

The WESSEX BULLETIN

Journal of the Wessex Philatelic Federation

Visit our website at www.wessexpf.org.uk

2017/02

Points of Contact – Editor - New Editor Required
Secretary - Sally Ellam martin.sally101@btinternet.com
IN THIS ISSUE – Wessex Bulletin by eMail, Wessex Federation Website, New Editor Required, What's on and Where, Around our Clubs. A Loose Connection to Sidmouth, Crediton, 2017 WETS Spring Meeting.

WESSEX BULLETIN by email – Requests to be included on the circulation list should go to our webmaster Jim Wigmore at wessexweb@talktalk.net please include your full name, club and the email address your Bulletin is to be sent to.

Please Note this is a totally secure process – *Your email address will remain secure, each copy will reach you on a personal basis without disclosing your email address to the other recipients.*

A number of our new readers have sent request for copies of earlier bulletins – **PLEASE NOTE THESE CAN BE FOUND AND DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEBSITE – see the Publications Page.**

WESSEX FEDERATION WEBSITE at www.wessexpf.org.uk – has been completely updated to a new format, please ensure your club details are correct. **OUR WEBSITE IS YOUR SHOP WINDOW. You can feed information direct to the Webmaster via the website. NEW WEBMASTER REQUIRED** unless we have a volunteer to take over the maintenance of our website by September 2017 this facility will no longer be maintained.

NEW BULLETIN EDITOR REQUIRED – We still require a new Bulletin Editor, details of the job specification were published in Bulletin 2016/04. **Unless this post is filled by September 2017 you will no longer have a Bulletin.**

WHATS ON & WHERE

20th May 2017 - Redex at Redruth

5th August 2017 - Newex - at St Eval

9th September 2017 - The 2017 Wessex Federation Competition Entries will be shown at St Michaels Church Hall, Chudleigh Road, Kingstiegnon, TQ12 3JU – Entry forms are available directly from the Federation website

28th October 2017 - Cornex at Liskeard

Please ensure you pass on information about forthcoming events to our Bulletin Editor this should include information about local auctions of philatelic material or stamp fairs taking place here in our region.

AROUND OUR CLUBS

Date	Meeting Description	Speaker	Club
02/05/2017	AGM & Silent Auction		Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
02/05/2017	An Evening with David Lethbridge	David Lethbridge	Dartmouth Stamp Club
03/05/2017	Morocco	David Evans	Plymouth Philatelic Society
03/05/2017	Club Auction (Spring Clean)		Exmouth Stamp Club
09/05/2017	Mystery	Nigel Cox	Minehead Stamp Club
09/05/2017	Wessex Roadshow	Wessex Speaker	Brixham & Paignton Stamp Club

09/05/2017	Visit to Axe Vale Club		Dawlish Stamp Club
10/05/2017	WESSEX Roadshow	Wessex Speaker	Dawlish Stamp Club
11/05/2017	AGM followed by Bring & Buy		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
11/05/2017	Bob Entertains	Bob Wheeler	Torquay & Teignbridge SC
11/05/2017	Trading, Postcards of Royalty	Terry & Janet Cowland	Launceston Stamp Club
15/05/2017	Members G, H and I and New Additions		Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
15/05/2017	Insuring your Collection & Nyasaland	Barry Horne	Sidmouth & Honiton
17/05/2017	King Edward VII	Alan Vaughan	Exmouth Stamp Club
25/05/2017	David Lethbridge Entertains and Stamp Sales	David Lethbridge	Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
25/05/2017	AGM & Informal		Torquay & Teignbridge SC
30/05/2017	Visit from South Sidmouth & Honiton		Mid-Devon Philatelic Society
30/05/2017	Club Visit to Mid-Devon		Sidmouth & Honiton
31/05/2017	German Locals	David Jefferies	Liskeard Stamp Club
06/06/2017	AGM & Kiloware Night		Dartmouth Stamp Club
07/06/2017	Annual General Meeting		Plymouth Philatelic Society
07/06/2017	Members present "I'd sell everything except"		Exmouth Stamp Club
08/06/2017	Philip Milton Entertains	Philip Milton	Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
08/06/2017	Trading, Italian Prisoners of War in East Africa & Touva	Kevin Webb, Peter Chantry	Launceston Stamp Club
12/06/2017	AGM & Ken Fox Competition		Brixham & Paignton Stamp Club
13/06/2017	Wiltshire Military Mail	Malcolm D. Watts	Minehead Stamp Club
14/06/2017	Visit by Axe Vale Club		Dawlish Stamp Club
19/06/2017	Visit to Taunton Club		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
19/06/2017	British Occupation of Italian Colonies	Mike Sanders	Sidmouth & Honiton
21/06/2017	Informal Swaps & Selling		Exmouth Stamp Club
28/06/2017	AGM & Members Displays		Liskeard Stamp Club

