



# THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY



WINTER EDITION JANUARY 2017

## The Chairman`s A.G.M. Report

Once again a very good year for our society. The Monday and Thursday meetings have been well attended and we had some very good speakers. Mel Reid with `Who you know`, a visit from the Camberley society and Robin Cassel`s `Envelopes`.

The A.G.M. went well with no major changes and the November auction was very well attended and accrued a tidy sum for the society. Thanks to Mike Ward yet again for his sterling organisation and pricing.

The packet circuit stopped for a while but there are good signs of it being re-started in the near future.

Congratulations to all the Christmas Competition winners and thank you to all who entered.

A big thank you to all those members who have helped out in so many ways especially organising the Westbex 16 stamp fair which was very successful. We could not do it without you all.

Finally the committee hoped that you had a lovely Christmas and wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Thank you all. Barney Bardsley, Chairman

*Year 50*

*Issue 135*

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The competition winners with the judge John Hayward

*For further information on anything in this newsletter please contact*

*Martin Farr, Editor*

*Tel 01635 866437*

*or*

*Graeme Stewart, Secretary*

*Tel 01635 866942*

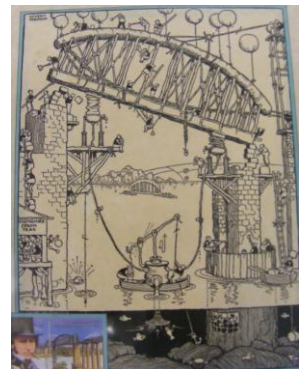
# Photo Gallery



Inventions



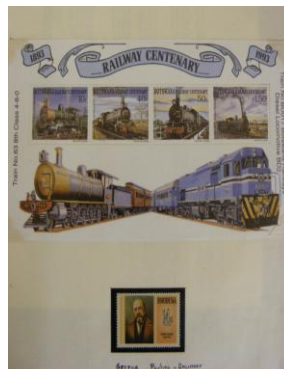
Ladislav Biro



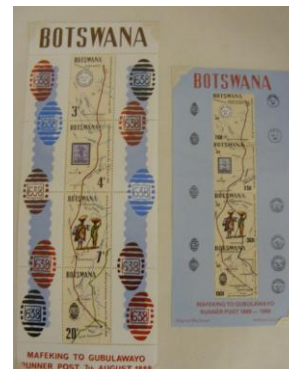
Building the Saltash Bridge !



Mike Smith with his assistant Mike Cooney



Botswana Railway Centenary



The Runners route



Where it is



Oops! That's just not cricket!



A kids radio and a trilobite



Water pumps and Milestones around the local area



A 'Poldark' first day cover



The Folder Men  
Colin and Nathan



The Auction Men  
David Beddoes Smart Mike Smith Barney Bardsley



The Finance Man  
Mike Ward

## PAST EVENTS

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Inventions`** There were seventeen members present.

**Graeme Stewart** started off the afternoon with a sheet about the Penny Black and spoke about who invented it and its first issue.

Then **Ian Keel**, on behalf of Juliet, showed a Hamsi sheet of items and then several sheets about Newton, Marconi and Stevenson`s Rocket.

**Martin Farr** then displayed s sheet of great engineers including Arkwright of spinning jenny fame, Paxton whose design was chosen for the `Crystal Palace` in Hyde Park in 1851. Then some sheets of Bolton and Watt and Trevethick who produced the worlds first steam locomotive. Then a nice sheet about the Rainhill Trials when Stevenson`s Rocket was selected for the Liverpool and Manchester Railway and to finish off a sheet about Isambard Kingdom Brunel and a funny cartoon page.

**Judy Straughan** was next and she spoke about the invention of the Biro – 117 years ago just last week on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. It was invented by Ladislav Josef Biro and the first full commercial production was in 1931. The RAF ordered 30,000 of them as they would all work at high altitudes. (better than a leaky pen on your knee!).

There was a mini auction at half time when 9 items from 20 were sold.

**Bob Paterson** started the second half with a nice sheet of French inventors and inventions.

Then **Dave Tanner** showed some unusual covers that he happened to come across at Basingstoke. They were all issues of Abadan in Iran – a country that he just loves to collect the stamps from – he has quite a good collection too.

