

# FCA Forest Forum



*Winter 2021-2*

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## *From the Editor*

January 2022

I hope you are all making the best of your lives under the frequently changing and varying restrictions heaped on us in response to the Omicron variant. Unsurprisingly, these also vary according to the part of the UK in which you live. We're led to believe that incursions are made secretly over borders to quench thirsts and desires. I seem to be missing out on the fun and will accept any good, or even dodgy, offers. Burns had something to say on this, I've included a couple of extracts below from Tam o' Shanter. It says it all!

When chapman billies leave the street,  
And drouthy neibors, neibors meet.  
As market days are wearing late,  
And folk begin to take the gate,      *(and folk begin to make their way)*  
While we sit bousing at the nappy      *(while we sit drinking at the hard stuff)*  
An' getting fou and unco happy.....*(and getting drunk and very happy)*  
But to out tale: Ae market night,  
Tam had got planted unco right,  
Fast by an ingle bleezing finely,  
Wi reaming swats, that drank divinely,      *(with foaming ale that drank divinely)*  
And at his elbow Souter Johnie,  
His ancient, trusty, drouthy crony:      *(his old trusty, thirsty friend)*  
Tam lo'ed him like a very brither,  
They had been fou for weeks thegither,  
The night drave on wi' sangs an' clatter,  
And aye the ale was growing better.....

*More from the editor on the next page* ➡



## *From the Editor*

*Continued from previous page*

Now to the real issue – the future of our newsletter, Forest Forum. If we had continued with the previous format there would have been insufficient copy for three issues in 2021. We were saved by the fact that FF can be updated at any time and the quantity of copy is immaterial. However it's still a struggle to find sufficient and I can only assume that our membership doesn't find it interesting enough to support it through contributions. It would be pointless if I, as editor, started to write articles myself or recycled articles from other sources just to fill available space. Our newsletter is all about what members get up to, letting the readership know we're active, constructive and leading interesting lives. I know enough of you to be sure that you're doing all those things.

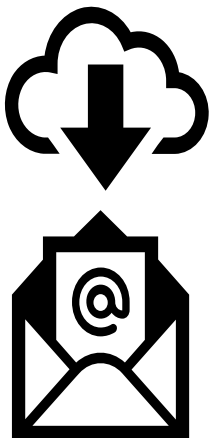
I'll give it another year, but if at the end of 2022 we still have the same or worse struggle to keep FF afloat, we should consider calling it day. We've had a long run since starting in 1996, that in itself should be considered a great success. It's better to go out with a bang and not a whimper. So this year will be the one that you, the membership, will decide whether to help keep it going or to say *adios amigo*.



Over to you. Wherever you go, and whatever you do, have a great year. Live for the day.

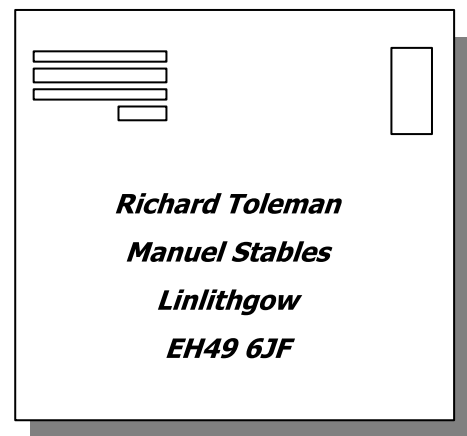
***Richard***

**Send your articles to the editor for publication on the FCA-Today.com website**



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

*by post to: Richard Toleman  
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# Articles

## Alice Holt Forest, Hampshire – A Crown Forest

*by Simon Malone*

Alice Holt is an ancient Crown Forest which came under the remit of the Forestry Commission in 1924.

The weekly newspaper of the nearby town of Farnham, the Farnham Herald, carries a weekly feature entitled "Peeps into the Past".

Being a native of Farnham and having family connections there, I still take an interest in the town, its history and that of its localities.



I recently stumbled across a Facebook site for Peeps into the Past and although I don't have a Facebook account the site is readily accessible on-line and contains hundreds of pictures taken from Farnham's past.



