



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

SPRING WESTBEX EDITION APRIL 2017



The Chairman's Report

Yet another excellent Westbex with a lovely sunny day. Lots of new faces turned up for the fair with several asking about membership.

Many thanks to our club members for their time and effort in setting up on Friday evening and the clearing away afterwards on the Saturday.

Thanks to the Westbex committee of Graeme Stewart for all the bookings and dealer liason and Martin Farr for all the publicity and signage involved.

To Ann Martin who yet again organised the raffle and sold the tickets for us and to all those who donated prizes.

Finally thanks to the car parking team who helped with the dealers and to Ann and Jean who `manned` the front desk and sold even more raffle tickets and to Graeme who issued the programmes and society data .

Thank you all. Barney Bardsley, Chairman

Year 50

Issue 136

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A Busy Westbex

For further information on anything in this newsletter please contact

Martin Farr, Editor

Tel 01635 866437

or

Graeme Stewart, Secretary

Tel 01635 866942

Photo Gallery



Concorde anniversary sheets



Zeppelin anniversary



Ross Dependency cover that went around the world



Saucy French naval postcards



Balloons over Burma



Triple cigarette cards



Love in Newbury



Lovely Persian cards



Lots of crawly things



A nice Botswana set



The sports of London



International code flags



Phillip Cant



The Titanics that aren't



Spitfires with wrong markings



An almost immovable Big Gun

PAST EVENTS

Monday 9th January and the theme was `Balloons and Flight`. There were 17 members present.

Martin Farr started the afternoon with a nice display of cards, stamps and illustrated sheets showing the early history of balloons, first air mail from Paris by balloon, the evolution of dirigibles, some nice covers carried on the first flights of the Graf Zeppelin (one was a very nice known forgery) and the ending with the Hindenberg disaster stamps and covers.

Dave Tanner then showed us lots of sheets and covers about the Montgolfier brothers and many other items and finished off with covers and items about mans first flight in a balloon.

Graeme Stewart then displayed post boxes that were used for Air Mail. In June 1930 post boxes became dedicated in London and the rest of the country in 1931 with their distinctive blue colour. Then he showed sheets of air mail covers of U.K. and Europe and a great cover from Ross Dependency that had been all around the world.

Neil Hatton was next up and showed lovely postcards of early aircraft of the RAF, a 1914 letter card from the German trenches and the `Military Dove` a very early German plane. The he showed a cartoon of a Zeppelin spying on a young couple and finished off with a large picture of balloons across Burma.

David Beddoes then showed us air mail covers of flight and aircraft and several covers of the Atlantic Shuttle mission.

Sue Hopson then displayed and spoke about a few covers and cards of hot air balloon.

There was a half-time auction of diverse material and there were 14 lots from 20 sold.

Bob Paterson showed two sets of stamps from Norfolk Island and Gibraltar of various aircraft and pictures of the Neptune balloon of 1946 that was to commemorate 75 years since the airmail first flight of 1870 that carried 127 kilos of letters out of besieged Paris. The Neptune never took off because the French police banned the flight!

Dave Tanner started off part 2 with more aviation cards from the Kittyhawk up to the Concorde flights. Then sheets of cards of the first and last Concorde flights and several balloon flight cards.

Gus Hoskins finishes the afternoon with a large display of covers and letters of Balloon flights and Rocket mail. Then some nice German covers of the Zeppelins, RAF covers all signed by the pilots or co-pilots and finishes a good display with European flight covers and some Aerospace sheets.

All in all a very informative afternoon.

Thursday 19th January with the theme of Postcards and we had a good meeting with 22 members.

Juliet Keel started with a few samples from a whole bag-load of postcards. Cards from Sussex, the seaside, from Watford and some `fishwives` cards. Then lots of cards showing occupations. Lastley she finished off with cards of Donnington Castle, the Kennet and Marlborough.

Barney Bardsley was next and he had just started collecting postcards of his chosen subject of canals. Some very early cards of canals in Basingstoke, Exeter, Aldershot and Farnborough. Then the Clyde steamship canal and the Suez of length 120 miles and no locks! and then gave some concise data on locks in general including the Panama canal.

Graeme Stewart was next up and showed lots of early Newbury cards and the local area. Then some quite early Christmas cards and Newbury racecourse as a POW camp. He finished off with cards posted on board ships and some commercial novelty cards. One of his `love` cards reads as follows:-

I've selected the church, arranged for the carriage and everything`s ready you`ll find,
There`s only one thing that`s delaying the marriage, you don`t seem to make up your mind!

