



Tree Scribe

No. 6

THE HOUSE JOURNAL OF TILHILL

NOVEMBER 1979

Tories 'vote' for forestry



Brigantine 'Eye of the Wind' — seamanship in an older tradition. For the Operation Drake picture-story see our centre pages.

CONTRACTS

Scottish division

Solway branch: awarded £14,000 contract from Cumbrian Construction — fencing and hedging at Aspatria.

Argyll branch: awarded £5,500 contract from Strathclyde Regional Council for grass seeding and tree planting at Lochgilhead Primary School.

East Yorks branch: awarded £16,000 contract for fencing by A Monk & Co, A19 Billingham diversion; awarded a £12,000 contract for fencing and tree planting by ICI on Teeside.

Northern branch: awarded £17,000 contract by Wimpey for fencing and landscaping at Thornhill housing development, Forres; awarded £16,000 deer fencing contract on Banffshire estate.

Central Landscape branch: awarded £52,000 contract to landscape housing development at Broomridge, Stirling; awarded £81,000 contract, by Whatlings, for grass seeding at Robroyston Park, Glasgow.

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Two prominent Conservative politicians have published pamphlets which argue the case strongly in favour of forestry expansion in the hills and uplands.

'Forestry in Europe' is written by John Corrie, MP for Bute and North Ayrshire, and himself a dairy and beef farmer in south-west Scotland. 'A Policy for Forestry' is by Russell Fairgrieve, MP for Aberdeenshire West. Formerly a director of Dawson International, Russell Fairgrieve is president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association and after the general election was appointed an Under Secretary of State at the Scottish Office.

Benign neglect

In his preface Russell Fairgrieve says 'The purpose of this pamphlet is to try to remedy the attitude of benign neglect and indifference with which politicians have treated the forestry industry for so many years. Britain is almost unique in the advanced industrial world in not having a clearly stated forestry policy, and in spite of years of discussion the EEC has no official policy — even though it imports half its timber needs.'

'After a discussion about the present state of the industry we have drawn up a programme of action that would enable a Conservative Government to adopt the clear, constructive and stable forestry policy for the UK which is so important for the future.'

First step

The neglect has not always been benign and, while politicians are not famous for admitting past mistakes, Russell Fairgrieve is objective enough to say that the 'disastrous Forestry Policy Consultative Document of June 1972 was a mistake for which the Conservative Party must bear responsibility' and adds 'admitting this mistake should be the first step on the road to formulating a cohesive and sensible forestry policy.'

The objectivity is extended to include the Labour Government and its part in the difficulties created for forestry with the introduction of Capital Transfer Tax while lacking appropriate rules for its application to forestry.

Future of forestry

Amongst Russell Fairgrieve's recommendations for the future of forestry are:—

Free More Land — encourage the intensification of agricultural land use to free more land for afforestation.

Consultation — improve the consultation process between all rural land use interests for the planning and development of forestry.

The EEC — active participation with the EEC over the whole question of European forestry and timber production.

CTT — valuation of timber for Capital Transfer Tax should be at the time of death, not as at present at the time of felling.

Planting Target — the third option in the Forestry Commission document 'The Wood Production Outlook in Britain' of increased planting of 1.8 million hectares should be taken as the target for the whole industry.

Comprehensive review

John Corrie in his booklet undertakes a comprehensive review of the supply and demand situation in the EEC and the world at large and comes to the conclusion:—

'This examination of the world situation suggests that the reliance which the Community, and Britain in particular, currently place on timber imports is likely in the next few decades to become an increasingly uncertain business. Although there are some uncertainties about

