

Fund-Raising & Failed Attempts

Ted Keenan was a determined man, with great perseverance to aspire towards a particular goal. This was particularly the case with his fund-raising efforts for charity. Training became a big part of Ted's daily routine, swimming in the local Portora & Derrychara pools and exercising in the Enniskillen police depot. Much needed funds were raised by Ted for local charities, he was immensely proud of each such achievement.



Holding the weights up - Mr. Ted Keenan, June 1972
At the Enniskillen RUC gymnasium with Sergeant Jack McFarland in preparation for Ted's long distance swim in the Derrychara pool to raise funds for the Fermanagh Society for Mentally Handicapped Children.



Ted Keenan is beginning his attempt on Donegal Bay, August 1969. He is just leaving the rocks at St. John's Point to swim to Bundoran.

Ted's swimming expeditions proved to be precarious on occasions. The Donegal Bay swim was attempted twice with great stamina and will-power. Unfortunately due to bad weather conditions and missing the tide, the swim had to be abandoned, much to Ted's dismay. On 13 August 1970, Ted was further disappointed when he failed the France to England swim. He was swimming in the water for nearly 20 hours but due to safety reasons, he reluctantly withdrew from the swim. Despite this setback, Ted was later presented with a 'Special Achievement Award' in recognition of the length of time spent in the water.

In July 1977, he attempted a charity swim from Enniskillen to Belleek, unfortunately the weather deteriorated after ten hours in the water and at one stage Ted was lost. Eventually, Ted was seen, lifted out of the water and later had to stay on an island with the crew until the storm subsided. In August 1977, Ted failed the North Channel swim from Scotland to Ireland, which he tried to do in reverse direction from his quest in August 1973. Unfortunately for Ted a number of factors contributed towards his failed attempt, he had started the swim late, missed the out-going tide and was badly stung by jellyfish.

In February 1992, Ted underwent a triple bypass operation. In 1993, determined to show everyone there was still life after major surgery, he decided to swim the English Channel again. Accompanied by his children on the journey, he disappointedly failed.

Despite his failed attempts Ted never gave up. He enjoyed every challenge and making a difference for local charities gave him great satisfaction and the drive to continue his fund-raising quests. Charity swims were completed in the Derrychara & Portora pools and in Lough Erne. He was undoubtedly a remarkable man, always preparing himself for a new challenge.



22 May 1971, Ted Keenan completed a 12 hour swim in Derrychara pool to raise funds for the 'Fermanagh Society for the Mentally Handicapped Children'. He is receiving a hot drink from his wife Bridie at the half way stage.



Mr. Ted Keenan, getting out of Derrychara swimming pool, shaking hands with the Lord Mayor of Enniskillen, Alderman Richard Barton, July 1972. Ted completed a 14 hour swim for 'Fermanagh Society for the Mentally Handicapped Children'.