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## FCA Today

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### Website Message Board

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## The Day I Climbed the Bridge

*by Charles Dickens*



*The iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge*

My family's affair with Australia began in 1927 when my father's eldest sister with two young sons in tow boarded the SS Euripides in Liverpool bound for Sydney, there to join her husband who had gone before to set up house. The family never saw her again until 1951 when she and her husband took the 6-week journey by sea to visit us. They made a return visit in 1961 and I never saw them again, although my parents did so when my father retired in 1969.

Australia was always a country I wanted to see and my opportunity came in 2008, when the wife and I flew to Sydney and met up with my cousins. We did all the touristy things one does when in that part of the world.

I also met my first girlfriend whom I hadn't seen for nigh on 60 years, and it was her husband who recommended my doing the bridge climb.

We are talking about the "Coathanger" or the Sydney Harbour Bridge. My first view was that seen by thousands when on our first day there we rounded McQuarrie Point and saw the bridge and opera house in their iconic glory.

Built and shipped out by Dorman Long, Middlesbrough and held together by 6 million Australian rivets, the bridge was opened in 1932. It weighs 52,800 tons and is world's largest steel arch bridge rising to 440ft above sea level. It carries 8 traffic lanes and two rail tracks. The whole arch rests on pivots at each end that allow the bridge to expand and contract with temperature variations.



*The Bridge has six million rivets*

Then in 1998 someone came up with the bright idea of giving the public the opportunity to climb the bridge, although not a few had previously and illegally traversed the span. Thus the bridge climb started as one of the things to do when

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## The Day I Climbed the Bridge *continued*

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visiting that fine city. So handing over the equivalent of £90 I booked my bridge climb.

Presenting myself at the appointed hour at the reception centre under the city side approach to the bridge, I was herded into a small group and briefed on what to do and what not to do.

The bridge climb organisers had quite a battle to persuade the bridge authorities to allow the public onto the structure.

Health and safety uppermost in their minds, they were worried that unhinged characters might avail themselves of the opportunity to perform a high dive into Sydney Harbour or people might drop things onto the speeding traffic below. To prevent either happening, all loose items such as bags, cameras, hats, etc. are handed in for safe keeping and you are fitted with a one piece overall with no pockets over which a harness is clamped on to your body.



To cap it all is a pair of headphones, so your guide can bore you with myriad bridge facts and figures during your climb.



*Charles on The Bridge and the Opera House*

Two climbs are offered, one follows the top girders or the top chord to the summit and the other, labelled the Discovery Climb, follows the lower chord, so one can better view the structure of the bridge. I opted for the latter.

Emerging from a tunnel cut through one of the stone bridge towers and before stepping onto the bridge itself your harness is clipped onto a steel wire. You remain permanently attached to the wire for the duration of the climb. Only the guide has the key to unclip you in an emergency.

At first you are almost at road level before mounting the lower chord and then the climb starts with the vehicles below getting smaller and smaller, until you are a good 150ft above them.

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## The Day I Climbed the Bridge *continued*

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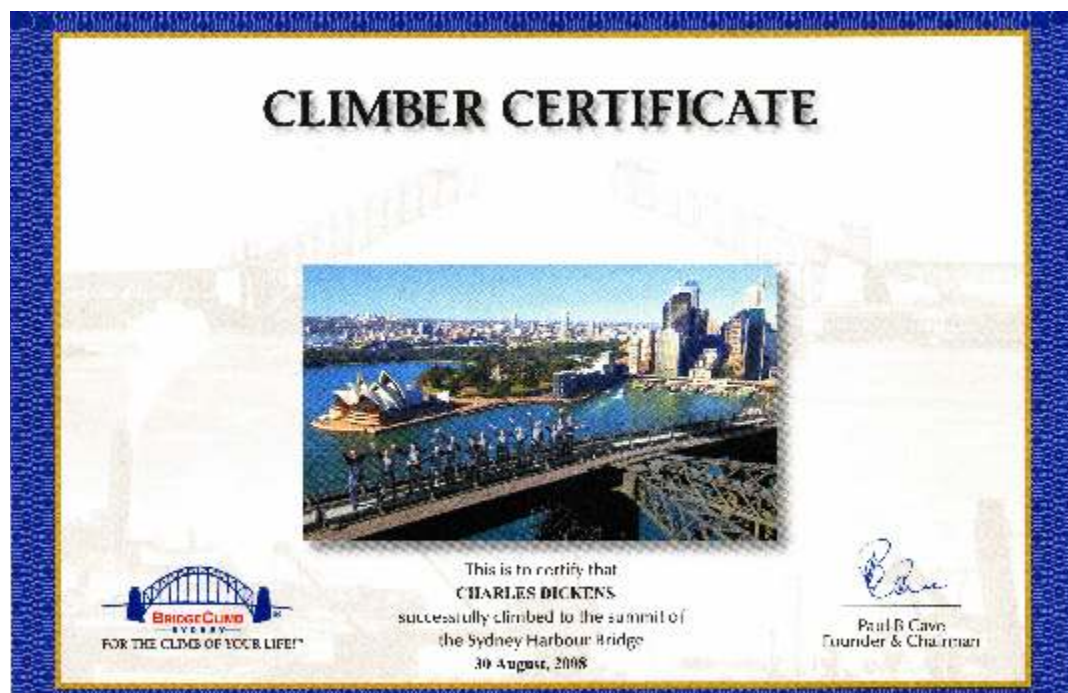
*The bridge from the Opera House, awaiting the start of an evening concert, a glass of fine Australian wine in hand.*

This is not recommended for vertigo sufferers, because the walkway is a steel grating through which are seen the waters of the harbour and the traffic below looking like wee dinky toys. And you can feel the bridge vibrating from all that traffic movement, and even more so when a train passes below your feet.

