



# THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY



SUMMER EDITION 2013

## Chairman`s Report

We have had a full and busy programme for the last few months. The Monday meetings have been going extremely well with very interesting topics selected by the members. This method has proved to be very successful resulting in many, and sometimes most of the members showing something of interest to everyone. The recent subjects have included `Overprints`, `Endangered Species` (do see below) and then `Air Mails`.

The Thursday evening meetings have been successful too. Steve Jarvis was the guest speaker in April with his great display on `The Stamps and Postal History of Jamaica`. Tony Hillier and Martin Farr shared the evening in May with Tony talking about his Belgian background and ethnic roots and showing much of his families pictures and letters from past generations while Martin showed and explained a full set of sheets on the Tokaido road which went from Kyoto to Tokyo.

Trevor Cornford was the guest speaker in May with a great display on `Scott`s Last Expedition`. He had some wonderful letters, correspondence and postal history and his knowledge on the whole expedition was amazing. In addition, Trevor was also a very interesting speaker and easy to listen to and his presentation material won a Gold Medal in New Zealand and the USA

Barney Bardsley, Chairman

Year 47

Issue 121

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“Some Endangered Species”

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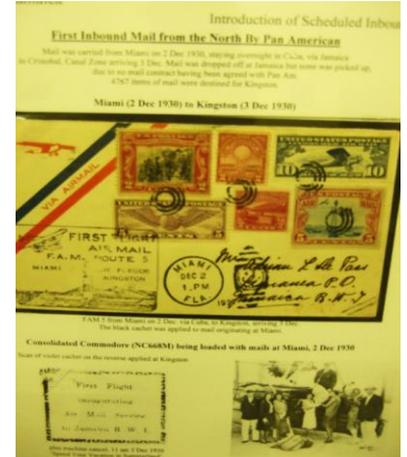
# Summer Photo Gallery



Jamaican packet letters



Guest speaker Steve Jarvis



The first Inbound airmail



Wonderful wildlife sets



Bechuanaland full issue cover of 1964



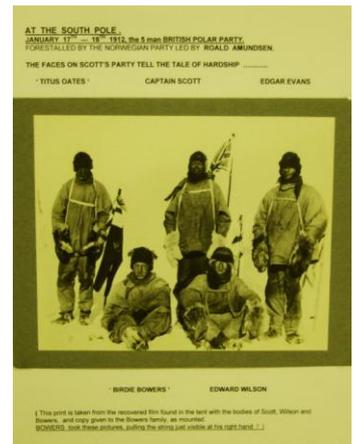
Tony Hillier and some of his exhibits



Scott and the Terra Nova

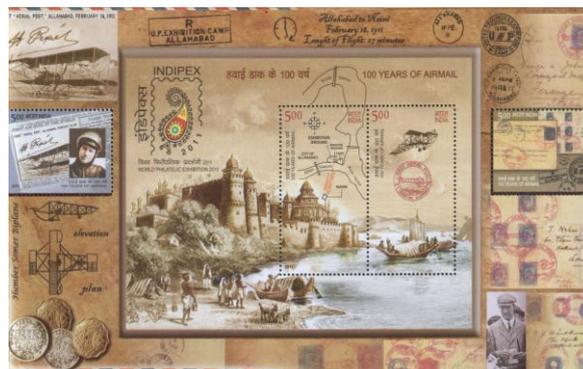


Guest speaker Trevor Cornford presenting 'Scott's Last Expedition'



Oates Scott Evans Bowers Wilson

The Indian airmail centenary MS



## PAST EVENTS

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

“Overprints” was the theme for this meeting with 21 members attending.

**Malcolm Hoskins** started the afternoon with full sets of blocks of dies I and II of British Air Mails of Malaya and several overprinted covers of the first official day of issue on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1945.

**John Shambrook** then displayed some Bleriot overprints on his XI plane issues that crossed the channel in August 1917. Followed by some Tunisian, French and Colonial overprints of 1927.

**Dave Tanner** then showed various overprints from several countries, a 1915 Bushir set from Iran, a set of overprints of Turkish fiscals, ones from Berlin used by the USA and Russia, some 1922 Persian, and 6 sheets of general overprint issues. All very nice and genuine as there are so many forgeries around.

**Ian Keel** then put up several sheets where the country name had been changed by an overprint and issues where the overprints had been used to raise money for the Red Cross, charities and public events.

