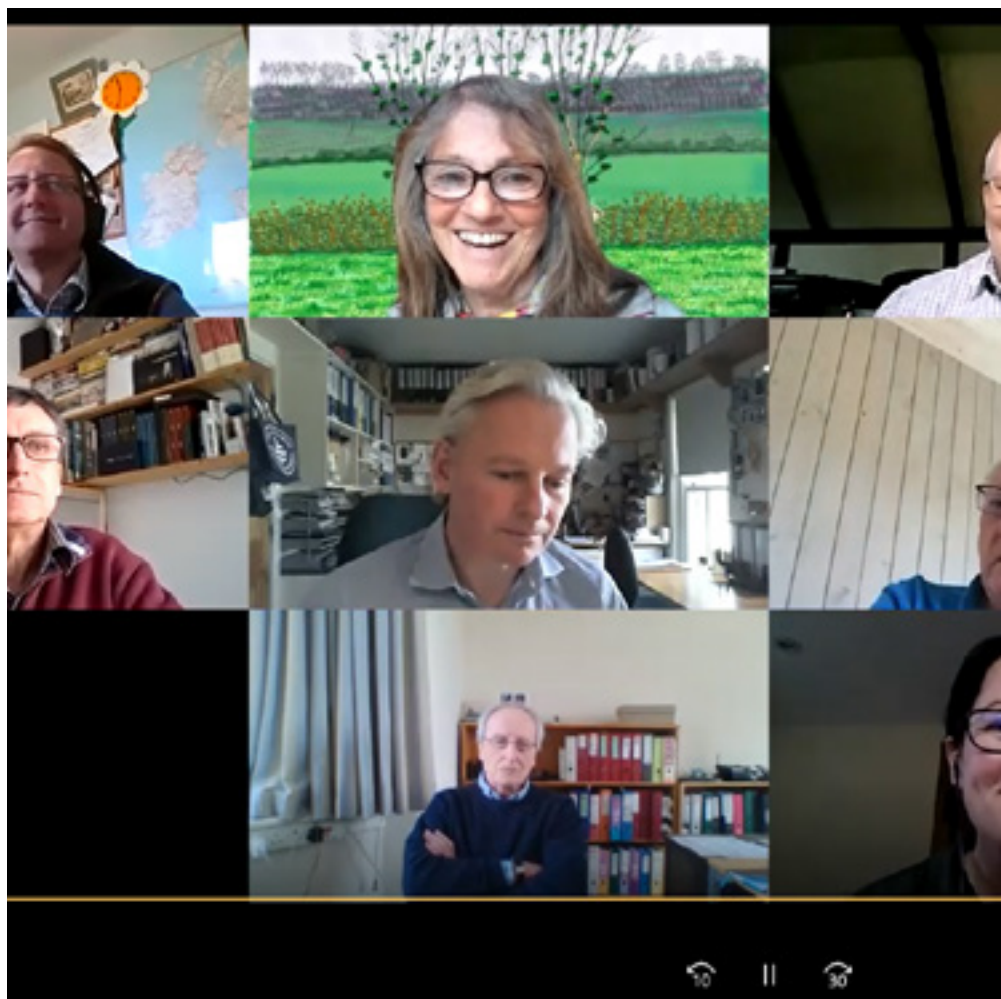


Douglas Bomford Trust

Collaboration and seed corn

Trust secretary Alan Plom reports on another quarter of online meetings and events: these included the half-yearly Board meeting in April. Hopefully we will all be able to meet face to face rather than the 'new normal', with our new trustees too, at our next meeting in November.



Douglas Bomford Trust - Trustees meeting

We were pleased to receive a number of applications for funding, as the number of suitable proposals for PhD research projects has reduced in recent years (a trend observed pre-pandemic). Several sponsored projects have also been completed or are about to be. However, we cannot support every application, as funds are limited, and we have to select projects which meet the core objectives.

Collaboration

The Trust is a member of the AgriFood Charities Partnership (AFCP) and we often refer unsuccessful applicants to their website <https://www.afcp.org.uk/>. This lists well over 100 organisations which together invest around £3.5m/year in new research, skills development and public education for UK Food and Farming. Some co-sponsor projects with our Trust. Individuals or charities can use AFCP's website to find funding opportunities or partners, eg

for research, travel or other CPD opportunities. We are seeking ways to share information between charities speedily to help applicants. In addition to their regular Board business, trustees took the opportunity to 'meet' with the CEO of Agri-EPI Dave Ross, to discuss potential collaboration and our sponsored researchers at universities. Like other charities in the sector, some of our projects complement those being developed and coordinated by Agri-EPI.

IAgrE Student Membership

The Trust sponsors student membership of IAgrE as part of our shared objective to help individuals develop, to encourage them to opt for a career in the sector and enable them to progress within it. We are discussing how we can encourage students to become more actively involved with IAgrE and its Branches, to benefit those individuals who demonstrate commitment to the profession.

Illuminating our 'Alumni'

We virtually 'met' our 2021 HAU Scholars: Robert Bryning, Thomas Bowers, Will Flittner, Alex Williams, and Rhodri Williams, together with additional recipient Mark Sherry, for an hour after their online 'Presentation Ceremony'. Trustee/mentor Paul Miller, ex-trustee David White and I were able to enjoy a wide-ranging hour-long discussion about their projects, their hopes, the future of the industry and career opportunities. We have an open door to our 'alumni' and can be contacted at any time via the email below. We look forward to sieving this year's 'wheat from the chaff' in the Autumn. [nb. This competition is open to students on any relevant course (not just HAU).

Trust seed corn

It is good to hear examples of Trust funding acting as 'seed corn'. Two HAU Graduates Tom Beach and Jack Wyatt featured recently on BBC Radio



4's Farming Today and TV News. The first to import the Agrobot from Denmark, which they saw at Agritechnica in 2019 - a visit part-funded by the Trust.

It was rewarding to see a number of previous HAU Scholarship winners receive prizes at IAgRE's combined 2020 and 2021 Awards event, including:

- **Will Hook** - CNH Industrial Award for his thesis on design and evaluation of seed dispersal units.
- **Andrew Hardy** - Student Project Award: "compact excavator

attachment for lifting trees out of the ground".

- **Huw Gilchrist** - Safety Project Award: "A safe load indicator for a tractor and fore-end loader".

The Trust also sponsors the IAgRE prize awarded to the author(s) of the 'Best Paper' (published in Landwards and/or Biosystems Engineering).

Further details of all the IAgRE award winners are in the Awards Extra with this edition of Landwards.

For further information

DOUGLAS BOMFORD TRUST

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