



# THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

SPRING EDITION APRIL 2016



## The Chairman's Report

Another excellent Westbex with dry weather for a change and lots of new faces that turned up for the fair. It was a good day for them and for the dealers as well.

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

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

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

To Ann Martin who yet again organised a great raffle and sold the tickets for us, to Ian Keel who looked after the National Philatelic Society room and exhibits.

Finally, thanks to the car parking team who helped the dealers and the front of house members that manned the front desk, issued the programmes and sold more raffle tickets.

Thank you all. Barney Bardsley, Chairman

## OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Year 50

Issue 132

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Barney and Martin receiving the certificates for their entries in the Federation 9-sheet competition

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

*Martin Farr, Editor*

*Tel 01635 866437*

*or*

*Graeme Stewart, Secretary*

*Tel 01635 866942*

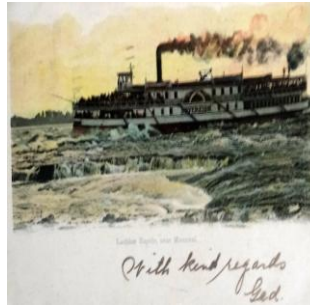
# Photo Gallery



Earth – a colliery girl



Wind on lake Geneva



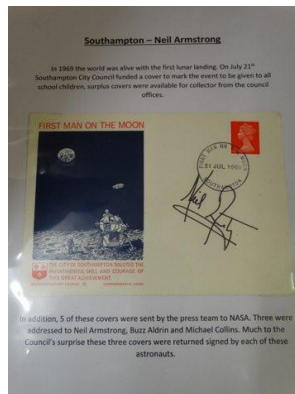
Fire - the SS Sovereign



Judy`s Crystals



Wind Mills



The Moon Landing cover



Juliet`s Flags display



`Stamps on Flags`



A nice German cover



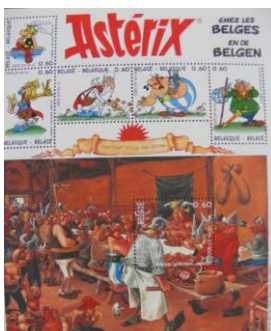
Indian Beauties



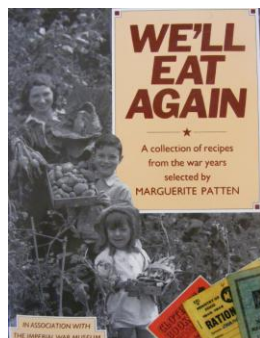
A WW1 Silk



Puzzle cards



Asterix has a party



An early book cover



Do we eat these now?



Food labels

## **PAST EVENTS**

### **Monday January 4<sup>th</sup>**

The theme for today was "Earth Wind and Fire". It was somewhat miserable weather and so there was a low turn-out of only 14 members and just six displays.

Mike Gurr started the afternoon with some dramatic Tuck postcards of fire engines and fires including the historic Windsor Castle fire which he attended as a fireman.

Tony Jordan showed some horse-drawn fire engines and some windmills.

Juliet Keel's postcards were displayed by Ian in her absence and they covered all aspects of the theme – rocks, minerals, mining, ploughing and peat farming covered the "Earth", sail boats, a zeppelin and a biplane for "Air" and charcoal burning for "Fire".

In the interval Ann Martin served the teas and coffees – a very welcome return.

Judy Straughan started off the second half and explained why she had to eat so many chocolates over the Christmas period – she needed the boxes to display some of her large collection of semi-precious stones and crystals.

Bob Paterson brought books and postcards vaguely connected to the themes – nice.

Then finally Graeme Stewart presented a great display on Antarctica showing the extreme weather conditions and the tragic crash of 1979 when all passengers and crew were killed.

### **Thursday January 21st.**

The subject for the meeting was New Acquisitions and there were 18 members present.

Malcolm Hoskins started the evening by showing some of the new range of Postage Labels that have a white background rather than the usual golden background and interestingly a 'spooft' label that was inscribed "CHAIN MAIL" and dated April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Nathan Gregory followed with a wide range of covers on various themes including Royalty, Rolls Royce, Military stamps and Free Frank covers of Ireland. Of particular interest was a space cover commemorating the first manned landing on the moon and signed by Neil Armstrong himself – see picture page.

Dave Tanner then showed American Civil War commemorative stamps and covers depicting heroes and the battles fought.

Mike Smith then followed showing a sheet of Bechuanaland postage dues.

Then to finish off part one Alan Cross showed us some of his Australian postage dues and sheets from his December competition entry.

