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IN THIS ISSUE – WETS News by email, WETS Roadshow 2012, Dates for your Diary, Wessex Competition Entries 2012, Minutes of the 2011 AGM, A Whales Tale, Kingdom for a King?.

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.

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 then open the integrated calendar of club meetings.

WETS ROADSHOW 2012 – Feedback from the clubs about this years roadshow has been very positive, both Exmouth and Torbay & Teignbridge absolutely loved it. Many thanks to all our members who contributed material.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WETS AGM – will take place on Saturday 23rd June 2012 at **Emmanuel Church, Exeter** start at 1400 hrs. This will be followed by a full 128 sheet display by Jim Wigmore of “Along Lost Lines”. The minutes of the 2011 AGM follow below.

PLEASE NOTE – WE NEED A NEW TREASURER – Richard Wheeler has indicated his desire to retire as Treasurer, please consider taking on this role, it is not onerous and is vital to our existence. **If you feel you would be able to take over, we want to hear from you.**

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 WETS meeting to display this years John Hilsdon Trophy Entries. The next News Letter will carry more information.

WESSEX FEDERATION COMPETITION ENTRIES 2012 – Members should have received entry forms for the 2012 Wessex Federation Competitions (*They are available from the Wessex website or from your club Secretary*). We hope that experienced exhibitors as well as those who have yet to have a go, will put entries into this years competitions. This years entries will be shown at the **Dawlish Stamp Clubs – Exhibition and Fair** to be held at **The Strand Centre, Dawlish** on **Saturday 8th September** from 1000 hrs to 1600 hrs. This information is now on the federation website www.wessexpf.org.uk.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West of England Thematic Society held at Emmanuel Church, Exeter on Saturday June 4th 2011 at 2,00 pm.

Present: Mrs. M. Claydon (Chairman), Mr. J. Wigmore (Vice Chairman and Newsletter Editor), Mr. R. Wheeler (Treasurer), Mrs. G. Gray (Secretary), Mr. N. Claydon, Mr. D. Herrity, Miss. E. Rees, Mrs. C. Turner, Mrs. V. Wigmore, Mr. T. Smith, Mr. R. Sambell, Mr. & Mrs. M. Ellam, Rev. Ed Elsey and Guest Mrs. C. Wheeler.

Apologies: Mr. Andrew Austen, Mrs. Pam McDowell and Mr. David Roseveare.

Minutes of the last AGM: Were not read as they had been circulated in the last Newsletter.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman started her report by thanking all the people who had worked so hard for the society. Jim for the Newsletter and all the hard work that it entails, Gillian for all the

effort she has put into the Secretary's job and of course Richard our equally hard working Treasurer.

We had another great display for our Annual Day in April Once more those who did not attend missed an extremely good speaker and a fascinating display. The number attending was a little down on previous Thematic days but I believe there were 30 of us present and the hotel as usual provided good food and all the help we needed to make the day a success.

In October this year we have four of the dealers who have put on Thematix in London since Thematica closed, coming to the West Country. Something I have always wanted to do is to get some of the London dealers down here. We have finally achieved this and I would ask every one of you to tell your Club members and contacts about it and get as big an attendance as we can manage – that way we may get this as an annual event. Remember the dealers are bound to have some material to appeal to all collectors and not just those of us whose main interest is thematics. Please spread this date and news as far as you can - October 29th is the date at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel,

We shall as usual hold the competition for the John Hildson Trophy on that day and would ask everyone to bring something which could be included in next year's WETS Roadshow. As it is our turn to do the Roadshow let us make it as good as the last one for which we were responsible and which seemed to please the Clubs.

