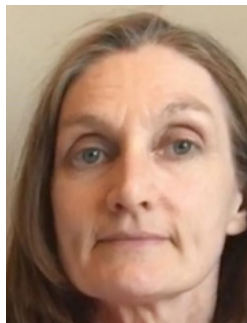


Sue Middleton 1962 – 2019

It was with immense sadness and disbelief that we learned of Sue Middleton's death, at such an early age, on 8th February 2019. The affection for Sue and her popularity were reflected in the wide range of people from all her walks of life who attended her funeral service at Roselawn Crematorium, Belfast.

Originally from Norwich, where she was born on 30th June 1962, Sue worked in the Elveden Estate in Norfolk before going to Newton Rigg College, Cumbria in 1983 to study forestry. Her sandwich year was spent in Callander in Scotland with the Forestry Commission and she graduated from Newton Rigg in 1986.



Sue's employment with the Forest Service Northern Ireland began in 1987 with her posting as a Forester to Castleberg, West Tyrone where she assisted Jim Scott with the management of the newly opened Forest Service nursery. After a few years in Castleberg Nursery she moved offices within "Dartan House" in Castleberg to assist John Watson in the Killeter & Lough Bradan charge, West Tyrone. A short stint in Research in Belfast followed, after which she took a career break in 1991 to pursue other interests and to travel.

Sue returned to the Forest Service in 1997 and was posted to the Forest Education Branch based in Belvoir Forest, Belfast. A short spell here was followed by a couple of years as forester in charge of Florence Court, West Fermanagh. In 2000 Sue was transferred to the South Antrim-North Down charge, again based in Belvoir. Two years later Sue was transferred to Castlewellan where she worked alongside John Watson in a forest management planning role.

After five years in forest planning Sue was transferred to Dundonald House where she excelled in specialist forest management projects. Sue was promoted to Staff Officer shortly after this where she worked in the Property Development section up until her death.

Sue had lived in Edenderry, on the edge of Belfast, for almost 20 years. Outside of forestry Sue loved tennis and outdoor activities. She had a great love of sailing and enjoyed water-based activities whatever the weather! Sue spent long periods working on the "tall ships" and spend time on the Hebridean Princess sailing around the Scottish islands. When on dry land she worked in the retail sector with Marks & Spencer in Norwich. During her career break she also spent much time crewing on sailing ships and even working on cruise ships which enabled her to fulfil her

great desire to travel and see the world. Throughout these career breaks she always maintained her links with the Forest Service and her many friends in Northern Ireland.

She was a member of the Downshire Tennis Club for many years and was highly respected serving in many capacities within the club committee.

She has been described by her many friends in the Forest Service as full of fun, very kind and possessing an infectious laugh.

Sue was predeceased by her father in early 1981. To her mother Anne (Norfolk), her sister Jane (Leeds) and nephews Edward and Alec, we offer our sincere sympathy.

Ian Thompson