

## We Thank all Key Workers and Volunteers



*Ken Moody of Wakefield PS has been filling in lockdown time making a stamp rainbow to sell for Christian Aid - as well as filling bags of kiloware, mixed on paper, w/w off paper and childrens' thematics to keep them happy whilst not schooling.*

*Welcome to any new stamp or postcard collectors, historians looking at envelopes and letters - you are postal historians - and philatelists.*

*Societies will be pleased to see you when meetings are restarted.*

*The ABPS News is also available online  
[www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk)*



## To all Society Secretaries and Treasurers

Although the vast majority of Local and Specialist Societies have paid their affiliation fees for 2020 there are still a few that have not. May I remind these Societies that this will be the last ABPS News that they will receive. If you are a secretary or treasurer and are not sure if you have affiliated then please don't hesitate to contact me.

*Barry Stagg*  
*Membership Secretary*  
[membership@abps.org.uk](mailto:membership@abps.org.uk)

## Something Completely Different

Just in case you feel that you have sorted out all your collections, written up all the pages, filled in the competition entry forms and developed the first pages to satisfy the most picky of judges, this section will give you something else to think about.

If, like me, you are keen on crosswords, these anagrams where the given phrase is a sort of definition for the final answer, should give you little trouble. In any case I hope that you will find them interesting, taxing but not too much to do. Only one answer has anything remotely to do with philately. Who cares?

There is no prize - just a warm glow from being successful.

These strange times give us the chance to try something new. That applies to your editor and magazine too.

I am grateful to David Rennie of Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society for providing me with these anagrams (and the answers, which you will find on page 54)

- |                            |                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. BEST IN PRAYER.....(1)  | 9. IS NO AMITY.....(1)           |
| 2. MOON STARER.....(1)     | 10. LIES - LET'S RECOUNT.....(2) |
| 3. A ROPE ENDS IT.....(1)  | 11. ALAS! NO MORE Z'S.....(2)    |
| 4. THEY SEE.....(2)        | 12. I'M A DOT IN PLACE.....(2)   |
| 5. HE BUGS GORE.....(2)    | 13. THAT QUEER SHAKE.....(2)     |
| 6. HERE COME DOTS.....(3)  | 14. TWELVE PLUS ONE.....(3)      |
| 7. DIRTY ROOM.....(1)      | 15. WOMAN HITLER.....(1)         |
| 8. CASH LOST IN ME.....(2) | (2) means 2 words in the answer. |

# ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

The Magazine of the Association of British Philatelic Societies is published four times a year: spring, summer, autumn, winter.

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An electronic copy of the newsletter will be sent to affiliates and can be viewed on the ABPS webpage [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk) soon after publication.

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

**Copy dates: please send your material as soon as ready; at present the copy deadlines are 15<sup>th</sup> January, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 15<sup>th</sup> October. We cannot guarantee to include items in specific editions. Items may be edited for publication. Email copy is preferred (unformatted).**

**Send copy to the editor: Keith S Burton (see p 62)**

**Illustrations should not be assumed to be accurate as to size or colour.**

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:



15<sup>th</sup> July 2020.  
I rarely date my messages, but as meeting rules seem to be changing so quickly, it seems appropriate on this occasion. As I write, the big

question is clearly where do we go from here? The current situation is that all societies and most philatelic events involving actual meetings are either cancelled or postponed until at least the end of September, which is just over two months from now.

There have been some fine efforts to keep the hobby moving. The Royal Philatelic Society have led the way with their Zoom Meetings. Other societies have followed suit: the Leeds society have recently held a most successful online meeting and I hear societies in different parts of the country are planning similar enterprises, or have them already under way. There are of course, different 'platforms' which offer varied meeting systems, including 'Microsoft Team' and 'Google Meet'. These are clearly going to be an important way forward. At the end of this message, I give a step-by-step summary of how to set up such a meeting. I hope you find it useful.

