



Spring 2019 Edition

FCAtoday

The newsletter for former Forestry Commission employees

Issue 66 - Spring 2019



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From the Editor



Avid readers of this newsletter will realise that it is short on articles and other contributions.

Only the faithful few keep it going, yet most readers must enjoy it.

When Dylan Thomas wrote Under Milk Wood he invented the seaside village of Llaregub to describe what went on there. Well that's what is going on in FCA Today. That's just about what I had for this issue. And if it keeps going that way, we shall be no more! The FCA is under threat for lack of funding as our financial support is being withdrawn. We'll talk about this at the AGM, but don't let FCA Today die.

Just WRITE SOMETHING.

FCA AGM 2019



The 2019 AGM and forest visit will be hosted by the Breckland Group and will take place on the 21st and 22nd May.

The theme this year will be "Silvicultural responses to climate change in East England."

Dean FTS Reunion Dinner

The Dean FTS students' reunion dinner will be on Saturday 21st September, 2019 in the Verderer's Court at the Speech House.

There is still just time to register for this event run by Gerry Gissop and Martin Fletcher. Fifty contacts have had an e-mail in March. If yours has not arrived or you would like to join us, please contact Gerry on gissop@hotmail.co.uk or Martin on martinfletcher42@gmail.com

Now is the time to meet up with friends and colleagues you have not seen for many a year.



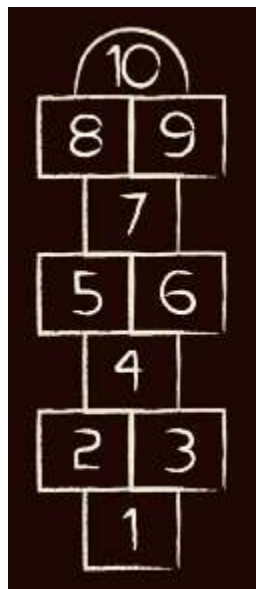
Speech House, Coleford, Gloucestershire

Before and After

by Don Amer

At the end of January this year, I received an email from a complete stranger, asking if he and his wife could visit me. They live in Derbyshire and have a holiday cottage in Castle Douglas which they visit several times a year. All very intriguing, I thought. However, it soon became clear when he explained that his father was a friend of mine during World War 2.

I was nine years of age when war was declared in 1939 and I lived in Birkenhead with my parents and four sisters. Birkenhead and Liverpool became a target for the German Luftwaffe because of the docks and oil storage depots. I became friendly with local boys of a similar age, and we used to play games, such as rounders, hopscotch and marbles in the streets and we would even go looking for shrapnel from the German bombs that fell in the streets round about. I became especially friendly with one particular boy, who lived in the street next to where I lived.



When the war ended in 1945, we remained friends until we went our separate ways, me aged sixteen, to Delamere Forest, and my friend became an employee with ICI (Imperial Chemical Industries) in Liverpool. We soon lost touch with each other, although somehow or other, I heard that my friend had married and had been sent out to South Africa by ICI. The next bit of

information was sadly that my friend had died in a road traffic accident whilst driving alone. His wife returned to England with their three children, two boys, Nick and John, and daughter Amanda.

After their return to this country, the only contact we had with my friend's wife, was with the exchange of Christmas cards, subsequently being informed that she had developed dementia and has lived since in various nursing homes.

The crux of this story was that my friend's eldest son, John, discovered that I had been a friend of his father, and he wanted to meet with me, so that I could possibly fill some gaps in his knowledge of his father's childhood, of which he knew very little.

John and his wife subsequently travelled up from Castle Douglas to meet with me. Brain cells which had lain dormant for about eighty years, suddenly became active and I was able to fill in a lot of gaps in John's memories of his father.

This has been a very poignant story both for me and his eldest son, so much so that a further meeting is planned.

