



# THE THATCHAM POSTMARK



THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
WINTER EDITION JANUARY 2022

## The Chairmans Report

Well, what a year that was! Westbex was cancelled as were many of our society meetings, It all started again in September with the Monday and Thursday meetings continuing at last.

The AGM had gone well with very little changes to the constitution. It was decided to cancel subscriptions for next year and the Monday meetings would start at 2.30pm due to other bookings.

In October Paul Watkins gave us a great talk on French stamps, covers, cancellations and many sheets about the Expo 1890 and Anglo- French issues. It was very interesting with great sheets of material on display. The box circuit is doing fine with Reading boxes also in circulation,

The Auction went well although there were far fewer lots submitted and, as a result, the financial gain for the society was very low indeed. Thanks to Mike Ward for all the organising and financing activities.

Let us hope that 2022 will be a better year and covid does not feature badly.

Mike Smith - Chairman

Year 56

Issue 148

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The Christmas Competition Winners.

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*or  
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# Photo Gallery



The Auctioneer and Scrutineer



The Financier and Recorder



The Box Boys



War-time nurses and a scout



Red flowers



Early fruit and Veg



Matsuo Basho's route around Honshu



Anglo-French Mails



Expo-Philatelic lovely letter



Expo cards of 1890



French Air Mails



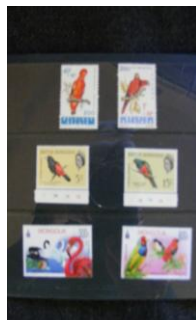
Paul Watkins



Some Jingling Beauties



Red Roses



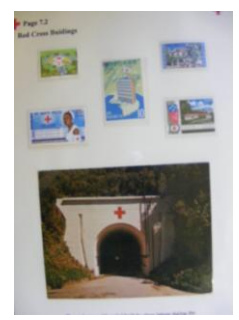
Red Parrots



Nobel Prize Winners



The Oldest Post Box



Jersey Red Cross

## PAST EVENTS

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October “Ten Sheets in Five Minutes”. There were 16 members present.**

**Jim Andrew** started the presentations with several covers and sets of stamps of Zambia. These included FDC`s, air mails, new currency issues and a nice air mail cover. He did an interesting chat about his display items.

**John Shambrook** was next and showed a good display of aviation cards having great postmarks and then some cards of early Bleriot flights carrying passengers followed by a nice Zeppelin cover, with an overprinted stamp, that flew from UK to USA and back.

**Martin Farr** then showed illustrated sheets of the travels of Matsuo Basho, the famous Japanese `Haiku` traveller who trekked around Japan in 1689 composing his Haiku (a poem with a 5-7-5 syllable format). He covered 1,500 miles in five months and his couplets formed `A Narrow Road to a Far Province` for which he is world famous.

**Mike Smith** showed a nice collection of stamps from the Turks and Caicos Islands. They were of cacti and their related families. Some large cacti and some small and several echinacea and small flowering plants. Nice.

After a tea break **Juliet Keel** showed several WW1 sheets of postcards and stamps – greetings from the trenches, covers passed by the censors, Red Cross mail regarding their magazine closure and three cards of early railway stations in the area.

**Dave Tanner** was next and he displayed and spoke about American early air-mails and stamps of 1918 and 1923. Then he showed NY to Pacific coast air mails, trans-continental of 8 hours flying time and the regular ones of 1920 onwards. Then several sheets of regional air mails to Canada and finally a 1933 air mail letter from America to Basingstoke.

**Graeme Stewart** displayed several sheets of Thatcham cards and pictures and one picture of the Henwick Fruit and Flower Farm of the early 1900`s. since then, it became the French Gardens using French cultivation methods, then a mushroom farm and finally, in the 80`s, into the garden centre we all know today – the Thatcham Garden Centre.

To finish off the session **Neil Hamilton** showed 1992 Hong Kong issues, some boring postage due stamps (his words) taking 3 days by sea, and a 1892 cover from Malta to London. He finished off by showing Hong Kong covers of 1930, some commemorative stamps from St Helena and a Deed of Transfer of a plot of land in Switzerland with a GV1 10/- set of stamps thereon. A nice display.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October “Paul Watkins – France” and there were 16 members present.**

Paul said that he had been collecting French stamps on and off for 40 years! He started by showing the first stamps of 1849 and very early covers with various cancellations. He spoke about the various issues and then showed pages of the 1855 issues and FDC`s and told us about registered letters and their high costs and showed a full frame of covers and letters from UK to France. He then showed covers and letters about the Franco-Prussian war that ended in 1871 when the mail out of Paris was sent by balloon as Paris was surrounded ( one balloon did get shot down). Then lovely sets of cards and letters from various regions and several sheets of nice coloured cards as well as three lovely black and white cartoons, all from the “Collection de 24 Vues de L`exposition Universelle de 1899”. We were told that the Eifel Tower was built for the this exposition. Well well!

