



# PROBUS



# RECORDER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF GILLINGHAM, DORSET  
([www.probus-gillingham-dorset.org.uk](http://www.probus-gillingham-dorset.org.uk))

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES – *Roger Lester*

I must start by paying tribute to **Richard Clarke**, a member for many years, who died recently. He was charming and knowledgeable and will be much missed. Over the last couple of years he endured not only the loss of his wife Hilary, but bore his own illness with great fortitude and continued to attend meetings almost to the end. I am sure we will say a fitting farewell at his funeral at 1pm on 1<sup>st</sup> July at St Mary's, Gillingham.

Is it really nearly two months since I took over the reins? Time since the start of the pandemic 2 years ago, seems to be racing away, not good for any of us!!! The longest day has come and gone already, and the weather is trying to be summerish between colder spells which are always appreciated after the hot days of 'global warming'.

We all celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in our own way and congratulated Her Majesty as a club with a rousing '*God Save The Queen*' at our 31<sup>st</sup> of May meeting. Our Close (14 of us) had a get together for a glass of whatever took your fancy and a few nibbles on the Sunday in the turning circle at the end of the close. Everything was going swimmingly well, then the rain arrived, and drinks were diluted until umbrellas were deployed. Such a shame after all the hot weather of the previous week!

I recently had an old boys re-union at Exeter School and met a few of my old friends of 60 years ago. I must admit I didn't do very well whilst there as a pupil and if I had I wouldn't be in Gillingham Probus today; life would have taken a different path, probably. What I found more than interesting was that from an all-boys school it is now co-ed. I met the new head Louise Simpson - a charming lady. I never thought there would ever be a female head!!

Probus life is gladly progressing well, but we really do need new members. I have asked my neighbours with no success unfortunately, so I'll keep looking.

Stay well!



## WELFARE & SOCIAL

### Welfare Report – *Roger Ellis*

As far as I know, Ken Steadman is still awaiting his heart operation, which seems a great pity as if successful would improve Ken's mobility.



In 1586 **Ralph Treswell** was commissioned by Sir Christopher Hatton, the then owner of Corfe Castle and the Purbeck estate to survey and map the estate. The result was artistic and decorative, showing important features of the Tudor landscape. The first map showing a compass rose was included on **Robert Adams'** maps or charts depicting the Spanish Armada of 1588.

The cartographer **William Camden** produced his work *Britannia*, the first chorographical survey of the islands of Great Britain and Ireland, which in the 1607 edition included a full set of English county maps (based on Saxton's work); engraved by William Kip, the decoration includes a sea monster.



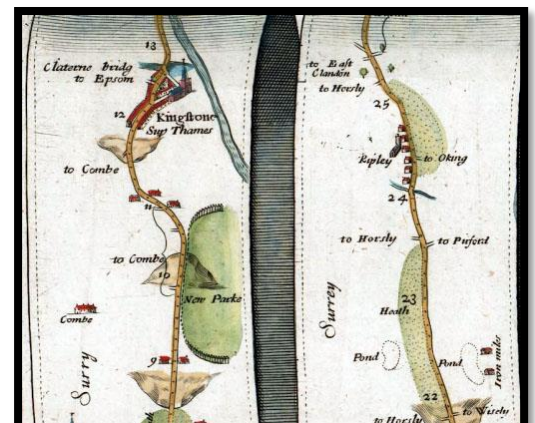
John Speed - Dorset

In **John Speed's** *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain* (1610) in the map for Dorset, included an inset map showing the town plan of Dorchester, and showed 'hundreds' – the administrative divisions of counties.

Gradually, the standard of map making had improved. Distances became standardised, with the creation of the statute mile in 1693 (1,760 yards). Latitude and Longitude started to be recorded. The maps of **Jacob Van Langeren** (1635) showed geographical details, sheep farming, and manufacturing (e.g., sailcloth, rope and lace making).

The '*Atlas novus*' of **Joan Blaeu**, was made at the time of the Civil War; he published a map of the (known) world in 1648. **John Ogilvy**, "*His Majesty's Cosmographer and Geographic Printer*" issued his *Britannia atlas* in 1675, which included such details as the configuration of hills, and their relative size; and strip road maps for travellers; this was the first atlas to use the standard mile.

'Playing card maps', showing the 52 counties of England, were popular, such as those by **William Redmayne** and **Robert Morden** in 1676.



