

Matthias (Tysie) Fogarty 1948 -2014

The sudden death at his home in Briarfield, Kilmyshall, Co. Wexford, of Tysie Fogarty, in his 66th year, was a shock to his family, friends and all those who worked with him throughout his years in forestry.

The older of two boys, he was born on 4th August 1948 to Matt Fogarty, a farmer from Briarfield, Newport, Co. Tipperary and Bridget (nee Mc Namara, Araglin, Cappamore, Co. Limerick). Tysie was to lose his father at a very young age and his mother then moved to Main Street, Doon, Co. Limerick where she bought a licenced premises. He received his primary education at Doon National School and his secondary education at St. Fintan's CBS, Doon.



On completing his secondary education in 1967 he spent a year at Pallaskenry Agricultural College and it was here that he learned about a career in forestry – a career that was tailor-made for him as he loved the outdoors. Tysie entered Kinnitty Castle Forestry School in September 1968 and completed his three year training programme at Shelton Abbey in 1971. During his early career working as an Assistant Forester, Tysie traversed the country. He completed five assignments in four years - Tinahely, Co. Wicklow; Kinnalea, Co. Cork; Muskerry, Co. Cork; Killarney, Co. Kerry; and finally in 1975 to Forth, Co. Wexford. This was typical of Tysie's generation of foresters as they bore the brunt of transferring as laid out in the 1972 Forester's Agreement. In early 1978 he was appointed Deputy Forester in Camolin, Co. Wexford and remained there until he became Forester-in-Charge at Bangor Erris Forest, Co. Mayo in 1982 where he managed huge ploughing and afforestation programmes. In 1987 he was appointed Forester-in-Charge in Cahir Forest, Co. Tipperary and remained there until 1990 when he became a Level 3 Forest Manager in the Callan/Rossmore area in counties Kilkenny and Carlow. For the last few years of his career he was Establishment Manager in Counties Carlow, Kilkenny and North Tipperary. In June 2002, at the age of 54, he availed of the Early Retirement package and went on to enjoy 12 happy years of retirement. Even though he retired at a relatively young age Tysie had achieved a lot and was very diligent about his work.

He exuded a zest for life that was evident to all who knew him and you were never long in his company before his sense of humour and storytelling made you feel at ease.

One of Tysie's great attributes was his admirable work ethic. His motto was "do it right the first time, no matter how long it takes". Anyone who ever worked with Tysie will readily acknowledge that he was an efficient and well organised person.

Anything that was needed for any job could always be produced from the cavernous boot of his car.

Tysie also had a strong sense of community and contributed hugely to the local area whether it was helping to organise the parish field day or collecting rubbish at Ryland Hill. People who spent time in Tysie's company will realise how knowledgeable he was. He had a great love of reading and poetry. If you visited his home you will know that when a conversation began and a difficult question was posed he would disappear quietly and return with a book on the topic.

Tysie's life with us will always be remembered as he was the perfect gentleman to everyone he came across. The song may have ended but the memory lingers on he was laid to rest among the trees in Buncloody graveyard in his adopted County of Wexford.

We offer our sincere sympathy to his wife Frances and his brother Timmy.

Ní beidh a leithéid arís ann.

Ian Booth