



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK



THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
WESTBEX EDITION APRIL 2022

The Chairmans Report

After a two year break it was great to stage WESTBEX again. There were well over 80 visitors and most of the dealers had a good day at the fair.

Many thanks to our club members for their time and effort in making the event such a good success.

Thank you to all those who helped with the setting up on the Friday evening and with all the clearing away afterwards.

Thanks to the Westbex committee of Graeme for all the dealers and bookings and to Martin for all the publicity, signage and programmes,

To Ann Martin who once again organised a great raffle and sold the tickets and to those who `manned` the front desk with Ann for the whole day giving out programmes and selling lots more raffle tickets and thank you to those who donated raffle prizes.

We just could not stage the event without all of your assistance.

Mike Smith - Chairman

Year 56

Issue 149

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Front of House Receptionists
Graeme, Anne, Jean and Martin

For further information on anything in this newsletter please contact

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or

Graeme Stewart, Secretary

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Photo Gallery



RN Censor marks



The Mary Rose and Nelson's Victory



The Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth



U.S. Post Office day and USS Utah



Henry V111 and Admiral Cunningham



'Find the Fault' cards



A board of great cards from around Australia



Royal Hussars bandmen



Wartime Nurses and casualties



Cards from around The USA



Basingstoke canal



Cards from Dunhuang



Kids novelty fairy tales



Stamps from all Over



Slovak Junior football card



Decorated Postboxes



A Maxim maxim

PAST EVENTS**Monday 10th January – “Navy” There were 14 members present.**

Malcolm Hoskins started the afternoon with 16 well presented sheets showing the Royal Navy Censor Marks of the 1914-18 war. Covers, cards and letters all showing the official censor markings. A great display.

Ian Keel was next and he showed stamps of Russia and three stock-books that they purchased when visiting Moscow many years ago.

Juliet Keel followed and a nice set of postcards of lots of ships with lots of funnels many of which did the crossing from New York to Southampton. Then many liners on coloured postcards including Canadian passenger ships and ocean liners.

Mike Smith then followed showing one sheet of Barbados stamps from 1984 – definitive issues showing Naval and UK royal Navy ships.

Bob Paterson was next and his presentation was all about the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbour by the Japanese in 1941. The battleships that were in the harbour at the time – six aircraft carriers were also in the harbour on December 1st. There were many total write-offs including the Oklahoma, Tennessee and Virginia. In all, 18 ships were sunk or damaged. Lovely sheets and covers illustrating it and well presented.

Dave Tanner started part 2 and he showed some nice cards of naval personnel including Nelson, Cunningham, Admiral Blake and Lord Foster and the ships that they were related to – HMS Victory, The Mary Rose, The Triumph and HMS Dreadnought.

Graeme Stuart was next and he showed pictures of HMS Thatcham – an inshore minesweeper. Then a card absolutely covered with cancels and postmarks – front and back! Then he showed an advert for a Naval cover to finish off.

Thursday 20th January `Postcards` and there were 20 members present

Alan Cross started the displays with a board of lovely greetings cards and ephemera from all around Australia. They were well presented and showed some lovely scenery and nice wording of the cards.

Juliet Keel then showed a nice collection of B&W postcards telling the stories about Royalty and Edwardian theatre including several monarchs, Vesta Tilley, Sarah Bernhardt and Gladys Cooper. A nice collection.

Bob Paterson was next to display with a lovely collection of coloured cards all about Fairy Tales and then he spoke about and showed lots of cards from all around Thatcham and Newbury and up to Reading. A nice set of cards,

Dave Tanner then showed coloured cards of local sites and Basingstoke cards of buildings, churches and pubs. Then a nice selection of military uniforms and several sheets of the Royal Hussars in which he had served long ago.

Malcolm Hoskins then spoke about and showed some unusual cards of `three-sectioned` brown animals and then several cards showing stamps in various positions and angles that meant different messages to the receiver. Malcolm finished up with a nice set of coloured cards all about `Find the Fault` in the pictures. All very interesting.

Jeff Rodgers started part two by showing b& w family cards from a very old book showing children from 1902 onwards. They were from his now deceased great aunts family collection from the old book he showed.

