



West of
England
Thematic
Society

Newsletter No.48 September 2012

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IN THIS ISSUE – WETS News by email, WETS Roadshow 2012, Dates for your Diary, The PIP Trophy, The WETS Trophy, The GREEN Trophy, How the Wheel Turns, The League of Nations, The ABPS Exhibitions Committee, It is in all our Interests to Ensure our Hobby Grows.

WETS NEWS by email – If you are not yet a recipient make sure your name and email address are given to the Editor. With the recent increases in postal charges, it is even more important to circulate as much information as possible by this means. 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.

WETS ROADSHOW 2012 – Feedback from the clubs about this years roadshow continues to be very positive. The spread of material and the differences between Thematic and Social Philately has been a revelation to many.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ThematiX 12 – Will take place at The Dartmoor Lodge Hotel, Ashburton TQ13 7JW on Saturday 27th October 2012 from 1000 hrs to 1630 hrs. In addition to Specialist Thematic Dealers there will be a display of the John Hilsdon Trophy Entries, plus entries in the new PIP Trophy (see details below).

PLEASE GIVE THIS EVENT YOUR FULL SUPPORT & ENSURE YOUR FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS ARE AWARE OF THE EVENT.

WETS AGM will be held in the small room at the same venue as ThematiX 12 details above. The agenda for the meeting is as follows :-

- 1 – Apologies for absence.
- 2 – Minutes of the Previous AGM (*Published in Newsletter 47*)
- 3 – Matters arising.
- 4 – Chairman's Report.
- 5 – Secretaries Report.
- 6 – Treasurers Report.
- 7 – Newsletter Editor's Report.
- 8 – Publicity Officers Report.
- 9 – Election of Officers.
- 10 – Any other business.

Members are requested to bring their entries for both the John Hilsdon Trophy and the new PIP Trophy (*see details below*).

WEST OF ENGLAND THEMATIC SOCIETY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING 1 MAY 2012			
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Balance b/f	495.35	Dartmoor Lodge	98.25
Subs and Seminars	300.50	Wessex sub	6.80
Raffles	46.30	BTA sub	17.00
		Insurance	30.00
		Emmanuel Church Hall	15.00
		Miscellaneous (stamps, etc)	19.96
		Speaker's lunch	11.65
Total	842.15	Total	198.66
Balance at Bank 1 May	643.49		

Richard J.D. Wheeler
.....
Mr R.J.D. Wheeler
Hon. Treasurer

Mr M. Kerswell
.....
Mr M. Kerswell ACIB

ThematiX 13 – We have had advance notification this event will be Saturday 26th October 2013 Venue to be announced at a later date. Early indications are that this will once again clash with CORNEX despite Bob Lee having been warned of this in advance.

