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West of
England
Thematic
Society

Newsletter No.54 September 2014

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IN THIS ISSUE – WETS News by email, WETS Autumn Meeting and AGM, Minutes of the 2013 AGM, Directions to Buckfastleigh, Mail by Rail, Korea likes Puppets

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.

The WETS Autumn Meeting & AGM will be held in the Buckfastleigh Town Hall, Ashburton on Saturday 1st November, 2014 at 1.30 pm.

We hope that members will submit entries for the John Hilsdon Memorial Trophy Competition, all entries will also be included in the PIP Trophy Competition, if for any reason you are unable to attend the meeting, we hope you will still submit an entry into the competitions. Competition rules are those agreed by the Wessex Federation for Thematics with the PIP Trophy looking at Presentation, Introduction & Plan only.

We anticipate the AGM will not take very long, we will be concentrating on the main aspects of the meeting, looking at the exhibits and discussion what we wish to see in the future.

The Agenda for the AGM is as follows:-

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Secretary's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Newsletter Editor's Report
8. Publicity Officer's Report
9. Election of Officers
10. Any Other Business. - Speaker for Spring 2015 Meeting & location of Meeting
- Theme for next Autumn Meeting.
- Theme for the next WETS Roadshow.

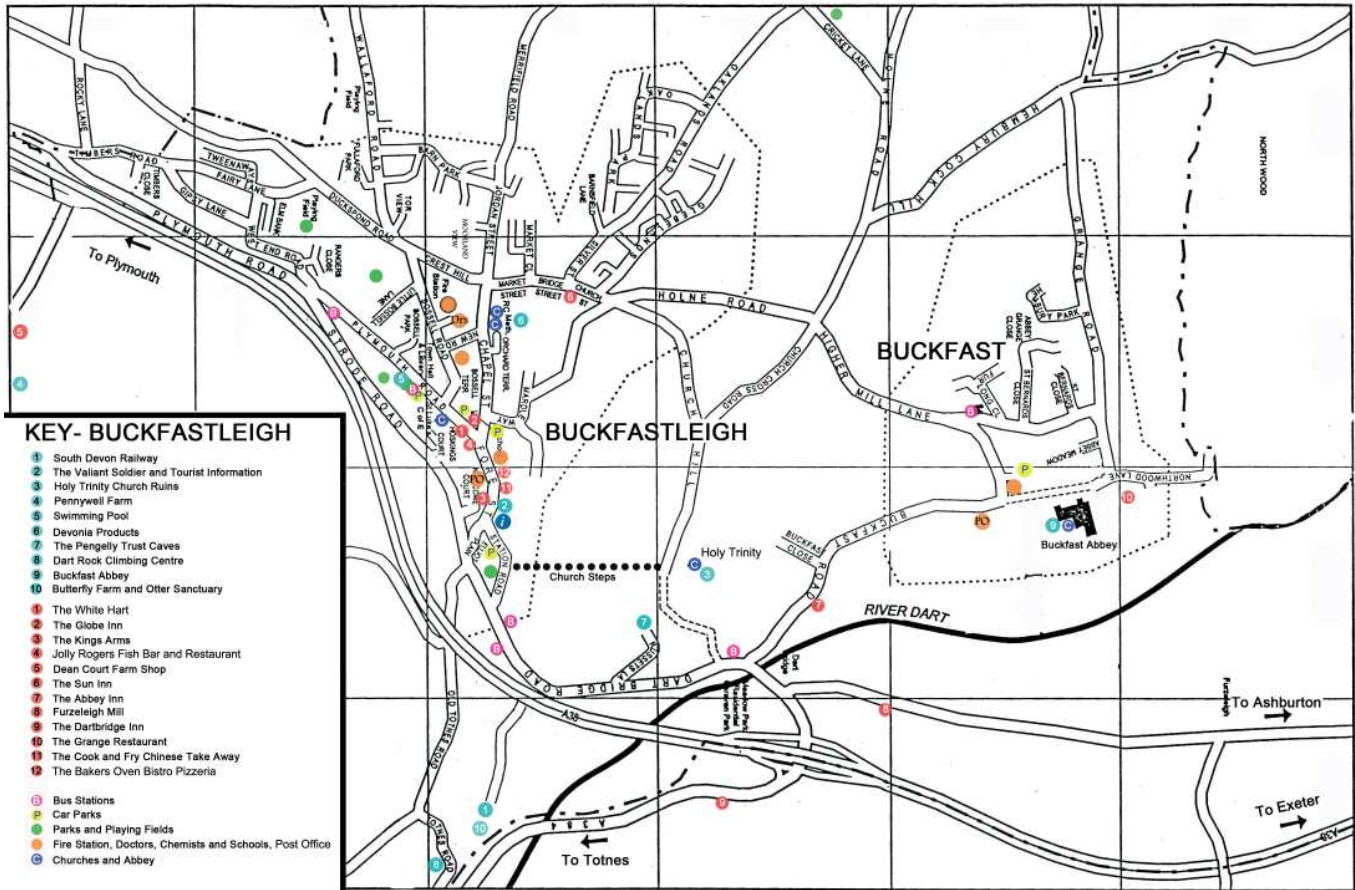
Following the AGM we will be serving refreshments, plus running a raffle (*prize donations would be appreciated*). This will be followed by viewing of the competition entries as judged by Richard Wheeler, followed by presentation of trophy's to the winners.

