



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY



WESTBEX EDITION APRIL 2012

Chairman`s report.

Once again we had a very successful Westbex fair. The attendance was excellent and the majority of the dealers were very satisfied with the day`s activities.

Our thanks must go to quite a few club members for their efforts in making the event such a success. Without their help Westbex could not have taken place.

Firstly to all those club members who helped with the setting up on the Friday night and Saturday morning and also with the clearing up in the afternoon.

The Westbex committee of Will Roberts - overseer, Graeme Stewart – bookings and dealers (and there were several last minute changes to be done) and Martin Farr who handled the publicity and the programme.

Ann Martin who took control of the raffle and all the tickets and prizes and did a great job.

And finally to the team of Ann, Louise, Juliet and Graeme that manned the front desk and gave out programmes and information and to Ian and Juliet who looked after the NPS room and their attending members.

Barney Bardsley, Chairman

Year 46

Issue 116

Inside this issue:-

Front page - Chairmans
Letter

Page 2 - Photographs

Page 3 - WESTBEX

Page 4 - Meetings data

Page 5 - Meetings data

Page 6 - Postcard page

Page 7 - Websites, Royal
Mail Issues, Society data.

Back page - Club Stamps,
Future Events, Society data.



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anything in this newsletter
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Winter Photo Gallery



The Front Desk Team

Federation 9-sheet competition entries



A general view



The winning entry from Park House Accepted by Jack Bowler



The 'Design a Stamp' entries



Jerry Wilson with 'The House of Windsor'



John Hayward and his International 16-sheet display



Issues of the 23 heavyweight boxing champions



Alwyn Lowe and his great display on Czeslaw Slania



His 70th birthday engraving and his 1000th Swedish stamp

WESTBEX 2012

Yet another successful Westbex. There were 135 programmes given out but, with couples just taking one, club members that already had one and those who did not want one, we estimated total visitor numbers at over 155. At noon I counted 85 visitors in the rooms and 76 at 1pm. Grosvenor auctions did very well with more than a few persons wanting to value/sell their collections – Tristan was well pleased as were the dealers because all the tables have been re-booked for next year. So well done everybody.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our secretary, Graeme Stewart, who has been awarded the 2012 ABPS Award of Merit for his services to philately. No further details are available at present but the award will be presented to Graeme sometime in the future.

Thames Valley Federation 9-sheet Competition Results

Traditional	First	Tony Stanford	Maidenhead	British Levant KEVII Postal cards
	2 nd	Roger Barry	Reading	Sungei Ujong
	3 rd	Stephen Marks	Oxford	Albanian weeds
Postal History	First	Eric Holmes	Wokingham	US mails from/to/via Gibraltar
	2 nd	Mike Kitson	Oxford	Postal agency at St Thomas
	3 rd	Mark Bailey	Wokingham	A Philatelic look at Zeeland
Thematic	First	Greg Wynn	Maidenhead	Turn, tumble and twist
	2 nd	Ian Keel	Thatcham	International Red Cross
	3 rd	Mike Payne	Oxford	Pillar boxes
Open	First	Tony Simmonds	Maidenhead	World scout jubilee jamboree 1957
	2 nd	Martin Farr	Thatcham	Origins of Humankind
Aerophilately	First	Eddie Spicer	Maidenhead	Effects of WWII on N Atlantic airmail
	2 nd	Derek Harwood	Wokingham	South Pole flights 1956-78
Cinderella	First	David Potts	Oxford	Horticultural poster stamps 1896-1930
Special study	First	Louise Funnell	Thatcham	Ceres – approved of recycling?

Raffle Prize Winners

1 st	1068	£100	Jack Bowler
2 nd	0935	£10 voucher	Martin Farr
3 rd	0412	Bottle of Gin	Julia Wilson
4 th	1230	Stock book	Diane Lidiard
5 th	0916	Beer in a basket	Bill Pipe
6 th	0549	Tin of biscuits	Samuel Bosham
7 th	0472	Electric kettle	Barney Bardsley
8 th	0972	Tea and a Teddy	Martin Jenkinson
9 th	0276	Bottle of wine	Bev Hall
10 th	1232	Bottle of whiskey	Mr Cornford

A very successful raffle indeed and thanks to all the club members who both bought and sold tickets and to all those that purchased them on the day. We made quite a considerable profit for the society of over £300. Well done to all.

Ann Martin

“Design a Sports Stamp for 2012”

The event was organised by Will Roberts in conjunction with John Davies from the `Stamp Active` group that has been set up to encourage stamp collecting by the younger generation.

There were 6 entries from schools in the county (see pictures page) and also shown were the design sheets that the school pupils used to produce their final entries.

The public were asked to vote for their favourite design and at 1.30pm the result was announced and the winning entry was D - “Gymnastics and Flames” - from four Park House pupils who collaborated on the design. Jack Bowler, a young visitor to the fair, received the award on their behalf.

All participants received a `Stamp Active` presentation pack and the winning entry received a valuable packet of stamps and first day covers generously donated by the London Organisation Committee for the Olympic Games.

PAST EVENTS

Both the January Monday meeting and Thursday meeting were quite well attended given the time of the year. **Creepy Crawlies** was the theme for the Monday and quite a few members showed their knowledge of them from ants and bugs to snakes, spiders and termites.

On the Thursday Members displayed their **New Acquisitions** with, once again, many taking part with more than 10 members showing their various items. A well supported afternoon.

The Monday meeting in February had the theme of **60 Glorious Years** and we had a wealth of members that showed their interest in the Queen.

Tony Jordan showed 10 sheets of the letter A of his omnibus issues of the Golden Jubilee. Nice.

Mike Gurr showed 3 covers of the Queen, the coach and Windsor Castle.

Ian Keel displayed 9 sheets of various aspects of the Queen's anniversaries over the years.

Eric Osmond showed 12 sheets covering the coronation, anniversaries, silver jubilee and golden wedding anniversary.

Jerry Wison showed us a great collection of his **The House of Windsor** theme from the death of George VI up until the present day including the coronation, the Queen's 40th and golden wedding anniversaries, Charles and Diana, Charles and Camilla and William and Catherine.

All in all a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon for the 19 members attending.

February's Thursday meeting was a workshop on **Layout and Design** and **How to**. For the first half a guest speaker – **John Hayward**, an international competition winner – gave advice on layout and presentation which is summarised as follows:-

Read the rules of the competitions you are entering.

Plain white or cream paper is best and keep within the borders you have set.

Good handwriting is great for **old stamp** style entries – for all the rest do use a computer.

Black type – same font throughout and emphasise each item with a border if required.

Use photomounts for cards and covers.

If you photocopy a reverse side then it must be up to 75% max and have an explanation.

Balance the pages – 9-sheet = same sort of items on pages 4 and 6 and 7 and 9 with large items such as covers in the middle or bottom of pages.

No value or rarity to be mentioned. Always put nice items on page 1 and page 5 (9-sheet).

Make sure that, if Thematic or Open class, the rest of the exhibit relates in sequence to page 1 data.

Have a trial layout on the floor to see how it all looks and re-arrange as required before page 1 data done.

For part 2 we had 3 club members explaining **How to**:-

The chairman, **Barney Bardsley** talked about early Victorian GB issues and how to plate 1d blacks.

Ian Keel explained all about Machins and all of their various types, phosphors and their identification.

Martin Farr used computers to show basic layout and design techniques used for philatelic material.

All in all a very good and interesting evening.

On Thursday 28th Graeme and Martin travelled up into the wilds of Berkshire, way past Kingston Bagpuize, to the N. Berks society where they were made very welcome by a small but keen audience.

Graeme showed and talked about **Postboxes** and their locations over the years while Martin covered **Chinese myths and legends** and some **Timeline** items. Lots of questions and keen chat made it a very pleasant evening.

For Monday 5th March the theme was **What I collect** (other than stamps) and there were 23 members attending. We had a wide and varied **ephemera** afternoon as follows:-

Jerry Wilson brought 6 sets of **Crown** coins from Victoria to the Queen's 70th together with the booklets and information sheets.

David Beddoes showed some Lilliput models – most from the lake district – plus the church at Balmoral, the Blue Boar pub – (now the Crab at Chieveley) - and the Greenwich observatory.

Eric Osmond showed some early railway postcards by several issuers and a lovely coloured collection of railway stations of London.

Ian and Juliet Keel brought a collection of measuring instruments including slide rules, various rulers and tabulating devices plus a collection of old coins (some looked quite rare now) from his emptying juke-boxes

John Shambrook brought Cards on Louis Bleriot, very early aviation postcards and anniversary cards of early aviators.