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## Articles

### Alice Holt Forest, Hampshire – A Crown Forest *continued*

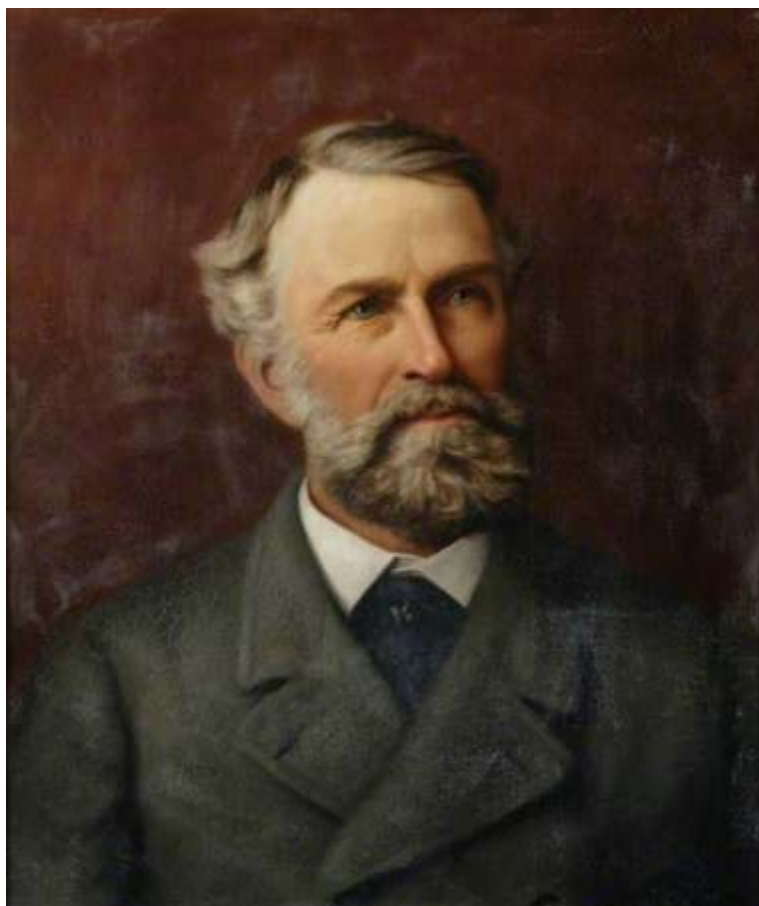
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Among these, I recently spotted the photographs shown here which connect the modern forest to its recent historical background.

The notice was fixed to the wall of Keeper's Cottage in Church Lane, Rowledge, a village situated along the modern northern boundary of Alice Holt forest.

Interestingly, although Rowledge is almost entirely in the county of Surrey, Church lane, the Church and Keeper's Cottage are in Hampshire.

Intrigued by this, I did a little research on L. H. Cumberbatch. He was Laurence Henry Cumberbatch 1827 – 1885. As Deputy Surveyor he was in overall charge of the Crown Woods of Alice Holt, Woolmer, Bere and the New Forest. He was Deputy Surveyor between 1849 and 1879. He died at Yew Tree Cottage, Lyndhurst on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 1885 and is buried in Lyndhurst cemetery. The title is still in use today by the senior man in the New Forest and the Forest of Dean, another old Crown woodland.



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## Articles

### **Alice Holt Forest, Hampshire – A Crown Forest** *continued*

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Both areas are currently managed by Forestry England, latterly Forestry Commission.

Alice Holt was managed by the Crown until 1924 when the Forestry Commission took it over. This seems to imply that the notice dates back to around 1879 when Cumberbatch was still in post as Deputy Surveyor.

The whereabouts of the notice today is something of a mystery but the gentleman responsible for managing Peeps into the Past is making enquiries among local people and perhaps it will come to light. The photographs of it in situ are undated but are in colour. This might date them back to the 1950's or so when colour photography was in common use. They may be earlier but even so the notice could well have been 60-70 years or so of age at the time it was pictured and was in remarkably good condition at the time. It will be a great shame if it has been lost.

