

# 60 Second Interview

## Janet Holt with Tony Boxall



In the 1950's, there was a saying in West Dean, that if you met someone at night walking through the village, and said good evening Mr Boxall, 90% of the time you'd be right! Tony Boxall has lived in West Dean all his life. Born at The Warren, he followed his father onto West Dean Estate as a painter and decorator and stayed until he retired. He has been married to Pauline for 47 years and they are lucky enough to have their family all living in the village close by. At the recent Horticultural annual show, Tony swept the board and won

the Banksian Medal for most points in the horticultural classes along with 3 cups! One of the most modest men you could wish to meet, Tony agreed to give us 60 seconds of his busy life!

**If you didn't live in West Dean, where would you choose to live?** I don't think I could live anywhere else!

**What type of music do you listen to and what's your favourite radio station?** Country music is my favourite and I used to listen to it all the time when I was working. I don't really listen to the radio – I need a portable to be able to listen whilst I'm outside!

**How do you relax?** I play a lot of bowls – summer and winter! And I've just started playing golf. And of course I relax in my garden.

**Where would be your ideal holiday destination?** I'd love to travel across the Rocky Mountains by train but as I hate flying and have only flown once, getting there could be a problem!

**What's the best piece of advice you were ever given?** My father used to say, "Never rush a job today, that you can do tomorrow!" I like the idea of it – I'm not sure whether I do it all the time!

**If you won the lottery, what would you do with the cash?** I don't buy a ticket but I suppose if I did win a lot of money I'd make sure the family were all taken care of and buy myself a big Harley Davidson!

**If you could change it, what would you have liked to have been?** I suppose something in horticulture. I never set out to be a decorator, it just happened! I sometimes think being a coach driver would be quite nice – just driving about to different places all over the country and seeing different things – and getting paid for it!

**What's your all time favourite book and why?** I don't really read books I must say – only when I look something up in a reference book! I read my gardening magazines and fall asleep over them usually!

**What's your favourite meal and where do you like to eat out?** Until I was diagnosed as a coeliac several years ago, my favourite meal was fish and chips out of newspaper, eaten outside somewhere! My favourite place to eat is The Oaks at Avisford because 90% of the menu is suitable for coeliacs as Ken the owner is a coeliac and understands how hard it is for us! See [www.kencancook.com](http://www.kencancook.com)

**What would you like your epitaph to say?** Something like – This is the first time I've been here – and if I don't like it, I'm not staying! Pauline reckons she is going to have me cremated and put me in an egg-timer anyway, then I can keep working!