



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

SPRING EDITION APRIL 2015



The Chairmans Report

Another successful Westbex Fair this year and the weather was breezy but kind to us for a change which meant that we had a good attendance – the place was quite busy.

Many thanks to our club members for their time and efforts in making this event a great success. Westbex just cannot take place without you all helping.

To all the club members who helped with the setting up on Friday evening and the clearing away on Saturday.

To the Westbex committee of Graeme Stewart for all the bookings and dealers and Martin Farr for the publicity and programmes.

To Anne Martin who once again organised a great raffle and sold the tickets for us and to Ian Keel for overseeing the National Philatelic Society rooms and exhibits.

And finally to the car parking team who directed and assisted the dealers and the welcoming team that manned the front desk to sell more raffle tickets and issue programmes and information.

Thank you all, Barney Bardsley, Chairman

Year 49

Issue 128

Inside this issue:-

Front page –Chairmans report

Page 2 - Photographs

Page 3 - Meetings data

Page 4 - Meetings data

Page 5 - Meetings data

Page 6 - Westbex page

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

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



Ian Keel who won first prize in the Thematic Class for his
`Scouting for Boys`

For further information on anything in this newsletter please contact

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Photo Gallery



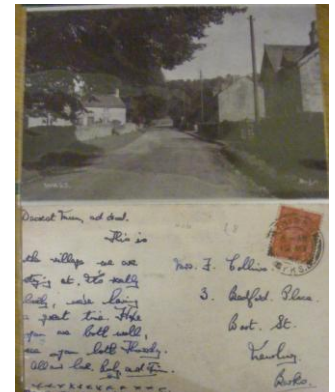
Reginald Keels Medals



Malcolm`s Toys



A Samurai and his Lady



The Amazing Find



David`s Grandfathers Medals



Tin Tin et al



Who Else ?



Meaningfully Applied



Quiz night



The Times tax stamps



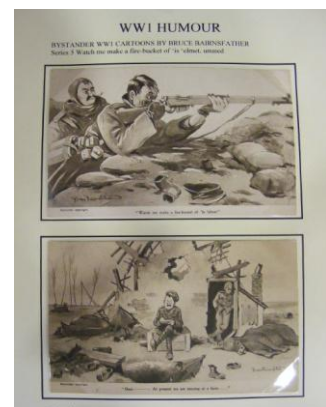
The Quiz Winners



Newspaper wrapper
Edward VII stamp + Code 20



The Ideal and the Real
.... theserations



Make a firebucket of `is `elmet
Dear ... at present we are at a farm

PAST EVENTS

Monday 5th January – Honours and awards

There were just 16 members present on quite a chilly afternoon but quite a few had some items to show us.

Tony Jordan started the afternoon by showing some Colgate/Palmolive cards of the 60`s which covered sporting awards and medals. The subjects included golf, rugby, tennis, show-jumping and the Olympics. Then **Juliet Keel** showed items relating to the Order of Merit instigated by Edward VII in 1902 for meritorious services to crown and country. It has been restructured to just 74 members (and a few foreigners) and then showed some PHQ cards of the Order of the Thistle and two medals awarded to Reginald Keel of the 1st company Machine Gun Corps. A very nice display.

Martin Farr then showed some sheets of Nobel prizewinners who were associated with Atomic Theory. Then data sheets on Stephen Hawking who was elected to the Royal Society at aged only 32 (smashing film!), Newton - awarded a knighthood in 1705, Alcock and Brown – knighted by George V and Charles Lindberg who made the first solo crossing of the Atlantic and Congress had a special medal struck in his honour.

Malcolm Hoskins was next and he said that his subject just had to be the Victoria Cross awards and in particular those presented to the soldiers after the battle of `Rourke`s Drift`.

He then spoke about Dalton`s award of the VC in the Royal Corps of transport and finished off by showing a book about the battles of Arras and Messine of 1917 when many VC`s were awarded for bravery.

There was a mini-raffle at half time and only 3 lots were sold out of 20.

Ian Keel started the second half by showing illustrative material about the many awards and medals from around the world bestowed upon Winston Churchill including the freedom of numerous cities and the Nobel prize for literature.

Dave Tanner continued by showing general awards and medals, 8 `Stars` awarded in WW2, French awards, the American` Medal of Honour`. Then some Russian awards including the Order of St George and to finish off he showed a full set of medals awarded to his grandfather – Roderick D.C. Tanner – from the Royal Flying Corps in WW1 and through to his service in the RAF in WW2 as a Squadron Leader. David`s grandfather passed away in 1994 aged 94.

