



Duke of Cornwall's Award

THE first ever winner of the Duke of Cornwall's Award for Forestry and Conservation is Sir Michael Colman's Malshanger Estate in Hampshire.

The woodlands have been managed by Central branch since 1968 when Bob Gray wrote Tilhill's first five year management plan for the estate's 150 hectares of woods and copses.

The judges, R. C. Steele, Director General of the Nature Conservancy Council and Dr T. W. Wright, Advisor on Conservation and Woodlands to the National Trust, were accompanied by the Royal Forestry Society's Director, E. H. M. Harris.

A rich variety of habitat for wildlife, in conjunction with a high proportion of mainly coniferous plantations, is achieved with small blocks (three to five hectares) separated by wide grassy rides, a range of age classes from 1 to 50 years, and the use of several different species.



• Wide rides dividing the plantations enhance the conservation value of the woodlands.

The programme of conversion from derelict woodland of oak standards with coppice began in the 1930's but remnants of the old woods have now been brought under management with conservation very much in mind.

The prize, a tankard of burr oak made at the John Makepiece workshops at Parnham, Dorset, plus £250 will be presented by the Duke of Cornwall in November.

Boost for broadleaves

AFTER much discussion and consultation by the Forestry Commission with other agencies and representative organisations the Secretary of State for Scotland set out the principles of a new policy for broadleaved woodlands at the end of July in the House of Commons.

The policy has a number of complementary aims:—

- to ensure that the broadleaved character of the parts of the country where such woods abound is maintained and improved
- to see broadleaved woodlands established in areas where they are scarce
- to encourage the maintenance and greater use of broadleaves in the uplands, especially where they will add to landscape beauty and wildlife interest
- to encourage the greater use of broadleaved woodlands generally for conservation, recreation, sport and landscape, as well as for timber production
- to ensure that the special interest of ancient semi-natural woodlands is recognised and maintained
- to increase the quality and value of timber produced by broadleaved woodlands

New policy

To encourage landowners to respond to the new policy some sticks and some carrots are introduced. Foremost amongst the carrots is a new broadleaved planting grant which not only offers much enhanced rates of grant but also makes them much more effective by linking them to the area that is planted, rather than the size of wood in which the planting takes place.

However, it is to be noted that these enhanced rates apply only when broadleaved species are planted on their own. If broadleaves are planted in mixture with conifers, the rate of grant drops to the much lower Forestry Grant Scheme rate.

This seems unnecessarily severe, particularly when the consultation papers issued by the Forestry Commission recognised that many of the broadleaved

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• HRH Prince Charles, the Duke of Cornwall.

Continued from Front Page

Boost for Broadleaves

woodlands admired today had been established by using conifers in mixture, both to act as a nurse crop and to provide an earlier financial return.

New restrictions are also introduced in felling. The volume of timber, both broadleaved and conifer, which may be felled without a licence is reduced from 30 cubic metres to 5 cubic metres per quarter, with an attendant reduction in the volume of such timber that may be sold from 5.5 cubic metres to 2 cubic metres.

A previous proposal, aimed at reducing the costs of administering controls on private forestry by exempting silvicultural thinnings from felling licences, is now dropped.

Guidelines are now published for what is considered appropriate management and silviculture for the various types of broadleaved woodland.

One hope is that, where applications for grant-aided work are in accordance with the guidelines, this will reduce the need for detailed consultation on every application with other agencies. This concept could usefully be developed for conifer planting also.

Positive management in the interests of nature conservation will be an essential guideline in woodland identified as 'ancient semi-natural.' The Nature Conservancy Council is compiling a register of ancient woodland on a provisional basis.

It will be necessary for land-owners to check the accuracy of this provisional register as it may affect their property.

The Government is to consider whether ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland should be able to qualify for exemption from capital taxation in recognition of its heritage value.

One of the greatest impediments to the successful growing of broadleaves is damage by grey squirrels. The Forestry Commission proposes to set up local squirrel control groups in co-operation with the private sector to extend the effective application of known methods of control.

Planting grants have been revised only modestly by about 5% for other Forestry Commission grant schemes and back-dated to the review date of 1 October 1984.

Management grants however remain unaltered. The opportunity has not been taken to make these planting grants apply to the area planted; they remain governed by the area of the woodland in which the planting is done. The disparity between these grants and the new broadleaved grant is therefore further accentuated.

Both the new and the revised grants are shown in the tables above.

BROADLEAVED WOODLAND GRANT SCHEME: GRANT RATES EFFECTIVE FROM 1st OCTOBER 1985.

£/hectare

Band (Area of planting or regeneration)	Planting				Natural Regeneration			
	1 (70%)	2 (15%)	3 (15%)	Total	1 (50%)	2 (30%)	3 (20%)	Total
0.25 ha-0.9 ha	840	180	180	1,200	600	360	240	1,200
1.0 ha-2.9 ha	700	150	150	1,000	500	300	200	1,000
3.0 ha-9.9 ha	560	120	120	800	400	240	160	800
10.0 ha and over	420	90	90	600	300	180	120	600

i The grant bands will be linked to the area of planting (including restocking) or natural regeneration.

ii The second and third instalments of grant will be paid as a percentage of the rate current at the time they are due.

iii In the case of planting, the first instalment will be paid on completion of planting and the second and third instalments at five-yearly intervals thereafter, subject to satisfactory establishment and maintenance of the trees. In the case of natural regeneration, the first instalment will be paid on completion of approval work designed to lead to regeneration, the second instalment when an adequate stocking has been achieved and the third instalment five years after subject to satisfactory establishment and maintenance.

