

CHANDLER'S FORD 'SOCIAL' 14th July 2016

Our second Chandler's Ford 'social' took place on the 14th July, 2016, using the same, extremely convenient, venue as the first, namely the Dovetail Centre of the Methodist Church next door to our usual meeting place, the Community Room of the Hanover Housing Association. The meeting was chaired – in the usual informal fashion – by Alan Drysdall, who now proudly boasts the formal title of 'Convenor' and has a place on the Committee in recognition of the important role the Chandler's Ford meetings play in the Society's overall programme. The Convenor opened the meeting by welcoming members and their guests. Just how many were present is always uncertain; but 55 signed the book; a very satisfying turnout. We do not formally record apologies, but on this occasion we will record that Pauline Vinecombe, always a regular attendee at Chandler's Ford meetings when fit – and a conscientious contributor to Ladies' Days – was unwell and unable to be present. There were a few house-keeping announcements, the most important relating to future Chandler's Ford meetings. The August meeting will be on the theme of 'What I also collect'. The last such event, held after the AGM meeting in Bugle Street, proved extremely popular with a wide range of surprising interests. So why should they have all the fun? Nevertheless we are hoping that Geoffrey does not bring along anything nuclear. (He began his professional career as a nuclear physicist.) Stamps did not feature at the Bugle Street meeting, but of course there is no reason why, for example, a member well known for his collection of classic early New Zealand should not show his closet collection of nudes on stamps. The following meetings will include a display of the Society's collection of Southampton postal history and a 'Boys' day out' when the ladies will exact revenge for Ladies' Day and nominate male members to display and organise the refreshments, the draw and the bring-and-buy table - a lesson in multi-tasking if ever there was one, but the Ladies do it at least once a year.



The Convenor speaks ...

It was decided when the Committee agreed to hold an afternoon 'social' mainly for the benefit of members who attend meetings in Chandler's Ford – together with partners and friends – that this would be an entirely social event and there would be no formal talks and preferably no philatelic displays. There was no talk, but there was a five-frame display of picture postcards relating to the history of Southampton, and particularly buildings that no longer exist, the Woolston/Itchen Ferry and events from the past. This was organised by Colin Bayley, who co-opted the assistance of three other members of the Southampton Postcard Club, namely Alan Leonard, Paul Gosling and Steve

Gerrard. Postcards are always popular, and none more so than postcards of 'old' Southampton, and it was not surprising therefore that the display attracted a stream of viewers.

The draw was again munificent, the membership having contributed very generously; the prizes included no less than five bottles of wine. Members and friends were also generous when purchasing tickets; our income totalled £115.50, not a record but nevertheless a very welcome contribution towards the cost of the occasion. The Convenor's wife started the draw, but failed to draw a winning ticket for either herself or her husband just to prove that it really is a draw and not a 'swindle'.

The refreshments were once again first class. The varied and generous selection of sandwiches was much appreciated, as were the cakes, some home-made by Janice Eastlake. (The fruit cake was to die for.) There were 'seconds' for those who wanted to come back, and even doggy bags at the end of the afternoon to distribute the little that was left. Harry, despite his best efforts and the absence of the restraining influence of Pauline, could not finish all the chocolate cake. Paul Arnold provided excellent filter coffee, a welcome upgrade from the usual 'instant'.

The quiz, set as always by Lorraine Simms, proved to be easier than some found it as Harry Vinecombe scored the maximum 24 points, and was able to take home a bottle of wine to drink with the chocolates he had won in the draw. (Unfortunately there is no record of the runner-up, but it would not be surprising if his/her score was considerably lower than Harry's.)

Big 'thank-yous' are due to the many people who helped in one way or another to organise and run this event. Top of the list must be Debbie assisted by her friend Janice, who unfortunately could not be present. A number of members, including Dave and Cora Edwards and Paul Arnold, whose contributions were much appreciated, helped to serve the refreshments. The frames were brought from and returned to our usual venue by Peter Parr and David Lewis; the display was provided by members of the Southampton Postcard Club. Pauline Gittoes organised the draw and Lorraine Simms the quiz. Many others played a role and helped to make this, our second Chandler's Ford 'sociable', as enjoyable and successful as the first. Long may this now established tradition continue.



A view from the serving hatch – all images courtesy Debbie Hindson

Alan Drysdall