



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK



THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
AUTUMN EDITION OCTOBER 2018

The Chairmans Report

This year we have had our usual mix of visiting speakers, displays by our own members plus the annual auction, Christmas Socials and of course Westbex. Richard Stupples spoke about Barbados, Tristan and the Northamptoners gave us a great evening and Sue Hopson entertained us with stories from the Seychelles. Club members entertained us too - Free Fronts with Nathan Gregory and Propaganda stamps, Windsor Castle with Neil Hatton and Mike Gurr and the Seychelles with Sue Hopson.

The Monday meetings have also had some very interesting displays, on many subjects, by members attending.

A huge amount of effort goes into running this society and I am grateful for all the help we get both from committee members and non-members as well. I am not going to name them all because I fear that I may forget someone) but you and they know who they are.

Many, many thanks to you all.

Barney Bardsley, Chairman

Year 53

Issue 142

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Martin presented with the Jerry Wilson Memorial Trophy by Graeme

For further information on anything in this newsletter please contact

Martin Farr, Editor

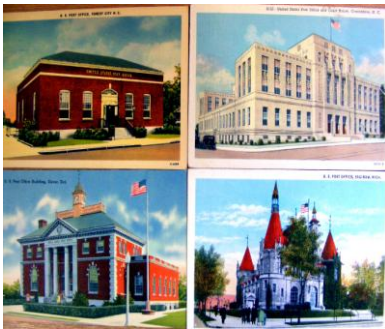
Tel 01635 866437

or

Graeme Stewart, Secretary

Tel 01635 866942

Photo Gallery



American Post Offices



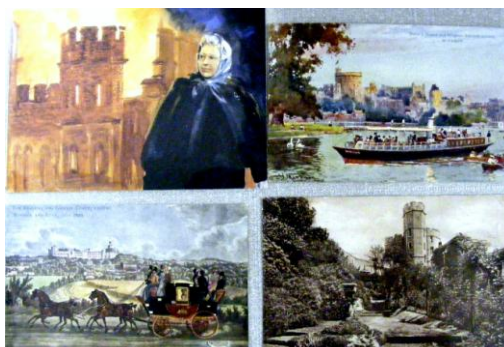
Neil's Large envelope



The War of Independence



American 'Crawlies'



Windsor Castle and the fire



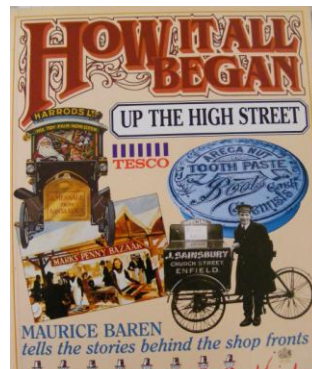
Castle and a letter to Lady Barrington



German Forgeries



Flaws in the Coronation issues



Up the High Street!



Victorian Shopping



A small selection of Phone Cards



Graeme's transport !



Sniff and Smile

PAST EVENTS

Monday 2nd July

**Competition for the Jerry Wilson Memorial Trophy followed by “Americana”
and there were just 13 members present.**

There were only 3 members who entered for the Trophy. Everyone had voting slips and the marking was 1 point for third place, 3 points for second place and five points for first.

The results were as follows:-

In third place	Graeme Stewart -	Antarctica	19 points
In second place	Juliet Keel -	Beatrix Potter	31 points
In first place	Martin Farr -	Charles Darwin	36 points

The theme for part 2 was `Americana` and all to do with it.

Juliet Keel started it off with a nice selection of USA postcards including several of their regional post offices. I think the bottom right of Saginaw, Michigan is just brilliant.

Graeme then showed early letters and cards from the USA and several letters posted from the American war depot in Thatcham to families back home with special cancel `APO 510`. and he finished with some Victory letters as well.

