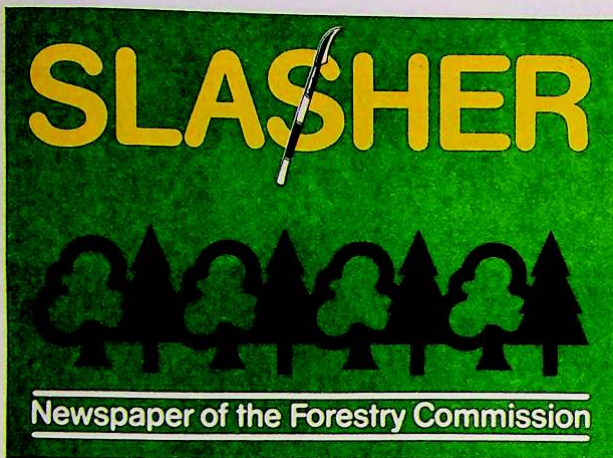




Issue 330

AUGUST 1987

BOFFINS ON CALL . . .

Spotlight on health of trees

FORESTRY Commission scientists are now completing their annual survey of tree health.

Started in early August in North Scotland, the team moved on to Mid and South Scotland, then on to North England, Wales, the New Forest, and West England.

Dr John Innes is in charge of this, the fourth annual survey of the health of Britain's trees, which has been extended by increasing the age range of conifers studied; almost doubling the number of plots surveyed to 275; and including more broadleaved trees.

The full results of the survey will be published towards the end of the year.

At the same time, a team of three (A. Wilson, D. A. Waddell and D. W. H. Durrant) are involved in experiments that should identify any of the tree species studied which are affected by air pollutants.

In response to dramatically increased public interest over the past year or so, the Commission has published a new free booklet "Acid Rain, Air Pollution and Forests." The booklet aims to cover the subject in straightforward, plain English and is suitable

for use in schools, the source of many of the requests that the Commission gets.

For the more technically-minded, the Commission has also published "Forestry Commission Bulletin No. 70 — Air Pollution and Forestry" which takes a detailed look at air pollution and the effects of acidification on the environment and describes the research being undertaken by the Commission into the possible effects of air pollution on trees.

"As Britain's forest authority, responsible for monitoring the health of trees in woodlands, the Commission is naturally concerned about the possible impact of air pollution on trees," said David Burdekin, the Commission's Chief Research Officer (South).

"For the past three years we have had teams of observers surveying plots of trees to find out if tree health can be related to pollution. Last year we began research in special open-topped greenhouses to study the effects on trees of the quality of air that occurs in various parts of Britain. There is a lot more to it than just pointing to a tree and saying 'look — it's brown — it must be acid rain.' It is essential that we monitor the effects accurately and come to scientifically rigorous conclusions.

SNAPPY WINNER FROM BARRY

YOU snapped to it! Our new competition, in conjunction with Pentax, attracted 28 entries. They included a variety of seasonal scenes, wildlife and tree species.

The winner for this issue came from a study of fungi in the forest by Barry Hearse, drawing office, HQ. Our judges felt that he put some extra thought into the final composition and for that he wins an exhibition-mounted enlargement plus £10 worth of colour films. And his entry goes forward to the end-of-year final for which the top prize is a super Pentax Compact Automatic PC333 Camera.

Let us have your entries for the next edition and a chance to win that camera. Entries to Editor, "Slasher," 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT.

TURN TO P9 FOR YOUR CHANCE TO SHINE . . . IN WORDS AND IN THE ARTS!



CONCERN FOR JOBS . . .

Land use probe in Highlands

LORD SANDERSON of Bowden, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, has said there will be no Government decision on the future of forestry in Caithness and Sutherland until a land use report is prepared by Highland Regional Council and given full consideration.

The issue of forestry in Caithness and Sutherland, and in particular the "flow country" (an extensive area of deep peat bog lands), has led to a number of controversial features in newspapers and other media over the past few months, and numerous reports and statements from conservation and amenity bodies.

In July, the Nature Conservancy Council published a report: "Birds, Boys and Forestry" and called for a two-year moratorium on planting in the area — but Highland Regional councillors said such action would be totally irresponsible and would result in the loss of jobs in this rural area.

Lord Sanderson spent a day touring the disputed Caithness and Sutherland area by helicopter, meeting Forestry Commission personnel, and senior management of Foun-tain Forestry Ltd and representatives of the NCC and other involved organisations.

He said the Government was concerned about the sensitive conservation issues involved but was also concerned about the creation of employment into the next century.

He said that the called-for two year ban on further planting could mean the loss of 240 jobs within three years.

"People have settled in the area and I do not want to see them leaving because of fears about the future," he told reporters at a press conference after his visit.

He pointed out that there was a buoyancy in the timber-using industries and the recently announced paper mill at Irvine would affect the long-term supply needs for other parts of Scotland.

The Highland Regional Council has said they will complete an interim survey on land use by the end of September.

HAPPY DAYS — AND A £25 MILLION TIMBER CONTRACT



A CONTRACT worth £25 million over ten years was formally concluded for the supply of pulpwood by the Forestry Commission to the new Finnish-owned pulp and paper mill currently under construction at Irvine in South Scotland.

The Kymmene Corporation, parent company of Caledonian Paper plc at Irvine who will run the mill, say that the promise of this contract was one of the main reasons that they came to Scotland in the first place, creating or

securing nearly 1000 jobs in the area with almost as many again during construction.

Signed copies of the contract (see picture) were exchanged at Carron Valley in Aberfoyle Forest near Glasgow by Mr Jaakko Palsanen, Managing Director of Caledonian Paper plc and Mr David Foot, Forestry Commissioner responsible for forest operations. They were there to inspect part of a 2000 tonne shipment of Sitka spruce destined for Finland.

It will be shipped from the port of Grangemouth to Kaukas, near Lap-peenranta in Finland, where it will be used in a full production run in the company's paper mill on which the Irvine mill is modelled. Now that construction of the mill has begun Caledonian Paper need to fine tune on a production scale the results of previous laboratory tests of wood from Scotland's forests.

The demands of paper makers are very specific. The new mill will produce top grade light-weight coated paper used, for example, in quality magazines.

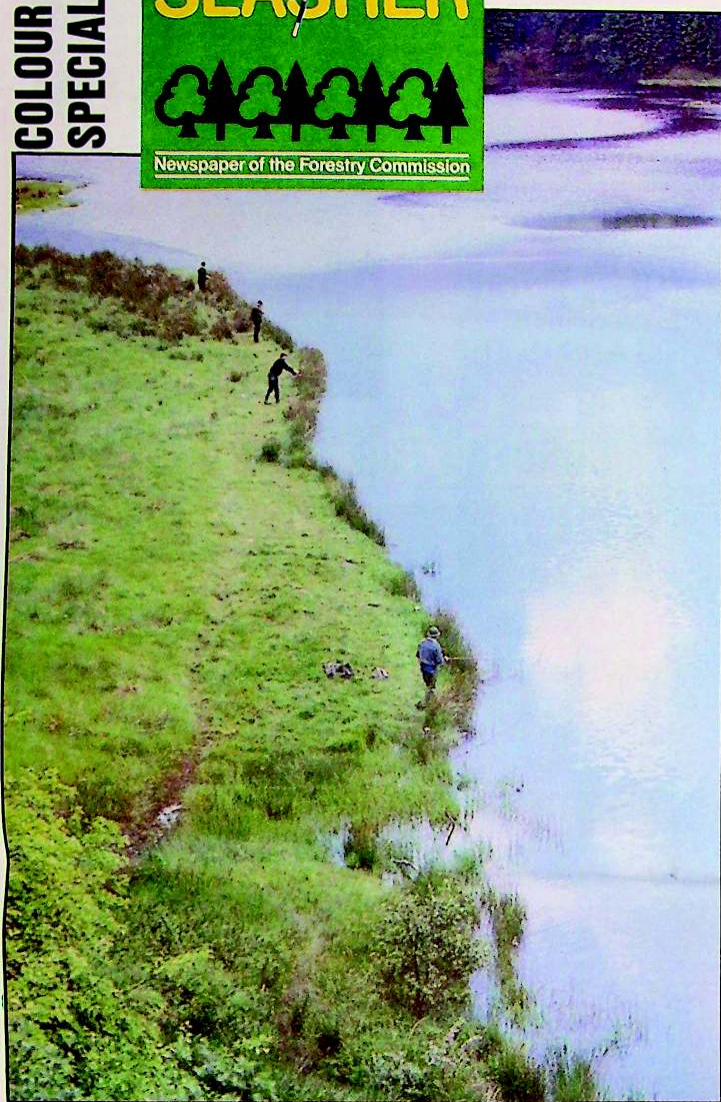
INSIDE: ALL THE BEST PICTURES IN THIS 'COLOUR SPECIAL' EDITION

COLOUR
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SLASHER

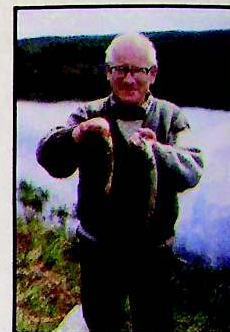


Newspaper of the Forestry Commission

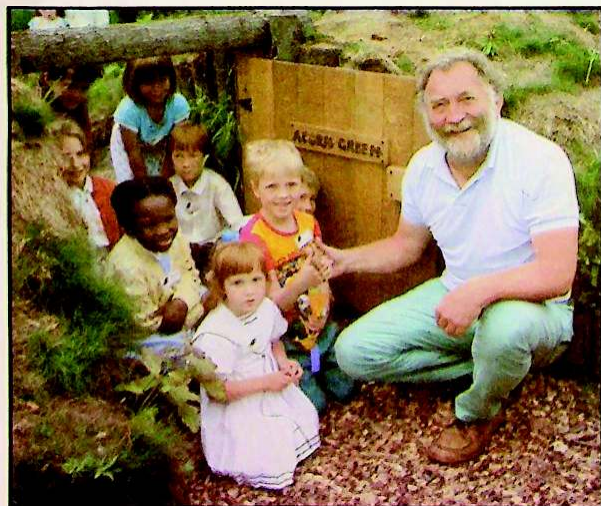


FISH AHOY! HQ net a victory

- The six-man HQ team won the annual angling competition at Bathekin Reservoir, Keilder Forest.
- The HQ team of David Goldie, Doug Goddard, Roddie Burgess, Joe Russell, Keith McCulloch and Russell Anderson from NRS had a good day's fishing.
- They won the wooden fish prize.
- David Goldie took the prize for the heaviest individual catch.
- The pictures were taken by Isobel Cameron.



DAVID IN ACORN GREEN



ONE OF the Commission's most imaginative landscaping and conservation projects was opened by TV botanist David Bellamy — on a rather small scale. David struggled through a "secret" gateway in Sherwood Forest to "Acorn Green" into a world of forest trails, secret walks and meeting places, all scaled-down to the size of small children. He was joined by a group of schoolchildren from as far away as Sunderland and Oxford who were entertained by clowns Bozo and Zizi, famed locally for their "Forest Tales" and "Robin Hood" shows. "It is somewhat easier for me to shrink down to a different size with the benefit of television technology," said Dr Bellamy, whose Conservation Foundation came up with the idea to create this attractive forest education area for small children. The site in Sherwood is the home of the "Acorn Green" creatures created by Tomy Toys Ltd., designed to educate the very young to appreciate the value of conservation.



