

FCRA News

The newsletter about retired Forestry Commission employees

Issue 7 December 1999

ROLE OF THE BRANCHES

The last AGM remitted to the Management Committee the responsibility to prepare a paper for the 2000 AGM on the role of the Branches. The present spread of the Groups bears little relation to the old Conservancy boundaries, which were the basis for the Branch/Group structure. There is a case for a 2-tier structure with a direct link between the Management Committee and Groups. Administratively this is not seen as a problem.

Views received by the Management Committee favoured the 2-tier structure. Such would mean greater direct participation by Groups, and consequently more Group delegates attending the AGM. Unfortunately there is only sufficient money to fully reimburse the expenses of the current smaller number of Branch delegates attending the AGM. A summary of the views on this particular issue is given below.

- Delegates to be reimbursed only where there is a need (difficult to put into practice, means testing).
- Make the AGM biennial ie BGM. (More cash available, may encourage more delegates, FC may cut grant).
- Active Groups to combine and send one delegate per 40 members (smaller and remote Groups penalised).
- Allocate funds pro rata according to membership of Group (this penalises smaller Groups).
- If Groups want representation they should part finance delegates (local fund-raising necessary, may work against interests of smaller Groups).

Bearing these views in mind, the Management Committee suggests that -

- it meets the travelling expenses of each delegate based on the cheapest rail fare less a flat contribution of say £15, and
- the balance of available funds be equally divided amongst delegates so that each receives the same percentage contribution towards necessary overnight expenses.

As an example, the Committee may be able to fund 75% of each delegate's overnight accommodation costs. Therefore with each funding £15 towards travel costs, the total cost of attending the AGM and dinner would be about £30. Groups themselves may further reimburse their delegates.

It is inevitable for us to thrive as a lively organisation we must adapt to changing circumstances. The Committee wants to hear your views, so please send your comments to the Secretary, John Wallace, 44 North Gyle Grove, Edinburgh EH12 8JZ no later than 29 February 2000. DON'T WAIT. WRITE NOW!

Your comments will be used to draw up a formal paper which will be considered at the 2000 AGM.

SAVERNAKE ARBORETUM UPDATE

Avid readers of FCRA News will have spotted "Rouse's grouse" in the last issue concerning the lack of attention to Savernake Arboretum. The originator has been revealed! John Wildash, now retired near Warminster, sent this fascinating account.

"I was Forester at Savernake from 1939 to 1953 and planted the arboretum in 1951. At the time we had four nurseries in Savernake, and the smallest was going to be abandoned. I asked the SFO, Bernard Stocks, if I could plant an arboretum on the site, as it was already fenced. He agreed but as there was no budget allocation, he said no cash must be spent on it. As a result, I did most of the planting myself. The remaining nurseries had a good selection of specimen trees, while Maurice Nimmo at Alice Holt also gave me help.

I left Savernake in 1953, and passed my successor, Cyril Lewis, a comprehensive record maps and a file, listing every tree, its origin and early growth rate. Since then I have visited it many times, although not recently. It was always my dream that it should be named Wildash Arboretum, with tree records brought up-to-date. I have been dismayed at the way the FC has neglected and forgotten the historical records of so many forests, particularly those which have played a founding part in British forestry. Has anyone heard of Cluster Oak (*Q. pedunculata cristata*)? As far as I know there are only two in Great Britain, the original in Savernake and the other I gave as a seedling to Deene Hall in Northamptonshire." (It's not in Hillier, can anyone help? - Ed.)

Cyril Lewis, now retired to Lydney and aged 85, was also prompted to write. He remembered taking over the arboretum from John. It remained well documented under his charge, with the occasional addition until Cyril left for Cannock in

1969. He recalls that it suffered from late spring frosts which made the establishment of some species difficult.

Finally, I had a letter from Bill Ayers, the present Beat Forester at Savernake. He says:

"The Arboretum is alive and receiving the attention it requires. There were approximately 100 species planted when it was established. Ten or so have been lost over the years. The individual labelling and the main signs have been taken in for maintenance and the plots themselves have been receiving some silvicultural care. This has been done in conjunction with staff at Westonbirt. The challenge now is to find the funds to revamp the signs.

