

society



A RECORD-BREAKING ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

- + Royal Highland Show 2023 + RHS Supreme Champions
- + Golden Shears 2023 return + Flock to the Show Raffle
- + Sir William Young Award 2023
- + RHASS Directors & Presidential Team 2023/24
- + Scottish Agriculture Awards

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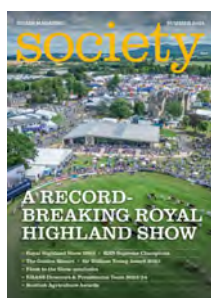
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FRONT COVER - RHASS hosts a record breaking show





ROYAL
HIGHLAND &
AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY OF
SCOTLAND

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME



As we recover from another jam-packed Royal Highland Show, I've been reflecting on the memories made this year. I'm sure you will have your own highlights to share and discuss, you may already be thinking about next year – I know I am!

What a Show this year - the weather, the livestock, technical innovations, Golden Shears, a special Royal visit, RHS TV, handcrafts, food, the Hoolie.... and so much more.

This year's event will be etched in my memory forever. As my first Show as Chairman there were naturally a few nerves, but the excitement enabled me to power through the four days! Thank you to all the Directors who delivered gold-standard levels of precision in everything they undertook to ensure we delivered an outstanding event.

Sincere thanks to RHASS CEO Alan Laidlaw and the wider team who created a magnificent event through collaboration and sheer hard work. Thanks also to all our sponsors for their continuing support, especially headline sponsor, Royal Bank of Scotland, who have now been partnered with the Show for 42 years.

As the heart of our Society, yet more thanks go out to all of our Members who continue to support our efforts to promote and protect rural Scotland and its associated sectors and interests. I managed to catch up with some of you in our wonderful Members Village and hope to continue to do so throughout the year.

I take great pride in being part of the team behind this remarkable event. This extraordinary gathering allows visitors to immerse themselves in the best of farming, food and rural life. Moreover, it provides a platform for farmers to come together, reminisce and learn from

one another. The Show's universal appeal is demonstrated by the huge numbers and variety of people who enter the gates of Ingliston every year - city dwellers and those from countryside communities alike, not to mention people tuning in virtually from afar through RHS TV.

When reflecting on 2023, it would be remiss to fail to mention the Golden Shears World Championships. It was a brilliant competition that captivated the attention of a global audience, all keen to witness the exceptional skills of the world's top shearers and wool handling talent.

I was delighted that my choice of Champion of Champions, judged at the Stirling Show earlier in the year, came up trumps at the Highland too. I would like to extend my congratulations to all our winners and express my appreciation to everyone who participated. Without you, there are no Champions.

The Royal Highland Show is a continuous cycle, and we have already had constructive feedback meetings with our Chief Stewards and wider team which will inform next year's event. Our new Directors are joining us in mid-July, with Chief Stewards also being appointed. It is safe to say that plans are well underway for a spectacular 2024 Show!

Given my lifelong immersion in agriculture, as Chairman of RHASS, being involved in the successful delivery of the Royal Highland Show 2023 has truly been a privilege and a huge honour.

Here's to 2024.

Jim Warnock, RHASS Chairman



ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW BACK WITH A BANG!

A COMPETITOR GETS NOSE TO NOSE WITH THEIR CLYDESDALE

The Show celebrates largest-ever attendance

This year's Royal Highland Show was a resounding success, welcoming a record number of visitors. Among the 217,000 attendees who flocked to the Show were the world's best sheep shearers, not to mention Scotland's fittest farmers, who competed in the Scottish heats of Britain's Fittest Farmer, all adding to an unforgettable 2023 event over four days at Ingliston.

The eyes of the world were on the Showground this year with over 150,000 views from 113 countries tuning in to RHS TV, to stream all the action from the main ring, including traditional rural skill displays, livestock judging and of course the excitement of the Golden Shears World Sheep Shearing & Woolhandling Championships.

And for those already eager to experience the wonder of the Royal Highland Show next year, tickets are available to purchase on the Royal Highland Show website (royalhighlandshow.org) for an incredible price of just £30. Don't forget, children aged 15 and under are free to attend, making for a fantastic family outing!

THE BEST OF FARMING, FOOD AND RURAL LIFE

Celebrating the best of Scotland's food, farming and rural life, this year's Royal Highland Show attracted notable attendees including Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, the Princess Royal; First Minister of Scotland, Humza Yousaf; Secretary of State for Scotland Alister Jack; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon; and Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Mark Spencer.

Emphasising inclusivity and the Show's standing as a great family day out, 26,500 children attended for free in line with the charitable remit of the Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS). This included school visits organised by the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET), as well as free entry tickets for kids aged 15 and under.

Showcasing Scotland's rich agricultural heritage while promoting education and accessibility, the Show ensures that the younger generation has opportunities to experience and learn all about rural life.



MAIRI GOUGEON SAYS HELLO TO A CLYDESDALE



PRINCESS ANNE MEETS EXHIBITORS, ACCOMPANIED BY RHASS CHAIRMAN JIM WARNOCK

CREAM OF THE CROP

This year's Show had some remarkable highlights, including the presentation of over 280 trophies to the champions selected from the entries of more than 5,000 cattle, sheep, horses, and goats that competed for coveted ribbons.

The Hanna family from Northern Ireland scooped the prestigious Queen's Cup for their Overall Clydesdale Champion, achieving the remarkable feat of winning it back-to-back. The last time the cup was awarded in the Heavy Horse category was in 2016, when the Hanna family also won with their Overall Clydesdale Champion – talk about keeping it in the family!

In a first for 2023, the Flock to the Show campaign, which travelled the length and breadth of Scotland, featured a trail of 38 strikingly decorated fibreglass sheep which visitors could find around the Showground.

The Flock are currently being raffled off on the Royal Highland Show website, with the raffle closing on the 2nd of October. All proceeds will go towards the RHASS Bicentenary Fund, which supports important projects and causes in the rural sector dedicated to mental health, sustainability, succession, and women in agriculture.

More information on the Flock to the Show raffle, and how you can enter can be found here: www.royalhighlandshow.org/flock-to-the-show

The RHASS Technical Innovation Awards, sponsored by Hillhouse Group, saw respected industry accolades awarded to agri-tech pioneers. Murray Machinery and Lely UK won Gold awards this year, with the winners being showcased in the new Agri Innovation Arena at the Show.

During the Scottish Championships, exceptional food producers and craftspeople were recognised for their outstanding achievements across competitions in Dairy, Honey, and Handcrafts – with St Andrews Farmhouse Cheese Co and Graham's the Family Dairy amongst those earning recognition for remarkable products. Their success highlights the dedication and quality that is to be found across the Show.



THE FLOCK TO THE SHOW SHEEP WERE DOTTED AROUND THE SHOWGROUND FOR VISITORS TO FIND



SCOTLAND'S LARDER OFFERS PRODUCERS THE CHANCE TO ENGAGE WITH VISITORS



THE ROYAL HIGHLAND HOOLIE WAS A HIT WITH SHOWGOERS

THE SHOW IN NUMBERS



217,000
VISITORS OVER 4 DAYS



26,500
KIDS ATTENDED FOR FREE



150,000
RHS TV STREAMS



5000+
SHEEP, CATTLE, HORSES &
GOATS COMPETED



800+
TRADE STANDS



113
COUNTRIES WHERE RHS TV
WAS STREAMED



280
TROPHIES AWARDED



38
'FLOCK TO THE SHOW' SHEEP



30
COUNTRIES COMPETED IN
THE GOLDEN SHEARS

A SHOWSTOPPER OF A WEEKEND

The Royal Highland Hoolie was yet another new and exciting addition to this year's Show, providing two great nights of entertainment in the West Arena on the Friday and Saturday. Presented in partnership with Farmers Bash, the Hoolie saw country music legends like Skipinnish, Skerryvore and Derek Ryan take to the stage to a crowd of over 4,500 across the two evenings.

