

Tree Scribe

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Growth point

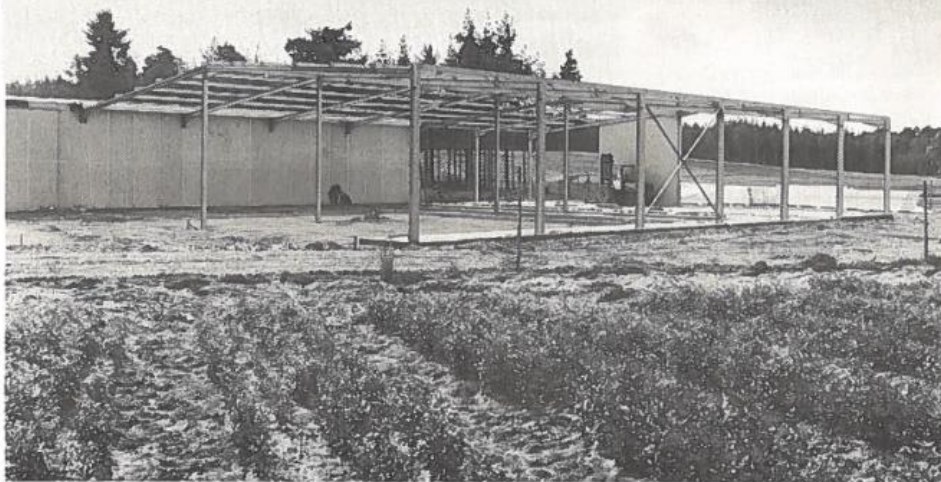
Nurseries in £ ¼ m expansion

A MAJOR expansion, costing just short of £¼ million, is being undertaken by the Nurseries Division.

Storage capacity for transplants and seedlings is being doubled with the construction of an additional large new cold store and a further 50 acres of land is being won from the company's adjoining forest.

The expansion reflects Tilhill's growing share of the market for quality conifer and broadleaved plants used in afforestation and restocking. Last season fully stretched the nursery's existing facilities, with sales exceeding 15 million transplants all raised from seed at Greenhills.

This record performance happily enabled Tilhill to meet an upsurge in demand from buyers both at home and abroad. Some nurseries



● The framework of the new cold store takes shape. In the background is the first area of forest to be cleared for cultivation in the present programme and to the left is the existing cold store to which the new building is attached.

further north had suffered losses after severe weather conditions in the last two seasons and many of them looked to Tilhill, as the largest forest-tree nursery in the UK, for replacement stock.

There has been a steady increase in sales of transplants since the previous major

expansion in 1979 when the original ice bank cold store was built, the first of its kind to be used for storing trees. The new one is alongside it and uses an identical temperature and humidity control system.

"This system was a tremendous breakthrough at the time of the 1979

expansion," said Nurseries director John White, "and has operated very satisfactorily from the outset."

The new store has an area of 650 square metres and increases total storage capacity to 10 million for transplants and 12 million for seedlings. Construction of the steel-framed building began in June, continued throughout the summer months and will be ready to receive its first transplants in time for storage this winter.

John White plans to incorporate with the cold store a new grading facility which will enable large quantities of young plants to be graded inside the building and stored in optimum condition.

At present, transplants are lifted by hand and graded in the nursery where weather conditions can often change in the time it takes to grade them according to quality and size.

The purchase of a mechanical lifter will enable the plants to be lifted in ideal weather conditions and transferred without delay to the controlled environment of the grading shed.

Paper mill planned

A £200 million paper mill, which would create 900 jobs during construction and permanent jobs for 700 workers when completed, could soon be under construction at Irvine in Ayrshire on a site for which planning permission has been granted.

The Finnish paper company Kaukas announced in August that Irvine was the desired location for the plant, which would produce lightweight coated papers.

Kaukas are conducting a final feasibility study but the decision on whether or not to go ahead with the project at Irvine is not expected before the year end.

The announcement follows a series of visits to Scotland by senior executives of

the company who examined a number of other sites in Scotland, including one at Linwood, before settling on Irvine.

It is believed that the company has also been evaluating sites elsewhere in Europe, although the big attraction in Scotland is that extensive planting of trees since the war means that from the 1990s there will be a plentiful supply of timber of the right quality.

Both Irvine and Linwood have good road communications, but it is thought that Irvine was preferred because it will be possible to transport large quantities of timber from the Highlands by sea.

Port facilities are also required for the handling of both china clay and chemical pulp used in the process.

Continued on back page

Southern win silver in festival debut

SOUTHERN Division's first venture into the National Garden Festival scene has resulted in the award of a silver medal.

In July 1985, Tilhill Marches branch was asked by Jamie Buchanan of Landscape Architects Gordon Paterson and Partners if they would undertake construction of a theme garden at the 1986 Garden Festival in Stoke for the Joint Council for the British Memorial Industry.

Tilhill's Peter Raines had worked with Jamie Buchanan before and it was this connection which brought about Tilhill's involvement.

J.C.B.M.I.'s memorial garden is one of seventy theme gardens on display at Stoke. Situated on the woodland ridge the garden occupies a site no more than 150 square yards in area.

The sloping nature of the site and restricted space could have been inhibiting factors, but the final design solution was to create a garden akin to a small sculpture park with the familiarity of a churchyard.

