



West of  
England  
Thematic  
Society

## Newsletter No.49 December 2012

### Society Officers

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**IN THIS ISSUE** – WETS News by email, WETS Roadshow, WETS Autumn Meeting & Thematix2012, John Hilsdon Trophy, PIP Trophy, Dates for Your Diary, WETS AGM Minutes, Brazil, From the Archives, Christmas/New Year Greeting.

**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](http://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.

**WETS ROADSHOW** – the 2012 Roadshow has now completed its travels, its varied content has been well received by all who have seen it. THANK YOU to all our members who have contributed to the current show. Our next Roadshow will be in 2014 and we have already started the process of gathering material.

**WETS AUTUMN MEETING & THEMATIX2012** – both these events took place on Saturday



October 27<sup>th</sup> 2012 at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel Ashburton. There was a good attendance from WETS members and philatelists from other clubs and societies although the clash between this event and Cornex did not help.

The photo left shows members busy at the various dealer stands. Several gems were acquired to add to existing or planned thematic stories.

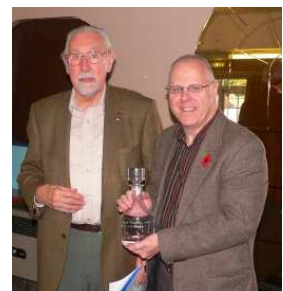
We thank all the dealers for attending this event, we understand a similar event is planned for 2013 which we will eagerly look forward to and report on to members shortly. WETS took the opportunity to

hold their much delayed AGM see the separate report below. WETS members excelled themselves with some memorable competition entries for both the John Hilsdon Trophy and the new PIP Trophy see the reports on both below. The various entries were shown on the Wessex Frames this year see the photos.



**JOHN HILSDON TROPHY** – Was won this year by Ron Sambell with his entry “Going Under Cover”, Ron is shown left being presented with the trophy by WETS Vice Chairman Jim Wigmore.

**PIP TROPHY** – Was won this year by Gary Green with his entry “Beekeeping & the Life of the Honey Bee”. Gary is shown right being presented with the trophy by the donator of the Trophy Richard Wheeler.



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**WETS Spring Meeting** 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at Dartmoor Lodge – speaker & booking details in the next newsletter.

**WETS AGM** – date and venue to be advised in next newsletter.

**WETS Autumn Meeting at THEMATIX2013** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at Dartmoor Lodge.

## **Minutes of the AGM of the West of England Thematic Society Dartmoor Lodge, Ashburton on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 11.00 am.**

### **Present**

Mrs. M. Claydon (Chairman), Mr. J. Wigmore (Vice Chairman and Newsletter Editor), Mr. R. Wheeler (Treasurer), Mrs. G. Gray (Secretary), Mr. T. Smith (Publicity Officer), Mrs. V. Wigmore, Mr. A. Austen, Mrs. A. Burden, Mr. R. Sambell, Mr. M. Ellam and Mrs. S. Ellam, Mr. D. Roseveare, Mr. T. Fray and Mr. D. Ashton.

**Apologies** - Mrs. L. Marley, Mr. I. Hobbs.

**Minutes of the Previous AGM** – These had been published in the WETS News and were proposed, seconded and agreed by all.

**Chairman's Report** - Mary Claydon started by saying that this would be a very short Chairman's report but would like to thank all the members of the committee for the work they put in over the year which no one ever sees but which goes on in the background. Special mention for Jim Wigmore and his superb work with our Newsletter, also to those who sent their good wishes after the horrendous accident she & Norman were involved in last June and she was glad to report that Norman was now making a wonderful recovery.

She said the Treasurer would give us the present membership figures which she fancied would show a fall but hopefully not too great a fall.

Philately has lost several good friends this year among them with great regret was a great friend of Norman and herself - David Herry. Gillian knows she has all our sympathy and thankfully she is continuing as Secretary of WETS.

Last year was the first year we had the London Thematix dealers down in the West Country and thankfully this year they are making a return visit - Please make it worth while for them so that they come for many more years.

**Secretary's Report** - Gillian stated that as we would like to keep this meeting short, she would just like to thank the Committee and Members for their help, condolences and cards of sympathy regarding David's death, and during the last few months.