Barney Bardsley then showed and spoke about a great collection of postcards all about canals and their relationship to the local areas – where from and where to, when and how and how built, the lock gates etc He finishes with several cards of his favourite – the Basingstoke canal. A lovely display.

Neil Hatton was next and showed a good selection of WW1 cards written home by soldiers and cards of major German cities with scenic views. Then cards of the British coastline and of smugglers cottages at Herne and nice picture cards of the change to Herne Bay town and a pc of the Medway paddle steamer that went to Dunkirk. Nice.

Mike Smith showed lots of B&W cards from his grandmothers album all sent by his eventual grandfather from all around the world. He then spoke about and showed the very old album they came from which also included nice coloured cards too.

Graeme Stuart displayed a selection of cards of early Thatcham - the Broadway, the original toilets and War Memorial followed by lots of cards from places around the area such as pubs, hotels and the rivers.

Jim Andrews an avid collector of USA stamps, showed a nice collection of postcards from all around America – Nevada, California, Colorado, New Mexico New York and Long Island, Then cards from the Utah canyon and Virginia. What a nice selection.

To finish the evening **Paul Watkins** showed and spoke about a great collection of cards and photos of the Great War of 1914-18 that pictured nurses, casualty wards and field hospitals. Then several Anglo-French Red Cross cards. He spoke all about the background stories of the items he showed. Very interesting material.

Monday 7th February “Extinct Countries” with 15 members present

Bob Paterson started the proceedings with a board all about the Ryukyu Islands. He spoke about their history and military problems and the military occupation by the USA during WW2. He showed lots of early stamps, airmails and surcharges and the flora and fauna of the islands, religious ceremonies and letters and covers. All very nice.

Ian and Juliet Keel were next with a combined display of items from Czechoslovakia, Bohemia and Moravia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and others from years ago. Then postcards and letters from E. Germany, USSR, Yugoslavia, cards from Dubrovnik and Dresden and Saarajevo. Then stamps from Burma, now Myanmar and some Vietnam cards. Quite a selection.

Jim Andrew then displayed and spoke about a sheet of single stamps from countries whose names had changed or had been incorporated within others. Aden/Yemen, Burma/Myanmar, Dahomey/Benin, W. Africa/Chad and Gabon, Mali/Niger/Senegal, Libya/FR West Africa/GDR. and quite a few more. A good interesting talk and display.

Neil Hatton started part two with stamps from Constantinople with British overprints, Then stamps from Morocco agencies, Tangiers, K.U.T that was Br East Africa, Rhodesian O/P`s from about 1895 that was Br. Central Africa, and stamps from there as well and stamps from the Gilbert and Ellis islands Neil spoke about all the items in his display and about Gilbert who was a ships captain and Ellis a cargo owner from many years later. All very interesting indeed.

Next was **Dave Tanner** showed several sheets of stamps from many `old `countries including Br Honduras up to 1973, S.W.Africa which gained independence in 1990 to become Namibia, The Gold Coast which is now Ghana, N. Rhodesian stamps up to 1964 that became Zambia and S Rhodesian issues that became Zimbabwe in 1980. Nice.

Our Chairman **Mike Smith** was next and he spoke about the 19th Century in S. Africa. Then about Mozambique and the Transvaal of 1852 and about Livingstone who went north into what is now Bhotswana. He showed sheets of stamps many showing the dates and overprints and he finished off with some sets of forgeries of regional stamp issues that were all very cheap and popular and ended with some issues from Stellaland. Very interesting indeed.

Graeme Stewart was our final speaker who showed stamps from the UAR, that split between 1958-1971 to become separate countries of Egypt, Syria and the Yemen again and a P&O envelope of the UAR. To finish he showed a sheet of Post Boxes from just before lockdown whose tops were al decorated with crochet articles. Very strange indeed.

Thursday 17th February “The Cartoonist Bruce Bairnsfather” with Malcolm Hoskins. There were 16 members present

Malcolm put up some fantastic display sheets all about Captain Bruce Bairnsfather who was a soldier in WW1 and a fantastic cartoonist “The soldier who made the empire laugh” by creating WW1 humour at its best. He was born in 1887 in India and died in 1957 in Worcester.

He served with the Cheshire and Worcestershire Regiments and saw action in the war and called life in the trenches as "Good, bad, funny and sad". He suffered shellshock in 1915. All the cartoons were posted back to the UK with extensive publication in "Fragments from all the Fronts" and also in "Fragments from France" which was an American magazine. His cartoons were all accompanied by very topical and funny captions. His most famous cartoon was titled "If you knows a better `ole, go to it!". In part 2 **Malcolm** showed a lovely selection of the postcards and sketches of trench life and Tommy`s life by Fergus Machain which included the `Hi Boys` card and sets of cards `At the front` and many more from 1914-18. What a fabulous collection, so informative and all very colourful. Thank you Malcolm.

Monday 7th March "Overprints" There were 16 members present

John Shambrook started the meeting showing several sheets of covers of Louis Bleriot aeroplane overprints of a Bleriot XI that were from Lebanon and Syria.

Then **Jim Andrew** brought up several sheets of overprints from around the world and gave very good explanations as to why they had been done.

Malcolm Hoskins was next and he showed a board of American pre-cancels produced by companies and towns to bypass postage and save time. Various styles of the same cancel and many produce by "Montgomery Ward" which can all be found in the Scotts catalogue.

Then **Ian Keel** showed some sheets of stamps that were not shown in 2020 due to Covid and a `Postman`s Nightmare` set

Dave Tanner started part 2 with sheets of his Persian and Iranian overprints of 1874 and 1947 etc although many were forged. Lion and camel overprints and some of the perforations were apparently done with a sewing machine! All very so so. !!!!!

Bob Paterson was next and he showed overprints of France using the `Cross of Loraine` and `Petain`s Head` Some were authorised by the post office but many were not— just done by local towns. He showed several sheets of both types of overprints. Nice.

Finally, **Graeme Stewart** showed several sheets of overprints both to and from Newbury in particular, inland Officials.

To end the meeting our packet secretary **Neil Hamilton** told us that he will be moving in April and that the packet circuit will then be taken over by **Jeff Rodgers**. Well done Jeff, Thank you.

Thursday 17th March Thematic Evening

Brian May started with a large long cover with 24 football winners 2d stamps on it! Then several colourful sheets of Banking Bonds which we all looked at.

Then **Ian Keel** showed sheets of stamps and covers of Nobel Prize winners – Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Architecture and Peace. All vey colourful and interesting.

Juliet Keel showed many sheets of postcards theatres from around the U.K – the Globe, Stratford Shakespeare theatre and several London cinemas and theatres. Then cards of USA theatres and actresses.

Graeme Stewart then spoke about his bird watching at the Discovery Centre showed us a very nice collection of Birds on Stamps which he called `A birdwalk through stamps` that included swans, moorhens, coots, robins and blackbirds. Very colourfull and well laid out.

Barney Bardsley started part 2 with several sheets of his favourite subject – Canals. There was a Panama canal set and a 1d black on a canal card and two sheets of canal boats.

Bob Paterson was next showed and spoke about a great selection of Signs of the Zodiac with sets from Switzerland, Greece, Canada, China and several mini sheets of planets, Celestial odds and ends including stars and constellations. A very colourful set of sheets.

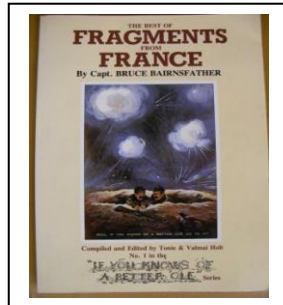
Graeme Stewart then showed sheets of letters and cards to and from Newbury and Thatcham and then a couple of sheets of colourful Post boxes.

Mike Smith collects Cacti as well as stamps and he showed and spoke about many varieties that he has in his greenhouse. They all originated, a long time ago, in the deserts of America and he explained about all the varieties and species and flowering types and how they had evolved. He finished with several sheets of succulents (on stamps!) Quite an interesting display and talk.

