

Meeting Report Tomex Quiz.

Dennis Livermore was unable to attend and so Charlie Mead set the quiz with easy and stinker questions one of which was what German ships carried mail to the United States between 1917 and 18 it was submarines, of the 25 points available Dave Perry won with 19, as he won last year the runner up Len Stanway was declared the winner.

Our meetings for the next Quarter

Mon 7 April Open night with dealers

Saturday 19 April Stamp Fair at Laindon

**Tues. 22 April Something beginning with
T or U PART 1**

**Monday 5 May meeting MOVED TO 6th
Presidents**

night.

**Tues 20 May Something beginning with
T or U part 2.**

**Monday 2 June Trieste a display by Brian
Asquith.**

Saturday 14 June Stamp fair at Laindon.

Society News.

Our Secretary and President recently visited Janet Dukes school in Laindon where they have a thriving stamp club, divided by age they have two sections and they were impressed by the enthusiasm of the pupils some of whom we may see as members. in the future.

**Issue dates for Isle of Man stamps
12 April CORONATION Jewels.**

9 May Aviation/Dam Busters

**9 June Prince William's 21 birth-
day.**

Meeting report Bill Trower

Bill was our first speaker this year in the first part of his display he sold the story of Pan Am's first venture into flying from California to New Zealand a distance of 7,400 miles in 4 days in 1937.

Starting off with the story in photographs and newspaper cuttings of the loss without trace of the seaplane on its second survey flight and the memorial service that was held for them in New Zealand.

The first cover shown was from the outward flight to Honolulu dated 28/12/37 that had the Pan am cachet. In 1940 the Boeing 314 sea plane started service as the American clipper and bill produced a variety covers for both inward and return trips that were from the different countries on the routes. One cover was sent from Fiji to New York for onward flight to Southampton The postal authorities in California not knowing Southampton sent it back so the cover made the journey twice for the 4/6d postage.

When the war came in 1941 a pilot named Ford was in Auckland, and not wanting to enter the war zone loaded his plane with cans of fuel and flew westward to New York a distance of nearly 30,000 miles. Radio communications were not good at the time and fighter planes were scrambled to investigate as he was flying the American flag he was allowed to land Bill showed a cover and photographs of this event.

The second part of the display was Phun and Phrolics, acquired from the late Harry Smith a long time Chairman of our society. It was made up from the penny box (a thing of the past) and took an irreverent look at names and terms one was of the word jubilee was represented by an Israeli stamp a stamp with a bee and the Robert E Lee stamp from America

And a stamp of a waterfall with a caption 'She has left the tap running again with many, many more like them giving us a very enjoyable evening.

Guernsey/Alderney stamp issues April to June.

10 April New headquarters 1 £5 stamp

Memories of World war 11 1943 5 stamps

Alderney Coronation anniversary ms £2 all on the same day .

The Prince William birthday set will not be issued until July.

The Royal Naval Lifeboat Institute by John Pettit part 1.

Can you imagine putting to sea in the dead of night with a force ten gale blowing with waves up to 30 feet high looking for a masthead light that could be anywhere out there, this was and still is the lot of the volunteers of the lifeboat service.

The first recorded lifeboat was in 1770 at Formby in Lancs. to help with shipping coming into the Mersey a second boat was launched in 1803 but little is known about this boat. On the Eastern side of our island Newcastle was a fast growing port and the first boat designed for lifesaving was built by Henry Greathead at South Shields on the Tyne.

During the early part of the 19 century many lifeboats were funded by ship owners, groups of subscribers and by Lloyds of London it was somewhat piecemeal without organisation.

The lifeboat service as we know it was founded on the 4 March 1824 mainly through the inspiration and efforts of General Sir William Hillary of Douglas of the Isle of Mann he was responsible for the building of the seafarers haven in Douglas Bay and also became a member of the Douglas lifeboat crew, some attempts

Had been made for some form of life-saving, lighthouses were built to guide shipping off treacherous rocks and sandbanks, but not much for the crews of that had been wrecked.

Hillary pushed for a national body and was successful but by 1830 its fortunes began to dwindle and its income fell ,it limped along until 1849 when a number of events occurred including a cap-sized society lifeboat drowning 20 of the 24 people on board. The Duke of Northumberland became president in 1851 with a new name The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, from then on it went from strength to strength until as we know it is the best in the world.

The early boats had various problems, in size, weight, length and broadness. Around 1886 a new consulting Naval engineer was appointed and from then the design was vastly improved.

The early boats were of course rowing sailing boats with eight oars on either side later steam was introduced not very successfully then in 1904 the first internal combustion engine was fitted

This story is to be continued.

Jersey stamp issues April to June ***15 April Jersey Lighthouses 11***

13 May Jersey nature Wild Orchids 6 stamps +m/s

2 June 50th Anniversary of Coronation 6 stamps + m/s.

21 June Prince Williams 21st a m/s.

Meeting report visit from Sidcup PS.

