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# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

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Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £36 per year; Europe and Eire £46. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN: 0961-6977

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# Well done John and the team

John Philp was described as "a greenkeeper out of control" by David Duval. He was accused of fertilising the rough by several experienced pros and, if some rumours are to be believed, is a close relation of the Marquis de Sade.

In fact all John had done - in conjunction with his own Links Management Committee and the R&A - was to bring a fine old links back into tip top condition and provide a challenge few of the professionals had ever faced before. Sure the fairways were a little tighter than was perhaps comfortable and sure the rough was...well rough, but the Angus area has been particularly wet and grass tends to grow in those types of conditions.

The players had launched their media offensive against the course well before the week started. The winning total was by all accounts going to be around 300. Well, 29 players broke 300 and the winning total, matched by three players, was the equivalent of two 72 and two 73s. Not too outrageous.

But isn't the score irrelevant? Isn't the idea to identify the Champion? The man who mastered the conditions the best? What score did O'Meara shoot to win at Birkdale last year? I'm blown if I can remember, and frankly it doesn't matter.

Jan van de Velde played the best golf for 71 holes and would have been a deserving champion. Paul Lawrie was superb in the play-off and as a result is a deserving champion - someone who won The Open not just the beneficiary of someone's sad stumble.

So why the criticism?

You don't hear cyclists in the Tour de France, which was running at the same time as The Open, complaining to the organisers that a particular climb was too steep. They get on with it.

Skiers tackling the fearsome Hannenkann mountain in the annual downhill race take pride in completing the course. They don't look at their times and say we only averaged 55mph and not 65mph, as we usually do, so the spectators are being short changed.

Even Formula One drivers, who one might forgive for prima donnaish tendencies, usually blame the set up of their cars rather than the layout of the track for disappointing times.

Professional golfers get many advantages not open to club golfers. In The Open they have ball spotters on every hole. They get free drops, line of sight rulings, they get someone to carry their bag, cars to pick them up from their hotels...

The list goes on, yet still they moan.

John Philp and his team did a tremendous job at Carnoustie and the set-up of the course showed real imagination. Sure it was tight, but it was not unplayable, and in the end it produced an

Open which will be remembered for many years to come.

Coupled with the fine new hotel it surely has guaranteed Carnoustie a permanent place back on The Open rota...even if the very thought will cause some nightmares.

**Editor:**  
Scott MacCallum

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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32 Open Glory

Cover photo: Scott MacCallum

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**Neil Thomas takes a personal look back at Viscount Whitelaw's involvement with BIGGA which started back in the early days of the Association.**

# Viscount Whitelaw 1918-1999

Much has been written and spoken recently of the life and times of Viscount Whitelaw. Naturally this has concentrated on his place in the political life of this country, not to mention his wartime service in the Scots Guards where he won the Military Cross in the Normandy campaign.

His career in Government was long and distinguished including service as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and as Deputy Prime Minister to Margaret Thatcher from 1975 to 1987. It was at Christmas 1987 that illness intervened, albeit one from which he fully recovered, and he stood down as Deputy Prime Minister. It was then that it was our exceedingly good fortune that he agreed to take on the Presidency of BIGGA.

The connection with BIGGA came directly from his love of golf and lifetime interest in the game. An outstanding player in his younger days and a Cambridge blue in 1939, he regarded as one of his greatest honours being made Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club in 1969. Early in 1988, we made an approach through the R&A to ascertain whether Viscount Whitelaw would consider taking on the role of President of BIGGA at a time when he was relinquishing some of his parliamentary duties and responsibilities.

It was a great boost to our fledgling Association when he kindly agreed but this agreement came with a proviso. He indicated that he would only take up the Presidency on the basis that he would be active within the Association's affairs, not for him a passive, figurehead role. We could have wished for nothing more. During the decade of his Presidency through to the opening of BIGGA HOUSE in 1998 he remained forever ready to take up our cause and it was a source of great pleasure to him to see the development and progress of the Association.

