

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

PHILLIPE MORGAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONTINUOUS COVER FORESTRY GROUP

I would like to welcome everybody this morning to the Continuous Cover Forestry Group Conference on Understanding Daylight in the Context of Continuous Cover Forestry.

I would like to thank those who have helped us make this conference possible. The **Forestry Commission** at Westonbirt Arboretum, in particular Simon Toomer, who has been very supportive and has helped us with the hire of the magnificent Great Oak Hall. **Woodland Heritage** have once again come to our support in helping in our efforts in promoting greater understanding of CCF. **Skye Instruments** Belinda Trotter and Adam Taylor who are with us today providing time and expertise and the loan of some of the instruments we shall be using in the field demonstrations. **Delta T Services** for their interest and kind support. **Gill Pemberton**, our new Administrator, for all her efforts in making the conference run smoothly.

Rodney Helliwell is the person who first wanted to arrange this conference. I know that Rodney feels a great deal of frustration that this conference is only now taking place; it should have been held 20 or 30 years ago when CCF was first being considered seriously in Britain. He was responsible for the first meetings at Pershore and later at Longleat that led to the formation of CCFG and he has weathered all the storms of criticism and the misunderstanding that the Group has often had to contend with.

I have just returned with 2 other delegates from CCFG from the 20th anniversary conference for the formation of ProSilva commemorating the signing of the declaration of Robanov Kot in Slovenia that Rodney was a signatory to. The overwhelming feeling at the conference was that ProSilva is in a unique position to respond to some of the extreme changes that are affecting our environment at the present time. Many now feel that what they have always upheld and promoted will

provide mechanisms for better adaptation and risk management as well as the integrated solutions to meet the needs of modern society. The demand for CCF or Close to Nature Forestry is there as the revised Wales Woodland Strategy, I think, clearly demonstrates. However politicians, society at large and large parts of the forestry sector are unaware of its existence let alone how it operates on a practical basis. This gulf needs to be filled and for our arguments to be heard and taken seriously we need to have more of a scientific basis to our arguments. This is why this conference is so important and why it is so long overdue.

I thank you all for coming and for supporting CCFG and hope that we can today provide a better understanding of the very basic factors that affect our silviculture.

We shall this morning have a series of lectures from important scientists working on how light affects trees. We shall break for lunch and then we will have a field demonstration with the help of Skye Instruments followed by an open discussion and summing up facilitated by 2 eminent practitioners, Andy Poore and Graham Gill.

Philippe Morgan is the Chairman of the Continuous Cover Forestry Group and Vice-president of the Association Futaie Irrégulière. He runs a forest management company in Wales and works in Ireland and in France. He practices continuous cover forestry in a wide range of different woodlands and believes that transformation is feasible in all woodland types. He is a Director of SelectFor, specialists in continuous cover forest management, developing a network of research stands and training aids for continuous cover in Britain. He is a member of the Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel WASP and seeks to influence policy and to promote better understanding of continuous cover.