



# THE THATCHAM POSTMARK



THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
WESTBEX EDITION APRIL 2024

## The Chairmans Report

### Westbex 2024

Many thanks to our 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,

Thanks to Graeme and Martin who `manned` the front desk and issued programmes and information.

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

Barney Bardsley - Chairman

*Year 59*

*Issue 157*

*Inside this issue:-*

*Front page –Chairman`s report*

*Page 2 - Pictures*

*Page 3 - Meetings data*

*Page 4 - Meetings data*

*Page 5 - Meetings data*

*Page 6 - Data and pictures*

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

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



The Friday Putter -Uppers

*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



Japanese Ladies from Philatelic Week issues



Women of Distinction

Aussie Gold Medallists

Lady Baden Powell

Emmeline Pankhurst

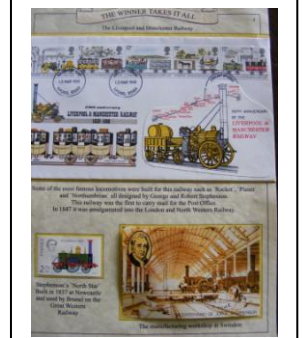
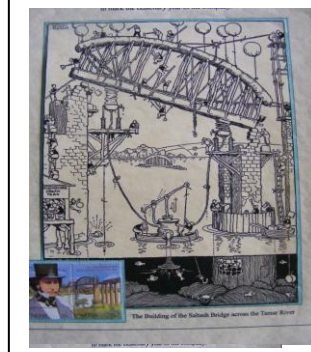


Austrian Costumes

Churchill et al

John F Kennedy

The story of the Endeavour



V.C. Recipients

RAF VC's

The Saltash Bridge Cartoon

L and M Railway Swindon Workshop

## PAST EVENTS

### Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January “Famous Women” There were 12 members present

**Martin Farr** started the afternoon by showing lots of sheets of Japanese Ladies that were all from the Japanese Letter Writing Week which started in 1948 with the classic `Beauty Looking Back` issue. Japan issued 3 pictures each year and they made a very nice set of pictures of not so famous but lovely Geisha ladies.

**Mike Smith** was next and he showed sheets of “Queens” from several countries,

Then **Dave Tanner** displayed two very nice sheets about Lady Baden Powell. Nice.

**Juliet Keel** the put up a full board of cards and pictures of famous women through the ages. Ellen Terry, Sarah Bernhardt, Vesta Tilley, Gladys Cooper, and Lilly Langtry just to name a few. She showed p.h.q cards, celebratory ladies and some cards of 2 women of achievement that included Emmeline Pankhurst and Charlotte Bronte. What a great collection of ladies.

To finish the afternoon **Alan Cross** (who had been sorting things out) showed a great collection of letters and cards showing Women of the medical service and lots of cards all about Australian Olympic Gold Medal winners which were very colourful.

And that ended the afternoon session

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January “Recent Acquisitions” 17 Members present

**Malcolm Hoskins** started the evening by showing Pre-cancels and particularly Montgomery department and variations plus from Oakland Fort Worth and San Francisco.

**Graeme Stewart** was next and he showed recent items he acquired from the Ross Dependency in Antarctica.

**Bob Paterson** was next and he showed West Indies stamps with specimens from Barbados and Bermuda, then underpaid postage items from the British Virgin Islands - (KGV set) and the Turks and Caicos Islands and some letters from the Maldiv Islands to New York. Quite a comprehensive display!

**Colin West** then showed Postal Stationery recently purchased from Provincial Auctions and more postal stationery and Wrappers.

**Mike Smith** was next and he showed recently acquired KGV `Downey Heads` Bechuanaland issues and some nice 1935 Silver Jubilee issues of Bechuanaland.

**Jeff Rogers** then showed a full 1d red plate 72 from AA to TL Very nice indeed.

**John Tingey** then displayed cancels of the 1d red of 1854 and colour variations using Maltese Cross cancels

To finish the first part of the evening, **Alan Cross** then showed Australian Postage Due stamps and several covers with these items on them.

#### Part Two

**Brian May** was first and he put up a nice series of pre-printed postcards of the 1961 `Silent Night` series from Australia.

**Dave Tanner** was next and he showed recently acquired Iranian stamps and a very nice large USA Birds and Fauna stamp booklet.

**John Mills** then showed `Packet Boat` cancellations and some type 19 cancels and also some French `Chocolat` issues. All very tasty!

**Barney Bardsley** was next - a nice display of QV 1d reds and their perforations – different colours and Maltese Cross cancellations from black to green and various other types of Maltese Cross cancels. Quite a display.

