



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK



THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
WINTER EDITION January 2018

The Chairman's Report

Once again a very good year for our society. Both the Monday and Thursday meetings have been well attended and we have had some very good guest speakers – Sue Hopson with her `Wastepaper Basket`, David Gibbon and `Mauritius`, Grace Davies with `Peace` and recently Bob Galland with his `Undelivered Mail`.

The AGM went well with no major changes and the November auction was well attended – not as many items sold as last year but nevertheless an income for the society.

Many thanks to Mike Ward for his organisation and pricing.

The Packet circuit is now in the excellent hands of Neil Hatton who has recently incorporated Basingstoke into the distribution list with our boxes to them as well.

A big thank you to all those members who have helped out in so many ways especially for the Westbex stamp fair which was again very successful, We just cannot do it without you.

Finally, the committee wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

Thank you all. Barney Bardsley, Chairman

Year 52

Issue 139

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A nice Christmas Card from quite a few years ago

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Photo Gallery



French Lady Forgeries



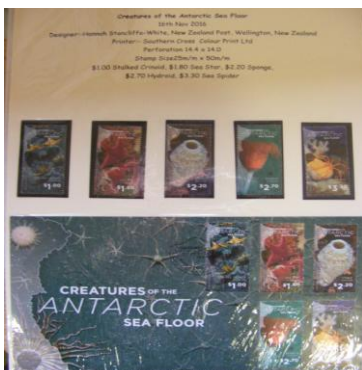
Cinderella issues



Falklands forgeries



Cinderella labels



Antarctic Sea Floor



Palm Trees



N.Z. Carrot Mail



Trees, Veg. and Fields



The Putter-Outers



Why are we waiting



Eyes down – Get bidding



Bob Galland



Undeliverable Items



DLO items – Edinburgh Centre



PAST EVENTS

Monday October 2nd Forgeries, Scams, Miss-prints and Cinderellas

So what is a Cinderella then? It is an item which looks just like a postage stamp but is not used for postage purposes.

Ian Keel started by showing us sheets of cinderellas and forgeries and several sheets of `dangerous forgeries` - why dangerous? He did not know. Maybe because they are so close to the originals that there is a danger of being used as genuine. To finish he showed us a lovely book by Brian Cartwright `Madam Joseph Revisited` all about all the forged cancellations of the Commonwealth.

Bob Paterson then showed sheets of cinderellas, a nice sheet of wartime issues and forgeries of wartime issues of France.

Mike Smith was next and he spoke about Bechuanaland and its early days as a regional regime which wanted their own stamps that were then printed in the U.K. and sent out for usage. He showed a set of the original stamps and a set of forgeries which were of a much better printing quality. Cape overprints were then used for early Bechuanaland with double overprinting with forgeries with red overprinting instead of the proper lake.

David Beddoes held a mini auction at half time and 6 lots from 20 were sold.

For part 2 **Dave Tanner** took over the show. He spoke of Persian stamps being renowned for forgeries and reprints. He showed the `Lion` stamp and Paris reprints in sheets of 12. Then he showed some forged `Portrait` stamps. In 1881 French currency was used and four of these issues were for forgeries especially the `Gothic Window` and the forged 10 franc issue.

Forged plates were confiscated but later they were used for real issues! He then spoke about the 1979 revolution showing overprints of the logo issue that was originally illegal, then official for a time but then stopped. Finally he showed certified overprint forgeries in four blocks of four and then crude issues and illegals.

What an interesting and informative afternoon.

Thursday October 19th The Society Annual Auction

The Auction

The catalogues produced by Mike were all laid out and clear,
with 760 total lots at reasonable prices not dear.

Viewing was from half past six all laid out tidily,

By Colin and Reg who helped us view the ones we wished to see.

The auctioneer was again Mike Smith well dressed in tie and jacket,

With Mike Ward as the accountant keeping an eye on each packet.

Bob Paterson was the recorder - he listed each sold item,

And our chairman was the scrutineer who had to double-check them.

24 persons attended on the night with 15 people vying,

And at the end 263 were sold to those who now were buying.

1,300 pounds were taken all in all – down on last years night,

With the club accruing 130 pounds at 10% – just right.

Dave Tanner had entered our club stamps, some new, some foreign, some old, Getting 61 pounds and 50 pence so quite a few were sold.
Colin and Reg issued all the lots to those who had paid for their vendors,
And helped to pack the unsold items to be returned to all the senders.
So all in all a reasonable night – it ended at a quarter to ten,
The next one will be October twenty eighteen, we shall see you all again then.