My own connections to the area are strong. Although brought up and living in Farnham, my birth certificate states that I was born in Lavender Cottage, Lavender Lane, Rowledge.

My pre-forestry school training was in Alice Holt in the early 1960's. At that time Keeper's Cottage was occupied by Jack Charman, a Forestry Commission ganger. Jack was a dry old stick, but I clearly remember being taught the art of tariffing by him – in the days when Hoppus foot measure was in use. I also well remember high pruning with him using a chisel on the end of a long wooden pole! Although a very serious man in manner, Jack's eyes would shine brightly, and he would relax freely after a few Christmas pints in the nearby Cherry Tree Inn in Rowledge!

*An excellent publication "Alice Holt – A Brief History" is available from the Farnham Museum and details can be found on-line at: -*

[www.farnhammuseumsociety.org.uk/Alice\\_Holt.htm](http://www.farnhammuseumsociety.org.uk/Alice_Holt.htm)



# Articles

## Dean and Gwydyr FTS Reunion Dinner

*by Peter Schweiger*

The Dean Forestry School was the last Forestry Commission school to close in 1971 and some 32 Foresters and wives came to a reunion dinner at Speech House Hotel, in the centre of the Forest of Dean. Three of the number had trained at Gwydyr North Wales, but essentially the training was the same

and set them on their way. Some stayed with the Forestry Commission, but many branched out and it was fascinating to hear how their lives had

Dean and Gwydyr Reunion Dinner  
1905-1971

9<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

The Verderer's Court  
Speech House Hotel  
Forest of Dean



evolved. For instance, I returned to my family business making hand made shoes to order in Central London. I also made shoe trees!

The reunion was held in the grand Verderers Court, with red deer antlers on the walls. Martin Fletcher and Gerry Gissop had organised the dinner with all the trimmings.

Old Foresters never die, they just drop their leaves and meet their buddies; the conversations flowed and so did the speeches in the Court.

The Guest speaker was Guy Hilton who had been a student at the Dean from 1968 – 1970. His theme was: 'An Unexpected Journey' and he certainly had one. As a holiday job he went weeding in a local forest and amazingly enjoyed it. I found that a backbreaking slog, but Guy managed

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## Articles

### Dean and Gwydyr FTS Reunion Dinner *continued*

*Continued from previous page*

to get a place at the Dean Forester Training School and then went on to take a degree in Forestry. This enabled him to teach the subject and he started in Thunder Bay in Ontario, Canada where the temperature would go down to -30C in the winter and up to + 30C in the summer.

After a few years he transferred with his wife and family to Papua New Guinea.

A complete change of climate with the humidity so high he longed for the crisp cold of Canada.

Papua New Guinea had lots of other challenges, like different languages in different villages, so he had to have many interpreters. He retired fifteen years ago and has spent a lot of time with his wife sailing all over the world.



*Guy Hilton*

(All photos by Peter)

I sat at a table with Stephen and Gina Beimers who had driven from near Newcastle and others had had long journeys to reach the reunion. One former student (Ven) apologised for not attending because he could not get a flight out of Mauritius. How keen is that?

I had come by public transport from Amersham, Buckinghamshire and had a seven hour journey on bicycle, trains and buses. Thank goodness I am retired so time is not such an issue.

Martin Fletcher and Gerry Gissop appealed for others to take over organising another reunion or this would be the last one. Well as I said, Old Foresters never die, they just drop their leaves and meet their buddies. Someone has to do it.

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## Articles

### Dean and Gwydyr FTS Reunion Dinner *continued*

*Continued from previous page*



#### Dean FTS 1912 – 1913 Course

*This picture shows Tommy Morgan, seated on the right, he retired in 1945, but could be found in the lobby of the Dean FTS, chatting up Pam the school secretary, in the 1960's.*

