



West of
England
Thematic
Society

Newsletter No.27 September 2006

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IN THIS ISSUE - Were Going Shell, 2006 AGM Minutes, Roll Up, Roll Up for The Greatest Show on Earth Pt2., This Space is for You, Our Next Meeting, Torquay 2006, Future WETS Events, The Packet, WETS 2006 Roadshow, Recent Acquisitions.



Were Going Shell - Gillian Gray stated, I began my display by explaining that I would not be showing my Swipex, Comex and Wessex award winning displays ref. WETS Bulletin No.26.

As these only totalled 26 sheets, I had planned to create a completely new 48-sheet display. Then as luck would have it catastrophe struck, the computer packed up. What was I to do while awaiting the installation of a new one? I decided to show what could be done, not with my best and most expensive material, but with the odds and

ends languishing in stock books, the intention being to show the pure fun of thematics. I explained that only a brief glimpse of this vast and fascinating subject was possible and I tried to pair the actual shell with the postage stamp.

I showed two stamps of Carl von Linne better known as Linnaeus a brilliant 18th century Swedish naturalist who between 1735 and 1768 published a series of volumes where he gave each animal and plant a two-part Latin name. Although Linne has been given the credit,

being the first into print, the original idea can be traced back to a Swiss Botanist who wrote a paper in 1623.

A few sheets on Fossils were shown including the *Perofrochus teramachii* Slit shell whose earliest ancestors occurred in the fossil record some five hundred million years ago.

Gastropods that include the Common Sundial, Giant Tun, Murex, Olives, Cones, Cowries, Conch's, and Chanks, just to name a few, were shown. A sheet illustrated what can be done with a comic postcard of a poor old snail struggling to climb a branch with the wording "Work, Work, Work." Depicted in the Bivalve section were

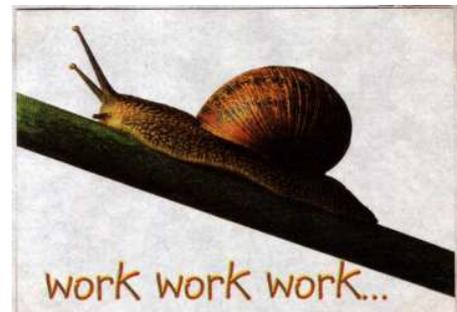


Names of Shells
Some shells have names of great renown
Like the Sun Ray or King's Crown.
Others have names with much less tone,
For instance, Peanut, Snail and Cone.



Mussels, Clams, Oysters, Cockles and Scallops. To complete the display I took viewers on a trip down memory lane, showing facsimile Shell Oil Company advertising cards dated 1924-1939, something not shown before.

(The knowledge and interests of our WETS Members never ceases to amaze - Thank you Gillian, it was just the tonic after an AGM and much appreciated by all in attendance. - Ed.)



The minutes of the AGM follow.

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

held at Emmanuel Church, Exeter on Saturday July 8th 2006.

Present.

Mrs. M. Claydon (Chairman and Secretary), Mr. J. Wigmore (Newsletter Editor), Mr. R. Wheeler (Treasurer), Mrs. A. Moorshead (Packet Secretary), Mr. T. Smith (Publicity Officer), Mr. N. Claydon, Mrs. V. Wigmore, Mr. D. Herrity, Mrs. G. Gray, Mrs. P. McDowall, Mr. M. Buxton, Mrs. P. Buxton.

1. Apologies.

Miss. E. Rees, Mr. A. Austin, Mr. K. Ramsey, Mrs. C. Turner, Mr. D. Roseveare, Mrs. P. Futter.

2. Minutes of the last meeting - (*previously circulated*) - The minutes were passed unanimously proposed Mrs. McDowall, seconded, Mrs. V. Wigmore.

3. Matters arising from the last Minutes. - There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report. - The Chairman reported another successful year with awards. She thanked all those who had supplied material for the Village Green at Stampex where WETS had won the cup for the best display. The Treasurer, Mr. Wheeler had won the cup for the best article in Themescene. She reported on the WETS day in April much enjoyed by those present. Numbers attending were down. She pointed out that the committee worked very hard arranging these days and it was disheartening when the attendance dropped. The speaker next year will be Sir Ghillean Prance – Scientific Director of the Eden Project who has a superb thematic collection of plants and flowers. She thanked the committee who had supported her brilliantly after her accident last November. Mr. Wigmore in particular had taken over the Road Show and done the majority of the showing. This Society has in the past few years gone from strength to strength but the Committee depended to a great extent on the membership for support. Let us continue to help WETS grow.