This "happening" has prompted me to think that when ex-forestry employees are encouraged to put into print their experiences of their working career, there are other stories to be told, ie. life before a career in forestry and life after a career in forestry hence my title to this piece, "Before and After"

Top Brass at Silvan House

Below and on the following pages are five photographs sent by David Foot and Norman Davidson of Forestry Memories, to test readers' memories of the "Top Brass" at Silvan House. Identifications were the best attempts by David and Norman. We welcome any comments on identification. Can you identify any more? Do you have any memories of those pictured? We would like to hear them.



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www.fca-today.com



Top Brass at Silvan House *Continued*

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In the Chairman's Office at Corstorphine Road



At the rear standing from left to right: -

1. Neil McKerrow, he was the guy appointed to take my job as Head of FE
2. David Foot, Commissioner
3. Tim Rollinson, FC secretary at this time
4. David Grundy, Forestry Commissioner
5. Robin Cutler, DG

Round the table starting from the left: -

6. Robin Grove-White, Commissioner
7. Michael Strang Steel, Commissioner
8. Harry Fetherstonehaugh, Commissioner
9. Sir Peter Hutchinson, Chairman of FC
10. Terence Mallinson, Commissioner
11. Bridget Bloom, Commissioner

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Top Brass at Silvan House *Continued*

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This is the retirement of the chair of the HGTAC (Home Grown Timber Advisory Committee). He is the one to the right of David Bills. It would be mentioned in the FC annual reports of that time. He was a civil service appointee, and did the job for many years. All the faces are HGTAC members with the possible exception of John Fletcher.



From left to right: -

1. Peter Murray, Timber merchant
2. David Bills, Director General Forestry Commission
3. Sir Mark Russell, HGTAC Chair
4. John Brasier, Forest Products Research Lab in Princes Risborough worked on stress grading
5. Short man at front. Roger Clarke, probably RSPB at this time
6. John Fletcher, Conservator SW(E)
7. ? Not FC. probably a timber merchant rep.
8. Peter Wilson, head of the TGUK office & later FICGB. Eventually left to set up a consultancy
9. David Foot, Commissioner
10. Frank Strange, Secretary to Forestry Commissioners at this time. Left on transfer to the Scottish Office. (...probably in high office now!)

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Top Brass at Silvan House *Continued*

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Forestry Commissioners Meeting August 1990



Left side of the table from the front: -

John Denton Pollock He was General Secretary of the Teachers Union in Scotland and a very temperate and respected man

Ron Hancock (lived in West Horsley and died last year)

Sir Michael Strang-Steel

Right side from the front: -

Ian Coutts

Charles Woosnam

Terence Mallinson

Left to right in the rear: -

Peter Clarke, Secretary to the Forestry Commissioners

Gwyn Francis, Director General (Retired September 1990)

Sir Raymond Johnston, Chairman (seated)

David Foot

Roger Bradley

David Grundy (Commissioner from April 1990)

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Top Brass at Silvan House *Continued*

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Forestry Commissioners in the HQ Boardroom in 1995



Rear standing left to right: -

John Edmonds, well-known union official, General Secretary of the TGWU
 Harry Fetherstonhaugh, Commissioner from October 1994
 Terrence Mallinson
 Robin B. Grove-White
 Sir Michael Strang-Steel

Front left to right: -

Bridget Bloom
 Tim Rollinson, Secretary to the Commissioners
 David Foot
 Roger Bradley
 David Grundy
 Robin Cutler, Director General
 Sir Peter Hutchinson, Chairman from August 1994

A Memorable Afternoon

by Arthur Miller

During the Summer of 2018 the North Wales Group made a visit to a small hill farm called Yr Ysgwrn overlooking Trawsfynydd lake. The farm covers some 250 acres, rising from good meadow land to the ferny, rocky Ffridd (Bracken Ground) at the top. It is approached from the main A470 along a narrow, winding lane that leads inexorably to the dead end at the farm. There is found a new visitor centre, a cafe, a lecture room and a couple of old cottages.

