



NEW DIVISION IN NEW YEAR

ON 1st January 1988 a new operational division will be formed in Tilhill.

Going back over twenty-five years the company has for long provided specialist landscaping contracting services, initially based at Greenhills.

It is however in relatively recent times that emphasis has been given to developing landscaping services on a Great Britain-wide basis, to sit alongside the company's other activities in forestry, timber marketing and plant supplies.

In the course of the last several years specialist landscaping branches have been established both in the Scottish and Southern Divisions, and at the beginning of the new company year these will be re-structured within a new Landscaping Division, initially comprising eight branches.

In the north the landscaping branches of Northern, Central, Solway and Yorkshire will make up the Northern Area, and the Southern Area will consist of the Central, South-east, Wilts and West, and Anglia landscaping branches.

Appointed as Divisional Director is Graham Russell, presently Area Manager (Landscaping) in the Scottish Division, who will also join the Board.

Graham is a graduate of Edinburgh University who

National footing for landscaping operations



● Graham Russell, who has been appointed Divisional Director.

joined Tilhill in 1972 as an assistant branch manager working first in Lothians Branch before transferring to Central Branch at Old Sauchie in 1973 where he made his mark in successful specialisation in landscaping and became the first manager of the Central Landscape Branch when it was created in Scottish Division in 1979. In 1985 Graham was promoted to the post of Area Manager.

From January 1988 the company will have five operating Divisions i.e. Landscaping, Nurseries, Harvesting and Marketing, Scottish and Southern.

The creation of the Landscaping Division will enhance Tilhill's specialisation in landscaping design and contracting, and crystallise the career structure for the company's landscaping staff.

Shotton paper company to build second £120m newsprint machine

THE Boards of Shotton Paper Company plc and United Paper Mills Limited have decided to finalise plans to build a second newsprint machine on their site in North Wales at an estimated cost of £120 million. The project is to be completed before 1990.

This decision follows the successful start-up of the first 200,000 tonnes per year newsprint machine and pulp mill at Shotton, Clwyd (North Wales) on May 8, 1985.

This employs 250 people directly and 1250 indirectly in forest and service operations with an original investment of £120 million.

OUTPUT

When in operation, the second machine will double the output of newsprint from Shotton to a total in excess of 400,000 tonnes per annum, worth approximately £150 million.

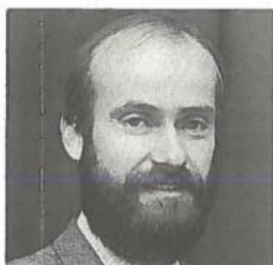
Consumption of newsprint in the UK currently runs at more than 1.5 million tonnes a year.

It is anticipated that up to 100 new jobs will be created at Shotton and 1200 indirectly, in addition to those who will be involved in civil construction and machine building.

Senior management succession



Sandy Macpherson.



Martin Wilkinson.

FOLLOWING the retirement of David Brierton, A. F. (Sandy) Macpherson is appointed Managing Director of Tilhill Forestry Ltd. with effect from 1st September, 1987.

Succeeding Sandy Macpherson as Director of the Scottish Division is Martin Wilkinson who also joins the Board.

Sandy Macpherson, a graduate of Edinburgh University who gained his MSc in Forestry at the University of New Brunswick, joined Tilhill in 1969 as Borders Branch Manager after having spent nine years working in Canada, latterly with MacMillan Bloedel in British Columbia.

In 1972 he was promoted to General Manager of the forerunner of the Scottish Division, Tilhill Forestry (Scotland) Ltd., and appointed as its Managing Director in 1976 when he also became a Director of the parent company.

Martin Wilkinson, a graduate of Aberdeen University, joined the Northern Branch in 1970 and subsequently served in the Borders Branch, the Marches Branch and Anglia Branch before promotion to Area Manager in Southern Division.

In 1983 he transferred back to Scotland as Northern Area Manager and was appointed General Manager of the Scottish Division in 1985.

- David Brierton profile. Page 3.
- H. E. Trevan-Hawke — an appreciation. Page 2.

CHAIRMAN

RETIRES

MR H. E. TREVAN-HAWKE, universally known to all, including his wife, as T-H, retired as chairman of Tilhill on the 31st August after serving for a term of six years.

During that time he presided over and guided the advance in the company's fortunes and reputation, steering its development with a firm hand and seeking ever for increased efficiency, but tempered with a concern for the staff's welfare and professional job satisfaction.

His six years' chairmanship saw the company's turnover double and profits treble, a fitting reflection of his quest for practical improvements.

T-H is a modest man, not given to the "cult of the personality," often heard to introduce the clinching point in an argument with "I'm just a failed book-keeper but..."

Whilst bombast or pomposity are furthest from his nature, his quiet manner is allied with a powerful intellect, total integrity, decisiveness and a genuine concern for people. He quickly gained the respect of all his colleagues and staff in Tilhill and won the warm affection of those with whom he worked most closely.

His relationship with the company pre-dated his chairmanship, for it was as a client that many Tilhill managers first came to know him, when he was executive chairman of the Rolls-Royce

***T-H — a
man of
modesty
and
strength***

Pension Trust, a post he relinquished in 1983. T-H joined the Tilhill board in 1981 when the Rolls-Royce Pension Trust became substantial minority shareholders.

His expertise in pension matters inevitably led to his becoming a Trustee of the Tilhill Pension Scheme, the management and investment of which he caused to be transformed with outstanding success, to the great benefit of its members and pensioners.

His business acumen led him to conclude that, while the company had a sound base in forestry, timber marketing, landscaping and the nursery, ultimately both the employees and its shareholders would be constrained if it remained a private, unlisted company.

His quest for the right solution culminated in

the successful negotiation with Booker and, significantly, the company's fortunes have blossomed further since then.

