

Congress in Southampton in July



11-14 July 2024
Southampton



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ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

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Cover picture: *Philatelic Congress of Great Britain - The Hotel and the Congress Logo see page 10*

An electronic copy of the magazine can be viewed on the ABPS webpage www.abps.org.uk a few months after publication. Contact details for ABPS are on the page by the inside rear cover.

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

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR:



This is the last “Notes from the Chair” I will be writing. At the next AGM, to be held during the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, on Saturday 13th July, I will be standing down after three years as Chair of ABPS. Having just written those two sentences the first thought that comes in to my mind is “so what have you achieved in the three years?” Looking back at the first “Notes from the Chair” I wrote in September 2021, I see that one of my principle objectives whilst Chair was to raise the profile of ABPS. Reflecting on this I think that the Executive Committee have gone some way to raising the profile of the organisation – but there is still a long way to go. The other thought I have is about the state of philately three years on. There have been many local societies closing, specialist societies closing and mergers here and there. However, I do think that philately is still strong and will survive. New collecting areas are being developed. New ways of collecting are being adopted. If innovation continues, I think there is a good future for philately.

But let’s look at what has been happening recently: At the end of March, we had the LONDON SPRING EXHIBITION 2024. This was a national exhibition of 165 display frames organised by the ABPS Exhibitions Committee and held at the premises of The Royal Philatelic Society London. The event was particularly aimed at those collectors interested in competitive philately who were seeking to qualify for forthcoming international competitions. From what I saw at the event and comments I’ve heard, it seems to have been a great success with all the frames being taken and the standard of exhibits very high. To see the individual results of the event go to the ABPS website at www.abps.org.uk A similar event is already in the planning for next year. The York event will be taking place 19th and 20th July where competitive displays will again be on show.

Looking at what else is happening in 2024, one of the stand-out events of the year is the **Philatelic Congress of Great Britain** in Southampton from 11th to 14th July. It will be based at the Leonardo Grand Harbour Hotel, close to the harbour and city centre. The programme will have as its theme ***New Directions in Philately*** with contributors from around the world exploring this area. We can share the latest developments and best practices in philately. This is an event for everyone with an interest in philately with displays by local collectors as well as leading overseas collectors. The Role of Distinguished Philatelists will be joining Congress this year to make it a very special event! Full details about Congress can be found on the ABPS website.

Earlier in these notes I mentioned the aim of improving the profile of ABPS. In my last “Notes” I said that the ABPS needed someone new to take on the role of Director of Communications – to lead and manage all aspects of communications from the ABPS to societies, federations and external

audiences. We still need someone to volunteer to take on this post. It is a key role in ensuring that the ABPS serves as a central hub for information exchange, keeping all members informed about the latest developments in the world of philately. If you would like to know more about this role, please contact the ABPS Secretary, **George Henshilwood**, at secretary@abps.org.uk to have an informal chat.

The ABPS, and philately in general, to be able to exist, flourish and develop, needs “DOERS” – people who will actually do things to support philately. As we move forward, I do hope that “DOERS” can be found. *Steve Harrison*

Editorial

Just in case no one else thinks of doing it publicly I want to thank Steve for all his efforts to make organised philately work in Great Britain. He has taken on more and more tasks and tried to persuade others of the need to do their bit. If that hasn't happened it isn't for want of trying and personally I am very grateful for all the support that he has given to me in my roles. I am sure



that others must feel the same from their own experience. At present I do not know who his successor will be but whoever it is can be sure of my continued support - but not indefinitely. As I approach four score years I think that there is much to do for my own collection if my family are not to inherit boxes of stamps, covers and postcards with little idea of what they represent. What a waste of my philatelic life that would be.

I gain great enjoyment from investigating each cover. I am sure that others do so as well. Some want to enter competitions - developing the story of what they have found and its relationship with their own theme but working to the rules. Others prefer to write up pages in the same way but without the rules so that they can show it without fear of criticism - they form the bulk of the displays to their own or other societies - don't forget to add the details to the ABPS Speakers' List and/or to send them to your own federation. My great joy is building long or short Zoom displays on a variety of themes - I learn much from the research and sometimes even more from the people who come to the displays from all over the world. Some work on their collections in isolation. I think that they are missing out but their enjoyment of their own collection is the important thing. If you have ideas of the way that philately in Great Britain should develop please don't keep them to yourselves but don't expect that they will be able to be effected rapidly. For example new ideas about federations have been put forward - combine them into three or four large ones. However federation officers have told us of the difficulty of getting responses from their current societies. Would bigger federations be easier? Ideas can't be turned into action without work and thought from a number of people. Yes - we need doers but we do need thinkers too. *Keith Burton*

Society anniversaries

According to the date of foundation shown in the societies' information on our records, significant anniversaries include those shown below (though several societies have not let us know their foundation date, so there may be more).

Yeovil & District Philatelic Society - 70



Members celebrated the society's 70th anniversary at our meeting on 6th March. The celebration was combined with the annual eight-sheet competition, which this year consisted of more entries than in recent years. It was encouraging that there were entries in the Novice Class for the first time in many years.

The competition results were:

Novice Class: **Hugh Pearce** – *Irish Definitives*

Thematic Class: **Richard Sinden** – *The Liberty Bell*

Postal History Class: **David Bowman** – *New Zealand First Flight Covers*

General Philately Class: **Roger Marsh** – *Wear and Repair of Great Britain QV Two Pence Plate 4*

The meeting was rounded off with the cutting of a cake to celebrate our 70 years.

Roger Marsh

Newcastle Upon Tyne Philatelic Society – 80

Although we are pleased to celebrate our 80th Anniversary, our history can be traced to the North of England Philatelic Society (NEPS) which held its first meeting in Newcastle on 7th March 1904; the display on that occasion included *Reconstructed Plates of the Penny Red*.

Gradually, from 1924, other local societies were organised as sections of the NEPS, which in time changed its name to the North of England Philatelic Association (NEPA). By 1944 Newcastle was the only place without a society. This was remedied on 4th March 1944, when 26 gentlemen who were present at the Inaugural Meeting voted unanimously on the motion 'That the Newcastle upon Tyne Philatelic Society be formed'. The gentlemen must have been

confident regarding the conclusion of WWII and followed the wartime approach of 'Staying Calm and Carry on Collecting Postage Stamps'.

The first ordinary meeting was held on 7th September 1944 when the display was given by **Mr Frank Goddard**, who showed some of the famous *JR Seymour's collection of Great Britain*, along with other selections from other famous collections.

We have had numerous meeting venues over the years, starting with the Liberal Club in 1944 and now meeting in the historic Literary and Philosophical Society



building on Westgate Road. To celebrate the milestone 15 members and guests met for lunch in a restaurant on Grey Street. We spent two enjoyable hours, as the photograph has captured so well. Of note, among the

membership present was **Terry Pickering**, a member who has clocked up an amazing 64 years continuous membership with the society – man and boy a philatelist!

Sadly, membership numbers have declined from 63 who celebrated our Jubilee Year (2004), to 25 today. But we are still able to attract one or two new members, so there is some hope for the future. We offer a warm welcome to new members - either returning or new to the district.

➔ Steve Dixon 07531322654.

Steve Dixon

Burnley and District Philatelic Society - 80

Our end-of-year Christmas dinner was cancelled as the hotel ceased trading a week before the event. We have now opted for a Summer Social in May at a country pub.

Peter Markham hosted President's night in January and we had the February meetings with members' displays. Three members from Rochdale PS visited on the 7th March which coincided with the 80th Anniversary of our founding in March 1944. By a strange coincidence a newspaper cutting from the archives showed that Rochdale also visited on the 30th anniversary in 1974 and the President was also **Peter Markham**. Wonderful to have been a member for over fifty years! We



Cutting the cake, Barry Evans, Peter Markham and members

had a cake to celebrate and produced 50 souvenir covers for members to commemorate the occasion. Our thanks to Colne Post Office.

We also received a congratulatory letter from 10 Downing Street and our local MP.

Meeting in a Methodist Church, the champagne remains on ice!

On the 21st we welcomed **Keith Burton** (President) and **Bill Tait** (Secretary) of Harrogate PS on a reciprocal visit and were treated to displays of *Bavaria* and a variety of *POW material*, *postcards*, *Glasgow*, *cycling* and *local postal history of West Yorkshire*.

To round off the season we have our competition night on 4th April and a special GB evening with **Bill Barrell** for our 80-year party event.

We will enjoy the champagne on our May summer outing. *Barry W Evans*

*Heartiest congratulations to all involved in these milestones:
If you think we've missed you out, please let the Editor know.*



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 words roughly please, and a picture relating to the subject matter is always a help (300dpi jpg or photograph). We do not pay for publication, and any items may be edited for length or content.

John N Hammonds FRPSL

I am very sorry to report that John Hammonds died on 17th January. He received the Congress Medal in 2004 and continued to work tirelessly for British philately and for this additional contribution he received an Award of Merit in 2020.

He was the auctioneer for the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies, taking over in 1986 until 1998. In 2003 he took the role of editor of that federation's journal and remained in that position for 16 years. During his editorship he produced a journal the federation could be proud of.



John Hammonds (left) receiving the Congress Medal from Richard West

While acting as auctioneer for the federation, John was also auctioneer for France & Colonies Philatelic Society from 1977 to 1992, becoming Vice President in 1991 and President in 1993 until 1996. For some 25 years John was a staunch supporter of the society and heavily involved with much of the work required to run a successful society.

In addition, he was an officer in the British Airmail Society, and for many years, prepared the index for the Stamp Lover, the journal of the National Philatelic Society.

Apart from his France and Colonies collection, John had an interest in Bohemia and Moravia and wrote a book under the title *Bohemia & Moravia: A Collectors' Notebook* for the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain of which he was a member.

John Hammonds was an Honorary Vice-President of ABPS.

He will be much missed and we send our condolences to his widow, Jean.

Yvonne Wheatley

John Frederick Came 1933-2024

Members of the Chelmsford and District Philatelic Society were saddened to hear of John's death in hospital after a short illness, aged 90, having attended the last meeting before our winter break on 12th December, when he appeared to be in fine fettle.

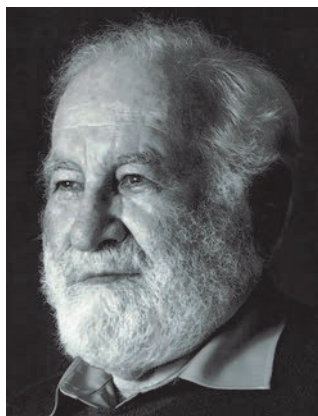
John was a life-long Essex resident, living his early years in the village of Danbury, before moving to Maldon in his later years. He joined our society on 8th November 1948, whilst still attending King Edward VI Grammar School. In school holidays and weekends John helped in his village post office including distributing telegrams on his bicycle.

John was an architect by profession and I had the pleasure of working with him for a number of years at County Hall for Essex County Council. He worked on a number of prestigious projects in County Hall, mindful of Councillors' and Chief Officers' requirements, and this attention to detail was also evident as far as his collection of stamps was concerned.

He was a life member of our society and was president from 2008 as well as packet secretary since 1978.

Until recent years, John attended National Philatelic Society meetings in London with fellow members of our society. He enjoyed the visits as it usually included having a meal afterwards.

His funeral took place on 15th March at Chelmsford Crematorium, followed by a wake at the Swan in Maldon. He will be sadly missed by us all. *David J Everard*



PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN



11th to 14th July 2024 “New Directions in Philately”

Leonardo Grand Harbour Hotel, Southampton

Full details and booking forms are available on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk

Sociable event for all collectors, Free Parking, Day Visitors welcome

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



UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS ABPS

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

Tel: 01451 861111 • Fax: 01451 861297



11 Q.) What is the Collector's 'Secret Weapon'?

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

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

12 Any Scientist will tell you

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

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

13 OK, Cut to the Chase Andrew, what's the offer?

All of my Selling Systems are based upon **selling to Collectors Globally**, so that 95% of stamps sold by UPA are sold directly to Collectors. If you wish to benefit by up to 50% or more, depending upon

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

14 AND the SMALL PRINT!

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

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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! ...

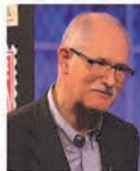
They simply wait to buy unsold lots at reserve !!

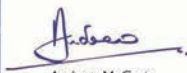
So ... looking for the 'US' makes sense, doesn't it

... 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 –

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Author, Managing Director
Universal Philatelic Auctions
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Bill Hedley - Congress Medallist

The ABPS has awarded the Congress Medal 2024 to Bill Hedley, FRPSL.

He has made and continues to make contributions to organised philately at all levels. He was elected President of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations in 2019, having previously served as a UK delegate and in 2023 he was re-elected for a second term of office.

Having recognised a gap in the international philatelic calendar, he served as Chairman of the Organising Committee of EuroPhilex 2015. Under his chairmanship the show set out to differ from previous international exhibitions by attracting many more overseas dealers and

securing special items such as the printing plate for the Mauritius 1847 Post Office issue and the printing machine used by Jean de Sperati for printing his forgeries, loaned by the Museum of the Royal Philatelic Society London. In addition, for the first time, he introduced the organisation of a very successful Philatelic Rarities Auction.

Bill is a qualified Postal History Judge both at national and international level and has acted as a UK Commissioner with responsibilities for ensuring the safe delivery and return of exhibitors' material sent to overseas exhibitions.

He has served on the Executive Committee of ABPS and as a director of that company. He held the position of Chairman of the Exhibitions and International Committee together with directorships of ABPS Exhibitions Ltd and Stamp World Exhibitions.