"As we look back on another phenomenal Royal Highland Show, we are delighted to have had a record-breaking number of visitors pass through the gates. The strong demand is a testament to the fact that the Show has major appeal way beyond the loyal farming community – anyone and everyone can find something to enjoy, no matter your interest.

Our thanks go out to the hundreds of staff and volunteers who make this possible, and the RHASS Directors who give up their time year-round to make this incredible event possible".

Royal Highland Show, Head of Show, David Tennant

Sponsored by Royal Bank of Scotland, next year's Royal Highland Show will take place at the Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh, 20-23 June 2024.

For further information and to purchase tickets please visit royalhighlandshow.org.



A winner in the Charolais class



Showing competitors in the main ring



Over 26,000 children attended for free



The Land Rover Experience was popular with visitors



The Food for Thought Cookery Theatre hosted professional chef demos



Skill and speed on display at Scotland's largest equestrian event



Suffolks line up to be judged



The goat tent is always a popular destination



A young visitor enjoys the machinery displays



A young handler in the ribbons with their Hereford



Taking it easy in the Countryside Area of the Showground



A showcase for Scottish culture over the four days of the Show

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland gives grateful thanks to the companies, organisations and individuals listed below for their sponsorship, which is invaluable in maintaining the Royal Highland Show as Scotland's premier agricultural event.

TITLE PARTNER

- Royal Bank of Scotland

FLOCK TO THE SHOW

- Bell Ingram
- British & Ulster Wool
- DM Hall
- Edinburgh Trams
- Elanco
- Food Standard Scotland
- Galloway and MacLeod
- Harrison & Hetherington Ltd
- Hoggs of Fife
- HR Gray Haulage/ STS Trailer Centre
- Immediate Waste
- James Hutton Institute
- Kerbl
- Lothian Buses
- MacRobert Trust
- Moredun Foundation
- RHET
- Scotbeef
- Scotsman Group
- SRUC
- Taylors Snack Ltd
- Turcan Connell
- Vertu Group

GOLDEN SHEARS

- British & Ulster Wool
- Elanco
- Event Scotland
- Lister Shearing

- MacRobert Trust
- Taylors Snacks Ltd

ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

- Aberdeenshire Highland Beef
- ABO Wind UK Limited
- ABP
- Agrii
- Andrew Black Haulage & Storage
- Andrew Hamilton Coaching
- Archibald Buildings
- AW Jenkinson
- Balcormo Stud
- Blackadders
- Blackface Sheep Breeders Association
- Bonaly Farm Dairy
- Breedplan UK
- British Show Jumping
- British Wool
- Caledonian Marts
- Campbells of Oxton
- Carscreugh Farm
- Central Equine Vets
- Champfleurie Equestrian
- Clyde Vet Group Equine Hospital
- CO OP
- CRYSTALYX
- Danny's Events Catering
- Davidson & Robertson - Rural Surveyors and Consultants

- Dodson & Horrell
- DRB Youngstock
- Dunbia
- Elanco
- ESK Veterinary Consultants Ltd Evelyn Partners
- Falleninch Farm
- Farmers Guardian
- Frazer Coogans
- Galbraith LLP
- Gogar Services
- Graypaul Maserati Edinburgh
- Greenspan Energy
- Hamilton Tarmac
- Harbro
- Harrison & Hetherington Ltd
- Hillhouse Quarry Group Ltd
- Immediate Waste
- JBA Seed Potatoes
- Jimmy Warnock Chartered Accountants
- Kirkton Equestrian
- Lactalis McLelland Ltd
- Lawrie & Symington
- Lely Centre, Ayr
- Lister Shearing Company
- Loch Leven Equine Practice
- Marks & Spencer
- Mellow Homes
- Merlin Vets

- Morton Fraser
- Mrs Nancy Orr (Orr Family)
- Norbrook Laboratories
- North West Auctions
- NSR Communications
- Odysseus Capital Management
- Orkney Cheese Company
- Peter D Stirling Ltd
- Pollock Farm Equipment Ltd
- Quest Farming Supplies
- Ritchie Bland Energy Ltd
- Roma Ristorante, Perth
- Ruby Boutique
- Scottish Leather Group
- Bakkafrost Scotland (Scottish Salmon)
- Scottish Woodlands
- Shepherd & Wedderburn
- SR Cattle Services
- Strathallan Events
- Townfield Saddlers Ltd
- United Auctions
- Watson Seeds
- Worshipful company of Woolmen
- Wright, Johnston & Mackenzie LLP

GIFT IN KIND

We would also like to thank the following companies who have kindly lent equipment or donated products and services for use during the event.

- AW Woodwaste
- Clyde Vet Group
- Eastern Western Motor Group
- Gogar Services
- Grahams
- I for Williams Trailers Limited

- Lidl
- Ponsse
- Hamilton Brothers
- Rickmack

RHASS MEMBERS UPDATE

Thank you to all our Members for their continued support of the Society, it was fantastic to welcome you to the Royal Highland Show and we hope that you enjoyed your visit.



CROWDS ENJOY THE MEMBERS AREA AT THE SHOW

THANK YOU

We want to thank all our members for their patience as we dealt with the impact of the third-party mailing error of Members' badges prior to the Show. We are disappointed that this happened and apologise to all the members who were affected. Planning is already underway to make sure that this does not happen again in the future.

HAVE YOUR SAY – RHASS MEMBERS' SURVEY

Shortly, you will receive an email inviting you to take part in the RHASS Members' survey so that we understand what is important to You. The survey will cover RHASS's charitable remit, membership benefits, reserving your days at the Show and your experience and engagement with the Royal Highland Show. We would be very grateful if you could take the time to complete this, as this will help us make improvements going forward.

If you do not have an email address and would like to request the survey in hard copy format, please let us know by writing in to the **Membership Team, RHASS, Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh, EH28 8NB** by end of September.

2024

The team is already planning for 2024. Please look out for information about Director elections and our Annual General Meeting in future editions of the magazine. Those who pay their membership by instalments or on an annual basis will receive their renewal reminder towards the end of this year.

In January 2024 our Life Membership will rise to £2,550, if you want to sign up at the reduced rate of £2,125 make sure you sign up before the end of 2023. You can do this by signing up via the RHASS website (rhass.org.uk) or emailing the Membership Team at membership@rhass.org.uk.

If you have not already done so, it is really helpful if you can provide us with a current email address so that we can send correspondence electronically. As well as keeping costs down - which is so important for a charity, particularly in the current economic climate - it also helps avoid any issues with posting important documents. Please email membership@rhass.org.uk so that we can update your membership record.

Thank you for your engagement and continued support.



