

# The WESSEX BULLETIN

Journal of the Wessex Philatelic Federation

Visit our website at [www.wessexpf.org.uk](http://www.wessexpf.org.uk)

2017/01

**Points of Contact – Editor** - New Editor Required  
**Secretary** - Sally Ellam [martin.sally101@btinternet.com](mailto:martin.sally101@btinternet.com)  
**IN THIS ISSUE** – Wessex Bulletin by eMail, Wessex Federation Website, New Editor Required, Whats on and Where, Around Our Clubs, Imperial Airways India to London 1<sup>st</sup> Flight 1932, Speeding up the Mail.

**WESSEX BULLETIN by email** – Requests to be included on the circulation list should go to our webmaster Jim Wigmore at [wessexweb@talktalk.net](mailto:wessexweb@talktalk.net) please include your full name, club and the email address your Bulletin is to be sent to.

**Please Note this is a totally secure process** – *Your email address will remain secure, each copy will reach you on a personal basis without disclosing your email address to the other recipients.*

**A number of our new readers have sent request for copies of earlier bulletins – PLEASE NOTE THESE CAN BE FOUND AND DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEBSITE – see the Publications Page.**

**WESSEX FEDERATION WEBSITE** at [www.wessexpf.org.uk](http://www.wessexpf.org.uk) – **OUR WEBSITE IS YOUR SHOP WINDOW** – Secretaries please ensure the details about your club are fresh and up to date contact our webmaster Jim Wigmore at [wessexweb@talktalk.net](mailto:wessexweb@talktalk.net) with your current club details and programme. **You are reminded we still need a new webmaster.**

**NEW BULLETIN EDITOR REQUIRED** – We still require a new Bulletin Editor, details of the job were published in Bulletin 2016/04. Unless this post is filled you will no longer have a Bulletin.

## WHATS ON & WHERE

### ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY SW Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017

The speaker is DANE GARROD in the morning with BRITISH ROYALTY & Other Stories. Following Lunch there will be a General display by Members - Up To 24 sheets and MAXIMUM of 3 MINUTES to speak. Please remember that you may bring Guests to these meetings; just let Barry Horne know please

The Meeting is at the TIVERTON HOTEL. Blundells Road, Tiverton, EX16 4DB

The Hotel has amended its conditions – It is required that numbers are given a week ahead of the meeting and they charge based on that number as a minimum, whether we have the numbers or not, if you book and do not turn up, you will be charged.

Please note that if too many of you do not book and then turn up we cause problems at the Hotel, who may not always be able to cope with the increase in numbers on the day.

The cost for the day is £27 to cover lunch, together with tea / coffee and biscuits in the morning and mid afternoon. *[There is no contribution from the Royal]*

Please book - by e-mail please - by Friday 31 March 2017, - [benroh@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:benroh@tiscali.co.uk) if you are coming, and whether you have any dietary needs, by telephone, [01392 273012] there is an answer machine should there be no answer.

Please make your cheques payable to J B Horne for £27 per person

If you are paying by cash it would be helpful to have the correct amount with you.

### WETS Spring Meeting Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Buckfastleigh Town Hall

Morning speaker is Gary Green on “The Life of the Honey Bee”. After Lunch Members and Guests are invited to display (8) sheets on the subject of FLIGHT – this is non competitive.

The day will run from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm the cost is £8.00 this will cover tea/coffee on arrival and a Buffet Lunch. Contact Andrew Austin on 01271 320762 to book if you are not a WETS member.

