



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY



WESTBEX EDITION APRIL 2014

Chairmans Report

Yet another successful Westbex Fair and this year we had much better weather for both the dealers and our visitors.

Our thanks must go to many of our club members for their efforts in making this event a great success. Westbex just could not take place without them.

To all the club members who helped with the setting up on Friday evening and the clearing away afterwards.

The Westbex committee of Graeme Stewart – all the bookings and dealers - and Martin Farr for the publicity and programmes.

To Ann Martin who, yet again, organised a great raffle and sold the tickets for us and to Ian Keel for overseeing the National Philatelic Society room and exhibits.

And finally to the welcoming team that manned the front desk to sell more raffle tickets and issue programmes.

Thanks to you all, Barney Bardsley, Chairman

Year 48

Issue 124

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Francis Kiddle presents....

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Spring Photo Gallery



`12-postcard` picture of Napoleon and one of the cards that were sent. (4th down on right)



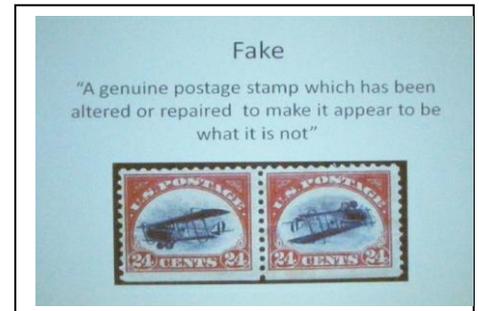
Letter from King Farouk's private secretary to New York



The start of the Derby of 1844



U.N. One Planet One Ocean.



A famous fake

John Tingey with his power-point display and exhibits

Just some of John's display material



A lovely set of Cinderella Postcards

Francis Kiddle presents



The Finland Steamship Co. and Lollanske Railway issues.

PAST EVENTS

Monday 6th January

The theme for this meeting was `Stars of Stage and Screen` and on a cold and wet afternoon we had 14 members present.

Ian Keel started the meeting off by showing English and American stars with stamps, covers and PHQ cards.

Tony Jordan said that the world was his stage and so he brought horses! What else! – 3 lovely large covers of horses and jockeys and some Christmas cards of the same subjects. Then finally a great first day cover from June 6th 1979, marking the 200th anniversary of the Epsom Derby.

Juliet Keel showed some very old lovely postcards of Sarah Bernhardt, Lilly Langtry and Ellen Terry which were all pre 1912. Then several more sheets of the `Old Time Music Hall` stars. Quite a lovely display from her collection of postcards.

There were only these three shows of items and so **Ann Martin** gave out raffle tickets for Westbex.

After refreshments we had a mini-auction conducted by David Beddoes where 15 items from 25 were sold and, to finish off the afternoon there was a discussion and choice of the Monday afternoon meetings for the rest of the year. (See the future meetings data on the back pages).

Thursday 16th January

Today's theme was `New Acquisitions`. There were 19 members in attendance and 8 showed some of their recent new material.

John Tingey started off with some unusual `Instalment` sets of postcards. These cards have been produced since 1902 and are still sometimes issued today, mainly as advertising material. Each set consists of a set of cards sent in sequence to the same recipient which, when placed together, make a larger picture. John showed some impressive sets particularly the Napoleon set of 12 cards.

Ian Keel followed with the varied and numerous items received from the Royal Mail just after the Christmas period – The year book, Smilers, a Presentation pack and a First Day cover.

Bob Paterson showed us several pages of Island stamps from Ascension to St Vincent that he had recently acquired and he was followed by **Barney Bardsley** who presented a miscellany of `Turned Covers`, early First Day cover issues and `wing margins`.

In the second half **Malcolm Hoskins** not only had an impressive collection of RAF covers but also the wrapper from an unbelievable bar of chocolate-covered marmite! He said that it was `just `orrible`.

Dave Tanner brought some items with Royal Egyptian connections such as stamps and postcards and also showed a magnificent book of photographs of the very first U.S. National road.

Alan Cross presented his latest Australian watermarks and shades issues plus a complete 150th Australian Anniversary set of 49 stamps priced at 2/6d.

Then finally **Sue Hopson** had a rare story to tell. In 1977 she bought a fine but empty Seychelles envelope that was dated June 1895 with a pencil-written registration number. Then, just before Christmas 2013, she managed to purchase the official letter recording the missing letter that bore the same registration number. Serendipity or what! Quite amazing.

For all those that braved the dark and the pouring rain it was quite a rewarding evening

Monday 3rd February

There were 25 present for this meeting (what a good turn-out) with 12 wishing to show their `Illustrated Covers`.