ROYAL
HIGHLAND
SHOW 2023
PARTNER SINCE 1981



Royal Bank
of Scotland

SUPREME CHAMPIONS 2023

OVERALL WINNERS

BEEF CATTLE, DAIRY CATTLE, SHEEP, HEAVY HORSE



OVERALL BEEF INTERBREED

R&J Graham
Grahams Ruth



OVERALL DAIRY INTERBREED

B&M Yates
Eedy Crushabull Acclaim



OVERALL SHEEP INTERBREED

W.J. Douglas & Son



OVERALL HEAVY HORSE & QUEENS CUP

Messrs Hanna
Macfin Delta Dawn

BEEF CATTLE



BEEF SHORTHORN
Harry Horrell
Podehole Rita Petunia



ABERDEEN ANGUS
M Alford
Blelack Princess Carina X125



GALLOWAY
Catherine Macgregor
Moss Chancellor



BELTED GALLOWAY
Castleton Farm Ltd
Croasdale Rhianna



HIGHLAND
William MacLean
Neoinean Ruadh 6th of Leys



HEREFORD
Liam Jackson-Carr
Coley 1 Vincent



BRITISH CHAROLAIS
Richard Mccornick
Ricnick Thor (ET)



BRITISH SIMMENTAL
R&A Simmers
Annick Ginger's Lucia



BRITISH LIMOUSIN
R&J Graham
Grahams Ruth



BRITISH BLONDE
Thor Atkinson
Broccagh Kingfisher



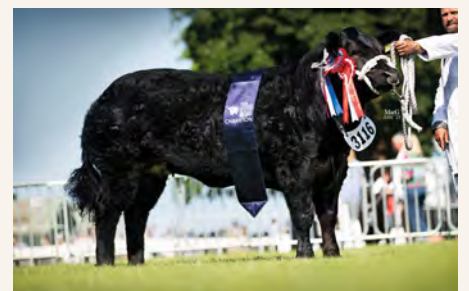
BRITISH BLUE
Alastair Jackson
Topgun Splash



LINCOLN RED
Mrs Sharon Buchan
Auchmacoy Xcalibur



SALERS
Traboyack Salers
Lisnamaul Rebecca



COMMERCIAL CATTLE
James Nisbet
Starlight



BEEF BREEDER NATIVE
Stuart G Mair & Sons
Muireisk Strongbow



BEEF BREEDER CONTINENTAL
Mr S & Mr T Illingworth
Glenrock Terminator



BEEF YOUNG HANDLER
Gregor Milne

DAIRY CATTLE



AYRSHIRE
A&S Lawrie
Religious Buntj



HOLSTEIN
B&M Yates
Eedy Crushabull Acclaim



DAIRY SHORTHORN
North Cassingray
Lisnamulligan Royal Kathleen 2



BRITISH RED & WHITE
B&M Yates
Dice Kiwi Red



JERSEY
Cowhill Trust
Kerricks Dakota Belle



ANY OTHER BREED
North Cassingray
Lismulligan Honeyschaap



HOLSTEIN CALF
W&A Watson
Chief Ellie



COLOURED CALF
Messrs John Adamson & Son
White Lily 5



DAIRY SHOWMANSHIP
John Caldwell

HEAVY HORSES



CLYDESDALE FEMALES & CLYDESDALES OVERALL
Messrs Hanna
Macfin Delta Dawn



CLYDESDALE MALES
Tom Tennant
Singlie Sargent



HIGHLAND PONY MALES & HIGHLAND PONIES IN HAND OVERALL
Mr C Grant
Dunedin Iolare



HIGHLAND PONY FEMALES
Heather Kerr
Tower Victoria



STANDARD SHETLAND
Mr S Sinclair
Unigarth Evangeline



MINATURE SHETLAND
Lynda Cochrane
Halstock Denver



HEAVY HORSE TURNOUTS
Hugh Ramsay
Yorkie



CLYDESDALE YOUNG HANDLERS
Erin Ralston



CLYDESDALE YOUNG STOCKMAN
Sophie Mitchell



RIDDEN CLYDESDALES
Isla Miller
Stobilee Zac



SHETLAND PONY YOUNG HANDLER
Christie Wilson
Oakley of Aukhorn



WORKING NATIVE
Drummond Estate
Sheena of Inverack



LIGHT HORSES



HUNTERS IN HAND
Mr W Moran
Corkeeran Willow



LADIES SIDE SADDLE HORSE
Mrs Heather Williams
Zafira



RIDDEN HUNTERS WEIGHTS AND SMALL, OVERALL HUNTER & OVERALL HUNTER UNDER SADDLE
Mrs Morean Hamilton
Rich Man Poor Man