Finally, a steep flight of steps to emerge at the very top of the bridge at 440ft above the blue harbour waters, with a panoramic bird's eye view of the whole of Sydney and its harbour. I could have stayed there all day, but sadly we had to make our way down to allow others to share our experience.

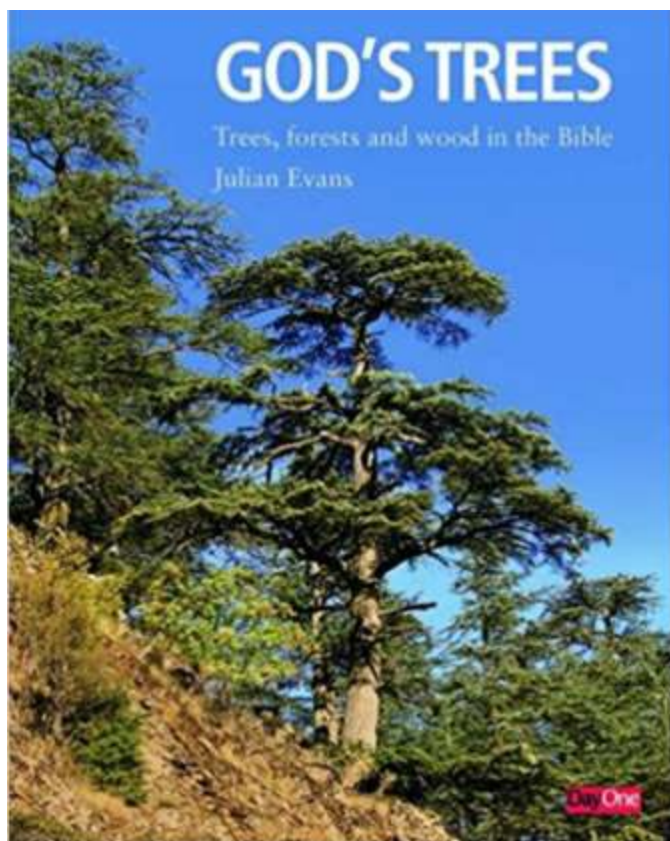
Although our cameras were locked away in the reception centre, your climb is photographed by your guide and you are presented with a souvenir certificate. And for a not immodest price, I was able to buy a couple of prints of me on the bridge.

I'm glad I took up the recommendation and, like many thousands before me, have been able to reach such heights Down Under. However having done the climb, should I ever find myself in Sydney again, I'll give it a miss – for £200 there are many more other things there to see and do.



## God's Trees

by Julian Evans



It all began in the early 1980s when I was working as a project leader at Alice Holt. I was researching broadleaves and had taken on the challenge of writing what became FC Bulletin 62, '*Silviculture of Broadleaved Woodland*'. Across the corridor was Graham Tuley of tree shelter fame, and in the office next door was the late Alan Mitchell, author of Collins Field Guide to Trees: I always knew when he was in from the pipe smoke!

Into this mix was an enquiry to me from a publisher to write a book about trees in the Bible. I had become a Christian in the late 1960s while doing my PhD in Swaziland, southern Africa, so the thought of combining my professional interest with my faith greatly appealed. In the evenings, with the boys in bed, and occasionally at weekends I started on this project. By the time Bulletin 62 was

out in Autumn 1984, I had drafts of three chapters of what was called *God's Trees* as a working title, along with bits and pieces of research for the remaining eight or nine. The three chapters were typed on an early Alan Sugar Amstrad, being careful always to take two hard copies when printing. Then the bombshell came, not from the Amstrad, but from the publisher who announced they had gone bust and my contract was annulled. The chapters and notes were filed away, though the interest in references to trees, wood and forests in the Bible was not.

DayOne, a Christian publisher based in Leominster, heard this story and approached me to revisit the subject. This was a full 25 years later, so in 2009 I searched the attic and amazingly, found the files and the research from the 1980s. It was enough to get me going, I didn't have the daunting task of starting completely from scratch.

I was of course retired from salaried employment by then, and having written or edited 16 books on forestry topics over my career, the challenge of *God's Trees* was particularly welcome for two reasons. This would be a coffee table book with all the pictures, illustrations and accessible writing style it implies. It led to visits to Israel, Egypt and Turkey having already in the past travelled in N Iraq, Cyprus and Italy. My career in temperate forestry and tropical plantations had never penetrated to the Mediterranean and the unusual climate and conditions of this specialised ecotype.

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## God's Trees *continued*

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Thus I was confronted with not only a new format and style, but a new geography too.

Drafting, writing and sourcing illustrations, in addition to the numerous photographs I had, took about two years of concentrated effort. *God's Trees* was written as a kind of commentary on the biblical text wherever mention of trees, forests or a wood product occurred. Some Bible verses were challenging, such as the incident where Moses purifies water by throwing in a piece of 'wood' or 'tree' (Exodus 15), which may refer to the property of tree seeds of Moringa, which are still used today for this purpose, and some where we have little to go on, such as what shrub or tree furnished the twigs which the soldiers took to fashion Christ's crown of thorns. Four colleagues and friends reviewed the finished draft, one of whom was FC's Dr Mike Render.

In FC research at Alice Holt, one worked with the publications officer - in my case the late John Parker - when producing a major work like a bulletin or handbook to sort the text and source the illustrations. But working on a coffee table book meant planning each individual page with a professional book designer.

