Maplines

Travel, Exploration and Adventure

Summer 2015 – £3.00

Lovell Johns @ 50!
pages 18-19

London to Copenhagen
pages 8-9

British Historic Towns
Atlas pages 20-21
As corporate member Lovell Johns celebrates its 50th year of cartographic production, we look back at its history and how times have changed in this field. An interesting look at the Historic Towns Trust lies in with this and gives an insight into a long running atlas project.

So, something to whet the appetite for the adventurers among us all. If you have anything you think may interest the readers of Maplines, please contact maplines.editors@gmail.com for further details.

Louisa, Alice and Martin, Maplines Editors

I t has been great to see so many corporate members at the numerous conferences and exhibitions held over the past couple of months; I know many of you dropped in on the BCS stand at GEO Business 2015 and the ESRI UK Conference. The BCS provides a forum to keep in touch with other cartographic professionals and abreast of latest developments. Maplines gives you the opportunity to share your news and views and promote your product news to a wider audience. I encourage you to take advantage of this membership benefit.

We are now looking forward to the combined BCS-SOC Conference in September and I look forward to seeing you in York for what is an exciting programme of talks and workshops and much more.

Alan Grimwade, BCS Corporate Liaison Officer, Cosmographics Ltd, alangrimwade@cosmographics.co.uk

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Notes from our President

A s I set composing this piece, it is the height of the British summer and Wimbledon is just finished. England have been trounced by Australia in the Second Ashes Test and the Open Golf has been extended to Monday, for only the second time in its history, due to extreme weather around St Andrews. But perhaps the most important piece of news this preparation is fully underway for hosting the Joint BCS/SOC Conference at York in early September. Given the fashion for portmanteau words, we did think that bringing a Symposium and a summer school together might result in a ‘Symper School’ or a ‘Symposiummer’, but decided that conference was more straightforward. The organising group have put together a really interesting programme covering a wide range of topics, so I do hope you have booked already. The Map Curators, Historical Military Mapping and GIS Special Interest Groups are all holding events on Tuesday 8th, followed by two full days of the conferences on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th September. The BCS Awards will be made at the Gala Dinner on Wednesday and the judges had their work cut out this year with a large increase in the number of entries, pushing almost 100 in total from around the globe. There will also be a Whisky Tasting session and the Annual President’s Golden Ball Golf Competition, so there is truly something for everyone.

The Restless Earth Workshop at Abager School in early July was our twenty-ninth and last of the academic year – I don’t think any of us realised just how popular these workshops were going to prove to be. We have now been running them in schools for four years and there seems to be no let up in the demand with the programme for 2015/16 already well subscribed with 19 booked in the autumn term and more to follow. Given that we have done relatively little to publicise the workshops, word of mouth has done an excellent job of making them well known and the very positive comments that we get back from teachers show just how valuable the workshop is in developing map skills and getting students to work together in a decision making exercise. There are two specific instances where schools reported that the workshops had been instrumental in encouraging students to choose Geography as one of their GCSEs. There seems to be somewhat of a revival air round as there is a dawning realisation that cartographic skills are critically important to the efficient and effective use of modern GIS based map making technologies. Certainly at both GCSE and A Level, there is a greater emphasis on developing mapping skills and there are signs that University courses are also recognising the need for a greater depth of cartographic instruction within their course.

Nominations for BCS Council will have closed by the time you read this and we will be anticipating the elections at the BCS AGM in November. There will be some changes, particularly as I will have served three years as President and will be standing down; we will also be looking for a secretary as Tim Rideout has completed 10 years in the role and there will be the council positions to consider. One other person who won’t be continuing on the council is Peter Jolly who has decided to stand down from Chair of the Membership Committee. I would like to express my personal thanks to Peter who was my immediate predecessor as President. He handled over the Society in very good order, has continued his interest in its running and administration and has been at the centre of our increasing membership numbers. I have very much valued his advice and he has also been a stalwart of the Restless Earth programme.

As I come to the end of my term as President it is interesting to reflect on what has happened over the last three years. The BCS has continued to grow and now has over 700 members, which in part reflects the growing interest in mapping and the generation of quality products. The availability of mapping tools on the internet continues to grow and as I often say, anyone can now make a map. The number of websites devoted to bad maps, however, shows that not everyone gets it right. Despite the tools of the trade having changed, the basic principles remain the same. Will we see a resurgence in cartographic training availability over the next few years? The demand certainly seems to be out there from enquiries that the Society received at the events we attend and we will get the ball rolling by re-launching the Better Mapping Seminars. There is also a ‘Live Map Critique’ session at the Conference, led by Ken Field and Steve Chilton, so I do hope to see you at York in September to celebrate all that cartography has to offer.

From the Editors & Corporate Report
Recent debate came up on the introduction of ‘cartographic knowledge in the UK’ as Tim Rideout was doing a presentation to the students at Edinburgh University on the subject of “GIS past and present.” The requests were for bad mapping and the following questions arose - What cartographic academics are left in the UK other than the ones I know about on council and the committees/SIGs? How many Universities/Colleges would you say provide any cartographic education as part of their GIS, Geography or whatever courses? A recent meeting at GEO Business brought up some worrying insights about the academics teaching students about cartography and GIS.