While T-H has had a distinguished career in the motor and aviation industries, he is as much a countryman at heart. His affinity for forestry is also mirrored by interests, past and present, in agriculture.

Now aged 68, he is beginning to wind down his wide-ranging activities, but he retains his directorships of the Lands Improvement Group and of Short Brothers.

T-H's successor as chairman is Mr E. C. (Ed) Robinson, a director of Tilhill since 1984 and Chief Executive of Booker's UK Agribusiness Division.



Forestry on foreign soil: A picture of Poland

OF Poland's total land area, 27.7 per cent (8.5m ha) is afforested. The state owns 82 per cent, 16 per cent is privately owned and two per cent is in the hands of co-operatives or local authorities. Legislation immediately after the second world war caused the breakup of private estates which could no longer exceed 25 ha, the balance being nationalised.

The climate in Poland is less favourable than in Britain for tree growth, being continental in type although with maritime and arctic influences. The average annual rainfall is 500-700 mm, rising to 800-1800 mm in the mountains. Wind and snow can damage tree crops and snowfalls often lead to difficult access and working conditions.

About 50 per cent of the land is flat and lies below 150 m a.s.l. Soils are generally poor — light sandy soils with a poor moisture regime occupying 70 per cent by area.

The principal tree species are Scots pine (72 per cent), together with Norway spruce, European silver fir, oak, beech, birch, and other temperate species. The average standing volume is 180 M³/ha while the average annual yield (not Yield Class) is 4 M³/ha. This low figure may be attributable to the generally low fertility of forest soils, low rainfall and traditionally long rotation ages.

Silvicultural systems have been developed to grow timber of the highest quality. Traditional continental methods

MARCHES branch manager Richard Sochacki had an opportunity to see something of Polish forestry practices during a recent visit to that country. Arriving on Polish soil was something of an emotional moment for Richard. His father emigrated to Britain shortly after the war and, although Richard has twice before been to Poland, this was his first visit as an adult.

Richard and eleven fellow British foresters were guests of Sidlit, the Society of Foresters and Wood Technologists, a 17,000 strong body concerned with, among other things, improving professional qualifications and developing and disseminating new technical ideas and practices. The tour began at Sekocin near Warsaw and progressed in stages to western Poland as far as the East German border.

Here is Richard's report.

are employed; felling areas are comparatively small and tend to be in strips to offer shelter. Natural regeneration is favoured and may be encouraged by scarification.

Where natural regeneration is not expected, planting takes place after shallow ploughing using between 8000 and 15,000 plants per hectare. Herbicides are not used and the relatively large number of young trees is used for rapid canopy closure.

Losses are high due to deer, elk and wild boar (but no rabbit problem!). Regeneration of birch is accepted to nurse oak, and mixed stands of pine, oak and birch are a recurring feature. Early

cleaning is carried out by hand until commercial thinnings are possible. Thinnings take place in pine on a ten-year cycle using modern harvesting machinery of East European or Scandinavian origin while the horse is also still in vogue.

The years 1982-85 were particularly traumatic for Polish forestry when a combination of drought, fungal attack followed by secondary insect pest invasion, and atmospheric pollution brought about sanitation felling on a wide scale.

Industrial pollution is a great threat and levels of various pollutants are recorded nationwide. Brown coal is burned very widely in Eastern Europe

and levels of SO₂ may have deleterious effects up to 600 miles away from the source.

In the early 1980s 3000 ha of Norway spruce in the Carpathians were prematurely felled as a result of chemical pollution. The Poles realise the immensity of the problem and are taking steps to reduce emissions themselves and seek the co-operation of the industrial nations of Europe.

Another problem is fire, the risk of which has increased in line with the increased use of the forest for recreational purposes. Between 2000-7000 ha are lost annually despite a sophisticated system of monitoring and fire-fighting.

Timber is a relatively expensive commodity in Poland — the current monthly wage is quoted as 30,000 Zlotys while 1M³ of delivered softwood sawlogs fetches 8000 Zlotys.

Timber is not the only source of revenue from Polish forests which are also famous for hunting deer, elk and wild boar. The European bison is a protected species but in some areas the population is now such that damage to forest crops is quite a problem.

Fish farms may also be found particularly in western Poland. The principal species bred is Carp which is traditional Polish Christmas fare. A wide range of fungi grows in the forest and gathering mushrooms for sale or for family consumption is traditional. ♀

• The British guests were received and entertained with magnificent hospitality. They were given a full programme, and saw a wide range of forest types and activities; cultural entertainment was laid on in the evenings. Richard's fondest memory was of a barbeque

of wild boar at a hunting lodge in Wymiarki Forest while firefighter pilots gave a hair-raising aerobatic display, proving that the devil-may-care spirit of Polish airmen is still very much alive.

The end of an era

IN bidding farewell this month to David Brierton, Tilhill not only loses a managing director who played a major part in the development of the company we know today but also the UK forestry scene loses one of its most widely respected figures.

Like chairman H. E. Trevan-Hawke, DB is known throughout the company by his initials and, like TH's, his absence will be keenly felt. In his 25 years with Tilhill, DB has been a dominant influence in shaping the company's philosophy, beginning in the early 1960s by providing the driving force behind the growth of the new Scottish operation and culminating in the detailed negotiations which led to the company joining Booker in late 1984.

Described by one of his senior colleagues as a man with the enviable quality of being able to fire on all cylinders at all times, there is no doubt that his boundless energy, enthusiasm, meticulous thoroughness and mastery of both the practical and financial sides of forestry have served the company well.

Tilhill today is one of the country's "big three" forestry management companies. It has one of the most advanced tree nurseries in the northern hemisphere and is the only landscaping company with long-established offices throughout Britain, from North Scotland to the South of England.