Finally **Graeme Stewart** gave us lots of information about the VC awards and how they are made from a cannon from the battle of Sevastopol. Apparently there is enough bronze left for 80 more medals with over 1,357 awarded so far. He then said that 3 VC`s were awarded to persons living in Thatcham including Alexander Bullen-Turner (WW1) and his brother Victor (WW2) who both lived at Thatcham House.

Thursday 15th January. The theme for today was `My Favourite Philatelic Items`.

Barney Bardsley started off the evening by showing a doubly used illegal 1d black which was used again with two Maltese cross cancels – quite a rarity!

Tony Hillier showed a six Belgian postcard set sent from his grandfather to his grandmother. The position of the stamps applied has various meanings and this one shown (NE to SW) means “Love you lots”. They both eloped to England to get married.

Juliet Keel showed us covers and postcards relating to the suffragettes and of Lady Denman CBE, born in 1884, who was the first national chair of the women`s institute while **Ian Keel** showed lovely sheets of stamps of their grandchildren.

Sue Hopson showed an 1862 Seychelles missionary cover sent to Charles Archibald Alington. Only three of these covers are known of.

Nick Collins, a new member, spoke about his family residence in Wass, N. Yorkshire and brought a book of postcards of Wass and surrounding areas and photos of the family cottage. Then he showed an Ebay purchase of the village that only turned out to be written by his dad ! What a find.

Graeme Stewart was next up and he showed some very old letters of Newbury from 1780-1797 – quite a collection – and a nice Mulready letter.

Martin Farr showed his favourite MS sheet of the very first air-mail flight that took place in India when letters were flown across the Ganges from Allahabad to Naini junction for onward shipment by train as normal.

Bob Paterson put up very interesting items from Vichy France including a letter returned to sender, and then two postcards showing the Battlefield of Marne.

Malcolm Hoskins was next and he showed Ghandi issues and service overprints, stamps and `money` issues that could be used for postage or as money, and then a block of machin forgeries.

Mike Smith brought us GB bits and pieces that were found in a kiloware boxes including 12p Charlotte Bronte errors.

Graeme Stewart then showed us pictures of various types and sizes of post-boxes, the oldest in GB being in Gloucestershire. Some of them were of quite curious designs. Then he showed a cover that went almost `around the world` just covered with postmarks etc. Then he finished with illustrated covers from Antarctica and hand-illustrated cards.

To finish off a very interesting afternoon **Dave Tanner** showed some of his Iraq sets, Persian sets from 1911-13 that were issued up to 19025, airmail sets, and some Persia and Laotian sets of elephants and the UPU.

The theme for Monday 2nd February was `the things I collect other than stamps`.

It was a cold day but still we had 20 members present and welcomed a new member –

Jonathan Barman.

Malcolm Hoskins brought a large box of goodies inside of which were kids toys of years ago – none of this plastic stuff – real metal and wood! There were several mangles, a miniature lawnmower, sewing machines, small tool sets and a cash till. As he said "Just a few of the items that I collect".

David Beddoes brought some Worcester porcelain items – Candle snuffers, Japanese ladies , skirted ladies and children`s figures. Then he showed a painting of St Johns Church in Worcestershire painted by our own much missed Jerry Wilson.

Martin Farr brought along some rather nice Brass and bronze figures of a Samurai warrior in full battle dress and his lady in an ornate kimono. Rather nice.

Ian Keel showed us a portfolio collection of all the properties that he was associated with as a Master Builder that were also entered into MB national competitions. (Their company won it twice), and he ended by showing a book of properties they had `done`.

John Shambrook then showed aviation postcards including the Bournemouth aviation meeting of 1910, various cards of famous aviators of the early flying days and finished off with illustrations of `biplanes and all that` and monoplanes.

There was a half-time auction when 6 from 20 items were sold.

Tony Hillier started the second half by showing sheets of stamps of the works of Herge, he of Tin Tin fame, that were issued from 1907–2007. Then some `Asterix` books and stamps.

Jonathan Barman brought along a collection of old spectacles including sunglasses, reading glasses and 2 quite old pairs of his grandfathers.

Bob Paterson then showed his love of science fiction by bringing books by Arthur C Clarke and a book - `Ramage – a Naval Officer`. Then to finish off several lovely `Dan Dare` books.

