



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK



THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
WESTBEX EDITION APRIL 2023

The Chairmans Report

WESTBEX 2023

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 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 issued and sold lots of tickets to members. Ann is not very well and so could not be with us as usual. Get well soon Ann.

Many thanks to Juliet, Ian and Graeme who `manned` the front desks and sold lots of raffle tickets to our visitors and issued programmes

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

Barney Bardsley - Chairman

Year 57

Issue 153

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Front of House Receptionists
Graeme, Juliet and Ian

For further information on anything in this newsletter please contact

Martin Farr, Editor

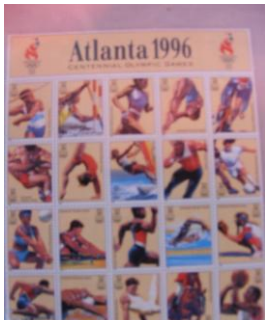
Tel 01635 866437

or

Graeme Stewart, Secretary

Tel 01635 866942

Photo Gallery



Atlanta 1996



Persian Polo



Hong Kong 1996



Australian Gold Medalists



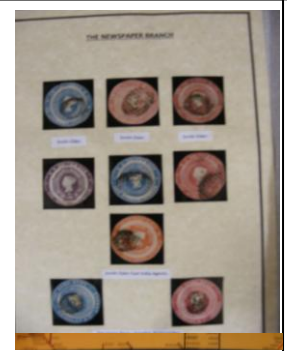
Olympic Postcards



Newspaper Branch Special Postals



'Cut-outs' from Newspaper wrappers



W H Smith and Sons Wrapper stamps



John Walter 11, the Founding Father



Queen Salote Issue of Tonga



London 2012 Olympic Games



A Golden Sea-Horse



Gold medal winners



Gold Post Boxes



and a lot more!

PAST EVENTS

Monday 9th January `Sport` There were 12 members present

Jim Andrew started the afternoon with a display of nicely laid out world sports stamps each having a brief description of the activities that covered Athletics, Sailing, Football, Rowing, Tennis, Steeplechase, Judo and quite a few others as well.

Dave Tanner was next and he showed quite a few sheets of Football competitions, Summer Olympics, USA Sports personalities, Sets of Horse Racing stamps and stamps and covers of the Kenyan Olympic Games. Asian Games sets from Teheran and postcards of Persian Polo and Football World Cups.

Malcolm Hoskins then showed a fine collection of 1983/4 USA Postcards covering many sports and the locations where they took place.

Mike Smith started part 2 and showed a mini-sheet of the 1996 Hong Kong Olympics and a nice sheet of Commonwealth Games issues.

Then **Alan Cross** then showed sheets of Australian sports stamps of the 1990 Olympics.

Next up was **Ian Keel** who showed lots of first day covers of sports stamps covering the Olympics, Rugby, Cricket, Athletics Table Tennis and Cricket. Nice cover collection.

To finish off the displays **Juliet Keel** showed a nice collection of Olympic Games postcards that were sponsored by Mars – no, not the planet - a bit sweeter than that.

Thursday 19th January Malcolm Hoskins and Jeff Rogers Entertain

The subject of **Malcolms** talk was The Newspaper Branch – all about those publications that, in the early postal days, produced their own stamps and cancellations so as to post publications to their subscribers. As he said it was minimal talk and maximum show. There were many sheets illustrating the types and styles of the newspaper stamps with lots of sheets from W H Smith publications and wrappers . The Newspaper Branch was a section of the Post Office that actually charged the branches so as to tax them so to speak - 1712 1/2d, 1756 1d, 1780 3 1/2d . He showed many sheets and covers of these types of newspaper stamps that were sent to clients of the publications all around the world.. There were also several newspaper headings with the Newspaper Branch cancellations at the end of the headings. Malcolm said that this display was just a small amount of what was covered and what his collection has.

Such an interesting display the subject of which most of us had no idea of at all.

For part two **Jeff Rogers** showed us 8 sheets of British Officials. dating from Queen Victoria to Edward 7th. The overprints were OFFICIALS, ARMY OFF`S, GOVT PARCELS, IN REV OFF`S, OW OFFS(Officers officials), BOARD OF EDUC, RH OFFICIALS (Royal Household), ADMIRALTY OFF`S. All these Official overprints then ceased in 1904. An interesting display – never knew there were so many overprints.

Monday 6th February `Gold` There were 13 members present

Nathan Gregory was first and he showed 3 sheets of George 6th Gold Coast issues.

Jim Andrew was next and he showed a map of the Gold Coast and a descriptive sheet as to the regions exploitation by many European countries. He spoke about how this country had developed from early African states over a long period of time. He showed several sheets of Gold Coast issues including GIV silver wedding and the QEII coronation issues.

Next up was **Dave Tanner** who showed several Iranian issues that had borders in black ink that were dusted with gold dust (What else!) He showed several sheets of `Gold` covers and stamps from the USA including a great set of Space Exploration FDC`s that had golden pictures all about Space stations on them. Then a wonderful framed picture of a gold embroidered sea-horse that was made by his wife Margaret.

Mike Smith then showed sheets of Gold Coast stamps and a sheet of the World Cup issues of 2010 and a nice sheet of gold medal covers from the 2012 Olympics.

Malcolm Hoskins started part two and he showed a great collection of Gold Medal covers from the 2012 Olympics in London. Then a great collection of covers each with a strip of 6 stamps, all about the handover from London to Beijing. Malcolm finished with lots of lovely designed covers of the Paralympic Gold Medal winners. Minimum talk and maximum show – a great display.

Juliet Keel then showed us several scenic pictures by famous artists that were `gold` in outlook and some gold foil painting by Gustav Klimpt.

Graeme Stewart was last up and he showed many pictures from his `Postbox` collection. These were ones that were painted in Gold for the 2012 Olympics. Some were from Henley and Lymington. There were several sheets of Lamp boxes as well as those set into walls. All in all there were 111 post boxes that were painted gold but there were others that were `privately` done as well.

Thursday 16th February Postcards and new acquisitions – Members displays

Malcolm Hoskins was first and he showed a superb set of Belgian postcards all about the Manneken Pis that is situated just off the Brussels main street. `He` was created in 1618 or so and is now world known. He also showed a nice set of early English postcards of, as we spell it, Mannekin Pis.

Brian May then showed his new finds of postcards from the local area including Bradfield College and several cards from Bucklebury an avenue of trees and the vicars cottage at Avebury.

Juliet Keel some nice cards of actors and actresses, some WW1 embroidered cards that were lovely and some nice world tourism cards.

Ian Keel then showed items that he had acquired in 2022- Some large `Smiles` sheets that were very colourful, Dennis the menace sheets, the year of the tiger sheets and Xmas 2021 and the Rolling Stones. A great display and so interesting.

Mike Smith started part two and showed several sheets of Bechuanaland, Bhotswana overprinted stamps (Now part of South Africa) all from 1891-1893.

Malcolm Hoskins then showed some cards and sheets all related to the petrol cans and `junk` that he keeps in his garage. All quite funny and interesting.

Colin West then showed a fantastic letter with 16 postmarks on it . The post office could not find the stated address and so it was sent all over and then returned to sender. He then showed a great sequence of small letter found in a box – letters to and from military personnel and the school of military survey. at Hermitage. He ended with an amazing set of letter from 1960 – 1993 all from and to the same Halliday family.

Graeme Stewart was next and he showed a series of covers and letters to and from the Sawbridge family of Boxford House. Then a cover of the first flight from Oz to GB with postmarks showing all `ports of call` of the flight. It arrived at Woodspeen on 28th April 1931. What a great cover.

Alan Cross ended the session by showing some recently acquires stamps and a very rare early postage due stamp of perforation 11.

