

DBT



Harper Adams University (HAU) Engineering Society students meet Michael Horsch in Germany

## Travel, Scholarships and a new Face

Firstly, a warm welcome to Chris Keeping, who joined the Douglas Bomford Trust in May as the new DBT Financial and Administration Officer and is “really excited by the challenge ahead”. Chris is replacing Elizabeth Stephens, who is retiring – a full report in the next edition.

Chris is a graduate of Newcastle University, where she followed her interest in sustainable agriculture by reading Agricultural and Environmental Science.

A qualified Chartered Accountant (FCA), Chris qualified with PricewaterhouseCoopers and worked for a number of years at Ernst and Young. Her subsequent career has been across a wide variety of organisations and sectors. Previous charitable experience

includes positions at a hospice and a community foundation.

Chris lives with her family on a smallholding in north Oxfordshire. Her hobbies and interests include horses; breeding, training and picking up with her labradors; developing her flock of rare breed sheep and gardening (Chris has a second degree in garden design from Sparsholt College). She also enjoys rowing and hill walking, recently completing the West Highland Way and is a keen supporter of Gloucester Rugby club.

### Munich trip

The Douglas Bomford Trust provided a travel award for 10 Harper Adams University (HAU) Engineering Society students for a trip to Munich,



Welcome to Chris Keeping the new DBT Financial and Administration Officer.

Germany, from 9-13<sup>th</sup> April 2025. The aim of this trip was to aid the professional development of HAU engineers.

On the first day, the students visited Horsch GmbH, a family-owned global company designing and

manufacturing tillage, seeding and plant protection equipment. Michael Horsch gave an insightful and engaging talk covering numerous aspects of the business, including Horsch’s approach to product development and the growth of the company from Michael’s home farm. Max Plappert, one of Horsch’s product specialists, then gave a full tour of the manufacturing and research facilities.

The rest of the trip was spent at Bauma, the World’s leading Trade Fair for construction machinery and vehicles, and mining machinery, including live demonstrations. Caterpillar demonstrated a virtual cab for an excavator removing the operator from any dangerous situation.

### A learning experience

The trip allowed students the chance to travel to another country, experience different cultures and environments. Also to engage in professional real-world engineering, and meet with engineers from all over the world and see how engineering concepts vary between countries.

“My favourite part about Bauma was meeting new people who I would have never met, networking at the show and seeing what’s coming in the future/what’s here now, and helping us to be ahead with our studies.”

“On behalf of all attendees, Society members, and the wider university, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the Trust’s exceptional support for this trip”.



## Harper Adams University Scholarship Presentation event

On 7<sup>th</sup> May, Nick August (DBT Chair) and David White attended the Harper Adams University Scholarship Presentation event. Douglas Bomford Trust Scholarships were awarded to engineering students Alexander Fuller-Shapcott, Eric Murray, Robert Siebert, Joshua Weaver, and Thomas Morgan. Congratulations. Great ambassadors for the profession.



Standing L to R. Nick August, David R White Seated L to R. Joshua Weaver, Robert Siebert, Alexander Fuller-Shapcott, Thomas Morgan, Eric Murray.

For further information, see the Trusts website:

Or contact the Secretary David White via: [enquiries@dbt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dbt.org.uk)

You can also follow: [@BomfordTrust](https://www.instagram.com/BomfordTrust)

on ‘X’ and ‘LinkedIn’, for news , opportunities and events



## And Finally

The Trust sponsored three of the awards made at the IAgRE Awards Presentation Day (see page 18 for the full rundown). All very worthy winners. Congratulations.