

Basil Evan James George – CV

History



I was born on 9 December 1928 ,in the village of Merthyr Mawr, near Bridgend in South Wales, where my father was Second Gardener for Mr JID Nicholl of Merthyr Mawr House and Estate. My grandfather was Chauffeur for Mr Nicholl, having moved to the area from Maenclochog, Pembrokeshire, in 1880.

I started school in Laleston, Bridgend and then went to Pangbourne School in Berkshire when my father took up the post of Head Gardner for Sir Jeffery Bayass' Estate in 1939. I finished my education in Watts Naval School in Norfolk and left there when I was 14 years old to join my father working for the Berkshire War Agricultural Committee. I had a letter from the Berkshire Constabulary stating that I had the right to drive tractors on the King's Highway because I was involved with food production as part of the war effort.

My family moved back to South Wales in 1943 and we lived in Ewenny, in the house built by my grandfather in 1925/26. I worked for the Glamorgan Agricultural Committee driving tractors for Mr H L Knight of Tythegston Court. In 1948 I met Barbara Sutcliffe who I married in 1950 at Merthyr Mawr Church.

In December 1950 we moved to Park House at Margam Park, where I worked as Farm Manager for Mr (later to become Sir) Evans Bevan. The following year my daughter Beverley was born, followed three years later by my other daughter Valerie. We lived at Park House for six years, leaving there in 1956 to run Penhydd Farm near Maesteg for my friend Mr Jeff James.

In 1957, I took up the post of Demonstrator for Massey Ferguson tractors and equipment with J E Howard, in Bridgend. In 1958, we moved to Ivy Cottage on the Merthyr Mawr Estate, where we rented for a number of years, subsequently buying the cottage where I still live.

In late 1960, I started up my own business as a Landscape Contractor and ran it successfully for the next 52 years, finally handing it over to my grandson Adam in 2012, when I was 84 years old.

My dear wife Barbara sadly passed away in 2001 but I am thankful that I have my two daughters, their husbands and two grandchildren to help me on my way.

Interests

In 1959 I became involved with Clay Pigeon Shooting and started the Bridgend Gun Club. I joined the Welsh Clay Target Shooting Association and, over the next 40 years, held the positions of Committee Member, Honorary Secretary, Chairman, President and, in 2001, became Patron of the Association when I stood down from management. During those 40 years:

- I was a founder member of the Welsh Shooting Federation and held the post of Chairman on three occasions;
- I set up and chaired two World Clay Shooting events, which started at the Mid-Wales Shooting Centre, Trefeglwys and now the events travel all around the world;
- I sat on the Sports Council for Wales from 1965 to 2000, representing Clay Target Shooting;
- I was a member of the Wales Commonwealth Games Team, attending the Games in 1974 in New Zealand as Shooting Technical Official – in 1978 in Canada as Section Coach for Clay Shooting – in 1982 in Australia as Shooting Manager – in 1986 in Scotland as Team Selection Committee Member – in 1990 in New Zealand as Deputy Team Manager of the Welsh Commonwealth Team – in 1994 in Canada as Official for Shooting;
- I was made Deputy President of the Welsh Games Council in 1998 and retired from the Council in 2001/2;
- In 1998 I was also made Life Vice President of the Welsh Games Council and presented with a commemorative award for services rendered;

I have been a member of the Bridgend Air Rifle League since 1946, during which time I have shot for Merthyr Mawr Club, the YMCA Club, Laleston Club and, for the past 50 years, I have shot for the Ewenny Air Rifle Club, where I have held the post of Chairman for the best part of 50 years.

I was a founder member of the Ewenny Air Rifle Club, setting up the shooting range and for many years organised the South Wales Air Rifle Shooting Championships.

In the late 1980s I joined the Ferguson Club, which aims to keep the name of Harry Ferguson alive. I was made South Wales Representative in 2001. In 2013 I started up the Ferguson European Ploughing Championship which now travels the UK on an annual basis. I regularly write articles for the Ferguson Club Journal and also the local newspapers.

I became the Secretary of The George Family Name Society in 2007 and its President in 2015.