

The David Colegrave Foundation (Registered Charity No. 1017289)

When David Colegrave died on 3 May 1992, the horticultural industry throughout the world suffered a great loss. David was a man who strived for quality in every aspect of his life and devoted himself to achieving it, particularly for the benefit of horticulture. He had vision and sought to develop and advance the interests of the horticultural industry. He thrived on innovation and was firm in his belief that investment in research and development today would ensure the future prosperity of the industry. To expand his knowledge he travelled the world, enjoying a well-deserved reputation as a seedsman. People valued his opinion and experience highly and even though his achievements were many, he never lost sight of the fact that the future of the industry depended on young people and he encouraged and stimulated them to succeed.

The David Colegrave Foundation was created in 1993 to honour David's memory and further his ambitions for the development of ornamental horticulture. Independent trustees were appointed to administer the Foundation, which is a registered charity and non-profit making. The current trustees are:

Nancy Colegrave, started D.R Colegrave Seeds with David in 1962. Former Chairman of the Group, she is now retired.

Brian Crosby, owner of Old Laundry Nurseries in Cheshire, who has spent over 50 years in the bedding plant industry and is a former chairman of the BBPA.

John Gibson, former Seeds Director at Colegrave Seeds Ltd, joined David soon after the company was formed. He is internationally known for his knowledge of the flower seed industry.

Peter Seabrook, MBE MoH(RHS) AH(RHS) VMH is a well known horticulturist and broadcaster both to the horticultural trade and the gardening public.

Anna Ball, CEO of the Ball Horticultural Company, a third-generation family business leading the world in research, production and marketing of ornamental crops.

Jeff Colegrave, former CEO of the Colegrave Group of companies, son of David and Nancy Colegrave.

Stuart Lowen, Marketing Manager at Ball Colegrave, joined the Colegrave group in 1989.

The Foundation funds bursaries at currently five horticultural colleges: Capel Manor, Hadlow, Pershore, Welsh College and Greenmount College in Northern Ireland. Each college receives £1500 a year to award bursaries to students selected by the college on the grounds of merit and need.

In addition, the trustees will occasionally make one-off awards if they fit certain criteria; one of these was St. Loye's Foundation in Exeter, where disabled students were sponsored for a horticultural training trip to Holland. In 2002 the Foundation supported an initiative launched by the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and aimed at offering new opportunities for its final year Diploma students with a donation of £3,000 over three years. Currently the Foundation is formulating plans to introduce additional bursaries and scholarships.

In the 13 years since its formation the Foundation has helped over 40 students at a cost of over £50,000. In these days of lower interest rates, it is more reliant than ever on fundraising and donations. The main fundraising event is held at Ball Colegrave each August when the trial grounds and greenhouses are open all day to the general public for which the Foundation receives proceeds from the money raised.

At the beginning of 2005, the administration of the Foundation was taken over by The Horticultural Trades Association. This will allow the Trustees to focus more of their time on needs, and help expand the support of students and young growers entering the garden and horticulture industry.

If you would like to make a donation to *The David Colegrave Foundation* and support the future horticulturalists of our industry, please contact:-

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