

Séamus O'Donnell 1937– 2004

On a beautiful sunny December morning Séamus O'Donnell was laid to rest in his beloved Gortahork, following a short illness borne bravely and privately.

For although Séamus was a very private man he had a huge circle of friends from all walks of life. His integrity, his sense of fairness, his charitableness and his generosity attracted life long friendships. Although only out of County Donegal for a short period in his career he maintained lasting friendships with people everywhere he went.



Séamus began his career in Kinnitty in 1956, following a year in St Patricks Agricultural College and a year in The National Botanic Gardens. He completed his studies at Shelton Abbey in 1959 and was appointed initially to Glen Imaal forest and later to Glenealy Forest. The late Dan O'Sullivan of Glenealy Forest often related the story of arriving with five young children in the official residence to find a roaring fire lit by Seamus, a small example of his thoughtfulness.

Séamus then transferred to Crossmolina and it was there that he developed his love of fishing and every year he went back to the Moy and Lough Mask to fish. In fact in a period when relations with fisheries interest were fraught Séamus appeared in a video on the life of the salmon produced by the North Western Fisheries Board, the Board were totally unaware that Séamus was a forester.

Finally in 1967 Séamus returned to Donegal to take charge of the newly created Raphoe Forest where he was Forester in Charge for 30 years before he took over Innishowen. He took early retirement in 1997 and then enjoyed his contract work. Unfortunately when it came to the time for him to fully retire his health failed.

Séamus had total commitment to his work; he dedicated himself completely to the task and was very contented with his lot.

Rugadh agus tógadh Séamus in gceantar stairiúl Chaiseal na gCorr i lár ghaeltacht Thír Chonaill. Le cois an ghrá mhór a bhí aige don iascaireacht, peileadóireacht agus foraoiseacht, choinnigh sé suim i gcónaí in gcúrsaí gaelinne agus polaitíochta in a cheantar dhúchais, bá mhór an bród a bhí air nuair toghadh a neacht Brian mar Chomhairleoir Condae go goirid roimh a bhás. Bhí sé fosta brodiúil as a theanga dúchais agus bá é gaeilge a chéad teanga i gcónaí.

Ar dheis lámh Dé go raibh a anam dhílis.

We extend our sympathy to his five sisters Grace, Margaret, Brid, Mary and Kathleen and his four brothers Paddy, Denis, Hugh and Mícheál.

Mícheál Mc Fadden