LAUNCESTON STAMP CLUB - held their monthly meeting at the Yeolmbridge Methodist Chapel Hall, Ladycross on 9th March. Club Chairman Viv Sandercock opened the meeting and introduced the evening's Speaker, Martin Hopkinson from Mevagissey, who presented his Newfoundland collection. Martin introduced his display with a summary of the "modern" history of Newfoundland starting with Norseman, Leif Ericsson, in around 1000 AD with the first European explorer, John Cabot from Bristol, visiting Newfoundland in 1497 followed by Portuguese, Spanish and French migrant fishermen. In 1583 Sir Humphrey Gilbert claimed the island as an English colony although the first settlers did not arrive until 1610 when John Guy landed with 39 other settlers. Although this was not a great success, settlement from Europe continued reaching its peak in the 19th century. Newfoundland was organized as a Colony in 1825, was self-governing from 1855–1934, and held Dominion status from 1907–1949. In 1949 Newfoundland and Labrador united with Canada, to become the 10th province of Canada. Its permanent population then was only 6,000, the population of the province is now over 500,000. Newfoundland issued its first stamps in 1857, this was an imperforate 1d stamp printed in England. A mail service to and from Labrador began in 1863 when Newfoundland let its first mail contract. During this early period Newfoundland had a form of dual currency, UK Sterling and the local domestic currency. These were interchangeable but of differing value. Stamps for use within Newfoundland were denominated in local currency whilst stamps for overseas postage were in British pence. In 1865, the first decimal currency stamps were issued and all future stamps were in cents and dollars. Most of the remaining 19th century stamps were printed

by the American Bank Note Company of New York. Numerous interesting postage stamps based on Newfoundland and Royal themes were issued during the first half of the 20th century. Up to 1949, while a Dominion and Crown Colony, Newfoundland issued almost 300 postage stamps and some 30 items of postal stationery. Newfoundland ceased to issue its own stamps on joining Canada in 1949.

Martin's collection covers the entire period from 1857 to 1949 and is virtually complete with a copy or copies of all issues and most known varieties. On display were some 200 A4 sheets of stamps all neatly mounted and annotated together with numerous examples of both definitive and commemorative issues, postal stationery and other items of interest. One such item of special interest to French Colonial collectors was a cover with France Libre airmail stamps from St. Pierre et Miquelon. SPM is a small French island possession close to Newfoundland and although this letter originated there, it was franked and censored in Newfoundland en route to USA.

DAWLISH STAMP CLUB – see the cutting from the Dawlish Gazette.

Are you getting your meetings mentioned in the local press if so please pass them to the editor.

MID DEVON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Monday 24th April saw Bob Wheeler from Totnes entertain with a wonderful afternoon display of Essays and collections. The meeting title was 'Bob Wheeler Entertains' and we were thoroughly entertained in the first half by Bob's unique collection of design drawings, essays and proofs, collected over many years, the essays were never used, some getting to the print stage

History talk receives stamp of approval

AT the latest Dawlish Stamp Club meeting, club secretary Jim Wigmore made a presentation to the club about Cyprus under British rule.