Geoff Rouse is correct in his opinion that it is an excellent arboretum. Many of the trees in it are of outstanding importance. It is also an important part of Savernake Forest, contributing to the landscape and providing a very interesting walk.

We do have a species list in the Savernake office. If you, Geoff, or your readers, would like more information I would be happy to help."

So FCRA NEWS shows how it can help maintain contacts between current and retired members of the FC and keep them informed of present activities and past projects. Could the arboretum be a good place for retired staff to meet, especially if John Wildash, Cyril Lewis and Geoff Rouse could be persuaded to join the group. Any ideas? Could be a great event for nostalgics and yarn spinning!

FCRA AGM 2000

The recently formed North Wales Group is hosting next year's FCRA AGM, based at Llandudno. Dates are AGM and Dinner - Tuesday 23 May. Forest visits to Gwydr - Wednesday 24 May.

The AGM only takes 2-3 hours, the rest of the time is a great social occasion to meet friends and colleagues. It is NOT a stuffy affair! Do join us, you are sure to enjoy it!

David Williams is in contact with the FDM at Llanrwst and they promise an event filled programme. More information will be available from the Secretary early in 2000.

FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue you will see that we have received correspondence from past and present staff of the FC. This is a healthy sign for both FCRA News - most of you read some of it - and for readers desires to keep in touch with each other. No matter who or where we were in the FC, we enjoyed our contacts with colleagues. This often developed into friendship. Retirement frequently meant separation. FCRA News keeps us together. Please keep sending in any news which could be of interest to others.

Life after retirement

Nothing very much connects the contributors in this issue other than they are friends and colleagues of mine, so I could encourage them to record retirement activities. Both contributors spent a lifetime in Research - and it still shows in their retirement activities!

Roger Lines, who left the Northern Research Station in 1986 settled in Somerset. I recall that, by a process which was to become known later as the Ecological Site Classification, he selected this location to pursue his hobbies. Somerset has a combination of the best climatic, soil and site conditions in the UK, which should encourage longevity and vigour.

My "official" retirement in June 1986 was accompanied by a contract to complete the Bulletin on Lodgepole pine provenance experiments, which had been delayed because of pressure to complete Bulletin 66 "Choice of Seed Origins". By working most days at NRS until Christmas Eve, the first draft of what eventually became Technical Paper 10 was finished. Meanwhile, in October 1986 we had the Royal Society of Edinburgh "Symposium on Sitka Spruce", at which I gave a lengthy paper on provenance results with this species.

Jane and I had already decided that gardening would be a major retirement activity, leading to a desire to move to an area with an extended growing season. After much effort and several thousand miles of travel, we found an ideal sixteen century cottage in Somerset. When we moved in January 1987, Somerset was experiencing its coldest winter for 30 years. The central heating oil had frozen - followed by the entire water system so that, after leaving Edinburgh in a snowstorm, we met an icy Somerset. The village of High Ham could not have been more welcoming. We take an active part in local activities; Jane ran a local Girl Guide company and was President of the WI, while I was Chairman of the Sedgemoor Gardens Club for five years.

There is a 130 acre Ancient Woodland Nature Reserve of the Somerset Wildlife Trust within walking distance. I'm on the Management Committee and help mark thinnings and take local groups round the wood. When the Forestry Trust was set up by the RFS I became one of their team of speakers to promote better understanding of modern forestry by the public. I give two or three talks each year to the Ramblers, wildlife groups, etc.

I am a regular attendee at RFS meetings and those of the Wessex Silvicultural Group. As a Parish Tree Warden I advise on local farm woodlots and enjoy writing a few paragraphs in the quarterly Newsletter for the Wardens.

In 1988 I was invited back to Iceland to advise the Forest Service on its remarkably extensive afforestation programme. I was impressed by the advances made since my first visit in 1967. My last visit to Iceland was in 1991 when I was asked to give a paper at a NATO sponsored Symposium on "Forest Developments in Cold Climates".

