

SOUTHAMPTON AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Tuesday, 3rd September 2019

St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street, Southampton

LOCAL AREA STAMPS & POST OFFICE LABELS

CHRIS WHEELER

Present: Julian Jones (President), Mel Bradshaw (Chairman),
Plus 28 Members, as per attached list.

Apologies: Received from TWO members

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Chairman welcomed the members and the Guest Speaker.
2. The Minutes from the early August Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman
3. The Chairman asked Members to ensure they were signed in and also, if they were attending the Hampex, could they sign the separate sheet if they able to help on the Society stand.
4. The Secretary told members that there were a number of copies of the current Stamp Fairs and Auctions booklet. The Society had advertised the Grand Auction in this issue.
5. The Hon. Auctioneer told the members that the catalogue for our Grand Auction was included with the latest Postmark. There were 1156 lots, the biggest yet and the estimated value was £40K. Any unsold lots would be returned to the vendors so that next year's auctions would start with a clean sheet. He also said that he would be at Hampex and if anyone really needed to see any of the lots then they might be available in the morning. This offer was limited to space and availability.
6. The Chairman reminded members that the next Tuesday meeting would be the Postcards Displays. This year it would be up to the members to provide the displays, not the Postcard Society.
7. The next Thursday afternoon meeting will be on the 12th September. The Membership Secretary asked that anyone attending to park off-site as parking in the immediate vicinity of the hall was causing problems with the residents..
8. The Guest Speaker in October will be Malcolm Montgomery who will be returning with his Solent Marine Postal History presentation.
9. Also in October, on the 28th, is the visit to the Ferndown Society. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Kevin Chard, 01489 574834.
10. The Chairman brought to the attention of the members the Raffle, which is held during the Grand Auction. More good quality prizes would be appreciated. Also help with serving the Refreshments during the viewing period and the Auction interval.

Before introducing tonight's speaker the President mentioned that the late John Minns' collections were being auctioned by the Grosvenor. John had extensive material from the Isle of Wight.

He then introduced the returning guest speaker, Chris Wheeler, who is the Chairman of the Bournemouth & Poole Society. The Society have just joined the Hampshire Federation.

Pt 1 - LOCAL PEOPLE ON STAMPS

Chris explained that this section of the evening would be concerned with famous people on stamps, both GB and abroad, who had direct connections with Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire. His display covered 90 sheets and a collection of 62 different individuals. Among this diverse array of characters were Baden-Powell (Scouts and Brownsea Island), Francis Chichester (Solo Yachtsman), John Constable (Painter), Thomas Hardy (Dorset Author), Tommy Cooper (Just like that), Charles Dickens (Author / Portsmouth), Florence Nightingale (Nurse), R. J. Mitchell (Spitfire Designer) and Alan Turing (Computer Scientist)

REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE BREAK

Pt 2 – POST OFFICE LABELS

Chris explained that he would be covering three distinct types of labels.

A. FRAMA LABELS

In an effort to reduce staff and space costs the Post Office decided in March 1984 to trial an automated stamp printing machine to enable the general public to “print” their own stamps rather than having to use the counter service. This trial was considered to be a success and the system was rolled out to more Post Offices in 1985. These FRAMA labels were fixed values from 1/2p to 17p. The display included a complete set of GB labels as well as many examples from around the world. Italy is believed to be the first country to include a Barcode (the “Q” Code).

B. HORIZON LABELS

Available only at Post Office counters and to assist P.O. accounting systems these were introduced in 2003. They have been issued in various colours, initially white, then gold and now back to white. Increasingly they have been modified to include more data; value, service provided, destination postcode and vat code. They have been subjected to software problems during their lifetime and are only available in Great Britain and in Welsh. The display had a great many examples of the variations available as well as errors both on and off cover.

C. POST AND GO LABELS

Trialled in 2008 these fixed rate self-service stamps / labels have proved to be very popular. A normal set would have six values: 2nd, 1st, 2nd Large, 1st Large, Europe & World and since 2010 three pictorial issues have been issued each year. The nearest machine to Southampton is at the Submarine Museum in Gosport. There were a wide range of examples shown with both variations and errors included.

This section of the evening stimulated the attending members and there was a good variety of questions asked by the audience.

Peter Jones in thanking Chris said that he found the first half of the presentation with its historical and social commentary to be fascinating and the second half had been an insight into the technical improvements that had occurred.

The meeting closed at 21:05

Signed:

Date:

Position: