



Sheetlines

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“Cathy Bull”
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The Charles Close Society was founded in 1980 to bring together all those with an interest in the maps and history of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and its counterparts in the island of Ireland. The Society takes its name from Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, OS Director General from 1911 to 1922, and initiator of many of the maps now sought after by collectors.

The Society publishes a wide range of books and booklets on historic OS map series and its journal, *Sheetlines*, is recognised internationally for its specialist articles on Ordnance Survey-related topics.

Cathy Bull



Chris Board (left) makes a presentation to Cathy and Chris Bull at the 2006 AGM

I first met Cathy in April 1993, when she and Chris called in, en route to one of their camping and walking breaks in North Wales. Chris was the map collector, but Cathy was always there to enjoy the search, and share the joys and frustrations that come with collecting. She loved the fun associated with searching and finding. Although Cathy did not collect maps, she was fascinated by those who did and loved to hear tales of the obsessions of collectors, those who seek out different print codes, price differences, type face varieties and so on. A sparkle would come into her eye, as her strong northern logic dismissed most genuine tales as unbelievable. Maybe it was the teacher in her, but she always wanted to know the finer details of any story, and would question you closely if something appeared to have been left out.

A family membership was applied for at once, and an AGM at Birkbeck might have been their first society meeting. The map market was in full swing; Cathy, having been round the room, had satisfied herself that all was as she had feared, and set to, helping with the teas. Again, her nature was to spot where help was needed and to muck in, whether she knew anyone or not. Cathy was very much a member of our society, a popular figure at AGMs, especially when running the family stall, which was meticulously organised and over which she ruled, despite what Chris might think. Again, she would always wander round, and I am sure would report back on things Chris had missed.

Even though she did not collect or work with maps, Cathy had definite views on the society, its proceedings and what it should be doing. It was only recently I realised, that in suggesting Chris might take on the job of distributing *Sheetlines*, I must have known it would be a joint operation. Right from the first issue, Chris would use the plural in describing what had been done. The whole thing went like clockwork and the society was well pleased. Cathy never sought praise, but certainly deserved it.

As Chris Higley wrote to me “Cathy was one of those lovely smiley people whom you were always pleased to see, and who always seemed pleased to see you”. We will all miss her.

David Archer