

RHASS is very proud to continue to celebrate those who have received a long service award by providing two free tickets to the Royal Highland Show. This is a change from previous years when up to four tickets could be requested and reflects the restrictions on capacities and changing demographics.

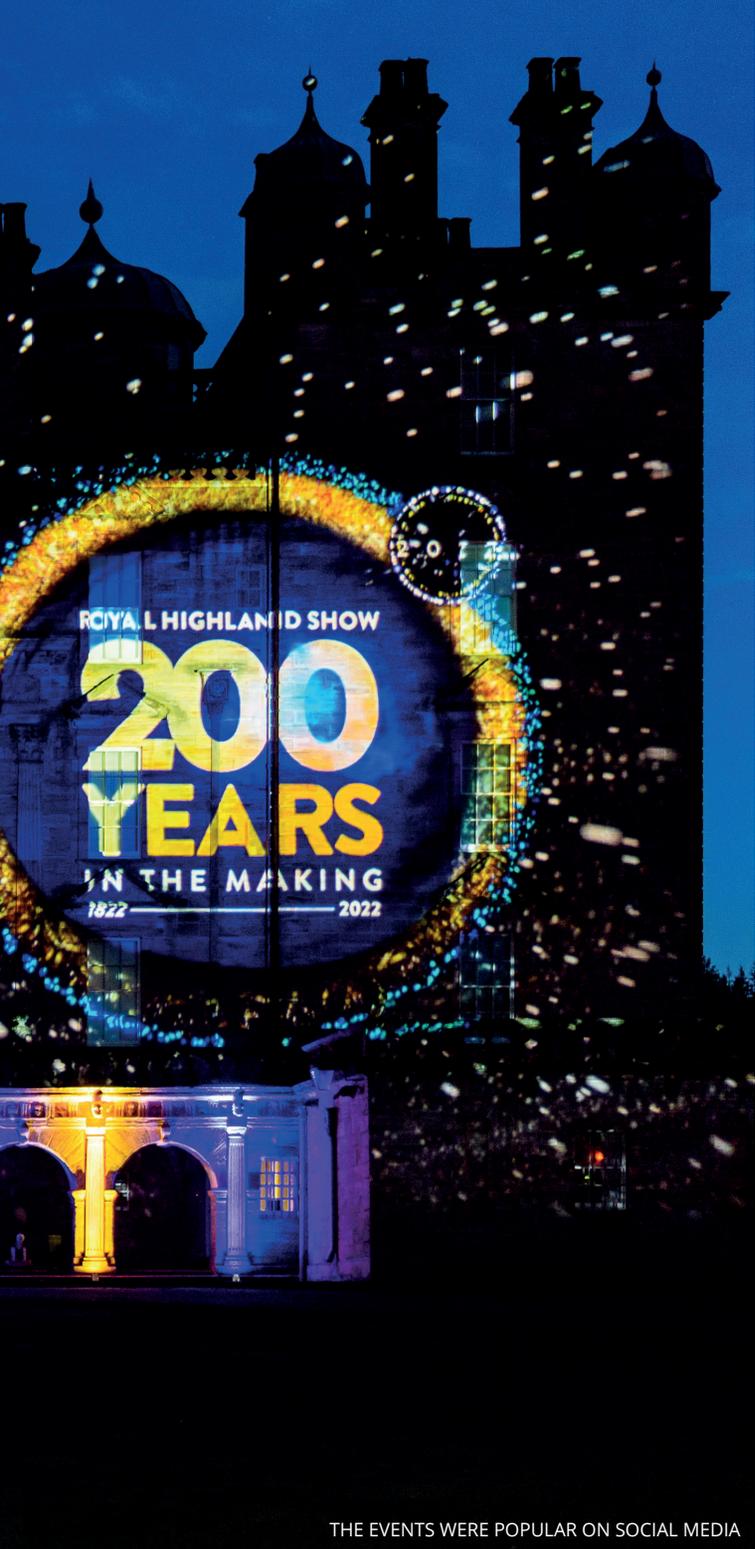


THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW ILLUMINATED

Earlier this year, the Royal Highland Show marked its 200th anniversary with a series of immersive storytelling installations, projecting its rich history onto historic landmarks and buildings across Scotland.

Taking place across March and April, the events, produced in association with Turcan Connell, projected expressive imagery, woven together with never-before-seen treasures and untold stories from the Show archives, creating a magical experience which truly brought the Show's illustrious history to life.

The immersive events aimed to raise awareness of the Show and highlight its positive impact on Scotland throughout the years.



