



The 2013 Annual General Meeting

The 2013 AGM is to be held on 14th & 15th May. It will be hosted by the Yorkshire Group and will be based at York. An interesting visit has been planned and Group Secretaries have been sent details.

The AGM itself and dinner on Tuesday 14th May will be in the Lady Anne Middleton Hotel. The tour on Wednesday 15th May will go to Castle Howard where we shall visit the nursery and Ray Wood.



The Lady Anne Middleton Hotel

Why not make a holiday of it, there is so much to see in York and the surrounding country.

See page 2 for hotel details and directions.

Please remember that our Treasurer, David Parnall, is retiring and we need a new one from the AGM. David has agreed to help the new appointee into the role.



The beautiful walled city of York

From the Editor



Avid readers of our e-journal will recall that way back in the Summer issue I asked for copy to keep the newsletter going. The response was magnificently negative! I received so little copy that I wonder if there are any of you out there that actually read FCA Today.

Many thanks to those few who did have a go. I'll be toiling with the Spring issue unless the more imaginative retirees come up with something. Surely the dark Winter days are a good time to sit at the keyboard. There must be plenty of literary skills in our readership and plenty of subject to tell us about.

Richard Toleman

Contents

	Page
AGM 2013 Details	1
Conscientious Objectors	3
Book Review	4
Bob Power and the Class of '39	5
Blues Biography	6
Bog Oak 5,000 Year Old Tree	7
El Syd is Remembered	8
Gwydyr Forester Training School Reunion	9
Obituaries	13
Send Your Letters to the Editor	15
Contact Details	16

The 2013 AGM will be held at **Lady Anne Middleton's Hotel**, Skeldergate, York, YO1 6DS.
Telephone: 01904 611570

Directions (SatNav postcode: **YO1 6DU**)

By Car: York is easily accessible from the **A64, A1, M1 & M62**

The recommended route is: -

On reaching the York Outer Ring road – the A64 and the A1237, take the shortest route to the York West (A1036) junction. This is Tadcaster Road.

Proceed **STRAIGHT ON** along this road, through several sets of traffic lights, past York Race-course which will be on your right, until you reach the city walls in front of you.

This is Micklegate Bar.

At these traffic lights, turn **RIGHT**, into Nunnery Lane.

The city wall will be to your left

Proceed along this road, bearing left into Price's Lane, and left again into Bishopgate Street.

This is part of the Inner-Ring road.

BEFORE the river bridge, just as the city wall ends, turn **LEFT** into Skeldergate, and immediately **LEFT** again into Cromwell Road.

The hotel vehicle entrance is 100 metres on the right, at the brow of the hill.

Parking is available in the top level or the lower level of the car park

In the unlikely event you are unable to find a space, please contact reception for further information. Nearby car parks include Nunnery Lane and St. George's Field

By Train

The hotel is approximately half a mile from York Railway station. It is a pleasant walk to the hotel, or a short taxi ride if you prefer. Trains run frequently from all over the country to York. For further detail please call the rail enquiries number 0845 48 49 50.

By Coach

National Express coaches travel from many locations to York.
The drop off points are approximately a 10 minute walk away.

Conscientious Objectors Meet the Inniskillen Dragoon Guards

This story was submitted to the People's War site by David Baker at Dorking Library and has been added to the website on behalf of Ken Baker with his permission.

It is Ken Baker's account of a friendship that grew between a group of conscientious objectors working for the Forestry Commission and a platoon of soldiers.

After leaving the bank and working for a while on a farm, I managed to get a job working with the Forestry Commission in Northamptonshire.

Quickly, I found myself with a new group of lively friends operating over a vast area of forestry land. The first people I met were John Noton and his wife Rita in whose half of the semi-detached farm building, Denton Wood Lodge, I was to live. In addition to me, there were two others living in the lodge, Cecil Panther and Starry Starsmore. Our small gang was supplemented by a wild youth called Ron Wilson, known to us as the Demon Barber because of his peacetime occupation. Our ganger was 'old' Billy Underwood whilst our area foreman was 'young' Billy Underwood.