Did we go for the view? No, despite the fact that it is magnificent, commanding a vista from Trawsfynydd Lake to Snowdonia and around to Cwm Prysor.

Perhaps then, for the cafe and a welcome drink. Not entirely, although we did have a Welsh Afternoon tea and a film show about the site later on.

Was it the old, beautifully restored farmhouse with plenty of the original furniture, artefacts and even wallpaper? Good to see and to learn about, but not the real reason for the visit.

We were there to learn about Ellis Humphrey Evans who was born in 1887. A farmer and shepherd, working in the hills around his native Trawsfynydd, and imbued with the tradition of the Welsh Chapel. He was also an accomplished poet in the rhythm and language of his native Welsh tongue.

Starting at an early age, he won five competitions at local Eisteddfods, where his prize was a Bardic Chair.

His themes were of Nature and Religion, and he was much admired for his talent.

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Walking up to the house

A Memorable Afternoon *continued*

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He also adopted the Bardic name of Hedd Wyn, which is the Welsh for Blessed Peace.

He became a Christian Pacifist, and was unwilling to join up and fight when the war started in 1914. He was in a Reserved Occupation, farming, and was therefore spared the risk of going to war. However, that all changed in 1916, when the family was required to send one son to the British Army.

At the age of 29 Hedd Wyn volunteered to join up in place of his younger brother. He became a soldier in the 15th Battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers.



The Black Chair



Detail of the carving on the Black Chair

He had been writing a long Welsh Poem in the strict metre and style of the Welsh saga for some time, intending to submit it for an Eisteddfod. He used every available moment to complete it.

At one stage in his military training he lost the manuscript and had to start again, writing it on scraps of paper whenever he could, both in training and after his posting to Belgium. It was finally completed to his satisfaction, written up in manuscript and submitted to the Eisteddfod for judgement. The poem was entitled *Yr Arwyr* ('The Hero').

Tragically, he was killed at Pickern Ridge in the early hours of the Battle of Passchendaele on 31st July 1917. He was buried in the cemetery at Artillery Wood.

Meanwhile, he had been successful with his poem, and was to be given his Chair at the 1917 National Eisteddfod, held in Birkenhead.

The Chair is black oak, made by a Flemish craftsman living in Birkenhead.

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A Memorable Afternoon *continued*

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On the appointed day and time, the winner was announced, and his Bardic name was called out six times. Sadly he was absent. The chair was covered in a black cloth, and remained in the circle with all the others for that ceremony.

Afterwards the Chair was taken by rail to Trawsfynydd and then by road to his home at Yr Ysgwrn.

The full impact of the story now starts to hit. There had been so much loss of life in Belgium, and so many brothers, sons and fathers had failed to return, that the Black Chair, as it was known, became an emblem to many grieving families.



Welsh Dresser

There were crowds of people to meet the train at every railway station between Birkenhead and Trawsfynydd, all wanting to share and show their grief.

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In the Tea Room

A Memorable Afternoon *continued*

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On arrival at the family home it was kept with the other Chairs that he had won.

However, the symbolism did not stop there. It became known as the 'Empty Chair', repeated in many homes throughout the land, where a place was kept at the table by each grieving family, who either hoped that their man would return, or wished to remember his loss.

So, on a warm sunny day, in the heart of the Welsh mountains, we were reminded of the tragedies and family heart aches of 100 years ago. We were all very moved after such an unexpected and symbolic tale.

If you are ever in this part of Wales, be sure to visit. Marvel at the view; learn about the struggles and lifestyle of the local farmers; enjoy a Welsh Tea in the cafe; browse the shop, and above all, prepare to be moved.

Photographs by Les Starling

Do you have any articles for publication in this magazine?

Send your articles to the editor

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

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



Website Message Board

If you have any news, announcements 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

Family Tree Research

by Diane Birkett



Have you considered researching your family tree? Your descendants and relatives would probably appreciate your efforts.

