

Friendship at Congress



See p 21



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ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

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Cover pictures: *Deborah Gooch on the Hotel Verandah, Richard & Yvonne Wheatley with Ron Gillard, Dane Garrod & Lucy Ferrier - a selfie with a difference, Caroline & Des Kent.* Photos from Lucy Ferrier and Dane Garrod.

An electronic copy of the newsletter can be viewed on the ABPS webpage www.abps.org.uk a few months after publication.

Contact details for ABPS are on the page by the inside rear cover.

Copy dates: please send your material as soon as ready; at present the copy deadlines are 15th January, 15th April, 15th July, 15th October. We cannot guarantee to include items in specific editions. Items may be edited for publication. Email copy is preferred (unformatted). Send copy to the editor: Keith S Burton (editor@abps.org.uk) Illustrations should not be assumed to be accurate as to size or colour.

Notes from the Chair:



As I write these notes in July I am betwixt and between! One philatelic season has finished and in the not-too-distant future, in September, we will have the new season upon us. Looking back at the 2022/23 season, although we had news of some local and specialist societies closing, I think on the whole philately had a good season. Scanning reports of meetings over the months I saw some very interesting displays and presentations being given as well as Zoom meeting still being very much in existence – the mix all makes philately a great hobby to be involved with!

Recently I've been playing with a new app I've come across "OpenAI" which, as its name implies, gives you access to AI. Just for fun I asked the AI app to "talk about stamp collecting today in 500 words". I was quite impressed with the 500 words that it came back to me with. The last paragraph it gave me was *"In conclusion, stamp collecting continues to thrive in today's digital age. It provides a tangible and visually captivating hobby that connects people with history, culture, and art. With the advent of digital platforms, specialised collections and exciting stamp releases, the hobby remains vibrant and engaging. Stamp collecting offers educational value, fosters research skills, and provides opportunities for networking and exploration. As long as there are stamps to discover and stories to unravel, stamp collecting will continue to captivate enthusiasts and inspire generations to come."* I think you will agree that the words above are a good description of where we are with philately. I do promise not to use AI to generate the whole of these notes each time – but perhaps if I did, they may be better!

If you are one of the many collectors who participate in competitive philately can I draw your attention in the diary section of this magazine where there is a comprehensive listing of all the international exhibitions coming up next year, 2024 and also in 2025, when of course we have our own international in Birmingham with EuroPhilEx 2025. If there is anyone who needs to qualify to enter competitions at international level remember the event that will be taking place from Thursday 28th March to Saturday 30th March 2024 at the premises of the Royal Philatelic Society London. There is no admission charge to attend and the standard UK frame fees of £25 per frame will apply. All FIP classes will be welcome, including literature, plus the UK classes of Ephemera and Cinderellas. Judged exhibits will receive certificates and medals, and those receiving 75 marks or above will be qualified for international exhibitions.

As ever, I will end by stressing the importance of communication. Without good communication who knows what's going on or what the current issues are in philately that need addressing? Please do let me know what you think about all that is happening in philately at the moment. My email address is

chair@abps.org.uk and my postal address is Steven Harrison, ABPS, c/o RPSL, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW or write to Keith Burton, the editor of ABPS News at editor@abps.org.uk

Steve Harrison

Editorial



Amongst all the problems that we see and hear of it is good to know of some good news. We now have an Advertising Manager - thanks Ian for being volunteered and accepting the job. We have a new advertiser too, replacing Stamp Insurance Services whose directors have retired and sold the business. Good luck in retirement or in finding new business opportunities. If you decide to contact one of our advertisers, please tell them that you found them through ABPS - it helps our costs of production and printing. We have some more society and Fair adverts (free to affiliates) - please let them know that it worked if you go to their event. If you have advertisements or ideas of companies to contact please let me know and I will use them or pass details on to Ian as he becomes settled into the job. More good news - Congress at Torquay in June was very successful and enjoyable - just short on numbers. We are looking for ways of persuading more of you to come to the next one, very likely to be in early July in Southampton. Congress is not a fair, nor just a sequence of displays, though the latter are included. It moves around to try to involve the local society philatelists - for the whole time or just some of the days. The chance to meet others is very rewarding and we have lots of social chat, fun and discussions, and it gives you the chance to tell me to my face what you think of ABPS News or what you will do with the magazine when you take over as editor - volunteers welcome!

York Stamp and Coin Fair is still twice a year to Stampex occurring once. National competitions were held in York - results will be available on the ABPS website as soon as possible and there will be a précis of them in the issue due out in October/November. At the moment it appears to have been a successful venture. How Stampex will be without competition exhibits remains to be seen - see you there? Will we spend as much time and/or money? In the past I have been there for the whole time but I am not sure that I will do that now - given the cost of hotels in London in September. The new intention to hold National Competitions at the Royal in Abchurch Lane is an interesting change and a great chance for non-members of the Royal to visit, see the displays and the facilities at the Royal - it convinced me to join many years ago - and now I can join their excellent Zoom meetings - a regular and fascinating development. So you can see that some things are continuing as before and other things are changing in our hobby. That seems to me the right way forward - keep things that work, slightly alter things that need it and finish with things that aren't working, and best of all, try new things to keep us all on our toes in our collecting, displaying and spreading the delight of our collective hobby.

Questions for the future appear in this issue on pages 10 to 12 - we need your responses!

Sadly we have heard of the deaths of Donald Brookfield (Bexley - a Friend), Ken Norris (a keen Congress attendee) and Mike J Roberts (Huddersfield, a Friend).

Keith Burton

Obituaries

Paul Bradshaw FRPSL

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Paul Bradshaw, a founder member of the Indian Ocean Study Circle. Treasurer from the society's earliest days, Paul was also our Auctioneer for the highly successful club auctions. In recognition of his vital contribution to the running of the society Paul was awarded Life Member status in 1997.

Paul had diverse collecting interests and was well known in the philatelic world, a member of many societies including the Royal Philatelic Society and served two terms as President of the Northamptonshire Philatelic Society.

He collected TPO and Paquebot covers of the world and the postal history of Pitcairn, Northampton and ten villages in Northamptonshire.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Judith, (a life member of the society since 2016), who has supported Paul throughout this time and helped run the auctions. Paul will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Julian Luke. Secretary IOSC



Peter Ford FRPSL



It is impossible to overstate the contribution that Peter made to the British West Indies Study Circle over the last 30 plus years. He was Chairman for 14 years from 2003 before passing on the baton to Graham Booth in 2017. In that role he oversaw conventions, representation at exhibitions including London 2010, the Diamond Jubilee 2014, and the 2004 Golden Jubilee of the Study Circle and events celebrating it.

Peter always went out of his way to encourage new members for which he will be remembered by many. Over many years, his leadership and drive brought to

publication many scholarly books; his enthusiasm for collecting British Guiana was infectious; his editorial demands for perfection were sometimes the bane of dillatory authors. He was the friendly face of the society, the one who

encouraged members to research and write, and a person who was well known and greatly respected in the wider philatelic community. He will be hugely missed.

Peter started on the BWISC committee as Public Relations officer in 1991. His tireless efforts over nearly 30 years as Publications Officer from 1997 will be a permanent legacy to subsequent generations of philatelists. From starting out in 1994 producing Victor Toeg's book on Dominica, to embracing more recently the latest 'print on demand' technology for short runs of books that otherwise would never have seen the light of day, Peter produced a series of books and study papers second to none. Currently the list runs to over 40 publications, each one enhancing the prestige of the Study Circle. Included in that list are those that he either wrote or co-wrote centred on Trinidad and Tobago and those on the early Perkins Bacon issues. Of particular note historically is his involvement in the updating of the original Marriott book on Trinidad, particularly because of his early family history with that country.

Peter was born in Aylesbury, Kent but lived in South Africa and Trinidad with his family during his early childhood. On leaving education he joined the RAF and travelled the world flying Vulcan and Canberra bombers. He served his country in the Falklands war. Then Peter joined Dan Air and later Monarch Airlines flying around Europe and the world.

In 2002, he and Pat relocated to Spain, where they spent many happy years. A visit to him and his wife Pat at their home there was always something to look forward to, as were occasions as his guest at the RAF club in Piccadilly, when partaking of a few beers was always near the top of the agenda.

A family man, Peter spoke frequently and with great affection about his son Andrew, daughter Antonia ('Toni'), his wife Pat, and his dogs. Larger than life, forceful and genial, the passing of Peter Ford leaves the BWISC and the wider philatelic world poorer. He will perhaps be best remembered by his fellow collectors for his conviviality and warmth

Susan Taylor

Kenneth Eric Norris FRPSL, 1937 - 2023

Just before Ken went into hospital, he had completed over 50 years of perfect attendance in the Lanarkshire Philatelic Society for which he was still Minute Secretary, Roll Keeper, Auctioneer and Honorary President (having already been President twice and also Secretary). One of these 1000 or so meetings did however clash with attendance at a wedding, but he still managed to sign the book that evening and returned for the rest of the wedding reception. It was with the Lanarkshire that Ken was Congress Delegate and when Lanarkshire hosted Congress for the second time, he became the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS) President. Eight years later, Ken's commitment to advancing philately was acknowledged by the ASPS when he was the 15th recipient of the Alex McConnell Medal. It was also with the Lanarkshire, that Ken gave the Tom Rielly display in 2004.

Ken was also a member of many other clubs and societies. In the Caledonian Philatelic Society, he was variously president, secretary and latterly auctioneer.



Indeed, a visit to Ken's around January to March of any year you would be faced with a staircase reduced to half its width by the various auction lots for various societies. Via the Caledonian, Ken helped at the 88th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in Renfrew in 2006, when he was a member of the Organising Committee. It was at this event that Ken was awarded the Congress Medal in recognition of dedication and voluntary service to British philately at national level. Despite being averse to email and computers, during Covid lockdown Ken was eventually coaxed into the 21st Century by Elizabeth Nairn and did attend several Caley Zoom meetings.

Ken's local and specialist societies are too numerous to list - fifteen or so - but include

the Royal Philatelic Society of London of which he was a Fellow. Ken attended many Dorothy Martin North-East Weekends in Newcastle and he was very active in the organising committee for the Dundee Weekends. Ken was also involved in promoting youth philately - initially in Stonelaw High School, but also at Morningside Primary Newmains and with Elizabeth Nairn at Burnside Primary.

If you are a stamp collector you may well have encountered Ken when he visited other societies to display his various collections – Ships and all their elusive cachets; Gibraltar; David Livingstone, Superlatives, Scottish Postal History through Edwardian postcards or perhaps many other topics. He also helped judge not only society competitions but also served as a National judge and helped in the Bin Room for many Scottish Congresses. Ken was also in the organising committee for Glasgow 2000. Ken loved Philately. Ken lived Philately. Philately will miss Ken.

Dr Brian Dow

Mike Roberts

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of Mike Roberts of Huddersfield.

Mike was awarded the Congress Medal in 2022 for his considerable amount of work for British Philately. For the Congress Recipient presentation at last year's Congress held in Birmingham, he gave his *Philately Will Get You Nowhere* display in his inimitable style with anecdotes of his philatelic life.

He was very keen to encourage novice collectors to attend a stamp club when they would not think of going to a philatelic society. To this end he established the West Riding Stamp Club and, with Mike Mapleton, the Cockermouth Stamp Club. He took on the organisation of both clubs which soon gained membership. He raised the profile of both clubs within the wider philatelic and



Mike (left) with his Congress medal

local communities by organising two auctions a year with 500+ lots per sale at each venue.

Mike belonged to many philatelic societies, local, specialist and national, and frequently got involved with the organisations, holding important positions of president, chairman and secretary. In fact, aged 12 he was the Junior Representative of Huddersfield Philatelic Society, a position he held for several years. Fifteen specialist societies will miss his presence.

A former Council Member of the Royal Philatelic Society and currently

Regional Representative he was also a former secretary of the Society of Postal Historians, later holding the posts of president and chairman. At the London Internationals held in 2010, 2015 and 2022 he was a member of the organising committee.

ABPS benefitted from his keen support and as one of the first Friends. He encouraged several philatelic societies, of which he was a member, to join or re-join the ABPS. For the last few years, he declined to give displays to societies which were not affiliated to ABPS.

Mike used his expertise as a solicitor to provide advice, usually on a pro bono basis, to executors and family members regarding the disposal of philatelic material. To this end, he was a familiar face at the York Stamp Fair with his stand promoting will-making services.

He was an accomplished and enthusiastic speaker and has for the last 40 years given hundreds of displays to local, specialist and national societies on a large variety of subjects including Sarawak and Pakistan which were his particular collecting interests.

It is impossible to record, in this short obituary, all the activities for organised philately which Mike undertook; if there was a job to be done, Mike would be there. His passing is a great loss to the philatelic world.

We offer sincere condolences to his widow, Susan, who accompanied Mike to innumerable meetings and events.

RIP Mike after a life of service for philately and postal history. *Yvonne Wheatley*

Editor: The death of a member of the philatelic community is always a sorrowful time for their society friends. Clearly we cannot include obituaries for all, but we do wish to note the work that they have done. If that is in one society, a reference to that in the normal report will be included if at all possible. If the philatelist was well-known in the wider community, please consider writing an obituary for inclusion here. Don't forget to honour them in their lifetime - ABPS Awards of Merit is one way.

An Aging Population of Philatelic Club Members

Following a bad year for losing older members due to illness and natural causes, I've recently been able to review the ages of Bromley & Beckenham members. In 2017 we had 120 members which reduced to 100 by 2022 and now stands at 91. Only two of our original life members remain: there were 25 when I became secretary in 2004.

In 2017 there were 4 members aged over 90, just 3% of the membership, in 2022 there were 8 members or 8%, now there are still 8, (not the same names), still 8 to 9% of the membership.

In 2017 there were 36 members over 80, 30%, up to 37 in 2022 or 37% and now 38 which is 42% of the membership.

In 2017 there were 82 members over 70, 68%, in 2022 there were 74, an increase to 74%, and now in 2023 whilst only 73 are over 70, this is now 80% of the membership.

Correspondingly there were 35 members under 70 in 2017, dropping to 23 in 2022 and now only 18.

At the present rate of attrition, in 10 years' time we shall only have about 30 members, of whom about 25 will be over 80, that's 83%.

During the period since 2004, the society hosted or attended numerous Stamp Fairs and Kent Federation events, had two major displays in the Bromley Central Library, attended local council Hobbies exhibitions, a Victorian event, and in recent years, a table at the now defunct monthly Beckenham Stamp and Postcard Fair.

It has always featured in the monthly What's On Page in the SE20 Magazine, and has appeared regularly in the society report pages in the ABPS News, as well as reports in the philatelic magazines.

I have recently put forward two proposals. First we should try to implement home visits for collectors who cannot get to meetings. Second that an annual award be made to the visiting speaker for whom the attending members have given the highest points score judged on various criteria such as the subject content, the presentation, the material itself and the speaker's own performance.

I would be interested to know if any societies have tried these suggestions and with what success.

What do others think?

David Rennie

Please send your comments to the Editor, who will forward them to David, as well as noting them. The same applies to Richard on the next pages.

Your article?

We are always pleased to consider articles by our readers. 500 words roughly please, and a picture relating to the subject matter is always a help (300dpi jpg or similar). We do not pay for publication, and any items may be edited for length or content. Contact the editor for further information or to submit.

Are We Too Late – What Can Be Done?

As the summer approaches, I think many of us may have reflected on our last philatelic season and wondered about our future. Elsewhere in this edition of The ABPS News, David Rennie's excellent article, illustrates very clearly the challenge facing our societies, with their aging members. We all can, I am sure, identify with that challenge and, like his society, will have tried different ways of tackling it. In this month's issue of Stamp Magazine, Richard West also looks at the challenges facing our hobby. He too recognises the situation facing our societies and looks at what the future might hold for them.