Mike Gurr commenced with some pictorial covers showing Fire Engines and some very nice Benham covers plus several showing birds.

David Beddoes showed a good selection of Benham covers issued by Jersey.

Jerry Wilson displayed a nice selection of pictorial covers including `The House of Windsor`, Royalty and Windsor Castle with Court Post Office postmarks. Unusual.

Mike Smith showed illustrated covers from when he was an engineer building bridges in Africa. The covers had Botswana Lions Organisation connections on some of them plus some commemorating the royal visit to Botswana.

Malcolm Hoskins showed some proper illustrated covers and not F.D. covers! these were advertising covers, lots of variations from Camp Coffee to beer and washing powder, watches and pickles. Where does he get them all from?

Ben Hampton showed us some United Nations - `One Planet one Ocean` and endangered species covers. **Tony Hillier** presented 3 first day covers from Belgium postmarked for the century ., Some independence issues and 5 Royal Family issues from Belgium.

There was a mini-auction at half time where 6 from 20 lots were sold.

Graeme Stewart started off part 2 by showing 1840 Mulready covers, some hand illustrated covers and some military issue covers from the Thatcham depot.

Ian Keel presented various illustrated covers and a card signed by D Liddiard!

Ann Martin showed some Benham silks from Guernsey and ones that she liked from the Channel islands plus a lovely postcard sets of the Queen Mum, a Radio Times cover and Kew gardens.

Tony Jordan showed us illustrated letter fronts with some Madely designs of ~1840, some early American issues and 2 letters from a Dynamite Company to a Goldmine Surveyor!

Finally **Dave Tanner** showed some illustrated covers including some early Egyptian, sports covers, trams, and some military and heraldry issues.

Once again a most entertaining afternoon.

Thursday 20th February . There were 20 members present for `Stamp Chat – All you want to know about stamps` which was presented by **John Tingey** with an excellent power-point presentation.

John started off talking and displaying examples of – Essays, Un-adopted essays, Proofs, Colour trials, Imprimatur (first sheet printed from the approved final stamp design), Specimens, Final issue stamps and Cinderellas (resembling a stamp but not issued by the Post Office).

He continued with Poster stamps (Cinderellas with an advertising element), Forgeries, Fakes (genuine stamps that have been altered to make them appear to be what they are not), Facsimiles, Reprints (from the original plate years after the original stamps ceased to be issued), Faux mail (e.g. and art cover that has the appearance of being posted). Perforations (the number of holes in 2cm), imperfs and line perfs (corners not aligned) and combined perfs (corners tidy) and treasury rouletted (wavy edges).

Then John talked about Covers, Cards, Postal stationary, Letter sheets (often pre-paid), Wrappers for newspapers, Postcards and Letter cards, Postmarks with early examples of British ones such as numeral, double and duplex types, Cancellations (must be on the stamp), Cachet (illustrating the circumstances in which the item has been posted), Meter marks – usually red – postage will be paid when the meter is read and a bill raised, Postage paid impressions (TNT, UL Mail etc), Reply paid stationary, Freepost.

This was followed by examples of Mint, Un-mounted mint, Heavily mounted, Used, (superb and poor), cancelled to order (cancelled but not sent) and Postmarked to order (and sold at face value).

For part two and as time was pressing due to a very full first half, John said that when in doubt then obtain a copy of “Philatelic Terms Illustrated” which contains a mine of information. There was then a general discussion about Illustrated and Pictorial FDC`s, Slogans and Advertising covers and Hand –drawn covers and several examples were shown by John and Graeme Stewart to illustrate these items.

This was a most intelligent and informative evening and I am sure that everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. Well done John.

Monday 3rd March and the subject for the evening was - World War I and World War II

To start off this interesting subject **Tony Jordan** displayed some illustrated covers of wartime locations. A Battle of Britain FDC. Some covers of Hitler and Mussolini from 1941 and covers of German wartime boats including the `Altmark` - the German supply ship that, with much signals confusion, was sunk in the then neutral Norwegian waters with many British P.O.W`s on board.

Tony Hillier showed some Belgian issues including the `Tin Hat` issues, Ypres memorial gate M.S. and some Red Cross issues with several mini sheets.

