



## CALDWELL STAFF

The following list of staff, and information about them, has been recalled by others who worked at Caldwell's. If you are able to add or amend the information - please let us know. Names highlighted in green are those whose memories have been recorded. Look in the menu item 'Memories' to listen to the recordings.

Miss Enid Acton	A long serving Boots Chemist employee, she worked several years in the Garden Centre shop in the 1980s.
Peter Acton	
Percy Aldcroft	Rose foreman c.1946. He went to work for Arthur Caldwell of Holly House Rose Nursery, probably late 40s/early 1950s.
Wilhelm Amanis (Latvian)	Ollerton rose nursery, preceded Alan Sant as foreman.
Carol Appleton (now Topping)	Worked in the greenhouses and Garden Centre. She was the foreman after Denis Meade went to Fryers.
Bert Astle	Driver and highly skilled joiner.
George Bagley	Worked on the nursery
Mr Bateman	Landscape gardener - remembered 1946-1951. Traveller, Frank Passant recalled meeting him once in 1946, he retired shortly afterwards. He was quite knowledgeable and people spoke highly of him.
Stanley Batty	Sometimes called LAMP (battery), worked at Ollerton nursery, and left to set up the North Wales Rose and Turkey Farm in Llandudno. He was quite go ahead but it is understood that he died young, in his twenties.
Freddie Birkmanis (Latvian)	Ollerton rose nursery. He was married and

	had two daughters.
Ossie Bramhall	At Barnshaw nursery in the early 1960s, then he went to Radbroke Hall later 1960s.
Karsten Bró (Danish)	A student nurseryman
Sam Brown	Nurseryman, lived in a cottage adjoining Seven Sisters Lane nursery. Don Leaman knew him in 1953 and recalls "sometimes when we needed water for spraying insecticides in the Seven Sisters nursery we would use Sam's inside tap and I would mix the Nicotine, quite a dangerous chemical ..... We may have even referred to that nursery as Sam Brown's, especially when it was my turn to fetch a barrowfull of manure across from the Rose Nursery at planting time when we had maybe run out of the heap that Sid Taylor would have taken over a few days earlier."
Bill Burgess	Traveller/rep remembered 1946 -1951 and later. He made a grand duo with Jack Forde.
Mrs Elsie Burgess	Seasonal worker in glasshouses pricking out.
Linda Carsberg-Davis	Worked as an office junior between 1965 and early 1967 approximately.
Tom Cash	Greenhouse foreman c. 1946-1952. He delighted in telling Don Leaman that as a lad in 1928 he had the party of a lifetime when Mary Caldwell of Holly House married Rev. Ben Leaman. Someone put him to bed! He never suffered from any indigestion - his consumption of Rennies must have been a world record. It is thought that the doctor ordered him to quit in the end.
Arthur Chapman	Joined post WWII, helped with loading and thought to be the last of our nurserymen to work with horses. The stable was where the front roadside showroom existed at a later date.
Carol Chapman (married to Lester Chapman)	Took over from Harry England in the glasshouses and stayed till the nursery closed. She then went to Bents Garden

	Centre.
John Chapman	Driver remembered 1946-1951.
Paul Chapman	Now at the All-in-One Garden Centre.
Teodor Chaskultszi (Ted - Ukrainian or Polish when it suited!)	Ollerton rose nursery, worked there for about 10 years following the war. (He might have come from the camp at Toft.) He became a very keen bee keeper - from one captured swarm - with perhaps 20 hives at the bottom end of the Rose Nursery.
Arthur Chorlton	Drove the 3 ton lorry delivering up to 50miles radius and more, with a canvas cover to protect delicate shrubs. In early June 1958 he fetched Don Leaman from Lymington, Hampshire to Barnshaw, a round trip of maybe 400 miles.
Mary Chorlton	Secretary/typist in office, typed up orders, daughter of Arthur Chorlton, married Frank Passant.
Johnny Chrimes	A little guy, remembered for his sayings, a foreman at Ollerton.
Janis (John) Cirponis (Latvian)	Lived at Barnshaw with his wife Aino, and worked at the Rose Nursery.
Jack Coleman - (Irish)	1960s? Nurseryman and also part of the outside working teams.
<b>David Cooke</b>	
Brenda Cross (married name not recalled)	Fom Ollerton, sister of Joan Cross, worked at Caldwell's King Street florists for sometime in the 1950s. Don Leaman recalls that he and Jack Daniel used to call her 'yer wot' on account of her approach to incoming 'phone calls.
Jack Daniel	Manager of florist's shop on King Street which he took over from Caldwell's in 1966. He was a sub mariner in WWII. When working through the night on funeral wreaths he was helped by rum in his tea. Don Leaman says that he has never had rum in his tea since!
Katharine/Catherine Daniel	Daughter of Jack, assisted in the florist's shop.
Patricia Daniel (Simpson)	Daughter of Jack, assisted in the florist's

