BUAS 2018 Round Up

Message from Executive Director Mags Clark:

Wow, I can’t believe it is a full year since I first walked into the Springwood Office to join the BUAS family; what a wonderful year it has been with such a warm welcome from you all; thank you.

We have had a very busy year with mixed results. Financially the end of year figures show a deficit but I do hope you will all agree that the investment and developments made in the Show, with the increased members facility, new activities and branding, as well as the groundwork undertaken onsite alongside other Society events and activities such as the Long Service Lunch and Bonfire have been a success.

You will see the individual reports for each of the Society events over the coming pages; I do hope you enjoy reading them.

Running BUAS is a Team effort and I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my sincere thanks to all our Members, the Trustees, Show Directors, Volunteers, Exhibitors, Sponsors, Competitors, Contractors and of course the brilliant staff team (who I would have been lost without!), Steve, Marion, Allison & Jack. THANK YOU one and ALL.

I hope you have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous Year ahead and I look forward to seeing you all onsite at our 2019 Events.

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 – that of ‘encouraging improvement’.

Between 1st October 2017 and 30th September 2018 a total of six completed applications were received. Three were successfully granted funding:

(i) Carina Calder – to attend a conference and complete a study tour in Canada on Honeyberries;
(ii) David MacTaggart – to study deer-farming practices in New Zealand;
(iii) Danielle McKinnon – to undertake personal development training under the British Horse Society (Level 4) in connection with her work with underprivileged young people.

In addition to the above, the Panel awarded three bursary grants in response to applications from individuals to attend the 2018 Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth Agricultural Conference in Edmonton (Canada) as Next Generation delegates from BUAS: Emily Douglas, Paul Richardson and Mags Clark.

Congratulations are being sent to former Secretary & Treasurer Mr Ronald Wilson on his recent MBE for services to the Agricultural Industry in the Borders.

Photo of the 2018 RASC Conference in Edmonton, Canada delegates.
Hello one and all,

2018 has been another very busy year for the Society.

The four core events of the Society have all taken place, starting with the Schools Countryside Day in May. This event has now been going for 6 years and now over 6000 Primary 5 children from all over the Borders have attended. Every year its status in the education calendar is growing.

Next on the calendar was, of course, the Dog Show. The committee should be congratulated for putting on yet another first-class event with well over 5500 total entries in 2018. Not quite the highs of the past couple of years, but still very commendable numbers.

Moving onto The Border Union Show in July. A lot of work had gone into the planning and build-up of the show, including irrigating the main ring, and it was very satisfying to see that all looked to be heading for a very successful show. Several new initiatives were tried for the first time and I am pleased that most, if not all of them, were well received. We intend to look for new initiatives to make the show more successful, for you our members as well as the public.

I think we had, and will continue to have, a fantastic show despite the weather on Saturday this year. I am pleased, thanks to the work of Keith Redpath, that at the 2019 show we will be hosting, not 1, but 2 National Cattle Shows, and we will work hard to make very welcome all the exhibitors and visitors who attend.

The 2018 Closamectin® Ram Sales in September was yet again an enormous success with 5458 entries. Up on the year with the Sale grossing just under £3million. The second highest on record. Wasn’t it wonderful to watch Mr James Jeffrey OBE, stalwart of the Society and the Ram Sales open the sale by Ringing the Bell to start proceedings?

Our Bicentenary Bursary Fund, established in the Society’s 200th year, ably led by Lord Joicey, had 3 successful applications to the fund this year. There were also awards of 3 bursary grants to individuals to attend the 2018 Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth Agricultural Conference in Canada, including our very own Mags Clark who I know benefited enormously from her trip there.

Springwood Park (Border Union Ltd) has had a good year. Mags has been working hard to secure the existing business and bring in more. The year started and finished with 2 spectacular charity balls held in the Springwood Hall with over 500 people on each of these nights. Both events will have enhanced our venue as the best in the Borders. Next year sees the Site being rebranded and relaunched in February as the Borders Events Centre and we will have a new member of staff joining the team to help run and market our venue.

