

Margaret Boardman (Copatain)

I was saddened to hear of the death of Margaret Boardman last week.

She was very well known in all the setter breeds and will be remembered with affection by many of our older exhibitors. Margaret was always a great animal lover and in her early days had a horse, which she rode, and kept in the back garden of her home in Earley near Reading, where she lived with husband Fred for many years.

She started in dogs with an Irish Setter, and this was quickly followed by a Gordon Setter.

She started exhibiting soon after and always loved this hobby. We first met and became friends when we were both enjoying the Irish Circuit. I had with me an Irish Red and White Setter, and she immediately fell for this breed and soon after had one herself. There were always several dogs in her house, all of them living in the house. She was an excellent cook and much enjoyed the many visitors who loved her wonderful meals. She was always good company with a wonderful sense of humour, known for her witty one liners.

She showed and bred from all three breeds, and loved every minute. She was one of the few people who were passed to award Challenge Certificates in all three breeds, and was disappointed not have English Setters as well.

She believed that it was important to support the world of dogs in all ways, and served on the Committee of Windsor Gundog Club for some time and eventually became the Club Secretary of the Irish Red and White Club, only giving this up when she and her husband Fred moved to Carlisle where she spent the rest of her life.

She was a great supporter of rescue, and was one of those willing people who would drive many miles to collect a dog for rescue and supported all efforts to raise money. Even in old age, and after she was widowed she still took in rescue dogs, especially small dogs.

She loved the beautiful countryside of Cumbria. She became expert in knowing where all the most delightful villages were and other points of interest.

Her visitors were always taken on tours of these lovely places. She lived independently for the last years of her life nearly always with one or two small dogs for company.

Last Christmas her daughter persuaded her to try out a care home in the same village where she lived to see if she liked it. She did, and lived there happily. She wrote to me at the time. Her letter was lucid, and in her own neat handwriting.

She died peacefully in the home. She was just 90.

Pat Brigden