The Wessex Federation will be displaying the entries to this year's Wessex Main Competition at the Dartmoor Lodge in the small room on the same day so there will be plenty to see and do.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary thanked Mary, Jim and Richard for helping her during her first year in office and reported that so far she has 5 confirmed bookings for the Roadshow next year and possibly, Teignbridge, Minehead and Sidmouth which are at present unconfirmed.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer presented the accounts saying that we were down again on last year with the balance standing at £495.35, income, £779.09 expenditure £283.74 and that we now have 31 members. Acceptance of the Accounts were proposed by Carol Turner, seconded by Tony Smith and passed unanimously. Richard recommended that the subscriptions should be raised to £5.00 per member which was proposed by David Herrity and seconded by Tony Smith and passed unanimously. It was very encouraging to see that nearly half of the members attended the AGM.

Newsletter Editors Report: The Editor thanked contributors but required more articles. He explained the vast savings in cost by putting the Newsletter out by e-mail. More than half of the membership now use this service. If members have an e-mail would they please inform him. A vote of thanks was given to Jim for all his efforts.

Publicity Officers Report: None available.

Election of Officers: Re-elected en bloc.

Any Other Business: A general discussion re the future for WETS/Philately took place with the Web appearing to be the way ahead. Before the meeting tea and biscuits were served as it came after the Wessex meeting. Many thanks to Edith and to Vicki for helping out.

There then followed six displays: Richard Wheeler gave a brilliant talk on methods of exhibiting and the various materials available, particularly on how to produce the "Wow Factor" He reiterated the often forgotten vitally important maxim "You must have a good plan, the development of which must tell a story". He then gave an extremely informative and interesting talk on how this may be achieved. This presentation was greatly appreciated by the whole audience.

Jim Wigmore displayed the start of "Along Lost Lines" showing how our railways have evolved from inception to the modern day, Martin Ellam explained that his display of "Diamonds" was part of his larger mineral display and had nothing to do with his wife's liking for that particular stone, Gillian Gray gave a display on "Pirates". If you thought that Johnny Depp in "Pirates of the Caribbean" was bad enough, you should have seen some of the unsavory characters in this display, Ron Sambell gave a short interesting talk on the British Postal Service entitled "Going under Cover" and Carol Turner, last but not least showed some very difficult to find "Malaria" material to close an excellent afternoon.

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.

A WHALES TALE – This was the subject of our 2012 WETS Day and what a day it turned



Lesley pointing out a few salient features during the course of the show.

Lesley fully developed the story from its primitive days of men hurling harpoons from small boats operating in conjunction with sailing ships, to the explosive harpoons fired from factory ships. Picture postcards of men stripping blubber from whales suspended from yard arms over the sea were shown, it was explained that these men needed special boots with nails sticking out of the soles to grip the flesh of the Whale to prevent them sliding off into the sea below.

Interesting sub-sets of the display were about Baleen and its many uses, this was accompanied by a piece of Baleen. The evolution of the Harpoon Gun were covered, as was the Carving of Whales Teeth, The Whaling Stations and their Mail Services which highlighted the difficulties the men had in keeping touch with families.

There was much for us all to learn about putting together a story, developing it, using lateral thinking and putting it onto paper in a clear and understandable manner.

From an initial 16 sheet contribution at an early WETS Meeting this topic has come a great distance and Lesley is to be congratulated on a great deal of hard work and overcoming many obstacles and disappointments to achieve her current standard – WELL DONE

(Those of our members who missed this presentation really did miss out on something special – Ed.)

KINGDOM FOR A KING? - Our United Kingdom writes Tony Smith has had two female sovereigns over 124 years, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II with four kings reigning in the years between.

The Netherlands however has had three successive queens in the last 122 years. Yet the Dutch also call their country a Kingdom.

Their “missing king” royal story began in 1890 when William III died. Two sons from his first marriage, and his wife, had already predeceased him but in 1879 he had married again. His new bride, Queen Emma, was only 21 at the time, but soon gave birth to a girl Wilhelmina.

Wilhelmina was 10 years-old when her father died and she was proclaimed Queen of the House of Orange. Her mother was given the title Dowager

out to be when one of our founder members Lesley Marley displayed her National Gold Medal Collection. We discovered aspects of the Whale and its hunting almost to extinction we all had never heard of or appreciated the bi-products that were initially dependant on this trade. From Whale Oil used for candles and lubricating First World War aeroplane engines to the boning in ladies corsets, the Whaling Business was massive.