One very hot summer day in about 1940, we were clearing a new area for planting and, by lunchtime, we were very dirty and sweating profusely. As we made our way back to our haversacks for lunch, we found we were being watched by a platoon of soldiers. We got talking to them and soon we were sitting together in the shade of a tree. We explained that we were pacifists and told them how we came to be doing forestry work, whilst they told us that they were in the Inniskillen Dragoon Guards and were encamped nearby on a training exercise. When we were called back to work, we wished them farewell, told them where our cottage was and said they would always be welcome to visit, although we thought that would probably be the last we would see of them.

But one evening, a few days later, to our surprise, there was a tap at the door and we opened it to find three soldiers taking up our offer and bringing with them a packet of tea and some sugar.

Over the following weeks, the visits became more and more frequent, but not always from the same three, although never more than three came at a time. They seemed to have an informal understanding of how many we could accommodate.

Eventually, they even began to keep some casual clothes with us and seemed to enjoy changing out of their uniforms when they could. In the evenings, we would sit and talk without inhibitions about the war and the current situation. In addition, they told us some amusing stories about the Dragoon Guards. It had once been a cavalry regiment and, although they now moved about in tanks, they still wore spurs and wound their puttees on upwards rather than downwards. On other occasions we just sat and drank tea while Rita played the piano.

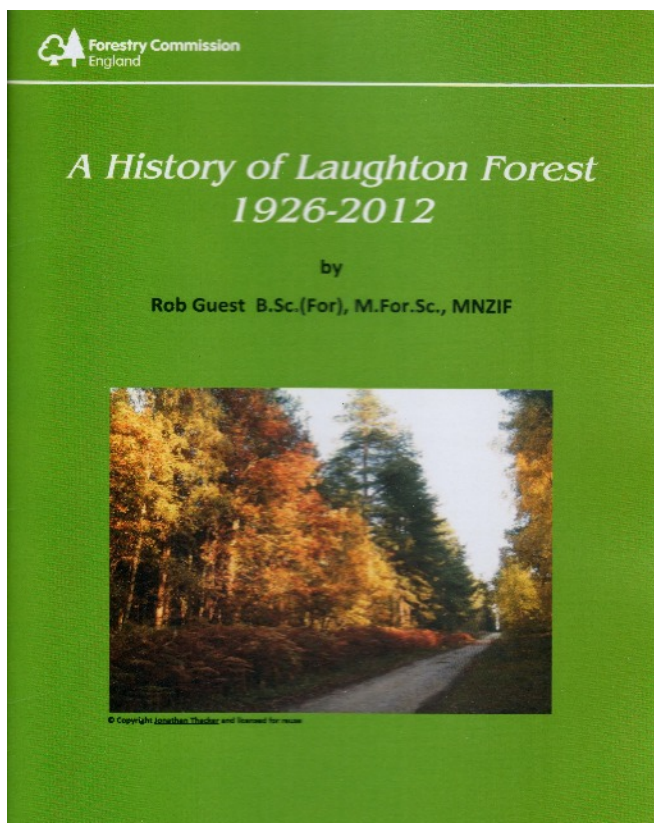
Later we introduced them to our friends, the Seamarks in Northampton and that became another centre they could use. They even brought their wives to stay with the Seamarks and Stan Seemark found a pushchair for them to take the children out.

One day, they informed us that they were moving on and the visits would have to end. Before they left, an officer called and thanked Rita for the hospitality his men had received, but we were never sure whether he knew the entire situation. We missed their visits, but had learned a great deal about tolerance and the possibility of having real friendship despite having fundamental differences of opinion.

See the website: -

www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar

Book Review



Laughton Forest in North Lincolnshire was established in the early years of the FC on some of the largest inland sand dunes in the country.

Rob Guest, who started working in Laughton as a schoolboy in his holidays and who recently retired from Deputy Surveyor of the Forest of Dean, has written a history of Laughton. It documents the difficulties encountered over the decades from black grouse damage to young trees, difficulties with species choice, and more recently red band needle blight affecting the Corsican pine. Issues about the forest environment and the management staff are also covered.

The booklet is free. Copies are available from the Forestry Commission, Sherwood Office, Kings Clipstone, Mansfield, NG21 9JL

Tel. 01623 822 447

enquiries.sherwood@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



Laughton Forest

Copyright Johnathan Billinger and licensed for reuse

Class of '39

By Peter Owen



Robert (Bob) Power began his Forestry Commission service in 1939 in the Forest of Dean. He attended the first ever forestry school that opened in 1908 and was located in the 1870s Engine House of the Parkend Iron Works.