**Tony Hillier** then displayed some Belgian overprints of 1920 and 1930 and a nice mini-sheet and some covers with overprints.

We then had a mini auction where 5 lots from 15 were sold.

**Jerry Wilson** started the second half with overprints of S. Africa, S. Rhodesia and Rhodesian independence and then some from Germany - The Milliarden and Millionen overprints.

**Sue Hopson** showed us overprints from the Seychelles and surcharges of QVI and Edward 7<sup>th</sup> together with some very nice covers.

**David Beddoes** put up some decimalisation overprints, coronation issues, country name changes, Independence issues, currency changes and some `specimen` stamps and `officials`. Quite a nice display.

**Tony Jordan** showed us a special delivery stagecoach set with specimen overprints.

**Mike Smith** displayed some overprints of Bechuanaland, and a large very nice decorative cover of the complete issue overprints of 14. February 1904.

Then to finish the afternoon **Ben Hampton** showed the Swaziland Independence overprints of 1968. All in all a very colourful and informative afternoon.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

The guest speaker was **Steve Jarvis** who gave us a great evening on “The Stamps and Postal History of Jamaica”. He showed early die proofs for the 2d QV issues, some Kingston AO1 cancels and packet letters to London from 1858. Steve had been collecting Jamaican stamps since 1970 but has now moved onwards and upwards to its postal history. He then showed pre-adhesive postal markings up to 1858 when the British post office set their own rates to Kingston. Their first own actual designs were issues in 1860 of the laurated head. Steve showed lots of examples of the above and then specimen overprints of 1880`s and examples of internal and packet letters right up to 1900 with various cancellations and distance charges. Then there were examples of early air mail letters and covers including the first inbound airmail with Pan Am to Kingston from Miami on 2.12.1930. The bi-plane was a `commodore` which then flew on to central America and thence back to Miami.

For the second half Steve concentrated on the 20<sup>th</sup> century issues and watermarks, and proofs, dies and varieties for EVII and GV issues with paper variations. He showed the pictorial series of 1919 and said that they were lovely designs and scenes but rather retrospective in nature. He then showed and talked about a range of items including `late` covers, pacquet post, military mails, locally manufactures seals and cancels together with pictures of many of the locations. Letters were sent out to Jamaican towns where, at the post office, notices were put up saying-“we have a letter for ..... “ and if it was not collected it was returned to Kingston and thence back to the sender!

Steve then showed more air mails from the first flight in late 1930 and some from the return flight by Caribbean airways and finally some examples of covers showing various air-mail rates.

A very entertaining and comprehensive display of the postal history of Jamaica and the 26 members present thoroughly enjoyed it.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

The theme for today was "Endangered Species" and there were 18 members present.

**Jerry Wilson** started the proceedings by showing many species that were under threat including several African species, sharks and monkeys, the blue whale, tigers and gorillas and turtles. A very thought-provoking display. **Bob Paterson** broke the mould by saying that he did not have any stamps on the theme but he showed us quite a few sheets on `Cornish Post Offices` that have been already closed or are getting very few and far between and may soon be closed forever. A nice set of pictures and data.

**Ben Hampton** showed United Nations issues on endangered species for several years of issue and included items from New York, Geneva, Vienna and 3 from each year from 1993 up to 2011/12 and several illustrated booklets as well. Quite a lovely set of material and a lovely collection. **Ian Keel** then showed 3 sheets of endangered butterflies, fish and wild animals. **Graeme Stewart** displayed species lists and British species on the red endangered list plus sheets on the founding of the RSPB and a sheet showing the great crested grebe. To finish off the first half **Mike Smith** showed sheets on extinct dinosaurs, 2 N.Z. species and the African rhino that are under threat. He and his family lived in Bhotswana from 1978-87 and his son designed some stamps for the `slatey egret` which was and is endangered. The family left before the issue and so his son`s design was not selected.

At half time there was a mini-auction of 14 lots and surprise, surprise, 10 lots were sold!

**Dave Tanner** took over for the whole second half and what a selection there was!

Dave showed us a wonderful display of World Wildlife Fund issues all about animals that are endangered which included the elephants, S. American jaguar and its habitat, the lesser African crane, pygmy hippos and the hunting of them, lynx and bobcat species, the green monkeys of St Kitts, fishes of the coral reefs and the reefs themselves which are being destroyed by the seas warming and the crown of thorns starfish. then more lovely pictorial sheets on the habitat loss of orang-utans, the monarch butterfly which is almost extinct in north America, polar bears that now have food and habitat problems due to sea ice melting, the brown bear and the ocelot which are still being hunted.