The presentation included all stamp issues from 1878-1961 as well as varieties not listed in Stanley Gibbons' catalogue.

Also included were the use of the stamps, from various postage rates over the period, and some early examples of registration – Post Office experiments to speed up the mail in the 1920s, the 1932 direct air mail service and the summer-only air mail services up to the Second World

War and a look at the rural postal service and publicity handstamps.

A vote of thanks was given by the chairman Peter Halmkin for a very comprehensive display.

The club will be visiting Axminster club on May 9, and our next meeting will be on May 10 in the mayor's parlour at the Manor House, Dawlish, when we will be welcoming the chairman of Wessex Philatelic Federation who will be presenting this year's Wessex Roadshow.

More details from our secretary on 01626 864844,

Visitors are always welcome to meetings.



before being rejected. The military vehicle set which was rejected due to the Falklands war in 1982 was an especially beautiful set which suffered thus, sadly never to see the light in the philatelist's collection. His laid back easy presentational style was brilliant and the material was awe inspiring, He explained the difference between essays and proofs quite clearly to his audience before we broke for refreshments. Bobs second offering was as fascinating as the first and

equally varied. He showed a variety of different collections connected to the Post Office, with some items no longer issued, like PO Money Orders, advertising PO bank bookmarks and vehicle tax disks. He showed a very rare Car trade Plate License used for those red and white plates one sees on cars being delivered. Post Office savings bank and training were extensively covered with the heavy black lined training stamps on display. The afternoon was vibrant and educational with a buzz in the room and lots of questions asked and answered. a vote of thanks was proposed by Alison Burden to great applause and we all left on a philatelic high.

IF YOUR CLUB IS NOT MENTIONED THEY HAVE NOT SUBMITTED A REPORT

Did you know that Sidmouth has a (loose) connection to philately?

By Malcolm J. Givens

Some philatelists collect material connected to the Boxer Rebellion, in China in 1900. More philatelists have probably seen the film '55 Days at Peking'. The Times correspondent in Peking, who sent much information to London before, during and the siege of the Legation Quarter, which was featured in the film was an Australian, Dr George Morrison. Morrison's life before he worked for The Times was a swash-buckling tale of exploration and travel. At a very young age he walked from Melbourne to



Adelaide and from northern Queensland to Melbourne, whilst investigating the 'Queensland Slave trade' for The Age, a Melbourne newspaper. These were no mean feats in 1880s Australia.

Morrison soon went on an expedition to New Guinea, a wild territory. There he was wounded by a spear, and had spear fragments in his back, until he travelled to



Edinburgh to become a doctor.

He had the spear fragments removed and qualified as a doctor. Instead of returning to Melbourne when he qualified Morrison went to the Caribbean for a mining company. That adventure was short lived, and he intended to return to Australia. On reaching the Philippines, he changed his plans and went to Japan and then over to Shanghai. From there he walked to Rangoon in Burma!

He then returned to London and published an account of his adventures. It was this that prompted The Times to employ him as a special correspondent. He had many 'scoops' for The Times, not least accounts of the Peking

siege. After the siege in Peking he worked for the Chinese Government as an adviser, and helped bring China into WWI. After WWI he returned to England, with his wife and went to live in Sidmouth. His stay there was short because he died there on 30 May 1920. His wife Jenny Wark Robin Morrison paid four guineas for a magnificently situated triple plot (R34, R36 & R38) in Temple Street Cemetery, Sidmouth. When she died in 1922 she was buried alongside her deceased husband.

Strangely, Sidmouth makes little to no mention of its adventurous swash-buckling short-term resident. The Man Who Died Twice, by Peter Thompson and Peter Macklin is a very readable biography of Morrison. The title was chosen because at the end of the siege in Peking Morrison read his own obituary in The Times, published because the paper had not heard from him for some time because of the siege, and thought that he had been killed!