In his first week there on his initial training course, the Second World War was declared. Bob and his fellow students heard the declaration on the radio in the billiard room. Bob was posted to Norfolk and worked in the

forest supplying pit props for the coal industry and stakes for beach defences. Despite forestry being a 'reserved occupation', Bob volunteered for the RAF, and later became a bomber pilot, travelling as far as South Africa and India.

After the war, he returned to the trees, working first in Kershope Forest and then Thornthwaite. From there he moved to Bourne in Lincolnshire, and then to Scotland, training foresters everywhere north of Stirling. He completed his service as Chief Forester at Alice Holt in Hampshire retiring in 1983.

He revisited Parkend on 9th August 2012 with Kathy, one of his four daughters, and for old times sake had a beer in the Fountain Inn, across the road from the old FTS that closed in 1972. 73 years later – and still good beer! Cheers Bob!

Still living independently in Hampshire with help from his 4 daughters, 11 grandchildren, and 4 great grand children, he enjoys life to the full. He has a wicked sense of humour, good ears and eyes to appreciate all around him. He was 93 in October. He enjoys a wide range of music, but particularly that of the 1930s and 40s – the 'Rat Pack' era of Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra and Louis Armstrong. An occasional gin and tonic goes down well too.

*View or download earlier issues of FCA Today
from the FCA website at: -
www.fca-today.com*

Ex-forester, author, musician and broadcaster Phil Ratcliffe receives a major award for his biography of blues man Mississippi John Hurt

Ex forester Phil Ratcliffe has been running his own consultancy, 'Ecological Land Use Consultancy' since taking early retirement in 1996. Since 2002, he has been more actively pursuing his early interest in the music of America's Deep South and in 2003 began researching a biography of iconic bluesman and songster, Mississippi John Hurt. His book *Mississippi John Hurt: His Life, His Times, His Blues* was published last year by the University Press of Mississippi. Phil spent six weeks on a book signing tour and gave presentations and performances in Tennessee, Memphis, Jackson, Mississippi and New Orleans. Phil will be telling more of his experiences in the Deep South in future, but meanwhile he has just received notification of this prestigious award.

The Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC), based in Kansas City, Missouri has recently announced the winners of the 2012 ARSC Awards for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research. Begun in 1991, the awards are presented to authors and publishers of books, articles, liner notes, and monographs, to recognize outstanding published research in the field of recorded sound. In giving these awards, ARSC recognizes outstanding contributions, encourages high standards, and promotes awareness of superior works. Two awards may be presented annually in each category—one for best history and one for best discography. Certificates of Merit are presented to runners-up of exceptionally high quality. The 2012 Awards for Excellence honour works published in 2011.

Dr Phil (Philip R. Ratcliffe) received the top award for BEST RESEARCH in RECORDED BLUES, RHYTHM & BLUES, or SOUL MUSIC for his book, *Mississippi John Hurt: His Life, His Times, His Blues*, published last year by the University Press of Mississippi.

Dr Phil will receive his award at the awards banquet to be held in Kansas City, Missouri on Saturday May 19, 2013, and will also make a presentation of his research during ARSC's annual conference, a forum for the exchange of ideas on the cultural and historical importance of our recorded sound legacy.



Phil Ratcliffe (aka Dr Phil) performing in New Orleans

All authors receiving an Award for Excellence receive a one year honorary membership in ARSC, providing access to the ARSC newsletters and the *ARSC Journal*, the

only peer reviewed publication of its kind, with articles on all aspects of the history of recorded sound.

He will receive a copy of the *ARSC Directory*, providing access to a unique, international network of sound archivists and librarians, researchers and discographers, sound engineers, and private collectors active or with a special interest in the study, documentation and preservation of sound recordings.

Dr Phil is currently working on two new books on similar topics, one based on his popular Dunoon Community Radio programme, *Sounds of the South*, which is available on the web via the link from

www.dunooncommunityradio.org

or via

<http://dunoon-relay.celticmusicradio.net:8000/dunoon.mp3>



Phil Ratcliffe at a book signing event in Jackson, Mississippi

Bog Oak - 5,000 Year Old Tree Found in Norfolk

The trunk of a giant oak tree, thought by experts to be more than 5,000 years old, has been unearthed in a field in Norfolk. (As reported by the BBC).