I would like to thank one or two people who have been particularly helpful with ideas for the 'way forward'. Richard Smith of Leeds is full of ideas. Bill Barrell of the PTS, and the twin dynamos of that organisation, Susanne Rae, the chairman, and Isobel

Klempka, have been working hard with their *Virtual Stampex*, which I hope we will all enjoy at the beginning of October. There will be online dealers, presentations about philatelic subjects, exhibits judged by the ABPS national team, opportunities for society meetings and even one or two surprises! From the world of philatelic journalism, I would like to thank Matt Hill of Warner Group for his enthusiasm and determination to organise a One-Page exhibition as a part of his *Summer of Stamps*. While ABPS supports these private enterprises, as they aim to further our hobby, they are entirely separate from ABPS National Exhibitions which have to follow internationally-established rules. Stanley Gibbons Ltd. recently ran a One-Page competition which attracted a good number of entrants. The theme was to illustrate an event in history. While the theme was not always adhered to, the results were most entertaining. I hope more groups consider the one-page exhibit as a way of getting more from our hobby. One page, of course, is quite simple to scan/copy and send to others....even to post!

My greatest thanks must go to John Davies and his team for getting the new website up and running. It looks very good. We must now make sure that contributors keep their information up-to-date and that all the useful information from the old site is included - another time consuming job. So, where do we go from here? Physically, for a while yet, I would suggest, not very far, probably not until 2021. We must stay safe as a first priority, but we do have many ways of communicating - even writing letters! During lock-down, I wrote a short

article about some Ceylon post cards from Trincomalee for the Study Circle Bulletin. Within days of publication, I received a detailed, beautifully written reply, outlining many publications of which I knew nothing – my thanks to Eric Mason in Edinburgh.

We need to keep communicating: phoning, zooming, skypeing, conferencing, writing-up, reading, thinking, organising and, above all, loving, and being positive about, our great hobby. *Graham Winters FRPSL*

## Using Zoom:

### Signing Up with Zoom

To sign up, you can go to the Zoom website. The address is **zoom.us**  
On the website there is a group of action buttons:

JOIN A MEETING

HOST A MEETING ▼

SIGN IN

SIGN UP, IT'S FREE

The orange one says it all “Sign Up, It’s Free”. You have to click on that and follow the sign-up steps. These include getting an email sent to your email account with an Activate button that you need to click to activate your free account. As part of the sign-up process you supply to Zoom your email address and you set a password.

So you sign up with Zoom once, and then the email address and the password you define are the two pieces of information required for when you Sign In to Zoom. Now you are in a position to Sign In to Zoom whenever you want to.

Go online to [zoom.us/signin](https://zoom.us/signin) - click on Sign In

In the box labelled **Enter your email**, enter your email address.

In the box labelled **Enter your password**, enter your Zoom password.

Then complete the sign in action by clicking the **Sign In** button.

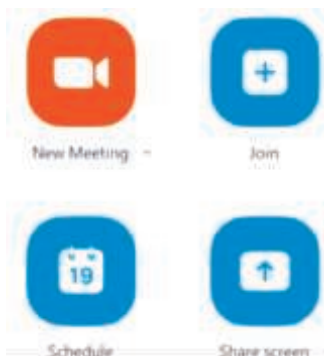
Having signed in to Zoom, you are in a position to start a New Meeting, or Join a meeting that someone else is running. You can also choose to Schedule a meeting that will start at a future date and time that you can specify.

### Starting a New Meeting

You may start a meeting yourself, by clicking on the orange New Meeting button.

Note, however, the small down arrow next to the button. It is a small menu, with options where you can choose to start the meeting with your video camera enabled, or not, and you can optionally use your personal meeting ID for the meeting.

You can instead let Zoom assign a unique meeting ID to your new meeting.



### Inviting People to Join Your Meeting

Having started a new meeting, you will be on your own. To invite someone else to join the meeting, you need to send them the meeting ID and meeting password. One of the controls at the bottom of the Zoom window is

Participants:

As you have started a new meeting, the participant count is, of course, 1, that is yourself.

Click on the **Participants** control to reveal the Participants panel. At the bottom of the panel there is an **Invite** button:

Clicking on that brings up a box headed **Invite people to join meeting**

Clicking on **Email** allows you to choose your email service to send an invitation.

Alternatively, you may click on **Copy Invitation**. This will copy to your Windows clipboard the text of the invitation. You can then paste that into an email (for instance if your email service is not one listed amongst the choices).

