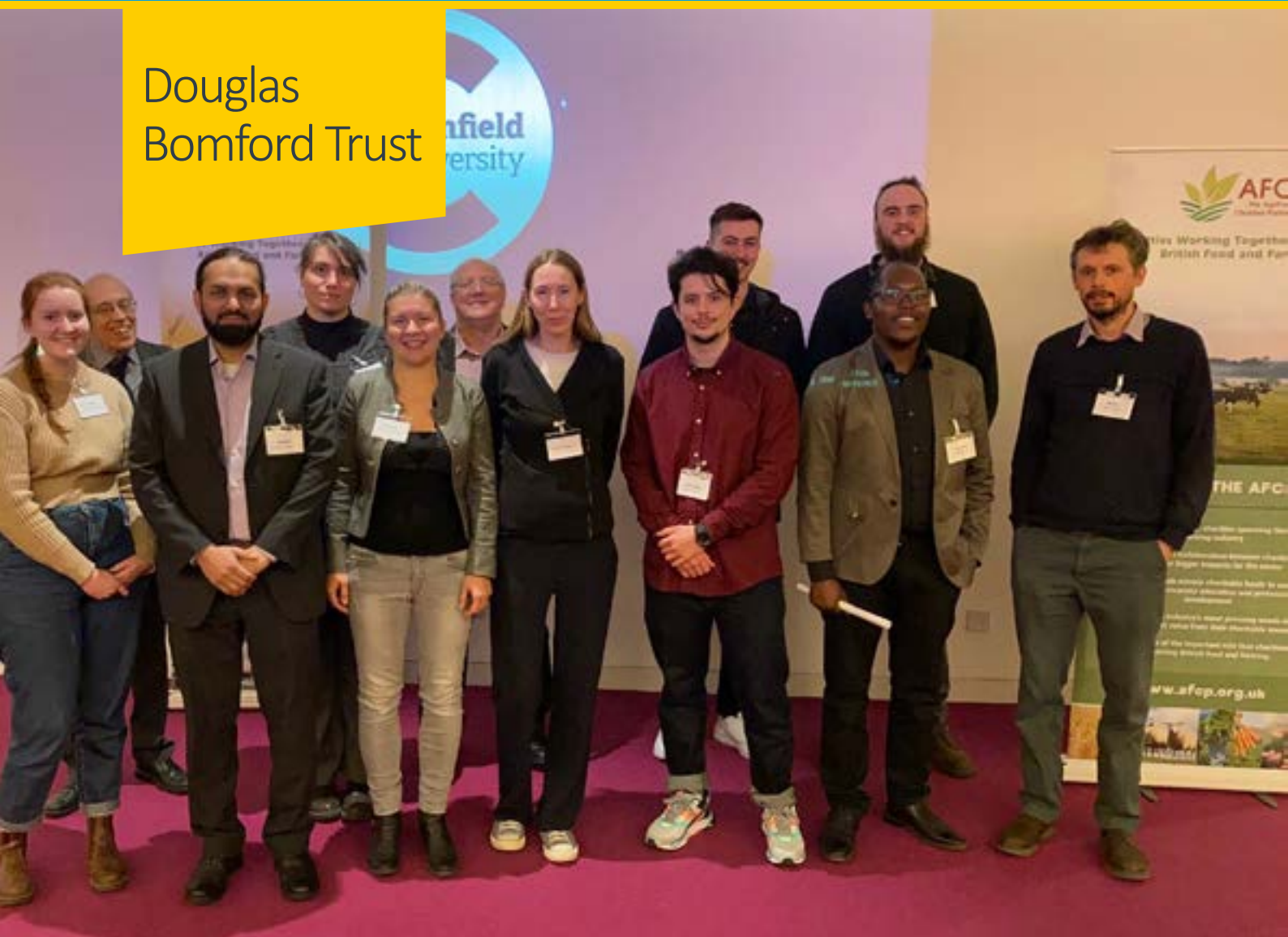


## Douglas Bomford Trust



(From l to r): Beth O’Sullivan (Nottingham), Paul Miller (Trustee), Qaisar Ali (Reading), Silvia Arpano (Cranfield), Dr Paula Misiewicz (Senior Lecturer/Supervisor at Harper Adams), Alan Plom (Trust Secretary), Ana Prada (Harper Adams), Dimitris Mallis (Nottingham), Scott Ewing (Glasgow), and Liam Burlace (Birmingham) standing behind Mavuto Banda (Cranfield, based in Malawi) and Prof Matt Bell (Supervisor ex-Nottingham, now at Hartpury)