## AROUND OUR CLUBS

Date	Meeting Description	Speaker	Club
14/03/2017	WW1 Misc.	Graham Mark	Minehead Stamp Club
15/03/2017	Mandated Palestine	Dr David Smith	Exmouth Stamp Club
16/03/2017	Trinidad & Tobago	David Roberts	Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
20/03/2017	Rhodesia	Terry Cowland	Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
23/03/2017	Dealers Evening	Chris Hockaday	Torquay & Teignbridge SC
29/03/2017	ABC of Commonwealth & Beyond	Des Kent	Liskeard Stamp Club
30/03/2017	Club Auction		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
04/04/2017	St Vincent & Br, Virgin Islands	John Albones	Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
04/04/2017	Rose Bowl & Cobb Cup	Judge Jim Wigmore	Dartmouth Stamp Club
05/04/2017	Annual Competition Night		Plymouth Philatelic Society
05/04/2017	Club Speakers	Messrs Gregory, Norris & Smith	Exmouth Stamp Club
10/04/2017	Along Lost Lines	Jim Wigmore	Brixham & Paignton Stamp Club
11/04/2017	French African Colonies	Carlton Jones	Minehead Stamp Club
13/04/2017	Club Dinner		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
13/04/2017	Wessex Roadshow	Wessex Speaker	Torquay & Teignbridge SC
13/04/2017	Auction & Raffle - Viewing from 6.30 pm		Launceston Stamp Club
19/04/2017	Wessex Roadshow	Wessex Speaker	Exmouth Stamp Club
24/04/2017	Bob Wheeler Entertains		Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
26/04/2017	Modern New Zealand	Jim Parsons	Liskeard Stamp Club
27/04/2017	Visit by Taunton Club		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
27/04/2017	French India	Peter Webb	Torquay & Teignbridge SC
02/05/2017	AGM & Silent Auction		Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
02/05/2017	An Evening with David Lethbridge	David Lethbridge	Dartmouth Stamp Club
03/05/2017	Morocco	David Evans	Plymouth Philatelic Society
03/05/2017	Club Auction (Spring Clean)		Exmouth Stamp Club
09/05/2017	Mystery	Nigel Cox	Minehead Stamp Club
09/05/2017	Wessex Roadshow	Wessex Speaker	Brixham & Paignton Stamp Club
11/05/2017	AGM followed by Bring & Buy		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
11/05/2017	Bob Entertains	Bob Wheeler	Torquay & Teignbridge SC
11/05/2017	Trading, Postcards of Royalty	Terry & Janet Cowland	Launceston Stamp Club
15/05/2017	Members G, H and I and New Additions		Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
17/05/2017	King Edward VII	Alan Vaughan	Exmouth Stamp Club
25/05/2017	David Lethbridge Entertains and Stamp Sales	David Lethbridge	Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
25/05/2017	AGM & Informal		Torquay & Teignbridge SC
30/05/2017	Visit from South Sidmouth & Honiton		Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
31/05/2017	German Locals	David Jefferies	Liskeard Stamp Club
06/06/2017	AGM & Kiloware Night		Dartmouth Stamp Club
07/06/2017	Annual General Meeting		Plymouth Philatelic Society
07/06/2017	Members present "I'd sell everything except"		Exmouth Stamp Club
08/06/2017	Philip Milton Entertains	Philip Milton	Taw & Torridge Stamp Club

08/06/2017	Trading, Italian Prisoners of War in East Africa & Touva	Kevin Webb, Peter Chantry	Launceston Stamp Club
12/06/2017	AGM & Ken Fox Competition		Brixham & Paignton Stamp Club
13/06/2017	Wiltshire Military Mail	Malcolm D. Watts	Minehead Stamp Club
19/06/2017	Visit to Taunton Club		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
21/06/2017	Informal Swaps & Selling		Exmouth Stamp Club
28/06/2017	AGM & Members Displays		Liskeard Stamp Club
05/07/2017	Flight Pioneers	Val Robbins	Exmouth Stamp Club
11/07/2017	AGM, Bring & Buy, Silent Display by Members		Minehead Stamp Club
13/07/2017	Trading, WW2 Mail between GB & Australia	Eccot & Tooley, Sue Burn	Launceston Stamp Club
19/07/2017	AGM & Mini Auction		Exmouth Stamp Club

## LAUNCESTON STAMP CLUB

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2016** The Club held their regular monthly meeting at the Royal British Legion Rooms, Edymead, Westgate Street

Club Chairman Viv Sandercock welcomed members and guests The evening's speakers were Rex Eccott and Viv Sandercock, who individually presented displays of unique original items of postal memorabilia from their personal collections covering all aspects of the local postal service from its inception in Victorian times to the modern day.

