



*“ proBITS ”*

an occasional publication  
from the

**PROBUS CLUB**  
HORLEY & DISTRICT

issue 16  
July 2021

## INTRODUCTION

"proBITS" is published for Probus Members. It is our response to the Covid-19 or Corona Virus, being the cause to postpone our lunch meetings until further notice. The Committee of *Probus Club Horley & District* wants to stay in touch with the Members and for the Members to stay in touch with each other. It is very important, in the situation we find ourselves in, to be "connected". Complete isolation from our friends/family is a dangerous thing. The vast majority of our Members have access to email and those without will receive "proBITS" in printed form. Hopefully, they'll submit their words of wisdom in a more traditional manner, like delivery by hand, snailmail or even pigeonpost ! Contributors also receive a printed issue.

The "proBITS" newsletter can only exist successfully with the cooperation of all Members concerned, that must be obvious to everybody. I plead therefore with all Members to make a contribution, however small.

The email address for "proBITS" contributions is :  
[jpdl.probus@icloud.com](mailto:jpdl.probus@icloud.com)

As a guideline : maximum about 850 words for a 2 page spread.

If pics submitted, deduct 30 words per pic.

Text in plain A4 Word document/email.

Pics sent *separately*, in JPG or JPEG format,  
NOT embedded in your document.

Please note : your copy may be edited !

If you submit early enough you'll receive a proof print.

Please email or mail your contribution for the next issue, to be *received before the end of the month*. Each edition will land in your mailbox on the first Tuesday of the month. Many organisations publicise a newsletter of some sort to their members. Virtually all of them struggle to get pages filled. I really hope that the ProBus Club of Horley & District, with all its Members having (had) interesting professional lives and interests, will prove to be an exception to the rule. And no, you can't use the excuse that you don't have the time .....

*There's no need to wait - you can submit NOW !*

Remember that the [weblinks](#) and [email addresses](#) that appear in the proBITS "on-line" edition can be accessed by simply clicking them on your screen.

*Photo of the month*  
will yours be a "page 3 picture" in the next issue ?



© John Alsop

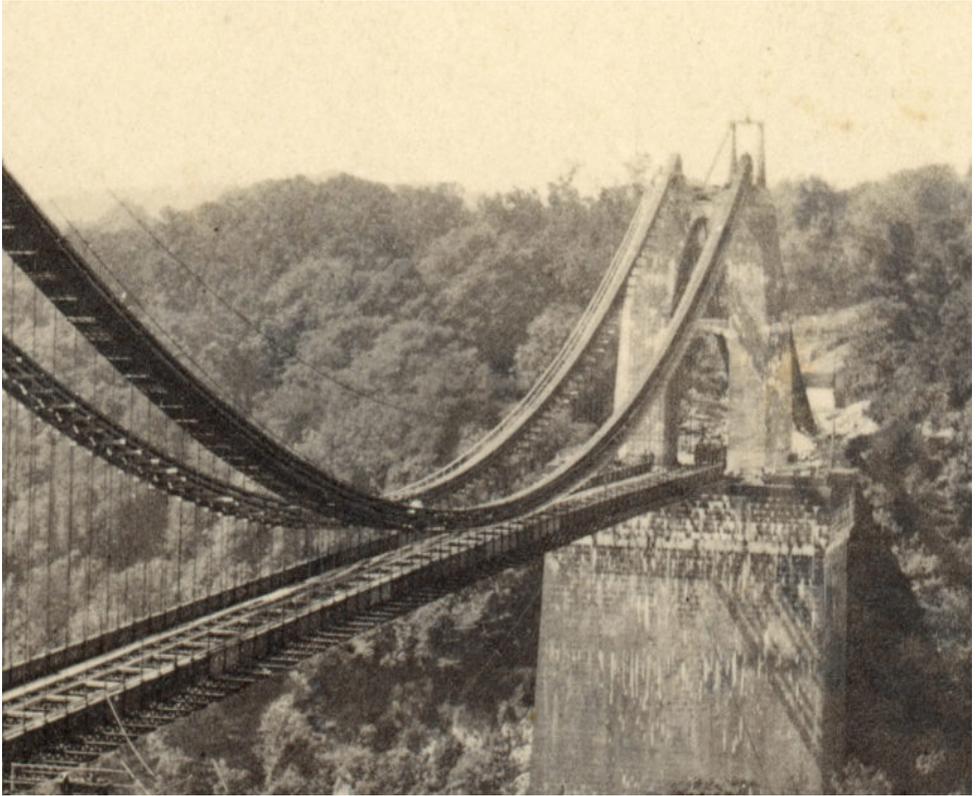
The UK's last flying airworthy Vulcan bomber XH558 "Spirit of Great Britain". Seen here flying below Beachy Head prior to its display at "Airbourne" in August 2015. Just over 2 months later, on 28th October, it ceased flying forever.

