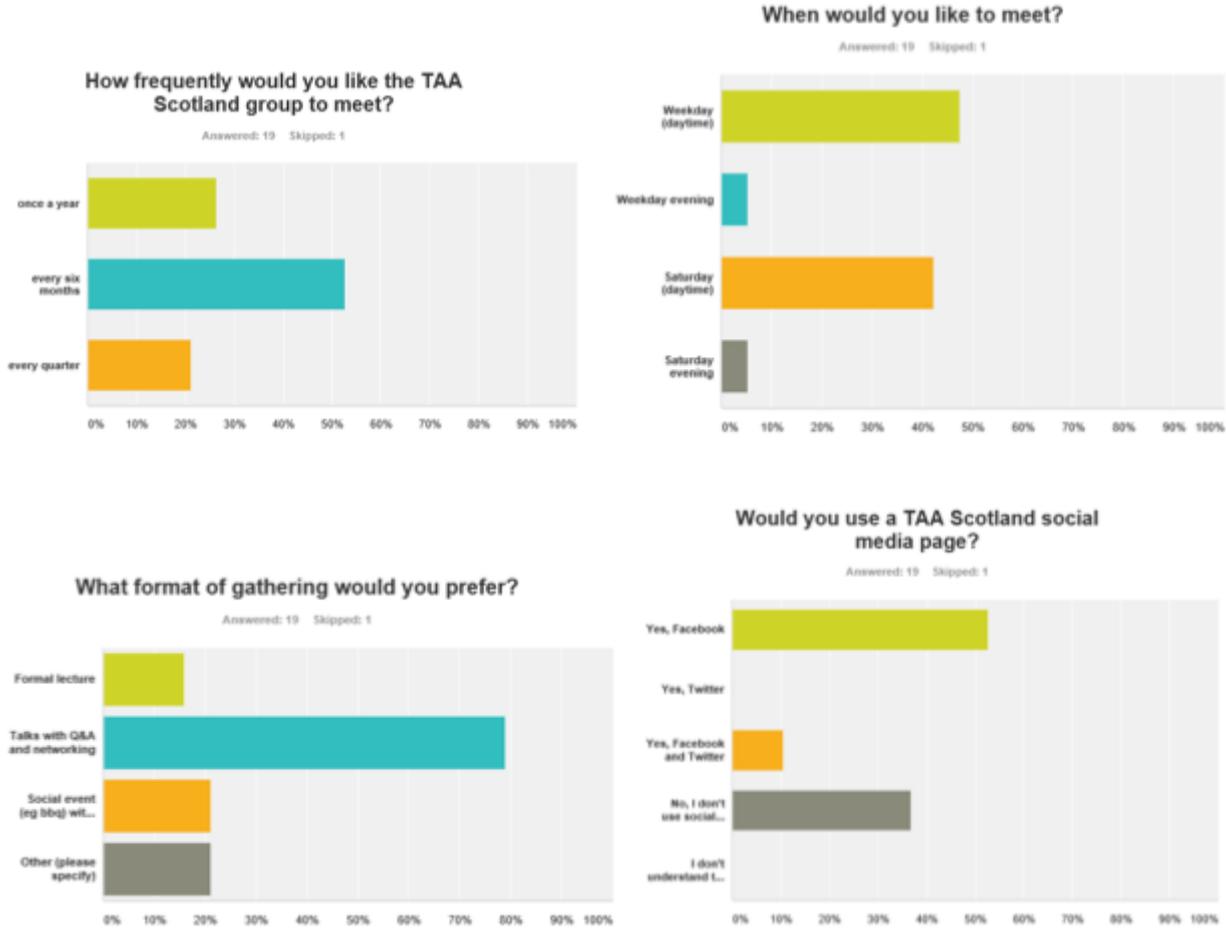


TAA Scotland Branch

Survey & Inaugural Meeting 25/9/15

Following the decision to start a Scotland Branch, John Ferguson circulated an online survey to all TAA members based in Scotland to gather their views on what they would like from TAA in Scotland. The results were fairly clear and are displayed below:



After receiving these results a (publicly viewable) TAA Scotland Branch Facebook page was set up, and also a TAA Scotland Branch closed group page for discussion. However these have had minimal use to date.

Further taking these findings into account, TAA Scotland Branch held their first meeting on Friday 25 September 2015 at Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, the details of which follow:

- 14:00 Arrival, coffee and networking
- 14:30 Welcome and introduction – John Ferguson, TAA Scotland Convenor.
- 14:35 “Introducing the Scotland Malawi Partnership: 150 years of cooperation”
David Hope-Jones, **Scotland Malawi Partnership**.

Scotland has a close nation-to-nation and people-to-people friendship with Malawi, dating back more than 150 years to the travels of Dr David Livingstone. Today, more than 94,000 Scots have active links with Malawi each year and the Scotland Malawi Partnership exists to coordinate, represent and support this national effort.

- 14:50 Q&A
- 15:00 “The rice farmers of Karonga, Malawi”
James Johnstone, **Just Trading Scotland**.

Based in Paisley, JTS is a fair trade organisation set up to facilitate the import and distribution of fairly traded products to the UK. We empower and educate producers and consumers, through the fair

purchasing and sale of delicious food products from the developing world. We seek to provide sustainable incomes and wellbeing for small holder farmers, producers and their families.

15:15 Q&A

15:25 "Protecting Livestock – Improving Human Lives".

Stuart Brown, **GALVmed**.

Around 900 million people in developing countries rely on livestock for their daily needs. Not for profit global alliance, GALVmed is working to help make livestock vaccines, medicines and diagnostics accessible and affordable to people living in poverty and is experiencing some transformational results: www.galvmed.org

15:40 Q&A

15:50 Thanks and comments – John Ferguson, TAA Scotland Convenor.

16:00 Networking (until 17:00)

The attendance was relatively low, with only 14 members attending, however all the talks were excellent and feedback was very positive.

On seeing the event advertised, one person joined TAA in advance of attending.

Since the meeting an email was received from Euan Thomson with a large number of ideas and suggestions of further activities that could be undertaken by the TAA Scotland Branch. These include an AGM, annual meal, an annual raffle, etc.

The next activity planned is on Wed 30 Sept 2015. We have organised a stand at an International Development Fair at Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh. This will serve as an opportunity to generate awareness of TAA in Scotland and potentially gather new members.

Due to the fact that members are widely distributed around Scotland (including the highlands and islands), we aim to hold events in various locations. The next meeting, in March or April 2016 is likely to be held at the James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen and Grant Davidson who works there has agreed to facilitate this.

John Ferguson

Convenor, Scotland Branch

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