Continued on page 8

New forestry head

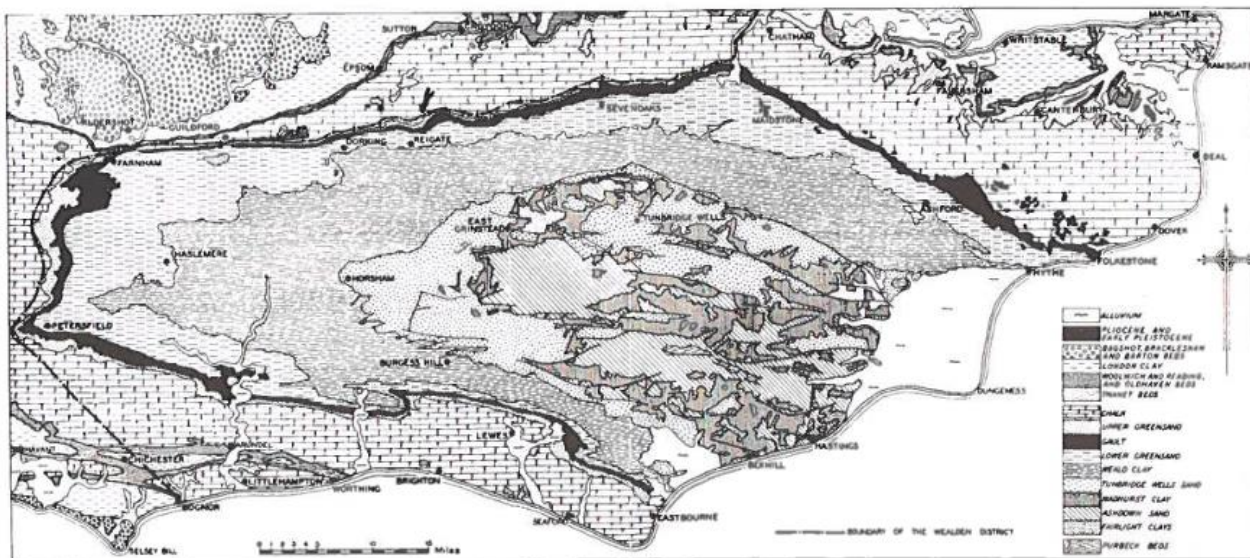


Sir David Montgomery, the new Forestry Commission chairman, takes over from John Mackie who completed his successful three year term of office in July.

He is first and foremost a farmer in a four-man partnership on 600 acres of mainly arable land in Kinrossshire.

Two 100-cow dairy units, a 100 strong beef breeding herd and 400 breeding ewes provide the stock content, while on the arable side the partnership concentrates on seed potatoes, barley and oats.

But woodland is not neglected: his staff on the Forestry Commission report nearly a 100 acres of amenity woodland established under the Forestry Commission Small Woods scheme made up of shelter belts and small woods. ■



Geological map of the Weald: the High Weald in the centre is encircled by the Low Weald clay, surrounded in turn by greensands and the chalk of North Downs and South Downs.

...and in the town



Landscaping, growing in importance to Tilhill, is providing ever increasing work in the south-east, where Roger Lewis, South-east branch manager, leads one of the company's youngest teams. Roger is in his mid-thirties, the other full-timers are all in their twenties, with one exception — landscaping foreman Dave Martin. Assistant branch manager Ian Robinson is fully engaged on landscaping which has grown to one quarter of the branch's turnover.

A large contract with a national building raw materials supplier is drawing to a successful conclusion, as is a landscaping scheme at Eastbourne for the North British Housing Association of Preston. Other work is in progress at Millfields, Bewl Bridge Reservoir, Nugent Industrial Park, and at the Eurocentre at Lee Green.

At Eastbourne the project has involved carrying out as nominated sub-contractors the planting of a complex landscaping scheme by Jakobsen Landscape Architects and Urban Designers on behalf of

the main contractors Walter Llewellyn and Sons of Eastbourne. Architects are McDonald, Hamilton and Montefiore of London.

Practical work began with the planting season 1977/78, but last winter's severe weather tested the Tilhill team to the full: 'We had to scour the Continent for nurseries holding stock we needed,' says Roger Lewis. 'We were lucky to find the bulk of it from Mesmens in Holland.'

Ian Robinson, with an HND in Landscape Technology, was appointed at this time, and he became responsible for running this contract. He now produces landscaping designs in conjunction with the architects for several projects, enabling us to offer a much more comprehensive package.'

At Millfields, landscaping foreman Dave Martin, together with Mick Filtress and Michael Leonard were engaged in a landscaping project for the London based WPHT Housing Association.

Work includes shrub planting and seeding, and Millfields follows five previous designs carried out for Hargreaves — two each at Crowborough and East Grinstead; one at Gravesend.

Dave Martin, 12 years with Tilhill, is a highly responsible and meticulous worker, who never, says Roger Lewis, cuts corners.

