

## Introduction

This report concerns the people involved and the activities Lucky Ewe has undertaken this year. It describes the ethos and challenges we have encountered along the way. Finally, the report looks forward to next year. At the heart of the report is the acknowledgement of the fantastic effort put in by our Interns, Volunteers, Trustees, Supporters and Staff. Their work has meant we have continued to develop the Lucky Ewe vision and have made great strides this year.

## People and Partnerships

Lucky Ewe membership has increased from 34 to 45 and we have 41 Interns currently benefiting from their sessions on the farm at Bonnyton Farm. There are 18 active volunteers and it has been great to see new volunteers becoming our regular support workers, enjoying their time working with the Interns and the sheep. Currently we have 6 Trustees and we hope to increase that number. Trustees have worked incredibly hard this year and we know we need to keep strengthening our committee to meet the tasks to come. With 2 recent appointments we are very proud now to employ 5 part time staff members, 4 at the farm, Jenny, Jen, Colin and Heather, and 1 administrator, Alyssa.

Our partnerships with local service providers have grown too. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service brings beneficiaries every week to group sessions at the farm and offers advice to families on how to access Lucky Ewe. 5 secondary schools, as well as Pupil Support Services, send young people to us. Auchmuty High School enjoys a group session of farm work and woodwork, with a member of teaching staff attending, every week. Local GPs, Includem, Link Befriending, Fife Forum, Enable, Care Visions and Skills Development Scotland have all referred and supported Interns. Our links to FC Employability Service and Social Work Service are areas we plan to nurture going forward.

## Last year at a glance

In April 2021 we set about amending our constitution to meet the requirements of NHS legal team, in particular to limit our membership to people who live in Fife. In May our policy documents, outlining the ethos and management of the charity were written and approved by Trustees and can now be viewed on our website [www.luckyewe.org.uk](http://www.luckyewe.org.uk)

In June, with the generous help of skilled (and not so skilled) volunteers we erected the new stock tunnel funded by Foundation Scotland. This increased our activity area, without compromising health and safety, through affording shelter plus excellent ventilation. In July we held an Open Day and Intern Ewan cut the ribbon on the new tunnel. We also held the Special General Meeting needed to adopt the new Constitution which OSCR then readily accepted. In August we started the conversation with members and friends on 'fleshing out' the Business Plan to accompany the resubmission of our Community Asset Transfer request. We gratefully received input from 14 members who contributed to the document.

In September we rewrote and updated the CAT application and the Fund Raising Committee got underway. In October we resubmitted the CAT request and accompanying Business Plan. Work got underway at the farm to produce felted craft items for sale. Our new Meatlink tup (Ramsay) arrived while 6 ewes were artificially insemination with Lacaune semen to provide dairy flock replacements. In November we collected the Rotary donated tatties and in December, with a stall at Teasses

Christmas market, as well as wool craft and cheese sales amongst members, we raised over £1100. Trustees agreed in January 2022 to bring fund raising 'in-house' and made use of the offer from Robertson Trust of facilitated growth planning consultancy. We made sure Interns and supporters were given a voice, then Trustees and active members worked with the facilitator, to produce the report, now available on our website.

February and March saw us continue to fulfil our promise to funders to recruit new employees to Lucky Ewe. We met with NHS Fife and endeavoured to answer their searching questions about our CAT request. We will hear from them in May. April has been lambing season with all the extra work and effort required. However we still had time and energy to run a hugely successful Coffee Morning on 16<sup>th</sup> April which has raised over £700. Perhaps, more importantly, the coffee morning raised local awareness of our project and it cemented a real feeling of teamwork as Staff, Trustees, Interns, Parents, Volunteers and Friends all pulled together.

Lucky Ewe was presented by Cllr Margaret Kennedy with a Certificate of Recognition, on behalf of the people of Fife, for our exceptional service to the community throughout the Covid pandemic.

#### The challenge of remaining true to the ethos of Lucky Ewe

The ethos of Lucky Ewe involves working with interns and volunteers in a spirit of what Carl Rogers defined as 'unconditional positive regard.' This means providing a safe, non-judgemental and supportive work environment where practical tasks are achieved in a light-hearted but thorough and effective way. Staff and volunteers are genuine and empathic towards Interns. The predominant intention is to build confidence by offering the Interns the experience of success in the workplace. The long-term goal through doing this is to offer Interns support for their transition to their next steps in life. It is important that we, the charity's Trustees, Volunteers and Staff, maintain focus on this ethos while we carry out all the work that goes into running Lucky Ewe. An additional major challenge this year has been maintaining this focus while living with the uncertainty of our CAT request to NHS Fife.

#### Looking Ahead

We have attracted a substantial amount of funding this year and so, while this is great news, it means we must continue to satisfy the expectations of our funders and report back to them. Therefore gathering and acting on Intern and Volunteer feedback will continue, as will the production of our much enjoyed newsletters and presentations to local groups. We know that maintaining strong relationships with our current funders is crucial to securing Lucky Ewe's future and we will seek to build on this success. However, given that we hope to progress to new premises, with all the new challenges that will entail, we must also search out new sources of advice and support. This will be a priority in the coming year.

#### Conclusion

Thanks go in particular to Susan and Peter Beaver, Duncan and Barbara Pickard, Willie Lang, John and Kym Johnson, Ali and Ben McLean, Andrew Swain, as well as all the other members and friends, too numerous to mention, who have given Lucky Ewe their support this year. You have our grateful thanks. We could not do it without you.

*Dr Joan Brown: Chair 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022*