

## Obituaries

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### Kathleen Clear 1913 - 2010

Kathleen Clear (nee Mitten) was born in Wexford town on April 4<sup>th</sup> 1913. The eldest of 5 children, her father died when she was 6-years-old. When she was 19-years-old, Kathleen left for Gibraltar and taught English at the Loreto Convent there (having herself been a Loreto girl in Wexford).

On returning to Ireland, and while visiting a cousin who was married to a forester in Gort, Co Galway, she met her future husband. This man, Tom Clear, was later to become not only the longest serving Professor of Forestry in University College Dublin, but also an iconic figure in Irish forestry. Kathleen and Tom were married on September 5<sup>th</sup> 1939 and were blessed with a large family. One of their sons, Richard, followed in his father's footsteps by pursuing a career as a professional forester.

When the Society of Irish Foresters (SIF) was founded in 1942, Tom Clear was the leading mover behind this development. During those early years, when he acted as both secretary and treasurer, Kathleen was widely recognised as being a huge support to her husband in these roles and in fact did most of the secretarial work of the Society. Her work for the SIF, though behind the scenes, was both diligent and comprehensive.

Kathleen was a constant companion to her husband on his many forestry trips, both at home and abroad. These included numerous SIF field days and other events as well as a 'Kelloggs Foundation' funded tour to New Zealand to study the forestry of that country. These activities eventually led to Kathleen becoming an Associate Member of the SIF, something which she continued until her death on August 24<sup>th</sup> 2010. She was 97-years-old.

The Society recognised her contribution to its work when, in 2009, she was presented with a framed copy of the letter which her husband Tom circulated in September 1942, calling the inaugural meeting of the SIF. I had the pleasure of meeting Kathleen on that occasion and found her to be a warm and charming person and still keenly interested in forestry matters.

Kathleen is predeceased by her husband and sons, Martin and Declan.

To Michael, Judith, Mary, Aidan, Colman, Eoghan, Simon and Richard, we offer our deepest sympathy.



Kevin J. Hutchinson