

## Congress - Learning, Display & Celebration



See p 19



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# ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

The Magazine of the Association of British Philatelic Societies is published four times a year: Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter.

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**Editor: Keith S Burton**

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**Cover picture:** *Congress events, clockwise from the top: Alex Haimann leads the talk on Context Philately from South Africa - modern technology and philately; the Thursday evening short competition display participants; Your ABPS Chairman John Davies RDP signing the Roll.* ©Dane Garrod & Lucy

An electronic copy of the newsletter can be viewed on the ABPS webpage [www.abps.org.uk](http://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 15<sup>th</sup> January, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:editor@abps.org.uk)) Illustrations should not be assumed to be accurate as to size or colour.**

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

This is my first introduction as the new Chair of ABPS, having been elected at the AGM during the Congress in Southampton. Many will know of me through my involvement in youth philately, various roles within ABPS and the GBPS amongst others. I hope to get to know many more of you over the coming year.

My first thought is to thank Steve Harrison for his hard work as Chair for the last three years and his continuing work in organising Congress. This year's event in Southampton was successful and brought collectors together to discuss the latest trends in our hobby including "context philately" and to enjoy some wonderful displays and talks. My thanks to everyone who supported Congress and I hope to see many of you at future events. Steve is definitely one of the "good guys" and puts in tremendous effort to promote and organise the hobby. Thank you.



I am also pleased to welcome on to the Executive Committee Ian Balcombe, as Communications Director. He will help promote ABPS and keep everyone up to date about our activities and events. Tom Fell, Head of Great Britain at Spink, also joins the Executive to represent the philatelic trade. It is very important that all the stakeholders in our hobby play their part in sustaining and growing philately in the UK, and his experience and involvement with the PTS will be invaluable. Thank you for your support.

One of my key priorities in the coming months will be to get even more people involved in the work of ABPS. I am very grateful to all the clubs and societies that engage with and support the work of ABPS. But there are many local and national societies that could and should also contribute to the development and growth of philately. I would like to reach out to those to encourage them to play their part...so watch this space for future initiatives.

I, like Steve, want to get much more feedback from collectors, clubs and societies at every level about ABPS. What do you think we are doing well? What do you think we are doing less well? What are we not doing that we should be doing? Please tell me.

My email address is [chair@abps.org.uk](mailto:chair@abps.org.uk) My postal address is: John Davies, 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](mailto:editor@abps.org.uk)

*John Davies RDP FRPSL*

# Editorial



Having just returned from an exhilarating and sociable ABPS Congress at Southampton I am back to the usual normal existence of philately - sorting, writing-up and preparing for displays, and, for me, editing this magazine. It concerns me that so few see Congress as being something for them. How we can persuade you to come to at least one session if it is in your area, or even better come to the whole event, is clearly beyond my level of understanding but I met some local people for whom it was their first attendance. They were pleasantly surprised as I was when I went to my first one in Market Harborough in 2014. Next year's will be at EuroPhilEx in May 2025 in Birmingham but it will not be typical. I hope to see you there. Everyone who attended this year was charged to bring one new visitor - please be mine, then I have discharged my pleasant duty.

Later this week (in July) I will be going to the York Fair - a two-day bonanza of opportunities to meet people, to ask for speakers to come to my own society, to find an odd missing item or a whole brand-new offshoot in my collecting instinct. Most important are the people there - friends, acquaintances and strangers - as well as stamps, covers, postcards and whatever else we collect. Our Yorkshire Federation will hold its AGM and some specialist societies are holding meetings too - lots of opportunities to show support and gain from the experience. Some specialist societies have joint meetings - a golden opportunity to see different material and to meet new people. If your area has something similar in the next year - please go, be sociable and enjoy yourself with old friends. The joy of collecting is in seeing your friends' material, exchanging views, helping each other - especially strangers.

You will have seen that there have been some changes of personnel at ABPS. We have a new Chair and Vice-Chair, and at last have a new Communications Director. Of course all three will have their own ideas of how they see their role and wish to fill it but they have responded to the need. They will need your help - you must communicate your ideas as well, to them, to me, to each other - perhaps even to yourself. It is easy to fall into a rut - doing the same thing, even with our own collections. Where is Philately in Great Britain? Is there something that you can do to help your local or specialist society? Attending meetings is a good start - I often hear of attendances at meetings (like Congress) falling - why? When did you (or I) last bring in a visitor or potential member? It isn't someone else's responsibility to do everything - advertising, helping with chairs, talking to the visiting speaker, bringing something to a members' evening so that it isn't falling on the same few members, suggesting a topic for a meeting (Zoom or actual) - there are many ways of adding to the vibrancy of a society and our hobby. Why not research just one set of stamps, cover or postcard so that you are ready with something new for a meeting - surprise the rest of the members!

*Keith Burton FRPSL*

# Society anniversaries

Heartiest congratulations to all involved:

## Cardiff Philatelic Society – 125 Years

### CARDIFF PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE inaugural meeting of this Society was held at the Town Hall, Cardiff, on the 6th November, when the following officers were elected: President, Mr. Walter Scott; Vice-Presidents, Mr. E. W. Shackell, J.P., Alderman W. J. Trounce; Hon. Sec., Mr. W. A. Jutsum; Treasurer, Mr. G. N. Thorp; Librarian, Mrs. Groves.

Membership is restricted to residents of the county borough of Cardiff, or within ten miles thereof.

The President gave a very interesting and instructive address, showing the wonderful growth of stamp collecting, and the advantages to be derived from the study of stamps.

Votes of thanks were passed to the London Philatelic Society, and to Mr. J. T. Milburn, a member of the local Society, for gifts of philatelic works.

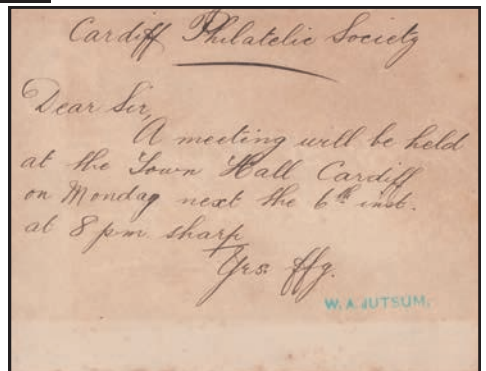
The next general meeting will be held on the second Tuesday in December, when the stamps of Great Britain will form the subject of study.

Secretarial address—  
371, COWBRIDGE ROAD, CARDIFF.

[This Society has invited the *Monthly Journal* to act as its official organ, and the invitation has been accepted.—  
ED. M. J.]

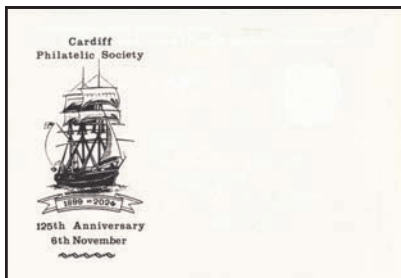
November 6<sup>th</sup> 2024 marks the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the inaugural meeting of Cardiff Philatelic Society in 1899. It was held in the Town Hall and reported in Gibbons Monthly Journal in December 1899. **G Sibbering**, Chief Engineer for Taff Vale Railway and a founder member, received a postal stationery card with notice of the meeting from **W A Jutsum**, the secretary. The postcard has survived and we can thank him for keeping this and much TVR related material.

We have prepared a commemorative cover featuring our logo, the *Terra Nova* Scott's which set out from Cardiff on the



*The number of anniversary reports seems to be falling - come on, in a time when we hear of societies closing don't forget to rejoice in the ones that are continuing and even in some cases thriving. Spread the good news and send your celebratory event reports, preferably with a happy picture, to [editor@abps.org.uk](mailto:editor@abps.org.uk)*

*It is one way of guaranteeing you a place in the NEWS!*



fateful expedition to Antarctica and the South Pole. Thirty covers will be franked with the 1<sup>st</sup> Class 2024 Weather Forecasting stamp commemorating Scott's study of the extreme weather conditions. They are available from the secretary [roger.gilbert@ntlworld.com](mailto:roger.gilbert@ntlworld.com) for £7 post and packaging included.

➔ [www.cardiffphilatelicsociety.org.uk](http://www.cardiffphilatelicsociety.org.uk)

Roger Gilbert

## Newquay & District – 75 Years

Several years ago the members of the society decided to hold an annual end-of-season dinner to replace the more traditional Christmas dinner. This year's was held at the Traveller's Rest pub near Newquay. This was a special event as it is believed this was the society's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.



Eleven of the twelve members attended, some with partners, and as you will see from the picture a good time was had by all.

After 75 years we are changing from evening meetings to afternoon meetings and moving to Tuesdays. Anyone interested in the society should contact the secretary, on 07522 610317.

*David Payne*

*Thanks Newquay & District for your first report during my editorship!*

## Your article?

We are always pleased to consider articles by our readers. Please send your item to the editor who will let you know if it can be used. 500 to 1000 words roughly please, and a picture relating to the subject matter is always a help (300dpi jpeg or png). We do not pay for publication, and any items may be edited for length or content.



## Frank Soutar

I am saddened to have to report the passing of another Congress Medallist, Frank Soutar, who received the Medal in 2009 in Manchester.

Frank did all he could to promote philately to young people. His name was synonymous with 'Youth'. In 1995 to 1997 he was a member of the National Youth Stamp Committee which held seminars to discuss ways to improve youth activities. In Scotland he took on the task of visiting numerous schools to promote the hobby. This was formalised in 1994 when he was appointed Youth Officer for the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies. He became a qualified Youth Judge. His Youth Work led him to collaborate on a project 'Stamp IT' with the initiative to revitalise stamp collecting within Girlguiding.



His activities for youth were diverse and included a Wildlife Stamp weekend at Edinburgh Zoo in 2006. This was very successful and was the beginning of further annual events. When a Youth Activities Co-ordinator was needed for GLASGOW 2000, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ABPS Biennial Exhibition, Frank was the first choice. His efforts gained him a well-deserved Rowland Hill Award in 2001.

Frank was always in demand to sit on and head committees. In 1998 he was appointed Chairman of the ABPS Public Relations Committee and he served on the ABPS Awards Committee.

In recognition of his record of service he was appointed an Honorary Life Vice-President of the ABPS. Frank Soutar was a kind, knowledgeable and helpful person. His capacity for hard work was acknowledged throughout the hobby.

*Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL  
Chair ABPS Awards Committee*

## 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 58. 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 58.





## Jan G Simons FRPSL

1927-2024

Jan Simons, who died on 1<sup>st</sup> June aged 98, was a Dutch dentist who, with his Scottish wife Edith, came on his retirement to live in England. He had collected the stamps and postal history



items of Japan from early adulthood, buying in post-war Holland at a time when few others sought them and when prices were minimal.

Under the mentorship of the expert **Willem Metzelaar** he built up an extensive collection of both the Dragon stamps and other classic stamps of early Japan, collaborating with Metzelaar and **Varro E Tyler** in the production of the ISJP Monogram on the *Forgeries of the Dragon issues*. Eventually though he sold his Dragons and his other stamps in order to concentrate on and collect covers to and from Japan especially those relating to the IJPOs in Manchuria and Korea.

Jan joined the British Society for Japanese Philately (BSJP) and the ISJP in the 1970s, and the RPSL a little later becoming a Fellow in due course.

Unfortunately dyslexic, he nevertheless did much to pass on his extensive knowledge with contributions to the Society of Postal Historians and to many detailed articles written by **Ken Clark**, the BSJP Editor, in their journal *Kiku Shimbun*. He was Chairman & President of the BSJP up to the time of his passing.

In Japan in 2012 he received a medal for his competitive entry of Changchun cancels & covers. He also travelled to the Sindelfingen fairs in Germany and regularly shared knowledge with **Florian Eichhorn**, Bundesprüfer in Germany for the stamps of Japan and other Japanese philatelic items, with whom he had ongoing contact over the years.

A familiar figure on the BSJP stand at MIDPEX, at the Oxford and Amersham Philatelic Societies, and other events, plus the BSJP evening meetings at the Gunmakers and later the Kings Arms in Marylebone; he was an extremely friendly pleasant gentleman who would always encourage and converse easily with others of like interests; he will be much missed by his philatelic contacts.

*Alan Cowie FRPSL*

## Dorothy Sharp 1928 - 2024

Most philatelic readers will not know of Dorothy, but you have no doubt seen her work. The inside back cover of every one of the issues under my editorship showed an example of her skill. As James Grist of Grosvenor Auctions told me "Dorothy had worked with us for over 25 years during which time we had become her only client, the front cover of catalogue 159 being her final piece of work for us. She was an enthusiastic friend and cared for all with whom she came into contact." I can confirm that. RIP my friend. *Keith Burton, Editor*

## Introducing Dr D Gwynne Harries. JP, Hon BEd, MA, FRPSL - the new ABPS Vice Chair

Gwynne is a bald overweight old bloke with a beard. Now semi-retired after forty plus years in education, he enjoys Real Ale, fine wine, jazz and poetry. He is a stamp collector and postal historian, a keen photographer, radio amateur and failing musician who is known to dabble with numismatics.