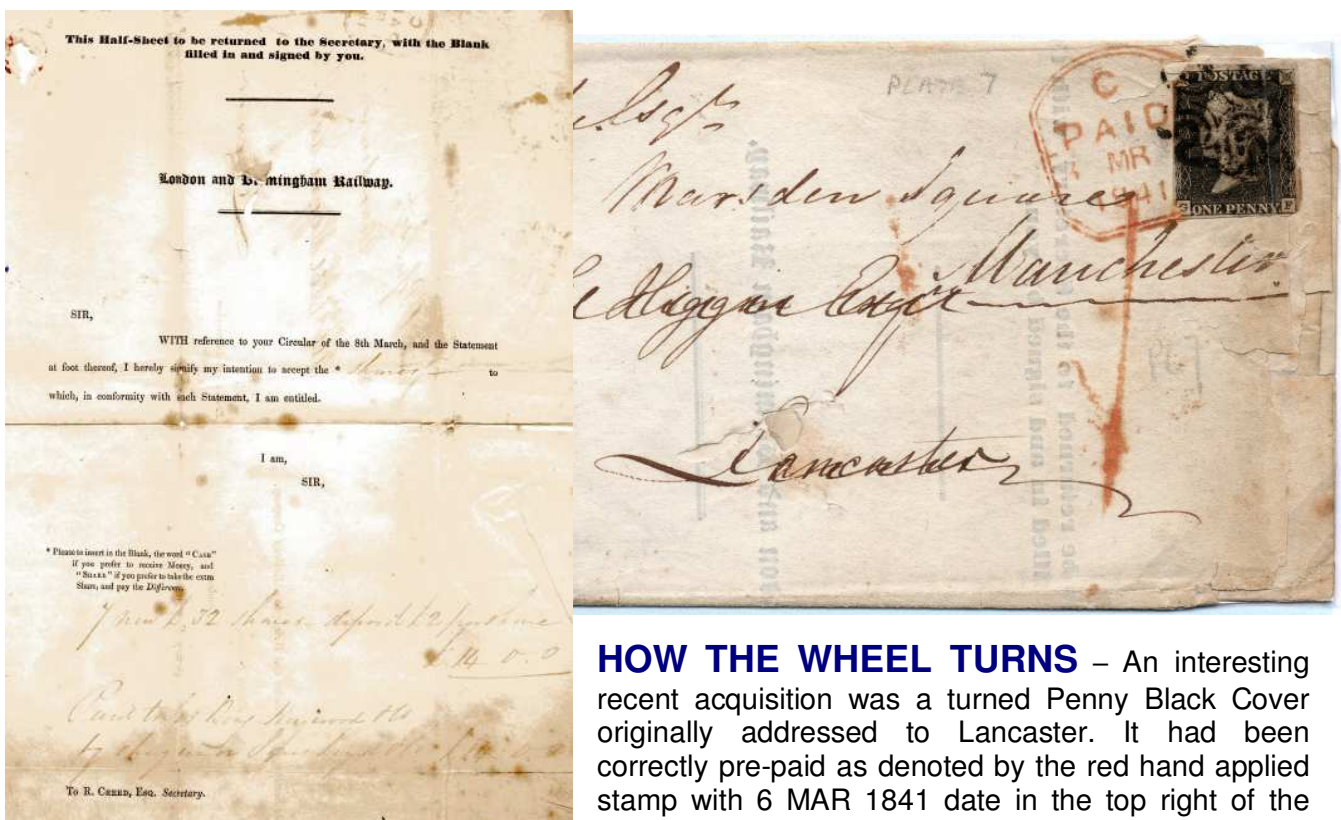
The PIP Trophy – has been presented to the society by Richard Wheeler to encourage members to give a lot more thought to their **PLAN, INTRODUCTION** (the storyline) and **PRESENTATION**. This will be the basis on which entries in this class are primarily judged, marks being allocated as follows:-

TITLE	5
PLAN	20
INTRODUCTION (Story line)	15
PRESENTATION	10
DEVELOPMENT	15
INNOVATION	5
STUDY & RESEARCH	15
CONDITION	10
DIFFICULTY OF ACQUISITION	5

It is appreciated that time is very short for members to put together a 16 sheet entry for this year. **However the challenge is on, we will award the trophy this year if there are entries in this class.**

The WETS Trophy – At the Wessex Federation Committee Meeting on 28th July 2012 the federation Competition Secretary pointed out that no trophy existed for the Open Class. WETS Vice Chairman stated that as WETS had been one of the prime movers to get this class included in the federations competitions WETS would provide a trophy (*to be known as the WETS TROPHY*) to be presented for the first time at Dawlish the venue for the 2012 Federation Competitions. Following the meeting a sum of money was deposited with the Vice Chairman of WETS to be used for purchasing the new trophy on the basis that anonymity was maintained and this has been observed. WETS would through this newsletter like to thank the donor for their generosity. The first winner of the trophy was Gary Green with an entry entitled “The Winter Olympics”.

The GREEN Trophy - At the Wessex Federation Committee Meeting on 28th July 2012 the federation Competition Secretary advised that he was giving a trophy for entries in the class “Introduction to Thematics”. This award was presented for the first time at Dawlish the venue for the 2012 Federation Competitions. The 2012 winner was Ron Bergman for an entry with the title “The Holy Bible”. Ron Bergman is not yet a member of WETS, but will be encouraged to join.



HOW THE WHEEL TURNS – An interesting recent acquisition was a turned Penny Black Cover originally addressed to Lancaster. It had been correctly pre-paid as denoted by the red hand applied stamp with 6 MAR 1841 date in the top right of the entire. The entire was then forwarded to an address in Manchester and a Penny Black (Plate 7) was applied to cover the additional journey. The contents

show a receipt for purchase of shares in the London & Birmingham Railway. The London & Birmingham Railway was formed in 1837 and absorbed to become part of the London & North Western Railway in 1847, it was Britain's first mainline railway. Its planned termination points were Euston in London to Curzon Street Birmingham although at the time of opening it ran from Camden to Birmingham. The interesting aspect of this cover is that the planned route for the proposed High Speed 2 line is from Euston London to Curzon Street Birmingham.

