



**Two eminent founder members of the Charles Close Society have died recently. Ian Mumford (far left), member number 12, and Ian O'Brien, member number 14.**

**Ian O'Brien's obituary will appear in December Sheetlines.**

***Dr Ian Mumford (8 March 1925 - 14 March 2015)***

Ian Mumford attended Latymer Upper school, where he and fellow pupil Peter Clark met whilst fire-watching in the dark days of the winter of 1942/43. Another contemporary was yet another former CCS member, Brian Adams (1924-2006).

Ian served as a captain in the Royal Artillery in Burma and India and, on return to UK, graduated from the LSE in Economics with Geography.

He worked in the map room at the Royal Geographical Society where he managed the reconnaissance photographs for Hillary's successful ascent of Everest. He then moved to Military Survey where he joined up again with Peter Clark, rising through ranks of the Map Research Officer class. Twenty-five years later he spent four years as British Liaison Officer (Survey) attached to the Defense Mapping Agency in Washington DC. He then worked as a records reviewer and volunteered at the India Office Library at the British Library.

It wasn't just work. Ian made a large contribution to our understanding of the history of the Ordnance Survey and of map making in general: as one of the founders, with Peter Clark and John Keates, of the British Cartographic Society, and its first Honorary Secretary, as author of several chapters of the official history of the Ordnance Survey,<sup>1</sup> as a contributor to the multi-volume History of Cartography and as a founder member of the Charles Close Society. He was elected an Honorary Member of CCS in 2006.

Ian worked to help people understand that there is more to maps than the lines on the page – especially with the move towards computerised map indexes and digital cartography. He made the interactive presentation *Map as Artefact*, in which he encouraged the audience to understand how varied maps could be and that important information could be written on the back, as well as on the front.

*Brian Garvan adds:* Ian's contribution to the world of cartography was immense and the fruits of his many endeavours will be enjoyed by future generations for all time. I, like many others, owe Ian a huge professional debt. The fact that he gained his PhD in 1999 at age 74 (*Milestones in lithographed cartography from 1800*) is a measure of the man. But above all, my memories of Ian are much more personal – he was an admired colleague and a very good friend.

<sup>1</sup> WA Seymour (ed), *A history of the Ordnance Survey*, Folkestone: Dawson, 1980