Memorial headstones of varying colours, shape and styles were placed in a combination of settings. Some were in the form of plaques attached to the enclosing brick and stone walls, others are placed in gravel, turf, continental style ground cover, or among shrubbery and informal woodland.

Although the initial enquiry was made in July, it was not until January 1986 that a start could be made on site and with the subsequent onset of freezing winter weather, conditions for carrying out such works as walling and drainage became extremely difficult, and exposure on the woodland ridge did little to help the workforce led by foreman John Kearsley.

But John is a stout Welshman of durable character and his perseverance pulled the scheme through two very awkward months.

However, the final touches to the scheme were completed in good time for the opening of the Festival in May. The use of several large trees such as birch, alder and eight foot high container-grown Scots pine create an immediate impact within the garden.

A ground cover matrix of evergreens provide a foil for the headstones on the lowest terrace and this contrasts well with a higher level terrace where the headstones are placed in a grass sward.

The memorial garden creates a peaceful haven for visitors amidst the excitement of the festival scene.

Silver medal award for Buckland Estate, Oxfordshire



● Above: A fine stand of Corsican pine in the silver medal-winning Buckland Estate.

BUCKLAND Estate's 'Buckland Warren' compartment is the winner of the 1986 Royal Agricultural Society of England's Class 3 woodlands and plantations competition.

Compartment 5c consists of 3.0 ha of Corsican Pine, planted in 1954. It has achieved Yield Class 18 on the fertile sandy loam and is of particularly fine form, with a much finer branching habit than is usually associated with this species.

The plantation is 100 per cent stocked and has been thinned regularly by Tilhill.

Initially, the plantation was established at five feet by five feet spacing, following which, at approximately year eight, every other row was completely swiped off, enabling the remaining trees to grow extremely vigorously, helping to produce the

fine stand which can be seen today.

Buckland Warren itself consists of a compact block of mainly conifers totalling some 116 ha. As the name implies, the area was once a huge rabbit warren and today it still supports a very healthy population of rabbits, along with both Roe and Muntjac Deer.

Buckland Warren is used extensively by the public and this is encouraged by the owner, Mr Charles Wellesley. The woodland also supports a healthy population of pheasants and the area is regularly shot over during the season.

Although not formally managed by Tilhill, Berkshire branch works in close association with the owner and undertakes all forest operations on the estate.

B.A.L.I. AWARD

CENTRAL Landscape branch won in September 1986 an Award of Merit for grounds maintenance at the RHM HQ in Windsor.

In 1985, the branch won a Commendation for the soft landscape construction at the same site.

The landscape was designed by David Cox (SW) in 1983, and has recently been under the direct control of Bill Davidson, Central Landscape branch supervisor.

Lee Crabb is the foreman in charge of the site where the grass is cut 62 times in the season!



● The Cedar of Lebanon prepares to leave the grounds of Highclere Castle.

WITHIN the Bladen Woodlands near Bere Regis in Dorset the ancient craft of hurdle-making is still practised. To the staff of Tilhill's South West branch hurdle-making and Bill Poore are synonymous. Bill was "acquired" with the woodlands when the property was purchased for clients in 1959/60.

The centuries-old craft of producing hurdles has changed little, the old techniques requiring no improvement. Only the car parked on the track and the portable radio for lunchtime news change the rural scene which has existed for centuries.

Originally constructed to fold (pen) sheep on the downland, today's hurdles are used mainly in urban gardens as fencing or screens to soften the raw lines of concrete and brick.

The hazel coppice is cut at about eight years and selected according to size. The uprights or "sails" are stuck into stout timber (the plate) pegged to the ground, drilled at the relevant intervals. Smaller rods or splits are woven to create the hurdle in the same way as basket weaving.

Great skill is required to follow the grain of the rod when it is split and considerable strength in the hands and wrists is demanded. The only tools employed are bill-hooks (one of which was used by Bill's father).

During hard weather, Bill produces spars for thatching from blanks (or gads) of hazel. Spars are twisted to form a "staple" and are employed to secure the straw or reeds to a thatched roof.

Willow is used if growing within the hazel crop but its use is insignificant.

Stationed within the major concentration of hazel coppice is a shepherd's hut which Bill has refurbished to provide shelter and accommodation for spar making. This hut has been on site since 1919, the original timbers still remaining in serviceable condition apart from minor damage caused by a less-than-competent tree feller some twenty years ago.

PATTERN

Bill is the second generation of his family to follow the craft on Bladen Estate. Bill's father was employed by the former owners of the property, the Debenham family, and Bill earned his pocket money while at school by helping his father and brother cut the hazel coppice.

Now sixty-one, Bill has never worked further than two and a half miles away from home during the past forty years.

● **Right: Bill Poore working at his ancient craft of hurdle making.**



A country craftsman ...

The Poore family have been based in Dorset for many generations and, interestingly enough, the pattern has been for two successive generations to follow the same trade. Before Bill and his father, two generations were agricultural engineers following two generations of coachbuilders. Bill's son is not following in his father's footsteps so the pattern is repeated.

Bill admits to a certain degree of cynicism when considering the future of his craft.

He comments that there will probably be a considerable amount of money spent to re-establish the craft if it dies out rather than provide a modest injection of cash to promote training of new entrants.

He considers that thatching will be at risk if hazel coppice cutting ceases as the two trades are com-

plementary and no satisfactory substitute to hazel spars has been developed.