Bob Paterson commenced part two by showing his recently acquired collection of Ryukyu Islands – a group of islands near Japan, which issued stamps from 1948-1977.

Graeme Stewart showed some recently acquired postcards of Thatcham and Cold Ash, Newbury novelty cards, a modern letter to Belgium with various tax stamps on it and a joint issue set of stamps entitles 'Pole to Pole' from Greenland and the Ross Dependency.

Alan Cross then finished off the meeting with a few Australian stamps (what else) and special GB covers with appropriate cancellations.

### **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

The subject for today's meeting was 'Flags' and there were 19 members present.

Bob Paterson started the ball rolling by showing postcards of flags and ephemera and a FDC of the Japanese surrender showing the flags of the concerned nations.

Then Tony Jordan displayed cigarette cards of flags from 12 countries, postcards and postmarks of the world (with horses of course!). Then several letters from the USA with flags on and Rule Britannia sea-horse specimens.

Ian Keel and Juliet, showed postcards and flags and the royal standard. The Battle of Newbury in 1644, Armada flags and flags that Juliet used when she was a cub mistress.

Johnathan Barman brought along two very old frail miniature atlases from 1764-ish. It was very interesting to see the continental outlines as thought of in those days and the outlines of Australia that had just been discovered.



**Ben Hampton showed the United Nation flag, approved in 1946, and a large album of UN sheets issued in four sheets of four stamps until all the countries were covered in 1999 with the last stamp being the UN stamp itself. Ben`s knowledge was quite amazing.**

**Tony Hillier showed some nice old WW1 postcards of four flags and a listing of all the countries involved in WW1 and their flags as well.**

**Neil Hutton then displayed sheets regarding Propaganda, Publicity, Patriotism and Punishment. Lovely cards and issues of the subjects. Beautiful pictures and a very good description of each one of them. Then he showed a table mat for mischievous kids where they had to find the stamps and flags of the countries to keep them occupied!**

**Malcolm Hoskins started the second half and brought along things dug out of various folders and collections – French stamps of the Council of Europe, blocks of four flags of the member states and silks of the various countries showing their flags.**

**Mike Gurr then showed a couple of sheets of the Isle of Man Celtic flags.**

**Susan Straughan followed on with a sheet of flags plus the development of the Canadian stamp up to the present day. Susan then gave us all a lesson in how to draw the Union Flag to ensure that the wide `white bits` were uppermost.**

**To finish off a very varied and interesting afternoon Dave Tanner showed us a nice collection of flags from around the world followed by some Canadian province stamps and covers showing flags. He then spoke and showed examples of how the `Stars and Stripes` was developed up to the current 50 stars. Very informative ending to the day.**

#### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February.**

**The subjects for this evenings meeting were Postcards and Postal Stationery and we had 19 present on quite a chilly evening.**

**Ian Keel started the ball rolling with various cards and postal stationery with some world wide covers including some nice ones from Germany and Berlin.**

**Colin West then showed a nice range of letter cards – the early ones dated from 1860 onwards and the later ones not dated at all!**

**Martin Farr then displayed some picture cards of Hobbiton in Mata Mata, New Zealand where they were for Christmas. He spoke of the site selection and how the NZ army helped with the road systems and sorted out the swamp to form the lake by the Birthday Tree. They would not take payment and so were given roles in the film. The Orc Army !!!**

**Mike Smith then showed some lovely B&W postcards that his grandfather had sent from India in the 1840`s to his future grandmother that included nice sets of Indian `beauties`, scenes and personages. Rather nice.**

**Malcolm Hoskins showed a great range of envelopes from various locations – all with pre-paid cachets - Royal residences, the Houses of Commons and Lords, Judges, the Law Courts and 10 Downing Street. The one that just stood out was sent from Buckingham Palace to our own President John Baron re his mothers 90th birthday.**

**Wilf Sentance started part 2 with a superb collection of Silks postcards from the battlefields of WW1. The transcribed messages to loved ones were quite poignant as to the conditions the soldiers were in and how they missed their families.**

**Bob Paterson then showed postcards from around the world - a colourful sequence.**

**Graeme Stewart showed postal stationery to Newbury from all over the world. Postcards of the old Memorial Hall in 1966, the new one of 1982 and the Clock Tower built for the coronation in 1953. Then a very old postcard of Crookham common.**

**John Tingey brought a fascinating display of `Puzzle Cards` - Anamorphic cards that had to be read at an angle – cards with messages as a puzzle to solve, and anagram and optical illusion cards. What a display and such a nice subject matter to collect.**

**Finally, to finish off the evening, Alan Cross showed some medical cards and letters, a large cover literally obscured with postage due cachets, a range of Australian letter cards showing the sequential variations in the same stamp and some newspaper wrappers.**

### Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March

The theme for today was "Food and Drink" and 17 members attended on a chilly day.