**Treasurer's Report** - Richard Wheeler reported that the Membership stood at 42 with a balance of £643.49. Subscriptions should have gone up last year as agreed but will definitely be £5 this year. He has booked the Dartmoor Lodge for a Members Meeting for the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and would like to stand down as Treasurer.

Mary gave a vote of thanks to Richard for all his hard work during the years. Insurance to continue with Barry Horn. After discussion it was agreed that we should join ABPS this would cost us £42 this year.

**Newsletter Editor's Report** - Jim Wigmore reported that very few do not receive the Bulletin by email, but that he required more material and pictures. He also stated that WETS members could advertise items for sale in the Newsletter if they wished.

**Publicity Officer's Report** - Tony Smith asked members to show the Bulletin around their clubs and by word of mouth promote WETS hopefully gaining new members.

**Election of Officers** - Andrew Austen has volunteered to take on the role of Treasurer. All other officers were willing to remain in post. It was proposed by Alison Burden and seconded by Martin Ellam all should be en bloc. This was carried by all present.

**Any Other Business** - Sally Ellam asked if it would be possible next year for us not to clash with Cornex. Mary stated this would be done, there may however be a different venue.

Richard Wheeler reported that the new PIP Trophy was about the Plan, Introduction(Storyline) & Presentation of the Exhibit. The Plan is how you tell the story and not the material in it and he hoped that this would attract other people to enter.

**ALONG LOST LINES** – Our Vice Chairman has now shown this display to Exmouth, Torbay & Teignbridge, Bideford and Dawlish Clubs. In all cases it has generated much interest, at Bideford the Railway Enthusiasts turned out in force with as many visitors to the meeting as members, some of who then joined the club. **Well advertised displays, with Good Speakers equals new members perhaps?**



**BRAZIL** - It's the fifth largest country on earth almost three and a half million square miles with a population of 175 million. You probably know Brazil covers almost half of South America, Rio de Janeiro is its biggest city and its most famous son is the footballer Pele. But what else could you tell us about this nation, its people and its history past & present?

If you watched BBC world traveller Michael Pallin's recent four part documentary, he quickly declared it "had risen out of nowhere to a 20th century Superpower in less than 100 years". How else could it have won the world votes to stage the World Cup finals in 2014 and the Summer Olympics in 2016.

Brazil's football fame (World Cup winnings medals for Pele in 1958, 1962 and 1970) plus successes in 1992 and 2002 after he hung up his boots) means they deserve to hold the finals, while its Olympic officials were everywhere taking notes as London showed how to stage a complex, multi-event competition.

Unlike China in 2008, Brazil will revel in having the world's media and sport enthusiasts to arrive



and look at every part of their life.



"Assuming they will fly into Rio de Janeiro as I did with the England football team and journalists for a 1984 match, they will look down on a magnificent 98ft statue, Cristo Redemtor, which stands on top of a 2,300ft mountain to guard the city spread out below" writes Tony Smith.

But enough nostalgia from a long-retired football journalist, let's look at Brazil via philately.

Surprisingly, it was second only to Great Britain in issuing adhesive stamps. It's first, in August 1843, are now referred to as 'bullseyes'. Brazilians used a collection and delivery service of their own from 1849 and today's stamps tell the countries' history with commemorative and definitive issues.



Why is Portuguese the language of Brazil when everyone around it speaks Spanish?

Blame the Vatican in the 15th/16th century and a captain who got lost in the South Atlantic.

A pope drew up a line around the globe to ensure Catholic nations didn't fight each other when new "discoveries" were made.

Portuguese seamen were sailing around Africa to reach and return from the rich India. But when in 1500 a captain, Pedro Alvares, was blown off course and landed on the coast of modern Brazil. Believing he was on the 'right side' of the papal line, Alvares claimed the land for his king.

Earlier popes got into the debate when they told European explorers if they found Indians living in West Africa they must urge them to become Christians. If they didn't (*probably didn't understand what they were being told*) they became slaves.

When rich Portuguese settlers crossed the Atlantic to see Alvares' land they found it had everything needed, except people to plant and harvest crops.