THE EVENTS WERE POPULAR ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The installations featured a 5-minute-long visual history of the Show, told through animations, images, films and archive footage. They took place in eight locations around Scotland, from Dumfries & Galloway to Inverness, referencing how the Show would tour each of the RHASS regions annually before it settled permanently at Inverness in 1960.

The Royal Highland Show is a key moment in both Scotland's events and agricultural calendars - these installations showcased its wide-ranging impact and influence over the last two centuries while looking to the future of both the Show and the Society.

RHASS Chairman Bill Gray commented:

To celebrate the bicentenary of the Show, we wanted to do something special. The Royal Highland Show Illuminated is the perfect way to give back to regional communities and the RHASS membership across Scotland and herald the return of the Show.

“After two long years without a full Show, we are going all out to make the 200th anniversary Royal Highland Show the best one yet. The events were a powerful and poignant portrayal of the Show’s value and importance to Scotland’s communities.”



180,074

PEOPLE REACHED ON SOCIAL MEDIA



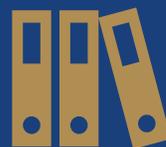
1780

VISITORS ATTENDED
ACROSS THE 8 DATES



539

MEMBERS ATTENDED
THE EVENTS



170

PIECES OF ARCHIVE
CONTENT USED

BE YOUR BEST SELF

A personal development programme for women in agriculture



BE YOUR BEST SELF PARTICIPANTS

The Scottish Government-funded, but independently delivered, 'Be Your Best Self' programme supports women living or working in agriculture in Scotland.

It forms an integral part of the Scottish Government's vision to make Scottish agriculture a fairer, more inclusive industry, where farm succession is not determined by gender. Training is accessible to all women with the hope that more will take on senior roles in agricultural organisations helping to make Scottish agriculture a more resilient and economically sustainable industry.

The specific aims and objectives of the Be Your Best Self programme are to support the participants to build their confidence and enhance their networking skills. The programme is delivered by experts from within organisational development, career

coaching, mental fitness, psychotherapy, and rural marketing. Content includes building resilience, sustaining or enhancing mental fitness, identifying your strengths and understanding how to play to them, as well as working with others and building a wide and relevant network.

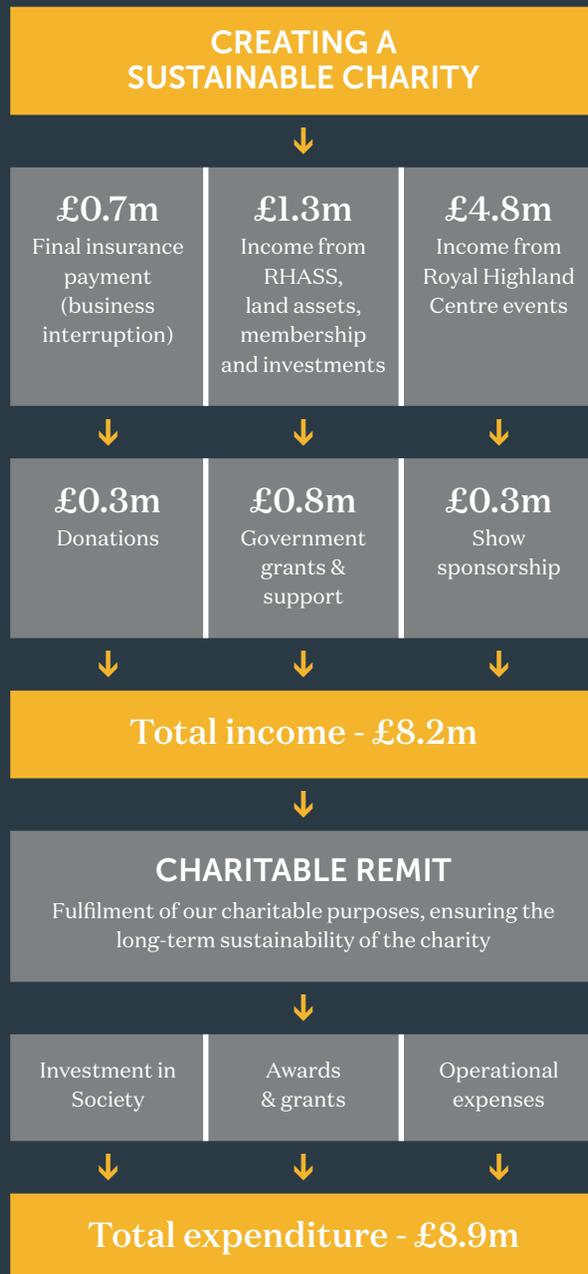
Approximately 60 women have already participated in the programme and have benefited from improvements in their confidence, gained a deeper understanding of their own skills and seen first-hand the value of meeting and engaging with other like-minded women.