The 44ft (13.4m) Fenland Black Oak, or bog oak, was found buried in farmland at Methwold Hythe, near Downham Market. Planks cut from the trunk will be dried over seven months in a specialist kiln.

Bog oak is generally found buried in farmland. One of the rarest forms of timber in England, when dry it is said to be "comparable to some

of the world's most expensive tropical hardwoods".

Experts believe the Norfolk bog oak is "the largest ever intact 5,000-year-old sub-fossilised trunk of an ancient giant oak", but think it could be just a section - possibly as small as a quarter - of the original tree.

Standing trees began to perish as water levels gradually rose starting about 7,000 years ago and when they died they tumbled into silt that built up on the forest floor and this led to their preservation".



Thousands of years ago the East Anglia fenland basin was densely forested by gigantic oak trees

(Photo: www.bbc.co.uk)

This article which was reported by the BBC, has been reproduced from the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Hunt August 2012 publication. See the website www.ancienttreehunt.org.uk

Visit the FCA Today website at: -
www.fca-today.com

El Syd is Remembered

Where are Syd Cruden's Lads now? Syd has passed on to do auditing in some other place, his wife Connie, told me of his death in August aged 85. Auditors are resilient. He was a vibrant character who, in his retirement at Chandlers Ford, was active in country dancing and doing what he most enjoyed, mucking about with the Woodland Trust, digging drains and building bonfires.

He will be fondly remembered by his Lads, John McSorley, Ian Miller, Bill Gordon, Derek Benoy, Keith Gliddon, Keith Milsom, Brian Easton and Brian Robertson. He looked after them well and could and did criticise them, but nobody else was allowed to! What an enthusiastic legacy to leave to the FC. He was

a master at volunteering his Lads to do jobs that no others would, like organising Christmas decorations, serving the Christmas lunch, providing the carols and clearing up after.

In the days prior to the construction of the Forth Bridge, Chez Cruden in Corstorphine was a stop over for auditors on their way to Aberdeen or Inverness. Connie always provided coffee and biscuits.

Syd was a hard taskmaster, but straightforward and fair. He commanded respect from staff at all levels and was one of the FC's unforgettable characters. He will be remembered with affection.

For the latest FCA news, check the Message Board on the FCA website at www.fca-today.com



Website Message Board

If you have any announcements, news or forthcoming events, post or e-mail the details to the editor. Contact details are on the back page of this magazine.

www.fca-today.com



People in the picture – left to right are; Dy Price, Pat Birkhill, Dick Godfroy, Tim Sawyer, Pet ‘Fergie’ Ferguson, Mick Taylor, Colin Steele-Perkins, Adrian Condrón (back to camera), John ‘Billy’ Budd and Colin Lawes (Phil Ratcliffe took the picture). Jim Southee (The Duke) attended, but isn’t in the photo. Sadly, we learned of the deaths of Harold ‘Andy’ Anderton, Pete Dewey and Gerry Nicholls.

Gwydyr Forester Training School 1962-64 Re-union 11-12 September 2012

by Phil Ratcliffe

Some names have been withheld to protect the guilty!

Early on in 2012, I received an email message from Dick Godfroy suggesting a re-union. Dick had made contact with a few of the old forestry school crowd from Gwydyr. I had never been to a re-union of any kind before and was generally wary, but this seemed different. We were all folk who had a lot in common. We began to communicate, and over a few emails Dick and Colin Steele-Perkins did an amazing job of pulling in more and more of the old course.

We met up at the Princes Arms in Trefriw, a great hotel where, back in the old days, we had met nurses from Llandudno hospital at joint dances, and one or two of us actually met their prospective wives there. Our host was welcoming, the food was good and the crowd gathered on the Tuesday afternoon. Apart from an increase in wrinkles and a loss of hair everybody was remarkably recognisable. The recognition was emphasised when folk began to talk and the old mannerisms emerged. It was very soon just like we had been in regular contact. The fact was that many of us had

Continued on next page ➡➡➡

Gwydyr Forester Training School Re-union *continued*

Continued from previous page

never met since the day we walked out of Gwydyr Forester Training School 48 years ago in the Summer of 1964.

It was almost exactly 50 years since we had first met in September 1962.

We were soon at the bar drinking stuff we could never have afforded back in those days when a single man aged 19 received £2.18.0 a week. This went up to £3.0.6 at age 20 and £3.5.6 if you were over 21. Married men got more and the more kids you had, the more money you got (see photo below).

