

BORDER UNION AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BICENTENARY BURSARY FUND

Report for the period from 1st October 2022 until 30th September 2023

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, Peter Douglas, Ian Fleming, James Joicey (chair), Jill McGregor, Jane Mitchell, Derek Robeson, Charlie Robertson, Mary Thomson and Marshall Wilson. Gordon Chisholm and Dan Withall also attend the meetings as observers.

It is encouraging to report that six applications were received during the Society's year to 30th Sept. 2023. Four of these were successful and resulted in awards totalling £7915:

Francesca Castle – support towards qualification under the Association of Master Upholsterers & Soft Furnishings (AMUSF)

Murray Freeland-Cook – support towards a HND course at Barony College

Trevor Jackson – support for the Rural Leadership programme

Connie Rafferty – support for extra-mural studies in qualifying as a vet under the RCVS.

With news that the Commonwealth Agricultural Conference will be held in Scotland in 2024, our award to Elin Lambie, held open from 2020, will be made next year.

Since inception in 2013, a total of 29 bursary awards have now been made, amounting to **£49,558**. This excludes the support for the delayed Commonwealth Conference mentioned above.

The Panel are undertaking a review of how the scheme is promoted, to take advantage of social media. This will engage young people in the scheme. The Panel continues to be very grateful to Agrimart for advertising the Bursary Scheme three times a year on behalf of the Society and also to all BUAS members who help to spread the word. Posters showcasing some of the recipients of Bursary Awards were placed around the showground at the Border Union Show. The Bursary Panel requests periodic updates from all its recipients.

James Joicey - October 2023