Sarah Cowie, participant, said: "This is a fantastic course, it was great to meet and learn from not only the other participants but also the course facilitators."

**APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR FUTURE COHORTS.
TO LEARN MORE AND APPLY VISIT WWW.BEYOURBESTSELF.SITE**



ANNUAL REVIEW 2021



**The full Annual Report and Accounts 2021
can be viewed online at
rhass.org.uk**

INTRODUCING THE BICENTENNIAL FUND

Throughout our long history, RHASS has been committed to rewarding excellence and innovation by granting awards that reflect the sentiments contained in our Royal Charter - improvement, encouragement, benefit, communication, preservation and advancement.

We actively support new talent and offer numerous grants and scholarships for students and young people looking to advance their careers and life experience.

The Bicentennial Fund is a new fund set up by RHASS to commemorate 200 years of the Royal Highland Show.

Through the Show, RHASS has been the backbone of the rural community in Scotland for generations. For 4 days of the year, the Show helps us all combat the difficulties of rural living by offering community, support and friendship.

Right now rural Scotland faces challenges unlike any that we have seen before. Living and working in rural areas has never been easy, and today's political and environmental changes, alongside the Covid - 19 pandemic, political and military unrest across the globe and spiralling costs, are causing even more complexities. Our communities and the wider sector need our support to live and work on the land that we have all loved for generations.

The establishment of the RHASS Bicentennial Fund has been created with the purpose of helping those who live, work and breath rural life overcome these challenges.

The RHASS Bicentennial Fund will support 4 key areas:

**Mental Health
Environmental / Sustainability
The Next Generation
Women in Agriculture**



Celebrating
200 years
of the Royal Highland Show

YOUR GUIDE TO

THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW 2022

2022 is a significant milestone in the Royal Highland Show's history. With celebrations planned to mark the 200th anniversary since the very first Show was held way back in 1822, this year Scotland's biggest and best outdoor event is truly back with a bang!

After two years without a full Show, visitors, competitors, and exhibitors will be chomping at the bit to get back in the showground this June. And RHASS can't wait to welcome them through the gates to join us for a Show to remember!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

Firstly, I want to say a huge thank you to you, the members of the Society, who have responded in your thousands to our call to provide us with an email address as part of your membership record. This is part of our ongoing modernisation of our back-office systems as reported through the last two Annual Reports.

Being able to communicate regularly and in a more tailored way with our members is vital, as well as enabling us to save significantly on post and printing costs. As a charity, it is important that we make best use of all of our resources and assets.

The focus of this edition of Society magazine is, of course, the upcoming bicentennial Show and we have been communicating with you all regularly (some may say too regularly!) over the last few months to ensure that everyone knows what they need to do ahead of the Show, particularly with regards to letting us know on which days you plan to come.

Coming to the Show

Members, of course, have priority to attend the Show and, whilst many of our members know which days they will be attending well in advance, for those who need to retain flexibility then you should book all four days. If you subsequently find you are not coming on one or more days then please contact us at membership@rhass.org.uk to let us know. Members will have priority to attend the Show, however if members are unable to come on a given day or days, then it would be of benefit to the Society to sell an additional ticket to a member

of the public and thereby raise further charitable funds to support others.

All members for whom we have a valid email address will receive a link to an online form to reserve their days at the Show, Junior members' guest badges and children's tickets. Car parking can be bought via Ticketmaster. Members are able to purchase a maximum of four discounted Show entrance tickets for Friends & Family at £25 per ticket and one Adult Member Guest badge per day at £15. Please look out for an email from us in May to buy these. If we do not already have a unique email address linked to your membership, please email us at membership@rhass.org.uk quoting your full name and membership number as soon as possible to ensure you don't miss out.

Booking in advance

We have had some queries from members about why we are asking people to book in advance for car parking and public tickets. This is common for most events, particularly post-pandemic and, provided the Show is not sold out on a given day, advance tickets will be able to be purchased online (e.g. on a smart phone) just outside the gates or on the way to the event. We are advising people to purchase now to avoid disappointment in the

event that one or more days sell out.

We have also had some queries about capacity at the Show. We have set capacities for each day for both the Show and car parking. This is a necessity for public safety and everyone's safe enjoyment of the event. If the Show is a sell-out on all four days then we would still be able to host more people than at the record-breaking 2019 Show. Car parking is, of course, always limited by the space available and this year is no different. The only change is the requirement to book in advance. We gave all members early notice of this as it is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Members' Area

The new Pavilion at Ingliston is at the heart of our expanded Members' Area for the Show. Once you have reserved your days at the Show, your members' badge will be sent out to you. Also in your pack will be a map of the Members' Area so you can plan your visit. Keep an eye on our website and socials for updates on delivery times.