As a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London he is a member of council, former assistant honorary secretary, vice chair of the collections committee, the book reviews manager for the society journal, and sits on the publications committee and the panel for the Crawford Medal. He was awarded the RPSL London Medal in 2021 for his services to the society.

Gwynne is the president of the Sudan Study Group and acting secretary and former editor of Scandinavia CONTACT the journal of the Scandinavia Philatelic Society. He has several areas of special interest including Norwegian posthorns, meter mail, KGV Downey Heads, France, Sudan, Iran, Cuba, Italy and Ecuador and is a member of the respective specialist societies as well as the GBPS and his local society, Burton upon Trent. An associate member of the Society of Postal Historians, he also manages their new website along with the websites of three other societies. In his spare time he is actively involved in a Dad DIY project at his daughter's new home and volunteers as an archivist at his local National Trust property.

*Welcome Gwynne - I look forward to sharing your ideas for ABPS & Philately*



Warwick & Warwick

### TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT

Are you concerned about leaving a specialised stamp collection to your heirs who do not have a knowledge of stamps or the stamp market? Plan ahead by registering details of your collection with the free and confidential "Warwick & Warwick Trustee Service". The department will ensure the correct method of sale of your valuable collection after your death and in accordance with your instructions.

Write, phone, fax or email for your free copy of our "Trustee Service" brochure.

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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~~  
(naive 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 'socialised' 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 his collecting / 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 LUPA) – the Largest No Buyer's Premium Reducing-Estimate System Stamp Auction in the World, creating records selling stamps 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 and selling 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, lotting 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



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). **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 material more quickly, by incrementally reducing estimate (and reserve) price in a structured selling system...

Request Your Next FREE Catalogue NOW



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**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 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 U P A 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 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

Tel: 01451 861111 • Fax: 01451 861297

[www.upastampauctions.co.uk](http://www.upastampauctions.co.uk) • [info@upastampauctions.co.uk](mailto:info@upastampauctions.co.uk)



# 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! ...

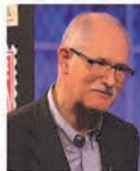
They simply wait to buy unsold lots at reserve !!

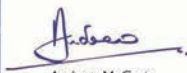
**So ... looking for the 'US' makes sense, doesn't it**

... 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)

Collect Your Next Complimentary UPA Auction Catalogue:

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Apply now in any way today.  
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## Salisbury's Views on PUBLICITY with comments from Michael Moody

### Image

Every avenue has to be explored. But firstly we have to change our image. Philately is dynamic and changing, not the image of nerds etc that we have. (At the moment we can't change the old men image!) It doesn't just include collecting stamps and fly specks great as we know that is. Postal History, postcards, social philately, thematics, local history are just some of our interests. We know all this but that is not our image. There are many people interested/involved in these areas who have never contemplated 'stamp collecting' who could become to greater or lesser extent philatelists. We have to appeal to a new audience.

**Comment:** A daughter had a look at my social philately collection and pronounced it surprisingly very interesting and not what she expected.

### Avenues

These are some that have been suggested. I am sure there are many more which other societies have tried. Most of these SDPS has tried and in some cases I have put our experience as a comment.

**Flyers at Stamp Fairs.** Displayed on a prominent table and ideally a member at the desk at Stamp Fairs. **Comment** we did this with partial manning and a display at the recent Salisbury Stamp Fair. 18 flyers, which inter alia contained full contact and website details, were taken. Response Nil.

**Flyers at Dealers.** We are lucky to have Dauwalders in Salisbury. Ten years ago we had flyers there and free copies of the newsletters. **Comment** We stopped as no members joined as a result of this. We are now trying again.

**Newspapers.** Our local newspaper used to have a column for local societies reports. They have now stopped that. **Comment.** We had a monthly report in that column but it gained no new members. We are now going to approach the local free newspapers for a one off. Unfortunately while free papers are free to readers they are often not free to advertisers.

**Parish Magazines.** Again these like you paying for advertisements. However, as secretary of another society I managed to get information in six magazines at a reasonable cost. We are now trying this approach. **Comment** An article was placed last year in the parish magazine of the area where we meet with no results.

**Talks.** We are now considering talking to societies such as U3A, Rotary and our Local History Society, all of whom have potential members. **Comment** It is not easy finding members to talk. We did speak at a U3A meeting ten years ago with no results.

**Schools.** We tried this a few years ago and were met by indifference and usually no reply.

**Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.** Three years ago a young person came to our meetings as a part of his D of E awards. We helped him with his submission, which got him his qualification. **Comment** We never saw him again in spite of following up.

**Websites.** It is likely that the great majority of societies have one. In this day and age it is essential. **Comment.** SDPS has had a website for a long time and it is continually kept up to date with reports of meetings etc. It has produced new members as it is the first port of call for newcomers to the area. But it is rarely visited even by members. I am hoping in a month or so to get from google analytics some viewing figures.

### **Facebook and/or Equivalent**

Non-philatelic societies to which I belong have a Facebook presence. These tend to be well used and informative. I know there are forums out there for some specialist philatelic societies. **Comment.** They are however either international or specialist and I am not sure how relevant they are for a local society.

*This is the final section of the report from Michael and various members of Salisbury & District and other philatelic contacts. I am very grateful for their response and careful thought. I am disappointed that there have been no responses. Do you have thoughts on this or previous reports, things to add, things that have worked or haven't? So thank you Michael and Salisbury etc - over to the silent majority!*

## **EuroPhilEx BIRMINGHAM 2025 – June 2024 update.**

EuroPhilEx passed another milestone at the beginning of June. With two months until entries close on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024, the number of frames applied for passed 700, over one-third of the two thousand available, as well as a good number of literature entries. As applications accelerate toward the closing date in two months time, the organisers anticipate being over-subscribed. Entries can be submitted now through the EuroPhilEx website at [www.europhillex2025.co.uk](http://www.europhillex2025.co.uk)

Free EuroPhilEx souvenir sheets are now being given away with *Stamp Collector* magazine. The July edition appears on 15<sup>th</sup> June and has the first two of a series of twelve that will run in every edition until May 2025. Each sheet depicts a different philatelic subject related to the Birmingham area, where the National Exhibition Centre is located. They are all gummed so they can be attached to envelopes. A range of hand stamps will be available at the exhibition to cancel them if desired.

On 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 a Zoom presentation titled *EuroPhilEx. One Year to Go* was given to the Royal Philatelic Society London. That presentation is available to view on the EuroPhilEx website at <https://europhillex2025.co.uk/europhillex-one-year-to-go/> It gives a huge amount of information about what to expect at the exhibition.

Please put the dates in your diary. 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025, EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025, at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. See you there.

## Congratulations

### Colin Tabearth RDP

ABPS is very pleased to announce that the FEPA Medal for Exceptional Philatelic Study and Research 2023 has been awarded to its nominee Colin Tabearth RDP for his book *British Long Distance Mail Packets Volume 2 The Harwich Packets 1816-1834, Rates Routes and Ships Out and Home*.



This is a detailed study of Harwich packets based on original research from newspapers of the time. This book aims to show how packet mails between the United Kingdom and northern Europe travelled during the final years of the sailing packets era, and how such letters were rated. The various markings used by despatching and destination postal authorities and transit markings collected en route have largely been covered in other works and, in the context of this book, have only been used to confirm dates, thereby allowing the mode of transportation to be determined. With this book a collector should be able to determine by what route a letter travelled, how it was rated, and in most cases what ship or ships carried the mail. The earlier volume covers the period 1793-1815.

### **Royal Tunbridge Wells Philatelic Society has been awarded a FEPA Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Activities for the Promotion of Philately.**



The Royal Tunbridge Wells Philatelic Society was established in 1945 and holds 22 daytime meetings each year. In addition to local members the society attracts members from further afield such as Maidstone, Heathfield, Orpington and Bexhill.

In the early 2000s, Tunbridge Wells was one of the first local societies to have daytime meetings, with one a month held in a local pub. Facing declining attendance in 2018, the society shifted to all daytime meetings in 2019. During the 2020 Covid pandemic, they successfully transitioned to Zoom meetings, maintaining participation levels. The experience of the Zoom meetings is pointing the way to how the society will respond to the ever-changing demographics and circumstances.

The society's activities focus on sociable and inclusive philatelic meetings. Following meetings, many members stay for lunch at the pub, which gives them the opportunity to chat with the speaker.

The other major activity which the society organises is the popular Crowborough Stamp Fair.



After Covid, the society upgraded its website to make it more accessible, simpler to navigate and easier to update. Future plans involve enhancing their website as a philatelic resource, for example, by featuring highlights from society displays, aspects of members' collections, papers and research of philatelic importance. The society is also considering ways to include one or two more potentially 'social-philatelic' displays each year to attract a wider and possibly non-philatelic audience.

Whatever the outcome, friendship, enjoyment and broadening the society's philatelic experience will remain paramount. *Yvonne Wheatley*  
Chairman ABPS Awards Committee

Further FEPA awards were:

**The FEPA Medal for Exceptional Philatelic Study and Research 2023** (Runner-up to Colin Tabcart)

A Certificate as Runner-Up has been awarded to **Stavros Andreadis** (Greece) for: *Large Hermes Heads - Printing and Shades*.

**The FEPA Medal for Exceptional Service to organised Philately 2023** was awarded to **Eli Weber** (Israel)

**The FEPA Certificate for Significant Achievements 2023** was awarded to **Sinisha Paleski** (North Macedonia)

**The FEPA Certificates of Appreciation 2023** (In addition to Royal Tunbridge Wells) were awarded to:

Triestingtaler Briefmarkensammler Verein Hirtenberg, Hirtenberg, Austria  
Klub filatelistu 04-01, Liberec, Czech Republic,  
Circolo Filatelico "Giacomo Puccini", Viareggio (Lucca), Italy

**Amersham and District Philatelic Society**

**STAMPERSHAM 2024**

**STAMP, POSTAL HISTORY and POSTCARD FAIR**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September from 10am to 3.30pm**

**Chiltern Lifestyle Centre, Chiltern Avenue,**

**Amersham HP6 5AH Buckinghamshire**

*Sponsored by Grosvenor Auctions*

**Philatelic Display Lounge Hall devoted to Dealer Stands**

**Refreshments all day with separate seating facilities.**

**Free all-day parking**

**5 minutes' walk from Amersham Station (Metropolitan & Chiltern Lines)**

**Visit [www.stampersham.org.uk](http://www.stampersham.org.uk) or call 07542 163303 Keith Wright**

# My first Congress

Just a few words reflecting on my first experience of the ABPS Congress held in Southampton in July 2024.

I must confess that I had concerns about how formal the event would be and that the level of complexity and philately would be beyond a simple stamp collector such as myself.

How wrong can you be! All the speakers were really engaging, and many topics were suitable for even non-stamp collectors. The debates were also interesting. The discussions on the future of philately, stamp collecting and context philately were useful. Indeed, engaging with other collecting clubs and the concept of context philately (displays involving philatelic material but where the subject is perhaps the history of Southampton) were ideas that are perhaps not new but where I feel inspired to try something at our society.

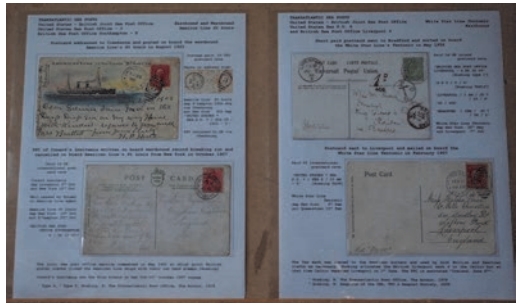
I should perhaps mention that I am chairman of the Southampton and District Society. Personally and as a society we were involved with aspects of the organisation of the Congress. A process that we enjoyed, and I would encourage other local societies to get involved as and when the opportunity arises. Congress includes an opportunity for local speakers to present their material to the congress audience – and again this was something that they all enjoyed.

My only regret is that more of the members of the local societies, especially my own, did not attend.

So, in conclusion, my thanks to all involved in organising, speaking or attending for making this such an enjoyable event and I would encourage all that read this to attend congress in the future when they can.

*Kevin Chard*

Chairman, Southampton and District Philatelic Society



*One of the local society displays on Transatlantic Seaposts*



*Bill Hedley, Congress Medallist, showing "La Serenissima"*



*The BTA one-sheet competition*

➔ <http://www.southamptondps.org.uk>

# South Georgia, Falkland Island Dependencies. Duncan Carse's 1961 Castaway Experiment.

Readers of a certain age may remember the popular radio weekday serial programme Dick Barton Special Agent. Each night listeners would be entertained with the adventures of Dick and his two companions Jock and Snowy. Dick Barton was played by Duncan Carse who besides being an actor/ broadcaster was also an Antarctic explorer and an authority on the island of South Georgia.