Sent on the 5th October 1909 to Miss Taylor of Colthrop Cottages .

Bob Paterson was next up and he showed us quite a nice collection of French Navy cartoon cards drawn by Honore Gervaise. and then some British Navy cards depicting various such things as our sailors, sick bay, lookouts, dressing up and boats in general.

Andrew Gore then displayed and spoke about the village of West Ilsley which was his family village. Lots of lovely cards collected by his mother and family, views of the village from all around that showed the church, the school, shops, the family farmhouse and the old brewery. What a lovely way to find out about a Berkshire village.

Dave Tanner then showed some lovely Persian and Iranian cards – the first of which was written in 1879. Some picture cards of 1902 showing the Teheran Palace that were printed in Holland as a full set. Then some privately produced cards and modern ones to finish off.

Malcolm Hoskins started off part two with postcards of the White Horses of Wiltshire – Westbury, Uffington, Silbury Hill and then cards of Steamer Point. Then several Horse and Cart cards from all around , a lawnmower card!!!! and then some cigarette cards that made up a complete picture.

Sue Hopson then showed us some of her Seychelles collection of cards some of which were quite early from 1903. One was sent to Jersey in 1931 that went all around the world before it arrived there and finished off with cards that had the stamp design the same as the pictures on the cards.

Martin Farr was next up and he showed multi card sets from Egypt depicting views of Luxor, the Valley of the Kings and Abu Simbel.

Alan Cross then showed us a good selection of cards with postage dues on them including several quite early ones. Then a few cards with a postal theme including Postmasters, Post Offices and mail items as well

Then finish of the afternoon **Dave Tanner** showed some more Persian and Iranian cards – this time some modern ones from his stays and visits when he was in the military. These included cards from Teheran and Isfahan, some mosques and minarets and to finish off some cards of lovely Persian miniatures on postcards,

Monday 6th February and the theme for the day was `Butterflies and Insects` with 16 members.

Ann Martin started the afternoon with a collection of PHQ cards of birds and butterflies and bugs of various types together with the 2008 issues of bugs and butterflies. All very nice.

Judy Straughan then showed sheets of butterfly stamps from Singapore together with the types of plants that they were associated with.

Martin Farr showed a Chinese souvenir sheet and told the story of `The Butterfly Lovers` - all about unrequited love and then a nice insect cover that he came across.

Malcolm Hoskins was next and he displayed lots of German stamps of bugs and insects and a collection of pollinating insects. Then he told a story about Malasian butterflies that were caught by aircraft crews that were stationed in Malaya.

Dave Tanner showed Laotian and Iranian stamps of butterflies including swallowtails and monarchs. Then sets of stamps of insects followed by the GB 2013 issue covers of butterflies and insects and ended with a large sheet of insects and spiders.

Graeme Stewart showed us a nice New Zealand cover of the Glow Worms issue that was used as the front cover of the N.Z. `Focus` magazine.

Bob Paterson was next and he displayed nice sheets of insects from Papua NG, Lesotho and Norfolk Island. Then some beetles from Papua and a nice Singapore sheet of insects.

Mike Smith followed and he showed nice sheets from Botswana of insects and butterflies including grasshoppers, dung beetles and caterpillars. He then showed and spoke about mapain worm caterpillars that were full of protein that could be eaten raw or cooked with leaves and vegetables!!!!

Then to finish off some nice covers of Botswana beetles.

After the break we had a mini auction when 9 items from 20 were sold.

Then to finish off the afternoon subjects were chosen for the remaining Monday meetings.

Thursday 16th February and the theme was `Recent Acquisitions` with 18 members present.

Nathan Gregory started the afternoon with covers of Trafalgar and International Code of Signals sheets, Then Exhibition and Smiler sheets from Stampex and finished off with nice `Titanic` sheets.

Juliet Keel showed several sheets of postcards from lots of locations and some Victoria and Albert cards. Then scouting cards from 1910 and several agricultural cards and ones of Savernake Hospital.

Sue Hopson showed us letters and cards from the Seychelles then an early cancellate letter with red bars meaning `no further by air mail` followed by a Wickham Heath post office sheet.

Ian Keel was next showing Portugal 2015 issues, Royal Mail 1st day issues of Windsor Castle and year books from 2005 and 2016

Bob Paterson finished part 1 and he showed a mini sheet issued by the Japan post office for each new year that were all connected with Japanese culture – all very attractive stamps that go back to 1968.