Were it not for a young man's determination to avoid being posted to London from his favourite stamping ground among the Scottish hills, DB might have become a lawyer in the Estate Duty Office and, given the qualities he has since displayed, a very formidable one at that!

The fact that he chose otherwise was the Inland Revenue's loss — and forestry's gain.

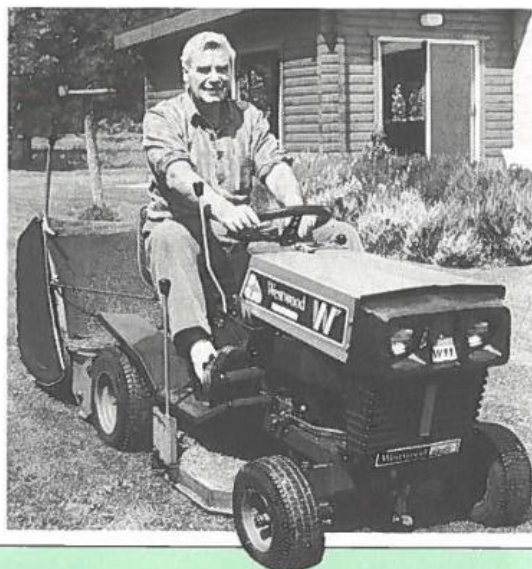
DB was born in Inverness in 1932, brought up in Stirling and went to school at Dollar. After the brief flirtation with the idea of becoming a civil servant, a plan that evaporated during National Service when he was commissioned in the Royal Artillery, he followed stronger instincts in his love of the countryside and studied for a B.Sc. in Forestry at Edinburgh University, graduating in 1955.

Like many young graduates of his generation, the choice of a first job lay between the Forestry Commission and the Colonial Service. He chose the latter and found himself newly graduated, newly married (to Joyce whom he had first met at a tender age) and in charge of 250,000 acres of natural pine forest in Cyprus with a large house, a maid and a gardener to go with the job.

Being in a remote part of the island, it was an unpopular posting for the senior Cypriot foresters, but the Briertons loved it and their two years there were the start of a long love affair with Cyprus which continues to this day.

Given the opportunity, they would have stayed, but the Colonial Service was winding down and they returned reluctantly to the UK. DB still rejecting the possibility of being posted furth of Scotland with the Forestry Commission and accepting instead a job as assistant regional manager with the Co-operative Forestry Society (Scotland) Ltd., which was the forerunner of the Scotland Woodland Owners Association Ltd.

After Cyprus, life back home seemed humdrum by comparison and four years later, unable to settle,



Shortly before his retirement from Tilhill, David Brierton talked to Val Pettit and reflected over his 25 years with the company and his career in forestry.

the Briertons emigrated to Australia where DB had a job secured with the Queensland Forest Department. To his intense disappointment, however, he found himself office-bound in the middle of Brisbane with little prospect of sampling the wilds of the Australian forest.

It was at this point in his career that fate took a hand. He heard on the grapevine that Tilhill founder Archie Aitkins was planning to expand his activities into Scotland and wrote to him applying for the Scottish manager's job.

To his delight, Archie Aitkins was bold enough to take on a man without first interviewing him and DB, in turn, was bold enough — or keen enough to escape from the

Queensland Forest Department's over-centralised and bureaucratic operation — to accept without having met his new employer.

So, with barely a chance to unpack after their outward journey, the Briertons returned once again to the UK, this time broke after having to re-imburse the full cost of their £10 assisted passages and also paying their own fares home.

Tilhill was then a very small company comprising several modest-sized subsidiaries in what eventually became Southern Division and the tree nursery. Once the concept of expanding into Scotland had formed in Archie Aitkins' mind, he was happy to delegate responsibility for the

logistics of the operation to someone he knew only by reputation.

His faith in DB proved to be well-founded. Based at Tilhill Forestry (Scotland) Ltd's one-and-only office in Jedburgh and with only one forest estate to manage at Minto for the Duke of Abercorn, DB set about the painstaking task of building up the business.

"Forestry management in Scotland was ripe for expansion at that time," he recalls, "for the only real competition was from SWOA. In the early sixties, people were looking for the kind of service we could give and the business built up gradually, partly with new acquisitions by existing Tilhill clients and partly by being retained by the traditional estates to handle their forestry management."

Within a year of DB's joining Tilhill as managing director in Scotland, a second office opened in Elgin following the acquisition of Sleepieshill woodlands by a client and the following year the Scottish headquarters opened in Kincardine-on-Forth, moving to Old Sauchie, its present base, in 1966. Under DB's energetic and capable guidance, Tilhill in Scotland was well and truly on its way.

He was appointed a director of the parent company, then called Tilhill Forestry Advisory Ltd., in 1965 and managing director in 1976. In 1981 he served briefly as chairman during the interregnum between Archie Aitkins' retiral and the appointment of H. E. Trevan-Hawke.

The list of honorary appointments DB has held during his years in forestry are clear proof — if proof were needed — of the knowledge and wisdom he has been able to bring to bear on the industry.

He is a past member of the Council of the Institute of Chartered Foresters and served as one of the six-man Windblow Action Group from 1968-1971 to co-ordinate harvesting, haulage and marketing of windblown timber following the hurricane which hit Scotland in 1968.

He was a director and latterly deputy chairman of Scottish Timber Products Ltd. from 1971-77 and for

Continued on back page

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM DAVID BRIERTON

I WELCOME the opportunity provided by the columns of *Tree Scribe* to send a message to readers. Firstly, I should like to thank very warmly all those who have written to wish me well in retirement and to welcome Sandy Macpherson as my successor. All the letters were most kind and generous, and it was almost worthwhile retiring, just to receive them; certainly they are to be preferred to obituaries!