The census in 1953 showed a total of approximately three hundred engaged in hazel underwood production whereas today, Bill's estimate is thirty. In South Dorset, there are only three hurdle-makers under sixty-five years of age.

The hurdles generally last for about four years and, with the obvious decline in production, interwoven fence panels will act as replacements.

SOLITARY

The very nature of Bill's work demands the capacity to be satisfied with his own company for most of the day.

Bill has always been content to work alone but is by no means a solitary man. He is always ready to talk or demonstrate his craft and has been the subject of three television programmes. In 1977, Bill was featured in the "Sounds of Britain" programme followed by "Coast to Coast" in 1981, and "Favourite Places and People" in 1982.

The capacity for remembering dates and events has been of great benefit to branch manager Bill Dorrington over the years. Not only can Bill Poore recall the date of planting of most of the plantations but can probably give the day work started and the weather that prevailed at the time.

A man of many parts, Bill's record of public service is impressive. He has been Chairman of Affpuddle and Tonerspuddle Parish Council for five years and Vice-Chairman for fourteen years. He has represented the Council on the Board of School Managers for fifteen years and for ten years served as a member of Dorset Small Industries Committee of COSIRA.

For ten years Bill acted as rights-of-way officer for the Parish and when questioned stated that this office was not due to his liking for walking but to the fact that he is the only one who "... knows where every path is located."

Bill does carry out occasional work for Tilhill when required such as heeling-in plants and cutting back encroaching weeds on forest tracks. He acts as the branch manager's "eyes" and performs an invaluable service in policing the property.

PHILOSOPHICAL

Bill has been self-employed since 1953 but is philosophical about the lack of successors. His view is that market forces will dictate the survival or failure of the hurdle-making industry; he is already finding resistance to price increases proposed to his major customer in South East England.

Sadly, we are probably witnessing the demise of hurdle-making at Bladen although Bill Poore intends to continue the craft for as long as he is able, albeit on a reducing scale.

Roots in the past

BERKSHIRE branch recently felled a very large Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libanii*) in the grounds of Highclere Castle.

The tree had two major forks at approximately 45 feet and these had been rather indelicately removed by two separate winter gales. The remainder was felled and side loaded by winch on to a low-loader driven across the lawns and parked adjacent to the trunk. This main trunk yielded nearly 600 hoppus cubic feet (21.6m³). Total yield including limbs was 749 hcf (27m³). It was sold to Vastern Timber Company for £486.85.

The annual rings were a little indistinct in later life but age was estimated at between 210 and 220 years.

It was at about this time that Henry Herbert the first Earl of Carnarvon embarked upon the formation of a landscape garden under the guidance of Capability Brown.

The present Earl, in his autobiography, states that when Henry Herbert's cousin, the Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, heard of his work at Highclere he wrote to him in 1770:

*"My Dear Henry,
I propose sending you four hundred exotic tree seedlings called Cedars of Lebanon which we have raised from cones brought to England by Bishop Pococke, I will send them by Bullock cart so that they should reach you in two or three days. I trust you will enjoy planting them in your garden and other parts of your estate."*

Henry Herbert's reply began:

"Dear Cousin, I thank you most kindly for your nice offer but I pray you, while you are about it, send four thousand as I have plenty room in my park."

DIVERSITY is a term not normally associated in the public's mind with work which is largely concerned with afforestation but, as elsewhere in Tilhill, Scottish Division's Central branch provides plenty of variety in the services it undertakes.

There, manager Tom McLellan has built up a branch which encompasses two contrasting climates, differing soil types, and clients whose priorities include investment planting, timber production, amenity enhancement and wildlife conservation.

The branch is among Tilhill's largest, both in area and in the number of staff needed to manage it. It stretches from south of Glasgow, across to Edinburgh, right up the east coast to Stonehaven, west to Tyndrum in Argyll and down to Loch Lomondside, taking in much of Scotland's industrial heartland as well as some of the finest Highland scenery.

The distinct differences in topography and climate between the west and east of the branch area determine the working practices carried out in the branch's extensive programme of afforestation and woodland management.

In general, the fertile nature of the soil in the lower elevations of the branch's territory results in greater diversity in the woodlands of those areas compared with plantations in the hills and uplands where the predominant tree is Sitka spruce.

Few branches have experienced such a rapid growth rate as Central. In 1979, when Tom McLellan took over as branch manager, there were only two assistants. Today, the technical staff numbers seven.

The first acquisition in 1980 of several purchases now making up the extensive Griffin estate — 3256 ha of prime land in Perthshire for a major pension fund client — provided the catalyst for the branch's expansion.

In the years since then, the afforested land under Central management has further increased to a total of 7392 ha, with the steady acquisition of further large properties in Perthshire. Griffin, nevertheless, remains the largest single forest in one ownership under Tilhill management.

Tree Scribe's visit to Central branch took place on a day of high summer when the cool breeze on the slopes of Glenample was welcome relief from the hot, but brief, Scottish summer.

In such a large branch, it was possible to include only a few locations which would give a taste of the branch's activities, and in Glenample Tom had chosen one of the most scenically beautiful of all the properties under his management.

Home of the golden eagle and peregrine and in the shadow of 3224 foot high Ben Vorlich, the 664 ha estate is typical of the branch's current afforestation schemes.

It was acquired for a major pension fund client in two stages, the first in 1982/83 followed by a further addition last year. In many of the newer afforestation schemes there is an increasing involvement in broadleaved silviculture and Glenample is no exception.