Each year there were always occasions when he joined us on BIGGA's national stage, whether at the BTME,

the Open Championship or some other event and he was always noted wearing the BIGGA tie. At these events we all experienced his natural warmth and friendship - there was no confining himself to the BIGGA hierarchy. I recall that on each and every occasion he mingled with greenkeepers and talked knowledgeably with them of golf and greenkeeping.

Away from our national events his role in promoting BIGGA within the golfing world proved of inestimable benefit to the Association. A word here and a word there did much to send us in the right direction and to ensure that we received support and backing when most needed.

Within BIGGA, I was most privileged to be his main point of contact and this enabled me to meet with him and discuss BIGGA affairs on many occasions over a ten year period. I count myself very lucky. In 1988 I was in some awe of him for here was a man who has been described as a "towering figure" in politics and who was most certainly one of the foremost politicians of the last 50 years. I need not have worried as from the start he was steadfast in his support, giving strong backing during our early, difficult years.

Perhaps it was presumptuous on my part, but I came to regard him as a friend and a ready listener who would always provide wise and sound counsel from his standpoint as President. Occasionally as the years went by he was happy to touch on a current political issue with me, but essentially he wanted to talk of greenkeeping and greenkeepers and he never wavered in seeking the betterment of the Association. I well remember a visit to his room at the House of Lords and thinking just how fortunate BIGGA was to have such a staunch and influential figure as its President.

In the latter years he was delighted to learn of our plans for our own national headquarters at Aldwark Manor and saw this as a major landmark in BIGGA's short history. As the project neared completion, he began to drop one or two hints that perhaps the time had come for him to step down as President. Then in March of 1998, the Chairman and myself were invited to lunch with Viscount and Lady Whitelaw at the family seat in Penrith. Through the years we have come to know Lady Whitelaw well and she has always tak-



Addressing attendees at the Chairman's luncheon during BTME

Talking with greenkeepers at the 1995 Open Championship at St Andrews

en a keen interest in the Association.

It was with some sadness that we learnt during lunch of the decision to stand down - his view being that it was time for a younger man to succeed him. The Board of Management then decided to award the first Honorary Membership in the Association's history to Viscount Whitelaw and it seemed totally appropriate that he should be the first recipient of this award. We could think of no more fitting finale for Viscount Whitelaw on the BIGGA stage than for him to be present at the opening of BIGGA HOUSE and it was with the greatest of pleasure that we welcomed both him and Lady Whitelaw to the official opening last October.

Many members will have their own memories of having met with him and discussed greenkeeping matters. It may have been at the BTME, the Open Championship or even more locally through his attendance annually at the Cumbria Cup competition. I remember particularly one occasion when he came to our National Conference at the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College at Egham in 1990. His schedule had been completely disrupted but he insisted on finding time, however brief, to attend. He arrived, went to the platform and in true political style delivered a ten minute oration which was an inspiration to those members present. Until the moment he started speaking, I suspect that his mind was preoccu-



pled with matters of state and we could only admire his ability to switch focus and give a highly relevant and totally unscripted speech - the master politician's art in all its glory.

I can best conclude with some words of Viscount Whitelaw himself, again in an unscripted speech to his father's old school in 1982 when he spoke of the value in life of friendship and the comradeship that goes with it... "Indeed, in my experience of government, life without friends would be bleak, even unbearable, but friendships depend in themselves on the mutual sympathy, understanding and, above all, on that sometimes derided but crucial virtue, loyalty to others besides oneself. Loyalty to organisations, loyalty to a community, loyalty to a country and, in the final event, putting these loyalties above one's personal feelings sometimes, one's personal inclinations and one's personal aggrandisement in one way or another." BIGGA enjoyed and benefited from both his friendship and loyalty. We are a far better Association for it. If his passing marks the end of a political era, then it most surely marks also the end of an era for BIGGA.

Neil Thomas



Viscount Whitelaw and Neil Thomas discuss BIGGA matters in earlier times...



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# Profile

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club. Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star.



