

SLASHER

Newspaper of the Forestry Commission

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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

COMMISSION staff around the country were astonished by the suddenness of the Secretary of State for Scotland's announcement in the House of Commons on 30 March, though many admitted they had been expecting something of the kind.

A range of reactions were described to *Slasher*, but running through all the comments was a determination to make the public more aware of the role of forestry and the strengths of

the Commission and its staff.

'We are disappointed this has come just one year after reorganisation,' one staff member commented. 'An enormous amount of work has been put in in this area and we've had a lot of success. We hoped we would have time to prove just how good we could be.'

Elsewhere the announcement was felt to be positive in the circumstances. 'It only mentions a review of options,' another staff member commented. 'That means we have the opportunity to get our views across and make the public realise what a valuable role we play. The announcement

could have been a definite intent to privatise: it wasn't.'

Support for the current organisation of the Forestry Commission has come from a number of bodies, including TGUK, the RSPB and the Ramblers' Association. In their recently published policy paper, *England's Trees and Woods*, the Countryside Commission declared 'We value the ability of the Forest Enterprise to deliver multi-purpose benefits and believe it is in a better position than the private sector to manage multiple management objectives.'

For interviews with DG Robin Cutler and Trade Union Secretary Kenny Murray on the announcement, turn to p.4

You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby ...

COMIC Relief again - and the Perth Conservancy office staff really entered into the spirit with a 'Guess the Baby' competition. Photos of themselves as babies adorned the walls and there was the prize of a Splat! red nose for whoever matched the most photos with staff members.

Organiser Jane Campbell was delighted with the response, which brought



£30 for the fund from a small office staff and their visitors. 'Next year we plan to try "Guess the Parents"! she promises.

So who's this tiny bundle of joy? Turn to page 8 and find out!

Best Wishes to Paul and Bronwen

ALL our good wishes go to Paul and Bronwen Vickers, who as most *Slasher* readers will know, were caught up in the IRA bomb attack in Warrington town centre in March.

Paul, an FOI in West Midlands Conservancy, was hit by shrapnel and Bronwen lost part of one leg. Although it is still too soon to say when they will

be discharged from hospital, both are very cheerful, and Bronwen's courage was singled out for praise by the Prince of Wales on his visit to the hospital in the aftermath of the attack.

Their two daughters are staying with Paul's parents and Hannah has returned to school. We all hope the family will soon be back together again.

FC Land Rover a Bosnian Lifeline

AN ex-Commission landrover has become part of an invaluable lifeline to thousands of Bosnians surrounded by Serbian forces.

The Land Rover 109, formerly used in North Scotland, was resprayed, serviced and kitted out as a paramedic unit and supply vehicle. It left Britain in February as part of a convoy of 50 vehicles supplied by the Bosnia Relief Fund. As well as carrying food and medical supplies, mainly under cover of darkness, it will be used as a field ambulance.

Landrovers are particularly welcomed by doctors and field workers in the area as they can cope with mud and snow more easily than heavier vehicles, and the Commission may make more available over the next few months.



FORESTER'S DREAM?

MAYBE the forester's dream - a completely clear site - isn't too far away. This Feller Clambunk Skidder is at work in Hafron Forest, Newtown Forest District, and as you can see from the photograph, is leaving only stumps behind.

The yellow metal arms hold up to 25 whole trees which are taken to the roadside for processing, ensuring the site remains virtually brush-free. The clear site is a big advantage for planting, and under some conditions it may even remove the need for ground preparation. And in Newtown they've found an extra benefit - a market for the roadside brush, used as wood chips by horticulturists and in equestrian arenas.

The Commission also has Feller Clambunk Skidders operating in East England and, most recently, in Llandovery Forest District.

National Strategy Vital, says Committee Report

THE House of Commons Environment Committee has produced its first report, titled *Forestry and the Environment*, following its investigations which included taking evidence from senior Commission officials (see December's *Slasher*).

The Report accepts the importance of a national forestry strategy in an international context. It also highlights the need for better co-ordination between the agencies

involved in implementing forestry policy, and demands a clearer statement on the importance and purpose of trees for the UK.

The Community and National Forests initiatives are singled out for praise as 'model forests of the future', and the principles of multi-purpose forestry are firmly upheld.

The Government will give a formal response to the Committee's Report in due course.

INSIDE

When this issue of *Slasher* was about to go to press along came the Government's announcement in the House of Commons and it was all change.

No-one knows exactly what the future is going to hold for the Commission, but *Slasher* will do its best to keep you informed of any developments, while continuing to highlight the range of abilities and resources among our staff and the jobs we do.

The Editor would be interested to receive letters or articles on any topic which is of interest or importance within the Commission.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

CWMCARN Forest Drive celebrated its coming of age by re-opening at Easter with its Wales Tourist Board Seal of Approval Certificate proudly on display.

The Forest Drive, in South East Wales, received a 78 per cent score from the Board's independent assessors and the comment 'a beautiful drive' - praise indeed!

A NEW Advisory Panel is to be set up for the Forest of Dean, giving a wider range of organisations active in the Forest the chance to become more involved in its management and safeguarding its character.

A NEW group has been set up to advise on the way ahead for forestry in Wales. Chaired by the Forestry Authority, the group represents the main forestry, farming, environmental and development agencies in Wales. Its conclusions and recommendations will be reported to David Hunt and the Minister of State at the Welsh Office by spring 1994.

FORTY hectares of Strathclyde greenbelt are to be planted over the next few years as part of the Clyde Valley Community Woodland Plan in Greater Glasgow. Commissioner Gavin Laird launched the new scheme, a joint effort involving the Forestry Authority, Strathclyde Regional Council and 14 District Councils, at Blantyreferme in March.

SAM'S THE MAN

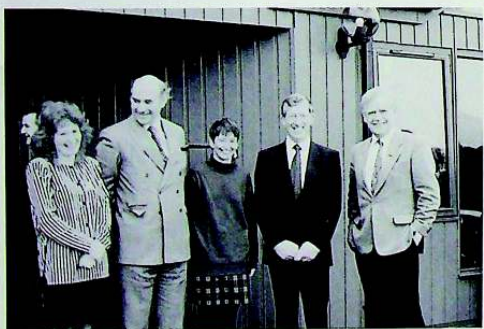


LOTHIAN & Tweed Forest District has just appointed an Overseas Liaison Officer. Following a short interview with Forest District Manager Alan Corson, Mr Sam Bentley agreed to take up the post immediately.

