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West of
England
Thematic
Society

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IN THIS ISSUE – WETS News by eMail, From our Chairman, Dates for your Diary, WETS Roadshow, Wessex Federation 2016 Competitions, A Wonderful Day in Buckfastleigh.

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 – It has been a very busy year philatelically our Roadshow has taken up a significant amount of time, see the report below on its success. Our Spring Meeting was well attended and Carol Turners Display was superb, see the report from Martin Ellam below. WETS members also did well in the Wessex Federations 2016 Competitions, see the report below. Alas our News Co-ordinator Tony Smith is not at all well and we are struggling to put together copy unless this situation can be overcome we are going to have great difficulty in producing further WETS News. I do hope that you will make the effort to get to our Autumn Meeting where I look forward to greeting as many as possible. Don't forget those John Hilsdon and PIP Trophy Entries. It was agreed during the Spring Meeting that the subject for the Autumn Meeting would be "Earth" and for the Spring Meeting in 2017 the subject would be "Power".

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – 29th October 2016 WETS Autumn Meeting at Buckfastleigh Town Hall the room will be open from 1.30 pm. We would like to see your displays on the theme of "EARTH", also your entries for the John Hilsdon Trophy and the PIP Trophy. During the course of the meeting we will conduct our AGM. Please do make the effort to attend, this is a fun afternoon.

WETS ROADSHOW – Our 2016 Roadshow with its title "How to put together a Thematic Collection/Display" has proved to be very popular in all the clubs where it has been show to date. The display encourages some very interesting discussions and lots of animation amongst its viewers. The display encourages ideas and shows how ideas can be expanded, it is going to be interesting to see how much is understood and will there be some interesting club/competition entries in the future? We were delighted to get a letter from Brixham Club after the display saying *"Big Thank You for your WETS presentation last Monday evening. I've never known the interest that the members showed and the questions they asked you and between themselves during the interval. I've had two phone calls asking who you were, how did we get hold of you andcan he come again"*.

WESSEX FEDERATION 2016 COMPETITIONS

WETS members were prominent in the Thematic categories as follows:-

THEMATICS

Sally Ellam - Dance, 69 LARGE SILVER

Martin Ellam - Diamonds in their many forms; 74 VERMEIL

Gary Green - Travel and Tourism; 82 GOLD (Class Winner)

Jim Wigmore - Along Lost Lines; 74 VERMEIL

INTRODUCTION TO THEMATICS

Gary Green; Volcanoes of the World - 77 LARGE VERMEIL

Vicki Wigmore; It's a Dog's Life - 83 GOLD (Class Winner)

Well done, Vicki Wigmore and Gary Green who both won a GOLD Medal for Thematics, there were only 5 awarded in total across all classes with a total of 24 entries. Sally and Martin Ellam along with Jim Wigmore submitted entries in the Thematics Class see the details above. Well done to all

A wonderful WETS Day in Buckfastleigh

by Martin Ellam

Eleven members enjoyed a philatelic Away Day at the town hall in Buckfastleigh on Saturday 23rd April. Once we had sorted out which room we were in and set up the boards and chairs it was time for a cup of something with a rather elegant biscuit (or two). Jim Wigmore then welcomed everyone and introduced our Guest speaker, Carol Turner from Minehead, who presented her wonderful thought provoking display "Malaria & Man". She began by giving some information on the large number of deaths caused by the mosquito and the debilitating effects on armies in the field by malaria. Following on she explained the search for an antidote and the realisation that the bark of the cinchona tree produced Quinine which protected from malaria.



In 1854 cultivation was increased when Hasskarl smuggled Cinchona plants to Buitenzorg in Java.

Later seed provided by Charles Ledger from Puno produced plants with increased Quinine yields, India also became a producer. Carol expanded on the doctors and their research for the answer to malaria explaining that based on the work of Gay-Lussac quinine was isolated by Pelletier and Caventon as early as 1820. A large amount of work went into discovering the cause, vector and identification of the type of mosquito that spread malaria. Carol

displayed a number of her treasured "props", these included Cinchona Bark, various packets of anti-malarial products and a tin of Paludrine Proguanil Hydrochloride Tablets produced by Imperial Chemical Industries. She showed her Palm D'Or medal from Torquay 2006.



Her material was wide ranging consisting of various covers, stamps and cards including a superb card sent from Monaco advertising the eradication of malaria (Paludisme), a telegram to a mum telling her that her son had been ill due to malaria, pages from a wall calendar quoting "repellent is a sure thing against malaria", a wonderful advert for Bickfords quinine wine (now that's my sort of medicine) and some hilarious French comedy cards advising "soldier take your quinine each day" and "always

sleep under your mosquito net". Carol ended by showing her roll of Cinchona bark explaining how she got it. She was thanked for her unique presentation. We all viewed the display and many comments were made on how interesting it was.

Following the talk an exquisite buffet lunch was enjoyed by all present followed by coffee or tea. After the lunch members presented a very interesting selection of displays on the subject of AIR. It always amazes me how many varied ideas these mini presentations bring forth. David Roseveare's frame was superbly presented on A3 sheets holding beautifully presented material. After



viewing the displays all set about clearing up the room and we made our various journeys to home.