None of the work done by the Border Union would have happened without the help and tireless work of many people, including all the staff, trustees, show directors, stewards, volunteers, sponsors and members. My sincere thanks to all of you who put so much time into making the Border Union Agricultural Society such a wonderful organisation to be involved with.

I value all our members, and I think all of us who are, also value the society. But it is imperative that we continue to provide and enhance that value. I can assure you that everybody who is involved with the running of BUAS are always looking at ways to do that and I want to make it easy and desirable to become a member.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and let’s hope for a prosperous year ahead.

Neil
The annual **Schools Countryside Day** in May was once more a great success. We were very honoured to have The Duke of Buccleuch in his role as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland as our Guest for the event. He made a great success of his tour of the whole site and spent time chatting to both Exhibitors and the children. As this Event goes from strength to strength it gives the Society immense pride and pleasure.

The day is expensive to run but a fantastic event for all the Primary 5 children from across the Scottish Borders region to attend.

Without our major funder, Fallago Environment Fund, and our faithful Sponsors: Greenvale AP, Case IH, Agrii, Kelso Farmers Market, Charity Begins at Home, Tesco, BSW Timber and of course SBC covering the cost of all the school transport this day might not be possible:

THANK YOU.

We cannot thank everyone involved in this event enough for their help and support. We hope that the eagerness and joy on the youngsters’ faces is enough reward for your efforts. The 2019 event will be held on Tuesday 21st May 2019.

Our Sincere Thanks must be extended to Ron & Joan Wilson for all their hard work and dedication co-ordinating this wonderful day between 2013 to 2018 inclusive. The Duke of Roxburgh & Society Chairman, Neil Thomson, presented Ron & Joan with Honorary Life Memberships.

The **Championship Dog Show** in June was once again a very successful event and against the trend of other Championships Shows; with entries holding up very well against other similar sized Shows.

After discussion and the same layout for twenty plus years, the Canine Committee changed the layout of the Showground to make access to Rings and Benching easier; this was well received and a great success. Further development has already started for 2019.
The annual Agricultural Show had a marketing refresh this year; which was very well received.

With such a wonderful Summer, this year we found ourselves having to irrigate the Main Ring for the first time in many years; something very much appreciated by our Equine exhibitors.

The Equine entries were once again slightly down on the previous years (a general trend within the industry) but the quality continued to be there with very high-class entries.

There were no National Cattle or Sheep Shows this year but Cattle entries were slightly up on last year and sheep entries only slightly down which was fantastic to see.

With almost 250 Trade Stands exhibiting at the Show we were delighted to have attracted an increased number of exhibitors to the Border Union Show.

We invested in new marketing, Signs and Entertainment activities this year and were delighted at how well the new attractions were received namely the Cookery theatre, Seminar Discussion session (Friday morning), Tractor Ride Experience and Music programme. Oh and of course the return of the ‘Show Dance/ festival’ on the Saturday evening was a massive success.

For 2019 we plan to continue with these ‘new’ elements as well as introduce some new Main Ring Entertainment.... Watch this space for more details.
The Ram Sales were another huge success this year. **Norbrook Laboratories (Closamectin®)** remained our major Sponsor and were once again supported by Rumenco, Suzuki and Harbro; Many thanks to all of them for their continued support.

Numbers were up on 2017 with 5458 Rams entered. With a Rams sold percentage of 80.45%, a top price of £29,000 for a Texel shearling and a turnover of £2,991,860.00 as well as an average of £681.52 and this was another fantastic event for the World renowned Sale. The quality of the rams presented continues to get better and better each year and we are very grateful to all the buyers, sellers, auctioneers and partners who support this event annually.