The decision to appoint an OLO was taken following a request from a 12 year old Ghanaian for an FE staff member to be his penpal. At 11 years of age Sam stood out as an exceptional candidate, especially as Dad Mike is H&M District Forester at Lothian & Tweed and step-mum Dawn is one of the Commission's Press Officers. As a sign of the times Sam will work from home keeping Oppong Kyetyeku Daniel abreast of forest practice and other matters, including the keeping of pet snakes.

Sam's FDM commented 'Sam has a wide remit and we will help as much as we can. The only things ruled out are job-sharing and baby-sitting the snake.'

New Skye Gaelic Trail Earns Praise



Ron Johnstone (second from right) with Magnus Magnusson and SNH staff at the opening of the Aros Centre on Skye

WESTER Ross Forest District will be bringing the Gaelic language to life for scores of visitors to Skye with their Gaelic alphabet trail, due to open in June.

Scottish Natural Heritage Chairman Magnus Magnusson praised Forest Enterprise for their imaginative approach at the opening of the new Aros Centre at Portree in March. The £750,000 Centre, built on land leased from the Forestry Commission, is to provide a focus for Gaelic culture on the island.

The Trail, which will begin and end in the Centre car park, leads the visitor past a range of tree species, each identified with the initial letter of its Gaelic name. There is a tree for each of the 18 letters of the Gaelic alphabet, from ailm (elm) to ur (yew).

'The Trail will raise the visitor's awareness of the forest and its trees as well as of the Gaelic language,' said Wester Ross's District Manager Ron Johnstone, 'and it will be suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs and blind visitors.'

Forestry Contractors Form New Association

FORESTRY contractors have set up a new Association after a survey showed 90 per cent support for such an organisation.

The Forestry Contracting Association was launched in south Scotland at the beginning of April. The convenors hope it will grow into a national organisation after encouragement was received from contractors in the rest of Britain.

Its aims are to increase the profitability of forestry contracting, to ensure continuity of work throughout the year, to develop the skills of contractors and to introduce a code of practice on quality standards, safety and environmental issues.

The survey, carried out among contractors in the south of Scotland, also showed many small contracting businesses in serious financial difficulties.

April Fool? No, it's a Real Staggerer

ALARM bells rang for Ayrshire and Arran Forest District Manager Tony Burns when a lady telephoned on the morning of 1 April to report a large 'Forestry Commission' stag attacking sheep. Was this a mutant super fox or a colleague seeking revenge for a previous jape? Resisting the temptation to say 'Oh deer. How staggering', careful questioning revealed the complaint was genuine. Evidently the stag had started to feed with the sheep during the winter and now trotted up to the ATV when the farmer went to feed the flock. It was a source of interest and

Enduring Tropical Heat and Luxury of Indonesian Life



Chris Walker with Kartini Kramidabrata, one of the scientists from the Herbarium at Bogor, Indonesia

ENDURING luxury hotels and tropical heat was all part of the sacrifice for Chris Walker of Physiology Branch, NRS when he visited Indonesia at the invitation of the Overseas Development Administration in January.

Chris was asked to

assess the way ODA-funded research on mycorrhizas (beneficial links between some fungi and plant roots) is being carried out, with particular attention to likely commercial applications and the needs of the Indonesian Government. From laboratory and field experiments it is clear that mycorrhizas can play an important part in re-afforesting damaged tropical sites.

The contract took Chris to the university towns of Bogor and Yogyakarta, and to a research station in the tropical rain forests of East Kalimantan, formerly part of Borneo. 'I can't tell you how sorry I was to miss the January snow and storms,' he comments. 'But when I tired of the tropical sunshine I could catch it all on TV.'

Westonbirt Lumberjills are Back in the Groove



LILLIAN Kearns (right) and Pat Parker (left) turned back time when Westonbirt foresters Tony Russell and Richard Paton sprang a surprise on them at a Women's Timber Corps reunion at the Arboretum in March.

After thirty former 'lumberjills' had planted a beech tree to commemorate the founding of the Corps,

'Childhood Wood' a Lasting Memorial

EIGHTY families from all over the UK gathered in Clipstone Forest, Sherwood & Lincs District, in February to plant a lasting memorial to 150 victims of mucopolysaccharide disease - a rare but often fatal disorder affecting young children. A sapling clone of ancient Sherwood oak was planted for each victim in what will be known as the Childhood Wood. Lord Howe and Michael Howard, Secretary of State for the Environment, joined guests who planted trees on behalf of families unable to attend.

Millions of Trees Planted

WELL over 100 million trees have been planted by private owners in Britain since the introduction of the Forestry Commission's Woodland Grant Scheme in 1988 - enough to circle the world six times if planted in a single row!

The impressive statistic was announced by Forestry Minister Lord Howe at the launch of a new community woodland in Swadlincote, South Derbyshire, in February.



ARGYLL Forest Park launched a Forest Park Ranger Service in March to support their summer events programme.

New Recreation Ranger Robin Kennedy will be running the programme, which will include guided walks, slide shows, wildlife safaris and a Forest Festival day.

Tony and Richard produced a wartime cross-cut saw from Westonbirt's Visitor Centre and asked the ladies to convert a 3m³ oak log into pit props! Without hesitation Lillian and Pat, both in their sixties, took up the challenge. It may have been 50 years on, but for the lumberjills present it seemed like only yesterday.

Kielder Bat could be a record

KIELDER Forest Ranger Gordon Riley has discovered what may be the oldest pipistrelle bat on record in Europe.

The injured bat was found on a lawn near Gordon's house during a spell of mild weather at the beginning of February. Kielder records confirm it was one of a series of adults ringed in August 1980 about 1½ miles from where it was found, making it at least 12½ years of age.

Although some bat species have recorded ages of more than 20 years, the pipistrelle tends to have a shorter life span - the oldest recorded in *The Handbook of British Mammals* was killed by a cat in Buxton, Norfolk, aged 11.

Kielder is home to a number of bat species, including Brown Long-eared, Whiskered/Brandts and Daubentons, with Natterers and a Noctule breeding in bat boxes for the first time last year. Bat box schemes are well established, and there are plans to test special hibernation boxes in the area. A recent clearfell of Sitka spruce has uncovered bats in a mine dating back to the early 1800s, and this may be an important hibernation site.

Spoil Tip Award a Tribute to Welsh Community



As the effects of new planting cover the colliery waste, local people find Gelliwion the perfect place to relax

A FORMER colliery spoil tip became the first site in South Wales Conservancy to receive the Forestry Authority's Woodland Management Merit Award at the end of March.