Monday 6th November - `Vegetation` and just 14 members were present

Juliet Keel showed us several sheets of ladies `doing things` in the fields with vegetation and cornfields. Her items were brought by Ian as she was otherwise engaged.

Andrew Gore then showed us a mug with lots of green things on the sides of it and then a sheet of the `palm tree` issues of Gambia. They were all of different colours and shades.

Neil Hatton talked about the 1963 4th June commonwealth issues relating to `Freedom from Hunger`. They were omnibus issues of 77 different stamps all relating to the subject matter. Very nicely presented.

Then **Graeme Stewart** who came across a Stamp and Coin magazine from the New Zealand Post Office all about growing things and they sold stamps together with seeds to grow such as herbs and vegetables. All most unusual. Then he showed some wildlife sheets of `vegetation` that grew under the sea and ended with some sheets of wildlife from the Ross Dependency.

To finish off a shortened afternoon **Mike Smith** spoke about his vegetation hobby of collecting Cacti of which he has quite a few species, He showed a family tree of Cacti which laid out all the Genus and Species of the succulents. Then he showed some nice sheets of family species and types such as Opuntias. Then some succulents such as Euphorbias and a strange variety whose flowers smell of rotten meat (ugh) and finished off with nice sheets of other cacti such as the Saguaro species that grow in desert regions.

Thursday November 16th. with 21 members present Bob Galland and `Undeliverable Mail`

Bob started by talking about his collecting history and how he came across letters that were undelivered and thus returned to various Returns Offices and this subject matter just took off from there. Much of his collection was `by mistake` until he had so much of the material that it became a whole subject in itself. His display started with many sheets of wrappers from various R.O's in the country and a lovely sheet showing some post office undelivered items (see pictures). Some of the sheets had watermarks and many did not just showing returns instructions to the original sender. He showed Dead Letter Offices material from London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Manchester and two whole boards of standardised returns envelopes from several of them and then envelopes and covers of returned packages of various sizes and styles.

After a tea break Bob put up further sheets of data and material relating to items from the Roland Hill years of 1837 – 1864 , then also from the George Smith years of 1864 – 1891 all showing many examples of Returned paid letter envelopes, types and styles.

Then Bob showed sheets of returned letters Instructional Marks including `Addressing Problems`, `Not Called For` items, `Undelivered for Reasons Stated` hand-stamps and generic `Return to Sender` examples. Then there were some nice wax seals and sheets of incorrectly addressed letters. These were followed by some OHMS Returned Postal Packet sheets. Paper seals were introduced in 1880 and until then rather than use a returned letter envelope, the original was sealed with a wax impression of the RLO seal.

To end a fantastic display Bob showed several sheets returned by the censor in WW2 but no reasons had been stated and then a Daily Mail Headline sheet issued by the Royal Mail which in fact was quite wrong as it didn't and wasn't. And finally a bottle of shiraz with a returned label on it! What a great evening's entertainment. Thank you Bob.

**Monday 4th December – Christmas Social, Quiz and `Charity Stamps`
and there were just 12 members present.**

Juliet Keel sent along quite a lot of interesting material to show and Martin put it up for her. Lots of lovely sheets of labels and charity stamps all produced to provide funds for various organisations. These were followed by sheets of cinderellas and labels from around the world, a nice sheet of them from Herm Island and some items from the international stamp exhibition of 1980. Then finally a very colourful sheet of business labels from all around the U.K.

Bob Paterson was next and he put up a dozen sheets of French state issues of charity stamps including relief fund issues, Families funds, the Glorious Infantry issues, and the Winter Aid Relief sets. A nice collection.

Graeme Stewart then put up one sheet which was a Republic of France specimen cover.

Then we all had hot sausage rolls and mince pies that were brought by Ann as both Ian and Juliet were unable to attend the meeting. The quiz had been organised by Juliet and Ann had earlier issued the question sheets to everyone – all about general knowledge.

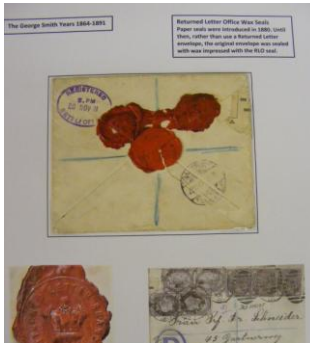
There were 21 questions and the winner with 15 correct answers was Bob Paterson who was presented with a nice box of chocolate biscuits.

