

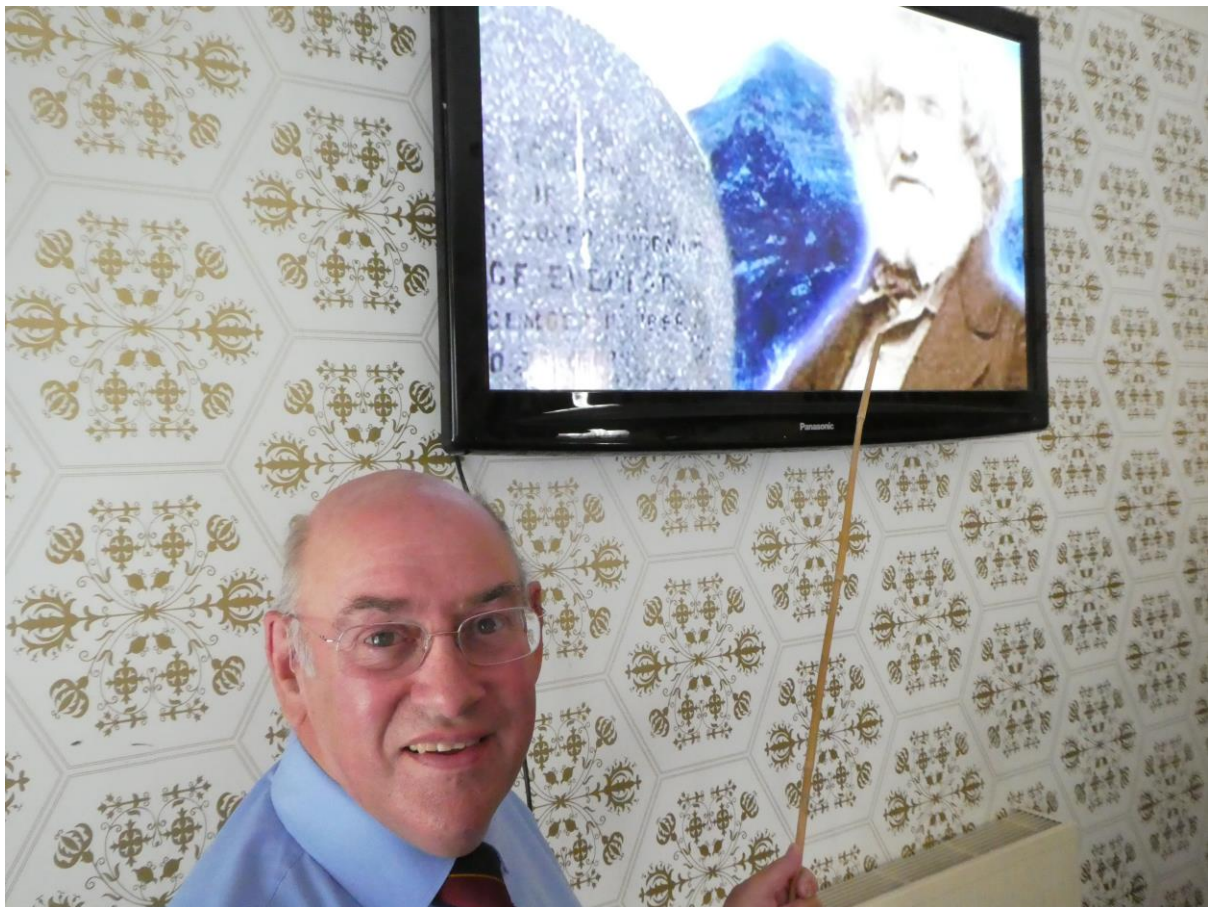
KYRLE PROBUS 2 AUGUST 2018

A tribute to Sir George Everest – after whom the iconic Himalayan mountain was named – was paid at the Kyrle Probus Club meeting on Thursday 2 August.

The brilliant surveyor ‘objected strongly’ when it was suggested that Everest be named in Sir George’s honour.

Club member Andy Rogers said although Everest “probably never saw the mountain” he was subsequently knighted for his fastidious work on the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India.

“He is my hero,” said Andy. “Hard working and industrious, he was the epitome of an 18th century scientist.”



“He worked under very difficult circumstances to get a fantastic result.”

Commissioned by the East India Company in 1802 and begun in 1806, it was projected to take five years, but the main survey took almost 40 years.

Everest joined the project in 1818 and took over on William Lambton’s death in 1823, completing his work in 1843. Elephants, horses, camels and 700 labourers were involved.

He had returned to England due to ill health but returned to India in 1830 with improved equipment and methods.

Compensating bars instead of metal chain allowed measurement of baselines of 39,183,783 feet (7.42 miles) to an accuracy of a tiny fraction of any inch.

The height of Everest has been variously measured between 29,000 and 29,055 feet. It moves 2 inches NE and rises 0.1 inch each year. Snow cover of 5 to 20 feet confuses.

Sir George, who died in 1866 at the age of 76 was a member of the Royal Astronomical Society and the Royal Geographical Society. He attended Sandhurst then the Royal Military Academy in 1806 attaining the rank of Colonel.