	shop.
Mrs Daniel	Wife of Jack, worked in the florist's shop.
Mrs Gladys Dawes	Seasonal worker in glasshouses - also a fruit picker at Orchard Farm Nursery 1958 to at least 1964. She found Irmgard Leaman's wedding ring in the straw under the blackcurrants - a gold ring in golden straw!
James Dewhurst	Employee in 1970s?
Peter Dunne	Worked with Carol in the greenhouses. He was never one to be hurried.
Harry England	The glass house foreman, had previously worked for the Co-op. He wore big hobnail boots and a blue gardener's apron. His life followed a set routine; visiting his mother in Lymm every Saturday and going to Blackpool for a week's holiday each year without his wife. At Blackpool he attended shows during the week and went on a coach trip on Sundays when there were no shows, and walked to Fleetwood every morning before breakfast. He retired very suddenly to Bordon(?) Hampshire when his aunt left him a house.
Tom Foden	Worked at Barnshaw nursery for 25 years until it closed. Don Leaman taught him budding and grafting. He worked alongside two regular staff and there were casual staff too when it was busy. He was a highly skilled fruit and ornamental tree propagator. When Caldwell's closed the land at Barnshaw had to be left clear. A contractor came and pulled the remaining trees out. These were burnt.
Jack Forde	Irish, traveller (salesman) for Caldwell's from 1953, a delightful man.
Mrs Christine Foulsham	A member of the office staff in the 1970s.
Mr Frost	Traveller/salesman during war years.
Tony Gentil	
John Gledhill	Worked several years in the garden centre shop, 1970s -1980s?

Frank Goulding	Worked at Barnshaw nursery early 1960s.
Mr Freddie Haliburton	Traveller (salesman) for Caldwell's and ran outside working team with Jack Forde after Bill Burgess departed.
Deirdre Hamilton	Irish.
Alec Harrop	All in good humour, if anything went wrong in the nursery (in a minor way), staff generally blamed Alec Harrop, even after his retirement. Then when David Caldwell joined and left - he took the blame!
Sid Holland	Landscape gardener undertaking small landscape projects such as refurbishing an existing garden, clearing and replanting, turfing. Part of the team with Jack Painter.
George Hulme	Main Nursery Foreman, he left to work at Tatton Park. He said "Five years in one job is enough". He is remembered as being difficult with the younger staff.
Cyril Hulse	Worked on the landscape side, left and went to America (before 1946). He returned and Frank Passant met him several times when he came in to buy plants. He ran his own landscape business.
Winifred Hutton	Worked in the office, mid 1960s.
Jed?	He always went round smelling the plants and once ended up inhaling a piece of conifer and had to go to hospital.
Cyril Jones	Called Joe or Joey - from Marston, near Northwich, cycled to work every day until he got a car. At Ollerton he used to prepare all the rose buds for budding. Remembered as traveller/rep 1946-1951. He enlisted for the Kings Own Scottish Borderers in WWII. A somewhat prickly character, much involved with several departments including the florists when Jack Daniels was on holiday. For all his long service he had to go in the end.
Mr Keane	Traveller/salesman during war years. Same Mr Keane as did the wages before Frank Passant took over. He was very old fashioned

	and thought that no one could do the wages but him. He was supposed to instruct Frank Passant on how to do the wages but he never did. When he died Frank had to work out how to do them for himself.
John Kernetski (Ukrainian, ex SS)	Known as Little John - he worked at Ollerton Rose Nursery post war and into the 1960s. He had good enough English to be the rose salesman at the nursery as well as undertaking the usual growing duties. He is recalled as being arrogant.
Victoria Leaman (now Coffey)	Helped Mrs Osborne with pricking out and took over from her in the greenhouses when she fell. Victoria also worked in the Garden Centre with Carol Appleton. She had a cat called Stilton, half Burmese, who hitched lifts to work from Nursery View, Seven Sisters Lane, and was popular with customers. Her lovely way with garden centre customers prompted one to ring and say "She'll bring you lots of trade".
Liz?	From Stretton, worked for a year and then went to Writtle College.
David Lowe	Son of Harry Lowe, worked at Ollerton but died comparatively young.
Harry Lowe	Driver, had come from Flatters removal firm. He was a wonderful packer and loader of plants, jovial but happy to stir things up!
Teresa Martin	Worked in the Alpines and Herbaceous department.
Paul Mason	Contemporary of David Caldwell, lived at Ollerton.
Denis Meade	A good nurseryman and plantsman.
Janis Murnieks	Big John (Latvian) was a knifesman, and a very skilled rose propagator in spite of his massive hands. He was totally deaf from shell shock. He ate apples as if he was attacking them, the juice spraying out. He had a big BSA motorbike. Big John was a great saver, accumulating enough money to retire to the

