

**BORDER UNION AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
BICENTENARY BURSARY FUND**

**Report for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

***Background:***

*The Bicentenary Bursary Fund was established during the Society's 200<sup>th</sup> 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, James Playfair-Hannay, 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.*

This year has seen no fewer than 13 applications to the Bursary Fund. It has been our most successful year so far. Of these, only two were ineligible. Eleven awards were made, although one was later declined by the applicant.

The ten successful applicants were

Mary Anderson and Rebecca Anderson – for studies in camelid management

Russell Anderson – participation in the Rural Leadership Programme

Alex Baillie – participation in the Rural Leadership Programme

Alex Blott – Institute of Agricultural Management course at Harper Adams

Jack Frater – as Next Generation delegate at the Royal Commonwealth Agricultural Conference, Edinburgh

Annabel Hamilton – participation in the Worshipful Company of Farmers' Advanced Course in Agricultural Management

Tom Hoggan – Institute of Agricultural Management course at Harper Adams

Kitty Irving – for extra-mural studies in qualifying as a vet under the RCVS (Glasgow University)

Stacey Swanston – participation in the Rural Leadership Programme

These resulted in awards totalling £9422.00:

An award-winner from previous years (Elin Lambie) withdrew as she was unable to attend the Royal Commonwealth Agricultural Conference.

Since inception in 2013, a total of 39 bursary awards have now been given out, amounting to **£58,980**.

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 2024*