Then **Jerry Wilson** showed us many of his WWII collection including stamps and covers of the river Plate, 1940 Dunkirk, the Atlantic convoys, several lovely illustrated covers of Pearl Harbour and some showing the surrender of the Japanese. Quite a comprehensive display. **Malcolm Hoskins** then showed us signal covers, old petrol coupons, ration books and a driving licence, an air-raid precautions handbook and an old army pay book. **Bob Paterson** followed with WWII postcards – war in the Pacific, Japanese aircraft carriers, Pearl Harbour and lovely cards of many of the Battleships involved. A new member to the meetings – **Chris Hall** – showed very old war covers and postcards to and from family and friends and some interesting Free French newspaper wrappers. **Ian Keel** displayed lots of WWI material including stamps, covers, postcards and ephemera covering many aspects of the war, its leaders and other personalities. **Dave Tanner** showed WWII Persian covers and items from various locations, censor marks from 1940 onwards plus registered letters and covers. Then some German covers.

To start part 2 **Ben Hampton** showed lots of items relating to operation 'Pedestal' which was the relief of Malta in August 1942. HMS Manchester was torpedoed during the operation and sank. Ben then spoke about the wreck being located in 2002. **David Beddoes** displayed lots of WWII covers from the Channel Islands and Isle of Man – war memories, D-Day and 'Overlord' operation. To finish off this most entertaining afternoon **Graeme Stewart** showed many local wartime items including letters, covers, cards from Rouen R and R centre to local families, field P.O. marks, censor covers and a copy of an envelope written to a Phillip Cockril in a Japanese POW camp who was a former Hon. Life member and a local dealer. What a great informative and interesting afternoon.

On Tuesday 16th March **Bob Paterson** went to the Worthy Down society and gave a talk on '2,000 years to lift-off' - the American space programme up to and including the Apollo missions. Both Bob and his displays were well received by a most appreciative audience.

Thursday 20th March

This evening we had a treat in store – Francis Kiddle and his talk on Cinderellas. Francis was a past president of the Royal, ex chairman of the Cinderella society and is the current patron of the Hampshire Federation and he had also just got back from philatelic business in Aberdeen !

So what is a Cinderella? Very simply it is a postal item not mentioned in Stanley Gibbons. Francis started with a board of Stampex exhibition material dating from 1929-34 including pigeon post, auto-gyro covers and rocket flown items. Then he showed Danish railway stamp issues from 1874-5 and more from 1910-27, then several sheets of local stamps. The clue re Cinderellas is above – where a post office or postal service did and does not exist then local companies and organisations issued/issue these stamps and pre-paid items to transport them from place to place for you or to deliver to where a post service was. Francis then showed lovely sheets of Finnish locals from 1873-99 including city post and coastal services plus those carried inter-islands by steamship.

For part 2 Francis showed some 1953 coronation issues, revenue issues and Red Cross. Then some hotel items that were issued to guests. The hotel would deliver them to distant post offices. Then some Australian states issues carried by railways to and fro, some very nice De La Rue trial stamps and stamps issues by dealers for advertising purposes including stamps, labels and pictorials etc.

To finish off Francis displayed some lovely Belgian and Czech Republic pictorial issues and labels plus proofs, colour sequences and finally trial issues for the Bath 22nd Congress of 1935.

It



The 9-sheet competition displays

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Please can I have a raffle ticket

ncis for



A general view of the fair

3.

THE WESTBEX PAGE



Dave and Graeme having a rest!



The Friday night
`putter-uppers`



Ann presenting John Findlater with his raffle prize

The Westbex Raffle run by Ann went extremely well. There were 10 prizes that were mostly won by society members. One non-member bought just one ticket and he won the 5th prize with it! The results are-

1 st prize of £100 won by Louise Funnell	2 nd prize of Stamp Stock book won by James Stevens
3 rd prize of a bottle of gin won by John Shambrook	4 th prize of a lamp won by Joyce Patterson
5 th prize of a radio won by C. Curtiss	6 th prize of toiletries won by Mike Ward
7 th prize of a watch won by Ted Collins	8 th prize of an Album won by Mike Ward
9 th prize of a bottle of wine won by Richard Onyon	9 th prize of Grand Marnier won by John Findlater

The National Philatelic Society held their regional meeting at 1.30pm and several of their members gave talks and display. Two of our society members displayed material :-

Bob Paterson showed some of his lovely sheets on the Cosmos - `Patterns in the Sky – the Constellations`.

Graeme Stewart displayed cards and letters showing Newbury Cancellations and Postmarks. Both were very well received.

The Thames Valley Philatelic Federation 9-sheet competition results.

Traditional Class

1 st David Potts from Oxford	Modern German private posts.
2 nd Tony Simmonds from Maidenhead	The Nigeria 1961 Definitives
3 rd Stephen Marks from Oxford	Albania`s first Definitives – Skandberg Issue

Postal History Class

1 st Malcolm Gascoyne from Henley	The Foreign Post Office – Inception to 1797
2 nd Tristan Brittain from Oxford	Postal History of Harar, Ethiopia, 1898-1919
3 rd Derek Steele from Wokingham	Scottish halfpenny Tax Mark 1813-39

Thematic Class – There were no entries.