As important as what was written and the quality of the photographs and artwork, was how it all looked. This was all quite new and led on occasion to mismatches where the designer placed photos two or three pages away from the text they were illustrating! In the end, in only one place was the illustration over the page and this was footnoted in the caption.

*God's Trees – Trees, Forests and Wood in the Bible* was published in autumn 2013. The launch was held in Kew Gardens with, logically enough, a visit to the Mediterranean collection followed by a reception in the Orangery. But how would the book be received by professional colleagues and the public at large? Here is not the place to indulge in quotes from reviews, but amazingly *God's Trees* was a finalist in the non-fiction section of the People's Book Prize 2014.

Two more surprises awaited. Within 18 months a reprint was needed, but more than that, has been the numerous invitations to speak on the subject to church and non-church groups alike. Since publication, I must have given 80+ presentations all over the country and one even as a lecturer on board a cruise ship! Demand continues and this year I have 20+ commitments in the diary.

The presentation, simply called *God's Trees*, is not all botany and forestry, but consists of seven cameos ranging for example, from the sycamore-fig tree Zaccheus climbed to see Jesus and the cedar of Lebanon timber to build Solomon's temple, to what do we know about the wood of the cross. Some churches and so far, one WI, have invited me back for a second presentation and a set of further cameos called, rather uninspiringly *God's Trees II*.

If readers would like to get in touch about my giving a talk to a church event or club meeting, do feel free to e-mail me at: -

[julianevans.patula@gmail.com](mailto:julianevans.patula@gmail.com)



*by Michael Lawrence*

A color photograph showing four men working in a vineyard. They are standing in a row, each holding a long-handled tool, likely a hoe or a similar implement used for weeding or tending to the young grapevines. The men are dressed in work clothes, including overalls and a vest. The background shows a flat landscape with some trees and a distant horizon.

Sandy Rose was born in the village of Geddes, educated in Nairn and Elgin, and left school in 1919 to start work as a trainee forester on the Earl of Moray's Darnaway Estate. In 1923 he joined the fledgling

On demobilisation in 1945, Sandy returned to the Forestry Commission, and was soon given responsibility for establishing a clonal seed orchard in the southern part of the East Conservancy to replicate his pre-war experience at the Newton Nursery, near Elgin.



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## Alex "Sandy" Rose MBE *continued*

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*Preparing a seed bed at Ledmore in the 1950s*

A small nursery in Perthshire was first set up on a twenty acre site at Belstane Farm near Bankfoot in Perthshire. In November 1949, the Commission acquired 130 acres at Ledmore Farm, again near Bankfoot. Ledmore was selected because of the sandy soil, the rare unseasonal frosts and the availability of skilled agricultural labour in the area.

When acquired, Ledmore was badly run down, hard panned in parts, and heavily infested with weeds. In the spring of 1950 some twenty acres were deep ploughed, cleaned, sub soiled and green cropped. By 1951 the ground was still considered too dirty for large seed lining out and a further round of green cropping was necessary. And so it was not until the following year that a southern seed nursery in the East Conservancy was brought into production.

In 1952 seven million seedlings were lined out. Within four years, some fifty six acres were under nursery and this could be extended to seventy five acres as the need arose. The balance of the farm land at Ledmore was transferred to the Strathord Forest or sublet as agricultural land to neighbouring farmers.

Output in 1956 was six million seedlings, 4275 pounds of hardwood and 56 pounds of conifer seed and this pace of production was maintained for the next decade or so.

In the early days, Ledmore concentrated on the development of Scots pine and Douglas fir, but by the mid 1960s the production species included Scots pine, lodgepole pine, larch, Norway spruce, and Sitka spruce.



*Transplanting young spruce trees in Ledmore Nursery, Strathord section of Dunkeld Forest.*

*By courtesy of B.R. Feaver.*

*Continued on next page* ➡



## Alex "Sandy" Rose MBE *continued*

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The number of workers at Ledmore varied by the season, with around 30 employees required during the spring and summer months, when lining out and weeding created the highest demand. The workforce dropped to around 20 permanent workers during the autumn and winter. It was a shortage of general labour, particularly women, which led to intensive mechanisation of the heavier work throughout the growing process. At Ledmore, necessity was truly the mother of invention.

Sandy Rose as head forester and Jimmy McLean as forester meticulously planned the whole nursery at Ledmore to make it easy to use tractors, machines and power tools. Careful thought was given to layout so that machines could be operated

efficiently and economically. Roads were deliberately positioned, sections were made as long as possible to save unnecessary turning, and seed beds were laid out in widths to suit the equipment. Odd corners and margins of irregular shape were used for growing hardwoods, poplar stool beds and Christmas trees.

There was one permanent road to the nursery office and buildings at Ledmore, together with access roads to the nursery beds and agricultural areas. All earth roads were kept meticulously clean of weeds. Hedges were built as shelter belts and planted at precise angles to counter the prevailing wind. It was hoped, that by planting section belts and hedges and by enclosure from the surrounding plantations, the nursery would be protected from windblown weed seeds.



*The Ledmore Six Drill Seed Sowing Machine in the 1950s, for sowing seed in drills and covering them*

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## Alex "Sandy" Rose MBE *continued*

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*Transplanting at Ledmore in the 1950s using an early version of the Ledmore Lining Out Plough*

Strict crop rotation was followed at Ledmore and normally one third of the nursery area was green cropped each year. After growing two successive crops of plants, organic or inorganic manures were applied according to soil analysis and prescription. It was regarded as essential to make good the high degree of exhaustion caused by the growing and removal of tree crops. Oats and vetch were then sown and ploughed in when succulent in late July or August. Once decomposition had taken place, the sections were then ploughed back in September or early October, to ensure a high composition of humus in the top soil. The history of each section at Ledmore was rigorously recorded giving soil analysis, manure applications, and the annual tree crop or green crop raised.