The old Marine Colliery near Pontypridd ended its working life in 1965. After initial restoration by British Coal, Mid Glamorgan County Council undertook reshaping work and in 1988 the 13-hectare Gelliwion site entered into the Broadleaved Woodland Grant Scheme. The Commission's Neath plough was used to break up the planting area and a

broadleaf mix planted, including alder, birch, poplar, oak, rowan, pussy willow, hawthorn and ash.

It is a tribute to the local community that there has been virtually no vandalism or littering of the site. The alder has proved the most successful species, reaching heights of up to 3m, and in 1990 a survey by the Glamorgan Wildlife Trust showed that wildlife populations were increasing. Well used by local people, the site makes a significant contribution to the urban environment and is a fine example of multi-purpose woodland.

AN EXCELLENT FIRST CENTRE

A GLOUCESTER-SHIRE woodland received the Forestry Authority's first 1993 Centre of Excellence award in March for its clear demonstration that growing good timber need not conflict with wildlife, landscape and people enjoying themselves.

The award was made jointly to John Workman, former owner of Workmans Wood in Sheepscombe, and the National Trust, to whom he donated the property in 1989. Mr Workman's family has managed the wood, an SSSI and part of a National Nature Reserve, over the last hundred years. As well as producing high quality, marketable timber the wood and its conservation areas can be explored by public footpaths.

'Unfortunately many of Britain's broadleaf woodlands are currently only growing timber of very moderate quality,' said the Forestry Authority's Chief



John Workman (right) and Bill Heslegrave, Wye & Avon Conservator, display the Centre of Excellence award certificate and sign

Research Officer Julian Evans. 'Workmans Wood is an outstanding exception.'

The occasion also gave the Forestry Authority an

opportunity to launch its new Handbook, *Growing Broadleaves for Timber*, by Julian Evans and silviculturist Gary Kerr.

Kielder First in Forest Fashion



Modelling their designs are, left to right, Liz Beaumont, Philip Lawrence and Sophie Goswell

VISITORS to Kielder can now choose from a new range of T-shirts specially designed for the Forest by top Fashion Marketing students from the University of Northumbria.

Recreation Officer Chris Probert set the students a specific design brief to reflect either the Conservation or Recreation aspects of the Forest. The conservation theme asked

for a Merlin to be used as a symbol on a white T-shirt, while recreation asked for a range of activities to be considered including mountain biking, cross-country skiing, mountain duathlons and the husky rally.

Three designs submitted by the second-year students have been produced, winning them £50 each - plus the chance to see their designs worn nationwide!

Public Accounts Evidence

THE Public Accounts Committee has taken evidence from Director General Robin Cutler and FE Chief Executive David Foot following the National Audit Office report reviewed in Issue 12 of *Feedback*.

Wellingtons needed at Waterloo for historic restocking



LORD Feversham of Duncombe Park, Helmsley, North Yorkshire, takes up a Napoleonic pose at the Park's Waterloo Plantation, currently being restocked. The woodland, leased by Forest Enterprise, will be planted with a 19,000-tree mix of broadleaves and conifers, including saplings grown from some of the oldest oaks in northern England - many over 500 years old.

The 85 hectare plantation was created in 1815 to commemorate Wellington's victory. Originally stocked with larch, it was clear felled in the First World War to help the war effort.

HQ Venue for Euro Committee



THIRTEEN member countries of the European Free Trade Area were represented at Headquarters at the beginning of the month for the annual meeting of CEN 175, the European Committee for Standardisation.

The three-day Conference, taking place in Britain for the first time, was examining European standards for timber and giving the appropriate working parties time to discuss their findings. The schedule also included visits to a working sawmill in

Carlisle and an introduction to the harvesting operations taking place in Mabie Forest, Ayr Forest District.

Donald Thompson of Business Enterprise Division represented timber growers in the British contingent, with Paul Marsh of BSW representing the sawmillers, George Schreiber the Timber Trade Federation and John Morgan the British Woodworkers Federation. The British representatives were led by John Sunley.

FORESTRY COMMISSION UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

THE COMMONS STATEMENT

'I and my fellow forestry Ministers are keen to improve the effectiveness of the delivery of the Government's forestry policy objectives in line with my statement on forestry in September 1991. We gave a commitment in the Manifesto to review the effectiveness of the current incentives for forestry investment, and this will be completed by the end of the year.'

'We have established a small group of officials, with representatives from the Treasury, Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Welsh Office, Department of the Environment and the Forestry Commission, under Scottish Office chairmanship, to review the effectiveness of the current incentives for forestry investment, to review options for the ownership and management of Forestry Commission woodlands, and to make proposals for changes which would improve the effectiveness of the delivery of the Government's forestry policy objectives, having regard to the Government's other economic and environmental policies.'

Ian Lang, Secretary of State for Scotland, 30 March

ON 30 March in the House of Commons the Secretary of State for Scotland announced the setting up of an official group to review forestry investment incentives and options for the ownership and management of Commission woodlands. The thin end of the privatisation wedge? TRACEY FRANCIS interviews Director General Robin Cutler on the announcement and its implications.

You have said that the signals leading to this announcement have been there for months. Surely now this must be seen as the first step to privatisation?

Not necessarily. Remember the Review Group hasn't been set a pre-determined outcome - its aim is to review the effectiveness of forestry investment incentives and look at options for the ownership and management of Forestry Commission woodlands. A change of status for the Forest Enterprise cannot be ruled out, but equally the Group could opt to maintain the status quo.

Doesn't this announcement represent a reneging on the Government's earlier statements?

As stated on many occasions there are no present plans for privatisation of the Forestry Commission. However the Financial Secretary to the Treasury announced in November last year that all activities of Government were being reviewed. This examination is part of that process. Ministers will decide what action to take when the Group has reported.

Do you think the reorganisation has made the Commission easier to privatise?

No. The reorganisation proved we were willing and able to adapt to change. If anything it showed the Commission doesn't need pressure from outside to examine our structures and change them if necessary. The reorganisation received universal acclaim across the forestry industry, and many other bodies agree we are now operating as the kind of Commission they want. Our decision to reorganise would be very unlikely to affect anything that formed central Government policy.

Forest Enterprise employs around 80 per cent of the Commission's staff. What implications will any change in status have for jobs?

Employment implications will obviously be one of the issues covered in the Group's study of the cost and benefit implications of alternative ownership and increased forestry investment. But legislation is already in place which can protect existing Forest Enterprise staff jobs, depending on the transfer arrangements chosen - the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations, for example.

What will the consequences of change be for the rest of the Forestry Commission?

Any ownership changes to the Forest Enterprise estate could be implemented without disrupting the rest of the Commission's work.

But doesn't Forest Enterprise carry out the main functions of the Commission?