5. Secretary's Report. - Since the Chairman is also the Secretary the same report applies

6. Treasurer's Report. - The Treasurer presented the accounts and pointed out that the apparent drop in Funds was due to the fact that:-

1) his expenses were for two years since he had not claimed expenses the previous year.

2) this always happens because the end of our financial year is close to the WETS day and items cross over into the following years accounts.

The balance shown at 31st March £188.54 is now £379. The Packet balance shown was low due a defaulter who has now paid and the packet balance is now £361.0 whereas the balance at 31st March shown was £159.70.

The accounts were accepted and passed unanimously proposed Mrs. P. McDowall seconded Mrs. V. Wigmore.

7. Newsletter Editor's Report. - As has been the case ever since it started our Newsletter depends on input from a very small band of people. Despite constant appeals to our membership to make contributions very little actually appears. The use of the "THIS SPACE IS FOR YOU LOGO" has prompted some response, let us hope it continues.

I would personally like to thank the WETS members who supplied material for the Village Green display. My journey to Islington and the time taken to mount the display seemed well worthwhile having viewed the other displays and compared them to ours, I left well satisfied that WETS had put up a very creditable performance. The award of a trophy was simply the icing on the cake.

If Stampex was the pinnacle of our success, our first Auction, could only be described as an absolute disaster. A significant amount of work was put in to provide members with a well balanced and well produced auction list that enticed so few bids we did not really cover our costs. Despite members being given a reasonable time to go through the list and to submit bids, we actually had one member about a month after the event, ask when the auction was going to be. We will not repeat the process. Members will have the opportunity to view the material being held by the society and place any bids to purchase at the Autumn Meeting.

I should also like to thank all the WETS members who supplied material for the current Roadshow. It looks and works well as a display, has been very favourably received in the clubs and we have gained a number of new members as a result.

Our next venture is Torquay 2006 in November, lets see if we can hit the same standard as Spring Stampex. Member support is required to man our stand, we just need about an hour of your time if you are going to the show and we hope you do. Our understanding is this is one of the largest philatelic events outside London ever.

8. Publicity Officer - The committee felt it was necessary to appoint a Publicity Officer to keep WETS in the public eye and to this end Mr. Tony Smith had agreed to accept the post. He said he felt the necessity was for us to bring the name of WETS to the fore. He had been in touch with two of the major stamp magazines and material had been accepted. We should take every opportunity to get reports on Society activities and any thematic displays into the local press. He would continue to approach any publicity outlet to achieve this end.

9. Packet Secretary's Report. - In the last twelve months seven packets have completed the circuit and two more are at present on their way. Value of items included was £2513.98 an average of £279.33 per packet. Out of the total membership nine people contributed material – including two who pay membership dues but do not themselves receive the packet. We have 20 names on the list a slight increase over last year and have lost 2 members through ill health and re-location. As always the Secretary would be delighted to receive material from more members but would remind everyone that the changes to postal rates calculated on size as well as weight will make it essential that booklets and packs of cards and covers be limited in size. At present the limit mentioned in the Rules is 8"x5", the size of the standard club booklet. This may need to be up-dated to a 'new money' equivalent. It might be possible to circulate over-size material in a separate packet, containing fewer items, so that the extra size would be offset by the lesser weight. The packet hovers on the edge of viability. We are just breaking even, a defaulter or loss in transit could put us in the red. Like the village Post Office it's a case of "USE IT OR LOSE IT".

10. Election of Officers. - There being no nominations it was proposed David Herrity, seconded Gillian Gray that the officers be re-elected en bloc. This was carried unanimously. The meeting closed at 3.30.p.m. followed by a display of "Shells" by Gillian Gray. (*see feature above*.)

Roll Up, Roll Up for The Greatest Show on Earth - Part 2



After an ice cream, the second half got under way with Les Idalys shown left cycling 80 feet in the air.

A horse and pony act followed with Young Roy depicted here right by Alexis Gruss, a Clown d'Or winner at the Moscow Circus awards forty years later.

Laughter filled the air with the Clowns Crick and Crock shown below left and a traditional slapstick performance.

The heavy weights of the circus, Bertram Mills six Elephants, then lumbered into the ring with an incredible display of balance and control.