I look forward to seeing you at the Show in June!

Marie Livingstone
Society Secretary

What's new in the competition rings

THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE BUSTLING SHOW RINGS WILL BE A WELCOME EXPERIENCE FOR COMPETITORS AND VISITORS THIS YEAR – WITH MANY HAVING NOT EXPERIENCED THEM FOR THREE YEARS.

This year, two new sheep classes for Dutch Spotted and Valais Blacknose will feature, as well as two new equestrian classes, Maxi Cob of the Year Championship and Mountain & Moorland Junior 122cm Working Hunter Pony of the Year. This is in addition to a number of classes being upgraded to Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) qualifier status.

To celebrate the bicentenary, a range of special commemorative rosettes, prize cards, sashes and medals will be awarded this year – including medals with gold finishing, a change from the usual bronze version awarded in other years. The magnificent Fletcher McDiarmid Trophy, an incredibly ornate and historic award, will also return this year to be presented to the Overall Beef Champion.



COMPETITORS WILL BE EAGER TO GET BACK IN THE RINGS THIS YEAR



THE FLETCHER MCDIARMID TROPHY



YOUNG HANDLER CLASS AT THE SHOW



DAIRY CATTLE CLASS AT THE SHOW

200

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF T

SHOWCASING SCOTLAND'S FOOD & DRINK

THE FOOD & DRINK HALL IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR PARTS OF THE SHOW



2021 CHEESE CHAMPION



A RANGE OF SCOTTISH DELICACIES ARE SHOWCASED

THIS YEAR SEES SOME EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS FOR FOOD AND DRINK AT THE SHOW.

The food hall experience has been completely re-designed - 'Scotland's Larder' as it's now known, will offer an unrivalled showcase for the very best produce from Scotland and around the UK.

There is a focus on Scottish produce of course, with over 75% of exhibitors in Scotland's Larder based in Scotland.

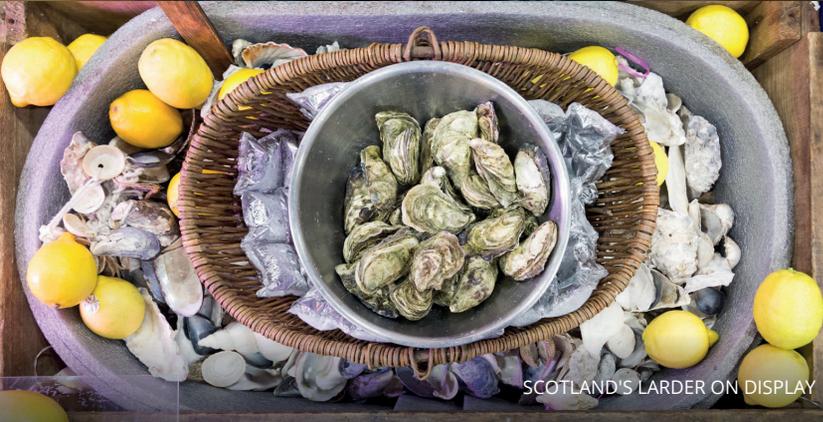
Tying in with the Highland & Islands Presidential Team initiative, there will be a Bothy placed in the centre of the hall. This will house a café hosted by the team at Mimi's Bakehouse, serving delicious cakes and coffees.

This new area has been designed to completely enhance the food and drink experience at the Show, with congestion eased and more opportunities to stop and savour the variety of tastes on offer.

The winners of the Scottish Championships for Dairy, Bread and Honey products will also be announced and celebrated at the Show. Expect to see lovely loaves, beautiful butter, and heavenly honey on display, with well-known names and artisanal producers alike competing for the most prestigious produce awards in Scotland.



THE SCOTTISH BREAD CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE JUDGED IN 2021



SCOTLAND'S LARDER ON DISPLAY

Entertainment like never before

As if the Royal Highland Show wasn't enough to entertain - The Big Top is coming to Ingliston and visitors this year will have the chance to extend their stay to attend a concert on the Saturday evening.

Known for their anthemic alt-rock, Scotland's very own Biffy Clyro will bring their prog-rock-influenced sounds to The Big Top on 25th June 2022. The Ayrshire trio's latest album has received rave reviews and this, along with their iconic hits, will certainly call for a night not to be missed!

The concert will take place outwith the main showground on the west side, well away from all areas where livestock and horses are stabled penned or stalled.