YOMPER DAVE FIRST BACK AT BASE

THE fifth annual Coed y Brenin Yomp was held over a wide variety of terrain in the fine forest scenery to the north of Dolgellau.

Organised by the Forestry Commission's Dolgellau Forest district — and with help from the Snowdonia National Park Wardens and Dolgellau Ambulance Service — more than 105 competitors walked, jogged, ran and scrambled over a course of about ten miles. Each male and female competitor carried 25 or 15 lbs. respectively and was individually timed over the waymarked route.

There was a strong entry from a number of Forest Districts, including teams and individuals from Llanrwst, Dolgellau, Corris, Aberystwyth, Afan and West England Conservancy Office.

The fastest entrant was Dave Anderson of the Forestry Commission's Corris Forest District, with a time of 1 hour 50 minutes, which was 13 minutes faster than the second man home, Private Umpleby from 5th Airborne Brigade of the Parachute Regiment.

Perhaps Dave could have run the course twice, and still got home before some of the stragglers with their time of over four hours.

Many hundreds of pounds was obtained for worthy local causes, by competitors organising their own sponsorship.

While last year's course was probably unduly long, it did not appear to dampen the spirit and strength of this year's field.

The local MP, Dafydd Elis Thomas, presented the prizes, having first paid a compliment to Coed y Brenin's contribution as a recreational asset for the local and visiting public and made a plea for this and other forests managed by the Forestry Commission, to remain in public ownership.

Prizewinners included:— Dave Anderson, Forester at Corris Forest District, who won the 17-25 year old male class and was the fastest overall entrant. Pat Sherwood, who has run in all previous Yomps, and has since moved from Wales Conservancy to West England, roused herself from bed at 5 am and drove up from Bristol to win the veteran ladies class. The inter-FC challenge cup, held for the past 2 years by Afan Forest District, was won this year by Corris.

1987 PRIZEWINNERS

Age Class	Male / Female	Name	Address
17-25	Female	Adele Harley and Jacqui Rollins	Barmouth
26-40	Female	Jane Lloyd-Francis	Arthog
41+	Female	Pat Sherwood, FC	Bristol
17-25	Male	Dave Anderson FC	Corris
26-40	Male	Kelvin Roberts	Dolgellau
41+	Male	Richard Bowen	Neath
17-25	Armed Forces	Private Umpleby	5th Airborne Brigade, Aldershot
26-40	Armed Forces	Warrant Office Jones	5th Airborne Brigade, Aldershot
Inter FC Challenge Cup		Corris Forest District	
Female team		Natalie Gawley, Sian Pattison, Bethan Jones	Dolgellau Ambulance
Male team		Gwilym Williams, Robert Atherton, Dewi Williams	Trawsfynydd
Mixed team		Arthur Birch's team	Northwich Ambulance Service
Armed Forces team		5th Airborne Brigade	Aldershot

New trail at Aberfoyle

A NEW forest trail through ancient oakwood at Aberfoyle was opened by Mr Walter Douglas, the Vice-Chairman of Central Region's Education Committee.

As part of its commitment to European Year of the Environment, the Forestry Commission has created an Oak Coppice Trail starting at the David Marshall Lodge near Aberfoyle. The trail meanders through an attractive area of oakwood where the centuries old system of coppicing has been reintroduced.

The Forestry Commission has

worked closely with Central Regional Council developing this trail for educational purposes, as well as to provide an interesting, pleasant walk through the woods.

The ancient system of coppicing was practised in Aberfoyle from the 18th century until the time of the First World War. In addition to selling timber, the estate gained a good profit from the bark of the trees. By fencing a five acre enclosure and coppicing the wood there, local Forestry Commission staff have brought alive an important piece of local history.

MRS RAE MICHIE, MP for Argyll, opened a new Forestry Commission trail in Dalavich oak wood, Lochaweside, Argyll.

After cutting through a birch tree "ribbon" with a small handsaw she was accompanied on a guided walk by Peter Quelch, Forest District Manager for Loch Awe and members of various organisations with interests in the Argyllshire countryside.

Mrs Michie planted a young oak tree along the route.

GRIFFITHS THE CUE IN NZ



So far, so close

JOHN GRIFFITHS. Forest Officer III at Llanwynno Forest District, has won the Welsh Civil Service Snooker Championship for the fourth consecutive year, but was beaten 3-2 in the semi-final of the National Finals at the Willie Thorne Club in Leicester.

John has recently returned from Invercargill, New Zealand, where he played in the World Amateur Snooker Championship, having qualified by reaching the final of the Welsh Championship.

During the finals, in which the No. 1 and No. 2 players of 21 countries participated, John beat players from Belgium, Sweden, Thailand, Zimbabwe, New Zealand, Australia and Singapore before losing to the English No. 2 in the quarter final despite making his best break of the competition, 88.

During his three-week stay, some time was set aside for recreation, including an organised trip to Queenstown, in Ffiorland, which took in a lakeside steam railway trip, a

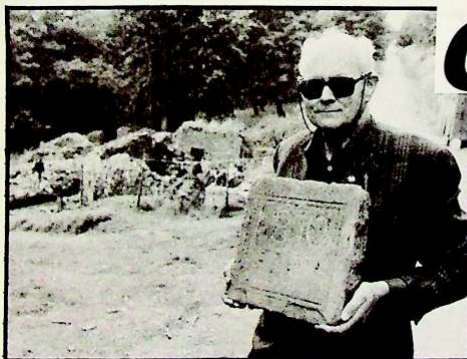
journey across the lake by vintage steamship, and shooting the rapids by "Jetboat" on the Shotover River.

John also managed a visit to the Southland Conservancy Office from where he was escorted to Longwood Forest by Assistant Conservator John Simpkin, who, like himself, is a former student of Gwydyr Forester Training School.

"The growth rates attained by Pinus radiata and Eucalyptus were quite incredible," said John who was left with a general impression of New Zealand as a thoroughly clean and pollution-free country.

Through "Slasher," John would like to thank his colleagues and friends in South Wales for their support which helped him to make this unforgettable trip. He is sorry that he did not win the title but points out that he reached the same stage as another Griffiths (Terry) did when he played in the same competition eight years ago!

DOWN ON THE FARM... HISTORY ON MOVE



● Dave Parnall holds a foundation stone from Nantybar Farm.

WORK ON reclaiming the agricultural heritage of the Afan Valley is continuing with gangs of workmen busy restoring two historic farms.

The idea was the brainchild of David Parnall, Forester at Afan Forest District, who has obtained MSC approval for the scheme which employs unemployed people via the Community Task Force.

Last year the scheme undertook the clearing out of Drysiog Farm at Bryn where a picnic and barbecue area has been provided and they also partially restored the magnificent Ty Maen Barn near the Afan Argoed Park which was built during the Napoleonic Wars.

Now work is under way on Argoed Farm and on Nantybar Farm — both farms whose history is woven into that of the valley. The aim of the project is to remove rubble and undergrowth, clear out the floors and rebuild the walls to shoulder height so that visitors can see exactly what the farms were like.

Dave felt that the rich agricultural heritage of the valley was in danger of being lost. These farms were taken over many years ago by the Forestry Commission and the land was planted. Although the buildings were partially demolished, some

parts did remain, although they were becoming more and more ruinous. They pre-date the industrial development of the valley and he feels they should be remembered.

The Forestry Commission also sponsors the scheme by paying for the materials used. Leaflets about the history of each site are also being prepared.

This year, 150 people are employed on the schemes and are being taught skills such as masonry.

The sites chosen were close to the Coed Morgannwg Way, so accessible to visitors, for it would be pointless restoring a farm deep in the forest where no-one would visit.

The Argoed Farm is ancient and the first written reference to it is from 1515. The last owner left in 1964 and it was left to fall into ruin.

The larger project is at Nantybar Farm on the opposite side of the valley to Duffryn Rhondda and accessible via Tonmawr. This was a major farm with extensive outbuildings and must have been an important holding in years gone by.

The last family moved from there in 1939. Work has been under way a year on this site and, in all, the work will take 3 years. Features discovered include a cobbled yard, pigsties and even an outside loo — conveniently sited over a stream!

... And another at Lochaweside

TAKE A LOOK ROUND LAMMERMUIR HOUSE



LAMMERMUIR HOUSE is the stylish new, custom-built, Civil Service Benevolent Fund home north of the border. Some residents were living there even before the house was officially opened by the Queen in July 1986, registered as a nursing home. The house provides accommodation for 28 permanent residents and up to ten convalescent guests. Most of the rooms are for single occupancy but there are also some double rooms available for sharing by a known second person, such as spouse or nominated friend.

No single person is asked to share a room. All rooms have "en suite" toilets and washing facilities. The level of care offered ranges from near independence to 24-hour nursing, although unfortunately the home is not suitable for persons suffering from psychiatric disorders or mental illness.

Lammermuir House, built next to the sea, is situated within a short walking distance of the town of Dunbar and local shops. There is a local bus service to and from Berwick-upon-Tweed and North Berwick, and also a train service to and from Edinburgh and London.

The home has a mini-bus, which is available for excursions and outings and to assist guests to and from the station on arrival or departure.

For full details about the accommodation, nursing care and charges (which vary according to each individual's circumstances) please contact me and I will let you have an information sheet.

It is important for people considering convalescence or moving into Lammermuir House permanently to know that the accommodation is first-class. Equally, if not more important, is the knowledge that the atmosphere is homely and friendly. For instance, residents are encouraged to bring their own bits of furniture (except for the bed) so that they can immediately feel at home. Residents and guests are able to have as much independence as they wish linked with all meals, laundry and other services provided.

The staff, led by Matron Mrs Margaret Brave, are all very friendly and helpful. Almost all the 30 full and part-time staff are local. The knowledge that the house already has such strong local ties is reflected in the amount of local support given to the home at summer fetes and other fund-raising events which raise much needed cash for the residents' Amenity Fund to help towards outings and extra facilities.

Lammermuir House can be visited by appointment. If you would like to have a look, let me know and I will get in touch with the Matron who will organise a tour.

The July 1987 issue of "Choice" magazine has an informative article entitled "Residential Care, Home from Home" and copies of the article can be obtained from me if you are interested. The article explains the difference between residential and nursing homes and offers useful practical advice.

CAROLINE JONES, WELFARE OFFICER.

...AND OTHER DOORS ARE OPENING



Rod Hewitt performs the opening ceremony, left, a view of the new office and (bottom left) a ceremonial planting.



NEW OFFICE OPENS AT WEALD FOREST

MICK DINNING, Conservator E(E), welcomed a large gathering of local representatives and Forestry Commission personnel to the opening of the Weald Forest District Office in Bedgebury Pinetum and invited his predecessor, Rod Hewitt, to unveil the commemorative plaque.

Mr Hewitt recalled past forest offices which had consisted of elaborate garden

sheds, equipped with Tortoise stoves, and compared them with the present building, and said he was confident the local staff would continue to keep the Forestry Commission flag flying high!

Pat Dineen, Forest District Manager, in presenting Mr Hewitt with a book on "The Weald," replied that he would take the hint

and arrange for the necessary flagpole to be erected. The book was presented on behalf of local staff in appreciation of Mr Hewitt's initiative and active support for the new office and as a memento of the occasion.