Shortly after I retired, Prof Fred Last asked me to write a chapter in a book on "Tree Crop Ecosystems" to be published by Elsevier. Having written the first draft, the project appeared to collapse for ten years and it is only recently that it has been re-activated. I await developments!

David Fourt left Alice Holt in 1985. Another Site Studies Man, he was never one to accept glib or superficial statements on any issue. He would add sparkle to any soils meeting with some pedological sparring with the other soil "greats" - David Patterson, Graham Pyatt and Bill Binns. With a single spade, he would also take on the Soil Survey of England and Wales.

He takes up his retirement story.

Like other colleagues describing their experiences after leaving the FC, I have continued to be as active as possible. In addition to pursuing my many interests and hobbies away from forestry, I have been fortunate in being offered paid work in the specialised field of minespoil reclamation, a subject which occupied my later years with the Research Division. In 1985, retirement of my age group was rather more hurried than for those before or afterwards, occurring as it did, during the transfer from age 65 to 60. I had been expecting to work another 3 years or so, health permitting. My pension was less than hoped for, as I had not been able to complete 40 years, mainly due to war service in the Army, followed by FWT on a private estate in Gloucestershire, before going to Parkend School in 1948. This, and the fact that my daughter was due to enter college the next year, gave me the incentive to accept work when offered.

During the reclamation studies (the late) Bill Binns, my project leader, and I, had met many of the characters in the mining industry, as well as in the consultancies. I was approached while completing an FC contract involving the hand-over to my successor. Such were the demands, that before the end of 1985, I had been contracted to work for three aggregate producers, and two companies exploring for oil, all located nearby in southern England.

The work involved giving advice and assistance, pre and post mining, on reclamation procedures leading to woodland re-establishment, and required ecological, soil, and water surveys, as well as tree crop measurements.

In order to fulfil planning "conditions", imposed before drilling or mining could proceed, several novel procedures were developed. There were conservation measures such as rare species transplanting, ranging from orchids to sedges; the excavation, storage, and replanting of pollarded broadleaved stools, and the stabilisation of former silt lagoons for tree planting.

By the spring of 1986, my wife had become fed up with my monopoly of our modest family car, so I bought a Metro van to carry spades, borers and other tools of the trade. It also enabled me to move around the numerous boxes of frames, and other components required for my beekeeping activities.

Mainly because of neighbourhood hazards, my hives had been kept in "out-apiaries", away from home. Honey yields in the Farnham district were always rewarding, and for better results, regular visits are required for hive manipulation, and swarm control.

In early 1992, there was a convenient and welcome reduction in consultancy work, which enabled me to join a team of local beekeepers working to surmount the problems arising from the invasion of the UK by Varroa, a parasitic mite. Our district, and my hives were among the first to be found infested. Nowadays, with suitable acaricide treatment, our 4-5 hives produce 100 kg or so of honey which has to be extracted, bottled and sold. In spring and early summer, I rather enjoy what might be termed a "minor field sport", collecting stray swarms. It combines an element of expertise, some special gadgets, with the spice of possible discomfort - stings.

In addition, I have for some years edited our monthly Beekeepers Newsletter which takes time to research and write.

Returning to my second career, it still continues at a modest level of activity, keeping brain and body active and for long it has kept me from getting under my wife's feet in the house. I am grateful for the wit sharpening which occurs during and after site visits. It has meant learning new skills, especially about river and lake waters, and iron ochre, and I continue to have an input into tree planting schemes, sowing wildflower meadows, implement development and the odd experiment.

I must thank my former senior colleagues who gave me opportunities to gain experience in the research field which subsequently proved so useful and remunerative. I still enjoy forest tours with the forestry, soils and natural history societies, and the former rely on me to dig soil pits for their delectation.

Even before joining the FC I was a keen botanist, and since retirement my wife and I have travelled abroad on botanical tours in Crete, Madeira, North Cyprus, Austria, Greece and the Islands, as well as in the UK. For five summers we toured the UK in a motor caravan, botanising, viewing great houses and gardens, churches (and old experiments) as well as visiting relatives in the backwoods of Norway, British Columbia and Alberta. Encouraged by my wife, visits have been made to see the London and other art collections, as well as those in Italy, Holland, Belgium and Norway. In addition to the bees, there is my large vegetable garden to cultivate and improve, plus DIY round the house.

