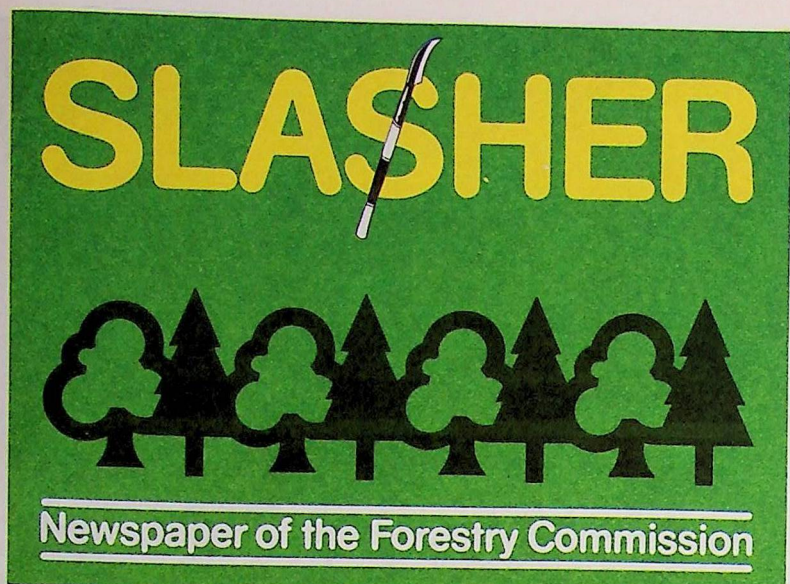




Newspaper of the Forestry Commission

Issue 331

OCTOBER 1987



● John McEwan, discusses the latest issue with Gwyn Francis (right) and Robbie Adam.

FOREST OWNERS URGED TO BE CAUTIOUS

Group to act after the big storm

FORESTRY Commission staff in south east England are involved in a mammoth clear-up operation following the October gale that caused damage in many forests and woodlands. To co-ordinate action, the Commission has set up an emergency Forest Windblow Action Group involving the timber trade and the private sector.

Damage surveys are still being carried out on the ground and from the air to assess the distribution and the number of trees blown down, and the volume of timber to be marketed. In a message to forest owners David Foot, Commissioner of Operations, said:

"All our experience shows that it is a mistake to move too quickly; the timber will not deteriorate fast and there is time for it to be salvaged and marketed in a systematic and economical way. Trees that are still on the root can remain green for several years. Clearly, the group's top priority is to find out how much timber is lying on the ground and then to establish an effective marketing strategy."

Timber Growers United Kingdom, the British Timber Merchants' Association and the UK Processors have all agreed to join the Action Group. It has been stressed that the vast majority of blown timber can be salvaged and marketed, and private woodland owners and local authorities have been advised against using 'cowboy' operators offering instant removal services.

BUOYANT MARKET

There is a buoyant market for British timber and there is no need for anyone to ruin a good stem by rushing in to sell it for firewood. "Clearly it will take many years to restore and rebuild woodland and we will encourage restocking with the help of grants and expert advice."

The Commission's Bedgebury Pinetum in Kent suffered a loss of some 25 per cent of its specimen trees and a further ten per cent may have to be felled at a later date. The pinetum research plots were virtually destroyed.

In the wake of the storm, FC staff were working round-the-clock to assist emergency services in clearing blown trees from roads and railway lines. Some foresters saw the results of over 30 years' work devastated in less than 12 hours.

● The Kent town of Sevenoaks has accepted a Forestry Commission offer to replant the six of its seven oak trees that were blown down in the gale.



John Bryant, who has worked for 30 years at Bedgebury, studies a fallen giant.

'Slasher' reader John is 100

Director General Gwyn Francis and Angus Forest District Manager Robbie Adam visited Blairgowrie, Perthshire, to mark the 100th birthday of John McEwan, OBE, and presented him with gifts of books. John, the son of a Perthshire shepherd, began in forestry in 1905 at the Earl of Seafield's Cullen estate and in 1908 started a two year course at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh followed by two years in Glasgow parks and a spell in contracting.

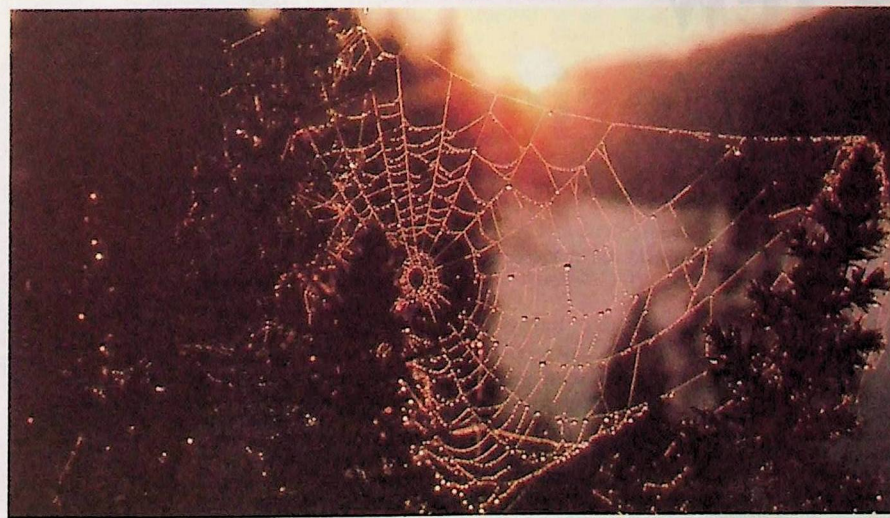
He joined the Forestry Commission soon after its formation in 1919 in the then Aberdeen Division and in 1922 organised the Workers' Trade Union (incorporated in the TGWU) and later represented them at the Whitley Council.

He worked in North Wales and Eire and with Home Grown Timber Department of the Board of Trade before becoming involved in consultancy and timber evaluation work from which he retired in 1970 to take up the painting of trees.

He is a founder member of the Society of Foresters of Great Britain and was awarded the OBE in 1963. He is a member of "Who Owns Scotland."

PHOTO WINNER

THIS is the photograph that has been selected as the winner from the latest batch of entries from our "Slasher" competition. For Richard Wood, Lochaber Forest, it wins an exhibition-mounted enlargement plus £10 worth of colour films. His entry will join the previous winners in the end-of-the-year final for which the main prize is a Pentax Compact Automatic PC333 Camera. Entries for the next, and final, section should be submitted by 11 December to the Editor, "Slasher," 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT.



Devastation in Suffolk.

ALLY RECRUITED TO
HELP THE FIGHT . . .

Battle against spruce bark beetle

By Colin King

THE discovery of the great spruce bark beetle, *Dendroctonus micans*, more than five years ago in Shropshire caused not only a great deal of consternation in forestry circles but also an unprecedented control operation. *D. micans* arrived in Britain with a well-established reputation in Europe for killing plantation spruce — particularly Sitka, our most widely planted and important tree species.

Immediate measures to identify all affected trees by exhaustive surveys followed by their felling, debarking and spraying undoubtedly reduced the pest population dramatically. However, it could not hope to eradicate this already well-established and widespread insect, as *D. micans* breeds underground in roots and stumps. Infested trees were inevitably overlooked.

Faced with a low level, scattered, residual population of a potentially dangerous insect, Commission entomologists found themselves facing a new and difficult situation. Traditional methods of managing bark beetle problems do not apply to this species which breeds almost exclusively in living and apparently healthy trees. A potential solution to this dilemma was found during the inevitable study of relevant literature which follows the discovery of a new pest.

