

# Professional

The Douglas Bomford Trust



## Jubilee, justification, jubilation, and jollies

*Trust Secretary Alan Plom looks back at recent events and opportunities:*

### Jubilee

The last Landwards featured a report on the Trust’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event held in September. Our Trustees would like to thank all who attended and the speakers who made it such a success. A more detailed review is now available on our website, which includes additional background and links to the presentations, photographs, and testimonials.

The excellent Inside Agri-Turf podcast (produced by former Landwards editor Chris Biddle,) provides highlights covering the Trust’s evolution through to the forward look by our new Patron Dr David Llewellyn.

### Justification

Trustees welcome feedback and the testimonials of past and current alumni reflect how the Trust’s support can benefit individuals in their studies. Thanks go to Harper students Rhodri Williams and Will Flittner; Marta Sanzo Miró and Matt Home (Cranfield); Barnabas Pickford (Nottingham) and Josie Lynch (Worcester).

Two of the speakers (Nick Tillett and Paula Misiewicz) and some written testimonials also described the long-term impact of the Trust’s support on subsequent careers and businesses. We hope that a ‘Student Forum’ will be set up, enabling individuals to share their experiences along with advice on completing studies or research.



This graphic depicts the Trust’s current approach and activities, but Trustee Paul Miller described our emerging strategy, being developed in collaboration with Cranfield MSc students over the past three years. Their horizon-scanning and model framework will help the Trust identify priorities and enable more effective targeting of sponsorship.

### Jubilation

We attended several other celebrations recently. HAU’s Graduation Ceremonies for the ‘Classes’ of 2020, 21 and 22, RAU’s and Cranfield’s. Congratulations to all our alumni. Your degrees were well-earned in the face of the pandemic, and we wish you all success in your careers.

### Not just ‘Jollies’

It has been a pleasure to meet socially with alumni, academic and industry colleagues at numerous other events too, including the recent IAgRE Landwards Conference.

At last, we have started to receive reports from those now able to spend their Travel Grants However,



Trustee Nick August and his combine

we are reassured that our sponsored trips are never 'all play and no work'.

Marta Sanzo Miró enjoyed her Trust-sponsored trip to Dublin to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> World Potato Congress at the end of May, as part of her PhD project on reducing in-store potato losses. Marta was active in the Cranfield MSc horizon scanning group.

Barnabas Pickford (who has been supported by the Trust since his A-levels, via the Arkwright Scholarship Scheme and is now a 3<sup>rd</sup> year MEng at Nottingham

University) also provided an interesting report on his visit to the 100<sup>th</sup> SIMA in Paris. He was impressed by the range of new ideas from start-ups, not just the biggest and latest autonomous machines from established manufacturers. Many related to spot spraying, weed detection and electronic weeders. 'Combined power' machines are also starting to feature.

Richard Robinson attended this year's Arkwright Scholarship Awards Ceremony at the IET in London, where he met two of our four new A-level students he will be mentoring over the

next two years. The aim is to encourage students to study undergrad courses related to agricultural engineering and hopefully pursue a career in the sector.

Earlier in the summer, Trustee John Baines called in at Glasgow University to check on progress with Scott Ewings' 'LEDs for Vertical Farming' project and Trust Chair Nick August hosted a group of MSc Students from UCL on his farm, to give them a better understanding of the challenges faced by farmers and the contribution of agricultural engineering to food production.

For further information, see the Trust's website:

[www.dbt.org.uk](http://www.dbt.org.uk)

or contact the Secretary Alan Plom via:

[enquiries@dbt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dbt.org.uk)

You can also follow:

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on Twitter and on LinkedIn, for news of interesting events, opportunities, or developments.