The ceremony concluded with both Conservators planting a Wild Service tree on either side of the main entrance driveway.

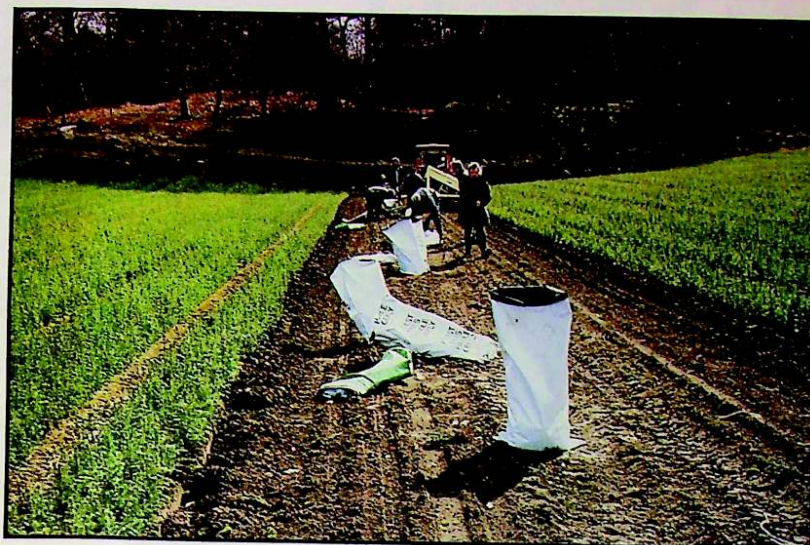
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Newspaper of the Forestry Commission

How to restock and have success in the bag



TOURIST BOOST FOR ARRAN — FROM FC

COMMUNITY officials on the island of Arran celebrate another Forestry Commission development to boost their tourist industry.

At the south end of the island the FC team have improved a three-mile track and provided new viewpoints at the spectacular Glenashdale Falls. Under the supervision of Forest District Manager Kerr Robertson, the local team constructed improved footpaths and access including a small parking area which should reduce problems for the adjoining private and area owner.

The new footbridge at the top of the falls and the timber-railed footpath to a viewpoint lower down the valley were welcomed by both tourists and island officials who say it will be yet another facility for people to safely study the integration of forestry and amenity.

Arran has recently been switched from Mid Scotland to South Scotland Conservancy and PF&EO John Ogilvie said: "This is typical of the work we are undertaking in many places to provide recreation facilities within our productive forests."



ALTHOUGH experience shows that foresters should be able to expect 90 per cent re-stocking success on most sites, actual survival rates are near to 65 per cent on average.

The expense associated with this deficit has long been a problem for foresters. Not only is there the cost of replacing the failed plants, but also the cost of two additional weedings — and larger branches and weaker wood as a result of understocking to be contended with. After all, there is no guarantee that the trees planted during "beating up" will fare any better than their predecessors.

The question — "Why do certain trees fail to grow?" — is central to solving this problem. In the past, it has been almost impossible to answer it with any great degree of accuracy. The ability of transplants to grow often does not become apparent until they are actually planted. It is usually a combination of several factors that will eventually prove fatal.

So, unless the damage is obvious, as with a beetle attack, any post-mortem investigations seldom reach firm conclusions. But the good news is that now, aided by silvicultural advances, the Northern Research Station has been able to research and successfully isolate the main problem areas.

Surveys carried out in the spring of 1980 showed that the successful growth of transplants was "unrelated to site factors." Low stocking levels are therefore not attributable solely to soil and elevation, the plants themselves and handling and planting techniques play a major part in their well-being.

YOUNG PLANT

Paul Tabbush at Northern Research recognised the significance of root growth potential (RGP) in the growth of the young plant. Having good root development is vital to sustaining vigour and, indeed, life in the young plant. The RGP of a plant is at risk from four factors outlined by John Aldhouse: 1 Heating; 2 Desiccation; 3 Mechanical damage; 4 Chemical damage.

The first and second of these problems can be combatted by using the newly introduced black and white "co-extruded bags." After extensive work by research and Work Study, with various materials, the black and white polythene had been chosen for effectiveness at low cost. When in sunlight, clear polythene bags served only to act as greenhouses. When exposed, the transplants

inside were able to reach the lethal temperature range in an hour. Under the same conditions, the new bags only reached 22.8°C in an hour and three-quarters.

This great improvement is due to the co-extruded nature of the bags. They are made from two sheets of plastic, one black and one white. The black is on the inside of the bag to give maximum opacity and the white is on the outside for maximum reflection. They ensure the trees inside remain dormant until it is time for them to be planted. Such is the efficiency of the bag that they can be safely stored under the canopy of the surrounding forest until late March / early April. (See RIN118/87 SILN).

FATAL PROBLEM

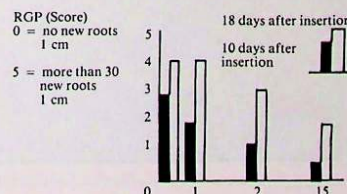
Desiccation, another potentially fatal problem for trees, is eliminated by keeping the bags tightly sealed. A myth pervades that bags should be punctured to allow the transplant to "breathe," but this can lead to severe desiccation, especially in directly refrigerated cold stores.

The third area — mechanical damage — has only recently been recognised. Rough handling of plants does not reveal itself until the subjects are actually planted. Once planted though, the injury becomes apparent. In experiment, those trees subjected to maltreatment took a long time to establish roots if they grew at all.

The "rough-handling" in this experiment took the form of the trees being put in plastic sacks and dropped, root downwards, on to a hard surface from a height of three metres. The severity was increased by repeating the drop. Hopefully, this simulates the bags being dropped off lorries in the forest.

Now the full detrimental effect of rough handling has been established, it can really only be eliminated by a better understanding of the fragility of transplants at all levels. For despite research the situation cannot change without an awareness being developed through the forest. It is the observance of the simple rules of handling and planting that will achieve the best results.

RGP of Sitka spruce after dropping in bags

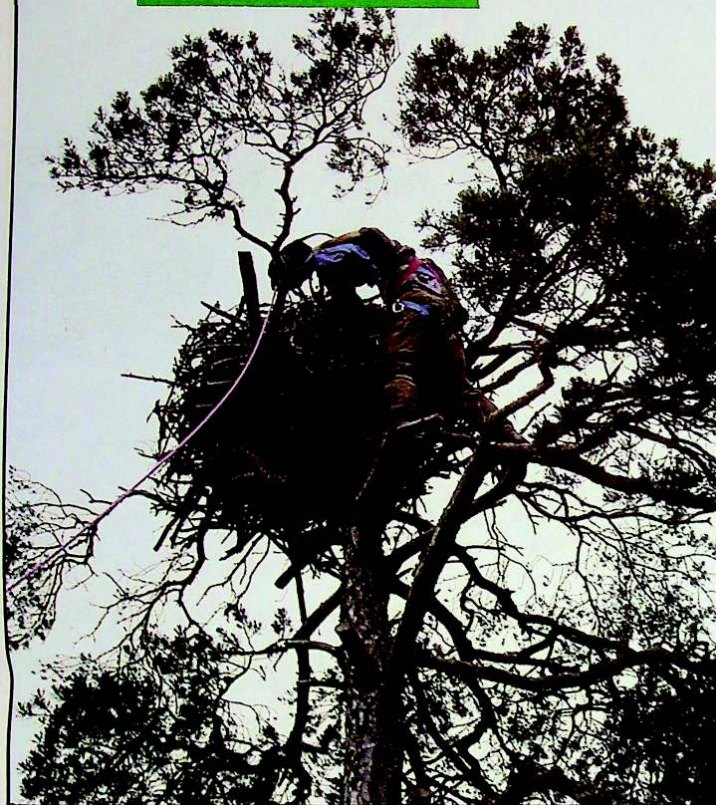


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Newspaper of the Forestry Commission



HERE'S TO THE HIGH LIFE!

by
**TONY
HINDE**

AN AIR of quiet satisfaction was afoot in North Scotland Conservancy last month when three young ospreys were ringed at an artificial eyrie on Commission land in the heart of the Scottish Highlands. Over the past two seasons 26 such nests have been built by Conservancy Wildlife staff with guidance from the RSPB in an attempt to help the ospreys consolidate their breeding success and widen their range. It was expected that adoption of the new sites might take some time, since young ospreys take several years to mature. "To have a pair rear three young in one of our nests so early in the project is most exciting," said the North's Conservation Forester, Tony Hinde. RSPB staff were on hand as the chicks were placed one by one into a rucksack and lowered to the ground for the ringing process — a standard BTO ring being attached to one leg and a colour

coded identification band placed on the other.

The largest of the three was only days away from flying and in no mood to be trifled with. Seizing his forearm in its hooked bill and wrestling its head to left and right as though to tear the flesh from a fish, it showed scant respect for the RSPB's Roy Dennis who was applying the rings!

The job completed, all three young were hoisted back to their lofty platform atop an old Scots Pine while the parent birds called reproachfully overhead.

The return of the osprey to Scotland in the 1950s after an absence of nearly 50 years was a success story that fired the imagination like none before it and has probably done more to awaken an interest in conservation than any other subject. It is particularly fitting that the Forestry Commission should now be playing its part in ensuring that these magnificent birds are here to stay.

HERE COME THE ...

IT WAS A DAY WHEN 'NESSIE' DECIDED TO GO TO GROUND



Chris MacDonald and friend.