The answer was obvious, thousands of slaves were brought.

Obviously they were spoken to in Portuguese (a far from simple language) but the slaves had to learn it and learn how to work the huge plantations.

Today people talk of slaves brought from West Africa and put the USA high on the list. In fact, Brazil had almost twice as many.

In the last century black Brazilians made a vital contribution to South America's biggest nation. From the '50s they have played a key role in creating a "Superpower".

"Looking back to my brief visit half the people in Rio I met spoke English albeit with an American accent!"

The first three 'Bull Eyes' were black-on-white and imperforate. A mint set (if you can find one) will cost you around £4,500. Similar sets appeared in 1844, '50 and '54 before Queen Victoria finally had to share philatelic fame in 1866 when Emperor Dom Pedro appeared on Brazil's definitives.



The Emperor, the colour of his beard is important for South American specialists, appeared on 24 issues through to 1884. In 1908 a commemorative underlined the 'formal friendship' between King Carlos of Portugal and Brazil's President Affonso Penna.



Continuing through the SG catalogue, one spots how Brazil launched its way into the 20th century with a 1920 series featuring Transport, Industry, Agriculture, Aviation and Shipping, while in 1922 three commemoratives marked the Centenary of Independence. Despite breaking free from the

Portuguese Empire it was not totally forgotten in its history although Brazil now considered itself a full modern world nation.

Sadly, stamps over the next 40 years its' stamps don't leap out of the catalogue page. But European royalty, U.S. Presidents like Trueman and Eisenhower, plus political leaders from around the world visited Brazil, even Pope

John Paul XXIII in 1964. Brazil's growing industry was proudly featured by the much-improved stamps that arrived in the 1970s and the first sight of the world's new "Superpower" was becoming visible in its philately.

### **FROM THE ARCHIVES** – *the following is reprinted from The Wessex Federation News No.1 of February 1975.*

**My Theme & How it Started** – If any member had said to me last January “You will start a Thematic Collection this year”. I would probably have said “never” or such like, now I have thirty pages of a Thematic collection, formed in four months.

It all started when I wrote to Miss Jennifer Toombs, the stamp designer to ask her if I might borrow some of her roughs to augment my Tristan display, as I was showing it to the Plymouth Society in February. Her reply was very nice and obliging, but in return for the favour, she asked me to advertise the “Guild of St. Gabriel” – a society for the collectors of stamps with a religious theme. I wrote back saying that I would, and I did, but regretted that I was not interested in thematic collecting myself. I said that if I ever should be tempted to collect a theme, it would probably be “Freemasonry”, and I doubted whether the guild could help me with that one.

When I received her reply, you could have knocked me down with a feather, enclosed was a beautiful Masonic Cover in silk, issued to coincide with the printing of a French Masonic Stamp, and a letter stating that a friend of hers was a Freemason, and he had sent me this cover as he did not collect to this theme. Miss Tombs hoped it might be a starter for my collection, and if I wished to make a donation, would I please make it to The Guild of St Gabriel. So I joined. She also gave me the address of a Reverend member who was an expert on the stamps depicting The Old Testament. He did help me a little too. I wrote to the Hon Membership Secretary of the Guild to see whether she could put me in touch with any other member who collected this theme, but she told me that out of the three hundred members on the list, not one had this subject.

I next wrote to the Hon Sec. of the Devon & Cornwall Masonic Study Group, and he put me in touch with a Saltash member who had a collection. This member was very helpful but was mainly concerned with collecting the five hundred or so Freemasons who have appeared on stamps. Then a lady once again helped out. A member of our Plymouth Society lent me a couple of handbooks published by the American Topical Association. So far this lady has not asked me to contribute to her favourite charity.

So, from one cover, and with a little help from various sources, and my own knowledge. I have joined the ever growing band of collectors who are taking up a theme, in these days of never ending new issues.

T. J. Fray – *(Trevor went on to join WETS, is still a member today and he was a contributor to the 2012 WETS Roadshow. Never knew about the Tristan interest though! – Ed)*

Our editor has been painting again.

*The scene is Postbridge in the snow*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL OUR MEMBERS**