My family have given me full support in carrying out these activities, though prone to ask, often near my birthdays "when are you going to retire?" I reply, "soon, but not quite yet."

FRED REMEMBERS

Fred's story is about his work after retirement from the FC in Mexico.

I was appointed co-Director of the Mexican National Forestry Inventory. One afternoon on our way back to a camp, a jeep broke down. I wanted to get things sorted and return to camp. My Mexican colleagues were much more relaxed. "Let's have a break and drink coke." One put a bottle on a rock. "Now for some target practice." They all carried rifles but nobody hit it. My senior colleague sensed I was furious at the delay and said "Fred, have a go with my rifle." I did - and hit the bottle! "You didn't tell us you were a crack shot. If you can hit a coke bottle, you must know what you are talking about. How did you say we should do our sampling? We'll do it your way." I had won!

OBITUARIES

From his family, I have news that **JOE TAYLOR** died in July aged 75. He had worked for the FC for 37 years, starting in the Quantocks in 1947. He was involved in engineering and roads in the Brendons, Dean, New and the South West. A regular reader of *Slasher* and *FCRA News*, he was proud of his time in the FC.

WILLIAM MARSTON's brother-in-law writes to say that William died aged over 90, with more than 30 years of retirement at Thetford. After the Dean Forestry School he was at Northampton and Brandon where he finished as Head Forester. His son John still works for the FC.

His daughter tells of the death of her father **JOHN TAIT** aged 83. He worked at Kielder until his retirement in 1979.

Mrs Sly would like her late husband to be remembered. **WILLIAM SLY**, who lived at Llanishan near Chepstow when he worked for the FC in the late '60s.

Keith Ball gives us the said news of **LINDA MARSHALL**'s premature death aged 42. She joined Survey Drawing Office, HQ in 1977, a fully trained cartographer and photogrammetrist (mapping from aerial photos). A prominent member of the unit she moved to Air Survey Section in 1979, becoming it's leader in 1984.

She managed a small, expert team, producing precise map plots, to aid the Survey Foresters and Assistants in field work and stock evaluation of FC's national forests.

She provided a wider, valuable service to FC regional managers and private forestry with data of existing air photos and arranging new cover by commercial flying contracts.

She established a detailed air photo register, devising a GB index map which Ordnance Survey adopted for their own needs.

Her section was involved in early trials of computer mapping with MAPLE (Mapping from Air Photos and Land Evaluation) in 1984-85; though not implemented it set the scene for today's FC digital mapping and GIS in which she would doubtless have played a prominent role.

A notable service she supplied was to support the "Wind Blow Task Force" after the southern gale of October 1987, coordinating the programme of supply of photos and arranging new, urgent flying over the damage. She not only worked long hours in the office but was on call at home, nights and weekends.

She married Graham Marshall in 1978, becoming a working mum in 1982 with the arrival of their son Stewart. Both Graham and Stewart became firm friends with Drawing Office staff.

Linda typified the many unsung experts the FC seems to attract. She worked hard, always with emphasis on detail but was first to join in and organise social celebrations.

True to character, she chose to fight her illness away from publicity, seeming to have defeated it. Tragically, she lost her final battle last November.

John Davies remembers **ROGER LARSEN**, one time head of the Conservation and Recreation Branch of the Forestry Commission, who died in August. His cremation service, which was held at Perth, was attended by a crowd of friends for he was greatly respected and loved.

Roger served in the Old East Scotland Conservancy, in the Edinburgh Headquarters as Nursery Officer in the 1960s and as District Officer

in Kintyre before being moved to Basingstoke and later Corstorphine Road. He ended his Commission days in Perth. He also served on the Red Deer Commission and was awarded the Balfour Brown Trophy.

His friends will remember his wonderful sense of humour, he had a splendid nose for the ridiculous, and he was one of the kindest of men.