Barney Bardsley started part 2 with a nice 1d black envelope, a collection of rare postmarked stamps with great cancellations and then a mini sheet of telephone stamps. Then he showed `canal carrier mail` information sheets issued from 1846-7 with an information book and finished off with a Full sheet of 2d blues – 240 of them (well, 239) with just one missing in the middle that he actually had on a cover.

Jeff Rodgers was next and he showed us 2 sheets of covers of the 1840 centenary followed by the 1946 victory issue stamps.

Andrew Gore then showed us some nice postmarks and postage dues from the French New Hebrides.

Graeme Stewart then displayed and spoke about some postcards of Newbury streets including the `granary`. Then covers to and from Newbury and postcards of Newbury Racecourse POW camp. Then some nice cards of the Cold Ash cottage hospital and the childrens hospital and finished with a POW card posted to Cold Ash.. Quite a lovely collection of covers and black and white postcards.

Then, to end the afternoon **Francis Connolly** showed us some early rare 1d blacks that had all been verified and some nice G.V. stamps with special cancels. Then to finish, some `Seahorses` issues with rare unusual colour shades,

It is quite amazing just what we all collect

Monday 2nd March - the theme was `Overprints and there were 16 members with 10 speaking.

David Beddoes started the afternoon with overprints from Norfolk Island, Burma and Sudan.

Malcolm Hoskins then showed India Relief o/p`s concerning the influx of peoples into the continent.

Ian Keel showed lots of o/p`s from around the world.

Mike Gurr displayed some from British Bechuanaland.

Neil Hatton showed o/p`s of Addition, special centres and `stop correcting` currency charges.

Bob Paterson then showed o/p`s of French literature.

Tony Hillier showed us some Belgian o/p`s of 1981 and a selection of stamp covers.

Dave Tanner displayed o/p`s from Persia and the Iranian revolution

Andrew Gore showed us some overprint covers.

Judy Straughan then displayed photographs of last months subject – Insects from West Ilsley.

Many thanks to **Mike Gurr** who took some notes for me as I was away.

Thursday 16th March. Our guest speaker for the evening was Phillip Cant and his subject was `I don`t do Thematics or other Nonsense`. There were 25 members present for the evening.

Phillip started with an introductory chat about their dealings in Thematic stamps that he and Paula just file and display differently. He then showed examples of the most popular collecting subject - `Birds` and showed a lovely collection of sheets of bird stamps from around the world. The next ones were issues of George VI, Elizabeth II and followed by marine creatures. birds of prey of many species, whales and whaling, and marine mammals. These were illustrated with lovely sets of stamps and sheets from all around the world. Phillip then said that the next most popular was Animals and collectors tend to go for their favourite creatures and once again these were illustrated with super worldwide sheets including camels and animals for transport and he finished this section with butterflies, moths and insects. Phillip said that about 1/3rd of all collectors do `wildlife`, with another 1/3rd collecting `transport` - trains and boats and planes. Once again some superb sheets including Indian sets, aviation sets from NZ USA and the Commonwealth. Phillip didn`t show sheets of ships but this thematic subject was perhaps the biggest collecting subject of all the others. He finished part 1 by saying that `No – we don`t do George V and certainly not Machins`. What a great entertaining speaker he is. **Continued on Page 7**

THE WESTBEX PAGE



The Iranian Study Circle



Ann and Jean



Martin wins the Thematic Class

The WESTBEX Raffle was once again organised and run very successfully by Ann. Thank you so much for all your effort. It is most appreciated. There were 17 raffle prizes as follows:-

1 st prize	£100	Nathan`s Mum	2 nd prize	Bottle of Rum	Reg Rhodes
3 rd prize	Bottle of wine	Barney Bardsley	4 th prize	Stamp Mug and towel	Paula Cant
5 th prize	Bottle of wine	Brian Austin	6 th Prize	Mugs, Tea and Coffee	Martin Farr
7 th prize	Bottle of wine	Mr Thompson	8 th prize	Garden tools	Malcolm Hoskins
9 th prize	Sherry	Mike Gurr	10 th Prize	Railway book	Dave Tanner
11 th prize	1d Black	Terry Hadden	12 th prize	Stock book	Brian Austin
13 th prize	Bottle of wine	Mike Ward	14 th prize	Bottle of wine	Ashley Farr
15 th prize	Toiletries	Ian Clare	16 th prize	Pink Fizz	John Taken

The National Philatelic Society held their regional meeting and there were quite a few displays to be seen. Martin Farr showed a nice selection of his Japanese thematic sheets and Graeme Stewart had sheets of his Post Boxes – kindly shown by Juliet Keel for him.

