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West of  
England  
Thematic  
Society

## Newsletter No.43 May 2011

### Society Officers

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**IN THIS ISSUE** – WETS News by email, Mans Marine Adventure, WETS AGM, Tony finds his way to Captain Cook, Loking for Suitable Exhibition Protectors, Dates for your Diary, WETS Success at Essen.

**WETS NEWS by email** – Has really caught on with our computer user members, over half our members are now receiving WETS News by this method, WELL DONE. If you are not yet a recipient make sure your name and email address are given to the Editor. Look at our website [www.wessexpf.org.uk/WETS](http://www.wessexpf.org.uk/WETS) to see some examples of the quality. Download time is very fast. **DON'T FORGET TO SAVE WHAT YOU GET.** It is suggested you create a file called WETS News to put them in.

**MANS MARINE ADVENTURE** was the subject of Captain Peter Denly our guest speaker at the WETS Day on April 16<sup>th</sup> at Ashburton.

Those who were unable to attend missed a significant treat delivered by a very competent speaker who made his subject come alive. The display covered everything from the earliest forms of simple boat such as a Coracle to the modern Super Container Ship and quite literally everything in between. The display was not only well presented but it was also superbly displayed, with some interesting aspects that will almost certainly be copied by some of the attendees. Some of the stories of Peters life relating to ships and shipping were also amusing, in particular his time aboard one of the sail training vessels. Pictures of attendees looking at Peters display follow.



**WETS AGM** – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at Emmanuel Church Hall, Western Road (off Okehampton Street), Exeter starting at 2.00 pm. Attending members are requested to bring an 8 sheet display to show to members after the AGM.

The minutes of the previous AGM are reproduced From N/L No.40 for the benefit of those who have lost the information.

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West of England Thematic Society

Held at Emmanuel Church, Exeter on Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 2.00 pm.

**Present:** Mrs. M. Claydon (Chairman) Mr. J. Wigmore (Vice Chairman and Newsletter Editor) Mr. R. Wheeler (Treasurer) Mrs. G. Gray (Secretary) Mr. N. Claydon, Miss. E. Rees, Mrs. P. McDowall, Mr. D. Herrity.

Guest Mrs. C. Wheeler.

**Apologies:** Mrs. V. Wigmore, Mr. G. Green and Mr. D. Roseveare.

**Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting:** None available

**Chairman's Report:** The Chairman started her report by thanking all 22 members who had submitted an entry for the WETS Roadshow which was the best ever with everyone all getting together that day. She expressed special thanks to Jim Wigmore for his efforts with the Newsletter. She also thanked John Hayward for producing an excellent Social Philately display at the Ashburton Seminar.

**Secretary's Report:** Not available

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer presented the accounts saying that we were down on last year partly due to the WETS day at Dartmoor Lodge coming in twice and that we have lost 15 members this last year. The balance for next year should be about £400. He recommended that the subscriptions should continue at £4.00 per member. Peter Denley was suggested as next years WETS Day speaker.

It was proposed by Mr. David Herry and seconded by Mr. Jim Wigmore that the accounts be accepted and agreed unanimously.

**Newsletter Editors Report:** The Editor pleaded for more input from members for the Newsletter, with more pictures. If members had an email address would they please inform him so that the Newsletter could be emailed instead of posting. A vote of thanks was given by our Chairman to Jim and seconded by Mrs. Pam McDowall and Miss. Edith Rees.

**Publicity Officers Report:** Not available

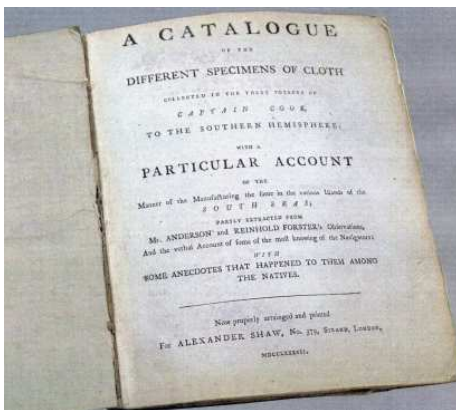
**Election of Officers:** Our Secretary Mr. Gary Green has resigned due to pressure of work resulting from his many other philatelic posts and the Committee thanked him for all the work undertaken by him. Mrs. Gillian Gray was unanimously voted in as the new Secretary. The rest of the officers were then re-elected en bloc.

**Any Other Business:** The Secretary asked if the date of the next meeting could be altered so that it did not clash with 'Cornex.' Therefore the next meeting at Buckfastleigh would now be **30<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 2 pm.**

There followed a short recession when tea and biscuits were served thanks to Edith Rees and Pamela McDowall.

There then followed three displays: Jim Wigmore showed "Cyprus Government Railway", David Herry "G.B. Fugitive Inks" and Gillian Gray "The Voyages of Capt. James Cook".

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.



## TONY FINDS HIS WAY TO CAPTAIN COOK -

WETS' intrepid explorer Tony Smith didn't need his oft self-declared skill at navigation when he recently read in a local newspaper that a rare book relating to Captain James Cook was up for auction in Honiton, the auctioneer's saleroom was 200 yards from Tony's house.

He promptly hurried to meet the chairman of Bearness, Hampton & Littlewood and told Mr. Richard Bearness "I couldn't meet the estimated value of the book, £40,000-£60,000, but I'm a member of the Captain Cook Society and am interested in anything connected with England's Supreme Navigator". Mr Bearness promptly produced the book and let him inspect (or revel) in the 1787 book.