For the first time we had a local legend within the Industry start the sale at 10am. Mr James Jeffrey was the only choice and at 92 years young he did an excellent job of starting off the sale. We are very grateful to James and all his family for their support of the Border Union over the years; thank you.
The **Lets side of the business** was very busy in 2018 with:

- Agricultural and Machinery events,
- Art Fair,
- Antique Fairs,
- Auctions,
- 3 National Caravan Rally's,
- Car Launches,
- 2 Charity Balls,
- Civic week Ball,
- Dance Show,
- Oktoberfest,
- Potato Day,
- Stalking Fair,
- Wedding & Private Functions,
- As well as .. many different Meetings and Training Events.

We are delighted to introduce the final part of our brand refresh for the commercial ‘Lets’ arm of the BUAS business.

From February 2019 the Site / venue will be promoted as Borders Events Centre. We will be holding a launch event towards the end of February where we will invite event organisers and guests to the site to unveil the new branding as well as show them our fantastic facility.

**BEC**

BORDERS EVENTS CENTRE

**Contact Details:** enquiries@buas.org
President

His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe

Vice Presidents

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The Most Hon. Marquis of Lothian
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Mr. David Armstrong and Mr. Rory Bell

Society Officials:

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Rev. Anna Rodwell
Hon. Veterinary Surgeons
Galedin Veterinary
Auditors
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Solicitors
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Secretary, Treasurer &
Miss. Margaret A Clark (Mags)
Executive Director

Trustees

Mr. Robert Dick, Otterburn, Morebattle, Kelso. (Chairman).
Mr. Angus Armstrong, Colville House, Kelso. (Vice-Chairman).
Mr. Gareth Baird, Manorhill, Kelso.
Mrs Sue Beck, Hendersyde, Kelso. (Co-Opted for 2019)
Mr. Colin McGregor, Coldstream Mains, Coldstream.
Mr. Douglas Stephen, Highridge Hall, Kelso.
Mr. Charles Stewart, Tweedbank, Kelso.

Mr. Neil Thomson, Caverton Mill, Kelso. (Chairman BUAS)
Mr. Ian Fleming, Sucklawridge, Kelso. (Vice Chairman BUAS)
Show Directors 2019

Mr. Neil G C Thomson, Caverton Mill, Kelso. (Chairman)
Mr. Ian Fleming, Sucklawridge, Kelso. (Vice Chairman)

Retire end of 2019
Mr. Colin McGregor, Coldstream Mains, Coldstream.
Mr. John Mitchell, Rumbletonrig, Duns.
Mr. Graeme Murray, Redden, Kelso.
Mr. David Neill, Downham, Mindrum.
Mr. Jim Shanks, Standhill, Denholm.

Retire end of 2020
Mr. Andrew Baird, SAC Consulting, St Boswells.
Mr. Stuart Craig, Eldon Mains, Melrose.
Mr. Andrew Forster, Girrick, Nenthorn.
Mr. Alistair Hodge, Whitsome East Newton Farm, Duns.
Mrs. Sarah Russell, Redden, Kelso.

Retire end of 2021
Mr. Graeme Dodds, Hawkslee Park, Newtown St. Boswells.
Mr. Ian Hepburn, Northhouse, Hawick.
Mrs. Laura Beck, Courthill Farm, Hawick.
Mr. Neil Thomson, Polwarth Bank, Duns.

Retire end of 2022
Mr. Michael Brewis, Eastfield of Lempitlaw, Kelso.
Mr. Peter Douglas, Ruletownhead, Hawick.
Ms. Caroline Nelson, Trows, Kelso.
Mr. Neil Ramsay, West Moriston, Earlston.
Mr. Keith Redpath, Mid Softlaw, Kelso.

Retire end of 2023
Mrs Jill Dickson, Sorrowlessfield Mains, Earlston
Mr Tom Jackson, Bowsden West Farm, Berwick-Upon-Tweed
Mr Willie Pate, Mossilee, Galashiels

Society H&S Consultant
Mr. Stuart Fuller-Shapcott, Hadden Cottages, Kelso.