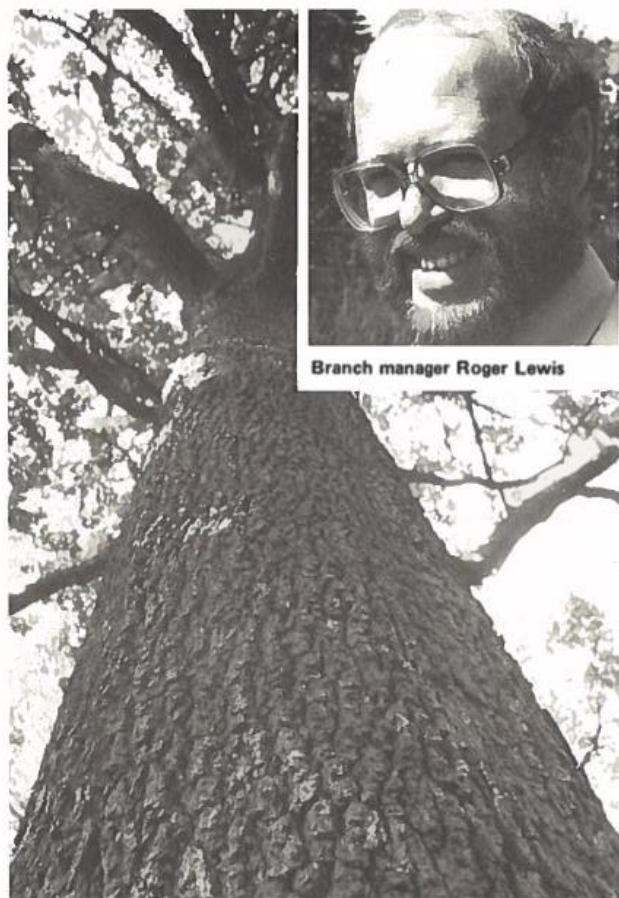
TILHILL AT MARWELL

Tilhill are participating in the National Wildlife Fair at Marwell Zoological Park, Hampshire.

The Tilhill stand is highlighted by a landscaping demonstration by the Central branch team and a complex of photographs showing all aspects of Tilhill's forestry management, harvesting and marketing, and nursery operations.



Tilhill on the Weald



Branch manager Roger Lewis

This oak has plenty of potential as a veneer log.



An example of the value of Corsican pine on these soils.

South-east branch, one of the original Tilhill branches in the south, operates in the 'rich counties' of Kent and Sussex: rich in the sense of variety from a forestry point of view and where the income per capita is the highest in the UK.

The Weald which straddles Kent and Sussex provides an unmatched diversity of growing conditions which have been exploited by man over the centuries to create an impressive rural inheritance.

New economic factors are also having their effect. An observable trend is the passage of land from historic ownership to new owners: institutions such as pension funds, overseas investors, developers and a new wealthy class from the entertainment world.

McDowell

One such owner is Malcolm McDowell of film fame who owns Hollow Wood and Wappingthorn Wood both recommended for purchase by Tilhill because of their high aesthetic and timber value.

Branch manager Roger Lewis tells how Hollow Wood was previously part of the Bayham Estate where the woods were landscaped on a grand scale, with a mixture of hardwoods and softwoods over coppice on the hill-sides overlooking the pastureland below. Part of the existing heathland and scrub is thought to have been a deer park, perhaps laid out in imitation of the nearby Ashdown Forest, where roundels of Scots pine were planted on the high ground, from which kings and their servants slew the herds of deer which were driven before them.

Later, the woods were structured to set up high pheasants and provide a fine prospect from the owner's house.

Now, Hollow Wood has plenty of thinning potential and Roger Lewis will be enrichment-planting with oak, Corsican pine and Douglas fir for the upper storey with groups of shade-tolerant species such as western hemlock and beech planted where the old sycamore and chestnut coppice is cleared.

Pedunculate

Roger notes that a shrewd forester a hundred years ago or more switched from oak to larch for the upper storey in one or two areas. Somebody less shrewd let rhododendron in and it has spread vigorously out from its intended position bordering the rides.

Most oaks here are pedunculate, which suited the Elizabethan ship builders. Many of these trees have fine butts of planking or veneer quality, and selective felling will remove the wide-crowned short-boled pedunculate to favour the finer branched, longer stemmed trees of sessile form. Pine has also done very well and on a sixty-acre patch cleared of scrub, forty acres will be planted to Corsican pine with broadleaved margins.

In the 20th and 21st centuries – with continuing help from Tilhill – Hollow Wood can continue to provide a mixture of high quality

hardwood and softwood timbers. The better areas of chestnut coppice will be retained and will be grown on rotations of 18–20 years to provide a variety of fencing materials. The poorer chestnut coppice and the few remaining areas of oak and hornbeam coppice, grown in past centuries to fuel smelting of iron ore in the Weald, will be converted to mixed high forest.

The geology of the Weald is one of the most complex in England. On the North Downs the chalk is capped with fertile clay with flints; the South Down soils are shallower, so beech is often the main species. In the Central Weald the rich clay soils are often full of problems for the forester.

