

TIMBER WOOD – THANET ARTS COUNCIL

Marion Evans recalled Timber's connections with the **Thanet Arts Council**. Timber was involved with the Council from about 1973 onwards.

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“For nearly 30 years, Timber was a member of the Executive and for two years its Chairman, from 1978 – 1980. He organised and helped run the Arts Festivals we had at the Winter Gardens and Northdown House.

I recall how much he loved the Winter Gardens and rarely missed a show there. He used to reminisce with Bill (Marion's husband) about the Sunday socials that they both attended there in their youth. I think they were both stage struck. Perhaps, if Thanet District Council had taken his advice on their entertainment venues, they might have saved themselves a lot of grief. His knowledge of Thanet entertainments was unsurpassed.

40 years ago, when we moved to Birchington, the Vicar called upon us, as was the custom then. It was Christopher Donaldson, and he said to us, “All the intelligent young people in Birchington belong to ‘All Saints Guild of Players’. So we had no option but to join.

So I met Timber when he was stage-managing at that time – and I seem to remember we won a couple of Festivals.

I've often thought it would be very sad to come and go in this world and not be missed, but looking round this evening, we all appreciate how Timber will be sadly missed, never more than at the Thanet Arts Council. We've heard a lot about Timber being a good leader – which he was. But he was also a good member of a team, which we are at the Arts Council. He had many contacts and always knew the right people to approach. Very rarely was he refused, as others knew he would always be willing to return a favour.

When I told my son (Nicholas) about this evening, he told me his memory about Timber – which I think is rather endearing. Nicholas and Susan (Timber's daughter) are contemporaries, and when they were about six years old, playing in the Wood's garden, Timber came out to join in. And before they knew it, he was flittering around the garden, pretending to be a butterfly.

Such was the versatility of a real trouper.”