

BORDER UNION AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY BURSARY FUND

The Border Union Agricultural Society is delighted to announce that an award from the Bicentenary Bursary Fund has been made to Kristoffer Smith of Yetholm. Kristoffer has been accepted on the Masters Course in Building Conservation (Technology and Management) at Heriot Watt University commencing September 2015. He plans to complete course, which is on a distance-learning basis, within 3 years.

Kristoffer, who lives with his wife Susan in Yetholm, graduated with a BSc in Building Surveying from the College of Estate Management at Reading University. He is currently employed as a trainee surveyor with Edwin Thompson in Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Kristoffer is very keen to advance his knowledge and expertise within an area of the construction industry about which he feels passionate and which is very relevant to the Borders. From his dissertation completed for his BSc he found that there was a lack of specialism and knowledge at designer/specifier level with regard to building conservation. The course will enable him to provide expert advice on the conservation and development of old and historic buildings, including repairs, maintenance and design.

“I see real growth potential in the conservation sector, particularly in the Borders and North Northumberland, due to its rural nature, the current build environment and the need for development,” explains Kristoffer. “By undertaking this course I will be able to offer specialist advice on repair techniques and suitability of design and development to a range of farmers and estate owners who are responsible for historic properties”.

Neal Thompson of Edwin Thompson, Kristoffer’s employer, adds: “There is a definite lack of conservation professionals, not only to deal with the many important buildings in the Borders but also to offer advice to estates and developers about suitable and appropriate repairs and designs. We are delighted to have Kris working with us and look forward to seeing the benefits of his course”.

Jonny McCririck, Chairman of the Border Union Agricultural Society, comments: “The Bicentenary Fund is a home-grown scheme for home-grown Borderers who have ambition and who want to take the next step in their career. Kristoffer is a fine example of this and we wish him well. In due course we will be discussing with him how he can feed his learning back to the Society’s members.”

Kristoffer explains how delighted he was to learn about the Bicentenary Bursary Fund. “I had been struggling to find financial support for the costs of this course, which I have been so keen to undertake. There was nothing available from the mainstream organisations so I was interested when I happened to notice an article about the Border Bicentenary Union Fund”.

The Bicentenary Bursary Fund welcomes applications from Borders people. These are considered four times a year. Enquiries should be made to the Society’s office at Springwood Park in Kelso or by e-mail to enquiries@buas.org.