His professional work either as a field District Officer, or on the staff, was admirable. He loved music, the mountains and was an excellent naturalist and whenever opportunity arose surrounded himself with a miscellaneous collection of animals, wild and domestic. Owls, goats, donkeys and even a seal at one time or another graced the Larsen establishment.

Latterly his back gave him trouble and pain which he bore with great stoicism.

He was extraordinary with young people, for he never talked down to them and always treated them as equals. I saw this with youngsters on the midsummer expeditions which I used to organise to explore remote parts of Scotland.

Tennyson comes to mind: "I am part of all that I have met".

Those of us who knew Roger were enriched by the experience.

Those who knew **GRAHAM JEFFREY** will be saddened to learn of his sudden death in June, writes Mike Locke.

Graham spent his formative years in Edinburgh where he attended George Heriot's School. He graduated with a degree in Forestry from Edinburgh University in 1951 and then did his two years National Service in the Royal Engineers.

In 1953 he took up his career with the Forestry Commission, first at Perth and then at Brechin. Then followed a six year spell on acquisitions before he moved to Dalry in South Scotland Conservancy in 1965. His experience on acquisitions, the knowledge gained in his work at district level and his personal interest in land use then made him an obvious choice for the post of Land Use Planning Officer in South Scotland to which he moved in 1974. It is for his work there that he will perhaps be best known as far as his professional career was concerned. His practical and reasoned approach and his obvious integrity in his dealings with the farming community, as well as with the wide variety of local and national bodies concerned, ensured that agreement for release of land to forestry was reached with the minimum of friction in the great majority of cases.

From 1981 to 1984 he was employed by Estate Management Division on forest disposals and in 1985 had his last posting to Tummel District. He retired as FDM of the combined Tummel/Tay District, without ceremony at his own request, in 1990.

Quiet mannered, he chose the words he wanted to use with care before he spoke and whilst always willing to enter in discussion with others with contrary views, he nevertheless held firm and unwavering opinions on certain topics and would passionately fight his corner in defence of them. He was always clear sighted in the aims of the projects in which he was involved and his obvious sincerity in pursuing them not only won him the respect and trust from all he met but also made him many friends.

In parallel with his FC career, he joined the Royal Scottish Forestry Society and the Society of

Foresters of Great Britain in 1953 and was actively involved with both throughout his working life and, even more so, after he retired. He was also a founder member of the European Forest Network.

To these and other organisations he brought the same hard work and attention to detail which characterised his professional career. He was Vice-President of the Royal Scottish Forestry Society between 1992 and 1996 and President 1996 to 1998 and it was during this last period that he became deeply involved with the Millennium Forest for Scotland Project at Cashel. It is therefore fitting that he is buried at Cashel on a site overlooking Loch Lomond and in the midst of the forest he helped so much to create. If an epitaph is needed, none surely would be more appropriate than the translation of that used for Sir Christopher Wren - If you seek a monument - look around.

(Mike Osborne has written a fuller obituary for the ICF News and Scottish Forestry, and Mike Locke used much of his material.)

From Eifion Jones in Denbigh comes news of **JOHN "JB" DAVENPORT**'s death aged 67. He had a long illustrious career with the Forestry Commission, which began in 1949 as a trainee at Lake Vyrnwy.

Following graduation in 1953 from Gwydyr Forestry Training School, JB was posted to Coed y Brenin and while there met his wife Iola. Further postings took JB to Gwydyr, Work Study Section and after promotion, to Ystwyth, Training Branch and as Chief Forester in charge of Corris.

In 1985 JB became one of the very few post-war foresters to be successful at the class to class promotion board, whereby he progressed from the Forester Grade to the old District Forest Officer Grade, subsequent to which he took up a post as Forest District Manager at Ceredigion Forest District, from where he was medically retired with an arthritic condition in 1989.

JB was well known throughout Wales and was welcomed wherever he went. He had a particular knack of gaining early access to information on successes at promotion boards and postings.

JB is remembered as a devoted family man and a joy to be with at any time. He took a keen interest in activities within and outwith the FC with particular fondness, in the company of his two sons, for fishing and shooting. He was instrumental with others in organising the annual gathering of past staff of Coed y Brenin Forest and lately became with Iola a member of the FC Retirement Association. He was well regarded within his community by all with whom he had an acquaintance.