However, nothing much is achieved in a company's progress by one person alone, and one of the great pleasures of my time with Tilhill has been the support and comradeship of all my splendid staff colleagues, who have put up with me so cheerfully and who have worked so hard to keep Tilhill's name to the forefront.

For the core part of my working life, I could not have wished for better associates; it was, to adapt a phrase, a pleasure doing business with you.

I have also had the great good fortune to serve under two dynamic chairmen, of quite distinctive personalities.

Archie, the creator of Tilhill, did more than anyone to inspire us with his particular flair, constantly stimulating, while moulding the essential Tilhill morale. T-H, on the other hand, groomed the company with a more subtle touch, smoothing off some of our rough edges, instilling confidence in abilities sometimes previously undervalued, and generally raising the corporate sights and standards of performance.

To both chairmen Tilhill has a great deal to be grateful for, and myself more than most.

However, a service company exists only by courtesy of its clients. It is perhaps a characteristic of forestry that it frequently attracts quite excellent people to it, with whom good relations and friendships are formed.

There is little doubt that one of the most rewarding aspects of our business is working over a long period for and with people one respects, sharing their enjoyment in a job well done, and also benefiting in widened horizons from their experience in other fields. *Continued on back page.*

A RIVERSIDE

THE transformation of London's derelict Thames-side dockland is no ordinary urban renewal project.

It has captured the imagination of planners, architects, professional landscapers and even that of Londoners themselves who had grown accustomed to seeing the once-busy docks slip gradually into decline.

The docks' new lease of life is in the form of residential, commercial and retail accommodation. Attractive new housing is being built, much of it suitable for first-time buyers in a capital hit by rising property prices. New enterprises are being developed and existing ones encouraged to expand. Throughout, there is a strong emphasis on visual amenity.

South East Landscape branch won the contract to landscape half the total 140-acre site being developed by Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd. for the London Dockland Development Corporation.

Although the old dockside buildings have been demolished to make way for new development, Greenland Dock and Surrey Water have been retained and a new linking canal created, around which has been designed the landscape plan which Tilhill has implemented.

The contract was let in June 1985 and with a value of £210,000 was, at that time, the second largest landscape contract Tilhill had ever been awarded. Since then, further work has increased the contract value to £275,000.

Working to a landscape plan developed by the consultant landscape architect Brian Clouston and Partners, Tilhill moved on to the site in August 1985 along with an army of the main contractor's bulldozers and construction teams. At the peak of planting, a team of ten men were working for Tilhill putting the landscape architect's plans into effect.

● **Val Pettit sees the London docklands which are being transformed from dereliction into an exciting and innovative urban development. Her guide was South-East Landscape branch manager Phil Hewitson who has been responsible for much of the landscape work which has helped to breathe new life into the former commercial wharfside area of Surrey Docks.**

The plan was an ingenious blend of hard and soft landscaping. Surrey Docks lies on the south bank of the Thames with a panoramic view of the skyline extending upriver to the Tower and the City of London which the developers preferred to exploit rather than obscure.

To this end, one of the more unusual aspects of the landscape plan was the building and landscaping of an artificial hill at the north-eastern corner of the site.

Extensive topsoiling was necessary throughout the site for the planting of shrub beds, grass areas, trees and the ornamental yew hedging which forms a main feature of the site, most notably on either side of a central mall running west from Stave Hill to Surrey Water.

The 600 extra heavy standard trees planted include hazel, lime, Norway maple, mountain ash and cherry, with willows forming an attractive fringe along the waterways which run through the site.



● **Looking towards the London skyline from development. The two photographs, taken at different times, show the dramatic transformation of the site from No**

A 20,000 square metre area which is earmarked for the building of a secondary school at a later stage was seeded with wild flowers as a temporary amenity facility and Stave Hill itself was turfed for immediate results and to prevent run-off. There have already been two spectacular springtime displays of narcissi from the 15,000 bulbs Tilhill planted at the same time.

At Russia Dock, an extra to the original contract on the eastern boundary of the site, a different landscape effect has been achieved by planting feathered trees among the more conventional whips and extra heavy standards.

The work at Surrey Docks, which is located almost at the northern edge of the branch's territory, has meant a Tilhill presence almost continuously in London's southern suburbs since work first began. It is now almost complete but Tilhill's

involvement continues with a year's maintenance.

Phil's branch is among Tilhill's newer landscape branches. Its formation in 1985 was hastened by the prospect of the Surrey Docks contract but Phil believes that the volume of landscape work being generated in the area would have led to its formation in any event in fairly early course.

Phil was previously the South East branch's landscaper when it provided both forestry and landscaping services and now leads his own team of three professional staff in a wide variety of work which is resulting in a steady rise in turnover.

The branch's headquarters, in the East Sussex town of Crowborough, enables it to cover the south-east fringes of London, the south and east coasts and also rural Sussex and Kent where many small but top quality landscape contracts originate.



● **Branch manager Phil Hewitson beside willow trees which line the water channel at Surrey Docks.**

BRANCH manager Phil Hewitson qualified with a BSc in Forestry from Aberdeen University in 1975 and spent a year in landscape contracting in Buckinghamshire before taking a diploma in landscape architecture at Sheffield.

He joined Tilhill at Farnham as an assistant in Central Landscape branch for six months before moving to the South East branch in Crowborough as assistant contracts manager. Three years later, on the formation of the new landscaping branch, he took over as manager.

LANDSCAPE supervisor Mike Price has an OND in landscape technology from Pershore. Before full-time study, he spent a year each in both forestry and landscaping and joined Tilhill at Crowborough in September last year.

ASSISTANT contracts manager Antony Evans qualified with a BSc (Hons) in

Horticulture and Landscape Design from Reading in 1986. Before going to university, he worked with his father's landscape business in Pembroke-shire to gain experience and took a year off between the third and final year of his studies to work in the USA with a company affiliated to BALI. He joined Tilhill at Crowborough in July 1986.