Perhaps you can get your family and other relatives to help with your research.

A lot of research can be done online with thousands of websites available for research, some are free to use such as www.familysearch.org

Some websites charge per record search. Others which allow access to a substantial collection of data, require a monthly/annual subscription payment, among the most popular being www.ancestry.co.uk and www.thegenealogist.co.uk

Basic details of Scottish ancestry can be searched online free at the website www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk More details can be obtained by buying credits which cost 25p each, but viewing a record's details will use many credits, for example, details of a birth will use 6 credits. Credits are available in batches of 30 for £7.50 or 40 for £10.

Details of Scottish registers can be obtained from the National Records of Scotland office. Some of the records date back to 1553.

The NRS website is www.nrscotland.gov.uk

Create a Solid Foundation

Start with details of yourself. Use the name and details on your birth certificate and list any errors or changes. There may have been boundary changes, some towns are recorded in different counties now. The place of my birth has been incorporated in the London area, but I was an Essex girl according to my birth certificate.

Make a note of your own significant events (marriage etc.) with dates and places.

Next, list the names of members of your family and their relationship to you. Include spouses, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents, great grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles and in-laws. Also include relatives that you have heard mentioned by your parents and grandparents. They may be just names or nicknames now, but they will help your research.

Use maiden names when listing female family members and ancestors.

Write all of the details you can remember about each person on your list. Details would include their full name, relationship, significant events with dates and places, date or year of birth and place, christening date and place if appropriate. Also, marriage, death and burial dates and places. Put a question mark beside any details where you are not sure.

Look for patterns in names. I have a relative whose family and ancestors have used the same middle name for every descendant for a couple of centuries. It is an unusual name and was originally a

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Family Tree Research *continued*

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mother's maiden name. It has been a useful tool in the search for ancestors.

Sons were often named after fathers or grandfathers, daughters were named after mothers or grandmothers. But don't rely on it because children may have been named after favourite aunts, uncles, friends, royalty or celebrities.

List all addresses where the person resided, or at least the county and town or village and the date of residence. This will be very useful during searches of electoral registers.

Ask relatives to do the same. Collate, compare and verify the results. Discuss and correct any anomalies.

When researching ancestors, don't be tempted to add people to your family tree until you have verified that they really do belong there.

There will be many 'red herrings' which could send you in the wrong direction and it will be difficult to find your way back to solid ground.

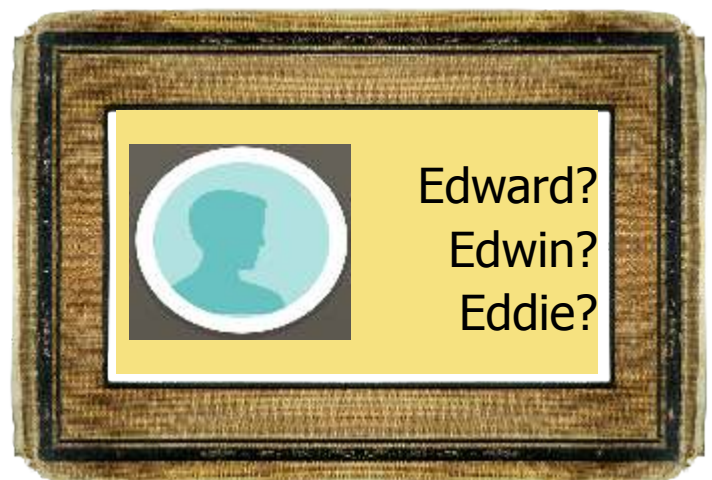
Names

During my years of researching ancestors, I have often wished we had been given unique numbers instead of names. It may be impersonal, but just think of the time spent looking for a relative with the name Ann Jones or John Smith. The variations of spelling cause difficulty too.

Children who were given the same name as their father or mother were often known by their middle name or given a nickname.

First and middle names are sometimes swapped around and adopted by choice.