ArcGIS is pretty much the only software package that is used... pretty much?! This opened up a lively debate by the members of the BCS Council. The following points were raised:

- Educators seemed to have a totally closed mind and blinkered approach to mapping software and especially the less popular, unknown applications
- The theory and methods of GIS/Cartography should be prioritised over a software package, also the equipment used to gather data should be discussed with their strengths and weaknesses
- There is masses of ‘data’ out there but how does this relate to a map - don’t pile everything onto the map and make it look crowded and lose the initial point of what is being mapped
- ESR1 HE Sector Programme Manager Rob Sharpe, assures us that other proprietary and open source software is used in HE establishments
- The teachers are only proficient in a limited number of software and only have a limited time to learn/teach them
- Only cartographic production principles are taught currently but not the whole of the cartographic principles, as it is generally thought the software output is ‘good enough’
- The little known softwares are dismissed (generally) but in the working world these may be or are being used commercially, so the student is on a back foot at interviews and when entering their place of work
- Costs are a big issue at HE establishments. The big software companies do give HE discounts, however these may not be justified when the budgets are getting constantly squeezed
- The two main issues for David Forrest, Glasgow University: - Small number of staff: becoming familiar enough to teach efficiently – keeping up-to-date is the key - Something different for the students to understand - rather than what they are familiar with
- Map projections, map design, co-ordinate systems and datums are fundamental in the real world and need to be understood
- Market place is very influential – ArcGIS is the main software in many industries and employers focus on that one
- Alan Grimwade suggests ‘in my experience it is more cost effective for someone with a good understanding of cartographic principles to learn to use different software packages than it is to train someone with a GIS background and no understanding of maps and map design to produce quality maps.
- A general consensus from the HE sector is that ‘We’, as professional cartographers, produce a ‘ready to go’ document’ aiding the HE educators, so they have something that they know is viable
- There is no one set of map layouts or colours but the ideas behind the principles are available for many industries to use. Better Mapping Seminars are a great way for BCS to teach best practice.
- Clare Selden at SDS has had success with a series of web seminars
- Likewise Alice Gadney has taught the principles and basics of cartography and GIS to OMV UK, Oil and Gas Sector. (Some still falls on stony ground!!)
- Petar Vujakovic, Professor of Geography at Canterbury Christ Church University suggests map conventions are being used without thought and consideration. Awareness of different styles and terminology is needed.
- ‘Move with the times, change is happening; we need to be strong influencers to the industry’
- ‘Cartographic workforce is strong but is not being replenished to the standard we know - due to a lack of education/training?’
- ‘Cartographer’ is no longer used as a job title... it usually comes with GIS or Spatial attached to it
- Ken Field writes: traditional map making has ‘gone’ and a new progressive/aggressive map-making thirst has erupted:
  - No more academic cartography as it is seen as niche
  - Academic courses are shut if there are no replacements for staff that move on
  - Why don’t we create a BCS MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) – lots of us have the knowledge
  - Cartography has a very bright future if we harness the change... it is progressing very fast
  - Cartonerd.com

Let’s help the educators and the next generation!

“I grew up on the banks of the Zambezi River and most of my childhood was spent climbing trees and chasing elephants out of my garden. This unique childhood has been the fuel for my adventurous ambition and the African memories will remain with me forever.”

Sean Conway has recently come into the public’s eye for Discovery Channel by running the length of Britain with no map, finding his own way through the cities and countryside come rain or shine! Sleeping where he could and carrying only the bare minimum!

1000 miles in around six weeks was the challenge! Starting at John O’Groats on the 21st March 2015, GPS tracked him all the way and a @runwithsean twitter feed has messages of support and ideas! He also ran a mile on certain locations with members of the public. He finished in 44 days on the 3rd May 2015 with a warm welcome at Land’s End. This adventure is currently being aired on Discovery Channel.

He has previously done lots of adventures and exploration worldwide, including cycling Britain in 2008, conquering Kilimanjaro as a penguin in 2011, cycling round the world in 2012 and swimming Britain in 2013. In 2014 he decided to walk to London, 115 miles from his mum’s house to see if it was cheaper than the train fare... he took a video diary and it was definitely winter weather! But what a way to see the country! (It was cheaper by 8p).

So Sean Conway is the only person to have completed the Great Britain Triathlon! He is an inspiration to many – these big challenges can be done and what a great way to see the country and the world!

By Alice Gadney

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Left: Sean Conway during his adventure. Source: www.seanconway.com/2015---running-britain.html

Right: Sean’s route through Scotland. Source: www.seanconway.com/2015---running-britain.html

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Levison Wood: Walking the Nile

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he Nile by foot – from the source in Rwanda to the delta in Egypt; following the trickle of water in the dense forest to the bounding torrents and viewing the wonders of Murchison falls and Lake Victoria. It was simply watching where the river went and following it. No map required. Through dense forest, thick impenetrable swamps, vast deserts, villages and modern cities. The book ‘Walking the Nile’ and Channel 4 Documentary following the explorer Levison and his various guides through the countries of Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, North Sudan and Egypt. The journey wasn’t just about walking the Nile but seeing the countries and its people. In the book, the first chapter captivates you with its unique identity and landscapes. The people though are so hospitable and kind - very friendly. Levison walks a path of history and sees what Stanley and Livingston saw. And also doesn’t see what they saw, as the modern world has created dams flooding valleys and wars destroying important sites. Not only was he walking the Nile but Levison was also highlighting various conservation works including The TUSK Trust and Space for Giants - the never ending problem of poaching of the animals in the wild. In one programme, you see a container stacked full of metal wire snare - it is a shocking image – which was just from a month’s find. In Tanzania, he and his guide Boston came across an elephant that has succumbed to poachers for its tusks. Levison thought and visualised of what happened to the gentle giants! Extremely sad but a daily reality for the Wildlife Authority. Throughout the journey, the most amazing landscapes were filmed and documented by Levison.

The best recollection of his journey was ‘a local man wanted to sleep in his bed instead of in my tent on the floor and he said his house wasn’t far away... I politely declined... several times and then he walked off. An hour later, I saw a walking bed... it was this man and he said - “if you don’t sleep at my house, you can sleep on it here!”... ’There wasn’t much sleep that night – lots of talking and noise!”

In a preamble to a paper presented in 1993 Ian wrote ”I was conceived in Africa and born very near the centre of England”. He grew up on a poultry farm, The Leys in Alvechurch, near Birmingham, with his parents. (Father had returned from Tanganyika working for the Colonial Service in 1935) younger sister and cousin, Ian and his sister attended Dunhurst and Bedales - a small school of 250 pupils with a relaxed attitude and liberal ethos - Ian was suited to this.