You can then complete the writing of the email and send it to the person you wish to invite to join your meeting, including in the email the meeting ID and meeting password so they can choose to Join a meeting and use that information.

Note that you can repeat these steps to invite more participants.

### **Scheduling a Meeting**

You click on the **Schedule** button to schedule a meeting, specifying a name for it, a start date, start time, duration and other options. You can then send the invitation to someone else in an email telling them when it is scheduled for, and what the meeting ID and meeting password will be.

*The Editor is very grateful to Mark Bailey of the Royal for his permission to use this guide*

## **ABPS STAMP WEEKEND ~ 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2021**

Following the cancellation of the Philatelic Congress in Market Harborough this July, the ABPS Committee has decided to hold a special **STAMP WEEKEND** in Market Harborough on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 at the Three Swans Hotel.

Coffee will be served from 10.30, with the weekend officially beginning at 11.00am. There will be four displays on the Saturday plus the ABPS AGM and presentation of the Congress Medal and Awards of Merit.

On the Saturday evening we will hold a celebratory dinner at the hotel.

On Sunday there will be a further four displays. The event will close at 3.30pm on Sunday afternoon.

Booking forms for this event will be sent out shortly.

This will be a great chance to meet new people and see new displays.

For further details or to register your interest, please contact

[gerald.marriner@gmail.com](mailto:gerald.marriner@gmail.com)

*Gerald Marriner* FRPSL Chairman of ABPS Congress Committee



# Editorial

One thing is going back to a *new* sort of normality - ABPS News is winging its way to the affiliated societies around the country but there is a change for this issue and for future ones. We are mindful of the need to avoid waste and spending your funds unnecessarily, so the pdf version of this issue has been sent to at least one contact in your society with a request for it to be forwarded to all members who have email accounts. The printed copies sent to societies are intended for those people who do not use the internet and emails. If you need more printed copies for a particular fair or other event please contact me or John Woodson in plenty of time. We will have some spare for the right occasions. As usual this issue will be on the new website (same address) shortly but in future it will not be posted there until the following issue is almost ready. We want everyone to be able to see the older issues but affiliated members have the right to see the latest first. I know that some people prefer to have a printed copy to read but then there is the chance that the copy that they have picked up from their society table does not return there for a very long time, if at all. We know from reports that some people have had few chances to read issues. Personally I want you all to be able to read it and then comment on what is included and what is missing. That way ABPS News really can be one of your means of communication with other collectors. Perhaps you will notice a report from a society about a speaker who might be of interest to you and your members.

Maybe you will think that you could write a report on one of your meetings or have an article in your mind that you want to share with a wider audience. Put finger to keyboard or pen to paper and send me the results.

You will notice that the number and length of club reports this time is appreciably reduced (apart from one or two exceptions). My request for articles did not fall on stony ground - my profound thanks to those who have responded in any way. I could not use everything as the page size and numbers imposed a limit but I have felt well-supported by what has been sent in and have enjoyed reading all of the offerings. Some are stockpiled for future use - more will always be welcomed.

I am always concerned that there are so many societies who do not see any point to being affiliated to ABPS. Sometimes it is because they think that we have let them down in the past, or they are too small, or they don't see the point, or they haven't the money. Please share your pdf version with anyone that you know in other societies - let them see what is being done around the country. Give them ideas and share yours with them, hoping that they will reciprocate. Please also point out to them the new website and the opportunities that it creates for giving better information about what is going on in British philately. Keep healthy and safe and collecting.

*Keith Burton*



## John Campbell (1943-2020)



It was a great shock to lose our good friend and Honorary Treasurer, John Campbell, who died on 8<sup>th</sup> April from the effects of Covid-19.

John joined the Germany and Colonies Society in 1974. He led the then named Farnborough Group from 2000 to 2002, and in September 2002 became our Honorary Treasurer. He also organised our AGM weekend in Winchester in 2007, and acted at short

notice from 2017 to 2019 as interim leader of the now-named South Central Group.

John also served actively on the Congress Committee of the ABPS and for his local Portsmouth & District Philatelic Society (including latterly as their Chairman).

