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West of
England
Thematic
Society

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IN THIS ISSUE – WETS News by email, Twitchers Delight, THEMATIX, John Hillsdon Trophy, WETS Roadshow 2012, Dates for your Diary. 2012 Spring Stampex, Mounties Riding High, Interesting Subjects, Wanted, Dinosaurs, Correction, Snippets.

WETS NEWS by email – 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 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.

The Wessex Federation are now distributing Wessex News by the same process. Did you know the Wessex website carries dates of all meetings and philatelic events in our region, these can be viewed at www.wessexpf.org.uk/events the integrated calendar of club meetings also appears on this page.

TWITCHERS DELIGHT – We are delighted to report that our article about the vended bird stamps has been picked up by an interested party well outside our region and we report as follows:- *“I've attached a press release about an exciting new book Two Rivers Press are publishing on 22nd October to coincide with the opening of a retrospective exhibition on the author - Robert Gillmor, wildlife artist - at Reading Museum. Colour images of Robert's bird prints commissioned by the Royal Mail are reproduced for the first time in the book so we think it will be of interest to bird lovers, wildlife enthusiasts and artists as well as stamp lovers. This book will be available in bookstores in early December 2011.*

Perhaps the members of the various clubs and societies that make up the Wessex Philatelic Federation might be interested in this publication? There is more information and about Robert Gillmor and a link to some of his other illustrations on our website, from which one can also order copies of the book. <http://tworiverspress.com/wp/birds-blocks-and-stamps/>”.

THEMATIX – is nearly upon us a copy of the flier is attached. Bob Lee & Paula Cant along with a few members of the WETS Committee met recently at the Dartmoor Lodge to review the arrangements and agree about the final setup. From our discussion we consider this will be a really first class day and an absolute must for all WETS members with an opportunity to visit an array of dealers who specialise in thematics. We would emphasise that just because these dealers hold their stock by subject it does not mean they will not be able to fulfil the needs of the none thematic collector, so if you have a philatelic need that is not thematic all you have to do is ask. We look forward to seeing you all on October 29th at Dartmoor Lodge, Ashburton.

JOHN HILLSDON TROPHY – Entries for this trophy will be on display and judged at THEMATIX. Please ensure you bring your entries as colour copies, we would like to be able to use them to form the WETS ROADSHOW 2012 which starts in January 2012.

WETS ROADSHOW 2012 – as already mentioned this will be made up of the entries into the John Hillsdon Trophy Competition. Can you all please check with you club Programme Secretaries that your club has booked the Roadshow for your 2012 Season and that the booking has been made through the WETS Chairman Mary Claydon, it has come to our attention that some clubs have made bookings through the Wessex Federation Secretary and these have not necessarily been passed on to WETS this oversight has resulted in uncoordinated bookings and in one case a double booking.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THEMATIX – Dartmoor Lodge Hotel on Saturday 29th October from 10 am. with a number of dealers present – we have been requested to point out that these dealers can fill the needs of ALL collectors, if you have a specific requirement just ask, their stock may be held by subject but they can still find the item you are looking for. There is some excellent catering on site.

3rd-5th Nov – Autumn Philatex at Royal Agricultural Halls Greycoat & Everton Street London SW1P 2QD
22-25th February 2012 Spring Stampex London.

Local Events

WETS DAY – 29th October at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel when the feature will be the John Hillsdon Trophy Competition Entries. This event is being hosted by THEMATIX.

Display of Wessex Federation 2011 Comp Entries – 29th October at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel.

2012 SPRING STAMPEX – Members attention is drawn to the fact that this event is very much about Thematics, those of you who have internet access can find out more by visiting either the British Thematic Association or the ABPS websites for more information as to content and putting entries in if you have a mind to do so, entry details and forms are on the ABPS website.