**12<sup>th</sup> January 2017** The Club held their first regular monthly meeting at the Yeolmbridge Methodist Chapel Hall, Ladycross. Club Chairman Viv Sandercock welcomed members and guests. Members were reminded that Launceston Stamp Fair will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017..The evening was then given over to Members' Displays from Rex Eccott, Viv Sandercock, Terry Mounce and Dave Richards who presented displays of original items of postal memorabilia ranging, respectively, from KGV1 First Day Commonwealth Covers to Spanish Mining Commemoratives, Copies of late 19<sup>th</sup>C Devon & Cornish Newspapers and Legal Agreements and West Indian Maritime Issues.

**9<sup>th</sup> February 2017** Club Chairman Viv Sandercock welcomed members and guests and asked the meeting to observe a minute's silence in remembrance of David Bennett who passed away recently. The Chairman introduced the evening's Speaker, Club member Roger Winn from St Breward. Roger introduced his collection of postcards from WWI commenting this was just a continuation, or the second part, of the presentation that he gave in December 2015. On that occasion he had explained that it all started in his early teens when his uncle, knowing of his interest in stamps, passed on some 30 postcards sent by family members to each other during the run-up to and the first half of the "Great War". This evening's display of over 70 more postcards covered the period from 1916 onwards mainly of simple messages on postcards from soldiers on Active Service at the Front to their families and loved ones at home. The collection extends to include postcards of naval and other ships, coloured photo-prints of flowers and family scenes, photo-type postcards of places, sometimes nameless, abroad The Chairman presented Roger with the Club's Certificate of Appreciation and thanked him for a most interesting and entertaining evening.

## DAWLISH STAMP CLUB

**11<sup>th</sup> January 2017** – Was Chairman's Evening and a well attended meeting were rewarded by some excellent displays "Where in the World" a look at some remote stamp issuing nations. The Camel Posts of Sudan, Early stamps of Great Britain with corner letters PH (the Chairman's initials), some of the finer material of Sarawak and finally something very local "Starcross Postal History".

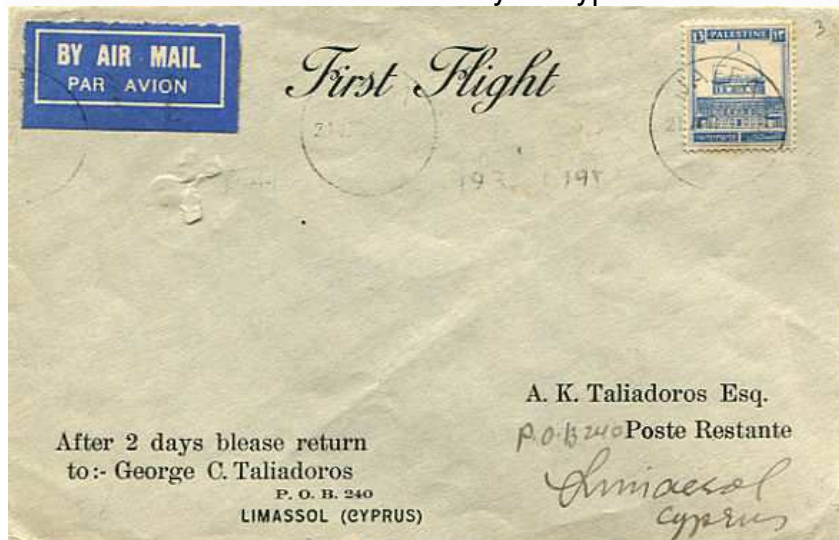
**8<sup>th</sup> February 2017** – AGM and members new acquisitions. The existing committee remained unchanged and no increase in membership fee was made. Members new acquisitions included a wide array of the Post Office vended stamp labels through to the imaginative use of an A3 size printer to produce better and more compact displays.