Monday 6th March The Military - Members to display 11 present

Jim Andrew started the afternoon and spoke about several military items and showed some nice cards of stamps and some from WW1 and a great sheet about the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

Martin Farr was next and he related the Chinese story `Romance of the Three Kingdoms` all about the Han dynasty and how, at the famous battle of Red Cliff in 208AD the evil Cao Cao was defeated and China was divided into the three kingdoms of Wei, Wu and Shu, then to become the Han dynasty.

Juliet Keel then showed a great display of cards and letters from WW1 – embroidered cards made for front line soldiers to send home. Some nice Red Cross covers relating to the military and lots of nice cards all about the soldiers and trenches of the front line.

Nathan Gregory started part 2 with a wonderful set of A3 sheets all about the Great War and Military Medals and how and when they were instigated. The first medal was issued after the battle of Waterloo. The East India Co. issued many medals with lots during Queen Victoria`s reign and the pictures showed

pictures showed many more medals with Stars and Ribbons associated with them and some great ones about the Falklands and Arctic medal issues. A great display.

Dave Tanner was next showing cards and letters and stamps about Egyptian forces. The liberation issues and some from India and Iraq army day of 1953. He finished with some lovely pictures of the Royal Hussars Regiment that he had served with – uniformed guardsmen and bandsmen. Very nice.

Graeme Stewart was last up and he showed cards of WW1 Silks. lots of cards from the trenches sent to Newbury with the sending data being censored and then lots of letters and cards to and from the Prisoner of War camp in Newbury.

Thursday 16th March Francis Connolly and Mike Smith entertain. 19 present

Francis started the evening with a collection of King George V postal issues. He reigned from 1911, past his Silver Jubilee in 1935 and he passed away in 1936. Francis spoke knowledgeably about all the variations and designs and had been collecting this subject for ages. The display was all about Die types on the 1/2d and 1d varieties, typographical varieties, Royal ciphers, plate markings and shades, watermarks and varieties – some transposed and some missing completely. and some nice sheets of 1d scarlets where the O of One at the top of the stamps was sometimes, due to printing errors, shown as an inverted Q. It was a nice display and Francis obviously liked this subject and material.

The National Judge, **Mike Smith**, who judged our Christmas competitions, displayed over 70 A4 landscape sheets all about the Orange Free State Postal Stationery showing many covers and cards. Sheet 1 showed the first issue of 1894 and the final sheet showed the last issue of 27th May 1900 when it became the Orange River Colony. Mike talked about the numerous changes that he had made to the exhibit over the years and that the exhibit had won several regional Gold awards plus a World Gold as well. It did look very good as a display.

He then surprised us all by issuing everyone with a 4-page handout all about Philatelic Exhibiting. He spoke about the major aspects of Philatelic Exhibiting – The Material, Knowledge and Treatment using his presentation display and history as the examples referred to. An Exhibit should be somewhat like a book. It needs a title and an introduction, a logical start and end point and a cohesive story line. It should be divided into sections or chapters with an appropriate beginning and end. Overall, it needs Balance and should not leave the viewer looking for what comes next.. We were all very amazed with both the presentation material and the referencing to the data sheets. It was a brilliant talk and was so informative. Thank you Mike.

WESTBEX

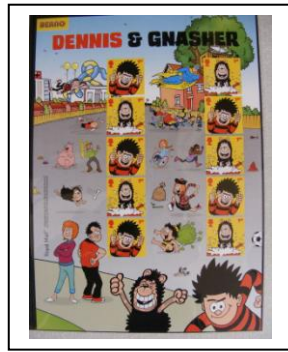
Westbex 2023 went very well indeed. We had over 85 visitors to the fair and the dealers were quite pleased with the attendance. The Thames Valley 9-Sheet competitions were well displayed and many visitors were very interested in the displayed entries. Several of them and local societies were quite interested in how we organised and advertised the event and Graeme and myself explained how we did it..

THE POSTCARD

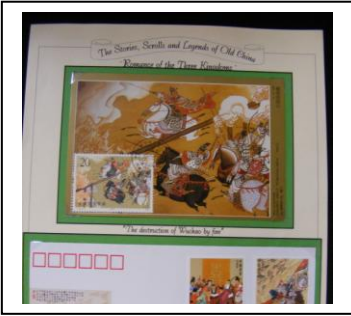
PAGE (well sort of)



Le Manneken Pis



Dennis the Menace



The Battle of Chibi



All over the place!