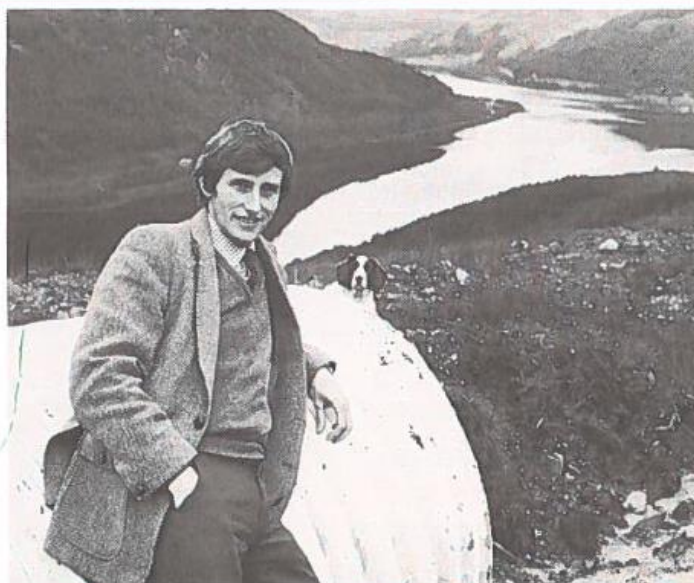
As the area is popular with hillwalkers and ramblers and a designated footpath runs through the glen, the afforestation proposals allowed for a large area of the valley bottom to be planted only with broadleaves or remain unplanted so that those visiting the glen for recreation would still be able to enjoy unrestricted views of the surrounding hills.

The mixture of species also brings a greater degree of diversity and interest to the forest. In all, including parts which already contained a variety of broadleaved trees, some 54 ha of ground now come under the new Broadleaved Woodland Grant Scheme.

Tom is also confident of successful natural regeneration of species such as birch, alder and rowan thanks to the deer fence which now surrounds the entire holding and excludes both red deer and sheep.

We went next to the 1343 ha Acharn estate which look out to Loch Tay and Ben Lawers.

As at Glenample, which lies in the catch-



● Above: Heather Griffin
● Left: Branch manager at Ardchul
● Right: Fergus Tick MacBrayne carrying survey on a new Ardchul

Something for ev



● The University of Stirling in its beautiful setting of broadleaved amenity woodland is maintained by Central branch.

ment area for the water supply to the village of Lochearnhead, particular care is taken at Acharn with ploughing, cross draining and road building because the hillside provides the water supply for the village of Killin. During our visit, a squad was busy carefully applying fertiliser directly by hand to the young trees planted the previous spring.

Acquired as new ground in 1982/83 by a private client with other major forestry interests, Acharn is being planted at the rate of 100 ha a year.

Our third visit took us high on a new forest road winding above Callander and Loch Lubnaig to the Bealach nan Sgiat on the Ardchullarie estate.

This provided Tom with the opportunity to talk about the large amount of roading — some 43 miles to date — which the branch has completed in recent years. Ardchullarie's road system has been greatly extended by Tilhill in order to gain access to plantable ground in the adjoining glen beyond the existing woodland, greatly extending the afforested area from the original 274 ha of existing land to 716 ha.

Lower down the hill, some clearfelling and

thinning was in progress and, although considerable rehabilitation work was carried out before Tilhill's management began last year, there are still a few areas bearing evidence of damage caused in the severe gales of 1968 which will have a priority for clearing and replanting.

In between the running commentaries describing progress on the various afforestation projects currently being handled for clients, there was time for Tom to outline some of the branch's other responsibilities which contribute to the diversity of activity in which he and his staff are engaged.

For two private forestry clients at Tomnagrew and at Scotston, both near Aberfeldy in Perthshire, there is a less extensive planting programme. Both these properties were taken on last year and the planting programme is being carried out over a number of years.

In Central Scotland, several older established forests are currently being thinned and plans are in hand for the first thinnings to be carried out next year of some of the first Tilhill planting in Central Scotland comprising very high yield class Sitka spruce.



control at The n.

ger Tom McLellan illarie.

ell (left) and Colin out a plane table forest road at larie.



erybody

Since the inception in 1979 of the Central Scotland Woodlands Project, Central branch has been actively involved on a contract basis for fencing, ploughing and planting areas of land between Lanark, Glasgow and Edinburgh. The broad aims of the project were to demonstrate methods for environmental improvement in an area containing marginal agriculture and widespread industrial dereliction, particularly by encouraging a comprehensive programme of tree planting.

The project had a six year life and has since been replaced by the Central Scotland Countryside Trust whose main aim is to make Central Scotland a more attractive and productive area.

This year Central branch won two contracts with the Trust for carrying out planting of amenity woodlands, one a Scottish Development Department Scheme on an old brickworks site and the other mixed planting on the site of an old colliery bing and chemical works next to a large housing estate.

In addition, the branch has a host of clients with smaller woodlands, several of which, such as the University of Stirling, have for long given the branch scope to exercise its skills in broadleaved silviculture.

In the amenity woodlands surrounding the University, where Tilhill is retained on a consultancy basis both for harvesting and woodland management, thinning of semi-mature stands by Sycamore and Ash has recently been carried out, together with the encouragement and tending of natural regeneration.

There is also involvement in clearfelling mature timber each year, mostly on the more compact estates at lower elevations which were already well established when management by the branch began.