From Simon Malone comes a tribute to **TONY GRAVER**, who served with the Forestry Commission all of his working life doing a job he loved and enjoyed.

Over the years he worked in Hampshire at Alice Holt, Forest of Dean, South Wales, Norfolk at Brandon Depot and latterly for a short spell at Tangham in Suffolk before having to retire early due to ill health.

Tony enjoyed a quiet life and loved walking, reading and all forms of nature.

Unfortunately, continuing ill health prevented him from pursuing some of his interests in his later years and he sadly died on 11 October 1999.

He leaves a wife Elaine, a son and daughter, Phillip and Samantha, grandson Kyle and a stepson Mark with whom he had a very special relationship.

He will be greatly missed by his family and

SAVE US FROM THE SAVERS

Observers of the world of "initiatives" will have spotted in the September issue of *Slasher* a ground breaking example between the FC and English Heritage. It is cited as "a unique plan to safeguard thousands of years of Dartmoor history for future generations".

To reinforce the reader's feeling of well-being, and to create that warm glow which all unique plans should, it states that "formal strategies have been created specifically to guard against damage by TREES and SHRUBS."

Norman Hindley, now retired in the Isle of Wight (ex New, South Scotland and Cornwall) sends this cautionary tale.

The Rufus Stone

This is the spot where Rufus cashed his chips. This pseudolithic plinth marking the site of the regicidal oak.

Once, year on year ago, a shadowed, narrow road, a mystic, shrubby glade; ghostly, evocative thought conjured Abbot Serlo, Flambard, Eadmar and scapegoat Tyrrel.

The old tale rings true, was the aimed, unglancing shaft loosed from the cover of the sinister elder?

Came the improvers; now

Popularised, gravelled, manicured; a sticker to match the 'I have seen the lions of Longleat'.

Blank, crocodile circuits. Introspective thought fades in the idling miasma of diesel coaches.

ARTHUR HENDRIE "BRUSHES UP HIS MEMORIES"

Broom House, to those unfamiliar with Thetford Chase, is situated close to Lakenheath Aerodrome in Suffolk.

Through the twenties it housed the forester responsible for that area. We moved from Santon Downham to Broom House in January 1926 and moved away in January 1930. Although I was quite a young boy then, some of the events which took place through those years remain in my memory. Perhaps the most memorable is the fire of May 1927 when over 100 acres of very young plantation was destroyed. The outbreak was accredited to two elderly pipe smoking employees who were forest weeding at the spot where the fire took hold.

Unable to deal with the fire, one of the men ran to Broom House to raise the alarm. The only occupant at the time - early afternoon - was my mother who had no transport of any kind and no telephone. Her only means of notifying the District Office at Santon Downham was to run/walk the mile to the main Brandon-Newmarket road, stop the first car that came along and beg the driver to despatch a telegram from Brandon Post Office to Santon Downham District Office to notify them of the fire at Broom House Beat.

By the time any assistance arrived, in the form of "trainees" from the Labour Camp at High Lodge, the fire had spread, destroying everything in its path - it even reached Shaker Lodge and was only stopped by the cultivated vegetable garden. The occupant of Shaker Lodge, a Mrs Harrison whose husband was a ganger, refused to leave her cottage when the fire threatened, saying "If my house goes, I go too!"

The installation of a 'field telephone' (which had seen service in the First World War) followed. This was a hand set which had to be wound up to make a call, had two insulated wires, one red and one blue, which lead from Broom House to Santon Downham via the plantation boundary fences leading east, crossing the Brandon/Elvedon main road on tall posts! Quite effective and modern at the time.