We needed to arrange a subject matter for next April Monday meeting and eventually it was agreed that `Cats and Dogs` would be the order of the day.

And then we all went home.

There are no notes for the Competition and Christmas Social evening but Bob will take

THE POSTCARD PAGE (As Was)



RLO Wax Seals

More of Bobs `returns`
The Daily Mail headline

A returned bottle!



John Tingey spotted a report in the auction section of the current issue of *Stamps and Coin Mart* describing the sale of a decimal FDC. The cover was identical to one that he owns and it brought back memories of when, in 1971, he worked at the *GEM* newsagent/sub post office in Hythe, Kent. The shop was run by two brothers who also owned the *In Action* sports goods shop just down the road. His interest in stamp collecting was known to the brothers and one of them, Maurice Leferme, saw an opportunity to cash in on the fact that the new decimal postage stamps were issued on 15th February 1971 right slap bang in the middle of the national postal strike that began on 15th February and would run until 7th March. Hythe was one of the very few places where some of the postmen decided to continue to run local services and so Maurice set me up in a back room with 200 blank covers and the requisite 2,400 stamps that I had to `lick and stick` onto the envelopes! We also had a large roll of self-adhesive address labels for the sports shop (we could not really use the address of a sub post office for this exercise) that were applied prior to the completed covers being taken down to the local post office to be franked and delivered. This was the time when sorting, franking and delivering took place in the same town, unlike today when everything gets shipped off to a central location. The covers were duly delivered the next day representing genuine first day of use of the new stamps.

When the strike was over the Post Office pandered to collectors needs by retrospectively cancelling decimal FDCs with 15th February postmarks but marking the covers with a special cachet acknowledging this act of `Philatelic Fraud`.

The report in the magazine stated that the cover realised a fantastic price of £210, a good return on the original 50p investment although it made no mention of the genuine use but implied that the real value was in the postmarks slogan. John tracked down the auction house and spoke to the owner who said that he was not aware of the history of the cover but that it `catalogued` at £350.

Thank you John for a very interesting article indeed.

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

Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

January	No data issued as yet
February 14 th	Post and Go - `Mail by Sea`
February 15 th	Votes for Women
March 20 th	R.A.F. Centenary
April 17 th	Re-introduced Species
May 11 th	The Old Vic

The society would like to issue a warm welcome to a new member, **Moira Cloete**, who has recently joined us and has already assisted with the Monday afternoon teas !

The Packet Circuit

A Christmas gift to all our Packet Vendors! As some of you are aware, your committee has agreed to cancel the 10% charge raised against those of you who submit booklets for circulation. The Packet Circuit is a Club service to both vendors and purchasers.

The time and effort which goes into preparing booklets for circulation is very much appreciated and the dropping of the 10% levy will be back- dated to March 2017.

The circuit has a membership of 21 and there is always room for more. There are currently 200 booklets in 15 packet boxes in circulation (including a few from Basingstoke) with a wide range of philatelic material on offer, mainly GB and Commonwealth but foreign and world countries are included.

A very happy and healthy Christmas to all,

Yours in Philately,
Neil Hatton.
Packet Secretary

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	8 th January	The 1940`s
Thursday	18 th January	The Chairmans Evening
Monday	5 th February	`Black and Blue`
Thursday	15 th February	`Barbados` with Richard Stupples
Monday	5 th March	Neil Hatton Entertains
Thursday	15 th March	New Acquisitions – Members to display
Saturday	24 th March	WESTBEX 2018 at the Kennet School Thatcham from 10a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday	9 nd April	`Cats and Dogs`
Thursday	19 th April	Tristan Brittain and the Northamptoners

Society Needs and Wants

An extra pair of hands to help with the tea and coffee will be appreciated, especially at the Monday meetings.

We still need a volunteer to take on the Archiving and Storage of Society documents
The Society needs a Competition Co-ordinator.

We are still looking for representatives for the Thames Valley and Hampshire Federations

Officers of the Club

President	John Baron	01933 650092
Chairman	Barney Bardsley	0777 0376 235
Vice Chair	Still vacant	
Secretary	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942
Treasurer	Mike Ward	01635 864307

Committee

Colin Bartholemew	01635 865457
Neil Hatton	01635 280639

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