Forest Enterprise is certainly important. But the Commission's functions also involve advising on and implementing forestry policies and the regulation and support of

private forestry, and there are our market development, research and plant health functions. We also represent UK forestry interests internationally. This work continues whatever the conclusions of the Review Group may be.

Who will be on the Review Group?

Senior representatives from The Scottish Office, MAFF, the Welsh Office, the Department of Environment and the Treasury will sit with the Forestry Commission on the Group. We have three members involved and we'll take a major role. The Scottish Office will chair the group.

Will the Group be taking evidence from any other organisations?

Identifying needs for advice and assistance will be one of the ongoing tasks of the Group. At the moment there are no plans to hear evidence from outside interests, but the Group may well recommend that consultation with a range of bodies should form part of the review process. At what stage that takes place will have to be decided. Many of the relevant issues have already been discussed at recent conferences, including our own New Forests for the 21st Century last year.



What is the timescale for the Review?

The Group is committed to completing the review of investment incentives by the end of the year. The review of options for ownership and management of our woodlands is obviously closely associated and is likely to run to the same timetable.

There are no 'quick fixes' planned - time-scales are measured in decades in forestry and this is an important task which must be got right. The Review Group's job is to advise Ministers on the options available. Then it will be up to the Ministers to consider which recommendations should be investigated further and which options to pursue.

What are the options?

Identifying them is a task for the Group. But to be seriously considered any option will need to take on board the multi-purpose basis of forestry policy.

How will the announcement affect the Commission's activities over the next year?

Forestry policy hasn't changed since the policy statement of September 1991. The Government is committed to multi-purpose management of forests.

Will changes in the UK follow the forestry privatisation pattern in New Zealand?

No. This exercise is tuned to the needs of the United Kingdom, within the EC. Forestry is an important industry worldwide but the shape of the industry in each country suits their circumstances.



THIS article replaces the TUS Diary in this issue of *Slasher*. Pressures of time prevented Kenny Murray from writing a Diary. In conversation here with Tracey Francis he addresses the issues raised by the announcement

'We have no pleasure in saying this, but we told you so,' was Trade Union Secretary Kenny Murray's reaction to the news of Ian Lang's announcement. 'The TUS was opposed to the split between Forest Enterprise and the Forestry Authority from the beginning and our industrial action back in 1991 was an act of warning to the senior management. They accepted the split was a gamble. Now we can see it hasn't paid off.'

Within hours the TUS had released a news statement on the announcement to the press and was beginning to formulate plans to raise public awareness of the issues at stake.

'We are fighting for jobs, for public access, for the nation's heritage and an inheritance for the future,' said Kenny. 'Our target has to be the Government and Government policy. It would be counter-productive to concentrate on our own organisation, though I believe many people will blame senior staff at Headquarters. They have miscalculated the Cabinet's dogmatic attitude on this.'

Of course the announcement indicates only a review of incentives and management, and options for ownership, not an intent to privatise.

'I don't know why they chose to announce it in this way at this time,' Kenny continues, 'but they're obviously not confident enough to make a



clear statement of intent. Why privatise land when nowhere else in Europe is selling land off? We are paying for the economic mistakes made by the Government. Ian Lang has been told to save £700 million and selling off sections of the Commission would bring the Government some of the money it desperately needs.'

Mobilising public opinion will be a key objective for the Union Side. 'We'll soon find out who our friends are,' said Kenny. 'Other organisations are supportive of us. And increased unemployment in rural communities will be a major factor for the Government to consider.'

'This Government has been shown to be lying on this issue both to the people of Great Britain and to the House of Commons. They are now morally bankrupt and cannot be trusted.'

When *Slasher* went to press the Unions had formally requested a meeting with senior management, and pledged to use all means available, including *Slasher*, to keep staff in touch with developments.

'In the meantime we are calling for the market testing programme and any internal reorganisations to be suspended pending the outcome of the Review Group's deliberations,' said Kenny. 'The uncertainty of the Review is bad enough without other uncertainties on top of that. They should be suspended to give staff a chance for a breather.'

'If we pull together as an organisation to influence our friends, especially those with a knowledge of forestry, we have a good case to persuade the Government to leave us alone. This is a winnable campaign.'

Wave Old Crest Goodbye

A NEW element is to be introduced to the Commission's corporate identity.

Intertwining branches of oak, ash and Scots pine surmounted by a crown form a new crest, designed to reflect more accurately the involvement of England, Wales and Scotland in the Commission. The new device will replace the present crest on letterheads, official statements and formal documentation for the Forestry Authority, Forest Enterprise and Policy Resources Group.



it's the accepted symbol for general woodland. The crest is for use when a distinctive Commission logo is needed.

The new crest will be introduced on stationery and letterheads as old stocks are used up. But the tree symbol won't disappear - Forest Enterprise will continue to use it in conjunction with the new shield.

Universal approbation

Tailor-made design

The change was needed because the crown shown in the present device is a version used throughout England and Wales, but not in Scotland. 'Although the crest had seemed acceptable to us, the Lord Lyon took us to task for using the English crest when our Headquarters is in Scotland,' explained Frazer Lindsay, Head of Public Information Division. 'Rather than have the Scottish regions using a different version, the Board of Commissioners decided a completely new badge, specially designed and commissioned for us, would be more appropriate.'

Why do we need a crest at all? 'It's important to have one symbol which links all the branches of the Commission together visually,' says Frazer Lindsay. 'The tree symbol isn't unique to us. We adapted it, but in essence

So far the design has received universal approbation from Regional Directors, Chief Conservators and Commissioners. 'There is a feeling in some quarters that in the twelve months since the reorganisation we've lost the sense of being a single Forestry Commission,' Frazer Lindsay points out. 'A device like this will help restore the Commission to its place.'

Bromides and a detailed specification for use of the new crest will be available from Design & Interpretation Branch in due course.

HOW A NEW CREST IS COMMISSIONED ...

Choosing a designer

The crest was designed by Jeffery Matthews, who worked under the direction of Design and Interpretation Branch

Selecting a design

The design chosen shows intertwining oak, Scots pine and ash branches, seen to be representative of England, Scotland and Wales, surmounted by a crown

Gaining approval

After approval by the Garter Principal King of Arms and Lord Lyon King of Arms the crest has to be submitted to the Queen for permission to use her crown

Receiving a description

As a proper heraldic device, the crest must be registered and a complete description supplied to prove its authenticity

DIGITAL MAPPING CHANGES PRODUCTION OF WALL MAP

A FEW cardboard boxes won't revolutionise planning and practice in the Forestry Commission. But the computer hardware that came with them could significantly affect the way we all access and use data in the future.