*Great Brits 3 : Isambard Kingdom Brunel.*

He was the most celebrated engineer of his era. Many buildings and structures are accredited to him but he is probably best remembered for the construction, design and building of tunnels, bridges and viaducts, that he did for the Great Western Railway. He was born 9th April 1806 in Portsmouth and died on the 15th September 1859. His father was a Frenchman, determined that Brunel should have the best of education. His early education was in France, firstly studying the classics. Subsequently he moved back to Britain and studied first at the boarding school in Hove, but later studied under a prominent Master Clock Maker and in 1822 completed his apprenticeship. Brunel worked for several years as an Assistant Engineer on a tunnel under the Thames between



Rotherhithe and Wapping. He was to become one of the most ingenious and prolific figures in engineering history. Brunel is possibly best remembered for his design of the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol. Work started on the bridge



in 1831 but didn't complete until 1864, which was no less than five years after Brunel's death. The delay in completing the project was put down to lack of funds and a lack of interest by possible investors. One other claim to fame is that he is credited with turning the town of Swindon into one of the fastest growing towns in Europe during the 19th Century. His choice to locate the Great Western Railways locomotive sheds there had far reaching consequences. One result was the need for housing for the workers. This in turn gave Brunel the impetus to build a hospital, churches and housing. The resulting settlement came to be known as the Railway Village. Brunel had the plan to extend his transport ideas to transporting goods across the Atlantic, with involvement in the design of the "Great Western" in 1838, the "Great Britain" in 1843 and the "Great Eastern" built in 1858. The magnificent "Great Britain" is currently fully preserved and open to the viewing public at the Bristol Docks. Brunel was buried at Kensal Green Cemetery, London and is commemorated at Westminster Abbey in a window on the south side of the nave.

*contributed by Dave Sharratt*

### *The Story of My Life as a Red Blood Corpuscle.*

My name is Evalie Erythrocyte and, although my earliest memory is of graduating from Miss Bone's cell training college with an Oxygen Transporting Diploma, I understand that I first saw the light of circulation in Clavicle Clinic. I rapidly discovered that I was one of billions of contemporaries, all being instructed by General Master Mind : "Go on route set for you, do not overtake, you could cause accidents; remember, you have a strong face to guide you; if you join the Fibrin Gang, you're a clot !" I soon realised the wisdom of his words. With all those by-passes + fly-overs, I was thoroughly bewildered. Then, a few drops ahead, I spotted a fantastic fellow with a chest expansion of at least .008mm. "Do you come here often ?" he hazarded; "I'm Eric the Red." I explained that I was a complete novice, so he immediately took me under his haemoglobin and my next impression was of being given a right hearty welcome. After a quick one at the 'Half Moon's' we hopped on the Pullman and were soon traversing the lungs where I must admit we got rather loaded. The ripple was termed oxygen and I'm afraid I was really red in the cytoplasm as we reeled through the heart again. Next, we visited the alimentary canal. What a fabulous place ! Lights flashing, laughter and talking, night clubs, discos everything you could want was there. However, all good things come to an end; and soon we were cruising down the liver and back on familiar tissue - hearts and lungs again ! Next Eric took me to a fantastic joint called little toe, where a fella called phago'cute made a pass at me with his pseudopodia. Then we passed St Tibia's Maternity Hospital, where a few cells of new red comrades were being brainwashed before embarking on their incessant routine. I learned it's almost impossible to keep a steady erythrocyte - they're always wandering off after a different heart throb ! I once set my plasmalemma at another of the o'cutes, but an elderly dowager drew me into a capillary and said reproachfully : "My dear, he's white !" It's a small circulation and I still bump into him spasmodically, particularly at the 7:30am rush hour, on the way to visit Billy the kidney. His place is perhaps my favourite organ, with lovely pieces of architecture like the bowman's capsules. But the moment of greatest inspiration prepares us to deliver an offering of oxygen at one or other of the temples. The first time I saw the leucocyte lot you could have knocked me down with a toxin, but now I am extremely blasé about the body. But I am almost 3 months old, and at times I feel that I've got one foot in the liver already. So it behoves me to make the most of the rest of my allotted span. Farewell ! You go your vein and I'll go mine !