SPORT HORSES IN HAND

Fenston Stud
Florian Von Faustinus



RETRAINING OF RACEHORSES

Mrs Morean Hamilton
Rich Man Poor Man



COLOURED HORSE & PONIES IN HAND

Nicoll Show Team
Withymead Captain Crunchie



HIGHLAND PONY UNDER SADDLE

Mrs Sarah-Jane Forbes
Kincardine Uist



WELSH PONY SECTION A

Mrs V Dyvig
Sunwillow Xspo



WELSH PONY SECTION B

Miss April Gilmartin
Janpete Class Act



WELSH PONY SECTION C

Miss Nicole Wayman
Abergavenny Hetti



WELSH PONY SECTION D

Mrs S A Garvey
Glynffynnon Pure Lady Diana



PART BRED WELSH & PRICE FAMILY SUPREME IN HAND

Miss Emma Gunn
Penskyber Mayflower



M AND M PONIES IN HAND

Miss Hayley Reynolds
Peronne the Navigator



CONNEMARA PONIES IN HAND

Mrs Karyn Thomas
Castle Marksman



PONY BREEDING AND ARAB & PB ARAB IN HAND

Mr Charlie Cousens
Colonel Mustard



RIDDEN SHOW COBS

Lady Anne Vestey
Taylors Hero



ARAB & PB ARAB RIDDEN CHAMPION

Mrs Emma Burrow
Absolutely Exceptional



ST JOHNS WELLS TROPHY

Mr David Thompson
Drybarrows Dynasty & Drybarrows Fallon



OVERALL M&M CHAMPION

Miss Nicole Wayman
Abergavenny Hetti



M AND M WORKING HUNTER PONIES

Miss Penny Sutton
Lovelyhill Folklore



SIDE SADDLE

Mrs Amy Bryan Dowell
Ceilis Bouncer



INTERMEDIATE SHOW HUNTER

Mr Paul Mortimer
Royal Illusion



SHOW HUNTER PONIES

Mrs J Harker
Penwind Charlie



SHOW PONIES

Mrs Julia Davies
Roseberry High Flyer



INTERMEDIATE SHOW RIDING TYPE

Mr David Jinks
Louie Chantry



M & M LEAD REIN & FIRST RIDDEN

Mr Martin Wood
Thistledown Silver Bullett



SHOW PONY LEAD REIN & FIRST RIDDEN

Mrs Laura Smith
Seamoor Lady Derby



LEAD REIN OF HUNTER TYPE AND FIRST PONY OF SHOW HUNTER TYPE

Mrs Tracey Brady
Priestwood Roc Star



PART BRED RIDDEN

Mrs Melanie Morris
Fieldaston Diamonte



DONKEYS

Mrs G.A.D. Burton
Todridge Nootka Rose



WORKING HUNTER PONIES

Mrs Janet Cowie
TGF Lucy



PRIVATE DRIVING

Mrs G Chippendale
Bunbury Sandringham



PLEASURE DRIVING

Mr W Walton
Waithwith Just Jon



WORKING HUNTER
Mrs Rebecca Brierley
Ernie Big



RIDING HORSES
Miss Jessica Ely
Caerini Voulez-Vous



**JUNIOR M & M RIDDEN
PONY OF THE YEAR**
Miss Leah Cassell
Rundales Trooper



BSPS NURSERY STAKES FINAL
Mrs Laura Smith
Carrwood Galileo



M AND M PONIES UNDER SADDLE
Miss April Gilmartin
Gems Malt Whiskey



**COLOURED HORSES AND
PONIES UNDER SADDLE**
Mrs Janet Hindley
Wards Place Photogenic



SHEEP



SHEEP YOUNG HANDLERS
Finlay Barclay



SUFFOLK
Mr Finn Christie



NORTH COUNTRY CHEVIOT
W&J Thomson



BLACKFACE
A MacGregor (Allanfauld) Ltd



LLEYN
C&C Crawford



RYELAND
T Wright



COMMERCIAL SHEEP
John Messenger



BORDER LEICESTER
S&A Watson



BRITISH BERRICHON
Frances Barbour



JACOB
Connor & Dalrymple



**NORTH COUNTRY CHEVIOT -
HILL SHEEP**
W N Douglas



CHEVIOT
W.J. Douglas & Son



TEXEL
Procters Farm Ltd



HAMPSHIRE DOWN
Eilidh & Innes MacKinnon



MacG
JUNE '23



SWALEDALE
J,E & D,J Hutchinson



**BLUEFACED LEICESTER -
TRADITIONAL TYPE**
Strang Steel, Philipaugh



**BLUEFACED LEICESTER -
CROSSING TYPE**
RJ Shennan & Son



CHAROLLAIS
Ben Radley



HEBRIDEAN
J&M Cuthbert



NORTH OF ENGLAND MULES
Philip J. Elliott



BRITISH ROUGE
JE Teasdale



BELTEX
Liam Swinnerton



ZWARTBLES
Nicola Henderson



SCOTCH MULE
A MacGregor (Allanfauld) Ltd



BLEU DU MAINE
Mrs Sally Shone



SHETLAND
Kate Sharp



BLUE TEXEL
Shortt & Donaldson



DUTCH SPOTTED
Rigghead Farm



VALAIS BLACKNOSE
Hardens View



CHAMPION DAIRY GOAT
Messrs Webster & Smith



GOAT YOUNG HANDLER
Cerys Southwood



OVERALL YOUNG HANDLER
Gregor Milne



WORLD SHEEP SHEARING AND WOOLHANDLING CHAMPIONS CROWNED AT ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

In addition to all the usual excitement of the Royal Highland Show, there was an additional cause for celebration this year – the return of the Golden Shears World Sheep Shearing & Woolhandling Championships.

Last held at Ingliston in 2003, RHASS won a competitive bid to host the competition and was thrilled to welcome teams from over 30 countries to compete at the showground this year.

Taking the well-deserved top individual titles are Gwion Lloyd Evans from Wales for Machine Shearing, Bonile Rabela from South Africa for Blade Shearing, and Rosie Keenan from Scotland for Woolhandling.

In the team's section, South Africa triumphed in Blade, Wales took both the title in Machine Shearing and Woolhandling.

The Golden Shears is the pinnacle for shearers and Wool Handlers. Teams came from as far afield as Chile, South Africa and New Zealand to compete.

New Zealand will host the 20th Golden Shears World Shearing and Woolhandling Championships in Masterton on March 4-7, 2026.

The Golden Shears was first held in 1977 and takes place every few years in different locations around the world, including South Africa, New Zealand, Ireland, Norway and France. Alongside the Golden Shears World Council, the host nation organises the championships with the aim of promoting and encouraging interest in wool and the art and skill of sheep shearing and woolhandling.

“The Society was delighted to finally welcome the Golden Shears this year, having won a competitive tender to host the event back in 2019. It was a brilliant competition that brought the world's eyes to Scotland to watch the very best in shearing and wool handling talent.”

Next year promises to bring the eyes of the world to the Royal Highland Show again as we help support the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth (RASC) 2024 conference and host the pre-conference tour of the 2024 Show.”

RHASS CHAIRMAN,
JIM WARNOCK

Watch back on all the action from Golden Shears on demand on RHS TV by scanning the QR code below



"It has been fantastic to see the Golden Shears back at the Royal Highland Show once again after 20 years. The event is a spectacular showcase of global shearing and Wool Handling talent, and having it at the heart of Scotland's premier agricultural show really shines a spotlight on the skill.

Huge congratulations to all of the winning individuals and teams. It takes an enormous amount of hard work, determination, and skill to reach this level and represent your country on the world stage."

RHASS CHIEF STEWARD OF SHEEP SHEARING, BRUCE LANG



GWION LLOYD EVANS FROM WALES WON THE MACHINE COMPETITION



BONILE RABELA FROM SOUTH AFRICA WON THE BLADE COMPETITION



ROSIE KEENAN FROM SCOTLAND WON THE WOOLHANDLING COMPETITION



SOUTH AFRICA TRIUMPHED IN BLADE



WALES TOOK THE TITLE FOR MACHINE



WALES FOR WOOL HANDLING

CELEBRATING 2023 TECHNICAL INNOVATION AWARD WINNERS



The 2023 winners of the Technical Innovation Awards, sponsored by Hillhouse Group, were presented with their awards at the Royal Highland Show this year - with 2 Gold, 4 Silver and 3 Certificates of Commendations being awarded.

The awards are the Society's most longstanding industry accolade, showcasing and rewarding innovation and development within the agricultural sector. The awards are highly respected by manufacturers, distribution providers and inventors. This year's technical innovations were on display next to the new Agri Innovation Arena.



Also presented with a prestigious Gold award this year is **Lely (UK) Ltd**, for the **Lely Collector 120**. Diverging from traditional manure scrapers, the Collector vacuums manure, resulting in a cleaner floor and maintaining the cleanliness of cows' hooves.



Gold awards are presented to previous Silver award winners for continuous outstanding merit. This year, **Murray Machinery Ltd** won Gold for the **Gravel Road Grader**. With this multi-functional grader, great savings can be made on time, effort and money spent on maintaining gravel roads.



R Mitchell & Sons were awarded a Silver for the **Whitriggs Bale Unroller**. Designed to aid the feeding of outwintered cattle, the Whitriggs Bale Unroller allows safe unrolling of bales without the use of heavy tractors and machinery.



H L Hutchinson Ltd won Silver for their **TerraMap**. Manufactured by **SoilOptix**, the TerraMap uses passive gamma-ray detection technology to provide high-definition mapping of soil nutrition, texture, organic matter, and organic carbon to generate some of the most detailed soil maps in the world.



Earning a Certificate of Commendation is **Powerwasher Services Ltd** for the **Plantmaster Electra Power Washer**, manufactured by **Mac International**. Plantmaster Electra Power Washer uses electricity to produce continuous hot water at a constant temperature which is controlled by a thermostat.



A Silver award was awarded to the **ClipFitter** castration and tailing system. Conceived by **Professor Vince Molony** and commercialised by **Eadie Bros and Co Ltd**, ClipFitter addresses the challenge of castrating and tailing lambs older than 7 days of age.



Dr Lynsey Melville and Eilidh Geddes, of the **Moredun Research Institute**, were awarded a Commendation for the **FEC Check**. FEC Check assists farmers on how to interpret complex FEC results - promoting the use of FEC testing, improving the sustainability of roundworm control, and reducing inappropriate chemical usage.



Water Fuel Engineering Ltd was awarded Silver for **HydroGen**. HydroGen generates a gas mixture of 2:1 hydrogen to oxygen, called oxyhydrogen, which functions as an additive to conventional fuel, enhancing engine performance and reducing emissions.



A Commendation was awarded to **Krone UK Ltd** for the **SmartConnect Solar**. The SmartConnect Solar is a self-sufficient telemetry unit that integrates simple machines into a digital data management system.