CREDITON by Malcolm J Givens & Jim Wigmore.

General Redvers Buller VC born & lived at Downes Estate near Crediton. Redvers Buller is remembered in rather negative terms because of his failures in the Boer War of 1899-1902. He has become a byword for military stupidity and out-dated attitudes to changing 19th century society. The photo of him that accompanies this biography shows him in the uniform of the King's Royal Rifle Corps into which regiment he was commissioned in 1858, and of which he was appointed Colonel in 1895. The usual photo of him, that is familiar to many, is less flattering and tends to reinforce the general view of a bovine character. The association with cattle comes from the cow-like expression, the name Buller and the fact that he came from landed gentry. He certainly favoured country people over town people and was prejudiced against 'suburban-bred' officers.



Buller's early military career was very successful. He was keen and tough with good leadership skills. These were noted by Sir Garnet Wolseley (later to become first British Governor of Cyprus) on the Red River Expedition in Canada, and he gained entrance into Wolseley's 'ring' of favourites.



Buller was a major at the beginning of the Anglo-Zulu War and, although he was an officer in the 60th Rifles, was now, as a lieutenant-colonel, in command of the Frontier Light Horse which was part of Evelyn Wood's no.4 Column. He had served with Chelmsford in the 9th Cape Frontier War where he had proved that he was ideal to command the independently minded colonials. He was well respected for his personal courage,

strength and powers of leadership. Wood used his skills to lead the mounted colonial and Boer irregulars on frequent recce patrols. Buller was also successful in bringing Uhumu's tribe of 700 defecting Zulus safely to Kambula. He led Wood's main attacking force in the battle of Hlobane but the Zulus were too numerous and a retreat was ordered. The descent through Devil's Pass was a dangerous undertaking and there were many acts of bravery. When most of them, under Buller's leadership, had reached the camp, after dark, it was discovered that some men of Captain Barton's troop had been left behind. Buller returned immediately to look for them and rescued 3 men. For this action he won the VC. His mounted troops also fought with great bravery at the battle of Kambula. In the second invasion of Zululand Buller was again in command of all the mounted infantry and irregular colonial cavalry in Evelyn Wood's Flying Column.





2017 WETS SPRING MEETING – There was a good attendance at this meeting of WETS members and guests at this meeting held in Buckfastleigh Town Hall on Saturday 29th April and there was a real “Buzz in the Air” when WETS member Gary Green gave a presentation on “The Life of the Honey Bee”.

Everyone was enthralled as we learnt that man had been a bee keeper since more than 10,000BC, the various types of hive that had been used and the relationship of the various types of Bee to the Queen Bee. We learnt that the Queen Bee laid 1000s of eggs and she was able to

select the type of bee that would be created from each egg she laid,



We were surprised to learn that the worker bee only lived for approximately 25-35 days and for the first third of its life it was a cleaner in the hive, in the second phase of its life it was a defender of the hive and in the final third of its life it was a forager bringing nectar and pollen back to the hive for the creation of honey and feeding the next brood of bees. The various threats to the hive were explained, how honey was collected by man and what products were created from both the honey and the wax used to contain the honey in the hive. The worldwide distribution of bees was also well illustrated along with the various types of bee to be found worldwide. This was a very comprehensive display much appreciated by all.



After Gary’s display guests were given a superb Buffet Lunch thanks to some hard work by Sally and Martin Ellam. Following Lunch attendee’s put up their offerings based on the theme of Flight, 10 displays were shown as follows :-

“Travel Through the Air”, “Airlines Around the World”, “British Owls”, “Flights of Fantasy”, “A Day in the Fresh Air”, “Orchids in Flight”, “Balloon Post”, “Up Up and Away”, “Aspects of Flight” and “Flight”.



Some thoughts were given regarding the date and content of the Autumn Meeting and we await with baited breath notification from Chairman Martin Ellam regarding the meeting. If it is as good as this meeting don’t miss it.