SCALE OF ALLOWANCES PAYABLE DURING RESIDENTIAL TRAINING AT A FORESTER TRAINING SCHOOL

Rate (A)		applies to men without dependants: for men aged 19 it is £2.18.0 per week, aged 20 £3.0.6 per week, aged 21 and over £3.5.6 per week.
Rate (B)	1	applies to men with one dependent child under 16 but with no adult dependant and is £4.13.0 per week.
Rate (B)	2	applies to men with two or more dependent children under 16 and is £5.3.0 per week.
Rate (C)		applies to a man with a wife, or in certain circumstances a man with an adult dependant other than a wife, and is £6.13.0 per week.
Rate (D)	1	applies to a man with a wife and one dependent child under 16, or in certain circumstances a man with an adult dependant other than a wife and one dependent child, and is £7.5.6 per week.
Rate (D)	2	applies to a man with a wife (or adult dependant) and two or more dependent children under 16, and is £7.13.0 per week.

The allowance at (B), (C), or (D) will be payable as appropriate to a student who is maintaining a separate home outside the training area (the training area is defined as being a distance within five miles from the School). A student who moves his home to within the training area will have his allowance reduced by the sum of 24/6d per week. A student who marries after acceptance for training will have the rate (C) or (D) abated by the same amount.

Gwydyr Forester Training School Allowances

A great night was had by all and, of course, all the old familiar stories were told and a few that some folk didn't remember. Like when a bunch of us was wandering back from the Swallow Falls hotel after a late night dance when we spotted an animal like figure crawling up the white line toward the school. As we got closer we realised that it was one of our course who

said that he couldn't stand up, but figured if he crawled up the white line he would eventually get home!

There was the time on exchange course at Benmore when we had been instructed to carry a load of old bedroom furniture down several stories to the ground floor for disposal.

Continued on next page ➡

Gwydyr Forester Training School Re-union *continued*

Continued from previous page

Having partially retrieved the onset of boredom by throwing a few wardrobes out of the sixth story windows, one of us decided that he should be locked inside a wardrobe with a snedding axe to see if he could escape. We all gathered around as the wardrobe began to rock about as the axe head smashed through from inside, along with various anglo-saxon profanities. At this point we heard Percy Gough, the Chief Education Officer, coming up the stairs to investigate the noise. What could we do? It was obvious. We all crept away quietly into the next room, leaving the incumbent of the wardrobe to his rage infested escape routine. The timing was perfect. As Mr Gough strolled into the room the wardrobe rocked to a halt as the axe splintered the wardrobe door and the student's head emerged to meet him. Wonderful stuff.

Next day, after a substantial breakfast, we were off to visit the old school. All the old buildings were still there and the school was now an army training camp. Colin Steele-Perkins had done a great job in setting up a guided tour of the normally out of bounds area.

Camp Commander, Adrian Condron gave up a huge amount of his time to show us around, taking us all into the sleeping quarters, dining room, etc. I was amazed to find that my 'pit' in Hut 1 was still virtually unchanged, though I was a bit disappointed that my photo of a naked Christine Keeler had gone from the wall!

The photo below shows the school as it now looks – almost identical to how it looked back in 1964. Adrian has started to accumulate some old mementos and records of the history of the place and had put these on display for us. Have a look at the exam paper on the following page, could anyone still pass this?

After the school visit we went off looking over old haunts and then met up again for another good meal and an evening of entertaining banter, before setting off home next day. We all had a great time and have decided that we'll do it again in four years time. So, anyone who didn't make it; we hope to see you in 2016. Watch this space!

I have Phil's e-mail for those who missed the event but would like to make it in 2016. Ed.



Gwydyr Forester Training School

Gwydyr Forester Training School Exam Paper 1966

Autumn Term Examination9th December, 1966Second Year Theory Paper ICourse 20Time Allowed 2 hours

Each of the following 4 questions should be attempted.
 Each question should be answered on separate sheets of paper.
 Each question carries 25 marks.