Reg Rhodes showed some of Sue` Margaret Tarrant silhouette cards – very nice.

Tony Jordan brought some sets of cigarette cards of horses, horse racing and jockeys and a very nice racecourse membership card with a stagecoach on it. And finally-

Graeme Stewart showed some of his collection of Post Boxes of various types and locations from 1850 – the very first one in the Channel Islands to the first UK one in Carlisle in 1853.

It was another well attended afternoon (21 members present) with many interesting items on view.

.The Thursday meeting was a display by **Alwyn Lowe** on **Czeslaw Slania the Royal Engraver**.

Alwyn talked about his life since his birth in 1921 and how he was expelled from school for forging meal vouchers! He learned about the design trade in Poland and in 1936 decided to go to Sweden, where, after 4 years of mundane jobs, he decided to go to Canada but his friend died and so he took his design post instead eventually to start designing postage stamps, with his first for Sweden in 1960. He became the court photographer and engraver for Sweden , Denmark and Monaco so hence the term `The Royal Engraver`.

He engraved countless sheets of Swedish issues both commemoratives and definitives and there were three lovely issues for his 70th birthday in 1991 plus some commemorative issues for his 1,000th engraving for Sweden. He produced his last stamp for them in 2004.

In 1952 he engraved the Hans Christian Anderson set for Denmark and also the Danish royal family issues plus issues for Iceland, Monaco and the royal family, and worldwide engravings for Singapore, Tunisia, China, Australia, Hong Kong and the United Nations plus the well-known ones for G.B. He also produced a nice set of 23 heavyweight boxing champions for Sweden.

The stamps, sets, sheets and information on Cseslaw Slania was very well presented and the displays for both halves contained some superb stamps and artwork. What a magnificent and hard-working engraver he was. How he produced all that material knowing just how long each engraving took is a mystery. Much of the fine details are quite superb.

Czeslaw Slania died in Monaco in March 2005 aged 84

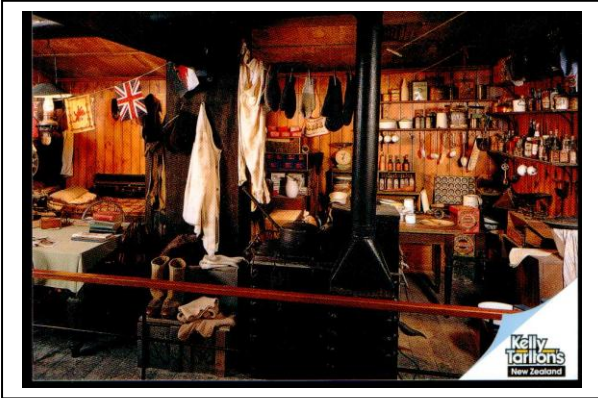
CABI

This year the CABI event at Wallingford will be held on Saturday 16th June from 10 am to 4.30pm For the morning session the guest speaker will be Christine Earle who is the hon. sec. of the Royal Philatelic Society and the theme will be “They Also Serve”, on the role of women in wartime and, as usual, there will be a splendid dinner with wine and morning and afternoon teas/coffees etc.

In the afternoon members are invited to display a maximum of 2 x 16 sheets on any theme or classification.

The cost will be £26 all inclusive. Bookings need to be made quite soon and for more information please contact Pat Reid on 01344 867311 or email on pge.reid@tiscali.co.uk. Unfortunately the details are not yet on the Thames Valley website as the webmaster, John Tingey, is still away galavanting the world!

THE POSTCARD PAGE



Pictures of the reproduction of Scott's Base Camp Hut at the Oceanarium and Discovery Centre, Auckland, New Zealand



Scott of the Antarctic

Commander Robert Falcon Scott 1868 – 1912
 Led the National Antarctic Expedition of 1901 to 1904 which was the first to penetrate a great distance into the interior. In 1904 he wrote an account of this expedition `The Voyage of the Discovery`.

In 1910 he again sailed to Antarctica in the `Terra Nova` and with Capt. Oates, Dr. Wilson, Lt. Bowers and P.O.Evans, reached the South Pole on 17th January 1912 to find that Amundsen had got there first!

Their return journey was marked by ill-luck, illness and bad weather. By the April of 1912 they had all died on the ice.