Of considerable benefit was his successful negotiation of an ongoing three-year arrangement with the National Imports Reliefs Unit of HM Revenue and Customs to obtain Duty Relief exempting from taxation the import and export of philatelic exhibits.

As a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, he had responsibilities, for many years, as Curator of the Museum and Archives, and subsequently he was appointed Honorary Secretary serving on both Council and the Management Committee.

Bill holds the office of Honorary Treasurer of the Cinderella Stamp Club. He was auctioneer of the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain for many years and is a Past President of that Society. He is also an active member of the Austrian Philatelic Society, the Revenue Society and the Society of Postal Historians.

He is a Past President of the Kent Federation. As a Past President of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Philatelic Society his guidance is always available to the current committee.

Bill Hedley was nominated by the Society for Postal Historians and the Royal Philatelic Society London. He is a worthy recipient of the Congress Medal for 2024.

*Yvonne Wheatley, FRPSL
Chairman ABPS Awards Committee*



ABPS is pleased to announce the 2024 Awards of Merit

Anthony New – Nominated by Petersfield Philatelic Society

Anthony was nominated for his committee work since 1999 and in particular his work as editor of the society's journal. He has produced over 100 issues of the Petersfield Philatelist producing an editorial in every publication as well as writing reports on Society meetings. He produced the Christmas issue last Christmas at the age of 99! In August 2003 the journal won first prize in the first ABPS competition for club newsletters. He has spent his life in philately having joined his first society, Bideford & North Devon, in 1940.

Of particular note is the fact that Anthony was the author of two Observer's Book of Postage Stamps and the New Observer Book of Stamp Collecting. He was commissioned on numerous occasions to design stamps for new issues for Great Britain. The list of articles he has had published in philatelic magazines and publications over the years is extensive. Of note is a letter he wrote in 2014 about his 80th year of unbroken readership of GSM. As the ABPS Award of Merit is given for voluntary service to British Philately over a number of years and consideration is not given for journalist work these achievements had to be excluded from the Awards Committee's deliberations.

The three other Award winners are:

John Button - Nominated by Stroud Philatelic Society

Peter Fernbank - Nominated by West Indies Philatelic Study Circle

David Williams - Nominated by Cheltenham Philatelic Society and the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain



Tom Norgate presents the award to Tony New ©Peter Marshall



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Congratulations to all who took part in the ABPS Spring 2024 Competition

Bill Hedley, the Chairman of the Judges, thanked all the displayers and commented "The standard was high, with great variety on display, and from all appearances it has been a great success with exhibitors and visitors alike".

39 medals were awarded in 10 classes:

8 Large Gold, 12 Gold, 8 Large Vermeil, 4 Vermeil, 3 Large Silver and 4 Silver.

The Large Gold Winners were:

Richard Hobbs (94), Jack Zhang (93), Anthony Whitehead (92), Min Chang (91), Robert Boyd (90), Chris Harman (90), Kim Stuckey (90) and Susan Taylor (90).

The Gold winners were:

Jazid Ali (89), Wayne Cox (89), Jon Aitchison (88), Ian Greig (87), Garrie Naden (87), David Ogden (87), Barrie Stagg (87), Jon Higgins (86), Lloyd Hogg (86), Peter Cockburn (85), Don Davies (85) and Malcolm Price (85),
Special congratulations to Dr Richard Hobbs who was awarded BEST IN SHOW for his entry "British Propaganda Envelopes of the 19th Century".

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists

New Signatories for 2024 and details of the signing ceremony

An open invitation to all to attend in person or by Zoom on Friday 12th July.

At the meeting of the Board of Election of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists on 7th March 2024 it was unanimously agreed that the following philatelists be invited to be the new signatories to the Roll:

Walter Britz RDP (Uruguay)

Yu-An Chen RDP (Chinese Taipei)

John Davies RDP (United Kingdom)

Bernard Jimenez RDP (France)

Ivar Sundsbø RDP (Norway)

Patricia Kaufmann RDP (USA) (2023)

The invitation to sign the Roll is the highest and most prestigious of honours in philately, and is the world's oldest philatelic honour, recognising achievement, research, publication and service in many areas of philately. The Roll was instituted in Harrogate in May 1921 and the signature of His Majesty King George V appears at its head as the first signatory. The total number of signatories up to and including those selected in 2024 (but excluding HM King George V) is 412 from 42 different countries. In its design, the Roll contains the names of 46 so-called "Fathers of Philately", names of great philatelists who would have been invited to sign had they been alive at the time. At the first ceremony in Harrogate the signatures of the initial 39 names were added to the Roll.

Salisbury members' responses continued

Decline in Membership of Local Societies

There was general agreement that there was a decline and an acceptance that further decline was inevitable as philately as a hobby continues to decline. But there was a general willingness to try to do something to avert this. Below is a discussion on some of the points.

RECRUITMENT

Target Audience

2. The normal marketing policy is to identify your target audience and put all your marketing to that audience. It is the view that there is no target audience to whom we could appeal. We had to appeal to all audiences:

a. **Young People.** The traditional audience was no longer there and had been lost for a variety of reasons:

The internet and TV provide the interest in countries, animals etc that many of us experienced in our youth through stamps. Phones enable children to spend much more time with friends and means less spare time.

Schools no longer have stamp clubs. Teachers have no interest in setting up after-school clubs. How many of us can name schools which have an active stamp club? – there are 24 413 schools in England. Many of us were members of school clubs in our youth.

Youngsters' attention operates quickly and changes fast. Philately does neither. Collecting Stamps is no longer fashionable and/or cool. Children do enthusiastically collect things such as Pokémon cards, cards of footballers etc but only briefly and during the period in their lives when it is cool.

Parents, who in the majority of cases don't collect stamps, no longer have the time to spare to spend with their children and foster any interest. Grandparents have the time but often live far away. In this case our generations are partly to blame.

Stamps and letters with the advent of the internet and the demise of stamp shops mean that stamps are remote from their daily lives.

Children work far harder at school than we did as exams are more important - their time is limited.

Personal View

I have four children and ten grandchildren (11 up to 26), who were in private and state education. None of them has any interest in philately in spite of my best efforts, for all of the views above, with which I completely agree. To the above I would add that we need to change our image, which is of old men collecting stamps and fly specs; nerds, anoraks or whatever you wish. I have covered that later.

b. Retired or Retiring

This was seen to be in the short and medium term the best audience. It suffered from the disadvantage that as described above there is no longer a pool of

potential members, who already have an interest. However, many retirees now have better health, more money and more time on their hands and thus have the potential to be philatelists. We need to reach them.

Current 'Lone' Philatelists. These were thought to be a dead end. Nobody knew anyone who wasn't a member of a society. **Comment** However, my postman who delivered someone else's copy of Cover Lover to my door told me he delivered several of these in the area. So they exist but aren't the 'club type'.

RETENTION

This is as important as recruitment. Most societies seem to have churn. SDPS loses members mainly through ill-health, giving up philately, and moving to be close to relatives. Members join by moving into the area, the closing of their local society, or by word of mouth. A few members 'disappear' with no reason given.

CURRENT MEMBERS

1. This is an area where there is already some discussion. Retention of current members is important. We need to give members what they want and what suits them. But what works in one society doesn't necessarily work in another. Some areas for consideration:

a. Striking the correct balance for members in the programme between the very serious collector and those more amateur collector more interested in swapping, bourses etc.

b. Day or evening meetings or a mixture of both. **Comment** SDPS is mainly evenings. We have looked at it several times and basically while we would gain a couple of attendees by having day meetings we would lose a couple!

c. How much social activity. **Comment.** This is an important part of why members join and attend. It should be a part of normal activity rather than just an annual event. SDPS are now doing much more.

d. Avoidance of cliques. **Comment** We don't have them in SDPS but I have heard of them in other societies.

e. The suggestions made by David Rennie in the ABPS of visiting members when sick and holding a competition for the Best Outside Speaker gained no support within SDPS. Yes - concern for members with get-well-cards etc.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SDPS is lucky in that we have a strong committee. But other societies report difficulties and some have failed because of a lack of volunteers. It is noticeable that the same names appear on the committees of different philatelic societies. The majority of our committee members are on the committees of other societies. Societies need to have an active policy of replacements, not wait until somebody leaves or resigns. This problem is very common in other clubs and societies, not just the philatelic world.

Michael Moody on behalf of Salisbury & District members and friends

Sue Wilkinson Announced as New Chair of The Postal Museum, London



*Sue Wilkinson at the Postal Museum
© The Postal Museum*

The Postal Museum is pleased to announce the appointment of its new Chair, Sue Wilkinson.

Sue is a trained teacher, has held significant roles in the education and arts sectors, and spent time in the commercial sector. She served as Chief Executive of The Reading Agency for five years and as Director of UK Academic and Government Alliances at Elsevier.

Her career spans time at the Tower of London, setting up

South Eastern Museums Education Unit and senior roles at the Museum, Library and Archive Council (MLA). Here, Sue established the Renaissance in the Regions scheme, designed to revitalise England's regional museums and create centres of excellence. She led the development of the influential quality and impact framework, Inspiring Learning for All, now in use across museums, archives, and libraries globally.

Sue has been awarded an MBE for services to museum education and an OBE for services to literature and libraries. She is currently a Trustee of Historic Royal Palaces, the National Coal Mining Museum, Brighton and Hove Museums and Waterperry Opera Festival.

Your society information?

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

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

Wishing for a Lady McLeod?



A Lady McLeod Cover.

Anyone with a Trinidad collection will aspire to own a 'Lady McLeod', like this one. The thing that makes the Lady McLeod stamp so alluring is the fact that it has a story. Not only is it SG 1, and the first label used for postage in the British Empire; there is a wonderful social history account around the triple-

masted steamer used on the stamp. There is also much to tell about her Captain, David Bryce, and the businesses associated with the Lady McLeod covers that exist. But Lady McLeods are expensive to buy and hard to come by! So, whilst you are hoping, or saving and waiting for 'the auction', one option is that of collecting some of the stamps, covers and memorabilia associated with the steamer and the Lady McLeod labels. The philatelic cover below is an early example of someone doing exactly that. It was posted in 1947, only five years

after the inauguration of what is now the Philatelic Society of Trinidad and Tobago (PSTT).

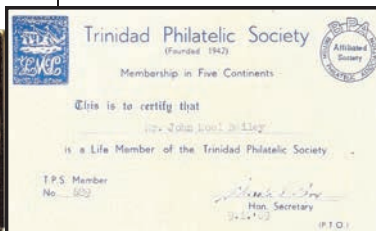
The PSTT has existed since 1942 and is proud of its association with the Lady McLeod. The stamp is the society's logo and it appears on their covers, membership card and gold membership badge.



Philatelic Cover 1947 bearing a purple LMC hand stamp. Made by Charles Munro of the PSTT



**1947 Label,
PSTT
Membership
Pin and 1969
Membership
Card.**

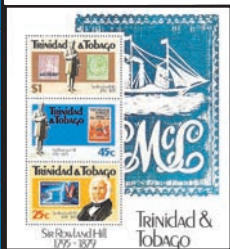


Trinidad and Tobago has marked its Lady McLeod heritage with a number of stamp issues as overleaf.

But it is not the only country that has marked the Lady



McLeod's existence. Antigua and Barbuda produced a gold version of the stamp in 1986.



There are tea cards and cigarette cards to collect.

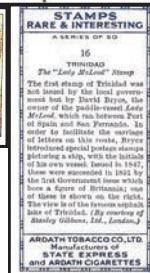
The 125th Anniversary, Sir Rowland Hill and the 175th Anniversary



1986 Antigua and Barbuda 24kt Lady McLeod stamp

There is one cost-free way in which to collect Lady McLeod memorabilia.

An online visit to the University of Florida's Digital Library of the Caribbean quickly brings you to the Port of Spain Gazette for the years of the Lady McLeod's existence and it can be fun to build a



collection of the many adverts that David Bryce placed for the services the steamer provided (as well as explanations about the vessel being out of service for maintenance etc).

If a collector wants to get really ambitious they can even acquire a Lady McLeod in a bottle, such as this produced by the Carib Glassworks, the Caribbean's primary glass and bottle



manufacturer.

There are many other Lady McLeod items a collector can find. Why do we do it? Maybe it's because we all hold a vision of the vessel on the Caribbean waters like this one below. Happy hunting!

With grateful thanks to the members of the Trinidad & Tobago Philatelic Society for so generously sharing scans of their memorabilia.

Susan Taylor



The Lady McLeod off San Fernando, created by Jazad Ali

Contact: trinidadstamps.org/ or www.facebook.com/groups/192149624143122/

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.

Federations

Essex Seminar - Displaying.

Eighteen members from seven societies took part in our first seminar since before Covid. There were six rounds, each with members' displays, enabling members to exchange advice and news. It also acted as a shop window for potential society speakers. Opener was **Bill Trower** (Rayleigh) showing extracts from *Treasure Island*, *Flightpath Pacific* and *Flightpath Atlantic*. Then came **Colin Evans** (Benfleet) - *Lloyds List* and *Caldey Island*, **Mick Carter** (Frinton) - *PAIForce* and **Len Stanway** (Basildon) - *Stamps and Postcards of the Central London Railway*. Round 3 included **Bob Hider** (Frinton) - *British Empire Exhibition* and *Australian States*, **Alan Moorcroft** (Frinton) - *Sicilian Postal History*, **Adrian Greenway** (Witham) - *Early India*, **Geoff Miller** (Frinton) - *War Tax*, and **Sue Stacey** (Benfleet) - *Orkney*. After lunch, we saw **John Copeland** (EAPHS) - *John Walker & Co postcards*, **Paul Green** (Chelmsford/Witham) - *Queen Victoria Portraits*, **Maggie Thompson** (Basildon/Rayleigh) - *Saar Cinderellas* and **Andy Howson** (Benfleet/Rayleigh) - *Castle Hedingham Scout and Guide Posts 1985-1989*. Finally **Lesley Peters** (Rayleigh) showed *Antarctica*, **Andy Rowson** - *Port of Felixstowe Internal Mail Stamps* and **Colin Evans** - *The Wicked Lady of Markyate*, *The 1924 Mount Everest Expedition* and *The Poldark Mine*. After afternoon tea and cake, Colin showed short displays on the *Zaire River Expedition of 1974-1975*, *Thomas the Tank Engine*, *Brownsea Island*, *Ham Street* and *Goya*. Len announced the intention to relaunch our newsletter *The Essex Philatelic Contact* and called on everyone to supply news of members, recent and future events.