The 24 page book is one of approximately 20 created to display examples of tapa or cloth brought back to England from Captain

Cook's three voyages to the Pacific.

Tony was photographed, no protective gloves holding the book, he then attended the auction. He couldn't believe it, two dealers fought a tug-o-war battle it was ultimately sold for a world record £130,000 plus buyers premium.

The 'beaten' dealer said this particular book was the best quality he had yet seen, the original binding was near perfect. Add the auctioneer's words the book "had come from the estate of a deceased gentleman in Cornwall" and Tony began thinking of men from the West Country who had sailed from Plymouth on Captain's Cook's three voyages from 1769-1779. Such men could have collected the small examples of tapa/cloth, used 18th century London expert Alexander



Shaw to create and catalogue the sample in the books, and took them back to Devon or Cornwall. Over two centuries their families may have preserved the books, knowing what they represented in their family history. The West Country link was, seemingly, underlined when in 2010 a similar book of tapa/cloth specimens was sold at Christies for £115,000. It came from the estate of the deceased Ms Lucia Croft from Ashburton, Devon.

## LOOKING FOR SUITABLE EXHIBITION PROTECTORS.

David Roseveare writes... We are adding more and more quality items to our collections thanks to eBay, Delcampe and the many auction houses who supply us with their lists. For those of us who like to present our work at exhibitions the requirement for good quality acid-free clear pockets offering protection for the pages is most important.

Some years ago, at a WETS event at Ashburton, the visiting speaker Brian Sole demonstrated how the visual impact of an exhibit could be greatly improved by the use of top quality exhibition protectors. At that time one of the few suppliers was Michael Jackson. He was a leading postal history dealer who attended stamp fairs in the region and who sold the "Permex" protectors. They were expensive but lasted a long time if handled properly. Luckily I purchased a large quantity from him. After Michael died, his stock was passed over to Vera Trinder of London and the personal touch was lost.

When I first started exhibiting my work I used the "Venus" protectors and they weren't too bad to start with. It all changed sometime later when I removed a display page from the sleeve and found a clear imprint of that page on the clear surface! Acid-free was a foreign word in those days! After dabbling with "Esselte" and some other brands, I ended up using the W.H. Smith range of A4 acid-free file pockets (in packs of 100 without the cardboard insert). My display page size is 284mm high and by trimming the top and removing the hinge portion of the pocket I found it suited my requirements. Smith's also sell a similar product, in a pack of 100 but with a cardboard insert but the pockets appear 'mottled' to the naked eye. Use a craft knife and straight edge on a wood or plastic board to trim the pockets, I don't use scissors. My WETS roadshow 16 page display was recently returned to me after a period of 12 months and, apart from a few blemishes, the protectors were still nice and clear, (many thanks to the presenters for looking after them).

For my international presentation "From Grandeur to Gravure" I replaced my "Permex" protectors with the Frank Godden "Clarendon" variety. They are excellent quality but expensive. When I was in Paris I purchased an original drawing for one of Pierre Bequet's Antarctic issues. It is roughly A3 format, double width. Unfortunately the "Clarendon" protector is too high (295mm) and it has been brought to my notice that it is difficult to fit them into frames. I resolved the problem, with some advice from Lesley Marley, by using the Ryman A3 Premium clear pocket, landscape opening and trimming the top and side as per the A4 'Smiths' pocket. I am very pleased with the finished product. They are made of 80 micron polypropylene material and a packet of 10 pockets cost less than £5. Although they aren't marked 'acid-free', I contacted the Ryman head office and they, in turn, contacted the manufacturer who confirmed that they are suitable for my use. They also do an A3 portrait opening type.

The cost of 'Clarendon' double size protectors (pack of 25) costs over £60. I have discovered another company, Secol Archival Products of Norfolk. Their website address is [www.secol.co.uk](http://www.secol.co.uk) (by Royal Appointment) and they will send you a catalogue of their products on request. They can supply a packet of 50 protectors for roughly the same price as the 'Clarendon' product. Their postage rates are more expensive but the overall cost is still cheaper. There seems to be a vast price difference between similar sized products. Sometimes I wonder if we are being exploited for what we do.

It took me a lot of time to work out what to use. Before you buy, hold the material up to the light and feel the texture. In my opinion, many products advertised as clear and of archive quality aren't very good. If you can find a sample do some checks of your own, put it on the window sill in the sun and check that it doesn't go brittle. What does it look like under a UV lamp? Does it easily crease? There are so many things to look for. You can save a lot of money if you have the time and patience.

*Please remember that this article is based on my own personal experiences. I hope that my observations will prove useful to some of you. If anyone else has come up with a better product, let's hear from you.*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2011

**4<sup>th</sup> June 2011- Annual General Meeting** – see details above. This meeting will follow the Wessex Committee Meeting being held at the same venue.

**October 29th 2011 – WETS Autumn Meeting** (John Hilsdon Trophy) and THMATIX SW at the Dartmoor Lodge. *The entries for the John Hilsdon Trophy will be used in the 2012 WETS Roadshow.* Note that the Wessex Federation Competition Entries will be on display during this event, Entry Forms for these competitions can be found on the Wessex Federation website at [www.wessexpf.org.uk](http://www.wessexpf.org.uk) along with copies of the rules.

**WETS SUCCESS at ESSEN** – Leslie Marley achieved a Gold Medal for her "A Whales Tale" and Richard Wheeler achieved Large Vermeil for his "Myths, Mimes and the Evolution of Puppets". Well done to both.