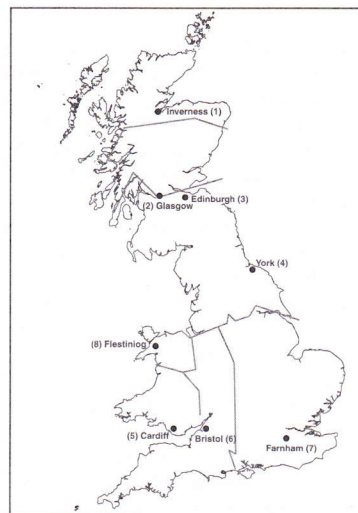
My son took me to see Broom House a few years ago - it was empty, overgrown and looking very sad.

Arthur adds "Is there anyone out there from the class of 1938-39 Dean School? If so, please get in touch - 22 Kingston Close, Seaford BN25 4NF.

PARKEND 2000

Saturday 7 October 2000 is the date for the next Parkend Forest School Old Students reunion. Venue: Bells Club, Coleford. Bart Venner wants it to be a special event and hopes all past students will make a big effort. A great opportunity to swap yarns and see old (well-kent) faces. Make it a success. Contact Bart on 01594 530504.

Branch Boundaries and FCRA News Correspondants



- (1) Donald Beaton - Tel: 01852 881303
- (2) Charlie Greenlees - Tel: 01546 602929
- (3) Nancy MacKenzie - Tel: 0131 339 2367
- (4) Elizabeth Capstick - Tel: 01439 771249
- (5) Mike Reaney - Tel: 01792 202449
- (6) John Thomas - Tel: 01225 873232
- (7) Lena Birchall - Tel: 01420 23213
- (8) David Williams - Tel: 01766 762280

CLOSURE OF MID WALES GROUP

The Mid Wales Group has formally ceased. However I know that there are many of you out there. If anybody in the Aberystwyth area wishes to start up a small active group please contact the Secretary, John Wallace, who will be pleased to help. You may recall that together John Williams and John Wallace recently set up the very well supported North Wales Group, which is hosting next year's AGM of the FCRA.

THE GLORIOUS TWELFTH

The HQ and South Scotland Branch enjoy many activities, but 12 August this year was a winner! It was billed as a Mystery Lunch. We all met for coffee at David and Anne Chadwick's place overlooking the Forth at Aberdour. An idyllic spot and a perfect day. Then we were off to Culross, an historic village beyond Dunfermline. The mystery venue was again near the Forth, David and Margaret Fraser's home. Keith Ball's barbecued burgers and sausages were followed by a full gourmet menu - which all goes to prove that for retired forestry folk, there is nothing to beat membership of the FCRA! So why are you not a member? Join now!

It is with regret that we have heard of the deaths of:

		Retired	Age
Alfred Bellamy	Bridgewater	1977	87
Donald Campbell	Dunvegan	1972	86
W Cladden	Norwich	1977	85
Peter Davison	Scarborough	1984	61
Frederick Doswell	Woodbridge	1972	92
John Grayson	Whitby	1974	77
William Griffiths	Newton Abbot	1977	65
David Harvey	Invergordon	1979	82
Sidney Hayes	Pickering	1988	75
James Henderson	Castle Douglas	1980	83
Michael Hunter	Invergarry	1994	52
John T R Jones	Aberystwyth	1979	69
John D Jones	Taylfont Dyfed	1975	88
Ralph Liddle	Wark	1987	71
Joseph Lingard	Torpoint Cornwall	1967	84
Robert Little	Dalbeattie	1979	84
Duncan McCallum	Dunfermline	1998	65

		Retired	Age
William McCook	Elgin	1989	73
Mervyn Maddocks	Builth Wells	1980	82
Osyp Marot	Lincoln	1966	75
Thomas Martindale	Dumfries	1976	83
James Muir	Castle Douglas	1989	62
James Munro	Newton Stewart	1976	87
John Nichol	Annan		87
John Oliver	Hexham		89
Gwilyn Pierce	Penygroes Gwynedd		73
Catherine Pope	Fishguard	1974	85
John Povey	Chippenham	1971	66
George Robinson	Bishop Auckland		88
John Suttill	Leyburn	1975	87
Kenneth Wainwright	Romsey	1984	72
Ivor Williams	Denbigh	1981	78
Malvern Yapp	Brecon	1973	72

FCRA News is a joint Retirement Association and *Slasher* production.

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