

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

## Douglas Bomford Scholarships presented

The six Harper Adams University (HAU) undergraduate students chosen to receive a Douglas Bomford Scholarship this year received their Awards officially at the well-attended and well-'choreographed' annual HAU Development Trust Scholarship Presentation Ceremony, held on 14 February.

The Trust was represented by Trustees **Dr Paul Miller** and **Dr David White**, and the Trust's Secretary, **Alan Plom**. Paul kindly did all the hand-shaking on behalf of the Trust and then addressed the packed Queen Mother Hall.

From his perspective of working with Harper Adams over the past 8 years as Secretary of the Trust and now as a new Trustee, Paul commented: "I have always been struck by the enthusiasm and excellent contribution Harper's engineering undergraduate students make, and we look forward to working with this year's scholars,

and continuing to work with HAU and its students in the future."

Harper's Development Trust are rightly proud to have raised £500k for this year, from many diverse charities and organisations. This is funding 151 Scholarships, supporting 133 students. In addition to the 6 undergraduate students chosen to receive a Douglas Bomford Scholarship this year, quite a few other recipients of Scholarships have an interest and involvement in agricultural engineering in its widest sense too, so the discipline was well-represented. The Trust also funded a party of HAU students to attend AgriTechnica this year.

I am sure that 'our' scholars enjoyed this opportunity to meet with the three of us again rather more than back in November, when they were being interviewed. All are clearly enjoying their studies (and life!) at Harper immensely, and their increased

confidence and growing 'stature' was noticeable. This bodes well for their futures in the industry.



**The Class of 2017-18. Harper Adams University Scholars with the Douglas Bomford Trust representatives**

**Back row L-R: Mr Alan Plom (Sec), David Kelso, Dr David White (Trustee), Hua Ying Baker, Alex Williams, Dr Paul Miller (Trustee)**  
**Front row L-R: Anita Woolf, William Flittner, Amy Boothby**

## Liaison with the Agricultural Engineers Association

Paul Miller had this in mind when he spoke to the **Agricultural Engineers Association Farm Equipment Council (FEC)** meeting on 21 February. Paul recalled that AEA members played a significant part in the Trust in its early days and was pleased that the AEA's Keith Hawken had recently become a Trustee. Paul described our role and funds available to support students at all levels - including supporting undergraduates and PhD's, funding travel to shows and study tours, special projects and

capital investments in facilities. He also explained how we monitor projects and saw potential for the AEA to suggest projects.

FEC members agreed that the 'Arkwright' Scheme chimed well with the AEA and manufacturer's desire to attract young people into agricultural engineering, and hosting visits was a good model for future collaboration. The Trust have been invited to speak to AEA's Training and Education Committee and we look forward to making arrangements with

manufacturers for this and future years.

### IAgrE Landwards Conference

The Trust funded the transport of a number of sponsored students to exhibit at the Annual Landwards Conference, **'Decarbonising UK Agriculture- Perspectives and Policy for Change'**.

## 'Feeding Tomorrow' at the Science Museum

The Trust is one of the sponsors of a new exhibit being developed at the Science Museum, aiming to advance knowledge and understanding of the application of engineering and technology in the agricultural sector.

Trustee **Paul Miller** has been advising the curators on content of the **'Contemporary Agriculture Gallery'**.

Under the banner **'Feeding Tomorrow'**, this innovative new display is intended to "give people the tools to understand the world around them: the reasons for changing environments, the possible ways of combatting this and fighting common misconceptions, allowing visitors to make informed choices around food and how they are affecting the environment".

The current plan is that the Gallery will be split into four 'clusters', each examining a different issue faced by modern farmers, as well as introducing how innovations in science, technology and engineering are being used to address them. In particular:

- **Soil:** How can we work the land to produce enough food and keep the fragile soil healthy?
- **Wildlife:** How can we grow enough food and leave space for wildlife?
- **Animals:** How can we rear animals to produce food and look after their welfare?
- **Climate:** How can we grow enough food and adapt to a changing climate?

The aim of the Trusts' involvement is to ensure that the contribution of agricultural engineering has a high profile, alongside the emphasis on environmental and sustainability issues in maintaining and increasing agricultural production to meet an expanding world population. Visitors will be introduced to working objects and have the chance to handle exhibits and get up close and personal with contemporary agricultural tools. The gallery is due to open in 2019.