



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK



THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

AUTUMN EDITION OCTOBER 2012

Chairman's report .

This year, the Thursday meetings have included 3 guest speakers with the talk given by Sue Hopson having a large turnout of members and guests. The Monday afternoon meetings remain very popular with their more informal and intimate nature possibly in part to a smaller venue.

Graeme, Martin and the Johns Baron and Tingey have visited several societies and I understand that their displays and talks have been much appreciated.

WestBex was again a success and thanks are due to Will Roberts, and the WestBex committee for making this annual event a highlight of our calendar.

We hope to make the auction an annual event and again, much hard work was undertaken particularly by Nathan. Auctions involve a large amount of effort and the auction committee are to be congratulated on having run the event so efficiently.

Membership is steady at around 60 members and publicity fliers have started to be distributed in the hope of recruiting new members.

We had several entries in the Thames Valley 9-sheet competitions with Ian and Juliet coming second in the Thematic class, and Louise and Martin coming joint second in the Open class. Congratulations to all of them. Keeping a high profile for TDPS is important and I would like to encourage any of our members who feel they would like to compete at Federation level to do so. I am sure that our more experienced members will happily give guidance if asked. Don't forget the Christmas Competitions for this year.

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Year 46

Issue 118

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John Baron presenting the ABPS Award of Merit
to Graeme Stewart

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

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or

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Autumn Photo Gallery



Some of Sue's lovely material



Sue Hopson



A full house



Zheng He sheets



5 sheets to view



Some of Phillip's fantastic display on the Titanic



The Titanic Memorial



Phillip with a Titanic Bear (2012 issue)

Presentation of the Monday Cup to Mike Gurr



PAST EVENTS ETC

Chairman's Report continued :- Finally I would like to thank all this year's committee for their efforts and, in addition - Martin for doing the publicity and newsletter - Dave Tanner for club stamps and accessories - all those that helped set up and dismantle WestBex - Ann, Juliet and Ian for the meeting refreshments and of course, in the words of Leonard Sachs, principally yourselves for supporting the Society.

Barney Bardsley – Chairman.

JULY

The Monday Cup competition was held on the 2nd and there were 17 members present with apologies from 5 members. 7 members entered the competition which was for a three sheets display.

The judging was done by those attending and the outcome was very close indeed :-

In joint third place were **Tony Jordan** with 'St George the Dragon Slayer'.

and **John Shambrook** with 'Flights in the Bleriot XI monoplane

In second place was **Dave Tanner** with 'Germany – Military zones issues'.

In first place for the Cup was **Mike Gurr** with 'The General Life and Fire Assurance Co'.

On Thursday 19th we were given a wonderful talk by **Sue Hopson** on 'The Postal History of Newbury and Thatcham' There was a great audience of 34 present including her son Jonathan, (who assisted) her, and some family friends.

Her display – as she said – was really a collection of postmarks but of course they are all on postal material with some of the earliest being from 1586 (Newbury to London) up to 1764.

Plenty of 'straight line' postmarks and 'mileage' marks and old letters from the district – Thatcham, Woolhampton, Kingsclere, Kintbury, Chieveley, East Ilsley and Newbury sub-offices in the area dating from 1811-1846. The first half was finished off with numerous examples of the uniform 1d post from around the area.

In the second half Sue showed various very early cancellation types of Newbury, letters to the WW1 POW camp at the racecourse, and finally various early cancellation types from Hungerford and its outlying postal districts. All in all a wonderful jaw-dropping collection of postal material of the early days of our local postal areas.

AUGUST

There was no Monday meeting held in August, the next one being in September.

The theme for the Thursday meeting on 16th was 'Exploration and Conquest' and there were 19 members present.

In the first part **Juliet Keel** opened the evening showing several sheets on 'Explorations into Medicine' which included Nobel winner Malani, Immunology, Neurology, Tuberculosis, Asthma and Flemings discovery of Penicillin.

Barry Smith then showed some interesting sheets on exploratory flights to South Africa by Imperial Airways and then exploratory flight by Cobham who, with his engineer Elliot, departed Croydon in November 1925 and returned to UK in February 1926. Elliot carried 6 letters which he sent back to UK by surface mail. These are Very Collectable indeed.