THE branch enjoys the shared services with its sister forestry branch of part-time clerkess Grace Bowey who has been with Tilhill for 17 years. During that time, she has seen many changes but served under only three managers — Phil Hewitson together with his forestry co-branch manager Roger Lewis, and Roger's predecessor Antony Spencer.

PART-TIME secretary Shirley Bolton started work with the company in June after working with several local firms as a clerk typist.



● **Clerkess Grace Bowey.**



● **Secretary Shirley Bolton.**

RENAISSANCE



At the top of Stave Hill in the Surrey Docks approximately 18 months apart, show the rapid and November '85 to the summer of this year.

A good two-thirds of the branch's current commitment, however, comes from the southern outskirts of the capital and from north-east Kent, and Phil feels sure that the success of the Surrey Docks scheme will lead to further work there as development progresses.

The branch is already well-established with numerous London boroughs and with county and district authorities. In Wandsworth, for example, Tilhill has handled a £35,000 contract to plant container-grown extra heavy standard trees on a number of different council housing developments which badly needed landscaping to relieve otherwise stark areas of grass.

At Dartford, not far from the southern entrance to the tunnel under the Thames, Blue Circle are developing a large area of wasteland into industrial units at a new international ferry and cargo terminal which has put a high priority on landscaping.

The area which Tilhill has landscaped is centred on a network of waterways and small lakes close to private housing. Working to the plans of David Jarvis Associates, the £47,000 contract involved major grading works, three different types of fencing, 750 cubic metres of topsoiling and the building of footpaths.

Feathered trees, standards and whips and some 5000 square metres of grass seeding have transformed a formerly unsightly and derelict area into a pleasant amenity for local residents as well as those working in the small industrial units. Willows planted along one bank of the lake form a particularly attractive feature.

The development at Dartford is the fifth Blue Circle contract which Phil has supervised in his time with the branch. The company is one of Tilhill's regular clients, having half a dozen or so forestry contracts with the sister south-east forestry branch in addition to landscape projects. They have further sites in north-east Kent which they are proposing to develop.

The Dartford area in general is ripe for development once plans for the Channel Tunnel begin to take shape and Phil sees the branch's

current work in the area as a stepping-stone to future contracts.

The numerous industrial units which have sprung up around Gatwick Airport are providing valuable work for the branch. In nearby Horsham, the branch handled a £45,000 contract for landscaping a manufacturing plant for the American pharmaceutical company A. H. Robbins.

In addition to grass seeding an area of 30,000 square metres, planting shrubs, trees and bulbs, the branch also carried out internal planting in the entrance hall and supplied indoor plants.

Elsewhere in Horsham and in nearby Crawley, Tilhill has been involved in a number of smaller contracts for local firms, among them a £15,000 scheme of semi-mature trees at Flaxyard Construction, a £6000 shrub planting and seeding contract at Groundstar for G. Osbourne Ltd. and a £10,000 tree, shrub planting and seeding contract on a housing development for Mowlem Construction.

In the acres of brick, concrete and glass which sprawl around London's second airport, thoughtful landscaping of the type being handled by the branch provide welcome relief for the eye.

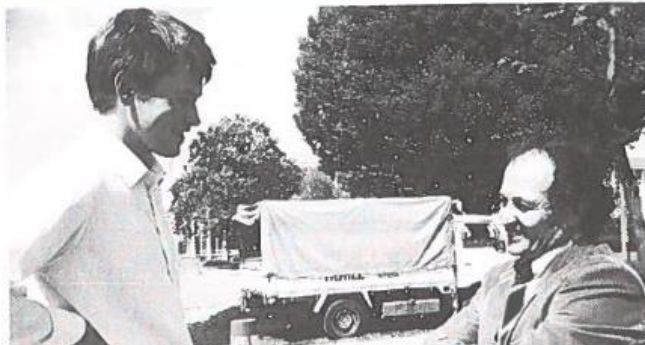
Accompanied this time by landscape supervisor Mike Price, Tree Scribe went on a tour of some of the branch's typical projects away from the big city.

At Lewes, deep in the Sussex countryside, we saw a mature planting scheme around an old quarry which had been converted into light industrial units by Rugby Portland Cement. Nestling hard up against high chalk cliffs, the planting plan drawn up by Phil Hewitson is particularly appealing for its abundance of winter colour.

The £29,000 contract is now in its third and final phase, the latest area being an extension to the original site where, among others, Booker Health has warehouse premises.

The species selected throughout — berberis, olearia, Lonicera, Rosa rugosa, Cotoneaster and pines — were chosen especially for their tolerance of chalky soil.

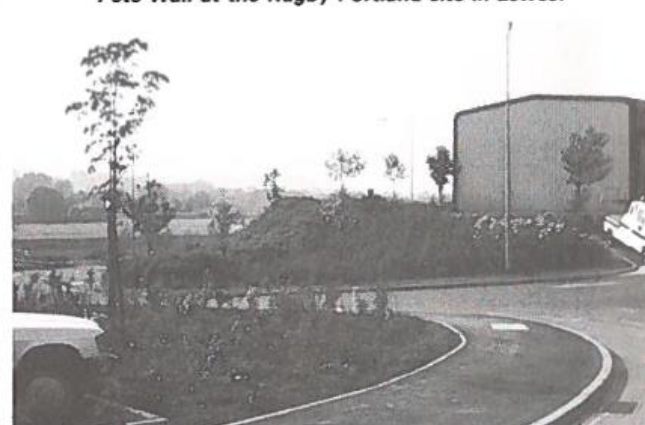
At Burgess Hill, a small but growing town near the market town



● Assistant contracts manager Antony Evans (left) in discussion with site agent Sandy Grant at the Flaxyard site in Crawley.