Entomologists from the USSR reported successful biological control of *D. micans* by artificially introducing one of its natural enemies — a predatory beetle specific to *D. micans* called *Rhizophagus grandis*. Also a programme of predator introduction

was ongoing in France where *D. micans* was causing serious damage to spruce plantations in the Massif Centrale Region. This work was conducted by a Belgian entomologist Dr Gregoire, and he was contacted to examine the possibilities of using *Rhizophagus* in Britain.

He proved to be a most valuable ally and in June 1983 brought some 200 pairs of the predator to Britain and gave advice on artificial rearing methods.

PORTABLE BUILDINGS

A small programme of breeding predators in Britain followed which in turn led to a full scale programme in early 1984. This was based at Ludlow in Shropshire, central to the main *D. micans* population. Special portable buildings were established which had controlled environments of heat and humidity to speed up rates of insect breeding and to allow continuous production of predators.

The methods of breeding closely followed nature; adult *D. micans* were introduced to fresh billets of Norway spruce in which they mined, laid eggs and established their larvae. When these are about half grown adult pairs of predators are inserted, they in turn lay their own eggs within the broad system and their offspring then feed upon the larvae of *D. micans* (see picture). When fully fed, *R. grandis* emerge from the log as prepupae. In nature they would drop to the forest floor and pupate in the soil, eventually emerging as adults to continue the onslaught on *D. micans*.

In our breeding system they were collected in trays below the breeding logs and pupated in containers of sterile soil. The resulting adults are then ready to be distributed amongst infested forest. The

breeding process continued throughout the year but was most successful during the spring and summer months. Releases were made from May to September inclusive when conditions most favour insect mobility and were allocated on a priority system to treat the worst affected areas first.

The main breeding and release programme ended in 1986; to date we have released over 100,000 predators into both Forestry Commission and privately owned woodlands. Breeding stocks are still maintained at a low level to treat any new outbreak areas discovered during annual surveys at the edges of the infested area.

Our work now concentrates on studying the effects of this operation and so far results are most encouraging. *R. grandis* has adapted well to our forest conditions and is well established as a breeding species. It has shown a highly developed ability to locate its prey and can fly up to 4 km. In this way *R. grandis* can largely be left to its own devices and is much more efficient in finding and controlling *D. micans* than man can ever hope to be.

Our ultimate aim is for predators to attack 80% of the available *D. micans* broods when a natural balance between predator and prey can be expected. Our latest (1986) samples show attack levels of 34%, 2 years after predator introduction which compares favourably with the 7-10 years to achieve the 80% level reported from the USSR. Whilst we cannot become complacent that *R. grandis* will prove to be the final solution to the *D. micans* problems, we believe that we have recruited a valuable ally.

The next few years work should enable us to refine the management of infested forest and see the influence of the predator become more significant.



A picture to stir a few memories

MANY foresters will recall the old Beddgelert 5 x 5 Latin square species experiment of the 1920s. It has recently been a casualty of a reconstruction of the landscape in the forest.

The top ten plots are being removed along with other trees; no restocking will be done. Land on a spur to the right has been acquired for planting to help improve the landscape.

The photograph is taken from the Beddgelert-Caernarfon road by the Beddgelert Campsite entrance (July 1987).



A 'TOWN' VALLEY FOR THE FUTURE ...

MORE than 300 people attended the launch of the wildlife happening at a viewpoint over Loch Arber valley (and loch) in July. A unique event organised by the Forestry Commission together with many other local people to open the first town forest area in Britain, with the primary objective of quiet public enjoyment in wildlife conservation.

The Provost of Dumfries (seen right), K. Cameron, before declaring the area open commented that as a beautiful area for both people and wildlife, it would provide a valuable resource into the future.

With the region foremost in forestry, it was appropriate that this first of its kind should be in Dumfries & Galloway, as well as being a marvellous local contribution to European Year of the Environment.

G. Cowie, newly appointed Conservator for South Scotland, thanked the Provost and welcomed all members of the public to the area and hoped they would enjoy all it

had to offer both today and in the future.

A child cut loose two fish balloons which gave the signal to the helpers around the loch to release the specially acquired and tagged acid resistant Galloway trout.

On another signal, 400 pigeons were released which spiralled their way upwards out of the valley. Children then unwrapped boxes of butterflies freeing hundreds of specimens provided by the Edinburgh Butterfly Farm.

The Provost led the way in planting the first broadleaved tree of the project which will see the area converted over a 30 year period to a mainly broadleaved forest. Many others, old and young, joined in this activity with the help of other Forestry Commission and private sector helpers.

The gathering then proceeded past wildlife information displays provided by the Nature Conservancy Council, the RSPB and Nithsdale Forest District."



GOLFERS ARE TO THE FORE

THE annual Forestry Commission Golf Championships were held this year at Ladybank Golf Club in Fife. Numbers competing were up from the previous year but a stiff breeze and hard, fast greens kept good scoring at a premium.

The results over the two days were: Sutherland Cup (Stableford) — Winner A. Lyon (HQ) 38 points, runner-up D. Douglas M(S) 36 points BIH.

Open Championship (Best Nett Score): Winner L. MacRae N(S) 70 BIH, runner-up D. Douglas M(S) 70.

Tom's Tankard (Best Scratch Score): Winner D. Douglas M(S) 76, runner-up S. Stables M(S) 79.

Team Championship: Winners North Scotland, represented by L. MacRae, L. MacCallum, A. Garman.

Next year, the venue returns to England with Hexham being a possible choice. Anyone interested in playing who is not on the current mailing list should contact the Secretary, Stephen Stables, Research Forester, Forestry Commission, Cowal District Office, Kilmun, Dunoon, Argyll.

When there's room for education

DEERWATCH BY RICHARD PRIOR

Published by David and Charles at £12.95

THIS is the eighth book from the pen of Richard Prior who worked as a ranger and later head ranger in the old South West England Conservancy for 16 years. Richard now operates freelance as a deer consultant, although he is retained as an advisor by both the Game Conservancy and the British Deer Society. He has always been best known for his expertise with roe; but the wider experience with other species which has come with his travels as a consultant shines through in his newest book.

All six British deer species are comprehensively covered in this popular book which is basically a guide for interested amateurs on how to set about observing deer.

Richard is almost the only author who is currently producing books on deer at the popular level and he does it very well. "Deerwatch" is very readable for anyone interested in deer at whatever level and the illustrations are superb. The combination of Neil McCredie's (son of Gordon McCredie, head ranger in

Border Forest District) brilliant pen and ink drawings and the very high quality photographs, 11 of which are in full colour, makes for an attractively presented book.

He has steered the narrow path between the Bambi-loving element and the kill-on-site mentality, both of which viewpoints are usually held by people who know little about deer, and has presented a well balanced view of deer as beautiful and interesting animals which must be controlled efficiently and humanely. Only recently I heard an account of 2 roe being shot illegally on the same Sussex Farm this July. One a roebuck ran off, and was reported as "missed," after being blattered with a shotgun, the other a doe was shot with a 22.

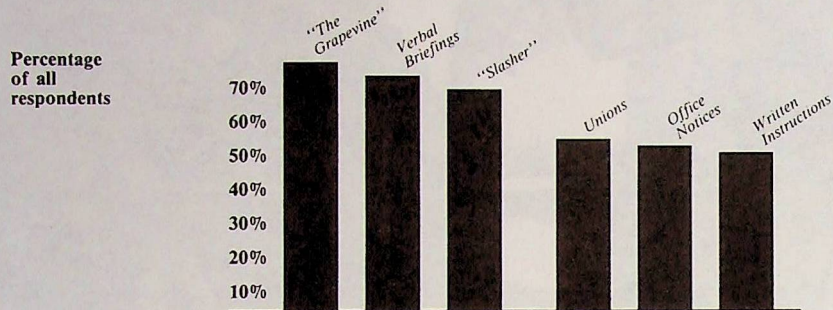
Clearly there is still plenty of room for education on both sides of the line. Richard Prior has done all foresters a great service in the way he has presented deer in this book. Most would learn something if they reciprocated by reading it.

