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West of
England
Thematic
Society

Newsletter No.55 January 2015

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IN THIS ISSUE – WETS News by email, From our Chairman, Dates for your Diary, 2015 Subscriptions, 2016 WETS Roadshow, Minutes of the 2014 AGM, The WETS 2015 AGM, The Town of Noah's Great Grandson.

WETS NEWS by email –If you are not yet a recipient give your name and email address to the Editor. Increases in postal charges, mean it is important to circulate as much information as possible by this means. Look at our website www.wessexpf.org.uk/WETS for 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.

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN – A Happy New Year to all our members. You will see from our AGM minutes that I wish WETS to return to its roots and become more “Inspirational”. I have been delighted at how well the 2014 WETS Roadshow has been received by the other clubs in the federation, I feel sure there is scope to encourage more of those club members to join and be inspired by WETS.

I wish to see attendee's at our meetings being enthused by thematics and to this end we will be introducing a theme for each meeting, the theme being chosen by you at the previous meeting. To start this process off, I have chosen the theme for our WETS Day in April as being anything with Water involved (we are after all WETS). You will also notice that we have moved the venue for our WETS Day to Buckfastleigh Town Hall and we will be offering Tea/Coffee upon arrival plus a Buffet Lunch all for the same price as last years event, this is a real bargain and **I hope to see as many of our members as possible. If you belong to other local clubs, tell your fellow club members and bring them with you, BE INSPIRED.**

We are looking at other venues to hold our Autumn meeting with a view to giving opportunity to some of our far flung membership to get to at least one meeting a year. If you have thoughts or suggestions as to possible venues we would like to hear from you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WETS Day Saturday 11th April 2015 at Buckfastleigh Town Hall when our speaker will be Dr Jean Alexander, her subject will be “Waterfalls of the World”. The Booking Form and travel details are included with your copy of the newsletter. We will be looking for attendees to bring along 8 sheets on the theme of “Anything involving Water”, we will be asking Jean Alexander to give a very brief critique with an aim of encouraging the future evolution of the submission.

We will ensure each WETS member gets a copy of this newsletter and we will circulating all clubs with copies of the Booking Form and Travel details.

The programme is as follows :-

- 1000hrs – Arrival
- 1030 hrs – Welcome by the Chairman
- 1035-1230 hrs – Display by Dr Jean Alexander “Waterfalls of the World” with short break to allow viewing of the first half.
- 1230 hrs - Buffet Lunch
- 1330-1445 hrs - Members Displays & Critique
- 1500 hrs - Depart



2015 SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE SHORTLY

In accordance with the motion passed at the last AGM the subscription is now £6.00/Member an Invoice will be included with all newsletter copies

2016 WETS Roadshow

The early birds are already making bookings for the show. It has been suggested that we use the theme "How to Build a Thematic Display". At this stage this may be a step too far. We will be looking at the submissions at our WETS Day plus the entries in the Wessex Competitions and the John Hilsdon Trophy before we make our final decision. The 2016 Roadshow has a lot to live up to after 2014.

Minutes of the 2014 AGM of the West of England Thematic Society

Held at Buckfastleigh Town Hall on Saturday November 1st 2014. starting at 1415 hrs

Present – Mr. J. Wigmore (Vice Chairman), Mrs. S. Ellam (Secretary), Mr. A. Austen (Treasurer), Mr. R. Wheeler, Mr. D. Roseveare, Mr. D. Evans, Mr. P. Densham.

Apologies – Mrs. M. Claydon (Chairman), Mrs. V. Wigmore, Mr. I. Hobbs.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting. – Had been previously circulated. There being no requests for changes, the minutes were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising – None.

Chairman's Report – In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman made the following report.

"Despite the fact we have had a reasonable year thanks to inputs from our various committee members, I feel it is time we need to take stock of who we are, what we are doing, and to look at what we wish to achieve for the future.

An organisation without a goal is not going very far, to this end you will note today's agenda is looking to address some of these issues.

Our 2014 Roadshow with its theme "Aspiration & Achievement" has been quite a show stopper and has really brought to most club members what thematic is all about. We will have a hard act to follow when we do the roadshow for 2016, so now is the time to begin putting a show together that will tell the story of thematics in a simple way that every club member will appreciate and understand.

The loss of London Dealers to our Autumn Meetings while a shame, it is not the end of the world and gives us an opportunity to get back to our roots and to be inspirational. Lets do it."

Secretary's Report – The report of the Vice Chairman was reinforced along with the fact that our Roadshow had 13 bookings for the year with only two left to do. The groups Spring Meeting had seen two speakers a first for the group, both displays were well received.

Treasurers Report – The Treasurer presented a full set of accounts a copy of which is lodged with the Secretary as part of the proceedings. The group had done well through the year finishing with a slight surplus due in part to low speaker expenses for our Spring Meeting.

2015 Subscriptions – In view of our current financial state, it was recommended by the Treasurer, not to increase subscriptions this year.

Proposal to accept the Accounts was M. Ellam, seconded by David Roseveare, all agreed

Report from the Editor of WETS News – "Along with the web pages on the Wessex Federation website, WETS News is our shop window and the means by which we communicate to our own members and the outside world. Yes we really are seen by the outside world as our newsletter goes to ABPS, BTA and the RPSL Library.

We need lots of articles about what we are doing as a society and as individuals, simply reporting that someone has won a Gold Medal at some local or overseas event does not inspire the rest of the membership. What is necessary is the inspirational thought process that brought about the achievement. We need lots of stories illustrated with philatelic material that may inspire others, we need to know about finds in the dealers boxes that have inspired you. Its time for you to be inspirational.

It is really hard work putting together a WETS News Letter that hopefully people outside WETS will be inspired by. I need illustrated articles about what we are doing, so please contribute and help to keep up the standard.