1. (a) The tariff method (using row sampling) is to be used to estimate the volume of a compartment for sale purposes. List the steps involved in the task. (12 marks).
- (b) What is the general effect of accidentally over-girthing or under-girthing (i) Volume sample trees?
(ii) Girth sample trees? (8 marks)
- (c) A number of subcompartments are combined for the purpose of carrying out a tariff measurement. State the different ways in which an estimate of the volume contained in each sub-compartment could be obtained. (5 marks)
2. You have been asked to train a new fencing gang. How would you do this?
3. (a) What is meant by 'form height'? Briefly describe a quick way of estimating stand volume which makes use of the 'form ht.' concept. (9 marks)
- (b) What are the relative advantages and disadvantages of systematic sampling compared with random sampling? (8 marks)
- (c) A 1/10th acre plot is girthed and the total B.A. is calculated to be 8.3 hoppus square feet.
 Three sample trees are selected from the plot and felled. The following measurements are then booked:

Tree (1)	B.H.Q.G.	8 ²	M.Q.G.	7 ⁰	Length to 3" top	35 ft.
Tree (2)	B.H.Q.G.	8 ¹	M.Q.G.	6 ³	Length to 3" top	34 ft.
Tree (3)	B.H.Q.G.	8 ³	M.Q.G.	7 ¹	Length to 3" top	37 ft.

 Estimate volume of the plot.
 (Decimal hoppus tables, slide rule and log tables may be used) (8 marks)
4. Using the figures on the attached table to illustrate your answer, describe how thinning intensity and type of thinning affect crop development.

OBITUARIES

Memories of Fred

Mike Whitlock remembers **DR. FRED HUMMEL** who died peacefully at home on 21st October. He was born in Switzerland in 1915 and his parents, who originated in Bavaria, had become British citizens. His father worked as a forester for the Colonial Forest Service and Fred's early life was spent in Honduras. He first attended school in Britain but was later educated in Bavaria, where he still had relatives. During his time there he joined the Boy Scouts which became the Hitler Youth when Hitler came to power. Fred became disillusioned with this, especially after hearing Hitler speak at Nuremberg. He resigned from the organisation which he was allowed to do, being a non-German.

Returning to Britain he obtained a degree in forestry from Oxford University, where he later received his doctorate. He then joined the Colonial Forest Service like his father and served in Uganda. This was interrupted by service in the King's African Rifles (Kenya Regiment). Most of his service was spent in Somalia and Ethiopia. He therefore had the unique experience of being a member of the Hitler Youth and also a branch of the British Army. Following the end of the war he returned to forestry in Uganda but soon afterwards joined the Forestry

Commission and became one of the first of many to arrive at the new research centre at Alice Holt Lodge. He firmly believed, as did the hierarchy of the F.C., that forest research should be carried out by the Commission rather than by the universities. It would then have a more practical application to work carried out by foresters. Initially, he had to work from home because the only table and chair were being used by Tom Peace (Forest Pathologist). Fred's specialisation was forest mensuration and he became head of this branch of Forest Research. Some of his early colleagues were John Christie and John Jeffers. He was responsible, amongst other things, for devising and introducing the tariff system for measuring standing timber; a system which, with slight modifications, has been in use for many years.

Others will write of his distinguished career as F.C. Commissioner, his work with FAO and director of forestry for the EEC but I shall concentrate on his membership of FCA and my contacts with him during this period. Fred retired to Guildford and joined the Alice Holt group as soon as it was formed. He did not attend many events because, as he once said, he was not a very "social person". However, this did not mean that he was not

interested in what the group was doing and also how people he knew were faring. He once gave us an interesting and amusing talk about the early days at the research station. Only last year he gave us a generous donation towards the cost of the group's Christmas lunch.

In my telephone conversations with him he always asked about people he knew and, on one occasion he kindly sent me an autographed copy of his book "Memoirs of Forestry and Travel: Uganda. Mexico. Britain, Brussels and Beyond". but he set me the task of commenting upon it, which I did. The book has provided me with much of the information for this obituary.

During the last 10 years or so of his life he was almost blind which restricted his movements and for the last two or three years I had to communicate via his wife, Floriana, because he became very deaf. Nevertheless, he retained his mental faculties to the end. He has been described as kind and considerate and I found him easy to converse with.

Our condolences are extended to Floriana, his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Arnold Grayson is writing an obituary that will cover his professional career in more detail. I shall give a reference to it when it appears. Ed

OBITUARIES

David Williams remembers **GEORGE PRINGLE** who died in June aged 89. He was a well established figure in Research at Betws y Coed where he spent most of his career. His assistants who will remember him were Bob Ure, Peter Gregory, Alan Bacon and Dave Downs.