Open Class

1 st Trevor Cornford from Wokingham	Shackleton`s Nimrod Antarctic voyage
2 nd Tony Stanford from Maidenhead	Netley Hospital

Aerophilately

1 st Greg Wynn from Maidenhead	Development of the Canal Zone airmails
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Cinderella Class

1 st Mike Payne from Oxford	Printer marks on U.S. Xmas seals
2 nd Eddie Spicer from Maidenhead	U.S. Philatelic Society Exhibition labels

USEFUL WEBSITES

Tony Bray for World new issues at www.tonybray.co.uk

Royal Mail for all past and new issues at www.royalmail.com

The Society website with lots of data and links at www.tdps.co.uk

Avion Thematics – one of the best organised sites at www.avionstamps.com

The Avion website now incorporates the stock listings for Phoenix International

Portsmouth stamp shop for awkward items and covers at www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk

A.B.P.S for all the latest philatelic news, events and links at www.abps.org.uk

Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

25th March

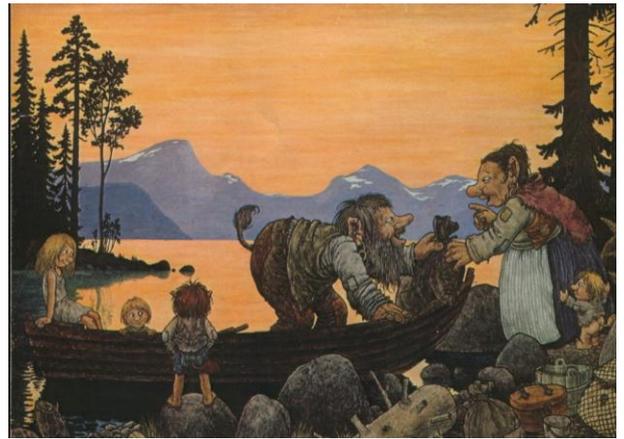
Remarkable Lives

21st April

Buckingham Palace

13th May

Great British Films



Some Postcards for you

Some lovely postcards of Troll Families from watercolour paintings by Rolf Lidberg who is a painter, a botanist and an active fighter against pollution.

THE BACK PAGE

“Club Stamps” corner

Club Stamps are well looked after by **Dave Tanner** who will be present at most of our club meetings. There will usually be a Club Table at all stamp fairs held at the Memorial Hall.

Accessories. Dave is also the contact for the purchase of all philatelic accessories – most of which are available to be ordered at a small discount.

Stamps of the World Catalogue set (normal price - £200) – TDPS price £155 + p&p

Collect British stamps (normal price - £12.95) – TDPS price £10 + p&p

GB Concise (normal price - £30) – TDPS price £23.50 + p&p

A small percentage always goes to club funds. Give Dave a ring on 01256 780467

**We are sorry to inform you of the passing away of George Goody last December
For many years George had been the society scrutineer for our accounts and only gave it
up last year. Our sincere condolences go out to his family.**

Also

**of Donald Farmborough who was a Harwell Society member who died suddenly
in early April. Donald organised both their society auctions
and the Didcot stamp fairs.**

Future Programme and Events

Monday 7 th April	`Queens` - (of any type or description!)
Thursday 17 th April	`Free Fronts` with Sue Hopson
Saturday 19 th April	Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall
Monday 12 th May	`The Faroe Islands` with Colin Lee from Reading
Thursday 15 th May	Auction of club lots plus `My favourite stamp`
Monday 2 nd June	Marine Life
Thursday 19 th June	`1776 plus or minus a bit` with Tony Jordan
Monday 7 th July	The Monday Cup competition followed by Bob and Martin entertain.
Thursday 17 th July	`Philatelic Quarters` - (Members displays)

In November the society will be holding its annual auction. It is not too early to think about the lots that you may wish to enter. Mike ward will be handling the listings which should be ready by early September and he would be grateful if you could feed him your data gradually. The actual lots will be accepted later but in time for viewing at the September Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall.

Officers of the Club

President	John Baron	01235 820120
Chairman	Barney Bardsley	0777 0376 235
Vice Chair	Mike Gurr	01635 43398
Secretary	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942
Treasurer	Mike Ward	01635 864307

Committee

Bob Paterson	01635 44848
Tony Jordan	01189 302279
Colin Bartholemew	01635 865457

Archivist	Julia Wilson	WestBex	Will, Graeme and Martin	Publicity	Martin Farr
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