Sally Ellam has already contacted the present holders of the trophies and requested their return prior to the meeting

The address for Buckfastleigh Town Hall is 34 Bossell Road, Buckfastleigh TQ11 0DD, the approach from either direction is via Plymouth Road and Car Parking is in the Public Car Park situated on the R.H. side of Plymouth Road just prior to the left hand turn into Bossell Road.

A map of Buckfastleigh is printed below for those that have not visited this venue previously.

DO TRY AND MAKE THE EFFORT TO ATTEND



The minutes of the last AGM were printed in WETS News No.52 for the benefit of those who have either lost or overlooked the minutes, they are copied below.

Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the West of England Thematic Society

held at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel, Ashburton on Saturday October 27th 2013 at 11 am.

Present - Mrs. M. Claydon (Chairman) Mr. J. Wigmore (Vice Chairman and Newsletter Editor) Mr. A. Austin (Treasurer) Mrs. G. Gray (Secretary) Mr. R. Wheeler, Mr. M. & Mrs. S. Ellam, Mr. D. Roseveare, Mrs. V. Wigmore, Mr. T. Fray, Mr. G. Green, Mrs. L. Marley, Mrs. A. Burden.

1 - Apologies - Mr. T. Smith.

2 - Minutes of the previous A.G.M. - These had been published in the WETS Newsletter and were proposed seconded and agreed by all.

3 – Matters Arising – None

4 - Chairman's Report. - The Chairman said in view of her personal circumstances she had nothing to report but wished to express her gratitude to Jim Wigmore, Gillian Gray, and Andrew Austen for all their work during the year.

5 - Secretary's Report. - Our AGM and Thematix 2012 at the Dartmoor Lodge, Ashburton on 27th October proved very popular with much material to be found from the Dealers. The same day members entered a Thematic Competition with Ron Sambell winning the John Hilsdon Trophy with his entry 'Going Under Cover' and Gary Green won the PIP Trophy with 'Bee Keeping and the Life of the Honey Bee', this being a new Trophy donated by Richard Wheeler

The Secretary then stated that reluctantly she was tendering her resignation due to the fact that she would be leaving Plymouth to return to her home town of Falmouth.

After some discussion Mrs. S. Ellam agreed to take on the post temporarily pending a permanent secretary being found. The Chairman expressed her thanks to Mrs. Ellam

On the 13th April 2013 our Annual WETS Day at the same venue took place when Wendy Buckle, The President of the BTA entertained us with a superb display and talk on the subject of Paper and Paper

Making entitled the "Write Stuff".