In 1984, Central branch topped the league in Scottish Division by harvesting a total of 6500 cubic metres of timber and the annual figure is still higher than for most other branches in the Division. Most of the timber is bought by local sawmills, with the smaller diameter material from early thinnings being sent to Caberboard's large board mill near Stirling.

For Tom, it is a rewarding experience to be at the helm during the build-up of the branch, which this year has the largest projected sales turnover in the whole of Scottish Division. The branch can now look forward to a future in which the major planting programmes of previous years will be rewarded by the maturing of healthy, attractive and productive forests.



● John Little instructs one of the squad on brashing inspection lines into high-yield class Sitka Spruce.



● Using aerial photographs, Tom Dunlop (left) and Colin Macpherson check field survey data for mapping purposes.



● Ann Wilson (left) and Kathleen Medhurst in the branch office.



Latest office recruit, Linda Hunter.



Newest abm, Stephen Havranek.

BRANCH manager Tom McLellan qualified with a BSc in forestry from Aberdeen University. He began his Tilhill career immediately after graduating in 1975 with an 18-month spell in Northern branch followed by two years with Solway. In 1978, he joined Central branch as abm, taking over as branch manager a year later. In his spare time, Tom enjoys learning about family life with his one-year-old daughter, and, when time allows, he sails and shoots.

TOM DUNLOP is a senior abm and Central branch's longest-serving assistant. A graduate of Aberdeen University where he gained a BSc in Forestry, he spent three years in the Malawi Government's forestry research department before joining Tilhill in 1980. His hobbies are squash, golf, cycling and running the occasional half-marathon. Participating this year for the third time in the local event, he raised £175 for the MacMillan Cancer Relief Fund.

SENIOR abm Fergus Tickell joined Central branch five years ago. He graduated with an honours BSc in ecology at Edinburgh University and did vacation work with the Forestry Commission in North Argyll. With Central branch, he is responsible for Ardochallarie, Glenample and Acharn estates. In his spare time, Fergus enjoys rugby, tennis, botany and conducting guided walks for American visitors to the Scottish countryside.

SENIOR abm, Colin MacBrayne joined the branch in 1982. He is an honours forestry graduate from Aberdeen University where he also completed his MSc begun at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, researching into forestry biomass. Colin enjoys most sports, particularly golf and squash.

COLIN MACPHERSON joined the branch as a forester in 1982. He spent five years working in a variety of different forestry-related jobs as a self-employed contractor before going to Newton Rigg where he gained an OND in Forestry. By joining Tilhill, Colin is following in his father's footsteps — Steven Macpherson retired last summer from his post of Manager Landscaping Services. In his spare time, Colin likes golf and amateur dramatics and is a leading light in Stirling's Riverside Drama Club.

JOHN LITTLE joined the branch as an abm in 1985 after nine months with the Forestry Commission forest survey branch. He graduated at Edinburgh with an Honours BSc in forestry and enjoys photography and sports in general.

STEPHEN HAVRANEK is the most recent abm recruit to Central branch. He came straight to Tilhill after graduating with honours in forestry at Aberdeen, but before, beginning his studies he spent a year working with a planting squad at the Griffin estate and a further year gaining experience sawmilling — his father is a sawmiller in Perthshire. Off duty, Stephen enjoys fishing.

KATHLEEN MEDHURST is the branch's new secretary following the recent retirement of Cath Brierton. She joined Tilhill in 1984 as a clerkess / typist after working at a variety of different jobs in the Stirling area. She enjoys gardening, horse-riding and the outdoor life.

ANN WILSON is branch clerkess / typist. She has been with Tilhill for three years and transferred to Central branch in June last year. Ann lives on a small-holding and enjoys harness-racing with her own horse.

LINDA HUNTER joined Central branch in August as junior typist / clerkess after completing one year of an HND course in secretarial studies.

Scottish Division

● **Alastair G. Anton** has joined Borders branch as an abm following graduation from Aberdeen University. Alastair is a commissioned officer in the TA and hopes to join the local unit based in Galashiels where the experience in hill survey work acquired with Tilhill will enable him to instruct other ranks in yomping.

● **Frank Gibson** has joined Central Landscape branch as landscaping technician. Frank, who holds the City and Guilds Stage 1 in horticulture, has worked in the past for both Glasgow Parks and Cumbernauld Development Corporation. More recently he was employed by Broseley Estates, the housebuilders, where he was responsible for the design and implementation of landscape works, including supervision of outside contractors.

● **Angus Dixon** has joined Lothians branch as abm. He is a graduate of Bangor University and worked as a trainee at Northern Forestry branch for six months prior to taking up his present position.

● **Ben Hurst and Conor Shaffrey** have joined Solway branch as assistant landscape managers. Ben has a Diploma in Landscape Architecture from Manchester and Conor, a degree in Landscape Horticulture from University College, Dublin.

● **Adele Whitecross** has also joined Solway as a clerk / typist.

● **Denys Nash** has joined Yorkshire Landscape branch as abm. He gained a degree and post-graduate diploma in Landscape Architecture at Gloucester and part of his practical experience includes a spell working with a private firm of architects in West Germany. Denys's interests are foreign travel, running, golf and cricket.

● On successful completion of the Scotec diploma course at Inverness Technical College, **Douglas Boyd** has joined Cowal and Bute branch as forester. Douglas has lived in the Cowal area all his life and is accustomed to the vagaries of weather and insects in that part of the world. His appointment to the Dunoon office is a result of the increasing work programme now being handled by the branch.