**Name:** John Ellis

**Club:** Denbigh GC

**Position:** Greenkeeper

**Age:** 27

**1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?**  
10 years

**2. What education are you currently undertaking?**  
None

**3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?**  
Cutting greens

**4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?**  
Cleaning the out of bounds trenches

**5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?**  
Involved in the cycling or the music industry

**6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**  
My Head Greenkeeper, Dave Goodridge

**7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?**  
The relationship between the golfers and the greenkeeper

**8. What are your hobbies?**  
Cycling, gym and music

**9. What do you get out of BIGGA?**  
Education and a magazine

**10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?**  
Carrying on greenkeeping, doing more mountain biking and hopefully winning the lottery

## Textron set to travel back in time

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products has stepped in to assist the organisers of a World War II Air Show, offering to prepare the airfield for the prestigious event which takes place next month.

Raydon Airfield, at Hadleigh in Suffolk, is a former wartime USAAF base that was once home to the Mustangs and Thunderbolts of the 353rd Fighter Group.

On September 4th the Raydon Wings Air Show will take place when the skies over Suffolk will once again be filled with the sound of over 30 classic wartime aircraft of yesteryear.

Textron has stepped in and offered to cut and prepare the 15-acre grass site including the maintenance of the 900 yard runway.

"Our involvement followed an appeal from the organisers and it was one that we could hardly refuse especially as the profits will be used for the benefit of local charities. We will



be preparing the runway and surrounding areas throughout the summer to ensure that Raydon

Airfield is in pristine condition for the show in September," said Peter Bell, of Textron.

## John Deere set record in Ireland

Where the Mountains of Mourne sweep down to the sea - that's the location of one of the most beautiful and challenging golf courses in the world.

Ranked four in Britain and seven in the world, The Royal County Down championship links course by the Irish Sea at Newcastle, Northern Ireland, was host to the prestigious British Amateur Championship at the end of May and will welcome the amateur home internationals in September.

Despite the extremes of weather during the Amateur the immaculate condition of the course was noted by players and commentators alike. This was due to the hard work of Course Manager Alan Strachan and his greenkeeping staff of 15, with the help of a recently extended fleet of John Deere golf course equipment.

The course has just added two 3235A fairway mowers, three 220A walk-behind greens mowers, a Turf Gator utility vehicle and a 1200A bunker rake worth nearly £70,000 to the existing fleet of two 6x4 Gators, three more walk-behind greens mowers and a tractor mounted Aercore aerator.

This is the biggest sale of John Deere equipment to a golf course in Northern



Ireland by local dealer Johnston Gilpin & Co of Lisburn.

"We hand cut all the greens and tees with the 220A greens mowers, which is why we now have six altogether," said Alan.

The picture shows Randal McConnell, of Johnston Gilpin & Co (far right) with Course Manager, Alan Strachan (second right) and some of the staff with the Mourne Mountains in the background.

## Stop press... Stop press... Stop

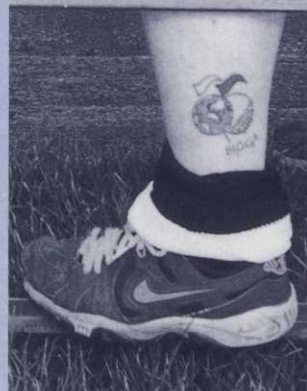
After over 10 years BIGGA has decided to change its logo from the distinctive world/golf ball spheres and flags, which have stood the Association in good stead, to something more appropriate for the new millennium...

No, no don't worry. The above is a joke designed to see the colour drain from the cheeks of Craig Pennycuik.

Craig, Head Greenkeeper at Winterfield GC, in Dunbar, is so delighted to be a member of BIGGA that he has had the logo tattooed on his left leg.

Unless he pulls his socks up he'll be seen as one of the Association's more committed members.

Can anyone else match Craig's devotion? Logo over a heart maybe!



# Honorary Membership for Fred

Revered golf course architect Fred Hawtree has become an Honorary Member of BIGGA, only the fourth time such an honour has been bestowed.

In doing so Fred, 83, joins the late Viscount Whitelaw, Jim Fry and Brian Gilbert.