In 1961 he attempted to live alone for 18 months on South Georgia, his base being at Undine Harbour on the South-West side of the Island which has a climate of near freezing temperatures with frequent and violent gales and persistent cloud and snow at sea-level for six months of the year. His experiment to live alone lasted just a few months due to a tidal wave sweeping inland on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, destroying his base hut and spoiling much of his gear. He salvaged the basic essentials and remained a further 116 days before being rescued by the sealer *Petrel* and taken back to Grytviken and subsequently to the United Kingdom.

*Keith Lillywhite*



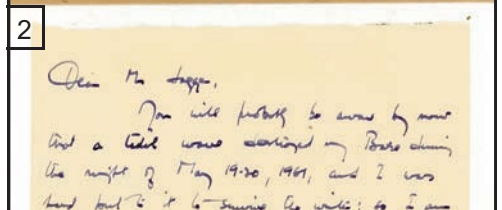
1

- 1 2005 South Georgia Duncan Carse Memorial Set.
- 2 Cover and note from Duncan Carse posted through South Georgia Post Office on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 1961



2

Further Reading on this Modern Day Antarctic Explorer see [www.falklandsbiographies.org/biographies/carse\\_verner](http://www.falklandsbiographies.org/biographies/carse_verner)



## Is it real? Who knows?

There has been a lot of comment in the press recently about counterfeit stamps. Whilst accepting that there seem to be a lot of forgeries flooding into the country, customers could be forgiven for expecting the Post Office to be able to recognise its own products with some degree of certainty. I wonder just how many hundreds of people have fallen foul of their failure to do so.

There appears to have been a particularly assiduous and sceptical employee in North Yorkshire last December – although said official might have been in Sheffield, where all the mail from Hull is now processed (how is that economical... but don't get me started on that subject). In mid-February we received back a Christmas card which had been refused by a friend in Guisborough because he would have had to pay £5 for the privilege of receiving our good wishes. (Nowadays we write our postcode and house number on the back of correspondence in the hope that if it cannot be delivered it will be returned, alerting us to the fact that the potential recipient may have moved or worse, during the year.)

The envelope, which had been slit open, bears a sticker stating that the stamp is counterfeit, and has had the address scribbled out. Our postcode facilitated the return. On March 1<sup>st</sup>,

another card refused by other friends, also in Guisborough, arrived, this time in a Royal Mail First class envelope addressed to 'The Occupier', with our full address. This had suffered the same fate, though it had not been opened. The two original covers had the date of 15.12.23 written on them and were numbered 4 and 5.

The stamps on both these items had been bought over the counter at our local Post Office in early December. The matrix part of the stamps is quite prominent and the phosphor bands are very clear. If we *had* used counterfeit stamps with nefarious intent, how likely is it that we would have put clear return information on the covers allowing the items to be traced back to us? The items were

returned without any demand for payment or query on delivery, which seems a little strange. One also wonders why it took so long for the items to be returned.







Do we now need to keep post office receipts in case we ever have to prove where stamps were bought? The system is in serious need of a shake-up. It could be a long wait.

*Daphne McMillan*

## A Special Meeting

### Frank Walton Memorial Display.



*Three Presidents and Liz Walton*

The Second Frank Walton Memorial Display by **Mike Roberts, FRPSL**, President of the Royal Philatelic Society, on *The Pacific Steam Navigation Company*.

Mike's meticulous research stunned us all as he illustrated how the company had tried to raise money to start in America but failed to find sufficient backers. London was more amenable. The company

started with four ships and expanded to become the largest shipping company in the world at the time. Mike illustrated the display with covers mainly from South America to Britain and Europe. He had been able to research the names of the vessels carrying each item of mail, which added greatly to the interest of a most memorable display. Like many large companies, it became too big to manage profitably and eventually ceased trading. **Liz Walton**, Frank's widow, joined us for Mike's presentation. The three Presidents are Mike Roberts (The Royal), **Robert McMillan** (Yorkshire Philatelic Association) and **Geoff Blackwell** (Sheffield Philatelic Society).

*Richard Hindle*

*We don't say thank you enough. See [Taw and Torridge](#) report on page 49. Every club has someone going the extra mile - sometimes for many years - or the club dies. Please, please look on the ABPS website at the Awards tab (3rd from left) - down at the bottom Awards of Merit. A public way of saying thank you after years of service. Now, next year, soon!*

# On the Club circuit

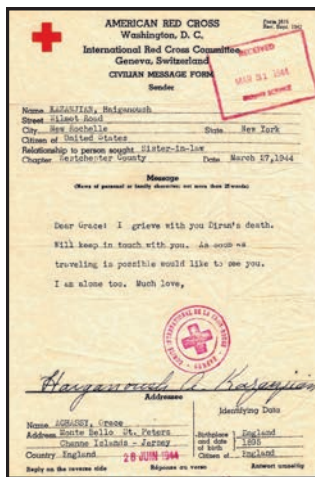
## A roundup of events and speakers at local and national societies.

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.

## Specialist Societies

### Channel Islands Specialists'

Our Spring meeting with postal and room auction was held on 20<sup>th</sup> April. The theme for members' displays was *Transport*. A variety of subjects were shown by **Jon Aitchison**, **Julian Bagwell**, **Gerald Marriner**, **Simon Burke**, **Mark Bailey**, **David Winnie** and **Richard Flemming**. Auctioneer **Nick Stuart** commented: "This general auction, with over 720 lots, covered early Postal History, WWI, Occupation (Postal History, Bisects, stamps, Red Cross messages, *Feldpost*, Internee and POW Mail), Jethou, Brecqhou, Herm and Sark as well as modern Postal History and stamps and revenues plus a wide range of postcards. The reserves were from £2 to £300 and attracted 80 bidders, with lots supplied by 32 vendors. The auction generated sales of £14 494. Many of the lots sold for around their reserves; however as usual several lots resulted in some fierce bidding, especially in the room. Highlights included an 1841 entire from Jersey to Hawick via London with a fine four-margin Penny Black cancelled with a Maltese Cross which sold for £350; a QV 10/- stamp (SG183) with a fine Guernsey parcel post cancel which went for £150; a Red Cross message form from America, which did not have the German Red Cross handstamp applied and was received in



Geneva on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1944, which went for £300 and a very rare Herm slogan meter mark with a reserve of £100 which was, after frenetic bidding, sold for £475. Our next postal auction will be held in October 2024.

→ <https://www.ciss.uk/>

Steve Wells

## Cumbria Postal History

The society was formed in May 1992 in Cockermouth with eleven members and rose to a membership of over 30 but sadly the past ten years have seen this number dwindling, mainly due to the age profile of the group. However, we are still in existence with a membership of 13 and our journal, *The Cumbrian Post*, which is still produced 3 or 4 times a year, continues to provide interesting articles and recent discoveries. Our membership is widely spread from Bedford to Cumbria but we still aim for two meetings each year. We have produced several listings of postmarks of the region, including most recently in June - *Cumbria Steel Single Circle Dated Postmarks 1857 - 2022* by **Simon Kelly** and **Derek Hampson** which runs to 200pp and is fully illustrated. Copies of this, plus information about joining the society, are available from the secretary **Peter Rooke**. → [therookster@virginmedia.com](mailto:therookster@virginmedia.com)

Peter Rooke

## Forces Postal History

In April we held our AGM: our president, **Robin Davis FRPSL**, handed over the role to **Geoff Hanney FRPSL**; **Richard Berry FRPSL** became membership secretary, and **Graham Perfett** was co-opted onto the committee as our treasurer-in-waiting to take over the role on a date to be agreed with our existing treasurer **Alan Baker**, otherwise all other officers were re-elected. For our May meeting immediate past president (**Robin Davis FRPSL**) entertained us with a display of material relating to *Cyprus*. In June we held an all-day meeting at Banstead and had a visiting speaker, **Nick Hervey**, who gave a talk, entitled *A History of Submarines* - this was a thematic display of stamps, postcards and photos covering the development of submarines and submarine warfare. His interest stems from his father who was a submariner captaining one of Britain's nuclear-powered submarines. This was followed by members' displays and Nick was so interested that he joined our society! For July we had members' displays commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day. We have also held Zoom meetings each month with a variety of topics including *Ethiopia WWII*, *Illustrated Airgraphs WWII & WWI Postcards from Captain Bruce Bairnsfather*, *Italian WWII Submarines*. Our meeting reports are placed on our website and our Zoom displays are also available there at:

[www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk) If



Nick Hervey with Richard Berry



you would like to join one of these meetings →  
[secretary@forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk)

Michael Dobbs

## Great Britain

Our Annual Competitions were held in March with a wide variety of exhibits. Winners in each section, judged by **Chris Harman** and **Peter Lister**, were: **Kevin Maunder** - *Repairs of the Penny Red Imperforate Plate*; **Stephen Teuma** - *1890 Uniform Penny Post Exhibition at South Kensington*; **Norman Watson** for *Sealed with a Stamp, QV Line Engraved used as Seals*; **James Heal** for *Postmark Development of Weston-Super-Mare*; **Stephen Teuma** for *Post Office Issue Postcards of Queen Victoria*. There were additional awards to virtual displays from all around the world. We concluded our 68<sup>th</sup> season with the AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, followed by an impressive display on the *Life & Times of Winston Churchill* by **Simon Moorcroft**. The season has comprised 20 display sessions from September to June, eight viewable on Zoom for those unable to travel to London. Only one was Zoom only. The programme included two regional meetings in the North East and South West, a joint meeting with the Cinderella Stamp Club, two gatherings hosted by Stanley Gibbons and the Annual Competitions. As always, displays were of a high standard and RPSL serves as an excellent venue for most meetings. **Peter Lister** has completed his two years as president, succeeded by **Andy Donaldson FRPSL**, with **Maurice Buxton FRPSL** as vice-president. Another highlight was the election of **John Davies FRPSL** as an RDP. We also published a major work on *The Penny Lilac*, by **Robert Galland FRPSL**, **Karl Louis FRPSL** and **Peter Young FRPSL**.

## Helvetia

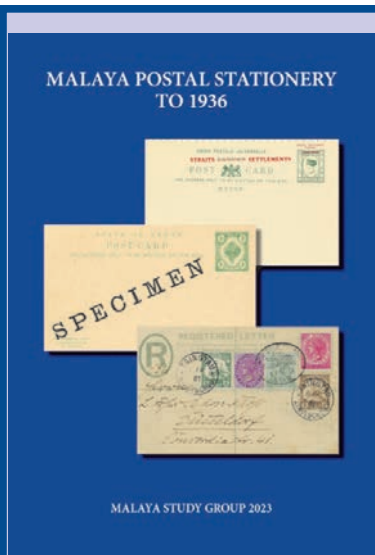
The annual April weekend meeting was held in Worcester. It is a highlight in the society year combining both invited presentations, traditional and PowerPoint, as well as informal sharing of personal selections. Nonetheless, we have noted a downward trend in participation in recent years, probably reflecting our aging demographic profile and competing interests in a changing world. We have responded and much effort has been made in refreshing and keeping the website up to date. (<https://swiss-philately.co.uk>)



*Several members and partners enjoying supper together on the eve of the April meeting in Worcester*

Why not have a look! This is an important portal for attracting new members, and the successful recruitment of five members in the Spring is evidence of this as is the number of other philatelic enquiries to the secretary seeking help or advice. Zoom meetings are undoubtedly a key part of the future.

Our programme of Zoom meetings continues to be well-supported by others, and approximately one in five members has at some time taken part in the last three years. We welcome all expressions of interest in our society including interest in Zoom meetings. [secretary@swiss-philately.co.uk](mailto:secretary@swiss-philately.co.uk) Mike Sharp



**MALAYAN POSTAL STATIONERY TO 1936**  
**Len Stanway FRPSL**  
**Published by the Malaya Study Group, 2023.**  
**Awarded the Lewandowski Award for the outstanding work:**  
**“Malaya Postal Stationery to 1936”**  
**by The United Postal Stationery Society (USA)**

“This is the definitive work on Malayan Postal Stationery. It fills the gap from the first stationery in the time of the East India Company until the period covered by the MSG’s book ‘Malayan Postal Stationery 1937 – 1947’.

For KGVI collectors, an appendix to the new book provides recently-discovered additional information for the period covered by the latter book.

It is the result of many years’ research and Mr Stanway has been helped by many other

members of the Malaya Study Group around the world.”

171 pages, hardbound

Price MSG members £20 +p+p; Non Members £30 + p+p

From: **Peter Cockburn FRPSL** [pcockburn@aol.com](mailto:pcockburn@aol.com)

MSG Membership enquiries to **Martin Roper** [martinsroper@gmail.com](mailto:martinsroper@gmail.com)

## Malaya

Our AGM and the annual auction were on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Two outstanding lots of Kedah from the De La Rue Day Book went for £820 and £500. On 20<sup>th</sup> April **Len Stanway** gave a brilliant presentation on modern Malaya/ Malaysia. At the Leicester meeting in May **Susan McEwen**, working through a series of family letters, gave a succinct history of what it was like to be the wife of a company official in 1930s Sumatra and Malaya, to be safely evacuated in 1942 eventually to Australia and happily to be reunited with her husband. Other presentations included *Shipping, Penang/ Siam, Personalities of Colonial Malaya* and *Stamps of Singapore*. **Mike Ludlow**, for many years our host, was made our fourth Honorary Life Member. On 15<sup>th</sup> June members’ displays were on Johore.