In all these capacities John worked quietly and diligently with great dedication. We all benefited greatly from his wide experience and knowledge. As chairman of our society I worked closely with John throughout his time as our treasurer and found his support invaluable.

He was born in Portsmouth, and there in 1967 he married Stephanie (Steph), bought their first home and raised their three children Claire, Katherine and Anthony. John's career developed in accountancy culminating in his role as senior accountant for Vosper-Thornycroft, the shipbuilding company in Southampton.

In retirement, just to add to all the philatelic activities described above, John also became actively involved in his local Probus and U3A groups.

John's collection was eclectic covering many aspects of German philately from Mecklenburg-Schwerin to the hyperinflation in Danzig – as a member of my Danzig Study Group he contributed a number of articles on this subject.

John made many friends in the society and he and Steph always enjoyed attending our AGM weekends, where we so thoroughly enjoyed their company too. We shall miss him so much and we send our love, admiration and thanks to Steph for all the support she gave John in achieving all that he did.

*Giles du Boulay (originally printed in Germania in May 2020)*

*Next comes an appreciation from The Hampshire Federation for whom John was very active for a long time.*





John first appeared on a list of those society representatives present at a Hampshire Federation Council meeting in the minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> July 1979 Council meeting at Winchester. He came with David Bradley, both representing Portsmouth. At that meeting Portsmouth Society was formally accepted into the Federation, proposed by Mr Mockford of Southampton and seconded by Mr Hardy of Hayling Island. Since then John had an outstanding record of supporting the Federation through Council and latterly as honorary secretary. He was co-opted onto a study in May

1982 considering how to organise and finance the Federation's Conventions. He was a major moving force in organising HAMPEX and getting dealers to support it since before HAMPEX moved to its current Wickham venue in 2005. John was recognised with an ABPS Award of merit in 2007.

John was widely active in philately being a member of the RPSL, Germany and Colonies Society, the Postal History Society, honorary member of Petersfield Society and a leading light and treasurer of Portsmouth Society. On top of all that, John was an enthusiastic philatelic judge always ready to support local society competitions. One could always rely on John to do a thorough job with plenty of constructive criticism. His care encouraged members to take part knowing that they would learn a great deal. John also entered exhibits on his own behalf at Portsmouth and HAMPEX. Displaying or competing, he always showed wonderful material.

I wish to record my appreciation for the outstanding service John has made over more than 40 years to the Hampshire Philatelic Federation and to philately in general.

Our condolences go to Stephanie and family for their loss of a major player both in philately and the wider world in which John was also deeply engaged. He is sorely missed.

*Julian H Jones, FRPSL, HPF Chairman*

*Photo courtesy Eddie Mays, Southampton DPS*

## In Memoriam

Many of you will know of friends who have been afflicted with Covid-19 and possibly some have died. ABPS too has suffered the loss of two Friends:

**Mr Jubb** from Billericay died earlier this year.

**Doctor Goodbody** of Clitheroe died in June.

For all our lost collectors, we give thanks for their lives and regret for their deaths.

We send our commiserations to all their relatives and friends.

## Philatelic Crusade for Peace

(This article was first printed in *Themescene* in December 2019)

Some years ago, I arrived at a stamp fair to be greeted and called over by a dealer whom I knew well. "I am glad you are here" he said, "I have something that might interest you and if you don't want it, no-one else will!" So I made us both happy by paying 50 pence each for five items, a grand total of £2.50. They were strange, these cards, liberally covered with stamps and labels, with various slogans to do with peace and religion. The one thing that was clear was that these cards were produced and posted by the Philatelic Crusade for Peace.



*A Peace Cross*

and wrote to the Crusade's address in Alexandria (no reply) and to the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt which regretfully had no information and suggested I write to a stamp dealer in Cairo – F Cifariello & Co (no reply). I see that an enquiry was made to the Egyptian Study Circle by a non-member in 2008 but no indication of a response. I decided just collecting might be more fruitful. Thanks to eBay it was and I now have a selection of letters, covers and cards which are informative in themselves and are rather fun to display.

