



BORDER UNION AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

BICENTENARY BURSARY FUND

Report to year-end 30th September 2019

Background:

The Bicentenary Bursary Fund was established during the Society's 200th year in order to create a fund to help young people from the Society's area who wish to pursue a course of study or a learning opportunity that will advance their career but will also (very importantly) contribute to the wider rural economy of the Borders. It follows the Society's original motto: 'encouraging improvement'.

The fund is invested through professional fund managers, under the control of the Society's trustees.

The Awards Panel meets quarterly to consider applications made and, if appropriate, make an award. The maximum award is 50% of the costs of the study / trip / course. The Panel also keeps the terms and conditions of the scheme under constant review.

The Awards Panel this year has comprised: Luke Comins, Ian Fleming, James Joicey (chair), Jill McGregor, Jane Mitchell, Charlie Robertson, Douglas Stephen, Mary Thomson, Neil Thomson and Marshall Wilson. Mags Clark and Gordon Chisholm also attend the meetings as observers.

Report:

This report covers the period from 1st October 2018 until 30th September 2019.

A total of **four** applications were received in this period. This is a little disappointing, but the uncertainties of Brexit have not helped people to contemplate commitment to new pathways. All the applicants attended interviews and were successful:

(i) Stuart Fuller-Shapcott – to undertake professional development training in Event & Crowd Management;

(ii) James Hunt – to attend the 2019 NASCO international conference on Atlantic Salmon, in Norway;

(iii) Ross Montague – to study the value and role of podcasts in the Borders economy;

(iv) Danielle McKinnon – to undertake further training and qualification as an assessor in riding and equine management in connection with her work with underprivileged young people.

The total amount of bursary support given through these four applications was £3650. The Bursary scheme continues to be widely promoted throughout the Borders, both in 'traditional' form (i.e. leaflets and advertising) and on Social Media. Adverts are kindly carried quarterly by Agrimart and Kelso Life, free of charge. BUAS members are encouraged to draw the attention of any likely applicant to the scheme and to mention it to professional advisers and people of influence. Details are on the Society's website.

At the Border Union Show a series of information panels about previous recipients of Bursary Awards was on display. Summaries of Bursary winners are being prepared for the website.

It is worth noting (and it is puzzling) that neither the Nuffield Farming Scholarship Fund, the Worshipful Company of Farmers nor the Rural Leadership scheme have received any applications from the Society's area since 2013. Applicants to these would be eligible for support from the Bursary scheme.

James Joicey
October 2019