

Kevin Mc Donald 1942 - 2011

Kevin Mc Donald passed away peacefully on the 4th Dec 2011 after a short illness which he bore with his characteristic courage. Kevin was born on the 26th March 1942 in the townland of Tomrud near picturesque Glencar, Co. Leitrim, in the scenic hinterland of “Yeats Country” with the backdrop of Glencar Lake and Waterfall to the west, as mentioned in W.B. Yeats’s poem “The Stolen Child”. Kevin attended Glencar National School about a mile away through the fields and later he cycled the five miles to St. Joseph’s Secondary School in Manorhamilton.



After completing his second level education he “joined the forestry” and entered the Forestry Training School in Kinnitty, Co. Offaly in November 1959 under Superintendent Tom Prior. He was the only Leitrim man in a class of 32. In 1960 he moved on to Shelton Abbey Forestry College near Arklow, Co. Wicklow for his final two years. He won Wicklow Junior (1961) and Intermediate Championship (1962) medals while a student at the College.

His first appointment as a forester was to Kilcar Forest, Co. Donegal in 1962, and later he served as forester in Kilworth Forest, Co. Cork and Rathnew Forest, Co. Wicklow. Kevin returned to Kilcar Forest as Forester in Charge in the early 1970’s. In 1974, he transferred to take charge of Lough Key Forest which included the Forest Park. On the 14th July 1977, he returned to Donegal to take charge of Castlefin Forest, including the workshop which serviced and repaired chainsaws and machinery for the Donegal forests. Kevin excelled in this work due to his gifted mechanical brain and had hands to match when required.

Continuing the family’s close association with forestry, Kevin’s brother, Bernie and his uncle, Tom Mc Donald, worked in Lough Gill Forest. When Kevin retired in 1991, he immersed himself in his many interests and hobbies which included farming, Gaelic football and acting as general handyman for neighbours and friends.

Kevin’s unquestionable enthusiasm for, and dedication to, Gaelic football was evident at his local club and with the Sligo Region forestry team. He was a fine footballer and won many medals with his local club Glencar and Glencar/Manorhamilton, including a Senior championship medal in 1977. Kevin also served as Chairman and Selector with the club. He played on and helped to organise the Sligo regional team which won the Regional Championship in 1978 and 1979. Kevin was also a great Leitrim supporter.

Kevin was a great supporter of the Society of Irish Foresters and was a regular participant in its Annual Study Tours. He had booked his place on the 2011 tour to Ontario, but sadly he was unable to travel.

Kevin was a quiet, unassuming man yet he was great company, thanks to his many hidden talents and extensive general knowledge. He was a kind, generous man, who quietly and unselfishly helped many people during his time in forestry and in retirement.

To his brothers Packie, Bernie, Tom, Leo, sister Mary, aunt Phyllis Kelly, uncle Tom Mc Donald, brother-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Thady Mc Ternan