



# THE THATCHAM POSTMARK



THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
AUTUMN EDITION OCTOBER 2017

## The Chairmans Report

Once again a very good year for the Society with some very entertaining guest and society speakers. Membership has fallen to the mid-fifties but we have had several new members who have all taken part in our meetings.

Thank you to our committee members and helpers for their efforts throughout the year. To Graeme Stewart as our most efficient secretary and the organiser of Westbex with Martin Farr and Ann Martin. Many thanks to Martin who also handles publicity and the newsletter, Mike Ward for handling all the finances and organising our autumn auction and Dave Tanner for looking after the club stamps and making a good profit.

Thank you to Juliet, Ian and Ann for doing a great job with our meetings refreshments – particularly for this AGM and our Christmas party.

Finally a big thank you to all the members who help with the Westbex hall set-up and assisting with the tables and chairs at all of our meetings. We just could not be a vibrant society without all your help

Thank you all. Barney Bardsley, Chairman

*Year 51*

*Issue 138*

*Inside this issue:-*

*Front page –Chairmans report*

*Page 2 - Photographs*

*Page 3 - Meetings data*

*Page 4 - Meetings data*

*Page 5 - Meetings data*

*Page 6 - Data continues*

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

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



Juliet Keel is awarded the Jerry Wilson Memorial Trophy by our Chairman

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

*Martin Farr, Editor*

*Tel 01635 866437*

*or*

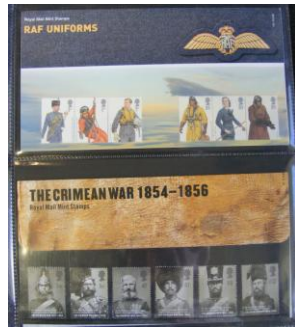
*Graeme Stewart, Secretary*

*Tel 01635 866942*

# Photo Gallery



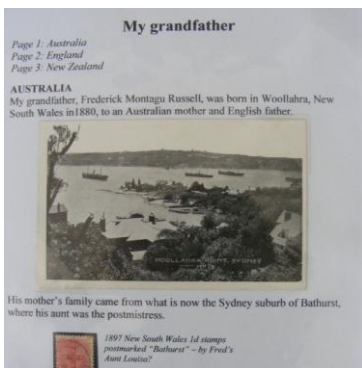
Encirclement!



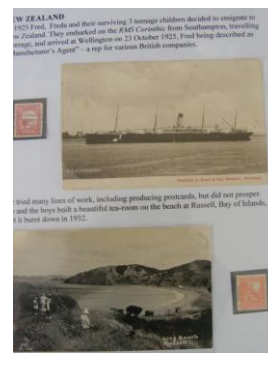
Uniforms



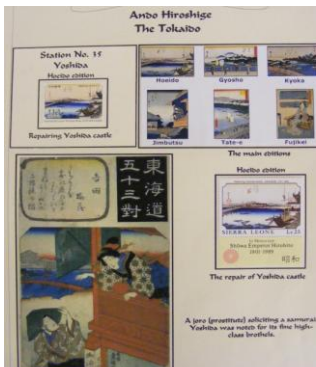
Outlaws of the Marsh



The wartime experiences of Juliet's Grandfather



Jack Cornwall V.C.



Station 35 Yoshida on the Tokaido Road



Telescopes



Grace Davies



The Peace Conference Paris, 1856



Geneva Peace Conference of 1912



The Peace Rose



V J Day September 2nd 1945



The first Nobel Peace prize to Dunant and Passy

## PAST EVENTS

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

### **Competition for the Jerry Wilson Memorial Trophy**

There were fifteen members present for the afternoon and six members entered for the competition which was very good. Members voted for the 3-page exhibits as follows - five points were awarded for first, three for second and 1 for third and you were not allowed to vote for yourself. The top three results were :-

First place with 31 points      **Juliet Keel**      The Story of my Grandfather.

Second place with 25 points   **John Shambrook**   Abu Simbel

Third place with 18 points    **Malcolm Hoskins**   Rocket Mail

Juliet was not present for the presentation of the award and so this will take place at an August meeting.

The theme for part two was The Armed Forces.

**John Shambrook** started the session with WW2 postcards, letters and covers to and from service personnel and quite a rare early Aviation card from Casablanca.

**Neil Hatton** was next and showed postcards from the Boer war and WWI cards from the UK and Germany. Then some nice `tea-cards` of naval battles issued in memory of 14 year old Jack Cornwall who was awarded the VC at Jutland in 1916. Then Neil showed a card of an engraved lion with all the countries of the British Empire engraved into its mane. Then finally a lovely DSO medal postcard and cards from the trenches to home.

We continued with **Malcolm Hoskins** showing part of his India collection which contained letters and cards from RAF units and military postal areas that were sent to all over the world – some of the areas where they were sent from were – Delhi area 4, Calcutta 5, Chittagong 6, Madras 9 and Orissa 151. Quite an interesting collection with lots of quite interesting new information.