The onset of war brought changes to the family - his father went back into uniform as a soldier then to the Foreign Office. His mother took charge of the house and took in evacuee children. As the war ended, Ian was called up and spent 18 months at Barton Stacey as a Sapper. This was not really his thing and he declined applying for a commission. The Leys was sold after his grandfather’s death in 1947, so the O’Briens moved to Reading - handy for his father’s daily commute to London. St. John’s College, Cambridge was where Ian read Geography. His sister read physics at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford eventually becoming Vice-Principal at MIT!

Ian’s early interest and lifelong passion was maps! He recollects finding his grandfather’s huge six inch to the mile map of the area around Alvechurch, which led over the years indirectly to his career and the large collection that he built up over his lifetime. He scored to travel to most places rather than driving, and his knowledge for the railway was phenomenal - perhaps a substitute for Bradshaw!’

After graduating from Cambridge in 1953, Ian took on the role of Map Curator at the Colonial Office and this is where he spent the main part of his career, eventually becoming Assistant Director (Mapping) being responsible for mapping and air photography. In 1984 these functions were merged with the Ordnance Survey and Ian took early retirement. Ian was a founding member at the newly formed British Cartographic Society (28/09/1963), BCS Council 1966-1972 and Vice President 1978 and in 1980 President, also a founder member of the Charles Close Society. Up to the age of 35, Ian lived a bachelor life until he announced his engagement to Marion, a librarian in his department. Marion was the daughter of a Welsh colliery overseer, formerly an officer in the WRNS, four years older than Ian and was a complete contrast to him.

UKCC

Alas I write this, there is a month to go to ICC2015 in Rio de Janeiro. The national report is complete and with Maneyes for production, the entries for the map exhibition have been selected, travel arrangements are all in place and a provisional programme of presentations has just been published. After the summer we have had here so far (certainly in the W of Scotland), it is really good to be able to anticipate some better weather. I am fortunate to be able to bookend the conference with a few days of R&R either end as I doubt due to a busy schedule of meeting, lots of interesting talks, map exhibitions to look forward to and catching up with international colleagues, if there will be much time for relaxing and sightseeing during the week.

The UKCC met in early July to consider the business aspects of the conference. The General Assembly (GA), held every four years, is organised in two sessions, the first on the Sunday prior to the conference proper and the second on the last day. The first session is likely to take up much of the day. It is where reports from the executive are delivered and considered, issues of membership are considered – there are always countries who have not paid for several years and the GA has to vote to exclude them and new members, both national and affiliate, accepted. There is also the usual formal business of accepting the accounts from the previous four years and approving the budget for the next four. All the papers for the General Assembly are publicly available and can be accessed on the ICA website at http://icaicl.org/general-assembly-2015. The budget is bound to lead to some heated debate. The executive are proposing spending 30,000 euros more than the predicted income.

Continued on page 15...
London to Copenhagen by Bike

B ack in January, on one of those short, cold days when I’d had to drag myself out of bed on a dark morning and convince myself to climb on my bike to ride through the rain to work, my thoughts turned - as most people’s do - to the long, hot summer days ahead. I decided that I needed an adventure to look forward to.

My first plan was to fulfil a long-held ambition and ride from Land’s End to John O’Groats. The only worry was it would involve a lot of hills, and my road bike was in such dire need of replacement parts that I worried it wouldn’t even last the distance (irrespective of whether I could). A bit of rough estimating later and I’d worked out it would be a huge test of stamina, but the key question was how to go - I desperately wanted to go with the first option, as it is the most romantic and traditional method.

What finally ruled this option out for me was that I knew how little patience I can have, and the thought of stopping every half hour to try and figure out if I’d missed a turning would be too frustrating. The thought of trying to decipher a sopping wet map in the middle of a rainstorm did also cross my mind...

The satnav option seemed the logical choice, and there are plenty of products out there marketed to this exact application, with Garmin being the best known cycling-specific brand. Having researched in greater detail though, I found plenty of cons to outweigh the pros. To start with you are looking at an investment of at least £200, but worse than that were all the posts on internet message boards complaining about how they can lose satellite connections, or run out of battery power, or simply decide to take you down rough farm tracks despite being instructed to stick to paved roads. Again, I imagined myself in the middle of the countryside, in a rainstorm, with no battery left in the satnav...

It was at this point I realised that I had in my pocket the latest model of smartphone, and it seemed foolish to ignore that. I paid £2.99 for a mapping app (Gallileo) which enabled me to download all the base maps I needed to my phone, and I then drew the route into a .gpx file. I emailed that route into my phone, and when I opened it in the app, it magically appeared on the map. I knew that as long as I kept going South, and kept the sea on my right, I was going the right way! That trip would be described as ‘credit-card touring’, as I would just stop at the end of each day and ride around looking for a hotel, brandishing my card - no real forward planning to speak of.

Preparation

This time around I had a bigger distance to cover, and more complicated sections through cities, so I knew the compass method wouldn’t work. I was left with three options:

1. Buy all the relevant road maps – lots of them as I needed large scale – and attach the current one to my handlebars with the route marked in highlighter.
2. Buy a satnav system, input the full route into that, and just let it lead the way.
3. Buy a handlebar mount and use the mapping software on my iPhone.

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I ordered my bags online from Alpkit (www.alpkit.com) who are based in the Midlands, and three days later they arrived, for the princely sum of £50.

I knew what the route would roughly look like, and spent many happy hours on google maps playing with different variations, but the key question was how to navigate when I finally got out on the road. My only comparable experience was a trip from St Malo to La Rochelle and back eight years previously, and for that I went as low-tech as possible. I literally navigated with a compass, with the occasional stop to check the map. I knew that as long as I kept going South, and kept the sea on my right, I was going the right way! That trip would be described as ‘credit-card touring’, as I would just stop at the end of each day and ride around looking for a hotel, brandishing my card - no real forward planning to speak of.