Neil Hatton was next with his `Ramble around the States` In 1965 he was seconded to the US forces after the American `defeat` in Vietnam! and he spoke of his time serving with them aiding their logistics and supply chains and spoke of introducing cricket to the US forces dressed in 19th Century outfits !!!! Then he showed a large envelope with labels all over it that was sent to his family from the USA and a rare set of 3 coins issued in 1976 to commemorate the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Then Neil showed lots of postcards of massive sky-scrapers from in and around New York and to finish off a large bronze medal that he was presented with by the US forces.

Dave Tanner then showed a sheet of civil war characters of 1861 – 1865 followed by a lovely set of sheets about American art and some nice sheets of motor cycles of 1918-1970. Then, to finish off Dave showed some nice sheets of American insects and sheets of famous American stamp issues.

Graeme had another go and showed us nice covers of the American presence in Antarctica including McMurdo Sound and how several bases have drifted off into the sea due to warming. He then ended with data and pictures of the USA base at the South Pole.

Ian Keel finished a good afternoon with three large sheets of `Cancelled to Order`

At the end of the meeting **Martin** was presented with the Jerry Wilson Memorial Trophy
(The Monday Cup as was) by our secretary **Graeme Stewart**.

**Thursday 19th July “Propaganda Stamps and Windsor Castle”
with Francis Connolly and Mike Gurr**

Francis Connolly started the afternoon off by speaking about forgeries. In the early 1944 Himmler ordered the production of forgeries of genuine British stamps to try and demonstrate that Britain was under the influence of Russia and the Jews. Forgeries were made of the 1935 Silver Jubilee, the 1936 Coronation as well as of the 1/2d -3d low value George VI definitives. Many `sets` were overprinted `Liquidation of the Empire`

from eight colonies where Churchill had `leased` harbour facilities to the US in exchange for the use of 50 US warships (the US was neutral at this time) and of another six colonies that had been occupied by the Japanese. The date on the Coronation stamp was changed to Teheran 28.11.43 and that on the Silver Jubilee to 1944 the date by which Germany would have won the war! Some ten million were printed on wavy line watermark paper (old German food coupon paper as the USA were dropping forged German food coupons) and with a perf. of 11 1/2 as opposed to 15x14 genuine) as the only method of perforation was an old theatre ticket machine! It was intended for these to be dropped on allied troops in northern France, as the 1944 landings had already taken place, and also over the UK. None were ever dropped – virtually all were destroyed with very few surviving. The rest is History!!!

Francis` talk was illustrated with a great selection of these items together with a small study of the flaws on the genuine 1936 Coronation stamp. What a fine talk and display. Thank you Francis

Mike Gurr continued for part two by explaining why Windsor Castle was named. It was originally constructed by William the Conqueror as an earthwork with wooden palisades and has been in continuous royal possession ever since. He then showed postcards dating back to 1903 – all quite a little different from modern tourist cards. Then he showed a nice collection of FDC`s from quite early up to the postal strike and then up to date with the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Then he showed a lovely envelope dated to 1855 which was posted at Osbourne House, Cowes with the Queen Victoria seal and sent to Lady Barrington who was the woman of the bedchamber from 1837-1875. Then a letter from the secretary of the U.S, army thanking the staff following his visit. Then a nice programme of a music concert given to the King and Queen in 1925 followed by lots of First Day covers of Aerial post Hendon to Windsor from 1911 to 1961. Mike finished a great display by showing the 1935 Silver Jubilee stamps which showed Windsor Castle.

As usual, there was no Monday meeting held in August

Thursday August 16th and the subject was `What I collect other than stamps`

There were just 11 members present .

Malcolm Hoskins started the evening with a fantastic display of Phone Cards that he has collected over the years. It all started with 26 phone kiosks at Waterloo Station. Once upon a time almost everyone had a phone card but, with mobile phones, they are now a thing of the past. Malcolm showed a wide variety of cards – military, BT green ones, prisoner service cards and ones from Guernsey. Then cards issued by Mercury Comms. Co. Then many cards with lovely pictures of places and events and even ones from oil rigs! Then lots of sheets of cards showing t.v. and film pictures and a great Harry Potter set of them. He said he could have brought many more but, even so, what a colourful and interesting collecting subject. Perhaps we should all save them too!