#### DEAN FTS STUDENTS ATTENDING

| Ex FTS STUDENTS  | FTS YEARS | FTS | TOTAL ATTENDEES  | FTS APOLOGIES                               |
|------------------|-----------|-----|------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Stephen Beimers  | 68 - 70   | D   | Stephen Beimers  | Toby Beadle                                 |
| Mike Blud        | 64 - 66   | D   | Gina Beimers     | Roy Baldwin                                 |
| Ian Cox          | 64 - 66   | D   | Mike Blud        | John Brain                                  |
| Roger Fitter     | 56 - 58   | D   | Jill Blud        | Tom Buchanan                                |
| Martin Fletcher  | 66 - 68   | D   | Ian Cox          | Peter Clapham                               |
| Jerry Gissop     | 67 - 69   | D   | Jean Cox         | Steve Cooper                                |
| Dick Gossling    | 69 - 71   | D   | Roger Fitter     | Dave Craze                                  |
| Bill Gregory     | 65 - 67   | D   | Martin Fletcher  | Dick Daykin                                 |
| Brian Greig      | 57 - 59   | D   | Diana Fletcher   | Robin Hendrie                               |
| Gordon Griffiths | 66 - 68   | D   | Jerry Gissop     | Tim Laker                                   |
| Guy Hilton       | 68 - 70   | D   | Pui Gissop       | Dave Langford                               |
| Gordon Little    | 65 - 67   | G   | Dick Gossling    | John Latter                                 |
| Dave Mackie      | 58 - 60   | D   | Shelia Gossling  | Roland Liddell                              |
| Hugh Milner      | 64 - 66   | D   | Bill Gregory     | Simon Malone                                |
| John Roe         | 61 - 63   | G   | Brian Greig      | Dick Mihalop                                |
| Peter Schweiger  | 69 - 71   | G   | Rita Greig       | Jack Nicholson                              |
| Mike Stone       | 65 - 67   | D   | Gordon Griffiths | Peter Noot                                  |
| Roger Warn       | 68 - 70   | D   | Marion Griffiths | Colin Price                                 |
| Peter Webb       | 59 - 61   | D   | Guy Hilton       | Dave Rogers                                 |
| Paul Whittles    | 68 - 70   | D   | Vikki Hilton     | Les Starling                                |
|                  |           |     | Gordon Little    | Derick Stickler                             |
|                  |           |     | Anne Little      | Ramakrishna (Ven)                           |
|                  |           |     | Dave Mackie      | Venkatasamry                                |
|                  |           |     | Brenda Mackie    | <i>Cannot get a flight out of Mauritius</i> |
|                  |           |     | Hugh Milner      | Keith Wallis                                |
|                  |           |     | John Roe         | Mike Wearing                                |
|                  |           |     | Peter Schweiger  | Tony Willis                                 |
|                  |           |     | Mike Stone       |                                             |
|                  |           |     | Roger Warn       |                                             |
|                  |           |     | Margo Warn       |                                             |
|                  |           |     | Peter Webb       |                                             |
|                  |           |     | Paul Whittles    |                                             |

DEAN & GWYDYR  
FORESTER TRAINING SCHOOLS



*Sic Vos non Vobis  
Not for Ourselves but for Others*



*In wyr nid imerfer  
Dim gwybodaeth heb ddysgu  
No knowledge without learning*



# Letters to the Editor

**Tony Egan from Wales ex MES, NRW and 43 years with FC.**

Please see photos of The Forest Fare Recipe Book that I bought in the 70s via The Slasher. I thought we could include some recipes from our FC staff throughout GB in the 70s in forthcoming Forest Forum articles.

