



## **December 2020 Newsletter**

Welcome to this Winter Edition of the AFCP newsletter which includes details of the Forums held in the Autumn and those we currently have planned for 2021; and news of other initiatives, including HP3 between the Sainsbury Laboratory and the John Innes Foundation.

AFCP exists to inspire closer collaboration between charities and organisations in order to drive greater impacts from the charitable donations being made in food and farming.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

**AFCP Forum : AFCP Charity Control Coordination and Governance**

**February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021** via video conferencing

**AFCP Forum: Management of oilseed rape diseases and pests**

**June 16<sup>th</sup> 2021** at the University of Hertfordshire. (NOTE revised date)

**AFCP Student Forum**

**Early July** (date to be finalised early 2021) at Cranfield University

**AFCP National Forum**

**November 2021** (date to confirmed) at Hartpury University, Gloucester

**REMINDER**

The accuracy of the information on our website depends on our members keeping us informed. Please email [elizabeth@iagre.org](mailto:elizabeth@iagre.org) if there has been a change of contact details, or if the description of your charity or institution does not accurately reflect your activities.

## **AFCP AGM**

The 2020 AGM was held on-line on 17<sup>th</sup> November. A Zoom recording of the meeting along with the Annual Report, Accounts and Minutes are available at [www.afcp.org.uk](http://www.afcp.org.uk).

We are pleased to introduce our three new Board members, and look forward to working with them on AFCP initiatives:

**Jim Orson, Geoff Dodgson and Carl Edwards.** I am sure that these names will be familiar to many of you and we are delighted to strengthen our Board with these appointments.

## **AFCP FORUMS- Autumn 2020**

Charities funding two of our joint studentships with AHDB, along with other interested members, had the opportunity to participate in Regional Forums this autumn, which were held via video conferencing.

At the **Eastern Region Forum**, George Crane (NIAB/Cambridge University) gave a presentation on his soil health work and at the **South West Regional Forum** Bobby Hyde (Nottingham University) spoke on calf health.

In addition, participants at the SW Forum heard Dr Luke O'Grady (Nottingham University) introduce our new studentship '**Evaluating strategies to reduce net carbon emissions from dairy production systems**'.

All the presentations from both forums can be found on the AFCP website at [regional forum presentations](#).

Our fourth student, Claire Hoarau, who is working on cabbage stem flea beetle, will be speaking at the oilseed rape forum in June. She has recently presented

a poster on part of her project at Harper Adams University, which can be viewed on the AFCP website [CSFB poster](#).

## FORUMS 2021

Looking to the future, we plan to hold a series of Forums in 2021 on a range of topics aimed at different audiences. Apart from the first one, we very much hope that we will be able to physically meet for these!

The first, on February 23rd, is entitled **AFCP Charity Control Coordination and Governance**.

It will provide an opportunity for charity trustees and secretaries/ administrators to discuss issues which are common to us all. The forum is being organised by Gordon Bennett, AFCP Board Member and Perry Foundation Secretary. If there are particular topics you would like to be included please contact Gordon at [perry.gbennett@gmail.com](mailto:perry.gbennett@gmail.com). If you are interested in attending, please email [elizabeth@iagre.org](mailto:elizabeth@iagre.org).

**Management of Oilseed Rape Diseases and Pests**, was originally planned for April 2020, but postponed due to COVID-19, and is now being moved to 16th June 2021 in the hope that it can be held at the University of Hertfordshire, hosted by Professor Bruce Fitt. Registration is via the University website (tbc) or by email to [elizabeth@iagre.org](mailto:elizabeth@iagre.org).

The popular AFCP **Student Forum** is held biennially and in 2021 will be hosted by Cranfield University in early July (date to be confirmed). All students funded by AFCP charities are welcome to attend and to present their work.

Further details will be sent to charities and students early in the New Year. Please encourage your students to attend and consider supporting them by helping with their expenses (travel and, if necessary, over-night accommodation).

