



THE THATCHAM

# POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
SWUMMER EDITION JUNE 2022



## The Chairmans Report

Most of you will know that questions have been raised about the future of our club. Costs have been rising and membership is just above 40. The average age of our membership is increasing and young members are hard to find – both for us and other clubs as well. No need to panic just yet as our finances are healthy but expenses are rising and we need to be aware for the future. We all enjoy our club and the friendship and interest we get from it so what do we need to do to keep it alive and well?

Clubs do not run themselves. We need new volunteers to join the committee and shadow officers of the club.

We have two main sources of income – membership fees and Westbex. Westbex has been run by Graeme, Martin, Barney and Ann for some years now and they could do with a hand. It is not difficult and does not take up a lot of time. Thanks to all those who helped out this year. Please come forward if you can help in any way on the Committee, the Packet circuit or Westbex or to shadow so that we can think positively about the future.

(continued on page 5 in date sequence)

Mike Smith - Chairman

Year 57

Issue 150

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The Queens Platinum Jubilee Flag

*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



The Saltash Bridge



Hovercraft varieties



Planes and Boats



Trains and Planes



Transport sheets



Coach types



Death Anniversary of Rowland Hill



Carte Postal cover



A great Persian seal on a cover



Bird book



Penguins



Kingfisher



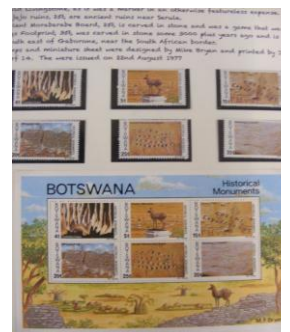
Birds of all the USA States



Birds on Tiles



Mike Smith Botswana Man



Animals of Botswana

## PAST EVENTS

### **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April “Transport” There were 16 members present**

John Shambrook started the afternoon by showing and telling us about his Flying Boat series of stamps. Several nice covers of the `Canopus` that flew all over the world with many calling at Durban and far away places before returning to their base at Southampton. All his covers were carried by this service.

**Malcolm Hoskins** then displayed many sheets about the Hovercraft that was designed by Cockerell. He showed several sheets of different craft and of all the places that they travelled to including Guernsey and Jersey. A nice display.

**Jim Andrew** was next and he showed sheets of covers about bicycles and French motor bikes and four wheeled devices. Then a nice mini sheet of French travel items – by balloon, by water and by space shuttle. Nice pictures.

**Mike Smith** then showed various Bhotswana methods of transport. Canoes, Donkeys pulling carts, sledging across sand, Camel transporters and some nice covers of multi-travel journeys. An interesting selection.

**Martin Farr** then showed a great sequence of transport by train. He showed the great Heath Robinson cartoon of the building of the Saltash Bridge and then sheets of data about steam engineers – Newcomen, Watt, Trevethick`s engines, the Rainhill trials won by Stephenson`s Rocket and finished with several sheets about the Age of Steam with lots of pictures of steam trains.

**Barney Bardsley** then showed us covers and sheets all about his favourite subject – canals! Pictures of the panama and Suez canals – both short cuts between large bodies of water. The Suez was an early idea of Napoleons apparently. Then he showed a map card of the Suez profile and pictures of the boats that used it. A nice sequence.

**Dave Tanner** started part two with lots of American stamps showing many forms of transport methods – road, rail, air, travelling post offices, early settlers transports, travels by canoe, boats and barges and by balloons and planes. then he spoke about the Swedish pioneer journeys by boats from Canada to south west USA. A good display.

**Ian Keel** the put up lots of sheets of transporting methods each sheet dedicated to a method. By road, rail, air, flying machines, sea, space and balloon. A great set of stamps.

**Juliet Keel** then showed us lots of mail coach cards. Lots of different coaches and horses, several novelty coach cards, The 1905 London to Brighton mail coach runs. Then cards of Postal bikes and buses from Jersey and some air mail posters. A great display.

**Graeme Stewart** then ended the afternoon by showing Thatcham and Newbury related mail covers and stamps, lots of cards showing a variety of transport methods of the area and finished with a nice postcard of the HMS Thatcham transporter. Very interesting.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April “Postal Stationery, Envelopes and Covers**

**Nathan Gregory** began the meeting with a display of items found in Glory Boxes. many of which were Victorian covers bearing embossed 1d stamps. A number of these had interesting postmarks, particularly Maltese Cross hand-stamps used before the introduction of cancelling machines. Also shown were items of postal stationery from Western Australia together with some hand illustrated covers. A nice display

**Juliet Keel** was next and she showed postcards from various European countries, the USA, and India.

Then **Ian Keel** displayed GB Covers some of which bore Post Office penalty markings for underpayment. or (in the case of franked items) being posted on the incorrect day.