In this article, I do not wish to re-state the situation and associated challenges that face our societies since you all know them well enough. but rather encourage your thinking about the ways in which we might respond to them. To do this I will pose six questions :-

1. Firstly, do we need to take a decision **to act** on the situation?
2. Is it appropriate that societies continue **to accept** our inevitable decline, shake our heads, and do little about it?
3. *The information about dwindling numbers in our societies is known and readily available. Would it **be helpful**, if once a year, sharing that information across societies would help bring home to everyone the extent of the situation and highlight the challenge ahead?*
4. Could the **ABPS take on the responsibility** for sharing this information?
5. If a decision is taken to try and "save philatelic societies" from extinction, then who (or what national body) will **take the lead** in trying to do that? *It seems obvious to me, that the individual and poorly coordinated efforts of our societies may bring some results, but these efforts are likely to be more successful if they are coordinated and **led** in some way.*
6. Once a leader or leading body is established then, should they develop **a strategic plan** and that plan be communicated across societies? *Such a plan should indicate clearly how societies can respond to this plan **and** where they can get further support, advice and guidance if needed.*

It would be the responsibility of the leading body to work out the details of that strategic plan – but that should and has to be done, **quickly**. Those details might include :-

- * Establish a **"target audience"** that might be the most responsive recipient for directing the efforts to recruit more members. Currently, trying to recruit children into the hobby may be a longer-term solution but will do very little to help resolve the current situation. My grandchildren have never used a stamp, yet they spend far more time communicating with their friends than I ever did when a child. It could be that the "soon to be retired" is that target audience. If that is the case, then what are the most appropriate methods of communicating with them?
- * Some suggestions/guidance about the **activities and approaches** that might be used will be essential elements of such a plan. Emphasising what we do in

our societies currently - even if we do that very well – is unlikely to yield results. They haven't done so far!! The strategic plan needs to guide societies into new (for them) avenues and activities that could hit the target audience and encourage them into the societies.

- * Whatever we try to do should get good advertising and promotion. Again, our traditional ways of doing that will not be enough. Guidance and support will be needed on which **“new” advertising platforms** can be used.

Responding to the situation in the ways I suggest above will take considerable effort and time. Generally, this is difficult to find within organisations that rely heavily – if not entirely – on volunteers. If these volunteers are not found and we continue to witness the decline of philately within our society structure, then our hobby would be lessened as a result. Collecting may continue, even blossom, but our long-established group structure will become extinct.

We know of course that other hobbies that include society or group activities are also facing similar challenges in terms of dwindling numbers and difficulty in recruiting volunteers. I have heard of groups of photographers, amateur artists, walkers and others, express similar worries. Perhaps we should accept the inevitable and drift towards a situation where we plough along with our hobby but communication and interaction with other collectors is through social media platforms – some of which have yet to be devised.

Would you – our existing philatelists – be happy to settle for that?

Richard Smith of Leeds Philatelic Society

FEPA Medal for Exceptional Service to European Organised Philately 2022

Frank Walton RDP, FRPSL


The philatelic world was shocked to learn of Frank Walton's death, only weeks after he had succeeded in bringing the London 2022 to a successful conclusion in the face of extreme difficulties. Frank was a polymath in philately – exhibitor, writer, speaker, organiser, innovator, IT specialist and adviser – with a prolific output. He was Editor of the London Philatelist from 2001 – 2014 and served as President of the Royal Philatelic Society London from 2015 – 2017. He had a particular interest in philatelic literature, producing over 200 articles for specialist and national journals as well as many publications, most notably “The De La Rue Collection vols. 1-6” for which he was awarded the FEPA Medal for exceptional study and research in 2014. He guided the RPSL's IT policies for many years and was instrumental in creating the Global Philatelic Library. He was well-respected internationally and chaired the Organising Committee for the London 2020 Exhibition which had to be postponed until 2022 because of the Covid pandemic. Above all his boundless energy and enthusiasm were infectious and provided support and encouragement to many others. FEPA is honoured to award the Medal for Exceptional Service to Organised Philately to Frank in memoriam.

from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**Are You **THINKING** of **SELLING?**

This is How The Stamp Trade Works

Philatelic Expert Lets You into his Selling Secrets so you can benefit from a totally different (and New) Selling Experience

1 If You want to learn how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for the orders to roll in... I'm still waiting, 51 years later!...

Wrong Offer ~~X~~ **Wrong Price** ~~X~~ **Wrong Place** ~~X~~
(naïve seller)  **me but I was only 15 at the time!**



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV

About The Author ▶ Andrew found his Father's stamps at the age of 10. A year later at Senior School he immediately joined the School Stamp Club. He 'specialised' (i) in British, but soon was interested in Queen Victoria which he could not afford. The 2nd to last boy wearing short trousers in his school year; he religiously bought Post Office New Issues on Tuesdays with his pocket money. He soon found that he enjoyed swapping / trading stamps as much as collecting them. Aged 19, eschewing University he quickly found a philatelic career in London, leading to creating his own companies in stamps. Andrew has authored many internationally published Stamp 'Tips' articles, appearing on Local Radio and National TV promoting Philately with Alan Titchmarsh. Andrew's area of expertise is unusual – in so far as his grounding in collecting and wide philatelic knowledge has given him a deep understanding of Philately. He has studied Philately for the past 51 years, in combination with Commerce and Marketing Expertise, enabling him to create synergies in 'lifetime' interlinked Stamp Selling Systems, selling unit-priced stamps through to handling collections & Rarities up to £700,000 each. Today Andrew is fortunate to be co-owner with his Wife, of Universal Philatelic Auctions (aka UPA) – the Largest No Buyer's Premium Reducing-Estimate Stamp Auction in the World, creating records selling stamps to 2,261 different bidders from 54 different countries 'in his international auctions'. Andrew stopped collecting stamps aged 18 reasoning that his enjoyment of stamps would be in handling them... He loves working in stamps.



2 Three years later, attending my first public stamp auctions I wondered how some bidders seemed to buy everything, paying the highest price? It didn't occur to me that they were probably Auction Bidding Agents, paid by absent (dealer) bidders to represent them. I wondered why two collectors sitting side by side muttered to each other "he's a dealer" as if that justified him paying the highest price...

...but did it really? What was the real reason? How could a Dealer pay a higher price than a Collector? It doesn't make sense, does it? Collectors are customers. Customers usually pay the highest price, unless... for a Collector, this was...

Wrong Presentation ~~X~~ **Wrong Place** ~~X~~
therefore **Wrong Price** ~~X~~

3 Fast-forward 48 years later to a British Empire collection, lot #1 in an International Stamp Auction – Estimated at £3,000, but we were the highest bidder at £21,000 – **YES** – some 7x higher. Including Buyer's Premium in the extraordinary sum of £4,788 we actually paid GBP£25,788= upon a £3,000 estimate... **however**, we broke it down into sets, singles, mini-collections etc. We made a profit. Some might say it found its price. Others may say:

Wrong Estimate ~~X~~ **Wrong Presentation** ~~X~~
Wrong Structure ~~X~~ **Wrong Protection of Price** ~~X~~

– **Lucky for the seller that 2 well-heeled bidders saw the potential value that day** or it could have been given away... the seller could easily have lost out couldn't he? or she?

So, by un-peeling the layers of obfuscation, hopefully we can all agree:

The Secret is Simple – it's ALL ABOUT: TIMING

Plus the 3 Philatelic 'P's –

Presentation  **Place**  **and Price** 

4 Understanding the problem... I always remember the car trade had their own little 'bible' – Glass's Guide. I've no idea, I've not even looked – in this internet-dominated world, it may even have disappeared. Well, there's an insider Stamp Trade publication for Stamp Dealers called "The Philatelic Exporter". There's nothing that special about it – and you won't learn much or find massively reduced prices by subscribing – **BUT** – it is a forum, a paper focal point, a last 'bastion' in this on-line transparent world that we inhabit... whereby dealers (and auctioneers) can try and communicate with each other. I publish my own articles there...

Recently I discussed the outcome of my 10 years' simple research, asking dealers and auctioneers 'what is your biggest problem?'

To a man, (why are we almost all men), they replied – "**my biggest problem is stock, if I can get more of the right stock I can sell it easily**"

Strange that, nobody ever asked me the same question back – because my answer would have been entirely different (and I don't treat it as a problem) – **I seek to satisfy more collector clients than any other stamp auction**

This is the reason why my company has such massive advertising. This is the reason why we spend up to 8% of turnover – up to £200,000 per annum in marketing costs. (Most dealers don't even sell £200K per annum).

5 Why is that? Because, as the world revolved the Stamp Market, imperceptibly Changed, and incrementally – **Massively**

So, although few will tell you this, it's clearly evident that the problem for most Sellers of Stamps today is no longer absent stock – but **absent collectors in**

the place they choose to sell their stamps in. Simply put, other Dealers, Auctions, Stamp Fairs have not invested in marketing to have a strong Customer-core. To be fair, this is not true of all – but it is true of most – so that our former competitor 'Apex' had 800 bidders in a recent auction. In my most recent 20,000+ lot UPA 77th Auction we had 1,793 different bidders from 49 different countries, 95% of whom were Collectors. Some other well-advertised auctions only have 200 bidders (a high percentage of whom are dealers – so that, essentially they are Dealer-dominated auctions) – so that when you sell through them – you're paying up to 18% (including VAT) seller's commission and the buyer is paying up to 25% and more in Buyer's Premium, credit card fees, on-line bidding fee, delivery and insurance etc... **AND all of that so that your stamps may be sold, wait for it – TO DEALERS (and some collectors),** but Dealers, that naturally must make a profit to survive...

6 Now, let's examine the cost implications – Example: Your stamp collection sells in public auction for £800. Upon a 25% buyer's premium, the dealer pays £1,000 and it could be more. He breaks it into £2,000+ selling price (much lower and he'll go out of business). The auction charges you a seller's commission of up to 18% (VAT included) upon the £800 sale price. This is GBP£144. Therefore you receive approaching £656 – which is approximately 33% of the dealer's £2,000+/- retail selling price - **BUT...** now that we have identified the problem...

Isn't the Solution Staring us Right in The Face?

7 Why Pay an Auction to Sell to Dealers: Sell to Collectors instead? In our example with buyer's premium, sellers commission, listing fees, extra credit card charges, VAT and even insurance - you're already being charged in different ways up to 40% of the selling price to sell, possibly or probably, **to the wrong person.**

Why not direct that 40% cost you're paying to sell to Collectors instead? Sounds good, so why hasn't this been done before?

8 Truth is, it has been done before... Sometimes the 'old' ways are the best ways aren't they? But in today's enthusiasm to obscure the

WE CAN SAFELY COLLECT YOUR STAMPS NOW

Contact UPA: 01451 861 111

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:

Dear Folk at UPA,

I've dealt with the public for 37 + years, and as both a consumer, and a businessman, I have created huge numbers of orders from all over the world from a complete range of suppliers from all aspects of our daily lives.

But I don't believe I have ever encountered such sensitivity, such kind thought, such understanding as I have with you in our initial meeting, our subsequent successful transaction, and now this.

I recall well the item you highlight, and realise that this one item has such colossal personal value, I could never part with it. It has been an absolute pleasure dealing with yourself, and I am more than willing for you to use this e-mail as commendation to others who may be thinking of disposing of their collection.

Many, many thanks for a memorable experience, and I will try to emulate your thought and care in my own business sphere.

Yours sincerely
D. E. B. Bath, UK

obvious so that money may be taken, almost surreptitiously, in numerous different ways, (without us apparently noticing until we see the cheque in our pocket) – the transparent 'seller pays' has been deliberately 'obscured' – so much so that, **amazingly**, the latest 2017 European Auction Selling Legislation just introduced – now requires auctions that charge 'buyer's premiums' **to warn the buyer in advance.** Just imagine going into the petrol station, and being warned that the price you're paying to put fuel in your tank is not the real price, you have to pay a premium! Obviously, there would be an uproar...

9 How can you cut out the middleman and sell to Collectors instead? Well, I can think of two ways. 1). **DIY** - Do It Yourself selling on eBay. That may be fine for lower grade material – but, would you risk auctioning relatively unprotected rare material on eBay? We don't and we're professionals, so we should know what we're doing. Or 2). Cut out the extra middle-man. **Use my company UPA, which reaches collectors instead.** Here's how it works: Continuing from our previous Example:

The auction sold your stamps to a dealer for £1,000 – but You received circa £656

UPA sells them to collectors for you for up to £2,000 – even after 40% commission you receive up to £1,200. Up to £544 more. Now that's amazing, isn't it?

10 Sounds Good Andrew, but Can You 'Deliver'? Obviously, nothing is as simple as that, and as we auction stamps to collectors some collections may 'break' to the example £2,000+/- but the stamps may be sold for more or less – especially as we reserve all lots at 20% below, (Estimate £2,000 = £1,600 reserve) and not everything sells first or even 2nd time so prices may come down... Naturally, it's not that straightforward for a dealer either – he may sell at a discount to 'move' stock **OR**, like many dealers he may be sitting on the same unsold stamps, that you see time and time again, in dealer's stocks years later and still at the same unattractive prices... So, I think it is more reasonable for you to expect up to 36% to 50% more, indirectly or directly via my **Collector's Secret Weapon: Universal Philatelic Auctions**, which moves

Request Your Next FREE Catalogue NOW

UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

ABPS

4 The Old Coalyard, West End, Northleach, Glos. GL54 3HE UK

Tel: 01451 861111 • Fax: 01451 861297



11 Q: What is the Collector's 'Secret Weapon'?

A: It's called the Unique UPA Reducing Estimate System...

This is a rather long explanation, I don't want to bore you, but 20 years ago, when my wife and I set up Universal Philatelic Auctions I detected that the stamp trade's biggest problem then was not what sold – *but what didn't sell...* So, because I didn't want to try to keep on offering the same either unsaleable or overpriced stock I created the unique UPA Reducing Estimate (and reserve) Selling System. Simply put, if a lot doesn't sell in the 1st auction we reduce the estimate (and reserve) by 11% and unlike other dealers and auctions **WE TELL YOU** – 'US' = once unsold. If unsold after the following auction we **reduce by a further 12%** and **WE TELL YOU 'US2'**, if unsold after a 3rd UPA auction we reduce by a further 13% and **WE TELL YOU 'US3'** and so on till the lot finds its price, is sold or virtually given away...

12 Any Scientist will tell you that combinations of ingredients can produce powerful results. So we created the unique combination of my UPA Reducing Estimate System, married (in stone), with UPA's fair 'NO BUYER'S Premium' policy, PLUS each lot carries my total 'no quibble' guarantee – this formula is the reason why within the span of 4 auctions (one year)... 90%-95% of lots broken from a collection have sold. This Unique Philatelic Selling System **Formula** is the reason why we are the largest stamp auction in the UK today with more than 2,250 different regular bidders.

In Hindsight Dealers warned me 20 years ago that my idea wouldn't work. 20 years later I think I've proven that it does. (Reader: Please Request a complimentary UPA catalogue – using the contact details further below)

13 OK, Cut to the Chase Andrew, what's the offer? All of my Selling Systems are based upon **selling to Collectors Globally**, so that 95% of stamps sold by UPA are sold directly to Collectors. If you wish to benefit by up to 50% or more, depending upon

your circumstance and type of material, by cutting out the middleman – then this offer may be for you. Generally 'time' is the enemy in our lives, and for most dealers not being able to sell stock. Now is the time to let 'time' do the 'heavy-lifting' and consider making 'time' work for you, so that at UPA you can make time your friend.

14 AND the SMALL PRINT? Some lots are too small in value for us to offer this system. Other lots may not be suited to selling in this manner (e.g. surplus mint British decimal stamps best used for postage) – especially if the market is heavily compromised by stock overhang in specific areas. Some Collectors will not wish to use time and systems to leverage price, others will want to agree a specific price and know that they are paid precisely this amount. No client is treated like a number and no client is forced like a square peg into a round hole.

15 OK, What Do I Do Next?

- You contact UPA to discuss with Andrew or a highly-qualified Auction Valuer/Describer what you have to dispose of and your options bearing in mind your specific interests / requirements
- If you wish, get a 2nd opinion, but investigate what type of auction / dealer you are dealing with. Is it a Dealer's auction with relatively few collectors? Can you see where / how the Dealer sells? If you can't easily see any pricelists or high quality selling catalogues – that Dealer may sell your stamps to other dealers...
- Finally you ask UPA to collect your stamps, insure in transit for an estimated replacement retail value...