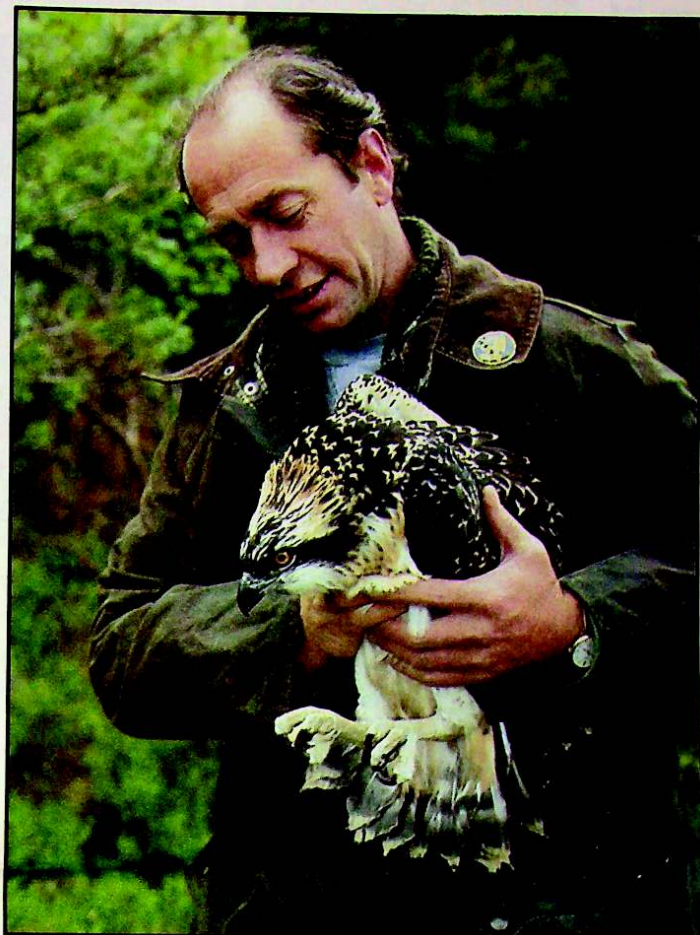
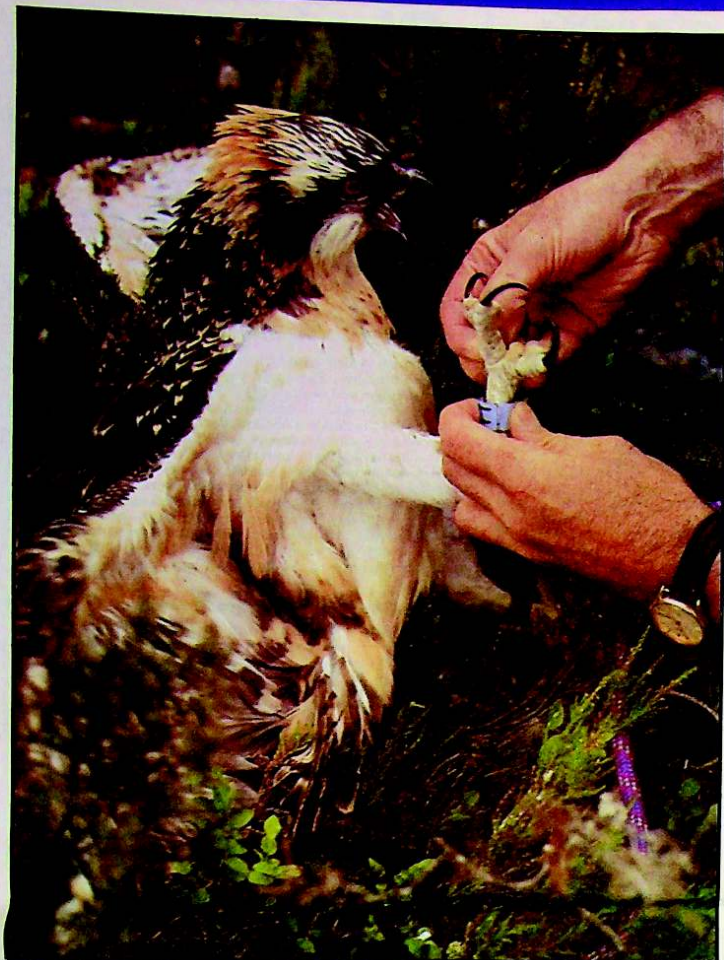
NESSIE kept her head well down as rangers from all over North Scotland Conservancy gathered at Farigaig Forest on Loch Ness side for their seventh Shoot and Field Day.

This event has established itself as a firm favourite, with rangers travelling from as far as Mull, Wick and Aberdeen to take part.

Competition at the full bore range was keen, with some fine shooting from bench rest, high seat and prone positions at roe targets at 150 yards.

In another part of the field, much good-natured rivalry took place as guns were brought to bear on a demanding clay pigeon set-up simulating overhead birds and bolting rabbits.

Highlight of the day was the terrier race where dogs were launched at the shot of a gun to chase a fox tail lure the length of the field. Sadly, more energy was expended in attempts to nobble the opposition than in running, but eventually "Spadger" MacDonald



Roy Dennis with the tricky job of ringing the birds.

RANGERS

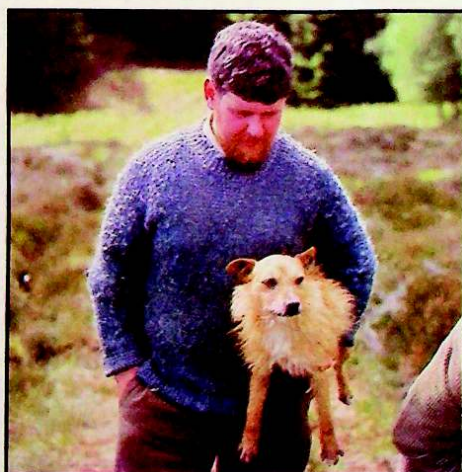
A FIELD DAY FOR SHOOTERS

came out on top to carry off the "Terrier Tankard." Thanks go to all who helped make the event a success.

Results:

RIFLE — 1 Ally Cameron, Inverness — 81/90 (Challenge Shield); 2 Ted Munro, Speyside — 80; 3 Steve Irvine, Mull — 78.

GUN — 1 Peter Mackay, E. Ross — 40/40 ('Highland Lodges' Salver); 2 Kenny MacIntosh, E. Ross — 37; 3 Ian MacGillivray, Inverness — 34; 3 Jim Ogilvie, Kincardine — 34.



David MacDonald with "Spadger."



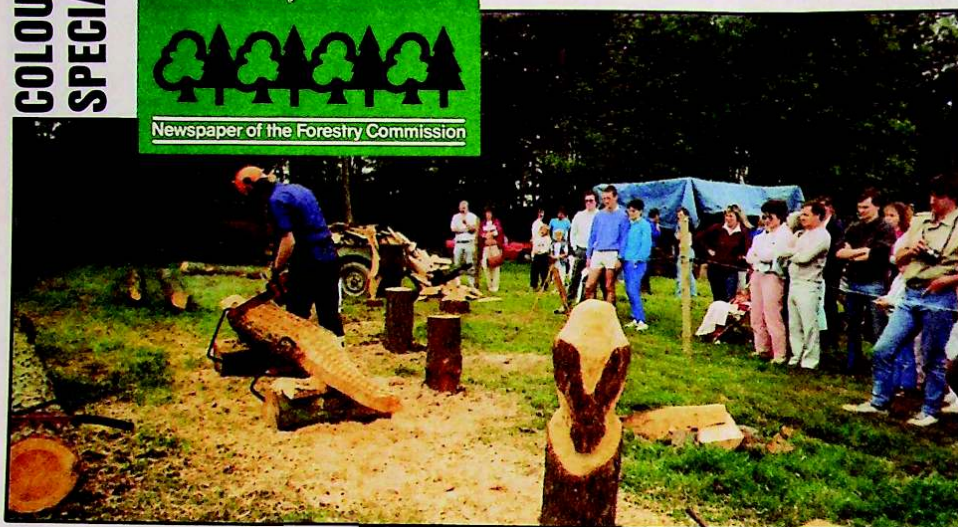
The competition was intense.

SLASHER



Newspaper of the Forestry Commission

Bob Swinford in action with the chainsaw at Wendover Woods.



Chainsaw Bob the star at Chiltern

THE UNIQUE art of chainsaw sculpture is ably demonstrated by Bob Swinford (on loan from Northants forest district) during the second Open Day mounted by Chilterns Forest District at Wendover Woods near Aylesbury.

Attractions were greatly increased this year following the encouraging comments received after the Open Day debut in 1986. But Bob Swinford's contribution thrilled the crowds and at the end of the day his sculptures were auctioned to enthusiastic buyers... with large gardens!

A gamble which paid off was the introduction of venison hotdogs and burgers. These sold like the proverbial hot cakes with 50 lb. of sausages and twelve dozen burgers eaten by hungry visitors.

Considerable interest was shown in the static displays set up for the day. These included a local bodger at work (finding a ready market for his besom brooms), a wildlife diorama — an "indoor forest" enabled visitors to look closely at stuffed animals, a display of timber products including articles donated by local firms and a conventional photographic / interpretation display.

In all, more than 2000 people enjoyed the event, which received good coverage in local newspapers and on radio. Although a great deal of hard work was put in by management, craftsmen, rangers and clerical staff and wives, all agreed that the venture was worth repeating in future years, possibly at different venues.

SHOWTIME . . . SHOWTIME . . . SHOWTIME . . .

Winners all at Royal Highland

Timber gets a chance to shine



PART of the exhibit by our forest districts.

AT THE Royal Highland Show, at Ingliston (Edinburgh), in June, the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland announced the winners of its Scottish Woods and Forest Awards.

Winner of the John Kennedy Trophy was Fassfern, with 1200 ha of 10-40 year conifers described by the judges as "a pioneering effort in all the aims to which the awards are directed."

The trophy was presented by FC Director General Gwyn Francis.

FC's Aberfoyle District also gained a commendation.

In our picture above are Gwyn Francis with Ian Reid and Peter Ford of Aberfoyle District.

At the same event, former DG George Holmes presented a prize associated with the 1987 Forestry Commission Essay Competition, the winner of which was Aberdeen University student John Townend. Ms Brioney Penn, Dunbarney, Perthshire (third prize) was there to receive her cheque.

Our picture shows Mr Holmes presenting the essay cheque to Ms Penn.

THE ROYAL BATH and West Show saw a joint presentation by the Forest Districts of Gwent and Somerset and South Devon in the Forestry Section of the west of England's most prestigious agricultural show. The theme for their exhibit was "Garden Furnishing and Playtimbers," with the objective of promoting the sale of pressure-treated timber products produced by Wentwood's sawmill.

Working from a design by Chief Forester Roland Liddell of Gwent Forest District, Head Forester Alistair Frazer, assisted by Forester Tony Swinburn of Somerset and South Devon Forest District, directed the construction of pergolas, gazebos and trellis work ably carried out by Barry and Nick, Forest Management staff at Brendon, while Tintern staff Ron, John, Dave and Con assembled a play fort and slide.

The exhibit was extremely popular, particularly with children, and attracted much approval.

Commenting on the show, Roland Liddell explained: "Our objective in mounting this exhibit has been to show the public another facet of State forestry which has not been given many opportunities to shine. We have attempted to demonstrate not simply that we grow trees but that we produce a high quality product at very competitive prices.

"We have been encouraged by the response from visitors to our stand, especially the enquiries for play furniture, and have sold a number of products exhibited. Our participation in this show and its success is owed to the hard work put in by staff from both Forest Districts and we look forward to similar co-operative ventures in the future."

GREAT NEWS FOR GRIZEDALE — SEE PAGE 16

SEARCH IS ON FOR TALENT IN THE ARTS

DUE TO special demands from employees and former employees it has been decided to extend the time limit and categories of our arts competition. Employees and retired FC staff now have until September 30 to submit entries for this, the first of our "Slasher" competition. Eminent judges will select the winners and selected work will be displayed in Headquarters.

Complete the box below and return it to the Editor no later than September 30.

FORESTRY COMMISSION ART AWARDS

A competition to recognise and encourage skills in original art.

Rules:

1. Works of art in the various categories must be attested as the original work of the artist.
2. Only employees and retired staff of the Forestry Commission are eligible to enter the competition.
3. Work submitted must not be done as part of the normal duties of the entrant when an employee or in retirement from the Forestry Commission.
4. Works may be sold by the originator after the prizegiving ceremony.
5. Winners of each category will receive a small trophy to be held for one year.
6. Winning entries will be displayed, at the Executive Board's discretion, for one year in Forestry Commission offices.
7. Entries for the 1987 competition must be delivered to (and later removed from) 231 Corstorphine Road, no later than 13 November, 1987, at the entrant's expense. No responsibility can be accepted for loss or damage of the work of art in transit.

Rules:

1. OIL PAINTINGS
2. WATER COLOURS
3. WOOD TURNERY AND CARVING
4. JEWELLERY
5. OTHER ARTS

Name

Location

Category Entry

Telephone Contact No.

WORDSEARCH CHALLENGE

How many words can you find relating to forestry and the environment? Answers on Page 12.