**Michael Waugh** commenced with many of the *Overprints of Straits Settlements Queen Victoria definitives* following with some early *Air Mail covers*, and **Andrew Norris** expertly explained the differing etiquettes. Altogether Johore was covered to modern times.

*Michael Waugh*

## National

**Encouraging year:** During the past year we have recruited 35 new members and welcomed a further 80 members from the former London and Provincial Club, President, **Peter Mellor**, told the AGM on July 13<sup>th</sup>. On a sadder note, he



*Chris Oliver receiving his Johnson Literary Award. from Peter Mellor, NPS President © Michael Round*

paid tribute to the late past president **Michael R Thompson**, whose funeral he attended on behalf of the society in November 2023. The AGM was followed by a successful auction with most lots sold, and by several short displays by NPS members. The AGM included the presentation of the annual Johnson Literary Award to another former president, **Chris Oliver FRPSL** for his three-part feature *A Philatelic Wander through the Isle of Purbeck* published in the society journal *Stamp Lover* in 2023. Each year readers of *Stamp Lover* vote for their favourite feature article and Chris topped the poll. It was the first time since the Covid crisis that the award was presented in person. We

will continue to alternate Saturday London meetings, with auctions, held at the Royal's premises, with monthly virtual meetings. *GB Revenues*, presented by **David Leathart**, is the subject of the virtual meeting on Monday October 14<sup>th</sup>. He will show material dating back to 1694. In addition to regular meetings, and a bi-monthly journal *Stamp Lover*, the society offers an extensive exchange packet, which circulates nationwide. Membership enquiries to **Peter Mellor** [npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk](mailto:npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk) 01582 762284. *Michael Goodman*

## Postal History

We recently held our fourth Zoom meeting of 2024. We had two fascinating displays. The first was given by **Julian Bagwell** on the *British Levant 1855-1923*, that is British Post Offices in the declining years of the Ottoman Empire. The second was given by a past president of the Pennsylvania Postal History Society **Rick Leiby** who, with **Scott Kennedy**, gave a display on *19<sup>th</sup> Century Transatlantic Freight Money Covers*. Both displays were very informative and Rick had gone into the subject in a lot of detail with corresponding charts and graphs as background to the display. Our local meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May at the Harnham Scout Hut in West Harnham, near Salisbury, was a great success. It was a most enjoyable day with: **Mike Moody** *WWI Silks*; **Hugh Feldman** *East Anglian Mail Coach routes*; **Tony Stanford** *Mail from Tangier & Tetuan censored in Gibraltar, WWII*; **Jeremy Martin** *Uniform Penny Post*; **John Stimson** *Mail from GB into New Zealand*; **Tony Howgrave-Graham** *German*





*West Africa; John Scott American Topographical Writing Paper; Bob Small Peninsular War; Stephen Evans Scottish ½ d and Claire Scott Lunatics.* We have been updating our website and amongst other things have introduced a Links page which can be viewed by clicking the link on the Home page. If you would like your club or society added, then let us know and we will add them to the list. *Marc Oxley*

## Royal

When **Pat Grimwood-Taylor FRPSL** was wondering about starting a new collection, having taken South Australia as far as she could, she decided upon *Iceland*. A family holiday there in 1999 had proved truly memorable, seeing the wonderful scenery and meeting the friendly people. Family connections simply made the choice even easier. The result was a collection of *Iceland Postal History to 1939*, the subject of a display and presentation that she gave to us in May. Later that month we saw some of the finest collections from collectors in Luxembourg, brought together for the occasion by **Lars Böttger**. Among the material shown was a study of *The First Issue of Luxembourg of 1852, Mail from the Small Town of*



*Mike Roberts and Pat Grimwood-Taylor*



*Daniel at the rostrum*

*Wiltz in the North*, and the fascinating background to the issue to mark the *Birth of HRH Princess Elisabeth of Luxembourg on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1922, the World's First Miniature Sheet*. The American Civil War, which lasted from April 1861 until April 1865, was fought over the question of slavery. President Abraham Lincoln, elected in 1860, was opposed to the expansion of slavery. Over the next few months, a total of eleven states in the south, disagreeing with his views, left the Union to form the Confederate States of America. The impact of the war on the postal services was explained in a presentation and magnificent display given in June by **Daniel J Ryterband FRPSL**. Daniel made the effect on the posts very clear.

## South African Collectors'

In April we held another day meeting at Letchworth Garden City with a number of interesting displays presented and an excellent buffet lunch provided. You do not need to be a member to join us there. This year we held our annual conference at Kenilworth. Although fewer members attended, the first day was full of activity, with three displays in the morning. **Tony Howgrave-Graham** produced some interesting material on the *SS Kenilworth Castle*, a Union-Castle mail ship which was in collision with *SS Rival*, off Eddystone in 1918 when being used as a troop ship. Live depth charges exploded beneath her resulting in 15 fatalities. Tony also showed *Airmail Covers of South Africa and South West Africa*. **Roy Ross** gave a striking display of the *Early Years of RSA 1961-71*. **Rob Lester** gave a detailed display of *South African Publicity Labels*. **Steve** and **Andrea Hannath** gave an outline on the way that our website should be re-established to be more relevant. An auction and the AGM followed. **Tony Howgrave-Graham** is president, **Rob Lester** chairman, **Bob Hill** secretary, **Simon Peetoom** membership secretary and treasurer, **Steve Hannath** webmaster, and the committee includes **Tony Johnson**, **Nick Arrow**, **Roy Ross** and **Chris Oliver**. Tony Johnson was awarded the Wicks Medal for the best article in the Springbok during 2023. On day two we were treated to a display on the *Invasion of German South West Africa during WWI* by **Steve Hannath** and five other short displays. → Bob Hill 07718689192 [hillrinden@gmail.com](mailto:hillrinden@gmail.com) Chris Oliver



Kilroy Ross was here with SACS Dishcloth 2024

## Spanish SC

The Circle held its Annual General Meeting at York Stamp Fair on 19<sup>th</sup> July at 1pm. A successful philatelic weekend was held in Grantham, enjoying the company of other Spanish collectors. It is hoped that a similar event will be held there next year. Displays were given by all members present and included the *History of Spanish Railways* and *A Study of the El Cid Stamps of the 1940s*. **Edith Knight** and **Josefina Martinez** shared the Ron Shelley trophy for best display. We hope to see a few more members at the next weekend meeting which will probably be held in April 2025.



Edith, Trophy and Josefina

Edith Knight

## Sudan

Our annual conference was held in Derby in April 2024. This year the meeting was attended by a special guest, **Sue Millard**. Sue is the daughter of Major ECW Stagg – the author of the two definitive books on Sudan philately. In fact,

this year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his first book and it is as important as ever. Sue told us how as a military family they had moved around including postings in Germany and Egypt. Her dad also was sent off on duties to Norway and Sudan. The latter is where he was bitten by the Sudan stamp bug! Sue remembers that he spent hours with his stamps to the accompaniment of classical music. He had an extensive circle of contacts who provided him with information to further his studies which eventually resulted in his two books.



*Our guest speaker, Sue*

Such big names in Sudan philately as **Norton Collier**, **Charlie Hass**, **Richard Wilson** and **Sir John Inglefield-Watson**, to name but a few, helped him with the research. Prior to being contacted by the SSG, Sue had no idea just how important her dad's work had been to the Sudan philately community. In fact Stagg was instrumental in the creation of the SSG (which grew out of OPAL - Oriental Philatelic Association of London) and he was our first president. He would be very pleased to see the society thriving with nearly 100 members worldwide.

*Malcolm Coe*

## West Indies

We held our AGM and annual auction in May at the Royal. There was good attendance and again the auction was lively and successful with 820 lots, and realisations of circa £37 000. Steve Jarvis, chairman, summarised the year 'The society is in good health but we should not be complacent. Please keep the journal articles coming and encourage any other collectors with interests in West Indies philately to join.'



*The WIPSG "Team" at the AGM*

He thanked committee for all their efforts over the last year, particularly Peter Fernbank, who was retiring from the committee. Peter has served since 2006. Steve noted the many awards that had been achieved by members recently: James Gavin had been winning awards for his websites, recently Large Gold + Felicitations for his Bahamas site – 18<sup>th</sup> NZ National Philatelic Literature Exhibition 2023; at the 2024 Sarasota National Exhibition; **Peter McCann** *Dominica of the Leeward Islands* - a Large Gold and two special prizes and **Juan Riera** - Silver Medal in Literature Competition for *Aviation Rivalry Spurred on by Air Mail*; **Jazad Ali** *The Stamp Cancelling Machine Slogan Postmarks of Trinidad and Tobago 1923 - 2023*, has won philatelic literature awards around the world; **Susan Taylor**, **Graham Stockdale** and **Julian Waldron's** *Anguilla's Quest For Identity - The Philatelic Story* won Large Gold at ABPS 2024; at the Perth (Western Australia) National Exhibition, **Pat Capill** *Barbados KGV Line Engraved Definitives* – Gold, **Darryl Fuller** *Leeward Islands Postal Stationery* - Large Gold and **Simon Richards** *Grenada Postal Stationery* – Large Gold

*Susan Taylor*



# Federations

## Hampshire

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain was held in Southampton from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024. One of the Friday morning sessions was entitled "Presentations: Local societies' members share with Congress the material they enjoy collecting". The format was for the speakers to put up their displays (two 9-sheet frames each) at the back of the hall and to address the audience from the front of the auditorium by giving an overview of their display using slides projected onto a large screen. The session was also being video recorded and relayed to audiences elsewhere. In all, seven presentations were given as follows:

**Mike Batty** - *Vernon Hill House*; **Malcolm Coe** - *Early Sudanese Postal*

*Stationery Items and the*

*Stories They Tell*; **Malcolm**

**Montgomery** - *Early Solent Maritime Mail 1570-1825*; **Bob**

**Small** - *Britain at War 1589-1885*; **Michael L Goodman** -

*Spotting a Wrong 'un: GB*

*Postal Forgeries*; **Albert**

**Jackson** - *Development of the Official-Mail Service:*

*German-occupied Poland*;

**Julian H Jones** - *The*

*Transatlantic Sea Post Office and Southampton*. In the event Michael Goodman was

indisposed and Julian Jones delivered his slide

presentation. The session

was well-received and the

speakers were presented with

certificates at the end and captured in this group photograph by the Official

Photographer.



From left: Julian H Jones, Mike Batty, Bob Small, Malcolm Montgomery and Albert Jackson. Malcolm Coe and Michael Goodman were unavailable for the post-session photo.

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# MIDLAND and THAMES VALLEY PHILATELIC FEDERATIONS AUTUMN CONVENTIONS

## & BANBURY STAMP SOCIETY

Sponsored by Tony Lester Auctions

# BANBURY FESTIVAL OF STAMPS

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024: 10am to 4pm

at Blessed George Napier School

Springfield Avenue, Banbury OX16 9JD

Dealers in Stamps, Postal History, Postcards, Albums,  
Catalogues & Accessories Children's Activities

Large Free Car Parking Refreshments Free Admission

### DIRECTIONS FROM M40 Junction 11

Start out along Hennef Way towards Banbury. At the third (Southam Road/  
Tesco) roundabout take the first exit left onto the Oxford Road (**A4260**)  
signposted Town Centre. Continue for about 0.8 miles towards Adderbury/  
Oxford. After reaching Sainsbury Superstore, turn right onto Grange Road.  
Turn right onto Springfield Avenue (entrance to BGN School is 100 yards on  
the left). **Watch out for STAMP FAIR yellow signs**

## Scottish (ASPS)

**Graham Mill** was elected president of ASPS at the annual congress in Perth last month. The aim of the ASPS is to further the study of Stamps, Postcards



*Alex Walker congratulates new president  
Graham Mill*



*George Henshilwood  
- winner or guardian?*

and Postal History. Each of the 36 local societies in Scotland nominates a delegate to represent them in the Association. A Congress is held annually which is attended by dealers, with a dinner and displays (competitive and non-competitive). The next Congress will be held in Dunfermline in April 2025 and hosted by the Glasgow Thematic Society. Full details of all societies affiliated to ASPS and details of Congresses past, present and future can be found on the website [www.scottishphilately.co.uk](http://www.scottishphilately.co.uk) Graham Mill

## Thames Valley

An all-day Regional Meeting of the Thames Valley Region of the RPSL will be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October at Banbury Cricket Club, The Pavilion, Whitepost Road, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4BN, 10am to 4.30pm. The meeting is being organised jointly with the Thames Valley Philatelic Federation and everyone is welcome. Fellows, members and guests are invited to present 9-, 18- or 27-sheet displays on a subject of their choice. Tea/coffee and a two course buffet lunch will be served. Full details and a booking form are available from John Davies at [davies1890@btinternet.com](mailto:davies1890@btinternet.com) or telephone 01295 255831  
*John Davies RDP FRPSL, Patrick Reid FRPSL, Dane Garrod FRPSL*  
Joint Thames Valley Regional Representatives

## Wiltshire and District

### Too many Competition Entries!

Not a complaint that you hear too much in recent years but that was the case at this year's Swinpex. It was only with the swift actions of the Swindon team that we were able to rotate competition entries such that every entry received 'airtime'. This is the eighth year that entrants submit their entries as 'best quality colour photocopies' so swapping over entries was an easier process. We must thank our Judge, **Wendy Buckle**, who did an outstanding job that included comprehensive written feedback to every entrant. First Places were awarded to **John Scott, Keith Chadwick, Morva White, John Roe, Nigel Borlase-Hendry, Mike Tanner, Barbara Borlase-Hendry** and **Simon King**. The overall standard was very high with Bath receiving six Golds, Bristol two, Swindon four, Salisbury two and Warminster three. The Swinpex team under the leadership of **Chris Scott** must be thanked for their flexibility and support for allowing us to hold the WDPF 9-Sheet Competitions. Our 16-Sheet Competitions will be an integral part of our AGM with the closing deadline for the submission of entries being the 1<sup>st</sup> November as 'best quality colour photocopies' only.