Dave Tanner was the last exhibitor and we all wondered what on earth was in that large blanket-covered box under the table. It contained a large collection of photographic items acquired and still being used by Dave – a collection of cameras and bellows types, twin lens reflexes, a Pentax SLR, some telephoto lenses, a Brownie 127, plus the ones he currently used for himself and the photographic society. Then to end, some camera equipment that he used to take wedding photos with. What a collection!

Thursday 19th February and it was Society Quiz Night with random teams selected.

The weather was pretty awful and so we only had 12 members present. The quiz master was **Ray Hooke** from the Reading Society who was ably assisted by **Bob Paterson**. Three random teams were selected for the quiz which covered many aspects of philately and several sheets of 12 stamps where the titles were cut off and we had to work out the country, the currency was cut off and we had to work out the denominations and then we had to deduce the year of issue with others. Quite a difficult process at times. At the end team C of Dave Tanner, Graeme Stewart, Jonathan Barman and Mike Gurr won the quiz and each of them received some raffle tickets for Westbex and we all got some sweets to take home.

Monday 2nd March was when Malcolm Hoskins entertained us for the afternoon.

He started with lots of items about the Newspaper Branch – to allow newspapers to travel throughout the system from 1712 onwards. FS cancels – no postage paid – recipient had to pay. FB the foreign branch and IS the inland service. There were lots of newspaper wrappers and sheets showing to whom they were sent. He showed lots of examples of cancels and postmarks. People contacted the newspaper printer/supplier and they would send on the item to be delivered by the evening mail – all prepaid and pre-cancelled. Lots of very interesting material which many of us did not know about at all.

For the second half Malcolm showed us just a small part of his electric razor collection, several Rolls Razors, and Ever Ready devices plus many more types and styles of razor – quite a collection. To finish off the afternoon Malcolm spoke about Captain Bainsfather 1887-1959, who served in France in WW1 and drew such lovely pictures and scenes of the battles. He drew them on card and then they were transferred onto postcards by Bystander printers. Some cards were quite poignant, others very funny and comical. He was badly wounded in 1915 and had great pain and nightmares afterwards. Quite a lovely collection.

Thursday 19th March was Philatelic Halves when Malcolm Hoskins and Bob Paterson displayed some of their collections for us to see.

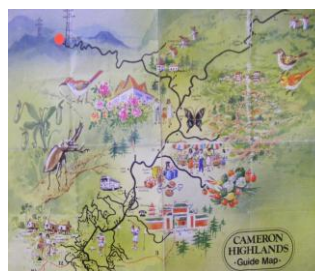
Malcolm started the evening by showing a great collection of Radio Malaya cards that had to be sent by the public for requests to be played. It was set up in the mid-30's and gained strength and popularity and changed to Radio Malaysia in 1963. Today there are 21 stations with many catering for various languages. Cards were purchased at a post office or agency, filed out and sent off to the station. Radio Sarawak and Brunei were eventually included.

For part two **Bob** showed a lovely collection of French stamps, covers and cards that spanned the years from 1931 to 1939. The period showed a flowering in the design of stamps – many for special events, charities, funds and the like. The display covered the Paris International Exhibition issues, Intellectuals funds and Refugee funds. Quite an interesting display of sequential issues of that period with stamps, covers and postcards all set out in a logical sequence so that you could see how the stamp designs and styles were changing.

Bob Paterson



One of his lovely sheets A Cameron Highlands map
Red dot = Radio Malaya



Malcolm Hoskins



THE WESTBEX PAGE



The Fair



The Front of House team



Graeme accepts his certificate

The Westbex Raffle was once again run very successfully by Ann. Thank you. There were 10 prizes and many were won by society members. The results were as follows-

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 st prize of £100 won by Brian Gardiner | 2 nd prize of Wine won by Chris Hall |
| 3 rd prize of Chocolates won by John Findlater | 4 th prize of a Gibbons Shopping Bag won by Bill Pipe |
| 5 th prize of Port Liqueur won by Len Johnson | 6 th prize of Wine won by Glyn Slater |
| 7 th prize of Toiletries won by Brian Gardiner | 8 th prize of Two Mugs won by Julie Lester |
| 9 th prize of a Chocolate Egg won by Ted Graham | 10 th prize of a Glass Decanter won by Malcolm Vigar |

The National Philatelic Society held their regional meeting at 1.30pm. Several of their members gave displays and talks and Martin Farr from our society gave his display and talk on `Timeline – Inventions and Ideas` which was well received.

