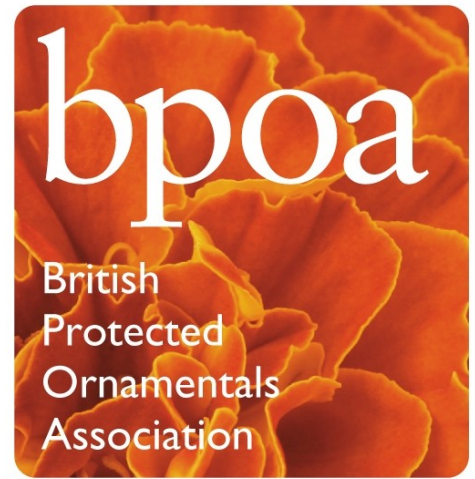




Bursary  
winner  
2015-  
Steve  
Massam



**Growing together™**

## HG retailer prize for M&S



Sam Shepherd (M&S) receives the Home Grown Retailer Award from Tom Hart-Dyke of Lullingstone Castle.

BPOA and Home Grown Users Group are building on this award this year and have presented the Home Grown Retail Award for Promotion and Support of UK Grown Plants and Flowers to Sam Shepherd of Marks & Spencer plc (having displayed at Chelsea this year and continued to support in-store, at the National Plant Show) Stoneleigh on Wednesday (24<sup>th</sup> June). The award was presented on our behalf by well-known, plant hunter and gardens personality, Tom Hart-Dyke of Lullingstone Castle.

As part of their drive to increase recognition of the Home Grown Brand and in turn British grown product, the Home Grown Users Group of BPOA, launched awards in 2014 to recognise

excellence and support in growing, retailing and promoting British ornamental plants. Initially, the idea was introduced to show that a multiple retailer was principally responsible for the large scale promotion of British grown Poinsettia and the aim was therefore to recognize contribution made by a multiple retailer in the last season.

This was presented to Sainsbury's at the National Plant Show in 2014 for their commitment to using 100% British Grown Poinsettias and communicating this to the buying public.

The Home Grown Users Group was created in January 2014 to represent and promote British grown product and to develop cohesive brand awareness through Growers, Retail and to the end consumer.

## Peter Seabrook Bursary

Peter Seabrook Bursary was awarded this year to Steve Massam- here is his latest report on his study progress:



Steve at the module launch at RHS

“Just an update on how the BPOA - Peter Seabrook Bursary is helping with my training.....

The Mhort course is going great!!! I have recently handed in my tutor marked assignment 2 module 2. After achieving really good grades for the modules completed so far I am feeling more confident now than when I first started the course. With working in

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Spring Conference & AGM 2016 Tuesday - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> January

Just a reminder-  
put it in your diary now !



Tracey Dunn

## Chairman's notes

This spring marketing period has been generally successful for most members. The weather has been cool overall and this has meant that spring displays including bulbs have lasted longer. It could have delayed the replanting of beds but there is definitely a dividend for growers when gardeners have positive experience of their existing plantings, giving them confidence to repeat and even expand their garden planting next time.

### Promotion

The association has been involved in a number of initiatives this year already. Following a decision made at the management committee in March, it was agreed to support the 'Love your plot' promotional campaign designed to get younger, less experienced gardeners and plot owners to use the facility they have and beautify it. If you hadn't seen the roadshow as it travelled around the country you would have passed it on your way into the National Plant Show. In addition, we were invited by the NFU Countryside magazine to display Home Grown produce on their garden show stands in Malvern Spring Festival Show, Blenheim Palace Flower Show and the Stratford Home and Garden Show—coming soon. I have attended these events on behalf of the association and 'Countryside' and their staff have been very supportive in talking to visitors and promoting Home Grown as well as giving away our consumer leaflet with their magazine.

We are indebted to members for the supply of flowering plants (to date):

**Toddington Nurseries**  
**Freshacres Nurseries**  
**Hill Brothers**  
**Binsted Nurseries**  
**Double H Nurseries**

### Roundtable

The association via NFU (in this case Chris Hartfield who chaired the policy group discussion) has been involved with the Ornamentals Roundtable Report which was launched by Sue Biggs of the RHS at Chelsea Show. We have also been invited and joined the HIP (Ornamentals) group and the final report should be presented later this year.



### Trolleys

Never far from a grower's planning when considering sales & distribution, the CC trolley is a fact of life. Considering their job of ensuring a ready supply of trolleys and associated equipment, Container Centralen have invited the association to join in their industry consultations regarding the redesign and replacement schedule for a new shelf design. This issue has been discussed at recent technical and management committees and members' feelings made known to the CC company. I'm advised that following recent meetings the revised shelf design, which will be lighter and fabricated from steel, will be introduced over a number of years. A full statement regarding the proposal will be made available in October of this year.

