

## BORDER UNION AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

### BICENTENARY BURSARY SCHEME

For Newsletter Summer 2021

Since its inception at the Society's Bicentenary in 2013 the Bursary Scheme has made a total of 18 awards from the 29 applications received.

Through the Newsletter we would like to bring you news of how recipients of bursary used their support and have benefitted from it.

**Pat Stewart** was awarded a bursary in 2016. As Principal Teacher of Science at Kelso High School, she had applied to join a scientific team researching the impact of climate change on the agricultural industry and the communities supported by it in northern India.

With the new KHS under construction at that time, Pat wanted to play her part in developing the curriculum and campus in ways that would allow active participation in environmental stewardship and encourage and support young people in the Borders in following vocational and/or academic career pathways into the rural industries. Two educational initiatives were important to Pat: Learning for Sustainability and Developing Scotland's Young Workforce.

Pat had a particular focus on the role of bees in the pollination of the apple crops in northern India and wanted to understand how this could be best taught in the new KHS, where it was planned to plant an orchard of apple trees.

Her update is appended and will be posted on the Society's website. We hope you enjoy reading it and seeing how her initiative and work has already had an effect on pupils at KHS and how the school is now an exemplar to others for the type of work carried out, even at the level of the Fellows of the Royal Society.

**Maija Nygren** received a small bursary in 2017 to attend a conference on issues in Fashion, Sustainability and Learning for textile professionals. Originally from Finland, Maija came to the UK to study puppeteering and theatrical costume design and became fascinated by wool and its sustainability, remembering how she herself grew up in clothes handed down through generations. She came to the Borders to do a BA and then a Masters in Textiles and Design at Heriot Watt's Galashiels campus, specialising in knitwear. She has a particular interest in the properties of the wool of Bluefaced Leicester sheep.

Since her award, Maija has set up her own small company (Alma Borealis) and has ....

**Derek Robeson** was successful in his application in 2016 for support in studying the Land Use Strategy developed by the Tweed Shire Council in Australia for its own River Tweed.

Details of the terms of the Bicentenary Bursary Scheme and how to apply are on the Society's website at [www.borderunion.co.uk/education](http://www.borderunion.co.uk/education) Applications are considered quarterly, the deadlines being 31<sup>st</sup> March, 30<sup>th</sup> June, 30<sup>th</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> December each year. As mentioned in previous reports to the Society's AGMs, we ask members to make the bursary scheme known as widely as possible amongst friends and contacts.