THE POSTCARD PAGE (well sort of)



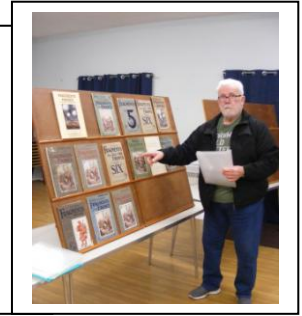
Wait for it!
Keep smiling



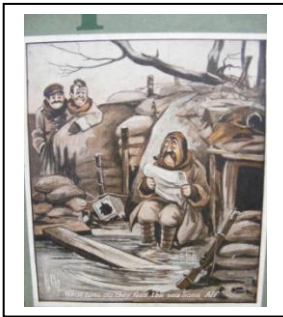
If you knows a better `ole
go to it!



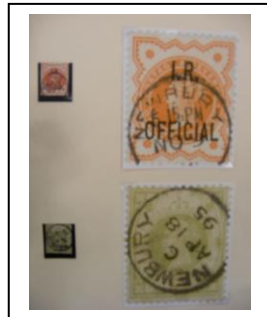
Hi Boys!



Malcolm Hoskins
displays



What time do they
feed the sea lions?



Newbury
overprints



Persian/Iranian
overprints (forged)?



Nobel prize winners
Chemistry



Westbex Dealers



The Thames Valley
9-Sheet Entries



More Dealers

The Thames Valley Philatelic Federation 9-Sheet Competitions

Postal History Class

1 st	Mike Kitson	Oxford	British Postal Agency – Panama
2 nd	Eric Holmes	Wokingham	Carried Charter Mail – Cadiz
3 rd	Malcolm Gascoigne	Henley	Ecuador Postal Sysytem

Thematic Class

1 st	Heather Lowe	Thatcham	The Evolution of Parrot Families
2 nd	Martin Farr	Thatcham	The Mighty Atom

Traditional Class

1 st	Don Jeffries	Amersham	Unappropriated Dies
2 nd	Martin Ladd	Amersham	British African Overprints
3 rd	Tony Simmonds	Maidenhead	Mexico . Postal Cards
4 th	Barney Bardsley	Thatcham	1d Reds from Black Plates

Aerophilately Class

1 st	Malcolm Hoskins	Thatcham	Canada Emergency Mail Service
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Open Class

1 st	Ann Stammers	Henley	Copper – The First Metal
2 nd	Ian King	Henley	The Gaucho

Postcard Class

1 st	Chris Marsh	Amersham	Demise of Amersham Common
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Cinderella Class

1 st	Mike Payne	Oxford	Printers Marks and USA Seals
2 nd	Nathan Gregory	Thatcham	U.K. Savings Stamps

The Westbex Raffle was again well organised and run by Ann. Thank you so much for all your hard work. The Raffle prizes and winners were as follows:-

1 st prize	£100	Paula and Phil Cant
2 nd prize	Wine	Chris Mars
3 rd prize	Book	Barbara Irwin
4 th prize	Benedictine	Nathan Gregory
5 th prize	Album	Reg Rhodes
6 th prize	Wine	Malcolm Hoskins
7 th prize	Mystery Elephant	Ian Keel
8 th prize	Biscuits	Mr Clare
9 th prize	Private Eye Album	Simon King
10 th prize	Sweets	Sue Batchelor
11 th prize	1d Black Tie	M Memmott
12 th prize	Album	Mike Ward
13 th prize	2 Bottles of Wine	Neil Hatton
14 th prize	Chocolates	Jean Stacey

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

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

New Issues

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

Future Programme and Events

Monday	4 th April	Transport	
Thursday	21 st April	Postal Stationary, Envelopes and Covers	NOTE The Monday meetings will now start again at 2pm
Monday	9 th May	Birds	
Thursday	19 th May	The Chairmans Evening and the Future	
Monday	6 th June	Underpaid Mail	
Thursday	16 th June	Philatelic Halves	
Monday	4 th July	The Monday Cup and Paintings	
Thursday	21 st July	Jim Andrew and Brian May Entertain	

Officers of the Club

Committee

President	John Baron	01933 650092		
Chairman	Mike Smith	01189 333257	Neil Hatton	01635 280639
Vice Chair	Still vacant		Paul Watkins	07870 851837
Secretary	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942		
Treasurer	Mike Ward	01635 864307	Jim Andrews	01635 297390

Archivist	Still Need One	WestBex	Graeme, Martin and Ann	Publicity Martin Farr
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