Mounties Riding High by Tony Smith - For many philatelists,



traditional or thematic collectors, one stamp epitomises the nation which they reach in a particular section of a SG catalogue. For me, if the country is Canada then this 1935 issue does the trick. The "Mountie" astride his horse (does anyone know the name of the man or his horse?) looks around the vast

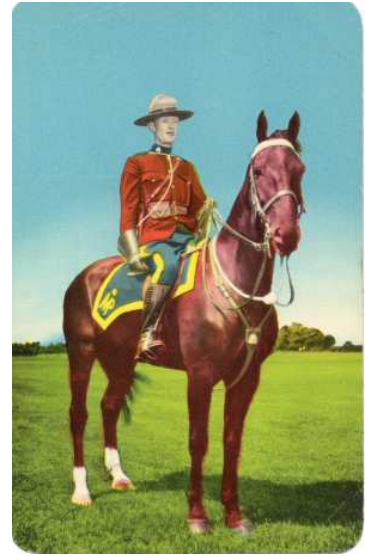
prairie where he was created to bring law and order.

Stamp wise you have had to wait until 1973 to see the Mountie again but realising the attraction for tourists - "the policeman in a red coat with a boy scout hat" - as my six years-old son said on a visit in 1974, postcard-makers produce hundreds of different versions.

You may not know the first Prime Minister of Canada, Sir John McDonald, but on May 23 1873 he created the North-West Mounted Police to establish "law and order on the Western Plains". There were just 150 recruits.



Fearing problems, the Mounties Assistant Commissioner James Macleod persuaded Blackfoot Indian Chief Crowfoot to work with him. Together ("Founders of the West" pair SG 1213/1214) they encouraged Crowfoot's



people and they supported the Mounties.

In 1920 the Mounties name was changed to Royal Canadian Mounted Police and they became responsible for enforcing Federal Laws across the whole nation. Today the Force has 15,000 plus officers.

Travelling the world, including Britain, officers show their riding skills and intricate movements in a renowned "Musical Ride". On



normal home duties the Mounties use standard police methods and equipment. Another change came in May 1974 when female recruits were accepted. Troopers and officers, carrying swords, now perform the "Musical Ride". If they and their First Class trans-Atlantic passengers, the horses of course, come to your area book a ticket to see an entertainment ending with 36 riders staging a Charge with Lances. And don't forget to buy a few postcards! *We are indebted to Val Beekin of Newcastle Philatelic Society for the use of the Postcards displayed.*



(Val Beekin does come to this area from time to time and she has an excellent display about "Mounties" if you are interested contact Tony Smith who may know how to contact her – Ed)

Interesting Subjects – Did you know that the on the Library Page of the BTA website there is a full listing of subjects that have been written about and the Names of the Articles and the Authors. These are listed by Subject and by Author. I believe that these are cuttings held by the BTA Librarian it may also be possible for BTA Members to request copies, you will of course need to pay for the copy. This could be a very useful source of information and a means of adding to your existing knowledge.

WANTED

AN ARTICLE ABOUT YOUR SUBJECT IS REQUIRED FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

– don't be shy, all we need is a few words and of course some pictures. The editor will accept articles with pictures by post or email any images that need to be scanned will be returned immediately by your editor. You never know you may well be pleased that others can offer information or material once they know your subject and needs.