From the slow elegance of the elephants, The Brockways on their cycles made an appearance.

From the motivation on the cycles, The Cumberlands presented a bareback horse riding adventure in a galaxy of tricks.



After the exquisite riding, the Clowns were back in the form of The Andreus, musical clowns who stretched comedy and music to an extreme form



Our eyes were then focused on the roof of Olympia when my favourite of all acts The Flying Alizes, created a sensational act on the flying trapeze including the triple somersault in flight.



To close the show, the whole company took part in the Grand Carousel

Once we had left the enclosed performance area, we finished our day by visiting the funfair



After a tiring day, and a visit to a traditional circus of a



type not seen to-day, it was off to the station for the train home and bed.



The End

This Space is for YOU



OUR NEXT MEETING - will be held at Buckfastleigh Town Hall on Saturday 21st October 2006 between 2.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. There will be three displays details as follows:-

IT'S MAGIC - by Richard Wheeler

THE HOUSE of WINDSOR by Mary Claydon

CYPRUS GOVERNMENT RAILWAY by Jim Wigmore

During the course of the meeting the unsold lots from the Auction will be on display and any bids will be accepted from members. Members are offered this opportunity to add any further lots without reserve.

Tea will be served to members during the proceedings and a raffle will be run, prizes for the raffle will be gratefully received.

DO TRY AND MAKE THE EFFORT TO ATTEND

TORQUAY 2006 - We have a stand at this event and will be putting up a display of what WETS is all about "Telling Stories using Philately". We have produced a publicity handout specifically for Torquay 2006 that will be reproduced in colour, explaining about WETS and giving people an opportunity to join.

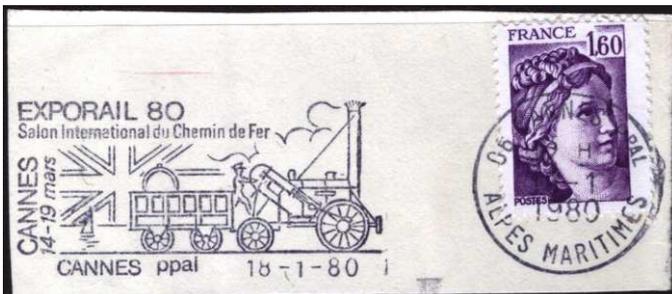
We hope that all our members will take the opportunity to visit this prestigious event. It is without doubt the largest Philatelic Fair ever held in the South West of England with many dealer stands and displays up to and including International items. More information can be found on the web site at www.torquay2006.org.uk Members thinking of going to this event are advised that car parking in the area is difficult and at a premium, Torquay Railway Station is very close to the venue and lots of local bus services pass close by.

Those members who have agreed to help man the WETS Stand will be sent copies of the roster by our Chairman Mary Claydon. We hope that any other members visiting the exhibition will look in on our stand and spend a few moments to help out.

FUTURE WETS EVENTS - our Spring Meeting will be at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel Ashburton details in the next newsletter. The speaker will be Sir Ghillean Prance F.R.C.S. V.M.L.I. who will be illustrating his superb horticultural knowledge using his extensive philatelic material. For all who appreciate gardening in all its forms, this is a not to be missed display and talk. It is anticipated this event will attract lots of interest from other than WETS members who are keen gardeners.

THE PACKET - as you will have noted from the AGM Minutes we have some concerns about the packet, in particular the lack of members actually taking the packet. To try and address this situation it has been considered that our packet should address the full breadth of our members collecting interests and to this extent we have put together a listing based upon your stated interests. The Packet Secretary has been tasked to circulate this to packet vendors asking them to submit material which you have all stated you are interested in. We hope this action will encourage more of you to join the packet circuit.

WETS 2006 ROADSHOW - will complete its travels with a visit to Plymouth in November. We now need to think about an equally successful show for 2008. If you have any thoughts about a good theme or have material you would be prepared to loan, we would like to hear from you.



RECENT AQUISITIONS - the cancels left have now been added to by "Evolution of Railways" thanks to Richard Wheeler.

It will be noted that the French who are generally very anti British have not only reproduced "Rocket" but also our Union Flag.

Urban Railway regeneration is now very much in the news, but just look how long ago the French were looking at the problem and more

importantly doing something about it by investment and publicity of their actions.

Cancels should form a very important aspect of our thematic collections and these recent acquisitions of mine show why.

HAPPY COLLECTING