Societies have been submitting their dates for the next WETS Roadshow in 2014. This is going well with only a couple more to come. (i.e. Mid Devon, Launceston and Dawlish)

Finally I would like to thank the Committee members for their hard work and to everyone for supporting WETS.

6 - Treasurer's Report - The Treasurer reported that the accounts were virtually in the same position as last year and he did not think there was need to raise the subscription There was some discussion and it was finally agreed the subscription should rise to £6.00. proposed by Mr. Richard Wheeler seconded Mr. Gary Green and agreed by all.

7 - News Editor's Report. - The News Editor said that WETS News continued to be popular with some members joining the Society just to receive it. However members were requested to send in both articles and illustrations. Illustrations to go with the articles are very important and give WETS News its unique look and feel. Most members now get WETS News by email which keeps our costs to a minimum.

8 – Publicity Officers Report – None given.

9 - Election of Officers. – Other than the Secretary all the other officers had agreed to stand. It was proposed, seconded, and passed unanimously that the officers be returned en bloc.

10 – Any Other Business - The WETS Day on 12th April 2014, it was reported that there would be two speakers BTA Speaker, Barry Stag will be showing "Parachuting" and our Vice Chairman Jim Wigmore will be showing "Along Lost Lines". More details in the next news letter. The Chairman thanked all for attending, the meeting closed at 11.45 am

*This is the night mail crossing the border,
Bringing the cheque and the postal order,
Letters for the rich, letters for the poor,
The shop at the corner and the girl next door.
Pulling up Beatock, a steady climb:
The gradients against her, but she's on time.
Past cotton-grass and Moorland boulder,
Snorting noisily as she passes
Silent miles of wind bent grasses....*

MAIL BY RAIL – Any mention of mail by rail inevitably brings to mind the words of W. H. Auden's poem "Night Mail", a few of the words are produced inset left. The word format reflects the noise of the wheels striking the rail joints (*removed on today's railways*). However mail first travelled by rail as early as 1830. The relationship between the railways and the Post Office has not always been a happy one, with the Post Office consistently claiming they are being overcharged.



The Post Office decided it could make use of many of the Stagecoaches displaced by the railways to carry parcels, the picture right shows an example.

Mail so moved was marked COACH – ROAD BORNE, see the example below.



Note the parcel was actually posted at a Railway Station and was removed by the Post Office to be transported by a slower means. The Railway companies were quite unmoved by this Post Office posturing knowing full well they had the upper hand. In more recent times history is starting to repeat itself. In 2003 Royal Mail cancelled its contract with the railway favouring total movement of mail by



either air or road. They were starting to return mail to rail by 2004 and regular movements of mail are now scheduled from 2008. Rail is still king over road, being quicker and requiring less staff. Special carriages were developed for the collection, carriage and sorting of mail on the move. Known as Travelling Post Offices (TPO) each had its own hand stamps denoting the direction of travel.

The postcard left shows the inside of a TPO carriage and the sorting process by hand of mail being picked up and dropped off during the journey.

The entire letter shown below was carried on the Manchester TPO from London in 1871 and carries on the rear the cancel of the TPO or Sorting Tender as it was then known.



The TPO had a facility to post



letters up to the time of departure. Letters posted into the TPO were required to have a Late Fee payment, in the form of an additional postage stamp. Examples posted without the fee being paid were marked and postage due was supposed to be collected from the recipient. An example is shown above.

The TPO was able to collect and drop off mail not only at its various stops, but also on the move using line side apparatus and a catch net on the side of the TPO. Only one example has been found to date of this equipment on a stamp.

As early as 1863 the Post Office

started to experiment with an underground pneumatic railway system, it was not a success and it was not until 1927 when the Post Office Railway was opened between the Main Railway Terminals and Mount Pleasant that mail was successfully moved by underground railway in London.



YOUR STORIES ARE REQUIRED FOR FUTURE NEWS LETTERS

KOREA LIKES PUTTETS – WETS member Richard Wheeler achieved a Gold Medal at PhilaKorea – Well done Richard