	Latvian ex pats home Nieuport House, Almeley south of Kington, Herefordshire.
Joe Mullaney	Worked with Sid Holland and Jack Painter, retired back to Ireland after inheriting a property there.
Bill Mullins	Helped with potting up in spring time.
Alex Nagla	Worked at Barnshaw nursery for a time. He was not an early riser.
Mr Nield	In charge of the office, wrote up company minutes and did accounts but retired in the mid 1960s and Frank Yarwood took his position as office manager.
Mrs Nield	Worked in the office too.
Sam Ollier	Helped with care of pot plants in the greenhouses. Sam worked at Caldwell's but joined up in WW1. After that he had a coal round but in his late fifties developed back trouble and came back to Caldwell's, retiring in his seventies. He held a season ticket for Manchester United from 1910-1970! When his usual lift to Old Trafford was ill he would sometimes ask Frank Passant for a lift. Frank played hockey on Saturdays and couldn't always oblige.
Mrs Osborne	Worked in the glasshouses.
Graham Ovens	Worked at Barnshaw in mid 1960s. He was a qualified Shipbuilding engineer from Newcastle who wanted to help others. Don Leaman recommended that he go to National Institute of Agricultural Engineering (NIAE), Silsoe Bedfordshire and study agricultural engineering/ irrigation, if he wanted to help people in Africa. He went to NIAE and then to Malawi.
Jacky Painter	Landscape gardener (died 2010 aged 93), used to come and help budding roses at Ollerton.
Alfred Palfreyman	
Frank Passant	
Terry Podmore	Driver

Alfred Priedite (Latvian)	A displaced person, left to set up his own nursery in Bronington, near Whitchurch, Shropshire.
John Prince	
Ken Roe	
Sam Ross	Was a real artisan craftsman, the last of the Knutsford rustic furniture makers. Having retired from his own business in a little place on Brook Street, perhaps because he could not make it pay, he was taken on by Caldwell's who felt they could sell his furniture. He worked in oak and varnished the finished items. Caldwell's could probably have sold more of Sam's pieces but Sam was precise in his work, not one to be hurried, and only worked two or two and a half days a week. Sam went with Caldwell's wagon to pick up stocks of timber from the Lake District. He chose bent pieces for the seats, bird houses, arches and other items to order, including loving seats. He didn't like making loving seats because they were too fiddly. While working for Caldwell's he occupied a workshop in outbuildings behind Holly House, c 1975, and continued to work there until one night his tools were stolen and that was the end of his business.
Mr Russell	Rose Nursery Foreman before Willie Amanis. Don Leaman recalls that a rose, a sport of the variety 'Fashion' was named after his wife.
George Sanderson	
Alan Sant	Rose nursery foreman.
Walter Sant	Brother of Alan, employed by Caldwell's for a while.
Bill Saye	Greenhouse foreman.
W Bill Scott	Scottish nurseryman known as Scottie.
Bill Sheard	Dropped off at Knutsford Cottage Hospital to tend the rose garden. Caldwell's were contracted to do this work and Bill was one of their contract gardeners.



Mr Snow	Traveller/salesman during war years.
Barry Smith	Helped with potting up in spring time.
Alf Taylor	Sid Taylor's father.
Sid Taylor	Worked at Caldwell's for over forty years. He delivered customers plants locally and as the tractor driver lifted plants in season and transported plants locally, for example bundles of roses. He ploughed fallow land ready for re-planting. Sid is recalled as being able to turn his hand to practically anything - electrics, plumbing, irrigation etc, a highly valued member of staff.
Eddie Topping	In 1951 for just 6 weeks practical nursery work before college. After horticultural college he went on to develop Barton Grange Garden Centres, now led by his son Peter, while his other son Guy manages the hotel side of the business.
Eric Tippler	Driver.
Freddie Trill	Traveller and garden advisor after F. Halliburton. He was previously Parks Superintendant at Whitefield.
Alex Veicherts - (Latvian)	Worked at Barnshaw nursery and shared a caravan with John Zalans. Alex had been in the SS and suffered nightmares.
Les Wafford	
Arthur Walker	Worked in the herbaceous nursery and lived on cabbage and custard!
Peter Walker	Worked in the nurseries, now in Andover with Country Gardens chain of Garden Centres.
Harry Walton	
John Walton	Worked for the herbaceous foreman, left c. 1963.
Mrs Ida Warburton	Seasonal worker in glasshouses.
Eric Webb	Herbaceous foreman remembered 1946 – 1951.
George Wilding	Rose nursery, budded 3-400 roses a day c.1946.
Amy Wilkinson	Mother of Linda Carsberg-Davis, Carsberg

	being her married name, worked at the nurseries on and off throughout her life and she loved the place. As a girl she helped Miss Winnie Caldwell, assisting her with bulbs and seeds, and undertaking seed packeting. Later she worked in the shop.
William Edwin Wilkinson	Herbaceous foreman, Linda Carsberg- Davis's grandfather. He lived at Bramble Cottage on Chelford Road, a property owned by Caldwell's.
Bill Wilson	In charge of old shop on Chelford Road, the frontman, very gruff with a heart of gold and at the heart of everything. He organised all the orders which were despatched between October and the end of April. He volunteered in WW1 and got frostbite in the trenches so he suffered with his feet for the rest of his life.
Mrs Winterburn	Office staff 1970s?
Mr Withinshaw	Worked at Barnshaw for a while in the 1960s and is thought to have lived at Swettenham Green.
Frank Yarwood	Office manager from mid 1960s.
John (Janis) Zalans (Latvian)	Ollerton, recalled as a brilliant fellow. He spoke 4 languages.