The last frame showed air mail letters and cards sent across the channel and return by various aeroplanes. Paul spoke about the costs of postage involved – 2/- plus 6d for express and the French equivalent costs. He finished part 1 with some nice seaplane cards from the Seine river to the Thames all carried by various sea-planes.

For part 2 Paul displayed 2 boards of WW11 issues, cards and letters and other correspondence – British Forces in France, Allied services, French Armed Forces, prisoners in Germany and Free French Forces in the UK and he spoke about the Stalag camps and POW issues. He then showed a board of regional French issues of the occupied regions in Germany including Baden and some Rheinland Pfalz. Then he spoke about and showed lovely issues of “Marian de Briat” whose actual picture used was chosen by President Mitterand in 1990. Then there was a great board of letters and cards from all over with `Marian` stamps of all denominations from all over the world. The presentation material was just terrific and Paul certainly knew his stuff regarding all the material show. A great evenings entertainment and so interesting . Thanks Paul,

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November. The Colour Re(a)d. there were 17 members present**

**Jim Andrew** started the meeting by showing sheets of `red` American stamps – Franklin flying his kite, various air mail issues and flowers and birds on stamps. Some nice covers of French stamps – red heart and air mails and lots of red stamps worldwide.

**Heather Lawn** then showed us a sheet of red stamps from Belgium and Australia.

**Bob Patterson** displayed red stamps from Antigua and the Bahamas. red stamps from the Cayman Islands. Hen `Booby Birds` on stamps and then several sheets of red stamps from islands all around the world.

**Neil Hatton** completed the first half by a lovely British Empire medal in red, cards and letters showing Red Riding Hood and a nice card from the LCC. Then red roses painted on a card, Red Cross and Ambulance cards, WW1 cards and some from an early Punch magazine totally covered in script and a card from Reading. A nice collection.

**Juliet Keel** started part two by showing Royal Mail issues and covers, 1984-5 letter boxes and post offices (red of course)and some covers from the Postal History Museum. Then some Canadian covers and stamps of Expo `67 and some red roses.

**Martin Farr** then displayed his Chinese `Dream of Red Mansions` set of stamps and covers all about two young lovers who, after many problems and family feuds, at last got married and lived happily thereafter. Some beautiful stamp issues and pictorials.

**Brian May** then continued with what he called Reds and Rubbish! An illustrated book from Reg Rhodes all about stamp collecting with lots of data on 1d reds. Then lots of `Rubbish` that he had collected over the years – most cost nothing or not a lot – and he had selected several sheets of red stamps of all types found within the junk.

**Ian Keel** was next and showed several Red Cross sheets explaining all about it. Then several sheets about its history and how it started with now 186 different organisations around the world. Nice.

**Graeme Stewart** was the last up and he showed lots of red items. A Xmas card from the Post Office sent on Christmas day (not any more!) Red Post Boxes of various types,

and the oldest post box in current use in Sherbourne, Dorset. Then some `Red sky at night` on stamps and covers and finished with a film poster entitled `Little America`. Nice

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November The Society Auction Night. There were 17 members.**

The Auctioneer was	Mike Smith
The Recorder was	Bob Paterson
The Financier was	Mike Ward
The Scrutineer was	Jeff Rogers
The Assistants and Issuers were	Colin Bartholemew and Alan Cross

Number of lots	392
Number of lots sold	151
Unsold lots	241
% sold	38.5%
Total of money taken on the night	£394.90
Total of postal bids	£464.00
Overall total of	<b>£859,40</b>
Less cheques paid to vendors	£776.16
Printing of catalogues	£ 73.15
Final total	<b>£849.31</b>
Plus sale of club stocks	£ 27.00
Temporary membership	£ 12.00
Total income to club funds	<b>£ 49.09</b>

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December . “Lighthouses” There were only 16 members present.**

**Malcolm Hoskins** started the meeting by talking about his good collection of Lighthouses on PC`s, stamps and cigarette cards. He then displayed a great pack of playing cards from the USA which showed lighthouses from all around the coastline. It included the Statue of Liberty which actually is a lighthouse!

**Mike Smith** then put up a sheet of stamps of sets from S. Africa and Sweden, the USA and New Zealand all showing pictures of some of their lighthouses.

**Dave Tanner** was next and he showed several sheets of lighthouses from around the world including Jersey, the Channel Islands, Sweden and S. Africa.