According to a column *Philatelic News* by **Gustav Detjen Jr** in the Harlem Valley Times in February 1965 it seems that the Philatelic Crusade for Peace was the brainchild of **Mt Constantin St Tsirimonis** of the Bank of Arts in Alexandria. His vision was not explicit but his interest in promoting international peace was clear from the nature of the stamps, labels and phrases literally covering the many envelopes – Rainbow Covers for Peace - and on the PAX cards which were sent all over the world.

Who did they go to and what if anything was inside? Suddenly eBay had the answer for me, letters from the Crusade to what I can only call 'The Great and the Good' and everybody else! Some of the pages are trying to



*Postcard to support the Nubian Temples*



*Front and back of a cover sent to Harold Wilson PM at 10 Downing Street*

sell a stamp collection to raise funds, one half for UNESCO to save the Nubian monuments under threat of flooding for a dam and in memory of Dag Hammarskjöld; the other half to USO (United Service Organizations) 'for keeping the Peace around ONE world and on behalf of the Crusaders for Peace'. Other items have just the main aim of publicity for the cause. All the letters are full of quotations from recipients who write appreciatively but without commitment as far as I can see.

I was pleased that one of the envelopes I acquired still had its own contents, addressed to Mr S Adkins in Palmers Green, London. I don't know who he was (a brief Google search revealed nothing) but that doesn't matter. I have enough material to show the essence of the Crusade and what a curious – and yet strangely inspiring – project it was.

At this point of writing I have to make a decision: do I stop or do I go into much more detail? I think the former is best; whatever I say will not give you the reader a true picture unless you have seen these items. There is usually something on eBay to look at. I



*Cover to Mr Adkins in London*



*And one to William S. Richardson*



*Reverse of Large Rainbow Cover with stamps and seals*

*Grace Davies*



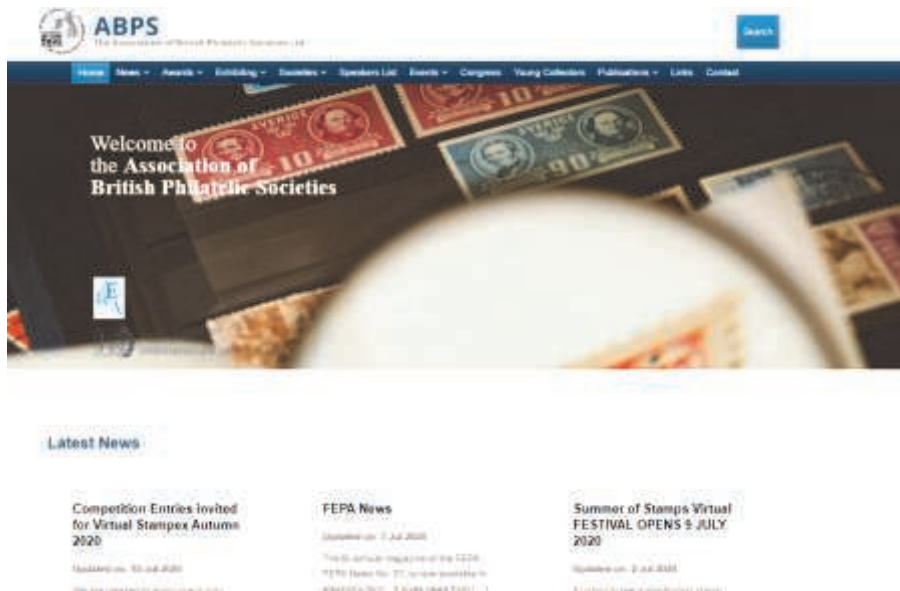
*And a postcard winding up the Crusade*

## Seen the new ABPS Website yet?

With no meetings to travel to you can check what is happening elsewhere or what is planned for the future.

You can also check on the details for your society in case we have got them wrong for some reason - like you didn't tell us or we took no notice!

Find the Speakers' List, ask to have your displays added, read old ABPS News... There is lots to look at. Keep in touch and enjoy.





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**

by Andrew McGavin

**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, 48 years later!...

~~Wrong Offer~~ ~~Wrong Price~~  
~~Wrong Place~~  
(naive seller) = me but I was only 15 at the time!