Four members visited us in late February and gave us some unusual displays. Geoff Hanney started off with the stamps of Haiti that shares a Caribbean island with the Dominican Republic. It became a part of the French Empire mainly because no other country wanted it as it was a haven for pirates that were mainly French. Coinciding with the French revolution there was a revolt of the slaves of the island that a number of countries tried to put down but were unable to. Some early letters were displayed stamps and essays of the first imperf. issue of 1891 these were followed by the 1892 perforate issue and the 1890 overprinted stamps. The first Palm tree issue with covers from 1891 were followed by the second Palm tree issue. this display ended with a number of aeroplane covers starting in 1927 some were signed by B L Rowe who set up the airmail service for the island.

The stamps of the Windward Islands by Ken Giles was next displaying items from a number of these starting from stamps of the 1937 George V Coronation issues OF Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada One theme was common to all these countries was stamps telling the life and times of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother marking all her birthdays at five year intervals from 1980 to her death in 2002. Also included in this group was the island of Martinique and some of the material shown was the 1937 international exhibition, the 1939 New York worlds fair, The 150 anniversary of the French revolution also in 1939 were stamps for the anniversary of the abolition of Slavery.

Stamps and postal history of Hong Kong were shown on behalf of Judith French who was unable to attend, letter cards and covers from Victorian times opened her display that led to material for the times of the three Kings apart from stamps they had a number of air mail covers some of which were censored.

One to an office in London had six censor cachets covers and stamps completed this display.

Alan Bennett completed the evening with a two part display the first was of the French Channel Islands with stamps, covers and photographs from Chausey and material from St. Michael's mount although there is a post office on the island it issues no stamps, the postmaster franks letters with a local cachet and the monks from the Abbey on top of the island also have their own cachet.

The other part of the display was from France during the first world war with letters and photographs from the front with descriptions of the battles of the Somme Stories of the General Joffe and Petain.

A gentleman named Delandre produced stamp labels for every regiment in the French Army. Some of these with sheets of labels produced by the women's Red Cross showing officers of the allied armies completed the evening.

British stamp issues for the next quarter.
29 April Extreme Endeavours
20 May Wilding Definitives
2 June Coronation 50 years on.
17 June Prince Williams 21st Birthday.

Meeting Report Spring Auction.

A very well attended meeting had some 35 people bidding and the turnover was more than £600. there was increased security preventing the loss we sustained at the last Auction. One problem the Auction Secretary had was to agree the lotting sheet with the material submitted, could you please make sure the you give the country, catalogue number, mint or used, a concise description and your reserve. For future auctions lots will be required one month before the auction to allow time to sort out any difficulties.

Spring Competitions

There was a total of 13 entries for these competitions judged by Ray How and Dave Armerthage the only entry in the modern material was by Len Stanway the 2002 issue of Islands and Beaches of Malaya.

In the thematic section there were seven entries, Dennis Sales told the story of the Universal Postal Union with material dating back to the 19th century, an Australian letter from 1989 was sent to England by the long sea route, the first commemorative cover from Switzerland from 1900 and anniversary covers from around the world.

The life and works of David Livingstone was told in stamps and covers from various south African countries and great Britain.

Stamps, covers and postcards recorded recalled the Roland Hill story from his birth in Kidderminster in 1795 to his death in 1879 was from

The works of Pablo Picasso reproduced on stamps from around the world that showed each of his four periods.

Ann Colman chose the wild animals of Africa for her theme with stories of them in photographs and stamps from the countries of Southern Africa.

The theme of light railways told the story of a number of railways like the Scarfel railway of the Isle of Man also included trams and trolley buses from Britain and Ireland this was the winning entry for Len Stanway.

Dennis Sales had the last entry in this section with the story of Charles Dickens from his birth with stamps and covers with some beautiful Victorian postcards.

There were five entries in the Cinderella competition.

Arthur Bowes had two entries the first was of early revenue stamps of Turkey that included bills and receipts with stamps on them there was also a cover with revenue stamps. His second was completely different with forgeries from France and her colonies by "Fourier" and some very good examples of "Sperati" from Hanover, Columbia, Brunswick and Buenos Aries.

A revenue collection of Queen Victoria from Great Britain, India and Queensland started off a display that continued with airmail labels from various countries together with TV licences and recorded delivery labels.

The stamps of Herm Island by Pat Harris caused some debate as the sheet headings were described as Postal History.

The winning eight sheets were from Maggie Thompson with her triangle airmail labels from various counties and also included covers from the Geneva air show in 1925, another from the 1932 Budapest air show there was also a cover from a flight between Vincennes to Le Bourquet.

. Note some of the names of members in the competitions were not included they will be in the next issue.

Advance information the ABPS will be in Basildon for its biannual Congress at the Towngate Theatre over the week-end of the 20/21 November 2004. It is expected that there will be some 40/45 local, national and international dealers in attendance on both days. Further updates as they are known.