FORESTRY GRANT SCHEME: GRANT RATES EFFECTIVE FROM 1 OCTOBER 1984

£/hectare

Area of Wood	Conifers	Broadleaves
0.25 ha-0.9 ha	630	890
1.0 ha-2.9 ha	505	735
3.0 ha-9.9 ha	420	630
10.0 ha and over	240	470

Payment of these amounts will be made in two instalments — 80% on completion of planting, the remainder five years later subject to satisfactory establishment.

BASIS II AND III DEDICATION SCHEMES: GRANT RATES EFFECTIVE FROM 1 OCTOBER 1984.

£/hectare

BASIS II DEDICATION		BASIS III DEDICATION	
Planting grant	110	Planting grant —	145
Management grant (per annum)	—	Conifers	330
first 40 hectares	4.80	Broadleaves	4.20
second 40 hectares	3.25	Management grant (per annum)	—
balance	2.00		

Worker selection first thinning

SOME COMMENTS BY MIKE WHITFIELD ON HIS EXPERIENCE OF THIS METHOD OF THINNING AT THE MARCHES BRANCH.

IN ORDER to offset both the high cost of marking first thinnings and the low windblow stability of line thinned stands, Marches branch have been extending their policy of using the worker selection first thinning method wherever possible.

Contractors experienced in conventional thinning techniques have been trained to select the trees themselves as they work through the stands. The cutters have been trained in selection and felling techniques by abm Mike Whitfield, who has experience of this method both in the UK and in New Zealand.

Once the cutters have reached the desired standard, most find that the time they lose thinking about the selection evens out with the time they gain in takedown, particularly in Sitka Spruce.



● Worker selection first thinning in action.

This is because in a situation where a 50:50 choice has to be made by choosing one of two adjacent trees for removal the cutter can choose the one that offers the easier takedown.

If the thinning had been

marked previously, ease of takedown would not have been taken into account and the more difficult tree might have been marked to come out.

Once they are experienced, most cutters find the technique more efficient than working in a marked first thinning.

The main disadvantage with the system is the lack of consistency among individual cutters. Some will tend to thin heavily and others less heavily, and this will cause variation from one extraction rack to the next.

It is important when training to treat each cutter as an individual case, and a stable labour force is essential if excessive supervision is to be avoided. Underthinning the woodlands during the training period is generally the problem, rather than overthinning.

Once the team is fully trained and the cutters are thinning at the same intensity, the system provides a viable method of first thinning in unbrushed stands, which is to be preferred to pre-marking on economic grounds and to line thinning on stability grounds.

Val Pettit meets Scottish Division's new general manager, Martin Wilkinson.

As a schoolboy deciding on his future, Martin Wilkinson was given only one piece of advice about his intention to go into forestry — "If you suffer from hayfever, don't," the careers adviser said.

Happily, Martin chose to disregard this cautionary comment and has since, despite the occasional snuffle, carved for himself a highly satisfactory career in forestry.

Thirty-six at the time of his recent appointment as general manager of Scottish Division, he beat by only a few months Sandy Macpherson's record as the youngest man in that post. Now 37 and finding his feet, Martin and Tree Scribe looked back over the career which has brought him to this point.

There were no family reasons for Martin's choice of forestry other than being brought up on the southern edge of the Lake District and developing early on a love of the outdoor life.

"I had a few high-flown ideas about relaxed strolling around in



the woods" said Martin with a wry smile.

Nevertheless, the concept, misguided as it was, led him to opt for sixth-form sciences and to take a degree course in forestry at Aberdeen University.

After graduating he joined Northern branch as what was then termed a forestry assistant. Two years of learning his craft under the guiding hand of John Lambert

Profile

led to a transfer to Borders branch in 1972, overlapping for only a few weeks with branch manager Sandy Macpherson before Sandy moved to Old Sauchie as general manager.

For most of Martin's time in Borders branch, he worked as assistant branch manager under Steve Macpherson, getting valuable experience in large-scale afforestation during the tail-end of the late sixties / early seventies planting boom.

Only a year later, he was on the move again, this time to Ludlow as the first branch manager of the newly-formed Marches branch where he managed to combine successfully the long-distance courtship of his wife Alison in Jedburgh with the building up of the new branch's territory.

"It was a difficult time as the branch was started with only a small workload," recalled Martin. "Initially we had only the manage-

ment of a large estate in Shropshire, which was the reason for starting the new branch, and three smaller estates transferred from Bill Dorrington's South-West patch."

Martin stayed for two years in Marches, before moving to Anglia to replace John White who had been promoted to Nurseries director. His five-year tenure there proved to be his longest to date and, in Martin's view, the most critical, for it was his work in Anglia which, he is convinced, first got him noticed.

"Anglia became a very successful branch" said Martin. "It grew rapidly because there was a lot of work to be had and over a four year period, turnover increased two and a half times."

In East Anglia, as branch manager and then as Southern Division's northern area manager responsible also for Marches branch, Martin was able to remain closely involved in the practicalities of the work including the early stages of the return to agricultural use of the Midland Bank Pension Trust's Poplar estates — a period he now looks back on with great satisfaction.

"There was a lot of land clearance to do as quickly as possible," Martin remembers, "and we were limited only by the speed at which we could harvest and sell the timber. As fast as we sold it, we moved in our contractors to remove the stumps and return the land to agriculture as part of a long-term ten-year programme."