It was a very special set of pictures and data which made us all think deeply about what is happening.

**Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup>**

This was an evening of two halves presented by **Tony Hillier** and **Martin Farr**.

In the first half **Tony**, ably assisted by **Juliet Keel**, had **Belgium** as his theme because he is half Belgian. He talked about and showed `60 roses for a Queen` issues – the Queen being Louise-Marie - followed by mini sheets of the 1920-21 issues. These were followed by the Antwerp Olympic games on 20 August 1920 that showed the original games issues. Then Tony showed National Day issues of 1930 and King Leopold issues. Then there were the 1993 issues of Antwerp as the cultural capital of Europe and some lovely postcards from 1905 showing the Antwerp central station and surrounding area. These were followed by some mini-sheets from 1930 and 1936 with some quite old postcards of general views and the 1914-18 war.

Tony then showed a beautiful set of 10 postcards, which were issued and posted at 2 per year, which made up a composite 5 x 2 vertical picture of a lovely young woman. Then pictures of the royal family of WW1 - King Albert and Queen Elizabeth - then some modern colourful cards of Antwerp from 2010. Finally there were a set of five cards sent by his grand-father in to his grandmother in 1912 before they were married and dated in sequence with a `lovers code` plus 6 lovely sepia cards which were sent after they eloped! All in all a great display that obviously brings back fond memories to Tony and his family.

The **Tokaido Road** was the theme for the second half by **Martin Farr** and the storyline goes as follows- In the late 16<sup>th</sup>C the Japanese war lords returned to Japan after giving the Koreans a good trouncing – (they had been foraging along the coast for years). The most successful warlord was Ieyasu Tokugawa who got fed up with the hierarchy who, with his followers, gradually defeated the other warlords who were centred around Kyoto in the west – the big battle being at Sekigahara in 1600. Tokugawa took the name of Shogun and became the military ruler of Japan. His home area was in the east at Edo – now Tokyo – and he decreed that all nobles had to travel to Edo once a year to swear allegiance and, to make sure, Tokugawa would keep one of each family at Edo as a hostage. The main highway was the Tokaido along the coast and over the mountains from Edo to Kyoto and 53 way-stations were set up each roughly a days

march apart. All of the nobles and their families were carried by coolies with samurai in attendance and woe betide anyone who did not kow-tow to their lord - summary execution !

The famed artist Hiroshige 1759-1858, travelled the Tokaido several times in summer and in winter and produces a wealth of paintings which were eventually transformed into several issues of woodblock prints which have become world renowned . Each of Martin`s 55 pages showed the editions, stamps from the locations and first-day covers or a story from that place. All very colourful and very informative.

### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

The theme for the afternoon was Airmails and it was a good meeting with 22 members present.

**John Shambrook** started the afternoon with Coronation air mails from Sept.1911 from Hendon to Windsor in a plane piloted by Gustav Hamel, then some parachute, RAF and flying boat mails from 1937 across the Atlantic and some Imperial Airways covers. **Sue Hopson** took over with airmails from the Seychelles and lots of methods by which passage was taken, then some Leeward covers posted to censor, several AV2 covers and a lovely Chinese cover to the Seychelles. Sue then gave some data about the AV2 and OPT codes some of which are quite rare – `Onward Air Transmission` and `Open Airmail Dispatches`. **Bob Paterson** showed French balloon airmails, a 1936 airmail set and several early French air covers, items regarding the Paris exhibition to London and several covers from France to places around the world. **Tony Jordan** took over and showed world UPU airmails, mail by `rocket` from Yugoslavia, sets from Denmark, flying `Pegasus` sets from Italy and `strike` sets of the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of airmail passage from Paris. **Graeme Stewart** then showed some pictures of airmail post boxes – they have double collection plates and were originally blue. Then several airmail covers to Newbury from around the world and a `long trip` cover with cancellations from all over. To finish the first half **Martin Farr** showed covers of the very first airmail flight which was from Allahabad across the Ganges to Naini junction on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 1911. A flying team was out from UK by ship to give a demo at the Allahabad showground. They were asked to raise funds for a local hostel and decided to fly letters to Naini – the rail terminal across the Ganges. A special cancellation stamp was produced and 6,500 letters poured in (now very very collectable). Henry Pequet flew the mailbags in his Humber biplane, landed at Naini, dropped off the bags, took off and was back in 27 minutes! In 2011 India issued perhaps the finest MS ever of this event - almost a full A4 size – wonderful.