**Juliet Keel** then showed us a postcard of a lighthouse in Malaga. Then one which apparently was erected in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century in Roman times at Coruna on the NE coast of Spain. Since then it has been repaired several times and is now made of brick.

**Graeme Stuart** was next and he showed two pictures of a Newbury, Andover Road house which appears to have a 6ft lighthouse made of stone in the front garden! and then a lovely card of a lighthouse from the top of N. Island, New Zealand.

To finish the first half, **Martin Farr** showed several pictures of the large white Durlleston Lighthouse near Swanage in Dorset and which had been shown in a TV drama.



**THE POSTCARD PAGE (well sort of)**

A pack of lighthouses  
from around the USA



A NZ lighthouse  
on a lovely card



Durlleston lighthouse  
in Dorset



The Malaga  
lighthouse

We then had drinks and snacks brought along by club members – mince pies, hot sausages, cheese and biscuits and some nice fruit cake. Yum Yum! Then we had a quiz, well two actually, brought by Juliet and the winner was Barney Bardsley who had 16 correct answers and was presented with a tin of Quality Street as his prize.

We then all talked about the Monday meetings for 2022 and the following subjects were decide upon-

10 <sup>th</sup> January	The Navy	7 <sup>th</sup> February	Extinct Countries
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Overprints	4 <sup>th</sup> April	Transport
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Birds	6 <sup>th</sup> June	Underpaid Mail
4 <sup>th</sup> July	The Monday Cup and Paintings		

**Remember that the Monday meetings will now start later at 2.30pm**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December – `The Annual Society Competitions`. There were 17 members.**

Everyone came up to have a look at the competition displays that were presented for judging by the members as there was no judge available. Each member had to choose the winners etc on voting sheets provided by Martin who then totalled up the choices, awarding 1<sup>st</sup> 5points, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3points, 3rd 1point

At half time there was the Christmas buffet with wine and soft drinks provided by Martin and the delicious food supplied by Juliet and Ian. Juliet was presented with a bunch of flowers for all her catering throughout the year.

Then we had a Christmas Quiz for all to attempt all about cryptic names of flowers The winners were Victoria and Mike Smith with 15 correct answers from 25 and were given a box of chocolates for their prize.

A typical question was – Receptacle for fat - Buttercup

The competition winners were as follows:-

The Jubilee Cup	won by	Barney Bardsley Numbered Crosses of the London Inland Office.
The Reg Rhodes Shield	won by	Nathan Gregory National Saving Stamps
The Keith Foster Trophy	won by	Malcolm Hoskins Decimal Cancells for the Royal Navy.
The Frank Record Trophy	won by	Mike Smith Bhotswana Issues.
The Society Trophy	won by	Barney Bardsley for the highest mark awarded for an entry
The Novices Cup		there were no entries – no novices present.
The Single Sheet Salver	won by	Barney Bardsley Issues of the rare 2/- blue stamps.

Then we all put on our masks again and went home – See you all next year!

### **USEFUL WEBSITES**

New issues at [www.tonybray.co.uk](http://www.tonybray.co.uk)

Royal Mail for all past and new issues at [www.royalmail.com](http://www.royalmail.com)

The society website with lots of data and links at [www.tdps.co.uk](http://www.tdps.co.uk)

Avion Thematics – one of the best organised sites at [www.avionstamps.com](http://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](http://www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk)

A.B.P.S for all the latest philatelic news, events and links at [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk)

# 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

2021 issues            Rugby Union

                              Cartoons

                              British Army Vehicles

December            Christmas Issues

2022

January 14<sup>th</sup>            The Queens Jubilee

                              No further data from Royal Mail as yet

### Future Programme and Events

Monday	10 <sup>th</sup> January	The Navy
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup> January	Postcards    Members to display
Monday	7 <sup>th</sup> February	Extinct Countries
Thursday	17 <sup>th</sup> February	Bruce Bairnsfather – WW1 cartoonist with Malcolm Hoskins
Monday	7 <sup>th</sup> March	Overprints
Thursday	17 <sup>th</sup> March	Thematics – Your choice
Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup> March	WESTBEX at the Kennet School, Thatcham
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> April	Transport
Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup> April	The Chairmans Evening
Monday	9 <sup>th</sup> May	Birds

### Officers of the Club

### Committee

<b>President</b>	John Baron	01933 650092	Vacant
<b>Chairman</b>	Mike Smith	01189 333257	Neil Hatton            01635 280639
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Still vacant		Paul Watkins            07870 851837
<b>Secretary</b>	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942	Andrew Gore            01635 281552
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Ward	01635 864307	

<b>Archivist</b>	Still Need One	<b>WestBex</b>	Graeme, Martin and Ann	<b>Publicity</b>	Martin Farr
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