

BORDER UNION AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BICENTENARY BURSARY FUND

Report for the period from 1st October 2020 until 30th September 2021

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, Peter Douglas, Ian Fleming, James Joicey (chair), Jill McGregor, Jane Mitchell, Charlie Robertson, Mary Thomson, Neil Thomson and Marshall Wilson. Gordon Chisholm has also attended the meetings as observer.

A total of **five** applications were received during the Society's year to 30th Sept. 2021. Following interviews with the candidates, four of these were successful. They were:

Rory Pyper, to study apple cultivation and orcharding

Anne Mair-Chapman, to achieve certification in Countryside Education

Tom Jackson, to attend the Worshipful Company of Farmers Agri-Business course

Gemma Ramsey, to achieve qualification in counselling

The bursary support offered in 2019/2020 to Emma Bradbury and Elin Lambie is still held open. This is for attendance at conferences which have been postponed. They are still awaiting news on when these will run (and in what form).

Since inception in 2013, a total of 21 bursary awards have now been made, amounting to **£40,158**. This excludes the support for the delayed conferences mentioned above.

The Society's newsletter provided members with updates on some previous award winners. Two of these reports are now on the Society's website. More updates will be forthcoming.

The Awards Panel continues to be very grateful to Agrimart for carrying an advertisement for the Bursary Scheme three times a year on behalf of the Society.

James Joicey - October 2021