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Mapathon
Can you design a map to help a charity better understand and communicate its data? If yes why not get involved in the Mapathon? The developer world has been utilising Hackathons for a number of years to rapidly create software for a common, often charitable purpose. The Mapathon adopts the same principles but, rather than software, our output will be high quality cartographic products that reveal previously unseen patterns in the data or maps the charity can use for marketing purposes.

The Mission
Working with data supplied by the Mammal Society, teams or individuals from the cartographic community are invited to gather together to share their ideas, skills and experience for the benefit of others. Each team will have an opportunity to present their work. A panel of judges will review the projects and award prizes.
Note: you are required to bring your own laptop with appropriate software for the exercise.

Presenters
Rob Sharpe Training and Education Services Manager, Esri UK
Paul Naylor Cartographic Design Consultant, Ordnance Survey

Programme
09:00 - Registration
09:30 - 15:30 Mapathon
15:00 - 15:30 Presentations of work
15:30 - 16:00 Judging and announcement of winners

Cost
This workshop is open to all and FREE to attend. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

#mapathon

This BCS GIS Special Interest Group Workshop is part of the BCS-SoC Conference 2015, Mapping Together
Delegates may register for the whole event or on a daily basis. For delegate fees, to view full programme details and to register for this workshop, please visit: www.cartography.org.uk/mappingtogether

BCS - SoC Conference
Mapping Together
8th & 10th September 2015
Park Inn North Street York YO1 6JF

Come and join with mapmakers, map users and other enthusiasts at the BCS - SoC Conference 2015 where delegates from commercial, academic and government organisations share a common interest in using and promoting maps as a valuable means of communication.

A MUST ATTEND EVENT FOR 2015

8th September: Pre-conference Special Interest Group Workshops & Talks
BCS Mapathon • Map Curators’ Group • Historic Military Mapping Group • Helen Wallis Lecture

9th & 10th September: BCS - SoC Conference 2015
Talks • Workshops • Poster Session • Commercial Exhibition • Gala Dinner • Awards Ceremonies

11th September: BCS President’s Golf Tournament

Session Themes
Mapping Yorkshire • Function and Form • New Cartography • Maps on Apps • 3D Views

Reasons to Attend
- Learn from expert practitioners
- Keep abreast of latest developments
- Share tips and techniques
- Gain practical experience at interactive workshops
- Expand your knowledge in a friendly atmosphere
- Network with fellow professionals

For full details of speakers and workshops and to register visit: www.cartography.org.uk/mappingtogether

The British Cartographic Society and Society of Cartographers come together for Conference 2015

The British Cartographic Society is a Registered Charity in England and Wales, number 240004 The Society of Cartographers is a Registered Charity in England and Wales, number 326285
**Tuesday 8th September**

**GIS Special Interest Group Workshop**

**Mapathon**

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**Event Sponsors:** Digital Ordnance Survey, steer davies gleave.

**Map Curators’ Group Event**

**New Maps for Old**

**Paul Duller**

San Bruno: the problems that poor quality maps can create.

**Ifan Shepherd**

Booth poverty maps

**Felicia Davies**

Know your place

**Huw Thomas**

Cynefin: mapping Wales’ sense of place

**Gill Parke**

The First World War in Durham

**Historical Military Mapping Group Event**

**British Military Mapping**

**John Peaty**

First World War

**Brian Garvan**

Second World War

**Peter Jones**

Since the War

**HeLEN WallIS Memorial Lecture**

**Making Maps: the untold stories**

**Rose Mitchell**

The National Archives

HeLEN WallIS was the first female President of the British Cartographic Society, 1972-1974. From 1976 to 1987, she was the Chairman of the Standing Commission on the History of Cartography of the International Cartographic Association and in 1986 she became President of the International Map Collectors’ Society. She was a founder member of the Geography and Map Section of the International Federation of Library Associations. From 1972 to 1998 she was President of the Society for National Research. Helen is remembered in the Society through the Helen WallIS Memorial Lecture.

**Event Sponsors**

Platinum: Ordnance Survey, Esri UK, spatial, Leica Geosystems, VICTORIA LITHO • DIGITAL, GEO ENGINEERING GEOGRAPHY

Gold: Collins Bartholomew, United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, europa technologies

Silver: GeoBusiness, the training and events division of The Geospatial Information Group

Programme subject to change.
For those of you who attended the Symposium at Manwell you will be able to picture the awards displayed during the Symposium and remember the Gala Dinner when they were presented. We had a good turnout, or so I thought, with three entries for the John C Bartholomew Award, seven for the Avenza Award, only one for the OS OpenData Award and 28 for the Stanfords Award. This year we will be pushed for space when it comes to the display as we have had 15 entries for the John C Bartholomew Award, 15 for the Avenza Award, 13 for the OS OpenData Award and 43 for the Stanfords Award.

In addition, for this year only, we have six entries for the Google Award (for mapping of the 2015 UK General Election Results). That gives a grand total of 92 entries this year! Not all are hard copy maps though as the Avenza, OS and Google Awards are in the main soft copy entries. So if you see me in York hanging upside down from the ceiling pinning up Awards you’ll understand! I think the increase in numbers this year is due to the excellent promotion of the Awards by the BCS, Webmasters as well as members who retweet any tweets that are made concerning the awards. For that I thank you all. If knuckles who you are as Twitter notifies me!

I would like to thank in particular Ted Florence, CEO Avenza, who pushed out the Avenza Award to his contacts. That not only brought in entries for soft copy awards but hard copy too. I have received entries (with numbers in brackets) from the following countries: England (40), Scotland (18), Wales (1), Spain (1), Switzerland (1), Hungary (1), Italy (2), Cyprus (3), Nigeria (2), Saudi Arabia (1), Canada (1), Mexico (1), New Zealand (1), the USA (17) and Australia (2). A truly global competition.

