

Comment

Last year Dan Docherty, one of the founders and a driving force in the tai chi union, celebrated 50 years in martial arts. We had planned for this issue an article celebrating his tai chi journey. My colleague, Suse Coon who knew Dan, carried out a number of interviews with him and produced a great article telling his story (page 7). Caroline Izzard wrote a report on the camp held to celebrate the milestone (page 10). A front cover was planned. I was stopped in my tracks one Friday morning when I received a text telling me the Dan had died. The article would become his obituary. Our plans suddenly seemed shockingly prescient.

I only knew Dan by reputation, I met him once, on the doorstep of a tai chi studio in Bethnal Green. At the time he was clearly ill. My colleague Suse Coon did know Dan and had worked with him. From the number of tributes we received Dan was well known, liked and respected. His reputation was international.

In publishing time and space are constraining factors so let me apologise now if your tribute does not appear. The union has set up a tribute page and anything that we haven't managed to fit in will be published there. If anyone still wishes to pay tribute they can do so at: www.taichiunion.com/dan-docherty-1954-2021

There is never a good time to die but, somehow, just before Christmas seems particularly bad. The team at Tai Chi Chuan & Internal Arts offer our condolences to Dan's family. We hope the number of people who have given tributes and Dan's great legacy in tai chi may be some comfort.

John Roper

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