People and



Robin Davis



Simon Lord



Antony Evans



Mike Price



David Cox

PAT HUNTER has joined Tilhill as the new manager of Central Landscape branch, replacing **Adrian Griffiths** who has left the company to take up an appointment with EFG.

Pat comes to Tilhill from Bristol City Parks Department where he has worked for the past nine years, latterly as senior development officer.

Although born in Dover, Pat was educated in Northern Ireland and worked there until 1977. He is keenly interested in most sports such as squash, rugby and canoeing and is also a keen photographer and musician.

Other changes in Central Landscape are the transfer of **Duncan Ford** from Anglia South as contracts manager and the appointment of two assistant contracts manager — **Robin Davis** and **Simon Lord**.

Robin graduated from Reading University with a degree in Horticulture and started his career

Southern Division

with a landscape contractor involved in exhibition displays, large interior landscape projects and some external planting and construction. He lives in Dorking with his wife, Elspeth, and enjoys photography and an occasional game of squash.

Simon recently completed a post-graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture at Leeds Polytechnic following a year working as a foreman on the Landscape branch gangs in order to gain experience in landscape contracting.

He enjoys a wide range of hobbies and his interests include country pursuits, theatre and rock climbing.

IN Marches branch, **Peter Raines** has been promoted to contracts manager and **Chris Marrow** has transferred from Central branch to replace abm **Mike Whitfield** who left in August to set up his own business.

Mrs Margaret Kirkwood joined the branch in July as a part-time clerical assistant.

Antony Evans joined South-East Landscape branch as assistant contracts manager shortly after graduating with a BSc in Horticulture from Reading University. During time out from his course he spent a year landscape contracting in Dallas, Texas.

Mike Price joined the branch as a landscape supervisor shortly after graduating with an OND in Landscape Technology from Pershore College of Horticulture. Robert Bruce has transferred to Central Forestry branch.

In South-East Forestry branch, **Dick Hoare** has been promoted to senior assistant branch manager.

David Cox has recently enjoyed two promotions. In July he was promoted contracts manager at South West branch and in October he became branch manager of the embryonic Wilts and West Landscape branch to be based at West Overton, near Marlborough in Wiltshire in an office surplus to the requirements of Booker Farming-managed West Overton Farm.

It is planned that the office, which is some eight miles south of Swindon and from the M4, will become operative on November 1.

David Cox has been with Tilhill since 1982 when he joined Central Landscape branch at Greenhills. He transferred to South West branch at Frome in 1985. He is a qualified landscape architect, a graduate of Manchester Polytechnic, and is an active member of the South West Chapter of the Landscape Institute. He represents Tilhill at local Branch Association of Landscape Industries meetings. David's main hobby is gliding.



● Central branch manager, **Tom McLellan** hands over gifts and flowers from wellwishers at **Cath's** retirement ceremony.

● **CATH BRIERTON** retired in August after 15 years' service with Scottish Division.

Cath joined Tilhill in 1971 soon after the Scottish head office moved to Old Sauchie and was employed as a book-keeper to office manager **John Davison** and his successor **Robert McDougall**. In 1976, she became secretary at Central branch.

During her time at Central, Cath helped the branch grow

to its present size. She played her own part in its expansion by training staff in office procedures, and most recently in handling a smooth transfer of responsibilities to her successor.

A presentation by her colleagues was made at a reception held in Stirling when they wished Cath a long and happy retirement and a continued speedy recovery from her recent illness.



Alastair Anton



Frank Gibson



Doug Boyd



Angus Dixon



Ben Hurst



Conor Shaffrey



Adele Whitecross



Denys Nash

places...



● Dr Bill Mutch, guest of honour at the northern dinner dance at Cowlumbidge in May, delivers his thoughts on commitment and co-operation to the gathered assembly.

COMMITMENT and co-operation were the twin themes of Bill Mutch's speech to staff and guests at the Northern dinner dance held at the Cowlumbidge Hotel, in Aviemore, last May.

Whether as growers, investors, or managers and administrators competing for contracts or research grants, everyone involved in the forestry industry did, in fact, belong to the same group of pro-

fessionals with a mutual respect for one another, stressed Dr Mutch of Edinburgh University's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources.

"And that respect," he said, "depends, to a large measure, on the fact that we know each other well."

Dr Mutch went on to thank Tilhill for its part in promoting that knowledge.

"It is my belief," he said, "that the

creation and maintenance of that knowledge isn't something which is arrived at casually. It is created by care."

In his introductory remarks, Chairman H. E. Trevan-Hawke spoke of the company's good performance in 1985 and his high hopes for similar results this year. Despite a slow start to 1986 because of extremes of weather, he said that he had every confidence that targets would be met.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Tim Liddon, manager of Yorkshire Forestry branch on his marriage to Morag, an Edinburgh-born veterinary surgeon, on April 26.

... John Paterson of Solway who married Alison Reed on May 24.

... Peter Middleton of South East Forestry who married Gillian Neall in June.

... Ray Hawes of South East Forestry on his engagement to Fiona Scott.

... Phil Hewitson of South East Landscape on his engagement to Rosemary Bather.

... Antony Evans of South East Landscape on his engagement to Michele Willis-Fleming.

... Charlie and Meg Fulton (H&M Central Region) on the birth of their second child, Amy, on August 29.