Gus Hoskins started off by showing machinery used to produce food – cutters, motor sickles and a great wartime recipe book – 'We'll Eat Again'.

Bob Paterson showed pictures of French wine production and sets of stamps showing fruit and veg and finally a postcard from Sandwich !!!! Brilliant.

Tony Jordan then showed old covers of sheep and deer stalking, an advert for Hudson soap - 'Wash your Hands', and a cocoa cover.

Ann Martin brought the tea, coffee, sugar and milk and some home-made biscuits !!!!

Tony Hillier then showed a mix of sheets including an Asterix of Gaul banquet scene, The Smurfs 50<sup>th</sup> party anniversary sheet and kids eating sweets and drinking.

Judy Straughan then showed a lovely book of stamps that included Taiwan tea varieties plus a tin of Oolong tea and samples of other tea types. All very refreshing.

Ian Keel then showed Juliet's stamps and covers and PHQ cards of food and drink.

Neil Hutton started the second half with some lovely examples of food and drink and fishing followed by a great advert for Bile Beans and Fry's chocolate.

Jonathan Barman showed his grocer grandfathers old book of recipes that also listed the food prices of the day. It was dated to about 1838 and is a family heirloom.

Then to finish off Graeme Stewart showed the Discovery Centre postcards of feeding the birds and fishes plus Greenham Common wildlife and animals dependant upon Krill

### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March

Today we had a welcome guest speaker – Mel Read – with the theme of 'It's Who You Know'.

Mel came all the way over from Belfast and there was a good turnout of 21 members.

Mel filled 5 frames with information sheets of stamps, covers, pictures, letters and ephemera that were all interconnected (so we found out later). He started talking about Marie Stopes, Britain at War, The Dam Busters, sheets of the English Civil War and local landmarks with family connections. Then sheets on Anti-Slavery campaigns with a full board of lovely related world-wide material. Then pages of the repeal of the Corn Laws – the anti-corn law campaign. Then into Charles Dickens and Social Reformers - the Crimean War – Wilberforce – the Quakers and the Slave revolts.

All of the sheets that Melspoke about were sequentially related regarding the people, marriages, occupations, inventions and campaigns. What a magnificent series of pictures and covers and historical sheets and a wonderful 'telling' to explain all the connections

Mel said that he was originally a researcher and enjoyed the finding out of information and the inter-relationships between the people, places and activities. It was quite brilliant and talk about 'Lateral Thinking' and the amount of research needed !!!

What a great evening's entertainment.



Mel Read



Marv Wallis and father Barnes Wallace



Anti Slavery



Anti Corn-Law

## THE WESTBEX PAGE



The Main Hall



Ann and Jean `manning` the front desk



An N.P.S. display

**The Westbex Raffle** was yet again run very successfully by Ann. Thank you so much for all your effort. There were fifteen prizes and the results were as follows:-

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> prize of £100 won by Neil Hatton   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> prize of Chocolates won by Mike Gurr         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> prize of Stock Book won by John Hodgkins                                     | 4 <sup>th</sup> prize of Stamp Books won by Martin Farr      |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> prize of Wine won by Mr Gore   | 6 <sup>th</sup> prize of S.G. book won by Mr Treasurer       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> prize of Biscuits won by David Robinson                                      | 8 <sup>th</sup> prize of 2 books won by Mr Gilmain           |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> prize of Prosecco won by John Boston   | 10 <sup>th</sup> prize Queen Elizabeth book – Richard Onyons |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> prize of 2 books won by Reg Rhodes  | 12 <sup>th</sup> prize of a Glory Box won by Reg Rhodes      |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> prize of Wine won by John Hodgkinson  | 14 <sup>th</sup> prize of Wine won by Mr Holmes              |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Prize of Wine won by Ian Keel who said draw again and so won by Brian Bibby |  |

**The National Philatelic Society** held their regional meeting at 1.30 pm. There were several of their members that showed their subject sheets and one of our members – Martin Farr – put up 60 sheets of his `Tokaido Road` sequence which was very well received .