This item has a prominent place in "Along Lost Lines", this display will be appearing at Torquay & Teignbridge on 27th September 2012, Bideford on 8th October 2012 followed by Dawlish on 14th November 2012. **WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND IN THE DEALERS BOX LATELY?**



THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS - In 1916 United States President, Woodrow Wilson, reading reports of the "Great War" across the Atlantic in Europe was appalled at the carnage of this 20th century warfare and declared an international organisation had to be created to ensure it never happened again. He even produced a name for his plan a "League of Nations".

The United States itself entered the war. By the time it ended in November 1918 ten million servicemen and civilians had died. On February 1 1919 President Wilson succeeded in bringing 27 governments to attend a Paris Peace Conference to join "a general association of nations". It became the League of Nations as promoted by Wilson. But as the "victorious" countries argued over reparations to "punish" the losers and sought boundary changes in Europe, America refused to join.

In 1919 Wilson received the Nobel Peace Prize. However he would have preferred joining his proposed League of Nations. Eventually the USA did join and by 1923 there were 53 nation members with Switzerland's Geneva the League's headquarters.

Now for the philately!

The League's stamps were Swiss definitives simply overprinted Societe Des Nations from 1920 to 1945. After very basic issues at first more eye-catching stamps appeared. When the "League of Nations" gave way to the New

York-based United Nations at the end of World War II neutral Switzerland became its European HQ.

The idea of using neutral Switzerland led to numerous international organisations making it their base and using overprinted stamps.

The International Labour Office was formed in 1945. An International Education Office too. Both carried overprints on Swiss definitives. The World Meteorological Organisation was based in Geneva from 1956 to 1963.

In 1948 Organisation Mondial Del Sante had an overprint until the organisation had its own Swiss HQ stamps. In 1962 one carried an



overprint "Eradication de Paludisme" Malaria Eradication.

The Universal Postal Union and International Telecommunication Union sheltered under the Swiss Alps until 1950.

The overprinting system produced Annee Mondiale du Refugie in 1960.

The one-time home of the League of Nations can be put together as a small, interesting collection though you must speak French for the overprints!

THE ABPS EXHIBITIONS COMMITTEE sent a discussion document about competitions and the need to unify the approach to judging and marking. Wessex Federation set up a sub-committee to look at the proposals and they have reviewed the suggestions against our current rules and marking structure and have made a formal response to ABPS as directed by the Wessex Federation Committee. Their recommendations will be presented to the next AGM for discussion and adoption if agreement is reached.

The discussion document by ABPS did cause one of the sub-committee members to write a personal response. Having heard the contents attendees at the last Wessex Federation meeting made the decision that this letter should be circulated to all philatelists in our member clubs. The content is as follows.

Personal Response to the ABPS Exhibitions Committee

27th July 2012

Dear Chris,

The request by the Exhibitions Committee regarding Competition Rules suggests to me that ABPS has lost the plot

You will have received a formal response to the request from the Wessex Federation, what follows is very much my personal view.

The falling ABPS Capitation Fees should be setting off alarm bells about the dire state of our hobby, it is quite literally dying on its feet. Unless something is done to raise the image of the hobby at a National Level and encourage people to take up philately and more importantly to join their local clubs in 10 years the current crop of philatelist will be dead along with the hobby.

Here in the South West we have lost the following prominent philatelist Dr Adrian Almond, David Chamberlain and David Herritty and there are more to come. Mary & Norman Claydon are now out of action due to a severe motor accident. This has put Plymouth Club, the Wessex Federation and the West of England Thematic Society (WETS) into dire but hopefully recoverable states. Many of our societies have an increasingly older membership with no sign of new or younger members to keep the hobby alive.

The present emphasis on Competition at Federation & National Level is simply giving credence to the popular view of the Closet Collector that Philately is a hobby for very rich people and not for them.

If we wish to grow Philately we need to change the image to draw in the Closet Collector and make them feel comfortable within the hobby rather than putting them off as at present.

We need to be encouraging a good well informed Press with a view to making our hobby "COOL", we never see our hobby mentioned in the press these days unless it is in disparaging terms.

Britain seems to be the only country in the world where the hobby is moribund, elsewhere the hobby thrives, "what are they doing right that we can learn from, and more importantly why are we not already doing it?"

I hope these views will be made known to ABPS as I believe the hobby is in a crisis state and action needs to be taken as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

Jim Wigmore

Vice Chairman – WETS, Secretary – Dawlish Stamp Club, Wessex Federation Judge & Wessex Federation & BTA webmaster.

IT IS IN ALL OUR INTERESTS TO ENSURE OUR HOBBY GROWS – In order for this to happen we have to get involved, go to meetings, exhibitions and fairs and tell everyone you meet how great our hobby is **and above all get them to join**. Unless you do – **WHO WILL BUY YOUR COLLECTION?**