

Douglas Bomford Trust Secretary Alan Plom writes: The role of the Trust in supporting students and funding research, study tours, etc, is very relevant to the theme of this issue of Landwards, which is focusing on 'The Next Generation' and asking what talents will be required and how they can be recruited.

MEET A TRUSTEE

In this column I would like to introduce our Trustees. First to be highlighted is one of our newer Trustees, **Eur Ing Dr Keith Hawken**. Keith is literally recognised worldwide, in his role as the AEA's Technical and Standards Director. In addition to his direct and influential links with manufacturers, Keith brings to the Trust his 45 years' experience of working in the industry and with standards organisations internationally. He started his career as an apprentice Tool Maker/Fitter and Jig and Tool Design Draughtsman (with Qualcast) and subsequently worked for ATCO and Bosch, before joining the AEA in 2000. On the way, his knowledge and expertise has been recognised by various professional and

academic qualifications, including his Doctorate through US Universities in Delaware.



Keith recently gave a presentation on behalf of the Trust to the **Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA) Education and Training Committee**. Keith explained the role of the Trust and our strong desire to get manufacturers and other organisations to identify and provide opportunities for our sponsored students to receive mentoring and gain experience of the industry. The Arkwright Scholarship Scheme, which aims to encourage A-level students into engineering, was also welcomed. We hope to follow this up with a presentation to the AEA's Outdoor Powered Equipment Committee.

HARPER ADAMS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Douglas Bomford Trust work closely with the Harper Adams Development Trust to allocate a number of Scholarships each year to support students of agricultural engineering.

Trustee Professor **Paul Miller** attended HAU's Scholarship Presentation Ceremony on 13 February to present our Certificates to the latest round of successful applicants who were interviewed last November. These were: **Alan Mobbs** and **John Nixon**, (both on the MEng Agricultural Engineering course); **Matthew Torok** and **Sam Scales** (on MEng and BEng Automotive Engineering (Off-Highway) courses respectively) and **Thomas Mellor** (BEng/BEng Hons Agricultural Engineering).

They intend to use their funding for a variety of purposes, varying from purchasing reference materials, IT equipment, CAD software, etc, to help with their coursework and projects or to overcome physical difficulties, to developing a 'Cutting Edge' lawn mower racing team. In addition, The Trust also agreed to provide some extra funding for



Anita Woolf, who received a DBT Scholarship last year, to help her establish a 'Women in Engineering' Network at HAU. We wish them all good luck.

INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

We have mentioned before the interesting international 'Desalination' Project the Trust was funding at **Aston University**. This is one of several international projects that we are currently funding and it has successfully brought together students from universities in Israel, Jordan and Palestine, together with the UK.

The first phase of the project is nearly complete and the project leader Dr Phillip Davies has recently moved to Birmingham University. Trustee **Professor Paul Miller** and Secretary **Alan Plom** recently met with Dr Davies and his associate Clive Lipchin (Head of Centre for Trans-boundary Water Management) from the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies in Israel, who outlined their interesting philosophy for stimulating peace and development through cross-border collaboration.

Although they hadn't recognised it, the increasing demand for water and improving soil condition to meet the global challenge to feed the increasing population will help to develop and steer more young people involved in what they saw as 'environmental studies' and engineering (in its various 'pure' disciplines) towards agriculture.

TRUSTEES R.I.P.

It is with great sadness that we report the recent deaths of two of our ex-Trustees.

JIM ROBINSON passed away on January 17th after a short illness. He was Vice Chair of our Board of Trustees when he stood down in November 2016 and was well-known throughout the industry, having studied at the National College of Agricultural Engineering, Silsoe in 1967-70, alongside current Trustee and ex-Secretary Paul Miller. Jim brought expertise gained in the sugarcane industry and as a Mechanisation Adviser with Massey Ferguson Export. He was instrumental in initiating our involvement with the **Arkwright Engineering Scholarship Scheme**. One of his legacies will be this Scheme continuing to successfully encourage young (A-Level) students into agricultural engineering.

ANTHONY BURGESS MBE, died suddenly on 1 November 2018. Although not a member of IAgRE (he was a Chartered Accountant), Tony made a significant contribution as a Trustee and supporter of developing young agricultural engineers. He was MD of the family business F H Burgess for over 30 years. Throughout his career in accountancy, Tony also maintained a direct interest in farming through managing his own 70-acre arable and timber-growing farm. He was also on Harper Adams' Board of Governors for 25 years before becoming Chair of the Harper Adams Development Trust in 2004. Tony was also a director of the Agri-Food Charities Partnership (AFCP), and he received an MBE in 2016.