The Royal Highland Show site will be fully secured and fenced, with dedicated security in place. Animal welfare remains RHASS' top priority and staff and directors, who understand the needs of Show livestock and their handlers, have been fully engaged in the process.

Of course, there will also be the usual entertainment offerings across the Royal Highland Show itself - expect everything from pipe bands and ceilidhs to choirs and pop music!

DF CONCERTS PRESENTS

BIFFY CLYRO

SOLD OUT

25/06/22
ROYAL HIGHLAND CENTRE
EDINBURGH
GIGSINSCOTLAND.COM

THE BIG TOP



Brand-new Kids Zone

ANOTHER EXCITING NEW FEATURE FOR 2022 IS THE INTRODUCTION OF A DEDICATED KIDS ZONE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AREA.

This interactive experience is sure to delight kids and parents alike and will feature activities like a nature trail, featuring outdoor play equipment and John Deere mini tractors!

Children will be able to take part in activities, including looking at the soil with microscopes to discover bugs and beasts, and find out more about the history of the Royal Highland Show in a fun, interactive way.

Getting there

AS USUAL, THERE IS A COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL PLAN IN PLACE TO ENSURE VISITORS CAN GET TO AND FROM THE SHOW AS EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE.

Hopping on public transport remains the easiest and most sustainable option for getting to the Showground. Travel by tram, train, or get dropped off at the gates by the bus.

If visitors do want to take the car, booking your parking tickets in advance is required – there will be no parking tickets available on the day!

Be sure to visit the Royal Highland Show website to view the full public transport travel plan.



200



FLOCK TO THE SHOW

TO CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF GOLDEN SHEARS TO THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW IN 2023, RHASS IS DEVELOPING A LARGE-SCALE PUBLIC ART EVENT ACROSS THE COUNTRY, TITLED 'FLOCK TO THE SHOW'.

The event will feature more than 35 specially designed sheep sculptures that will form a free trail of discovery for local people and visitors of all ages to explore, enjoy and learn about Scotland's long history of sheep production.

Each sculpture will be sponsored by local businesses, community groups and education organisations.

They will also be decorated by local artists and communities – all designed to celebrate the return of the Golden Shears, the international sheep shearing championships. The sculptures will be displayed in locations across the UK, creating a trail highlighting hidden gems and engaging with communities from Selkirk to Kirkwall, Harris to St Andrews.

Our flock shall return to the Royal Highland Centre during the Golden Shears, which will be the only time the public will see the entire flock together in one place.

Following Golden Shears our flock will be auctioned at a special event to raise funds that will support the Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland and the work we and our partners deliver across the country.

Our flock will then scatter and find new homes across the world, ensuring a fitting legacy for the Golden Shears.

Join us at #RHS200 and see the first set come to life in the showground, where our first artists will decorate the sculptures live.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING A DESIGN FOR THE TRAIL, PLEASE EMAIL OUR SPONSORSHIP TEAM (SPONSORSHIP@RHASS.ORG.UK) INCLUDING YOUR NAME, LOCATION, ARTISTIC STYLE AND SOME EXAMPLES OF YOUR WORK.





THE FINALE OF YEAR OF BEEF



PUPILS CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF BEEF ON A FARM VISIT

Since August 2021, RHET has focused on sustainable Scottish Beef Farming, creating many new resources and activities for schools.

In October, we held a virtual farm visit week that saw 57,000 pupils from all over Scotland visiting 63 farms online. More recently, we had our live *Talk to a Farmer* week, where 20,000 school pupils took the opportunity to question 27 Scottish farmers about how they produce our food.

It was a very different experience for our volunteer farmers to engage with pupils online. Still, they all rose to the challenge and overcame the inevitable IT issues. All our new resources are free for schools and are available on our website now – scan the QR to be taken right to them!



RHET BREAKS NEW GROUND IN ARGYLL & BUTE

Despite the pause imposed due to the pandemic, progress is well underway the newest RHET region, Argyll and Bute. Sarah Farrell was appointed as the project coordinator in March this year, a key step for the committee, enabling their plans to be put into action.



SARAH FARRELL

FUNDRAISING & SUPPORT SIGN-UP

RHET could not continue its essential work across Scotland without the support from statutory bodies, grant-making trusts, corporate sponsorship, or individual personal donations.

With pandemic restrictions lifting, we need funding and support to help achieve our aims for the 2022-2023 year.

Funding is needed to help create and deliver resources, equipment, staff training, and the Royal Highland Show education programme.

Without the generosity of individuals and businesses, RHET would not be as successful as it is today.