Barbara Borlase-Hendry receiving the Open Class trophy from our president

*Paul Latham-Warde*



## Local

### Aberdeen

We hosted the 93<sup>rd</sup> Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies Annual Congress on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April in Perth. We previously undertook this role to celebrate our centenary in 2010. The host society members provided 60 frames of very varied material for viewing. The Tom Reilly display was presented by **Graham Searle** who is a fellow and past president of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain. His display entitled *Some Aspects of Canadian Philately* was shown in ten most interesting sections. **Alex Walker**, 2024 president, designed the RNLi cover. His display *Samoa 1840-2000 - A State in Transition* won the Open Class Iain Boyle trophy. One of our members, **David MacDonald** had the honour of being invited to be a Signatory of the Book of Scottish Philatelists. Congress attendees had time to browse the dealers' stalls, hopefully find some philatelic treasures, meet friends and appreciate the hard work by so many people who make the Congress event such a success. A bonus has been a very positive follow up from the Lifeboat Congress theme. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, we paid a visit to the RNLi station at Aberdeen harbour where members presented the coxswain, **Cal Reed**, with a cheque for £400. The money was raised from sales of souvenir covers commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the lifeboat institution. The covers were sold at the Congress weekend. Members were then treated to a guided tour of the lifeboat facilities and rescue craft. *Sheila Den and Roy Burnett*



*David signing the Roll*

### Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies

Present

### South of England Stamp and Postcard Fair

Free entry to over 30 dealers

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024**  
10am until 4pm

Norfolk Pavilion, South of England Showground, Ardingly,  
West Sussex, RH17 6TL

**Further details:** Kevin Dillistone: [Dillyboy4744@gmail.com](mailto:Dillyboy4744@gmail.com)

## Banbury

“Anything but Stamps” 19 Members attended our AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> May which was followed by members’ displays. **Bernard Price** showed a selection of *Artefacts of Tribal Art* including a scarf made from Madagascar spider silk, shadow puppets from Indonesia and a penis guard worn by the Dani Tribe! **David Hood** has a *World War II Diary* detailing experiences in South London in 1944 in the Home Guard with references to V1 rockets and doodlebugs.

**Mat Shaer** has a collection of *Watches*. This began with a special “999” watch produced for the Superintendents’ Association which records his service in the Police. This initiated his interest and study of watches and their history.

**Paul Prichard** brought a *Bank Note* from Banbury Old Bank. **Jonathan Durley** collects *Stamp Vending Machines* and he displayed examples including an early 1920s machine. There were also various Post Office artefacts, such as postal scales, handstamps and badges. **Susan Johnston**’s other hobby involved *Quilting, Appliqué and Embroidery* and she showed various examples of her very impressive skilled work. **Netia Piercy** had a *Silk Map of Northern Europe* issued to flight crew during World War II. This was a varied and interesting evening which provided much entertainment and amusement at various points. This evening concluded the 2023/24 season. Meetings begin again in the Autumn at Hanwell Fields Community Centre from September to May.

➔ [www.banburystampsociety.co.uk](http://www.banburystampsociety.co.uk)

Bernard Price

## Basildon



Giles presenting Danzig

In April **Giles du Boulay** visited to show *Danzig - Trains and Boats and Planes*. He started with the development of the railways to and through Danzig with associated anecdotes. He continued with sea mail showing postcards, postal history, stamps, tickets, cigarette cards. This included SMS “Danzig” and the Seedienst Ost Prussia line, whose three ships were used for the “Strength Through Joy” cruises and which were all lost in one night on a Polish minefield whilst themselves being used as minelayers! Part two was devoted to airmails, starting with an 1897 balloon flight over Danzig from Leipzig. Early aircraft flights and airmail stamps were followed by Danzig mail used on Atlantic catapult flights and the Dornier DoX flying boat. Mention was made of a scam in which the post office charged

express mail supplements for all incoming airmail even if no real time benefit was gained. **Steve Alpe** returned to show more of his collections. This time, his dominant theme was *Public Houses, Beers and Breweries*. He included a large series of Great Britain first day covers featuring a public house relevant to at least one of the stamps in the set. **Derek Connell** collects *London*. He began

with a range of Corsini letters, the earliest being from 1574. The introduction of dated postmarks by Henry Bishop in 1661 was followed by the London local post of William Dockwra. Addresses were very descriptive until house numbers were first assigned in 1767.

*Fly on the Wall*

## Bolton



*Peter Best showing Malta*

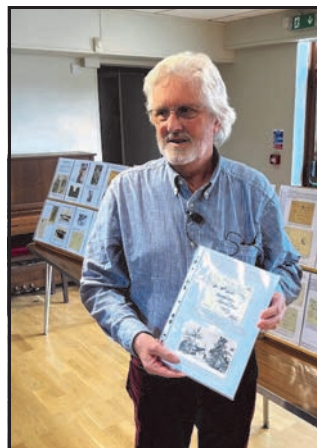
The first half of our April meeting was our AGM. Everything seems to be running well especially since we moved to a new venue and afternoon meetings, though our auctions are held in the evenings. Membership is steady. Then followed members' displays, which included **Derek Earnshaw** with his collection of *Drift Experiment Cards* dropped by the Oceanographic Society in the 1950s (there were three drops), stamps and covers relating to the *Manchester Commonwealth Games* and finally *Manchester Pre-stamp Covers*. **Henry Lisowski** displayed his *WWII Full Sheets of General Government*

*Stamps*, printed in Austria. In May our guest speaker was **Peter Best** showing his collection of *Covers and Stamps of Malta 1800s to 1921* including many covers from small local post offices dotted around the island. Peter last came in 2022 and gave his talk on the *Sovereign Military Order of Malta*. Our June meeting was our evening auction. We hold them three times a year and a catalogue is available. With just over 450 lots many were sold and we had quite a lot of postal bids. Look at our Facebook site, it is updated monthly.

*Henry Lisowski*

## Bookham

In April we had a wonderful display from **Jim Etherington** on *The BEF in France 1939-1940*. Initially Jim gave an account of the BEF's arrival in France in September 1939 through to its evacuation during late May, early June 1940. Using postal history items and postcards the story described the arrival of troops and supporting RAF, the period known as the "Phoney War", the German "Blitzkrieg", the various evacuation operations and the final arrival back in England. In the second half and part two of the story, interspersed with the first, Jim described the postal arrangements, and the various postal and censorship markings used by the British forces while in France. The display concluded with a range of contemporary postcards depicting the BEF and RAF in France and postcards used to send messages back home. May was our usual AGM and mini-auction. June was a one



*Jim received his certificate*

-sheet club competition for members, the winner being **Graham Mytton**. This was followed by our own **Malcolm Cole** with his superb display of *WWI U-boats*.  
→ [www.bookhamstampclub.com](http://www.bookhamstampclub.com) Barry Feltham

## Bristol

**Humiliated!** As Bristol members gathered for another exhilarating 9-page competition, little did they realise the devastating plunder which was about to confront them. A gang of scallywags believed to be from the 6<sup>th</sup> Bristol Boys' Brigade Company swooped to grab the Junior Trophy (fortunately, there was only one entry) but also the much coveted Thematic Cup. Shocked members investigating at the scene of the crime, the palatial home of the BPS, in Macavity fashion, found the rogues were not there. The culprits were, later, caught on camera showing off their swag before, again, they disappeared into the night. It was thought that the youngest could be no older than seven, and the eldest perhaps twelve. Not content with having humiliated the entire BPS, they then attempted to burgle the Federation's cup. In gallant mode, the society's rising star, **John Roe**, came to the rescue to win the trophy, forcing the contemptible rascals into the runner-up spot. Societies beware! There might be a Boys' Brigade Company near you.



Ron Gillard

## Burnley and District

We continued in April with our Competition Night of nine sheets when **Mark Everiss** won the cup and our junior member **Imogen** was awarded the shield for her entry on *Animal Endangered Species*. We always try to have a GB night and for our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary "party" night on 18<sup>th</sup> April we welcomed **Bill Barrell** with his display *Great Britain-The Emergence of the Royal Mail, Postal Reform and the Penny Value 1840-1880*. We invited friends from other North West societies and a great night was had by all. For our final guest speaker night in May we welcomed **Norman Hudson** from Ellesmere Port PS who gave us two excellent displays. The first half featured *Alfons Mucha the Art Nouveau Exponent and Stamp Designer* and the second was a *Philatelic History of Heligoland*. Between this meeting and the AGM we had a family summer evening at a local



Peter Markham, Bill Barrell and the cake



hostelry to round off our celebratory season. We have planned an exhibition for August in Burnley Central Library to promote our 80<sup>th</sup> year of Stamping around Burnley & District showing postal history and our own society archives and the life of our late Queen Elizabeth II pictorially in stamps. Hopefully we can use this period to further the hobby and gain new members. *Barry W Evans*

## Bristol Philatelic Society and Stamp Club



### *Grand Open Evening*

Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October, 7:30 – 9:30pm  
Redland Church, 1, Redland Park Road, Bristol BS6 6SA  
All are welcome

A rare chance to see 4-page displays on a wide range of topics.  
Anyone can bring along a 4-page display, or just join in the fun.  
Free Refreshments available

Also an opportunity to book a free appraisal of your collection.  
Please contact Ian Spencer, 01179 850521 or  
[ian\\_rev\\_cind\\_stamps@hotmail.com](mailto:ian_rev_cind_stamps@hotmail.com) to book a slot



Don't forget that each federation and affiliated society can ask to have a free advertisement for a special event, fair or exhibition or other event included each year, subject to available space - but give plenty of notice.

## Caledonian

The last meeting of the 2023/2024 session was given by **Alistair Burrow**, one of the longest living members of the society who joined in the late 1960s. The title of his display was *A History of the USA*. Alistair began with a history of the display which was first created 50 years ago while he was a student who had studied American history as part of his degree. He began with the earliest settlement, now believed to have arrived over the land bridge which once existed where the Bering Strait now lies, and then proceeded to the early discovery, exploration and settlement of America. The display proceeded via the War of Independence and the westward development of Manifest Destiny, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, and the growth to world power in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Along the way, quirkier aspects were noted such as the beginnings of Baseball, the first Kentucky Derby and the Chautauqua movement.



*Alistair makes a point*

## Cambridge

At the beginning of April we held the second of our two competition evenings for members. **Graham Wylde** won both the Commonwealth and the 16-sheet competitions with **Tony Crowther** winning the Transportation of Mail competition. Our thanks are due to our friends from North Herts Stamp Club who kindly carried out the judging. For our May meeting we had a visit from three members of the Sudbury & District PS who gave a very mixed and interesting range of displays. The Annual General Meeting was held at the beginning of June. The majority of committee members were re-elected for another year, and we welcomed in **Rufus Barnes** as our new president who took over from **Graham Wylde**. On 3<sup>rd</sup> July we welcomed our member **Earl Toops** back to Cambridge; he is a long-serving member of the society who lives in the USA. He gave a detailed and informative slide show covering the *Regime Change in Vietnam*. The talk covered the stamp issues of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and the restoration of postal services in the defeated South during the 1970s. We will continue with the format of a face-to-face meeting in Cambridge on the first Wednesday each month and also a Zoom presentation on the third Friday each month.

→ [info@cambridgephilatelicociety.co.uk](mailto:info@cambridgephilatelicociety.co.uk)

*Peter Morton*

## Chelmsford & District

In April we were delighted to welcome **Don Davies** with his presentation entitled *Don Davies Entertains*. The title certainly lived up to its billing, covering postal history pre- and post-Penny Black, as well as Chilean Classics and GB

Forgeries. Our May meeting had member **John Copeland** giving an excellent presentation on *GB Postal Rates and the History of Postcards*. Later that month **Alan Moorcroft** visited with his excellent presentation on *Aspects of Local History* which focused on the Colchester area. In June we welcomed another visitor **Ray How** with his topic *Irish Airmail*, which included much interesting material from the earliest days of flight. Our final meeting before our summer break was entitled *Dead Countries* or whatever took the displayer's fancy. Eight members displayed their material on a raft of diverse topics ranging from *Transvaal* to *Local Post in Northern Norway*. Our first meeting back will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September commencing at 19.00.