M	A	S	V	G	N	I	T	N	A	L	P	O	E	R	M	V
S	I	T	K	A	H	F	S	I	D	A	T	N	A	R	G	I
I	T	S	M	S	L	O	O	T	O	R	D	N	O	P	D	G
K	T	E	I	A	A	X	P	R	O	C	L	E	A	R	U	I
A	C	R	R	K	D	E	E	R	W	H	K	E	M	I	T	L
R	E	O	W	R	O	S	F	A	Y	A	S	R	H	O	C	B
E	S	F	A	P	F	A	Y	B	M	I	R	O	A	S	H	P
G	N	I	L	L	E	F	D	B	Y	N	R	D	L	B	I	H
D	I	E	K	A	A	E	A	I	U	S	I	S	E	I	P	S
A	I	D	S	R	E	T	N	T	E	A	B	E	L	R	S	A
B	S	H	I	W	S	Y	A	S	A	W	B	E	N	C	H	R
O	O	N	L	E	G	H	R	N	P	I	P	R	E	H	L	B
O	G	O	I	C	O	N	S	E	R	V	A	T	I	O	N	G
K	Y	A	T	E	A	M	E	D	L	X	P	H	G	C	E	U
S	P	M	T	S	L	H	I	P	P	I	E	S	A	M	X	L
V	S	I	E	E	M	R	B	A	N	M	R	A	F	N	I	N
O	Y	L	R	A	S	D	E	E	S	E	C	N	E	F	V	L

RETIREMENTS

Prince Charles and Wellingtons? Ask Alan McBurnie



ALAN MCBURNIE, Head Forester at Nithsdale Forest District, recently retired after 37 years' service with the Forestry Commission.

At a farewell lunch, Alan recalled the highlight of his career, the day he played host to Prince Charles in the early 1970s. For our avid royal observers, Alan informs me that the Prince of Wales takes a size 9 wellington,

Uniroyal, or an 8½ in shoes.

Alan was looking forward to his retirement which he is convinced his wife has planned for in a meticulous fashion with a planned move to a new house (and garden no doubt) being first on the agenda. Caravan holiday with camera and fishing rod in hand are also planned. We wish him well.



Harry's tankard

HARRY BARRON, Conservancy Mechanical Engineer, South Scotland, retired after 37 years, the last ten of which were with the Forestry Commission.

At a large gathering of colleagues and friends, Roger Hay, HQ, presented Harry with a cheque and paid tribute to his great enthusiasm and dedication to work.

John Martin, CME, North Scotland, presented Harry with an engraved tankard on behalf of all the CMEs and wished him a long and happy retirement.



Bye bye Bunt

CASTLEMAIN repair depot W(E) is reeling from the retirements through poor health of two mechanics within three months, with a total of 54 years service between them.

Harvey "Bunt" Hall (above), foreman mechanic grade I, retired in April after nearly 39 years service. Bunt was presented with his long service certificate and Mr J. Cooke, a long-time work colleague and workshop manager, presented him with a set of binoculars.

Chris Harris, mechanic grade I, was presented with a tankard by W. McGarva acting CME on behalf of his workmates. Chris was forced to retire at 50.

RETIREMENTS

FAREWELL FOLKS



Mike Lawson makes the presentation to Val Jones.

A LARGE gathering of staff and former colleagues joined to wish Mrs Val Jones all good wishes for her recent retirement from Llanwynno FD.

On leaving, Val breaks another link in the old Tair Onen Nursery association in that she was originally one of the nursery girls and joined the Forestry Commission in 1952.

Following five years, Val left to get married but she was invited to return in 1978 on a part-time basis before commencing full-time working after six months.

Forest District Manager John Hunt paid tribute to Val's many qualities and Forester Mike Lawson presented farewell gifts and wished her well.



• Pictured: Kath Knight and Denise Morgan with John Davies.

JOHN DAVIES (60) was obliged to retire for health reasons after 35 years service with the commission.

He joined the Commission in 1950 and was employed as a forest worker in Mathrafal, Hafren and Dyfnant Forests until 1954. From 1954, he worked with the Roads

Department as a lorry driver in the Newtown Area. He is a keen gardener and has a small holding in Llandgadfan, Powys.

A recent presentation of an engraved clock and long service certificate by W. S. Davies, Area Engineer, was made at Llanidloes where there was a large number of colleagues to mark the occasion.

MUSICAL SEND-OFF

LES BAYLIS (Forester, Rheola Forest District) retired after 38 years' service. There was a large gathering of friends at the 'Tara' Club, Glynneath, to give him and his wife, Bet, a good send off. Conservator David Robertson presented him with a music centre and a golf trolley. They will continue to live in Glynneath and pursue their hobbies.



GIFT OF CARVING

KEN TRODD finally retired after 43 years service with the Commission, broken by war service. Due to retire a year earlier, he was granted an extra year spent largely on making Conservation Plans in Chilterns FD, where he ended his career as Chief Forester (FM), having served in SE (E) and at Kielder before moving to the Chilterns in 1982. At a lunch in Wendenover, Conservator Mike Dinning presented Ken with a carving of two fallow deer made by Brian Leemans, Forester at Bramshill.



40-YEAR JIM GETS AROUND

SHERWOOD District Forester (H & M) Jim Barraclough retired at the end of April after 40 years with the Forestry Commission. He spent time in each of the four English conservancies as well as South Wales and South Scotland.

Starting in Kent as a forest worker, he trained as a forester at Thetford and his first posting was to Mortimer.

After a spell at Matlock, he joined Work Study and served at Kielder, Ae and Thetford. On leaving Work Study he moved to Sherwood, then to Keilder, then to Chopwell and then to Cymer on promotion to Chief Forester.

Finally, Jim moved to Sherwood in 1975 and has the distinction of being the last Chief Forester of Sherwood Forest.

A retirement dinner was held at the Edwinstone attended by 60 colleagues and friends including representatives of the timber trade, orienteering clubs, car rallying clubs and equestrian groups.

• Our picture shows Jim with a Tomy Bobby Badger Playset!



Dedication a hallmark for Gerry

FORMER colleagues of Gerry Haggett met at an informal gathering (he wouldn't have had it otherwise!) at Brandon, to wish him all the best for the future on his retirement after 43 years with the Commission.

Gerry will be remembered by many from his Alice Holt days when he spent 20 years on sample plots and then field surveys covering England and Wales.

He moved to Bardney, East England, in 1972 and his last eight years have been at Thetford, finally as District Forester FM, where he became renowned for his dedication and unwavering principles to the cause of conservation.

Gerry was also well known for his entomological expertise and is a Fellow of The Royal Entomological Society.

Mick Dinning, Conservator, on behalf of colleagues and friends, presented Gerry with a ship's decanter and a cheque to go towards the purchase of a choice volume on Lepidoptera, to quote Gerry, "a fitting companion to a good wine!"



47 FOR RONNIE

A LARGE crowd of friends and colleagues gathered at the Brynffynon Hotel, Llanwynno, recently to say farewell to Ronnie Lewis who, after 47 years service, was Llanwynno Forest District's longest-serving member.

An unique feature of the evening was a presentation made to Ronnie by the man who actually started him, retired Head Forester Charlie Adams, now 85 years of age, but looking remarkably fit and well.

Following the presentations, Ronnie regaled the gathering with many stories relating to the "good old days," two of which are worth recalling. One was the fact that in his early days he acted as "pay guard," not as now sitting in a vehicle but trotting alongside a pony-mounted Forester and carrying a

pick handle. The other feature was the introduction of the first mobile fire-fighting outfit. This consisted of an old trailer with six milk churns attached and a Hathaway pump but no motive power in that it had to be pulled and pushed to fires!

Ronnie's time will not be idle and this was reflected in the choice of his farewell gift: two volumes of railway books, for he is a model maker of some distinction, exhibiting at many venues and also being honoured as President of the local modeller's club. The beautifully-executed models are exact in scale and detail and it is difficult to imagine when examining them that, in fact, the whole thing is made out of bits and pieces of cardboard which are scaled and engineered by Ronnie.



CHEERS, WAREHAM

JOHN TISDALL has retired from Wareham, in West England Conservancy, where he has served for much of his 38 years with the Forestry Commission.

After leaving the Dean School in 1953, John went to Bentley Woods (latterly part of Salisbury Forest, and now part of Wilts & Avon FD) as an ex-school ganger. He left for a spell at Foremark and Sherwood, coming back in due course to become beat forester at Lydford SW (E), transferring to Wareham in 1971, where he remained for the rest of his service.

As his retirement gathering, friends and colleagues from the FC and the timber trade gathered to pay sincere tributes to a well respected man — one of the "unsung heroes" of the FC.

Farewell speeches were made by Roger Busby (Ops. Manager (W (E)) representing Conservator, Keith Nash speaking for the timber trade, Martin Gale on behalf of the Forest District workforce, and Roger McKinley on behalf of the foresters. FDM Alan Dunning organised the event splendidly and John, together with his wife Jess, arrived in style in a Rolls-Royce provided and driven by Keith Nash.

John commented wryly that his retirement transport was much in keeping with the standard of FC transport which he had enjoyed over the years, being rather more salubrious than his last Land Rover 90, but so much less personal than the push bike with which he had a brief acquaintance while at Lydford.

FOREST CRAFTSMAN Jim Powell was presented with an inscribed carriage clock by Chief Forester John Waic, on behalf of his workmates at Marches Forest District. The presentation took place at the Shobdon Research Office on 12 June 1987, at a small gathering of FC colleagues and friends.

JIM CHELMICK, formerly of Marches Forest District who recently retired, was presented with a Shropshire Agricultural Society Long Service Medal at the West Midlands Show, believed to be the first time an FC employee has received such an award.



ERIC H. ROBERTS retired after more than 22 years service at Cynwyd Forest. A small-holder with a keen interest in breeding shire horses, Eric was employed on timber extraction by horse until 1982. His record during that period was 98 tons of pulpwood in one week! Succumbing to modern times Eric switched to a tractor and winch until 1984 when he embarked on Forest Management duties. Eric is fourth from the left in the group photograph and was a most able and, above all, cheerful member of the Ruthin Forest District team.

CIVIL ENGINEER Les Davies retired after 17 years with the FC, all of which were spent in East England. As Les did not want a large farewell do, arrangements were made to meet for a lunchtime break when Conservator Mick Dinning thanked Les for all the work that he had done for the Commission. Les intends to take up angling in his spare time and we wish him many happy days with the rod and bag he received as a parting gift from his colleagues.

HORACE COOPER retired from the Commission after 27 years' service. Over the past four years of his service, Horace had been a member of the Mark and Tariff team at Rheola. Despite the fact that he wished to go quietly he was persuaded to attend an enjoyable function at the Crown in Glynneath when A. James, District Forester, presented him with a clock and a cheque.

DAVE CORNER (forester) retired early due to ill health after 31 years' service, mostly served in the industrial valleys of South Wales. The staff at Rheola wished him a happy retirement in the Glynneath area where he and his wife will continue to tend their smallholding.

FOREST craftsman Gordon Smith was presented with an inscribed carriage clock and a long service certificate when he retired from North York Moors Forest District after 31 years. FDM John McKenzie paid tribute to his ever-available and seemingly bottomless store of local knowledge, which will be missed.