*origin unknown*

*Welcome to tomorrow.*

All of the following will become reality in the next 10-20 years. Many of us won't see the changes, but our children and grandchildren will !

A petrol/diesel engine has hundreds individual parts. An electrical motor has far less than that. Electric cars will be sold with long guarantees and repaired by specialist dealers. It takes less than an hour to remove and replace an electric motor when cars are designed for this. Basic auto repair shops will disappear. Faulty electric motors are not repaired in the dealership but are sent to a regional repair shop that repairs them with robots. Your malfunction light goes on, so you drive up to what looks like a long carwash, and your car is towed through while you have a cup of coffee or lunch and out comes your car with a new electric motor and/or battery ! Your car's battery will be charged by induction. You park over a charging spot, at home or in a car park and you're fully charged and ready for hundreds of miles within an hour. If you have and drive a private car you will pay only for the driven distance and you can be productive while driving. The very young children of today will never get a driver's licence and most will never own a car. Public transport will revolutionise. Coal industries will cease. Petrol/oil companies will go away. Drilling for oil will obviously stop. Say goodbye to OPEC ! The middle east is in trouble after their source of income has gone. Homes will produce and store more electrical energy during the day than they use, and will sell it back to the grid. The grid stores it and dispenses it to industries that are high electricity users. Has anybody seen the Tesla roof ? A baby of today will see petrol cars only in museums. The future is approaching faster than most of us can handle. In 1998, Kodak had 170,000 employees and sold 85% of all photo paper worldwide. Then, everybody went to use digital cameras and within just a few years, Kodak's business model disappeared and they went bankrupt. Who would have thought of that ever happening ? What happened to Kodak, Ilford and Polaroid will happen in a lot of industries in the next 5-10 years ... and most of us don't see it coming. Did you think in 1998 that within a few years you'd never take pictures on film again ? With today's smartphones having superb cameras built-in, very few of us use a proper camera these days, except for "proper photographers" Digital cameras were invented in the 1970s. The first ones only had 10,000 pixels. Remember Moore's law ? It says that technological capacity will double every year. So as with all exponential technologies, it was a disappointment for a time, before it became superior, in turn to become mainstream in only a few years.

Remember that UBER is just a software tool, they don't own any cars, and are now the biggest taxi company in the world ! Just ask any taxi driver if they saw that coming. Airbnb is now the biggest hotel company in the world, although they don't own any properties. Ask Hilton Hotels if they saw that coming ! In the USA, young lawyers already don't get jobs. Because of computers, you can get legal advice (so far for right now, the basic stuff) within seconds - just put your problem in your browser - with 90% accuracy. This is compared with 70% accuracy when done by humans. So, if you study law, stop immediately ! There will be a lot fewer lawyers in the future, (what a thought !) only omniscient specialists will remain. Computer programs already help doctors diagnosing cancer. The equipment, with their software are often more accurate than humans are. The Facebook company, with their privacy-breaking and intruding habits, has pattern recognition software that can recognize faces better than humans. Computers will become more efficient than humans in many aspects. As to autonomous cars - in 2018 the first self-driving cars were already on the roads, being tested. In the coming years, the entire transport industry will start to be disrupted. Many people living in built-up cities already do car sharing, and don't have their own car. Will taxis as we know them today survive ? It seems unlikely. Calling a car with your phone will probably become as normal as ordering a pizza. It will show up at your chosen location and drive you to your destination. Obviously, you will not need to park it. You will pay only for the driven distance and you can be productive while being taken to your destination since you're not busy doing the actual driving. This will change our cities because we will need a lot fewer cars. We can transform former parking lots into green parks. About 1.2 million people die each year in car accidents worldwide, including due to distracted or drunk driving. We now have roughly one accident every 60,000 miles. With autonomous driving that will drop drastically. It will save millions of lives worldwide each year. Some traditional car companies will no doubt become bankrupt. Others will try the evolutionary approach and just build a better car, while tech companies such as Tesla and Apple will do the revolutionary approach and build a computer on wheels. Cities will have much cleaner air as well because there will be fewer people in them. Many engineers working for "traditional" car manufacturers are completely terrified of Teslas and other "electrics" and they have good reason for that. Look at the number of companies offering all-electric vehicles. Many of them were unheard of only a few years ago. *contributed by Brian Monk*