I’d also like to thank all those who entered the awards this year. It was only when entries from overseas started coming in and I began corresponding with entrants that I realised that whilst BCS doesn’t charge an entry fee for the awards the entrants have to bear a sizeable outlay as the postage and packing rates for maps winging their way half way round the world are not cheap! The effort put in to submitting an entry is immense and I hope you admire the entries even more due to the circuitous routes and difficulties that had to be surmounted in order for them to arrive on my desk alone the display boards.

I am hoping to set up access to the Google Award entries within the awards display area. You will be enthralled by some of them. I have listed the entries for all the categories on the website and by the time you read this article I will have added a few more items of interest to the awards section. I look forward to seeing you all in York in September. It promises to be a great event this year with not only a celebration of the BCS Awards but also the SoC Awards and the ICA Award entries.

By Jane Sprague, Awards Officer
Cartography in the News

• Wired.com has an interesting article titled “Maps in War.” Wired.com has an interesting article titled “Maps in War.”

• The Ordnance Survey has launched a new initiative to encourage people to make the most of their surroundings – the Get Outside Campaign. Users can set up a pledge to exercise more, or set a personal challenge, and these are plotted on an interactive map. Information is also available on walks and a number of outdoor activities. See www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/getoutside/

• BBC’s Springwatch have embraced the use of GIS to create a time map, indicating the spread of spring throughout the country, tracking the emergence of certain species of flora and fauna, as plotted by viewers. The BBC have teamed up with the Woodland Trust to provide an interactive map.

• The Coxless Crew are a group of women rowing across the Pacific over 5-6 months, from San Francisco to Cairns. The Coxless Crew are a group of women rowing across the Pacific over 5-6 months, from San Francisco to Cairns.

San Francisco to Cairns

Above: Springwatch / Woodland Trust interactive map

F
ollowing the successful study tour of Yorkshire last year to examine Bomber Command, it was decided this year to venture further afield. Amistad the centenary of the First World War, the 75th anniversary of the Second World War and with the forthcoming 600th anniversary of Agincourt, it was decided to mount a battlefield tour to France. Basing ourselves in the cathedral city of Amiens on the River Somme, we would examine three wars: the Hundred Years War, the First World War and the Second World War. The tour being rather longer and rather more expensive than last year, it was expected that there would be fewer attendees. Thus the decision was taken to partner with the British Commission for Military History. This cross-party approach paid a handsome dividend. In the event, 36 people participated. Because of this high number and the weakness of the euro, the costs were much reduced. The party (which included six serving and retired military cartographers) was treated to a brilliant tour led by expert guides and accompanied by a splendid map book. We enjoyed glorious weather, good company and superb food and drink.

“...we examine three wars: the Hundred Years War, the First World War and the Second World War.”

On Thursday 17th April the focus was on the Hundred Years War and the campaigns by Edward III and Henry V in August 1346 and October 1415 respectively. The battles of Crecy and Agincourt are famous in our history and both are currently the subject of re-evaluation and debate. Led by Matthew Bennett of the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, one of the leading experts on medieval warfare, we visited Crecy and then Agincourt and were brought up to date on the latest thinking. In fact, we visited Crecy twice. Matthew took us to both the traditional site of Crecy and the new site suggested by recent re-analyses of old documents, old maps (including the Cassini) and toponyms. At Agincourt we learnt that while the French Army might have been rather smaller and the English Army rather larger than traditionally thought, Agincourt was still a remarkable victory against the odds. Inevitably, Matthew lined up the party on the battlefield and ordered us all to give the archer’s two-fingered salute to his French opponent.

On Saturday 18th April the focus was the First World War and the defensive then offensive operations to the east of the city in 1918.

Continued on page 23...

Left: Lecture at Caumont Stand. Below: Memorial to London Division. Inset: Crowd at WW2 Memorial.

New Editors Wanted!

Maplines are looking for a new person to join our editorial team. This is a voluntary position and involves looking for interesting content, arranging supply of reports from regular contributors, editing and reading of articles. Interested? Contact the editorial team at maplines.editors@gmail.com

Visit the BCS website at www.cartography.org.uk
This year Lovell Johns Ltd is celebrating its 50th anniversary, having been formed in 1965. Our history and experience covers every aspect of map making, from mapping rat infestations in sewers to creating concierge guides for luxury hotels supplied in interactive Ebooks, or even mapping sexual practices across the world.

Our story began in the early 1960’s when a group of academics from Oxford University were introduced to an international programme (i) to research and create historic town atlases and in 1963 set up the British Historic Towns Commission (ii).

The Historic Towns Trust (HTT), as it became, approached Oxford University Press (OUP) for help in creating the atlases. OUP put HTT in contact with Colonel Henry Johns, an experienced ex-military cartographer and cook, and Hammond and Kelk, a local printer. Colonel Johns (the chief) accepted the role as Topographic Editor and in 1965 he formed Lovell Johns Ltd with the sole purpose of making maps for the HTT Atlases.

The original offices were in Rectory Road in Oxford before moving to King Edward Street, just off the High Street, in 1970. With the help of Lovell Johns, the Historic Towns Trust published their first atlas, Volume 1, in 1969. The atlas contained development maps of eight historic towns.

Throughout the early 70’s Lovell Johns primary focus was working on the second Historic Towns atlas but Col. Johns found there was a growing requirement for cartographic skills from other publishers in Oxford such as Macmillan and OUP, and so he began to expand the company.

In 1982 Colonel Johns sold Lovell Johns to two employees, Ben Hill and Angela Oliver, who became joint managing directors. Ben and Angela took up the reigns in running and developing LJ but kept the company focused on cartographic services, but to a wider and growing client base. In 1988 LJ moved to new purpose built offices in Long Harborough Business Park, north of Oxford and have remained there ever since.