## Let loose at last.....

*Secretary Alan Plom is relieved to report on the Trust’s first face-to-face meetings for 2½ years, especially as the Trust is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year.*

### Agri-Food Charities Partnership (AFCP) National Student Forum

This ‘biennial’ Forum was held at Cranfield on 30th March. Nearly 60 attended, with more than 30 posters displayed. Eight of our current PhDs were able to discuss their research with students funded by other charities from around the country, as well as some supervisors and trustees.

Two also gave presentations: Dimitris Mallis (travelled back from Greece) and Silvia Arpano (who only had to walk across the Cranfield campus!). Brief details of all their projects and posters and photos of our tour of the Agri-Epi Centre and Labs can be viewed at:

<https://www.dbt.org.uk/researchprojects>

The event warned us that Covid isn’t done with us yet. One of our students Alex Ansell was self-isolating and a few who did attend tested positive afterwards, although no-one was seriously affected.

Josie Lynch (Worcester University), was also unable to attend, due to speaking at a conference in Hungary



(Front l to r): Eric Murray, Jack Hughson, Toby Jones, Jessica Evans and Rachel Brown. (Back l to r): Alan Plom (Trust Secretary), Richard Robinson (Trustee), and David White (ex-Trustee/Senior Lecturer in Agricultural Engineering)

(sponsored by DBT), not surprisingly, this had to be held on-line due to the Ukraine situation.

### Lincoln outing

Our bi-annual Board meeting was hosted by Trustee Prof Simon Pearson at Lincoln Institute of Agricultural Technology (LIAT) on 5th April - the first time some of our Trustees had actually met each other. Although Rebecca Geraghty was unable to join us, she appeared 'larger than life' on a monitor.

Trustees also met many of the LIAT-based PhD students and their Supervisors involved in the AgriFoRwArdS\* robotics programme, toured the research facilities at Riseholme Campus and watched demonstrations of their innovative projects.

### Harper Adams University Scholarship Presentation Ceremony

This greatly missed 'annual' awards event was held on 11 May, attended by Trustee Richard Robinson and Secretary Alan Plom, who presented the certificates to the five successful students. It was nice to meet them as well as many 'old friends' face-to-face at last, after two years of online interviews.

Jack also received a scholarship from the Jenner charity, and it was notable that a number of other agricultural engineering students received scholarships from other sponsors this year, including recent DBT Scholars Will Flittner (a one-year placement with Claas) and Sam Scales (the prestigious 'Harper Adams Club Postgraduate Scholarship'). Both are keen ambassadors for IAgRE, actively support their local Branch, attended the AGM and recently set up an Engineering Society at Harper.

Trustees have also been involved in several other virtual and face-to-face meetings, including 'set-up' meetings with research students and their supervisors.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

We are all looking forward to our special '**Jubilee**' Event in September (Covid permitting!) and meeting a cross-section of invited representatives of organisations and institutions the Trust has worked closely with over the past five decades, and some beneficiaries to reflect on what the Trust's support meant to them. [nb. Keep an eye on your inboxes....and junk folders?]

Please share how any support from the Trust (eg sponsoring your research, scholarships, travel, or 'hardship' grants, mentoring, etc.) during the past 50 years has helped.

Please send a short, written testimonial and ideally a 'selfie' video recording, to the Secretary via [enquiries@dbt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dbt.org.uk), asap.

We would also welcome further donations from beneficiaries, to enable us to support even more research – vital for all our futures. Thank you.