To find out more, please visit www.rhet.org.uk/how-to-help

VOLUNTEERING WITH RHET

Volunteers are vital to the work that RHET does in educating young people about food, farming, and the countryside.

Signing up is simple, and can be done via our website. After you've signed up, you'll not only get support from your Local Coordinator and other volunteers, but you'll gain access to the RHET Volunteer Zone.

The Volunteer Zone has a host of resources to help you during your time volunteering.

These include information handbooks, guidance on how to deliver different types of presentations, how to host a farm visit, hands-on activity ideas, and more!

SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? VISIT RHET.ORG.UK/VOLUNTEERS FOR MORE INFORMATION OR RHET.ORG.UK/IN-YOUR-AREA TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL COORDINATOR.



THE JOURNEY OF FOOD: SEEDS & GRAINS

Last year, RHET celebrated all things related to the beef industry with its Year of Beef.

For the 2022-2023 academic year, we will be mixing things up with a new focus on all things related to seeds and grains.

The Journey of Food: Seeds & Grains will be launching materials for all levels about wheat,

barley, oats, oilseed rape, and combinable crops such as linseed, beans, and rye.

For schools, these will range from downloadable worksheets for the official Maths Week launch, farmhouse breakfast and Christmas activities, soils & sustainability, the history of cereals, and much more!



THE RHET DISCOVERY CENTRE WILL ONCE AGAIN BE A HIGHLIGHT AT THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

RHET AT THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW 2022

To help celebrate the 200th show this year, RHET is producing the 'Great Big A-Z of Food and Farming' story.

We will launch a page a day throughout June, with the whole digital book being released on the 26th of June. This story will cover a wide range of topics in a user-friendly way and be linked to various activities to get involved with.

RHET will also be offering digital engagement via its *Showtime Discovery Trail*. The trail will take young visitors around several points on the showground to learn more about food and farming.

The RHET Discovery Centre at the Royal Highland Show will host the *Grand Finale for Year of Beef*. We will be creating several interactive experiences for families and school pupils around beef farming.

These experiences will include learning the importance of using a weigh crush, auctioning some pupils through the ring, and allowing everyone to create their own rosette or badge. We will also demonstrate the importance of grass, the

nutritional value of beef, and condition scoring cows.

In addition, we have launched two competitions in the run-up to the Royal Highland Show.

Our acrostic poem competition invites pupils to compose a short poem using the title *Scottish Farmer*. The Scottish Farmer has sponsored this, and winning entries will be published in their magazine in the weeks before the show.

Pupils have also been invited to design their own rosette, which will be professionally made and presented to the champion of the Beef Cattle class at the Show. This competition has been sponsored by Johnston Carmichael and Murray of Redden.

The winners of both competitions will have the opportunity to take their class on a fully-funded RHET farm visit.

ROYAL HIGHLAND CENTRE EMERGES STRONGER POST-COVID

A host of music events means the venue is back with a bang!

The three-year £15 million investment programme into the Royal Highland Centre was a prudent decision by RHASS directors. During the pandemic, when most event venues battened down the hatches and went into forced hibernation, the 120-acre Royal Highland Centre pivoted from hosting live events to facilitating a giant pop-up Royal Mail sorting office and one of the largest vaccination centres in Scotland, amongst other uses.

Now with live events returning after a two-year hiatus, the Royal Highland Centre is gearing up to host many large-scale events in the coming months, including an exciting series of The Big Top concerts, and of course, the jewel in its crown, the Royal Highland Show.

The Big Top at the Royal Highland Centre will play host to some amazing names in

music in June 2022. Music fans can expect to spend a night under the canvas of The Big Top to get that legendary music festival feel.

Meanwhile, in August the Royal Highland Centre will be home to Connect Music Festival. This major event has an exciting main stage line up as well as DJs and acts set across a further three stages. In addition to this, there will be a wellness area, speakeasy, boutique camping, chefs, VIP experiences and fantastic food & drink.

The importance of the Royal Highland Centre in generating revenue to fund RHASS' charitable activities is significant, which is why the RHASS team will continue to work hard to position the venue as the best choice for large scale events in Scotland.