MRS JUNE REDKNAP, administrative officer at Conservancy Office York, retired after more than 20 years service. She joined the Commission at Alice Holt in 1966 and moved to York in 1968. She spent time in all the sections at York but will be fondly remembered for her tireless work on the library and the annual reports.

WHEN SHEILA JOHNSTON retired from Loch Awe FD, she was given a farewell by colleagues and friends at a reception at Ardrishaig. Sheila started with FC as a forest clerkess at Kilmichael in 1962 and latterly served as a clerical officer, Loch Awe, at Lochgilphead. She was presented with gifts from colleagues by FDM, Peter Quelch.

Jackie, a man for all seasons



JACKIE DAVIES retired recently from Corris Forest District after working for the Commission for more than 32 years. During this time he witnessed many changes and reorganisations and forest amalgamations but despite moving around from forest to forest due to these changes, he has managed to keep himself in the same district. He was presented with his Long Service Certificate by Forest District Manager J. P. Hamilton. He is seen in the photograph with Head Forester Ron Stokes.

Long Service Certificate



DR GWYN OWEN retired in May after some 34 years' service.

At a buffet held at the Sportsman's Arms on the Denbigh Moors, friends and colleagues gathered to wish Gwyn and his wife, Eirlys, a happy retirement. Assistant Conservator Gwyn Hughes, presented a Long Service Certificate to Gwyn.

Forest District Manager Hugh Clayden spoke of

Gwyn and Eirlys's retirement plans and how their smallholding would keep them fully occupied. He also hoped that they would have time for FC visitors as there was a strong desire "to keep in touch."

On behalf of his colleagues H & M Foreman, Gwynfor Jones, presented Gwyn with a watch to mark his retirement.

OBITUARIES

PERCY HUNTER

PERCY HUNTER died in July while on holiday in Lochaber. His long period (1953-77) in charge of administration of northern research affairs, which spanned the establishment of NRS, is remembered with great affection by all staff involved. He had exceptional commitment to the needs of northern research and a unique style which gained him an almost legendary loyalty from both staff at NRS and its outstations.

ARTHUR Reed Wilson, former forest craftsman at Rievaulx, who had been with FC for 21 years before retiring in 1977, died on August 10.

WILLIAM PICKAVANCE

WILLIAM PICKAVANCE, former ganger at Redesdale, who retired in October 1986 after 50 years service with the Forestry Commission, died at home on June 27.

ALEXANDER ROSE, a leading forester and pioneer in forestry machinery, died aged 81. He joined FC in 1923, working at Heldon and Newton in Morayshire before the war. His many developments included the Ledmore plough, seed drill and undercutter and his model nurseries were featured at the Royal Highland Show from 1949 to 1969 the year in which he retired and was awarded the MBE. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, a son, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

IAN MacINTYRE

IAN MacINTYRE, skilled forestry worker, Loch Awe FD, has died. He started with FC in Eredine Forest in 1959. He will be missed by colleagues and the local community, and is survived by his wife Eileen, a former forest clerkess, and his married daughter Jackie.

AT THE age of 89, B.J. (Benny) Kinnaird, former chief clerk of the former West Scotland Conservancy Office, died in Crieff.

JOE METCALFE

JOE METCALFE, former Forester at Thrunton, has died. He attended Glessford Forester Training School in 1946 after war service and worked at Thornthwaite, Redesdale, Dalby and Rothbury Forests before retiring in 1977 after 30 years with FC.

REG HILLS

REG HILLS, of Forestry Houses, Bridgham, who was renowned for taking part in the 24-mile walk round Theford Chase, died in hospital, aged 82. He worked in forestry all his life, the last 20 years with FC, and through his walking raised several hundred pounds for Alzheimer's Disease Society. He leaves a widow and three sons.

Wordsearch

Compiled by Fiona Brash, West Downs.

3 LETTERS

Aid
Ash
Dam
Hat
Oak
Roe

4 LETTERS

Bark
Bats
Bird
Deer
Elms
Farm
Logs
Peel
Pine
Pond
Pulp
Sika
Sned
Time
Weed
Wood
Xmas

5 LETTERS

Birch
Birds
Books
Boots
Brash
Chips
Clear
Dutch
Foxes
Gates
Grant
Gypsy
Larch
Paper
Seeds
Sitka
Tools
Trees
Vixen
Walks

6 LETTERS

Badger
Fences

Horses

Insect
Litter
People
Safety

7 LETTERS

Felling
Ferrets
Forests
Hippies
Rabbits

8 LETTERS

Chainsaw
Planting
Sawbench

9 LETTERS

Forwarder
Wayfaring

12 LETTERS

Conservation



TIMBER TOPICS

THE DEMAND for all categories of timber has been particularly strong throughout the first half of this year, and nowhere is this demonstrated more clearly than in the results of the auctions which have been held so far.

Auction sales account for about 45% of all sawlogs and 30% of standing timber sold by the Forestry Commission. They are therefore a good barometer of timber prices.

Sawlogs are sold in many different categories and top diameters and it is difficult to compare one sale with another. However, the average price for all sawlogs 3 metres and over in length and 14 cm and over, top diameter, under bark, is a commonly used yardstick by which to compare prices. TABLE 1 gives the results to date by sawlog category and top diameter for each auction. It also gives the average price as described above and the price increases over the past six and twelve months respectively.

There are a number of conclusions which can be drawn. First, prices vary throughout the country... being lowest at Aberdeen, furthest from the market, and highest at Monmouth and Oswestry which are close to the major markets in the Midlands and south of England. Secondly, prices have been rising quite dramatically over the past 6-12 months (52%-42%) and there is evidence that they are still rising, albeit more modestly.

BUOYANT ECONOMY

These rising prices are due to a combination of factors, the general buoyant economy, advantageous exchange rates making imports of wood expensive and shortage of some grades of timber usually imported from Scandinavia and Portugal.

However, the major influence is undoubtedly the fact that there exists more sawmilling capacity than the supply of logs justifies. This over capacity, which has been apparent in localised areas for the past 5-6 years, has now become more general across the whole country.

It has been brought about by the modernisation of much of the sawmilling industry which has invariably resulted in increased capacity. However, it must be said that although the demand for sawn timber is strong, particularly for construction grades, pallet wood and fencing, the prices being obtained do not appear to justify the prices being paid for sawlogs.

Sales of standing timber are equally buoyant as TABLE 2 shows. Prices here are much more volatile being dependent not only on the general strength of the market but also on purely local factors, for example the existence of an excellent stake market utilising the small size Corsican Pine offered at Ilminster in February.

There is very strong competition for standing timber with traditional timber merchants, sawmillers and more recently, small roundwood-using industries all competing with each other. This latter group of companies have entered the standing timber scene relatively recently. They clearly see the need to safeguard their supplies for the future in view of the heavy investment in new wood processing capacity. Competition between them and sawmillers for the middle part of the tree — 12-16 cm in diameter — is particularly fierce.

The question I am often asked is: "Can the present upward

TABLE 1 — SAWLOG PRICES AT AUCTION

SAWLOG CATEGORY	Ilminster 10 Feb	Cambridge 13 Feb	Monmouth 10 March	Aberdeen 23 April	Oswestry 14 May	Dumfries 4 June
a. Select 22 cm tdb 18	£/cu m ub	£/cu m ub	£/cu m ub	£/cu m ub	£/cu m ub	£/cu m ub
b. Standard 20 cm 18 16 14	— — —	42.32 39.85 —	— 46.66 —	— — —	— 46.16 —	— 42.52 42.17 36.50
c. Merchantable 18 cm 16 14 12	— — — —	34.23 — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	40.50 38.19 35.34 32.61
d. Unclassified 20 18 16 14	— 42.66 — —	— — — —	— 47.08 — —	— 38.25 36.79 29.79	— — — —	— — — —
e. Short Logs 18 16 14 12	— — 28.40 —	— — — —	43.25 — 33.60 27.00	— — 26.50 —	— — 34.66 —	— — — —
All Logs 3m+ 14 cm + TD	42.66	38.81	47.00	36.16	46.16	40.30
PRICE CHANGES						
6 months	+11.6%	+5.7%	+23.0%	—	+8.4%	+21.2%
12 months	+9.4%	+16.1%	+18.5%	—	+42.5%	+26.8%

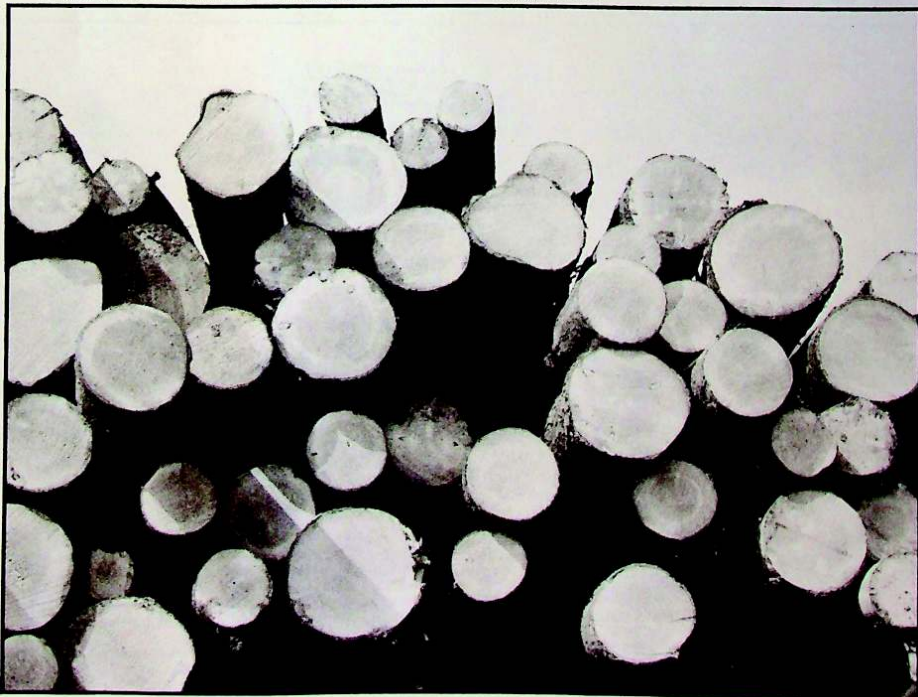
TABLE 2 — STANDING SALES PRICES AT AUCTION

Av. Tree Size m ³ ob	Ilminster 10 Feb	Cambridge 13 Feb	Monmouth 10 March	Aberdeen 23 April	Oswestry 14 May	Dumfries 4 June
Less than .074	18.68	—	3.74	8.36	6.47	9.54
.075-.124	16.63	10.98	6.27	10.09	9.62	10.94
.125-.174	—	—	18.68	7.09	12.72	—
.175-.224	22.22	15.92	18.50	—	18.31	—
.225-.274	—	—	24.25	—	—	—
.275-.424	—	17.13	24.35	20.63	21.27	25.09
.425-.499	24.25	—	22.17	22.22	—	—
.500-.599	26.88	22.16	29.33	—	29.32	26.54
.600-.699	22.42	27.05	—	28.63	28.59	—
.700-.799	—	20.79	—	22.42	—	—
.800-.899	28.44	—	32.70	—	31.46	—
.900-.999	27.13	—	31.57	25.82	32.82	—
1.00+	30.46	—	38.01	—	28.81	28.38
Price Change						
6 months	+31.0%	+10.4%	+27.0%	—	-5.2%	+18.4%
12 months	+89.9%	+16.0%	+49.0%	+40.8%	+15.7%	+27.7%

trend in prices continue or will prices fall and if so, when?" If anyone knew the answer to that question with any degree of certainty they would be in great demand! My own view is that in the absence of a significant price increase for imported timber, which sets the pace for domestic prices, there must be a limit to how much further prices can rise.