It was Fred's father, also Fred, who was the founder of the first greenkeeper association, BGGGA, in 1912 and, along with his wife Beatrice, he administered the Association from the Hawtree offices.

Fred's father, known as F.G. to his son's F.W., was also the second President of the BGGGA succeeding the Chairman of the News of World newspaper, Lord Riddell.

"Lord Riddell was a very keen golfer who played with all the top golfers and wanted to help golf," recalled Fred, as he sat in his Woodstock study adorned with golfing books and artifacts.

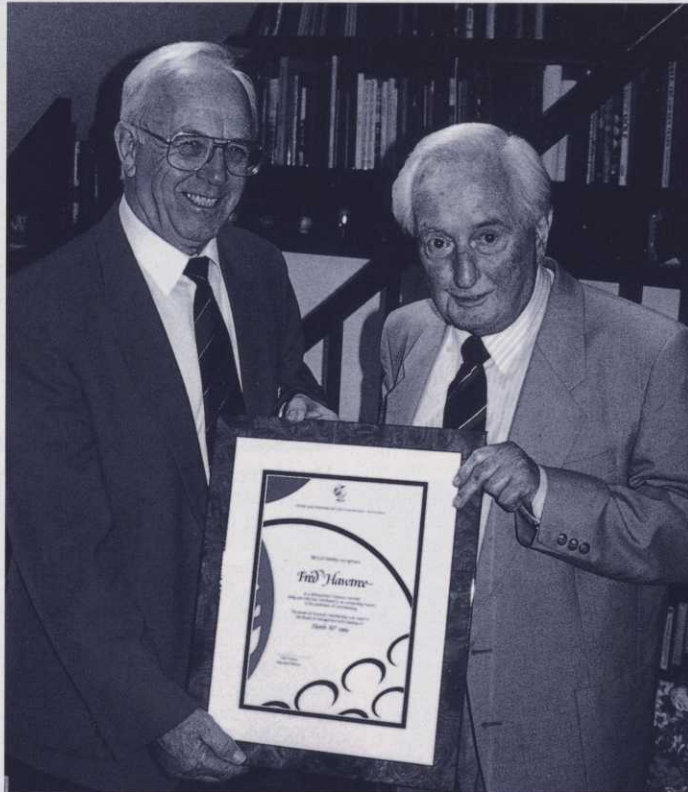
Indeed the News of the World Trophy donated by Lord Riddell himself will be played for in the new BIGGA Golf Championship.

"I always got the feeling that my father, deep down, wanted to promote golf for the ordinary people because it was very restricted around his time," explained Fred, who edited one of the first greenkeeper magazines for a time and wrote a regular column in the BGGGA magazine before BIGGA was formed.

He is delighted with the way BIGGA has developed from the merging of the three original associations.

"I think the association has progressed wonderfully. It is everything you could have hoped for."

His own recollections of greenkeepers go back to 1922 when he was just a young boy and a tournament at Sundridge Park.



"Charlie Prickett, the greenkeeper at Frilford Heath, was playing and he put half a crown in my hand. In 1922 that was a fortune and I thought these greenkeepers really are wonderful chaps."

It was fitting that the presentation of the Certificate should be made by Gordon Child, in whose house Fred was enjoying dinner when the call to say that

BIGGA had been formed came through.

"I am absolutely delighted to make this presentation as I've known Fred for so many years, Marion and I call him Uncle Fred," said Gordon.

The Hawtree practice continues under the leadership of son, Martin, a past President of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects.

## Course Management Trophy

These competitions for a team of four comprising of the Secretary/Manager, Head Greenkeeper, Course Manager, Chairman of Green and Club Captain have now been set up in each of the sections in the South West & South Wales Region.

Entry is by invitation only and any club who has not received an invitation and would like one should apply to Paula Humphries (Tel: 01288 352194).

The venues and dates are: South Coast Section at Salisbury & South Wilts 17 Aug; South West Section at Manor, Castle Coombe 24 Aug; South Wales Section Celtic Manor 25 Aug

Devon & Cornwall is at Exeter on 15 July (apply direct to Exeter Golf & Country Club)

## Size isn't a problem for Nigel



What do you get the greenkeeper who has everything?