Len Stanway

Wessex

We Zoomed with *Rocket Mail* by **Gary Green** on 25th April. On 23rd May is our last Zoom of the season for anyone who wishes to show their choice of material. Zoom meeting attendance hovers around the 8 – 12 mark – disappointing,

compared with the number of invitations I send out. To try and encourage a greater level of interest, I'm always looking for collectors (from anywhere) to volunteer to make a presentation to us, as a guest speaker. In other news, Wessex regrets that **Jim Wigmore** has resigned as president. He has served the federation well, over the years, and his contribution to the federation will be missed. We wish Jim all the very best for the future. We also ran into some difficulties in the organisation of our biennial fair, to be held in October 2024. Being let down by the planned venue gave us insufficient time to make alternative arrangements, but we have been able to make use of an existing stamp fair in the area, and to share the October event with them. We are, therefore, pleased to announce that the 2024 Wessex Fair and Exhibition will be held at Torquay Boys' Grammar School on 30th October between 10:00 and 16:00. This will be the first event at which there will be no competition, but we plan to mount an interesting and varied exhibition of philatelic material from our member clubs.

Dave Cleaver

Wiltshire and District

A busy period for us holding our AGM and 16-Sheet Competitions in December. This was followed by a highly successful federation quiz held in and organised by the Bath Philatelic Society in January. Winners of the two 16-Sheet Competitions were **Simon King** of Swindon and **Andy Moore** of Bath. Simon's entry was *Proof and Specimen overprints of the English Post Office issued newspaper wrappers 1870 – 1901*. Andy's entry was *Threatened Species – Bird Conservation in Mauritius*. Our thanks go to our excellent judge, **Robin Pizer**. Our next significant event will be our 9-Sheet Competitions that will be held as part of Swinpex on the 8th June 2024. For the second time Swinpex will be held in the Grange Leisure and Community Centre, Swindon SN3 4JY. As usual entries will only be displayed as best quality colour photocopies.



Andy Moore of Bath receiving the Victor Hutchinson Memorial Trophy from Nigel Borlase-Hendry

Paul Latham-Warde

Yorkshire

New moves to revitalise competitions

In common with many other federations, having seen a reduction in the number of competition entries in recent years, we are making some experimental changes. In an effort to encourage more collectors to dip a toe into the exhibiting pool, we have introduced competitions requiring only eight sheets. These will run alongside the existing traditional sixteen-sheet competitions, which still form a

valuable stepping-stone to National level. Some societies run competitions for eight, nine or twelve sheets. We opted for eight as we consider it both a suitable starting point for development to sixteen sheets, and a size which might accommodate some niche topics or specialisations which will not stretch to 16 sheets. Last year, unable to use frames to display winning entries, we compiled the scans into A3 display books, arranged to show a row of four sheets, i.e. a whole row from a frame, at one view. Feedback was positive, as people enjoyed sitting at tables to read the exhibits at leisure. We feel that using authenticated copies of material at federation level will need to become the norm as it makes remote judging by experts from other areas much simpler, with no security issues for display. We recognise a need to encourage and help the less technologically confident members of our societies to embrace the new technology. Have other federations made changes? Please share your experiences, good or otherwise!

Daphne McMillan

Specialist Societies

The Czechoslovak PS of GB



Linda in action

A presentation by **Lindy Bosworth** on the nationalistic gymnastics movement known as Sokol was enjoyed by members at the London meeting on 17th February. Begun in 1862 by Miroslav Tyrš, who aimed for 'a strong mind in a fit body', with the financial backing of Jindřich Fügner, its growing popularity was seen as a threat by the Austrian authorities. The first Slet, or gathering, was held in 1882, while the second was moved to Cesky Brod as an alternative to an outright ban. Although there is little philatelic material for the early period, there were plenty of colourful postcards to see, and during the interwar years the amount of postal history and stationery items produced grew steadily. By 1938 the organization had units worldwide, and the 10th Slet held to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the Czechoslovak state had the theme 'Build and Defend'. War clouds were gathering, however, and Sokol was banned once again under the Nazis. After WWII the organization continued its stop-start story – the communists soon saw it as a threat and it was replaced by the Spartakiada games. Other groups set up competing organizations over the years, and Lindy showed material from the Dělnická tělovýchovná jednota (DTJ – Workers Gymnastic Union), the Catholic Church's 'Orel' (eagle) organization, and the

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

Jewish Makabi games. Many of these are still in existence. With a wealth of illustrative material, this presentation was much appreciated by the members.

→ www.cpsgb.org.uk

Tony Holdsworth

East Africa Study Circle

At the first meeting of 2024 held at the RPSL, 21 members of the East Africa Study Circle met in March to follow the interesting presentation *Attilio Gatti - African Adventurer* by **Regis Hoffman** who came all the way from the US to give this talk. This presentation was also streamed via Zoom which allowed others, especially overseas members, to attend as well. After lunch, which was sponsored by founding member **Bill Colley** in anticipation of his upcoming 100th birthday, the usual spring auction followed. With material of all types from all areas in East Africa it was another big success with all but two of the 150 lots



Vincent Schouberechts presenting Patrick Maselis' Ruanda-Urundi

selling. The main display in the afternoon was **Patrick Maselis'** 192 pages of *Ruanda-Urundi* starting with the early explorers, then German East Africa, and the Belgian Occupation during WWI. **Vincent Schouberechts** came from Belgium to introduce this collection to us - a fantastic display that we were very grateful to enjoy. We hold three meetings a year in London and three online meetings in-between. Interested guests are welcome to attend.

Harald Krieg FRPSL

Falkland Islands

In mid-March 37 members and guests gathered in Bradford-on-Avon for the Study Group weekend, once again successfully masterminded by **Morva White**. Five major displays were given, starting with **Roger Mazillius** presenting an in-depth look at the stamps of *The 1980s* and their varieties. **Morva White** showed the development of *Stanley Harbour Through Postcards*, also mentioning the many wrecks, most of which were cannibalised for repair materials. **Stewart Dewar** then gave a fine display of the *KGVI Pictorials*, showing all their printings



The Borneo Philatelic Society

Autumn Weekend Displays, Auction and AGM

October 4th - 6th 2024



CHESFORD GRANGE HOTEL

KENILWORTH

This year's AGM is being held at the **Chesford Grange Hotel** Kenilworth, Warwickshire

It is in a good central location, just 30 mins from the M40 or the M1. The nearest train station is Kenilworth 1.8 miles away (West Midlands Railway) or for better country-wide connections, Warwick Parkway is also easy to reach, only 4 miles away.

It is close to Leamington Spa, Warwick, Stratford upon Avon or Kenilworth itself so there is plenty to see and do in the area; parks and gardens, canals and rivers, abbeys and castles, shopping or the Spa at the hotel.

However, most importantly, it has **accessible access to all areas** meeting rooms, restaurants and bar and five purpose built bedrooms. It also has accessible parking spaces for blue badge holders and is also dog-friendly.

More information can be found on their website: www.chesfordgrange.com It will be the usual running order as in previous years, starting at midday Friday through to midday Sunday.

To avoid disappointment, especially to book one of the five purpose built accessible bedrooms book early.

→ Britborneostamps.hostinguk.com



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Chairman Kim Stuckey presenting *The Dudley Stiles trophy* to retiring President Wilf Vevers

and overprintings. **Hugh Osborne** presented *HMS Exeter*, tracing the ship's history of visits to the Falklands from 1934. She was badly damaged in the battle of the river Plate, and after a year of repairs, she served in the far east, eventually being sunk by the Japanese in the Java Sea. **Dave Mountfort's** talk *After the War was Over* showed how life in the Falklands slowly went back to normal after the massive clean-up

operation when the Argentinians left. The two Members' Evenings, overseen by **Nigel Kaye**, were an opportunity to show a frame each, and over a dozen members participated, showing everything from bisects of 1891 to postage dues of 1991 and much more besides. At the AGM **Wilf Vevers** stood down as president after ten years, and was succeeded by **Mike Roberts**. If you have an interest in the Falklands area, consider joining the study group and sharing your knowledge and enjoyment with other enthusiasts.

Daphne McMillan

Forces Postal History

Our 2024 season didn't start as intended as our guest speaker had to reluctantly drop out; but we were grateful that two members stepped forward with alternative *Boer War material* and to other members who brought along something to show as well. Our annual 15-page competition in February attracted only 5 entries but two

were postal entries, one of whom, **Tony Walker**, was a clear winner with his entry of *The Royal Naval Air Service Armoured Cars campaign in Russia 1915 to 1918*, showing that members who cannot attend can still compete. Incidentally Tony won a Large Vermeil at the recent ABPS London Spring National Philatelic Exhibition for a much larger entry on the same subject - well done.



Look - smiling members!

For March we held our delayed joint meeting with the West Africa Study Circle at the Royal's premises in Abchurch Lane. This was a successful all-day meeting. We are due to hold our AGM in April at Banstead; we intend to hold three meetings there this year to try

to encourage members who don't wish to travel into London; full details are on our website. We have also run two successful Zoom meetings so far with another seven planned for the rest of the year, again dates are on our website. If you would like to join one of these meetings please contact me. Our meeting reports are placed on our website and our Zoom displays are also available there as well at: www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk Michael Dobbs

Glasgow Thematic

Currently we have approximately 25 members and actively promote presentations and displays each month. In the 2023-24 season, the President's night was marked by an interesting presentation and display on *The Environment* (**Paula Cleary**), then came a visit from Lothian PS members in November, and in December there was a Bourse night where members could buy and sell philatelic items and accessories. In January, **Ian Mason** gave an excellent presentation entitled *Politics by Post* highlighting post-WWII postage networks in Allied-occupied Germany. In February, **Dr Stewart Gardiner FRPSL** displayed *Wildlife Stamps* – a presentation originally drawn up by founder member Willie Rae. Each page was accompanied by exquisite watercolour paintings of the portrayed wildlife. His second round was a display of *Poster Stamps* dating from the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. **George Henshilwood's** display in March was entitled *Proud to be....* – an intriguing title which had us all guessing about what was coming. It turned out to be a display about our sense of national, international, and cultural pride, evidenced by philatelic material ranging from GB regional stamps to stamps with flags or sports. A varied and entertaining collection which must have been fun to build! The AGM in April was preceded by an excellent members' dinner and completed by a display of members' sheets. **Paula Cleary** passed the chain of office to **Frank Beattie**. We will be hosting the annual ASPS Congress in Dunfermline in April. Thanks to everyone for a great year. Paula Cleary

Great Britain Northern Group

Stockton-on-Tees was the venue for another successful day. Date clashes and holidays meant that fewer members than usual attended this now regular bi-annual event masterminded by **David Willmer** and **Peter Chadwick**, but again there was a good spread of topics to enjoy. The morning was devoted to the two main speakers. **David Willmer** showed *The Queen Victoria Jubilee Issue: Part 1*. We learned about the work of Warren William de la Rue and saw many die proofs and unique striking-book pieces, and were



David Willmer and Stephen Parkin

taken through the intricacies of sheet layout and the addition of framing lines and colour bars between panes to even out pressure on printing rollers. David explained the difficulty of finding early examples on cover, since at the issue date of January 1st 1887 the Post Office still had large stocks of the lilac-and-green issue. Much of this material has informed the updating of the Gibbons Specialised Catalogue. **Stephen Parkin** showed *Edinburgh District Post*, using material ranging from early unofficial district posts through to the 1860s. The display boasted many 'only recorded' and 'earliest/latest' items and included a Mulready letter sheet printed with a rates demand. The attendees' afternoon displays were: *North Western TPO, Parcel Post using the Jubilee 4½d, Leeds Postal History, Hull Postal History, KGV1 surface rates to the USA, Railway Letters/Parcels, Crossing the River Spey and KGV1 Guide Marks on the Square High Values*. A good buffet lunch and 'bottomless' tea/coffee completed the day.