The traditional methods used by our cartographers to mark out the intricacies of the Commission's maps and plans are soon to be a thing of the past. The scribing pen and ink is to be replaced by digital mapping software, capable of producing plans every bit as detailed as those produced manually but which can be altered or upgraded far quicker than a cartographer could trace and draw the revisions.

Over the next three years the Cartographic sections in Headquarters and the Regional and National offices will be engaged in transferring enormous quantities of map detail into the new system. But some Regional offices will see the benefits from as early as this autumn, when they will find themselves using the digitised information to create new maps and plans.

'North England will be the first Region to have the new capability,' says GIS Development Officer Graham Bull of Policy Studies, 'but other Regions will be added over the next few months.'



Esther Whitton and Graham Bull capturing data automatically via one of the GIS workstations before converting it into a vector form for use on the main system

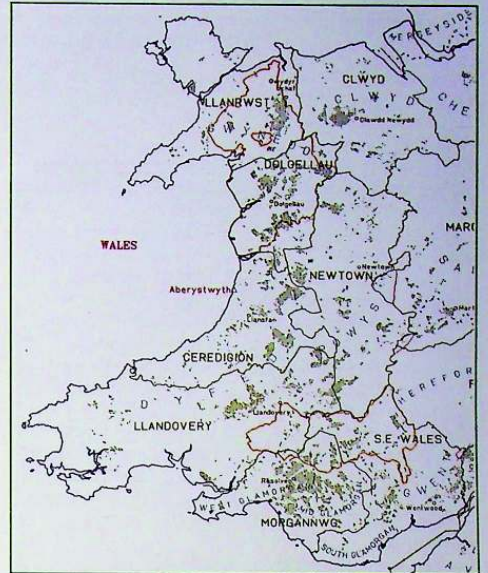
Investigations into the new technology began in October 1991, when a Geographic Information System project team was set up at Headquarters to look into possible applications of Digital Mapping/GIS within the Commission. After taking the pilot project through many stages the team of Alan Mitchell and Dave Stewart (Business Systems Division) and Bob Selmes, Graham Bull and Esther Whitton (Policy Studies) recommended that the equipment be introduced for both the Forestry Authority and Forest Enterprise - a recommendation endorsed by the Executive Board in December and January.

Demonstrating the new technology

Existing wall maps were thought to be an obvious project to demonstrate the new technology. 'If we'd had this technology and data capability available last year prior to reorganisation we could have displayed and printed options for each version far more easily,' says Graham. 'Instead a separate draft was needed for each suggestion. It involved the cartographers in a huge amount of work, much of which was repetition, to produce each map. Using the new system means boundaries can be amended easily, without the entire map having to be redrawn each time a small change is made.'

One of the first tasks of the project team has been to develop a technique for producing these maps, and the result can be seen above.

The first step is to obtain the right data. Policy studies purchased digital maps of coastline, administrative boundaries, rivers and lakes, settlement and communication features from the Ordnance Survey. Enterprise woodland data



A sample of what the new technology can produce. This printout combines data on coastal and national boundaries, National Parks, Forest District boundaries, District Office locations, county names and land managed by Forest Enterprise in Wales

has been entered from maps supplied by the Regions at scales of 1:250,000 or 1:100,000. The Forestry Authority wooded areas have been taken from the 1989 1:1,000,000 scale map as the National offices do not have similar small scale records.

Information can be scanned into the system and called up on screen when required to be edited, amended or incorporated into a completely new map. The cartographer can manipulate data on screen and print off the required map easily for checking.

When it is fully operational the system will open up a new range of possibilities for mapping and planning. New map data can be entered, or imported from other organisations, and combined with existing digital maps and data-bases on a range of topics to be output in whatever combination or scale is required.

Combining a range of data

'This will be of enormous benefit in the future,' says Graham. 'It can be used to make predictions, or answer a range of questions - for example, how many FA Grant Schemes are there within 60 miles of London? An integrated system of this kind is still some way off, but once it is fully operational this digital data will be easy to combine with other data, such as planting year or habitat status, to provide new types of information and analysis quickly supported by high quality maps and graphics.'



From manual data capture on the digitising table to colour printout from the A3 printer - the streamlined system in operation

LETTERS

Slasher welcomes letters on any subject so long as a contact name and address is supplied. Letters published may be edited for reasons of space. Send your letters through your local correspondent or direct to the Slasher Editor, Public Information Division, Forestry Commission Headquarters, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT.

Two sides of the coin on the new-style Slasher

As the *Slasher* Correspondent for Wales for over 10 years I cannot believe that *Slasher* readers do not want to see photographs of the people retiring and I am appalled at your decision to cease printing them.

You say the standard of these photographs is low and maybe some are but not all - many are taken by professional photographers. The other argument is the need for more room in *Slasher* - then you use that room up by spacing out the remainder of articles and lists of retirements.

Many may question who are the important people in the Commission? Since 90 per cent of the retirement reports are of the men who spend their lives out in the forest and who seldom hit the limelight, is it too much

to ask that, as their swan song of a career spent handling the actual trees which forestry is all about, they and their workmates at least get a chance to star in one edition of *Slasher* - the 'Newspaper of the Forestry Commission'.

It is not perhaps commonly known that all ex-employees get *Slasher* and for them I would have thought these retirement pictures hold even more interest, much more so than a list of names and addresses more reminiscent of the Classified Adverts columns than an aide-memoire of 'good times past'.

Brina Evans
FE, Wales

As a retired recipient of the *Slasher* I would like to compliment the editor and the production team on the new-look format of the February issue. The better quality paper, the improved typesetting, the orderly layout of the contents coupled with the clarity of the photographs are all much appreciated. Also, as a rural wrinkle I find it interesting to occasionally indulge in a nostalgic browse through the back issues and to reflect upon the many changes in the structure, the role and the personnel of the Forestry Commission which have been recorded in the pages of the *Slasher* over the years.

Whilst much may have changed in the Forestry Commission and a lot of timber gone through the mill, I believe the *Slasher's*

role has remained the same and I hope that in its improved format it will be allowed to continue to fulfil the original aspirations for many years to come.

I was intrigued to read about the setting up of the Welsh Trim Trail which has 'eight sets of apparatus spread over a gruelling 850 km uphill climb'. I think the claim that it isn't for the fainthearted might be something of an understatement, and as for Hafodrynys soon having some of the fittest people in SE Wales I would think it quite likely that it will have some of the most knackered, or the Welsh equivalent!

Wishing you continued success.