That was the question posed to Clive Tilbury of Darenth Valley GC, when deciding what to get his boss, Nigel Stapley, to commemorate 22 years at the club - 12 as Course Manager.

One thing Clive knew he didn't have was a mini mower so that's exactly what was presented to Nigel.

"You can imagine how long it would take to do 18 greens with that! Mind you it doesn't use much fuel," said Nigel.

## New MD for Scotts UK Professional

The Scotts Company has appointed Bernie Ford to the position of Managing Director of Scotts Professional Business Group UK and Ireland.

The company was created following the acquisition of Levington Horticulture and Miracle Garden Care by the Scotts Company in 1997 and markets key brands such as Sierrablen, Sierraform and Greenmaster turf fertilisers and the pioneering new turf growth regulator Shortcut.

Bernie Ford has held a number of international Sales and Marketing positions with The Scotts Company over the past 21 years, covering consumer and professional markets.

He has extensive experience with Osmocote controlled release fertilisers and established major markets for this brand in South America, Malaysia and the Caribbean.

He is married with two children and will be relocating from Ohio to the UK.



## Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



## New Chairman at BAGCC

The British Association of Golf Course Constructors have elected Nigel Ely as their new chairman.

Nigel is a director of J & E Ely Ltd., whose recent construction work includes the new 18-hole Palmerstone course at Bocket Hall, designed by Donald Steel.

## Personal goal leaves Peter triumphant

Retired Kent Section member Peter Biscoe put a recent heart bypass operation behind him to win his Club Championship.

Peter, 64 year-old whose handicap is now 12, shot rounds of nett 65 and 71 to tie for first place in the Eltham Warren GC Championship and, under the rules of the event, had to endure an 18-hole play-off before coming out on top.

"I'm surprised, elated and, understandably, knackered," said Peter, who also won the Kent Seniors Championship a few years ago.

## New chairman of SGA elected

The newly elected chairman of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association is Rolf Lowgren who replaces Roland Andersson who has moved from its Course Manager's job to become Toro rep for the Southern Sweden dealer.

Rolf is Course Manager of Bro-Balsta Golf course West of Stockholm, and is very well known in Sweden with his background as an agronomist in Swedish Golf Federation 1977-1989 and then, more recently becoming a Course Manager.

The rest of the board was reelected and SGAs 1200 members can look forward for another interesting year with a highlight coming up in September with a Conference and Trade Show in Jonkoping in mid-south Sweden.

This show is a biannual arrangement in cooperation with Swedish Golf Federation, Golf Administrators and also PGA. The conference programme contains topics for everyone and it's possible for greenkeepers to listen to the pro's day and vice versa. Also programme for Greens Chairmen, all to try to find a good cooperation within the whole golfing World.

## Colin moves to Charterhouse

Colin Gregory, previously with Hardi and Twose has joined Charterhouse Turf Machinery.

Colin joins the company to head up the new Tractor Division which has been formed following the announcement of Charterhouse Turf Machinery's appointment as the exclusive Distributor for Antonio Carraro in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Bire.

Colin said he is looking forward to working with a dynamic marketing Company, particularly as they have been able to obtain one of the most advanced tractor franchises in the world. Colin is already well known in the industry and will be pleased to hear from any of his old Dealer or customer friends to discuss future business prospects.

## Charterhouse expand their horizons

Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd and Antonio Carraro Spa have signed an exclusive distribution contract for Charterhouse Turf Machinery to distribute their range of tractors throughout England, Wales, Northern Ireland and The Irish Republic.

Antonio Carraro Spa have been manufacturing tractors in Padova since 1901 and employ 400 staff. They have over 118 tractors in their range and Charterhouse Turf Machinery have selected the most appropriate for the UK markets. These are niche products which have been selected in particular for golf, local authority, contracting forestry and nursery markets. Charterhouse Turf Machinery will also be importing a full range of ancillary equipment which dovetails with the tractors in this sector.