Some people would argue that that limit has already been reached and that sawmills are not making money at current price levels. I can see no evidence that imported prices are set to rise and therefore for the rest of 1987 I would expect prices to level out and possibly dip slightly as winter approaches.

Much, ultimately, will depend on the strength of sterling; if it strengthens then imported timber could become cheaper; if it weakens then imported prices could rise which would help British sawmills.



A stack of P38 Douglas Fir sawlogs awaiting transport.

GRAHAM DOES THE CUCKOO WALTZ...

GRAHAM PALMER, a Midlands Forest District worker, recently came across an abandoned nest containing a cuckoo chick without feathers or friends during a felling operation.



He cared for the chick at home and at work, feeding it at two-hourly intervals with broken worms and caterpillars.



Now, some time after being found, the chick is feathered and large with an even larger appetite.



Once he is fully fledged, it is hoped that the chick will fly and resume a normal cuckoo life . . . without Graham jumping off the garage roof to show him how!



Food on the fire

MORE THAN 150 past and present members of Dolgellau Forest District and their families from Coed y Brenin and Penllyn Forest, enjoyed a forest barbecue.

While the evening's weather remained free from rain, the Maesgwm midges were out with a vengeance despite the efforts of those armed with "jungle juice."

With a bar and music and a magnificent spread of barbecue food and salads prepared by Katherine Sherrington, Sylvia Johnson, Gwenda Hughes, Julie Coghill and Lily Parker, an enjoyable evening was had by all, and many old friendships were renewed with retired colleagues.

At the end of the evening, a collection was donated to Dolgellau Hospital's League of Friends.

Merit award

THE COMMISSION has received an Award of Merit in the Northumbria Section of the "Britain in Bloom" competition. The award went to Wooler Common which consists of 50 hectares of P1980 conifers on higher ground with mixed conifer and broadleaves on lower ground. There are also two small ponds and the area is popular with local residents.

Chicks vigil

IN THETFORD Forest, a vigil by wardens has been rewarded in the hatching of a brood of goshawk chicks. It is the first brood to hatch for four years. Previous nests have been raided by robbers. In the same forest red-backed shrikes, one of Britain's rarest breeding birds, have returned to nest — in a protected area of a busy forest car park.

Two of the best

CONGRATULATIONS to Forestry Commission craftsmen Brian Havil (Believer, Dartmoor) and Alan White (Haldon, Exeter), who took first and second prizes at the annual tree felling competition of the Devon County Show Forestry Committee. They overcame the previous dominance by the private sector against 40 competitor and two other prizes were won by contractors who regularly work for FC.

Gerald's honour

GERALD HAGGETT was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Butterfly expert at Attleborough, he joined the Commission in 1944 and was appointed District Forester, FM, Thetford, in 1984.

Minister on tour



LORD SANDERSON of Bowden, Minister of State, photographed with Revell McKeand during a visit to Aberfoyle, part of his tour to study all aspects of forestry.

QUESTION TIME

COMMONS — JULY 23:

Mr Hardy asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what changes he expects to make in regard to forestry policy in the United Kingdom during the next five years.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Forestry policy will continue to be reviewed from time to time. However, I cannot anticipate the outcome of any future reviews.

Mr Key asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps he is taking to increase afforestation in the United Kingdom in order to reduce reliance on imported timber and encourage diversification in the rural economy.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: As announced to the House by my right hon. Friend, the Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale (Mr Jopling), on 9 February 1987, at column 70, the target for new forestry planting has been raised to 33,000 hectares a year, and planting is being encouraged through the grant schemes administered by the Forestry Commission and the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland. My right hon. Friend also announced the intention to introduce a farm woodland scheme to encourage farmers to plant trees on some of their land.

COMMONS — July 6:

Dr David Clark asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if the Forestry Commission consults the Nature Conservancy Council about its planting operations or planting proposals within Caithness and Sutherland; and if he will list those Forestry Commission planting proposals which have been forwarded to the Nature Conservancy Council for comment.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The Forestry Commission has consulted the Nature Conservancy Council about its planting programme in Caithness and Sutherland. The properties concerned are listed below: Invershin, Dyke, Achormlarie, Tannach Hill, Cnoc a' Mhoid, Sallachy, Stroupster.

Dr David Clark asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on the natural hazards, windthrow risk and soil capability for afforestation of that land at Druim Carn na Muc in Caithness which is owned by the Forestry Commission; and if he will state the estimated internal rate of return that would accrue from a plantation on this land.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: There are no special natural hazards which would affect forestry on this site. The windthrow risk is assessed as class 5, which is typical for many parts of Scotland; the soil is a nutrient-rich peat, which would give a good average yield class of timber; and the estimated internal rate of return to the Forestry Commission is between 2 per cent and 2.5 per cent.

KIELDER YOMP AND RUN



LEFT: Winners of the Kielder Yomp and Fell Run; ABOVE: Mike Sanderson, a forester at Kielder, came in third in the veterans' section of the Fell Race.
● Full coverage of the Kielder Festival in the next issue.

LATE NEWS

TWO NEW Forestry Commission holiday cottages, on the banks of the River Massan, Argyll, have become available this season for holiday bookings now.

The pair of semi-detached stone-built cottages, formerly estate workers' homes, have been completely refurbished to a high standard to provide quiet forest holiday homes.

They are located five miles north of Dunoon, Argyll, and provide a base to explore the Argyll Forest Park and surrounding countryside.

The cottages sleep up to a maximum of six people and may be booked on a weekly basis. Off the road parking is provided and pets are welcomed.

Their opening brings the number of Forestry Commission holiday homes around the country to twenty five in addition to four log cabin sites.

SOMERSET and South Devon paid farewell in style to their lorry driver Charlie Collins with a skittle evening and buffet attended by colleagues, friends and members of the trade.

Charlie has been driving for the Forestry Commission for nearly 35 years and was the first driver in SW(E) to have a mechanical loader.

He was presented with his long service certificate, a painting of his own choice and a cheque by John Brain, acting Forest District Manager.

REG FURSE and **JIM GRIFFITHS**, both from the old Brendon Forest, retired in July. Reg had served for 28 years, mostly on forest management in the Brendon Hills, but since the reorganisation over a much wider area. Fencing was one of his particular skills but the demands of recreation in the last year or two have called for much wider skills to which Reg has responded well.

Jim served 26 years and his departure was premature due to recurring back problems. Most of his service was spent on harvesting, mostly on Brendon but recently on Quantock.

Conservator John Fletcher paid tribute to their contributions to forestry and presented Reg with a shooting stick and Jim DIY equipment from their friends and colleagues.

Walter Cooke first joined the Forestry Commission in 1939 draining and planting in the Wauchope Forest before serving with the Royal Engineers from 1942-47 seeing service in France and Germany.

He rejoined the Commission in 1947 and has worked for the Estates Department for the past 40 years. Walter has seen the building of three forest villages at Kielder Byrness and Stonehaugh and the flooding of his family home at Whickhope when Kielder Water was created.

Walter has built up a special knowledge of the forest water supplies and he will be much missed.

£37,000 drive

STEVE HOWELLS, foreman at Sherwood Forest District, helped raise £37,000 for the Spastics Society, by taking part in a 1200-mile endurance drive.

Golf win

TEN employees from Cowal FD enjoyed their first district golf competition at Blairmore and Strone Golf Club. Eventual winner by one stroke was forest craftsman Jim Gallagher, with forest craftsman Scott Turner coming second. It is hoped to make the event an annual fixture.

OUR RAFT RACERS

"CONIFER," the York Conservancy Office raft, emerged from the long grass of Dalby Forest to partake in yet another York Raft race. With careful preparation and decoration it joined the 80-or-so other entrants in a melee of pre-start water fights and was crewed by Kate Blakesley, Sally Train and Gillian Watson. The annual event takes place over a 1½ mile course on the River Ouse downstream from the city centre. It is held in aid of RNLI funds and the organisers hope to have made a record collection this year. The rafts and crews, many in fancy dress and proclaiming their sponsors, provide a colourful spectacle of fun and endeavour. With overcast skies and a strong headwind no records were broken this year and, despite great efforts, Conifer was unplaced.

THANKS TO ALL

SIR — I would like to thank everyone who presented me with gifts, sent me cards, letters and their well wishes on my transfer from the Forestry Commission to the Ministry of Defence due to the amalgamation of Cowal and Ardgartan Forest Districts. After fourteen years with the Commission I can only say that I was very sorry to leave. During the years I have made many friends, and I suppose a few "enemies." I am sure the foresters who had the "lucky break" to pass through Ardgartan can remember all the bawling-outs they had from me for some reason or other but, as they all seem to have had success in their careers, it must have stood them in good stead. — Mary Haggarty.

LINDLEY MEDAL

THE Arboricultural Association has been awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Silver Gilt Lindley Medal for their stand within the Scientific section of The 1987 Chelsea Flower Show, displaying, explaining and depicting the internal workings and construction of a tree. The display evolved from an idea by Dr Tom Hall, superintendent of the Oxford University Parks, and editor of the Arboricultural Journal. Copies of an explanatory leaflet titled "Journey Into The Centre Of A Tree" are available at £1 each including postage from: The Secretary, Arboricultural Association, Amfield House, Romsey SO5 9PA.

Farm forestry boost from woodlands plan

THE PROPOSED Farm Woodland Scheme, with the suggested annual payments scheme to bridge the gap between planting and revenue, will stimulate interest in farm forestry. And, according to Director General Gwyn Francis, it will create the conditions to realise the long-held aim of integrating farming and forestry which is a feature of land use in many European countries.

Speaking at the Royal Show in Warwickshire, he added:

"While the new Farm Woodland Scheme will create conditions to promote new planting by farmers, there are today many existing woods on farms which lie unmanaged and neglected. I hope that the new Farm Woodlands Scheme, while providing the means for new planting, will also stimulate interest in managing existing woodlands.

"Those who will be helping farmers with advice on new planting must take the opportunity to inform farmers of the potential which lies in bringing these neglected woods under good management.

"In many cases, for a relatively small outlay these woods can be managed to give a useful source of income from timber and shooting and well managed woods enhance the value of a well managed property.

UP TO 10 million extra broadleaved tree plants could be required next year as the result of demand for plantings under forestry grant schemes and the Government's proposed farm woodland scheme. The usual annual demand is for about 4½ million plants.

The Forestry Commission and the Horticultural Trades Association is now making plans to meet that expected demand.

Mr John Aldhous, Director of the Forestry Commission's Silvicultural Division said: "We anticipate a huge additional demand for beech and oak seed and it is preferable for these two species to be collected only from registered stands of trees. Our first choice is to collect British Oak and Beech seed from British Woodland, rather than import. We can only do that if people act now to collect the seed. We are therefore keen that owners of good quality stands of trees check them for flowering and seed crop development and consider applying in good time for registration."