16 What Happens then? A member of my Team telephones/e-mails you to confirm safe receipt. 'Overnight' valuations, unless simple, are rare. Valuing stamp collections that have taken tens of years to create takes time. Depending upon your priorities / timescale I, or an experienced member of my Team will contact you to discuss your requirements and the options available to you for the sale of your collection. Provided only that you feel well-informed and comfortable do we agree strategy

17 How Strong is the Stamp and Cover Market?

Everybody knows that the strongest areas are GB and British Empire. Post-Independence / QEII material sells but if hinged at considerable discount. Mint hinged material pre 1952 is regarded as the industry 'norm' and therefore desirable – but genuine never-hinged commands a premium. Europe sells but at reduced levels, Americas is good, as generally is Asia but the 'heat' has come off China which is still good – and Russia which can still be good. East Europe is weaker. Overall, Rarities throughout can command their own price levels and real Postal History has good demand.

18 What Should I Do Next?

Discuss your collection with U.P.A. Contact Andrew or an experienced member of his Team now...

19 Guarantee: I want You to be absolutely Sure

So If You're not sure we'll transport and return your stamps for FREE up to £200 in actual shipping cost at our expense. It sounds generous (and it is), but it's far less than the cost of driving 100+ miles each way and 3 to 6 hours in your home valuing your stamps

20 My Double Cast Iron Guarantee:

We can do a better job valuing your stamps in our office than in your home. If you don't agree I'll pay you an extra £50 for you to pay somebody trusted to open the boxes and put your albums back, in the same place, on the shelf they came from.

21 Act NOW: Contact Andrew

or an experienced member of his Team using the on-line selling form at our website, by fax, telephone or by mail. We'll work harder for you not to regret the decision to sell all or part of your collection...

Andrew

Andrew McGavin, Philatelic Expert.
Author: Managing Director
Universal Philatelic Auctions UPA

UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS ABPS

4 The Old Coalyard, West End, Northleach, Glos. GL54 3HE UK

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The Collectors' Secret Weapon

Discover the UPA reducing-estimate system ...
... Look for the 'US'? (Unsold lots)

Join 2,000+ regular bidders, 95% Collectors from 54 different countries who have discovered the Collectors' Secret Weapon – No Buyer's Premium, ALL Lots Guaranteed, Loyalty insured Airmail Post-Free delivery Auctions, **PLUS ... your 1st £55 value lots are on me ...**

Collectors – New to my UPA auctions?

Let me tell you an open secret ... with up to 19,000+ world-wide lots in each auction, unsurprisingly ...

Not everything sells 1st or even 2nd time offered

This is your chance to turn this to your advantage ... in 'archaic' philately, it is high time for a refreshing change, isn't it?

If you are tired of unrealistic Dealer's selling prices, don't be any longer, because unlike the rest of the stamp trade, each time an auction lot is **UNSOLD** – we reduce the estimate (and reserve), and furthermore ... we inform you!

Instead of typical trade 'cover-ups' (altering descriptions, repeated same estimates and reserves) ... here is how my 20-year time-proven unique UPA reducing-estimate and reserve system works, allowing lots to find their own value, and you to find extraordinary value, even bargains:

When you see ...

'US' after a description – **'US'** indicates the number of times that a lot has been **UNSOLD**, and how many times the lot has been reduced in price by initially 11%(US), a further 12%(US2), a further 13%(US3) etc.

Yes, each time a lot is unsold the reduction is 'ramped'...

... and because reserve is always 80% of estimate ... a US4 lot will start at ... as little as 46% of 1st time estimate...

This is the reason why some collectors do not even bother to bid in our auction! ...

They simply wait to buy unsold lots at reserve !!


So ... looking for the 'US' makes sense, doesn't it

... and you can join them. If you would like to spend some philatelic time, looking for the 'US' (Unsold lots) ...

... and because most clients support UPA by bidding in future auctions, I'm making this easy for new clients like you to get started –

Dedicated to De-mystifying Philately




Andrew McGavin,
Author, Managing Director
Universal Philatelic Auctions
(UPA)

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Awards of Merit 2023

Two Awards of Merit have been made this year:

Anne Stammers proposed by the British Thematic Association and Henley & District PS.

Anne is a founder member of the British Thematic Association. She became its secretary in 1998 and for the past 25 years has worked tirelessly for the society. Apart from her usual secretarial duties she has organised the society's weekends. At the same time, she had been the secretary of Henley & District Philatelic Society.

Geoffrey Reynolds In Memoriam proposed by Redcar & Cleveland PS and Middlesbrough & District PS.

The Redcar Society were waiting for Geoff to complete his many years as secretary. At last, he had found a successor and within two weeks the president

phoned me to say a nomination would be in the post to me within a few days. Almost immediately Geoff suffered a massive heart attack from which he did not recover. In the circumstances the Awards Committee decided to allow the nomination to go forward.

Both these recipients have spent many hours working for British

philately. Many other people deserve the same recognition so please complete a nomination form which can be found at www.abps.org.uk

Yvonne Wheatley Chairman ABPS Awards Committee



Anne receiving her award from Barry Stagg for ABPS and Ian King, Chairman of Henley.



Joan Reynolds with Jonathan Carr, Brian Dobie (VP), Martin Snowdon (Sec), Neil Williams (P), John Simms and Denis Huzzard

Another FEPA Award:

We are delighted to report that the Uddingston Stamp and Postcard Group has been awarded a FEPA Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding activities for the promotion of philately. The informality of the Group has attracted forty or so members who enjoy being given the opportunity to show a few sheets for the first time.

STAMPEX INTERNATIONAL Launch Ticket Sales

Stampex International, the UK's largest annual stamp show, held in London, will boost a range of exciting activities and experiences across four full days, including a late Thursday opening. The show has something for everyone, including historians, collecting enthusiasts, postal history lovers, philatelic exhibitors and stamp collecting beginners. Stampex, proudly sponsored by Spink, is based in the beautiful Business Design Centre in central London from 27th to 30th September 2023.

The PTS are delighted to confirm that over 60 PTS members will be in attendance at the show including Mark Bloxham Stamps, Stanley Gibbons, Michael Chipperfield, Glasgow Stamp Shop, BB Stamps, Trevor Pateman, Mulready Philatelics, Buckingham Covers, Lighthouse, Corbitts, Thematix and more. PTS Members will also be present at the highly successful Table Top Zone. This was launched last year and is the perfect place to sit, chat and meet dealers and hunt through wonderful boxes of postal materials.

The Stampex Auditorium, located on the Village Green, will be host to daily Stampex Talks and panel discussions. The full schedule will be online at www.stampexinternational.com There will be something for everyone, including learning "How to bid at Auction", "How to set up or boost a stamp society", "How to further your stamp collection" and more.

Stampex will also welcome societies into the newly created Society Meeting Space. Every day there will be society meetings including GBPS, India Study Circle, Malta Study Circle, Wreck & Crash Mail Society, Ceylon Study Circle and British Thematic Association. To see all the society meetings and to book your space visit www.stampexinternational.com/societymeetings

To find out more about other activities, including the Exhibiting Experience, The Court of Honour and the full list of talks, see the website.

TICKETS

Please register in advance at: www.stampexinternational.com/tickets. Visitors will receive a free Show Guide.

Tickets are £10 for entry on Wednesday (Day 1).

Free Entry Thursday – Saturday.

Express Entry wristbands are available in advance of the show for all days (subject to small P&P fee).

Stampex Patronage - £75 plus complimentary Day 1 Ticket

VENUE

The Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, LONDON N1 0QH.
Nearest Tube Station:- Angel Islington (Northern Line)

DATES/TIMES

Wednesday 27th September: 10:30 – 17:30

Thursday 28th September: 10:00 – 18:30

Friday 29th September: 10:00 – 17:30

Saturday 30th September: 10:00 – 16:00

Isobel Klempka

A Philatelic Metamorphosis

The first philatelic encounter, of which I am aware, came in the form of a letter to Father Christmas, sent swirling skyward by the heat of our cosy coal fire.

Outside the post office where we purchased stamps displaying the new Queen's head there was a temperamental coin-operated dispenser. I remember how we struggled to tear from the reluctant coil within.

There were three deliveries a day then!

It was a Saturday delight to spend pocket money in Woolworths on a small packet of assorted stamps. These opened my mind to the diversity of our planet's flora and fauna; an interest which shaped my career and continues to the present day.

My fascination with marine life was shared by a friend. Their medal-winning collection of marine invertebrates and a chance conversation with another philatelist changed my life.

There have been many highlights in my philatelic metamorphosis; watching the recreation of the penny black being the most enlightening as I saw the wires creating the watermark, the repositioning of the paper to ensure the correct alignment and the adjustment of the pressure to ensure the carefully inked plate would be applied correctly.

Forty years on my world now incorporates new meanings. When an impression is mentioned the dentist no longer comes to mind. I realise Chalky White is not a paint colour nor a Bermuda Lemon suitable for eating. I can now spot a missing line of longitude in the South Atlantic or a Fijian canoe without a paddle, and am no longer flummoxed by vocabulary such as 'perlure' in dictation.

Philately and the generosity of philatelic friends and associates has made it possible to help others too in two ongoing education projects. The first, enabling the sharing of Antilles World Wildlife Fund stamp material with young Antiguan and Barbadian environmentalists, from EAG (Environmental Action Group), who are trying to publicise the need for conservation in the Caribbean. The second, the sharing of philatelic social history items with local community hubs in the Antilles, such as the Museum and Archive in Antigua & Barbuda, who are tracing their unrecorded heritage on the road to manumission, and disseminating this to schools and the local community. I am most grateful to those auction houses, dealers and community leaders who have also helped with these endeavours.

Please consider sharing information you may discover too.

Margaret R. Vousden

Your society information?

Please let the ABPS Secretary know of any changes to the details, including the information on the ABPS website about your society. Contact details are on p 62. Please tell your Federation Secretary too.

Also if you want changes in times, venue, website or email addresses and telephone numbers of your secretary to appear in the Amendments List, send them to the Editor - details also on p 62.

A Cinderella Item or a Forgery?

At a recent local society meeting a friend drew my attention to a cover which he had. It purports to relate to one of the three Indian Round Table Conferences that took place between the British Government and Indian political personalities, notably Mahatma Gandhi, in the early 1930s. My friend is a



collector of Indian material and purchased this item as part of a bulk lot. On the face of it this is a registered envelope from the Conference to the USA but it does not take long to realise that it is not all it seems to be.



Firstly, the 1924 'stamps' are larger than the issued stamp and have been produced by photogravure rather than recess printing, otherwise the details are the same.

Secondly, the registration label is printed on the envelope.

Thirdly the address only gives the name of town (Annapolis) without any reference to a house number, street etc.

Finally the date stamp looks genuine when compared to known examples.

All in all it is obvious that this item has been manufactured, but by whom and for what purpose? Genuine examples from the Conference are not

exceptionally scarce so monetary gain does not seem to be the reason. Was it someone just showing off with what they could do?

Any thoughts would be appreciated.

Alan Spencer

The Torquay Philatelic Congress – June 2023

It was a long journey to Torquay for some of the participants but what a welcome we received. Coming by train was part of the enjoyment as the weather was good, the views were wonderful and from Torquay station to the hotel was along the promenade in sunshine with a gentle breeze. The hotel looked and was very comfortable. It was good to meet up with old friends and to make new acquaintances, both during the Thursday evening – some of us had come early for various reasons – and then when the Congress proper started on Friday morning. **Gwynne Harries** opened by asking why there are so many collecting interests - the coming displays and lectures backed up his response.

The official opening was by the Deputy Mayor of Torbay. It was her first such engagement so she was a bit nervous – but she said all the right things and wished us well. She and her consort looked at the first display before going back to work. The theme of the Congress was the various types of collecting so that first display was on Postcard Collecting – and given by your correspondent. After the display there were many questions – at least folk hadn't gone to sleep. Then they could look at the cards on display. This pattern was followed for all the following displays until the Sunday morning. **David Alford** showed us Fiji for Traditional Philately and **Barry Stagg** followed with Thematic Collecting to finish the first afternoon. After a rather



Barry Stagg receives his certificate



Simon Richards looking to the future

disorganised dinner we enjoyed a 4-sheet fun competition open to all.

After breakfast on Saturday **Simon Richards** gave the Kay Goodman Lecture on the way that organised philately works and what its future could be. This was prepared at



John Davies Open for business

short notice but was very good indeed and gave us much to talk and think about. Then came Open Philately with **John Davies** - the way forward for many. Postal History

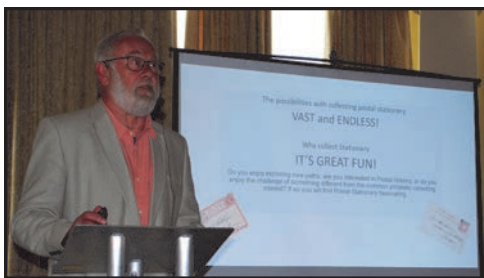


Nigel Gooch prepares to be Postally Historical

from Iran was **Nigel Gooch's** contribution, followed by Cinderella Collecting from **Steve Harrison**, ABPS Chair. He brought some of his Congress material to illustrate the diversity. That evening we held the very enjoyable Congress Banquet at which **David Alford** received the



Steve clicks with Congress Cinderella



Neil Sargent on Postal Stationery

Congress Medal for all his work for philately. Sunday morning started with Postal Stationery from **Neil Sargent** and then there was a



David Alford with his Congress medal

discussion about collecting and the future. It was very interesting to hear the comments. Local society members then showed one-frame displays of their various collecting interests, illustrating what we had all shown earlier. Now came the time for closure, saying farewell and reflecting on what a good time we had shared.

We missed you – we hope to see you next year in early July in Southampton. Let us know what would help you to decide to join us.

Keith Burton



Thanks to the workers - Brenda Mackey & Pauline Gaywood



Some Torquay & Teignbridge members with their well-earned certificates

On the Club circuit

A roundup of events and speakers at local and national societies.

Please send your reports direct to **the Editor**. We cannot undertake to include every report sent to us, and reserve the right to edit the reports we receive in the interests of space; short reports are best please. Contact details for the societies are on the ABPS website. **Visitors are welcome** at all societies listed. **When submitting photos please ensure that any people shown (especially children) have agreed to their photo appearing in this national newsletter (Data Protection and all that...).** "→" Indicates contact information.

Local Societies

Amersham & District

Firstly congratulations to our secretary for his award of a silver medal at the Thames Valley Federation nine-sheet competition. Activities prior to the summer break included Club Competition Evening; a relaxed competition where members judge other members' displays. This was followed by an outstanding presentation on *Rhodes* by **Paul Woodness** of the Italy & Colonies Study Circle.