*Word game - test your obscure knowledge.*

Each of the words below has three definitions but only one is correct.

You decide whether it's A, B, or C

AWN

A. any of the bristles growing on the flowering parts of grasses B. the inside pages of a hardback book which are glued to the cover C. the bulb of a mountain horn or long-stemmed smoking pipe.

BUSERA

A. an alcoholic drink from Uganda made from millet B. an ornate purse carried by Turkish women in national dress C. a yashmak.

CONDOTIERE

A. an Italian-style pavement café B. the captain of the Swiss Guard at the Vatican C. a professional mercenary in Europe 13-16th century.

DEODAR

A. a Himalayan cedar tree with drooping branches B. a seller of rugs and animal skins in the Orient C. a flawless sapphire.

ETAMINE

A. a chemical solution used in the preservation and restoration of old papers  
B. a cotton or worsted fabric with a loose weave; used for clothes and curtains  
C. an artificial scent added to deodorants and air fresheners.

FEARNOUGHT

A. A legal document containing very explicit directions usually invoked in contractual agreements B. a heavy woollen fabric or a coat made out of it  
C. a non-poisonous plant related to the foxglove with spiky leaves and large bell-like yellow flowers.

GLOGG

A. a hot alcoholic mixed drink originally from Sweden (brandy, red wine, bitters, blanched almonds) B. a wooden spike used to chock a field gun to prevent slippage C. the gunge that is left in the press after grapes have been pressed a second time.

HAVELOCK

A. the spring mechanism in an early type of pistol B. Dutch smoked herring  
C. a flap attached to a serviceman's cap to protect back of the neck from the sun.

INCUS

A. the original template from which all coins of a particular denomination are struck B. the middle one of the three small bones in the human ear C. a system of writing not unlike hieroglyphs, unique to the Mayans.

Page Ten Teaser

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8								9				
10						11	12					
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15		16					17	18				19
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22				23				24		25		
26						27						
28								29				

Across :

- 1 - Loud supporter of trade embargos initially (5)
- 4 - Well favoured Tory to hurt journalist (7)
- 8 - Crazy cops out in the ocean (7)
- 9 - A passage within "Emma" is learned (5)
- 10 - PM or local leader (5)
- 11 - Confused lady ran a cord over her shoulder (7)
- 13 - Sporting tournament is nothing to a writer (4)
- 15 - Such reserve should be familiar (6)

- 17 - Get after a sailor - something to aim for (6)
- 20 - Girl heading north is on the level (4)
- 22 - Centre left fifty-one to composer (7)
- 24 - First class element turns up in the leg (5)
- 26 - Offense caused when a US leader embraces us (5)
- 27 - Tailless land bird sees the light (7)
- 28 - Writhing serpent is here! (7)
- 29 - Provided assistance from a staid education (5)

*Down :*

- 1 - Type of moth favoured by podiatrist ? (7)
- 2 - Irritable hero of a children's novel ? (5)
- 3 - Note politician, sovereign, or ruler of an empire (7)
- 4 - Chess piece thrown to the French (6)
- 5 - Repetition is no loss (5)
- 6 - Insist on a new note for North American animal (7)
- 7 - Fear of concealed adder (5)
- 12 - Stake found in urban terrace (4)
- 14 - Removing a layer is noisy, we hear (4)
- 16 - Trot back to college is about a painful experience (7)
- 18 - Sensor defined before Ann returns (7)
- 19 - Encouraged improvement through new trade-in (7)
- 21 - Flower girl to live freely (6)
- 22 - Giving credit to a politician may be painful (5)
- 23 - Feudal superior in Belgium, perhaps ? (5)
- 25 - Strain of engineers having a lie-in ! (5)

*Solution for proBITS 15 - June :*

*Across :* 1 - Cows, 4 - Events, 9 - Catkins, 10 - Pater, 11 - Dare, 12 - Erudite, 13 - Gyr, 14 - Opal, 16 - Edge, 18 - Cur, 20 - Cold War, 21 - Acre, 24 - Lotto, 25 - Swimmer, 26 - Decamp, 27 - Scant.