Mr E Baldwin
Dumfries

Thank you to all those who contacted me regarding *Slasher's* new layout. I had a number of letters, from both current and past members of staff, and the majority were in favour of the 'new look'. All the suggestions most strongly supported in last autumn's readership survey are now included, but most depend on your contributions - so use your correspondents! I hope it goes without saying that I welcome any comments, and especially suggestions for improvements to the paper.

More Record Breakers

It is highly gratifying to see claims being made for specimens superior to those cited in Field Book 10. That booklet was compiled partly to stimulate interest in the matter and so to make a game for foresters and others, playable with some chance of success almost anywhere.

It is disappointing, therefore, how often claims are made which depend on a misreading of the dimensions published. Joe

Boluski's fine aspens may well exceed 25m in height, and I hope they do, and the record can be updated, but his girths are still puny. Field Book 10 clearly states that the second figure is *cm* diameter. He cites 89 cm girth. I make that 29 cm diameter, and the record printed is 48 cm diameter. But keep at it, Joe. The record is very small and should be beaten easily.

Alan Mitchell
Retired FC Dendrologist
Farnham

Angler's Lament

With the brown trout fishing season now well and truly started, I enclose a poem (or Angler's Lament) which my mother used to recite to me when I went fishing. It may be of interest to the anglers amongst us who require a reason for unsuccessful fishing trips!

It's either ower early
Or else it's ower late
There's either nae water

Or else there's a spate
It's either ower calm
Or else it's ower clear
There's aye something wrang
When I'm fishing here.

Robin Heaney
Ayrshire & Arran Forest District

With two contributions like this and the one on the opposite page, is it perhaps time for a *Slasher* poetry corner??

The Way Out of a Sticky Situation?!

All kinds of letters are received by the District offices. How would your office have dealt with this one?

'I know you are still reeling after the devastation of '87 and the fall in demand for conifer type trees. So I thought, why not have a pilot scheme to diversify like many farmers have had to and immediately Canada sprang to mind with its famous Maple trees. Why not here?

The outlay would be horrendous I know but the long term would in due course offset this. First of all it would attract tourism thus bringing much needed cash into the country and area. Then you would have the off-spin of the syrup.

I thought of about four sections where, planted away from the coast with a 'scenic' driveway through part of it leading to a large car park with an 'Olde English Tea Shoppe' specialising in waffles and maple syrup and within the complex a factory to refine the syrup.

If the area were sealed off, except for special entrances and exits, you would be able to charge for parking, viewing the factory and viewing the tapping, not to mention the cost of the teas.

All this would create new jobs and in due course fill the coffers. Maybe even the sluggish government would chip in to kick start.

Any use to you? I have a good waffle mix recipe!

Needless to say, it was tact and diplomacy all the way from South Downs District's Colin Palmer, who replied as follows:

'Thank you for your very interesting letter with its innovative ideas on tree diversity in West Sussex.

In practice there could well be problems with the species of Maple that grow in Eastern Canada growing successfully in our conditions - namely *Acer saccharum* (Sugar Maple), *Acer saccharinum* (Silver Maple) and to a lesser extent *Acer rubrum* (Red Maple), none of which will tolerate chalky conditions very well. In fact the best alternative, in theory, would have been *Acer nikoense* (Nikko Maple) or *Acer platanoides* (Norway Maple) which would cope far better with our conditions and is in fact occasionally planted for amenity, but not on any great scale at present.

The other consideration of course is from an ecologist's point of view, in that those Maples mentioned are unfortunately not native to southern Britain.

We very much appreciate the thought that has gone into this and will keep the general idea in mind for the future. Meanwhile you may rest assured that the Forest Enterprise branch of the Forestry Commission will continue to enhance the forest landscape, wherever the opportunity arises, for the continuing enjoyment of the public.'

TOADS CROSSING - WITH A SPRING IN THEIR STEP

VISITORS to Forest Enterprise's Top Lodge office at Fineshade, Northants Forest District, have been asked to slow down - to avoid squashing toads and other amphibians on the road!

'The toads are still sleepy from their winter hibernation and they are on their way to forest ponds to breed,' said Northants Forest District Manager Keith Wilson. 'They have other things on their mind than road safety so we are asking drivers to exercise some caution on our forest roads to try to preserve amphibian numbers.'



DIARY

The Slasher Diary is looking for contributions - quotes, misquotes and anecdotes. Send them to the Editor or via your correspondent!

Temporary loos erected for the APF Forest Machinery Demonstration at Dalby Forest last year. The caption? 'Someone was busting!'





PEOPLE NEWS

Information for the People News section is gathered from the Personnel Department and from friends and relatives of those mentioned. Any information for inclusion in the People News column should be sent to your local correspondent or direct to the *Slasher* Editor.

ARRIVALS

Ewan D Calcott, FOIV, Suffolk Forest District.
Brendan Callaghan, FOIV, Aberfoyle Forest District.
Iwan G Downey, FOIV, Dolgellau Forest District.
Ian R Harvey, FOIV, West Midlands Conservancy.
Sally York, Environmental Education Co-ordinator, Environment Branch, Headquarters.
Ruth Jenkins, Conservation Officer, FA Wales.

MOVES AND PROMOTIONS

Mike Bentley, FOIV, from Cowal Forest District to Lothian & Tweed Forest District.
Keith Bradbury, HR, from S & W England Regional Office to Thetford Forest District.
Chris Evans, AO, Research Division at Alice Holt on promotion to EO, Research Division at Alice Holt.
Roger Ford, FOIV, from Llandoverly Forest District to Somerset & South Devon Forest District.
Frank Jackson, FOIII, from Lothian & Tweed Forest District to Aberfoyle Forest District on promotion to FOII.
Kevin McKillop, FOIV, from Ayrshire & Arran Forest District to Aberfoyle Forest District.

Nick Mainprize, FOIV, from Clwyd Forest District to Perth Conservancy.
Gordon Patterson, Forest Ecologist from Wildlife and Conservation Branch, NRS to Forestry Practice Division, Headquarters.
Graeme Prest, FOII, from Fort Augustus Forest District to Inverness Forest District.
Ted Radford, FOII, from Aberfoyle Forest District to Forestry Training and Safety Council at Headquarters on promotion to FOI.
Dick Rogers, FOII, from West Midlands Conservancy to Marches Forest District.
Malcolm Wield, FOII, from Tay Forest District to Fort Augustus Forest District on promotion to FOI.