The digital age

Until 1991, all of the cartographic work had been produced conventionally, but this changed in 1991 when LJ bought their first computer system, Image Mapper. This was a very expensive system based on Intergraph Microstation and was bought so LJ could produce the London Tube map and derivatives for London Transport. This system was used to create the digital map, but the data then had to be written to large magnetic tapes and be taken to a company in London to output the map to film.

David Stephens joined Lovell Johns as their first digital cartographer in 1992 and a year later LJ bought its first Apple Macintosh computer. The Mac was simpler to use than the MS DOS CAD-based system and so speeded up the transition of conventional cartography to the new digital technology. We soon developed our own software to allow us to convert mapping data from one system to another to give us flexibility. We also bought one of the first GIS’s; back then ArcInfo was supplied on a large pile of 5.25 inch floppy disks!

We found that, when offering general cartographic services to different publishers, we were often asked for similar maps and we realised that if we created these generic map bases in a GIS we could re-use them at different scales and in different styles. We began a process of creating sets of our own cartographic databases covering different parts of the world at a range of scales.

Throughout the early 90’s, LJ continued to grow as a business, the new digital technologies had transformed conventional cartographic production times and costs and LJ could now offer a wide range of map related services.

In 1993 LJ bought out and merged with a mapping company based in St. Asaph in North Wales and in 1996 LJ bought a Swedish company called Maps International. Maps International was run by Bo Gramfors and Ulla Durvall in Stockholm, who had been producing a set of world maps and atlases with a distinctive political colouring style. For the first time, LJ could publish its own set of map products which it did under the Maps International brand.

By 1996, LJ had converted all of its production processes to digital and related digital mapping services and products were a growing area for LJ. This, along with the software to convert between the GIS database and Macintosh graphic platforms was licensed to mapping companies globally such as Rand McNally in the USA, DeAgostini in Italy and Teikoku Shoin in Japan.

LJ now had the capabilities and systems in place to take on larger mapping projects, for example, the production of a large set of street mapping for all major urban areas across the UK. This enabled the publisher to produce over 500 new titles and become one of the largest publishers of UK street mapping products overnight. This project involved processing and producing 68,000 sq.kms of mapping covering 1.7 million streets. The project was completed in schedule in seven months and involved over 120 people.

A new era

In 2000 Angela and Ben sold Lovell Johns to Johnnic Holdings, a large South African PLC. Johnnic had a publishing group called New Holland Publishing, who was tasked with expanding and at this time the Rand currency was fluctuating wildly so it made good sense for them to diversify through different businesses in other countries. Angela Oliver retired from Lovell Johns and Ben carried on working as Managing Director.

In 2010 Ben Hill retired and in 2014 Liz Murray and David Stephens bought Lovell Johns outright from its South African owners (now called Times Media Group). Dave and Liz are 50/50 joint owners of Lovell Johns.

Through to this day LJ’s business is split into:

- Cartographic services
- Digital mapping services incorporating GIS, web and interactive mapping
- Maps International standard product publishing and sales.
- Business Map Centre which is a website offering a range of mapping for businesses.

We remain true to our original remit, everything we do is map related in some way, this is where our expertise is and what excites us! In 2015 we will be producing some really innovative cartographic products and creating interactive websites for government bodies but earlier this year we also completed the mapping for the latest atlas in the Historic Towns series, bringing us full circle back to where we started 50 years ago.

By David Stephens, Managing Director, Lovell Johns


(ii) The British Atlas of Historic Towns project was established in 1963 as part of a pan-European project to produce atlases of consistent scale and content for the easy comparison of the growth and development of European cities.
In fact, the project was conceived with Lovell Johns from the start: the anniversary and has been connected which also celebrates its fiftieth.

The Commission for the History of Towns was set up with the aim of producing atlases of historic towns (large and small) across Europe for comparative purposes. The Commission has encouraged the production of atlases with maps at common scales for easier comparative studies of individual settlements across the continent. All atlases include a principal map of the town at 1:2500, showing it at the point when industrialisation began to change urban form forever.

A committee for producing atlases of Great Britain (the Irish Historic Towns atlas series includes Northern Ireland) started in 1965 and was called the Historic Towns Trust (HTT) — it remains the charity behind the HTTA today. Amongst its founders was Col. Henry Johns, former military surveyor and enthusiast for maps and history and founder of Lovell Johns. The founding editor of the project was Mrs Mary D. Lobel — an enthusiastic but exacting person who had already vanished.

I n the year that Lovell Johns celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, it is good to write about a project which also celebrates its fiftieth anniversary and has been connected with Lovell Johns from the start: the British Historic Towns Atlas (BHTA).

The project involves combining research into its history with the production of maps, showing each town at different stages of development. Every town has a written introduction outlining the topographic development of the town from its foundation onwards. It is written for the non-historian so the style might be described as ‘scholarly but readable’. The maps are the main feature of the atlas and complement the text.

The mapping of each town has changed over the years, and the way the maps are produced has undergone a radical transformation. Volumes I and II of the series combined different towns (seven in the case of Volume I and four for Volume II), whilst Volume II was devoted to the city of London up to 1:1520. Each town has a map to show its regional and local context, a map to show its site (with contours and hydrology emphasised) and maps to show the medieval street names and administrative boundaries (such as parish, ward or borough boundaries).

The focus or ‘main map’ of each town is a 1:2500 plan, which is essentially a summary. The map shows the town at some point in the 19th century, just before its industrialisation. On this base the sites of the town’s principal medieval (pre-1540) and post-medieval public buildings (churches, almshouses, town halls, castles, palaces) are shown, either as solid if they still existed at the time of the base map or in outline if they had already vanished.

Compiling the core maps of the atlas is a painstaking and lengthy task. For the Volume on London up to c.1520, Col. Johns and the other researchers had to attempt to reconstruct the city as it was before the Great Fire. Although many buildings occupied the same sites after the fire as they had before it, some streets and yards changed subtly, some disappeared and, of course, the riverside was radically different from the Thames Embankment we are now familiar with. Col. Johns’ careful and neat notes and sketches has been preserved and deposited with part of the HTT archive in the Bodleian Library.