It is probably fair to say that farming land is so valuable that any possible area is already under the plough in Kent and Sussex.

However, in such a densely populated area other pressures than purely economic ones affect planting policy. And all woodlands in the south-east tend to be regarded as part of the local heritage.

'Natural'

Many of the woodlands the South-east branch manages in Kent and Sussex contain vestiges of the natural woodland (the *Sylvia Anderida*) which once stretched right across the Weald, from what is now the New Forest to the North Downs. But 'natural' in this context has to be looked at rather hard. The Romans introduced sweet chestnut as troop fodder, later encouraged for pigs, and with the need for building, ship timbers and firewood down the ages man has inevitably made a large impression.

Although those particular needs are no longer the same, Kent and Sussex men still feel involved with their woodlands on the conservation front. 'Conservationists can be foresters' friends,' says Roger Lewis. 'Often our aims are not incompatible. We both want to see good healthy trees sharing the environment with other flora and fauna. Some compromises are necessary as our priorities are often not the same. But when so-called conservationists understand the difference between healthy, well-managed woodland, and poor-quality, neglected trees, they have been known to change sides, or at least shift their position.'

A further useful point was put by assistant branch manager Ray Hawes, a Bangor graduate. Shelter belts on farms in the area have been decimated by the depredations of Dutch Elm disease. Considerable potential exists currently to take the tree-planting message out to farmers to 'offer them their hedgerows back.' Few trees are left, says Ray, on the Isle of Sheppey.

With a range of grants from 40–75 per cent available from the Countryside Commission or the County Councils, Tilhill can put together a very attractive package for the men of Kent or Sussex to help perpetuate their heritage.

Tall ship carries



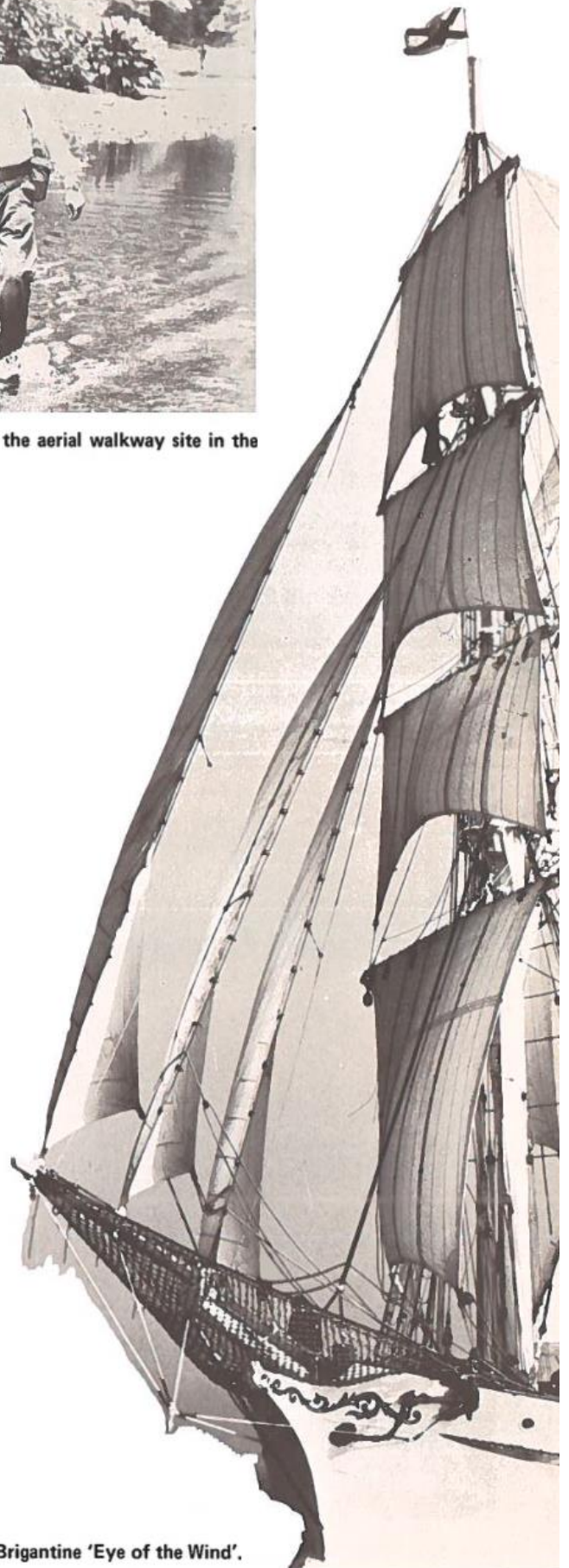
General Sir John Mogg, chairman of Operation Drake being led to the aerial walkway site in the Panamanian jungle (picture Drake).



