



West of  
England  
Thematic  
Society

## Newsletter No.41 January 2011

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**IN THIS ISSUE** – WETS News by email, Wonderful Game – Wonderful Players, Thematics & Railways, Success or Otherwise, Report of our Autumn Meeting, WETS Roadshow, WETS website, Dates for Your Diaries.

**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.

### WONDERFUL GAME – WONDERFUL PLAYERS

In the days of Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Ryan Giggs, it's easy to forget that wingers used to be a very rare breed in the earlier days of football. The reason for the change was, in large part, due to the arrival of Sir Stanley 'The Magician' Matthews. He was a type of footballer who lived for the game and worked extremely hard on and off the pitch to improve his performance and fitness.

**Sir Stanley Matthews, CBE** (1 February 1915 – 23 February 2000) was often regarded as one of the greatest players of the English game, he is the only player to have been knighted while still playing, as well as being the first winner of both the European Footballer of the Year and the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year awards. Matthews' nicknames included *The Wizard of the Dribble* and *The Magician*. A vegetarian teetotaler, he kept fit enough to play at the top level until he was 50 years old. He was also the oldest player ever to play in England's top football division and the oldest player ever to represent the country. He played his final competitive game in 1985, at the age of 70. Matthews was also an inaugural inductee to the English Football Hall of Fame in 2002 to honour his contribution to the English



game.

**DIXIE DEAN.** - William Ralph Dean (22 January 1907 – 1 March 1980), better known as Dixie Dean was a great football player. Dean originally started his career with Birkenhead based Tranmere Rovers before moving on to professional team Everton, the club he had supported as a child, where he became one of the most prolific goal-scorers in English Football history. Dean played the majority of his career at Everton before injuries caught up with him and he moved on to new challenges at Notts County and Ireland's Sligo Rovers. He is best known for his exploits in the 1927-28 season which saw Dean score 100 goals in a season, 60 of which were in the league - a record which stands to this day.

A statue of Dean was unveiled outside Goodison Park in May 2001. A year later Dean became one of four players inducted into the inaugural national football hall of fame.

He was the first football player to wear the "number 9" shirt in club football. Dean is regarded as one of the greatest pre-war sports heroes in British culture.

Both Dixie Dean and Stanley Mathews were featured on a Miniature Sheet issued by Montserrat. Member Trevor Fray advises us that both players were Freemasons Stanley Mathews was a member of Clifton Lodge in Blackpool and Dixie Dean was a member of Randel Holme Lodge in Berkenhead.



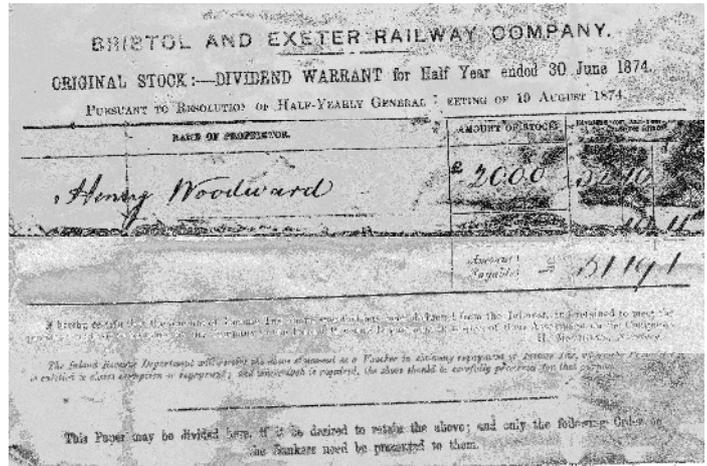
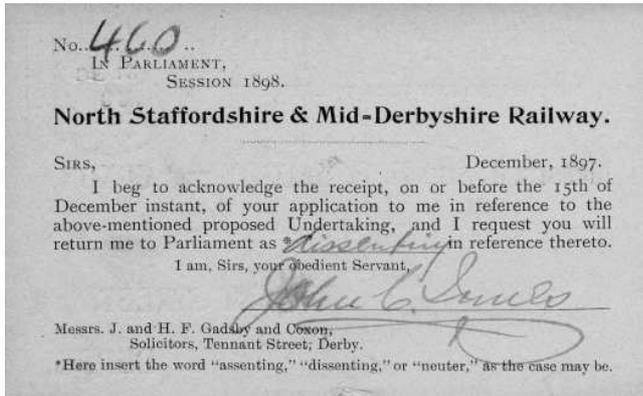
**THEMATICS & RAILWAYS** – Many other countries pick up on philatelist's love of railways and issue vast amounts of philatelic material. Most of the material issued does not relate to their railways but that of Britain the country that introduced the railway to the world. Our railways were set up to carry freight getting materials to factories and finished goods to the point