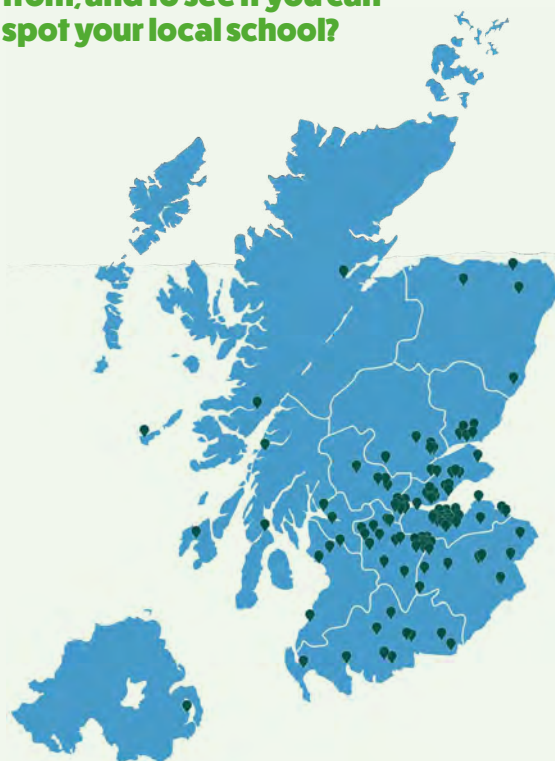
SCHOOLS 'SHOW UP' IN DROVES



RHET AT ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW 2023



Check out the map to see where everyone was travelling from, and to see if you can spot your local school?



We were thrilled to welcome 220 school groups to the showground, many of whom visited the RHET Discovery Centre on the Thursday and Friday of the Show! We met some returning teachers with their pupils, as well as those venturing to Ingliston for the very first time. One teacher commented "There really is something for everyone, thank you for making us feel so welcome!".

In total, school bookings amounted to over 7000 pupils and around 1200 accompanying adults. As well as school groups, we welcomed families over all four days and made sure there were plenty of drop-in activities for them to take part in. Counting families is something we haven't been able to master, but we know we welcomed hundreds of people of all ages!

COLLABORATING TO DELIVER HANDS-ON LEARNING

This year we were delighted to welcome Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, the James Hutton Institute, NatureScot and PeachyKeen into the Discovery Centre, all providing hands-on activities.

Zero Waste Scotland also provided a range of activities in the gardens of the Countryside Cottage, while the Scottish Beekeepers Association ran their popular sessions in the Honey Marquee. Aldi provided all the scone baking ingredients as well as our volunteer refreshments and snacks, all free of charge! ATS once again generously supplied RHET with a quad bike for visitors to climb onto which was as popular as ever.



ATS KINDLY SUPPLIED A QUAD BIKE



AS USUAL, SCONE BAKING WENT DOWN A TREAT!

SCONE BAKING STILL A FAVOURITE

This year we were back with scone baking sessions. Every half hour, we delivered a hands-on scone baking session, and over the duration of the 4 days an estimated 1,000 cheese or blueberry scones were made! Several visitors approached us to tell us they now make scones at home after making them at previous shows with RHET. We hope they all tasted as delicious as they smelled!

LEARNING ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY AT THE COUNTRYSIDE COTTAGE

This year, as well as the RHET Discovery Centre, the team were offering schools and other visitors the opportunity to make seed bombs in the Countryside Area.

The activity proved to be very popular with our young visitors - mixing compost, flour and wildflower seeds to create around 700 seed bombs.

Alongside the RHET seed bomb activity, our partner Zero Waste Scotland were offering activities around recycling, as well as a waste trail in the woodland area. They were also promoting the benefits of growing your own veg with the help of our demonstration vegetable bed.



SEED BOMB MAKING WAS A POPULAR ACTIVITY



FIRST MINISTER HUMZA YOUSAF VISITED THE DISCOVERY CENTRE

A VISIT FROM THE FIRST MINISTER

RHET secures annual funding from the Scottish Government to provide a farming and rural learning experience for a minimum of 80,000 pupils across Scotland. The funding secures the future of rural education events for children and young people, covering the core costs such as infrastructure, bus transport, coordination and safety requirements.

On the Friday of the Show, we welcomed First Minister Humza Yousaf so he could get a flavour of the work RHET provide during the event. During his time in the centre he spoke with volunteers, including RHET Board trustee Anna Davies, who gave him a whistle-stop tour of the seeds and grains session.

He asked pupils who were preparing to make their scones what they were looking forward to at the Show, watched the milk experiments and spent time hearing about our resources for teachers and reliance on volunteers. It was time well spent, helping demonstrate the diversity of engagement RHET achieves all year round.



THE WHEAT GRINDER DISPLAY WAS A HIT WITH YOUNG VISITORS

CELEBRATING SEEDS & GRAINS

It has been a busy and successful year for The Journey of Food: Seeds & Grains and the Show was a great place to finish off the year and hand over to 'Sheep & Wool' for the 2023/24 school year.

A variety of activities and events took place during the last academic year, from live streams to competitions to teacher training and much more! To celebrate the project, a number of interactive sessions were held at the Show, which proved incredibly popular with our visitors!

The oilseed rape press and the new wheat grinders were a big hit and our displays and Snack Attack Superheroes (sponsored by

Hamlyns) provided background information on the importance of seeds and grains for a healthy diet, with the free healthy snack recipe cards proving very popular.

Children and adults alike were amazed by the wide variety of ways oilseed rape can be used (including in the scones being made in the centre) and Hamlyn's funding had allowed two sets of information boards to be produced which were part of the display and will be available to all RHET areas in the future.

Although it is goodbye to seeds and grains, all the materials we developed over the year will still be available on the RHET website.



THE CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE SMASHED ITS FUNDRAISING GOAL



CHAIRMAN'S CYCLE CHALLENGE COMPLETED!

The Royal Highland Show was the finish line for our chairman Alistair's cycle challenge.

Over the course of two weeks, Alistair travelled throughout Scotland, cycling to schools in Gorebridge, Innerleithen, Moniaive, Dalmellington, Isle of Bute, Inverclyde, Falkirk, Airdrie, Nairn, Forres, Arbroath, Errol and Glenrothes, before finishing at the Royal Highland Show.

As he rolled up to Ingliston House, he was greeted by cheers from staff, directors and volunteers of both RHET and RHASS.

Donations were received via Just Giving, our corporate sponsors and donations made during the show in the RHET Discovery Centre. Which

adds up to a whopping total of over £22,000 - What an amazing job, very well done, Alistair!

Thank you to all those who supported the Chairman's Challenge, from the lunch providers, support vehicle drivers, pupils and teachers who gave Alistair such warm and loud welcomes, it helped get the miles covered!

Reaching this total would not have been possible without the kind sponsorship from a number of businesses and organisations. Thank you for your support and helping us reach our target, and then some! The funds will be put to good use in getting pupils out into the working countryside, one of our key core objectives.

Gold

NFU Mutual

Silver

Graham's The Family Dairy
Kite Consulting
Hillhouse Group
Blackface Sheep Breeders' Association
SRUC

Bronze

Scotmin Nutrition	World Wide Sires - UK
Dundas Chemical Co Ltd	CowManager
Scot Agri	Agrii
Agri-King Ltd	Agrovista UK Ltd
R C Dalglish	Alta Ltd
Lochcarron of Scotland	G D & M Dunglison Ltd
Certas Energy Farming	Drew Watson Agri Services
Express Tyres Lockerbie	Tarff Valley
Farming Partners	Harbro Ltd
Advanced Ruminant Nutrition Limited	

LET'S LEARN ABOUT SHEEP & WOOL!



Scan me



YOUNGSTERS GOT INVOLVED WITH MAKING 'SHEEP ON A STICK'

The Journey of Food: Sheep & Wool was given its 'soft launch' during the Show, with an incredibly popular 'Sheep on a Stick' craft activity! September will see RHET hit the ground running with the next round of focused resources, activities and projects linked to the diverse field of all things sheep and wool.

During the Show, as well as getting crafty in the Discovery Centre, British Wool hosted RHET on their stand next to the MacRobert Theatre where the Golden Shears championship was taking place.

QMS, NSA, Harris Tweed and British Wool are already onboard to work in collaboration with RHET to produce learning material, hands on learning activities and much more. In September, RHET will be running two teacher training days, one in Edinburgh and the other in Inverness. To find out more and how you could get involved, please visit the RHET website.

2023 SIR WILLIAM YOUNG AWARD PRESENTED TO DOCHY AND SYLVIA ORMISTON BY HRH PRINCESS ANNE

The winners of this year's Sir William Young Award, Dochy Ormiston (MVO) and Sylvia Ormiston (MVO), were presented with their award by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne at this year's Royal Highland Show.

Awarded annually, the Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland Sir William Young Award recognises exceptional contributions to the world of livestock breeding and celebrates the enduring legacy of the late Sir William Young, whose invaluable service to Scottish agriculture continues to inspire.

Dochy and Sylvia have respectively overseen the Balmoral Highland Cattle Fold and Highland Pony Stud since 2007, seeing huge success during their time at Balmoral Estate.

The Ormiston family had the honour of being invited to Balmoral and were entrusted with bringing order to the existing breeding programs and establishing the Balmoral Highland Pony Stud.

The Highland Cattle Fold, founded in 1952 by Her Late Majesty The Queen, boasts a herd of 50 calving cows and followers. These cattle have topped the lists at every major show and sale, including the Royal Highland Show, where they won with a homebred bull,

Gusgurlach of Balmoral, as a 2 and 3 year old - the first time this has been done. In addition to his role as a Trustee on the Highland Cattle Society, Dochy actively contributes to the breed's development committee and has earned acclaim as a distinguished judge, presiding over competitions nationwide and internationally.

With the encouragement of Her Late Majesty, Sylvia took the helm of the Highland Pony Stud in 2007, building upon its legacy since the registration of the first Balmoral Highland Pony in 1979. Balmoral Stud has shown ponies over the years with much success showing in hand and under saddle.

The Estate are firm supporters of working harness classes, having won twice back-to-back at Scone game fair, as well as helping the Game Fair by doing working harness demonstrations for the public visitors. They have won the harness class on many occasions at the Royal Highland Show and attended this as often as possible over the years.

Sylvia has faced and triumphed over adversity, notably navigating the loss of five ponies, including two breeding stallions, to Equine Grass Sickness in 2017/18. This unfortunate event highlighted the importance of collecting and freezing stallion semen at a young

age to mitigate potential future losses.

Sylvia's contributions extend beyond breeding, as she collaborated with the support of Her Late Majesty The Queen to develop a new style of working pony saddle and girth that is now widely used across other estates. Currently serving as the President of the Highland Pony Society and renowned as a respected judge, Sylvia continues to leave an indelible mark in her field, inspiring and uplifting others along the way.

The award was presented by HRH Princess Anne, a dedicated patron of equine charities across the country.

Upon receiving news of their win, Dochy Ormiston remarked, "We are so delighted to be recognised for our contributions and remain committed to preserving and advancing these remarkable breeds."

Sylvia added: "We are so passionate about the preservation and improvement of the Highland breeds and it is an honour to be recognised in this way by RHASS, and made all the more special to be presented with it by HRH Princess Anne."



Jim Warnock, Chairman of RHASS, extended his congratulations to the pair, stating,

"Dochy and Sylvia have left a permanent mark in the world of Highland Cattle and Highland Pony breeding. Their dedication and commitment to excellence have made them worthy recipients of the Sir William Young Award and all at RHASS extend our huge congratulations.

They have set a shining example for future breeders, and I have no doubt that they will continue to be great ambassadors for their breeds."

HRH PRINCESS ANNE PRESENTS SYLVIA AND DOCHY WITH THEIR AWARD AT THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

RHASS DIRECTORS



RHASS DIRECTORS & OFFICIALS 2023/24

PRESIDENT
Robin Gray
VICE PRESIDENTS
Alistair Donaldson OBE, FRAGS
Maimie Paterson
James McLaren
Alastair Logan
CHAPLAIN
The Reverend Gary J McIntyre
CHAIRMAN
James C Warnock
CHAIRMAN DESIGNATE
James Logan
HONORARY SECRETARY
Susan Lawrie

HONORARY TREASURER
Dennis Bridgeford

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT
John Sinclair

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2020-2024	Eric A Mutch
2021-2025	Andrew Rennie
2022-2026	David Buchanan
2023-2027	Philip Benzie

LOTHIAN	
2020-2024	William G Gray, MBE
2021-2025	James Logan
2022-2026	Jackie McCreery
2023-2027	Prof. Julie Fitzpatrick

BORDERS	
2020-2024	Rob Livesey
2021-2025	Neil Thomson
2022-2026	Tom Tennant
2023-2027	Kath Dun

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY	
2020-2024	Aylett Roan
2021-2025	Ian Beck
2022-2026	Hugh McClymont
2023-2027	Heather Wildman

HIGHLAND	
2020-2024	Martin MacDonald
2021-2025	Dennis Bridgeford
2022-2026	Tom Henderson
2023-2027	Will Downie



TOP ROW (L-R) - RODNEY BLACKHALL, GORDON GRAY, PROF. JULIE FITZPATRICK, ANNE LOGAN, FIONA ROEBUCK, IAN BECK, DAVID ALEXANDER
SECOND ROW (L-R) - SANDY HAY, LIZ RITCHIE, JOHN OWEN, KATH DUN, ERIC MUTCH, SARAH MACKIE, ANDREW RENNIE, TOM TENNANT, MARTIN MACDONALD, ROBBIE NEWLANDS, JOHN SINCLAIR, LYLE LAIRD, DAVID BUCHANAN **THIRD ROW (L-R)** - JIM HASTINGS, WILL DOWNIE, ROB LIVESEY, HEATHER WILDMAN, WILLIE GOLDIE, CAROLYN MILNE, KATIE KEILEY, SANDY WILKIE, KEITH CAMPBELL, BRYCE SLOAN, MARK CURRIE, NEIL THOMSON
FOURTH ROW (L-R) - JIMMY SMITH, MARIE LIVINGSTONE, REBECCA McEWAN, KAY ADAM, HUGH MCCLYMONT, AYLETT ROAN, ANDREW HORNALL, BILL GRAY, ALLY CAULFIELD, BILL ARNOT, LOUISE ELDER, KATRINA BARCLAY **FIFTH ROW (L-R)** - JIM WARNOCK, JAMES LOGAN, MAIMIE PATERSON, JAMES MCLAREN, ALISTAIR DONALDSON, ROBIN GRAY, SUSAN LAWRIE, DENNIS BRIDGEFORD, ALAN LAIDLAW
DIRECTORS AND OFFICE BEARERS NOT IN PHOTO ALEX BANKIER, PHILIP BENZIE, DONALD HARVEY, TOM HENDERSON, D BRUCE LANG, GILMOUR LAWRIE, ALISTAIR LOGAN, JACKIE MCCREERY, THE REVEREND GARY J MCINTYRE, JULIAN PACE, CHRISTO SHEPHERD, GORDON SUTHERLAND, KENNY WILSON