Nicknames may be used in place of long and hard to pronounce names. Uncle Eddie's real name could be Edward, Edwin or even Eddie.



My paternal grandmother died when my father was young. It upset my father to talk about her, so any memories he had were not spoken. Consequently, I didn't even know my grandmother's name and after my father died, it wasn't easy to discover.

I applied for a copy of my father's birth certificate which showed my grandmother's name as Jenny Volant. Then the trail went cold. I couldn't find any records with that name in the UK or any other country.

I tried searching for variations of spelling, to no avail. Then I thought of my grandfather, a Polish immigrant who came to London around 1900. He still had a strong accent when I knew him in the 1970s.

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Family Tree Research *continued*

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Forename	Surname	Age	Year Born	Relation	Birth Place	Occupation
Edwin	Nichol	45	1856	Head	Liverpool	Artist
Frank E	Nichol	44	1857	Brother	Edinburgh	Clerk
Ruth	Hatford	48	1853	Servant	Wisborough, Gloucestershire	House Keeper
Dina	Hatford	12	1889	Servant	East Denbigh	Physician & Surgeon

I thought of him saying "Jenny Volant" to the registrar and I searched for variations of the name, taking his accent into consideration. Eventually, I discovered my grandmother's name was Jane Wallen.

When doing your research, bear in mind the spelling can be influenced by illiteracy and regional / international accents.

My Polish grandfather had many different spellings for his surname, so any research of his details has always been a challenge. I have been told in this case, the spelling depends on who is asking, whether they are Polish, German, Russian or British.

Other factors to consider during your research are illegible writing by registrars and transcription errors by data entry clerks.

While I was searching for the residents of a London house, I discovered a child genius in the transcription of the 1901 Census.

The transcription shows Dina Hatford's occupation as Physician & Surgeon even though she is only 12 years old! I have been told it is a sign of getting older when doctors and police officers seem young.

Your research would be influenced by official changes of name by marriage or Deed Poll. You would normally use a woman's married surname when searching for death records.

The Gazette is an official public record of announcements which includes changes of a person's surname by Deed Poll www.thegazette.co.uk

Ancestors' Ages

Actual ages and recorded ages can differ due to illiteracy, poor memory, ladies & gentlemen "adjusting" their ages during marriage registry, registrar's errors or transcription errors.

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Family Tree Research *continued*

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In England and Wales, ages on Census forms will be up to eleven months out. Births, marriages and deaths are recorded in registers by year and quarter, not by month, so they could be up to three months out after being recorded.

Certificates

Birth, Marriage and Death certificates show more details than can be viewed on the registers.

Copies of birth, marriage and death certificates can be ordered by visiting the Register Office, by telephone or online.

You can order copies of official certificates from many websites, but to avoid the "add on" charges, go directly to the Register Office website.

For England and Wales, the General Register Office has certificates dating back to 1837 and the basic charge is £11, though some copies are available as pdf images for £7. The website is www.gro.gov.uk

For Scotland, National Records of Scotland www.nrscotland.gov.uk has birth, marriage and death certificates dating back to 1855 and earlier parish registers. Certificates can be obtained online from the website www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

The basic charge for a Scottish certificate is £12 - £15 plus postage depending on whether the certificate is ordered online, by telephone or on a visit to the Centre in Edinburgh.

DNA Tests

Another way of finding ancestors and relatives is to buy a DNA testing kit. I used a DNA test from two companies.

The kit from Ancestry requires a sample of saliva to be taken at least thirty minutes after food or drink. From that sample, you will receive a list (online) of relatives that have also taken the test. The list can include parents, children, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and 1st - 8th cousins. You can request your name is not disclosed.

The DNA test from Ancestry has introduced me to relatives that I lost touch with decades ago. It currently lists over 58,000 of my relatives throughout the world who have taken an Ancestry DNA test, more than 1,000 of which are 4th cousins or closer.

