



We are pleased to present the December 2025 edition of our newsletter. Recent highlights from across DSW include:



[Breakthrough in wheat yield technology spurs formation of new agri-tech company - Sugarox](#)



[Earlham Institute PhD graduate recognised for excellence in scientific research](#)

DSW Trains the Next Generation!

DSW recently ran its first online course for undergraduates “Green Horizons: Plant Science Careers for a Food-Secure Future”. Held over two afternoons over 100 students from 19 UK universities attended.

The aim of the course was to increase student’s awareness of wheat research and breeding, and to introduce the range of careers available in plant science. There were talks from Prof. Dick Flavell (IWYP), Dr Susanne Dreisigacker (CIMMYT), and Dr Simon Griffiths (JIC). Dr Carus John-Bejai (Wheat Pre-breeder, KWS) designed an interactive plant breeding activity, and we held a career’s panel session with DSW members past and present.

A LinkedIn group has been formed, creating a network of undergraduate students that are interested in pursuing a career in plant science. A huge thank you to the 40 DSW colleagues who contributed! You all did a fantastic job and feedback we’ve received from students has been positive. If you’d like to help organise the next “Green Horizons” course, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

DSW Visits Warburtons



In November DSW took a trip to Bolton to visit Warburtons, the UK’s largest bakery brand. Owned and run by the Warburton family since 1876, they produce over 2 million products every day at 12 bakeries across the country.

At their headquarters, the bakers took us on a tour of their Bolton Bakery where they make one of their most popular products, the sliced white toastie loaf. About 9,600 loaves are baked every hour, with over 200,000 loaves shipped from the factory everyday – the scale of the breadmaking operation was incredible! Next was a tour of their Variety Bakery, where they make products like bagels, tea cakes, and breakfast muffins.

Our visit concluded with an encouraging meeting and discussion with the company’s senior managers about potential future scientific strategies for healthier and more sustainable breadmaking.

A Big Thank You from DSW



After 40+ years at Rothamsted, Sue Steele, our Science Administrator, is retiring. Sue has worked with us for many years, supporting DSW, DFW, WISP and previous programmes too. Sue, thank you so much for your many years of dedicated support. Your steady guidance and exceptional

administrative expertise, especially your help with various meetings and collating reports, has been invaluable. We’re grateful for everything you’ve done and wish you a wonderful retirement - you’ve truly earned it!

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

**[Corrado et al. 2025](#)**. Effect of wheat bread with elevated amylose on postprandial glycaemic response: a randomised crossover trial delivered remotely using continuous glucose monitoring.

**[Shewry et al. 2025](#)**. Separating Myths From Facts About Bread and Health.

**[Shewry, 2025](#)**. Wheat in 2025: Challenges for Sustainable Production and Consumption.

**[Tsushima et al. 2025](#)**. *k*-mer-based GWAS reveals a candidate avirulence gene and structural variation in *Puccinia tritricina* linked to gain of *Lr20* virulence.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 9-14 January 2026 PAG33
- 29 January 2026 DSW Online Talk –Erika Kroll
- 5 February 2026 DSW Online Talk – Christina Waesch
- 26 February 2026 DSW Annual Meeting
- 2 March 2026 [Closing date for BTK nominations](#)
- 23-26 March 2026 [MONOGRAM](#)
- 26 March 2026 DSW Online Talk – Jessica Hyles
- 23 April 2026 DSW Online Talk – Renier van der Hoorn
- 14 May 2026 DSW Online Talk – Chen Ji & Delfi Dorussen
- 8 June 2026 DSW Online Talk – Sajjad Raza
- 10-11 June 2026 [Cereals](#)

STAY CONNECTED