8 months later a search party discovered the tent and frozen bodies of 3 of the explorers. All the papers and instruments were recovered. The tent was collapsed over the bodies and a snow cairn erected. The body of Captain Oates was never found but his sleeping bag was later found quite a few miles from the tent.

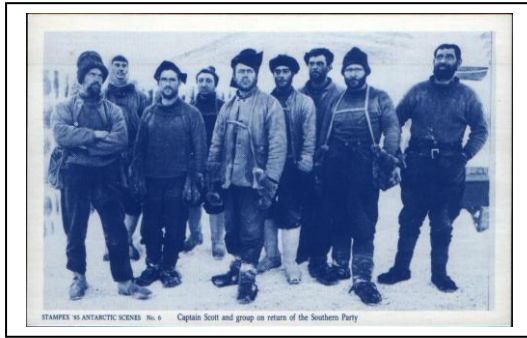


Scott's birthday party at base camp

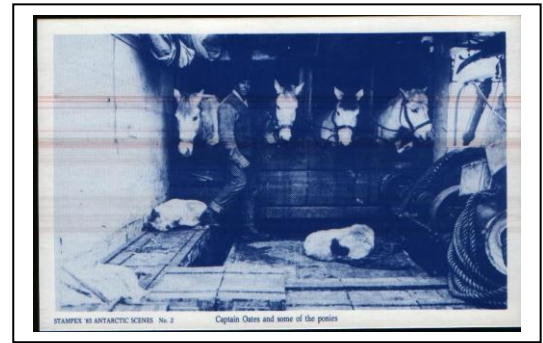
The Terra Nova



(and just a few more postcards)



Scott and his fellow explorers



Captain Oates with the horses

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

BPMA new website – lots of info and presentations, at www.postalheritage.org.uk

Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

February 2 nd	The House of Windsor
February 6 th	Diamond Jubilee definitive issue
February 23 rd	Britons of Distinction
February 24 th	Sheep
March 20 th	The World of Comics
April 10 th	UK A-Z part 2
April 24 th	Pigs
May 15 th	Fashion
May 24 th	The Union Flag
June 19 th	Charles Dickens
June 17 th	2012 Olympics - Welcome

SUBSCRIPTIONS (and change of receiver)

Society Subscriptions are now at the new cost of £10.00. Please make any cheque out to Thatcham and District Philatelic Society (or TDPS will do), and send it to the treasurer **Mike Ward** at 59, The Henry`s, Thatcham, RG18 4LS or contact him or a committee member at any club meeting.

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.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome two new members to the Society:-
Simon Dickson and **John Shambrook** - Welcome.

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 2 nd April	“ The Olympics ” Everyone to bring something.
Saturday 14 th April	Stamp fair - Memorial hall
Thursday 19 th April	Society Auction - viewing from 6.15 pm
Thurs-Sat 19–21 April	Philatex , London
Thursday 17 th May	“ Give Peace a Chance ” with Grace Davies
Monday May 14 th	“ Layout and Design ” and a Mini Auction
Monday 28 th May	Visit to Farnham & District Society
Saturday 2 nd June	Ringpex , Ringwood
Monday 11 th June	How and What philately do I collect
Saturday 9 th June	Swinpex , Swindon
Saturday 16 th June	Stamp Fair - Memorial Hall
Thursday 21 st June	“ 5 sheets or 50p ” Any philatelic subject acceptable.
Monday 2 nd July	“ The Monday Cup ” 3-sheet competition
Thursday 19 th July	“ The Postal History of Newbury and Thatcham ” by a Guest Speaker.
There is no Monday meeting in August	
Thursday 16 th August	“ Exploration and Conquest ” Members evening

Monday meetings are held in the Council Chambers (behind the library) from 2pm to 4.30pm.
Thursday meetings are held in the Memorial Hall (by the tennis courts) from 7.30pm to 10pm.

Officers of the Club			Committee		
President	John Baron	01235 820120	Ann Martin	01488 682728	
Chairman	Barney Bardsley	0777 0376 235	Tony Hillier	01635 864848	
Vice Chair	Ian Keel	01488 681500	Reg Rhodes	01635 865721	
Secretary	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942	Colin Bartholomew	01635 865457	
Treasurer	Mike Ward	01635 864307	Nathan Gregory		
Archivist	Julia Wilson	Westbex	Will Roberts	Publicity	Martin Farr