

Citation **Seamas Caulfield**

Seamas Caulfield is Professor Emeritus of Archaeology at University College Dublin. He received his primary school education in a local two-teacher school in Belderrig, on the coast of north county Mayo where his father, Patrick Caulfield, was principal. Following five years in St. Nathy's second level boarding school, Ballaghaderreen, he trained as a primary school teacher and taught in a rural school near Dublin from 1960 to 1968, attending University College Dublin at night to complete his primary degree in 1963 and his MA in Archaeology in 1966. In 1968 he became a lecturer in Archaeology at UCD and was awarded his PhD in 1976.



Awareness of the rich history of the ancient landscape of Céide Fields to which Seamas would devote his life's work, was first raised by his father, Patrick, who harvested turf for his family each year in the Belderg Beg townland where stone walls beneath the bog became visible when the turf was cut. Following a visit with the Patrick and Seamas Caulfield in the early 1970s, Seamus Heaney wrote his poem 'Belderg', describing a 'landscape fossilized'. In his recent chapter in *Irish Food History: A Companion* (EUT+ Academic Press; Royal Irish Academy, 2024), Seamas has described how as a child he would accompany his father game shooting and how they regularly came across walls in the cutaway bog or had lunch on the Belderg More court tomb. Even if they returned home empty-handed from the hunt, he says, this time spent with his father and the experience of the land not only through sight and sound but also through the touch of his bare feet on the soil, made it difficult to avoid catching the archaeology bug; a bug he seems more than happy to note has been caught by his own children and grandchildren.

Seamas' research has been devoted to the prehistory of early farming in Ireland and to the prehistory and history of hand milling, from the saddle querns of the Bronze Age to the most recent use of the rotary quern in Ireland and Scotland. He is married to Ann and has three adult children and seven grandchildren. He retired as professor from UCD in 2000 and was awarded the Europa Prize for 'major contribution to European Prehistory' by the Prehistoric Society that same year. In 2013 he was Conferred Honorary Fellow of Galway/Mayo Institute of Technology (now Atlantic Technological University) and says that his most prized award was Mayo Person of the Year 1990.

The Dublin Gastronomy Symposium Fellowship Award is being presented to Seamas Caulfield for his outstanding contribution to Irish food history. In addition, we would like to express our thanks for his spirit of generous reciprocity and shared ethos that 'every day is a school day' which makes the annual field trip to Céide Fields a significant contribution to the programme of study of TU Dublin's Masters in Gastronomy and Food Studies students.