HUGH INSLEY.

Speak to us!

THAT'S the overwhelming message coming from the Commission's staff to their managers from the recent communications survey. Seventy per cent of all staff who responded consider that "verbal briefings" and "the grapevine" are useful sources of information, while nearly fifty per cent find that Office Notices, or written instructions for their supervisor, are not. Equally, nearly two-thirds of staff do not think that noticeboards are of any use.

Sources of information that more than half of all staff find useful



The survey reveals that staff feel that there is a crucial gap in the information that reaches them. Most people are fairly happy that the various "Codes" and management instructions tell them HOW to do their jobs well enough. Through "Slasher," and by other means, most people are content that they hear staff news and views and WHO is up to whatever. However, people would appreciate knowing a little more about the reasons for, and background to, various decisions; quite simply, everyone would feel happier knowing WHY they were asked to do things.

THE FC COMMUNICATIONS GAP

HOW?
(Management instructions)
✓
OK

WHY?
(Background to policy and management decisions)
✗
FAILURE!

WHO?
(News and views)
✓
OK

A clue to the reasons for this may well lie in the survey's conclusions on attitudes to communications in the Commission. Well over half of respondents felt "my boss wants me to be as well informed as he is" and nearly three-quarters think that "there is professional snobbery afoot in the Commission"! More encouragingly, perhaps, the biggest agreement of all in the whole survey was the massive eight-five per cent who DISAGREED with the proposition that "The lower grades do not need to know what is going on." (Shame on the other fifteen per cent).

Large numbers felt that senior management was "too detached" and "often do not seem to have any clear and consistent policies" while nearly eighty per cent are not convinced that policy makers are well informed about what is happening at forest level. The survey team feel that time is perhaps indicative of the communication gap created by managers' and supervisors' apparent failure to explain the reasons behind policy decisions and the need for organisational change.

Finally, with a picture emerging that verbal communication is the most important kind of all, and that significant gaps exist in the information that staff receive, it is perhaps interesting that only eighteen per cent of staff reported that verbal briefing meetings were held regularly, while half said that they rarely if ever happen. In short, the message to managers seems to be that they should talk more, especially about the reasons for, and background to, what is going on in the Commission. The survey does not end there. The team will be out shortly to discuss their conclusions with a representative sample of staff at all levels before making final recommendations for action before the end of the year.

Competition deadline

All entrants in Forestry Commission/Slasher arts competition are reminded that entries must be received at Forestry Commission Headquarters, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT, by Monday, November 23 1987. If you have not already submitted your entry, please do so together with the entry form below.

Rules

1. Works of art in the various categories must be attested as the original work of the artist.
2. Only employees 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 as an employee of the Forestry Commission.
4. Works may be sold by the originator after the prize-giving 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 23 November 1987, at the entrant's expense. No responsibility can be accepted for loss or damage of the work of art in transit.

Categories

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

Name

Location

Category Entry

Telephone Contact No

Date Despatched

Vote of confidence for Slasher

MORE staff find "Slasher" a useful source of information than any other form of written communication, according to the recent staff communications survey. Only verbal communication is more important to a larger number of people. Nearly seventy per cent find "Slasher" 'useful' and nearly eighty per cent of staff surveyed felt it is 'well produced.' Indeed, nearly two-thirds of staff would like to see it produced more often!

On the other hand, sixty per cent of staff feel that "Slasher" contains too much management propaganda and seventy per cent feel that it would benefit from being more controversial.

In the end, however, the most important thing is that eighty per cent said, quite simply, 'I like it.'

When asked for a comment, Editor Roy Gregor said that he was too modest to say anything.

COMPANIES MERGE

THE sawmilling companies of A. and R. Brownlie, Earliston, Berwickshire, and Thomas Smith and Sons, Kikoswald, Ayrshire, have merged to form a £50m turnover group with plans to seek a full listing on the Stock Exchange.

The new group has announced plans to build a sawmill on a 30-acre site in Carlisle. The groups total sawn timber production will amount to 250,000 cubic metres a year.



The national team of judges for the Minet Award for Forestry and Woodland Management, being held this year in Wales, setting out to visit the three finalists for the award, the Dulverton Flagon.

From left to right: Sir Derek Barber, Chairman, Countryside Commission; Mr Robert Gray, President, Institute of Chartered Foresters; Mr Dick Steele, Director-General, Nature Conservancy Council; Sir David Montgomery, Chairman, Forestry Commission; Mr Bill Radcliffe, Welsh representative, Farming and Wildlife Trust; Mr Roger Carr, Chairman, Countryside Commission for Scotland.



Having a good look-see at a joint project

DURING a visit to Northern Research Station, Forestry Commissioners were brought up to date on a joint project between Silviculture(N) and Physiology Branch which is looking at the practice of planting next to a stump on an upland restocking site and whether it causes abnormal root growth likely to affect subsequent stability.

The root systems of the stumps and of the trees which has been planted next to them have been excavated for examination.

Charity sky-jump



MICHAEL Payne (left) from Blairadam Stores, and his friend John Leslie photographed before a parachute jump for cancer research and spina bifida charities. At the last count Michael had raised more than £1600.

Call of the hounds . . .



HOUND trails organised by forester George Bruce and his family from Ennerdale, North Lakes Forest District raised £204 for the Forestry Commission Benevolent Fund. Hound trails draw a big

support throughout Cumbria and at the August event ten bookmakers were in attendance to take bets on the ten-mile race.

There's a plan: It's called enjoy the country!

OPERATION Skylark, a summer holiday playscheme for 8 to 12-year-olds is based at the Smith Art Gallery and Museum in Stirling and jointly run by Stirling District Council Countryside Rangers, Scottish Conservation Projects and the Museum.

Started in 1982 its principle aims are to encourage children to **ENJOY, USE and CARE FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE**. The idea has been enthusiastically taken up by communities in and around Stirling, many setting up their own groups.

Aberfoyle Forest District were approached to provide a days activities. Peter Ford (Head Forester-Environment) and John Brommage (QEFP Warden) set about planning various games and activities. Blackhill Forest, behind Bridge of Allan, was selected as the most suitable



venue because of good access, a wide range of tree species and quite firm ground conditions. John attended two evening workshops for playscheme leaders and, says: "This gave me some great ideas for learning type games."

John produced several games: The first involving the children in pairs, following a route and trying to locate cardboard cut-outs of various forest fauna. Each animal or bird had a letter and when all the letters were collected and unscrambled they spelt — **FOREST**.

The second game involved

identifying specimens of trees and shrubs. Samples were laid in a line in the grass area and children and helpers divided into two groups. The name of a tree was shouted out and one member of each team ran to whichever sample they thought it was. Points were awarded for each correct choice.

The third game involved tree identification with the children following a trail and trying to find numbered cards hanging on different species. The species was then guessed and written down on the answer sheet.

This programme was in-

terspersed with various running around type games and the finale was hunt the fox. Peter's son Clive (aged 16) was volunteered to don a fox mask and head off into the woods and hide. The children were then to try and locate him. Despite torrential rain the children wanted to go ahead and the day went off without a hitch.

Other activities that Skylarkers have done include fossil hunts, beastie hunts, ponds and waterways, farm visits, animal mask making, pin hole cameras and photography, to name but a few.