Martin Farr finished off the first half with his sheets on Zheng He the Chinese Admiral and his cohorts who sailed the world in 1419-21, mapped out many regions, (their maps are only tens of miles out from modern ones), left Chinese deposits (and Chinese Genes), particularly in Australia, NZ and the west coast of the Americas, and of one of his admirals Zhou Wen who sailed the Arctic route back to China! He was ridiculed for many years but recently the ice sheets are melting (again) and in 2005 a ship sailed across the top of Canada and into the Pacific. So the Chinese did it first after all.

The second half was started by **Jerry Wilson** who showed some great sheets on Australian Antarctic Exploration. These included James Ross 1819-27, Robert Falcon Scott 1910-04 and 1910-13 and Shackleton's 1907 Nimrod expedition. Gerry then finished by talking about the meeting of Stanley and Livingstone who met up in 1871.

Alan Cross showed centenary issue sheets about the Australian explorer Charles Sturt who, in 1830, long before air flights, explored and investigated the westerly flowing rivers of East Australia flowing into the interior trying to explain the hypothesis that there was perhaps an inland sea. Alan also showed some modern stamps of plants named after Sturt – the desert pea and the desert rose.

To finish off the evening **Graeme Stewart** showed us quite a few sheets on Antarctic explorations that included pictures, FDC's, covers, maps and details of the anniversaries of the expeditions by James Clark Ross, Robert Falcon Scott and others.

A very interesting evening and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

September

On Monday 3rd we were in for a treat when **Phillip Cant** was the guest speaker with his subject and display material on **'The Titanic'** which he entitled 'A diary of a disaster to life beyond the grave and beyond' and of course, 2012 is the anniversary year of the tragic sinking.

Phillip showed items from his early collecting days of 'wallpaper stamps', phone cards, covers and world issues. Many early pictures of the Titanic are actually of her sister ship the 'Olympic'. Many illustrations show smoke from all four funnels but only three were actually used! In March 1909 the Titanic keel was laid down and by April 1st 1912 she was ready for sea trials which were over in just one day! On April 6th the staff were recruited and at noon on April 10th she was cast off fully loaded with a full complement of passengers and crew. Talk about deadlines to meet. At 1.30 pm on the 11th the Titanic left Queenstown in southern Ireland bound for New York at full speed. The impact with the iceberg occurred at 11.40pm on the 14th and she finally sank early the next morning at 02.20am with a heavy loss of life.

In part 2 Phillips illustrated story continued. The first newspaper reports were utter nonsense (all were saved etc). The enquiry was too fast and glossed over obvious facts 'not enough lifeboats' was the main complaint.

In 1985 the search for the wreck was started and the Titanic was finally found in the September and in 1986 the undersea rover 'Alvin' was used to search the wreck and many artifacts were recovered. Books and films have been written and made about the Titanic and she even has her own website.

The bear that Phillip is holding is a Steiff bear issued in 2012 as a commemoration of the original 1,500 bears that were issued in 1912, that being the number of passengers and crew that were lost on that fateful night.

What a wonderful and informative afternoon!

The Annual General meeting was held on Thursday 20th September at the Memorial Hall and there were 23 members present. There were 3 apologies for absence and the minutes of the last AGM were signed off with no matters arising.

The chairman gave his report (please see pages 1&3) followed by the treasures report on the state of the club funds. These seem to be in good shape with no mean thanks to the income generated by WestBex and the Raffle which together generated a considerable sum for the club. The recent auction was not too well attended and the treasurer said that, in future, 'attend and spend' would have to be the policy if it was to continue. We do need material for these auctions so contact the committee if you might want to submit items to auction.

There was a short discussion on club subscriptions and the outcome was to leave them as they are at £10.00 with no auxiliary memberships as yet.

The election of Officers and committee resulted in the following persons being elected:-

Chairman	Barney Bardsley
Vice Chairman	Ian Keel

Secretary

Treasurer

Auction Secretary

Committee Members

Graeme Stewart

Mike Ward

Post not filled

Ann Martin

Colin Bartholemew

Mike Gurr

Tony Jordan

Reg Rhodes has retired from the committee after many years of work. We thank him for all that he has done for the society.

Once again George Goody was appointed as Hon. Examiner

Mike Gurr spoke about the newly started packet circuit. One packet is in circulation with the second due out shortly. He is collecting more material for a third so if you have enough material to fill a packet book with stamps, covers etc, do let Mike know.