### Chris Need

Following his appointment as Commercial Manager at Fordingbridge plc and his departure from Roundstone, Chris took his leave of us after the last technical committee meeting. Once again, we expressed our thanks to him for the way he has led the technical committee over the last two years and the contribution he has made to the association's pursuit of a better research and development environment.

*Simon Davenport*

## Upcoming events

- ⇒ **BPOA Spring Conference & AGM 2016—**  
**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 20<sup>st</sup> January**
- ⇒ Stratford Home & Garden Show/ NFU Countryside & Love your plot displays— Friday 18<sup>th</sup>– Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July.
- ⇒ Car- Fest North. Oulton Park, Little Budworth, Cheshire- 31<sup>st</sup> July - 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2015
- ⇒ Ball Colegrave Summer Showcase- **Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015: Ball Colegrave Ltd, West Adderbury, Banbury, Oxon. OX17 3EY
- ⇒ Cut Flower Centre open evening is planned for the 5 August at Rookery Farm, Holbeach St Johns
- ⇒ Poinsettia Study Tour in combination with AHDB Hort. Week 47 Strasbourg, France
- ⇒ **IPM Essen**– Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2016

## Summer Showcase



Once again, Ball Colegrave opens its doors to growers for two weeks of colour and here is a taste of what there is to see;

- \* Over 200 new plants for 2016
- \* Daily presentations on new varieties, including handy culture tips
- \* Innovative colour-themed patio gardens
- \* An interactive retail plant zone
- \* 700 experimental Annual and Perennial varieties
- \* A showcase of market leading basket and container plants
- \* Tomato trials and fruit tasting
- \* Patio vegetables
- \* Perennial gardens
- \* The famous RHS Hampton Court **VertiGarden Celebration Cake!**

## Horticultural exports from Viking

Set up in UK to give a longer growing season producing plants to saleable standard quicker to compete with the Dutch and German growers supplying



this market, **Viking Nurseries** won the 'Best exporter' category at the Grower of the year award in 2014, after 4 years of being finalist for best nursery stock grower of the year (including 2014). One of the judges remarking that it 'stood out' by miles amongst other competitors in this category .

Their customer base in Norway-Sweden-Finland includes two large retail chains, one with 60 and the other of 100 centres in addition to 50 independent centres across Norway, alto-

gether consuming 70% of what Viking produce each season.

30% of stock is sold in the UK to independent stores and medium size chains, increasing every year. Recently, they have been trialling different provenance marks with their marketing in some different geographical areas.

Growers of hardy nursery stock, specialising in conifers, rhododendron and shrubs; they were established in 1998 to supply plants to Scandinavian garden centres via their parent company in Norway. They have a very modern nursery built from scratch on a 25 acre site (expanding) growing approximately 300,000 plants per season. The nursery is run by Stuart Murch (nursery grower) and Fabio Guizzo is the sales



manager. They have 8 full time staff and with seasonal workers when needed.

## Pansy Mottle PaMS

**Pansy sample plants required** - As part of AHDB Horticulture project PO 016a 'The role of environmental factors in the incidence of Pansy Mottle Syndrome (PaMS)' the research team



are examining the possibility that some of the symptoms could be linked to a recently identified virus - viola

white distortion associated virus (VWdAV).

If PaMS symptoms develop within any batches of pansies you are growing, please contact Dr Jill England [jill.England@adas.co.uk](mailto:jill.England@adas.co.uk) or [chloe.whiteside@adas.co.uk](mailto:chloe.whiteside@adas.co.uk), who will make arrangements to collect samples for submission for analysis.

## 'new' Pinetops

Viewing the fine, new 2ha glasshouse at Pinetops Nurseries(2) (Lyminster, Hampshire) recently, its easy to overlook the huge efforts that have been made by the Paton family to get the necessary permissions to redevelop the old nursery and plan the new structure on the original Efford EHS site.



The last pot lily crop from Pinetops 1

As the last pot lily crop was cleared from the Ramley Road nursery (Pinetops 1), the glass has been removed from the site in readiness for the housing development that will shortly follow it. On the new plot at Efford, 10 minutes down the road, the cropping of pot lilies continues and new produce is now available.

The growing houses have been designed exclusively on mobile tables thus reducing dramatically the labour for the standing out of the crop and marketing it later on. The nursery



New Pinetops Nurseries at Efford

comprises a large work hall which will take care of all the packing and despatch needs as well as providing space for pot filling and potting the bulbs. An area will be allocated for office provision.

The flexibility of the new system will also facilitate the use of a wide range of containers which have become increasingly popular with their customers seeking to develop new products.