All the fun of the carnival



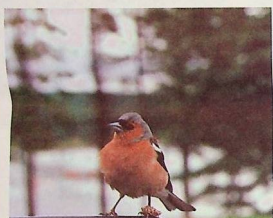
THE Wales Conservancy float at the Aberystwyth Carnival demonstrating the very latest techniques in Tree Surgery, and coming runner-up in the Humorous Section. Left to right: Top row — Duncan Sykes, John Mullett and Sue Leather. Bottom row — Margaret Taylor, Chris Nixon, Mike Over, Gary Hopkins, Petra Lewis, Gwen Thomas and Lynn Buffery.

ROUND AND ABOUT THE COLOURFUL WORLD OF THE FC

Kielder hosts music festival



Fiddler Willie Taylor conducts a workshop at Kielder.



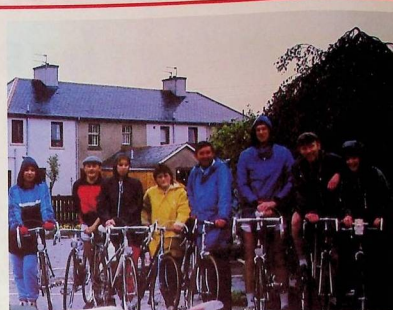
THE second Kielder Festival of traditional folk music and fiddle running in the forest was organised and sponsored by Kielder Forest District with support from the English Tourist Board.

The talents of Kathryn Tickell, Bob Fox, Joe Hatton, Willy Taylor, Black Donald, Amos and Rocks and Ian Macdonald attracted good support with the concerts and cellists sold out.

Folkies joined professionals on folk music sessions around the bars on all three days while competitions were held for traditional singing, accordion, fiddle and Northumbrian Pipes.

For the more athletically inclined, the Festival 20 mile fell race and Yomp (with 20 lb. pack) with a 4000 ft. rise and fall through the Forest and Kielderhead Moor attracted over 70 competitors. The cumulative climb was not particularly great but the dense heather and heavy peat gave all competitors a great test.

By the way, our picture on the left was also taken at Kielder... Bird Spotting!



Sponsored cycle run

Recently eight members of NIS staff took part in a sponsored run over a distance of 30 miles. Extremely wet weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of those taking part and their effort was rewarded by raising £112 for the Northern Counties Institute for the Blind (Mini-bus Appeal). All participants received a commemorative medallion.

How we are helping in the valleys of South Wales

THOUSANDS of trees are being planted on former colliery tip lands in a new venture between British Coal and the Forestry Commission to enhance and restore the beauty of the South Wales valleys.

British Coal Civil Engineer Ian Hart told "Slasher": "British Coal have a progressive and continuous responsibility to the community to restore redundant waste tip land and fulfil its obligations under Planning Consents to the local and county authorities."

"The industry has to dispose of something of the order of 50 million tons of waste annually nationwide, in the course of its operations and it is our aim to create new landscapes in the fulfilment of these operations. With the current climate in agriculture, of surplus and over production, and the need for less farmland, we are turning our attentions more and more to reclaiming land for forestry — and at the same time improving the landscape, amenity and wildlife value of our sites."



"We have, therefore, forged a new and close liaison with the Forestry Commission, who not only have the specialised expertise and equipment for planting and caring for trees on waste tips, but the whole background of research and development to fall upon. Planting trees to fill up mining and leave raw spoil waste, totally devoid of nutrient and humus, can be problematic. This is where the expertise of the Forestry Commission has proved invaluable."

Commented Gwent Head Forester, John Roberts: "We were first approached by British Coal last year. Our first job was at Aberthaw. Rowsleyworth tip, where we planted 5 acres at 2m spacings, and these are now growing well. The trees were planted into

pits 300mm wide and 450 mm deep, backfilled with soil and peat.

"The planting mix specified by British Coal contains 50% Alder, both Grey and Common. These are hardy nitrogen fixers and therefore the ideal species in such a hostile environment, as once established they are virtually self-sufficient."

The remainder of the mix contains Willow, Ash, Sycamore, Norway Maple, Birch and Oak. Experimental trials are also taking place with Wild Cherry, Poplar, Rowan and Southern Beech. All the sites are generally underlain by Silver Birch seed, prior to the planting of the trees, as it has been found that, although Birch is a pioneer of colliery tip sites, they do not transplant at all well."

Putting on the style at West Midlands Show



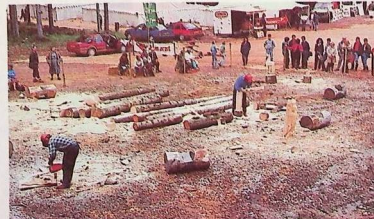
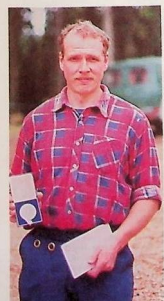
MOUNTING the Forestry Commission exhibit at the West Midlands Show is an annual treat which falls to Marches Forest District. In this task, they are ably assisted by the ranger staff from Midlands Forest District. This year, the theme chosen was "Forestry, the Year 2000," and the emphasis of the exhibit was on the non-timber benefits of forestry.

Exhibits were designed to demonstrate that recreation, conservation and landscape design now plays an increasingly important part in the role of forestry in the UK. Private Woodlands section also had an exhibit which generated

many enquiries. A total of 5,800 visitors passed through the exhibit.

Our picture shows the exhibition team left to right: Senior Ranger, John Speed; Ranger, Tim Creed; Ranger, Mark Frost; Private Woodlands FOH, John Waite; Ranger, Peter Hobson; Ranger, John Montgomery; Plant Health Forester, Roger Willis; Ranger, Simon Lutton; FOH i/c West Mid, Jeremy Gissop; Ranger, Dave Clements; FOH, David Bell.

Duncan and David are among the prizewinners



FORESTRY Commission workers Duncan Gillies (left) and David Grice were among the top prize-winners at the 1987 Royal Scottish Forestry Society National Tree Felling contest at the FC Dullacrae Forest. Duncan, from Taynall Argill, who was last year's winner, came second in the competition to self-employed Alistair Ferguson, from Aberfoyle, and was also the winner of the Forestry Commission Safety Medal. David, from New Galloway, Castle Douglas, who was the winner in 1985, came third. In the chainsaw carving competition, FC worker James Potts, Stonehouse, Wark, came third.

Credit where credit is due

Sir,
I would like to correct an impression given in the front-page article on Tree Health which featured in the last issue of "Slasher". The article stated that Forestry Commission Scientists were completing their Annual Survey of Tree Health having started in North Scotland moving onto Mid and South Scotland before covering England and Wales. The reality is that this survey, like the previous three, was carried out by staff of Forest Survey Branch who, following training, began the work in late July in the beginning of September. A total of ten teams, each of two surveyors, was involved, each team covering a Conservancy in Scotland and North England with two teams each for Wales, West England and East England.

The survey was closely supervised by Dr John Jones who trained the surveyors and ensured that the surveyors maintained a level of consistency in their assessments, a vital requirement for a survey of this nature if subjectivity is to be avoided.

The results are expected to be published in December. Further surveys will be carried out in future years in order to ensure that we know the state of health of our trees and forests.

J. Dewar,
Chief Forestry Officer.

Collection for Seoul Olympics

PERMISSION has been granted for the FC to support the Civil Service Sports Council collection in aid of the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

The collection of monies is to be organised locally. Conservancies and Research Division should contact Mr Smith at the Sports Council (01 630 8183) to obtain publicity material and donation lists.