Charity trustees and university supervisors are also welcome to attend. In the

past, students have told us that they have greatly benefited from these meetings.

**The National Forum** in 2021 will be held at Hartpury University and Hartpury College, Gloucester, in November. Planning is still at an early stage but the programme will include visiting the new Agri-Tech Centre (see [Hartpury Agri-Tech](#)) and hearing about the work there.

**Regional Forums**, principally to hear about the work of our AFCP/AHDB students, will be arranged for the summer/autumn of 2021. More details later.

## OTHER NEWS

**(1) Digitising the Brighton Crop Protection Conferences** Five AFCP charities have donated a total of **£7.5K** towards this project, for which the BCPC is very grateful and report that the digitisation process is well underway with all past proceedings despatched for processing. The first searchable PDF files are due back shortly and will be used to start loading and testing the front end functionality. With the Christmas break looming, it is most likely that it will be early 2021 before a significant library of past proceedings is available; we will keep you posted of further progress.

### **(2) East of England Agricultural Society Talks**

Earlier this year the EEAS held a series of evening Zoom talks leading up to their Farming Conference in November. Subjects included: soil and weather, environmental land management, diversification, climate-friendly farming, and cover cropping. They are available via the AFCP website or by using the link [EEAS talks](#).

### **(3) The Sainsbury Laboratory & John Innes Foundation Partnership – HP3: *An opportunity for charity collaboration***

From Professor Nick Talbot, Executive Director, The Sainsbury Laboratory

We were delighted to attend the AFCP AGM to introduce HP3, a visionary partnership project led by The Sainsbury Laboratory and The John Innes Foundation (NB this talk is available [here](#) ).

HP3 is our ambitious vision for a safer, healthier and more sustainable future by unleashing the power of plant and microbial science. The challenges facing humanity are unprecedented: catastrophic climate change, increasing antimicrobial resistance, loss of biodiversity and a growing global population all threaten civilisation and the natural environment. The only way to navigate and mitigate these threats is through outstanding, innovative science – and by investing in the talent that delivers it. More information can be found at <https://www.hp3.org>

As part of the groundbreaking HP3 project, we would like to invite AFCP members to sponsor some of the brightest scientific minds through our PhD Scholarship Programme. The scholarships will fund either a project-based programme or a rotation-based programme. Our new cohort of PhD students will be engaged in cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, addressing vital questions in contemporary UK agriculture and having the opportunity to make ground-breaking discoveries through innovative research. They'll receive bespoke training across the Norwich Research Park and from partner organisations, and provide the highest quality training for the next generation of plant & microbial scientists. Funders will have the opportunity to contribute to the PhD Programme Fund or to make a specific donation to cover the partial or full cost of a PhD studentship. Investing in PhD students' talent is one of the most tangible things you can do to bring long-term impact, supporting one of the most important, ambitious scientific projects underway in the world today. If your charity, trust or foundation would like to support our PhD programme please contact [hp3@halpinpartnership.co](mailto:hp3@halpinpartnership.co)

#### AFCP Contacts

Graham Jellis (Chairman): [graham.jellis@gmail.com](mailto:graham.jellis@gmail.com)  
Elizabeth Stephens (Company Secretary): [elizabeth@iagre.org](mailto:elizabeth@iagre.org)

#### BOARD DIRECTORS:

Philip Richardson, Gordon Bennett, Geoff Dodgson  
Alex Payne, Jim Stevens, Jim Orson, Carl Edwards

AFCP was registered as a company limited by guarantee in February 2008 and became a registered charity in June 2015. The Board and its Directors and advisors represent a range of charities and organisations from across the UK.

AGRIFOOD CHARITIES PARTNERSHIP IS A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE 6510709 AND IS A REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1162177 REGISTERED OFFICE: THE BULLOCK BUILDING, UNIVERSITY WAY, CRANFIELD MK43 0GH