Strip Road Map - Ogilvy



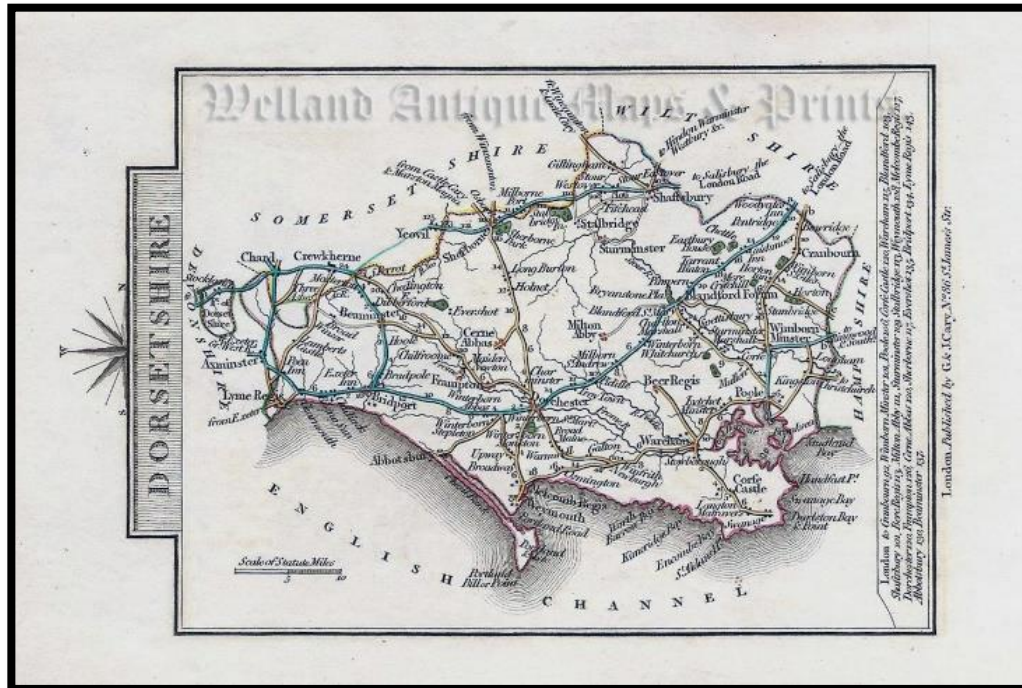
The Guinea Trade map - Bowen

**Owen Emanuel Bowen**, a Welsh map engraver, produced the first pocket map in 1720; and published trade maps, such as *The Guinea trade*. Thomas Kitchin and Thomas Jefferys produced a pocket atlas (1749).

Many maps of these early cartographers featured decorative cartouches. In 1754 the engraver **George Bickham** published *The British Monarchy*, a collection of plates of historical notes and 'views'; a view of Dorset harbours is included. The large-scale map of **Isaac Taylor** of 1765 shows shipwrecks around the Dorset coast

and used symbols and signs for different features.

The turnpike roads of Dorset are shown in [John Cary](#)'s Travellers Companion of 1789/1792.



Town maps of settlements were produced, such as **John Upjohn**'s town map of Shaftesbury in 1799, and estate maps were made for landowners showing the extent of their holdings. The county maps of **Thomas Moule**, a writer on heraldry, features coats of arms, one of the last decorative maps, and the first railway line.

The establishment of the [Ordnance Survey](#) in the Georgian period produced a high standard of accuracy, using triangulation as a framework; maps to different scales were produced, and in the 19th century new methods of mapmaking, including the use of photography, made the process easier.

David Beaton's interesting talk on the history and development of mapmaking with particular reference to Dorset held our attention. Following questions, the chairman gave the vote of thanks.

*Report: Alan Jeffs*

# The Battle of Britain over Dorset and Somerset 1940

*John Smith – 14 June*

Unfortunately, there was an unforeseen delay in our scheduled speaker arriving at the clubhouse to deliver his talk, owing to road closures and diversions, for which he was deeply apologetic when he arrived. Ian McLellan had nobly stepped forward to speak about medical negligence; he was just starting to tell us about the problems in the medical environment of defining and understanding the meaning of ‘consent’ when Mr Smith arrived (no doubt we will learn about ‘consent’ and medical negligence from Ian in the future!).

After laying out his impressive collection of WWII models of allied and enemy aircraft, John Smith told us about the Battle of Britain in 1940, with particular reference to Dorset and Somerset; these coastal counties saw their share of the action, with enemy bombing raids on strategic targets, and dog fights over the countryside, towns and villages.