Fenning with fauna and young Cuna Indian girl.



Yellow flower: inflorescence of up to thirty florets — a member of the legume family but specific name not known yet (picture Welstead).



Brigantine 'Eye of the Wind'.

'operation Drake'

Fenning Welstead applied to sail with Operation Drake early in 1978 while he was still at university. He needed £2000 sponsorship to finance his place. Tilhill, with others, made it possible (see Tree Scribe 5).

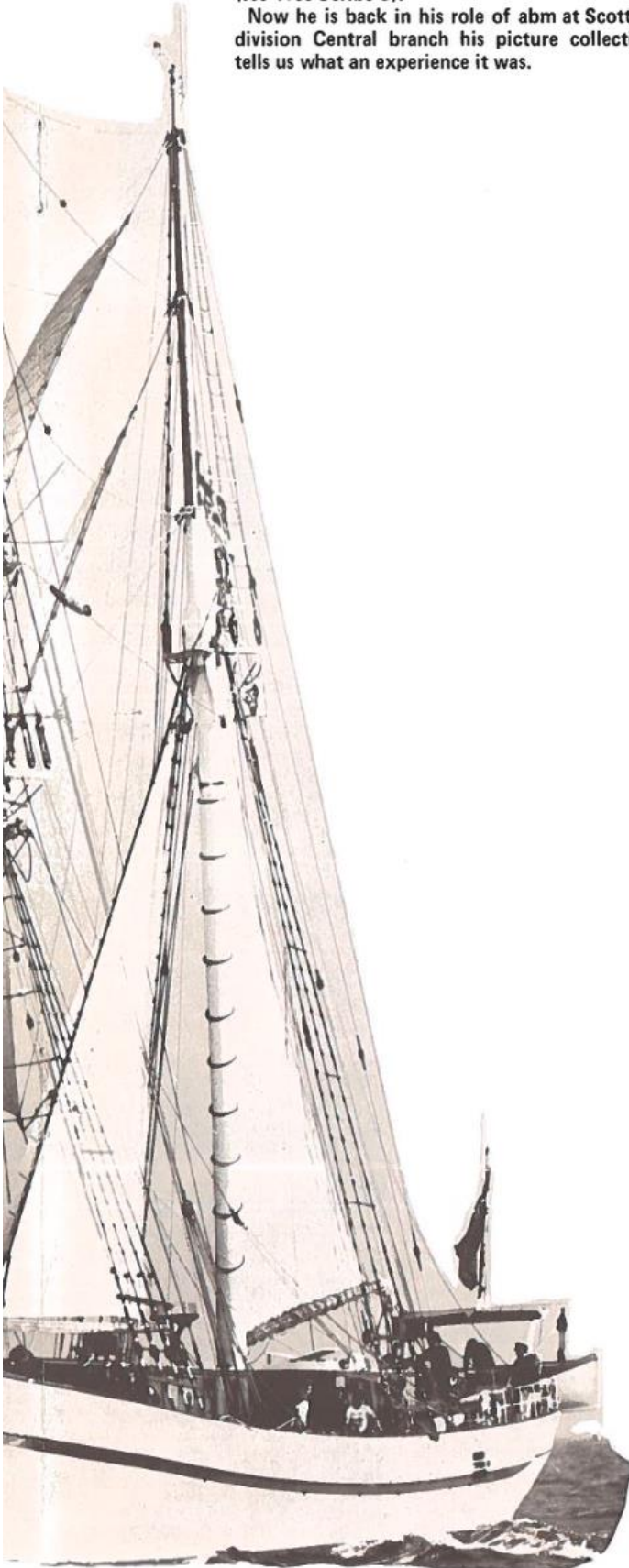
Now he is back in his role of abm at Scottish division Central branch his picture collection tells us what an experience it was.



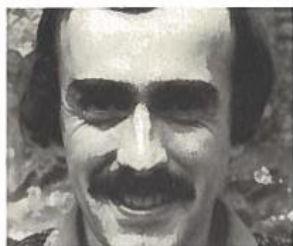
Walkway, from beneath (picture Welstead).



One way of reaching the walkway was a laborious 100ft climb up a rope ladder (picture Drake).



Landscaping-Scotland



Landscape architect and Central Landscaping branch abm Peter Raines.

