

investing
influencing
informing
invigorating
inspiring



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON

Her Majesty The Queen



My family's association with the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society can be traced to 1787 when it was granted its first Royal Charter. Since then the Society's history records more than two centuries of notable achievement in the advancement of agriculture and rural life in Scotland and the tireless efforts of many generations of practical farmers, noted academics, scientists and innovators.

The expertise so prevalent in Scottish agriculture, encouraged and promoted by the RHASS over many years, means that Scotland, as a renowned food producing country, can face the challenges of a wider world with confidence.

Nearer to home the Society faces its own challenges of developing the major asset of its land and buildings, with foresight and imagination, into an impressive gateway to Edinburgh and Scotland. As Patron, I am confident that the Society will continue to flourish as a standard bearer of all that is good about rural Scotland.

ELIZABETH R

A proud heritage

Very few modern organisations can trace their heritage to 1784. Even less can say they have remained true to their founders' values and beliefs. Yet this is the case for The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland.

Our unique organisation remains as focused on delivering the Society's objectives, as it was when it was founded well over 200 years ago.

What was then considered crucial to the advancement of Scottish agriculture for the benefit of farmers, landowners and rural communities, still applies today.

And while the 'noblemen and gentlemen' of the 1700s could not imagine how much has changed over the centuries, what remains constant is the Society's vision to build on generations of influence, investment and innovation.

Welcome to the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland



A BODY OF INFLUENCE



The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland is proud of its heritage and notable achievements in the promotion of land-based and allied business in Scotland.

With over 14,000 members – many of whom are landowners and farmers responsible for the stewardship of Scotland's countryside and environment – we strive to inspire innovation, excellence and achievement. The Society plays a pivotal role in the creation of a better public understanding of the management of the land and rural resources; from delivering world-class education programmes to providing engaging platforms to showcase the best in farming and food at the Royal Highland Show.

Within the Society, we have a group of committed individuals, directors and staff with significant expertise across agri-business, food and drink, rural affairs, conservation, environment and land management. Working together with other key influencers and industry bodies, we continue to shape this dynamic and vibrant industry of such importance to Scotland and look to the future with confidence, ambition and determination.

• an *inspiring* force

Agriculture is a vital sector of the Scottish economy and the first important link in Scotland's burgeoning food and drink industry.

Throughout our long history, the Society has been committed to rewarding excellence and innovation by giving awards that reflect the sentiments contained in our Royal Charter.... improvement, encouragement, benefit, communication, preservation and advancement.

We actively support new talent and have numerous grants and scholarships for students and young people looking to advance their careers and life experience.

The Society also plays homage to those individuals who have dedicated their lives to the sector and our Long Service Awards are fitting tributes.



Individual Achievement

- Fellowship and Associateship of the Royal Agricultural Societies
- Long Service Awards
- Lifetime Achievement Award

Educational Awards

- The Roy Watherston Memorial Trust - travel scholarships to allow young people to embark on study projects overseas
- Academic Achievement Medals
- SAYFC – Oxford Farming Conference
- Scottish Council for Awards of Royal Agricultural Societies (CARAS)
- Nuffield Scholarship

Livestock Awards

- Sir William Young Award - for outstanding contribution to livestock breeding in Scotland
- Royal Highland Show Championships & Prizes for all sectors of livestock

Food Awards

- Food & Drink Excellence Awards - innovation, enterprise and quality from Scottish companies
- Nuffield Scholarship

Technological Advancement

- Technical Innovation Awards – medals for technical innovation

Cultural Awards & Other Awards

- Royal National Mod Gaelic Learner of the Year
- Ploughing Awards



AN INVIGORATING BUSINESS

Our founders' vision of a 'successful Society powered by its members, its people and its principles' define how we operate today. The Society's values of Service, Quality, Value, Tradition and Trust has shaped our business; delivering strong relationships with members, customers and suppliers leading to exceptional trust in our business behaviour.



A Strong Society

A Board of Trustees, elected from eight geographical regions throughout Scotland, oversees the activities of the Society, with the Chief Executive and his team heading up the day-to-day running of the business. Holding a seat on the board of such an esteemed organisation carries with it responsibilities; however, it is considered a great honour, enriching the lives of those involved.

A Respected Employer

We focus on employing people of ability and integrity who are committed to working together for the benefit of the Society and our members.

We, in turn, commit to providing a stimulating, rewarding and enjoyable place to work within a culture that values experience and welcomes innovation.

A Good Neighbour

The Society values its role in the local community and works hand in glove with many local organisations to make a positive difference to the people living and working nearby.

From donations to local groups, to involving our neighbours in the development of our master plan – we are committed to taking an active part in our community.

A Sustainable Business

Understanding the importance of protecting our environment, the Society has made great progress in reducing our consumption of the world's precious resources. We continue our drive to cut carbon emissions in line with Government targets.

A Charitable Organisation

As part of our charitable status, the Society donates substantial funds each year in support of education. In recent years significant funding has been awarded to The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Glasgow School of Veterinary Medicine, The Royal Highland Education Trust and The Nuffield Trust.



A man in a white lab coat and tie is leading a Highland cow with a rope. The cow has long, shaggy brown fur and large, curved horns. The background is a bright, slightly cloudy sky.