There was a period in the 1950s and 1960s when Ledmore was an important destination for forestry dignitaries from all

parts of the world. Senior staff from the Forestry Commission across the UK were regular visitors, particularly the Genetics Section and Mechanical Research. The Royal College of Foresters from Sweden, the New Hampshire Forestry Commission from the United States, and the Society of Irish Foresters have all left reports of their visits to Ledmore in the archives. Their main purpose was to see the showpiece nursery and its tree development work, but also to view the practical application of the many machines designed by Sandy Rose to mechanise the nursery process.

Here is a summary of his most significant inventions at Ledmore:

### **The Ledmore Six Drill Seed Sowing Machine and Grit Distributor**

In the 1950s Sandy Rose worked on the development of a plant suitable for the forest without the expense of lining out. Experiments on undercutting one year conifer seedlings led to what became known as a "one undercut one" or "1u1" plants. The six drill sowing machine was designed by Sandy Rose to sow seeds thinly in drills so that, after undercutting, the conditions for growth were not dissimilar to transplant lines.

The Ledmore drill sower had a large roller, small roller, six hoppers and inside each a shaft carrying bristles and spoons agitated to ensure a steady flow through an adjustable aperture near the base and down a telescopic delivery tube to a drill shoe.

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## Alex "Sandy" Rose MBE *continued*

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The Ledmore seed sower was designed to sow a three feet wide seed bed with drills at six inch intervals, the tractor wheels running in the alleys between the beds. The rate of delivery was set according to germination capacity.

The Ledmore Sower was adjustable to sow a variety of seeds and could be converted from drill to broadcast with little fuss. The hopper and feed was adapted to fit the grit distributor, which in turn was modified to confine the grit to a drill width.

### The Ledmore Lining Out Plough

This was the Sandy Rose invention that gave him a worldwide reputation amongst foresters and nurserymen. John MacEwan, a past President of the Royal Scottish Forestry Society and author of the book *Who Owns Scotland*, described the Ledmore plough as a "miracle", and credited Sandy Rose as the person who "cut out the slavish work of a countless number of men and women crawling all day on their knees on the ground". Lining out was revolutionised and back breaking labour was replaced by an ingenious machine.



*Transplanting seedlings at Ledmore Forest Nursery in Perthshire. The tractor draws a lining-out plough, designed by a Commission forester. This places earth against the roots of trees, held in a trench by boards, and at the same time, cuts the next trench.*

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## Alex "Sandy" Rose MBE *continued*

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*Lining out with a Ledmore Plough in the 1950s*

When lining out was done before the use of boards, the worker would take a small bundle of plants in one hand and work along a prepared trench, setting each plant in turn in its place, judging depth and distance by eye. Each seedling was temporarily held in place with a small handful of earth pressed against the roots. Once the trench was completed, earth was thrown in with a spade to complete the filling in and trampled down and levelled with the feet. This was slow, tedious and very hard work for the return of a couple of thousand plants each day.

The next stage in lining out development was to use an agricultural single furrow plough to prepare the soil and open up a trench, boards to space the young trees, and manual effort to compact the loose earth around the roots. This speeded up

the process but much spade and foot work by skilled men still remained.

The big leap forward was made by Sandy Rose's Ledmore Plough. It combined in one simultaneous operation the four stages of preparing, trenching, spacing and compacting. It was neat enough – the final version was only 6 foot by 4 foot - to be drawn by the small Ferguson tractor that was commonly used in nurseries, greatly reducing the turning circle.

The Ledmore Plough was designed to fill in, consolidate and level a lining out trench and to cut and prepare the next trench at the same time. By mark 3, the Ledmore plough could be preset to control its own depth of working and modified to carry a hopper which placed fertiliser precisely where it could be mixed with the fine soil and pressed against the seedling roots.



*Lining out seedlings on a Ben Reid board*

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## Alex "Sandy" Rose MBE *continued*

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The Ledmore practice was to strip line out in beds of five long lines, with lines 9 inches apart and each bed separated by an alley wide enough for a tractor tyre to pass without damage to the trees. Within each line seedlings could be set at 1, 1.5 and 2 inches apart on a modified Ben Reid board. Each machine squad averaged 140,000 seedlings per day at 1 inch, 120,000 per day at 1.5 inch and 90,000 per day at 2 inch. With the use of two Ledmore ploughs and careful labour planning, around 250,000 seedlings per day could be lined out. Compare this with the pre-war productivity rate of a few thousand plants per day using a skilled squad with spades and muscle.

The strip line method also allowed the follow through of other tractor drawn implements such as the Ledmore Inter-Row Cultivator, the Ledmore Undercutter and the Ledmore modified Gunn Plant Lifter.

### **The Ledmore Inter Row Weeder and Alley Cultivator**

The Ledmore weeder and cultivator was developed by Sandy Rose because there was reluctance by the Forestry Commission Genetics Section to use herbicides at Ledmore. It was a modified Ferguson toolbar fitted with a variety of agricultural attachments to do inter line weeding and alley cultivation. Vertical spring tines travelled between lines of plants and each alleyway was hoed and raked at the same time. It straddled the complete bed and covered both bed and alleyway in one operation. The number and spacing of the

tines was adjustable. The central tines could also be removed for weeding the alleyway only. The machine was used at tractor speeds of 3-4 mph so that large areas could be covered quickly. Weeds between plants in a single line were removed by hand. As the science developed, herbicides were eventually introduced.