All money collected should be credited to Location 880 A/C 43960 10001. Contributions by cheque should be made payable to the Forestry Commission.

The organisers of the appeal hope that all contributions will reach them by the end of August 1988. Completed donation lists should be sent to Mrs C. McChee, Finance B, Headquarters, indicating the Conservancy in which the collection has been made. Money credited should balance exactly the amount stated on the donation lists. Donation lists will eventually be forwarded to the Sports Council with a single remittance on behalf of the Forestry Commission.

Collection of money in Headquarters will be organised by Finance B. Any member of staff wishing to donate should hand their money to Mrs C. McChee and will be asked to sign the donation list.

40,000 jobs from forestry

THE FIFTH in a new series of Forest Facts leaflets — Forestry and Rural Employment — published by the Forestry Commission describes the outcome of a recent countryside survey carried out by the Commission, in conjunction with representatives of the private sector, which shows that almost 40,000 people earn their living from British forestry and the timber-related industries it supports.

The other four leaflets in the "Forest Facts" series cover forestry policy; the organisation and objectives of the Forestry Commission; the Commission's policies on conservation; and timber production in Britain.

Also published is the 1987 edition of the handy, pocket sized "Forestry Facts and Figures" leaflet which gives, at a glance, a wealth of up-to-date statistics about forestry in Britain.

Cottages for that holiday

TWO new Forestry Commission holiday cottages, on the banks of the River Maesau, Agyll, 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 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-road parking is provided and pets are welcome.

A free colour brochure with full details of all properties, prices and how to book a holiday is available from Forest Holidays, 231 Corporation Road, Edinburgh EH7 7AT, telephone 031 334 080 (25 p or 63) 334 0066 (24-hour answer phone).

Riding routes

THREE new horse-riding routes are being created within Gwent Forest District — much to the delight of former Welsh National Opera singer Gerald Davies. In his retirement he is helping Hilary Forster, British Horse Society Development Officer for Wales, map out 15 and 20-mile routes through the Abercromby Forest, near Rye.

FDM David Parsons and HF John Roberts are keen to see more experienced riders making use of the forest where the FC have provided a large horsebox park plus hitching rails and a picnic BBQ site.

Further south in Gwent, Tony Edwards has been supervising the planning, clearing and tidying of tracks with clearly marked horse-shoe posts.

RETIREMENTS



AUGUST marked the retirement of A. E. (Ted) Batten after 40 years service in the Forest of Dean. Ted started work for the Estates Branch in 1940 and, after military service in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany between 1942-1947, he returned to the forest helping to main-

tain the then large number of Forestry Commission properties. Many friends and colleagues gathered to say farewell to Ted and he was presented with a wrist-watch, cheque and certificate to commemorate his long service.



HENRY Cartwright retired in June after nearly 50 years service with the Commission. He started work as a casual at Cascob nursery, Radnor, in 1936. As was common in those days he was laid off after two months, only to re-start at the commencement of the plant-lifting season in

January 1937. From 1937 to the date of his call-up in 1942 he worked full-time at Radnor, mainly on nursery work and establishment of new planting. Following de-mob, he restarted at Radnor and worked on all aspects of forest work up to the day of his retirement.



FORESTER Dennis Goodbody, Forest Survey Branch of Aberystwyth, retired after over 35 years service. His career was spent in North Wales and during that time he had been to almost all of the units either as a well-liked member of the permanent staff or on road design, latterly as part of his extensive tours of duty on Forest Surveys.

On his last day at work many colleagues came to his farewell presentation. Alan Betts, Forest Survey Officer came from Alice Holt to hand over a cheque. He was also given a new fishing rod (finest Douglas fir) with a suitably inscribed catch!

When loyalty and skill is a family trait



FRIENDS and colleagues gathered at Strathyre to mark the retirement of Peter Grant after 31 years service.

See Ewe!

Peter comes from a family of well-known and respected deer stalkers and estate gamekeepers. His father was a trusted servant of the Baillie Hamilton, his grandfather, also Peter, looked after the high tops beat of the Black Mount and is immortalised in a classic book on deerstalking, called "The High Tops of Black Mount" by the Marchioness of Breadalbane, and printed in 1907.

Peter has given to the Forestry Commission the same loyalty and skills that his father did to his laird. Peter, too, gained immortality in the pages of the Sunday Express in 1975. He took a well-known journalist on a simulated deer stalk at 5.30 am! Like the Marchioness of Breadalbane this journalist, Robert Glenton, took a great liking to Peter and recognised his skill, professionalism and devotion to his work.

It is unlikely that Peter will take things easy. There's still plenty to be done on his farm, near Kingshouse, Strathyre, and, no doubt, the only rest Peter will allow himself will be the occasional gaze to the hills of Strathyre and Balquhider that were once his domain.

● Our picture shows: Peter Grant and friends.

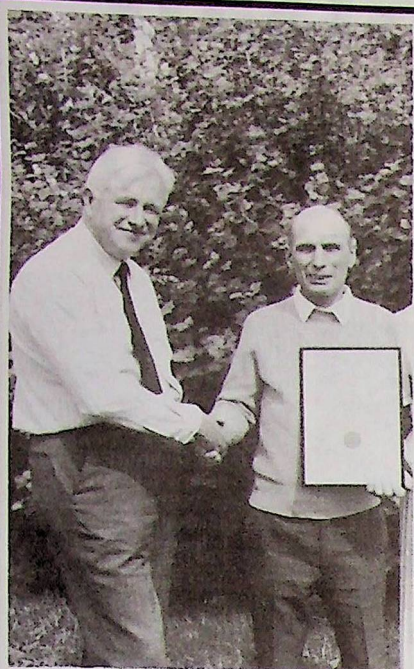


Trio retire

THREE men with a total of 116 years FC service retired recently from Loch Awe Forest District. They were Ian MacKenzie, Charlie Mitchell and Alex McCormich.

BY POPULAR request, an informal evening was arranged at Dolserau Hall, near Dolgellau, in order to present Jim Hamilton, FDM, Corris, with a token of esteem. Mr Robertson, the Con-servator Wales, presented Jim with a cheque on behalf of many colleagues past and present, and conveyed best wishes on Jim's retirement. The "Corris Box" was presented to Jim by Mrs G. Thomas, the AO. Meanwhile, Meirion Morris Forester, H&M led in our "secret weapon" — a very nervous, but superbly handled, Suffolk ewe.

RETIREMENTS



HARRY MARSHALL Ganger, Llanwynno Forest District started with the FC in 1956 at St Gwynno firstly on extraction and then as the driver and all through his 31 years with the responsibility for chainsaw maintenance. At an evening at Cwmaman, the Conservator Wales, David Robertson, presented Harry with his Long Service Certificate; Mr Nye Nicholas, presented him with a fine carriage clock; Mr Ron Lewis presented him with a Slasher and John Griffiths presented a fine walking stick made by Mr Mervyn Davis.

Scottish tie severed

AFTER 35 years service with the Commission, Pat Armstrong retired as Forester in charge at Whitelee Forest, Ayrshire and Arran Forest District. Much of Pat's career was spent in the old East and West Scotland Conservancies: he came to South Scotland with the transfer of the Whitelee block a few years ago. FDM Alister Jones presented Pat with a silver quach and a cheque.

Two depart Lothian and Tweed

LOTHIAN and Tweed Forest District office recently saw the departure of two familiar faces — Andy Liddell, Head Forester, and Henry Collin, Clerk of Works. Both retired after lengthy service with the Forestry Commission.

Andy started in East Scotland in his native Fife area but spent the rest of his service in South Scotland, a large part of that in and about the Tweed Valley. Many friends and colleagues past and present attended Andy's farewell party where he was presented with a cheque by Mr Ogilvie, PF&EO.

