

OBITUARY

By Mike Shand

ROSIE DUNCAN (1954–2018)

It is with great sadness that I write this following the passing of Rosie Duncan, a long-standing friend to members of the Society of Cartographers (SoC). Rosie died peacefully on 26 November 2018 after a brave fight with advanced melanoma, a few days short of her birthday and retirement.

Rosie first entered her career in cartography and DTP after completing a Diploma in Cartography at Oxford Polytechnic in 1975. Rosie worked as a freelance cartographer, a cartographer at the University of Sheffield and spent most of her career as a cartographer and teaching CAD at Staffordshire University. While at Staffordshire University Rosie also completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Aided Design (CAD).

Rosie was an active member of the Society of Cartographers for over 25 years. Her first post was as a Review Editor for the *SoC Bulletin*, she joined the SoC Committee and was Newsletter Editor from 2007–2015. Rosie was also an active contributor to the CartoSoC cartography list-server and organised two very successful SoC Annual Summer Schools, at Keele University in 2006 (jointly with Andy Lawrence) and at Staffordshire University in 2013. Rosie always enjoyed the Summer School Annual Dinner/Ceilidh and would often be seen organising and instructing the dancers how to Strip the Willow or dance an Eightsome Reel – Rosie knew all the moves. It was as a first-class Newsletter Editor that most SoC members will remember Rosie – her Cartographic Rambling section, always behind a camera at events, cajoling participants to act as reporters for Summer



School sessions and workshops. The post Summer School Newsletter was always eagerly awaited by members. Even after stepping down in 2015 she assisted as a Newsletter Reporter. Rosie was also active in mapping outside the SoC in her local area, producing Neighbourhood Plans and a series of Geotrails for Staffordshire. Rosie won the BCS Stanfords Award for her geological map/guide to a local area of Staffordshire.

Rosie very bravely informed a number of SoC members of her plight and kept in touch with several of us through her struggle. In her letters she acknowledged her lovely family and caring friends who supported her through her challenging times. Always positive, Rosie was looking forward and had plans to do arty maps of her village, walking, gardening, and continuing her volunteering work.

A number of SoC members have sent me their condolences for her husband Alistair, son Alex and daughter Cassie. Our members remember Rosie as smiling; brightening up our meetings; a lovely person; quietly determined and organised; a lovely lady, always willing to help and contribute; welcoming and helpful; nice to chat with; a rock on committee, always with sound advice and a voice of reason in any situation; her wide-ranging interests and talents; and her caring nature.

Rosie was a good and well-liked friend to many in the Society of Cartographers; she will be sadly missed.

Mike Shand

PS: Thanks to Claire Ivison a long-standing friend of Rosie's for assisting with the obituary and proofreading it with her famous 'red pen', a task she undertook for many years for the Newsletter – Rosie would have approved.