The DNA testing kit I used from another company gave me the same ethnicity percentages as the Ancestry percentages. It also listed a high number of relatives, but I couldn't trace any known connections to my family.

DNA testing has a darker side. An organisation called NPE (Not Parent Expected) has been formed to give support to people who have discovered they are not related to the family they have always known, or they have discovered half brothers or sisters of which they were unaware.

Warning: Ancestry research can become addictive.

(I hope this will encourage readers to tell their stories or at least give them a new hobby. Ed)



Letters to the Editor

Dear Richard,

Jamie's Tool Collection

The article in the winter issue brought back many memories, felling with a crosscut saw and axe, the FC sharpening gauge and the annual tool stock take, undertaken by the D.O., always a challenging time.

There was little chance of 'pulling the wool over the D.O.s eyes' with items like Schlich spades, pulp hooks or wire strainers.

When it came to hooks there was however some overlap that could be exploited and as ever resourceful, foresters found a way around the system. If one had a surplus of one kind of hook and a shortage of another, then short handled bean hooks could be interchanged for reap hooks or slashers for brushing hooks.

Disposal of worn out (W/O) items was interesting. These could either be kept for another stock take or, if feeling philanthropic, spirited away to an adjacent beat or forest, where the stock take had not taken place. Otherwise in the Dean, these items, which sometimes included quite new redundant tools like crosscut saws or bowsaws, were thrown down a convenient mineshaft. That method of disposal went on the B10 Loss Report!

The three day saw sharpening and tool maintenance course I attended at Bucklebury forest, run by Ron Bignal, was excellent. I am still using the skills I learnt such as spades need different sharpening from shovels and reap hook are sharpened the opposite way from shears or scissors.

Two-man cross cutsaws I still sharpen at Tools for Self Reliance, before they go to Africa.

The little rectangular aluminium edge tool gauge stamped Forestry Commission is beside me now, each slot carefully marked Axes, Reaphooks, Billhooks and Slashers. We all had a favourite reap hook which was used continuously for at least three summer months. Mine was a Fussel or No 3 Gilpin.

The barking irons as we used to call them in the Dean, had a shorter handle than the one shown, with a T bar to help lever off the bark.

Until the mid-seventies the Dean exported two lorry loads of bark for tanning, one to Croggans of Grampound Road in Cornwall and the other to J. & F.J. Baker of Colyton in Devon. Only the latter is still going today.

Page 9 of FCA Today had some fascinating items, I had never seen the measuring tape with a dumbbell. How was it used and what were the graduations? It was not a Q.G. tape, but surely length would be in feet rather than hoppus feet? For quick estimating one worked on the basis of a log of 12" QG had a hoppus volume the same as the length, i.e. a 40-foot log had 40 cube. Likewise, my hoppus table reminds me of QG 24" had a hoppus volume 4 times the length, i.e. a 20-foot log had 80 cube.

(Still a sharp mind there. Beat that! Ed)

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Letters to the Editor *continued*

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The Fire Horn or Silver Bugle, as Jamie describes it, reminds me of when we were dismantling several redundant sheds at Savernake Thornhill nursery in 1978.

The men found at the bottom of a small shed, five Fire Horns all in mint condition duly stamped H.M. Forestry Commission. The H.M. probably means they were pre-WWII. The reeds were good, and in the past, blowing hard on them would have summoned men to go fire fighting from a nursery, depot or compartment not too far from a road. They had a loud distinctive sound. We shared these trophies out amongst the foresters (they were not on the stock ledger!). I felt mine should remain with the FC, so in 1997 I presented it to David Williamson, the FDM, at Bucks Horn Oak, where it hung on his office wall.

By the entrance to FC woods, Fire Rendezvous Point or FRP signs were once a common sight in rural areas with FC woods. These and other FC outdoor signs being made of aluminium were useful for repairs to the floor of ageing cars.

Lastly, I am sure many pre FTS students have had to cut firewood for the head forester while on fire standby, or in my

case on wet days for Frank Stevens, in February 1965, at the Kennington Research Nursery.

