



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK



THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
WINTER EDITION JANUARY 2020

The Chairmans Report

Once again a very good year for our society with the social meetings, Westbex and the Auction going quite well, Both the Monday and Thursday meetings have been well attended and we have had some very good speakers:- `Coaches and Coach Horns` with The Tootler, `1890 1d Post` with John Davies and `The £5 Orange` with John Horsey. Malcolm Hoskins entertained us as did Bob Paterson, Graeme Stewart, John Tingey and Nathan Gregory.

The AGM went well with no matters arising. Our membership is falling somewhat but we are still one of the best societies in the area and financially secure. The box circuit, organised by Neil Hatton is doing fine and welcome to Mike Smith our new Chairman who also acts as our auctioneer.

Many thanks to all those members that have helped out in so many ways – teas and coffees throughout the year, Christmas buffets, tables and chairs at our meetings and especially for assistance at Westbex and the Auction.

Mike Smith –Your New Chairman

Year 53

Issue 147

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The Christmas Competition winners with the judge Mike Smith

For further information on anything in this newsletter please contact

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Tel 01635 866437

or

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Photo Gallery



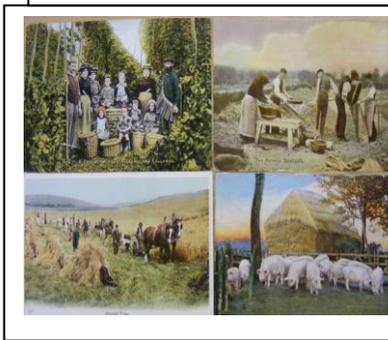
The Scrutineer and Financier



The Auctioneer and Recorder



The Box Boys



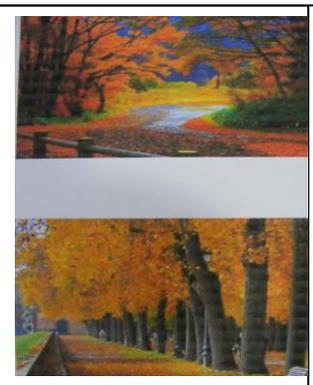
Harvest Time



Post Boxes



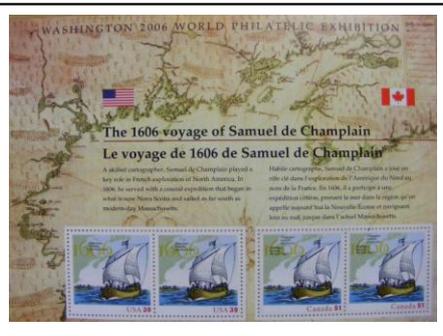
Tokaido Road



Autumn Views



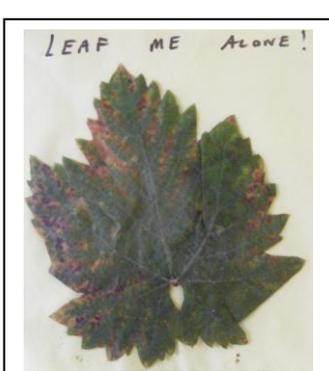
Operator Raleigh Covers



Voyage of Samuel de Champlain



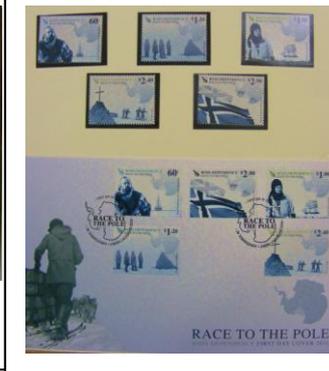
1066 and all that



Leaf me alone!



Antarctica – The Heroic Age



The Race to the Pole



Apollo 15

PAST EVENTS

Monday 5th October - "Trees and Autumn Fall" Eight people with six apologies.

Heather Lawn, a new member, started the afternoon with Canadian maple leaf stamps and Australian Autumn stamps. Her real subject is Parrots (!) of all shapes and sizes and she showed some on stamps from Rhodesia. Then some Amazonia issues and several stamps of waterfalls and one showing Moriarty being pushed into the waterfall by Sherlock Holmes.

Anne Martin then put up lots of old postcards for **Juliet Keel** who could not attend. They were all about harvest time on the farms and people that had "Fallen Over" (Fall – get it?).

To start part 2 **Martin Farr** put up just one item – A large brownish green sycamore leaf with the message "Leaf me Alone!"

