

DOUGLAS BOMFORD TRUST

Alan Plom, The Douglas Bomford Trust's new secretary, provides this update on the Trust's recent activities.

AGRITECHNICA

The Trust helped 9 **Harper Adams University (HAU)** MEng students attend **Agritechnica 2017** in Hanover last November. They provided an interesting report (and perspective) on their trip. In addition to viewing the latest developments they were inspired by the diversity at the show in terms of size of stands, companies exhibiting and high standard of products. It was even more rewarding for the Trust to hear that they "came away with new knowledge, were excited about the future of the Agricultural Engineering industry, and are eager to take their place within it". This is a key objective of the Trust.



RIGHT: Agritechnica group included William Coldicott, Peter Hague, Owen Godwin, Christopher Joynt, Joshua Kings, Hubertus Kleuter, Daniel Markham, Megan Platt & Matthew Smith

AGRI-FOOD CHARITIES

DBT was also signposting sources of funding for research and development at a workshop convened by Smart-AKIS with AgriTech East, in Kings Lynn on 22 March. IAgRE President Robert Merrell introduced the event, whilst I spoke about the work of the Trust and the **Agri-Food Charities Partnership (AFCP)**. I was surprised when I was researching my lecture - as was the audience - to learn that there are some 150 charities providing funds in the agri-food sector and 126 of them are listed on the AFCP website: <http://www.afcp.org.uk/>. **AFCP charities** have a crucial role to play. Whilst small compared to the larger charities - typically investing less than £100k/yr - together they are significant, investing an estimated £3.5m/yr in new research, skills development and public education for UK Food and Farming. I also highlighted some of the diverse research that DBT is funding, eg one project is bringing together electronic gaming and security technology, applying the principles of human facial recognition to animal husbandry. Neither of the PhD students involved have agricultural qualifications and are finding their new working environment (a hi-tech dairy unit) and being part of an inter-disciplinary team very stimulating.



THE BIG BANG

DBT also helped another group of Harper Adams students to attend the **'Big Bang' Careers Fair**, at the NEC on 17 March. They were actively promoting engineering as a potential career, having designed and organised their exhibition stand as a project. DBT funded the large 3m diameter sign suspended above the stand. This landmark was used by many of the 80,000 (yes, 80,000!) young attendees to help navigate their way around the huge exhibition space. So, it could be said that DBT was a beacon of excellence - or at least a signpost!



MONITORING AND MENTORING

Our Trustees monitor and mentor projects funded by the Trust. Several Trustees recently attended an interesting meeting, together with representatives of co-sponsors, to review the 'Tillage and Traction' projects at Harper Adams.



ABOVE: 'DBT Trustees Paul Miller, Nick August, Prof Dick Godwin and David White hear an update from Harper staff and PhD students.

TWITTERING ON

For more regular updates on projects and other aspects of the Trust's work, please follow us on Twitter: **@BomfordTrust** or via our website <http://www.dbt.org.uk/>. More examples of the wide range of awards and projects sponsored by the Trust will be uploaded over the coming weeks. If you think we can help you, the application forms, criteria for awards (and inevitable forms) are all also available on the DBT website.

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