PERTH

2020-2024	Susan Lawrie
2021-2025	D Bruce Lang
2022-2026	Kay Adam
2023-2027	Bill Arnot

STIRLING

2020-2024	Andrew Hornall
2021-2025	Gordon Sutherland
2022-2026	James C Warnock
2023-2027	John Owen

STRATHCLYDE

2020-2024	David CS Alexander
2021-2025	Keith Campbell
2022-2026	Alex Bankier
2023-2027	Donald Harvey

EXTRAORDINARY AREA DIRECTORS

Aberdeen	Rodney Blackhall
Lothian	Liz Ritchie
Borders	Willie Goldie
Dumfries & Galloway	Katie Keiley
Highland	Carolyn Milne
Perth	Jimmy Smith
Stirling	Rebecca McEwan
Strathclyde	Gilmour Lawrie

EXTRAORDINARY DIRECTORS

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Christo Shepherd		Louise Elder
Gordon Gray		Jim Hastings
Robbie Newlands		Fiona Roebuck
Anne Logan		Sandy Wilkie

SECOND YEAR

Sarah Mackie | Bryce Sloan

EXTRAORDINARY DIRECTORS REPRESENTING OTHER AGRICULTURAL BODIES

BRITISH AGRICULTURAL AND GARDEN MACHINERY ASSOCIATION (BAGMA)

Lyle Laird

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS' ASSOCIATION (AEA)

Kenny Wilson

HONORARY DIRECTORS & ADVISORS

Julian Pace | Sandy Hay



Meet the 2023/24 Presidential Team

Focus turns to Stirling area over next year

L-R - ALISTAIR LOGAN, ALISTAIR DONALDSON, ROBIN GRAY, REVEREND GARY J. MCINTYRE, MAIMIE PATERSON, JAMES MCLAREN

The RHASS Presidential Team serves for one year and is made up of representatives from the geographical 'host' area where the Royal Highland Show would have traditionally been held when it travelled annually - before it moved to its permanent site at Ingliston in 1960.



PRESIDENT

ROBIN GRAY

A hugely successful businessman and entrepreneur, at the age of 23, after working on a dairy farm for five years, Robin set up a business specialising in transportation for agriculture goods. Over 30 years, the H&R Gray brand has grown to employing over 140 staff in the Stirling area, and more recently they have added an Ifor Williams trailer business based at United Auctions. He was Chairman of Callander Young Farmers and believes that the skills that he learnt back then has set him in good stead for the modern challenges of today. He is still heavily involved in the day-to-day running of the family farm.

VICE PRESIDENTS



ALISTAIR DONALDSON OBE, FRAgS

Alistair brings a wealth of experience from the meat and agriculture industry. After college, he spent over four years in Uganda on a land development project, then spending 30 years at the Meat and Livestock Commission, latterly as Managing Director. Thereafter he was appointed Technical Director of the newly-formed QMS, and on retirement became Executive Manager of The Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers. His roles have been many and varied – board member of QMS, Chairman of the Scottish Panel in CARAS, a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Butchers and a Church of Scotland Elder.



MAIMIE PATERSON

Maimie is the main administrator in the family business, which bides at Auchenlay Farm near Dunblane. The enterprise is run by Maimie's husband Robert, along with their son Rab and his wife Kirsty. The farm consists of a very successful British Blue cattle herd which run alongside Charollais, Beltex and crossbred ewes. She has served two terms as Chair of the Beltex Sheep Society and two terms as their President. Presently, she is a council member of the British Blue cattle society and vice chair of NSA Scotland. The family have been huge supporters of the Show circuit for over 50 years and have exhibited successfully at the RHS for many of these. She is a passionate supporter of Scottish and British agriculture and is quite happy to put pen to paper to argue her case in the public domain.



ALASTAIR LOGAN

Known to all as Ally, he has recently retired from auctioneering after 44 years with Caledonian Marts in Stirling. The family name has been synonymous with the RHS for many decades in the dairy section, however today the family is now seen more frequently in the Highland Cattle lines. He was Chairman of Scotsheep in 2010 when it was held at the Graham's family of Mains of Burnbank, and was a 1-year Director of RHASS in 1993-94, as well as stewarding for several years at the RHS. Today, he can be heard as an after-dinner speaker, but more regularly he has been the auctioneer at many charity events for over 25 years, raising funds for a variety of causes.



JAMES MCLAREN

James farms a 550 acre mixed beef and sheep unit at Murrayshall Farm, Cambusbarron, Stirling. He also has a thriving equine stabling business, which lies alongside an agritourism enterprise. James has also ventured into renewables, with solar, wind, and hydro power-sources all featuring on the farm. A lifetime member of RHASS, he was a Director of the Society for 14 years, rising to become chief steward of Main Ring and serving on the PR&E committee.

His dedication to Scottish agriculture is further underlined by serving two years as Chairman of the Forth Valley Countryside Initiative and he has sat on the Stirling Show committee for 35 years.



CHAPLAIN

THE REV GARY J. MCINTYRE

A Campbeltown man through and through, Gary was inducted in 1998 to St Ninians Old Parish Church, Stirling. He has a large contingent of the farming community in his parish and is very familiar with the challenges faced by farmers and has a high regard for the work they do and the invaluable contribution they make to society as a whole. Gary also served as Chaplain in 2006/7, setting him in good stead for serving us across the next year.

RHASS PARTNERS WITH SCOTTISH FARMER & AGRISCOT FOR SCOTTISH AGRICULTURE AWARDS

Earlier this year, the Scottish Agriculture Awards were launched as a result of a partnership between RHASS, the Scottish Farmer and AgriScot.

Free to enter, the awards aim to showcase the outstanding work of the farmers, individuals and businesses who are driving the industry forward and ensuring the sustainability and success of Scottish agriculture.

There are 16 awards on offer, including the 'Farm of the Year' categories which have been incorporated from AgriScot into these new awards. The categories include 'Arable Farm of the Year', sponsored by SoilEssentials, and 'Dairy Farm of the Year', sponsored by GEA.

We are delighted to have the support of our sponsors, ABP, Field and Forest, Polycrub, SAC Consulting and Thorntons Law, who are championing a category each, including 'Best Agroforestry' and 'Sustainable Farm of the Year'.

The Scottish Agriculture Awards are exactly the recognition that our sector needs and deserves - it will bring accolades, celebration, and valuable opportunities for the winners, all while celebrating our sector's success.

We are pleased to be creating these awards with The Scottish Farmer and AgriScot and look forward to seeing the brilliant efforts of entrants that are leading the way across rural Scotland.

RHASS Chief Executive, Alan Laidlaw

Some of the entry deadlines have now passed, but you can still apply for the below categories until 31st August:

- ADVISER OF THE YEAR
- AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
- ANIMAL HEALTH PROVIDER OF THE YEAR
- BEST AGROFORESTRY
- CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR
- MACHINERY DEALER OF THE YEAR
- SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR
- UNSUNG HERO OF THE YEAR
- YOUNG FARMER INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR

You can enter online at:
agriawards.evessiocloud.com





RHASS ROLLS OUT £30,000 DEVELOPMENT GRANT TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL SHOWS ACROSS SCOTLAND

The Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland launched the Local Shows Development Fund earlier this year, providing much-needed support for grassroots regional agricultural shows.

The £30,000 grant aims to help local agricultural shows across Scotland recover and thrive following significant financial challenges of recent years. The support provides the potential to deliver projects that may have previously felt out of reach, allowing regional shows to plan for a sustainable future.

The grant forms an integral part of RHASS's charitable remit to support and promote Scotland's rural communities. It recognises the contribution regional shows make to the local economy alongside their value in promoting Scotland's rich agricultural heritage.