CONNECT

A DF CONCERTS PRESENTATION

FRIDAY 26 AUG
Massive Attack
 Jon Hopkins
 Black Coffee | John Grant
 Moses Boyd | Optimo (Espacio)
 Charlotte Adigun & Bolis Pupul | Future Utopia | Hammer
 Cloti | Moxie | YRA
 Plus more to be announced

SATURDAY 27 AUG
The Chemical Brothers
 Bonobo | The Twilight Sad
 Caribou | Ride (playing Noisette)
 Erol Alkan | LOW | Chloe Moriondo
 Matt Maltese | Willie | Healey | Nightwave | Swim School
 Plus more to be announced

SUNDAY 28 AUG
The National
 Mogwai | Bombay Bicycle Club
 Little Simz
 Idlewild (playing The Remote Part) | Self Esteem
 Black Country, New Road | Horse Meat Disco
 Admiral Fallow | Sudan Archives | Jamz Supernova
 DEHD | Rae Morris | Hamish Hawk | Lizzie Reid
 Rebecca Vasmant | Geese | Kathleen Frances
 Plus more to be announced

Coming Soon. Full line up and stage splits including DJs and acts across three stages. Plus: wellness area, in-campitation speakeasy, boutique camping, chefs table dining, VIP experiences and fantastic curated food & drink will be announced.

26—28 AUG
 ROYAL HIGHLAND CENTRE, EDINBURGH

CONNECT MUSIC FESTIVAL .COM

2022



THE
PAVILION
at Ingliston.

INTRODUCING THE PAVILION AT INGLISTON

Completed on time and on budget on the eve of the first lockdown in 2020, the new members' building, or The Pavilion at Ingliston as it is now known, is poised for its first Highland Show - the exquisite venue will come to life this June with members enjoying the best seat in the house overlooking the Main Ring.

Prestigious and light-filled, The Pavilion at Ingliston is also a perfect location for corporate events including gala dinners and meetings, as well as private parties such as weddings and anniversary celebrations.

From intimate gatherings to grand large-scale events, the venue's flexible space will ensure that

each event feels special. With approved caterers on site and a food charter to make sure visitors tuck into Scottish-produced food wherever possible, The Pavilion at Ingliston is a natural choice for events, particularly for those with a connection to the countryside.

The landscaped parkland and mansion-house provide a unique backdrop for photography, meanwhile the numerous hotels within easy walking distance, plus its convenient location close to Edinburgh Airport, mean The Pavilion at Ingliston will not remain a well-kent secret for long!



2022 marks 200 years since the Highland Society of Edinburgh held the first Show, so it seems fitting the Highlands and Islands are presiding over this year's celebration of rural life at Ingliston.

Some of the highlights include:

- The premiere of an immersive experience "transporting" visitors to the Highlands
- The chance to see a Harris Tweed loom in action
- A talk from the Budge Sisters of Shetland

The Highlands and Islands of 200 years ago was a different place from the vibrant and modern region we see today. Yet some things have stayed the same.

Our landscape is as stunning as ever from the pristine beaches of the Outer Hebrides to the towering mountains of the Cairngorms. Our cattle are grass fed and our crops still feed our livestock. And our people remain resilient and inventive, constantly seeking out new ways to best utilise our natural resources, be it marine energy or forest crofts.

HIGHLAND PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE



(L-R) THE 2022 PRESIDENTIAL TEAM - SANDY CUMMING CBE, ANDREW SHEPHERD, EWAN MACDONALD, ISOBEL MCCALLUM. (NOT IN PHOTO JANE CUMMING, REV. DEREK BROWN.)

That's why we're focusing on Natural Capital for the Presidential Initiative 2022. This is an opportunity for people to see the very best our region has to offer and take a peek back at the ways in which our area has been at the forefront of many innovations for centuries.

We plan to highlight three main themes under the umbrella of Natural Capital:

- Food and drink, showcasing our outstanding produce
- Tackling climate change, with a particular emphasis on renewable energy and peat restoration
- Tourism and the traditional arts, crafts and music which make this area special

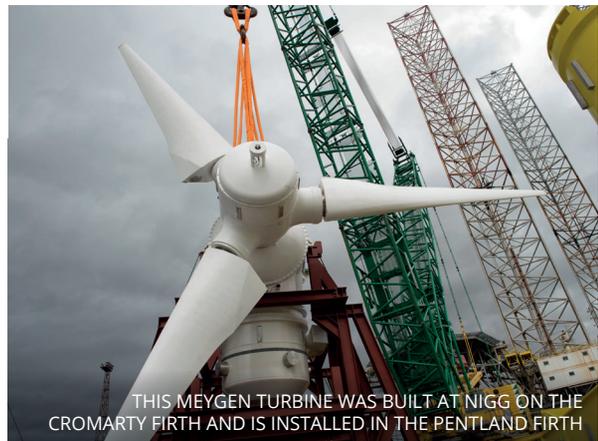
President Ewan Macdonald explained: "It's a particular pleasure in this special year to offer a platform to some of the young companies who are making their mark across our region."