Martin Farr then showed a nice selection of books about Victorian and Edwardian items for sale in the high street and also several very interesting books on early inventions some of which were quite extraordinary in their design and manufacture. Most of the ideas were sent to the inventions office for registration but never got

accepted as they were quite silly. He then showed a great book `How it all Began` which was about the shops up the high street that we all know. Martin finished off with two classical books by Heath Robinson – his `inventions` - crazy and unbelievable and the famous `Railway Ribaldry` with wonderful sketches of how he saw the railways in all their glory. Some of the cartoon were absolutely hilarious.

Then **Graeme Stewart** showed some little models of post office boxes and vans and quite a few match-box cars and vans – Delivery wagons, PG Tips, Corgi, Milk wagons, and an Austin 10cwt (model of course) Then he finished with a `Lido` delivery van which was the name of the designer Odil backwards.

Neil Hatton started the second half by saying that his uncle had a corner shop just like `Open all Hours` and he showed 2 sheets of product labels that were kept in a large sweet jar for years. Advertising cards, Pears soap, chocolates and factory ones. Cadburys, coco drinks offered to coach drivers. Then Pilsner ad. cards and the Liverpool overhead railway. Neil finished off with a `Sniff and Smile` card all about perfume. A nice display.

Dave Tanner was next and he showed his fine collection of cameras that he had acquired over the years in his camera club. A Brownie 127 from 1952-59 which was a very popular camera. A Pentax `Spotmatic` with tele lenses, a Fujika semi-auto with split focus and a large Mamiya and all its accessories in a large silver case. What a great collection.

Then, to finish off the afternoon **Barney Bardsley** said that he used to collect everything from train numbers, labels, stamps and football programmes much of which he has now sold. But, being a bit of a numismatist he still collects coins – particularly 1d coins that he has not purchased but acquired over the years. He showed 1d coins on large sheets – all laid out in dated sequence from 1860 to 1967 and books of 3d, 6d, 1/2d and 2/6 that are not completed yet. A fair old collection. Where does he keep it all?

Monday 3rd September “World War II and the Royal Air Force” and there were just 15 members present

Ian Keel showed a good selection of WW2 black and white postcards – Naval Spitfires, gunners and D-day commemorations stamps issues and finished with a lot of PHQ cards of D-day and the RAF.

Neil Hatton then followed with a beautiful set of WW2 postcards originally drawn by F Sherwin and these were reproduced by the Medici Society – Royal Artillery, Tank corps, Signals corps, Medical, and Engineers and Science corps. They were quite lovely. Then Neil showed the covers of two jigsaw boxes that he bought for his grandchildren. Each one showed eight pictures of the eight little jigsaws inside each box – the pictures were of wartime notices and posters that are not seen very often these days.

Bob Patterson then showed several sheets of WW2 stamps and German forgeries. Then a letter that was sent all around France – backwards and forwards – with postmarks all over the place until it was eventually sent back to the sender! He then showed cards and correspondence and a sheet of French ration cards. The postman was interred but his family continued his deliveries of the ration cards. (continued on postcard page)

THE POSTCARD PAGE (well sort of)