**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~~ ~~Wrong Place~~  
therefore ~~Wrong Price~~

**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~~ ~~Wrong Presentation~~

~~Wrong Structure~~ ~~Wrong Protection of Price~~

- Lucky for the seller that 2 well-healed 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 collectors

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).

**About The Author** Andrew found his father's stamps at the age of 10. A year later at Senior School he immediately joined the School Stamp Club. He specialised (?) in inflatables, but soon was interested in Queen Victoria which he could not afford. The 2nd to last boy wearing short trousers in his school year, he religiously bought Post Office New Issues on Tuesdays with his pocket money. He soon found that he enjoyed swapping / trading stamps as much as collecting them. Aged 19, eschewing University he quickly found a philatelic career in London, leading to creating his own companies in stamps. Andrew has authored many internationally published Stamp Tips articles, appearing on local Radio and National TV promoting Philately with Alan Titchmarsh. Andrew's area of expertise is unusual - in so far as his grounding in collecting and wide philatelic knowledge has given him a deep understanding of Philately. He has studied Philately for the past 45 years, in combination with Commerce and Marketing Expertise, enabling him to create synergies in 'lifetime' interlinked Stamp Selling Systems, selling unit priced stamps through to handling collections & Rarities up to £700,000 each. Today Andrew is fortunate to be co-owner with his Wife, of Universal Philatelic Auctions (aka UPA) - the Largest No Buyer's Premium Reducing Estimate System Stamp Auction in the World, creating records selling stamps to 2,261 different bidders from 54 different countries in his latest auction. Andrew stopped collecting stamps aged 18 reasoning that his enjoyment of stamps would be in handling them and selling them...



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV

REQUEST Your 'Tips of The Trade' FREE copy >





**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 nearest competitor 'Apex' had 800 bidders in a recent auction. In my most recent 20,000+ lot UPA 68th Auction we had 2,184 different bidders from 58 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 Storing up Right in The Face?

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

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

The auction sold your stamps to a dealer for \$1,000 - but you received circa \$656

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

**10 Sounds Good Andrew, but Can You 'Deliver'?** Obviously, nothing is as simple as that, and as we auction stamps to collectors some collections may 'break' to the example \$2,000+ but the stamps may be sold for more or less - especially as we reserve all lots at 20% below, (Estimate \$2,000 - \$1,600 reserve) and not everything sells first or even 2nd time so prices may come down... Naturally, it's not that straightforward for a dealer either - he may sell at a discount to 'move' stock OR, like many dealers he may be sitting on the same unsold stamps, that you see time and time again, in dealer's stocks years later and still at the same unattractive prices...

So, I think it is more reasonable for you to expect up to 30% 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...

**11 QJ What is the Collector's 'Secret Weapon'?**

**AJ It's called the Unique UPA Reducing Estimate System...★**


This is a rather long explanation, I don't want to bore you, but 15 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 2,184 different bidders in my recent auction. 🍀


In Hindsight Dealers warned me 18 years ago that my idea wouldn't work. 18 years later I think I've proven that it does. (Reader: Please Request a complimentary UPA catalogue - using the contact details further below)

**13 OK, Cut to the Chase Andrew, what's the offer?** All of my Selling Systems are based upon **selling to Collectors Globally**, so that 95% of stamps sold by UPA are



sold directly to Collectors. If you wish to benefit by up to 50% or more, depending upon your circumstance and type of material, by cutting out the middleman - then this offer may be for you. Generally 'time' is the enemy in our lives, and for most dealers not being able to sell stock. Now is the time to let 'time' do the 'heavy-lifting' and consider making 'time' work for you, so that at UPA you can make time your friend. 



## 14 AND the SMALL PRINT?

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

## 15 OK, What Do I Do Next?

a). 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.

b). 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 price lists or high quality selling catalogues - that Dealer may sell your stamps to other dealers...

c). 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 sale 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

SCOTTISH  
& NORTH  
CONTACT



COTSWOLDS  
MIDLANDS  
& SOUTH  
CONTACT

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

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 1882 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 'hurd' 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

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## Society anniversaries, 2020

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).