Daphne McMillan

Italy and Colonies

We are now in a pattern of two auctions per year, and three editions of our multi-award-winning Fil-Italia journal, in its 49th year of publication. There will be a members' weekend at the end of September. We expect to revive our annual tradition of a philatelic and wide interest trip to Italy, where we have visited many well-known and lesser-known parts of this fascinating and enjoyable country. Members are mostly in the UK but with significant numbers in Italy, USA and elsewhere. Our collecting interests are wide and membership is very good value, particularly the reduced rate for the digital subscription. Details are all on the website www.icsc-uk.com

Kevin Newson

Malaya Study Group

In January **Michael Waugh** gave a presentation on *Censorship WWI and WWII*. In fact, Censorship can be traced back to the Boer War in South Africa on correspondence via Singapore to Netherlands East Indies. WWI showed the British Empire at its most powerful. Shipping mail from and via Singapore from Siam, Philippines, and Netherlands East Indies and to a lesser extent via Penang was censored. Michael showed many different examples of censor labels and cancellations as well as internal censorship in Penang to the Straits Echo in 1915. Rangoon, Madras, Bombay and Colombo also censored post from Malaya. Most philatelists probably have examples of censorship in Malaya in WWII. The late **Malcolm Wade** (The Malayan Philatelist 22.17-26) defined all the variety of types used together with transit censorship markings for airmail. Michael also covered military censorship. February's meeting was on covers *With a Story to Tell*. Five members gave fascinating and often sad stories mostly to do with the *Fall of Singapore, Express, Registered Mail under Occupation* and **Andrew Norris** told about a *British Red Cross Nurse from 1945 and Repatriation Work for Prisoners of War*. In March we held the Annual General Meeting and Auction. Like most societies, attendance figures are down post-Covid. Many factors have caused this. The Auction disproved lack of interest

with high prices still for good material. We welcome **John Rooke** of Edinburgh as a vital member of the Auction Team. *Michael Waugh FRPSL*

National

The first London meeting of the year featured a display of *Argentina* by **Ian King**, which included issues from 1858 to the present. Rare postal history from the Falklands Islands and Dependencies during the WWII was one of the highlights of our virtual meeting in April. There was censored mail, garrison mail, official mail and mail from Operation Tabarin, a two-year secret Naval expedition to the Antarctic from 1943–5 with the aim of thwarting enemy activities in the region. The presentation was by **Hugh Osborne FRPSL**. The evening also included some postal history and stamps from Ukraine in the 1990s presented by



Ian King



Julie Lester

Michael Torregiani. Our March London meeting featured a comprehensive display of *Lundy Island* by **Julie Lester**. The display not only included the iconic “Puffin “ issues but postal history dating back to the era when the mainland GPO still served the island. One of the gems was a rare 1911 registered cover. Julie also described what it's like to visit the island in the Bristol Channel. February's online meeting featured **Julian Bagwell** presenting *British Army in Egypt Postal Labels of 1932-41*. These were issued to pay special concessionary postage rates for British troops. We alternate Saturday London meetings with auctions, held at the Royal Philatelic Society premises, with monthly virtual meetings. In addition to regular meetings, and a bi-monthly journal *Stamp Lover*, we offer an extensive

exchange packet, which circulates nationwide. ➔ Peter Mellor
npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk or 01582 762284. *Michael Goodman*

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The Royal

We always enjoy the displays given by the 'regions' as they provide a diversity of material, much not previously seen. On 8th February it was the turn of the West Midlands region, covering the counties of Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. Material provided by 18 members filled 56 frames, the displays having been brought together by **Gerald Marriner FRPSL**. **Gordon Eubanks FRPSL** gave an outstanding display of the *First Stamps of the United States* on 22nd February. The two values were issued on 1st July 1847: 5 cents and 10 cents for half-ounce letters travelling up to or over 300 miles respectively. The material shown was incredible, with many unique covers and multiples, some the largest recorded, plus examples of the use of bisects - all of the finest quality. Among the items shown was a cover sent on 7th June 1851 from New York bearing a strip of ten of the 5 cent, the largest recorded multiple of the stamp on cover. The increasing popularity of thematic collecting led to the formation of the British Thematic Association (BTA) in 1984. For its 40th anniversary, the BTA presented an afternoon of displays on 21st March. The BTA Chairman, **Barry Stagg FRPSL**, explained that the aim was to demonstrate the diversity of material members collect, not just thematics but also open philately and postcards. Indeed, the afternoon was titled *Showcasing the World of Pictorial Collecting*.



Mike Roberts with Gordon Eubanks

South African Collectors'



Tony receives the Tony Chilton Trophy

At Letchworth Garden City, on 14th October 2023, eleven philatelists met to show off some of their prize items. All displays were presented with interest and humour. Our thanks to **Bob Hill** for chairing this meeting. The joint conference of Southern Africa Societies was held in Meriden on 4th & 5th November when exceptional displays were given by **Ian Shapiro, Tony Stanford, Dr Andrew Higson, Chris Oliver** and **Bob Hill** on the first day. Tony Stanford was awarded the Tony Chilton Memorial Trophy for the best display. **Michael Smith** was awarded the Manfred Weinstein

Memorial Medallion by **Richard Stroud**, region 8 vice- president of The Philatelic Federation of South Africa for services to the hobby in SA. On the following day all present were invited to give short displays. This was followed by a brief auction. → Chris Oliver on oliversofham@gmail.com or 020 8940 9833.
Chris Oliver

West Indies

We are proud to announce the following awards to members:

Jazad Ali for his book *The Stamp Cancelling Machine Slogan Postmarks of Trinidad and Tobago 1923 - 2023* which won CHICAGOPEX Stamp Show - Large Gold Medal, and THAILAND World Stamp Championship - Large Vermeil Medal; **James Gavin** for his *Bahamas Online* digital exhibit at the NZ National Philatelic Literature Exhibition – Large Gold plus Felicitations (see thedigitalphilatelist.com/about-us/bahamas-philately/). Some members have been travelling. **Susan Taylor** and **Julian Waldron** were in Anguilla just before Christmas visiting the Postal Services and presenting *Anguilla's*



Jazad Ali with his book



Julian Waldron, Eustace Brooks, Susan Taylor and Marcia Richardson



Quest for Identity – the Philatelic Story at the Anguilla Public Library. **Julian Waldron** gave a Zoom Presentation on *The Leeward Islands* that is now available on our website (wipsg.org). Our WIPSG Annual Auction takes place on 11th May at the Royal. There are over 750 Caribbean Lots. Open to members (£8 per annum online), purchasers have no premium to pay, just postage and packaging. We will be attending the York Stamp Fair on 20th July. We are also holding a gathering at GASS – the Great American Stamp Show at Hartford near Boston 16th - 18th August. If anyone is interested in attending any of the above detailed events → sec@wipsg.org Susan Taylor

Local Societies

Amersham & District

A members' display evening kicked-off our 2024 activities with a variety of subjects ranging from *Greek Revenues*, *Rhodesia UDI* to *Coffee Houses of GB*. A visit from Watford PS gave us *Post & Go*, *Douane cancels of the USA* and *Native American/Indian Territories* and a display devoted solely to QV ½d issue.

Sadly we lost a long-standing member **Keith Leonard** and a one-minute silence was held as a mark of respect. A lively and informative presentation on *Nigeria* split the categories between Lagos, Niger Coast and Northern Nigeria. Our president and membership secretary paid the return visit to Watford PS and gave them *The Revenue Stamps of Greece and Oman: Early Postal History and the Glorious Renaissance*. This period was rounded off by a lively auction attracting over 40 bidders in the room plus a number of postal bidders.



→ stampersham.org.uk

David Lee

Ayrshire

We held Competition Night for three of the available trophies. With 13 entries there was a good range of material for the members to consider. The winner of the 20th Century Cup was **Dan Ross** with *Speeding the Mail*, concerning the use of planes catapulted from ships crossing the Atlantic to shorten the transit time.

Second came **Ken Gibb** with *Marianne - the Face of France*, and third was **John Chalmers** with the *Allied Occupation of Germany*. For the WI Finnie Shield **Ian Smith** led with *The Bird Stamps of Zil Elwannyen Sesel*, **John Chalmers'** *New Zealand Health Camps* came second and **Ken Gibb** third with *Anyone for Tennis*. The final competition for the President's Cup went to *Dalkeith 19th Century Cancellations* from **Ian Smith**. **Ken Gibb** came second with *St Kilda Mail* and **John Chalmers** third with *Postage Marks - AIR and AYR*. Our meeting on 16th February was a 'game of two halves'. For his first round **Alan Blakeley** gave us a superb display on *The US National Parks Service*,



Alan Blakeley (right) receives his certificate.

explaining how the westward expansion of settlement had raised awareness of the need to protect some of the landscapes and natural features from exploitation. Completely different, the second round was entitled *A Newfoundland Miscellany*. We saw covers relating to the challenge to fly the North Atlantic, including a cover flown with Alcock and Brown, transatlantic flight

covers from 1927-35, and TPO covers showing how coastal vessels link to railheads to provide a mail service.

David Rossall

Basildon

Alan Moorcroft made another welcome return to show another tranche of his *Postal History* collection. After a PowerPoint presentation of the key items of his collection we were able to view the material on the display frames. This time he began with the introduction of postmarks in the 18th Century, taking us through all the postmark types, through introduction of Penny Posts and the reforms of 1840, up to the introduction of regional postal centres in the 1990s. We visited Ipswich to show *Richmond, Yorkshire* from AD90 to 1765 to 1908 (**Len Stanway**), *GVI Fiji* (**Charlie Mead**) and *Malta to 1950s* (**Ian McElwain**). In March, after a historical introduction, **Ian McElwain** started with disinfected mail and took us through the *Pre-stamp Period to the Introduction of GB stamps on International Mail to Malta*. The first Malta postage stamps were for local use only, but the formation of the UPU led to a wider range of values enabling use on international mail. Issues were then taken in sequence with many plate varieties highlighted by enlarged photographs. After a break at the midpoint, he continued with issues to 1975. Two members' evenings covered *Anything Philatelic* and *J, K or L*. In both the variety of material made the evenings both interesting and enlightening.



Ian McElwain

Fly on the Wall from Basildon Philatelist

Bolton

After being at the same venue for the past 30 years we have now moved to a new meeting room out of the town centre, and hold meetings in the afternoons apart from our auctions. In September members brought in several sheets on any subject which included *Belgium Surcharge Stamps*, *WWF Covers*, *Saltley College Post* and *British Postal History*. Our first guest speaker **David Hudson** brought his talk *Victorian Britain through Philately*. He brought a wonderful display of covers that touched on everyday life in Britain including transport, advertising and African missionary work. There were some from The Duke of Wellington and William Wordsworth. For December



members produced items covering *Malta Operation Pedestal*, *Faroe Island Christmas Labels*, *Egyptian Postal Labels* and *The Floating PO on the River Clyde*. January was for the president's talk. The subject was *Poland under General Government in WWI and WWII* including covers, late 19C up to 1919 under the German, Russian and Austro-Hungarian Empires. The second half covered Poland under German occupation 1939 - 45. In March, our guest speaker was unable to attend so our member **Jack Lindley** stepped in with his collection of *Late 19C and Early 20C New Zealand Tourism and Industry Postcards* including exhibition postcards promoting the country. Our membership is steady at the moment and we think that moving to a new venue with better parking and afternoons has helped. We now have a Facebook page - have a look.

Henry Lisowski

Bookham

Back in January we had a superb display from **Richard Hewitt** on *Birds of the South Atlantic*. Richard is privileged to have visited the Falkland Islands, Antarctica, South Georgia, Tristan da Cunha group, St Helena and Ascension. He is a keen photographer and took many photographs of the wild life on these islands which, along with the many stamps on display, gave us a wonderful background to many of the species. In February **Susan Taylor** gave a comprehensive display on *A Different Approach to Trinidad & Tobago*. We learnt



Richard with his birds

all about the history of the islands through the many different types of stamps, ship letters, postmarks and covers, accompanied at the beginning by some typical calypso music. **Michael Lockton** showed us *GB Postal History* in March - another high-class display. Our very popular Trading Tables start, opening at 1.30pm, with displays commencing at 2.15pm.

➔ www.bookhamstampclub.com

Barry Feltham

Caledonian



Alistair makes a point

The last meeting of the 2023/2024 session was given by **Alistair Burrow**, one of our longest living members – 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 20th Century. Along the way, quirkier aspects were noted such as the beginnings of Baseball, the first Kentucky Derby and the Chautauqua movement.

Stewart Gardiner

Cambridge

We kicked off January 2024 with a members' evening based on the letters *D, E & F*. As is usual we were shown a very wide variety of philatelic material by members embracing just under 180 sheets. At the beginning of February we had the first of two competition evenings for members. **Graham Wylde** won both the Postal History and the Great Britain competitions with **Adrian Boggust** winning the Thematic competition. Our thanks are due to our two friends from King's Lynn PS who kindly carried out the judging. During the judging of the latter competitions **Michael Kemp** gave a very informative and well-researched display covering *Hubert Wilkins*, the polar explorer. Early March was the society auction evening when a range of interesting lots, especially many commonwealth items, were on offer. It was a good evening with a modest contribution being made to our funds. 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

Peter Morton

Chelmsford & District

Our first presentation of the New Year was held on 13th February with **Pat Adams** giving a presentation entitled *Home and Away*, including early postcards of Chelmsford and surrounding areas, followed by postcards featuring Norwegian railways. The 27th February meeting involved members displaying material on the letters *S & T* with diverse subjects including *Siam, Sarawak and Tonga, Early Postal Material for Essex "S" & "T" named places' Spoon cancellations* and *Swiss postcards*. **Colin Evans** was guest speaker on 11th March with the *London 1980 International Stamp Exhibition* as the subject. Among the wealth of material displayed was an A to Z of countries that issued stamps/cancellations to celebrate the event. In a change to the programme due to the illness of the speaker a members' evening was held in which they displayed their favourite subjects. These included the *1914 National Exhibition in Berne, Postcards produced by John Walker* for the national and international markets, *Stamps issued during WWII in German Occupied Norway* and *Military Service during WWI*. On 9th April we were delighted to have **Mark Roth** as our guest speaker. He gave an extensive display on the ill-fated *Titanic*, including postcards, poster cards, telephone cards and much more besides.

➔ Dave Everard on 01245 465506 or davideverard@live.com New members and visitors are always welcome.