where needed, carrying passengers was a secondary consideration. Britain's rail network led to the introduction of the Universal Penny Post and the Industrial Revolution and as such we should show a lot more pride in our railway history. As a thematic subject there is lots of scope and great care needs to be taken with a title for the story, the "Evolution of Railways" is far too open, whereas "Along Britain's Lost Lines" for instance, is more manageable and realistic.

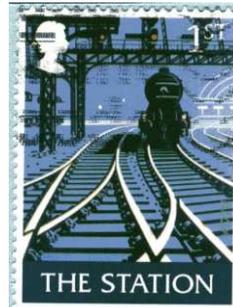
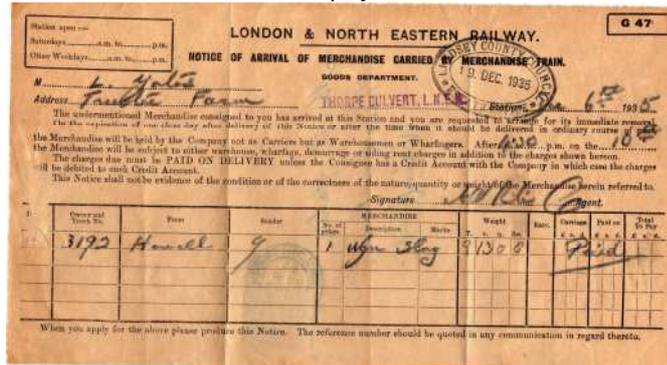


It is possible to cover the opening of the first public railways along with the Rainhill Trials. Part of the story needs to cover both the support and the opposition to these early schemes.



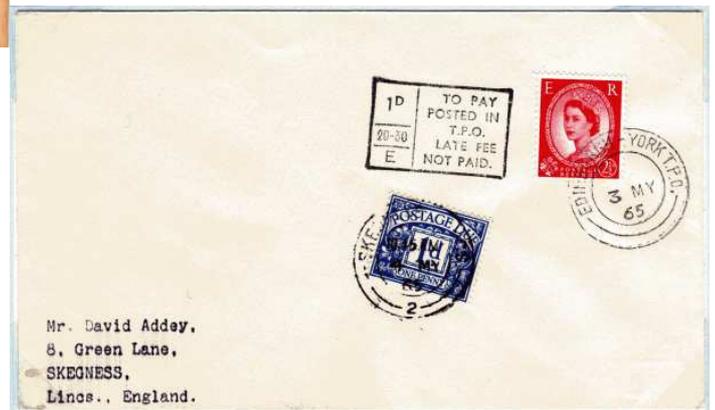
Shareholders and their interest and support played a major part in the evolution and development, philatelic examples can be found. Many of the early railways took over their rivals or were themselves taken over, as such early railway companies disappeared with their names and assets being rebranded, some fascinating stories can be uncovered. Seek and ye shall find.

Poets such as W. H. Auden (*The Night Mail*) and John Betjamen (*Metroland*) have contributed material that adapts well to thematic stories. Railways also provide a superb platform for the Social Philatelist who can use Share Certificates and payment records on share capital and much more.



Many stations were post offices as well as users of the postal system to advise customers of goods delivered by rail for collection. The range and variety of cancels plus railway postal stationary is vast and gives an insight into an age now long past. Along

with Travelling Post Offices all the services mentioned have all been swept aside by the modern railway that now seeks only to carry passengers with freight as a secondary consideration. We appear to have forgotten the original purpose, things are however changing. The individual railway companies, the people and there are some real characters to watch out for, the work of the Civil Engineers and much more, all give scope for some truly fascinating stories. You will be truly surprised at the scope and depth of material available. You do of course need to know and understand your subject.



## SUCCESS OR OTHERWISE –

this is the question posed by David Roseveare.

Whilst trawling through items on ebay recently the following cover caught my eye, and wallet! I was puzzled by the address and decided to investigate.

It was a cover dated 16th June 1914 addressed to the 'Segno Success Club' in Los Angeles, U.S.A. from Versailles. The operator of the club was Victor Segno of the American Institute of Mentalism. He devised a scam where members agreed to send him a dollar a month in return for a 'mental success wave' twice a day. He did a thriving business and with the proceeds he built a large estate in a suburb of Los Angeles. His members came from many countries far and wide.

