

# ITGA – forty years a-growing

While 1977 marks the 40th anniversary of the Irish Timber Growers Association, work had been underway for a decade before the official formation in the Green Isle Hotel, Dublin on 9 March. The aim was "to foster the interests of all private woodland owners in the country".

The founder members had been in close contact with the then Forest & Wildlife Service for many years. By 1972, the Service had agreed to a request by the chairman of a forest owners group to appoint a senior official "to take charge of the private sector to ensure greater co-operation between the sectors".

Many initiatives followed in what was – and remains – a public private partnership. These included the Forest & Wildlife Service private woodland inventory. The year prior to the founding of the ITGA a seminar "Management of Woodland" was held and a two-day course was organised for woodland owners by the Forest & Wildlife Service. The early years saw the ITGA lobbying for change such as "a submission...to the Minister requesting him to raise the grants

to realistic figure". In 1977 there were no premium payments for afforestation and the annual grant was £35 per acre (see Forest and Wildlife advertisement, cover).

Every year since then, the ITGA has held field days, seminars, workshops and demonstration events to promote the interests of private growers and their businesses in relation to woodland management, security, taxation and the myriad of issues that concern timber growers.

The yearbook was launched in 1988. It was edited and produced for a number of years by Angela Coffey, Treasurer and long standing committee member



*The letter (below) dated 4 April 1977, announcing the first formal meeting of the ITGA held in the Green Isle Hotel on 9 March 1977 was accompanied by a proposal (below right) outlining the aims and objectives of the Association.*

Dear Member, 4<sup>th</sup> April 1977.

The Committee welcome you to our new Organisation.

Our aim as you know is to foster the interests of all private woodland owners in the country.

The meeting at the Green Isle Hotel on 9th March last was a great success and encouragement to those who sponsored it.

The old Committee has met and has now formed a new Committee consisting of the following:

John W. R. Madden	-	Chairman
Robert Tottenham	-	Vice-Chairman
Lord Ardee		Charles Tottenham.
W. B. Hutton-Bury		David White
Dan McGlynn		John M. Wilson-Wrig...
David Patten.		

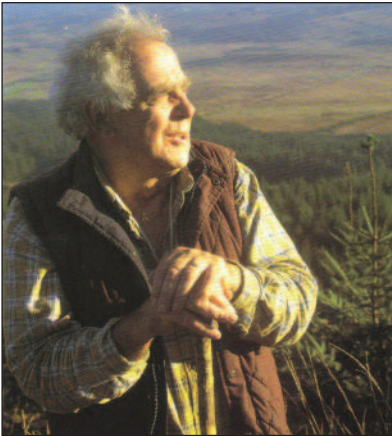


The late Robert Tottenham (below), past chairman was a founder member of the ITGA. He served as a generous host and guide on a number of field-days to his Mount Callan woodlands, Co. Clare. The field-day below took place on the 1st November 1996.

ITGA Chairpersons since the formation of the Association in 1977:

Major John W.R. Madden  
Mr. Robert E. Tottenham  
Mr. William Forwood  
Mr. John Wilson-Wright\*  
Mr. Brian Hussey  
Sir Charles Colthurst\*  
Mr. Brendan Lacey

\* Served as Chairpersons on two separate terms.



Proposal to form an Irish Timber Growers Association.

A Committee formed from a number of Private Woodland Owners in Ireland have for several years met regularly under the Chairmanship of Major John Madden of Clones.

Wishing to form a more powerful Association embracing all those with an interest in Forestry within the Private Sector and with the blessing of the Forest & Wildlife Service the Committee have decided to call a meeting.

The Committee believing that you are interested in Forestry in Ireland invite you to attend this meeting and ask you to support the launching of "The Irish Timber Growers Association".

The objects of the proposed Association are set out on the attached sheet.

The Committee has worked for many years in co-operation with the Officials of the Forest & Wildlife Service and have always found them most helpful and encouraging.