Paul Woodness and his Rhodes display

President's evening gave us a display [by our president] on the *Postal Services in Oman*, describing how these services were underpinned at first through India and Pakistan then after 1947 by the British Postal Administration and currently by the Muscat and Oman Government. Our final meeting had members enthralled by **Mark Routh's** display on *Falklands 1982*; a most knowledgeable and enthusiastic display. It was all the

more interesting as this event is remembered by most of us. The programme to take us from the remainder of 2023 into 2024 is being prepared. Full details of all activities and officers can be found at our website: <https://stampersham.org.uk>

David Lee

Ayrshire

Our second meeting in March was a visit from **George Henshilwood**, the secretary of the Association of British Philatelic Societies, with his display on a *Thematic View of the 50 states of the USA*. He started with a short PowerPoint presentation to explain his methods. Each state was represented by both old and new postcards, preferably one being a map, an item of postal history, stamps relating to the history or symbols of the state and other stamps relating



Alan White presenting George with his certificate

to persons born in or significant to that state. Each state was represented on one or two A3 sheets, which gave us a vast variety of material to peruse. In addition George had displays on other aspects of the USA ranging through the Statue of Liberty, flags, immigration, landmarks, landscapes, the bicentenary, scientists, famous Americans, the Bald Eagle, sports and works of art. The evening was rounded off with New York, the Empire State Building, the 1893 Chicago Exhibition and Columbus. *David Rossall*

Basildon

Alan Moorcroft, from Colchester, gave us a fascinating hybrid display, partly PowerPoint and partly on display frames, showing *Aspects of Collecting Postal History*. He opened with the 18th century first postmarks of Colchester, explaining that this was not the first mail, as shown by mid-16th century items from Colchester in the Corsini Correspondence. Alan's study eventually took him to Italy for a meeting with the Countess Corsini and her archivist. Similar diversions took us into topics such as the introduction of the Uniform Penny Post, Winch Brothers stamp dealership and military mail (leading to the infamous "Colchester Glasshouse" (military prison) and the Polish Hostel settlement at Rivenhall that accommodated Polish servicemen and their families who declined to go home after WWII). **David Church** is both one of our earliest members, and also one of our youngest, having joined as a Junior Member! David gave us a fascinating display of *Iceland's* issues from its earliest independent issues to the late 20th Century. Today known as Gdansk, a city in Poland, Danzig was a crucial port city and transport hub for eastern Germany. Under the Versailles Treaty and the League of Nations, after WWI, *Danzig* was set up as an independent city state. Inevitably, Germany wanted it back, and **Giles du Boulay** took us through the complex political and philatelic history of the inter-war and wartime issues, its absorption into the Third Reich and its role in the war. A fascinating evening! *Fly On The Wall"*

Bookham

In April, we enjoyed a visit from Redhill PS – **Robert Hurst**, **Edward Walker** and **Rodney Pomfret** displayed a varied mix of topics showing stamps and postcards. Our AGM was in May. The club awarded the Norman Frost Salver for 2022 to **Mick Willis** and for 2023 to **Malcolm Cole**. The club also made the membership secretary, **Fred Mitchell**, an honorary member. In June, **Richard Hewitt** gave a remarkable display covering *Aviation in Scotland* starting with the 1910 Lanark Air Show, followed by material of airlines which have flown in

**No report of your society? Why not send one to the editor?
It could get you new members, and also gives hints on good
speakers to other societies.**

Scotland from 1934 and also certain flights from and to Scotland. It was a most entertaining and interesting afternoon. We look forward to Members' Displays for the Roy Gilbert Cup in September, our October Auction and a visit from **Bill Barrell** in November to show *The Development of the Royal Mail, Postal Reform and the 1d value 1840-1880*. For more information →

www.bookhamstampclub.com

Bristol

Earlier this year we held an exhibition of philately, not a stone's throw from the iconic Clifton Suspension Bridge. The event was supported by an amazing collection of silverware - that of our excellent hosts, Grey-Harris & Co, Clifton, jewellers and specialists in antiques and silver. The owner, **Stephen Grey-Harris**, afforded us his entire exhibition hall furnished with beautiful mahogany and glass display cabinets.



The exhibits themselves focussed on three particular themes: *The Works of Leonardo Da Vinci* as arranged by **Les Ashton-Smith** (extreme right in the photo), *GB Queen Victoria including Azemar Experimental Cancels* by **John Roe** (extreme left), and *The Life and Artwork of Alphonse Mucha*, one of the founders of art nouveau,

by the good-looking one (seated left, wearing a white shirt). Also standing in the photograph, looking smartest of all, is **Campbell Buckeridge** representing our hosts. Seated right and enjoying the occasion, is our nonagenarian treasurer, **John Edwards**. The steady flow of visitors all seemed fascinated as they chatted with the group. The society has been invited to exhibit again in the near future.

Ron Gillard

Burnley and District

We finished our season in May with our AGM and **John Jones** handed over the chain of office to **Peter Markham** who will see in our new season after the short summer recess. We start again on September 1st with an open night and



Richard Hewitt displaying Scottish Airmails

Barry Feltham



Peter Markham and John Jones

members showing the latest acquisitions from the summer. Hopefully there should be plenty to see as the Fair calendar during the break includes Midpex and York as well as local ones (to us) being Bilsborrow and Barton. Lots of on-line auctions too. Membership is stable at present but we are always encouraging recruiting newcomers with displays in local libraries of topical items (Coronation) and postal history in the form of old postcards. No doubt other societies have telephone calls from people who have found a deceased relative's

collection and are at a loss what to do with it. Always amazing that these folk were solo collectors, who never joined a club but amassed vast quantities of material. Clearly a lost membership there, but no one in the family wishing to carry on the hobby. We continue to beat the drum. We are grateful to fellow philatelists who are willing to visit with displays and always try and reciprocate in kind. With another full syllabus we're looking forward to our 80th season (founded March 1944). Let's hope there are many more to come. *Barry W Evans*

Cambridge

It is with great sadness that we report the death of **Dr Simon Kelly** on 19th May 2023. He was a long-serving member of the society and served as president during 2014-2016 and also 2020-2022. His funeral was held on 16th June 2023. At the beginning of May we had a fascinating display and presentation from **David Leathard**, with a large range of material which covered *The Development of Postage Stamps from 1694 to 1902*. Our Annual General Meeting was held on 7th June. **Rufus Barnes** was nominated as President Elect to take over as President from **Graham Wylde** at the 2024 AGM. For the June



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Zoom presentation we were given a very interesting display *Egypt* by **Jamie Smith**. It incorporated a large range of picture postcards depicting the many wars and war zones in and around Egypt plus a selection of cigarette cards on the same theme. We will continue with the format of a face-to-face meeting in Cambridge on the first Wednesday of each month and a Zoom presentation on the third Friday of each month. → info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk

Peter Morton

Chelmsford & District

We were delighted to welcome back **Colin Evans** showing *Thematics*, a delightful collection of material on a vast range of subjects. His very entertaining presentation comprised three parts and subjects ranged from the Victoria Cross to the Long Man of Wilmington and much in between! He included postcards, stamps and cancelled envelopes. We welcomed **Bob Peters** and **Mick Carter** from Frinton and District PS. Bob displayed a wide variety of *UK First Day Covers and Miniature Sheets*, with subjects ranging from Classic record albums to medical breakthroughs. Mick followed with a wealth of material covering *WWII Military Occupation of Eritrea*. This included censored post to and from Eritrea and definitive issues overprinted with MEF and BMA. **Eric Hutton** visited with his presentation on *Mauritius*. After an historic/geographic context of the Indian Ocean state he displayed material from the early reign of the late Queen to the present day. Then came earlier materials including fine examples of hand-stamp markings used to frank mail from the start of their postal system, plus stamps (postage and revenue) and postcards. **Pat Adams** gave a presentation for our final session before our summer break. She displayed *Norway*, a country she has visited many times to see relatives. In addition to stamps, Pat also showed a variety of postcards from shipping companies both coastal and Hull-bound, later

Hinckley & District Philatelic Society STAMP FAIR

Sunday 8th October, 2023

10.00 – 15.00

at

Hinckley Parks Primary School
Leicester Road, Hinckley, LE10 1LP

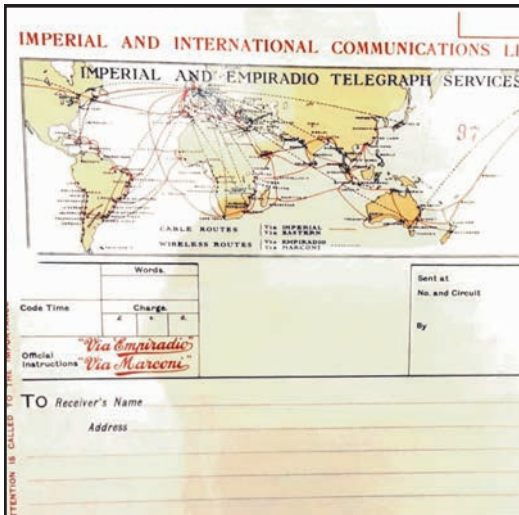
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Newcastle. Other features of the presentation included photographs and postcards of the town of Notodden, whose prosperity was based on fertilizer manufacture.

David Everard

Chichester & District

Guest speaker, **John Robbins**, took us on a journey usually requiring lots of layers and thermal underwear. His display was *Antarctica* where three oceans meet. With a mixture of envelopes, stamps, photos and colourfully illustrated maps, we learned of the many bases there: Australia, GB, Norway, France, New Zealand, Chile, USA, Argentina among others. With a varied human population of between 1000 and 4000, other inhabitants include elephant seals, penguins and wandering albatrosses. Famous explorers such as Scott, Ross and Shackleton crossed the icy continent to reach the South Pole. The first task when reaching a base was to fly the national flag and establish a post office! Our June meeting was a display about *Telegraph stamps and Ephemera of the British Isles* given by **John Armstone**. Telegraph stamps were attached to



telegraph forms to show payment had been made. They were first issued by the English and Irish Magnetic Telegraphy Company in the early 1850s. Some issues on display at the 1851 Great Exhibition were printed by Perkins Bacon and later by printers such as De La Rue and Waterlow. John showed examples of printers' proofs, control copies, colour varieties and of course, stamps. He displayed numerous envelopes displaying these stamps and fee markings. His display finished with an item concerning Post Office training stamps, issued in London from 1920. His examples were from the 1970s. His display is

always informative, varied and interesting to an audience.

Alan Green and Martha Brown

Croydon

At our April meeting **Terry Page** gave his display *Russia – Zemstvo Postal History*. In Russia from 1864 the Zemstvo system of elected rural assemblies was set up. Away from the main postal routes a vast number of remote, neglected, rural communities were denied the benefits of a postal service. The newly formed zemstvo districts then opened post offices. An increasing number of zemstvo districts issued postage stamps. The Imperial Postal system was initially hostile to this situation, but gradually expanded their coverage to rural Russia. The presentation showed covers and stamps from a range of Zemstvo districts alphabetically arranged from Ardatov to Zadonsk. Some covers had both Imperial and Zemstvo postage stamps. Some of the material shown was

rare and some had been obtained from the 1999 Fabergé Collection Auction. Most of the mail shown was internal as letters from abroad are very rare. However, outgoing letters to Switzerland, Sweden, the Russian Post Office in China, London and the Levant were shown as well as a few incoming letters from Finland, Germany, Austria and Turkey. We saw postal stationery/sheets from every district that issued such material. As the Coronation had occurred shortly before the next meeting, President Pauline invited all present to stand and give an acclamation to the newly-crowned monarch – “God Save The King”. She then introduced the speaker **Captain James Podger** and invited him to give his presentation on *West Indies Postal History*.



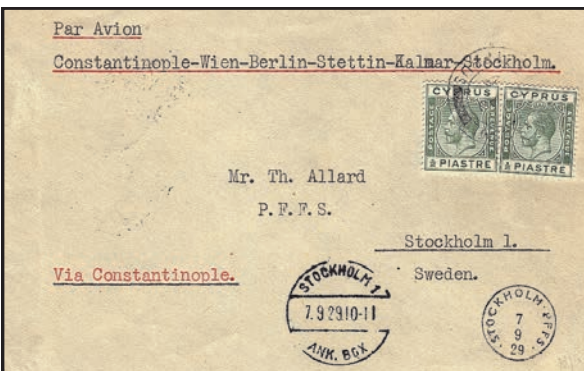
President Pauline presents his certificate to Terry Page

James showed material from Antigua to the Virgin Islands.

Graham Harker

Dawlish

Devon - People & Places was the subject of our meeting on 12th April. Dawlish was high on the list with Brunel's Railway Line and the man himself who had planned to live in Torbay. Another family high on the agenda was the Brookes who became the Rajas of Sarawak and are all buried on Dartmoor. Charles Babbage who invented the Babbage Engine for computing was also mentioned - one of his computers can be seen in the museum at Great Torrington. Joseph Locke also appeared having been a Railway Developer who not only appeared on stamps but has a plaque on Crediton Station. There were a total of 128 people and places referenced in the talk. Visitors are welcome at all the club's



Airmail to Sweden

meetings. In May members were enthralled by a superb display of *Cyprus from 1878 to 1960*. Some very significant and philatelically rare items were in this display, such as a very large block of 1d red stamps overprinted CYPRUS, some very early Air Mail covers prior to the introduction of direct services in 1932 including covers that left Cyprus in 1929 and travelled by air to Sweden, or were posted in Cyprus and travelled to Brazil by Zeppelin and one

that went on the first direct flight by Imperial Airways to Australia.

→ www.dawlishsc.org or 01626 864844.

Jim Wigmore

Deal

Our logo shows us to be founded in 1909 although hardly any records exist of the early days. We are now a small but vibrant group meeting monthly on Saturday afternoons. Covid changed our way of thinking and we decided we did not want to come out on cold dark mid-week evenings. Saturday suits us much better and we do not clash with other local clubs!



About 30% of

our membership attends meetings, the rest take the packet. Competition evenings for 8-page entries are supported strongly. We have an away team to present displays to local clubs and in turn receive displays from them. Most of our other meetings are taken by members, many being mature collectors who can always present very interesting material, making organisation a secretary's pleasure. **Jenny**



Jenny Viggars receives the trophy from Ron Ogilvie

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Viggars was the latest winner of the President's Shield for *The History of Polio*. Our first auction after Covid lockdown brought back the magic of a community of stamp collectors. More memorable was the electricity failure on the last thirty lots, but we endured in the fading light with the help of phone torches. Even the additions went without a hitch! Our librarian brings our stock of SG catalogues to meetings. We have most of the specialist catalogues in print. There is a high borrowing rate for these - we have wide interests! 'Stamps of the World' is available through our local library so we do not need to buy it - support your local library!!!
Alan Buckman

Dundee and District

2022 ended with a members' night of *Recent Acquisitions* and a One-Page Competition. The competition yielded an interesting range of displays with the winner being **Richard Griffiths** with *GB Airmails in WWII*. 2023 started with another members' night – *S Night*. Then **Charles Lloyd** gave an outstanding display on *My Imperial Airways Africa Postal Service* which included the development of the service from 1931 to 1938. In February at Competition Night, there were joint winners in Postal History: **David Millar** (*Queen Victoria Post*) and **David Easson** (*Uganda Postmarks*). Thematic was won by **David Easson** and Social Philately was won by **Brian McQueen** (*A Red Cross Story*). In March the scheduled speaker was unable to attend so **Charles Lloyd** again stepped in to show *Belgium's Africa Territories* – the Oil Palm Design. postal stationery from the Belgium Congo, Ruanda, Burundi, and Katanga from 1894 to 1963. Later that month there was a visit from the Lothian PG with displays by **Bill Torrance** (*German Democratic Republic*), **Bob Catto** (*USA Postal History*), **John Law** (*Before and After KUT*). In absentia **Bill Humphries** sent his display *Blue* - world stamps containing blue. At the ASPS Centenary Congress in Perth,



Dundee & District PS having a good evening

the winner of the best society display was our President **Harry Jackson** (*German States to Germania 1849-1900*). **Norrie Kelso** received a Large Silver Gilt for *The Electrical Revenue Stamps of Saskatchewan 1929-1949*. On 11th May, the 2022/23 session ended with the Annual Dinner when a good evening was had by all.
Colin Campbell

Ferndown & West Moors

April session proved to be an excellent meeting, with over 20 members, very high quality displays and a concluding auction. There were the following '8 in 3' Themes: **Hugh Jefferies** commenced with *Camel Postmen in the Sudan*, which generated the camel and rider design and the theme on their stamps for the following 100 years!; **Rick Wilmot** showed *Esperanto*, noting how the World Esperanto Congress had run almost continuously from 1905 up to date, with stamps celebrating it from many different countries; **Phil Olds** displayed stamps, sheets and covers of *The Indian Sun God and His Chariot* from Jaipur, the capital of one of the largest Indian states; **Albert Jackson** brought *Postcards* bearing stamps that had been hand-engraved by Polish officers in the German POW camp at Woldenberg during WWII; **Wendy Buckle** showed stamps with



religious images from *Western Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts* made by monks and nuns - she explained that a feature was often a large initial letter denoting the start of a new paragraph; **Terry Kirkman** put up *Bonzo (dog) Postcards* that he had recently started collecting. He said he had a cat himself, rather than a dog, so was showing cards that also had a cat somewhere in the picture! and **Rod Greer** closed with

pre-stamp and early 1d red stamp covers from 'Coleraine' in Northern Ireland, close to where he grew up.

Alan King

Guildford & District

Grace Davies gave an enthusiastic and informative overview of her collection. Her display covered *Peace* after armed conflict from the Boer War and WWI to VJ Day. She illustrated the evolution of the United Nations, from the Peace Movement and the League of Nations to the UN Charter in June 1945 and HQ in New York. She showed items on a range of aspects including Peace as a name and Nobel Laureates. The names included: bridges, hotels, and even an airship. She showed stamps illustrating symbols of peace, including Picasso's dove, allegorical figures and the olive branch, and concluded by illustrating several Nobel Peace Laureates, e.g. the first in 1901 to Henry Dunant (Red Cross founder) and Albert



ABPS accredited judges

The current list of ABPS accredited exhibition/competition judges can be found on the ABPS web site www.abps.org.uk Click on the "Exhibiting" tab, then the "Judges" tab that is on the 2nd line of tabs.