● Landscape supervisor Mike Price (left) with landscape operative Pete Wall at the Rugby Portland site in Lewes.



● The entrance to the Rugby Portland Cement site at Lewes showing established shrub and tree planting.

of Haywards Heath, Mid-Sussex District Council awarded a £25,000 contract to renovate an old tip for amenity use as parkland.

Now, what was once an ugly four-hectare council dump has, with the help of grass-seeding, shrubs and mixed planting of salix, thorn, oak and cherry, given youngsters a purpose-built BMX cycle track, footballers and cricketers a playing field, and locals with a place to walk their dogs.

Closer to home, just along the road from the branch office, local old folk living in a council-run home in Queen's Road, Crowborough, enjoy beautifully landscaped grounds planted and maintained by the branch at the request of East Sussex County Council. The £9000 scheme, which is simple but

effective, concentrated on colourful shrubs and herbaceous borders.

There are many more schemes, too numerous to see on a short visit, scattered throughout the branch's territory. Though small individually, they form an important part of the branch's regular turnover and Phil is happy to see an increased demand for this type of work alongside the new growth area of urban redevelopment closer to London.

The future for the branch looks healthy. Existing long-established clients continue to provide work and, by being in at the start of schemes like the Surrey Docks development, the branch has made valuable contacts which can only stand it in good stead in the coming years.

Congratulations to . . .

. . . abm Susan Graham of Argyll branch on her engagement to Oban man John MacLachlan . . .

. . . Simon Lord of Southern Division Central Landscape branch on his engagement to Catherine Hibbins . . .

. . . Pat Hunter, manager of Southern Division Central Landscape branch on his marriage to Kathryn Dawkins from Brighton, on May 30 . . .

. . . Phil Hewitson, manager of South East Landscape branch on his marriage to Rosemary Bather, from Surrey, on May 9 . . .

. . . Antony Evans of South East Landscape branch on his marriage to Michele Willis-Fleming from Suffolk on July 18 . . .

. . . Ian Lear of Anglia South and his wife Lorna on the birth of their first child, Fiona Elizabeth, on May 4 . . .

. . . Harry Wilson of Solway Forestry branch and his wife Fiona on the birth of a daughter, Hannah Clare, on May 20 . . .

. . . Steve Smith of Southern Division Central Landscape branch and his wife Jackie on the birth of a daughter, Heidi Louise, on May 23, a sister for Lucy . . .

. . . and Sheena and Mick McNally on the birth of their daughter, Maria, on May 4. Sheena returned to work as Directors' secretary at Old Sauchie at the beginning of August.

A MOVING

● South West branch manager Bill Dorrington describes the mixed feelings of regret and relief with which he and his staff vacated their quaint but increasingly inconvenient quarters in Frome's historic Court House in favour of more modern offices at Buckland Down.

AFTER 25 years' occupation, South West branch has moved from The Court House, a Grade II listed building which dates from 1695.

The three-storey building is constructed of local stone with a stone-tiled roof and contains cellars beneath a large section of the floor area. During the Napoleonic Wars, prisoners were held in the cellars and, even today, scratched inscriptions attributed to those unfortunates are visible.

When first rented as an office in the early sixties, South West branch moved into the garret. At that time, the building was set within a quiet, wooded garden containing mature beech and a magnificent tulip tree. The noise of traffic never penetrated even though the town centre is a mere 100 yards away.

Until the creation of a flood relief scheme, flooding was an annual problem and it was not unusual to have to wade to the main door to get in.

The scheme prompted development in the shape of a supermarket and car park immediately adjacent to the Court House

People and

Southern

TWO new assistant contracts managers have taken up posts in Anglia South.

Clive Tanner gained an HND in Amenity Horticulture from Writtle Agricultural College and, before joining Tilhill, worked as a technical assistant for the London Borough of Redbridge.

His interests include voluntary conservation work, birdwatching and cycling.

John Dagnall is a graduate of the University of Bath and worked in the Jerusalem Botanical Garden before joining Tilhill. His interests include rugby, karate and photography.

Mrs Barbara Scarfe has joined the branch as secretary. Her main interest outside work is looking after the goats and chickens on her small holding.

Marches assistant branch



CLIVE TANNER



JOHN DAGNALL



BARBARA SCARFE

manager **Jonathan Terry** has been outstationed at Blaenau Ffestiniog in North Wales where he is responsible for managed estates and contract business in the area and where he will be expanding Tilhill's services in timber harvesting and marketing.

CONTRACTS

Southern Division

A NGLIA SOUTH has been awarded an £8378 contract for landscaping maintenance at a new housing estate being developed by Countryside Properties plc.

● **CENTRAL LANDSCAPE** branch has won three design and build contracts, worth in total £65,500. The first, worth £35,000, came from RHM Foods at Willesden, the second, worth £25,000, is for Mr B. Morgan at Covenwood House, in Peaslake, Surrey, and the third is for Bacchus and Company at

Ashurst in the New Forest. **United Biscuits Limited** also awarded a £7106 contract for turfing a sports ground.

● **SOUTH EAST FORESTRY** branch has been awarded a £7735 contract from Mr R. J. Montague for tree surgery and shrub clearance at Rushmore Hill Farm.

● **SOUTH WEST** branch has won three contracts totalling £6051, one at Chitterne (£3290) for planting additional screening for a proposed "German" village for the PSA, at Ston Easton Park (£1461) for tree planting in hotel grounds, and for ARC at Mells Park (£1300) for spraying of bramble and respace-ment on a naturally regenerated area.

Scottish Division

A RGYLL branch has won a contract, worth £24,136, from the PSA for grass cutting on 90 hectares at RAF Machrihanish, near Campbeltown. The aim of the contract is to render the grass around the runways unattractive to birds which can cause considerable damage to jet engines.

