

## Elizabeth Furlong 1922 - 2010

Elizabeth (Lily) Furlong, who died on 26<sup>th</sup> October, was one of the most widely known staff members of the state Forest Service, formerly the forestry Division of the Department of Lands.

Born in Dublin in April 1922 of Wexford parents, she went to school in the Loreto College in North Great George's Street, and having attended a secretarial course, entered the Civil Service in 1942.



In the course of her career she worked closely with two Chief Inspectors: Seán O'Sullivan (1948 - 64) and Tim MacEvoy (1973 - 82) but was for a long time quietly influential in the background. She also acted as informal and unofficial 'welfare officer' for all members of the technical staff, both Foresters and Inspectors. I clearly remember shortly after my recruitment being brought to her small office in the top floor of Upper Merrion Street by 'Mister Mooney' and introduced to 'Miss Furlong' (things were more formal in those days) and told 'this is where you come with all your troubles'. She was fond of quoting a former senior officer in the Forestry Division who complained about the quality of typing in a letter he was given to sign. 'But it's only going to so-and-so' said the typist. 'It doesn't matter where it's going to' he replied; 'what is important is where it's coming from'.

Lily joined the Society of Irish Foresters as an associate member in 1951. She was first elected as an Associate Councilor in 1958 and was a near constant in that position until 1996.

Her contribution to the running of the Society, mostly behind the scenes, as a council member and as an ordinary member was immense, among other things working with Miss O'Glynn's Secretarial Service to see that relevant notices and circulars went out on time. That service was acknowledged by her election to Honorary Membership in 1999, one of only three non-foresters elected to that position.

The Journal did not until recently record the names of all those attending Annual Study Tours, but I know from personal knowledge that she attended the Black Forest Tour in 1956 and all such tours that I attended since then. On Study Tours she was on constant alert to ensure that everything went smoothly and to plan.

Lily died on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2010. She is survived by her sisters Peg, Kathleen (Fahy) and Joan (Green). To them we extend our deepest sympathy.

Niall OCarroll