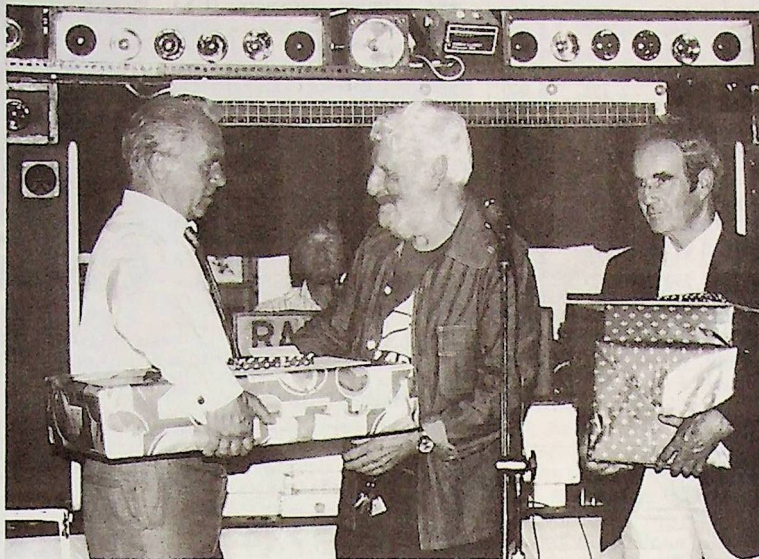
Henry's career had taken him from North East England via North Scotland to his final position as Clerk of Works in the eastern half of South Scotland Conservancy.

Vital research link leaves

WENDY LAMPARD retired on 21 August, having worked at the Forestry Commission Research Station at Alice Holt since 1948, with only a short break in service for the birth of her daughter, Hazel. Originally a shorthand typist, and having worked for seven of the nine directors (Research), she became Personal Secretary to George Holmes in 1969 and has since been PA to David Johnston and Arnold Grayson.

At a gathering at the Research Station, Wendy was warmly thanked by Mr Grayson for her efficient and conscientious help over the many years. She was presented with a cheque. She has plans to adorn her garden with new furniture with the money so that she can enjoy her leisure in comfort.

Triple farewell to Tintern craftsmen



LEFT: Ray Simms, Roy Lewis and Ron Addis; ABOVE: Wyndham Davies.

AT A JOINT retirement celebration three long-serving Forest Craftsmen were honoured by 120 friends, colleagues and guests at an evening buffet in Tintern. Ron Addie, 46 years service; Ray Simms, 37 years; and Wyndham Davies, 25 years, each chose a clock to mark service with the

Commission. Roy Lewis, a former recreation Head Forester, having a long association with old Tintern Forest, and at Forest District Manager David Parson's invitation, presented the retirement gifts recalling personal anecdotes to the amusement of guests.

Alice Holt!



DIRECTOR (R&D) A. J. Grayson, presents O. N. (Noel) Blatchford with a cheque as a retirement gift from colleagues at Alice Holt Lodge.



Retire, 'full pelt'

DEI "full pelt" Evans (so named because one of his many adventures involved giving a fellow worker, Eric Foulkes, a lift home on his motorbike which was not fitted with footrests but had a steel bar poking through the frame. As they cornered, sparks came off this and Eric asked Dei what was happening. Unperturbed, Dei shouted back: "Fear Not Foulkes" and went full pelt down the road. A shaken Eric told and retold this story, hence the name). Anyway Dei has retired from Ruthin Forest District after nearly 34 years. His retirement was marked by a buffet lunch attended by friends and colleagues where he was presented with a barometer by his fellow worker Gerald Leach.

TOP CAMPSITE AWARD

THE Forestry Commission's Spiers House Campsite, at Clifton, North Yorkshire, has won the Automobile Association Regional Campsite of the Year Award. The site will be featured in the new edition of Camping and Caravanning in Great Britain.

OBITUARIES

RETIRED Chief Forester Finlay McNichol died in August 1986. We apologise to his many friends for not notifying this sad event in a previous issue. A Highlander by birth, he attended Benmore Forestry School, thereafter spending short spells in many forests in South Scotland, during which time he met and married his wife Margaret. He was a dedicated professional forester always open to new ideas, pioneering some of the early work on mechanical thinning.

JOSEPH LIDDELL, who retired in 1968 from the New Forest where he had worked for 22 years as utilisation officer, died in September, aged 83. After training in Durham and Yorkshire, he entered Parkend FTS in 1927 and from 1929 to 1939 he was posted in the Lake District, then being seconded until 1946 to the Board of Trade's Timber Production Unit in Wales, West Midlands and the Marches. Widowed in March this year, he leaves a daughter and a son who is FO11 FM in Gwent Forest District.

A. R. TRIBE saw service at Mortimer and Delamere following the Dean school course in 1950. He subsequently took up an appointment with the Government of Somalia and retired after many years as Head game warden in Malawi.

STANLEY ASTON, a native of the Dean, took his course in the Dean school in 1934-36. He served at Dovey, Brecon prior to taking up an appointment in Kenya. After returning to the UK he spent some time with the Economic Forestry Group, and after retiring he took up residence again near his old home in the Dean.

BILLY MORRIS (ENG) WEST DOWNS) died suddenly on 4th July, aged 74 years at his home at East Stratton. Bill joined the Forestry Commission as a forest worker and, apart from four years, when he served in the Second World War, completed 42 years service with the Commission. Based at Micheldever he served his last 19 years as a Forest Ranger. After he retired much of his time was spent gardening and helping people in East Stratton.

MR J. WATSON, for many years a Forester at Clocaenog, died on August 22, aged 78. He leaves a widow (Edith), two sons and a daughter.

FRIENDS and colleagues of Hamish Paul will be saddened to learn of his death last month. Hamish worked in N(S) Conservancy office from 1962-83. Shortly after his retirement he suffered a serious stroke and was in hospital until his death.

On target

NORTH York Moors won the Yorkshire Challenge Shield for target shooting. The competition between York FD office staff, Conservancy Office and North York Moors FD took place at Malton R. & P. Club in September. The highest individual scores of the evening were: Charles Critchley 91 and Christina Tracey 74.

Open day

OVER 700 visitors came to Glenbranter in Cowal Forest District to attend a Forest Open Day in August. On view were a wide range of displays covering many aspects of local forest practice on a 1 1/4 mile route through the forest. Combined with this, and as an insurance against typical Argyll weather, were a series of indoor displays as well.

TABLE 1
Forecast of Average Annual Potential Cut of Conifer Roundwood in Britain by Five-Year Periods 1987-2006:
Forestry Commission Forests and Private Woodlands.