Schweitzer (1952). At the AGM in May, **Susan Taylor** summarised the programme for 2022/23 including a successful Members' Evening, the first for several years. **Sheila Morris** was awarded the President's Award having stepped down from the role of treasurer after 18 years but she continues as membership secretary. **Charles Smith** has decided to relinquish the position of vice-president, having been a steadying influence as president or vice-president since 2009. Charles has been awarded a Surrey Federation Diploma of Merit. **Barry Stephens** has been secretary since May 2014, took over our Packet in 2016 and began running a Sales Table in 2020. These have been key to our financial viability, especially during COVID-19 times. Barry has also been awarded a Surrey Federation Diploma of Merit. **Rob Cooke**

Halifax

The display by **Roger Mannings** was based on *World-wide Covers* obtained during 1965 and 1975 when he was an official in the Customs and Excise, boarding and inspecting Hull-bound ships. **Steve Saville** showed a series of modern covers from *New Zealand, South Africa and the UK* that had all suffered from not being delivered. They showed a variety of instructional marks prior to their final demise. **Max Smith** provided a series of covers demonstrating the *Postal Rates of mail from GB to India in the 1870s*. He explained the various routes and rates involving both sea and land journeys. He produced covers demonstrating the reduction in rates from 1/1d to 8d and later 6d on India joining the UPU to 5d and finally 2½d. He also showed examples of late fees added to the basic postal rate. **Brian Wilkinson** showed a series of stamps of *China* covering 1902 to 1946. Some of these came from his earliest collecting days. President **Maria Fabrizi** brought 1990s correspondence between the *Falkland Islands and Elland* in West Yorkshire. **Adrian Lee** displayed covers and stamps connected to the *Use of WAR TAX Charges* added to postage from 1915 to 1919 to help pay the cost of prosecuting the war. He opened with the Dominion of Canada and continued with some of the issues from BWI islands, Bermuda, Jamaica, and the Dominion of New Zealand finishing with Falklands, who were still printing and issuing these stamps in 1919. **Adrian Lee**

Harrogate

Our last visiting speaker for the season was **Rufus Barnes** from Cambridge. He brought displays of philately from rarely seen places *Abu Dhabi, Easter Island and Christmas Island*. We were informed by the history and some very rare stamps and covers. Something unusual always goes down well. The AGM went as usual but with the added advantage of a good attendance and some interesting discussions about the future. One decision was to continue with our popular monthly Zoom meetings. Our final physical meeting of the season was a members' evening at which eight members showed a wide range of material. It was a super end to the season's program which has gone very well indeed. Many thanks to everyone who has supported our meetings. Our Zoom meetings since May have also been well attended from far and wide. In May **Andrew Millington** (Cheltenham & Stroud) gave *A Brief Philatelic History of 10 000 years of Copper*. Covering such a big subject in the slides was a major task and very well executed. The next two Zoom meetings continued our participants'

journey through the continents. *Europe* was relatively easy for many – but the range of countries and interpretations showed our skill and mental adroitness. For *North and Central America* we visited Guatemala (twice), USA (a few times in different ways and states), Nova Scotia, Canada, flew across the Atlantic with Smithy (Kingston-Smith), seceded in the Civil War and travelled with a wandering missionary. Thanks to everyone.

Bill Tait, Keith Burton

Hull

The April display was given by our secretary, **Robert McMillan**, who showed a range of postcards illustrating *Antarctic Expeditions of the Early 20th Century*, many of which are now very scarce. He followed these with *Mail from Antarctic Bases* extending into the

1930s. At our AGM in May we resolved that we would go back to holding two meetings per month, and will make an effort to attract and retain new members by showing a wide variety of subjects through the season. **Glenn and Jill**

Fearons visited us in June, Jill entertaining us with a most interesting range of *Maritime Mail*, postcards and nautical memorabilia, including material relating to the Titanic, all fully explained with clarity and enthusiasm. She had decided, however, not to wear her Titanic T-shirt around the village that day, as, poignantly, her visit coincided with the search for the submersible



Jill and Glenn Fearons having received their certificates

which was lost diving on the wreck site. Glenn showed a detailed display of material from the *South African Empire Exhibition of 1936-37*. This was held in Johannesburg in conjunction with celebrations for the Golden Jubilee of the city, and was the first exhibition held in the Union of South Africa. *Daphne McMillan*

Huntingdonshire

On 23rd May the guest speaker was **Alan Hall** who displayed *Australian Philatelic Exhibitions 1895-1936*. Sydney held the first two-day non-competitive one on 1st and 2nd December 1894. From the 1905 exhibition we were shown a mailing card and an invitation card. For the 1911 one they produced four labels in different colours along with a 32-page catalogue and the first ever souvenir cover; all were shown. Next Alan displayed an official programme for the 1921 Melbourne Exhibition. For the 1932 Sydney exhibition we were shown a registered cover and two sheets of labels in red and blue advertising the event. Newcastle held the event in 1934 and we were shown examples of the special cancellations for the exhibition along with a letter sent out for a committee

meeting. Sydney hosted the exhibition again in 1938 and there were 321 competitive entries. There were two printings of the commemorative covers and we saw both along with a registered cover sent from the exhibition. The Queensland philatelic society held an event in 1938. There was a post office installed in the exhibition and special registration labels were provided. These labels showed a Koala Bear and were printed perforated and imperforate. A cover with the registration mark no 1 was sent to King George VI for the Royal collection. Alan ended with a 70th birthday cover celebrating 70 years of service to philately 1911-1981. This was a fascinating introduction to Australian philatelic exhibitions. ➔ 01480 468037 *David Birkert*

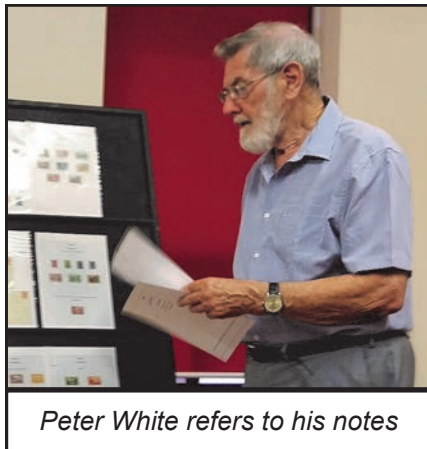
King's Lynn

At the last meeting in April members welcomed **Don Davies** who gave an excellent display on *GB Penny Post 1840-52* – a collection put together during the lockdown period. This was followed by **Keith Burton** who entertained members with his Zoom presentation on *Viaducts*. The season's last meeting commenced with the AGM during which **Jonathan Skinner**, chairman, thanked members for their enthusiastic participation in the programme, the very high quality of entries which they had made to competition evenings and the excellent displays produced for members' evenings. Two very long serving members, **Richard Moss** and **Paul Lascelles**, stood down from the committee and were unanimously granted life membership. Jonathan also mentioned those members who have died during the year. We remember them with fondness – may they rest in peace. The evening continued with a fast-moving auction of over 300 lots expertly managed by **Mike Kentzer**, auctioneer, assisted by **Terry Wagg** and **Winston Williams**. Now that the season has finished, our Zoom host, Winston Williams, will have a well-deserved rest as Zoom presentations will not continue over the summer but recommence on the first Friday in September. We have enjoyed a highly interesting and varied programme during the 2022-2023 philatelic year thanks to the hard work of **Dr Jon Higgins** in devising the programme and ensuring its successful delivery. This is appreciated by all members. The 2023-2024 season will continue with the pattern of alternating face to face meetings with zoom presentations. *Dahlia Harrison*

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Kingston & District

During 2022/23 we have held several Zoom meetings with **Maurice Buxton** and **Philip Longbottom** giving displays and having short displays from members. Members' evening meetings were held at Claygate Day Centre. **Peter White** visited us on 16th June to display the stamps and postal history of *Monaco*. He has been specialising in Monaco since the age of 7 and was able to display mainly different material from what he displayed a few years ago on his last visit (for those who can remember this). An enjoyable display.



Peter White refers to his notes

➔ www.kingstonphilatelicsociety.com

or Brian Sole 01932 220677 or brian.sole@btinternet.com

Chris Oliver

Lanarkshire

Before the season ended, we viewed two very different displays. The first, by 'The Two Good Doctors', aka **Dr Ken Liddell** and **Dr Brian Dow** (both medical), presented displays on the theme of *Perthshire*. Ken presented many historic views of Aberfeldy and surrounding villages. So many buildings and streets have gone or altered so viewing this history was truly fascinating. Also views of Sir Donald Currie, Founder of the Union Castle Shipping Line – who was owner of the Glen Lyon and Garth Estates. Brian displayed handstamps and covers, issued through the years, showing views, people, locomotives, flowers – all pertaining to Perthshire. He followed this with a most interesting display of the *Black Watch* which was founded by General Wade in the aftermath of the 1715 rebellion. Views of many battles in which they were involved - Crimea, India, Boer War; various memorials, especially the famous one beside General Wade's Bridge at Aberfeldy. Finally views of Perthshire's greatest export – John Dewar's Whisky! The final meeting was that of *8 sheets or 50p* – and the response was an amazing variation of themes! Including China, Fiji, USA, London, Antarctic, Voyages of Discovery to USA and Canada – Scout Jamborees, Bird of Paradise, Albert Schweitzer, Socialist Party of Germany, Autographs of Scottish Parliamentarians and more! Members are now looking forward to the new season beginning on Friday 1st September.

Elsie Miller

Launceston

In April **Mike Tooley's** display and talk was on *Dartmoor Letter Boxes*. Mike introduced us to the concept of letterboxes and letterboxing. The activity originated on Dartmoor when, in 1854, James Perrott of Chagford set up a small cairn at Cranmere Pool. Inside he placed a glass jar where visitors could leave their visiting cards. Today the Dartmoor Letterbox is a container with a rubber stamp inside from which visitors can take an impression for their collection. Mike showed his extensive collection of letterbox impressions from within the boxes he had visited over the years. The display was certainly a very interesting diversion from usual. In May **Roger Winn** gave his second talk on *Old Sea Dogs*

& the Nelson Touch. The first half was based on the United States ship The Ranger, captained by John Paul Jones, born in Kirkcudbright, Scotland. He sided with the colonists and joined the Continental Navy. Roger described the passage of the Ranger to France, bringing news of General Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga. On arrival, The Ranger (the first ship to fly the "Stars & Stripes") received a salute by the French Fleet. We heard of raids by the Ranger and French fleet against England. The second half involved Admiral Horatio Nelson. Roger detailed his various battles – Copenhagen, Nile and his death at Trafalgar. Both parts were illustrated with ephemera, postcards and stamps, including a copy of Nelson's prayer.



Roger Winn receives the club's certificate from David Hatwell

Viv Sandercock, Des Kent

Lostock

Our **March** 2023 meeting opened with one minute's silence in memory of **David Hulme** who had attended many meetings before becoming poorly. April was our



Bernard Hooley with David Brigden

AGM with comments from members and our treasurer **David Brigden** handing out our financial report. **Don Tinsley** suggested our programme for the year not run 2022/2023 but a new style annual listing of visiting speakers eg for 2023. This was agreed. Our chairman **Adrian Jones** was re-appointed, with **David Hargreaves** as vice chairman. Finally the current secretary, having held the post since 2015, asked for someone to train up to take over. Next AGM will be held 1st December 2023. Sadly our visiting speaker for May **Brian Lythgoe** had Covid, and sent his apologies, promising to come back in 2024 with his talk *1840 to 1940 Centenary Stamps*.

Our vice-chairman **David Hargreaves** came to the rescue and volunteered to put a talk together about *Robin Hood* with a display in stamps and other material. He even dressed in a Robin Hood costume including a hooded top. We complimented David for his quick mind and for gathering all this material together at such short notice. In June we had the return of **Peter Aveyard** with his talk entitled *Lancaster Postal History*. Finally in July we enjoyed a return visit by **Arthur Jennion** with *Introduction to the Faroe Islands*.

David Morley



Leeds Philatelic Society

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Maidstone & Mid-Kent

At Maidstone PS we are fortunate that we have Margaret, our very good programme secretary, who has managed to find a selection of interesting subjects for our meetings. We have had displays ranging from the Cunard Queens, Aspects of China, NZ advertisements on stamps and covers to Japan. In addition we have had members' evenings as well as the usual competitions and auctions. We are also fortunate that our president, **Tony Davis**, who arranges our morning meetings, also continues to find interesting subjects and these meetings continue to be well supported. One new aspect was an open evening to attract new members. The committee provided a varied range of material which showed the many aspects of Philately. Despite substantial publicity via posters and local radio we only managed to attract three visitors, but two became new members and one, **John Gillespie**, has now taken on the role of treasurer, which had suddenly become vacant owing to our very long-term treasurer **Richard Barnes** having to stand down due to illness. So a reasonable success - as they say, from acorns, great oaks can grow. We are looking forward to the 14th September when we start the new season with a members' evening bringing twelve sheets.

Brian Stonestreet

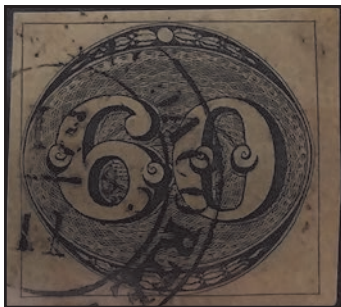
Oxford

Unfortunately, the number of our competition entries continues to decline, but what was shown to members in April was excellent. In May, I gave my colourful Presidential display on *Gilbert and Ellice Islands* during the reign of Queen Elizabeth the Second. The following month saw a well-attended and thorough AGM, with most officers remaining in place, but a few notable changes, including a new president, **Dave Armit**. A small summer social in a local hostelry was held in July. A couple of summer meetings will round off an eventful season!

Dr Simon Heap

Poole & Bournemouth

An Evening in Brazil with **Janet** and **Nick Nelson** was a much-anticipated evening, beginning with glasses of Caipirinha all round. Nick introduced himself as 'the warm-up act' and explained how they became involved with Brazilian philately. As well as the display on the stands we had a slide show with excellent equipment which went without a hitch. They spoke about the flag of Brazil and the country's anthropology before starting philately with the 'Bullseye' stamps, being the first to be used in Brazil in 1843. The first perforated stamps appeared in 1866. From 1894 there appeared the 'Republican Dawn' series with perforations ranging from 5.5 to 48. Slides of stamps followed to the 1918 issue, the last before the 'Orthographic Reform'. That was when the Z in Brazil was changed to S, thereafter, Brasil. From 1920-1940 there were designs of Commerce and Industry with twelve different watermarks. 1927 brought the first airmails. Santos Dumont, the Father of Aviation in Brasil, appears on numerous stamp issues. We heard about the history of the



Bull's Eye

1930s and Brasil's part in WWII. In 1968 there was a state visit by QEII. More and more commemorative stamps were being printed including personalised stamps, self-adhesives etc. A special stamp for people on benefits appeared but was short-lived. They ended with a small selection of British POs in Brasil and a few 1934 air covers including Zeppelins. Janet and Nick brought a very entertaining evening to a close. We strongly recommend them. *Rick Wilmot*

Ringwood

RINGPEX 2023 - Without doubt, this year's philatelic fair - **RINGPEX**, was one



*Gordon Masson checking out
Australian Philately*

of the best and most enjoyable in recent years, achieving an excellent attendance, busy and most friendly atmosphere, with a good variety of purchasing opportunities, a healthy *Penny Black* and assorted raffle prizes, a day-long availability of the famous **RINGPEX Bacon Roll** and other cafe facilities!! Bearing in mind that the majority of such fairs nationally are experiencing reduced interest and footfall, the *RPS* committee, with all its hard work,



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Hosted by Prestwick Stamp and Postcard Club

felt this had to be a major plus in its current programme. The event proved to be as strong on providing an opportunity to engage with regular dealers, as it was in providing the setting for collectors and philatelic trading friends to discuss the latest matters of interest. Among the many visitors, an encouraging number took an interest in the society's official table, and requested further information, with a desire to become members. *RINGPEX* certainly still has that *magic* ingredient to set itself apart and be a firm diary favourite! Many clubs and societies seem to be struggling to gain good levels of interest in competitions. We have long encouraged the tradition of assisting and encouraging members to take part, and at the May meeting there were no disappointments. Nine entries were forthcoming, creating most interesting displays. President **Colin Mount** provided a most helpful summary. After the exhibits were examined and voted on, each was commented on by the owner.