**Tony Hillier** then finished off the afternoon and he showed two sheets of inventions. One was of Adolf Sachs who invented the saxophone in 1846 and the second showed two covers of inventions and ideas that were issued in 2007.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October - `Bechuanaland part 2` with Mike Smith.** 20 members present

**Mike** aided by his unpaid assistant **Mike Cooney** (his words not mine!) had a good set-up of computer, projector and screen which was used very effectively to display his material. He quickly recapped his previous data and illustrations he had done before giving a brief history of South Africa, its countries and personalities including Livingstone, Rhodes, the Boers, Lobenguela and Chaka Zulu. All the while this was illustrated both on the screen and on the display boards with some fantastic data sheets of maps and stamps and other related items.

Mike then spoke about Stelleland issues then about Cape of Good Hope stamps overprinted with Bechuanaland and its own issues of 1932. He spoke about African Chiefs issues – they came to London to visit Queen Victoria. He then showed mini sheets of the route the mail runners traversed from Mafeking to Bulawayo that took 22 days!

He then showed `Protectorate` issues overprinted `Bechuanaland` and spoke about the beginnings of the railway in 1894. Then he told us about Mafeking issues and hi-value stamps of GB with 3 types of overprints.

Mike started part two with the first definitive issues of 1932 of the protectorate with George V, the silver jubilee issues of 1935 and the coronation of GVI definitive issues.

In 1942 the Royal Family toured South Africa and each country visited issued commemorative stamps that were on show with the UPU issues of 1940. The QEII stamps were issued for sale on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1955. There was a currency change from Pounds to the Rand and issues were at first overprinted until the stamps were changed. Mike finished off a great evenings entertainment by showing issues of birds and a sheet of the self-government issue of 1965. What a great talk and such a good way of presenting sheets and stamps.

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November – `Curiosities`** There were 16 members present.

**Malcolm Hoskin** started the afternoon with a new £5 note - AA19 registration – could be of some value ! Then a lovely fdc of the `Poldark` mine and some coins from the USA issued during the war of independence. Then he showed a letter totally covered in writing – all over front and back and finished off with a lovely fisherman`s hand-held barometer.

**Ian Keel** was next showing Norton issue banknotes for certain shops that were illegal and had to be withdrawn. Then some world banknotes books of the same and finished off with some rare banknotes in booklet covers. A nice display.

**Tony Hillier** showed some 2d blue peculiarities and a sheet of Belgian WW1 `Tin Hat` issues of 1919. Then he showed us two cards of his grandmothers set of postcards sent by his grandfather when they were courting where the stamps diagonal position indicated `I love you`.

**Martin Farr** was next and he showed a children`s bathroom radio (battery operated of course) and trilobite that he found in the Atlas foothills of Morocco.

At half time there was a mini auction where 15 from 23 items were sold.

**Jonathan Barr** started part 2 and showed us a hardback hand-written novel from 1661 and then a long L-shaped hollow chromium thingy that had us all guessing until he told us that it was a ladies catheter!!!!

**Bob Paterson** showed just one stamp that was printed on double- thickness paper.

**Neil Hadden** showed some novelty postcards and items from around the world. A morse code card, and Egyptian donkey card, a cigaracter made from stamps and several more comical and cricket postcards.

**Graeme Stewart** put up some curious postcards and pictures including a strange Victorian post box in Cambridge, and a sheet of water pumps and milestones pictures from the local area all along the A4 to the Sony roundabout.

**Mike Gurr** then showed a collection of locations and residences from the local area that he did not recognise and wished to find out where they actually were. I am not sure if anyone recognised any of them.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November – The Society Grand Auction Night**

There were 32 persons present of whom 10 were guest members on the night.

The Auctioneer was **Mike Smith** suitably attired with a jacket and bow tie. The Recorder was **David Beddoes**. The Scrutineer was **Barney Bardsley**. The Finances were overseen by **Mike Ward** and the folder organisation was carried out by

**Colin Bartholemew and Nathan Gregory.**

At half time the refreshments were served by Juliet and Ian Keel.

There were 672 lots for sale including a lot of our club stamps.  
and quite a few being purchased by our guest members.