It was a stimulating time — no one had known quite the best way of carrying out the work and new techniques were developed and improved."

In 1983, there came a chance for Martin to return to what he had come to regard as his spiritual home and he was transferred to the post of northern area manager of Scottish Division with responsibility for Cowal and Bute, Argyll, Central Forestry, Highland and Northern branches.

Now, as second in command to divisional director Sandy Macpherson, he relishes the challenge of becoming involved in all the Division's branches.

"I expect the job to stretch me to the full," he said, "but in return, I'll have the challenge of wider involvement."

He will be in close touch with all Scottish Division branches, initially with a special emphasis on the more southerly-located ones which, apart from his early spell in Jedburgh, will cover new ground for him.

Martin believes that people make their own luck but is sure, too, that his own progress in Tilhill contains a large element of being in the right place at the right time.

In 15 years with the company, he has moved around a lot — too much for some tastes, but in Martin's case it has meant, eventually, a welcome move back to Scotland and a major promotion without any further domestic upheaval.

He is particularly glad of that for his off-duty interests still lie out of doors. He relaxes whenever he can with the help of a fishing rod, occasionally goes hill-walking and tops up his fitness on the local squash court.

Entering a new era

TILHILL'S policy of increasing specialisation in both forestry and landscaping has opened a new era for staff and clients in three of the company's areas of activity — Grampian and the Highlands, Yorkshire and the South-east of England.

With effect from August 5, all landscaping business carried out in the northern regions became the special responsibility of Peter Fitch, and John Lambert assumed total responsibility for forestry. Peter has joined John in the existing offices at Lhanbryde.

Tilhill's forestry business is long-established in the north, John Lambert having been branch manager since 1963, and John can now give his undivided attention to forest management, silviculture and the selling of timber. He will be ably assisted in this by Bill Dickson, who was senior abm in the former Highland branch and who has been with Tilhill since 1978.

Peter Fitch's new landscaping branch is charged with expanding Tilhill's already extensive landscaping business in the area and he has contracts in locations from Thurso to Aberdeen, ranging from planting around new HDB factories to large-scale grass-cutting at the British Gas St Fergus terminal and at Britoil's Nigg terminal.

Assisting Peter is Simon Jacyna who has transferred from Solway branch, bringing with him considerable experience in landscape contracting.

At Thirsk, two new branches have been created from one, namely the Yorkshire forestry and landscape branches. As from October 1, landscaping in North East England from the Humber to the Tyne became the responsibility of Peter Middleton, hitherto the sole Yorkshire branch manager.

All forestry operations in the same area are now under the charge of Tim Liddon who has been assistant branch manager at Yorkshire branch for four years and has now been promoted to branch manager.

Tilhill has built up a respected landscaping presence in the North East of England, beginning with the period of tenure as branch manager of Andrew Binmore and built upon by Peter Middleton. Now Peter is to specialise in this field to expand further, ably assisted by John Carmichael and Stephen Farnworth who are both landscaping specialists.

Tim Liddon is now the forestry specialist, building up further the Forestry branch which is involved in a

wide variety of forestry work ranging from the planting, care and maintenance of small woodlands on mixed estates to more substantial afforestation schemes.

He is assisted by David Houldershaw who has considerable experience of forestry in this part of the world.

After several years of sustained growth nurtured by the South East branch, the beginning of October saw the budding off of a new Landscape branch.

From a modest start some seven years ago, contract landscaping became a significant part of the South East branch's activities, with turnover keeping pace with increasing staff skills and tendering success. When it became known that the branch had been accorded a Surrey Docks contract worth £210,000 clearly the time had come to form an independent landscape branch to take advantage of a buoyant market for contract landscaping in the South East.

Phil Hewitson, formerly contracts manager, was promoted to branch manager in charge of the new landscape branch. Phil is unique in the company having both professional forestry (BSc) and landscape (Dip.L) qualifications. He is ably assisted by Barry Upton (O.N.D.) and the newest recruit Robert Cuthbert (N.D.H.).

It is expected that in the wake of the new Sevenoaks - Swanley section of the M25 next summer, a plethora of new development will ensue, just the type of work in which the branch is greatly experienced. Further huge developments are planned by the London Dockland Development Corporation.

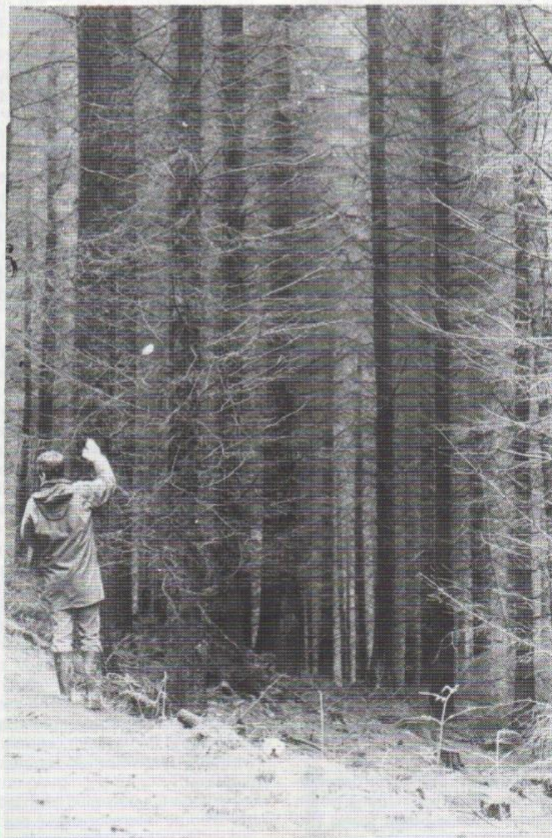
The Gatwick Airport and M23 areas are other locations which are booming with high-tech, light industrial and warehousing developments. There is a continuous residential estate development programme in a whole band of dormitory towns to the south of London which offers landscape construction opportunities.

