



# THE THATCHAM POSTMARK



THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
SUMMER EDITION JUNE 2019

## The Chairmans Report

Well, I have been your Chairman for quite some time now and I shall be leaving the post at the AGM in August. It is time for someone else to take over the Chairmanship of the Society.

During my time as Chairman we have had a fantastic series of speakers both from other societies in the region and also our own speakers as well. In all cases the materials on display have been of a very high standard and it has been so interesting to listen to the speakers and view their related displays.

The Monday meetings have continued to be of a high standard with the subjects being selected by the members.

Thank you to all those that have helped with setting out of the tables and chairs for the meetings. What would we do without you all.

Barney Bardsley, Chairman

Year 53

Issue 145

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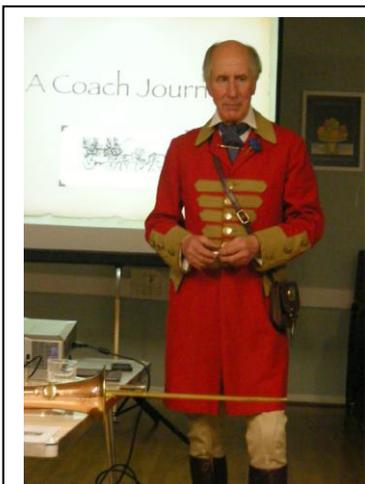
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Colin Pawson – “The Tootler”

*For further information on anything in this newsletter please contact*

*Martin Farr, Editor*

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*or*

*Graeme Stewart, Secretary*

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# Photo Gallery



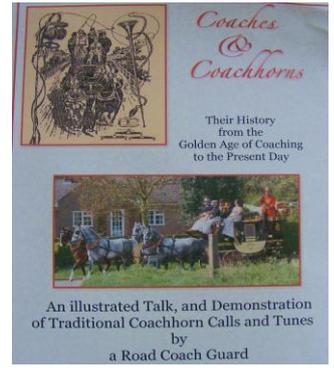
It is no crime to kiss in Newbury



Juliet's Foolish Ladies



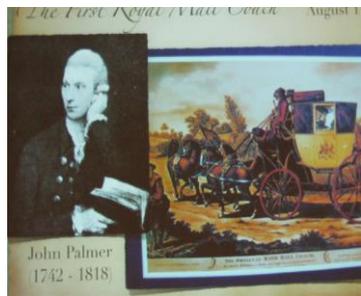
Mummy's bought a new baby



The Tootler's information sheet



Colin Pawson and a Keyed Bugle



The first Mail Coach of 1784



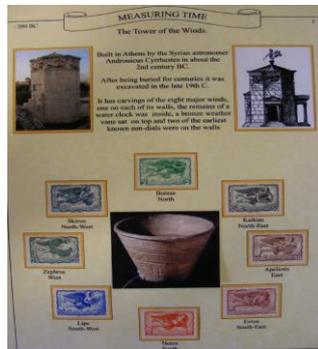
A Coaching Stage



with a Flanged Coachhorn



A Greek Postbox



Tower of the Winds



The Sphinx and Egypt



Valetta Harbour



Advert Card



Auckland to Antarctica



Hindenburg Disaster



A nice letter advert

## PAST EVENTS

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April and the subject was “Fool” – quite topical really. 10 present.**

**Juliet Keel** started the meeting by showing lots of “foolish” postcards and, as she said, many were so bad with some women dressed as fishes.

**Brian May** talked about post offices issuing “stamps” to cancel letters asap as many stamps are re-used if they are not franked. Nevertheless, the staff have little time to cancel by hand and so very many are able to be “re-used”.

**Neil Hatton** showed quite a few sheets about ‘Jokes on Postcards’ such as “Mummy can’t be hard up, she’s bought a new baby”!

At half time **Bob Paterson** sold several packs of stamps – Commonwealth, Foreign, German, Australia and all the proceeds were going to The Amyloidosis Relief Fund.

**Ann Martin** then showed her original stock book which is now full of all the Christmas issues ever! Then foreign Christmas covers and stamps and the special postmarks on 1d covers now worth quite a bit. She said that her latest interest is collecting sewing machines on stamps! She has 20 so far.

**Bob Paterson** Showed us a book all about how the Japanese were fooled in WW2 in December 1941 at Pearl Harbour and missed two carriers. The Yanks had cracked the Japanese codes and made them believe that their water supplies were contaminated and how eventually 2 Japanese carriers were destroyed.

**Graeme Stuart** then showed us lots of covers . Some from the Royal Courts of Justice, some censored covers to Newbury, a cover sent on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1989 and several comedy covers including - “It is no crime to kiss in Newbury”.

**Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup> “Coaches and Coachhorns” with the Tootler, Colin Pawson.**

The Tootler was all dressed up in his coaching uniform and was very smart indeed. He spoke about the history of coaching with the first Royal Mail coach in 1768. He spoke of coach travel getting faster and faster on much improved roads rather than the early trackways. In the 1760`s travel was hazardous, expensive and very uncomfortable. He spoke about road construction and referred to Thomas Telford and John MacAdam giving us roads that could be used the whole year. Mail coaches did not have to stop at toll gates and travelled at night. Then came the stagecoaches , very crowded with just 16 inches of width per person! In 1841 I. K. Brunel opened the Great Western Railway and made mail coaches eventually redundant. In the 1860`s if you were rich you owned a coach and horses and formed coach clubs and did the London to Brighton journey. James Selby did the out and return journey in 7 hrs 53 minutes and won £1,000.

He then spoke of how many county shows have excellent coaching competitions – often 10-15 teams taking part. It is great teamwork and lots of fun to keep alive coaching.

Part 2 was all about coachhorns and in 1893 coaching tunes were published. The Tootler spoke about mail guards and their duties with a posthorn (no flange). Coaching horns were longer and had a flange at the end. RM coaches had strict rules re the tones played. In 1810 the keyed bugle was invented which could play proper tunes and in the 1820s the cornet was invented. The Tootler then played lots of tunes on the horns he had

brought with him. Tunes for getting ready to go, leaving, get out of the way!, and passing. Amazing how different notes can be produced on a horn (lots of blow tho`)

What a wonderful talk and music session. Many thanks Colin –The Tootler.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April (as the next Monday was a Public Holiday). The subject was “Around the Med” and we had 15 members present.**

**Neil Hatton** started the afternoon by showing postcards and letters to Newbury from places around the world. Then an 1841 letter from Rome from people who had had an audience with the Pope which came via Corsica, Coventry, Liverpool and finally Newbury! He then showed letters from Venice, Rome, Florence and Malta and finished with Pictures of Spanish and Greek post boxes. A nice display.

**Martin Farr** showed us a sheet of the `Tower of the Winds` which was built in Athens in the 2<sup>nd</sup> C BC. It was excavated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> C and had the 8 major winds carved on it. He then spoke about the Julian calendar (out by 11 minutes each year) and Pope Gregory adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1582 and that 10 days would be cut from the current year as timings for Easter etc was all awry. October 4<sup>th</sup> would be followed by the 15<sup>th</sup> with a leap year again of 1 in 4. GB and colonies did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1752 when 11 days correction was needed!

**Andrew Gore** then showed us several sheets of stamps from Cyrenacia and Tripolitania.

Then **Brian May** showed us the 1979 Newbury Show official covers that were all franked with a `70 year` postmark and how Rhona Tucker gave him 230! Then he showed a series of other covers of the show that first started at Enborne Gate Farm in 1909. Then to Elcot Park, Henwick Court, Siege Cross and finally the Newbury showground from 1979 onwards.

There was a mini auction at half time when 7 from 20 lots were sold.

**Neil Hatton** the showed us much more items from around the Med which is one of his favourite areas and he spoke of his army training around the Med in Libya, Malta, and then Aden all illustrated with lots of FDC`c. He went to Cyprus as well and showed a few historical stamps and envelopes. Neil then put up lots if items from Egypt and the Suez situation and very nice Egyptian covers. He finished off with a coded letter of 1910 from Gibraltar that was sent to France and a letter from Malta that was covered in stamps all around the edges. A very nice display and an amazing collection.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Philatelic Halves with Nathan Gregory and Malcolm Hoskins**

I was unable to attend this meeting but was told that it was an interesting evening.

**Nathan** started the ball rolling with the subject of Franking Privilege Mail. He showed many of his interesting envelopes and covers and frank styles. Letters and correspondence to and from members of parliament, government departments and officialdom in general that did not pay for items to be sent by post with Bishops and Clergy quite prolific abusers. All very well laid out and where did he get them all from?

**Malcolm** covered the second half which was all about advertising mail. He had very many covers and examples of advertising logos and designs on letters and parcels all well laid out. Most of the covers carried adverts relating to the company or group that actually sent the items by post. It was well received by all and very interesting to be made aware of all the old types of advertising on their mail.

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June and the theme was “Airways” with just 12 members present**

**Malcolm Hoskins** stated by showing several boards of airmail labels and etiquette stickers which were applied to luggage and packages at the airports. Then loads more labels from KLM and other airlines. The large ones were `tie-ons` and the etiquettes were `stick ons`. what a collection.

**Martin Farr** was next and he showed a lovely set of 16 sheets about flight starting with the earliest balloons then dirigible and airships (with the Hindenburg of course) and finished with the first aeroplane flights. Quite a comprehensive display.

**Juliet and Ian Keel** showed sheets of `This and That` - sheets of Canadian flying boats and 4 lovely postcards of flying machines and sheets of birds in flight!

**Alan Cross** showed a great collection of Aussie Airmail covers from all over Australia. Quite a collection and a nice sequence of items.