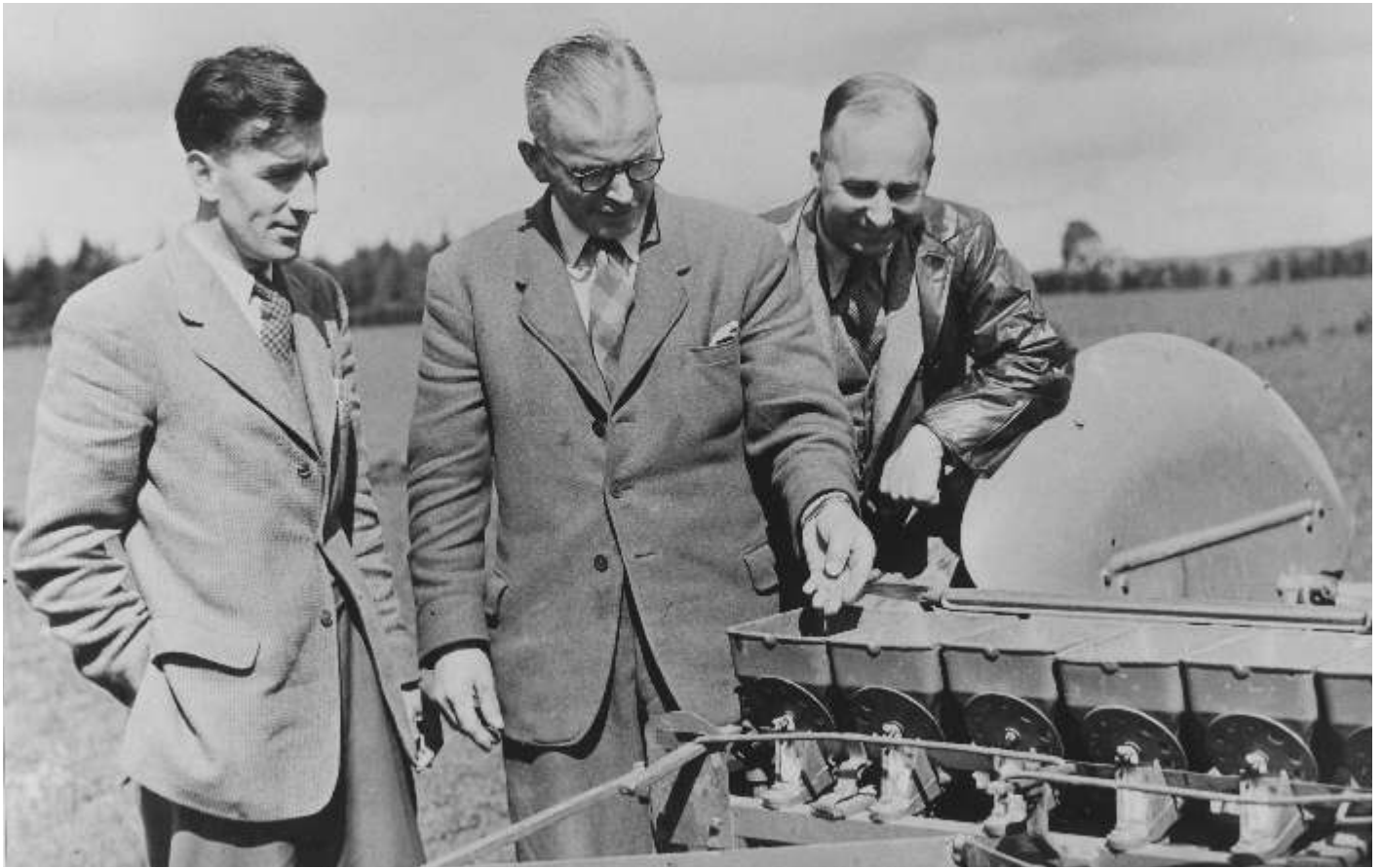
*The Ledmore Root Pruner undercutting Lodgepole pine seedlings at Glenfinart Nursery*

### **Ledmore Twin Blade Root Pruner**

This Sandy Rose machine consisted of a tractor bar fitted to the hydraulic lift of a Ferguson tractor. To the tool bar was attached two cutting units spaced three feet apart, each consisting of a steel member around four inches wide, sharpened on the leading edge. These units were preceded

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## Alex "Sandy" Rose MBE *continued*



*Sandy Rose demonstrating the Ledmore Seed Sower to visitors at Ledmore Nursery*

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by discs which in operation travelled on either side of the seed bed alleys and so provided an easier passage for the steel member. Welded to the base of the vertical member were tapered blades with depth control achieved by pneumatic tyres. There was negligible cost of maintenance, spare parts were easy and cheap to source, and the machine was simple to use. The result was well loosened soil and seedling appearance after pruning was excellent. With each subsequent undercut, the fibrous root was maintained and increased, producing a well balanced plant for each age group.

### **Ledmore Modified Gunn Lifter**

The Gunn Lifter was used in many nurseries but was modified by Sandy Rose. This included resetting the broad blade angle and the fitting of vertical tines so that the soil between the transplant lines was broken up ready for lifting. Once the Lifter had passed, the plants could be picked easily by hand.

A key fact about all the inventions and innovations by Sandy Rose at Ledmore was that they were achieved after much experimentation and "sair trauchles" but with minimal cost to the Forestry Commission. He would often ask East

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## Alex "Sandy" Rose MBE *continued*

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Scotland conservator, Frank Oliver, for development cash and the reply was typically "Sandy, I'll only give you money if it works". Invariably it did work and over the years Ledmore machines saved the Forestry Commission millions and greatly improved worker productivity.