On the south coast there are promising developments of highly landscaped light industrial sites on the perimeter of the larger towns. Super stores and hyper markets are mushrooming over the area too, requiring intensive landscaping as an integral part of the planning package.

Brycheiniog Forest provides a challenge to Marches branch, as Val Pettit discov



● Branch manager Richard Sochacki talks to Tree Scribe in one of the storm-damaged areas.



● High quality timber, showing the site potential at Brycheiniog.

A SEVERE GALE which occurred nearly a decade ago is now providing a major challenge for Marches branch.

The site is the 634 ha. Brycheiniog forest near Brecon in South Wales.

Originally upland grassland and farmland, Brycheiniog was purchased after the 1914-18 war by the Forestry Commission and planted up from the early 1920's onwards, mostly with Sitka spruce.

Growth generally was excellent but in 1976, when crops were at or approaching maturity, a severe winter gale caused extensive damage to almost a third of the area. Windblow continued regularly thereafter on exposed faces as harvesting proceeded until most of the mature crops had been removed.

Purchase

Tilhill recently took over management of the estate, following purchase by one of the company's Pension Fund clients. It was one of the largest single blocks of Forestry Commission land to be sold in recent years in Southern England and Wales and is the largest single property now under Marches branch management.

At the time of purchase by Tilhill's client in November 1984 there were 180 ha. of bare land with a further 50 ha. following completion of fellings by the Forestry Commission.

The ravages of windblow and subsequent harvesting presented a scene of some desolation which Tilhill is now in the process of repairing. Site clearance and any necessary drainage work are being tackled systematically and a major planting programme is in hand so that all bare land will be restocked within the next two or three years.

A first impression of what remained of the storm-damaged areas is one of a nightmare of tangled windblow of various ages with debris up to three metres deep in places.

Following the client's brief to see the rehabilitation of Brycheiniog from a chaos of windblow, brash and rotting timber to its full potential as a highly-productive working forest, Marches branch's priority was to salvage and harvest as much saleable timber as it could, plant immediately wherever possible and, where the debris was too intractable, embark on an intensive clearing programme to prepare for planting in 1986.

Salvaged

A good start was made in one particularly badly affected compartment of 28 ha. where between 10 and 11 ha. of windblown timber received



THI OF C

intensive clearance treatment. As much sound timber as possible has been salvaged, much of it fortunately in fresh, 'green' condition, and the remainder has been mechanically heaped up and then burned. Receipts from roadside sales of this less than perfect timber have been higher than expected with prices up to £22 per m³.

Clearance

Elsewhere, extensive areas are covered by dry 'lop and top' debris and branch manager Richard Sochacki found that he was able to plant through most of this without having to carry out further clearance. In all, 88 ha. were planted during the 1984/85 planting season, mainly with

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● Rob McDougall.

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discovers . . .



● Restoring the drainage system.



● Re-stocking in progress last season.

THE WIND CHANGE

is Sitka spruce but with some Douglas fir and Hybrid larch.

In addition to withthrow many trees were broken by the wind and these added to the impression of desolation.

"We have been tidying up these windsnaps to improve the skyline" says Richard, "but have retained a few scattered stumps as perches for birds of prey."

"We are also busy repairing drainage and re-opening existing water courses and main drains where windblow had torn out large root plates and subsequent harvesting had blocked drains."

Despite a maximum elevation of 1400 feet and up to wind hazard class IV in the highest areas, Brycheiniog has a superb soil and potential over most of its area, which is well

indicated by the growth of second-generation crops of Sitka spruce now in the pre-thinning stage and some fine remaining stands of mature timber.

Douglas fir is another species well suited to the site and will be given preference wherever there is a degree of shelter. Douglas fir is preferred not only because of its high yield but because of its resistance to possible attack from the Great Spruce Bark Beetle (*Dendroctonus micans*). So far, this pest has not been found at Brycheiniog but it is known to be in the locality.

Road system

The whole of the Brycheiniog forest has an excellent internal road system

plus good communications with local sawmills. Although the quantities of spruce pulpwood available at present are small, this is destined in the future for the new pulp mill at Shotton.

Most of the surrounding land is used for sheep grazing and sheep trespass into the forest, with consequent damage to young plantations by browsing, had been allowed to become a commonplace event under the previous ownership.

Richard now faces the fairly daunting task of persuading neighbouring farmers of the need to keep their sheep under control and getting across to them that damage to young trees from sheep is no longer acceptable.

Richard's approach has been to hold a series of meetings with his

neighbours in order to put his message across. Considerable improvement has been achieved but there is still a little way to go before sheep trespass becomes totally a thing of the past.

Necessary

Richard regards the next five years at Brycheiniog as a period when investment in necessary to repair the ravages of windblow and complete the re-stocking of second generation crops.

"We shall get a tremendous sense of satisfaction and achievement from converting a scene of dereliction into a highly productive and cared-for forest," says Richard.

RCHES branch doubled in power from two to four in space of a few months.

