

## Séamus Gavigan

### 1938 – 2019

Séamus Gavigan passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 while under the care of the kind staff of Melview Nursing Home, Clonmel.

Séamus, the second of four siblings, was born to Jimmy and Molly Gavigan (née Kelly) on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1938 at Ballagh, Kilroosky, Co. Roscommon. He received his primary education at Ballagh National School and his secondary education at Roscommon CBS where he graduated in 1957. Séamus attended Agriculture College in Mountbellew, Co. Galway before beginning his career in forestry in 1958.



While growing up on his family's farm in rural Co. Roscommon, he developed a keen interest in the natural world around him – its animals, plants and trees. He credits his upbringing in this environment with leading him to a career in forestry – a career that would span 54 years. He began his formal forestry training in 1958 at Kinnitty Castle Forestry College, Co. Offaly and progressed to complete his training at Shelton Abbey Forestry College in Co. Wicklow.

On completion of his training in 1961, his first assignment was to Glenmalure Forest, Co. Wicklow as an Assistant Forester. While in Wicklow he had the good fortune to meet his future wife Maura – a neighbour from Co. Roscommon who was then working in Arklow. They were married in 1966. In 1967 he was transferred to Macroom Forest, Co. Cork and four years later in 1971 he was transferred again, this time to the Nier Forest, outside Ballymacarbry, Co. Waterford. They both fell in love with this beautiful part of the country and were very happy to call it their “home” for the remainder of his long forestry career. Although he was promoted to the rank of Forestry Inspector, Grade III in 1979 the attractions of this area proved so strong that Séamus and Maura decided to forego promotion and remain there. In 1993 Séamus availed of the voluntary severance scheme offered by Coillte and shortly afterwards, he began a long and fruitful employment with Green Belt. He enjoyed his new lease of life with Green Belt so much that he didn't retire fully until 2012 on reaching the venerable age of 74 years.

During his early years Séamus had two passions in life – his beloved Gaelic football and game shooting. He played full back for Roscommon CBS throughout his years at secondary school. On completing his secondary education, he joined Kilbride GAA Club. He later moved to St. Failtheachs GAA Club which was based in Ballyleague Co. Roscommon where he played full back for the St. Faithleachs team which won

the Roscommon Junior County Championship in 1963 – the year the club was formed. This team went on to win the Senior Championship in 1965, a fantastic achievement for the club and one Séamus was extremely proud of. St. Faithleachs Club always had a special place in his heart. While living in Wicklow, Séamus played senior football, as full back, with Laragh and in 1962 reached the Senior County Final.

Those who knew him knew a man of deep integrity who was always available to offer wise and measured council. He was a very competent forester and was always exacting in every task he undertook. His dedication earned him the respect of his colleagues at work and the members of the wider community where he lived.

Séamus was a kind, loving and caring family man. A loyal and trusted friend of many, he was always ready and willing to help those in need through his countless acts of discrete kindness and charity which were known to very few.

He was pre-deceased by his wife Maura and baby angel Maria. To his daughter Niamh, sons Declan and Barry, his sister Rita, brothers Noel and Joe, adoring grand-daughters, son-in-law Donal, daughters-in-law Fionnuala and Stephanie, we offer our sincere sympathy.

*Go n-éiri on bóthar leat, a Shéamuis*

Mossie Ryan