Period	Country	(Volume: Thousand Cubic Metres Overbark)								
		Small Roundwood			Logs			Total		
		FC	PW	Total	FC	PW	Total	FC	PW	Total
1987-91	England	515	435	950	680	385	1 065	1 195	820	2 015
	Scotland	620	465	1 085	830	310	1 140	1 450	775	2 225
	Wales	310	80	390	430	55	485	740	135	875
	GB Total	1 445	980	2 425	1 940	750	2 690	3 385	1 730	5 115
1992-96	England	510	530	1 040	745	510	1 255	1 255	1 040	2 295
	Scotland	670	650	1 320	875	455	1 330	1 545	1 105	2 650
	Wales	345	125	470	540	85	625	885	210	1 095
	GB Total	1 525	1 305	2 830	2 160	1 050	3 210	3 685	2 355	6 040
1997-01	England	515	590	1 105	860	625	1 485	1 375	1 215	2 590
	Scotland	890	785	1 675	1 200	550	1 750	2 090	1 335	3 425
	Wales	370	150	520	745	100	845	1 115	250	1 365
	GB Total	1 775	1 525	3 300	2 805	1 275	4 080	4 580	2 800	7 380
2002-06	England	525	600	1 125	905	805	1 710	1 430	1 405	2 835
	Scotland	1 145	845	1 990	1 585	755	2 340	2 730	1 600	4 330
	Wales	400	190	590	890	185	1 075	1 290	375	1 665
	GB Total	2 070	1 635	3 705	3 380	1 745	5 125	5 450	3 380	8 830

FC=Forestry Commission
PW=Private Woodlands

TABLE 2
Forecast of Average Annual Potential Cut of Conifer Roundwood
1987-1991: Forestry Commission Forests and Private Woodlands

Conservancy	(Volume: thousands cubic metres overbark)								
	Small roundwood			Logs			Total		
	Spruces	Others	Total	Spruces	Others	Total	Spruces	Others	Total
North England	175	145	320	210	145	355	385	290	675
East England	45	295	340	35	390	425	80	685	765
West England	80	210	290	75	210	285	155	420	575
England	300	650	950	320	745	1 065	620	1 395	2 015
North Scotland	170	300	470	255	210	465	425	510	935
Mid Scotland	160	95	255	260	100	360	420	195	615
South Scotland	265	95	360	230	85	315	495	180	675
Scotland	595	490	1 085	745	395	1 140	1 340	885	2 225
Wales	235	155	390	290	195	485	525	350	875
GB Total	1 130	1 295	2 425	1 355	1 335	2 690	2 485	2 630	5 115

TABLE 3
Forecast of Average Annual Potential Cut of Conifer Roundwood
1992-1996: Forestry Commission Forests and Private Woodlands

Conservancy	(Volume: thousands cubic metres overbark)								
	Small roundwood			Logs			Total		
	Spruces	Others	Total	Spruces	Others	Total	Spruces	Others	Total
North England	190	145	335	255	150	405	445	295	740
East England	60	315	375	35	440	475	95	755	850
West England	95	235	330	90	285	375	185	520	705
England	345	695	1 040	380	875	1 255	725	1 570	2 295
North Scotland	205	325	530	265	265	530	470	590	1 060
Mid Scotland	220	115	335	285	140	425	505	255	760
South Scotland	345	110	455	255	120	375	600	230	830
Scotland	770	550	1 320	805	525	1 330	1 575	1 075	2 650
Wales	295	175	470	380	245	625	675	420	1 095
GB Total	1 410	1 420	2 830	1 565	1 645	3 210	2 975	3 065	6 040

The Black Wood of Rannoch

ONE of Scotland's still relatively undisturbed ancient forests — The Black Wood of Rannoch — is featured in a new Forestry Commission leaflet as part of its contribution to European Year of the Environment.

The Black Wood is one of the largest remnants of Scotland's ancient pinewoods and when it was purchased by the Commission in 1947 was understocked, stripped of its best timber, over-run by red deer and devoid of young trees.

Since then the Commission has identified conservation areas to allow natural regeneration and has undertaken a programme of replanting using seed collected from Rannoch. This work was carried out in con-

junction with the Nature Conservancy Council and the results shows an encouraging increase in the level of natural regeneration.

The objectives of a management plan agreed with the Nature Conservancy Council in 1985 include preserving the purity of the Rannoch strain of Scots pine; maintaining a core area of the wood which will be allowed to grow naturally; and to eventually remove other conifers that are not native and replace them with Rannoch pine. The Black Wood contains a wide range of bird, animal and plant life and a large selection of insects, reptiles and amphibians.

PROJECT WELCOMED

SHOTTON Paper Company which is owned by the Finnish United Paper Mills (UPM) has confirmed that it is to build a second newsprint machine at their mill in North Wales. The estimated cost is £120 million and the project is to be completed before 1990.

Commenting on the Company's announcement that it had decided to proceed with the investment Gwyn Francis, Director General of the Forestry Commission, said: "The Forestry Commission welcomes this development from an established member of the wood processing industry and that the Company recognise the present limitations on additional wood supplies because of strong demand leading to the proposal to use recycled fibre."

Forecasts of production '87

THE FORESTRY Commission and Timber Growers (UK) Limited have just carried out a review of the conifer production forecasts for the state and private forests respectively. These reviews are carried out every five years and the forecasts cover a period of 20 years ahead.

Regular reviews allow forecasts to be updated to take account of the latest information on the growing stock; and other factors that influence the potential yield such as yield class, thinning regimes and rotation lengths.

Planning

The two forecasts are brought together and published with the objective of assisting industry with its forward planning of new wood using capacity. At the same time the forest manager is able to plan harvesting programmes and formulate plans for the sale of timber to the market. The two partners in the forest industry — growers on the one hand and industry on the other hand — are thus able to plan ahead into the future with confidence.

The forecasts provide a wealth of information on the potential volume of the major species groups to specified diameters for thinnings and fellings separately and with a combined total. The data are presented for 5 yearly periods up to the year 2006 by Forest Districts in the case of the Forestry Commission forecast and by Conservancy for the private woodlands forecast.

A summary for Britain is

TIMBER TOPICS

by
John Oakley



given in Table 1 (left) and gives information on small roundwood and sawlogs for both Forestry Commission forests and private woodlands. Tables 2 and 3 give greater detail for the first two 5-year periods. By convention the volume of timber over 18 cm diameter and half the volume between 14 cm and 18 cm is classified as sawlogs, whilst the remainder of the volume between 14 cm and 18 cm and all the volume between 7 cm and 14 cm is classified as small roundwood.

This is a somewhat arbitrary division of the standing volume which in practice will vary according to the requirements of individual customers but it has been used in the past and therefore provides a degree of consistency in the interpretation of the data.

Extracted

Volumes are standing volumes in cubic metres over bark and in order to estimate the extracted volume, an allowance must be made for the gross

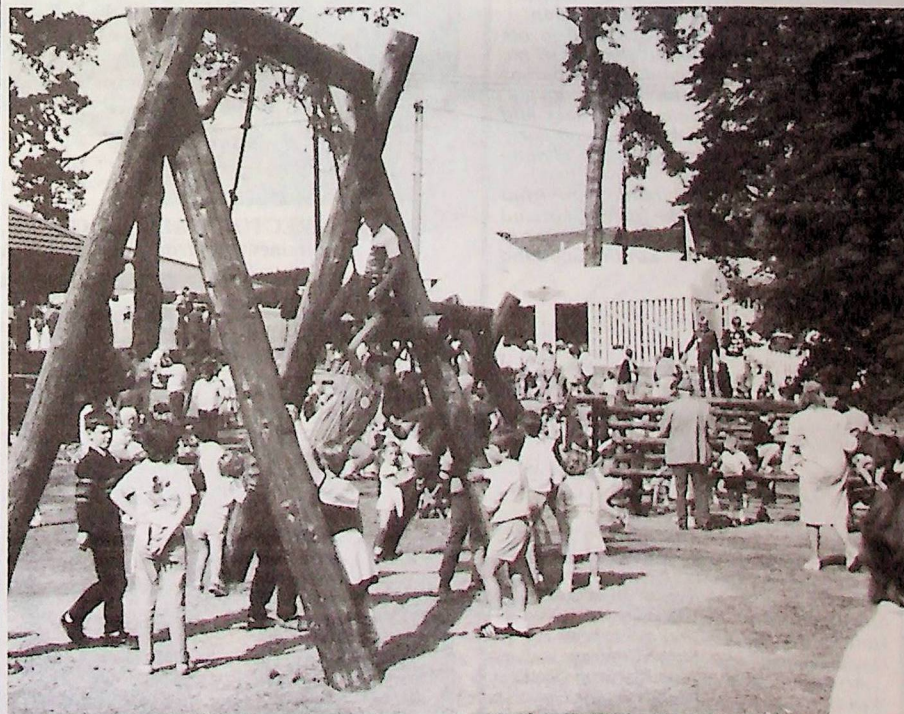
difference between standing and extracted volumes which include not only waste but also covers the effects of different measurement methods and conventions.