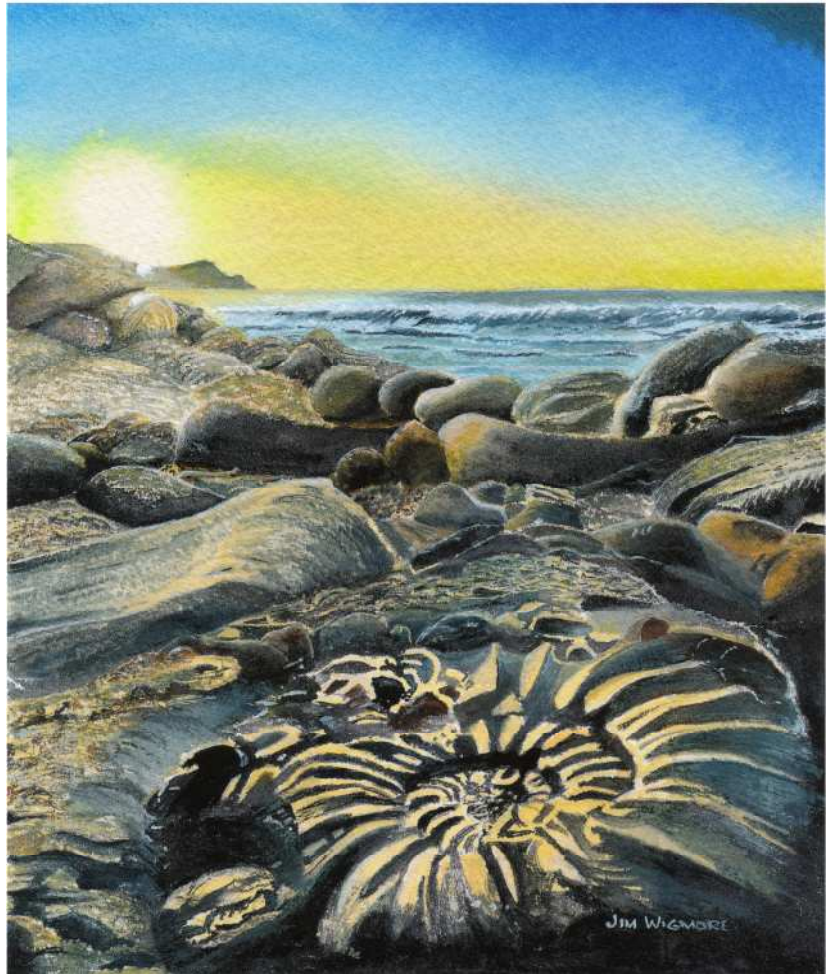
DINOSAURS

I have been fascinated by the recent series of programmes by the BBC on Dinosaurs and some of the recent discoveries relating to their existence. This combined with a recent painting of the Jurassic Coast got me thinking about would this be a good thematic subject.

A look at the BTA list of subjects came up with a blank for either Dinosaur or Jurassic.

There are stamps showing the subject and I feel sure there will be postmarks for the Jurassic Coast.

But what about the modern animals that evolved from the Dinosaurs the places where the various species lived and where their offspring live today. An open mind and some creative thinking I feel sure could produce a very interesting story.



CORRECTION by Peter Burden

In the article about the Bideford, Appledore & Westward Ho! Railway reference was made to the Appledore RSO handstamp - R.S.O. does not stand for Rural Post Office. The initials are wrong anyway.

It means, I believe, Railway Sorting

Office. Meaning the mail directed to it coming through London was sorted on the railway. The Traveling Post Office from London to the West Country had a separate bag into which offices designated as such had their mail sorted. The T.P.O. arrived in the West Country and the bags to Ashburton and Poundsgate and so on were able to be sent to their destination without any further delay. Ashburton and Poundsgate and scores of other offices all had R.S.O. handstamps although they were miles from main railway lines. *(Thank you Peter for correcting this error – Ed).*

SNIPPETS

History may have given Australia (or rather Britain) a bad opening chapter about how people started filling its vast territory - the First Fleet carrying prisoners - perhaps that is why modern Australia is so proud of its citizens e.g. usually first to put its Olympic gold medal winners on its stamps.

The same national pride was seen even earlier, in March 1919, when the Commonwealth Government offered a £10,000 prize for the first aeroplane to fly from England to Australia ... with one condition ... the plane had to be flown by Australian-born pilots. Two pilots plus an engineer and a mechanic completed the journey in 28 days and delivered mail after an 11,000 mile flight before with their back-up team collecting the prize.

Who as a 15 years-old, ran away from the cruelty of his hometown workhouse, worked as a cabin boy on a ship to reach the USA and finally went into history with the phrase: "Dr Livingstone I presume"? You probably know him as Henry Morton Stanley, but the man who found fame in Africa was born at Denbigh, North Wales in 1841 as John Rowland's but changed his born-name to begin a new life. And it worked as he became an explorer featured on many stamps.

Can you name anyone else who changed their name and found fame?

Both the above are possible thematic ideas.