Richard Sochacki replaced the Haughton last February has Mike Whitfield as assistant branch manager.

Rob McDougall joined the strength as forester early in the New Year and Peter Raines returned to Tilhill in March as assistant contracts manager.

"The input of work at Brycheiniog was such that we

felt it necessary to have someone on site for much of the time," said area manager Arnold Beaton, "and this is where Rob's presence will be invaluable."

"We were also sufficiently encouraged by the growth in

the branch's landscape business over recent years to believe that there was now enough work of this type to justify the appointment of a full-time assistant contracts manager."

VAUGHAN HAMMOND has been promoted to the post of Northern Area Manager. Vaughan joined Tilhill at Solway branch in 1972 and, since 1974, has been branch manager of Argyll. He takes over from Martin Wilkinson, the new General Manager of Scottish Division.

● **John Williams** has joined Solway branch as abm. John recently graduated from Reading University with a B.Sc. Honours in Horticulture, specialising in his final year in landscape design.

This is John's second spell with Tilhill. He worked for six months last year as a craftsman with the Landscape branch, at Greenhills. His interests include rock-climbing and badminton.

● **Philip Townsend** has joined Central Landscape branch as landscape assistant. He recently gained his National Diploma in Horticulture (formerly OND) at Askham Bryan College.

During his three-year course, he spent twelve months working for Lord Cadogan's estate in Chelsea where he was involved in the maintenance and re-instatement of several of London's famous squares.

Prior to college, he gained experience in sports turf maintenance at Wakefield Sports Club and nursery production with Wakefield MDC. Philip's hobbies include badminton, photography and following the fortunes and misfortunes of Wakefield Trinity rugby league football club.

● **John Little** has joined Central Forestry Branch as abm. After completing his degree in forestry at Edinburgh University in 1984, John joined the Forestry Commission's forest surveys branch before taking up his appointment with Tilhill.

● **Steven Farnworth** has joined Yorkshire branch as abm immediately after graduating from Bath University with a degree in horticulture. Part of Steven's practical experience includes six months working for a nursery in Florida, USA. His interests include walking and cycling.

● **Katherine Dick** has joined head office at Old Sauchie as typist/clerk. Her hobbies include Italian-style cooking and reading.

● **Lothians branch forester Iain Mackenzie** ran in the Stirling and Haddington half-marathons and raised £120 in sponsorship money for the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council in the latter race.

● **Tom Dunlop** of Central Forestry branch raised £110 for the MacMillan Cancer Relief Fund by competing in the Stirling half-marathon for the second year running and, in the same race, **Bob Stainton**, landscaping supervisor in Central Landscape branch, returned a time of 93 minutes over the 13-mile course.

● A party from the Pacific Coast Logging Congress, together with their wives, visited Griffin Forest Estate at Aberfeldy in September. The visit gave the participants the opportunity to see a forest in the making — something which was outwith their general experience — and it also provided a good opener to their tour.

● **Rupert Pearson** has taken up the post of Argyll branch manager following Vaughan Hammond's promotion and transfer to Stirling.

Rupert brings back with him to Argyll branch recent specialist harvesting and marketing experience gained as Borders Regional Manager with H & M Division.

Prior to his short sojourn with H & M Division, Rupert spent something over a year as abm at Central branch and then some three years as abm at Argyll branch.

Other members of the Argyll branch team are: forester Redmond de Burgh — who happily responds to "Red" — joined Tilhill almost a year ago after qualifying at Inverness Technical College.

Scottish



Steven Farnworth.



John Williams.



Philip Townsend.



John Little.

Congratulations to . . .

. . . long-standing bachelor Tim Liddon of Yorkshire branch who recently succumbed and announced his engagement to Morag Gall. It has taken a local Yorkshire Dales vet to tie this man down!

. . . Colin MacBrayne, of Central Forestry branch, who married Carol Anderson in North Berwick on July 26.

. . . David Hetherington, of Central Landscape branch, who married Gwynne Yzerman in North Berwick on April 12.

. . . Simon Jacyna, of Northern Landscape branch, who married Susan Duncan from Aberdeen on April 1.

. . . and belated wedding congratulations to Martin McKenna of Central Landscape branch who married Flora Keogh in Bridge of Weir in October of last year.

Martin has also recently helped to raise almost £1000 for the Ethiopian Appeal. Prior to starting a career in landscaping, Martin was a professional musician. His band, Chou Pahrot, reformed after five years to participate in a Live Aid concert in Johnston.

Congratulations also to . . .

. . . Central Forestry branch manager Tom McLellan and his wife Margaret on the birth of a daughter, Mairi, on August 5.

. . . Landscape area manager Graham Russell and his wife Janette who have recently added a daughter, Gillian, to their family.

. . . and Colin Macpherson of Central Forestry branch and his wife Sheila on the birth of a daughter, Laura Ann, on September 22.

Assistant branch manager Innes McLagan, who graduated from Aberdeen University in 1979, joined Tilhill some nine months ago after experience with the Forestry Commission, service overseas in Nepal and a spell as a self-employed silvicultural and timber contractor.

Shireen Chambers is the latest recruit, having joined Tilhill in August of this year as abm after graduating this summer at the University of North Wales, Bangor.

Shireen is from Ireland and worked with the New South Wales Forestry Commission, Australia, completed her degree course in a Welsh college, and now she lives and works in Scotland! Catriona McGuire, branch secretary completes the team.



Chris Piper.