Graeme Stewart was on his own for part 2 and he showed pictures of Autumn and the Fall. He had no more of the subject and so he showed "Autumn Editions" of various magazines. Then very early letters to Thatcham and pictures of the V.C's placques in the market square. Then several sheets of nice cards of the town, Greenham Common and the surrounding areas. He said that he had to `Think outside of the Box` for Autumn.

Thursday 17th October. The Society Auction Night.

The Auctioneer was **Mike Smith**, the Recorder was **Bob Paterson**, (both complete with nice bow ties), the Scrutineer was **Barney Bardsley** and the Financeer was **Mike Ward**. Those that assisted with the auction lots and issued them to the purchasers were **Colin Bartholemew**, **Nathan Gregory** and **Alan Cross**.

Details of the 2019 Auction

| | 2019 | 2018 |
|---|--------|------------|
| Number of lots | 720 | 439 |
| Number of lots sold | 197 | 157 |
| % sold | 27.36% | 35.76% |
| Total of money taken on the night | | £1,327.70 |
| Total of postal bids | | £353.10 |
| Overall total of | | £1,682.80 |
| Less an overcharge to a member | | -£14.40 |
| New total | | £1,668.40 |
| Less cheques paid to vendors | | -£1,454.27 |
| Final total | | £214.13 |
| Plus sale of club stocks | | £77.50 |
| Total for club funds | | £291.63 |
| Less expenses, returns postage and printing | | £109.51 |
| Total income to club funds | | £182.12 |

On Monday 21st October Graeme Stewart and Martin Farr gave talks and displays to the Oxford Society. A goodly number were there and they were well received. Martin started with his Japanese `Tokaido Road` and some Chinese legends and for part 2 Graeme spoke about and showed lots of his Post Boxes. It was a good evening.

Monday 4th November. Explorations and Conquests and there were 17 members

Nathan Gregory started the afternoon with many sheets about the British Antarctic Territories. showing details of the various expeditions over the years. Lots of lovely FDC`s and sets of stamps with many picturesque mini-sheets included. A nice display.

Malcolm Hoskins was next and he showed many sheets of `Operator Raleigh` land based expeditions to help poverty all around the world. They were issued to mark the 75th anniversary of Scott`s arrival at the South Pole and of crossing Antarctica. The covers were very decorative and signed and they were to give the poor something to do and to work for. He also showed some nice Antarctic covers and several colourful ones issued by Gibraltar. He finished with many `Operator Raleigh` sheets issued in Hull and all signed by well-known celebrities. A great display.

Heather Lawn was next and she showed sheets about Portuguese explorers, especially ones by Samuel de Champlain and various explorers that went to Antarctica and South America.

To finish part one **Bob Paterson** showed sheets of the 50th anniversary of the first landing on the moon and then lovely sheets of those expeditions that actually did land on the moon – Apollo 11,12, 13 was aborted, 14, 15 signed by two astronauts,16, and the final Apollo 17. Three more expeditions were scheduled but they were cancelled. A very informative and nicely presented display.

Martin Farr started part 2 by showing a sheet all about the 1066 invasion of England by William the Conqueror with one large cover and several stamps about the invasion and the Doomsday of 1086 when all the English lands were confiscated and handed to the Normans.

John Shambrook was next and he showed a selection of covers – the discovery of Newfoundland by John Cabot, some about the N.Z. dependencies, Antarctic covers and stamps. Then Br. Antarctic territory covers and Howard Carter`s discoveries in Egypt and finished with a cover of the 1969 first man to land on the moon.

Neil Hatton then showed covers about Ernest Shackleton, Captain Cook`s travels and discoveries and exploration of Space covers. Then some nice ones all about the 2012 para-olympics giving the best times for the athletes that took part.

Dave Tanner then showed sheets about many explorers – Leif Ericson the Viking voyager, explorations of Canada and Antarctic expeditions. A 1983 set of stamps about Columbus landing. Then some lovely sheets about the early-day balloonists such as the Montgolfier brothers and he finished with covers of some Apollo and Soyuz missions.

To finish the afternoon **Graeme Stewart** showed lovely sheets of covers and stamps about Antarctica and Ross Island and the major voyages to them by Scott, Shackleton and Amundsen. He then spoke about the ships involved in the explorations – some marooned and cracked in the ice. Then about the discoveries of 1901-1904 with many anniversary covers from `down south` and covers that were delayed due to bad weather. A nice and interesting display.

Thursday 17th November “The £5 Orange” with John Horsey. 22 members present.

John said that the £5 Orange became quite an obsession with him quite a few years ago now, and, after several years collecting data he had won a 16-sheet gold medal at Stampex 2010 on the subject. Tonight he filled 2 display boards and had a computer display programme projecting on to a large screen.