Over the past five years the Central branch of Tilhill, Scottish division, has substantially increased its turnover in amenity planting, grass seeding and other such related works. Five years which have seen a large build up of capital equipment and the employment of full time landscaping squads and office personnel. So much so that in February 1979 the Central Landscape branch was set up under Graham Russell to cope with the increasing demands of this important aspect of Tilhill's contracting side.

Against the trend

The fact that Tilhill are expanding their services in this field goes somewhat against the current trend to cut back the amount of environmental improvements throughout the country. Although there is a strong political lobby concerned with environmental issues and the public at large show great appreciation of the more remote natural areas of the country, the respect shown for landscaping in our cities, towns and villages does not always compare favourably with countries such as the Netherlands and West Germany.

With local authorities usually demanding some form of landscape proposals from architects, builders and engineers there is a great opportunity now to use trained people whether they be landscape architects, ecologists or land managers.

A good relationship must be formed between the client/designer and the contractor. 'As landscaping contractors, we have to work very closely with the landscape architect on a scheme,' Graham Russell told Tree Scribe. 'We have to develop a good understanding of one another.'

Areas of disagreement

There are, inevitably, areas of disagreement between the contractor and the architect, but generally a compromise can be achieved.

Peter Raines, who has recently joined Graham as assistant branch manager, now appreciates the contractors' point of view. Formerly assistant landscape architect with Newport Borough Council, he is learning the trade from another angle.

'Costing and the intricacies involved in running contracts are unknown to most landscape architects' he says. 'I had a lot to learn when I started here. Things are now falling into place but it is a pity that students of landscape architecture do not get contracting

Landscaping is growing in importance to Tilhill, a company which can truthfully claim to have a nation-wide operation. Do conditions vary between Scotland and the south-east of England? On pages two and three we looked at Sussex. Here we look at Graham Russell's Central Landscaping branch, Stirling.

experience as well as working in design offices during vacations.'

With a projected turnover in excess of £200,000 in 1979, the Central Landscape branch of Tilhill is certainly making its presence felt in Central Scotland.

Current Contracts

Current contracts include a £35,000 land renewal scheme in Cowdenbeath. Nearing completion, this contract involved construction of car parking areas and footpaths, drainage of a football field, earthworks, seeding and tree planting.

Another contract now well under way despite the very wet summer is an £80,000 job to prepare and seed 100 acres of future parkland at the east side of Glasgow. The size of this contract has necessitated the use of large squads of men and machinery on site at one time to take advantage of the occasional spells of dry weather.

One of Tilhill's more unusual contracts took place last month, involving turfing and seeding ground bordering the main taxiway at Edinburgh Airport. 'We had to work at night between 10.30 pm and 7.00 am' says Graham 'when there were no aircraft taking off or landing'. Turf was delivered during the day with a security guard standing by to clear access to the area and all work was carried out with flood-lighting supplied by the main contractor.

Turf wired and pegged

All turf had to be wired and pegged down to prevent the blast from the engines lifting it from the ground.

The future workload of the branch is looking healthy with several contracts already secured for next season.

Following on from a major seeding and maintenance contract at Bannockburn High School, involving some sixty thousand square metres of seeding over playing fields and open grass areas, and regular cutting of some seventy thousand square metres of existing grass areas, Tilhill have secured three contracts within the area for construction of a new playing field for the local authority, valued at some £17,000, for landscaping a new community centre and for tree and shrub planting and seeding within a new local authority housing estate valued at over £55,000.

Healthy future

So despite Government cut backs, affecting the expenditure of local authorities in Central Scotland, the outlook for the immediate future is healthy and Tilhill will continue to expand and enhance their reputation for good quality and service in landscaping.



Landscape contracts manager Graham Russell and the hillside at St Ninians which he and his team will turn into a football pitch.



Highland branch has acquired new and larger offices in Muir of Ord, 15 miles north of Inverness. The new Highland branch office was formerly a bank, and still sports four safes, and a family of swallows almost ready to leave their nest in the branch store.

Mrs MacFadyen is Highland branch secretary, and efficiently deals with all matters - including enquiries for cash - like that from the Ross-shire farmer who, when he rushed in one lunchtime waving his cheque book and demanded £200 cash only to be told that the bank had moved down the road, said, surprised like - 'Y' mean you've nae money at a' - fit's that muckle safe for then?'

Bill Dickson, in pensive mood! Bill has now been Highland branch forester for 18 months and lives in the flat above the office.

Note Peter Fitch's Highland branch address:-

Seaforth Road,
Muir of Ord,
Ross-shire IV6 7TD
Telephone Muir of Ord 874 (24 hour service - as long as Bill is at home at night!)