Heartiest congratulations to all involved in these milestones:

### Channel Islands Specialists' Society reaches 70 years of age

The society was founded in 1950 by **Bill Newport** and **John Simpson**, along with thirteen other members, to study the stamps and postal history of the Channel Islands, although the group initially called itself the Channel Islands Study Circle. The first edition of the *Bulletin* was produced in November 1950, listing all 15 members, including **A W Robertson**. Other early distinguished members included **R M Willcocks** (March 1951) and **Dr B S Jay** (April 1953). During March 1951, the membership held its first meeting in London, with seven members attending. Membership was fixed at 5/- per annum, plus 2/- if you wished to receive the packet. The name of the group name was changed to the Channel Islands Specialists' Society (CISS) in December 1951. By December 1952 membership of the Society had reach 39.

The *Bulletin* ran for 40 years, achieving 197 editions. It was replaced by the *Les Iles Normandes* journal, with the first quarterly edition being printed in December 1975.

Within 25 years the membership stood at over 500 active members, largely due to both Jersey and Guernsey establishing independent postal administrations on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1969. Today, the membership of the CISS stands at 230, with five members having now achieved 50 years of membership: the longest serving member, **Gerald Millington**, joined in 1960.

We still share the commitment to study stamps, postal history, post cards and ephemera of the Channel Islands.

For further information please visit our website at [ciss1950.org.uk](http://ciss1950.org.uk) where you will find details of membership.



*Gerald Millington - our longest serving member*

---

*Richard Flemming Secretary*

### GBOS 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary 2020

The GB Overprints Society, which studies overprints on GB stamps, celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. Our member **Chris Phillips** designed a special sheetlet for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary 10 years ago, and has now printed it again but with a highly appropriate overprint on it to mark this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On the

If you want further information contact me at 4 Valletta Way, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9TB UK, as editor of "The Overprinter", who will forward your enquiry to the Membership Secretary. *John Gledhill*  
Shown here is the special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary overprint on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary sheetlet.



page 18



The  
Postal  
Museum

## The Postal Museum launches public call out for letters, cards, parcels and packaging from Lockdown

The Postal Museum is searching for letters, envelopes, greetings cards and packaging from Lockdown – the latest chapter in the 500-year old story of postal services in the UK. The museum, which opened in 2017, explores British social and communications history as seen through the eyes of its iconic postal service.

Now, they are seeking donations of items from across the UK, to add to the museum's collection, telling the story of Lockdown through items sent and received in the post since March.

**Chris Taft**, Head of Collections at The Postal Museum, said:

“Postal networks have long been a part of our social infrastructure, but the COVID-19 emergency has created new and different meanings to the purpose and value of the post. We want our museum collections to reflect how postal operations have changed to deal with the pandemic, how people are using the post to maintain personal relationships and the importance of the post to the economy. Our museum might be based in London, but our collections represent the whole of the country, so we want to reach far and wide to capture how the post is connecting people across the UK and the world at this moment in time.” The museum is looking for the public to submit offers of donations, and a selection will be collected across three areas:

- **Letters and envelopes:** The museum is looking for letters, whatever the content, and where possible envelopes particularly those that have been personalised with mail art sent since March 2020.
- **Greetings cards:** Cards reflect how the post has helped us mark special occasions without us being able to meet in person and many new designs have been created that respond to major world events in 2020.
- **Parcels and packaging:** Businesses have used the post to continue trading during the pandemic. One box can tell many stories, from the innovation of a company and the changing buying habits of consumers, to the personal impact receiving items had on someone in lockdown from supplies to gifts.

The project, COVID-19 and the Post, will provide a vital resource to understand the changing uses and the importance of the post in this unprecedented time. It is the first phase of an ongoing project collecting objects and personal accounts to reflect the shifting relationships people have with the post and the impact on postal and delivery workers.

You can submit an item to donate to The Postal Museum on [www.postalmuseum.org/wecollect](http://www.postalmuseum.org/wecollect)

*Eliska Bejrova*

## How long is the lockdown going to last?

When the Government announced that first over-70s and later the whole country was going into lockdown, my first thought was that it might give me a chance to catch up on outstanding philatelic projects. I believed that I could last several weeks, if not months, on things I had accumulated but not written up. How wrong can you be?