8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – James Hooper gave a superb display of Austria during the period just after WW1 when the country was suffering inflation. Some very interesting and unusual material was shown, quite a bit of which was very rare. This is a country not often seen.

## IF YOUR CLUB IS NOT MENTIONED THEY HAVE NOT SUBMITTED A REPORT

### IMPERIAL AIRWAYS INDIA –LONDON 1<sup>st</sup> FLIGHT 1932 by Jim Wigmore

According to Cyprus Study Circle member Malcolm Warwick this flight did not land in Cyprus as was intended and the following may add to the truth of this story. The source is reproduced from a web based display of airmail material supposedly from the flight concerned. I have only extracted that which relates directly to Cyprus.



**Palestine - Cyprus leg, 24 April**  
The first flight in the opposite direction left Tiberias for Cyprus on 24 April.

This cover is postmarked in Jaffa on 21 April and is addressed to Limassol. It has a Tiberias transit mark on 22 April and would be flown to Cyprus 24 April.



Since there is no Cyprus arrival mark – did this happen?

The schedule was to leave Tiberias early on a Saturday morning, fly to Cyprus which was then left mid morning, fly to Rhodes (Castelrosso) which was left in the early afternoon and finally arrive in Athens in the evening. This is the critical statement.

### Cyprus - Rhodes leg, 24 April

The next cover is addressed to Rhodes and was flown on the Cyprus - Rhodes leg on 24 April. Although the cover arrived in Rhodes on 24 April, it was not backstamped until the next day, 25 April.



I find the above statement very odd, if arrival was on the 24<sup>th</sup> the authorities would have stamped the mail 24<sup>th</sup> April the fact they were stamped 25<sup>th</sup> April suggests that the mail did not actually arrive until that date.

This raises the question of was the flight delayed? If it was delayed, did this happen before Cyprus, or at Cyprus, and if before, was Cyprus bypassed to try and recover time in the schedule?

The next cover was backstamped on arrival in Athens on 25<sup>th</sup> according to the schedule it should have arrived on the 24<sup>th</sup> and seems to be further proof of the delay in the flight.

Assuming the Authorities in Cyprus had prior warning of the delay in the flight and the possibility of bypassing Cyprus they would have had time to send mail for the flight to Rhodes by sea.