Dave Everard

Chichester and District

January was Members' Night with a wide range of topics displayed. **Bob Tebbit** displayed *QEII with black and white photos, three Golden Jubilee covers and photos of Fishbourne Roman Palace and Bognor Roman Villa*. He had FDCs about the Olympic swimmer Duncan Goodhew, and Edward Elgar. How many knew that his Cello Concerto was composed in Fittleworth? **Christopher Podger** lived and married in Cyprus. His years spent there were obviously visiting stamp shops and post offices! He displayed *Cypriot Castles Issues* and *1900s-era Postcards*. Sneakily, he snuck in ten sheets of *Turkish Revenue issues* too! **Anthony Parker** showed some great *North Rhodesia GV* and *QEII definitives, postage dues and tobacco stamps*. **Frank Griffiths** followed with some lovely *Danish West Indies* (now Virgin Islands) covers from St Thomas and some Queen Victoria 2d blues with excellent St Thomas cancellations. Newly elected president **Michael Asteris** displayed *Welsh Commemorative Covers of the 1958 Empire Games in Barry*. There were ample dragons, Machins, Wildings and the Prince of Wales Investiture. We had a good turnout of memories for competition evening. The Viner trophy was won by **Frank Griffiths** displaying *Uganda from 1895 to 1902* with some great Queen Victoria issues and lovely mint specimens. Joint second place were **Russell Hill** with *GB letter sheets and covers up to 1902* and **John Armstone** with *Greece*. The Symes Award went to **Russell Hill** with *The Amazing World of Redirected, Undelivered and Underpaid Mail*.



Competition secretary Alan Bush and Martha Brown

Croydon

The talk given at the February meeting was by **Brian Asquith** with his presentation *On Dragons' Wings – Chinese Air Mails*. The Dragon looms large in Chinese mythology. Early aircraft were thought of as dragons in the sky and Chinese airmails could therefore be described as being carried - ON DRAGONS' WINGS. Whilst the Chinese Bureau of Posts recognised earlier than most the benefits of an aerial postal service and provided funds for this purpose, progress was not always as rapid as it should have been. The display illustrated the story of Chinese airmail until 1940



Brian Asquith with certificate and Vice-President Dave Meaney

including international flights to and from China. There were pioneer, experimental, and other flights until 1932, notably including the Handley Page, Peking-Tientsin and return flights on 7th May 1920; the Internal Airlines 1929-1941 comprising trial, first and later flights under their contracts for carrying mail by China National Aviation Corporation (Pan Am & the Chinese Government), Eurasia Aviation Corporation (Lufthansa & the Chinese Government) and Southwestern Aviation Corporation (Kwangtung Provincial Government). Next Aero Postal History covers were shown including instructional, directional and other postal markings and a number of interrupted flights (Crash Covers). Various rates were shown throughout the display. Brian acknowledged translations from Chinese, courtesy of the late **Gregory WK Loh MBE**, former member of the society.

Brian Asquith & Graham Harker

Dawlish

Our ZOOM meeting in January was extremely well-attended by an audience from around the world, all very keen to find out about *The WWII Airmail Services to Australia* from **Sue Burn**. The material shown was excellent and generated many questions. The club's AGM in February saw a change of packet secretary. Retiring secretary **Vicki Wigmore** was thanked by the club and presented with a large bouquet. Our ZOOM meeting on 28th February was by **Julian Tweed** showing *GB Express Mail* - a subject that most had never seen and found really fascinating. At our meeting on 13th March we used our computing and projection equipment to give a number of short displays on the stamps. **Jim Wigmore** showed *Postal Markings and Postal History of the Cyprus Government Railway*, **Pete Halmkin** showed *How to Identify and Plate Early GB Penny Reds*, plus a look at some up-to-date *First Day Covers issued by the GB Post Office* shown by **Robin Buchanan**. This was followed by a lively Bring & Buy Sale. Our ZOOM meeting on 27th March was on *The Politics of South American Stamps* by **Robin Buchanan**. On 10th April we saw *Prisoner of War Mail*. The first part by **Pete Halmkin** involved *Post Cards from a British Soldier from Starcross* who was captured by the Germans in WWI. Other POW stories of *French Prisoners in WWII* were given by **Bill Lusty**.

James Wigmore

Dundee and District

The year opened with a Members' Night based on the 1920s. The first Zoom meeting was on French India by **Peter Webb** of Torbay and Teignbridge PS who gave an informative and interesting history of a region not well known to members. In February a Competition Night was well-supported with a wide range of entries. Winners were: Thematic: *Bridges* by **John Sawkins**; Postal History: *East Africa 1933-37* by **Brian McQueen**; National & General: *Flight covers of the 1928 National Exhibition* by **Brian McQueen**; Social Philately: *The History of*



Maxi shows Ron Goodfellow his favourite stamp

Youth Organisations by **Brian McQueen**. Brian set a record for the most awards ever in one competition! The month ended with another Zoom meeting – this time the second part of *Crimean War Postal History* by **Adrian Pearson** of RPSL and GBPS. He showed part 1 in October 2023. There were details of mail routes and rates. He displayed mail from both sides of the conflict including anti-war covers. A visit in March by members of Lanarkshire PS saw displays on *Fiji Flight Covers* by **Andy Napier**, *Kagu* by **Graham U'ren** and *Postcards of Clyde Steamers* by **Alan Rushwood**. **Terry Ward's** display on *Jamaica* was shown, in his absence, by Andy Napier. The final display of the season was a Zoom meeting at which **Dave Cleaver** of Torbay & Teignbridge PS gave an in-depth account of *Gold Horizon Labels*.
Colin Campbell

Ferndown & West Moors

The Hamworthy Club provided an excellent venue for this major philatelic event - our annual competition. The main focus continues to be the single frame 16-sheet competition, judged this year by **Wendy Buckle** and **Colin Mount**, who were impressed not only by the overall quality, but also by the variety of entries. Trophies were awarded to the following participants: **John Davis** for *Traditional/General*, **Bob Small** for *Postal History*, **Julian White** for *Postcards* and **Rick Wilmot** for *Social Philately*. The Arthur Denyer Trophy for highest points overall was presented to Bob Small. While the judges went to work, the *One-Page Competition* was in progress. Here, members were asked to vote for their favourite entry, which this year was provided by **Wendy Buckle**. Sincere thanks were given to all members who took the trouble to enter and, more especially, to the two judges who went to great lengths, not only in examining the entries with care and attention, but also for staying behind to discuss their conclusions with the entrants. This most successful Annual Competition evening was further enhanced by a general knowledge quiz and auction organised by members of the Club Committee...all very much appreciated.

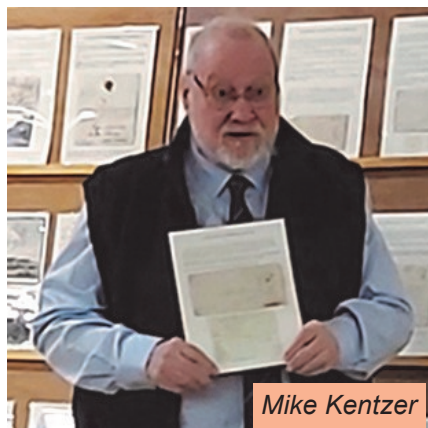


Rod Greer presents her prize to Wendy Buckle © George Fulton

Albert Jackson & Paul Barry

Grantham

Our March meeting was well-attended for the talk by **Mike Kentzer** and **Terry Wagg** from Kings Lynn. Mike's talk and display on *Mail into Scotland 1813-1839* (the additional ½d tax period) was especially well-received by all, and Terry's talk on *GB KGV I Postal and Social History* was very good as well. A thoroughly brilliant display which more than filled the evening which could have gone on



Mike Kentzer



Terry Wragg

and on if we had more time. April's meeting was a display by **Tony Smith** on *The Overprinting Process and Nauru 1916-1924 (SG1-SG25)*. A massive display and excellent talk on all the overprinting issues, flaws, printing processes, colour variations etc. Another great evening had by all. If any member of APBS would like to attend one of our evenings, then please get in touch for a calendar of events that are to held this year at the club. All are welcome.

Steve Carter



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Great Yarmouth

Due to problems at the Cobholm Community Centre we have now moved to a new venue, the Belton FC Centre, New Lane, Bradwell. Because of this change of venue we have also changed the meetings from second Monday of the month to second Tuesday of the month. Our first meeting at the new venue was held on 9th April when we held our AGM. The second half of the evening was taken up with three short thematic displays of *Lifeboats*, *Musicians and Musical Instruments on Stamps* and *Getting the Mail from A to B*, showing Catapult Mail, Zeppelin Mail, and Tin Can Mail. Visitors always welcome.

→ davidsaunders1@gmail.com

Bernard Mabbett

Grimsby & District

After a winter break over Christmas and January, we came back to a full program of speakers, (both resident and visitors) and two auctions, a club auction on 17th April and a Charity Auction on 16th October. Our first meeting after the winter recess was a presentation of two cheques for a grand total of £4745 for the St Andrews' Hospice from the proceeds of a label sold in conjunction with the Charity Auction and the Charity Auction itself. On a different note we will always welcome visitors at our meetings, which are held at 2pm on the first and third Wednesday of every month at the Central Hall, Duncombe Street, Grimsby.

Mike Webb

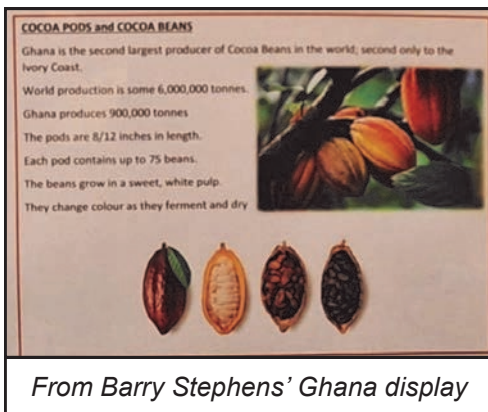


Tina Doyle, a hospice fundraiser, receives the cheque from John Lacey

Guildford & District

We held a well-supported Members' Evening on Valentine's Day. Displays of up to ten sheets were invited on letters *G, D, P* or *S*. There were nine exhibits on a variety of subjects. **David Whitby** covered all four letters with his display of *GB*

Definitives Pairs and Se-tenants, which included both Wilding and Machin EII definitives. **David Taylor** showed *Scarcities from Montserrat*, including the scarce QV 1876/83 1d Red Inverted "S" variety. **Alan Hammond** spoke about *People Travel... ..by Mail!*, covering Scotland, the Southwest and, closer to home, the Dorking/Ockley Postbus. **Simon Burke** showed his prize-winning exhibit of *Penny Farthing Cards*, plus *Pigeon Post operated by the Royal Navy*. **Charles Smith** brought *Gandon*,



From Barry Stephens' Ghana display

designer of the Marianne which has appeared in various guises on French definitives over the years as an allegory of the Republic, wearing a tricolor cockade. **James Podger** produced a detailed study of *Specimens from British Guyana*, including examples of postal use on cover. **Rob Cooke** described how *Ding Darling, an American Political Cartoonist, had initiated the Federal Duck Stamps in 1934* and championed the competition, now in its 90th year. **Susan Taylor** showed a range of examples from *Grenada QV Chalon Heads*, explaining the origins of the design, which has appeared on issues from several Commonwealth countries. **Barry Stephens** concluded the evening with a display on *Gold Coast and Ghana*, focusing on the historical landmarks and natural artifacts which have been incorporated in the design of the country's stamps. → www.spanglefish.com/guildfordstampclub Rob Cooke

Harrogate

This year we have enjoyed a wide-ranging programme of displays, Zoom meetings and, starting on a chilly January afternoon, meetings at the Vision Support Centre, Harrogate. The afternoon meetings have proved popular, members displaying a few sheets on any topic and discussing queries over a cup of tea. Some who very rarely show have brought very interesting items to share. The Zoom meetings have been very diverse and interesting. In February the displays related to biology or botany – there were animals, flowers and some items that would never make it to an ordinary display, being framed and rather fragile illustrations. In March **Barry Feltham** shared his *Space Race* display, using all the tricks Zoom has available. This was a wonderful occasion, bringing back memories of our youthful and excited television viewing. Our fortnightly physical meetings were entertained by **Brian Coop** taking us on a thought-provoking journey to *Nyasaland and Mozambique*, including some lovely British Central Africa covers with "Cheque" stamps and later **John Cranmer** gave us an in-depth display on *GV stamps of Canada*, a new topic for most. Our members' evening was on *Air*. Airmail was expected and seen in great variety but as usual that wasn't all that our imaginations produced. Edith Knight

Haverfordwest

The club continues with mainly members' display on various themes - often using letters of the alphabet. We have been doing this for a couple of years, and it's surprising that people come up with something new every time. **David Rye** has a large collection (enormous would be more accurate) of postcards showing folk costumes from around the world - he is never short of countries starting with the letter of the week. Our chairman, **Martin Lewis**, collects British Commonwealth and is rarely stuck for an appropriate country, filling in any gaps with his postcard collections - he recently gave an excellent talk on *Fishguard and its Harbour*. **Roger Antell** collects Pembrokeshire postcards and postal history, and often fits items into our theme. **Annette Bradley**, a historian by profession, is never short of some aspect of history, particularly 20th century. Secretary **Erene Grieve** can usually find some of her illustrated envelopes and various old collections to fit most themes too. It's pleasing that new members

usually manage to find something appropriate to bring along - and there's always the 'wild card' too. Along with occasional Dealer Nights and Members' Sales, we manage to jog along nicely in our now not-so-new premises. Yes it's costing more but worth it to be in a comfortable and welcoming environment, with its own car park. However we do charge for parking - just to help pay for the added comforts!
Erene Grieve

