

BORDER UNION AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BICENTENARY BURSARY FUND

Report for the period from 1st October 2021 until 30th September 2022

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: Tommy Clark (from Jan.2022), Peter Douglas, Ian Fleming, James Joicey (chair), Jill McGregor, Jane Mitchell, Derek Robeson, Charlie Robertson, Mary Thomson, Neil Thomson (until Jan.2022) and Marshall Wilson. Gordon Chisholm has also attended the meetings as observer.

It is disappointing to report that only two applications were received during the Society's year to 30th Sept. 2022. One was successful, namely a further award to Rory Pyper in studying apple cultivation and orcharding

The bursary support offered in 2019/2020 to Emma Bradbury and Elin Lambie continue to be held open. This is for attendance at postponed conferences. At least one of these conferences now looks like being reinstated.

Since inception in 2013, a total of 22 bursary awards have now been made, amounting to **£41,643**. This excludes the support for the delayed conferences mentioned above.

Panels showcasing some of the recipients of Bursary Awards were placed in the Members' Marquee and on the showground at the Border Union Show. The Bursary Panel requests periodic updates from all its recipients.

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 and also to all BUAS members who help to spread the word.

James Joicey - October 2022