

Professional

The Douglas
Bomford Trust

Douglas Bomford Trust (DBT) Secretary Alan Plom reflects on the Trust's (virtual) activities over the past few months and looks forward to 2022:

Supporting IAgRE and Students

We have continued to take advantage of IAgRE's wide-ranging series of online Lunchtime Lectures and Branch meetings to catch up with some of our current and previous DBT Scholarship winners. Most recently, Harper Adams student Rhodri Williams, who tuned in to the 'Future Fuels' Landwards Conference from Germany, where he is now working for Claas at Harsewinkel.

Like his predecessors, Rhodri is enjoying his work and the challenge of learning German too. He recognised that his international experience and working towards his EngTech will be of interest to others. Achieving his professional qualification will be helped by gaining useful CPD from attending IAgRE's online meetings too.

As reported previously, DBT and IAgRE have been discussing creating a forum for students and graduates to share their experiences, to help others progress their projects and

careers. If you are willing to share your knowledge and experience, please let us know, via enquiries@dbt.org.uk.

Another contact made during the 'Future Fuels' Conference was another Harper student Barnabas Pickford, who previously received a DBT-funded 2-year Arkwright Scholarship when he was still at school. Under this Scheme, the Trust funds two new A-Level students each year. These are awarded to selected pupils who have specifically expressed an interest in agricultural engineering. With personal mentoring, we hope to encourage them into studying a related subject at University and ultimately pursue a career in the industry.

Arkwright Awards

The Arkwright Awards are usually announced and presented at a grand ceremony held each year at The Institute of Engineering & Technology (IET), Savoy Place in London. Unfortunately, for this year's

new Scholars (and our Trustee/ Student Mentor Richard Robinson), this event was held online again. We hope to be able to meet the recipients some time, and will be encouraging them to attend their local IAgRE Branch meetings – or any others – in person or online, over the next two years.

Project Funding

We have received more applications to fund a more diverse range of research projects than in recent years, so we look forward to an interesting (and challenging) Board meeting in mid-November.

Applications for financial support for projects or other purposes may be submitted at any time (via the email below), although requests for amounts over £5,000 are only considered twice yearly (in mid-April and mid-November).

See our website www.dbt.org.uk for guidance, to download the application form, and for a selection of reports from past and current projects.

Golden Anniversary 2022

We are also looking forward to celebrating the Trust's 50th year throughout 2022. We would welcome any recollections of how the Trust has helped individuals or groups over the past 5 decades – particularly in the 'early days'. Please email your stories to enquiries@dbt.org.uk. Our special 'Jubilee' event in September will be looking forwards too.

Watch this space and follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn @BomfordTrust for further announcements.

For further information see our website www.dbt.org.uk or contact the Trust via enquiries@dbt.org.uk or phone 07951 527051.