Board 1 showed lots of sheets about the stamps and the first had 2 used £5 Orange stamps worth about £3,000 each! There were lots of sheets of facsimile stamps and sheets of variations of the stamp. Board 2 contained many Cinderella sheets of the stamp and lots of variations about it.

He spoke at length about the £5 study group where he had been to research all his data. Then John started his talk using the on-screen pictures and information sequences. Telegraph stamps were issues in 1850-70 when the individual private companies were taken over by the post office and the TELEGRAPH heading was changed to POSTAGE. In February 1876 new issues were released. 1d, 3d, 1/- and 5/- in landscape format and it was soon realised that higher values were needed. Lots of trial issues and assays until the fine £5 assay was reached, (lots of these are in the Royal Collection which John said he had seen several times). Then eventually the final design of the £5 format and its golden frame.

Lots of data sheets shown about the titling and corner lettering which was mostly done by hand. This was followed by lots of data regarding the colour trials and the £5 gold sheets that were too expensive to produce so blue specimens were selected but it all went wrong! The shades and colours of the trials were just not right and so the Orange was selected instead. There are only 8 mint stamps of these left in the whole world out of all those issued. Then information about lots of the forgeries of the time and pictures about them. Telegraph stamps were finally withdrawn in October 1881 and the £5 Telegraph was changed to £5 Postage.

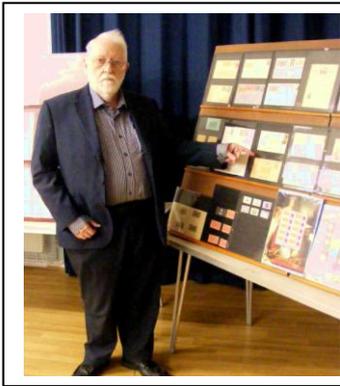
He then showed and spoke about lots of data re proofs and perfs and errors and forgeries. All very very interesting.

For part 2 John spoke and showed data about blued paper and double specimen examples and also lots of data about shades and shading of the stamps including a very dull salmon sequence. A 5lb parcel or letter at `tuppence halfpenny` per ounce would require a lot of stamps to make up to £17 !!! and so this was the reason that higher value stamps were needed. John then showed sheets of multiple hand-stamps and cancellation types and a cover 17 stamps up to the £5 orange. This stamp was also used for high value telegrams and bulk mail requirements. Finally he spoke and showed lots of fraudulent issues with specimens being used as normal stamps! These and forgery issues made a big loss for the post office. What a great lot of information, great displays and excellent descriptions of his visual computer sequences. Thank you John very much, a great talk.

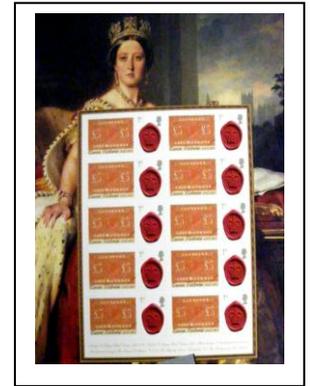
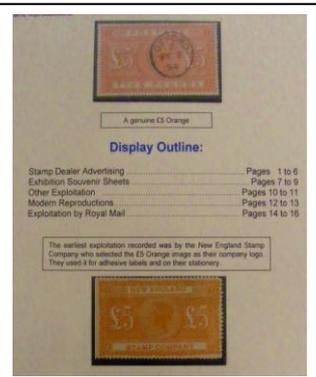
Monday 2nd December “Four of your favourite sheets” and a Christmas quiz.

Malcolm Hoskins showed great telegrams from famous people including 2 cable and wireless. Then a Marconigram of 1926, a Cablegram of 1924 and a telegram to himself on his birthday in 2017.

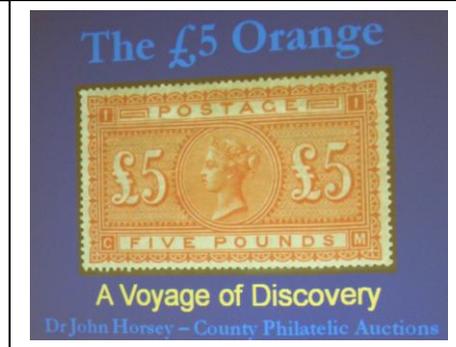
THE POSTCARD PAGE (well sort of)



John Horsey



The £5 Orange and hand seals.



Brian May was next and he showed perforation variations of Bosnian stamps, simple and compound, that could be all around stamp edges and some stamps with different perfs on all four sides. He finished with some mutilated perforations as well.