There was another side to his FC career, namely as Whitley representative for many years on the Civil Service Union. His rich Scottish accent made him a notable character and he neither minced his words nor suffered fools gladly.

I have very little information to put in this obituary. If any of his colleagues wish to add more memories of times with George, please e-mail me. Ed

*Dorothy Munn tells of the interesting life of **GEORGE STABLER** from Gilling near Helmsley, York.*

George was born at nearby Oswaldkirk in 1930. He left school aged 14 and worked in a grocers shop in Helmsley for 10 shillings a week and because he didn't like the work a friend asked if he would like to work in forestry. George started work for the Forestry Commission in Gilling Woods on 3 October 1940 for 17s 6d per week in a gang of 17 workers! George was in the Army from 1944-47. After the War ended, workers were sent to Germany to do forestry work in the Black Forest and George was given the job of instructor. He was asked to return to Germany for a further 3 years

but decided against it and continued to work in the Hambleton District until he retired on 22 November 1990 after 50 years service. George's wife Frances was postmistress at their home in Gilling from December 1973 until the Post Office closure in February 1991.

George was part of a small group involved in getting the first Gilling Parish Council together in 1966 and also in the first meeting of the FCA Yorkshire Group Committee in 1996.

Roger Busby has told me of the death of Simon Hewitt. An obituary will appear in the next issue. Ed

The December 2012 edition of the Forestry Commission Wales newsletter Connect Cymru is available on the FCA-Today website.

It is the penultimate edition as Forestry Commission Wales enters the last four months of its existence.

www.fca-today.com



Bark! Internal news and views of the Forestry Commission

Check out the new FC blog at <http://news.forestry.gov.uk>

Forestry Commission Scotland on Facebook

The Official FCS page 'Enjoyscotlandsforests' is now active! Whether you are planning a day out, want to know what's on in your area, or you want the latest news on wildlife, mountain biking, walking, cycling, camping, stargazing or any of the other great activities taking place

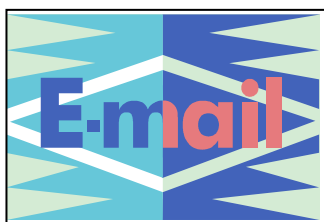
in forest locations across Scotland, visit Forestry Commission Scotland's new Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/enjoyscotlandsforests>

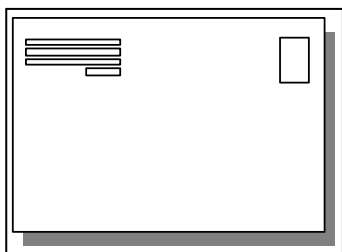
Register for news releases on the Forestry Commission website and choose the topics that interest you. Go to <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/newssubs.nsf/subscription?openform>

All news releases are also on the main Forestry Commission website in the 'News' section.

Send your letters to the editor for publication in FCA Today



by e-mail to editor@fca-today.com



by post to Richard Toleman, Manuel Stables, Linlithgow, EH49 6JF.

Do you have any pictures for the website gallery?

Post or e-mail them to the editor. Contact details are on the back page.

If pictures are sent by post, please indicate if you require them returned.

www.fca-today.com

Forestry Commission Association Management Committee

Peter Charlesworth (*Chairman/Secretary*)

David Parnall (*Treasurer*)

Charles Dickens (*Group & FC Liaison Officer*)

Richard Toleman (*Editor*)

Contacts

FCA Today editor: -

Richard Toleman

Manuel Stables

Linlithgow

EH49 6JF

Telephone: 01506 845575

e-mail: editor@fca-today.com

e-mail membership enquiries to: -

membership@fca-today.com

FCA Today Magazine

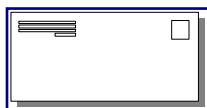
The next issue of the FCA Today magazine will be available **(depending on whether we receive any articles from you)** on the www.fca-today.com website during the Spring of 2013.

Articles for inclusion in the next issue of the magazine should be sent to the editor before 1st March 2013.

Send your articles to the editor for publication in FCA Today



by e-mail to: editor@fca-today.com



by post to: Richard Toleman,
Manuel Stables,
Linlithgow,
EH49 6JF.

FCA Today is an FCA production

Editor: Richard Toleman, Manuel Stables, Linlithgow, EH49 6JF. Tel: 01506 845575. e-mail: editor@fca-today.com