

11 January 2005

## **THE HTA INCREASES ITS CHARITABLE WORK**

The Horticultural Trades Association is now administering three garden industry charities on behalf of their trustees. The latest charity is the widely respected David Colegrave Foundation which seeks to provide financial support to young people training for a future career in horticulture.

The David Colegrave Foundation was created in 1993 to honour a man of great stature in the horticulture industry and to further his ambitions for the development of ornamental horticulture through the training of young people. The Trustees are: Nancy Colegrave former Chairman of DR Colegrave Seeds, Brian Cosby, former Chairman of the BBPA, John Gibson, former Seeds Director at Colegrave Seeds Ltd, Peter Seabrook, writer and broadcaster, Anna Ball CEO of Ball Horticultural Company, Jeff Colegrave former CEO of the Colegrave Group of Companies and Stuart Lowen, marketing manager at Ball Colegrave.

The Foundation currently funds bursaries at five horticultural colleges: Capel Manor, Hadlow, Pershore, Welsh and Greenmount colleges. Each receives between £1000 & £1,500 a year to award bursaries to students selected by the colleges on the grounds of merit and need. The Foundation has supported 34 students over the last ten years. This year, under the administration of the HTA, each college has been appointed a trustee as a point of contact. This is to ensure that the colleges are aware of the availability of the funds and that they are allocated to students seeking to follow a career in horticulture.

The Foundation's main fundraising event is held at Ball Colegrave each August when the trial grounds and green houses are open to visitors all day. But, as always, the Foundation needs to attract further donations to ensure the long term stability of the Foundation.

The HTA also administers the Dick Allen Scholarship, which was set up in memory of one of the industry's leading retailers and a past president of the HTA. The fund has historically aimed to provide grants to students of all ages wanting to develop a horticultural career.

The HTA also administers the HTA Benevolent Fund which provides monetary assistance to Members of the HTA past and present, or their employees, who may be facing financial hardship.

Tim Woodland, President of the HTA, commented: "I'm pleased that these charities will benefit from the HTA's strength in managing the financial, investment and legal issues which they would otherwise have to deal with themselves. This will help the Trustees of each charity to concentrate on the application and generation of funds"

All three charities have important parts to play in support of the horticulture industry and all three are reliant on the generosity of industry donors. If you would like to make a donation to any of the funds, contact Mr. Chris Stevens c/o The HTA, Horticulture House, 19 High Street, Theale, Berkshire RG7 5AH or call 0118 930 3132.

ENDS

The Horticultural Trades Association is the trade Association for the UK gardening industry. It is dedicated to helping develop the industry and its member businesses, including most garden centres and other garden retailers, growers, landscapers, manufacturers and service providers.

The HTA was founded in 1899; its key roles include: The management of the National Garden Gift Voucher scheme; provision of advice based services such as business improvement schemes, briefings and helplines; training for members; a central buying service; marketing services such as the Garden Industry Monitor and the PlantforLife promotion initiative; and working closely with government to influence policy and projects.

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