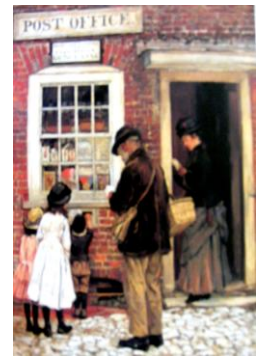
Coin Collections



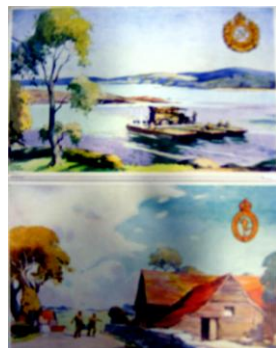
A Mamiya camera et al



More phone cards



A village post box



Martin Farr finished off part 1 with quite a coincidence. He too showed pictures of WW2 slogans and security posters but with a difference. At a car-boot sale a few weeks ago, as he and his family were packing up, he noticed a pack of cards on next doors table that had not been sold. On opening the packet – surprise, surprise – all the cards were of WW2 posters and advisory statements. And it only cost £1 !!!!

At half time teas and coffees were kindly served by **Juliet** and there was a mini- auction organised by **David Beddoes** where 11 items from 20 were sold. Then we all decided the meetings subjects for December to January.

Graeme Stewart then showed pictures of post boxes (what else!) and especially a WW2 box with a white base and paint on its top that changed colour when gas was detected. He then showed censor covers to Europe, unusual Newbury postmarks, a letter from a p.o.w. camp to Cold Ash, V.E. day postcards and a first day Victory cover. He ended by showing a book of RAF museum covers- all drawn by Tony Theobald who is a local artist.



Wartime posters on jigsaws and on cards



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

A.G.M. Report

Held on Thursday 20th September. There were 19 members present with apologies from eight others.

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

The evening started with a great auction organised by **Neil Hatton** on behalf of the charity- “Parenting Special Needs” – Support for Berkshire families who have children and young people with special needs. There were 21 lots on offer of which all were sold and made the princely sum of £116 for the charity – well done to all those who bought and bid.

The A.G.M. then commenced with the minutes of the last AGM being read and passed with no matters arising.. Our chairman **Barney Bardsley** read out his annual report – At present our membership stands at 48 and what a wonderful diverse bunch we are! We have specialised collectors, single country ones, George VI, thematic collectors, plus machines, postal history and stationery, cinderellas, post cards and virtually anything remotely connected with philately ! This society should be for just one type of collecting and long may this continue. In addition to just collecting, many of you are prepared to show some of it and explain why it is special to you.

Who knows, you just may spark someones interest in a new field for them.

Thank you to all those members contributing to club presentations and thanks to all those members who turn up to listen to the presentations.

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. The

Society is very well off financially and we would like some ideas as to how spend some monies on society/philatelic activities. 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.

The election of the Society Officers and Committee members then took place. As usual, there was no change in the main 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.

The full listing can be seen on the back page.

Martin Farr was re-elected to serve as the financial examiner.

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 **Ann Martin** for organising the raffle and prizes for us.

Next years Westbex is on March 30th at the Kennet School and so far we have 16 dealers. 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.

Our packet secretary, **Neil Hatton** then issued his report. The circuit is all going well with some Basingstoke boxes also in circulation. You will also have noticed that the sequences have changed so as to give others first selection of the contents.

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

A quiz was set by Martin – 20 questions all about trees and flowers – and the winners with 13 correct answers were Mike and Valerie Smith who won a bottle of wine.

And 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

New Issues

13 th September	World War I
16 th October	Harry Potter with Secret Details
1 st November	Christmas
14 th November	Prince of Wales 70 th Birthday
Mid November	Lunar Year of the Pig

Future Programme and Events

Monday	1 st October	“Around the Pacific”
Saturday	6 th 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	18 th October	Society Auction – viewing from 6.30pm
Monday	5 th November	“Costumes and the Theatre”
Thursday	15 th November	“World War I – Remembrance/Armistice”
Monday	3 rd December	Christmas Social, Quiz and Charity Stamps sale and “My Favourite Three Sheets”
Thursday	21 st December	Christmas Social and Competitions Evening
Monday	7 th January	“Malcolm Hoskins Entertains”

Do not forget that WESTBEX 2019 is on Saturday 30th March

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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