*Down :* 1 - Cicada, 2 - Water, 3 - Soil, 5 - Vapourer, 6 - Nothing, 7 - Street, 8 - Osier, 13 - Glowworm, 15 - Politic, 17 - Scaled, 18 - Crest, 19 - Regret, 22 - Comma, 23 - Miss.

*Interesting ?*

Most double garages in the USA are bigger than the average home in Tokyo. At any moment there are about twice as many chickens alive as humans.

### *Ford Motor Company's BBQ supplies.*

On the 16th of June 1903 the Ford Motor Company was established. As we all know, Henry Ford was the founder. However, this was not his first business venture, as he had previously started and operated the Henry Ford Company. He left that company and took his name with him. What happened to the Henry Ford Company? They became known as the Cadillac Motor Company. What, I hear you asking, does any of this have to do with BBQ supplies? Hang on!. Ford's Model T, which would number in the millions sold, required among other materials 100 board feet of wood to build. Henry Ford despised wasting resources. His motto was "Reduce, reuse, and recycle wherever possible." He was also a nature lover and an environmentalist of his time. His favourite escape from the stress of life and business was going camping in the great outdoors. Frustrated by the mountains of sawdust his lumber mills created, he and his partners sought a way to utilize the scrap wood and sawdust into a useful (and, if at all possible also a profitable) product. An idea came to him one day as he was camping with some friends in the wilds of Michigan. After his party spent a long time collecting sufficient wood for a campfire, an idea sprang in Ford's mind. Upon returning back to the lumber mill, he shared the idea with some of his partners and set to work on it. The idea? Lumping a fistful of sawdust and cornstarch with a bit of tar to form a briquette. After charring it, it performed exactly what Ford imagined it would. He then built a charcoal briquette factory adjacent to his lumber mill where the waste from one became the fuel for the other. A new Model T was now frequently sold with a bonus bag of Ford Charcoal Briquettes, so you could drive into the woods to camp and not worry about having to find wood for your campfire. So now you know. Ford not only created the modern automobile industry, which takes millions to work and back home each workday, but he also was promoting the weekend grilling and camping activities. In 1951 the Ford Charcoal Briquette Company was sold. The new company was named after Ford's real estate partner who helped him find the land to supply wood for building the early Ford automobiles, E.J. Kingsford. Today, "Kingsford Charcoal" remains the largest producer of charcoal briquettes in the world.



*contributed by Dave Sharratt*

### *Sounds familiar ?*

Just a line to say I'm living  
that I'm not among the dead  
though I'm getting more forgetful  
and mixed up in my old head.

I've got used to my arthritis  
to my dentures I'm resigned  
but ye gods I miss my mind.  
Sometimes I can't remember  
when I'm standing on the stairs  
if I'm going up for something  
or am coming down from there.

And before the fridge quite often  
my mind is full of doubt  
did I just put food away now  
or am here to take some out.

So remember that I love you  
and I wish that you lived near  
it's the time to post this to you  
and to say goodbye my dear.

Now I stand facing the post box  
and my face - I'm sure is red  
'cause this should be going to you  
but I've opened it instead...

*origin unknown*



### *CORONA BEER*

To prevent any unwanted connotation with the Covid 19 virus, the brewers of the popular CORONA beer have decided to change the name to EBOLA.