**Mike Smith** then showed some Bechuanaland stamps issued in 1966 commemorating those who fell at Montecassino in WW2.

**Dave Tanner** was next and showed presentation packs about the armed services and their uniforms. Then the Crimean war and Victoria Cross presentation packs. Covers of Army post offices and military exercises. He finished off with some nice military covers and letters from the Egyptian Post Office.

**Graeme Stewart** finished off an interesting meeting with sheets about when Newbury Racecourse was a POW camp in WW1 and he showed copies of envelopes sent to Germany. Then some nice Silks covers and some army post office cards and censored covers with the towns obliterated prior to sending. Graeme finished off by showing cards about the Thatcham VC`s and the 1977 Air Tattoo at Greenham Common.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

**Thematics of your choice was the order and thanks to Bob Paterson for the notes**

**Graeme Stewart** opened the evening with a display of Postmarks of Thatcham. A selection of these were reproduced as a card for the Societies 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary but original items

included the towns receiving mark and two examples of the scarce `J79` numeric cancel. Other items included two illustrated covers, a Railway letter stamp for an item carried by train from Thatcham station and a wartime `US Army Post Office` card for a captive at the Thatcham Depot.

**Ian Keel** was next with stamps relating to Nobel Anniversaries. Alfred Nobel set up the foundation to award prizes in Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature and Peace although a late addition was for Economics that was sponsored by the Bank of Sweden.

**Mike Gurr** the followed with items relating to Windsor Castle which included covers commemorating various event such as the 70<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the House of Windsor, the first aerial post from Windsor, the Queen Mothers 100th birthday, Ronald Reagan`s visit and he finished off with the engagement of Prince William and Kate.

**Sue Hopson** then took over and gave an interesting display about `German Shepherd Dogs`. This was illustrated with photographs, stamps and German postcards from both world wars including a Waffen SS dog at a concentration camp. Then Sue finished off with some WWI cards that showed their role as rescue dogs on the western front. A very nice display.

**Bob Paterson** started part two and said that his `Space and Astronomy` thematic had now expanded greatly but that he had material relating to `Observatories and Telescopes` which he then showed. He gave a brief outline of the differences between reflecting and refracting telescopes and mentioned the mirror sizes in multi-mirror devices.

**Francis Connolly** followed with some German Propaganda Forgeries showing examples of `Liquidation of Empire` overprints for the Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago with some that had forged postmarks. Quite an interesting subject.

**Dave Tanner** then showed stamps from Persia 1902-1906 with three issues from this period all differing slightly with examples of mint, used on cover, perfin inverted, overprinting and some that were overprinted for local use.

Finally, **Graeme Stewart** showed material relating to New Zealand and the Ross Island Dependency where his daughter had worked at the Research Base there. Much of the material was from the post office that had operated from 1957 to 2007 and Graeme showed photos of the base and the post office.

Finally, to finish off the evening the **Monday Cup**, in memory of Jerry Wilson, was presented to **Juliet Keel** as she had been absent on competition day. Well done Juliet.

As usual, there was no Monday meeting held in August but there is an amendment to the last Mondays report. It was King George V who changed the family name from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1917. Belgium did not change their family name until 1920.

#### **Thursday August 17<sup>th</sup> "Show, Tell and Sell"**

Only four people had items to display and sell and **Barney Bardsley** started the evening with Revenue Stamps to sell and a nice reference book all about revenues and then sheets of foreign bill stamps of 1853. In 1854 they were then coloured red and in 1856 the perms changed followed by design and colour changes. He finished off with issues of Edward VII, George V and VI issues.

**Martin Farr** then followed with some airmail sheets and another sheet of the Tokaido Road in Japan – station No.33 Yoshida - that Japan had just issued some stamps for.

**Ian Keel** then showed several sheets and stamps from a presentation pack which were on sale for 35p a stamp or £10 for the sheet. Also, in one old box was an album of stamps for sale – `College of Arms` and `Medieval Life` sets, Textiles, Folklore and Heraldry.

**Dave Tanner** brought a nice book all about shoes from wartime manufacturers. Then a boxed set of lots of cards of many subjects on sale for £1 each.

Finally **Malcolm Hoskins** had a table of good sheets of stamps on offer. Several albums including a nice Deutschland album and a nice clean stockbook.

One or two items were apparently sold and as there were no more to Show Tell and Sell, we all had a cup of coffee and an early evening.

### **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

#### **Grace Davies with “Peace continued” and the “Peace Rose”**

And what an meeting this turned out to be! The afternoon was divided into 3 parts so as to display Grace`s lovely material. For part 1 she showed a great display of stamps and art work that told the story of the Peace movement starting from its inception after the Boer war and then WW1 and WW2 stamp issues covers and related aero grams. Then lots of lovely conference pictures, stamps and covers and issues relating to the Paris Peace Conference and the beginning of the League of Nations. Then data on the U.N. in Westminster Hall in 1945 and up to the 1950 Conference Centre meeting in New York and then on to the Peace \Treaty of 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1945 which officially ended WW2.