Martin Farr showed 3 sheets of the Tokaido Road with the three new issue stamps of October included. They were sent by Ken Clark of the Oxford society who had just returned from Japan. These now complete the full sequence at last.

Heather Lawn was next and she showed booklet pages of different papers and gums and, of course, several sheets with lots of birds and in particular the parrots that she adores.

Nathan Gregory showed several sheets of coins on stamps and Rolls Royces on stamps and a sheet that won him the Novices Cup.

Bob Paterson showed lovely stamps from the Cayman Islands GV set. Some GVI issues and QEII definitive set to £1. All these are his favourites (what – not Space!).

At half time we had mince pies and drinks and a quiz set by Juliet about Panto names such as THG LYSS TRS = The Ugly Sisters

Juliet Keel started part 2 with 3 pages of WWI Red Cross about Ambulance drivers (some quite well known names) and pilot Leif Robinson who shot down a Zeppelin – awarded the VC.

David Tanner then showed sheets from Laos – the Elephant set, Persian issues of 1916-24 and early issues of Sudan with its airmail set from 1931-37.

Ian Keel showed four pages of his great Nobel Prize winners collection.

Jim Andrew, a new member, showed the first mini sheet he ever got, Franklyn Expedition issues from Isle of Man, a French mini sheet and a great page of 50 stamps of birds from all the USA states.

Finally **Graeme Stewart** showed covers related to the end of WWI – The Armistice, The signing of the Versailles Treaty, pictures of the old Cenotaph and the new with the Armistice day 2 minutes silence. A good afternoons set of displays.

USEFUL WEBSITES

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

Thursday 19th December – The Annual Society Competitions

Everyone came up to look at the competition displays that were presented for judging by Mike Smith from the Hampshire Federation to scrutinise, comment upon and select the winner of each category.

At half time there was the Christmas buffet with wine and soft drinks provided by Martin and the delicious food, just for a change, supplied by a local catering company.

There was a Christmas quiz for all to attempt all about place names –
e.g. Heavyweight Toilet = Luton

The winner was Juliet Keel who was given a box of chocolates.

The competition winners were as follows:-

The Jubilee Cup won by Nathan Gregory for his `Cached Key Plates`

The Reg Rhodes Shield won by Ian Keel for his `Nobel Prize Winners`

The Keith Foster Trophy won by Paul Watkins for his `P.O.W. Mail`

The Frank Record Trophy There were no entries

The Society Trophy won by Paul Watkins

The members present voted on the two remaining competitions. The results were:-

The Novices Cup won by Heather Lawn for her `Parrot Sheets`

The Single Sheet Salver won by John Tingey for his `Q.V. Penny Reds Plates`

The judge, Mike Smith, was presented with a bottle of wine for his time and expertise and Juliet was presented with a bunch of flowers for all her catering throughout the year with Ian.
What would we do without them.

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

New Issues

| | |
|-----------|---|
| September | Royal Navy Ships |
| October | The Gruffalo |
| November | Christmas issues |
| December | Christmas issues |
| 2020 | Re-introduced Species |
| | Royal Mail Heritage – Mail by sea and ships |
| | Votes for Women |

Future Programme and Events

| | | |
|----------|---------------------------|--|
| Monday | 6 th January | `Winter` (let us hope its not too cold!) |
| Thursday | 16 th January | `New Acquisitions` |
| Monday | 3 rd February | `Officials and Fiscals` |
| Thursday | 20 th February | `Transatlantic Postal History` with Julian Jones |
| Monday | 2 nd March | To be decided yet |
| Thursday | 19 th March | `Stamp Chat/Five favourite sheets |
| Saturday | 28 th March | WESTBEX at the Kennet School, Thatcham |
| Monday | 6 th April | To be decided yet |
| Thursday | 16 th April | `The Post Office went to War` with Christine Earle |

You all may be aware by now that Westbex 2020 will be the last one that Graeme and Martin will organise and oversee. The society would be very grateful for any volunteers to take over these tasks and, of course, they will be available for advice and assistance as required.

| Officers of the Club | | Committee | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------|---|
| President | John Baron | 01933 650092 | Colin Bartholemew 01635 865457 |
| Chairman | Mike Smith | 01189 333257 | Neil Hatton 01635 280639 |
| Vice Chair | Still vacant | | Paul Watkins 07870 851837 |
| Secretary | Graeme Stewart | 01635 866942 | Andrew Gore 01635 281552 |
| Treasurer | Mike Ward | 01635 864307 | |
| Archivist | Still Need One | WestBex | Graeme, Martin and Ann Publicity Martin Farr |