**Jim Andrew** then displayed quite a few USA pre-cancels from various US states.

**Paul Watkins** then showed some very nice and interesting French “Puzzle” Postcards which were very unusual indeed.

Finally, **Nathan Gregory** put up a mixed lot of recently purchased Cigarette Cards and a stock-book of various International Congress stamps.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February “Heros” There were 12 members present**

**Brian May** started the afternoon and he thought that it was all about Costumes and Trains !!!!! and he showed a sheet of “Austrian Prairies ladies costumes and some nice postcards of various costumes from all over.

**John Mills** was next and his subject was “Heroes from Ghana”. John F Kennedy who was shot by Lee Harvey Oswald and a nice sheet all about Lord Baden Powell and his scouting achievements.

**Juliet Keel** was next and she showed lots of sheets of Heroes from around the world. Charles Darwin, Emmeline Pankhurst Edith Cavell and data about them, data sheets about Emily Boothe the wife of Albert Einstein, and Marie Curie. She finished with sheets of female authors and data sheets all about Winston Churchill. Where does she get it all from?

**Malcolm Hoskins** started part 2 and he showed several illustrated VC issues to persons on covers and also of H.U. Singh VC, of the Royal Indian Artillery Nice.

**Mike Smith** then showed a sheet of Heroes of the Resistance all issued by France.

**Dave Tanner** was next and he showed data and illustrated sheets of Resistance Heroes Jean Baptiste Lebas and Jean Monk.

**Graeme Stewart** was the last exhibitor and he showed data on Ernest Shackleton – maps of Antarctica. Peter Ephram with the Nimrod. Graeme spoke about Shackleton and the Antarctic Expeditions and all about the wrecking of the ship HMS Endeavour and Ross Island.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> “The Gold Coast” with John Mills, 15 members present.**

The Gold Coast has the same time as England as the zero meridian passes through it. The first issues were in 1875 and John spoke about them with nice sheets of stamps and covers. He told us about the many forgeries and replicas of the early stamps and the 1864 overprints of the high values that were sent to the U.P.U. He spoke about the Edward VII issues of 1904 and showed lots of sheets about them and also some of the overprints that were issued. John said that he had been collecting Gold Coast stamps for quite some time and had a good collection but there were still many issues that he had to acquire. We all then came to have a look at all the display.

John put up a full display of sheets for part two and spoke about the Silver Jubilee issues and some of the forgeries that were discovered that he displayed. He told us about a chap called Harris who put forgeries on covers and cancelled them himself. John the spoke about the Coronation issues of 1948 that were on display. He ended his talk by telling us all about the 1948 definitive issues of July 1948 and how he had obtained them. Well, what a great display of the issues of just one country.



**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March “Trains” There were 13 members present**

**Brian May** showed a nice lot of train postcards including one of the Hogwarts Express and then a lovely model train of the LNER. See picture.

**Juliet** was next and she showed sheets, covers and cards of world stamps from all over. Then some official sheets and Australian franked rail letters and Canadian Express cards and pictures of trains and railways.

**Malcolm Hoskins** then showed a great selection of stamps and cards and letters all about the Mount Snowdon Railway and Llanberris pass station. Very nice sequence.

**Bob Patterson** then put up a couple of sheets all about the 1937 Railway Congress that were quite informative.

Then **Jim Andrew** showed us centenary issues of the Bhotswana Railway, an Isle of Man Electric train cover and some nice Turkish Railway cards.

**Alan Cross** showed us quite a few sheets all about things that went on trains (apart from people!). lots of luggage labels from Australia and all over. Quite a collection.

**Martin Farr** started part 2 by showing a selection of his “Age of Steam” sheets. The early steam engine inventors, several sheets about the famous Rainhill Trials where the final winner was `The Rocket` entered by the Stephensons. He finished with several sheets of early American trains, some delivered from England. A very nice display.

**John Mills** was next and he showed a lots of stamps, sheets, covers and postcards of the Ghana Railway system. Quite an extensive and informative display.

**Alan Cross** put up some more railway items fro Australia by turning over his original sheets to show their reverse items. What a different way of doing it!

**Dave Tanner** was next and he showed railway stamps from around the world and some from the Isle of Man belonging to Mrs Margaret Tanner!

**Graeme**, after several trips out, then showed a good display of cards, letters and photos all about Thatcham and Newbury and their connections with stamps and correspondence. Nice pictures of Thatcham Railway station and lots of letters and cards locally addressed from 1880 to 1949 and some early railway tickets to and from Thatcham. A nice display.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March “The Curios Case of the Common” by Andy Kempe  
17 members present**

**Andy** used a data projector to show all his pictures and information which came out very well. He moved to Newbury in 1982 and some time later joined the Control Tower organisation and helped to revamp it using the National Lottery funding. He showed a great display of pictures and data about the common and its inception which went back for many years. He was quite comical in his speaking which certainly aided the data he was showing. Data on General Eisenhower`s visit and also the American Air Force site occupation and the hangars and missile storage. The first plane to drop paratroopers in Normandy actually took off from the Commons air base. The base was `rebuilt` in 1951 and was home to 2,200 personnel. In 1972 the base became the transit camp for the Ugandan refugees and home for the International Air Tattoo of 1973. There were protests all around the Air base in 1980 (remember that) when thousands of protesters (go to P6)

