

**John Briggs, UK,  
Rathdaws Irish Wolfhounds  
1930-2010**

The news of John Briggs passing in October, 2010, brought sadness to his many friends around the world.

John was a true friend of the breed. An International Judge, he was a great favourite with Irish Wolfhound Clubs for their Speciality Shows. John's name usually came up for discussion when visiting Wolfhound people in different parts of the world. There were many stories of his visits and his judging, his kindness and gentleness with the hounds - everybody enjoyed his company. He was a good friend and adviser to many Wolfhound enthusiasts. John had a great interest in the Wolfhounds in Ireland; when visiting his relatives in Co. Dublin, he also included visits to his many Wolfhound friends here.

John was very proud of the fact that he sold a Wolfhound to the original owner and founder of Tullamore Dew and had the correspondence to verify this. John bred my first Irish Wolfhound, Ch Ballykelly Sile of Carrokeel 'Siobhan', the foundation bitch of my line. 'Siobhan' was born in May 1965. Since that date John was my mentor and my friend. He shared my enthusiasm though Siobhan's successful showing career and that of her descendents in later years.

John registered his prefix, Rathdaws, in the early 1970s. An occasional breeder, John put a lot of thought and planning into his breeding. Indeed the last time I spoke to him in Ireland was when he was here with his bitch to breed to Tim & Marion Finney's Irish/UK Champion Gulliagh Albus. He was full of chat about how well the pedigrees matched.

John was Secretary of the I W Club (UK) from the late 1970s to the early 1990s when he was appointed Chairman, a position he held for several years.

He was Treasurer of Driffield All Breed Championship show for twenty five years.

In 1996 John was appointed Treasurer of the European Federation of Irish Wolfhound Clubs and held this position until 2002 when he was elected Chairman. He retired as Chairman in 2004.

John published a set of three posters depicting "Fifty early English bred Irish wolfhounds" (circa 1910 – 1930). He gave permission to include these on the [www.irishwolfhoundarchive.ie](http://www.irishwolfhoundarchive.ie) website. He gave an interesting presentation to the European Federation of Irish Wolfhound Clubs which is worth reading: "How the Irish Wolfhound appears to have changed to my eyes over the past forty years" on <http://www.eiwc.org/pages/meetings.html>

John was very ill for the past year, needing full time care. On behalf of all John's friends, I would like to pay tribute to Rowena, his wife, who took such good care of him during his long illness. Thank you Rowena.

Ar Dheis De go raibh a anam. (May his soul be at the right-hand of God)

Betty Murphy



John with his 'Carrokeel Gormlaith', daughter of 'Siobhan'.



John's "Agata Hope of Mai Fechan", bred by Karel Williams, Belgium