For the Volumes that have recently been published, or are currently being worked on, the first Ordnance Survey (OS) large-scale maps have been taken and digitised to use as a base for all maps. Lovell Johns have undertaken vector digitising of the main features on the OS maps (including buildings, roads, paths and streets, trees, property and field boundaries, water features and labels) but minor features (such as kerbs, benchmarks and post boxes) have been omitted. The maps have then been joined into a seamless map database.

This base map has been enhanced with the addition of historic building sites. That is often easier said than done, of course! Where buildings still remain, or were clearly shown on earlier maps, it is a straightforward process, but when trying to reconstruct a medieval landscape archaeological and documentary evidence is relied upon, often combined with Holmesian detective work and educated guesswork. However, the point of a historical atlas is to show the past in map form, so making a good estimate of where something was and putting it on the map is, ultimately, more helpful than leaving it for the reader to guess where it might have been.

The principal map has then been used as a greyed-out background for a series of maps, showing the town at different phases in its development, including the settled area and main buildings. Of course, the further you go back in history, the more speculative it is, but in many ways more interesting. By mapping the town at different dates on a common base, it is possible to show how towns have changed — it should not be assumed that growth always comes from a core; the maps show how the focus of some towns has shifted and how some settlements have shrunk and then regrown.

The first three Volumes are bound, hardback books, but for the Volumes currently being worked on the format has changed. The maps that are now presented as individual A2 sheets with a single fold to A3. They are placed in a stiff-card, printed portfolio with a pocket to house both the maps and the text, which is printed and bound as a separate fascicule. This means the maps can be taken out individually and set out next to one another for comparison. The portfolio also contains illustrations, including reproductions of some early maps. The text incorporates a gazetteer, listing all named sites shown and giving a brief history.

Early Volumes were all created manually and printed in six spot colours. Lovell Johns have kept many of the films and scribe sheets, which have also been deposited with the Bodleian Library. Now that production is entirely digital, the technology of map production may be studied in years to come, using the BHTA as an example! Current Volumes in production use Adobe Illustrator for the mapping work and printing is in process colours, opening up the design possibilities.

As part of the project, the principal map has been used to create spin-off maps of York, Winchester and Windsor and Eton, which are sold separately and published by Old House Books. It was the map of York that won the Stanfords Award for printed mapping and the BCS Award last year — it was very gratifying for the partnership with Lovell Johns, as well as the huge amount of work involved, to be recognised.

The BHTA is alive and well, and in a very productive phase. The atlas of Windsor and Eton was published in March 2015 and the atlas of York (the culmination of a 40-year project) is in press and will be published later this year. Winchester will be published next year and work on Oxford is well advanced. After that, work will be completed on other towns, and there are hopes to contribute to the UK City of Culture status of Hull for 2017. Looking to the medium and long term, purely digital delivery of the atlases is being investigated, opening up a new way of broadcasting to a different audience.

By Giles Darkes, Cartographic Editor to the BHTA
An Outer Hebridean Adventure

One sunny Saturday morning in late May, I boarded the Calmac ferry from Oban to Lochboisdale, on the Outer Hebridean island of South Uist, some five hours across what is reputed to be one of the roughest crossings in the British Isles. If you don’t believe me, look it up on YouTube! I was setting off on an adventure I had long coveted; since reading the Peter May Lewis trilogy, I had an impression of a remote, barren, wild place punctuated with sandy beaches. I can now confirm that this is exactly how the islands are. I took part in a 10 day group cycling tour, taking in all the major islands, 400 miles in total, and encountered weather that was reliably unpredictable, from bright sunshine to horizontal hail, with everything in between, but all accompanied by a ferocious wind, which seemed to always be at our back.

The tour set off from Lochboisdale and travelled down to Barra, where we circumnavigated the island, taking in the stunning view of Kisimul Castle in the appropriately named Castlebay. Over the next day, we rode up through South Uist, Benbecula and North Uist, finishing with a particularly memorable 15 mile cycle one evening into the wind and rain to Lochmaddy. The welcome sight of a hotel looming out of the rain after a long day in the saddle can never be underestimated! A ferry onto Harris and a cycle along the Golden Road to Tarbert was followed the next day by the trek north onto Lewis with a stop to see the standing stones at Callanish, before arriving at the Gearannan Blackhouse Village, where we were to have a day off. Much planning and discussion followed, many maps and guide books were consulted – some of the group had a walk, some slept, while most of us naturally went for a bike ride. We rode to the Butt of Ness, the northern point of the islands, which really does feel like the end of the world.

Our next travelling day took us to Stornoway, capital of the Outer Hebrides, with a population of 8000, although it felt like being in Central London after such remoteness. The remainder of the holiday was spent cycling back down through the islands to Lochboisdale to catch the ferry to Oban, from where we all said our goodbyes and set off on the long trips home.

Maps may seem to be a little unnecessary on a set of islands where the main road through the islands is mostly single track with passing places, but the excitement of sitting around the table each evening, planning the best places to stop and any detours to take in particular sites, is a highlight of any tour. As we have all experienced, as soon as you confess to being a cartographer, the assumption is that you always know where you are and can take charge of navigation. I carried a Garmin GPS with OS 50k mapping, which was invaluable for route tracking, and a useful reference for surrounding features. Unfortunately, cafes are not shown, but something has to be left to chance.

I can certainly recommend the Outer Hebrides as a holiday destination – I have memories of the trip that will always stay with me. It is like nowhere I have visited before and was all that I hoped it would be, and much more.

By Louisa Keyworth

Membership
New Members
The Society has the pleasure of welcoming the following new members, who have joined since the Spring Maplines 2015:

Corporate Members

Educational Members
Blessed George Napier RC School, Cheltenham Ladies College, Crofton School.