Hereford & Mid Wales



Clive Murray with Montenegro

2024 got off to a good start with a well-attended meeting of members' displays on the theme of *New*. There were displays of *New Guinea*, *New Zealand* and plenty of *New Acquisitions* but **Helen** provided the most interest with her collection of *Countries that had taken New Names*. Our Society and Charity Auction in February produced a record result of £155 for St Michael's Hospice. March provided a real treat when visiting speaker, **Clive Murray**, showed us a magnificent display of the *Postal History of Montenegro*. April supplied another

opportunity for members to make use of obscure or rarely seen parts of their collections with a display meeting on *Buildings*. We saw *Post Offices* from **Martyn King**; *Significant Berlin Landmarks* from **Nick Nelson**; a series of *Historic Postcards from Belgian Congo* showing native buildings from **John Setchfield** and *Swedish Heritage Buildings engraved by Czeslaw Slania* from **Peter Hellberg**. Other interesting and educational topics were *Castles*, *Olympic Stadiums*, *the City of Brasilia*, and *Herefordshire Buildings in Local Postal History*.
Janet Nelson FRPSL



Helen with her Castles

Huddersfield

In February **Graham Winters** presented on *King George VI GB*. He started with the coronation issue: unpopular at the time, badly printed and with a large number of flaws. He displayed the labels published in association and intended to seal the backs of envelopes. These were much more colourful/attractive than the actual stamp! Then the first set of definitive stamps – the dark colours, the centenary issue and the light coloured definitives, to save on the inks/chemicals used during WWII. The postal history of George VI included various items sent



Jeremy Piercy and Boer War & WWI mail

during WWII, including the Blitz. There were covers sent to, and from, HMS Hood: sunk by the Bismarck with the loss of 1415 lives! **Brian Hague** presented *Faroe Islands – stamps & postal history* in March. He began with early issue stamps, including some early covers with Danish stamps used in the Faroes, including wartime issues. Then the British occupation of the Faroes during WWII. For April, **Jeremy Piercy** presented *Returned Boer War & WWI mail*, beginning with rare returned Boer War covers. The postal service was

HINCKLEY & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

STAMP FAIR

SUNDAY 13th OCTOBER, 2024

10.00 – 15.00

THE MEETING CENTRE

**MARCHANT ROAD, HINCKLEY,
LEICESTERSHIRE, LE10 0LQ**

Stamps, Postal History & Postcards

Philatelic Accessories

Light Refreshments

Free Admission

*(Free car parking outside the Centre and also allowed
on the adjacent Lidl car park)*

Society Website: <http://6370ec81778f3.site123.me/>

suspended during WWI. It was the Home Depot, in London, that dealt with mail going out to troops. Some of the returned covers bore very poignant cachets, especially when the particular serviceman had been killed. Finally there were covers that exemplified the shortage of paper as the war had progressed, including envelopes made from account ledgers, wallpaper and the re-use of old envelopes. → jtaylor3@ntlworld.com for further details. *Jon Taylor*

Hull

In January we enjoyed **Bill Shand's** *Straits Settlements* display, which ranged from early overprints on Labuan reply cards through WWI censorship and scarce early airmails to late fee, paquebot and railway mail. In complete contrast, at the next meeting member **Malcolm Rosenberg** educated us about the relatively short-lived 'Post and Go' scheme, high values of which are difficult to find, before entertaining us with (sadly not live) *Pop Music*, from the Beatles to



Mike Lewis with Bluebell Bouquet

Queen. In February **Neil Ritchie** brought *Russia, WWI and Beyond*, describing armies bogged down in marshes and censorship anomalies – mute cancels on fronts of covers which had identifiable markings on their backs! We also heard of the Allied involvement in Northern Russia and the role of the supply convoys. **Brian Coop** graciously forgave our very thin turn-out for his *Nyasaland and Mozambique* display which included overprints, postal stationery, specimens and revenues of an area unfamiliar to us all. **Rodney Knight** visited in March, showing *China*. He outlined and illustrated the postal service from 1865 to modern times, mentioning the difficulties

caused in the early period by the currency having different values in different areas. Most recently, **Mike Lewis** showed us *King Edward VIII*, illustrating the planned accession issue and showing preparatory work for the eventual four definitives. EVIIR meter marks were used long after the abdication. Mike's second half was *Illustrated and Advertising Envelopes*, a wonderful selection of artistry and ingenuity from Mulready sheets onwards. *Daphne McMillan*

Huntingdonshire

At our meeting in February our President **John George** displayed *Huntingdon Postal History*. This consisted of material we had never seen before as it was part of a collection he had recently acquired. He started off by showing an entire sent to John Ingleton in 1809, before going on to mail sent from Stilton including mileage marks. Next came Penny Post covers. Several local villages that did not have a Post Office had their mail sent to Huntingdon before being forwarded on - examples were shown. Postcards were shown of Ramsey, Godmanchester, Fenstanton, Great Gransden and Great Staughton. An interesting item was a

letter card sent from Prague to St Neots. A Victorian Mourning cover from 1867 was shown along with a 1937 registered cover from Peterborough. Mail sent from RAF Wyton included one sent to Heffers bookshop in Cambridge. The Cromwell Museum issued a set of covers showing Oliver Cromwell and celebrating the 350th anniversary of the civil war and these were shown. An example of a cover sent on the 28th February 1997 via the West Hunts Post Bus to St Neots came next. Broadcasting licences from the 1950s were followed by a cover commemorating the visit by the mayor of Huntingdon in July 2017 to the 350th anniversary celebrations in Huntingdon, Long Island. Once again an excellent display from our President. → D Birkert on 01480 468037.

David Birkert

Kingston & District

Since Christmas we have held five enjoyable meetings at our regular venue in the Claygate Day Centre. Four others were cancelled through lack of attendance and a problem at the venue. The joint auction which we regularly hold with other adjacent societies was, on the last recent occasion, attended by only one of our members other than committee members. Our exchange packet has been closed due to low participation. Virtual meetings by Zoom have taken place with attendees from other areas. We saw excellent presentations from **Gerald Marriner FRPSL** and **Malcolm Coe**. We held an EGM immediately following our AGM in March. With the aforementioned apathy from members, except the committee, it was, sadly, resolved to disband the society with immediate effect, just three years short of the centenary. Zoom meetings, which have already been planned for the rest of the season, will continue.

→ www.kingstonphilatelicsociety.com

Chris Oliver

King's Lynn

January continued with displays by three members on: *North Borneo - Small Shield Issue of 1888-92 its Surcharges and Forgeries*, *The North Yorkshire Railway and Faith*. Members attending the next meeting were treated to a display of fascinating material relating to *War-torn Poland and Czechoslovakia* by **Wojciech Kierstan** with a second half of modern philatelic material for the period 1962 – 2022 *Czechoslovakia's most beautiful stamps*. February's Zoom meeting consisted of two different but very interesting presentations: **Mike Kentzer's** *European Mail into Scotland to 1839* and **Jon Higgins' Early Sarawak Air Mails**. **Tony Taylor** entertained members on 9th February with his very impressive display of *GB stamps to 1936*. Members' evening was well represented with diverse subjects on display: *1943 Emperor's Birthday issue of Borneo*, *QEII and King Charles Ephemera*, *Francis Scott Key and the Star Spangled Banner*, *NASA Space Achievements*, *Barred Numeral Cancellations*, *GB Victorian Imperforate Line-engraved Issues*, *QV Jubilee Issue on Cover*, *Postcards of the Afrikan Lakes Co to 1915*, *1988 Bird Definitives of Malawi*, *Canadian GVI issues* and the *Berlin Airlift*. **Adrian Pearson** gave the second part of his presentation on *The Crimean War* at the March Zoom meeting. On 8th March **Dahlia Harrison** displayed a snapshot from a variety of collecting

themes under the umbrella title of *Humanitarian Aid*. A return visit by **Rufus Barnes** gave members the opportunity to view the fascinating *Postal History of Abu Dhabi and Tokelau*. April's Zoom meeting was given by **Malcolm Coe** on *Sudan 1898-1910*.
Dahlia Harrison

Largs & District

We were treated to a visit from the Glasgow Thematic Society at the meeting in February. Their president **Paula Cleary** opened with *The Environment*. She showed us a wide range of material covering fossil fuels, greenhouse gases, global warming and sustainability. **George Henshilwood** followed with a range of topics that symbolised *America*, including a rarely seen full run of the transportation coil stamps - hot-rods, pick-up trucks and camel mail. **Elizabeth Nairn** completed the evening with material tracing *The Influence of Scottish Immigrants on New Zealand*, especially Dunedin and the University of Otago. **Neil Macdonald** showed *BMA Malaya* in March. He has done considerable work on what happened to Malaysian stamps in the wartime period with printings from London sometimes lost en route or rerouted after the Japanese occupation. After the war stamp stocks were scattered between Malaya, London, Australia and India. This was certainly a very different evening from our normal displays but was greatly appreciated. Our latest meeting, on 3rd April, was a visit from **Maureen Mathieson** of the Glasgow Thematic Society. She brought a collection put together by her late husband on *Egypt in the times of the Pharaohs*. We were treated to a historical journey from the earliest pharaohs, illustrated with stamps and postcards showing the various structures. Of particular note were the different pyramids, sphinxes and temples constructed over the ages, especially those of Abu Simbel rescued from the rising waters of the Aswan High Dam. → davidrossall@sky.com
David Rossall



Maureen Mathieson

Launceston



Dave Hatwell and Bob Wheeler

For our April meeting **Bob Wheeler** of Totnes showed an outstanding display of *Great Britain with a Difference*. It was all about the developments leading up to the introduction of the first postage stamp - the Penny Black. To avoid forgery the design incorporated intricate engine turning in the background and also a system of lettering in the bottom two corners of the stamps and the use of watermarked paper. We saw an example of the watermark and how it was impressed into the paper. Bob showed examples of the engine turning

designs considered and of the work submitted by various printers to the authorities, including some examples of lottery tickets from the 1820s. In the end Perkins Bacon were selected as the printers. Bob explained that as a result of the decision to change the colour of the penny stamp colour trials were carried out together with trials of the inks that could be used for their cancelling. Examples of the colour trials were shown. The penny red eventually replaced the black – first with an imperforate variety and then a perforated variety and Bob was able to show some of the perforation trials that were considered. The display continued with an array of rarely seen items including essays, proofs (die and plate), dummy stamps including some produced by McCorquodale, the Minerva essays of De La Rue and a selection of private parcel stamps.

Viv Sandercock

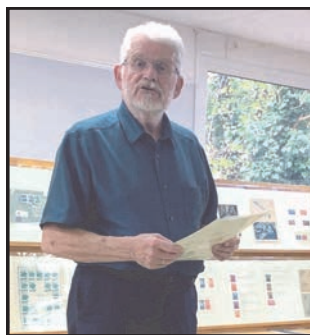
Leeds

Since 9th January, we have held nine meetings, all well-attended, bringing new ideas and new concepts starting with a One Frame Display which was hugely popular. Then on to 23rd January with **Derek Baron** presenting *Olomouc*, then Habsburg up to 1918. The Competition Evening in February, again asked members for differing concepts of clarity, story and instant presentation not the former masses of rules which used to put members off. It worked! Later the wise, amusing and highly knowledgeable **Peter Chadwick** gave a tour de force on *East Prussia and Eastern Silesia* though the history of these areas in Eastern Europe foxed some members. On 12th March we held our annual auction. **Nigel Grizzard** covered for **Colin Marshall** who had organised it but was unable to attend, and at breakneck speed finished in record time in less than an hour with good results. On 26th March a very senior member and former president, **Ken Brown**, gave a splendid short talk and wonderful presentation on *Great Britain Postal History*, in fact written up about 50 years ago when president showing what could be done with good handwriting in pre-computer times. In early April **Nigel Grizzard** showed much *Overseas Mail to and from Bradford* mostly from Queen Victoria's time when it was the world centre of the wool trade. He then chaired a lively discussion on *Whither Stamp Dealing* and changes in its basics.

Michael Waugh FRPSL

Lewisham

In March **Rex Dixon** presented a comprehensive display on the complexities of the *Balkans between 1918 and the end of WWII*. As maps were redrawn after WWI, ententes between different nations were formed to try and protect national interests, but some countries bore heavy losses (such as Hungary), while others (like Romania) expanded hugely. The latter was well-illustrated philatelically, as Romania was in the habit of issuing copious commemoratives – King Charles who declared himself king in 1930 was a playboy and a stamp collector! The rise of Fascism in



Rex Dixon in action

the 1930s led to further changes to the Balkan map – Hungary took Transylvania back from Romania, for example, and issued plenty of philatelic souvenirs to mark the occasion. Italy also took part in the scramble for territory, leading to a great many overprinted stamps for use in parts of dismembered Yugoslavia. Romania got back in the action by joining Germany in Operation Barbarossa, once more marked with plenty of commemorative stamp issues – including ones to mark the recovery of Bucovina and Bessarabia, that had been awarded to them after WWI, and then lost to the Russians in 1940. The dozen or so members present were highly appreciative of this clear and wide-ranging exposition on a highly complex subject. → hickey_anthony@hotmail.com

Tony Holdsworth

Lostock

In January our chairman **Adrian Jones** entertained us with *Stamps of South Africa*. **David Brigden** gave his adapted talk *Fire Prevention and Protection*. One amusing line is the fact that in the 1800s private fire fighting companies each issued their own wall plaque and on arrival at a fire the first job was to establish the insurance had been paid. If not the fire crew withdrew leaving the fire to burn. In March **Robin Heap** ran half of the afternoon with a fascinating quiz - a bit of fun and a challenge to the very knowledgeable members. In the end the top marks were achieved by **Phil Wharmby**. Everyone agreed to try and encourage Robin to create another quiz in the next few months. The second half of the afternoon was run by **David Brigden** with the Jimmy Page Memorial Competition - one sheet per member. On the day sheets were displayed by ten members. Each one member gave a brief account of his display. **Henry Lisowski** won the vote by the members and was awarded the LPS certificate of appreciation by our chairman. **Eirwyn Jones** came to the March meeting and generously donated part of his private collection of Canadian stamps which will raise funds for the society. On 5th April our speaker was **Phil Wharmby** with *A Different Way of Looking at GB stamps*.