→ 01245 465506 or [daveeverard@live.com](mailto:daveeverard@live.com)

*Dave Everard*

## Chichester & District

Many thanks to **John Bushell** who very kindly stepped in to entertain us with an excellent display on *Foreign Air Mail covers*, including some signed by pilots in the 1910-1920s. Many of these were also Zeppelin flights which carried mail from 1908-1914 and again in 1919-1939, especially on South American routes. John covered Boomerang Mail, Harry Doolittle, awards, records and pioneering aviation. In 1919 some 1000 propaganda leaflets were dropped over Germany but many landed in the river Rhine. Thus, the surviving leaflets are very rare. In the 1930s passengers on the airliners were given postcards. These were fill-in-&-post type cards on airlines such as Air France, Lufthansa and many others. It was a very entertaining and informative display. We regret to report the deaths of **Fred Robinson**, postal history collector and extremely knowledgeable about the local posts in Chichester, Selsey and many other local areas and **Michael Berry**, collector of France, with a specialty in Paris Balon (Balloon) Posts. I've never seen such tiny letters with miniature script! Both gentlemen will be greatly missed. We send our sympathies to both their families. → our secretary on 01243 527068 or find us on our website [chichesterps@yahoo.com](mailto:chichesterps@yahoo.com)

*Martha Brown and Alan Green*

## Croydon

President **Pauline MacBroom** had worked at Stanley Gibbons for many years before her retirement, and she recounted the story of the man and his many wives. Pauline told of his life in Plymouth and London, and his death at the Savoy - to be taken out in a rolled-up carpet. **Graham Harker** then gave a display of *Controls*. The stamps from the reigns of Edward VII, George V and Elizabeth II were shown as plate or cylinder blocks. In the margins of the sheets there are controls – numbers and letters – as well as cylinder numbers. The control was introduced in 1882 by the printing firm De La Rue as an accounting method. The Post Office has continued to use the system as a means of stock control and accounting. The stamps shown were all mint, both unmounted and mounted. Following the display several members present at the meeting spoke about how they had taken up stamp collecting as a hobby – **Terry Page, Dave Meaney, Peter Collier, Pauline MacBroom, Michael Sneary and Frank Simpson**. The meeting concluded with a talk by **Richard West**. Following



*From left: Peter Collier, Frank Simpson, Dave Meaney, Richard West (hidden behind the President), President Pauline MacBroom, Mike Sneary, Terry Page, Graham Harker*

university Richard trained as a teacher and taught Mathematics for his probationary year so as to gain a teaching qualification. After that year he was offered a position with a stamp magazine which he accepted. He then recounted his “life in stamps” and the many positions he had held both in the UK and internationally.

*Graham Harker*

## Dawlish

Our meeting at the Manor House Dawlish in May was well-attended to see two displays by **Jim Wigmore**. The first was on *The Refugee Stamps of Cyprus* introduced following the Turkish Invasion of Northern Cyprus to generate funding to build new villages and homes for those that were displaced. It was pointed out that this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the display being shown had previously been shown at the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) in 2018. Our projection system was used to show the many flaws that appear in these stamps. The original material was also available for members’ viewing. The second display, treated similarly, was about *Cyprus Air Mail* and contained some rare very early pre-1932 covers and also an even rarer cover that was sent from Cyprus to Brasil via Germany and was carried by Zeppelin from Germany to Brasil. → [www.http://dawlishsc.org/](http://dawlishsc.org/) or call 01626 864844.



*Cyprus to Brasil by German Air*

*Jim Wigmore*

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



## Dundee and District

At the ASPS Congress in April a number of awards were won by members:

**John Sawkins:** Large Silver Gilt and the Cowell Salver for Best First Time Entry for *Building Bridges*; **Norman Kelso:** Silver and the Carson Trophy for *Usage of the Tu'penny Blue* and a Small Silver Gilt and the Bridge of Allan Trophy for *The Law and Electrical Revenue Stamps of Saskatchewan 1907-1968*; **David Millar:** Bronze for *Queen Victoria Post to and from Dundee 1840-1901*; **Graham U'Ren:** Small Silver Gilt and the James Merrylees Trophy in Literature for *Flights of Fancy – Writing about Bird Stamps*. The AGM in April opened with a one minute silence for two members who died recently – **Sandra**



John Sawkins with the Cowell Salver

**Campbell** (Honorary Member) and **Dimitrios Kouletakis**. The following were elected for season 2024-25: president **Norman Kelso**; vice president - **Brian McQueen**; secretary - **Lynn Podger**; treasurer - **David Millar**; exchange packet secretary - **David Easson**; librarian - **David Easson**; publicity officer - **Colin Campbell**; webmaster - **Stephen Kennedy**; representative to ASPS - **Francis Podger** and committee members - **Marjorie Kennedy** and **Richard Griffiths**. The final event of the session was the Annual Dinner where members and their spouses enjoyed each other's company. The 2024-25 season starts on 26<sup>th</sup> September with the traditional President's Night.

→ [www.dundeephilatelic.org](http://www.dundeephilatelic.org)

Colin Campbell

## Guildford

Following our AGM in May, members were invited to display a single page comprising philatelic material supplemented with a relevant piece of poetry. As usual for members' evening, this was well-supported and the theme produced a range of imaginative submissions. These included: *the Montserrat Volcano*; *an IBM Coaster*; *a Coastal Poem*; *William Blake's "Tyger Tyger, burning bright..."*; *The Shrimp*; *Cinderella*; *Horse Racing*; *Herm*; *"The Owl and the Pussy Cat went to Sea..."*, by Edward Lear; *"Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud..."* (*Hippopotamus*) and *"Peek-a-Boo, I can't see you..."* (*Ostrich*) both courtesy of Flanders and Swann; *Kookaburra*; *TS Eliot's "The Ad-dressing of Cats..."*; *Cicada*; and *"If you were a Rhinoceros, I'd*



*still be your Friend...".* Our 2024/5 season starts on 11<sup>th</sup> September with the President's Evening when the subject will be *Around the Caribbean*, followed by *Guernsey* on 9<sup>th</sup> October and *Australia 1913-2013* on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

→ [www.spanglefish.com/guildfordstampclub](http://www.spanglefish.com/guildfordstampclub)

Rob Cooke

## Harrogate

We have enjoyed a year of varied and interesting talks and Zoom meetings and are very grateful to Keith Burton, who arranges our programme, for bringing such a wide range of speakers to our meetings. The Zoom topics which he chooses, such as Physics or Psychology, Maths or Music, are a challenge we enjoy taking on. Thanks Keith we are looking forward to next season! At Friday evening meetings we have enjoyed a talk by **Peter Chadwick**, on *Early Scottish Post Roads before 1770*. Not a stamp in sight but it was fascinating to learn of the way that the system worked, with mail often being carried on foot for long distances. Learning of the routes to Keith was particularly interesting to our president. **Bill Shand**'s display of *Straits Settlements* brought a little-known area to our attention. The Monday afternoon meetings are continuing; armed with a cup of tea and a biscuit or two we enjoy seeing smaller displays, and finding answers to any philatelic queries we may have. At the last meeting, for example, we spent an enjoyable half an hour sitting round a table sorting stamps for packets for children at the York Stamp Fair, whilst chatting about philately in general. Very relaxing and interesting, I recommend it.

Edith Knight

## Hereford & Mid Wales

We started this quarter with a visiting speaker, **John WB Spencer** coming to show us some of his collection of *George VI Definitives from the Colonies and Dominions*. The description of the material was punctuated by some marvellous autobiographical anecdotes as to how he came by various items, including how, as a teenager, his stamp album tipped the balance at a job interview! Seeing such a large range of superficially similar stamps all together, it was easy to appreciate the creativity of interpretation of stamp designers across the world. This was the second physical and Zoom hybrid meeting we had organised, and members online were most enthusiastic. June brought an exchange visit from Newport and Gwent PS when **Roy Bentley**, **Andy Williams** and **Margaret Harding** gave displays of *Christmas Island*, *Monmouth Postal History* and unusual *Gwent Perfins*, all subjects outside our own members' experience, thus illustrating the benefit of society exchanges. Our final meeting of each season comprises the AGM and our competition evening. This year **John Henshall** fought off competition

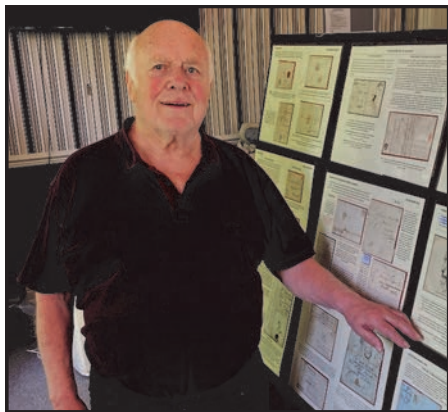


Janet wins a cup and a kiss

from *WWI French Military Mail*, *Ross-on-Wye Postmarks* and *Swedish Tax Marks* to win the Founder's Postal History Trophy with *Underpaid Mail of the British West Indies 1914-1952*. **Greg Brunt** won the President's Cup for his *Introduction to the Stamps of Mexico*, and **Janet Nelson's** *Hedgehogs* took the Shingler Thematic Cup. As a fitting conclusion to her first year with us, **Helen Etherington** won the Novice Cup with *Wildlife of the Falkland Islands*.

Janet Nelson FRPSL

## Huddersfield



*Peter Chadwick in full flow*

In May **Peter Chadwick** presented *Oddities in GB Postal History Pre-1840*. Beginning with *Early Postal History of England* he outlined how a public postal service was initiated in 1660. Originally organised by Henry Bishop (hence the 'Bishop' mark) along the main 'post roads', and mainly serving ports, post only went to the post office in a town. In theory, all mail went to London, was sorted, and then went out to the recipient's town. The charges for the two journeys were added together. About 1685, "way posts" meant mail between two points on the same road did not have to go through London and then 'bye posts' and 'cross posts' were introduced by 1800. Peter continued with *Early Post Roads & Post Offices in Scotland* – with the first publically accessible post from London to Edinburgh, on horseback, introduced in 1660, followed by Glasgow, by foot, in 1661 and Stranraer and Portpatrick, for Ireland, in 1662. This service was for the convenience of the English court and army rather than the Scots' needs. There was minimal service north of the Great Glen before 1700. We held our AGM in June, followed by a One-Sheet Competition, won by **Charles Squire** with *1971 Machin Definitives*. Charles went on to give a display on *Machin Definitives from 1967 to 1971*, which included decimalisation in February 1971 and the effects of the national postal strike. It was well illustrated with individual



*Charles Squire in action*

mint stamps, booklets and first day covers. → [jtaylor3@ntlworld.com](mailto:jtaylor3@ntlworld.com)

Jon Taylor

## Hull

The final part of this season's programme has had a distinctly Scottish flavour, starting with some highly detailed postal history of *Early Mail Routes in Scotland* along with stories of the tribulations of those who carried it, brought to life for us by **Peter Chadwick**. The following month we saw part of **Mike Kentzer's** *Mail into Scotland from Abroad between 1813 and 1839*, showing some very unusual sources, including St Kitts, Little Rock, Arkansas and St Helena. Mike's second half featured *Scarborough, Whitby and the Railway in Between*. **Stephen Parkin** completed our Scottish education with a comprehensive look at *Midlothian Postal History*. **Daphne McMillan** presented *Varieties on the GB Commemoratives of King George VI*, introducing the varieties on screen for



clarity. Society member **Barry Clark's** display on *Telegraphs* outlined the rise of private telegraph companies before their nationalisation in 1870. We saw a range of Telegraph stamps printed by de la Rue, which were eventually replaced by postage stamps, with all the dies being destroyed except for the £5 value, where 'Revenue' was removed and 'Postage' added. He later showed a very attractive collection of greetings telegrams, some designed by famous artists, notably Whistler, who was killed in World War II. An item with local significance was a greeting

sent from a trawler by radio to Wick and thence by telegraph to Hull. We ended the season with a relaxed 'Bring, buy and discussion' afternoon complete with cake.

*Daphne McMillan*

## Launceston

In May members enjoyed a display by fellow member **Des Kent** entitled *Bude, Stratton and Beyond*. Des began by showing a card with stamp affixed; both depicting Guillaume Bude, a French scholar, (1457-1540). Getting closer to the Bude in North Cornwall, an envelope with a fine example of a barred numeral 442 postmark was shown, followed by a British Expeditionary Force letter sent from France to a lady in Bude. A postcard which generated some discussion was sent by the Bude Philatelic Society to a member in 1949, and despite Des making extensive



*Des Kent receiving a certificate from Viv Sandercock*



enquiries, little had been established about the society. A selection of material was shown relating to the Penny Farthing Post which was established by a local Bude resident on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 in protest at Royal Mail raising the first class letter rate to 60p. but, it was short-lived because of its popularity! A very early pre-stamp cover from London bearing a 'Stratton Strand' receiving mark drew some interest from members. Finally Des showed covers with cancellations of villages around Bude from Crackington Haven to Morwenstow. The *Beyond* part of the display included a selection of covers of French Colonies, Namibia and pre- and post-the amalgamation of the seven Trucial States, which later became the United Arab Emirates. In June **Terry Mounce** presented his display in two parts – *British Revenue Stamps* and *Kernow Stamps*. The first part included a document drawn up for the purpose of committing an individual to a lunatic asylum.