Before the war Britain had run down its air force to undertake a purely defensive role at home and the Empire. There had been only two squadrons of Gloster Gladiator biplane fighters to defend the whole of the Southwest. With a top speed of 257mph, four machine guns, and with a radio range limited to 15 miles, they were obviously not up to the task against faster, heavily armed, enemy bombers and fighters. There were vital factories in and around Bristol and Southampton and elsewhere in the UK, ramping up the

production of new, faster types of aircraft to replace the ageing and relatively slow Gloster Gladiator. There were many targets, both industrial and military, for the German Air Force (Luftwaffe) to attack. Between July and October 1940, the conflict in the air, the Battle of Britain, raged over southern England.

For air defence, Fighter Command was divided into four groups, of which number 10 Group was for the defence of the Southwest, split down into sectors. Britain’s radar early warning system allowed reports back to Control to galvanise the interception of German bomber formations.



To fight off the German bombers at the start of the campaign the Boulton Paul Defiant was used, but it proved to have design problems and was withdrawn in favour Hawker Hurricanes were used, with Supermarine Spitfires going after the fighter escorts.



**Bolton Paul Defiant**



**Hawker Hurricane**



**Supermarine Spitfire**

German bombers, such as the Heinkel He 111 and Junkers Ju 88 lacked sufficient bomb load capacity and were vulnerable to the British fighters. The Junkers Ju 87 “Stuka” dive bomber was not invincible, and the Messerschmitt Bf 109 did not have the range for sustained action.

Initially, there was a shortage of anti-aircraft gun (AA) capability to be rectified. To aid the detection and prompt engagement of the enemy, the Civil Defence Royal Observer Corps (ROC) tracked the position of enemy aircraft after they crossed the coastline, reporting their direction to the Fighter Command groups and Sector Control.

In some respects, German aircrew were better protected than the RAF personnel, with superior personal survival equipment for use if crashing into the sea. Their life jackets were brightly coloured to enable them to be spotted more easily, whereas British life jackets were RAF blue (which hardly stood out in the grey-blue sea!).

John Smith’s talk highlighted the importance of the Southwest in the air battle taking place over the whole country, originally intended to herald the invasion of this Country, which of course never happened due to the success of the allied defence. After questions, the Chairman gave the vote of thanks.

*Report: Alan Jeffs*



## **ENDPIECE – Editor**

It appears that more than one in ten adults in the UK love reading their local newspaper - with favourite funny headlines such as “*foul mouthed parrot on loose*”.

Can you figure out the missing word in the following genuine local news headlines? Try your hand; there is no prize at the end of it, but the results might surprise you.

- Q1. “**Woman arrested during vigil for \_\_\_\_\_.**”  
 Lobsters  Dog  Peace  Boris Johnson
- Q2. “**Dad hit with fine after his car left a \_\_\_\_\_ in a disabled spot.**”  
 Wheel  Shadow  Car seat  Dent
- Q3. “**Man spends over £12,000 transforming himself into terrifyingly realistic \_\_\_\_\_.**”  
 Cat  Dog  Parrot  Rabbit
- Q4. “**Foul mouthed \_\_\_\_\_ on loose.**”  
 Parrot  Grandparent  Nurse  Politician

- Q5. "Dopey cannabis grower left their plants on their \_\_\_\_\_ - and someone noticed."  
 Windowsill  Washing Line  Driveway  Head
- Q6. "My neighbour keeps hanging \_\_\_\_\_ in my garden without asking."  
 Washing  Picture frames  Love Notes  Rubbish
- Q7. "Huge creature with ' \_\_\_\_\_ ' discovered washed up on UK beach."  
 Dog-like head  Human-like head  Horse-like head  Sheep-like head
- Q8. "Mystery over ' \_\_\_\_\_ ' spotted crossing Midlands road by late night driver."  
 5ft horse-sheep  3ft fish-man  4ft lady-hamster  6ft man-goat
- Q9. "The man who \_\_\_\_\_ an entire car as revenge for airport parking."  
 Bubble-wrapped  Clingfilmed  Painted  Tin foiled
- Q10. "Kayaker shocked to spot \_\_\_\_\_ under Newcastle's Swing Bridge."  
 Baby  Seal  Sausage roll  Car

**Answers overleaf**

| <b>Newspaper Quiz Answers</b> |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Q1</b>                     | Lobsters        |
| <b>Q2</b>                     | Shadow          |
| <b>Q3</b>                     | Dog             |
| <b>Q4</b>                     | Parrot          |
| <b>Q5</b>                     | Windowsill      |
| <b>Q6</b>                     | Washing         |
| <b>Q7</b>                     | Human-like head |
| <b>Q8</b>                     | 6ft man-goat    |
| <b>Q9</b>                     | Clingfilmed     |
| <b>Q10</b>                    | Seal            |