340 lots were sold for a total of £1,973.40. including £122 of club stamps.

The sales commission for the auction amounted to £184.83 – quite an excellent result.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December** - the theme was `Lighthouses` with a quiz for part 2.

**Dave Tanner** showed us quite a few lighthouse issues including a sheet of USA issues, some from the Isle of Man and Guernsey and a nice sheet of Scandinavian issues with a sheet from the Faroes islands lighthouses that are all now `holiday lets`!

**Tony Hillier** showed a sheet of stamps from Belgium (where else) and a set of four lighthouses about safety at sea and mermaids.

**Judy Straughan** showed us a treasured long PC showing a lighthouse assaulted by huge waves and spoke about lighthouse books and stories including one about the Stevensons who built them all around Scotland – now mostly replaced.

**Malcolm Hoskin** wanted to collect pc`s from all around the UK but soon gave up ! So he showed a lovely 16 sheet collection of lighthouse cards from Cornwall to Wales and the Isle of Mann, then on to Jersey and Guernsey and then across the Scarborough and Whitby. Then finally Malcolm showed a set of 50 lighthouse cards from the USA – all very nice indeed.

Then finally, **Graeme Stewart** showed a selection of very old postal letters and postcards issues of Newbury - no lighthouses but very enlightening!

We had hot mince pies and drinks at half time.

Martin Farr set quite a difficult quiz for the second half – 20 questions all about cryptic clues of fruits and trees.

The winner was Mike Smith with 14 correct and he won the box of Quality Street.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December was the evening for the Society Competitions, the Christmas Quiz and Social Evening and there were 25 members present.**

The guest judge for the advanced competitions was John Hayward from the Camberley Society who was accompanied by his wife Maureen.

John gave a good analysis of all the exhibits that he judged and offered some good advice as to layout and ideas for future exhibits. The remaining competitions were judged by the members attending.

Many, many thanks to Juliet, Ann and Ian for providing an excellent buffet once again and to Martin for getting the drinks – although not a lot was drunk this year.

### **The Competition Results**

The Jubilee Cup	won by	Barney Bardsley	Wing Margin Issues
The Reg Rhodes Shield	won by	Martin Farr	Chinese Myths and Legends
The Keith Foster Trophy	won by	Nathan Gregory	Peers and Parliamentarians

**THE POSTCARD PAGE AS WAS**

The remainder were judged by those attending  
 Frank Record Trophy won by Dave Tanner Columbus Exposition Issues  
 Novices Cup No entries this year  
 Single Sheet Salver won by Barney Bardsley Matched Pairs of Penny Issues  
 Society Trophy won by Barney Bardsley 82% at Advanced level

After the presentations were completed we all had a lovely buffet and drinks and had a go at the quiz set by Juliet all about musical instruments that took some working out ! The winner was Maureen Hayward, the judge`s wife, who was presented with a box of Quality Street. Graeme had earlier issued raffle tickets and the prize of a bottle of wine was won by Dave Tanner.

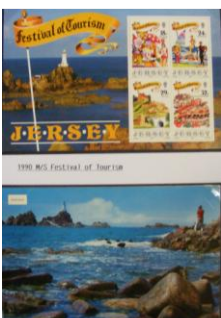
At the end of the evening Ann and Juliet were each presented with a lovely bunch of flowers and a bottle of wine for all the hard work with the catering and refreshments throughout the year.

**Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues**

- 17<sup>th</sup> January Ancient Britain
- 6<sup>th</sup> February 65<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of the Accession - £5 Machin
- 15<sup>th</sup> February Windsor Castle
- `Mail by Rail` - Post and Go
- 14<sup>th</sup> March Music Giants
- 20<sup>th</sup> March Postal Museum opening sheet
- End of March New postal tariffs
- 6<sup>th</sup> April Racehorse Legends



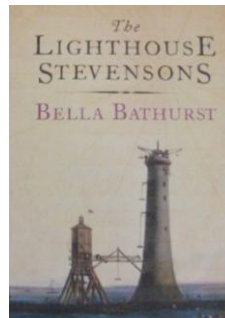
John Hayward and his wife Maureen  
 Flowers for Juliet and Ann



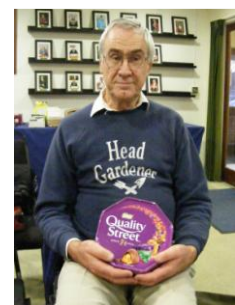
The Corbiere lighthouse  
 Jersey



USA lighthouses



A book about lighthouses



Mike Smith Won the Quiz

Our Chairman`s Musing

**Collecting – An Addiction?**

Children – particularly boys of my generation who were born in the 1940`s and 50`s - all collected something.