In part 2 **Malcolm** showed a few more sheets of Etiquettes used on envelopes from all around the world used on many airlines.

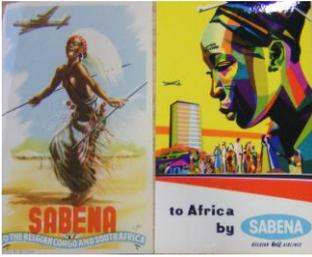
To finish off the afternoon **Graeme Stuart** displayed lots of covers showing how early airmail letters actually got from source to recipient via many locations. ANZ Flt 901 from Auckland to Antarctica refuelling at Christchurch (NZ!) on the return journey. Then two nice Ross Island Dependency covers and to finish, many covers from around the world to Newbury. A nice collection.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June – `The Austrian Occupation` with Paul Watkins with 13 present**

Paul showed and talked about his wonderful collection of covers and data regarding the occupation of Austria from 1945-1955. He spoke about the Soviet zone and the occupation of Vienna. Then he showed lots of overprints and those with Hitler`s face obliterated. Then sheets of Allied mail government issues, Soviet arms stamps issues, postal stationery sheets. The followed US sector re categorized mail, many sheets and covers from and to POW`s held in the USSR and other countries bordering Austria.. Then, to finish part 1, some great Jewish transit camp covers and covers with censor marks and some sheets of uncensored printed matter.

Paul opened part 2 by speaking about the return of Air mail services showing lots of stamps and covers about it. then sheets about Air mail punitive rates and covers of Pan Am flights from Vienna in June 1946. Then he spoke about the Kinderdorf` movement to care for the Austrian children who were orphaned or displaced and showed some beautiful covers about the movement. Then there were Balloon covers for charity from 1951 with images of working in the fields on them. Then he showed POW relief fund issues and the costume issues. Then followed many covers of famous Austrians, Art exhibitions, UPU issues and child welfare. There were some great covers of the rebuilding of the roof of the Stefandorf Cathedral that had been ruined in the war and finally some sheets of air mails, bird issues and issues of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic. What a great collection and very well talked about indeed. Thank you Paul.

# THE POSTCARD PAGE (well sort of)



Airline Luggage labels and Etiquette labels

WW2 Aeroplanes



Antarctic penguins



Botswana Railway system



Scouting activities



A fantastic Air Mail cover carried by Zeppelin



Paul Watkins



Hitler Overprints



Child Welfare issues of 1949



Balloon Flight issues of 1951



### **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)

### **The Packet Circuit**

There are about 10 boxes of 20 packets each currently making their way around the Thatcham and Basingstoke circuits.

Whilst we have lost several members (who have moved away), our numbers are still up to 18 which represents a third of our society membership. Members not currently on the packet circuit do please consider joining. The material on offer is wide-ranging, fairly priced and of good quality and perhaps will fill those gaps in your collections.

In addition to booklets coming to me from our members I receive material from Gloucester, Witney, Swindon and Dartford Philatelic Societies. The boxes can take up to 9 months to complete both Thatcham and Basingstoke circuits, often with good sales.

Pre-1950`s GB remains popular but need to be of good quality, whilst 1960-2005 are not doing so well. The increased cost of stamps from 2005 and the challenge of having GB commemoratives decently postmarked have put off some collectors but the Royal Mail continues to flood the market with new and sometimes bizarre issues on spurious subjects.

There is a lot of thematic material on offer, but the attraction to collectors is very hit and miss. Pre independence British Commonwealth countries retain their popularity but can be quite pricey. The proliferation of post-independence issues is, not surprisingly, of less interest. Early European, South American and Far Eastern countries have a certain appeal to collectors.

Should you wish to join our packet circuit or have material you wish to submit for circulation, please contact your Packet Secretary for help and advise.

Thank you.

Neil Hatton Tel: 01635 280639

# 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

### New Issues

July	Curious Customs
August	Forests
September	Royal Navy Ships
	Music Giants
October	T.B.A

### Future Programme and Events

Monday 1st July	The Monday Cup and Quiz. Evening visit to Petersfield.
Thursday 18 July	Philatelic Halves. Nathan Gregory - English Errors and John Tingey - Bray Update
Monday August	There is no Monday meeting in August
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> August	Thematic Evening – Holiday Destinations
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept.	Officials and Fiscals
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	A.G.M., Social Evening and Quiz. Charity Auction
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	37 <sup>th</sup> Annual Stamp fair at the Memorial Hall, Thatcham from 10am – 4pm. Auction lots on view.
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	Autumn Leaves - Fall
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	The Society Auction.

### Officers of the Club

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

### Committee

Colin Bartholemew	01635 865457
Neil Hatton	01635 280639
Mike Smith	01189 333257

<b>Archivist</b>	Still Need One	<b>WestBex</b>	Graeme, Martin and Ann	<b>Publicity</b>	Martin Farr
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