Changing faces and places



Twenty-five years with Tilhill

Derek 'Pip' Harding has completed 25 years in Tilhill's nursery, first at Tilhill House — original company headquarters — and then at Greenhills, where he was presented by chairman Archie Aitkins with a pair of binoculars and an inscribed tankard, together with a cheque.



Ian McDonald FCA is the new accountant at Tilhill. He was articled to Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co in London and was with the firm for nearly nine years, involved mainly in company audits.

Before joining Tilhill, Ian spent five years with ICAA, a medium sized charity for handicapped children. Besides running the accounts department there, he modernised the accounting system with the installation of a small computer. He also had the unusual position of being responsible for overseeing and developing the charity's fund raising activity.

Congratulations to Martin and Alison Wilkinson on the birth of their second daughter Kathryn in August.

Southern division

R.W. Sochacki joined Central branch as an assistant branch manager on June 24. He graduated from Oxford in 1978 and in the interim has recently been employed by the Forestry Commission on field surveys.

R.N. Weeks was appointed landscape assistant to Landscaping section of Central branch on July 9. He was successful in June of this year in obtaining his OND in landscaping and horticulture after a three year course at the Askham Bryan College.

Central branch was very pleased to welcome back Mrs Daphne Benson on July 16 1979. Daphne was formally employed part-time and left early in the year to obtain additional qualifications and has now returned in full-time capacity.

Harvesting & marketing

Area Manager — South England & Wales: Richard Craven left this post on October 1 1979, to return to timber contracting. We wish him luck and look forward to maintaining contact with Richard in this new field. His position is being taken over by Graham Drennan-Smith, who moves to Church Stretton from Jedburgh, where he has been manager of Region IV for the last five years.

Region IV — Jedburgh: John Jackson, who has been the Scottish division Borders branch forester for the past fifteen years, takes over as regional manager from Graham Drennan-Smith.

Region III — Bedford Area: This region became fully operational on July 16, with the appointment of Campbell McEwan, who joined us from EFG as regional manager.

Region V — Stirling: Hugh Wheelodon left us in June to join the hardwood trade in his home county of Devon. His place as regional manager has been taken by Alan Robbins, who was serving as assistant branch manager to Bill Morgan in Scottish division, Central branch.

Region VIII — Carlisle: Mike Osborne who was serving as assistant branch manager to Colin Forsyth in Scottish division's Solway branch, has now joined Adam Ritchie as assistant regional manager.

Scottish division

Donald McDonald joined East Yorkshire branch in January as forester. After obtaining his OND at Newton Rigg Donald spent three years as a harvesting contractor, and a year as head forester on Sorn Estate in Ayrshire.

Alistair Rankine joined Highland branch as assistant manager in July. Alistair was employed by the Forestry Commission for two years before he went to Aberdeen University to study forestry. While at university he was secretary and then vice president of the Forestry Society and was president of the University Task Force.

Paul Eddy, a 1979 Aberdeen forestry graduate, joined Borders branch in July, and Mark Cocks, a Bangor graduate of the same year, joined Solway branch in August.

Peter Raines joined Tilhill Scottish division Central Landscape branch in February as assistant branch manager to Graham Russell. After graduating from Durham University with a geography degree Peter then gained a post graduate diploma in landscape architecture at Edinburgh University. Four years were then spent with Newport Borough Council in South Wales as assistant landscape architect. Now it's a return to the cold, and a mighty jump over the fence to the contracting side!



Treatment Plants

Theo Marsh has joined us as manager of the West Midland Timber Treatment Company plant at Ditton Priors and of the Tilhill 'Longly' plant at Greenhills.



Region II — Greenhills

Alistair Ballingall, 24, a graduate of Aberdeen University has joined Harvesting and Marketing division as assistant regional manager, region 2, working with Mike Self.

Alistair comes to Tilhill fresh from two years in South Africa where he was working in the Louis Trichardt area of Northern Transvaal in the tropical pines and eucalyptus plantations. He speaks of growth rates which necessitate thinning at eight years, or even sooner.

Here in the UK he is a new recruit to the ranks of mountain climbers, and sees the 280 mountains of Scotland as something of a challenge. Progress reports could follow.

Region IX — Frome

Roger Austin left Tilhill on August 31 to gain experience in the sawmilling industry. His place as regional manager is being taken by David Brinton, who started on October 1 and who comes to us from George Blay of Honiton, Devon.

At the same time, Christopher Radford has been appointed as assistant regional manager. A Bangor graduate, he spent three years with the Usutu Pulp Co in Swaziland and took up his Tilhill duties on August 29.

