

EDITORIAL NOTES



DUCHY of CORNWALL

10 BUCKINGHAM GATE LONDON SW1E 6LA • TELEPHONE: 01-834 7346

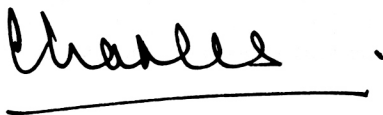
A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of the events which gave me great pleasure in 1983 was the opportunity to spend a day with members of the Society in the Duchy of Cornwall woodlands last May. I very much enjoyed the opportunity to discuss and argue with members about our woodland policy and it was particularly helpful to hear some informed criticisms of our efforts!

During my Presidency I have come to realise that for those closely involved in forestry, though very rewarding, it is in many ways a very lonely occupation and one in which great faith is required since results take so long to achieve. Visits like the one in May are therefore extremely important if new ideas and new thinking are to spread.

One positive result of your visit was that I learnt about the work which has been carried out for some years on continuous canopy forestry at Tavistock Woodlands. As a result I have now been able to arrange for Duchy staff to visit Tavistock and to start a small-scale scheme in the Duchy so that we may judge it for ourselves. It will be a long time before there is anything to show but at least we are experimenting and looking at other people's innovations. In an industry in which change, by its nature, is slow innovation is, in my view, very important and it is also important, I believe, to try and arrive at a commercial forestry system which is as close to a "natural" forest as possible.

I should like to wish all members of the Royal Forestry Society a very happy and reasonably prosperous 1984.



PRESIDENT