Many of these tractors have a unique feature including reverse seat, steering wheels and controls can be operated with 'finger tip' control. This enables the operator to operate equipment on the rear mounted linkages in a forward direction. In this context, the operator has a panoramic view of work being undertaken.

Another feature of the equipment is that they are all articulated in the horizontal plain and some models are also



David Jenkins and Dr Marcello Carraro jointly signing their contract at the Reform Club, which among other things, is renowned for being the start and finish for the epic journey "Around the World in 80 days".

pivoted about a centre point.

"I am pleased to welcome Charterhouse Turf Machinery into our worldwide family of distributors and feel they will be able to expand sales throughout their territory," said Dr Marcello Carraro, Managing Director of Antonio Carraro Spa.

David Jenkins, Managing Director

of Charterhouse Turf Machinery said he was delighted to have such a high performance range of tractors to 'market'.

"I feel sure that the marketing skills contained within Charterhouse Turf Machinery would enable the company to achieve a significant percentage of the UK tractor sales."

## Scottish Golf Course Advisory Group has it in the bag

The Scottish Golf Course Advisory Group has been working hard over a number of years to improve the environmental quality of Scottish Golf Courses. This important objective has been supported by the introduction of 'Golf Bags' to more than 50 sites throughout Scotland. The Golf Bags do not contain clubs, balls or clothing, rather, they contain a wealth of information on environmental management and environmentally aware golf course design, including books, videos, leaflets and case studies.

Each Golf Bag is looked after by a Bag Manager who is responsible for the dispatch and return of all items in the bag. Golf Clubs may borrow items from the bag or may buy items if they wish to hold

onto them permanently. Golf Bags contain information on birds, bird boxes, nests, bracken, walls, hedges, dunes, heathland, moorland, lowlands, woodlands and waterways, to name but a few, giving information that greenkeepers, club officials, golf club members, architects and constructors could all find useful.

In his foreword to the Golf Bag Handbook, Colin Montgomerie says that a golf course that has been sensitively designed and managed in a way that works with nature is normally more interesting and challenging. The information provided in the Golf Bag proves that golf and the environment can work together providing a respite from outside pressures

and ensuring that golf courses and the areas that surround them will be available for our descendants to enjoy.

The Golf Bag is an excellent idea giving a mass of easy to follow information on golf course ecological management. It would be pleasing to see such Golf Bags available to all golf clubs in Britain and throughout Europe.

More information on the Golf Bags, including the location of your nearest Golf Bag Manager and general advice on all aspects of conservation on golf courses can be obtained from the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Advisor, c/o Scottish Natural Heritage, 2 Anderson Place, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 5NP, 0131 5549797.

## New UK Sales Manager at Toro Turf Maintenance

Toro Commercial Products' distributor Lely UK, in St Neots, has appointed Jeff Anguige as the new UK Sales Manager for Toro Turf Maintenance Machinery.

Jeff, 42, has wide experience of the industry, having spent his entire 24 year career in the turf equipment business.

His experience includes, unusually, spells working both for the dealer and manufacturer sides of the industry. This is something he sees as especially valuable in his new role for Toro, where his responsibility for the entire sales operation covers retail business and sales through dealers as well.

Therefore his wide-ranging responsibilities include managing Lely UK's retail sales team, as well as the sales force of business managers working closely with the national network of dealers and service centres. It is an all-

encompassing brief that sees him also in charge of overseeing its business with Toro key accounts.

In the year before joining up with Toro, Jeff Anguige worked for Textron on sales of Ransomes Jacobsen and Iseki.

A man with a thorough grounding and wide knowledge of turf machinery and the machinery business, he began his career 24 years ago as an apprentice in the workshops of a leading local Ransomes' dealership in Morley, near Leeds, before moving on to become a sales representative with the firm. He later worked his way up to become sales director with another Yorkshire dealership before taking up a two-year appointment with a machinery manufacturer prior to joining Ransomes.

Jeff Anguige, his wife Julie and their daughter Carly, 16, and son Ryan, 14, live near Wakefield, in Yorkshire.