● **CENTRAL LANDSCAPE** branch has been awarded a further three landscape maintenance contracts totalling £58,216 by Lothian Regional Council. This brings the total current value of Lothian Region maintenance contracts to just under £115,000.

Other contracts won through the

summer include a £4800 soiling and seeding contract for Balfour Beatty at Stirling Royal Infirmary, a £2600 tree felling/surgery contract at Gogarbank for the PSA and a £3300 soiling and seeding contract for Gleasons at Carron Dam.

● **NORTHERN LANDSCAPE** branch has been awarded a contract worth £170,380 for grassing at RAF Kinloss.

● Recent contracts won by YORKSHIRE LANDSCAPE branch include soiling and seeding work for ICI plc worth £11,974, planting and maintenance for the PSA in Leeds, worth £6087, and ornamental planting and maintenance for English Industrial Estates on two separate sites — Cadcam Phase II, Middlesbrough, worth £14,984, and Hartlepool Industrial Estate, worth £25,163.

EXPERIENCE . . .

and, despite the initial planning constraints, the majority of the mature trees were removed either during the building phase or following damage during construction of the car park.

Subsequently, the branch occupied the first floor and a regular occurrence was the release of birds from a fireplace in the general office. An energetic fluttering from behind the asbestos sheet sealing the original fireplace indicated the need to release yet another soot-covered creature.

The passage of time has not been kind to the old building. Lack of attention led to deterioration of the fabric to such a degree that the regular maintenance builder refused to carry out further patching repairs to the roof, and the top floor, latterly used for storage of old records, became unsafe.

During the winter of 1982, the water system on the top floor burst, causing considerable damage to the office occupied by myself.

Bob Gray always maintained that the building was giving notice that Tilhill should seek alternative accommodation and, indeed, one

management meeting in the same office was rapidly curtailed when part of the ceiling collapsed, narrowly missing Bob.

A definite love/hate relationship developed between Tilhill staff and The Court House. The maintenance of decent standards became increasingly difficult with advancing decay and little co-operation from the landlord. The increase in traffic created problems both for staff and callers, entry being hampered by queues of cars awaiting access to the car park.

Despite its problems, The Court House did once provide a central, economic base for Tilhill's activities in the south west and must surely have left a lasting impression on the several Tilhill managers who served part of their early career at Frome.

The new offices at Buckland Down are functional and convenient, providing easy access for staff parking and deliveries. They are located close to the storage depot at Buckland Lodge, operated by Tilhill for some 15 years, a conjunction that also aids efficiency.

places

Scottish Division

NEIL HUGHES joined Central Forestry branch in July as abm after graduating from Aberdeen University. Neil took a year out from university to gain practical forestry experience and worked for part of the time with Central Forestry branch in Southern Division. His main interests are fishing and birdwatching, the latter interest involving trips as far afield as Spain and Turkey.

In Central Landscape branch, **Frank Gibson**, who joined Tilhill as a technician last year, has been promoted to supervisor.

Phil Morgan has joined Solway Forestry branch as an abm. Phil graduated from Aberdeen University in 1979 and, since 1981, has worked in Brunei, Indonesia and East Malaysia on survey work and supervision of logging operations. In his spare time, he enjoys birdwatching and hillwalking.

Mrs Williamina Murray retired from the Llanbryde office at the end of August. She joined Northern branch in 1969 as secretary / typist and during her 18 years' service has seen the development of afforestation in the branch's territory and the growth from small beginnings of the company's landscaping enterprise.

As office secretary she assisted ably in the re-organisation of the business into Northern Forestry and Northern Landscaping branches in 1985. Mrs Murray leaves to take a well-earned holiday



NEIL HUGHES

before becoming engaged in part-time voluntary work.

Ben Hurst has been promoted to manager of the newly-formed Solway Landscape branch which came into being on July 1. Ben holds a Diploma in Landscape Architecture from Manchester University and joined Solway branch in July last year as an abm.

His new branch will share the existing Tilhill offices in Carlisle, well placed to deal with existing and future contracts in north-west England and south-west Scotland.

Ben is assisted by his erstwhile abm colleague **Conor Shaffrey** and by new recruit



PHIL MORGAN

Richard Dibb. Richard joined the new branch in August, having just completed his National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture at Askam Bryan College.

In the past he has worked for Bridlington Corporation and Hilliers Nurseries. Richard is a keen cricket and rugby player and has played rugby for East Yorkshire under-23s.

Yorkshire Forestry branch has recruited **Norman Starks** as a second abm. An Aberdeen University graduate recently back from a trip "down under" to study Agro Forestry, Norman joined Tilhill after a spell with the Forestry Commission in site survey work. In his spare time, he is learning to hang-glide.



WILLIAMINA MURRAY

Abm **Stephen Adlard** has transferred from Borders branch to Yorkshire Forestry. He has settled in well and has already earned a reputation with the labour squad for maintaining a "tight wallet". Out of hours, he is a keen Laser sailor.

Brian Spencer has joined Yorkshire Landscape branch as supervisor, having recently qualified from Merrist Wood Agricultural College with a B/Tec National Diploma (Distinction) in Landscape Construction.

Brian also holds a BEC National Diploma (also with Distinction) in Business Studies. His interests include photography, computers and landscape design.



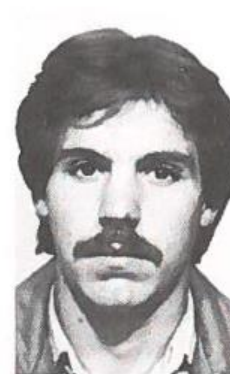
Ben Hurst



Richard Dibb



Norman Starks



Brian Spencer

Seminar shows them the way

SCOTTISH Division branch managers and some assistants assembled at Ardhullarie Estate, Perthshire, on 10th June for a one-day in-house seminar on forest road construction.