Ledmore Nursery was only a part of Sandy's overall responsibility as head forester of the 1600 acre Strathord Forest. He was also well known for the model nurseries which he prepared for the Forestry Commission stand at every Royal Highland Show from 1949 to 1969. Over the years he also delivered many lectures to forestry students

at the University of Aberdeen, University of Edinburgh, and Faskally FTS.

Sandy Rose was appointed MBE for services to forestry in the New Year Honours List of 1969 and retired from the Forestry Commission in July 1969, aged 64, to take up a consultancy position with the Food & Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations in Yugoslavia before settling into retirement in Bankfoot.

Sandy Rose died in April 1987, aged 81. I'm very proud to say he was my grandfather and a brilliant role model who remains a constant source of memorable advice, guidance and inspiration.

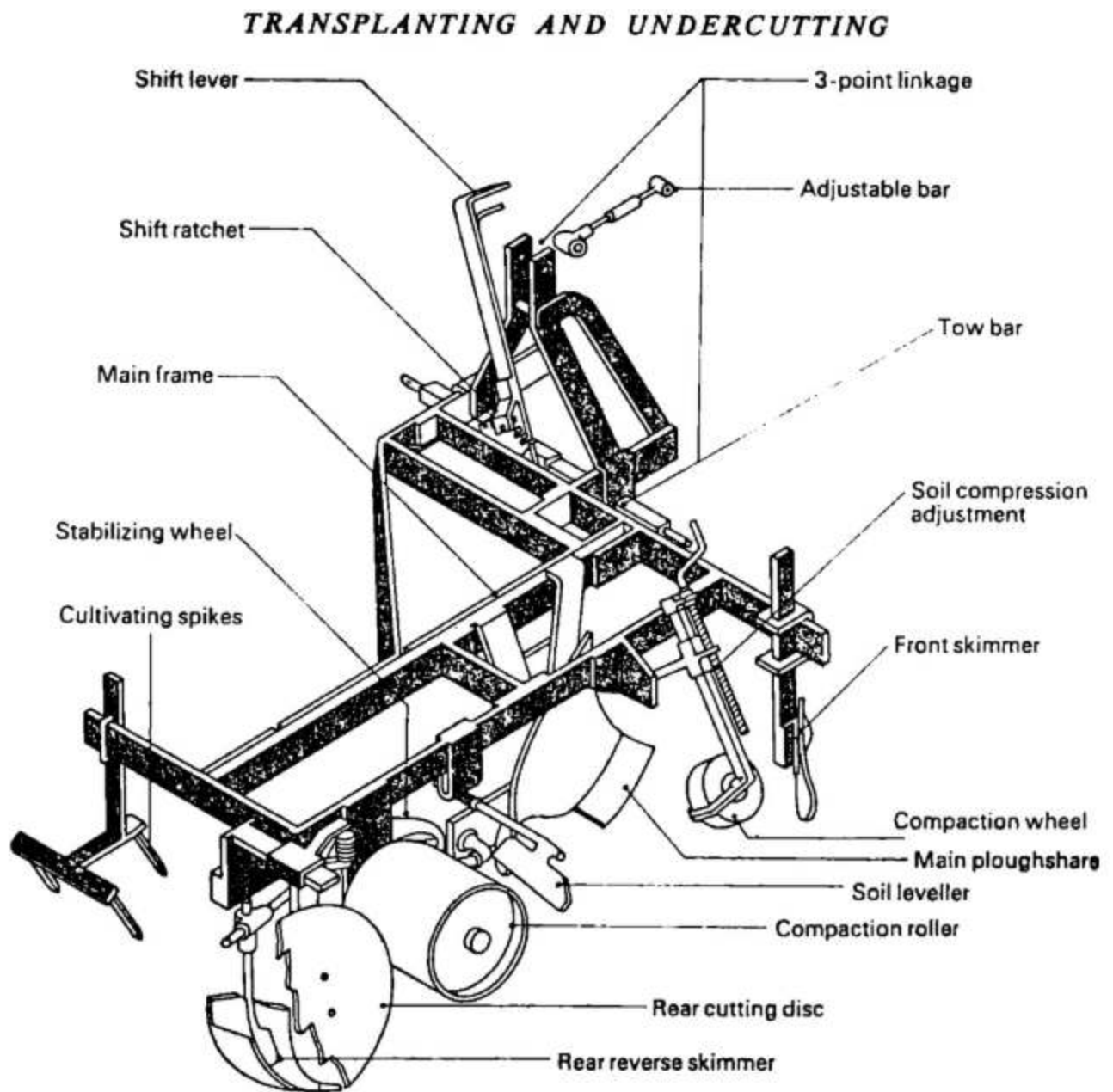


*Sandy Rose testing a machine at Ledmore Nursery*

*Lining Out Plough diagram on next page* ➡➡➡

## Alex "Sandy" Rose MBE *continued*

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*Drawing of Ledmore Lining Out Plough for transplanting. Designed by Sandy Rose*

## Steam Returns to The Cock at Broom

*by John Palmer*

On Saturday evening, 17<sup>th</sup> September, the now familiar visit to The Cock pub in the Bedfordshire village of Broom, near Biggleswade, took place by the owners of steam road vehicles. Three turned up representing the two prominent British steam wagon makers.



*Photograph by John Palmer*

*Sentinel - Hovis (No. 8084)*

The first wagon was a Sentinel built at Shrewsbury in December 1929, No. 8084. This wagon was new to the Hovis



*Photograph by John Palmer*

*Foden - Newquay Beers (No. 12364)*

bakery in Manchester and was turned out as near as possible in its original livery. Although steam wagon production finished just before the Second World War, an order was received from Argentina in the late 1940's which Sentinel fulfilled.