Stamps, coins, cigarette cards, matchbox labels, beer mats, the list is almost endless.

We assembled our collections over years often not looking at our earlier acquisitions. The ultimate goal was completion. When asked `what were the most important stamps in my collection ` I replied `the ones that are missing`. If we set ourselves (financially) impossible collecting targets we will always fall short of our goal.

Why do you collect what you do? Because you think that it is attractive? unusual? interesting? or just as an investment. Over the years I have spent a lot of time and money amassing my collection in the full knowledge that if I decide to sell it (unlikely as I am a collector after all) or. if whoever inherits it then sells it (as I am sure they will) My collection will sell for less, possibly much less, than what I paid for it!

However, I have had huge enjoyment in assembling it, writing it all up and researching it.

I cannot put a price on this.

Why?

I am addicted!

Choose another subject? Easy at first with the cheaper items both affordable and available.

A couple of years ago I went to an auction and, not winning any of the philatelic lots that I wanted, I bid on and won a mixed lot of cigarette cards. Why on earth did I buy them? I had no particular interest in cigarette cards, although my Auntie Barbara did give me two sets when I was a boy and which, incidentally, I still have.

So now I have acquired another collecting interest.

Similarly I have been tempted by the attractiveness of revenue, telegraph and telephone stamps and have begun several small collections of these . There is no end !

Is collecting an addiction?

I think so.

Once a collector always a collector at heart even if the collector is `recovering` and not collecting any more.

Other than the financial implications this sort of addiction is probably harmless and we should not be too concerned about it.

I hope that you had a Happy Christmas and Happy Collecting for the New Year.

Barney Bardsley

Unfortunately, in the last year, two of our members have passed away.

Norman Freed and Sue Rhodes.

Norman had been a member for many years but, as far as I can recall, did not attend many or any of our meetings. However, he had a vast collection of machins amounting to 20 volumes the last time I saw them, so quite a collection.

Most of you will have known Sue Rhodes, a constant companion of Reg, for the support of the Society in doing the refreshments at our stamp fairs and club nights and helping at the Christmas social evenings. In more recent years, due to her failing eyesight, she was no longer able to assist but, with the help of Reg, she did manage to come to some of our meetings. For those who visited Reg at Lancaster Close and more recently at Alice Bye Court Sue was always there supporting Reg.

Sue was made an Honorary Life Member in 2003.

We all miss you Sue.

Graeme

# 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

### Future Programme and Events

Monday	9 <sup>th</sup> January	Balloons – members to display
15 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	February	Spring Stampex – Business Centre Islington
Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup> January	Postcard Evening – Members displays
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> February	Butterflies and Insects
Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup> February	Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall
Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup> February	New Acquisitions - Members displays
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> March	Overprints
Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup> March	I don't do Thematics or other Nonsense – Phillip Cant
Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup> March	`WESTBEX` at the Kennet School, Thatcham.

### Society Needs and Wants

An extra pair of hands to help with the teas and coffees is required at our meetings – especially the Monday meetings.

Ian and Juliet cannot always guarantee to be available and Ann may not be able to come to all the meetings as well.

We still need someone to take on the Archiving and Storage of Society documents.

We are still looking for a competition co-ordinator.

The society needs representatives for the Thames Valley Federation and the Hampshire Federation

#### Officers of the Club

<b>President</b>	John Baron	01933 650093
<b>Chairman</b>	Barney Bardsley	0777 0376 235
<b>Vice Chair</b>		
<b>Secretary</b>	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Ward	01635 864307

#### Committee

Tony Jordan	01189 302279
Colin Bartholemew	01635 865457

**Archivist**

**WestBex** Graeme and Martin

**Publicity**

Martin Farr