The Iranian Study Circle showed a great display of material from stamps and data sheets to covers, overprints and postmarks. Some lovely material and well presented on a nice display system.

The Thames Valley Philatelic Federation 9-sheet competition results:-

Traditional Class

1 st	Tony Stanford	Maidenhead	Bicentenary of the Al Bu-Said Dynasty
2 nd	Stephen Marks	Oxford	North Borneo – Waterlow Pictorial Issues

Postal History Class

1 st	Alan Cowie	Oxford	Paquebot Mails of Japan
2 nd	Trevor Cornford	Wokingham	Antarctic Exploration in the 1950`s
3 rd	Nathan Gregory	Thatcham	Privilege of Peers and Parliamentarians

Thematic Class

1 st	Martin Farr	Thatcham	The Mighty Atom
2 nd	Mike Payne	Oxford	Tiger Tiger

Open Class

1 st	David Potts	Oxford	Abbazia – Tourism, Italian Rule and Yugoslav Occupation
2 nd	Ray Mutton	Oxford	Naval Battles of Coronel and Falklands 1914
3 rd	Tony Lyford	Windsor	The Danish Enchanter

Aerophilately Class

1 st	Malcolm Gascoyne	Henley	SW Singapore 600 No. Series
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Continued from page 5

Phillip started the second half by saying `So that was the Thematic part and now for the Nonsense`. He showed a fantastic 9-page display of Railway Artillery` issues – giant guns and armoured trains (the first one was actually used in the American Civil War), and the huge German `Dora` gun with a bore of 800mm! that required massive amounts of manpower. He then talked about military planes from both world wars and the inception of fighter bombers, sea planes and military transports. All this was supported by a great display of sheets and covers and was finished off with a 16-sheet `Aviation` display of quite valuable Air stamps from France and her colonies.

Phillip then showed sheets of Guam `Guard Mail` issues and their historical background . Then finally he spoke about many sheets of stamps that had got things wrong with them – Titanic stamps that were not the Titanic (funnels and colours all wrong), ships that did not actually belong to countries and very strange overprints not actually connected with the displayed ships. He then finished off with a great `planes` sequence of sheets to include Stuka`s with retractable under carriages! and Spitfires with totally wrong markings on them!

What a great entertaining speaker Phillip is and such a display of wonderful material.
Thank you Phillip – most appreciated

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

March 14 th	David Bowie
April 6 th	Racehorse Legends
May 4th	Songbirds
June 5th	Machin`s Anniversary
June 20th	Windmills and Watermills
July 13th	Landmark Buildings
July 31st	World War 1 – 1917
August 22nd	Classic Toys

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Society Subscriptions are now due at the new cost of £10.00. Please make any cheque out to Thatcham and District Philatelic Society (or TDPS will do), and send it to the Treasurer Mike Ward or contact him or a committee member at any club meeting.

Sales and Wants

You are able to advertise your items for sale or your `wants` on this page. Please feel free to contact the editor, Martin Farr, at club meetings, by email or by `phone.

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

Society Future Programme and Events

Monday	3 rd April	World Prime Ministers and Presidents
Thursday	20 th April	`Philatelic Halves` with Malcolm Hoskins and Francis Connolly
Monday	6 th May	Theme on the letter `M`
Thursday	18 th May	`Out of the Waste paper Basket` with Sue Hopson
	May 19 th – 20 th	Salisbury Collectors Show
Saturday	3 rd June	Ringpex at Greyfriars Centre, Ringwood
Monday	5 th June	Royal Families (It is the Queen`s birthday after all)
Saturday	19 th June	Swinpex, Octal Way, Swindon
Thursday	15 th June	`Mauritius` with David Gibbon
Saturday	17 th June	Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall
Monday	3 rd July	The Monday Cup and `The Armed Forces`
Thursday	20 th July	Thematic Evening – Everyone to show something.

Officers of the Club

President	John Baron	01235 820120
Chairman	Barney Bardsley	0777 0376 235
Vice Chair	Ian Keel	01488 681500
Secretary	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942
Treasurer	Mike Ward	01635 864307

Committee

Ann Martin	01488 682728
Tony Jordan	10089 302279
Colin Bartholemew	01635 865457
Mike Gurr	10635 43398

Archivist Still need someone **WestBex** Graeme and Martin **Publicity** Martin Farr