

**“Well I never knew that.....”**

Next into the limelight is Gordon Holmes. My thanks to him.

*How long have you been playing bowls?*

About 15 years.

*Your favourite piece of music?*

Handel's Messiah. Composed in a frantic 3 to 4 weeks in 1741.

*What did you do in your working life?*

I left school at 15 and worked in a metal work factory for three years and then in a wood work factory for five years. I then worked for a multimillionaire for ten years, including working as a gardener. I then went to college for three years studying arboriculture, dealing with all aspects of the growing, maintaining and removing of woody plants for any reason other than as a timber crop. Once qualified, I worked for a Local Authority as an arboriculturalist. I did this for 30 years and enjoyed every minute. I was one of those lucky people who woke every morning looking forward to the day ahead. My job was a mixture of office work and site visits. I was responsible for tree preservation orders and dealing with any activity by developers and builders which threatened those orders. If my decisions were appealed against, I was required to justify those decisions at the appeal hearings. I retired 20 years ago and we retired to the Island which was a place I knew well from many family holidays.

*Which living person do you most admire?*

Paul Raff who was a Minister in the Free Church in his native South Africa. He came to the United Kingdom and as my pastor, he taught me a great deal about how to live my life as a Christian.

*Favourite meal?*

A medium chicken curry.

*Favourite holiday destination?*

That would be the Isle of Wight. Even after we moved here, we took our holidays touring the Island in a VW caravanette. Shanklin is my particular favourite.

*Favourite book?*

The Bible which I read every day.

*Proudest moment?*

When I became a Christian about 20 years ago.

*Favourite place to play bowls other than Bembridge?*

Shanklin.

*Favourite Film?*

Doctor Zhivago, released in 1966 and starring Omar Sharif and Julie Christie.