Shell Oil cards



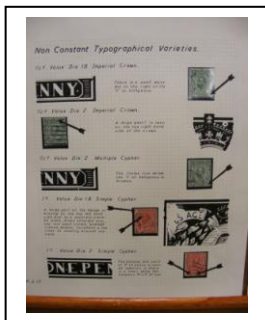
Allied Victory Medal



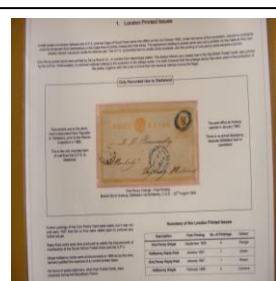
D-Day 75th Anniversary



The Royal Hussars



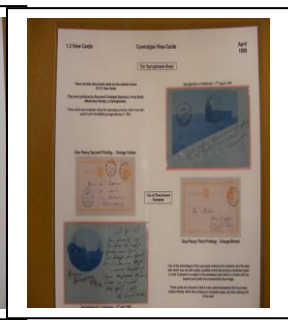
George V Typographical Errors and 'Q' flaws



Orange Free State



First issue, Last Issues and Spring Fontein Blues



Westbex Dealers



The Thames Valley 9-Sheet Entries



More Dealers

The Thames Valley Philatelic Federation 9-Sheet Competitions**Traditional Class**

First	Eric Holmes	Wokingham	Gibraltar Forgeries
Second	Tony Simmons	Maidenhead	GV Advert Booklet Panes
Third	Nathan Gregory	Thatcham	Commonwealth Key Plates

Postal History Class

First	Alan Baker	Oxford	Portuguese Army on Western Front
Second	Keith Wright	Amersham	Somerset Fifth Clause Post
Third	Julian Bagwell	Oxford	Guernsey Ship Letter Markings
Fourth	Barney Bardsley	Thatcham	Niger Coast Postmarks

Aerophilately Class

First	Tony Stanford	Maidenhead	Airmail Cachets used in Tangier
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Thematic Class

First	Martin Farr	Thatcham	Stories, Myths and Legends
Second	Nathan Gregory	Thatcham	Coronation Regalia

Open Class**No Entries****Postcard Class****No Entries****Cinderella Class**

First	Mike Payne	Oxford	Hope Seals of South Africa
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The Westbex Raffle was again well organised and run by Ann. Thank you so much for all your hard work. Thanks to Juliet and Ian Keel for issuing programmes and raffle tickets on the day due to Ann`s absence. The Raffle prizes and winners were as follows:-

1st prize	£100	Nathan Gregory
2nd prize	Wessex Stock Book	Nathans Godmother
3rd prize	Chocolates	Paula Cant
4th prize	Set of Placemats	Ian Keel
5th prize	Bottle of Wine	Mrs Graham
6th prize	Fox Chocolates	Brian May
7th prize	Bottle of Wine	Szymon Borys
8th prize	Stamp Adorned Basket	Mrs H Andrew
9th prize	25 mint 2nd Class Stamps	Mrs Eric Holmes

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

March	The Flying Scotsman and Flowers
April	The Legend of Robin Hood
May	King Charles 11, a new Reign
June	Warhammer
July	Windrush – 75 years

Future Programme and Events

Monday April 3 rd	Coronations
Thursday April 20 th	A German Miscellany with Rex Dixon
Monday May ??	Traditions
Thursday 18 th May	Nordic connections and Scandinavia – Members
Monday 5 th June	Buildings
Thursday 15 th June	Visit from the Henley Society

Officers of the Club

Committee

President

Chairman	Barney Bardsley	07770 376235	Jeff Rogers	07740 450166
Vice Chair	Still vacant		Paul Watkins	07870 851837
Secretary	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942		
Treasurer	Mike Smith	01189 333257	Jim Andrews	01635 297390

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