WETS News really is about you, if you fail to contribute, I have nothing to print.”

Election of Officers – In view of the intent by the current Chairman to resign for personal reasons, a short discussion took place as to the manner in which we could thank the Chairman for services to the group and how the various positions could be filled for the coming year. The consensus was we should create a new position of Honorary President and fill the various positions as follows:-

Honorary President – Mary Claydon
Chairman - Jim Wigmore
Vice Chairman - Martin Ellam
Secretary - Sally Ellam
Treasurer - Andrew Austen
WETS News Editor - Jim Wigmore

It was proposed by Richard Wheeler the positions be elected on block and seconded by David Roseveare, all agreed.

Post meeting note – Mary Claydon has been advised of the above discussions and the decisions made and has gratefully accepted the honour bestowed.

The Future of WETS – Discussion took place on the following subjects:-

- **How do we wish to conduct future meetings**
 - It was considered that a themed meeting may be a good idea, with a possible dealer presence.
- **When is the best time to hold meetings.**
 - Are the current two meetings a year sufficient, would members like more and what times of the year would be best. Do we need to look at other venues e.g. Exeter?
- **Speakers we would like to see.**
 - Grace Davis was suggested for our Spring Meeting – JW/RW to action.
- **Theme for our 2016 Roadshow.**
 - It was suggested that our 2016 Roadshow should be “How to Put Together a Thematic Display/Collection” – JW to action this with assistance from other members delivering suitable material to tell the story.
- **What do we want from WETS News.**
 - We need fresh material about our members inspirational experiences.

(A lot of thought was contributed to this meeting with some very serious idea's suggested, we would very much like to hear from our membership their thoughts and suggestions about how we get back to being inspirational and what you are looking for as far as meeting venues and content. – Ed)

THE WETS AGM 2014 by Martin Ellam

There was a poor attendance at the 2014 AGM and Autumn Meeting of the West of England Thematic Society, at Buckfastleigh Town Hall on 1st November 2014. The AGM was conducted by Vice Chairman Jim Wigmore ably supported by Secretary Sally Ellam and Treasurer Andrew Austen.

After acceptance of the previous minutes Vice chairman Jim Wigmore gave the Chairman's report in the Absence of Mary Claydon. This was followed by the Secretary, Treasurer and WETS Newsletter Editor reports. The Treasurer indicated that in view of the sound financial position (*a Balance of £759.29*) there was no need to increase the Annual Subscription. This was accepted by the meeting.



The Newsletter Editor asked for more articles for the newsletter as this was our window to the world and was sent to the RPSL. He had also had requests to use some of the articles by ABPS. Mary Claydon stood down from the Chairman's position to care for husband Norman. It was proposed that in recognition of her outstanding service to thematic philately in the West of England a letter of thanks be sent and that she be made our Honorary President. This was unanimously agreed.

It was proposed that Jim Wigmore become Chairman, Martin Ellam Vice-chairman. Sally Ellam, Andrew Austen and Jim Wigmore, as newsletter editor, agreed to continue in post and all were voted in en bloc. The future of WETS was discussed at length and several ideas taken forward for development. It was suggested that the next venue be in the Exeter area. There being no further business the meeting was closed.



The business part of the meeting over, Tea and biscuits were produced while members viewed the competition entries. A raffle was arranged by Sally Ellam, here in discussion with David Roseveare, possibly on the finer points of French Philately. The draw was hilarious as once a member had won a prize a second win brought another redraw. Due to the very generous donation of prizes everyone went away with something.

The thematic competition was judged by Richard Wheeler and the WETS trophy awarded to Martin Ellam for his display of 'Diamonds'. The newly elected Chairman presented Martin with his certificate and The John Hilsdon trophy after Richard had explained why he liked the display and the reasons for his decision. The AGM threw up several points upon which to ponder and the afternoon for me was very gratifying now I have to work out what to put into next years WETS competition.



We had some very interesting entries into the John Hilsdon Trophy, however after discussion it was decided not to award the PIP Trophy on this occasion as the entries did not totally fulfil the rules of the much more exacting PIP Trophy requirements. *(Must try harder in 2015 – Ed)*

THE TOWN OF NOAH'S GREAT GRANDSON by Jim Wigmore

Many years ago I was inspired by an article in Stamp Collecting written by the late Wilfred T. F. Castle with the title "Town of Noah's Great Grandson", its basis was a religious text reproduced right. The article explained that topographer Dr Jack Goodwin had discovered some 71 alternative names for the town we now know as Larnaca a name that only appears after 1600AD.

"Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth: and unto them were sons after the Flood. Of the sons of Japheth....Javan. And of the sons JavanKITTIM"
GENESIS 6-8



The article explained the town was the centre of one of the original Ten Kingdoms that made up the Island of Cyprus. One of its sons Lazarus was a follower of Jesus and he returned to CITIUM (as it was then known by the Romans) and became Bishop, after his death the Church of St Lazarus (shown left) was built over the tomb, this church had the first campanile in the island. All very well I hear you say "but where is the inspiration in all that", it is in the stamps issued by Cyprus that can be linked back to these events. It is all this that got me thinking that with such an amazing story the best way of arranging and showing this story was thematically.

Taking this a step further and looking at all the stories relating to the island was to lead to "Aphrodites Island" Zino of Kitium (336-274BC)



Larnaca was the place chosen by the British to land and set up the first British Post Office in Cyprus. They introduced British stamps overprinted CYPRUS to be cancelled using the 942 cancel. The miniature sheet shown above gives a feel as to conditions at this time. The troubles in the island have led to the creation of a main airport at Larnaca, it may well be true that Noah sailed the waters in an Ark, but his descendants now sail the skies in planes.