THERE are three new abms at Borders branch.

Alan Chrison joined in June following a period spent marking thinnings at Northern branch. After qualifying from Aberdeen University, Alan undertook a research project funded by the Water Research Centre entitled "Sewage Sludge in Forests." His colleagues hope that he does not utilise his acquired knowledge on Borders branch managed properties!

Chris Piper transferred in July following a year spent as an abm at Northern branch where he gained valuable expertise in both forestry and landscaping operations. Chris includes in his general interests being a member of the Aberdeen mountain rescue team and hopes to expand that interest in the Cheviot Hills team.

Stephen Adlard joined in August following graduation from Edinburgh University. Steven is a big chap and, although he does

not list rugby in his leisure activities, branch secretary Eleanor Thomson, whose husband is president of Jedforest Rugby Club, is hoping to enrol him into the playing membership.

● Borders branch once again entered a team into the Jedburgh cricket club annual six-a-side contest. Due to departures and leave commitments, the regular side could not be fielded and the branch obtained the services of branch secretary **Eleanor Thomson's** two sons and **Paul Eddy's** next-door-neighbour and occasional fire-fighter.

The team — R. J. Smith (captain), P. D. Eddy, R. T. Pearson, G. Rae, J. Thomson and C. Thomson — triumphed, overcoming the best that Jedburgh and district could produce. They beat the sixes of Jedburgh Grammar School, Starrets and the Jedforest Rugby Club in the early rounds and the District Council (captained by Eleanor Thomson's husband and father of the two youthful prodigies) in a tense final.

CONTRACTS

Scottish Division

CENTRAL LANDSCAPE branch has been awarded the following contracts:

From **Lilley Construction**, a late planting season contract valued at £18,300 for planting and maintaining pot-grown trees and shrubs at the Castlebridge Mine, near Alloa; from **Wang Laboratories**, a grounds maintenance contract, plus additional works, valued at £5050; from the **Scottish Development Department (Ancient Monuments)**, a fencing contract for work around three Roman signal stations valued at £2400; from the **Scottish Special Housing Association**, a £4200 contract for maintenance works in a local housing scheme and from **Costain Construction**, a £24,730 contract for seeding and planting at the Granada motorway service area being constructed on the outskirts of Stirling.

● BORDERS branch has won a

£34,689 contract from **Tyne and Wear County Council** for pit planting, fencing and footpath construction at Hadrian Business Park.

● **NORTHERN** landscape has won branch contracts totalling £8115. The first, from **Robertsons of Elgin Ltd.** and worth £2903, is for screen fencing and landscaping for a Hanover Housing site and the second, from **Alexander Hall and Son** and worth £5212, is for grass seeding and hedging for 50 new houses.

● **SOLWAY** branch has secured a further contract at Sellafeld for **British Nuclear Fuels**. It is worth £57,944 and comprises fencing, planting and aftercare around the new North End development.

● **YORKS LANDSCAPE** branch has been awarded a £7660 contract by the **Kwik Save Discount Group** for seeding and planting works around a new supermarket in Middlesbrough and another, worth £6310, from **North Yorkshire Country Council** for the preparation and establishment of a school sports pitch.



● Branch manager Rupert Pearson (seated) with, from left, Shireen Chambers, Red de Burgh, Catriona McGuire and Innes McLagan.

& places



● Bryson Middleton (left) and Roger Smith plant the commemorative tree.

IN 1975, the Reverend Doctor Peter Norton erected a wooden "pinelogg" chalet as a holiday residence within his family's forestry holdings — Hawkthass, Langside and Stennishope — which lie to the south of Hawick.

In addition to its use as a holiday home, he has lent the chalet to various groups, including church groups and the Boys' Brigade, for their holidays.

To celebrate its tenth anniversary, a party was held attended by Dr. Norton's family and other cabin users.

During the party, held on one of the very few sunny days this year, a tree donated by Tilhill was planted by Bryson Middleton and Roger Smith to mark the occasion.

Southern

STUART BLACK has joined Anglia South branch as forester. He recently completed his OND at Newton Rigg, having gained some of his experience as a harvesting worker with the Great Lakes Paper Company at Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. Stuart is a keen rugby and squash player.

John Wilding, who gained his BTEC ND at Newton Rigg in the summer, has joined Central Forestry branch as a forester. His interests include fishing, shooting and motor sports.

Steve Smith has joined Landscape branch as a landscape supervisor. He qualified from Merrist Wood in 1981 with an OND in Landscape Construction. Prior to joining Tilhill he was employed as a landscape supervisor by a building company. Steve is married and enjoys outdoor and indoor sports. His latest interest is making videos.

Mrs Vi Marshall has joined the branch as a clerkess. She has three grown-up children and enjoys sailing and badminton.

Adrian Norton has been promoted to contracts manager of Central Landscape branch.

Mrs Carys Palmer has joined Marches branch as secretary. She reached the rank of captain in the Army before resigning her commission on marriage and has since raised a family. She gained pensions, secretarial and clerical experience while working for Suffolk County Council, has completed an MSC training course in middle management software and has four credits towards an Open University degree.

Peter Middleton, not to be



Stuart Black.



John Wilding.



Steve Smith.



Vi Marshall.



Peter Middleton.



Phil Hewitson.



Robert Cuthbert.

confused with his namesake in Yorkshire Landscape branch, joined South-East Forestry branch in August as abm. Peter graduated from Aberdeen University with a B.Sc. in Forestry in 1984 and was employed as an area manager with Ligna Timber (North) Ltd. for nine months before joining Tilhill. His interests include football, badminton and hill-walking.

Phil Hewitson, formerly South-East branch contracts manager, has been promoted to manager of the new South-East Landscape branch.

Robert Cuthbert joined the branch as landscape supervisor in September. Bob has a National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture from Writtle Agricultural College and his interests include badminton, squash, football and nature photography.

PETER SLOAN has moved to Southern Division as general manager following 20 years of distinguished service with Tilhill in Scotland and North England.



Peter came to Tilhill in 1965 after some five years as head forester and estate overseer at Barwhillanty Estate near Castle Douglas. His first post was as manager of the newly-formed Solway branch where he played a major part in building up the branch's business.

He was made area manager South West in 1974 with a remit which included the overseeing of the performance of the West Yorkshire branch and two years later became area manager North and West, based at Old Sauchie and with responsibility for Solway, Argyll and Northern branches.

He was made general manager of Scottish Division in 1979 and appointed a director in 1982.

Harvesting and Marketing

● Paul Eddy has been promoted to Regional Manager, Harvesting and Marketing Division, based at Jedburgh.



He gained an honours degree in forestry at Aberdeen University in 1979 and joined Borders branch as an abm soon after graduating. In the past six years he has worked throughout the Borders and intends to put his knowledge of the district to good use in his new position.

Nurseries Division

● Mrs Patricia Green has joined the Nurseries Division as assistant to Margaret Walker.

Southern Division

ANGLIA SOUTH has been awarded contracts to the value of £20,220 by Frogmore Estates plc at Watton, Herts, for the supply and planting of trees and shrubs, grass-seeding and the laying of clay pavers and gravel.

The London Borough of Waltham has awarded the branch a contract, value £7837, for tree and shrub planting and seeding at Low Hall Mental Health day centre and nursery school.

● BERKSHIRE branch has won a £41,500 landscape contract for soiling, seeding, tree and shrub planting at a new warehouse for Habitat Designs at Wallingford, Oxfordshire, and a £10,100 contract for covert and hedgerow planting for Little Bedwyn Estate near Hungerford.

● CENTRAL LANDSCAPE branch is working on contracts totalling £230,796. The largest, worth £117,858, is for landscaping work at a new food store at Burham for J. Sainsbury plc.

Hampshire County Council awarded an £88,653 contract for work at Farnborough College of Technology, Willett Ltd, awarded a £10,413 contract for work at the Pulsar Building in Maidenhead's Norden Business Park, Hunting Gate Developments Ltd, awarded a £7454 contract for landscaping at Derby Road, Hounslow and Wimpey Construction Ltd, awarded a £6418 contract for interior planting.

● SOUTH EAST LANDSCAPE branch has won a contract to the value of £209,824 for landscaping part of the Surrey Docks. The main contractor is Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd., who won the contract to construct the roads, sewers and other infrastructure on this site for LDDC.

● SOUTH WEST branch has won a £28,088 contract from Wessex Health Authority for landscaping new buildings at the Royal United Hospital, Bath. Further contracts, worth £6659 and £6620 respectively, came from Richard Costain Ltd. for the restoration of grassland and tree surgery at Bristol sewage works, and British Gas for landscaping installations on the Ilchester to Pucklechurch pipeline.

B.A.L.I./Fisons Awards 1985

THE Central Landscape branch, Southern Division, has won a BALI/Fisons commendation for the RHM Centre at Windsor.

David Cox designed the landscaping scheme in 1983 to complement the new Rank Hovis

McDougall headquarters building designed by Windsor-based architects Edginton, Spink and Hyne.

Tilhill then constructed the scheme and has subsequently been maintaining the site.

Longlyf enters export market

THIS summer saw Longlyf win its first ever export orders.

The first was for 3500 6" x 2-3" fencing stakes which were sent to Sudan as part of a US AID relief programme.

The contract worth £2835 came to Longlyf because it was the only treatment plant in Britain able to offer the order in 100% Pine, thus providing a product sufficiently well treated to resist termites.

The second order was for 236 untreated Larch poles 18' 6" x 6-7" which were sent to the

Falklands. Oliver Barnsley located a stand of high quality European Larch in the Chilterns which was felled and delivered within 10 days. The order was worth £2478.

The poles are being used to erect a temporary shelter around a greenhouse development near Port Stanley.

Longlyf's main fencing and tree stakes business has had a busy year despite the setback of a fire at the plant in May. Turnover this year is expected to reach a new record level.

SITE-SEEING VISIT

ON one of the few dry days this autumn, the Scottish Central Landscape branch played host to the Scottish Division branch managers accompanied by divisional and company senior management.

Central Landscape branch was established in 1979 when it was clear that our landscaping business in Central Scotland had reached a level to justify specialisation.

In the capable hands of Graham Russell, the branch increased in expertise and experience to become a well-respected and efficient operation whose skills and techniques the other Scottish BM's had come to see. It was an informal forum ideal for an exchange of views and information.

"When in doubt — call in the experts" is a phrase wholly apposite to landscaping, which is today a very specialised and sophisticated industry with specific design responses tailored



● Graeme Woods welcomes his colleagues on the Wang site in the lovely grounds of Stirling University.

to varying client needs and site and environmental limitations.

The party started their tour at the European headquarters of WANG. This major American company, which specialises in data-processing equipment, has set up in business on a splendid site of some 10 hectares previously part of the Stirling University

campus, where Tilhill advise on woodland management.