The Thames Valley Philatelic Federation 9-sheet competition results:-

Traditional class

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--|
| 1 st Simon Richards | Oxford | The Kingdom of Sardinia 1851-1862 |
| 2 nd Malcolm Gascoigne | Henley | De La Rue issues of Sarawak 1899 |
| 3 rd Tony Simmonds | Maidenhead | Mexico numeral issues postal cards |
| 4 th Colin Davies | Oxford | G.B. imperforate line engraved issues. |

Postal History class

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|--|
| 1 st Greg Wynn | Maidenhead | Mail to Madeira 1772-1861 |
| 2 nd Alan Cowie | Oxford | Business Mail from Japan in WW2 prior to Pearl Harbour |
| 3 rd Derek Steele | Wokingham | History of Wokingham postmarks prior to 1900 |
| 4 th Jan Simmons | Oxford | Japan – the Swordguard cancels |
| 5 th Graeme Stewart | Thatcham | Thatcham Postmarks |
| 6 th Malcolm Hoskins | Thatcham | The Newspaper Branch |

Thematic Class

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| 1 st Ian Keel | Thatcham | Scouting for Boys |
| 2 nd Mehmet Guney | Oxford | The U.N. at a glance |
| 3 rd Miles Payne | Oxford | Turtles – Wildlife at risk |

Open Class

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 st Ann Stammers | Henley | Copper for the Craftsman |
| 2 nd Martin Farr | Thatcham | The Tokaido Road |
| 3 rd David Walker | Wokingham | A tribute to Robert Falcon Scott RN |

Aerophilately Class

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|--|
| 1 st Eddie Spicer | Maidenhead | Airmail services of the North Atlantic |
|------------------------------|------------|--|

Cinderella Class

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 st David Potts | Oxford | German Fundraising stamps |
| 2 nd Tony Stanford | Maidenhead | 1922 Ireland Revenues |
| 3 rd Mark Bailey | Wokingham | European Tea publicity labels |

**As was said at the fair-
`It was nice to see so many
entries from all the societies
in the Federation and such
a wide variety of subject
material`**

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

Vera Trinder is now on line at www.prinz.co.uk. for free copy of products or tel. 01736 751910

Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

March 18 th	Bridges
April 1 st	Comedy Greats
May 6 th	The 175 th Anniversary of the 1d Black
May 14 th	The First World War
June 2 nd	Magna Carter
June 18 th	The Battle of Waterloo
July 16 th	25 th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain
August 18 th	Bees
September 18 th	The Rugby World Cup
Post and Go	
May 13 th	Heraldic Beasts
September 16 th	Sea Travel

Fate has delivered a cruel blow to stamp collectors recently with the passing away of three good friends.

Peter Bridger who passed away last year, and who always used to give Reg a lift home from London laden with Vera Trinder packets.

Brian Webb who passes away in February. Brian and Reg started the Thatcham Society stamp fairs.

And last but not least our dear friend and colleague Jerry Wilson who passed away in January. Jerry will always be remembered for his wit, humour and amusing presentations. His funeral was held at the West Berkshire Crematorium in late January. It was a lovely family service and quite a few of our society members attended.

Our condolences and sympathy go out to their families, colleagues and friends. May they rest in peace.

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

Future Programme and Events

Monday 13 th April	‘Green Things’
Thursday 16 th April	‘Rubbish’ – A talk and display by Tristan Brittain
Saturday 18 th April	Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall, Thatcham
Monday 11 th May	‘Flying’ and all its connotations
May 13 th -16 th	Europhilex 2015 at Islington.
Thursday 21 st May	A Visit from Reading Philatelic Society
Monday 1 st June	A Guest Speaker – to be confirmed
Saturday 6 th June	Ringpex 2015 at Ringwood
Saturday 13 June	Swinpex at Swindon
Thursday 18 th June	Bourse – Members evening to Buy and Sell and a mini auction of Club Lots
Saturday 20 th June	Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall, Thatcham
Monday 6 th July	The Monday Cup 3-sheet Competition and ‘Hunting, Shooting and Fishing’

Officers of the Club

President	John Baron	01933 650093
Chairman	Barney Bardsley	0777 0376 235
Vice Chair	Mike Gurr	01635 43398
Secretary	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942
Treasurer	Mike Ward	01635 864307

Committee

Bob Paterson	01635 44848
Tony Jordan	01189 302279
Colin Bartholemew	01635 865457

Archivist **We do need an Archivist** **WestBex** Graeme and Martin **Publicity** Martin Farr