**THE POSTCARD PAGE (well sort of)**



**John Mills**



**The Gold Coast**



**A 20s Gold**



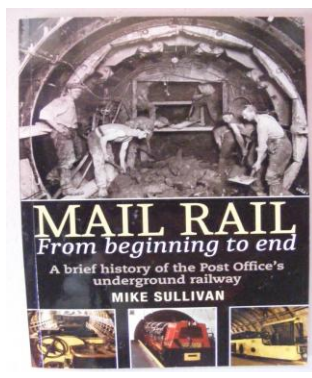
**George V Silver  
1935 Jubilee Issue**



**LNER 4472**



**The Lord of the Isles  
1851**



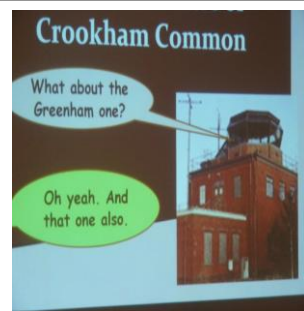
**Book Cover of  
P O's Underground Network**



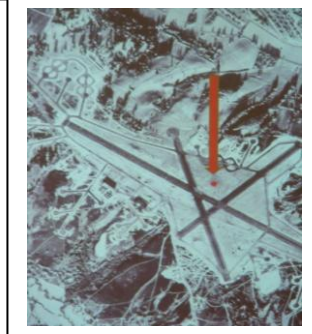
**Railway Tickets**



**Andy Kempe and his  
Data Network**



**The Control Tower**



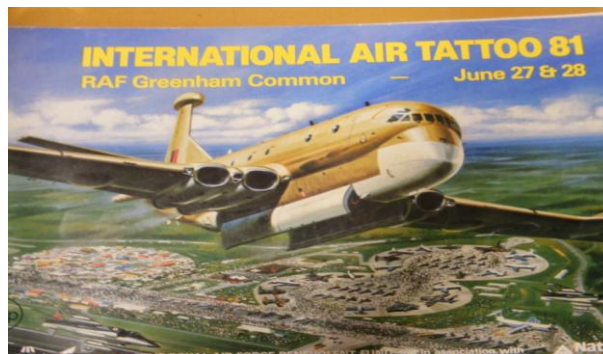
**Air Base Runways  
and site of Tower**



**Dakota C-47's that  
carried parachutists**

joined hands all around the Airbase  
In 1987 all the military facilities were finally removed and the area became the Greenham Common that we all know today because the Common Trust bought the land .  
Well, what a very interesting and informative talk that was. Thank you Andy.

**Graeme** Stewart was the speaker for part two and he told us all about the modern Greenham Common and in particular about the International Air Tattoos of 1973 and 1981 (shown here). He then spoke about letters and correspondence to and from the air base and its contribution to local facilities.



### The Thames Valley Philatelic Federation 9-Sheet Competitions

#### Traditional Class

First	Tony Stanford	Maidenhead	MEF the first Overprints
Second	Nathan Gregory	Thatcham	Christmas Angels

#### Postal History

First	Keith Wright	Amersham	Coffee Houses
Second	Julian Bagwell	Oxford	Guernsey Under Occupation
Third	Simon Heap	Oxford	The Mobile PO's of South Africa

Aerophilately No Entries

#### Thematic Class

First	Martin Farr	Thatcham	The Mighty Atom
Second	Nathan Gregory	Thatcham	Coin Thematic

#### Open Class

First	David Potts	Oxford	Prisoner of War Camp No. 189
Second	Chris Marsh	Amersham	Muscat and Oman – Renaissance

Postcard Class No Entries

#### Cinderella Class

First	Tim Harrison	Amersham	Unissued Stamps of Armenia
Second	Tony Simmons	Maidenhead	Revenue Stamps of Mexico
Third	Mike Payne	Oxford	Hope Seals of South Africa

**There was no Raffle this year**

## THE BACK PAGE

### “Club Stamps” corner

**Club Stamps** are well looked after by **Jim Andrew** 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

Jim 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](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)

#### New Issues

**The post Office has not issued any data as yet**

#### Future Programme and Events

Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> April	Maps
Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup> April	Phillip Cant with WWII – 1989-1995 !
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup> May	To be arranged
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup> May	Postcards
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup> June	To be arranged
Thursday	29 <sup>th</sup> June	Visit from the Swindon Society

#### Officers of the Club

#### Committee

##### President

<b>Chairman</b>	Barney Bardsley	07770 376235	Jeff Rogers	07740 450166
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Still vacant		Paul Watkins	07870 851837
<b>Secretary</b>	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942	John Mills	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Smith	01189 333257	Jim Andrew	01635 297390

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