The second wagon was a Foden, and the factory at Sandbach in Cheshire continued to make modern lorries until quite recently. This Foden dropside wagon was built in July 1926, No. 12364, and was delivered to E. Devenish of Rayleigh, Essex, for general haulage. Currently, it is in Newquay Steam Brewery livery. A number of these wagons were purchased by breweries and were used as drays to replace the



*Photograph by John Palmer*

*Foden Tractor (No. 12300)*

horse drawn ones.

The third wagon was another Foden, also built in 1926, No 12300. This model was known as a tractor, a term that is

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## Steam Returns to The Cock at Broom *continued*

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still used for the driving unit of an articulated lorry. A number of them were used in the timber industry and were known as timber tractors. Using a pole trailer, these tractors would take logs from the forest to the saw mill. Depending on log size, between one and four could be transported. Other tractors were used for short haulage, especially at docks or ports. For journeys between the ship and the warehouse, these

tractors would work with up to three trailers. One trailer was loaded at the quay side, the second was unloaded at the warehouse and a third empty trailer was taken back to the quay side. This made both loading and unloading very efficient and kept the tractor working with no idle time at either the warehouse or the dockside.

*Contributed by Diane Birkett  
FCA Today webmaster*



*Visit the FCA website at [www.fca-today.com](http://www.fca-today.com)*

## Thetford Group Outing

*by Eric Rogers*

On 18<sup>th</sup> May the Thetford Group and friends were blessed with a fine day and thirty of us, some up to the mid 90s - not all of course - had a good day out on the lower reach of the River Deben in Suffolk, from Wadingfield to Bawdsey where the river reaches the sea. On the way we stopped at Stonham Barns for coffee and some retail therapy before arriving at the Maybush Inn at Wadingfield for a very fine lunch.

After lunch we boarded our motor vessel for a leisurely sail to Bawdsey. The Captain pointed out places of interest. The river is quiet today, other than the recreational sailers at week-ends, but in the past it was an important highway and source of food.

It was an anchorage for Viking raiders who could sail up river to Woodbridge and Sutton Hoo. Medieval settlements lay back from the river, no doubt to be safe from the invaders.

Bawdsey was the centre of research and development into radar which saved us much harm during the war. Vessels also waited here to set sail with troops for the D Day invasion. One of the ships moored in the river, very well restored, actually went to Dunkirk.

After Bawdsey we had an easy run back to Wadingfield and then back to Santon Downham on the coach.





## Letters to the Editor

Dear Richard,

I now have some of Bart Venner's books and files and I am sorting through them and arranging for them to go to the appropriate places, e.g. the information about the Dean FTS will go to the Dean Heritage Centre where Bart had already prepared a display for them.

I did find the attached photo, which may be of interest to members. It was taken at the 3,000,000 acre commemorative planting at New Fancy in the Dean.

On the back of the photo, are listed some of those pictured, in small script (so difficult to read) which I have interpreted as follows:

George Holmes DG  
David Harris? Asst Cons  
Bart Venner  
Les Troup Conservator  
Bill Jones  
Geoff Waygood  
Trevor Lewis  
Maurice Hall  
Bob Powell  
John Aldhous Asst Cons  
FC Chairman

*Best wishes,  
Rob Guest*

*I asked Rob for a date for this event, but there was no record. I am sure somebody will be able to help. They may even have more information about it. Ed*







## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,



In the Spring 2017 and Winter 2015 issues, you featured a photograph of students from the Lynford FTS on exchange at Gwydyr in 1951-52. I am sure the person identified as number 2 sitting on top of the

vehicle is my late father George 'Bill' Belton who worked for the FC until his retirement in 1985. My mum, Betty Belton, recognised him and asked me to email you. She is a regular reader of FCA Today on her iPad and recently spotted the photograph.

You may also be interested in the photograph below taken in Santon Downham sometime

between 1945 and 1953. My mum's father, Russell Mortlock, my grandad, is in this one. He is in the third row from the front, second from the left. At the time of the photograph he was the forester at Tunstall Forest, Rendlesham.

My mum thinks the picture may have been taken at the retirement of Mr Broach (front row, third from left). For ease of reference, I have numbered the people in the picture (see below) and my mum has identified the following:

1. Mr Alfred Price
3. Mr Broach
5. Mr Tubby Birkett (not sure of spelling)
6. Mr C A Connell
9. Mr F E B de Uphaugh (District Officer)
11. Mr Hendrie snr
13. Mr Hendrie jnr
17. Mr Jack Brooks (glasses)
20. Mr Russell Mortlock (my grandad)
27. Mr Chas Bloor

*Graham Belton*





## Letters to the Editor

Dear Richard,

I attended Dean FTS from 1965 to 1967 which interlinked with the 1964 to 1966 course.

The course of 64 – 66 had to make its mark upon its departure. So the transport division of the Training Establishment, and its head driver Ted Williams, faced the brunt of the pranks. These took the form of all his carefully maintained vehicles being distributed around various tumps and unlikely spots late at night and left to be found in the morning. Ted had the responsibility of returning them in good order to the depot.

At the end of the 65 – 67 course the vehicles again went missing, even though further security measures had been put in place. The main object of this prank was

Ted's lorry which was moved and hidden down at the cricket field. Being forestry green it was hard to spot.

So the erstwhile principal was less than happy with the situation, even quoting "Health & Safety" if something untoward had happened. He promptly fixed his beady eye and imagination on one particular student, blaming him and declaring no passing out certificates would be issued unless the culprit owned up.

The course united in defiance and he climbed down. Nobody was ever actually blamed for the prank, in fact the instructors were too busy trying to work out what had happened and how to get into their offices as the locks had also been changed.

