

## Joe Doyle 1938-2016

The unexpected death of Joe Doyle on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at the Mater Private Hospital in Dublin came as a great surprise to everyone in forestry.

Joe was born in London on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1938 to Kieran Doyle, who hailed from Clogheen, Co. Tipperary and Margaret (née O'Grady) who was from nearby Thurles, Co. Tipperary. He was the second oldest of four children. His siblings Eileen, Philip and Joan lived in England for their adult lives. His youngest sister Joan passed away in May 2016.



Before the outbreak of the Second World War the family returned home to the more peaceful surroundings of Shanrahan near Clogheen in the foothills of the Knockmealdown Mountains, where Joe was raised and attended the local national school. Joe received his secondary education at St. Joseph's College, Cahir.

It was somewhat inevitable that Joe would end up choosing forestry as a career making it the third generation of his family to work in that industry. His father Kieran, as well as farming part time, was a leading worker in the old Clogheen Forest and his father Joseph, Joe's grandfather, was also a forest worker in the Clogheen area. The Doyle family have been living in this area since the 1700s.

Joe began his forestry career in 1957 at Kinnitty Castle, Co. Offaly and completed his training in 1960 at Shelton Abbey, Co. Wicklow.

His first assignment, in 1960, was as an Assistant Forester to Roscarbery Forest, Co. Cork. He spent two years there before spending a further two years as a housemaster in Kinnitty Castle Forestry College. From 1964 to 1970 Joe worked in the following forests; Foxford, Co. Mayo for one year and then Ballyhoura, Co. Cork for two years. He was then promoted as Forester-in-Charge and was assigned to Doolough and Maam Forests. While working in Co. Mayo Joe met his future wife, Anne Devaney from Lahardane, and they married in March 1967. Joe and Anne had three sons, Kieran, Declan and Conor.

In 1970 Joe was transferred to Comeragh Forest, Co. Waterford and he lived in Dungarvan for 11 years until 1981 when he was promoted as Assistant District Inspector in Castlebar, Co. Mayo. Following the establishment of Coillte in 1989 Joe was promoted again and worked as District Manager of the North Mayo District until 1991. He transferred to the new Forest Service in 1991 as District Inspector of the Galway District and later of the Mayo District. He remained in Castlebar until he retired in November 2003. While he was a proud Tipperary man at heart, Joe also

valued his long association with Mayo and Galway.

Joe had a huge interest in forestry and carried a wealth of knowledge and experience which he shared generously with his colleagues and peers. He was diligent in keeping well informed of new developments and on-going research. He spent the years, up to his untimely passing, as a part time forestry consultant. This epitomised Joe's interest in the forestry career which he loved.

Joe took a keen interest in the Society's activities and he was very helpful in arranging the Society's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour of the West of Ireland in 2002. He participated in many field days and study tours at home and abroad.

Joe Doyle was one of life's gentlemen. His wit and good nature earned him the friendship and respect of all who were his colleagues and clients. He had a great sense of humour and possessed a witty turn of phrase. While doing an introductory speech during an EU Forest Service Audit he once described his adopted county Mayo as "*the land of peats, peaks and piety*". His colleagues remember him at union meetings speaking gently from the floor with a wry smile suggesting that the union should not forget to "*look after the old and the cold*".

He was a deeply religious man and many of his journeys with Anne to the United States and throughout Europe included regular visits to the famous Marian shrines. He had a great interest in Gaelic games, particularly hurling and was involved over the years at grass-roots level at his local clubs.

Joe's funeral to Creagh cemetery followed mass at the adjoining Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Ballinasloe. It was a fitting testament to Joe's life and personality that the wake and funeral drew a large attendance from far and wide. His son Kieran delivered a particularly apt oration at the mass and "Slievenamon" was played at the graveside.

We offer our sincere sympathy to his loving wife Anne, sons Kieran, Declan and Conor, to his brother Philip and sister Eileen.

Noel Foley