Much discussion took place regarding the name change of the society to a Stamp and Postcard Club. it was agreed that there would be quite a lot of legalese required to do this and so it was decided to keep the official name as is but to include 'for stamp and postcards' on all circulating flyers and adverts.

Then a proposed amendment to the constitution regarding subscriptions was read, discussed and passed. Subscriptions shall become due on 1st January each year and shall be paid directly to the treasurer. The treasurer shall keep a list of current members. Members whose subscriptions have not been paid by 28th February shall be sent a reminder by the treasurer. If the members subscription has not been received by 31st March their membership shall be deemed to have terminated without further correspondence.

At this point, there being no further business, the AGM was brought to a close to be followed by the ABPS award of merit to Graeme by John Baron – (see below).

After a cheese and wine supper provided by Ann, Mike and Martin the meeting finished up with a mini auction by David Beddoes and Reg Rhodes and one of club stamps by Dave Tanner.

Graeme Stewart – a brief synopsis of the submission

Graeme and his family moved to Thatcham in 1972. He became a member of the club in 1976 and worked on the periphery of the club for the first four years.

In 1984 the club was looking for a secretary and he was persuaded to take on the role. 28 years later he is still our secretary but has altered the role substantially which now includes membership and programme roles. These roles he undertakes with a professionalism rarely seen at local level. During the last 20 years he has represented the club on the Thatcham Festival committee to ensure that we are represented during The Thatcham Festival of Arts and Leisure week with our annual stamp fair. He is a good organiser and our guest speakers always receive a warm welcome from him.

In 2000 he, with others, was responsible for the first of our 'WestBex' stamp fairs which are now firmly established in the philatelic calendar. This is an annual event held in March is supported by over 20 dealers and, in the last few years, the National Philatelic Society have been in attendance. Graeme is part of a team of three that organises and delivers this event.

Graeme has been actively involved in our membership of the Hampshire Federation and more recently the Thames Valley Federation. In addition he assists with the TVPF 9-sheet competitions which are incorporated into WestBex.

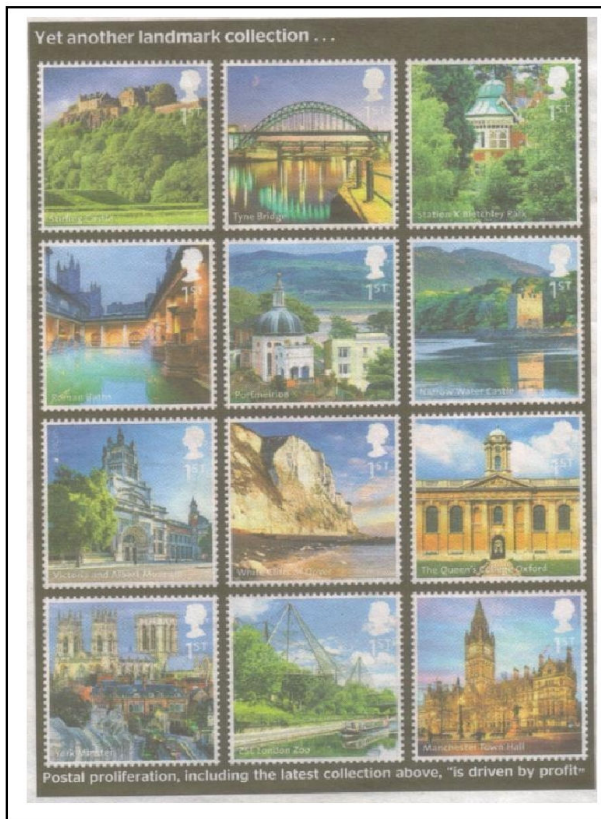
On a personal front Graeme is always willing to give his displays on 'Local Postal History (Thatcham Post Cards) and 'Post Boxes' to local community groups including the W.I, Church groups and others. He has recently been involved in helping to promote the stamp club in local primary schools as part of their family learning week.

All our club chairmen, committee and members have benefitted from having Graeme as our secretary and he has been a major support to me in my national role.

Jim Mowat The past Chairman of the Thatcham Society.

John Baron President of the Thatcham Society and Chairman of the ABPS
(Association of British Philatelic Societies).

THE POSTCARD PAGE (WELL, NOT THIS ISSUE)



An Article from the Times of April 10th
with comments from our President

A glut of special issues is pricing
philatelists out of the market
reports Tom Whipple

Royal Mail's latest issue of stamps and the (Olympic sets since) you would think is a harmless paean to tourist attractions. But think again.