So, looking forward to Jamie's Tool Collection Part 2.

Martin Fletcher

Dear Richard,

I found the FCA Today article on tools most interesting and I think I can say that I have used most of them, the cant hook was an impressive tool.

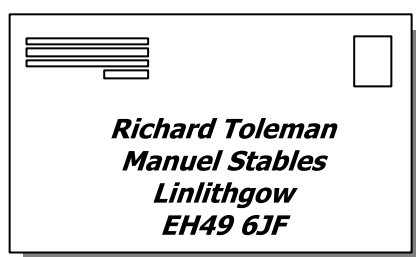
I am sorry that I never managed to get my wee exhibition in the round house on Dun na Cuaiche near Inveraray off the ground.

The estate employed a lot of Italian foresters in the 1950s and they were experts with a bill hook they called a 'panato'. When we were in Italy last year for a short holiday, I was intrigued to see in a tool shop a labelled panato hanging up in the window, at least I could understand one word of Italian!!

Peter Fairweather

Ex factor Argyll Estates, Inveraray

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*



Life in Brief

John Martin has told me of the death of **JOHN BEATTIE** who had a varied career as a mechanical engineer in the FC. He died last November at the age of 74 following a long struggle with severe rheumatoid arthritis and its side effects.

He was recruited in 1979, supposedly for an Assistant CME post in Aberdeen which never materialised. Instead he started as Assistant CME/Workshop Manager at Heathhall Workshop in Dumfries to replace myself when I moved to Inverness.

As many will remember, the early eighties were the start of major restructuring and it wasn't long before he found himself working out of Chester as CME NW(E).

This was a time of change and John found himself taking, what he thought was a very large claim for T&S, (£800 for the month) to the then Conservator (Alistair Rowan) for approval. As he apologised for the size of the claim, he was put at ease by Alistair with the response, "You have a long way to go before you catch me", and he signed it without any concern. How things changed.

After the Chester office closed, he moved to York as CME North England until it too closed in 1992 and then moved to HQ as Transport Engineer.

When the mechanical engineer for N(S) resigned in 1993, John found himself covering the N(S) role as well as his own HQ duties.

John was keen on DIY and during his time in the FC he built an immaculate kit car and enjoyed looking after his dogs and garden.

In the mid 90's, he took early retirement on health grounds and moved to Lancashire with his wife Linda, where he continued to keep an immaculate garden and became involved in restoring vintage motorbikes.

(Willie McGarva provided much of the detail in the above note)

Graham Hamilton remembers **ROGER BROWN** who died in December 2018.

After graduating from Edinburgh University, Roger joined the Forestry Commission in 1964. He was posted to Taunton in South-West England as Assistant District Officer under Nick Bannister.

After a few years in Somerset he moved to the Silviculture Branch of Research Division at Alice Holt where his work included nursery practice, herbicides, and nutrition.

His research work was held in high regard by colleagues and others in different organisations, and forestry practice benefited greatly from his guidance in these areas.

An excellent cricketer, and university blue, Roger eventually became captain of the Farnham Cricket Club and later, the Oswestry Cricket Club.

His wife Mary was from a farming family in Shropshire and her parents were keen to have Roger take over the management of the farming enterprise. He eventually agreed, resigned from the Forestry Commission, and moved to Knockin, near Oswestry in 1975. His knowledge and abilities proved very successful for many years, until he eventually handed over the farm management to his son Charles.

The loss of Mary in 2017 was a big blow. In his later years,

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Life in Brief continued

Continued from previous page

he endured the disabilities brought about by Parkinson's disease with great fortitude.

HENRY SMITH'S son, Chris, has written to tell me of his father's death in February aged 92. He had worked for the FC from 1949 to 1986.

Henry grew up in Milton Regis, an historic town in north Kent. His first career was building substantial wooden boats for the Royal Navy as a draughtsman for a local boatyard on Milton Creek. The biggest legacy of that was meeting my mother Margaret, who also worked there.