### *Answers to the wordgame on page 9*

AWN : A, BUSERA : A, CONDOTIERE : C, DEODAR : A, ETAMINE : B,  
FEARNOUGHT : B, GLOGG : A, HAVELOCK : C, INCUS : B,

### *Interesting ?*

There are a 100+ possible journeys between London's tube stations that are quicker to walk. ≈ ≈ ≈ Remember the Jo-Lyons (Joseph Lyons) tea houses ? The management built their own computer and thereby became one of the first companies in the UK to use a computer in business. ≈ ≈ ≈ Only 8% of films made in the USA are produced by women. In Iran this is 40%. ≈ ≈ ≈ 80% of UK mental health patients are smokers. The general population has around 24%.

## Highlighting a Local Club or Organisation.

### *Natural World Photographic Society (NWPS)*

The NWPS, which was formed in 2001, is not a traditional camera club as such and it is not its intention to compete with the many excellent traditional camera clubs that exist in Surrey and Sussex. Our aim is to provide a forum and meeting place for those especially interested in both photography and the natural world, be this taking photographs themselves or just seeing and hearing about the work and experiences of others. We define "the natural world" in the wider sense of the phrase, in that we include landscapes and seascapes as well as flora and fauna. You don't even need to own a camera to join !! However, if you do, then there will be plenty of opportunities to share and talk about your images in a warm, friendly and convivial environment. For the time being meetings are being held via Zoom but we hope to return to normal meetings in September. Normally, the club meets on the last Thursday of each month at the Warnham Nature Reserve in Horsham, Sussex with an 20:00H start. Prospective members are welcome to attend two meetings free of charge after which they would be expected to join. Membership costs per annum are £35, or £55 for two people living at the same address. The December meeting is a Christmas dinner at a



local hostelry (cost not included in membership). The remaining 11 meetings comprise a mix of talks by members and professional speakers. Then we also have our two annual competitions ; the light hearted "It's a Knockout" and the more serious "Image of the Year" competition. The latter is being adjudicated by a judge of professional standing. All recent entries can be viewed on our website.

As a bonus, membership also includes your own gallery of up to 24 images on our website. Most years we run a long weekend trip away for members and their partners. In the past these have included Central Wales (red kites) , Lincolnshire (grey seals calving) and the Farne Islands (seabirds). Members also meet for days out, the most popular being to the annual Deer rut in Richmond and Bushey Parks. The NWPS is affiliated to both the Surrey Photographic Association and the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain and is a member of Crawley Arts Council. The club has had an average membership of between 30 and 40 members, with a variety of skills and experience which are enthusiastically shared. The majority of members have been with the club since its early years, which is a testament to its friendliness. Feel free to browse our website, it will give you a good impression of what we're all about ! *John Alsop*



website : [www.nwps.co.uk](http://www.nwps.co.uk) membership secretary : 07966 293440.

*Our next "ZOOMtalk" is a week from today, Tuesday 13th July, at 11:00H.*

Jim Barnes will give a talk entitled "The People's Vulcan Bomber". If you saw the picture on page 3 you'll know the subject. Jim relates the story of how the iconic Vulcan bomber came to be one of Britain's greatest technical achievements, how it was going to be used in the Cold War and the challenge of getting the Vulcan back into the air for air shows. There is also the Vulcan's participation in the Falklands War. Jim illustrates his talk with video clips and some unique slides. I am still trying to get a speaker for our meeting on the 10th August. Any member who has not yet participated in a ZOOM talk, or has any questions about using ZOOM or would like to have a trial run, is welcome to contact me or John Alsop, our ZOOMmanager. *Steve Challis*

Click below for access to the meeting, or type the link into your browser :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89254418785?pwd=L3lBMmIXU29KTIREbEY-4bXc1WVg4dz09>

And finally...

Even in these dark days there are still enough reasons to celebrate !

In July we pay tribute to the parents of the following people :

Chris Tollast on the 3rd.  
Derek Hanks on the 30th.

Give them a ring and say "Happy Birthday"

Please let us know if your birthday is also in July but is not mentioned.

The editor always has the last word.....

I would like to say a very warm "thank you" to those people who have, with their contributions, made this issue of proBITS possible - take a bow !

*There's one credit that's long overdue :  
page by page has been scanned for mistakes by the Pages.*

Contributions for the next issue are very welcome (if not essential) - and you still have enough time on your hands ! More details on page 2.

Receipt *before* the end of this month would be much appreciated.  
It gives (just) enough time to prepare the next issue.