David Morley

Maidstone & Mid-Kent

Our January and February meetings were kept to our members. We had 12 sheets based on *Trains, Boats and Planes* and *The Committee Entertains* which gave everyone a selection of varied displays and kept the Committee busy looking through their own collections to find suitable material. Our first meeting in February was for two of our competition trophies. This year there were a few more entries for traditional and postal history subjects but the will to participate is not there as much as it used to be. Late February we welcomed back **Ray How** who gave us a fine display on *Irish Airmails*, not only from Ireland but to Ireland as well. Only one meeting in March due to Easter and two of our members, both named Colin, gave us two fine displays. The first half was, as Colin described it, *I only Collect Commonwealth* but then went on to show a variety of distractions that have led him down different roads. The other Colin's show was based on the *Cruise Ships* that he had been on with his wife and the journeys to *Pitcairn* which featured stamps and covers designed by Jennifer Toombs whom he had

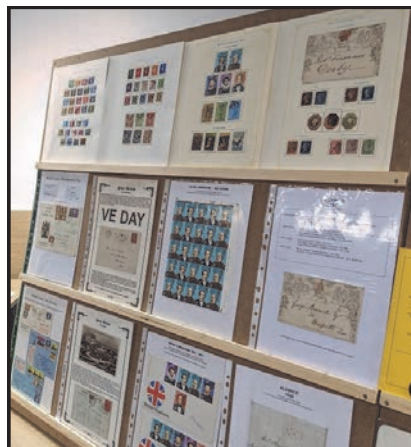
met several times. Our three morning meetings have featured so far: January - *The Letter J* (which was not easy) followed by a Post Christmas Lunch, February - *Hungary* by two members **Colin** and **Alan**, March - *The Johnsons Entertain* - again two of our members.
Brian Stonestreet

Mid Sussex

We are enjoying a successful year with increased numbers attending our fortnightly meetings. Mid Sussex was the result of the amalgamation some years ago of Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath Societies and the sad demise of Lewes Society.
Jim Etherington

Morecambe

Our second meeting of February was a club night in which members were asked to show *My Four Favourite Sets of Stamps*. There was a gathering of 17 members, who were pleased and amazed at the number of sets which had been brought to display. The range of subjects was stunning and included *Queen Victoria Penny Reds* and *GB Revenue Stamps*. We had a cover posted during the Boer war and after decades it has been reunited with the medal that the writer won during the campaign. One person's favourite set was the *KGVI 1948 Silver Wedding Set*, whilst another showed us a set illustrating *The Ten Commandments*. Another member displayed his patience and determination with complete sets of stamps he had collected



merely by looking through accumulations, boxes and albums. An interesting example of diverse tastes was an amazing collection of singles, blocks and FDCs of *Australian definitives*. One bright spark said his favourite set was the latest one he had recently acquired. This turned out to be the issue of the *Lion crypto stamps* from Luxembourg, Austria and Netherlands. He had no idea how crypto stamps work (much like everyone else, including the issuing authorities themselves I suspect). We had *Guernsey's First Definitive Set*, *VE Day*, *British Explorers* and *US Presidents*. If you want to find out how weird, wonderful and downright dedicated your members are I suggest you have a "My favourite set of stamps" night.
Tim Harley

ABPS accredited judges

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

Newcastle Upon Tyne



Derek and David in front of John Buddle

In April around a dozen members saw a display entitled *South Africa*, shown by **Derek Lilley**, President of Middlesbrough PS. Derek, an ardent collector of the Union of South Africa for over 50 years, displayed 200 sheets from his extensive collection. We saw a chronologically ordered display with stamps over a period from 1910 to 1961 with supporting postal history. First, was a pair of KGV 2½d deep-blue stamps attached to a letter from the High Commissioner, commemorating the Opening of Union Parliament. Then we were treated to a show of definitives which re-introduced us to the ½d (Springbok), 1d (*Dromedaris*) and 6d (Orange tree) stamps of 1926, that were re-issued over many years in different colours etc. Union stamps from 1926 until 1952, were mostly inscribed in English and Afrikaans, alternatively throughout the sheets. Many examples were present. The War Effort issues in Large and Bantam form were well represented in the various formats. Also the range of commemoratives. The last £sd definitive issue made in 1954 featured the well-known *Animals of*

South Africa series, re-issued in cents and rands in 1961. Derek was presented with our Certificate of Appreciation by **David Fisher**, President of Newcastle PS, with a recently restored portrait of *John Buddle* (b1773 - d1843) in the background. This took place in a meeting room within the Literary and Philosophical Society's building.

→ steve0408@btinternet.com

Steve Dixon

Oxford

It is good to report the encouraging news that the society has gained five new members over the past year. In January, **John Allison** gave a magnificent display of *Classic France* which covered the 18th and 19th centuries. Sadly we learnt that John died just a few weeks later. In February, the subject of *USA* provided an opportunity for members to display miniature sheets covering the decades, portraits, numerous American flag stamps and 19th century cricket! The number of American-themed stamps on Tuvalu stamps was also shown. In March members displayed frames of *Revenues and Fiscals* which covered many countries: Belgium, Hungary, Italy, Nigeria, Spain, Norway and the USA. Later that month, the eagerly anticipated club auction lived up to expectations. Though it takes significant work in buying, cataloguing the lots, auctioneering and accounting, the evening saw many members happily leave at the end of the evening with their winnings.

Dr Simon Heap

Poole & Bournemouth

2024 competitions over for another year. We had two meetings dealing with competitions, the first on 7th March when the main entries were judged, and the second on 4th April at which the awards were distributed and members are invited to choose the best overall entry. This year proved to be popular with 13 entries, ranging from *Computer-Vended Postage Stamps to 1930s Stamps of Ceylon*. The majority of entries were for Thematic, Postcards and Open Philately. Single entries were for Traditional, Postal History and Novice. **Ted Kemp** won a Silver Award and the Thematic Cup with *Fish on Stamps*. At the Award meeting, Ted also won the Bill Way Shield for the most popular entry. The Postal History entry was *The Spanish Civil War* (**Rick Wilmot**), Traditional: *Two Decades of Computer-Vended Postage* (**Mike Goodman**). Other Thematics were: *Bridges* (**Rick Wilmot**) and *First 200 Years of the RNLi* (**Mike Houchen**). The winner of the Postcards was **Ray Saunders** with *British Army Uniforms*. Open Philately was won by **Mike Houchen** with *Lundy*. The Novice Trophy was won by **Simon Adams** with *Ceylon*. We can now look forward to 2025 competitions and encourage more members to participate in the judged entries.



Ted Kemp with his Fish Trophy

Rick Wilmot

City of Preston

Our recent meetings have featured a members' evening with displays of *New Acquisitions*. We had some unusual and excellent contributions. **Mark Everiss** treated us to a very interesting display on *Galapagos* with a good range of mail items featuring US ships. He also told us about Lonesome George who was apparently a long-lived tortoise in the Galapagos. **Arthur Jennion** gave an entertaining display on *Mail on the Liverpool Manchester Railway*. His material covered many aspects about the planning and opening of the railway - the Rainhill Trials. He also had a collection of coins and medals and even a piece of the original track! Our programme is on our website

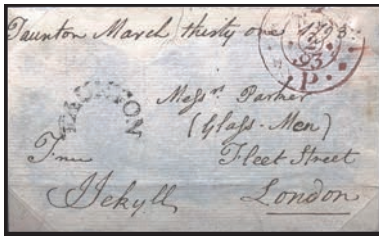
→ prestonphilatelicsociety.co.uk

Bernard Walmsley

Ringwood

The Annual Club Competition

The judging of the entries took place prior to the event, so that entrants could both obtain feedback and discuss their entries within the meeting. **Roy Barnett** presented his *Wilding Definitives of GB*. **Michael Goodman** provided *USA Postal Stationery Rates and Instructional Markings/Redirection of Mail*, together with *USA Postal Stationery from 1870-94*. **John Stevens** showed *The Life of King Bhumibol, Rama 9th of Thailand*. This King had the second longest reign of any monarch, some 70 years. Of note, the longest stamp (170cms) was issued



J Jekyll Free Front

following the monarch's death in 2016. **Simon Casalis de Pury** revealed his fascinating French origin displaying *Family History in Covers from 1878*. Other family items were FDCs, military and childhood mail, from various African countries. He also presented his Novice entry *Birds of Zambia*. **John Davis** displayed *Free Territory of Trieste (FTT) Zone B Yugoslav Military Government 1948-54*. **Gordon Masson** shared his recently acquired *Empire Overprints*

and Surcharges and *Commonwealth* items, including an illustrated Churchill postcard, together with a cover and personal letter from King Charles III's Office in recognition of family voluntary work over 50 years. **David Etchells** concluded with *Investigating a 1793 Free Frank Front*, which particularly celebrated a cover postmarked 2nd April 1783 FFF, from MP/ Solicitor General Joseph Jekyll which, from 1600s to 1840, allowed MPs to send their mail with no postal charges.

(Gertrude Jekyll and R L Stevenson connections!) This cover encourages David to continue further fascinating research.

Paul Barry

Rochdale

Ken Knight presented displays from the late 19th to the early 20th century on *Middle East*, beginning with covers from Italian-run postal services prior to being taken over by the newly created Egyptian post office. Further items shown included postal circular seals, stamps issued to collect salt tax, river/rail travelling post office cancellations and many perfins. We continued up the Nile with stamps first issued in Sudan (genuine and forgeries from this period). Finally military (WWI) themed stamps, covers and postcards were shown from Turkey, Egypt, Syria and Jordan. **Jack Lindley** our New Zealand collector brought along a fascinating collection of postcards from down under. The first postcards issued in 1874 were plain and cost a penny. Cards with pictures began in the 1890s. What is claimed to be the world's smallest postcards appeared in 1892 by the Austin Walsh company, contained inside Atlas cigarette packets. These pre-paid postcards were to encourage smokers to enter the supplier's competitions. Many cards were issued during the Boer War, popular with volunteers who went off to war together with their own horses. One side-collection Jack showed was the matching of postcard pictures with similar views on stamps. Our April meeting consisted of members' philatelic material beginning with the letters *D, E and F*. These were *World Heritage Sites, A Collection of 19th Century Double-sided Letters, Maltese Letters Suffering from Deficient Postage* and *Hyper-inflation Period in Hungary (1945/46)*.



Viewing the display

Peter Grimshaw

Royal Sutton Coldfield

We have had a busy year so far with our numbers improving with visitors and old friends coming from the Birmingham Society. The various displays this year started with **Brian Hyner's** *Lufthansa Shuttle Service to South America*, and continued with **Les Percy's** *Czechoslovakia* and **Gordon Hardy's** *Romania*. These were very diverse, interesting and knowledgeable displays much enjoyed by members. Our most recent display was given by **Des Jones** of the *King George VI and early Queen Elizabeth II Commonwealth stamps*. It was interesting to see how early QEII had mostly replaced the former sovereign's head, and then how fresh designs showed a change of style. A nine-sheet competition gave everyone a chance to shine as did members' displays of *Take us on a Journey*. As usual members' interpretations were interesting and entertaining. Some of our members who are also members of the Royal Philatelic Society joined in the West Midlands display at the Royal in April. It was both well-attended and well-received. There was also a good social side, but difficulties occurred for members attempting to take the train home. We look forward to the next part of the season's programme. Margaret Langley

Rugby

We have enjoyed a full and interesting programme since Christmas, with three visiting speakers and three evenings' entertainment from home-grown talent. From within the society, **Theo Schilderman** presented his display of *Postal History of the Exploration and Development of the Congo by Colonial Powers*. **Mike Whittaker** and **Kit Jarman** spent the evening showing us the *Postal History of Burma* and taking us on a *Fictional Philatelic Journey*. The final internal evening was an open evening of Rugby's many postcards and postmarks. Our guest speakers were **Hugh Foden** who displayed what must be one of the most exhaustive collections of the *French Sower* issue in all its forms. **Roger West** gave us a diverse range of subjects, from *Madam Joseph forgeries* to *Derbyshire Pub Signs* and quite a lot in between. Making up the trio, **John Walker** brought along a wide-ranging display of *Korean War Material*, that was both informative and entertaining. Explaining the roles of all the many nations involved in the conflict and with in-depth research and stunning supporting material. We have been very fortunate to have such an enjoyable end of the season and now only need to have our AGM and cup competition before the summer break. Steve Williams

Salisbury & District

The winter period is a time when we ask distinguished members to present from their collections for half an evening while members present for the second half. This avoids asking outside speakers to travel in the winter months. Our main speakers were **Tony Howgrave-Graham** presenting items from his wonderful collections; serious philately given with Tony's inimitable humorous style. Then **John Scott**, appropriately for February, gave us *100 Years of Valentines*, many wonderful items showing romance in all its forms. Competition evening was a

success after publicity. The 16-sheet competition had seven high class entries, any of which could have won. The three to go forward to Swinpex had to be decided on a count back of second places. It will be interesting to see if the professional judge agrees with our amateur judging. Our first outside speaker was **Dr Wilson**, a very distinguished world-renowned mathematician, who covered the entire history of mathematics in *Stamping Through Mathematics* in one hour, from earliest times to the modern age. This was one of the most engrossing, fascinating, interesting, witty (albeit academic wit!) and stimulating lecture that I, and I suspect many of us, have heard for a long time. Our final meeting was our day meeting to which we invite philatelists from the area. Twenty of us had a very varied and interesting day with a convivial lunch at a local pub.