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

#### Traditional Class

- |                                  |          |                                   |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Colin Davies     | Oxford   | GB's first Commemorative Booklet  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Barney Bardsley  | Thatcham | The `O` flaws of the Penny Black  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ian King         | Henley   | Argentine Postal Wrappers 1880-92 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tristan Brittain | Oxford   | The Stamps of Ethiopia 1942-47    |

#### Postal History Class

- |                                  |           |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Eric Holmes      | Wokingham | Ship letters Gibraltar to UK 1780-1857         |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mike Kitson      | Oxford    | Mail from BR Postal Agencies to Panama 1844-81 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Alan Cowie       | Oxford    | Overseas Mail from Japan in 1935               |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Malcolm Gascoyne | Henley    | Letters to London in the reign of Elizabeth 1  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Alan Kane        | Wokingham | Belfast Duplex stamps 1858-94                  |

#### Thematic Class

- |                            |        |              |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Mike Payne | Oxford | Rowland Hill |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------|

#### Open Class

- |                              |            |  |
|------------------------------|------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> David Potts  | Oxford     | Vienna by the sea – Abbazia to Opatija       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> David Waller | Wokingham  | Tribute to Capt. Robert Falcon Scott R.N.    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Martin Farr  | Thatcham   | The Tokaido Road                             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Eddie Spicer | Maidenhead | A Century of progress – Chicago Worlds Fair. |

#### Aerophilately Class

- |                                  |            |                                   |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Tony Stanford    | Maidenhead | Kuwait 1933 Airmail issues        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anthony Simmonds | Maidenhead | Nigeria Airmail rates 1961-72     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Derek Steel      | Wokingham  | Canada FFC's signed by the pilots |

### USEFUL WEBSITES

Tony Bray for World 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)

[www.stampauctionsnetwork.co.uk](http://www.stampauctionsnetwork.co.uk) for lots of info about auctions almost everywhere

### Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| March/April            | New definitives - Tariff changes                                 |
| April 5 <sup>th</sup>  | William Shakespeare – 400 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death |
| April 21 <sup>st</sup> | H.M. the Queen`s 90th Birthday issue                             |
| April 25 <sup>th</sup> | ANZAC WW1 commemorative sheet                                    |
| May 17 <sup>th</sup>   | ANMAIL (The actual title!)                                       |
| June 21 <sup>st</sup>  | World War 1 – 1916   |
| July 7 <sup>th</sup>   | Giants of Music  |
| July 28 <sup>th</sup>  | Beatrix Potter   |

### Refreshments Problems

An extra pair of hands is required at our meetings – especially the Monday meetings. Ian and Juliet cannot always guarantee to be available and Ann may not be able to come to all the meetings as well.

It really needs two persons on a Thursday and perhaps maybe just one on a Monday to prepare, present and clear up afterwards.

Would you please speak to Ian and Juliet if you can help as required.

Thank you.

### Future Programme and Events

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Monday April 4 <sup>th</sup>    | Malcolm Hoskins Entertains.                                      |
| Thursday April 21 <sup>st</sup> | Anniversary Evening – see back page                              |
| Monday May 9 <sup>th</sup>      | Art and Artists  |
| Saturday May 14 <sup>th</sup>   | 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Buffet Lunch at the Bluecoat School |
| Thursday May 19 <sup>th</sup>   | `Illustrated Envelopes` with Robin Cassel                        |
| Saturday June 4 <sup>th</sup>   | `RINGPEX` at Ringwood  |
| Monday June 6 <sup>th</sup>     | Queen Elizabeth II   |
| Saturday June 11 <sup>th</sup>  | SWINPEX at Octal Way, Swindon                                    |
| Thursday June 16 <sup>th</sup>  | 6 Sheets or 50p – Members to display                             |
| Monday July 4 <sup>th</sup>     | The Monday Cup and `Flowers` and a quiz                          |
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July  | Visit from the Camberley Stamp Club                              |

# 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

## Anniversary Announcements

The meeting for Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April is the Society 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Social.

There will be a presentation of the Society History and a souvenir mug for all.

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Buffet Lunch will be held at the Bluecoats School in Thatcham.

The guest speaker at this event will be Thomas Plant from S.A.S. Auctions

| <b>Officers of the Club</b> |                 |                                  | <b>Committee</b>  |              |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>            | John Baron      | 01933 650093                     |                   |              |
| <b>Chairman</b>             | Barney Bardsley | 0777 0376 235                    | Tony Jordan       | 01189 302279 |
| <b>Vice Chair</b>           |                 |                                  | Colin Bartholemew | 01635 865457 |
| <b>Secretary</b>            | Graeme Stewart  | 01635 866942                     | Mike Gurr         | 01635 43398  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>            | Mike Ward       | 01635 864307                     |                   |              |
| <b>Archivist</b>            |                 | <b>WestBex</b> Graeme and Martin | <b>Publicity</b>  | Martin Farr  |