**Jim Andrews`** display included Australian and U.S. aerograms and pre-stamped envelopes. Then several other items including Swedish Military mail and an interesting wartime censored item from the Netherlands to Czechoslovakia. A nice set of items.

**Colin West** then showed a great variety of material which fell under the heading of `Postal Stationery`. Among these were postcards – including an overprinted `specimen`- Aerograms, letter sheets, newspaper wrappers, letter cards. postcards attachments with for replies French Pneumatic Post items and an unused Balloon Post prepaid letter from the Franco-Prussian war. What a great selection of items.

After the break, **Malcolm Hoskins** showed items of prepaid envelopes handled by UK Mail, TNT and DHL all bearing their logos.

And finally, to end the evening, **Dave Tanner** showed material from Persia such as pre-printed envelopes and wrappers stamped with various denominations and then some plain and illustrated postcards and commemorative aerograms.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May `Birds` There were only 10 present.**

**Malcolm Hoskins** started the afternoon by showing sheets of his Phone Cards collection that had birds on them. Then a fine selection of bird cards and trade cards with birds on. Then several lovely sheets of birds of prey. What a collection.

**Juliet Keel** was next and her subject was Birds in Art. A good variety of postcards, from all over the world (one with a Chinese goose on it.). Portuguese and French birds on tiles (very nice too) and a wide collection of birds from all over. A great collection.

**Dave Tanner** then showed a lot of very attractive from all over – Island birds on stamps – from Jersey, Guernsey and the Falklands. Pictures of pheasants and peacocks and owls and ended with sheets of birds of prey from everywhere.

**Jim Andrew** started part two showing birds on stamps – 12 days of Christmas – first day of issue on USA stamps and a large sheet of 50 bird stamps, one from each state. What a good display.

**Mike Smith** was next and he showed and spoke about `the Birds of Botswana – pigeons, doves, and many other species from South Africa such as kingfishers from the Okavanga Delta region. Nice.

To finish the afternoon, **Graeme Stewart** showed birds from the Antarctic such as gannets and grebes, then sheets of bird stamps and covers showing petrels, albatross, and more penguins – many from the islands and South Africa. A nice selection.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May `The Chairman`s Evening and Future`. 17 attendees.**

(Chairmans report continued) The fees of the Memorial Hall have increased significantly due to energy costs, but the club is applying for a discount on the grounds of being a non-profit organisation. Your committee will be looking at ways of increasing our income and will bring ideas forward at the AGM in September. The Council Chambers are terminating our letting and so we believe that the old Bluecoats School will be suitable for our Monday meetings, far less expensive and plenty of free parking. We will be reviewing our membership fees in September in line with increasing costs. It is your club so if you have any ideas then please share them.

After the break **Mike** spoke about and presented philately from Botswana where he lived for 9 years in the late 70`s. His sheets of stamps covered the first 25 years of Botswana issues. A great sequence of stamps and covers all in time order. Industrial issues, independant life, several sheets of wildlife such as birds, animals and wild animals, It was all very well laid out and presented with very interesting descriptions of selected items.

**Monday June 6<sup>th</sup> “Underpaid Mail” there were just 6 members present**  
(because many thought that it was a bank holiday!)

**Brian May** started the meeting with a few old covers that he came across with postage due changes and cancels. Then he showed a letter from Thatcham football club to a team player telling him of the time and place of the next match.

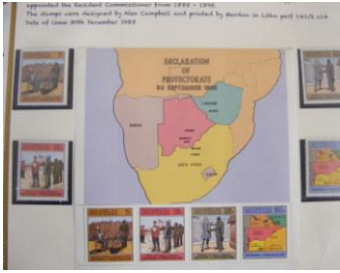
**Ian Keels** items were brought by Brian May. Four double-sided sheets of postage due charges for letters that had not enough postage paid or were surcharged as well.

**Mike Smith** showed a couple of postage due cancels related to parcel postage. Then a set of specimen stamps with postage due overprints followed by postage dues from Bechuanaland with overprinted values in cents upon the original prices.

**Jim Andrew** showed us several sheets of postage due issues, a family card with no stamps used at all resulting in charges to pay overprint. Then several more postcards, both front and back, of various postage due charges imposed. The he showed a large flat envelope absolutely `splattered` (his word) with changes and customs charges.