Paul Barry

Rochdale

Our annual competition was entered by five members. The first entry described numerous plate errors found on *Maltese GVI stamps issues* between 1938 and 1943. Many errors were caused by the complexities encountered on pictorial stamps. The next entry discussed *Handstamp Impressions used in the Bury Postal Area*. Many different hand stamps were used. This collection was described as postal history of the waste paper basket. *New Zealand Covers from the Territorial Dependencies* followed on which were originals, individually painted as created by Myrtle Purden, a gifted artist. Miniature sheets as designed by another club member were shown commemorating the *Coronation of King Charles III*, picturing events celebrating this historic day. Finally came *UK Postage Due Stamps*, with explanations of their use. In July **Jack Lindley**, our club's New Zealand specialist, presented stamps and covers from *Dependencies and Overseas Post Offices*. Currently New Zealand comprises New Zealand, Tokelau, the Ross Dependency and the self-governing states of the Cook Islands and Niue. Most stamps issued were from New Zealand overprinted with islands' names. Because of isolation and low populations, used stamps are relatively scarce, but Jack has managed to collect nearly all of them, many on cover, often with fascinating stories concerning historical events spanning decades of exploration, wartime and political changes. A benefit of Jack's talk was learning how to pronounce Polynesian island names, together with facts that not many people know, such as that Captain Cook made landfall in Tahiti and not the Cook Islands.

➔ Neil.Wharmby@gmail.com

Peter Grimshaw

Royal Sutton Coldfield

As the Spring haze gave way to Summer sunshine our members responded with enthusiasm to our various events. April gave members both, a well-attended bourse and a very comprehensive and informative display by **Barry Stagg** of *Edward VIII Stamps and Postal History*. If you thought with such a short reign there was little to show you were in for a surprise. We were shown the different finely drawn designs put forward for the four stamps as well as the postal history from the period. In May at our meeting with the title *An Afternoon of Postcards* members' displays gave us a fascinating and wide-ranging view of postcards from local postings and views to worldwide coverage and just quite quirky cards

- real fun displays. The AGM was a chance to celebrate the past year and re-elect our slightly reluctant committee members! The freshly polished cups were redistributed to the competition winners. Afterwards, **Steven Harrison**, our newly re-elected chair, gave us an interesting and informative display on the *History and Evolution of the Recorded Delivery Service*. Finally, members dug deep into their collections to show *Something I've never shown before*. Again, a very diverse set of frames! We look forward to the new season starting in September when we will continue with our afternoon meetings.

Margaret Langley

Salisbury & District

Another successful season, and we now take a break until September. Overall membership has declined slightly in common with many local societies. But we have a good core of members who attend most meetings and there is always a good buzz. A smaller membership also enables members to get to know each other better and to swap information. We had a good auction with 43% of lots selling. While the profit is not high it makes a significant contribution to the society's funds and is enjoyed by members. Our two outside speakers, **Barry**



Julian Frost receives the Thematic competition Wiltshire Federation Cup from the chairman Nigel Borlase-Hendry

Wood and **Wendy Buckle** were of a very high standard. Barry's presentation was a first for us as it is first time in living memory that we sang during a presentation as we belted out 'Lily The Pink', which has its origins in the potions purveyed by the first female salesperson in America. I will finish on what is perhaps a contentious note. I would question the value of the society reports. We, and I suspect most societies, have a website on which we report on each meeting. So our members have no reason to read it. Apart of course to comment on the secretary's English. In my last report I asked for comments from other societies on whether or not they had a problem with a lack of interest in competitions. Answers

came their none. This could imply that readers don't read and have little interest in reports from other societies.

Mike Moody

Editor's Response: Probably not surprisingly I do not agree with Mike's view that the society reports are not worth having in the magazine. I do receive comments, mainly positive about them and the content of the magazine from some of my regular correspondents. However I do strongly agree that when a question is raised or comments are requested, the

silence is overwhelming. There are requests for ideas and comments from David Rennie (Bromley & Beckenham) and Richard Smith (Leeds) earlier in the magazine (Pages 10 to 12). Our chair, Steven Harrison, also asks for your views - frequently (Page 4). Please do not leave it to someone else. There are often comments that the numbers entering society competitions are falling. Why? What has worked? What hasn't? The same applies to membership. And to finding people to volunteer to do something in their society, federation or nationally. You might think of other things - if so, put pen to paper, finger to keyboard - for the sake of philately in UK.

Sheffield

The First Frank Walton Memorial Display, 10th May 2023

We were pleased to welcome both Frank's widow, Liz, and **Peter Cockburn**,

President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London with the inaugural *Frank Walton Memorial Display*. Peter was especially pleased to be honoured with the privilege of giving this inaugural display, as it was Frank who had asked him if he would like to be proposed for President of the Royal. Peter commenced with *The Perkins Bacon Revenue Stamps*. These were used for export and import bills of exchange. Due to the frequent sinkings of ships, these stamps were issued in sets of three to try to ensure that at least one would reach its destination. Peter then displayed



*Peter Cockburn, Liz Walton, Keith Burton
(YPA President) and Andrew Fullen
(Sheffield President)*

Telegraph Stamps including Indian stamps and Indian stamps overprinted Ceylon for this use as well as Ceylon stamps specifically for this purpose. Normally these stamps would be torn in two, one for the sender's copy and the other for the telegraph office. The second half was *North Borneo*, now Sabah, a country where Peter had lived for a period of time. In 1883 there was sufficient mail to warrant stamp production. The first stamps were printed by Blades East and Blades, comprising two values. Peter showed a partially reconstructed plate of the 2c stamp, colour trials and forgeries. The display concluded with the village postmarks. Many have since closed. He showed an example of Ambon, one of three known cancels. → www.y-p-a.org.uk

Richard Hindle

The Shropshire

After a recent period of upheaval this has been a lot more settled year with a number of well-attended meetings supported by some excellent displays. In September we had a fascinating display by **Tony Strellitz** on *East Germany*. Telford Philatelic Society visited us in October with various very enjoyable

displays. In February **Peter Pugh** did a display on *Another Bloody Railway*. It was an evening full of history. The outgoing president, **Tony Tudor**, did a spellbinding PowerPoint display on *WWII, POW and Salvaged Mail*. In April **Norman Hudson** entertained us with a breath-taking display on *Scottish Islands*. We did not realise there were so many. The annual competition also occurred in April with many members submitting entries. The judge being ill, after a hasty reorganisation the membership judged in what was a good-humoured evening with entries of a high standard. The following awards were made: Postal History **Brian Atkins** (our newly elected president); R H Urwick Cup, **Terry Jones**; Traditional Philately, **David Poynton**. Members also discussed the forthcoming Shrewsbury Stamp and Postcard Fair on Saturday 7th October 2023.

Terence Jones

Stafford & District

Our meetings will restart on 19th September with a session on *British Postal History*. We meet on the afternoon of the third Tuesday of each month, so our next meeting will be on 17th October – this time on *Another B****y Railway* part 3 (*Sounds familiar - Editor*). For other meetings members bring some of their own material – a pot-pourri each time. ➔ 01785 229378

Paul Hill

Stroud and District

We hosted the Five Valleys Stamp and Postcard Fair at Nailsworth – 18th to 23rd April. It was a fascinating exhibition featuring local postal history, the unique Keble Double Penny Black envelope, the world's rarest stamps, Stroud in the world, other Strouds (and a Nailsworth), coronation stamps and recent stamps from Ukraine. Visitors were able to have stamps and postcards identified and valued by a specialist from Cotswold Auction House. The curious could make and post their own Penny Black letter in our own Victorian letter box, using genuine period dip pens, letter scales (in ounces) and local postmark rubber stamps! There were free stamp starter kits and information for children. Over the

weekend there was a continuous programme of short illustrated

presentations: A history of Five Valleys postal services; local historian **Howard Beard** shared period photographs of post offices and local people; the last coronation - **Jean Alexander** told us all about Queen Elizabeth II's coronation stamps; Bristol Channel steamers - The Campbells' paddle steamers carried posts around the estuary for many years; **Crawford Alexander** brought their origins and history to life through pictures and



John Davies' Five Valley Fair souvenirs

memorabilia. Shakespeare, stamps and me: Local property consultant **Andrew Watton** related how his interest was sparked by the 1964 Shakespeare 400th anniversary stamps, and why the fascination never went away. The Fair was the brain child of our energetic honorary treasurer **John Button**. The event was highly praised by several of the 400 visitors who attended. *Tim Kestin*

Taw & Torridge

We were treated to a display of the highest caliber when **Howard Hughes FRPSL** gave his talk in June. His subject, *The Maltese Cross*, was the winner of the Grand Prix National at London 2022 International Stamp Exhibition. What is without doubt a technical subject was treated with the deftest of touches as he held the room enthralled for almost two hours. First, we were given background concerning the preparations prior to the launch of the Penny Black. It was recognized that a method was required to ensure the, relatively expensive stamps could not be reused. But the decision to use the Maltese Cross cancellation was still pending just a month before the first stamps were to go on sale. By 6th May 1840 all the postal clerks were ready with their new cancellation stamps but the distribution of postage stamps and stationery was less efficient. It was soon discovered the red cancellation was not working well hence the launch of the penny red with the black cross. The change in stamp and cancellation colours happened over an extended period. Red ink colour variations plus the regional use of green or blue ink all ensure a rich mine of variations for the dedicated collector. Howard started competitive exhibiting at Stampex in 2004. Since then, he has taken great pleasure in discovering and publishing much new information about 'what happened and when' with respect to the use of the Maltese Cross. *Helen Soby*



Messrs Hughes, Kerswell & Butler

Trafford

In these days of dwindling membership numbers of most, if not all, philatelic societies, it is heartening to pass on some good news. Trafford PS has three, possibly four, new members. To put it another way; we have increased our membership by 25%. Within one month! We have tried everything we could think of over the years: posters in the windows of libraries, local papers, and an exhibition in the local town hall. Each meeting it seemed fewer chairs needed to be put out, fewer teacups, and fewer biscuits. It turned out that our best recruitment tool was Covid! Our meeting place (The Larkhill Centre in Timperley WA15 7AZ) was used by the NHS for Covid 19 jabs. We had erected a giant poster in the hall, and as people queued for their inoculations, they couldn't fail to read our advertising whether they wanted to or not! One wouldn't wish another pandemic on anyone, but sometimes good things happen in the most challenging of circumstances. And lastly, after a period of not having a vice-president, we now have a superb candidate. Our own **Stefano Forcolin** has

taken the role. Stefano has given us some simply outstanding talks over the years and will make a wonderful future president. ➔ 07778 312 or

chris.hawley@winrail.com

Chris Hawley

Wakefield

On the evening of 5th April we held a well-attended and successful **Catalogue Auction**. Then on 19th April a members' evening was held when some very attractive postcard displays were on show. Early in May **Yvonne and Richard Wheatley** paid us a welcome visit when they entertained members with some very interesting displays together with enjoyable and knowledgeable presentations, which were greatly appreciated by everyone present. On 17th May we held another members' evening with more displays and presentations on show. June commenced with a well-attended **Annual Dinner**. Everyone enjoyed a good meal in very good company. On 21st June we held our AGM at which awards were made to the winners of the annual competitions. Well done to everyone who received a prize.

Julie Hitchcock

Watford & District

As usual our March meeting was the annual auction. The new auctioneer was **Phil Andrews**, who knocked down the lots with great aplomb, ably assisted by **Brian Coates**, doing the admin and taking the money. All in all a most successful evening! In April **Richard Akers** visited with some material that was new to us. Displays of *Hungary overprints*, the *France 'Sower' issue* and *Switzerland early definitives* were all enjoyed by the members present. May brought the AGM. With the formalities concluded quickly, our secretary, **Steve Birch** organised a challenging but very entertaining quiz. The victor was **Wayne Cox**, who won two bottles of 'Coronation Ale'. ➔ 01923 218433 Wayne Cox

West London

Members' meetings held include *Maps on Stamps*, *Beards on stamps* and 1995-99. Our visiting speaker, in May, was **Peter Pugh** with his wife, **Rosemary** and his display *Another ... Railway (part 3)*. This display covered the Trans-Siberian Railway as it crossed China including many covers with rare cancellations & strange destinations. At our AGM **Chris Oliver** retired as secretary, having held the post for 18 years since the foundation of West London PS. Other roles & personnel remain as before. Next season we look forward to welcoming **Paul Leonard FRPSL** on *Forensic Philately* and **Michael Furfie** with *Nepal*.

➔ Melvyn Green on melvyn.d.green@gmail.com or 0208 730 3989

Chris Oliver

West Riding

Our 2023 season of informal meetings continued with a display in May from **Barry Lomas** showing *United Nations Post* from locations around the globe together with a display of UN medals. In June **Ken Moody** provided us with *Tour De France* commemorative stamp issues, **Peter Clemenson** *Germany Hindenburg to Hitler propaganda cachets*, **Jonathan Taylor** with his *Christmas Display* of Christmas Day mail deliveries of Victorian Christmas cards, **Charles Squire** with *QEII* from 1953 Royal Tours to her 80th Birthday issues and **Adrian Lee** with *QEII Bermuda first issues* featuring mail issued during the series of post-war heads of state meetings held on the islands.

Adrian Lee

Specialist Societies

American Stamp Club of Great Britain

After a few years away we are back on the web. You can find us at www.ascgb.org.uk Drop by any time you're passing our site for the latest news about our club. And, of course, if you collect United States stamps or postal history, we've made it easy for you to join. We also cover Confederate States, US Possessions and Back-of-the-Book stuff as well, not to mention Cinderella items, essays, proofs, special issues and more. When you join you get access to the Members' Area of the website with more features, including back issues of our Journal, The Mayflower, an index of the articles appearing in the Journal, and a range of useful Monographs about aspects of US Philately. We operate a New Issues Service, a Library and stamp and cover packets that you can sign up for as a member. It's all on our website; why not visit it today? Finally, our 2023 Convention will be held on Saturday 18th November from 10am to 4pm in conjunction with the Leeds Philatelic Society's Annual Stamp Fair at Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawsons Corner, Pudsey, Leeds LS28 5TA

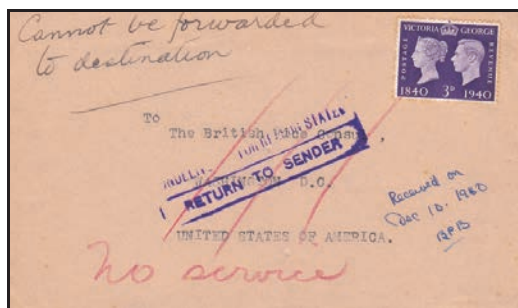


John Edwards FRPSL

→ ponte38@msn.com

Channel Islands

Our 730-lot Spring auction closed on 22nd April. Auctioneer **Nick Stuart** commented: "This auction saw sales of £14 910 and 94 bidders participating".