**Cyprus - Athens leg, 24 April**

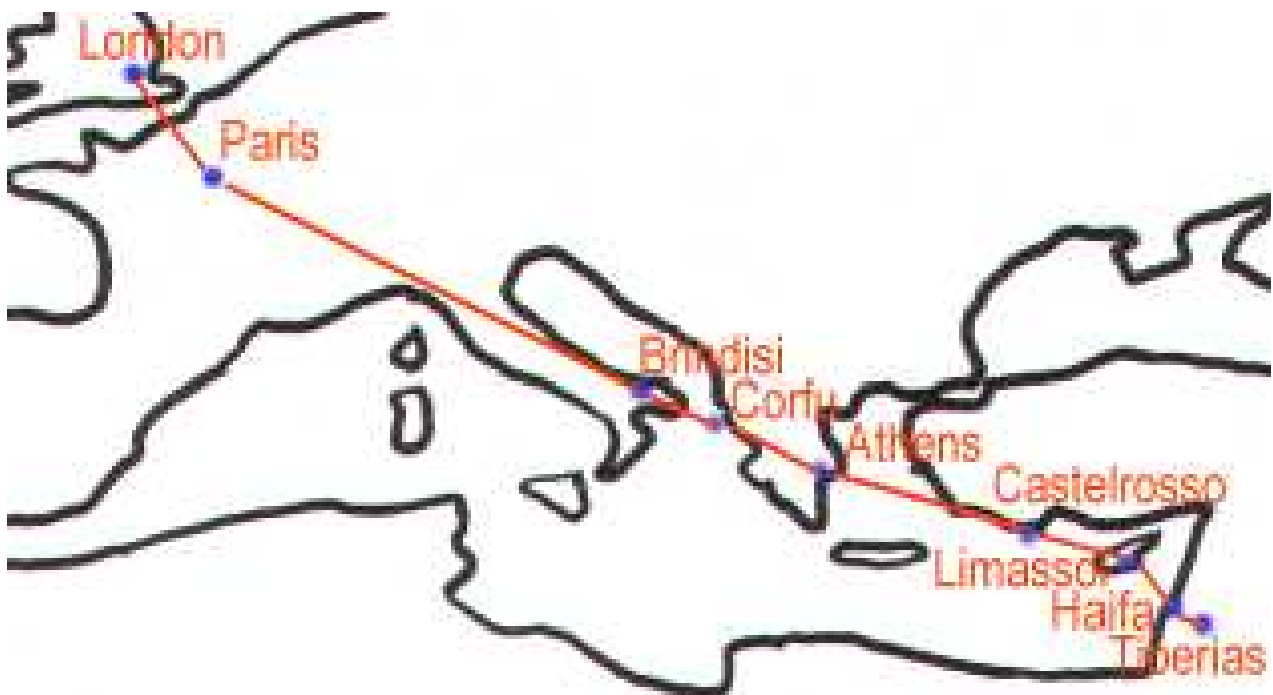
The next cover is registered and is addressed to Greece. It is postmarked 22 April and was flown on the Cyprus - Greece leg on 24 April. According to the schedule it should have arrived on the 24<sup>th</sup> not the 25<sup>th</sup>



It has a commemorative cachet with a similar design, but different inscription from the one shown earlier. Again, the arrival backstamp was applied on the following day.



A similar cover in my own collection also has an arrival stamp of 25th April. There would appear to be a gap of one day between the scheduled arrival times at Castelrosso and Athens and the actual arrival times. The route being followed is shown below for reference



## SPEEDING UP THE MAIL by Jim Wigmore

Most people will quickly realise that a high proportion of mail out of and into Cyprus was Business related where speed of response was very important. In the days when there was no email or internet and telephone communication was very limited, reliance upon the mail service was paramount. The various postal authorities around the world were well aware of the need for rapid movement of mail and in general tried to make the best use of technology available to speed up service. Here are two examples of speeding up the mail.

**To accelerate mail to Cyprus in 1926** (ref Post Office Notice P635 of July 1926 a map of the route is included in the notice) a new weekly accelerated service was introduced as of 12<sup>th</sup> August 1926 where mail was flown to Marseilles and then by sea to Cyprus. This service was quicker by three days to Alexandria. The cover shown travelled on the 1<sup>st</sup> service dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 1929 and arrived at Famagusta on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1929. The rate was Empire Mail Rate of 1 ½ d plus an Airmail Fee of 3d. Research suggests that the mail was carried from Marseilles to Cyprus on PO ship "SS Maloja"



### 12<sup>th</sup> April 1930

Was the date of the 1st flight on the revised schedule between London & Karachi (ref Post Office Notice P635G maps of the route are

included in the notice) reducing the time from 6-8 days to 2½ days, calculated from London. Mail travelled by Air from London-Cologne-Nurnburg-Vienna-Budapest-Uskub-Salonika-Athens-Crete-Alexandria. The cover below was posted on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1930 in Malmo Sweden addressed to Limassol and routed via the revised service to Karachi.



It is backstamped on Arrival at Alexandria on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1930 and travelled to Cyprus by Khedival Mail Line ship, no other arrival marks appear.



Refer to [www.gbps.org.uk](http://www.gbps.org.uk) for Post Office Air Mail Notices