Part 2 was devoted to a wonderful selection of material about the `Peace Rose`. A lovely Picasso Dove poster and an allegorical symbol of `Peace` holding an olive branch and a dove. Then a sheet on the Pax airship which crashed on its maiden flight followed by stamps from China about the Peace Palace in Tiananmen Square in Peiping (as was). Then lots of sheets, picture cards and stamps on a 32 page award entry telling the story of the `Peace Rose`. The idea started with a young man, Francis Meilland, who, while working for a rose grower, noticed a lovely specimen which, by 1939, he had developed into the symbol of peace the day Berlin fell in WW2. Then some great sheets from Gibraltar of its `Dove of Peace` issues

Part 3 continued the Peace story with illustrated sheets about the inception of the Nobel Peace Prize. Lots of issues from all over the world – covers, stamps, letters and lovely design sheets. In 1905 Bertha von Suttner influenced Nobel to include a Peace Prize in his will (he died in 1896) which took three years to prove. Then nice sheets about the award and to whom it was awarded. The first Nobel peace laureates were Dunant and Passy – the founders of the Red Cross followed by many more that Grace had devoted lovely illustrated sheets of material. These included 1917 and 1944 The Red Cross, 1964 Martin Luther King, 1976 Norman Borlaug, 1988 the UN Peace-keeping Force, 1993 Nelson Mandela, 1999 Medecins sans Frontieres, 2001 The U.N, 2005 The Atomic Energy Agency, 2009 Barak Obama and in 2012 The EU ! What a fantastic display of beautiful material all superbly presented and discussed. Thank you very much Grace for a wonderful afternoon.

### THE POSTCARD PAGE



Japanese Prints by Hokusai

A Great Wave off Kanagawa

The Samurai Tamemoto

Close to the Waterfall



This is a picture of a sheet of wrapping paper that has fantastic images of many very early airmail letters and cards from all around the world. I bought it in Clintons card shop in Newbury (now closed) for just £1.



### **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)

### **A.G.M. Report**

Held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September. There were 20 members present with apologies from three others.

The minutes of the last AGM meeting were read and passed and there were no matters arising.

Our chairman read out his annual report a précis of which is shown on page 1. He also thanked our guest speakers that had visited the society during the year :-

Phillip Cant, Sue Hopson, David Gibbon and Grace Davies and also our society members who gave displays – Malcolm Hoskins, Francis Connolly, Mike Smith, Sue Hopson and Bob Paterson.

Mike ward, our treasurer, read his financial report which had been issued to all. Finances are in good health but with increased hall hire charges and falling membership the income from Westbex is relied upon. For the time being subscriptions will remain the same at £10. The financial audit had been carried out by Martin Farr and the accounts shown were a true record of the society transactions for the year.

Graeme Stewart, our long standing secretary had issued his report for perusal and thanked all those assisting with Westbex in particular Martin for all the publicity and Ann Martin for organising the raffle and prizes for us. Next years Westbex is on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Kennet School and so far we have 16 dealers. It is unfortunate that a major postcard fair is being held at this time and several of our usual dealers have opted not to attend ours. Graeme also mentioned that at some time we might need or want to relinquish or reduce our Westbex activities and so would welcome assistance with the administration and organisation of the event.

The election of the Society Officers and Committee members then took place. As usual, there was no change in the officers listing but this may not continue for much longer as those elected might need a change. Please consider standing as a nominee for next year. Neil Hatton, our packet secretary, is now a committee member as Tony Jordan has stood down for health reasons. Thank you Tony for your committee work.

The full listing can be seen on the back page.

Martin Farr was elected to serve as the financial examiner once again.

As stated previously, Subscriptions will remain the same at £10

Our packet secretary, Neil Hatton then issued his report.

He had agreed to take over in March from Mike Gurr who had run it successfully for over 10 years!

20 of our members have joined the circuit, some of whom have contributed material for the booklets. Other booklets and material have been submitted from dealers and other societies.

Two boxes have completed the circuit and they have just been delivered to Basingstoke Society for circulation.

Five more boxes are currently being passed around with two more ready to issue very soon. There is always room for more members to join the circuit and more contributors of material will be most welcome.

There was no other business and so the AGM concluded at 9pm when everyone partook of a lovely buffet provided by Juliet and Ian with drinks served by Martin.

Bob Paterson conducted an auction of some of his collection and all 20 lots were sold for £52.50. Bob made it up to £55 with the proceeds going to the Myeloma UK charity fund.

Then we all went home.

# 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	2 <sup>nd</sup> October	‘Forgeries, Scams, Misprints and Cinderellas’
Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup> October	Annual Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall, Thatcham in conjunction with the Thatcham Festival of Arts and Leisure. Auction lots will be on view.
Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup> October	Society Auction – viewing from 6.30pm
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> November	‘Vegetation’
Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup> November	‘Undelivered Mail’ with guest Bob Galland
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Social, Quiz and Charity Stamps
Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Social and Competitions Evening
Monday	8 <sup>th</sup> January	‘The 1940’s’



Mother Teresa

Europa Peace issue

Alfred Nobel's will

### 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

**Archivist** Still Need One

**WestBex** Graeme, Martin and Ann

**Publicity** Martin Farr