

Sylvia Gibbons

On 29th October 2018 there will be a service at All Saints Church, Forton, near Newport, Shropshire TF10 8BY. Followed by cremation at Stafford Crematorium and afterwards at The Junction, Norbury, Staffs.

It is with great sadness that I have to announce the passing of Sylvia Gibbons on 29th September, a founder member of the Shropshire Cat Club. Sylvia passed away after a short stay in Severn Hospice. She received her cancer diagnosis in late 2016 at the time her daughter was fighting and losing her own battle with cancer. She had only been breeding Siamese for a short time when, along with several other local Breeders, she formed the Shropshire Cat Club in 1975. Sylvia was the last surviving member of this group, remaining on the Committee and as Vice-President until the end. The last Committee Meeting before her death was, like so many others, held at her house.

Her prefix Richdale was a combination of the names of her children Richard and Dale and the cats she bred will appear in large numbers of Siamese and Oriental pedigrees. Her main focus was breeding Seal Point Siamese but she did have a brief spell of breeding Tabby Points (or stripeys as she called them). Siamese and Oriental Breeders throughout the Midlands and beyond would be welcomed and encouraged into the Cat Fancy by her, taking their kittens for her honest and well-informed opinion. This was particularly obvious when the deliveries of frozen cat food were delivered to her house for distribution. Over the years she kept several stud boys and to anyone who took a cat to visit one of them it was easily apparent what excellent care she took of them and the visiting queens.

At the Shropshire Cat Club Show she was a stalwart, behind the scenes and she worked tirelessly from making the tea and coffee at the first Show to making the running of the tombola stall her own.

Away from the Cat Fancy she bred several foals, had a particular fondness for her garden and a wonderful sense of mischief making.

Our thoughts are with her husband John, son Richard, son-in-law Andrew and grand-daughters Denika and Saskia at this very difficult time.

Mark Lewis
Chairman
Shropshire Cat Club

It is with great sorrow and regret that I inform you of the death of Mrs Sylvia Gibbons yesterday 29th September 2018.

Myself, and a close group of friends have know Sylvia for the better part of 40years but she has been a stalwart of The Cat Fancy for much longer. She bred Siamese with her RICHDALE prefix and I'm sure that many newer people who did not know her, can look at their Siamese and Oriental pedigrees will find a Richdale cat there. She owned several stud boys over the years Ch Quintral Magicman 24c Ch Kohinoor Tao 24 Ch Ikumfurst Yamuchi 24 his son Gr Ch Richdale Yamoto 24 and his sons Imp Gr Ch Richale Lone Ranger 24 and Imp Gr Ch Heatherbec Al Fayed 24 a long line of Seal Point boys with superb clear coats. Also Imp Gr Ch Foxtwist Al Fresco 24b and Gr Ch Adhuam Moonshadow 24c and Ch Richdale Sha Tin 32.1 to name but a few. She adored her boys and they were always fed the best of everything, and their quarters always immaculate.

Sylvia was also a founder member of the Shropshire Cat Club and was still an active member of our committee going to great lengths to see that the best show possible was put on for exhibitors yet liked to be behind the scenes not front of house.

She was always ready to welcome new people into the fold of the Cat Fancy, encouraging new breeders of which I was one when we first met.

She also loved her horses and bred several foals that went on into Show Jumping careers. Sadly Sylvia lost her daughter Dale in March 2017 also to cancer which devastated her and her husband John, their son Richard, Dale's husband Andrew and the two granddaughters Denika and Saskia.

As a club we send our deepest condolences to John, Richard and the whole family. The Cat Fancy and the Siamese section have lost a great ambassador for dedicated and ethical keeping and breeding of quality cats.

Janet Tonkinson
Vice Chairman and Show Manager
Shropshire Cat Club