RETIRALS



SCOTLAND

Don Bardy, Chief Education and Training Officer at Headquarters, after 40 years (17.3.93).
Andrew Bearhop, Regional Land Agent for South Scotland, after 38 years (22.4.93).
David Chadwick, Principal Forest Officer based at Headquarters, after 30 years (26.3.93).
Ken Davidson, SCE Engineering, HQ o/s Inverness,

after 40 years (31.12.92).
Jim Dempster, Forest Worker in the Dalmacallan and Upper Nithsdale forests of South Scotland, after 45 years (8.1.93).
Alistair Howden, HCE at ACE South, North Scotland, after 47 years (24.12.92).
Jimmy Fletcher, Roads Foreman with Kintyre & Loch Awe Area Civil Engineers at Lochgilphead, after 42 years (26.2.93).
Donald Fraser, FOIII at Perth Conservancy, after 33 years (31.12.92).
Walter Paterson, Forest Research Officer at Newton Nursery, after 40 years (24.3.93).
Alistair Scott, Director Forestry Practice Division, after 35 years (12.2.93).
Stan Share, Senior Ranger from Cowal Forest District, after 41 years (5.4.93).
Myra Younie, AO from Newton Nursery, after 30 years (6.1.93).



ENGLAND

Ron Hoblyn MBE, Environment Forester from Thetford, after 39 years (21.3.93).
Brian Long, Head Recreation Ranger at Kielder, after 28 years (19.3.93).
John Massey, of South Downs Forest District, after 34 years.

Geoff Whiteford, Area Civil Engineer (West), after 29 years (31.3.93).

Rex Whitta MBE, Head Ranger at Thetford, after 44 years (24.3.93).

Derek Wood, FOIII from Marches Forest District, after 41 years (16.2.93).



WALES

J Wynford O Evans, SGBII in the Forestry Authority Wales offices, and previously based at Victoria House, after 25 years (9.2.93).

Dave Robinson, FOIII from Llanrwst Forest District, after 36 years (10.3.93).

OBITUARIES

Our sympathies are with the families and friends of the following, who died recently.

Gwilon Marain Buszewicz MBE (Busz), former Head of the Seed Laboratory and Seed Store, Alice Holt, aged 79.

Tom Jane, retired Head Forester from Kielder (1972), at home on 5 February 1993, aged 82.

Graeme Kippen, chainsaw operator at Dunkeld, on 25 January 1993, aged 33.

Jimmy Reid, formerly of Achaglachgoch Forest, Newton and Teindland.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Trawsfynydd after the War

The Trawsfynydd area of North Wales was used in two wars as an artillery firing range, also the practice ground for mortars and lighter weapons. It was decided, one never knew by whom, that the ranges could now be used as forests. The Bomb Disposal people were called in to examine and it was hoped clear the area. This was eventually completed but it was suggested that any tractors used on the area should be armoured. Side, rear and front armour, plus an armoured top hatch, was required.

While the tractor drivers and I were adapting to these vehicles I noticed workmen on the track, now a road, from Trawsfynydd to Bala, with picks and shovels. I asked if they ever came across any odd things in their excavations and was taken down the track to be shown a number of small artillery shells and two and three inch mortars set very neatly along the top of the excavated material. We had a word with the local Council and put them in touch with the Bomb Disposal crowd.

Before the operation started we were excavating material from suitable banks near the site for road building, which was in progress near the area. I arrived near the site on one occasion to be met by the operator running up the slope away from the machine. While digging he raised the shovel and the nose of a shell appeared over the top of the bucket edge. I suggested we go down and take a look but he did not feel that was a good idea. On examination I found a 6 inch howitzer shell in the bucket. Once again Bomb Disposal was sent for. I wonder what Enterprise and Authority do for excitement these days?

Jock Low
 Littlehampton
 West Sussex

An ex-Forestry Worker's Lament

One of your leading articles in issue 359 referred to the fall in planting levels. This prompted me to delve into my forestry memorabilia and unearth the enclosed verses. They appeared in an Argyllshire paper some thirty years ago and some of our colleagues might appreciate its content.

Alas, that I shall never see
 Or plant another Sitka tree;
 As up and down I used to go
 And plant them in a crooked row,
 Five feet apart (or even eight!)
 But never, never, never straight.

Alas that I shall ne'er again
 Go planting spruce trees in the rain,
 To put one firmly in each mound
 And hide a hundred in the ground,
 Until at length there were no more,
 And so our daily joy was o'er.

Alas that nevermore I will
 Cut down the bracken on the hill,
 And often (this I know is true)
 The Sitka's heads were cut off too.
 I wonder now when all is done,
 If Sitka or the bracken won.

Alas that ne'er again I'll go
 To eat my 'pieces' in the snow,
 To climb the hill in sunny weather,
 To feed the ticks among the heather -
 Alas! For I have gone away
 And left these joys behind for aye.

Alas that I shall never see
 Or plant another Sitka tree.
 Now every honest Sitka planter
 Around Loch Eck and in Glenbranter,
 Please write and tell me, if you know,
 How all my little Sitkas grow.

Jimmy McRorie
 Brodick
 Isle of Arran

CLASSIFIEDS

Do you have anything you'd like to buy, offer for sale or advertise? The *Slasher* classified column is free to everyone within the Commission. Send your ads to the Editor or your local correspondent.

All ads are accepted by the Editor in good faith. It is the advertiser's responsibility to ensure that copy supplied is not misleading.

FOR SALE

160 Quarterly Journal of Forestry (40 years) from 1949 to 1989 inclusive. Reasonable offers accepted. Telephone R I Brown on 0938 810627.

THANKS

Thanks go to **Mrs Alberta Gillatt** from Adderbury in Oxfordshire for her hard work in arranging the Women's Timber Corps reunion at Westonbirt on

March 17. Without her none of these reunions would have taken place.

REUNIONS

May 15th at the Dean Heritage Museum Trust at Soudley in the Forest of Dean, followed by lunch at the White Hart Inn, Ruspidge.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to **Howard and Moira Hart**, on the birth of Elliot James on 10 March.

RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Edinburgh and South Scotland Branch enjoyed a skittles evening in February, joined by Bill Gibson and Howard Bell from Inverness. March saw an interesting and instructive tour of the *Scotsman's* printing works in Newhaven Road. The Branch welcomed Ted Herbert, retired from Glenhurich Forest, as a

new member. New members are always welcome.

The Alice Holt group enjoyed a tour of Bass Brewery in February, with a video and unlimited free tasting of the products (and tea!). In March an illustrated talk by Peter Gardiner of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust on butterflies was enjoyable.

On 5 April at the AGM Director Research David Burdekin will take a Q&A session on the Forestry Commission reorganisation.

CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR FORESTS

AS we're all aware, one of the purposes of managing Britain's forests is to protect wildlife habitats valued by a number of species. Here are just a few of the conservation developments currently taking place in the Commission. JEMMA SMITH reports



Combined Effort to Save the Red Squirrel

NORTH West England is one of the last remaining strongholds of the Red Squirrel, and a major new Red Squirrel Initiative is underway there to safeguard its future.

The Forestry Authority have been very involved in co-ordinating the new initiative, which brings together some 80 organisations and individuals including the National Trust, English Nature, local authorities and landowners. It is the first time such resources have been combined for conservation in Cumbria and Lancashire.

Work will include habitat management, monitoring squirrel populations, providing advice and technical support, fostering research and publicising the project.

The Initiative, headed by Lord Carlisle and run by a small steering committee, will be launched in October. Meanwhile work is being carried out by a technical group, led by Forest Enterprise, to make recommendations on strategy and action. 'This is an important initiative if the red squirrel is to survive in the area,' said Keith Jones, Conservator of Cumbria and Lancashire. 'The group effort will ensure the most effective force is employed.'

Standing Out from the Herd

KIELDER Head Moor's feral goats have received a lot of attention recently. Not only were they filmed for the regional wildlife programme *Up Country*, they are also the study of National Trust goat specialist David Bullock, who is researching the genetic purity of the isolated herd.



Rumoured to have grazed on the moor since the Middle Ages, the goats are managed by Forest Enterprise staff for the Kielder Head Committee. 'We have found that goat numbers need to be restricted to around seventy,' said Kielder's Conservation Officer Bill Bolton. 'When there are too many goats we try to round them up and send them to good homes.'

Kylerhea Gets Another Otter Hide

SPEND two and a half hours at Kylerhea's first otter hide on Skye and you have an 80 per cent chance of spotting an otter.

This remarkable statistic has led to the building of a second hide which, unlike the first, will be available to interested study groups for a hire charge of £50 per day. Opened in January, the new hide is designed to yield detailed data sheets and records of sightings which will help in understanding this rare mammal

and how best to accommodate it.

'Credit must go to Alistair McKenzie and Donald John Macrae, who built the hide,' said Wester Ross District Forester Roger Coppock. 'I recently took Jim Green of the Vincent Wildlife Trust there and we saw a group of seven otters - the greatest number Jim had seen at one time in more than 20 years of otter watching.'

The award-winning first hide will remain open to the public free of charge on a first-come first-served basis, and the District will be employing a temporary warden over the summer to help with both hides, give information to visitors, and record and research the otters.

and more otter news...

Otters May Opt Out of Natural Birth



NINE purpose-built otter maternity units are now in place in Ceredigion Forest District, along the upper reaches of the streams that flow into Cardigan Bay.

The Bay itself is one of the foremost otter regions in Wales, and the units have been set up to encourage the establishment of inland populations. Paul Deuce, the Forester responsible for the new scheme, said 'The units were completed in January and we hope to see otters using them for breeding or for shelter. Our Rangers are already monitoring them for signs of life.'

Almost a Tie



FOR the worst collar-and-tie combinations in the Commission there's no doubt who takes the biscuit - it's the team from the Drawing Office at Headquarters, who held a competition in February to see who could produce the most tasteless match.

As you can see, the choice was hard. In the end Jim Henderson, third from left, took the prize - a tie dipped in acrylic and sprayed gold - though the *Slasher* office thinks Rob Beck (centre) and Alan Ramsay (third from right) ran Jim very close!

Strasbourg Trip

FORESTRY Commission staff are involved in countryside issues across the board. AO ELERI DAVIES, from the Forestry Authority's Wales National Office, is on the National Committee of the Wales Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, and represented them in Strasbourg recently. Here is her account of the trip.



This year's European Committee of Young Farmers and 4H clubs took 'Women in the Countryside' as its theme. The week-long conference was held at the European Youth Centre, Strasbourg, a miserable stainless steel building full of static shock and on occasion hot air. The conference brought 40 delegates from 12 countries representing 18 youth organisations.

As the week progressed it became apparent that every country had its own specific problems and that it would be impossible to address all the problems in one week. While some countries were concerned with creating more opportunities for female farmers, improving maternity benefits for the self-employed, the provision of childcare and better public

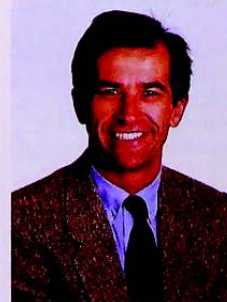
transport facilities in rural areas other countries such as Lithuania, Estonia, the Czech Republic and Hungary had more fundamental problems. They felt that the greatest needs of women in their rural areas were those of education, the introduction of new ideas outside their daily routine.

The exchange of information, ideas and knowledge went on long after the close of the daily seminars and workgroups. Like all good conferences the best decisions are made in the bar.

It was certainly a privilege to represent the Wales Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs at this conference, not forgetting the five days' special leave! What did I gain? A better understanding of lifestyles in other parts of Europe and a determination to fight for my rights (...to party!?)

...But Baby, Look at You Now

THE wee sweetie on the front page is Syd House, Perth Conservator - who incidentally won the identification competition! Sadly we don't have a record of him modelling the red nose ...



Fungus - Food for Free

TYN Y GROES, Ganolwyd was the venue for an enthusiastic foray into fungi for 35 happy hunters in October.

Armed with boxes and knives and accompanied by a motley collection of family dogs, they were led by former Forest District Manager Mark Yorke and mycologist Charles Aron from Llanberis.

The group came from a wide area of North Wales, including holidaymakers, and gathered a rich harvest from the mixed woodland areas - including bright yellow chanterelles found under an area of Sitka spruce.

Back at the Coedy Brenin Visitor Centre, over a home-made tea, Charles Aron identified many of the 68 species collected and separated them into edible, inedible, and hallucinogenic!



SLASHER

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WALES

Forest Enterprise: Brina Evans
The Forestry Authority: Milwen Lewis

ENGLAND

Forest Enterprise, North & East: Sandra Willey (Rothbury; Kielder; Lakes; North York Moors; Sherwood/Lincs; Northants; Thetford, Suffolk)
Forest Enterprise, South & West: Carol Gill (Midlands; Marches; Forest of Dean; Chilterns; Wilts & Avon; West Downs; Cornwall & North Devon; Somerset & South Devon; New Forest; South Downs; Weald)
The Forestry Authority: Sue Gamsby
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Southern: John Parker

Material supplied may be edited before publication. Priority will always be given to events occurring since the previous issue's deadline.

Deadline for June issue:
28 May.