Nurseries

The new office manager of the Nurseries division is Mrs Margaret Walker who joined Tilhill in May last. Mrs Walker lives on a farm in nearby Thursley. She is a keen bowler and a member of Hindhead Bowling Club.

A newly created position in the Nurseries division, that of despatch manager, has been taken up by Roger Mathews who came into the company last March. Mr Mathews will be responsible for the running of the cold stores in addition to general despatch duties. Prior to joining Tilhill he worked for five years in the road haulage industry during which time he gained his Class 1 HGV licence. His varied interests include bird-watching, contemporary jazz and folk music, parachuting and Fulham F.C.



X-WORD KING!

Congratulations to Argyll branch manager Vaughan Hammond who was first with the correct solution to our cross-word published in Tree Scribe Number 5. He receives the £5 book token. Here is the solution.

Tories 'vote'

Continued from page 1

particular traditional sources of supply at present, the greatest pressures are likely to come from increasing world demand from both developed and developing countries. Since actual shortages are certain to be preceded by dramatic price rises, and since the Community's timber import bill is already second only to its oil imports, increased domestic planting should be treated as a much more pressing need than is currently the case, particularly because new planting undertaken now cannot affect production significantly until the beginning of the next century.'

Acute position

The acute position of Britain within the EEC in terms of imbalance between forest area and timber consumption is examined and John Corrie makes the plea that 'the rational use of land within the Community will in the long term be more beneficial for all than pursuing a policy of land use rational only in terms of each member state individually.'

Agricultural surpluses are a major problem of the CAP and in many cases the long term solution can only be to use land released from agriculture by surplus-control measures for production of crops in which the Community as a whole is in deficit. Such crops are now few and timber represents our biggest single import second only to oil.'

The author notes that while forestry is not specifically mentioned in the Treaty of Rome, the European Commission consider that Article 43 of the Treaty provides a legal basis for the development of an EEC forestry policy.

Sheep grazing

Turning to the potential for more planting in Britain John Corrie, perhaps with an eye to the Scottish NFU, puts extensive sheep grazing in its historical context. 'Some sheep farmers have become rather emotional and excessive in their opposition to the hated tree - just as many emotional excesses occurred when the sheep spread through Scotland in the first place.' Afforestation however, he asserts, still remains the best investment for both the UK and the Community.

The review covers forestry's relationship with wildlife conservation and recreation and finds the relationships compatible and beneficial, and then stresses the importance of employment creation in rural areas.

Afforestation 'imperative'

In his conclusion John Corrie regards the need for afforestation as 'imperative' and his final words sum up his findings 'We should get planting as quickly as we can!'

'A Policy for Forestry' by Russell Fairgrieve MP published by the Conservative Political Centre, price 80p.

'Forestry in Europe' by John Corrie MP published by the European Conservative Group, free.

Thinnings conference at Nancy

Harvesting & Marketing director Steve Macpherson recently attended a conference in Nancy, France, where the subject discussed was 'Thinning Techniques and Mechanical Methods'. 52 delegates from 18 countries participated in the 5-day session and papers were presented by most of the attending countries.

The conference recognised that there was an overall problem of thinning early enough and heavily enough and of working these early thinnings economically. Efforts are currently being made to 'miniaturise' heavy timber equipment for use in early thinning areas.

It was further recognised that silvicultural thinnings, where material is left on the ground, are no longer desirable because of costs involved and because the total crop is vital to the world economy and energy resource.

It was interesting, if depressing, he comments, to find that all the smaller machines developed so far to work in early thinnings are still in the prototype stage and that no country as yet has achieved a real breakthrough in this direction. ■

Surrey Wedding



Greenhills based assistant accountant Kevin Hollingsworth was married in mid-summer to Diane Stone of Cheam, Surrey.

The bride arrived at the church in a horse-drawn hackney carriage which also took the couple to their reception at the Black Fox.

Glenmorangie galore!



Tarlogie springs, Tain, Ross-shire - source of that nectar beloved of Scottish foresters - Glenmorangie malt whisky. (The conifers are looking well on it too).

HILL FARMERS FEAR TAKEOVER

Are unproductive hill farms a 'sitting duck' for take-over by forestry? This possibility was raised by an executive of the Hill Farming Research Organisation at a Perthshire conference and reported in the farming/forestry press.

'Hill farmers would be faced with a situation in which society said it was not prepared to go on increasing support to an industry which was running into trouble,' said HFRO manager Robin Armstrong.

'There's not going to be a future for hill farms muddling along with an ewe to three or four acres and producing a 75 to eighty per cent lamb crop.'