A Letter to America - no service

Highlights included an unusual Guernsey Occupation cover dated 26th August 1940 addressed to the British Vice Consul in America – refused with 'No service' and a 'Return to Sender' cachet applied. 42 members and guests attended our Weekend Meeting held at the Peninsula Hotel in Guernsey. **Jill Flemming** provided an 80-sheet standing display of postcards, showing Guernsey churches and hotels, including items of the late

Victorian period, as members arrived. We held a *Three Sheets to Tell a Story* competition on the Friday evening: there were seven entries and the winner was **Roger Harris** with *A photograph sent from England to Jersey in December 1940 when the only permitted means of direct communication was the 25-word Red Cross Message*. On Saturday afternoon there were two displays, with **Jon Aitchison** showing *The Long-Lost Anders Backman Display* and chairman **David Winnie** showing *Guernsey sub-Post Offices*. An evening drinks reception and banquet followed, which was attended by guests from the Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, **Bridget Yabsley** and **Dawn Gallienne**. Further displays were given by **Mike Moody**, **Ron Brown**, **Trevor de Feu**, **Julian Bagwell**, **Nick Stuart**, **Richard Flemming**, **John Triggs**, **Gerald Marriner**, **Brian Sole**, **Roger**

Harris, David Laurillard and Bob Macdonald on the Sunday morning. →
website: www.ciss.uk/ Steve Wells

Faroe Islands

Three members of the Study Circle's committee recorded significant milestones on 1st June 2023. On that date, **Norman Hudson** celebrated his 25th anniversary as our secretary. During that time, he has published 50 editions of the *Newsletter*, totalling just over 900 pages. The same date saw his 27th anniversary as our Journal Editor. He took on that role in 1996, but unofficially a year earlier. He has published 57 editions of the society's journal since then, totalling over 1780 pages. Also celebrating his 25th anniversary was **John Smith**, who took on the treasurer's job in 1998. He first took on a committee role, as chairman, on 1st June 1996 (serving as chairman until 31st May 2000). Norman and John have both received an ABPS Award of Merit. The third member deserving a long-service award is **Roger Tozer**, who has served on the committee continuously since 1st June 1996, including four years as Chairman (2016-20). → www.faroeislandssc.org Alasdair MacEachen

East Africa

This year marks the 45th year of the East Africa Study Circle and a consequence of the Covid lockdown is that we have embraced technology with Zoom meetings and our auctions now have images of all lots available on our website. We have three live meetings a year in London, spring, summer and autumn plus three Zoom meetings. Our 2023 spring meeting coincided with The Strand Stamp Fair and this autumn will be during Stampex. Recent London displays



have included *Jusqu'à Airmail Markings, Fiscals and Revenues* and our most recent Zoom presentation was on *Developing railways in East Africa: how the opportunities and challenges of such endeavours can be documented through thematic philately*. In the members' area of our website, www.easc.org.uk, there are over 100 displays and presentations covering many areas of East African philately. Membership stands at 160 worldwide with members having many

and varied interests in all aspects of East African philately. If this is an area of interest you are sure to find many and varied presentations of all aspects of East African philately in the members' area of our website – and details of how to join!

Roger Gilbert

Forces Postal History

We have been beset by problems this year with two meetings cancelled due to rail strikes or topics changed as speakers were not able to attend due to personal circumstances. However, other meetings including our Zoom meetings have gone ahead - the latter has included members from France, Italy, Canada and Thailand as well as the UK. Many of the displays also appear on our

website - www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk We had a table at MIDPEX and had an enjoyable day speaking with members and others. No new members



Geoff Hanney FRPSL, Senior Vice-president, presenting the Alan Brown Trophy to John Wilson

I'm afraid, but not entirely unexpected - having a table helps to keep us in the philatelic public's eye. We were also able to present the Alan Brown Trophy (awarded annually by our president for what he considers to have been the best article or series of articles in our Journal during the past year) for 2022/23 to **John Wilson**. Looking ahead we have further Zoom meetings scheduled for Saturday 16th September, Thursday 19th October and Saturday 18th November (all at 2pm). We are more than pleased to accept non-members to join us on Zoom - just let me know and I'll pass on your details. We also have our regular meeting at the Union Jack Club on 14th October which

will be our nine-page President's Cup Competition.

Michael Dobbs

Great Britain

We held our AGM on 17th June. New Council members were elected with a new honorary secretary in **Chris Hibbert**, with **Phil Waud FRPSL** standing down after serving for seven years. Annual awards to members were also announced: The President's Prize for Research was awarded to **Ian Harvey FRPSL** for his publications on *Books of Stamps*. The Literature Field Award was awarded to **Douglas Muir RDP FRPSL** for his new book *Just Large Enough - A Guide to the Postal Museum's Philatelic Collections*. The GB Journal Cup for the best article was awarded to **Mike Jackson FRPSL** for *Downey Head Plate Markings and Flaws on Stamps Issued in Sheets* published in The GB of May/June 2022. Mike was also awarded the Harry Dagnall Thank You Award for his astonishing contribution as Editor of The GBJ for over 40 years. The Alf Kirk Rosebowl for the best display was awarded to **Norman Watson** for *Suffragettes and The Post*, displayed on 18th March 2023. The president's guest displayer was **Ian B Marshall** showing *Coffee Houses*. Attendance was good with numbers up, not seen since pre-pandemic! After the AGM, members displayed a range of their GB material. If you would like to display to the GBPS either in a traditional form or on Zoom please contact



Chris Hibbert with outgoing secretary Phil Waud FRPSL

programme@gbps.org.uk We welcome anyone to attend one of our regular London Meetings please contact secretary@gbps.org.uk

Phil Waud FRPSL

Helvetia



Richard Donithorn sharing his passion for the art and design of postage stamps

In April, the annual weekend meeting was held in Worcester. Even with a diminished attendance this year, the programme of invited displays, competitions and informal members contributions produced a diverse range of material and did not disappoint. The keynote Peter Vonwiller Memorial Display was given by **David Hope** who described, in a masterly manner, *The History and Evolution of the Europa issues* from their inception in 1956, a subject unfamiliar to many of us. But this was only one of several hugely informative displays. Mention must also be made of **Richard Donithorn** our newsletter editor retiring after 16 years' service. The event is a social occasion not just a forum for sharing

knowledge but an opportunity to renew and establish new friendships. Our convivial Saturday evening dinner is always prefaced by a moment of reflection in memory of deceased members and a Grace given by our society member and chaplain, **Reverend Kit Jarman**. Sadly, this year, the loss included several longstanding regular attendees. As experienced elsewhere, the aging demographic profile of the society cannot be ignored. However, we remain forward-looking, taking advantage of electronic communications wherever possible. Discovery of our internet portal led to three new memberships last month. → secretary@swiss-philately.co.uk

Mike Sharp

Indian Ocean Study Circle

We held an EGM at SWINPEX at Swindon on 10th June, to consider the future of the society and the result of the vote from the international membership. The result was a vote to wind up the society, rather than convert into a virtual society, a recognition of the lack of active members to carry the society forward.

Members will receive details of the winding-up process, but are welcome to contact the secretary of IOSC at julian.luke@btconnect.com

Julian Luke

Malaya

This report covers 2023 until July. In January members cooperated to deliver a magnificent display on *Japanese Occupation*. **Peter Cockburn** followed in February with a Zoom Meeting showing *BMA Postal History* which once again exemplified his enormous knowledge of overprint production and contemporary cancellations. 25th March we held the 2023 Auction. Prices of sold lots demonstrated the popularity of fine material. The April Zoom meeting was given by the secretary Nick Hervey. It was based on a large folder of cuttings and letters on which Nick had done extra research, *Life of Naval Provost Marshal 1960s Singapore*. Nick led us through the intricacies of naval life in Malaya at the time. On 20th May a small group went to Leicester hosted by **Mike Ludlow**. There were notable displays of *WWII stamp shortages*, *Malacca*, *Netherlands East Indies Post to Malaya* and *Menu Cards from 1960s*. June meeting at Spink



Malay Study Group executive committee - some of the doers

was a tour de force on *Selangor* from **Susan McEwen**. Just everything was there from early surcharges, with a magnificent triplet and blocks galore, through early postal stationery, Judicial multi-coloured Js, censorship, airmail, a unique display of 2c/3c issues and changes in the 1935 set going onto

examples of mail on the small head issue including the use of revenue stamps for packages combined with usual postage stamps. The year ended with a July Zoom meeting *The Cocos Islands* by **Vincent Ong**, from Singapore, a prize-winning display.
Michael Waugh

National

In May we held the first presidential display by **Peter Mellor** since he was elected in July 2022, offered two contrasting halves: the first, *The Farthing stamp and its Usage* and the second, *Dear Doctor*, a collection of postcards sent to doctors by pharmaceutical companies. They were often sent from exotic territories. In July we held the AGM, a room and postal auction, and some members' displays including items from our extensive forgery collection. The president **Peter Mellor** told us "The society can look back on the past twelve months as a period of both challenge and achievement, as life returned to normal after the Covid pandemic." He thanked his predecessor **Michael Thompson** for his "energy and hard work during a challenging decade". Membership numbers had dropped by about a dozen during the past year and currently stood at 328. Resumption of London meetings had resulted in higher costs but finances remained strong. We will continue to alternate London meetings with virtual meetings, but from October they will be held on Monday evenings. In London on Saturday 9th September **Brian Sole** will show *Go by Cycle*, while the virtual meeting on Monday 9th October will be *Labuan (Part 2)* by **Dr John Higgins** who had shown the early Queen's head stamps in June. In addition to regular meetings, and a bi-monthly journal *Stamp Lover*, we offer an extensive exchange packet,



Peter Mellor shows his farthing stamps in May

which circulates nationwide. → Peter Mellor
npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk or 01582 762284.

Michael Goodman

Royal

The President, **Peter Cockburn FRPSL**, presented his outstanding collection of *North Borneo & Sabah Malaysia* in early June. Among the many fine items on display were the 1931 issue to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter to The North Borneo Company; the 50c value of 1952 of the King George VI series printed in photogravure with inverted watermark, believed to be the only example recorded although a sheet must have existed; censor marks; the postal stationery and postcards.

Professor Akthem Al-Manaseer FRPSL

provided members on 15th June with the background to *The Formation of the Kingdom of Iraq*. The items on display told the story from the capture of Basra in 1914, through the

period of British Occupation, to the use of stamps with the portrait of King Faisal I who died on 8th September 1933. **Michael JY Roberts FRPSL** became

President at our Annual General Meeting held on 29th June. He thanked his predecessor, **Peter Cockburn FRPSL**, who, during his two years as President, had steered the society back to normality following the pandemic's disruption. The Tapling, Tilleard, Lee (2) and London Medals went to **Klaus Weis**, **Malcolm Ray-Smith**, **John Powell**, **Stewart Gardner** and **Geoff Eibl-Kaye** and **John Wills**. The opportunity was also taken for Bill Hedley, President of FEPA to present the FEPA Medal for Service to Philately posthumously to **Frank Walton**. The award was received by Frank's widow, Liz.



Mike Roberts, Peter Cockburn and Simon Richards



Liz Walton receiving the FEPA Medal from Bill Hedley.

South African Collectors'

Another successful meeting was held at Letchworth Garden City on Saturday 8th April, when **Ian Shapiro** displayed *Visits to South Africa* as lead-in to the forthcoming coronation of King Charles. In June we attended the South Africa Collectors' Societies Convention at Meriden, Warwickshire. Several excellent displays were seen, and **Chris Oliver** was awarded the Abell Trophy for his entry in the competition, *South African Corporate Issues 1993 – 1998*, from six entries. Our convener, **Simon Peetoom**, was commended on arranging a good weekend and for conducting the auction. Our website is being updated but still contains basic details. Our AGM was held in early July via Zoom, when the Wicks Award for the best article in our magazine, *The Springbok*, was awarded.

➔ Chris Oliver on olivers.of_ham@virgin.net or 020 8940 833 or www.southafricancollector.com



Nicholas Arrow mid-display at Meriden

Chris Oliver

Sussex Postal History

Our Inaugural Meeting was in March 1991, but, like so many other societies, we nearly ceased to exist as a result of Covi. At the end of 2022, only 16 members remained. As a result of amending the rules to welcome as new members those resident in Sussex who collect Postal History from anywhere in the world, and switching our meetings to Wednesdays, we now have 19 members. We had an exceptionally enjoyable and interesting meeting attended by nine on 12th July.

Dave Hilton displayed his *Family Correspondence during WWI*, fortunately being able to show covers and letters to and from six family members who served in the forces, all of whom survived the War. It included not only mail to and from Sussex but also Rawalpindi and Batoum. The second half of the display related to the *Falklands War* in which his son served in the Parachute Regiment at Goose Green. This memorable display included unique original letters from such as Sir Rex Hunt and many photographs. We now meet at the Durrington Community Centre and our next meeting is at 2pm on 6th September when **Bob Knight** will show *Worthing and Petworth* including two Worthing Ship Letters. That will be followed by a display on 1st November by **Andy Gould**.

Despite the age of many of our members, we view the future with confidence and welcome guests to our future meetings.

Phil Kaye

Federations

North Western

In the 75th Anniversary of our foundation we can look back on some notable achievements. However we are now seeking to develop a slightly different role in the post-pandemic world. We continue a very successful packet circulation, with proceeds shared between us and participating societies. We promote the

Paul Gaywood Memorial Lecture, given earlier this year by our president **David Sigeo** on the topic of *The University Mails of Oxford and Cambridge* at a meeting hosted by Rochdale PS, and we maintain a speakers' list for societies' use. We organise a series of on-line competitions including recently the One-Page, attracting many entries, and we act as an on-line noticeboard promoting philatelic events and sharing information (nwfedps.uk). However, the news is rather varied. Many societies report declining membership and attendances, leading to two permanent closures. On the other hand, some, such as Stockport and District, have moved successfully to a 'blended' format with a mix of live and online sessions, with the latter attracting well-spread visitors (including South Africa). Others have moved from evening to afternoon meetings, although in one case this proved to be only a temporary arrangement since evenings were more popular amongst members! Some are actively trying to recruit younger members through advertising in local libraries or by mounting exhibitions in similar locations, trying to take advantage of the sudden interest in stamps provoked by the King's coronation and the new Charles III definitives. We look forward to supporting local initiatives and sharing ideas.

Clive Griffiths

Wiltshire and District

We successfully held our nine-sheet competitions as an integral part of Swinplex on the 10th June. All the entries were judged before the day by **Robin Pizer** who gave individual written feedback to each competitor. This meant that all entries were on public display from the start of the show. The winners of the various classes were as follows: Traditional and Aerophilately was **John Roe** of Bristol, Postal History and Picture Postcards was **Barbara Borlase-Hendry** of Swindon, Thematic was **Julian Frost** of Salisbury, Open was **Stephen Belcher** of Swindon, Cinderella was **Nigel Borlase-Hendry** of Swindon. Joint Best in Show and winner of the Revenue Class was **Mike Tanner** of Bristol. The other joint winner of the Best in Show winning the Postal Stationery Class was **Simon King** of Swindon. This year's 16-Sheet Competition will be held in Swindon on 2nd December concurrent with our AGM with the last date for submission of 'best quality colour photocopies' being the 1st November.

Paul Latham-Warde

Message for all Federations

As Graham Winters has been unwell, now happily on the road to recovery, he has decided that he must reduce his philatelic activities - one of which was acting as ABPS Liaison with federations. We thank Graham for his efforts, though he admits that in the recent months he has been unable to do much.

We are pleased to report that Daphne McMillan has agreed to take on the role and is now thinking carefully about what she has let herself in for. I am sure that she will be grateful to hear from you and to share good practice, great ideas and general opinions. Examples might include joint working, competition arrangements and what has and hasn't worked.

How can ABPS help federations and vice versa? Awards of Merit for long-serving and hard-working officers and helpers?

Please don't leave her to re-invent the wheel. Her email address is on page 62

Would you believe it?

STAMP COLLECTORS THINK THEY'RE FIRST-CLASS IN BED BUT I'M BLOWN AWAY BY A SEXY HAIRDRESSER

PHILATELISTS think they make the best lovers, according to a poll conducted by a dating site. I suppose it makes sense – stamps must be handled gently. Collections take patience to accrue. These are both qualities

essential to create dynamism on the chaise longue. But I'm shocked to see, in the same poll, that gardeners are outstripped by ramblers and trainspotters. Nurturing and tending blooms, it seems to me, surely creates the ultimate

in the sort of expertise required in the boudoir. I'd forgo everything, however, for a bit of energetic fusion with a hairdresser. Just imagine a bout of "how's your father" followed by a blow-dry to defrizz the barnet. Bliss!

HOBBY HOTTIES

Those who reckon they're good lovers

1. Stamp collectors	43%
2. Ramblers	32%
3. Trainspotters	31%
4. Metal detectorists	28%
5. Chefs	26%
6. Anglers	21%
7. Bird watchers	20%
8. Painters	19%
9. Gardeners	18%
10. Jigsaw fans	9%

In a recent page-filler in The Express, Vanessa Feltz gave her take on a poll in The Sun on who were the hottest lovers. Stamp collectors came out top.

This prompted some idle musings, which crystallised at the end of Congress, after a weekend investigating and celebrating the relative attractions of the various branches of Philately.