Around the buildings dense beds of vigorously-growing shrubs have been created which are already providing the designed ground cover in only their second summer.

The surrounding sweeps of lawn and sward are extensive, but

tractor-mounted machinery operating over an area of some 110,000 square metres can cut all the grass in only one day, albeit a long one!

Graeme Woods, who became branch manager earlier this summer, organised for his guests not only a tour of the site and a live display of grass cutting but also a static demonstration of a wide range of machinery and equipment.

The uses and applications of the specialised tackle operated by the branch were explained in detail by Graeme and many useful tips were passed to his colleagues.

From these relatively straightforward operations giving superb and quick results by people of Landscape Branch's experience, the party moved on to two sites where the man in the street might despair of achieving results at all.

First stop was at the NCB Castlebridge shaft project adjacent to a Tilhill client's woodlands at Clackmannan.

At Castlebridge, large piles of waste and spoil from the sinking of new mining shafts were shaped up into screening mounds. In this inhospitable medium pits were dug and filled with suitable material for planting, using both 260 tonnes of imported topsoil and 18,000 litres of special planting composts.

Over 500 trees and 4800 shrubs have now become established on this very difficult site.

From the boulders, rocks and harsh spoil of Castlebridge, the party were taken to a site where the most stringent and strictly controlled operational restriction was dust suppression.

The site was Longannet Power Station, the operation the seeding and establishment of a grass sward over an area of almost 400,000 m² and the maintenance of an area of just over 200,000 m².

At Longannet, the ash from the coal fired power station is discharged into ash lagoons which prevent the very fine powder of the fly ash from blowing away when kept moist as a slurry. As soon as the ash is allowed to dry out it can be blown considerable distances and create a nuisance downwind.

Dust control was an extremely important element in the operations which started off by moving about 6300 tonnes of rubble, subsoil and ash and spreading and grading in four days. Thereafter, the compacted ash was deeply ripped by a subsoiling tine plough and cultivation commenced over the huge area.

At every stage, the operations were preceded and followed by a damping down of the working area using a tanker which could suck up 40,000 litres from the ash lagoon and discharge it all in three minutes along a strip 26 metres wide.

Logistical planning was critical, every sequence had to be carefully planned. Visiting the site now, it looks like long-established pasture ground.

In a day ably led by Graeme Woods, the one regret was that Graham Russell, the original architect of the branch, was in enforced convalescence after an operation and unable to be present.

Industrial round-up



● HFP's new plant at Dalcross near Inverness.

Sterling Board underway

THE early announcement (Tree Scribe October 1983) of the expected finalisation of the financial arrangements by Highland Forest Products to build an Oriented Structural Board (OSB) mill at Dalcross, Inverness-shire was welcome news for Scotland following the collapse of Fort William.

Whilst it may seem like a long time since that announcement was made, it is in fact only 20 months from that date to the first trial production of Sterling Board in June of this year.

With the 102,000 ft.² factory now virtually complete, limited production on 2 x 12 hour shifts has now commenced and it is expected that full capacity of an estimated 75,000m³ per annum will be reached in January 1986. Just on 35 of the 90 new jobs to be created in the £12.5 million project are now established.

With an anticipated roundwood intake of 150,000 tonnes per annum this new outlet represents a major boost for Scotland's forest industry whilst at the same time providing a British board product to substitute imported plywood.



● High quality newsprint coming off the production line at Shotton.

Shotton on stream

FROM its welcome announcement in 1982 the construction and commissioning of the £135 million thermomechanical (TMP) pulp and paper mill by UPM at Shotton has progressed ahead of schedule.

On Wednesday, May 8th 1985, 50,000 kilowatts of power were unleashed and soon afterwards the first Shotton newsprint was made and reeled for sale. Ahead of schedule by nearly two months, this remarkable achievement is highlighted by the fact that at that time only 20 months had elapsed since the first stake was driven into the "green field" site.

Following this early start-up, Shotton began continuous running well ahead of expectation and in the first 4 weeks nearly 8000 tonnes of high grade newsprint paper was packed for sale.

Daily output figures have exceeded 500 tonnes of saleable paper and the TMP pulp mill has found that British wood quality has exceeded their expectations in most respects and that this has contributed to very consistent machine performance.

Eggers in full production by end of 1985

ON 1st September 1984, Fritz Egger Ges. m.b.h. of St Johann, Tirol, Austria became sole owners of Weyroc Limited.

Eggers have been exporting to the United Kingdom since the early seventies and have established a good market base primarily in the field of melamine faced chipboard.

Until their acquisition of Weyroc their manufacturing base had been totally within Austria, with four factories producing over 800,000m³ per annum (80% of the Austrian market) of various wood chipboard products.

Their acquisition of Weyroc along with their £18 million expansion of the site, in the form of a completely new chipboard plant to be built alongside the existing factory, followed a year long study on the possibility of establishing a manufacturing capability within the United Kingdom to enable them to increase their service to this market.

Construction of the new plant began shortly after the acquisition and is scheduled to be in full production by the turn of the year. At that time small roundwood

intake to the combined plants will increase from 10,000m³ to 130,000m³ per annum and residues from 102,000m³ to 200,000m³ per annum.

The new plant, when completed, will have a production capacity of approximately 150,000m³ per annum and will incorporate a melamine laminating line. This, in conjunction with the original factory, will give Eggers (UK) Limited a total annual production capacity of 250,000m³ of chipboard produced solely from British timber.