THE greatest

SHOW ON EARTH

THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW: A showcase for Scotland's food, farming and culture

Each year thousands of people flock to the Royal Highland Show to see, taste and experience the very best of Scottish food, farming and countryside.

For four days in June and over 280 acres, the finest farmyard animals share centre stage with Scotland's bountiful larder, spectacular show jumping, countryside pursuits, educational workshops, entertainment, shopping and a host of business opportunities.

The first show was held in 1822 on a site that is now home to the Scottish Parliament. Today, it is Scotland's biggest outdoor event attracting around 190,000 people and regarded as one of Europe's leading agri-business shows.

Contributing almost £100 million to the Scottish economy each year, the Royal Highland Show is more than just a great day out.

The four-day event has become an important date not only in the farming calendar, but also with Government and industry bodies, food producers and business leaders. With over 100 media reporting live from the show, it is the place to make the headlines, network, influence and most importantly, do business.

It is also considered a great day out for families and individuals keen to experience the best Scotland has to offer.



A PLATFORM FOR EVENTS

The Royal Highland Centre is home to Ingliston House, the Society's headquarters. Importantly, the Centre also plays a key role in supporting and driving the development of both Edinburgh's and Scotland's events business, hosting hundreds of events, conferences, exhibitions and functions each year.

The advancement of our events business delivers significant benefits to the Society and Scotland and it is estimated that over £250 million is generated for the Scottish economy. From large-scale gatherings, such as Gardening Scotland and the Royal Highland Show, to intimate private parties, our unique

parkland setting next to Edinburgh Airport and minutes from the city centre, has earned the reputation as an inspiring and well-connected venue.

With many years of experience in making events happen, our events team pride themselves on creating solutions to exacting individual requirements frequently working with colleagues within other parts of the Society. This partnership approach, coupled with our first-class exhibition halls, pavilions, outdoor theatre, onsite catering and hotel accommodation, provides organisers with a flexibility and quality that's hard to beat.

The Future Unfolds

The decision to purchase the 280-acre site at Ingliston in 1958 demonstrated the Society's ability to grasp opportunities and bring big ideas to fruition for the benefit of its members.

Over the years we have continued to invest in the site - creating a successful events business, developing an agribusiness hub, maximising the income from our residential properties and returning the 18th century Ingliston House to its former glory.

We have embarked on another major milestone in the Society's history – the redevelopment of the Royal Highland Centre.

This ambitious project, costing in excess of £20 million, will result in the creation of a world-class event space and a centre of excellence for rural enterprise, agriculture and primary industries.

The realisation of this master plan will enable the Society to grow and develop, ensuring the success of our business and thereby delivering significant economic benefits to Scotland.

The developments include:

- A Scottish Centre of Excellence showcasing the best of Scottish primary and secondary produce including food and drink, textiles and other products. This facility is designed to be multi-functional incorporating retail, catering, exhibitions, training and education.
- Two additional hotels to accommodate business and leisure tourism.
- An expansion of the existing business hub to provide additional facilities and support the development of rural and agricultural enterprise. Our intention is to attract a diverse range of agribusiness, primary industry and rural businesses, including renewables, and become a core location for Scotland's rural economy.
- A new conference space designed to attract much-valued business tourism to Scotland.
- The creation of a civic realm to provide a strong sense of arrival to Scotland's national showground.

EDUCATOR

of young people

Without the Royal Highland Education Trust, many of Scotland's primary school children may not have known where their food comes from, might never have seen a cow up close or become aware of what's expected of them when venturing out into the countryside.

This startling quotation, sums up the crucial role The Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) plays in educating our young people about food, farming and the Scottish countryside.

Delivering curriculum-linked education programmes to 30,000 children each year, RHET achieves this with a core management team and twelve educational coordinators working in communities throughout Scotland.

With over 500 volunteers supporting the charity's work, RHET's pioneering approach to education is held in high esteem by the teaching profession, educational policy makers and, most importantly, the children themselves.

Each year over 20,000 school children benefit from free entry to the Royal Highland Show where they take part in interactive exhibitions at RHET's Discovery Centre.

The team's expertise and ambitions for 'hands on' education has seen the development of initiatives such as farmers markets in schools, potato growing projects, farmhouse breakfast week, tractor projects and farmer speakers in the classroom.

Not content with bringing the farm to the school, RHET has been successful in taking thousands of children each year on to farms and estates to experience firsthand, the role of farming in food production and where it fits into a living countryside.



The Society has always recognised the strength of other organisations who share our passion for the success of land-based industries both here in Scotland and further afield.

well-connected organisation

**We are proud to be represented
on the following bodies:**

British Isles Shearing Competitions Association
Council for Awards of the Royal Agricultural Societies
EURASCO
Highland Centre Limited
Highland Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
Moredun Foundation
National Diploma in Bee-keeping Examination Board
National Trust For Scotland
Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust
Oatridge Agricultural College Board of Management
Royal Agricultural & Rural Development Centre Limited
Royal Agricultural Society of England Council
Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth Trustee Board
Royal Highland Society Development Trust
Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Clubs
Scottish Country Life Museums Trust Limited
Scottish Minister's Panel of Agricultural Arbiters
Scottish Seed Potato Consultative Panel
Scottish Sheep Shearing Circuit Committee
The MacRobert Trust
The Roy Watherston Memorial Trust
The Royal Highland Education Trust





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