After the end of the Second World War, Henry realised that his firm had no future, so he set out to create another career in wood. He began with two years of work for the FC in Kershope Forest, then near Taunton and finally in mid Kent.

From 1951 to 1953 he went to FTS at Lynford Hall, with an exchange term at the Dean. The many friendships gained lasted a lifetime, both with people who stayed in

the FC and with those who moved outside.

Henry realised that the Forestry Schools had come and gone in the 20th century with relatively little record. After contacting people through FCA Today, he worked with Geoff Waygood to assemble a booklet of memories and pictures.

Henry resumed his career with the FC in 1953 as an 'ex-school ganger' at Arundel Forest in Sussex.

Over the next 10 years or so, he was promoted through the grades of assistant forester, forester and head forester.

After Arundel he moved to Hursley Forest in Hampshire, then Shipbourne Forest in Kent, where he also began a little private woodlands work. When Shipbourne was merged in 1968, he moved to work full time as a private woodlands head forester in Hampshire and surrounding areas.

After retirement, he fitted out a boat for sailing on Chichester Harbour. He also worked for a while as a forestry consultant. The storms in South East England and then the South

West brought him more work than he expected!

In later years he was secretary of the New Forest branch of the FCA until it merged with the Alice Holt Branch, and was organiser of the British Legion annual poppy appeal in his area.

Henry's wife was delighted by the AGMs of the FCA. It gave her trips to scenic spots throughout Britain, meeting friends old and new. His son joined in as assistant driver to reach the meetings at Aviemore and Scarborough, and greatly appreciated the warm welcome given by members. While business was being discussed at Aviemore, they enjoyed a boat trip on Loch Ness.

I have been told of the death of **DAVID GRUNDY**. He will be remembered and was well known to many who worked in Silvan House. He had an entertaining character and had many stimulating ideas. Moments were not dull when he was around.

I hope to have more on his FC career in the next issue.

Continued on next page ➡

Life in Brief continued

Continued from previous page

RODERICK CARTER STERN MA(Oxon) FICFor 1928–2019.

Rod studied Forestry at Worcester College Oxford and joined the Forestry Commission in 1950 – this was to be his lifetime career.

Almost immediately, he was called up for National Service. From 1952, he was Land Acquisitions Officer in Aberystwyth, then Forest Officer at Machynlleth, followed by some time at the Forestry Commission's headquarters. From 1973 to 1988, he was responsible for SE England and spent two years at Alice Holt Forest as East England Conservation Advisor.

After retirement in 1988 he became a Forest Consultant, working on management plans and ecological surveys for the New Forest and Savernake Forest, as well as for private woodlands.

He was a member of the Society of Foresters from 1953 onwards through to its development into the Institute of Chartered Foresters, of which he became a Fellow in 1982 after publishing several key papers on sycamore.

He published many papers in the Quarterly Journal of Forestry and also in Forestry on aspects of growing broadleaves. He was Chairman of the SE Regional Group from 1980 to 1981.

From an early age, Rod was a conservationist with a particular interest in flowering plants. After retirement, he devoted himself to recording bryophytes and flowering plants and he played a leading role in the Sussex Botanical Recording Society.

This article appeared in the "Chartered Forester" magazine Spring 2019.



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FCA Today on Facebook

by Ian Blake



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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

FCA Today Magazine

The next issue of the FCA Today magazine will be available on the www.fca-today.com website in **August 2019**.

Articles for inclusion in the next issue of the magazine should be sent to the editor before 1st July 2019.

The publication dates of the FCA Today magazine are: - **Spring edition: 5th April, Summer edition: 5th August and Winter edition: December. Visit the FCA Today website on these dates to download the latest edition of the magazine.**

Do you have any articles for publication in this magazine?



Send your articles to the editor

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by post to: Richard Toleman,
Manuel Stables,
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