Viv Sandercock

## Leeds

Since April we have held four meetings which concluded with our AGM and a mini display on May 28<sup>th</sup> by our vice president **Richard Jagielski**. In April **Nigel Grizzard** gave a fascinating display of *Bradford Postal History* which extended from the West Riding to the continent and more. In the second part he talked about the future of the UK stamp trade. Later **Bill Pipe** took us into *The History of Railway stamps* beginning with the 1838 act which allowed parcels and mail. He led us through Victorian times up to 1891. In May **Chris Jones** gave us an interesting talk on *Developments and Deviations in the Cancellation of GB pre-paid Mail*. He spoke of the PO regulations of 1840–1860 for GB and Ireland. Regulations began 6<sup>th</sup> May 1840. An interesting fact he described was how the postmasters mixed their own ink. Red ink was problematic but London had black ink by 31<sup>st</sup> August 1840. In February 1841 a change was made centrally and all POs used black ink. Several members enjoyed a guided walk of Bradford

organised by **Nigel Grizzard**. Sadly a number of members were on holiday. We look forward to meeting members at a garden afternoon tea and chatting all things philatelic in August. Our 2024 -25 season will begin on 10<sup>th</sup>



Leeds members invade Little Germany in Bradford

September at St George's Centre in Leeds. Visitors are most welcome.

Liz Schweiger

## Lostock

This report will hopefully help and encourage other struggling societies to focus. I always return to 2015 when we almost closed. Then again we made a major effort to hold monthly meetings as soon as Covid restrictions were lifted. Currently we are pleased to have had two new members join us who are always positive and encouraging. **Phil Wharmby** regularly displays in the North West and we are now privileged to have him as a member. Recently **Eirwyn Jones** joined us too and generously donated part of his philatelic collection to us. We find a lot of support by keeping in touch and inviting other societies to speak. Recently we had a wonderful offer from **Barry Evans**, secretary of Burnley PS who wrote to us saying that they had held their AGM but before closing for the summer generously invited us to visit them later in the year. Finally may I again confirm all our future meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of every month from 1.00pm until 3.00pm. (not the first Friday as previously). *David Morley*

## Rochdale

We regret to report the unexpected death of **Ken Knight**, our president for many years. Ken was a stamp dealer and a specialist in Egyptian postal history. He will be deeply missed. Our member **Pete Best** presented a talk on *Maltese Stamps*. Its location in the Eastern Mediterranean made it a crossroads in philatelic seaborne traffic between Europe, Africa and the Middle East. This unique position created a complexity of postage rates not helped by the many forwarding agents involved in seaborne traffic. In-bound ships to Malta when illness was detected had to be completely quarantined for 91 days between Valletta and the small outlying Bishops Island, which housed an isolation hospital at the harbour's entrance. The quarantined postal items were perforated to allow a disinfection agent to permeate the contents. Early adhesive stamps were printed with fugitive ink. Consequently it is difficult to identify shade variations due to running colours. Peter completed his talk by showing many types of Maltese postcards, letters, registered letters and newspaper wrappers. Our evening's entertainment in June consisted of members' presentations. We began with *French Stamps depicting Parisian Landmarks*. A selection of *New Zealand Coil Stamps* began with the first issues in 1930 of commemoratives. *Maltese Overprints and Revenue Stamps* included many boarding passes and passports with attached revenue stamps to cover airport taxes. A collection of *WWI Commemorative Stamp Sheets* included topics from major battles. Finally we saw one member's *Malaysia and its Stamps* and heard native bird song recordings! *Peter Grimshaw*

### ABPS accredited judges

The current list of ABPS accredited exhibition/competition judges can be found on the ABPS website [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk) Click on the "Exhibiting" tab, then the "Judges" tab that is on the 2nd line of tabs.

## Royal Sutton Coldfield

For our late April Meeting we had a riveting and colourful display by **Barry Stagg**. Barry is the chairman of the British Thematic Association. He took us *Parachuting Through the Ages*. We had the history of parachuting and details of early take-offs and landings. We were horrified by the high death rates and enthralled by the women parachutists, finally we had saucy postcards with glamorous lady parachutists in unsuitable clothes getting stuck in trees!

*Margaret Langley*



*Viewing the display*

## Salisbury and District

A very successful end to the season and we now pause before the next season starts in September. The highlight was our excellent Day Meeting at which 21 philatelists from around the area joined us for the day. It was as usual a friendly informative day. It started well with **Stephen Evans** arriving with some delicious doughnuts. The day then followed our normal pattern with two sets of displays in the morning, after which those that wished retired to a pub for an excellent lunch. After lunch there were two more sets of displays; only two members fell asleep in the afternoon as a result of that extra lunchtime glass of wine. A display of pretty postcards also known as *Military Silks*, which in some peoples' eyes are not really philately, proved to be very popular and engendered much discussion. The two most successful evenings, *Interesting People* and *Surprise*, showcased the wide range of members' collecting interests and how far our hobby has moved away from the traditional image of 'stamp collecting' and potentially how there is a much wider catchment for new members. At the AGM there was a long discussion on how to increase numbers. It is interesting that the two articles produced by SDPS and kindly published in this magazine on the future of local societies have so far elicited no comments from other societies. Do we care about local societies?

*Mike Moody*



*A welcome visitor or five?*

The challenge is made - do we care? Look at how few report on their meetings. It doesn't have to be every time but is once a year beyond anyone? *Editor*

## Sheffield

March started with a Zoom meeting with a fascinating presentation by **Sue Burn** on *Smithy*, the life of Charles Kingsford Smith. Sue enchanted us all with tales of his pioneering flights. The presentation was liberally illustrated by many covers and letters written by him. The second Wednesday was a members' meeting on the topic of *War*. There was a record number of displays. April started with members' presentations on *Africa*. It was most interesting to see the different interpretations on the subject. The next meeting was given by **Mike Kentzer**, who gave a superb analysis on the competition entries, followed by a presentation of the *Scottish Additional Halfpenny Mail*. **Roman Rimonis** gave his display of *Forgeries – Spiro & Friends*. A most excellent display. The frightening part was the large number of forgeries in his collection. May's Zoom meeting was by **Hugh Osborne** on *South Georgia*, a truly magnificent presentation. The next one was by **Sir Alec Jeffreys** with *Other India & Unusual Commonwealth*. This very memorable display illustrated many issues most members had never seen before. May's Zoom meeting was by our own member, **Neil Ritchie**, on *Mail from Nazi-held Poland to the Red Cross in Switzerland*. Many items took over a year to reach their destination. **James Hartley** gave us another fascinating display on *British Guiana*, and June's programme concluded with a members' display of *Unusual Philatelic Items*. Again, many members took the plunge, showing a vast range of very different material.

Richard Hindle

## Shropshire

Another season has come to an end, the competitions in the past, and the evening meeting themed *Security Marks* was full of humour and imagination from the use of coils, censored mail and watermarks to name but a few. The AGM was a lively affair with a rule change allowing the president to serve for two years, **Brian Atkins** will serve his second year as president with **Nick Webb** taking on the mantle of vice president. The main business was followed by a bourse where members were able to buy and sell items to enhance their collections. The new term starts in September with members showing their recent acquisitions; stories will be told of the various fairs attended and the deals done. We will be gearing-up for our own Stamp and Postcard fair in Shrewsbury on 5<sup>th</sup> October at the Barnabas Church Centre, Longden Coleham. Enquiries can be made to Tony on 07532 277599. It is with some sadness that I have to report the death of **Brian Lythgoe**, a long-standing society member and dealer attending many fairs including Stafford, Shrewsbury and Liverpool. *Terry Jones*

## Taw & Torridge

### Club stalwarts

Our club remains buoyant with more than fifty members. There are two very good reasons for this success: **Beryl Lloyd** and **Peter Harris**. There is a saying "if you want something done ask a busy person," Beryl, a club member since 1990, epitomizes this. She is active in U3A, her husband's bowls club and local



Rotary club amongst others. Beryl has also been our treasurer since 2014, keeping a firm control on the finances which remain healthy under her stewardship. She attends almost every meeting, often entering competitions showing parts of her extensive collection of *Royal Family Items* or surprising us with a beautiful *Tulips* collection. Not being enough, she collaborates with Peter to ensure our packet service runs like clockwork. Between them they travel hundreds of miles, liaise with half a dozen dealers and process thousands of stamps transactions (in 2023 they processed 48 boxes with a turnover in the thousands) all meticulously recorded by Beryl. In addition to the packet service Peter, a member since 2000 and regular meeting attendee, has, for the last 14 years, organized our annual programme. This entails finding speakers (of the highest calibre) and deciding on competitions and dealer visits to fill the twenty evenings when we meet. Peter has multiple philatelic interests, parts of which he occasionally enters in our competitions. He is also an enthusiastic woodturner in his 'spare' time. Thank you to all the Beryls and Peters who keep the clubs going. *Helen Soby*



*Beryl and Peter - thanks*

## Wakefield

On 17<sup>th</sup> April **Mike Kentzner FRPSL** paid us a visit with his display of *Scarborough and Whitby, plus Halfs, into Scotland from Abroad*. In May we held a well-attended and successful catalogue auction. On 15<sup>th</sup> May we held our Annual Dinner at the Old Halfway House in Horbury. The evening and the meal was very much enjoyed by all. On 27<sup>th</sup> May at a Zoom meeting **Gerald Marriner FRPSL** gave a display of the *Channel Islands Liberation 1945 – 48*. At the beginning of June **Andy Donaldson GBPS** visited and displayed his *GB Security Overprints and Underprints*. On the 19<sup>th</sup> June the Annual General Meeting was held followed by presentation of prizes to winning members of the Society's Annual Competition. July commenced with **Graham Winters FRPSL** giving a display and presentation of *16 National Competition Classes, 1 frame each*. This was a



*At our Annual Dinner 15<sup>th</sup> May - Wakefield know how to do it in style*

version of the display Graham did for the Royal Philatelic Society two years ago. We thoroughly enjoyed these very interesting and knowledgeable presentations.

*Julie Hitchcock*

## Watford

In February we held our nine-page competitions as usual. The winner in the Stamps class was **Wayne Cox** with *The Latvia Map Paper Issues of 1918*. Wayne also won the Thematic class with *Watch this Space*, an entry about different forms of philatelic advertising. **Brian Coates** was victorious in the Postal History class with *GB Undelivered Mail*. March was our annual auction night, with 168 lots knocked down by our resident auctioneer, **Phil Andrews**. Amersham & District PS paid us a visit in April. In the first half **Tim Harrison** showed us *Greek Revenues*, something you don't see every day! **Chris Marsh** followed with an interesting display of *Muscat & Oman*. The members enjoyed these displays immensely. → 01923 218433 *Wayne Cox*

## West London

Unfortunately our July meeting was our last, the decision to dissolve the society then being taken. It was an evening of memories, going back to the 1960s and our precursor Hammersmith and Acton societies. We have been fortunate in having many first-rate speakers over the years. This year was no exception, with **Michel Furfie**, **Paul Leonard** and on the last night **Simon Moorcroft** with his fascinating *Manchester* display. All the active members are involved with other local and national philatelic and postal history societies and we have kept our traditional Christmas Banquet in December. We have ten display boards to give to any society that can collect them from Acton, London W3.

*Kevin Newson*

*Please contact the editor soon if your club is interested. He will contact Kevin.*

## West Riding SC

Our 2024 season of informal meetings continued in May with a display by **Rod Unwin** of *GB Castle High Values* described by Rod as a beautiful-looking set of stamps. He included a number of commercial covers and copies of the stamps covering 1988 issues and the changes made to the series through to 1994. Rod also exhibited many covers with various internal and international rates. June meeting brought a visit from **Healthwatch** in a short interlude and departure from subjects philatelic. **Debbie Neary** described the support services available through the NHS to all in the Kirklees and Calderdale area. This was followed by a series of displays and exhibits from members. **Charles Squire** provided a series of *Postcards 1904 - 1912* together with *Banknotes QE II to KCIII and 1972 Post Bus Services*. **Brian Jones** displayed a series of *Independence Issues from the West Indies 1967 to 1972*, **Adrian Lee** exhibited *GB KEVIII and KGVII Coil and Booklet Stamp Issues*. **Brian Wilkinson** showed *Jersey D Day Commemorative Issues*. **Jon Taylor** covered *GB KGV Postage Due and Post to*

be Paid with a series of covers from 1914. **Tony Plumbe** presented his display connected with the *Nyasaland Field Force* during the WWI period of General Smuts' operation in GEA. **Graham Winters** entertained with a traditional exhibit of 16 sheets of *GB 1d black stamps* on cover covering plate 1 to plate 11 printings used on mail to and from Yorkshire  
*Adrian Lee*

## 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](http://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](mailto:editor@abps.org.uk) I will pass them on and/or use them as necessary. Please note the changes below.*

## Local Societies

**Barnsley & District Philatelic Society:** The secretary, **Nigel Harpham**, has died. Please contact the acting secretary **Glenn Fearons**  
[glennfearons@hotmail.com](mailto:glennfearons@hotmail.com)

**Basildon Philatelic Society:** The new venue is George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon SS14 2FL

**Wakefield Philatelic Society:** The secretary, **Nigel Harpham**, has died. Please contact the acting secretary **Philip Reynolds**  
[life.draw@btinternet.com](mailto:life.draw@btinternet.com) 07805 509469.

