

## Tadgh (Tim Joe) Collins 1929-2015

Tadgh Collins passed away peacefully on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in his home of many years at “Iveragh” in Tullamore, Co. Offaly, during the course of his 86<sup>th</sup> year.

He was born on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1929 in Lisnagat just north of Bandon, Co. Cork to John and Mary (nee Griffin). He was the second oldest of a family of two brothers, Sean and Denis, and three sisters, Monica, Mary and Philomena. He received his primary education at Mount Pleasant National School and later went on to secondary education in Bandon.



Tadgh attended Clonakilty Agricultural College on a scholarship from 1946 to 1947 and then attended the Albert College, Dublin from 1947 to 1948 also on a scholarship.

He studied forestry at Avondale Forestry College, Co. Wicklow from 1949-1952. On completion of his studies there Tadgh was appointed forester at Ballygar Forest, Co. Galway. He subsequently transferred to Killakee Forest, Co. Dublin. In 1959 he transferred to Tullamore Forest, Co. Offaly as Forester-in-Charge and he remained there until his retirement in February 1994 having reached retirement age. Subsequent to the establishment of Coillte in January, 1989 Tadgh was appointed a Territorial Forester in November 1990. Tadgh joined the Society of Irish Foresters away back in June 1955 and he remained a loyal life-long member and supporter of the Society. He regularly attended our field days and in later years travelled with Society members on our study tours to several countries throughout Europe. He made a host of new friends on these study tours abroad as he was extremely good company during these expeditions.

I first met Tadgh back in 1989. At that time a large area of Bord na Móna cut over bog land had become available for planting and several large sections of this land were attached to Tullamore Forest. I was working in nearby Kinnitty Forest back then and was assigned to assist Tadgh with the initial phase of planting these newly acquired lands. I still carry many pleasant memories of those early days. I remember Tadgh’s great enthusiasm for this huge planting project. In particular, I can recall being very impressed by the speed with which he could traverse those bogs on foot while I struggled to keep pace with him! In subsequent years I enjoyed sharing many journeys with Tadgh as we travelling together to attend District events, Society field days, union meetings and even international study tours.

Following Tadgh’s retirement in late 1990, his “old forest” area eventually came under my stewardship. In subsequent years, I frequently had cause to revert to Tadgh and tap into his expertise to resolve some seemingly intractable “local issues”. On

these occasions Tadgh's local knowledge and broad silvicultural expertise were always freely and generously forthcoming. Invariably his advice was exactly what the situation required, but I never received an Invoice for "consultancy fees" ..... a pleasant reminder of a now vanished Ireland.

Tadgh was essentially a shy man who was happier to remain in the background. Nevertheless, he was a most effective forest manager. Like many foresters of his era, he brought great integrity, coupled with frugality in the expenditure of public money, into all forest operations he engaged in. The valuable forest estate we have inherited is a fine testament to their success, since it was put in place with the minimum expenditure of public funds.

His wife Dolores predeceased him. To his sons Brendan and Finbarr and his daughter Aedín we offer our sincere sympathies.

*"Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis."*

Richard Jack