**John Baxter** started the second half with the `Golden Story` - how lots of little airlines started up in Canada to take out the letters from the gold diggers. Most of these airlines issued their own `stamps` until the Canadian P.O. issued licences - and the letters had to have private labels on the back. At the end of WW1 licenses ceased to be issued and the P.O. took over completely. A very nice sequence of stamps labels and covers. **Dave Tanner** then showed USA airmails from 1918-40 and told how the rates had changed over the years from 16c to 25c to 30c etc and showed a selection of covers to worldwide locations and finished with the Hindenberg and Zeppelin issues – very nice! Finally **Jerry Wilson** could not find any airmail issues at all and so showed some S. Africa 2009/10 airmail postcard stamps instead! Typical Jerry but very entertaining.

### **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

The subject for this evening was `Scott`s last Expedition – Triumph and Tragedy` with **Trevor Cornfield** and you missed a real treat if you were not there. Trevor split his presentation into two logical sessions – the initial inception and organisation, the official voyage stationary issued and the leaving of the expedition to New Zealand. Then, for part 2 the arrival at Lyttelton N.Z. and subsequent refit, the setting off to Antarctica and Christmas in the pack ice, the setting out of the polar party and the ultimate terrible consequences and then the `relief mails`, return home and `In Memoriam` for the polar heroes. Trevor outlined the whole concept of the expedition from its inception when the offices opened in Victoria Street in 1909, official voyage stationary, the departure of the Terra Nova in 1910 and the ships arrival at Lyttelton in October. He outlined the ship refit, special stamp issues, the departure to Antarctica and Christmas locked in the pack ice. The rest of the winter was at base camp setting up supply depots.

The rest of this article can be found on page 7 after the postcard page.

## THE POSTCARD PAGE



## Towers

**The Memorial Theatre, Stratford upon Avon.**

Opened in 1879, it was destroyed by fire in 1926. George Bernard Shaw was delighted when it burned down calling it 'an unsuitable old building'. Personally I think it was better than the present one!

**Westminster Cathedral.**

Built on the site of a prison, this Catholic Cathedral is in striking contrast to the medieval Westminster Abbey just a short walk away. The foundation stone was laid in 1895 and it is built in the 'Early Christian Byzantine' style. (quite like the one in Newbury)

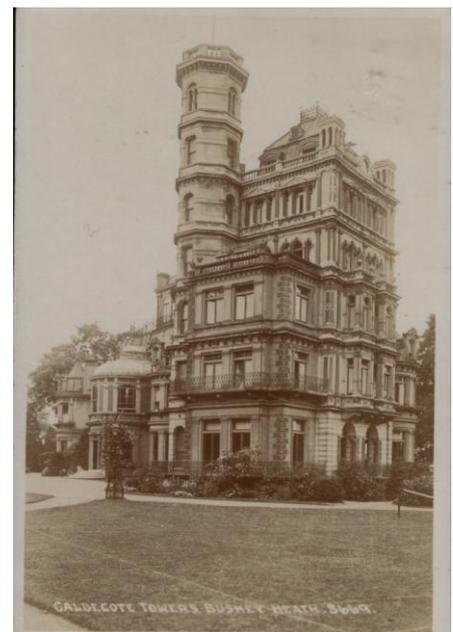
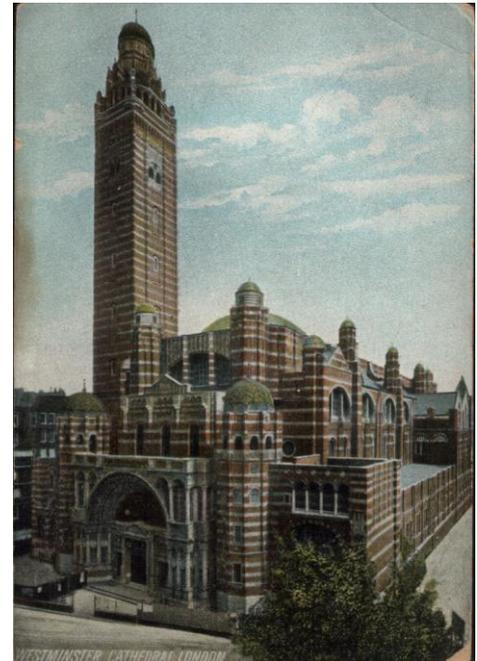
**Caldecote Towers, Bushey Heath.**