Xmas £150

DURING the 1986 Christmas Tree sales at Wentwood, Gwent Forest District, refreshments were sold in aid of "Save the Children Fund." This was popular with the visitors and £150 was raised through the combined efforts of David Parsons, Forest District Manager, Mrs Parsons and residents from the nearest village of Llanvaches.

SURVEY

STAFF of Exeter University are to undertake a survey of pine marten in England and Wales. Biologist Dr Paul Chanin and field researcher Rob Strachan will study factors affecting the survival of pine marten — "one of the rarest mammals south of the border with Scotland where it is beginning to recover from persecution."



TRAIL DESIGNED FOR DISABLED

THE FIRST trails in East Anglia for the handicapped and disabled were opened in the Commission's Rendlesham Forest, East Suffolk, by Group Captain Leonard Cheshire VC.

In a flat area, with an all-weather surface of firm, rolled aggregate, the trails are of 400m and 800m. There are nine stops where signboards draw attention to points of particular interest. Seats and picnic tables, all specifically designed to meet the needs of the disabled, are strategically located.

Ipswich and Saxmundham Round Table raised funds for the project and pupils from the Thomas Wolsey School for handicapped children, Ipswich, have sown wild flower seeds, planted shrubs and made bird and bat boxes fixed to trees around the trail.

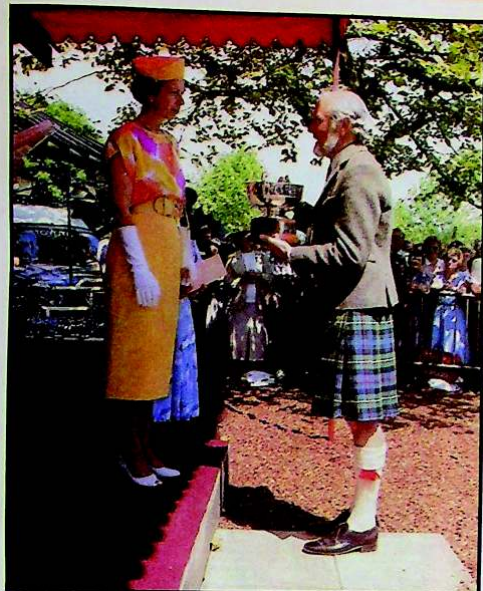
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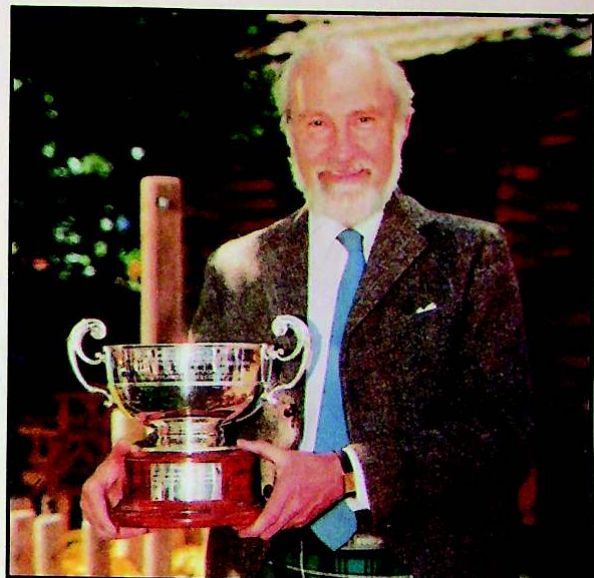


Newspaper of the Forestry Commission

JOHN'S KILT IS A DELIGHT



IT WAS a day for broad smiles when John McKenzie received the Longhurst Trophy from the Princess Royal at the Royal Show. The trophy was awarded to Dalby Forest for the best section of 40-year-plus conifers.



ONE MAN AND HIS PAL OPEN A WILDLIFE HIDE

GERALD SPRINGTHORPE, former Forestry Commission senior ranger, "returned to work" when he accompanied his old friend, TV personality naturalist Phil Drabble, when he opened the first wildlife hide in Wales.

Before the opening ceremony, they joined an invited group from local organisations in a tour of the Coed y Brenin forest, guided by project co-ordinator, Dolgellau district manager Mark Yorke, and project adviser, conservation head forester Fred Currie.

The hide is built in a small meadow, local staff under the management of Paul Sherrington have created a small pond nearby to encourage ducks, dragonflies and bats.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Phil Drabble praised the initiatives on wildlife conservation taken by the Commission, and said: "It appears to me that many organisations spend too much time talking instead of acting. This hide is just another example of the action taken by the Forestry Commission to demonstrate their practical approach to conserving our precious environment."



ROYAL VISIT MARKS 150 YEARS



IT WAS anniversary time this year at the Great Yorkshire Show. And there to grace the proceedings was the Duchess of Kent, who visited the Forestry Commission pavilion accompanied by Julian Hall, the GYS Forestry Steward. It was a fitting day, with a fitting royal visitor, to mark the show's 150 years.



'EDUCATIONAL OUTING'

Twenty-seven Conservancy Office staff gathered at Grizedale for their "educational outing" and were greeted with the news that Grizedale had become a Forest Park. The reason for the announcement was soon apparent to the visitors, for the attractions of the forest were matched only by the friendly and helpful approach of the South Lakes Forest District staff who had laid on an interesting and informative tour.



FOREST PARK STATUS AT LOVELY GRIZEDALE

GRIZEDALE Forest, near Hawkshead in the Lake District, is one of three new Forest Parks in Britain.

The others are at Delamere, on Merseyside, and in the North Yorkshire Moors, to be called North Riding Forest Park.

The announcement was made following a ceremony at Grizedale at which an extended and modernised visitor centre was opened by Lord Whitelaw, Lord President of the Council.

On a brilliantly sunny day Lord Whitelaw told more than 100 invited guests of his support for the Commission's objectives and achievements. He unveiled a Cumbrian slate plaque recording the event after the Chairman and Conservator had set the scene.

Before lunch in a marquee on the lawn of what was the forest nursery, the guests visited the Theatre in the Forest for a brief recital by internationally renowned harpist Maria Robles.

After lunch, a Forest Fair for the public attracted hundreds of visitors to see a falconry display, a wood turner, basket maker and to enjoy a new playground designed by one of the forest's resident sculptors Andy Frost. Visiting children have already dubbed it "the best playground we've ever been in."

All the District staff and their families were there at the opening and a special afternoon tea party was laid on for them.

The catering for the whole day was also a very "local" event beautifully prepared and served by the ladies of the Satterthwaite Village Institute.

ENJOYED

Guided walks in the forest during the afternoon kept District staff busy on a day when Grizedale and the Lake District demonstrated the need for an interpretive centre designed to cater for our many thousands of visitors who drop in on John Voysey and his team.

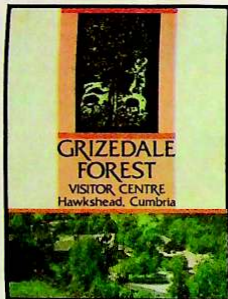
Public access to Forestry Commission forests has always been encouraged and enjoyed, but in Forest Parks a wide range of recreation facilities are provided, including visitor centres, campsites, holiday cabins and opportunities for specialist wildlife study and sports. In 1986 more than 24 million visits were made to Forestry Commission forests.

The Commission confirmed its support for the current National Parks awareness campaign and the Commission's extended Forest Parks network complements this important initiative.

Forest Parks also provide opportunities for people to enjoy and understand more about Britain's forest wildlife and, as such, represent another contribution to the Commission's practical support for European Year of the Environment.

WELCOME

The first Forest Park was designated in Argyll in Scotland in 1935, soon followed by others such as the Forest of Dean, the

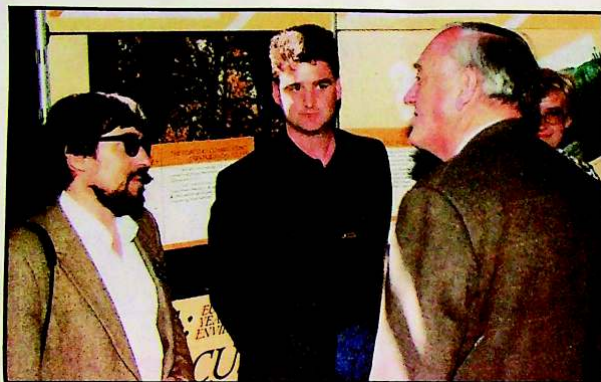


Cairngorms, Galloway, the Trossachs and Snowdonia. The New Forest has for long been a well-loved attraction with a long tradition of public access, and Forest Parks extended a welcome over very large areas of wild and beautiful country in the days before National Parks and National Scenic Areas were created.

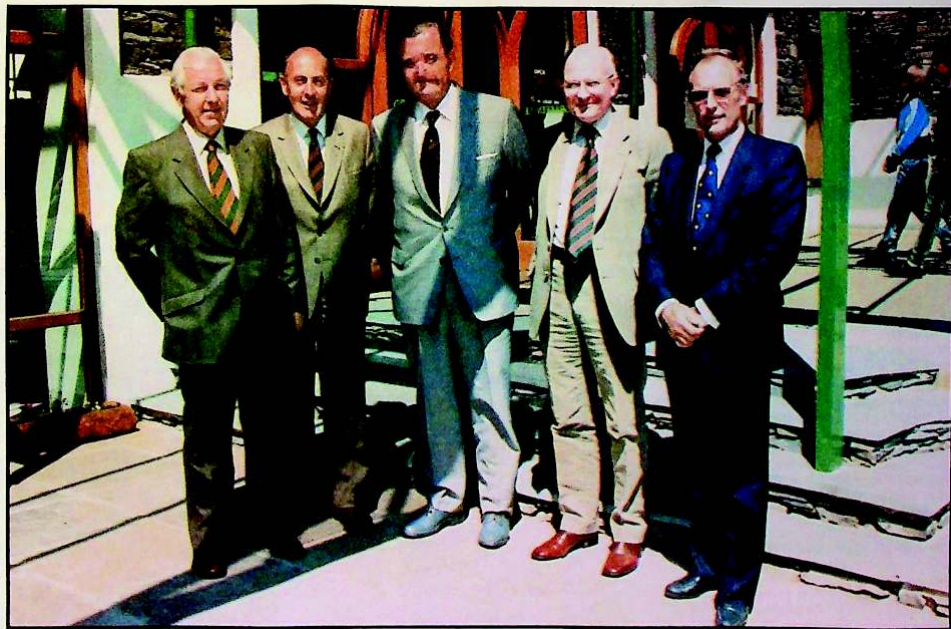
The three new Forest Parks will ensure that the increasing needs of tourism, nature conservation and recreation are properly catered for. With the continuing development of large forest areas in England over the past ten years it has become clear that the requirements of day visitors, naturalists, holidaymakers and picnickers required specialist treatment.

The main demand for public recreation is near to large towns and it is the Commission's intention to develop new parks in these areas and to improve the facilities in existing parks to meet the expanding needs of the widest possible range of society.

A leaflet giving details and locations of all the 11 Forest Parks is now available.



Lord Whitelaw at Grizedale; Right — harpist Maria Robles.



Five former North England Conservators were present at the celebrations to mark the announcement that Grizedale had become a Forest Park. They are, from left, Richard Chard, Tony Spencer, John "Jumbo" James, Alistair Rowan and Alan Rix.

REPORT:
Frazer
Lindsay

PICTURES: Isobel Cameron