*Best wishes,  
Archie Smith*

## Send your letters to the editor for publication in FCA Today



*by e-mail to: [editor@fca-today.com](mailto:editor@fca-today.com)*

*by post to:*

**Richard Toleman  
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## Arnold Grayson - An Appreciation

*by Arthur Miller*

No doubt some of the senior officers will give their comments on Arnold and his background, but I have my own memories as a junior forester. My first experience of Arnold was when I went to Alice Holt in 1970 to join Mensuration Section, part of the old Management Division.

Of course, the first thing one noticed about Arnold was his voice and drawl. It was almost incomprehensible to me, with my Liverpool (Scouse) background, but I got used to it.

He was one of the triumvirate of Johnson, Grayson and Wardle who had such an important effect on forest policy at the time. Obviously, I do not know what started the project, but when it first came out I thought it was completely alien to my experience in forestry. They developed the system of net discounted revenue. A complete mystery at first, but as I progressed in the FC and learned about it, I realised it was a very useful tool. Once the computer programs had been written and installed in forest

district offices, I used it to take non-forestry folk through the intricacies of choice of species and the effect of costs.

But the thing that stands out most in my mind is his capacity for work. I was there for the publication of the Mensuration Handbook and later for the census, when we wrote a report on every county and the country in the final publication. Arnold read them all, almost overnight, and came back with suggestions and sometimes instructions to change the wording or to re-write. He would also proof read at the same time. His comments were always clear and effective.

The best compliment came from Alastair Rowan, Conservator NW(E), when he told Mike Locke and me that he was impressed with the report for Cheshire. There was information on every line of text and yet it was very readable. I mentally thanked Arnold for his input. As you might guess, he had an impact on my report writing style from then on.

**Send any articles for publication in this magazine to the editor**



by e-mail to: [editor@fca-today.com](mailto:editor@fca-today.com)

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





## Life in Brief

Peter Webb is sad to report the death of **Eric "Fuzzy" Everitt** aged 92. He was one of the most colourful characters in the Forestry Commission.

Eric was born in North Yorkshire, where his father was also a forester with the Forestry Commission.

After forestry school Eric had short spells at North York Moors and Kielder after which he moved to the South West where he spent the majority of his career.

Eric was part of what was to become a forestry dynasty as he was followed in forestry by his son and grandson. Eric and his wife Pat retired to Padstow.

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Arthur Miller recalls the life of **PATRICK FRANKLIN JEFFERSON** of Dolgellau who died on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 aged 73 years.

Patrick was born in Surrey, one of a family of four boys. His father was a brigadier in the army.

When Patrick was two years old the family moved to Jamaica, and on reaching school age he attended boarding school back in

England until the age of eighteen years.

After leaving school Patrick joined the Navy, but in 1960 he left to start his forestry career as a pre forestry school trainee in Gwydyr Forest, Bettws y Coed.

Patrick attended the Dean FTS from September 1964 until Summer 1966 after which he was posted to Bareagle, Ayrshire.

He married June on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1967. In 1972 Patrick was posted to Work Study Branch at Dolgellau and then on to Coed y Brenin Forest where he remained until he took voluntary early retirement in the mid nineties.

Patrick was kept busy looking after his garden and playing cricket and rugby for Dolgellau. He coached a number of children in the sports and worked hard at keeping the grounds in top class order. When his playing career was over, he became a cricket umpire and a rugby referee. He was also a keen bridge player.

Patrick's funeral was held at Aberystwyth Crematorium, followed by a Celebration of

life in St Mary's Church Dolgellau. The church was full to capacity with a number standing.

Patrick is survived by his wife June, son Paul and daughter Clare and their families.

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Peter Webb reports the death of MIKE MILLMAN at the age of 85. After leaving Dean FTS, Mike spent the whole of his career in the South West of England in what was to become the Peninsula District. He worked at Eggesford, Honiton and the Quantocks.

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*Editor's note:*

*I regret I have been unable to obtain a contribution on the life and career of Arnold Grayson.*

*He was well known but it is not proving straightforward to obtain one. However Arthur Miller's contribution shows how much Arnold was appreciated.*

*Also I have just been informed of the deaths of Mike Lofthouse and Bart Venner.*

*I hope to have contributions in the Winter issue.*

## Website Message Board

[www.fca-today.com](http://www.fca-today.com)

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## FCA Today on Facebook

by Ian Blake



I have set up a FCA Today Facebook page. Those with an account can search for FCA Today to become a member. If you don't have an account, I recommend you access the site shown below to set one up.

Simply follow the steps shown - they are quite straightforward. Once you're signed up, search for the FCA Today group to become a member, then you can disseminate information as and when you like.

Alternatively, there are a myriad of sites to assist in setting up Facebook, if you don't like this one, just type 'How to set up a Facebook account' into your browser.

<http://www.wikihow.com/Set-up-a-Facebook-Account>

## Forestry Commission Association Organisers

FCA Liaison Officer: *Charles Dickens*

e-mail Group membership enquiries to: -

FCA Today editor: *Richard Toleman*

[membership@fca-today.com](mailto:membership@fca-today.com)

## FCA Today Magazine

The next issue of the FCA Today magazine will be available on the [www.fca-today.com](http://www.fca-today.com) website in **December 2017**.

Articles for inclusion in the next issue of the magazine should be sent to the editor before 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017.

The publication dates of the FCA Today magazine are: - **Spring edition: 5<sup>th</sup> April, Summer edition: 5<sup>th</sup> August and Winter edition: December**

*Visit the FCA Today website on these dates to download the latest edition of the*

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