UK Members
Mr J Bourne, Mr S Burry, Mr S W Cameron, Mrs B Crudidge, Miss J Graves, Mr R Halliday, Mr A Hamilton, Mr N Hankin, Mr A J W Hitchins, Miss S Hopkins, Mr O D Madgwick, Mr K A Mclloyd, Mr S Miller, Dr N Nourse, Miss K V Smith, Mr W VICK, Miss R Wilson, Mr Wiskin.

Overseas Members
Dr H Brogiato (Germany), Mr L Bruckner (Romania), Major M Cosler (USA), Mr A Hajdu (Hungary), Dr J Moser (Germany), Mr T Okeye (Ghana), Mr J S Ramprakash (India).

Associate Members
Miss L Orton, Mr P J Stewart, Mr Xu Teo.

And finally . . .
For once the heading is very apt as this is my final Admin Report as the BCS Administrator and by the time you read this a new Administrator will be in office. I have really enjoyed my six years in the post and in that time I have made quite a few friends (and possibly some enemies!) along the way, but as I get older I feel that it is time to make way for, perhaps, a younger person to take on the Administrator’s role. I warn my successors that, although a rewarding task, it is not an easy one, especially as the Society is in the process of rebranding its image.

I have really enjoyed attending the Symposiums, but being of a pure admin ilk, I felt for most of the time like a fish out of water, although meeting members and making new friends certainly made up for that. I have served three Presidents, each with a different working way, but all with the same aim – to further the status of the Society and its members, to which I believe they have all done and achieved in an excellent manner.

I would like to thank all of those who have helped to make my task easier in the past six years, the Hon Treasurer Jim Nicol and my mentor Ken Atherton, both of whose advice I have often sought. Also, of course, my good lady Fran, whose support was invaluable. Last, but not least, I thank you the members for your support and I wish you and the Society well in the coming years.

Goodbye and farewell,
Roger Hore

... Continued from page 17
We were led by Charles Messenger and Geoffrey Vesey-Holt, both retired officers and distinguished military historians.

In the spring of 1918, the Germans launched a huge offensive, one of the aims of which was to catch the Amiens with its railway lines and marshalling yards and so oblige the British Expeditionary Force to retreat. Thanks to the efforts of the BEF (including Australians on 25th April the Germans were held and Amiens saved. From Amiens in the summer of 1918 the BEF launched the great counter-offensive which broke the German Army on the Western Front. Whereas Crepy and Aigncourt are well-known, the battle of Amiens is less so. Yet it was called by Churchill one of the four supreme achievements in British military history and is today regarded, almost a century on, as the beginning of modern warfare. On 8th August the BEF (including Australians and Canadians) gave the German Army its “Black Day”. This was made possible by a devastating surprise artillery bombardment, which in turn was made possible by excellent surveying and mapping. The BEF did not sink against it and advancing until 100 days later on 11th November when the Germans, driven back into Belgium, sued for peace.

On Friday and Saturday evenings dinner was taken on the picturesque Quai Belu, on the opposite bank from the cathedral in St Leu, the restored artisan quarter of the city.

On Sunday 19th April we looked at the Second World War and specifically the 1940 campaign by the BEF. Everyone has heard of Dunkirk and the evacuation of the
Early Bird Bookings
MUST be received by
17th July 2015

BCS - SoC Conference 2015
Mapping Together
Park Inn • North Street • York • YO1 6JF

Registration

TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER
Map Curators’ Group / Historic Military Mapping Group Events
Includes lunch, refreshments and Helen Wallis lecture
£75.00

Mapathon
Includes lunch and refreshments
FREE

WEDNESDAY 9TH AND THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
One-day Conference Attendance (Wednesday and / or Thursday)
Includes lunch and refreshments
£99.00 per day

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION

Dinner, B&B, single occupancy
Please circle night(s) required: Mon / Tues / Wed / Thurs
£115.00 per night

B&B, single occupancy
Please circle night(s) required: Mon / Tues / Wed / Thurs
£103.50 per night

Dinner, B&B, twin share (per person) (see note below*)
Please circle night(s) required: Mon / Tues / Wed / Thurs
£69.00 per night

B&B, twin share (per person) (see note below*)
Please circle night(s) required: Mon / Tues / Wed / Thurs
£57.50 per night

EVENING MEAL ONLY, NO ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED
Please circle day(s) of attendance: Wed / Thurs

£20.00 per dinner

GALA DINNER ONLY, NO ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED (WED)
(NOTE: Full board on Wednesday 9th September includes the Gala Dinner)
£30.00

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

York Minster / NRM Visit - Wednesday 9th September
£15.00

Whisky Tasting - Thursday 10th September
£25.00

Golf Tournament - Friday 11th September
£34.00

* Twin Rooms
Please provide the name and email address of the person you are sharing with and ensure we receive their booking form within five working days of yours.

Name of sharer ........................................
Email ....................................................

DELEGATE

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Organisation ................................................
Address .....................................................
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Email ......................................................

Special Requirements: diet / special needs / other
(please specify) ...........................................

WORKSHOP CHOICES
full details at www.cartography.org.uk/mappingtogether

Wed 9th Sept: Workshops 1 ................................
Wed 9th Sept: Workshops 2 ................................
Thurs 10th Sept: Workshops 3 ..........................

PAYMENT

☐ I enclose payment by cheque
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Please note that a 3% surcharge applies for credit card payments. No charge is made for debit card, invoice or cheque payments.

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Expiry Date .............................................. Security Code ................................

☐ Please invoice my organisation quoting reference

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Regional Cancellation Policy
Confirmed registrants who do not participate or who cancel after 24th July 2015 will forfeit their entire registration fees. BCS-SoC reserves the right to cancel the event if the minimum registration is not met. In the event of BCS-SoC cancellation, all registration fees will be refunded. Refunds are not given for no-shows.

Delegate

Full Name ....................................................
Organisation ................................................
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Telephone ..................................................
Email ......................................................

Special Requirements: diet / special needs / other
(please specify) ...........................................

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