Approved applications for the 2023 fund include the installation of a permanent WiFi connection within the Turriff Show showground, the fitting of pedestrian barriers around the main ring area of the Stirling Agricultural Show, and improvements to the Kirriemuir Show's education marquee.

The Local Shows Development Grant is benefitting 21 local shows across Scotland this summer*:

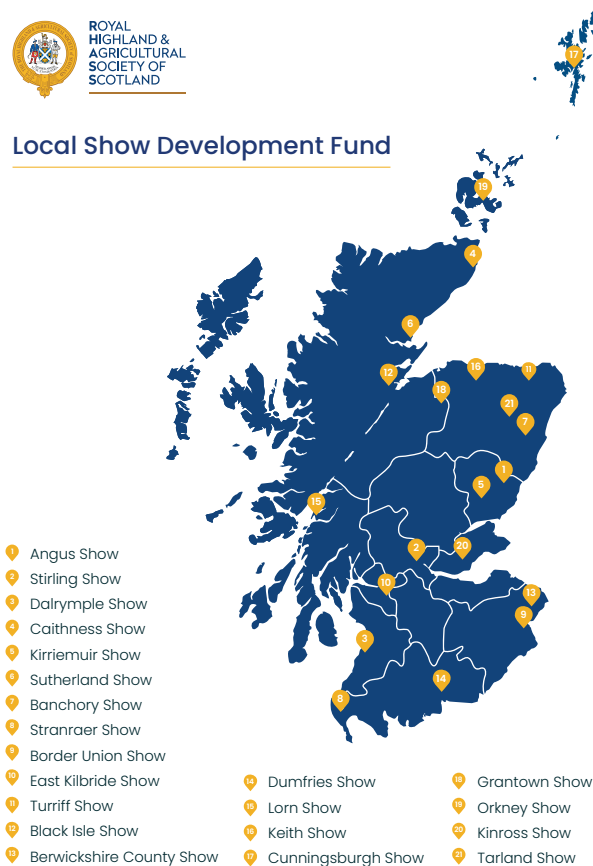
- Angus Show
- Stirling Show
- Dalrymple Show
- Caithness Show
- Kirriemuir Show
- Sutherland Show
- Banchory Show
- Stranraer Show
- Border Union Show
- East Kilbride Show
- Turriff Show
- Black Isle Show
- Berwickshire County Show
- Dumfries Show
- Lorn Show
- Keith Show
- Cunningsburgh Show
- Granttown Show
- Orkney Show
- Kinross Show
- Tarland Show

The grant will reopen for applications this September for the 2024 show season. More information on how to apply will be circulated in the coming months.



ROYAL
HIGHLAND &
AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY OF
SCOTLAND

Local Show Development Fund



EXCITING EVENTS COMING TO ROYAL HIGHLAND CENTRE

Scotland's largest indoor and outdoor venue is set to welcome some very exciting guests over the coming weeks and months! Check out some of the events coming soon...

ROYAL HIGHLAND CENTRE

25 - 27 August

Connect Festival

Connect offers an epic line-up of the very best musical talent. But it's also so much more than music, and is filled with dynamic experiences: comedy, spoken word, debate, and visual arts, as well as exceptional food and drink from local talent and big-name Scottish chefs.

29 August

The Killers

The Las Vegas four-piece brings their globally-renowned music to Edinburgh! On their largest tour yet, the band, who have sold over twenty-five million albums worldwide, are bringing their stadium-filling rock to the Royal Highland Centre this summer.

7 - 8 October

Comic Con Scotland

Comic Con Scotland is back for its fourth instalment! Scotland's leading pop culture event attracts tens of thousands of pop culture fans. Featuring comic, TV, and movie guests, cosplay competitions, retro gaming, E-sports, exhibitors, set & prop builds, Q&A's, panel discussions and more!

13 January - 3 February 2024

Macbeth

Ralph Fiennes and Indira Varma star in this brand-new production of one of Shakespeare's most iconic plays. It will be staged like never before in custom-built theatre spaces unique to this production in Liverpool, Edinburgh, London and Washington DC. You won't want to miss this gripping tale of greed, murder, deception and superstition.



Chief Executive's Last Word



As we reflect on a very dry (and very busy) June, it is safe to say that we are now experiencing a changing weather pattern. I am always relieved when we get a good spell of weather for the Royal Highland Show, but also acutely aware of the impact it makes on rural Scotland, your businesses and interests. There is ever-growing interest in food sustainability and provenance, and Scotland has a huge opportunity in this area, especially as peak temperatures hit mainland Europe.

We welcomed a wide array of politicians and influencers to Ingliston throughout the Show, where we get a brief opportunity to engage with them as a sector. These "Show conversations" are essential for all of our representative bodies and our sector at large. We get a chance to engage at the highest level and ensure the truth regarding our sector is understood. There may need to be follow-up conversations, but many of these start at the Highland.

That's the same for our allied trades, without whom the Show would be far less of a great day out. We were delighted that these trades supported our flagship event this year, the Golden Shears, and also the Flock to the Show initiative. The Flock campaign was an opportunity to engage the public throughout Scotland on the great work, but also the very

real challenges, facing farming and rural areas of Scotland.

RHASS carries out a charitable role - celebrating best practices, encouraging learning and increasing engagement with rural Scotland. The Golden Shears World Championships, Flock to the Show and the Royal Highland Show deliver all of these in bulk, and much credit goes to the Directors, Members and staff teams who deliver them on the ground.

As Members, we know that you want the Show to be great and for our food, farming and rural sectors to thrive, and that's what RHASS was founded to do. We are close to our 240th anniversary and I look forward to seeing many of you away from the normal Show routine in the coming year to highlight the wider charitable work of the Society, as well as gathering ideas of what we should focus on, celebrate and promote.

I hope the coming months are kind to you as they were to us for the Show and look forward to seeing many of you at local shows and our anniversary events in the months to come.

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

Alan Laidlaw, Chief Executive

Donation

FORM



ROYAL
HIGHLAND &
AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY OF
SCOTLAND



Scan here to
donate online.

Contact details

Name

Address

Telephone

Postcode

Email

Are you a member of RHASS? Yes No

If yes, please quote your membership number (if known)

Keeping in touch RHASS will use the information on this form to administer your donation. We would like to keep in touch to tell you how your gift is making a difference and to send you information about our charitable activities including the Royal Highland Show, other events and ways in which you can support our mission to promote Scottish agriculture and our rural communities.

Please tick the boxes to tell us how you would like us to contact you:

Email Telephone

Please send me more information about making a donation in my will

Making a regular gift by Direct Debit

I would like to make a regular monthly quarterly annual gift of £

to the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland until further notice,
or for a period of years

I would like the payments to be taken from my account on the 1st or 15th of the month
starting in (Please allow one month from today)

Please refer to and complete Direct Debit instruction below

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giftaid it

I would like to Gift Aid my donation, and any donations I make in the future, or have made in the past 4 years to

The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature

Date

Please notify RHASS if you want to cancel this declaration/ change your name or home address/no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Making a single gift

I would like to donate £125 £50 £25 £10 Other £

I enclose a cheque payable to RHASS

Please debit my: Visa Visa Debit MasterCard Maestro

Card No

Start Date / Expiry Date /

Security Code Issue Number

Instructions to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To: The Manager,

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Branch Sort Code

Service user number: 992108

Reference number

Instructions to your bank or building society Please pay RHASS Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand this instruction may remain with RHASS and details passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature

Date

Bank/Building Society Account Number