Michael Moody

Solihull

We got off to a great start to 2024 with our President's Evening. **David and Luned Corsar** shared some of their family history going back several generations with a display of family archives consisting of letters, diaries, photographs and ephemera stretching back to the eighteenth century. The family had an ecclesiastical background and were located around Manchester and NW Midlands. Luned read extracts from letters and diaries with great empathy, bringing alive some of the narratives in the letters and other items. These included first-hand accounts of a visit to the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the journey back home on the train to Manchester. Several items of correspondence were on Mulreadies or in envelopes with penny blacks or twopenny blues. One relative had emigrated to New Zealand at the time of the gold rush and provided a fascinating account of life as a prospector. Another had gone to Dresden and wrote about attending a society ball in the early 1900s and the opulent life style. However a letter sent in December 1923 was of a completely different nature reflecting the misery, gloom and desperation of those living in the occupied Rhineland. We were captivated by the fascinating display of their family history and the associated philatelic material. The annual 16-sheet competition attracted 26 entries, an all-time record; many thanks go to our competition secretary, **Alan Spencer**, who inspired members old and new to 'give it a go' much to their enjoyment and satisfaction.

➔ www.solihullphilatelicsociety.org.uk

John Barker

Taw & Torridge

Despite heavy rain making driving conditions unpleasant fifteen hardy souls attended our meeting in February. The evening's entertainment consisted of an eight-sheet competition followed by a bring-and-buy. Being an 'open subject' competition, the eight-sheet attracted four diverse entries. An attractive mix of *Czech Republic Stamps* was just pipped for third place by **Ted Austen's** beautiful collection of *Hyderabad*. **John Aldridge** took second place with his informative piece on *UK Postal Rates from the 1840s Onwards* whilst congratulations went to **David Elliott** who rightly gained first position with an excellent display of *German Hyperinflation* examples. **Dave Richards** joined us



Peter Harris (right) presenting Philip with a mug & coaster carrying the club crest.

in March to present his collection of *French Maritime Mail to the Caribbean* explaining, as is often the case, that this in turn triggered his interest in *Venezuela*. In April **Philip Longbottom** and his wife visited North Devon so Philip could tell us all about his *Netherlands* collection. We were privileged to see philatelic items dating from 1567 and some very rare items. The original system was a provincial, although efficient, one and continued in this way, more-or-less despite rebellion against Philip of Spain, until 1799 when the post was nationalised across the low countries. Conquest by Napoleon resulted in French reforms that led to unification resulting in the first issue of stamps in 1852, although it was not compulsory to use stamps until 1871. Philip's

collection ended in 2001 with an unusual metallic silver stamp – the last denominated in guilders for basic registered overseas mail. *Helen Soby*

Torquay & Teignbridge

We carry on, after a long, wet winter, during which one of our members died, and another has had to resign to look after his wife – problems which are, no doubt, universal across our hobby. On the bright side, however, we recently applied to the ABPS for a grant, to fund the purchase of a digital document viewer, projector and large screen. The plan is that we may be able to find a smaller, cosier, cheaper venue for holding afternoon meetings during the winter, meaning that we wouldn't have the inconvenience of transporting the bulky display frames and boards around. We will also be able to share some of the Zoom presentations with members who don't have internet access, and to display and discuss our stamps and postal history in a level of detail which has not been possible before now. We are delighted that the grant has been approved, payment received, and orders placed for said equipment. We will "test drive" the new kit over the coming weeks and months, and I hope to be able to write an article telling the story of our experiences, and how we learn to get the most out of the technology. Read future issues to see how it all works.

Dave Cleaver

Wakefield

On 17th January **Graham Winters FRPSL** gave displays of *Goats, Embroidered Butterfly Postcards of WWI and WWII and the intervening years* and *Golf*. On 29th January **Jon Aitchison FRPSL** gave a fascinating Zoom postal history presentation of *Herm Island*. February commenced with a members' *Bring, Buy and Swap afternoon* and on the 21st February the Annual Competition took place accompanied by a Reverse Treasure Hunt. March commenced when **John Sussex FRPSL** paid a visit and gave a display of the *Scottish Island of Skye*. On the 20th we were visited by **Gerald Mariner FRPSL** who gave a display of

Channel Islands Postage Dues. March concluded with a Zoom evening when **Graham Winters FRPSL** gave a presentation entitled *Going to Ceylon* and **Keith Burton FRPSL** presented some *Bangladesh Covers* and *Bavarian Postcards*. At the beginning of April a long-standing member gave an evening of superb entertainment, which was very much appreciated by all present.

Julie Hitchcock

West Riding

Our 2024 season of informal meetings continued with displays in February. **Graham Winters** entertained us with his eight-frame Open Philately competition exhibit of *A Good Walk Spoilt* which featured items associated with the sport of golf including adhesive stamps, PPCs, cigarette cards, non-postal labels, medals, coins and ephemera which he had collected over the time covering his own golf career, started when aged 13 years. It encompassed playing the game, swings, shots, hole in one, fair game, parting shot and other phrases in current use. March opened with a display by **Adrian Lee** on *France* from the 1924 Olympic Games issue to the 1947 Sixth Scout World Jamboree held near Paris. There were commemorative issues between those dates detailing notable French citizens and their achievements. **Tony Plumbe** presented his display and talk about mail to, from and passing through *Nigeria* with postal history items covering customs and censor labels, cachets - many of which had foreign destinations during WWII and early post-war. The breadth of the material shown covered many countries: France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Switzerland, Portugal and New Zealand. The post-war period had items going into Berlin with US, UK and Russian censor marks.

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

Specialist Societies

Cumbria Postal History Society has a new secretary, Peter Rooke
therookster@virginmedia.com

Postal History Society has a new secretary, Marc Oxley
secretary@postalhistory.org.uk

Local Societies

Bolton Philatelic Society now meets at Heaton Village Bowling Club, 90 Waddington Road, Bolton BL1 5LP on 3rd Wednesday of each month at 1pm, unless it is an auction when it is at 6.30pm.

Dawlish Stamp Club has a new secretary, Robin Buchanan
rgybuchanan@btinternet.com

Great Yarmouth Stamp Club has moved to a new venue: Belton FC Centre, New Lane, Bradwell and now meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

High Wycombe & District Philatelic Society has a new secretary, Carole Last 01494 439961 and calast2016@outlook.com

Lostock Philatelic Society now meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Southampton & District Philatelic Society has a new secretary, Cathy Bruce sec.sdps@gmail.com and now meets at St Pauls Church, 2 Oak Rd, (just off Chamberlayne Road), Bursledon, Southampton SO31 8DT Meeting days & time: Evenings 1st and 3rd Tuesday 7.00 for 7:15pm

Swansea Stamp & Postcard Club has a new secretary, Colin Lewis colin.d.lewis@btinternet.com

We regret to report that Fenland Stamp Club and Kingston upon Thames Philatelic Society have closed and that the following societies are no longer affiliated to ABPS: Dumfries Stamp & Postcard Club, Lanarkshire Philatelic Society,

National Youth Competitions at York

The entries in this year's National Youth Stamp Competitions will be on show at the York Stamp & Coin Fair to be held at York Racecourse, Racecourse Road, Knavesmire Road, York on Friday and Saturday, 19th and 20th July. There is still time for young collectors to enter this year's competitions.

The Stamp Active Competition needs just four pages, but those entering can send in up to 24 pages. It is open to young collectors up to 16 years old.

The British Youth Stamp Championships are open to collectors up to the age of 21. At least 16 pages must be shown, with the maximum number of pages depending on age.

Entry forms for both competitions should be submitted by 31st May, and entries are required by 30th June. Full details and entry forms for both competitions can be found on the Stamp Active website (www.stampactiveco.uk).



Last chance for British entries to qualify for EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025.

The only international exhibition currently open for entries is EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025, the British mid-decade international at the National Exhibition Centre Birmingham from 7th to 11th May 2025. The entry deadline for EuroPhilEx is 1st August 2024 but, importantly, the last chance to qualify a British exhibit is at the ABPS Northern National Exhibition at York Race Course on 19th and 20th July 2024. The last date for entries for that Northern National is fast approaching on 31st May 2024.

Diary

May

- 15 Stuart Rossiter Lecture by Simon Martin-Redman FRPSL: 5pm; RPSL 15 Abchurch Lane, **London** EC4 N 7BW
- 18 Redruth Stamp Fair: 10-4: Jubilee Hall, Wesley Building, Wesley St, **Redruth** TR15 2EG → 07927 198758

June

- 1 RINGPEX Ringwood Annual Fair: 10-4: Greyfriars Community Centre, 44 Christchurch Road, **Ringwood**, BH24 1DW → Gordon Masson 01425 470410
- 8 SWINPEX, including Wiltshire & District Federation 9-Sheet competitions: Grange Leisure & Community Centre, **Swindon** SN3 4JY

July

14 Telford Stamp Postcard & Coin Fair: 10-2: Belmont Community Hall, Wellington, **Telford** TF1 1HJ → Richard Camp 01952 405458

August

- 31 Yeovil & District Stamp Fair: The Digby Memorial Church Hall, Digby Road, **Sherborne**, Dorset DT9 3NL

September

- 7 Poole & Bournemouth Stamp Fair: 10-4: St Dunstons Community Centre Poole Road, Upton, **Poole** BH16 5JA → davidlytch@gmail.com
- 14 Newquex Stamp Fair: Trevisker St Eval Community Centre, Orion Drive, **St Eval**, Near Wadebridge PL27 7TU → 01288 355918

October

- 4-6 Borneo PS Weekend: Chesford Grange Hotel, **Kenilworth** CV8 2LD
- 5 Shrewsbury Stamp & Postcard Fair
- 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
- 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
- 16-17 Leeds Stamp Fair: Pudsey Civic Hall → 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

- York Stamp Fair, Knavesmire Grandstand, York Racecourse. 19th-20th July. Entry deadline 31st May
- Royal Challenge at Stampex, Business Design Centre, Islington, London. 23rd -25th October

International Exhibitions 2024-2025

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.

- **Mare Balticum:** 26th - 28th July 2024, National Museum, Tartu, Estonia: Website marebalticum.ee 500 frames with FEPA recognition. Entries closed. Contact UK Commissioner Jon Aitchison at jonaitchison.uk@outlook.com
- **Hafnia 2024:** European Stamp Exhibition, Copenhagen, Denmark. 17th - 20th October 2024 at Øksnehallen in central Copenhagen. Website www.hafnia24.com A FEPA exhibition with 1300 frames for all FIP classes except Astrophilately or Maximaphily. Contact UK Commissioner, Steve Harrison at sharrison500@btinternet.com Entries closed.
- **EuroPhilEx 2025:** Hall 9 NEC, Birmingham. 7th - 11th May 2025. 2000 frames with FEPA Patronage. Website www.europhillex2025.co.uk All FIP classes at £100 per frame or £120 for single frames and £40 for Literature. Open for entries now through the website. UK Commissioner: Daphne McMillan. Royal Commissioner: James Podger pee-j-aggie-boo@ntlworld.com Entry deadline: 8th May 2024
- **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

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. Exhibits that are carried to and returned from an exhibition by the exhibitor are charged at half price. If you are interested in becoming a United Kingdom international exhibition commissioner please contact **Jon Aitchison** at britishlocals@aol.com

Details of FEPA exhibitions are at <http://www.fepanews.com/>

Web information Further information can be found on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk on the "Exhibiting" tab. *Simon Richards, Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee* Simon@sidebell.co.uk

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

Stamp Active Network: please write to:

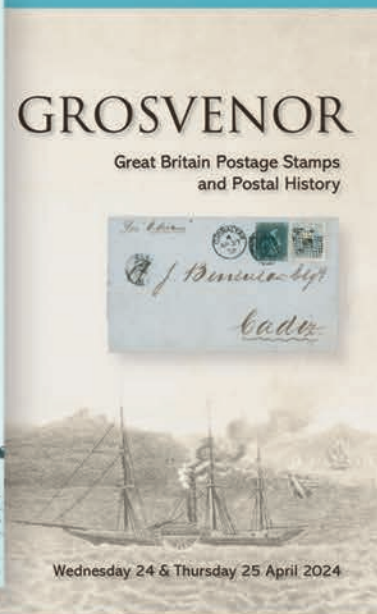
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c/o 21 The Bridle, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4TH

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

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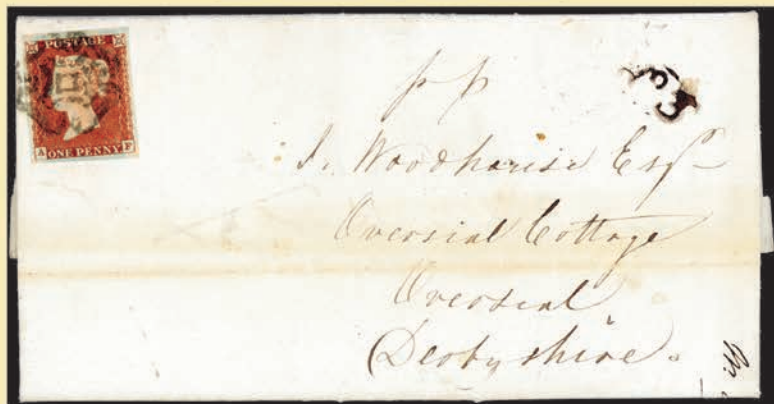
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