

Councillor Tom Lander

"Christchurch Times" Reporter 1948



As a builder, Coun. Tom Lander has had a hand in quite a bit of the development of Christchurch, but at heart he is a countryman and there is nothing he likes better than to be out in the wilds with his gun.

This love of the country is no doubt inherited, for he comes of farming stock. He was born at Burton where his grandfather, Joseph Lander, had farmed for many years as a tenant of the Meyrick family.

It was Joseph Lander, too, who founded the building business which is now over 100 years old. Amongst the well-known examples of his work in the locality are Ossemsley Manor; Wolhayes, Highcliffe; and Burton, Mudeford and Holdenhurst churches. The business was handed on through Mr. William Lander.

The Lander family originally came from the Isle of Purbeck, where they can be traced back to 1600 as quarry owners, marblers and farmers.

Tom Lander, it will be seen, learned building in the old school, hence his keen eye for craftsmanship. It is for this reason he takes such interest in the building apprenticeship scheme, of which he is Apprentice Master in Christchurch. The hotel ballroom at the King's Arms and the Hotel Tap are examples of his work in the borough.

TOPPED THE POLL

In World War I he served in the Royal Artillery, being overseas most of the time. The last war saw him engaged on many important government building operations, and it was during this time that he was co-opted to Christchurch Town Council. He has since been twice returned, and on the last occasion was top of the poll as a Conservative candidate.

About hobbies he says: "Well, shooting is perhaps the one I like best of all, but I've done a good deal of sailing." He is a member of the Sailing Club and a founder member of the Rowing Club. He is also a member of the Westover Rowing Club and the Blandford Gun Club.

About his 16-year-old son, Kim, Coun. Lander wouldn't say whether he was going to carry on as a builder in the fourth generation; but Kim, too, is learning the Lander reputation. He is a keen member of the Christchurch Sailing Club, and crewed on the winning boat in the recent cross-channel race from Bournemouth to Cherbourg.