The mansion was built before 1878 for Captain William John Marjoribanks Loftus-Otway. After standing empty for some years it became a 'first class boarding school for girls' in 1891. It became a convent school named Rosary Priory and I grew up next door in the 1950's scared silly of the nuns! It is now Immanuel College – a Jewish day school.

**Royal Masonic School for Boys, Bushey.**

Seen in many a film – *Indiana Jones*, *Lucky Jim*, *the Meaning of Life*, *Harry Potter* movies and *The Avengers* on TV. The school was purpose built in 1903 and by 1939 had 800 boys. It is now redeveloped into luxury housing.

**Juliet Keel**



*Masonic Schools, near Watford.*

Trevor then spoke about the polar party and illustrated this with photographs, postal history items, magazine articles and correspondence.

The polar party of five – Captain Scott, Titus Oates, Edgar Evans, `Birdie` Bowers and Edward Wilson – set off for the pole on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1911 and arrived at the South Pole on 17/18 January 1912 to find that Amundsen had got there first! Trevor spoke about the sad demise of the five explorers and what happened to them – (Evans died on the way back to the tent and Oates went out for a walk!) and showed letters, data and cards relating to the tragedy and the subsequent return of the survivors to England. The pole photos taken by Bowers were found in the tent with the remaining three bodies while the main expedition pictures were taken by Ponting. What a wonderful and interesting evening it was.

### 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)

### Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

18 <sup>th</sup> June	Classic locomotives of N. Ireland
25 <sup>th</sup> June	Freshwater life – Lakes
11 <sup>th</sup> July	Butterflies
13 <sup>th</sup> August	British Auto legends
19 <sup>th</sup> September	The Merchant Navy
20 <sup>th</sup> September	Freshwater life – Rivers

### The Society Auction in November

This will be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November and may seem a long way off but it is not too early to think of assembling your items. The important dates to note are that entries have been accepted from **1<sup>st</sup> June** and the final date for entries is **14<sup>th</sup> July so there are only a few days to go!**

The vendor`s lots listing sheets can be downloaded from the club website and paper copies will be available from the auction committee. The form has a list of requirements on the reverse and basically lots are to be `Standard` - 6 x 4 stockcards or several cards banded together or `Large` - A4 sheet(s), album sheets, albums and boxes etc. Standard lots will be submitted to **Reg Rhodes** and large lots to **Colin Bartholemew**. The lots must be accompanied by a completed lots list. The minimum reserve price will be £1 and there will be a vendors premium of 10% of the hammer price.

The lots must comply with the format stated on the submission sheets :-

**Lot Type Vendors Ref no. Country, year, SG no, comments. Cond. Cat value Reserve**

We hope that the auction will be a success and this of course relies on members submitting materials that will hopefully be of interest to potential buyers. We do hope that there will be items for you to purchase so do come along and support the auction. We anticipate that the auction catalogue will be available by 7<sup>th</sup> October.

The auction lots will be available to view on club evenings and also at the October 12<sup>th</sup> stamp fair.

**At the fair we shall need assistance at the tables to handle and retrieve lots for viewing so-**

**CAN YOU GIVE UP A COUPLE OF HOURS ON THE FAIR DAY TO ASSIST US PLEASE .**

## 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 1 <sup>st</sup> July	‘The Monday Cup’ 3-sheet Competition
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	‘1936 Berlin Olympics’ with Tony Bosworth
There is no Monday meeting held in August.	
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> August	‘What I Collect’ pt 3 – philatelic or obscure interests!
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	‘Uniforms’
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	A.G.M. and Social evening with a mini-auction
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	‘Junkmail’ and ‘Questions and Answers’
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	30 <sup>th</sup> Annual Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall from 10 – 4pm in conjunction with the Thatcham Festival of Arts and Leisure
<b>Auction lots will be on view for our November Auction</b>	
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	‘From St Petersburg with Love’ with Emily Woodhams

#### Officers of the Club

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