... Fergus and Anne Tickell (Scottish Division Central Forestry) on the birth of their first child, Andrew, on September 16.

... and Doug and Mary Anne Lamont (Yorkshire Region H&M), on the birth of a second daughter, Annabelle, on September 25.

Southern Division

● ANGLIA NORTH has won landscaping contracts totalling £60,513 for work at court buildings. The larger of the two, value £40,420 came from **Norwich Crown and County Court** and the other, value £20,093, came from **Peterborough Crown and County Court**.

● CENTRAL LANDSCAPE branch has won two contracts worth more than £20,000 each. One, valued at £20,912, is for **Willett Ltd.** for work at Maidenhead and the other, valued at £20,502, is for **Kyle Stewart Ltd.** for a project at Crown Courts, Southampton.

James Longley & Co., of Odiham, Hants, awarded a £6499 contract for work at Westhorpe House and **Westbourne Terrace Investment** awarded a £5580 contract for work at Duke Street, Woking. The branch has also won a £5502 contract from the **North Surrey Water Company** for landscaping and annual maintenance at Queensmead Reservoir and a £4369 contract from **Hampshire County Council** for interior landscaping at Farnborough College of Technology.

● ANGLIA SOUTH branch has won two contracts totalling nearly £18,000. **Strutt and Parker** awarded a contract worth £9902 for the establishment of shooting coverts at Upphall Estate, Braughing, and **Tesco** awarded a £7893 contract for grass cutting and shrub bed maintenance at three sites.

● BERKSHIRE branch has been

awarded contracts totalling £35,647 from the **CEGB** in the Thames Area and at Fawley power station. The 20,209 Thames Area contract is for drainage, cultivation and seeding and the £15,438 contract at Fawley is for two years' maintenance.

The branch has also won a £127,360 contract from the **PSA** for fencing, planting, soiling and seeding at a top secret site. **Broadmoor Hospital** at Crowthorne, Berkshire, awarded a £53,045 contract for seeding and planting and contracts for similar

Scottish Division

● CENTRAL LANDSCAPE branch has been awarded two landscape maintenance contracts totalling £56,405 by **Lothian Regional Council**. These are both three-year contracts and involve the maintenance of several land reclamation schemes throughout West Lothian. Many of these sites were previously maintained by Tilhill.

Following its success on the A9 Auchterarder by-pass, the branch has been awarded the sub-contract for planting work on the next stage of the A9 improvement between Burnside and Dalreoch. The main contractor is again **Balfour Beatty** and the value of the works is £27,474.

Other contracts won during the summer include a £7000 planting contract for **Whatlings** at a sheltered housing scheme in Falkirk, a £5175 planting and seeding contract at Comrie sew-

work have come from **Berkshire County Council** (£16,643) for work on the Reading inner development road, Milton Trading Estate, Abingdon (£21,207) and Oakdene Farm at Winnersh (£23,281).

● SOUTH EAST FORESTRY branch has won a £10,912 contract for tree surgery work and restoration of grass and derelict land for **Barratt's** residential development at Escots Drive, East Grinstead.

● SOUTH EAST LANDSCAPE branch has won a £25,319 contract from **Taylor Woodrow Construction** for additional Russian woodlands strip work at Surrey Docks. Two further contracts,

worth £7589 and £4598 respectively, came from **Flaxyard Construction**, Crawley for semi-mature tree planting and from **Redland Brick**, Bexhill.

● SOUTH WEST branch has won four contracts totalling £21,020, the largest of which, worth £13,099, is for the **Plymouth and South Devon Co-operative Society** for landscaping.

McCarthy and Stone awarded a £4200 contract for landscape work at Warminster, **ARC Ltd.** awarded a £2828 contract for cleaning and spraying at Mells Park, and **Kentcare Ltd.** placed a £893 contract for fencing at a CEGB substation at Alverdiscott.

age treatment works, a £6000 seeding contract at Goat Quarry, Aberdeen, and a £4000 soiling and seeding contract at SSEB Valleyfield for **Morrison**.

● NORTHERN LANDSCAPE branch has won five contracts totalling £90,958.

The **Ministry of Defence** awarded a £30,600 contract for three years' maintenance at a fuel depot in Invergordon and **Moray District Council** awarded two fencing contracts, worth £24,680 and £22,715 respectively, for new work at various local authority housing schemes and for refurbishment at Buckie.

A £7445 contract for landscaping a new fish feed processing factory at Invergordon came from **BP Nutrition** and **Wimpey Homes Holdings** awarded a £5518 contract for fencing at Ashwood, Aberdeen.

● SOLWAY branch has won a £114,000 contract from **Sir Alfred McAlpine** to landscape the new construction facilities for Vickers, Barrow in Furness.

● YORKSHIRE LANDSCAPE branch has won a £16,559 highways maintenance contract from **South Tyneside Borough Council**, a £9400 tree and shrub planting contract from **Cementation Construction Ltd.** at MFL Stockton and a £7920 contract from **ICI** at Wilton for steel palisade perimeter fencing at Dormanstown.

● BORDERS branch has been awarded a £12,409 contract by **John Laing Construction Ltd.** for shrub bed planting and grass seeding at John Spence High School, Tynemouth.

Nurseries' growth point

Continued from front

The additional 50 acres being broken in for cultivation directly adjoin the existing nursery and are on land previously used to grow a forest crop of Scots pine. Three areas of 22, 16 and 12 acres are being cleared and the 16-acre plot, which is nearest the cold store, will be ready for this month.