Before taking the eminently sensible step of choosing a philatelist as a significant other, might it perhaps be wise to delve a little deeper into just what one could expect from aficionados of the various disciplines? What could one expect from - say - a Thematicist? Check out their theme: butterflies? Daffodils? Tropical fish? Probably ok. Firearms, crime, poisonous plants? Should one be worried? Volcanos? Hot stuff,

assuredly... but could explode at any time.

Surely an Aero-philatelist could guarantee that all-time high, and of course the dynamic with an Astrophilatelist would be out of this world.

A long-term relationship with a Revenue buff could prove just too taxing.

Should one be wary of befriending a Modern collector? Would one be traded in for a new model every year?

A Postcard collector? Luck of the draw. He could show you a world beauty... or just take you to a sleazy seaside resort.

A Maximaphilist would be high maintenance, as everything would need to match or co-ordinate.

The good news for many of us is the existence of Ephemera collectors, as they treasure peculiar things and discard nothing.

Of course, a Cinderella collector would always get you to the ball on time (and be guaranteed to collect any discarded footwear).

Postal Historians seem a good bet for the long haul – the older one gets the happier they'll be.

Traditionalists? Perhaps rather staid and unexciting, and would a Stationery collector be as depressingly ineffectual as the title seems to suggest?

So, give me an Open Philatelist. His imagination is boundless, and he combines the best attributes of all the others without any of the drawbacks.

Combining the above with the original list, the ideal would be an Open Philatelist who collects railway history, is a keen walker, could cook you a good meal and

probably doesn't like gardening. Sideline collections of Airmail and 'Just-Because-I-Like-It' considered an advantage. I must put in a plea, however, for the poor maligned jigsaw lover, for surely his attributes of precision, patience and making order out of chaos sound appealing?

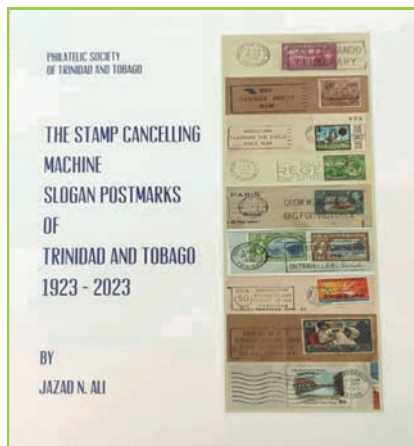
Alas, this paragon probably doesn't exist.

Daphne McMillan FRPSL

Book review

The Stamp Cancelling Machine Slogan Postmarks of Trinidad and Tobago 1923-2023

Jazad Ali (Jazz) has been researching and building a collection of Trinidad and Tobago Postmarks for over 40 years. Jazz is a WIPSG member and a longstanding member of the Philatelic Society of Trinidad and Tobago. In 1997 he and Ronald Wike established a Trinidad & Tobago slogans numbering system, at which time they published *Machine Cancellations of Trinidad & Tobago*. The publication, a longstanding item of pride for the Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago, won several international awards at the time. Ron Wike died in 1999, but Jazz has continued to collect and research, amassing thousands of covers. This book, published this month, is the result of a lifetime's work. It beautifully displays the postmarks, slogans, cancels and cancelling machines over the 1923-2023 period, and gives an informed insight to the social history that influenced each of the slogans over the years. A highly recommended read for all Trinidad and Tobago collectors.



Copies available from theblueedition.com Email blueeditiontt@gmail.com

Susan Taylor

A Plea from the Editor

When we reach July, half of the year is over and often there have been changes in committees and officers in societies and federations. The affiliation fees come due in January but understandably it is not the first thing on the treasurer's mind. If the treasurer changes, or the secretary for that matter, reminders can fail to be delivered. After six months we feel that we can no longer assume that the fees will be paid so I do not feel justified in including reports, adverts or any other items. Please check before July 2024 that your fees have been sent and even more important that we have been sent all changes of secretary or treasurer including email or postal addresses. It would also help if when payments are paid direct to the bank (BACS) there is a reference given eg the name of the society. I don't want to leave you out or lose you - Unity is Strength!

The Stuart Rossiter Trust announces a new book.

The British Free Franking System

Robert B. Galland FRPSL

With a contribution by John Colton



Hardbound 410 pages

£35 (post free in UK) order from www.rossitertrust.com/

It is more than 30 years since the second edition of Lovegrove's *Herewith my Frank ...* and 15 years since the second edition of *The British County Catalogue of Postal History (London)* were published. In recent years there have been several new discoveries. An updated account of handstamps which showed that a letter was accepted for free franking is therefore timely.

How letters were accepted for free postage, privileged mail recognised and dealt with by Inspectors are detailed in this book. Also, why some mail passed free while other mail did

not. After a general background of the franking system the ways in which senders indicated that a letter should go free are then described.

A new classification of handstamps associated with the franking system, based on the purpose of the stamp and office where it was applied, has been devised. Several handstamps not previously recorded in standard texts or journal articles are included. This volume complements ***Great Britain: Failed Free Handstamps of the Franking System*** by the same author published by the Rossiter Trust in 2014 available at £15. A free second supplement to that book can be found on the Rossiter Trust website: www.rossitertrust.com/



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ABPS updates

The details below are those which could affect your contacting a society or speaker. Other less immediate changes will appear in the details on the website abps.org.uk I will be grateful if you will send any more amendments or error notifications as soon as possible to me at editor@abps.org.uk I will pass them on and/or use them as necessary. Please note the changes below.

Specialist Societies

Great Britain Philatelic Society: New secretary is Chris Hibbert, email remains secretary@gbps.org.uk

Indian Ocean Study Group is in the process of closing.

Orange Free State Study Circle: secretary email is Richard-stroud@outlook.com

West Indies Philatelic Studies Group has formed from the amalgamation of the British Caribbean and the British West Indies Philatelic Societies. The secretary is Susan Taylor, sec@wipsg.org

Local Societies

Ayrshire Philatelic Society: secretary email is ayrstamps@yahoo.com

Blyth Philatelic Society has rejoined: Secretary's phone number is 01670 365173

Bolton Philatelic Society has rejoined: Secretary is Eddie Dunn, edunn0152@hotmail.com

Bristol Woodlands and Civil Service Philatelic Society has merged with Bristol Philatelic Society

Chelmsford & District Philatelic Society: secretary's email is patricia.adams78@btinternet.com

Epsom & Ewell Philatelic Society has a new secretary: Mark Hugo mrcraftch@aol.com

Hinckley & District Philatelic Society has a new meeting place from September: The Meeting Centre, Marchant Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 0LQ

Norfolk & Norwich Philatelic Society has rejoined: secretary is Larry Lewendon level@talktalk.net

Poole & Bournemouth Stamp & Postcard Club has a new secretary: Michael Goodman 07711 813961 mgoo831975@aol.com

West London Philatelic Society has a new secretary: Melvyn Green melvyn.d.green@gmail.com or 0208 730 3989

We regret to report that the following societies are no longer affiliated to ABPS:
Leiston & District PS, Stamp Box Study Circle

If you contact one of our advertisers or even better purchase from them - be it an auction, financial dealings, holiday, or insurance of any kind - please make sure that you mention that you have seen their advert in ABPS News. We need advertising to provide a service and to help our finances.

STAMP ACTIVE AT STAMPDEX INTERNATIONAL with £20 Vouchers for Kids

The Stamp Active Network, the voluntary organisation that promotes stamp collecting for children in the UK, will be at Autumn Stampex providing free stamps and goodie bags for young collectors. There will be a range of free activities including Stamp Art fun with special prizes. The theme of the activities will feature Sport related stamps. The popular free children's auction on the Saturday will take place in the Stampex auditorium at 2pm with a free draw for a Penny Black for the participants.

Stamp Active will also be giving vouchers to fifty youngsters U18 that attend Stampex, worth £20 each, to spend with dealers at Stampex. Ten vouchers will be available on each of the first three days with a maximum of fifty vouchers overall to be given out during the show.

The Kids Zone will be located at the far end of the mezzanine level (under the clock) on the right-hand side of the Hall.

For further information, look at our website www.stampactive.co.uk



Bring your child, grandchild or even great-grandchild to Stampex - you never know they might get the Stamp Bug.

Diary

Local and regional events by ABPS members

September

- 9 Newquex Stamp Fair: Trevisker St. Eval Community Centre, Orion Drive, **St Eval, Near Wadebridge** PL27 7TU → 01288 355918
- 9 Poole & Bournemouth Annual Fair: 10 - 4, The Community Centre, Poole Road, Upton, Poole BH16 5JA → www.philatelyinbournemouth.co.uk
- 23 HAMPEX 2023: 10 - 4: Wickham Centre, Mill Lane, **Wickham**, near Fareham, PO17 5AL Free → <http://www.hantsfederation.org.uk/hpfhpx.htm>

October

- 7 Shrewsbury Stamp & Postcard Fair
- 7 South West Scotland Congress: 10 - 4, 50 Caerlaverlock Road, **Prestwick** KA9 1HP
- 7 Yeovil Autumn Exhibition: Digby Memorial Church Hall, **Sherborne** DT9 3NL
- 8 Hinckley & District PS Stamp Fair: 10 - 3, Hinckley Parks Primary School, Leicester Road, **Hinckley** LE10 1LP
- 14 Telford Stamp, Postcard & Coin Fair: 10 - 2, Belmont Community Hall, Wellington Centre, **Telford** TF1 1HU → 01952 405458
- 28 CORNEX: 10 - 4, Millennium Hall, Princess Road, Pensilva, **Liskeard** PL14 5NF

November

- 18 2023 Leeds Stamp Fair: 10.30 - 5, Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner, Pudsey, **Leeds** LS 28 5TA
- 18 2023 Convention of American Stamp Club of GB: 10 - 4 in conjunction with the Leeds Philatelic Society's Annual Stamp Fair at Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawsons Corner, Pudsey, **Leeds** LS28 5TA
- 19 2023 Leeds Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner, Pudsey, **Leeds** LS 28 5TA

National Exhibitions 2024

- British National Qualifying Exhibition, London. 14th - 16th March 2024; The Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW. Entries open late Summer 2023.

International Exhibitions 2023-2026

- To enter an international exhibition your entry must first qualify by achieving a large vermeil medal (75 marks or above) at a national exhibition. Literature does not need this pre-qualification. To enter please contact the UK commissioners shown. Exhibitors from outside the United Kingdom should contact their national commissioner.
- **Thailand 2023:** Specialised World Stamp Championship Exhibition, Grand Postal Building, Bangkok 27th November - 2nd December 2023, FIP Patronage. Entries closed.

- **Perth, Western Australia:** 2nd - 5th November 2024. Accord Bi-lateral exchange: Postal Stationery Challenge. Contact UK Commissioner: James Podger pee-j-aggie-boo@ntlworld.com
- **Efiro 2024:** Bucharest 17th - 20th April 2024: Website <https://www.efiro.ro> (under construction). Entry deadline 16th October. A FEPA Patronage exhibition with FIP recognition. 2000 frames. Contact UK Commissioner, John Stimson at john.m.stimson@gmail.com
- **Marco Balticum,** Tartu, Estonia: 26th - 28th July 2024: Multilateral. Website marebalticul.ee Entry deadline 29th February 2024. Contact UK Commissioner, Jon Aitchison jonaitchison.uk@outlook.com
- **PhilaKorea 2024:** 15th - 19th August 2024: FIP Patronage. No UK invitation yet received
- **Hafnia 2024:** European Stamp Exhibition, Copenhagen, Denmark. 17th - 20th October 2024 at Øksnehallen in central Copenhagen. Website www.hafnia24.com A FEPA exhibition with 1300 frames for all FIP classes except Astrophilately or Maximaphily. Contact UK Commissioner, Steve Harrison at sharrison500@btinternet.com Entry deadline: 1st January 2024
- **EuroPhilEx 2025:** Hall 12 NEC, Birmingham. 8th - 11th May 2025. 2000 frames with FEPA Patronage. Website www.europhilex2025.co.uk All FIP classes at £100 per frame or £120 for single frames and £40 for Literature. UK Commissioner: Daphne McMillan mcmillandaphne@yahoo.co.uk , RPSL Commissioner: James Podger pee-j-aggie-boo@ntlworld.com Entry deadline: 8th May 2024
- **Boston 2026 World Expo:** 23rd - 30th May 2026 www.boston2026.org

UK handling charges are now standardised for all international exhibitions at £30 per frame for shows in Europe or £35 for events anywhere else in the world, whether single or multiple frame exhibits or per literary entry. This is to cover the cost of getting exhibits to and from exhibitions, FIP capitation fees and other costs relating to processing the exhibits. Overall this runs at a loss. Exhibits that are carried to and returned from an exhibition by the exhibitor are charged at half price. There is no UK handling charge for Youth exhibits. If you are interested in becoming a United Kingdom international exhibition commissioner please contact **Jon Aitchison** at britishlocals@aol.com
Details of FEPA exhibitions are at <http://www.fepanews.com/>

Web information

Further information can be found on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk on the "Exhibiting" tab.

Simon Richards, Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee
Simon@sidebell.co.uk

It is disappointing to me that there is so little in the Diary for the local and specialist societies. Don't you want free adverts or for people from other societies to come to your event? Apparently there is nothing happening after December 2024 at local or regional level.

Editor

ABPS General Information

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Please use this RPSL address for all correspondence apart from the following:

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ABPS Membership, 1 Naunton Way, Cheltenham GL53 7BQ

Society reports (if not emailed to the editor) for the ABPS News:

Editor ABPS, 6 Old Trough Way, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 3DE

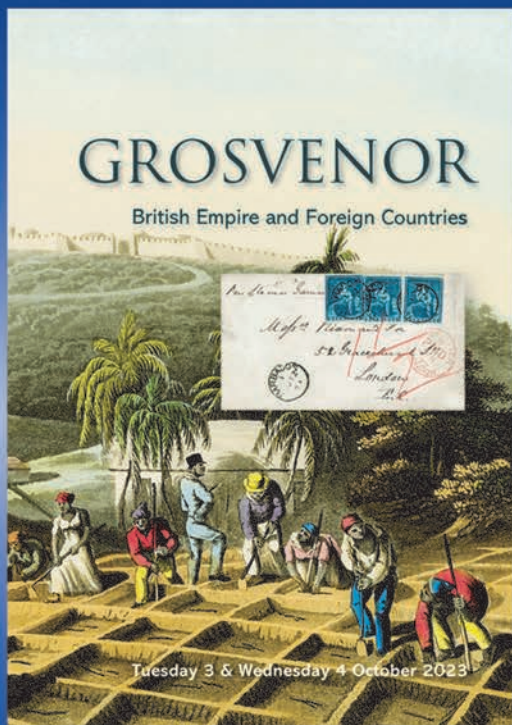
Stamp Active Network: please write to:

SAN, c/o 21 The Bridle, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4TH

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Website www.abps.org.uk This also holds further information on Committees.

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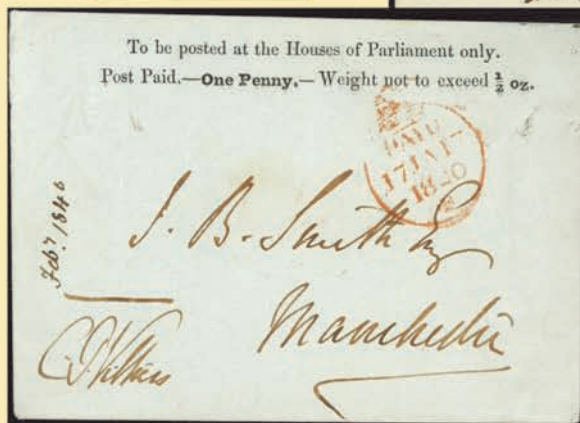
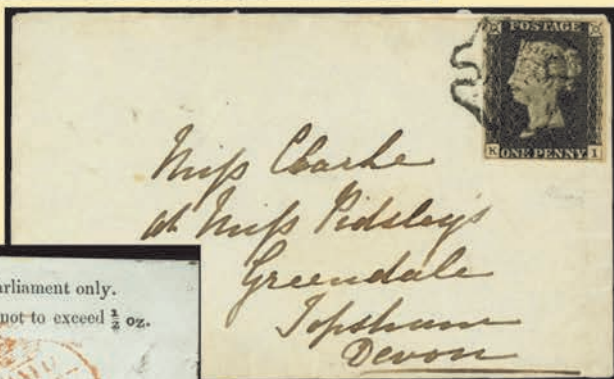
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