The Presidential Initiative team has been determined from the start to ensure there is a profile for all parts of this wide and disparate region. There will be a showcase of more than 70 firms with a wonderful mix of established businesses, such as Johnston's of Elgin, alongside newcomers like Orkney Marshmallows, whose company emerged during COVID.



RHASS PRESIDENT
EWAN MACDONALD

Ewan highlighted the importance of encouraging new attendees, saying: "The Royal Highland Show is a brilliant opportunity for our businesses to showcase their products to 200,000 potential buyers and we've been delighted



THIS MEYGEN TURBINE WAS BUILT AT NIGG ON THE CROMARTY FIRTH AND IS INSTALLED IN THE PENTLAND FIRTH

to support those attending for the first time. As well as providing a platform it helps them make connections and encourage collaboration."

The Presidential Team is excited about telling the story of a region of opportunity and innovation:

- Home to the first hydro scheme in the country at Foyers on Loch Ness, we remain at the forefront of renewable energy with the European Marine Energy Centre on Orkney.
- An area where we started growing barley long before the first licensed distillery was created on the Black Isle in the 1600s - we are still helping make the best whisky in the world.
- A region whose stunning scenery and fascinating history is captivating new audiences worldwide thanks to new technology.

We look forward to seeing you at the Show!



RHS TV

The Royal Highland Show will take to the small screen to livestream this year's 200th anniversary event across the globe.

In what has been described as a 'game changer' for the Royal Highland Show, organisers have successfully secured £200,000 of funding from the Scottish Government to drive this ground-breaking initiative.



FILMING HIGHLAND PONY CLASSES AT THE 2021 SHOWCASE

The free-to-view RHS TV will see a dynamic mix of live and pre-recorded content broadcast throughout the four days, featuring the perfect balance of livestock judging, equestrian classes, culture, interviews, food & drink and of course, the grand parade.

Not only beamed across the globe, RHS TV will also be transmitted across the showground on giant screens throughout the four days. The content captured will be available to watch back on the Royal Highland Show YouTube channel.

The exciting announcement follows on from the success of the Royal Highland Showcase in 2021, which saw a total audience of 345,701 viewers watch the action online from across 97 countries.

RHS TV is just one of many exciting new initiatives planned to make the 2022 Show, which marks 200 years since the first Show took place, a spectacular event.

“This is a hugely exciting announcement which will allow us to bring the best of food, farming, and rural Scotland to audiences across the globe. The value the Show brings to the economy and also to Scotland the brand is reflected in the level of support we have received from the Scottish Government, for which we are very grateful.”

“RHS TV also presents great opportunities for sponsors and exhibitors to extend their reach beyond the 200,000 people expected to attend the event. This is yet another way in which we can add value and also generate revenue which allows RHASS to fulfil its charitable activities.”

Bill Gray, RHASS Chairman

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The challenges of recent years, however, will only make that return all the sweeter

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It is with a renewed sense of hope and optimism that I begin my Last Word for this issue of Society magazine. With the first full Royal Highland Show since 2019 on the horizon, I find that everyone I speak with is eagerly anticipating its return, along with all kinds of other events that have been sorely missed over the last two years.

The challenges of recent years, however, will only make that return all the sweeter. That we have missed out only goes to highlight the importance of this coming together for our collective wellbeing as a community. The entire RHASS team can't wait to welcome you all back through the gates of Ingliston for four days of celebrating the best of Scotland's farming, food and rural life.

The bicentenary of the very first Show offers added excitement this year – we'll be celebrating 200 years of this remarkable event. But while we look back, we'll also be looking forward to what the next 200 years will bring and how we can ensure the Show's legacy remains as vital as ever to Scotland and the wider world.

Of course, we have an array of exciting activity at the Show this year to help mark this milestone. Look out for new breeds in the sheep and equestrian rings, special commemorative gold medals for winners, the presentation of one of our most elaborate trophies and lots more that will be revealed in the run up to June 23rd.

Another highlight will be opening the doors of our members building, The Pavilion, for our members to visit for the first time. Completed right before the pandemic began in early 2020, it has been a long time coming for our members to experience this wonderful building.

One of the high points of 2021 was beaming the Royal Highland Show into homes across the world, with viewers delighted with the chance to witness classes they'd maybe never normally get to see when rushing around the showground. We are delighted to expand on this concept with the launch of RHS TV this year, achieved through the continued support of the Scottish Government.

So it is with real excitement that I wish you all a great summer ahead – topped off by once again coming together at the Show to exchange ideas, share stories and reconnect with one another. See you in June!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Laidlaw'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Alan Laidlaw, Chief Executive



Every dream needs a plan