'Royal Mail is making Britain a laughing stock of the Philatelic world', according to Alec Macguire a stamp collector from Surrey. John Baron, chairman of ABPS goes further. 'They have ruined it', he said darkly, 'They have killed the market'.

The issue for Britain's stamp collectors seems initially counter-intuitive. The problem is, there are too many issues. This year a keen philatelist could have bought a set of stamps honouring Roald Dahl. He or she could have complemented that with 'Britons of Distinction' or the 'House of Windsor' collection. There is a set depicting comedy books and also classic locomotives. By the time the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics have finished the variety of stamps will make 2012 one of the most prolific years from a philatelic perspective.

Each collection costs money and often requires buying the full set, international and recorded delivery stamps and the postcard as well. And for those collectors who seek to hold an entire country's output it has become too much.

'I used to collect every issue of GB stamps' said Mr Baron. 'Ultimately, you just can't afford to do it. It's only one or two people with a bottomless pit of money who can'.

Some collectors have few concerns. 'Dedicated collectors have complained for well over 100 years about excessive issues but the hobby still survives and indeed flourishes', said Ian Billings of Norvic Philatelics. He hints at another possible explanation for the present proliferation, 'Doubtless once the privatisation process has gone ahead the number of issues will increase still further'. The reason is Profit. Each stamp sold to a collector makes a lot more money than one sold for postal use. They never make it on to an envelope and so the cost to the Royal Mail is only the printing cost as they don't have to deliver the letter!

For Mr Baron though, the real villain is not the Royal Mail but the philatelists that support it. 'It's the collectors who buy them who are really the problem. Royal Mail is just making a profit', he said. That may be the case, but even so it has decided that this year was perhaps excessive – the company has promised to issue fewer stamps in future. It may be just in time too.

'The young people of today cannot afford to collect new issues' said Mr Baron. And, he added gravely, 'Young people are the future'.

p.s.

Online sales at Stanley Gibbons were up 90% in the first 6 months as collectors from as far away as India and China claimed their own slice of the Silver Jubilee and Olympic history.

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

September 27th

September 28th

October 16th

October 30th

November 8th

Olympic Memories

Faststamps: Cattle

The World of Dinosaurs

Space Science

Christmas issues

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions will remain at £10.00

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.

For Sale

An `Ancient Collector` offers any or all of the following SG catalogues in return for a modest donation(s) to the RAF Benevolent Fund or the `Not Forgotten` Association.

2005 BC and Empire 1840-1952,

1997 BC parts 1 & 2,

1999 BC parts 1& 2,

1992/3BC parts 1 &2.

Complete editions of BC for – 1945, 1966, 1970, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1985, 1986, 1989, 1991 and 1992.

World simplified for 1946 and 1970, and 1964 America/Asia/Africa.

1914 edition of Bright's `The World's Postage Stamps` part 1 adhesives.

All of the above are in good condition and can be collected from Mortimer or local delivery is possible. Contact Barry Newton on 01189 332412

THE BACK PAGE

“Club Stamps” corner

TDPS Club Stamps are now being 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 and at Westbex.

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 1st October

Postcards that you collect or just like.

Saturday 13th October

34th Annual Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall Thatcham
from 10am to 4pm

Thursday 18th October

In conjunction with the Thatcham Festival of Arts and Leisure.

Saturday 20th October

‘Gibraltar through Philately’ with guest speaker Colin Searle.

Fri-Sun 1-3 November

Hampex at the Wickham Community Centre, Hants.

Monday 5th November

Philatex Royal Horticultural Hall, London.

Thursday 15th November

Islands – members displays

Postcards – members to Display and a mini auction.

Note that the above meeting will now take place in the Thatcham Town Council Chambers due to the polling day

Monday 3rd December

Social, Quiz and mini-auction.

Thursday 20th December

Christmas Social and Competitions/Quiz evening

i) Society Trophy

ii) Frank Record Trophy

iii) Reg Rhodes Thematic Shield

iv) Jubilee Cup

v) Novices Trophy

vi) Keith Foster Memorial Trophy – Postal History

vii) Single Sheet Salver

Monday 7th January

World Leaders / 10 famous people

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

Archivist

Julia Wilson

Westbex

Will Roberts

Publicity

Martin Farr

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Mike Gurr	01635 43398