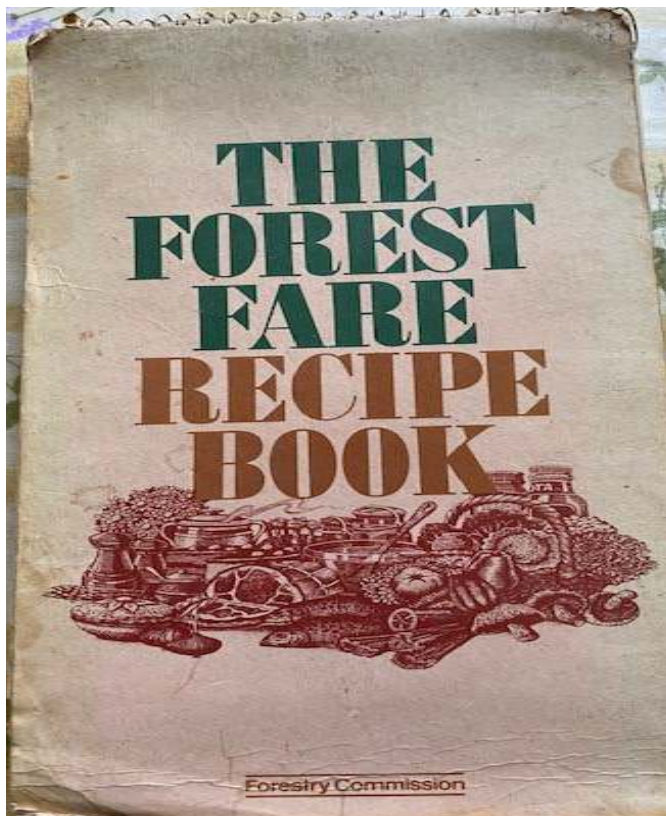
They are great reading and more importantly they are delicious!

What do you think?

Best Wishes,

Tony Egan

*Does anyone remember this? Did anyone try them out? Does anyone have more to add? There has to be a story here. Ed*





## *Letters to the Editor* continued

Dear Richard,

I wonder if any readers can help me. I am trying to locate copies of Webster's Forester's Diary and Notebook. These contained lists of foresters, many in the private sector, who submitted their details to the publishers as individuals.

I am especially interested in the name Sutcliffe which may occur during the period 1952-56 and also for general interest in the period 1966-70.

If anyone has relevant copies they can spare or could scan could they please let the Editor know and he will pass on my contact email.

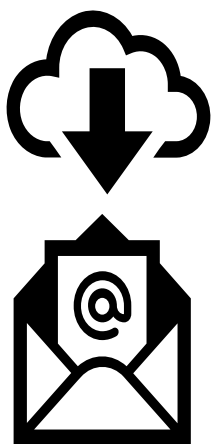
Happy to pay postage where necessary.

Thank you,

Simon Malone

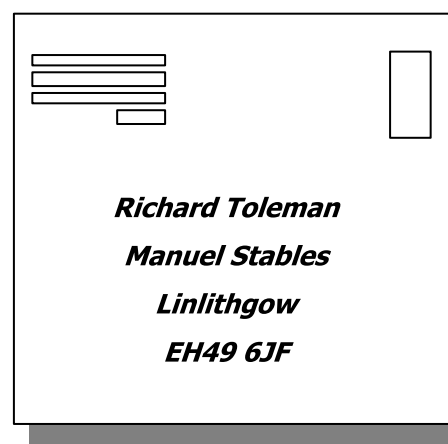


**Send your letters to the editor for publication on the FCA-Today.com website**



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

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





## *Lives in Brief*

**Mark Yorke** FIC For, died on the 12th November 2021 aged 84. He read forestry at Worcester College Oxford and started a career with the Forestry Commission in mid-Wales under the mentorship of Arthur Cadman around Hafren and Frank Best in North Wales. He then moved as a District Officer (Forest District Manager) to the New Forest, which was followed by stints as a FDM in the Lake District (Grizedale) and Argyll (Benmore), finally returning to Snowdonia (Coed y Brenin).

*©Photo courtesy of Rob Yorke*



He retired early from the FC, undertook a Winston Churchill scholarship on forest management in Europe (1989) and became a founder member of the Continuous Cover Forestry Group based on a field meeting at Longleat in March 1991. He contributed to various CCFG publications, published his own paper on CCF in 1998, hosted field trips in the UK and abroad, wrote letters and continued to take an active interest both in forestry and wider rural matters. A hunter-naturalist countryman with opinions, his, at times, captious nature might have kept various tree-related authorities and voices on their toes.



*©Photo courtesy of Rob Yorke*

He is survived by a son, also prone to curiosity, (feel free to contact [www.robbyorke.co.uk](http://www.robbyorke.co.uk)), and a daughter.



*©Photo courtesy of Rob Yorke*