According to his literature, "the vibrations which he was able to produce in people are felt by them, through thousands of miles distant, as a sensation similar to an electric shock". He kept the business going until 1919 when he left the country (together with his wealth) and went to Russia. Shortly after him leaving, his secretary vanished, never to be seen again. The question is, how could he deceive so many people in so many countries and get away with it? Remember, this was 1914 and communications were somewhat primitive.



## REPORT OF OUR AUTUMN MEETING by Mary Claydon.

At our meeting on Saturday October 30th 2010 the Chairman welcomed all present including two new members. 18 members attended in total and there were 10 entries for the John Hilsdon Trophy which was won by David Herrity with an entry entitled "**Now you See It, Now you Don't**" which is a study of the use of fugitive inks and their effects.

The Chairman explained that the October meeting of the Society to be held on October 29th 2011 would be held at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel, Ashburton. She went on to explain that Richard Wheeler (*our Treasurer*) had made contact in London with Bob Lee one of the dealers involved in starting up Thematix after Thematica ceased. Both Richard Wheeler and I were at this years Portishead Show, and Richard introduced me to Bob Lee.

As a consequence after some discussion the four dealers involved in Thematix visited the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel at our recommendation, and the result is that they have booked the hotel on the date of our meeting and they will be there on the day dealing. At the same time our own competition for the John Hilsdon Trophy will be held, and of course we shall need sheets from that competition for the following year's Roadshow for which WETS will be responsible. It is very important that we get the largest turnout we can to this meeting as if it is a success, it may become an annual event. It is has long been an ambition of many of us to attract such occasions away from London, this is our opportunity, so we hope all our members will attend and spread the news among their Clubs, because although based on thematics the dealers will have material in which many other collectors may be interested. All collectors will be welcome at this meeting and the meeting will be widely advertised in the Wessex Bulletin and by means of letters to clubs etc.

## WETS ROADSHOW –

Has now completed its travels around the various clubs in the Wessex Federation. We have had some superb responses from all who have seen it. The show has generated a great deal of very constructive comment, in particular in relation to what is pure Thematics and what is Social Philately. The quality of the material presented was much admired and the fact that we had used colour copies in order to deliver such quality was very much appreciated by all. There has been a universal request from all clubs to thank those WETS Members who have contributed to the 2010 Roadshow. The WETS Committee would also like to thank all contributors, you have created the best roadshow we have yet put out, WELL DONE. This of course means we have set the standard for 2012 when we will be responsible for the next roadshow.

**WETS Website** – Your Committee have considered and agreed that some of the displays in the 2010 WETS Roadshow will be scanned and placed on the WETS website as useful reference displays for the benefit and guidance of those putting together either Thematic or Social History exhibits or displays. We hope to add to these in the future. All material placed on the website will be with the full knowledge and approval of the owner and we have agreed that there will not be any references to the owner to preserve anonymity.

**WESSEX BULLETIN** – We are given to understand the Wessex Bulletin is about to be given a significant boost, both in its content and in the manner in which it can be delivered. The changes will, we feel sure be welcomed by all. We understand the content of the revised Bulletin will carry philatelic articles along with a “What’s on Diary for the Region”, plus as many reports from clubs and societies that make up the federation as can be gleaned. We also understand that the Bulletin will be offered for delivery by email, it is hoped this will increase circulation and interest in the Bulletin and the clubs events. Watch out for the changes and if you wish to be on the circulation list by email make sure you respond accordingly.

**WETS wishes the Wessex Federation every success with this bold new approach to communicating with its clubs, societies and their memberships.**

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2011**

16<sup>th</sup> April 2011 - WETS DAY at the Dartmoor Lodge, speaker Peter Denly of the BTA (subject yet to be defined), 10.00 am for 10.30 am start.

25<sup>th</sup> June 2011 (*Provisional date to be confirmed.*) - Annual General Meeting.

October 29th 2011 – WETS Autumn Meeting (John Hilsdon Trophy) and THEMATIX SW at the Dartmoor Lodge. *The entries for the John Hilsdon Trophy will be used in the 2012 WETS Roadshow.*



**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR** to you all.

**NO MAIL TODAY** was painted by your editor in October 2010, it somehow seemed appropriate as a philatelic subject, but will we actually have the quantity of snow shown?