Crop nearing maturity in the new glass

A black out area will also accommodate the early poinsettia crop. No modern nursery is complete without its research and development sec-

tion and this is no exception. Many of you will have seen or know of the Paton fascination with growing in all its forms and with Ian & Stuart's production of record beating pumpkins; they have raised the study to an art. Although one from which they can learn



Smashing pumpkins!

much about plant growth response according to Jean. Now Rory says that they look forward to settling on the new site, after much upheaval, and Pinetops 2 reverting to just Pinetops.

Simon Davenport

## Bursary 2015 (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

production myself I knew I had good knowledge on the subject that could be shared with other students on the course.

Knowing this I thought, although not



mandatory, it was important for me to attend all the workshops at Wisley. This would also help me gain valuable knowledge in different areas of horticulture from other students. With everyone coming from different horticultural backgrounds, there is a huge amount of expertise. The other student's knowledge is of great value to me as it will help me to better myself as a horticulturist.

I have just attended RHS garden Wisley for the launch of the 'Operational Business management' module (see plate 1). Some of the funding I received from the bursary has helped pay for traveling expenses. Getting down to Surrey is quite a distance to travel for me as I live in the Southport area so it's not cheap! Although it is a long way to travel just for the day, it was well worth attending.

I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to have a guided tour of the propagation and growing-on areas (see

plate 2) by Ian Tocher, another Mhort student who works at Wisley. This helped me to see how they do things and I was able to compare Ian's different growing techniques to my own. In the following modules I get the chance to choose between a few different sectors within the industry. I have decided that the most suitable for me is Production Horticulture and Retail. Hopefully choosing these two subjects will help me improve my current role as a grower but also give me the skills to gain promotion to a managerial level. This will give me the opportunity to share my skills and knowledge with other growers and trainees at my place of work.

The bursary has also helped me pay for the course itself. I have recently made payment of £350 to ensure the continuation of my course. I still have more scheduled payments of similar amounts to make before I finish and I also need to attend Wisley for the launch of new modules and exams. So the remaining funds will go towards these costs.

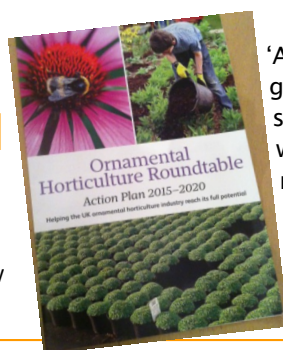
Once again I would just like to say a big thank you, winning the BPOA - Peter Seabrook bursary has helped me a lot and taken a huge weight off my shoulders. It is helping me to gain valuable knowledge as a horticulturist and has really spurred me on to want to achieve my goals and to continue to look for further training."

### Steve Massam

Steve, the winner of the 2015 Peter Seabrook-BPOA Bursary, has been a student at Myerscough College and works at Lovania Nurseries in Tarleton, Lancashire.

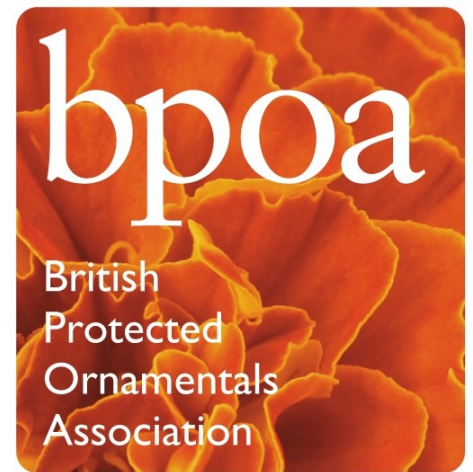
## Round Table report released

The final report of the Ornamentals Roundtable study was launched at Chelsea Flower Show by Sue Biggs of the RHS. The 12



'Asks' or demands of government are described in the text with supporting information.

Copies are available now from the RHS.



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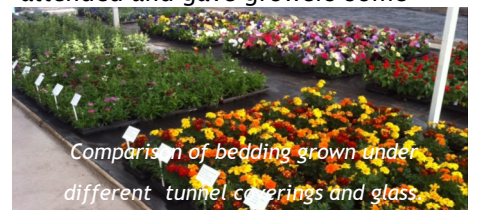
Still struggling to get the name right, I attended the AHDB Hort.



open evening at B&P Baginton Nurseries following a very successful Grow Save discussion between Simon Pearson and Tim



Pratt on glasshouse atmosphere. The evening was very pleasant and well attended and gave growers some



more information on which to judge the trials hopefully, allowing them to consider what we could do with this useful facility next season. The steering group can always use good ideas!



BPOA is a specialist producer group within the NFU

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