**Graeme Stewart** began part two with pictures of local post boxes outside Parsons Down School with the tops all covered with knitted items about the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Then a nice collection of letters and postcards from and to Thatcham. (page 7)

THE POSTCARD PAGE (well sort of)



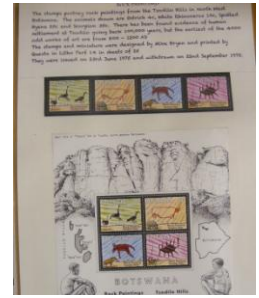
Botswana Neighbours



University FDC



Botswana Artifacts



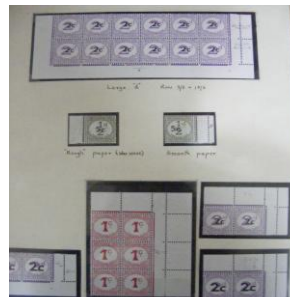
Rock paintings and wildlife



Jubilee Decorated Postboxes



Covered in Customs charge labels



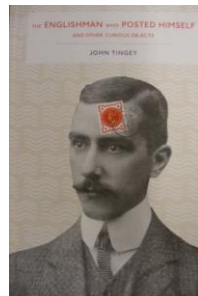
Bechuanaland `Cents` overprints



USA Arctic Little America overprints



Reginald Bray Data



John Tingey's book



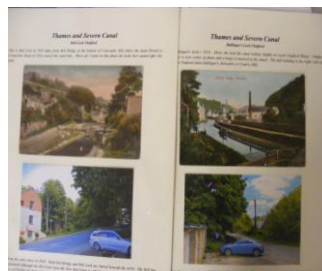
From the Daily Mail March 20th 2012



Bray Ephemera



The Basingstoke Canal



The Thames and Severn Canal



The Monmouthshire Canal

(Graeme continued) all with underpaid mail stickers on. Then he showed several sheets of postage due covers and envelopes and finished with several sheets of `To Pay` on postcards to Newbury. It was quite a nice set of sheets.

In the room I found a Queens Jubilee sheet draped over a chair and so the photo is on the front cover of the magazine.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June “Philatelic Halves” with John Tingey  
and Barney Bardsley. 17 members present.**

Reginald Bray revisited was **John Tingey`s** theme and he spoke about his original interests in Bray and how he began to collect lots of data with much research as well. His book was published in 2010 with fantastic tales and lovely artwork and illustrations- `The Englishman who posted himself and other curious objects`. He showed books and letters from all over the world and many references in magazines and newspapers with a full page article in the Daily Mail. John has been mentioned in several TV programmes and his book about Bray has been included in several authors books and also in U-Tube as well, The sheets of letters and cards that John put together were displayed as were a large table of Bray ephemera that he spoke about how he had obtained it all. He also showed sheets of letters and cards that Bray had sent and received from all over the world. Bray also wrote letters in Latin and `creative writing` that the post office had to decipher before they could be delivered. Finally John showed two sheets of letters to and from Emmeline Pankhurst all written by Bray that made interesting reading. It was a great talk and display and very well presented. Thank you John.

In part two **Barney Bardsley** spoke about Canals and Waterways – which, apart from 1d blacks, is his favourite subject. He showed a large map of the canals and waterways of England and Wales and pointed out many of the rivers and canal systems on it. In the early days of the 17<sup>th</sup> century many river weirs had `gates` in them to let the boats through – terrible losses of water that took ages to refill once the gates were closed. The late 1700`s saw the start of canals being built and the first was in Exeter – the Bridgewater canal. The Basingstoke canal of 1794, the Monmouthshire canal of 1789, the Thames and Severn of 1789 and the Lancaster of 1818. Of course they all had towpaths so the boats and barges could be towed along by horses. He showed many sheets of cards and pictures of the modern systems – the `now-called` Kennet and Avon canal and some nice pictures of the Trans-Pennine. He also showed some `Carried Mail` letters and cards to be delivered but they had to relate to the cargo carried by the boat. It was a lovely display with some great photographs of canals and locks. Thank you Barney.

# 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

### 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)

### New Issues

January 20 <sup>th</sup>	The Rolling Stones	February 4 <sup>th</sup>	No issues
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Designs of D Gentleman	March 8 <sup>th</sup>	The FA Cup
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Covid Pandemic Heroes	April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Migratory Birds
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Women of WW2	June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cats

### Future Programme and Events

Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> April	Transport
Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup> April	Postal Stationary, Envelopes and Covers
Monday	9 <sup>th</sup> May	Birds
Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup> May	The Chairmans Evening and the Future
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> June	Underpaid Mail
Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup> June	Philatelic Halves
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> July	The Monday Cup and Paintings
Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup> July	Jim Andrew and Brian May Entertain

**NOTE**  
**The Monday meetings will now start again at 2pm**

### Officers of the Club

### Committee

<b>President</b>	John Baron	01933 650092	<b>Paul Watkins</b>	07870 851837
<b>Chairman</b>	Mike Smith	01189 333257	<b>Jim Andrews</b>	01635 29739
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Still vacant		<b>Jeff Rogers</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942		
<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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