The risks that were taken by the men in the hunting, killing and butchering of whales were extreme, men’s lives were cheap, there was no Health and Safety Legislation and the risks taken to gather this rich cargo were extensive sometimes with both men and ships being lost.



Queen Emma and she played a key role in establishing Holland as a major nation in Europe. She also carefully protected Wilhelmina as she progressed from childhood to a teenager and preparing her for, at 18, she was able to take on the responsibility of a queen.



In 1901 she married Henry, Duke of Macklenburg - Schwerin, and his work alongside the Queen won over many Dutch nobility who at first opposed the marriage.

The couple did not produce the male heir which the nation's people at every level hoped for. They did, however, have a daughter Juliana. In 1948, after occupying the throne for 58 years, at the age of 78 she

abdicated in favour of the then 47 years-old Juliana.

Wilhelmina died in 1962, a queen many historians felt in her younger life she was similar to our own Queen Victoria.



Queen Juliana, in many ways like Queen Emma, always ensured the Netherlands held a proud place in Europe. She had already married Prince Bernhard and the family, including three years-old Beatrix crossed the Channel to live in England before Hitler occupied their homeland.

In 1980 Juliana followed the example of her own mother by stepping down from the throne to see her eldest daughter become the third successive Queen of the Netherlands. At first there had been voices raised in protest when in 1966 Beatrix had married a West German diplomat, Claus-Georg Gerd von Armberg. The couple had three sons so a king will sit on the House of Orange throne.

Talk with Dutch "Royalty Thematic Collectors" and there is a feeling Queen Beatrix, now a 74 years-old widow may soon announce an abdication.

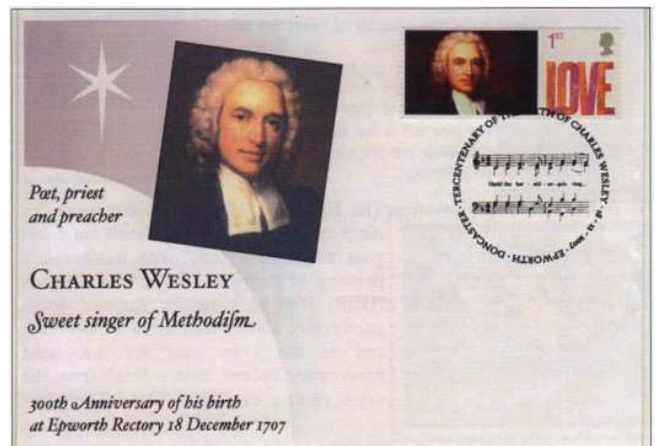
JOHN WESLEY - From film stars and comedians to Sherlock Holmes and the sinking of *Titanic*, Royal Mail puts virtually everything on Britain's stamps today writes Tony Smith.

But for some reason it refuses to honour leaders of religion. John Wesley, an 18th century Lincolnshire-born evangelist and founder of Methodism has fared the same as Archbishops, Cardinals and even Popes, indeed a plea to mark the 200th anniversary of his death failed to impress our postal authorities.

Born in 1709 and son of a rector in Epworth, the man who was banned from preaching from pulpits in his local parishes was forced to speak at an open air gathering at Bristol in 1739.

Methodism, a nickname first given to his 'sect' and his idea, is now followed all over the world.

If you are looking for a stamp collecting connection, there now is a Methodist Philatelic Society which in its Newsletter regularly features stamps, postcards covers and, special cancels from around the world.



In 1987 Guernsey issued a set of five stamps to mark the 200th anniversary of an ageing Wesley's visit to the island.

Many religious groups objected to his "sweeping aside ecclesiastical tradition" but others, often among ordinary people living in working class neighbourhood's, agreed with him. He spent 50 years spreading his idea often speaking to 10,000 to 30,000 people and converting coal miners, fishermen, weavers and labourers.

His words were carried to men in distant lands, especially the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean. On their stamps they remember him and thank him.