The proceedings were very ably led by Tom McLellan, Central branch manager and Area Manager Vaughan Hammond, both of whom showed examples of major pipe arch culverts, bank slippage difficulties and pre-stressed concrete beam bridge construction, as well as road information.

The seminar provided an opportunity for everyone to study all aspects of road work in detail, with ample opportunity for full discussion.

Altogether it was a very useful day and one in a series of seminars and courses planned over the next few months to keep staff up-to-date with all aspects of current forestry practice.



● *Roading Seminar — Vaughan Hammond explains a point of detail in pipe arch culvert construction to Scottish Division staff.*

THE END OF AN ERA

Continued from page 3

many years a member of the Regional Advisory Committee of the Forestry Commission's mid-Scotland Conservancy, and a member of the Council of Timber Growers UK and, since 1981, a member of the Scottish Forest Products Development Group.

The latter organisation, with membership drawn from the Scottish Development Agency, the Highlands and Islands Development Board, the Forestry Commission, the Scottish Office and TGUK, acted as the catalyst for the setting up of Highland Forest Products in Inverness and the Kymmene-Stromberg project at Irvine — the latter the largest single inward investment ever attracted to Scotland. The work of the SFPDG followed the dramatic closure of three British pulp mills in 1980.

"It was widely recognised," said DB, "that something had to be done urgently after the serious loss of three key elements in the forestry industry."

"The group was set up with the aim of promoting replacement activities in Scotland and, although the developments at Inverness and Irvine could possibly have happened in any case, the group helped to provide the right climate for attracting overseas investment, particularly from North America and Scandinavia, to utilise the last large uncommitted reserves of timber in Europe."

Looking back over such a long and rewarding career in forestry, *Tree Scribe* asked DB which achievements had yielded the greatest satisfactions.

Produced by Val Pettit, for Tihill, Greenhills, Tilford, Farnham, Surrey, and Printed by the Dunfermline Press, Pitreavie Business Park, Dunfermline.

"Seeing Tihill evolve from modest beginnings into a flourishing and respected nationwide operation, witnessing the total transformation of the UK forest products scene into a very high quality industry, and a personal involvement in a great deal of large-scale planting of land for which there was no other or better use, thus creating employment in rural Scotland which is set to increase still further once the forests are fully productive," was the reply.

Any disappointments? "The failure of Scottish Timber Products left the biggest scar," said DB, "but the disappointment is tempered by the fact that under new ownership and management the operation has prospered and fulfilled the justification for creating a large board plant in that location in the first place."

And the greatest challenge? "To convince the Department of

Agriculture in Scotland to be wholly supportive of the progress of forestry in Scotland instead of their past antipathy and their rather grudging recognition now," came the prompt response.

To young graduates starting out on their careers, DB would offer these succinct but pertinent words of advice. "Don't expect too much too soon, retain a sense of humour and work hard to exploit the enormous opportunities which will arise as the forestry business grows even larger."

DB readily concedes that in his own career he has had his fair share of good fortune, but adds the firm belief that people make their own luck. "Ambition was a word we never used," he said, recalling his own early days. "We were only too glad to have a job, let alone consider where it might lead."

Of the things he'll miss least in

retirement are the weekly chores of a 5 am rise to catch the Edinburgh-Heathrow shuttle which was a feature of his working life since dividing his time between Old Sauchie and Greenhills, and in the summer cutting the large expanse of grass in the grounds of his house, a treadmill he inherited when his sons left home.

High on the list of pleasures to look forward to is an undisturbed spell of sunshine in Cyprus where the Briertons are making their home now that their grown-up family of two sons and two daughters has become independent.

DB retains a link with forestry via a consultancy with Booker and plans to return to the UK from time to time to renew old friendships and admire, distance doubtless lending enchantment to the view, the progress of the company in which he played such a memorable role.

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM DAVID BRIERTON

Continued from page 3

Good humour seems more prevalent than otherwise, and hospitality often generous. Of the many clients for whom it was a real pleasure to work I shall retain the best of memories.

The same applies to professional colleagues from other disciplines — chartered surveyors, lawyers, accountants — and to fellow foresters in both the State and private sectors. Many connections made through work have evolved into lasting friendships.

It is perhaps a tradition amongst foresters, no doubt as a counterpoint to the relative solitude of the woods, that they enjoy good company, and it has never been lacking.

For similar reasons I retain a special affection for many members of the Scottish sawmilling trade. One of my earlier specialisations, in employment prior to Tihill, was in harvesting and marketing, which gave me the great advantage of getting to know the principals in these family businesses.

Sadly, some of the "characters" of an older generation are no longer with us, but the present crop are no less individualistic and warm-hearted. However, any doubts I had that it might be time

to retire were dispelled when a member of the Scottish trade of more recent acquaintance addressed me as "Mr Brierton"!

It is almost trite to say that forestry has seen a lot of changes in the last 25 years. We have been through a deep recession, seen violent lurches in Government policy, suffered new planting being reduced to a trickle, and then been asked to restore it while largely confined to the "badlands."

But from this, nevertheless, has emerged a very well structured and modern forest products industry, all sectors of which are now sitting at the same table in F.I.C.G.B. New planting is beginning to climb back towards achievement of the "target" level and, at last, there is an increasing appreciation that forestry does better for all sorts of purposes on better quality land. The outlook does indeed seem set fair.

It would be idle to suggest that the past quarter century was all great fun. Contrary to one popular Americanism, hindsight does not give 20/20 vision, but it is viewed through rose-tinted spectacles. With these on, and to use another Americanism, I had a ball.

Thank you for having me. 9