Meeting Location: Thornes Juniors Football Club, Queen's Drive, WF5 9BX 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from September to July starting at 2.00pm

**Wimbledon & District Philatelic Society:** has a new secretary **Michael Johnston** [michael.johnston@live.co.uk](mailto:michael.johnston@live.co.uk) 078 8969 2145

We are delighted to welcome:

**Twickenham Philatelic Society:** secretary **Huw Williams**  
[huwie35@sky.com](mailto:huwie35@sky.com)

We regret to report the closure of: Kingston and District PS and West London PS, and that Lanarkshire PS and Thatcham PS have withdrawn from ABPS.



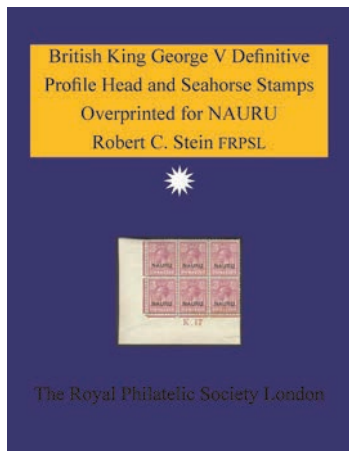
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## The Island of Nauru and a Masterclass on GB Overprints



Robert Stein's '*British King George V Definitive Profile Head and Seahorse Stamps Overprinted for Nauru*' deserves a second look, particularly if you are a collector of GB Overprints.

Nauru, a coral island of about 8 sq miles, is located 800 miles northeast of the Solomon Islands, in the Pacific Ocean. Settled by Micronesians around 1000 BC, the island was discovered in 1798 by John Fearn, who named it Pleasant Island. In the 1830's Europeans began to live there, the first being escaped convicts Patrick Burke and John Jones. The settlers introduced firearms and alcohol and this led to wars between the previously peaceful tribes of the island. In 1886 the Anglo-German Declaration (by the British and German Empires), granted Nauru to Germany. The

Germans annexed Nauru in the German Marshall Islands Protectorate; the first post office, used by Nauru in 1888, was in fact based in Jaluit. German Marshall Island stamps were used. In 1899 phosphate was discovered and Arundel & Co of Sydney were awarded a contract. Excavation led to exports from 1907, and in 1908 a first post office opened on Nauru.

Germany declared war on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914 and British subjects were deported to Ocean Island. On 9<sup>th</sup> September Australia seized the island on behalf of the British Empire. Germany formally surrendered Nauru on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Thereafter, from 1914 to 1916, Australian stamps overprinted North West Pacific Islands were used. The British took control of the island in October 1916 at which time British GRV stamps began to be used, overprinted Nauru.

In 1924 Nauru became a mandated British territory, from which point the island has used its own Nauru stamps.

The stamps used between October 1916 and March 1924 offer a comprehensive case study of production (design, paper, ink, printing) and distribution of the King George V Profile Head ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1s) and Seahorse (2s 6d to 10s) stamps of Great Britain overprinted for use in Nauru.

Robert's beautifully crafted *British King George V Definitive Profile Head and Seahorse Stamps Overprinted for Nauru* provides a comprehensive education in the GB Overprint Process. In 276 pages, it details how the production of British stamps was supervised by the GB Inland Revenue Stamping Department. Profile Head controls are key to the study. They establish a chronological series of samples to which other stamps were organised and compared. The Nauru sample included all press runs believed to survive. The book identifies all the individual printings within the controls of the time. It can be purchased from The Royal Philatelic Society at [www.rpsl.org.uk/Publications](http://www.rpsl.org.uk/Publications) Author Robert Stein FRPSL, ISBN/ISSN 978-0-900631-96-2, Price £50.00



# KIDS HAVE FUN AT STAMPEX 2024

## 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024

There will be a special **STAMP ACTIVE KIDS ZONE** with a range of attractions for youngsters, at Stampex 2024, including:

**Free Vouchers for £20 to spend at the event (limited to 50 youngsters daily. (U18 Only)**



Free **Goodie Bags** for children with stamps, activity books and other items

Free **Stamp Collecting Guide** Free **Activities** on theme of the Seaside **Treasure Hunt and Lucky Dip**

**Join Kidstamps**, the free postal club for young collectors

Free **children's auction** (2pm Saturday) with lots of attractive items and the opportunity to win a Penny Black (the world's first stamp)

**Stamp Art Workshops** where children can create stamp cards or pictures

Free Prize Draw for adults bringing children to the Show  
"Ask the Expert" sessions where both children and adults can ask any questions about collecting including how to get started, exhibiting and much more...



Stamp Active will have a booth in the Gallery Atrium to give out goodie bags and to receive donations. Some material will be on sale to raise money for the group's activities.



The children's displays, activities and the popular free children's Saturday auction will take place in **Meeting Room C** near the main hall.

Visit [www.stampactive.co.uk](http://www.stampactive.co.uk) for more information.

# **EuroPhilEx**

## **Birmingham 2025**

Britain's next major international stamp exhibition

**Wednesday 7 – Sunday 11 May 2025**

**At Hall 9 of the National Exhibition Centre,  
Birmingham BN40 1NT**

10am-6pm Wednesday to Saturday and 10am-4pm Sunday

**2,000 frames of exhibits.**

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Court of Honour

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Society showcase day on Thursday 8 May

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain on Saturday 10 May

FEPA Congress on Sunday 11 May

Cavendish Philatelic Auction on Sunday 11 May

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

£10 admission on first day,

**FREE ADMISSION all other days**

Birmingham International train station on site, Birmingham Airport (BHX) on site.

Easy motorway access from M42/A45 junction.

Signposted from M42, M40, M6 and other routes. Over 16,000 car parking spaces.

More information and discount hotel deal on the EuroPhilEx website

**[www.europhilex2025.co.uk](http://www.europhilex2025.co.uk)**

Telephone +44 (0) 1279 870488



# Diary

## September

- 7 Poole & Bournemouth Stamp Fair: 10-4: St Dunstons Community Centre Poole Road, Upton, **Poole** BH16 5JA → [davidlytch@gmail.com](mailto:davidlytch@gmail.com)
- 7 South West Congress Stamp and Postcard Fair, 10-4, Prestwick Community Centre, Caerlaverock Rd, **Prestwick** KA9 1HR → [davidrossall@sky.com](mailto:davidrossall@sky.com)
- 14 Newquex Stamp Fair: Trevisker St Eval Community Centre, Orion Drive, **St Eval**, Near Wadebridge PL27 7TU → 01288 355918
- 21 HAMPEX: 10-4: Wickham Centre Mill Lane, Wickham, **Fareham** PO17 5AL Hampshire Societies' Competition exhibits on display. The British Society of Australian Philately Meeting begins at 2:00 pm
- 22 STAMPERSHAM 2024: 10-3.30: Chiltern Lifestyle Centre, Chiltern Avenue, **Amersham** HP6 5AH → Keith Wright 07542 163303

## October

- 4-6 Borneo PS Weekend: Chesford Grange Hotel, **Kenilworth** CV8 2LD
- 5 Shrewsbury Stamp & Postcard Fair: Barnabas Church Centre, **Longden Coleham** → Tony on 07532 277599
- 12 South of England Stamp & Postcard Fair: Norfolk Pavilion, South Of England Showground, **Ardingly** RH17 6TL → Kevin Dillistone [dillyboy4744@gmail.com](mailto:dillyboy4744@gmail.com)
- 12 Telford Stamp Postcard & Coin Fair: 10-2: Belmont Community Hall, Wellington, **Telford** TF1 1HJ → Richard Camp 01952 405458
- 13 Hinckley & District Stamp Fair: 10-3: The Meeting Centre, Marchant Road, **Hinckley** LE10 0LQ
- 13 Thames Valley Royal Regional: 10-4.30: Banbury Cricket Club, The Pavilion, Whitepost Road, Bodicote, **Banbury**, OX15 4BN → [davies1890@btinternet.com](mailto:davies1890@btinternet.com) or 01295 255831
- 24 Grand Open Evening: Bristol PS & SC: 7.30-9.30: Redland Church, 1, Redland Park Road, **Bristol** BS6 6SA. All welcome.
- 30 Wessex Fair and Exhibition: 10-4: Torquay Boys' Grammar School, Shiphay Manor Drive, **Torquay** TQ2 7EL

## November

- 2 CORNEX: 10-4: Millennium Hall, Princess Road, **Pensilva, Liskeard** PL14 5NF → 01288 355918
- 3 Banbury Festival of Stamps, Joint MPF/TVF Event: 10-4: Blessed George Napier School, **Banbury**, OX16 9JD → [davies1890@btinternet.com](mailto:davies1890@btinternet.com)
- 16-17 Leeds Stamp Fair: Pudsey Civic Hall, **Leeds** → [www.leedsps.org.uk/](http://www.leedsps.org.uk/)
- 30 Bookham Stamp Fair with Surrey Federation Competitions: 10 - 4: The Old Barn, Church Road, **Bookham** KT23 3PQ

## National Exhibitions 2024-25

- Royal Challenge at The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 15 Abchurch Lane. 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> October
- London at The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 15 Abchurch Lane. 27<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025

## International Exhibitions 2024-2026

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.

- **Hafnia 2024:** European Stamp Exhibition, Copenhagen, Denmark. 17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at Øksnehallen in central Copenhagen. Website [www.hafnia24.com](http://www.hafnia24.com) A FEPA exhibition with 1300 frames for all FIP classes except Astrophilately or Maximaphily. UK Commissioner, Steve Harrison at [sharrison500@btinternet.com](mailto:sharrison500@btinternet.com) Entries closed.
- **Uruguay 2025:** 17<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025. FIP patronage with limited classes. Website [www.Uruguay2025.com](http://www.Uruguay2025.com) UK Commissioner, Simon Richards [simon@sidebell.co.uk](mailto:simon@sidebell.co.uk) Entries close 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- **EuroPhilEx 2025:** Hall 9 NEC, Birmingham. 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025. 2000 frames with FEPA Patronage. Website [www.europhillex2025.co.uk](http://www.europhillex2025.co.uk) All FIP classes at £100 per frame or £120 for single frames and £40 for Literature. UK Commissioner: Daphne McMillan. Royal Commissioner: James Podger [pee-j-aggie-boo@ntlworld.com](mailto:pee-j-aggie-boo@ntlworld.com) Entries closed.
- **PhilaKorea 2025:** Seoul, South Korea. No frame fees or deadline yet. FIP Patronage with FIAP Auspices. Contact UK Commissioner, Simon Richards at [simon@sidebell.co.uk](mailto:simon@sidebell.co.uk)
- **Boston 2026 World Expo:** 23<sup>rd</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May 2026 [www.boston2026.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.abps.org.uk) on the "Exhibiting" tab. *Simon Richards, Chairman ABPS*



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

**Membership** (if not emailed):

**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**

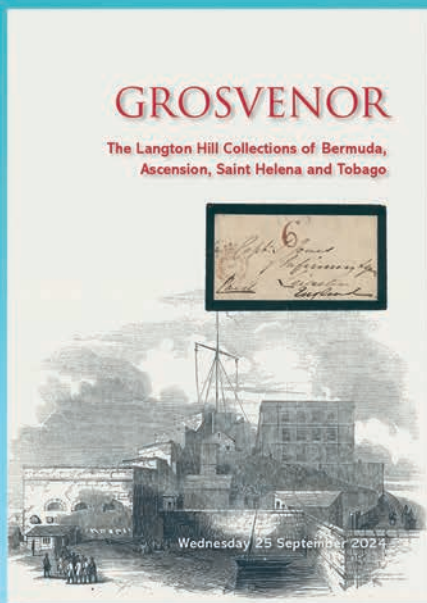
**Stamp Active Network:** please write to:

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

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Website [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk) This also holds further information on Committees.

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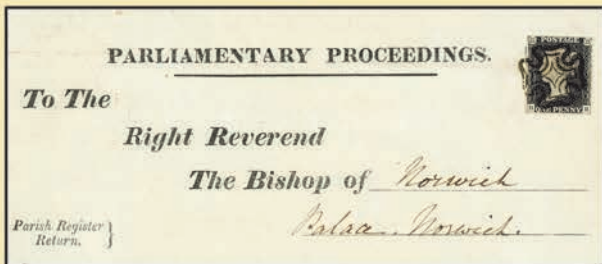
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