The same contractors who cleared the ground for the previous expansion in 1979 are once again involved in clear-felling, removing stumps, burning branchwood, sub-soiling and ploughing, ready for final cultivation by the nursery staff.

The second area will be ready for cultivation in the spring and the third will follow in the late summer.

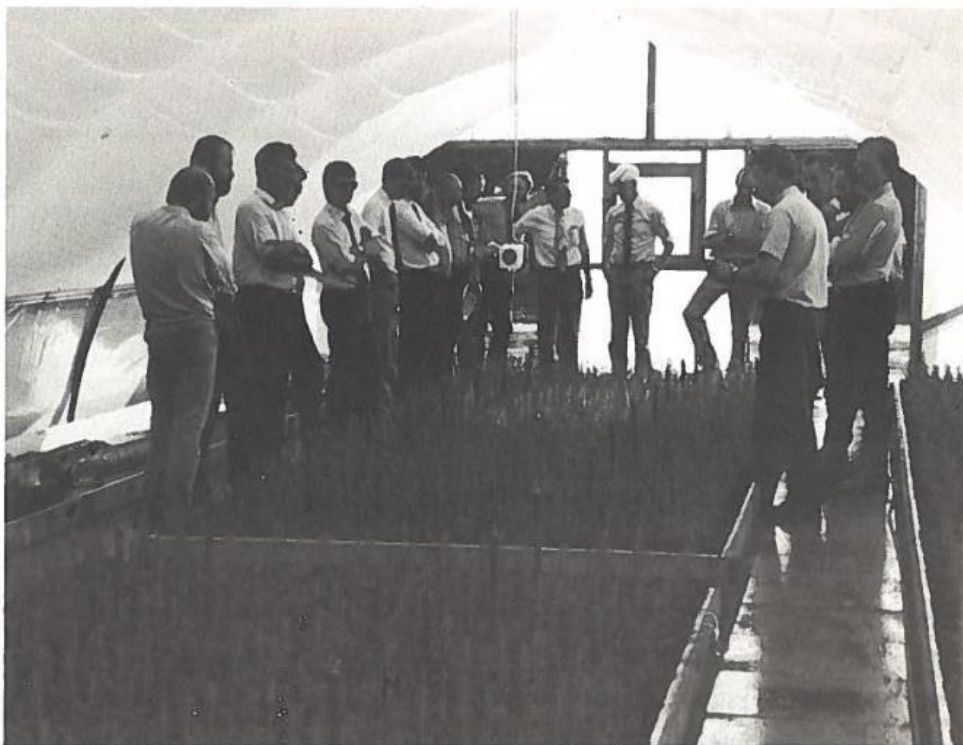
Another development in the Nurseries Division is the vegetative propagation of plants derived from "super sitka" seed. The nursery production staff are testing the process of bulking up planting material from the limited supplies of special seed available from Forestry Commission seed orchards.

This is being achieved by growing seedlings for an 18-month period in a polyhouse before taking cuttings which will then be rooted and grown on in the nursery, enabling a second generation of cuttings to be taken from the same plants.

It's a lengthy process, taking up to six years to complete, but the dividends are well worth the effort, eventually increasing 500-fold the plants derived from the original seed. The long-term aim is to produce a tree which is capable of yielding 10 per cent additional volume in the final forest crop.

At the Greenhills nursery, the first batch of seed has been sown and the first seedlings produced. These are now being grown to the stage where cuttings can be taken.

If all goes according to plan, the present crop of four-and-a-half thousand seedlings should be capable of producing an impressive two million "super sitka" transplants!



● Scottish Division branch managers are shown the "super sitka" seedlings during their six-monthly meeting, held on this occasion at Greenhills.

When a bird's eye view is called for

YORKSHIRE Forestry has recently been presented with two interesting woodland survey problems.

The first was how to carry out a Windthrow Hazard classification in 20 year old Sitka spruce plantations, and the second was how to survey 95 ha of 25-30 year old pine for serious Pine shoot beetle *Tomicus piniperda* damage. Both problems were solved in rather novel ways.

The problem with making Windthrow Hazard classification at Crookrise Woods, a 244 ha plantation recently acquired by a major Pension Fund, was in assessing the topographical exposure (topex) values.

How could one measure the angle to the horizon at the eight compass points when surrounded by a 10 metre high Sitka spruce? The road and rides were all unsuitable, not giving enough visibility; one needed to get above the crop to get the necessary views.

The solution was to hire a 12 metre hydraulic platform from a plant hire firm

and tow it to the estate behind a car.

Once on the estate, topex readings were taken with ease around the property. The platform also gave an ideal opportunity to observe stocking and crop health.

At Brafferton Wood, we also wanted to get a good view over the crowns, this time to assess areas where Pine shoot beetle was causing crop death. Unfortunately, the 12 metre platform was not high enough to get a bird's eye view over the 25-30 year old crops.

However, a friend provided the answer — a two seater "Flash" microlight aircraft. Half an hour's flying on a fine summer evening and a thorough survey of the 95 ha was complete.

A series of photographs was taken using a 400 ASA film and fast shutter speeds.

The resulting pictures provided a great deal of information, not only on the Pine shoot beetle infestation but for compartment records, drain surveys, stocking, species composition, birch areas, thinning programmes, etc.

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