The new forecasts suggest that annual softwood production from British forests, currently running at about 4.5 million cubic metres, will reach 8.8 million cubic metres in the period from 2002-2006.

'Incentive'

The increasing volume of timber forecast in 1982 proved to be a major incentive to the re-development of the wood processing industry, following the collapse of several large consumers during the recession of the early years of this decade. Since then over £600 million has been invested in new capacity and in re-equipping and expansion of sawmills and wood based panel manufacture. There now appears to be adequate capacity, installed and planned, to absorb all the sawlogs and small roundwood coming forward to the turn of the century.

Bumper crowds and we're prize guys!



THE ROYAL Welsh Show attracted another bumper crowd this year and one of the most popular areas was the picnic area with children's play equipment. The FC/ADAS exhibit was awarded a bronze medal and our young foresters quiz gained a silver medal.

Come on in, the Garden Festival is going to be fun



OUR PICTURE: Bill Grant, John Voysey and sculptor David Kemp with the "Ancient Forester."

NEXT April Glasgow will stage one of the biggest public events of the year — the Glasgow Garden Festival — one of a series of national garden festivals — and the Forestry Commission will be there with an exciting and eye-catching presence.

On a 100-acre site adjoining Princes Dock the millions of visitors from around the world will be able to experience the magic of the forest.

An auditorium surrounded by conifers will show a photographic image of the forest at Aberfoyle through the seasons. Nine projectors will be used in harmony to demonstrate how beautiful the forest is at different times of the year.

A bridge over a deep valley will allow visitors to look down on a 'model' forest and get the feeling of a high-flying bird; a larger-than-life badger sett will take you underground where you will experience the home of this marvellous woodland dweller; and then you will be able to 'walk inside' a tree and discover how it all works.

And it's not finished there. Up a short path to an observation tower to look out over Glasgow to the Campsie Fells, and then down a series of slides to a soft landing on mulched bark.

Guarding the entrance will be a 12-foot high sculpture of the ancient forester (left).

The planning has taken two years and is the main responsibility of landscape designers Simon Bell and Carol Anderson. Bob Jones has also burned the midnight oil designing the accompanying publications material and many others have been involved, especially a group of young men on an MSC Community Programme.

There's lots more to tell you but we are leaving the details for a later issue of *Slasher*.

Bill Blake from Mid Scotland Conservancy is to be the project manager and he is now looking for help from retired employees to man the exhibit during its six-month run.

Those who are interested, in principle, in volunteering their help should complete the form below and return it to Bill as soon as possible at Mid Scotland Conservancy.

Volunteer Manning

I am interested in helping to man the FC exhibit at the Glasgow Garden Festival.

I would be available (please tick):

APRIL ☐	MAY ☐	JUNE ☐	JULY ☐
AUGUST ☐	SEPTEMBER ☐		

I could be on site:

MONDAY ☐	TUESDAY ☐	WEDNESDAY ☐	THURSDAY ☐	FRIDAY ☐
SATURDAY ☐	SUNDAY ☐			

each week ☐	only once ☐	now and again ☐
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am ☐	pm ☐	(The show is open from 10 am to early evening each day).
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Name:

Address:

Telephone No. (daytime):

The message is: trees, trees and - don't forget - more trees

THE Tree Council's National Tree Week (28 November-6 December) is to draw attention to the continuing need for more trees. It encourages all organisations and individuals who care for the environment to plant more trees during the planting season which begins in November.

As an example of the need for long term planning the Tree Council — with the National Trust and the Runnymede Borough Council — is replanting the hillside behind the Magna Carta Memorial at Runnymede with oaks and other broadleaved trees which will ensure an even finer setting for the Memorial when the millenary of Magna Carta is reached in the year 2215.

The Tree Council is delighted that Her Majesty The Queen is to plant a tree to initiate this programme on 7 December 1987.

This year's priority task for the Tree Council is to encourage more tree planting in cities and towns. The Tree Council has invited all local authorities and other organisations to mark National Tree Week and European Year of the Environment by doing more than ever before to bring trees into towns.

For further information about the Tree Council write to: Peter Gerosa, Secretary, Tree Council, 35 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QN.

DEAR SIR

A RECENT issue of "Slasher" revived memories of personalities and projects, particularly the awards given to projects with which I was associated — Puck's Glen Walk, Achray Wayfaring and Orienteering, Strathyre Visitors Centre, etc. With the Glasgow Garden Festival taking place next year perhaps there would be an opportunity for some sort of reunion for staff, past and present.

Bill Start, ex Area Civil Engineer,
16A Murray Avenue,
Kilsyth,
Glasgow G65 0BW

Big hearts, big money... for charity

ON a Sunday afternoon members of staff at Brandon Depot in East England, together with relatives and friends, organised a 10-mile sponsored run.

Starting in the depot the course was routed through Thetford Forest with the finish back in the depot where a barbecue rounded off the day's events.

As a result, the recently-started Scanner Appeal for the West Suffolk Hospital at Bury St Edmunds will benefit by £1120.

This adds to the £780 raised by the inaugural race last year coupled with a raft-race on the local Little Ouse River, donated for Cancer Research at Addenbrooks Hospital Cambridge.

Two weeks after this year's 10-mile race, Bob Birch and Colin Rands, both machine operators in the depot who ran in the 10-mile race, walked the 52-mile Peddars Way long distance footpath in about 17 hours.

They were two out of the three who finished within 24 hours and raised £500 for Leukaemia Research.

Congratulations to all concerned for all their magnificent efforts.

The competitive spirit is showing at the depot with regular annual inter staff events in darts, snooker and angling.

They currently hold the Thetford Raft Race Trophy as winners last year — and a team usually competes in a local five-a-side football tournament.

Each year the Pit Prop Trophy is awarded to the winners of a cricket match between the Forest and the Depot.

This will now become the Martin Sayers Memorial Trophy as a tribute to Martin, lately Chief Forester F/M in the Suffolk Forest District, who died suddenly in June.

Martin instituted this annual match while working at the depot and regularly played as a valuable and popular member of either team as qualified by his various roles in the District.

New course

A NEW wayfaring course has been opened at the FC's Kirkhill Forest on the outskirts of Aberdeen. In the past ten years the original routes proved so popular for family outings and for training in map reading for schools that they became worn out. The new course involved volunteers from Grampian Orienteers with help from Aberdeen Education Trust.

The tape is cut and a trail opens



STAFF from Loch Awe and Kintyre FD enjoyed an educational outing at Dalavich.

MRS Rae Michie, MP for Argyll, opened a new Forestry Commission trail in Dalavich oak wood, Argyll, by cutting through a birch tree "ribbon" with a small handsaw. She was then 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.

The two mile trail passes through the newly created 135-acre woodland reserve which is being developed by local Commission staff as their main contribution to the European Year of the Environment.

The 100-year-old oak wood, along with woodland outside the reserve, is being managed by the Commission to protect the trees for future generations and to maximise their wildlife conservation value.

Bird-boxes have been erected in a joint project with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for pied flycatchers and other woodland birds.