First, the weather did not lend itself to sitting indoors for hours on end. Add to this the idea that we could go out once a day for exercise (not something I have been a great fan of) and then there were so many little jobs around the house and garden needing to be done. What with eating and drinking more frequently and sleeping, the time seemed to be passing too quickly. The increasingly light evenings didn't help.

Also, being honorary treasurer of two philatelic societies and two local organisation meant that I needed to keep an eye on things on a more regular basis, especially the local cricket club, whose entire income stream had been wiped out at a stroke.

When I did eventually get round to philately, I found I had rather more projects on the go than I first thought. Eleven significant areas needed attention. The first of these has taken me almost ten weeks to get to a point where I felt I could move on.

The next is even worse. I estimate that I have accumulated over 300 covers in boxes, drawers etc, relating to several different areas. First, I need to sort these into categories. This could take several days and then I will find that I do not have the stationery to write them up. So that is one (or possibly four) projects which will still be outstanding when this is all over.

I then have several other stamp projects to look at – Canada, Morocco Agencies, Victorian GB... Again, I will run out of pages before scratching the surface. Add to this, I have a major piece of research on the go, which has already taken over a year and which probably has several more to run.

Running alongside this is our old friend Ebay. I dip in virtually every day to find things to complement whatever I am working on – it is costing me a fortune and my wife has started to comment on the number of postal deliveries I receive.

So, with the latest announcement of a start to easing the lockdown and more good weather forecast, I fear my outstanding projects will remain just that. I could probably do with another couple of years...

*Alan Baker*

Memberships: Forces Postal History Society – [forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk](https://forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk)

North Berkshire PS

King George VI Collectors' Society – [kg6.info](https://kg6.info)

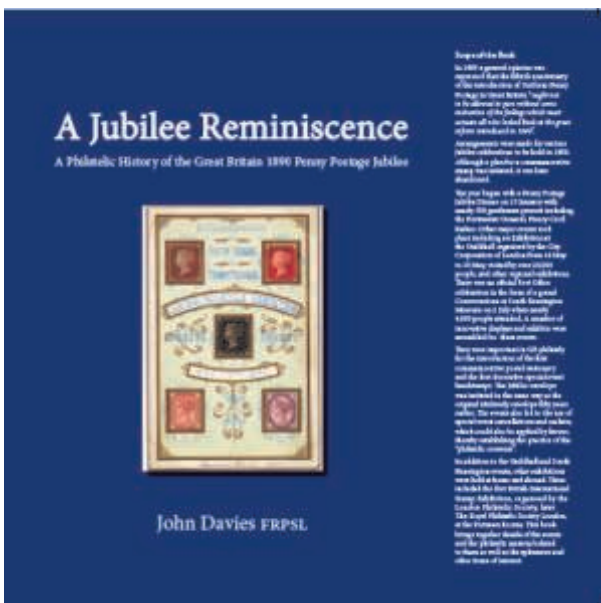
Canadian Military Mail Study Group

Portuguese Philatelic Society – [pps-uk.net](https://pps-uk.net)

Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society – [germanphilately.org](https://germanphilately.org)

**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.**





## A Jubilee Reminiscence

**John Davies FRPSL** has released a new book on the philatelic history of the 1890 Great Britain Penny Postage Jubilee. The book has been published by the Royal Philatelic Society London, the world's leading philatelic Society. John is Immediate Past President of the Great Britain Philatelic Society and Secretary of the Banbury Stamp Society.

Fifty years of Uniform Penny Postage and the introduction of the Penny Black were celebrated with major events, including grand Exhibitions

and Conversaciones organised by the City Corporation of London at Guildhall and the Post Office event at South Kensington Museum as well as an exhibition organised by the London Philatelic Society (now the "Royal"). Although plans for a commemorative stamp were initiated, they were later abandoned. They were important in GB philately for the introduction of the first commemorative postal stationery and the first decorative special event handstamps. The Jubilee envelope was also imitated in the same way as the original Mulready envelope fifty years earlier. The book brings together the full history of these events after 30 years of research with over 300 illustrations of the philatelic material and ephemera produced during the celebrations.

The book is available to purchase via the website of the Royal Philatelic Society [www.rpsl.org.uk](http://www.rpsl.org.uk) It is priced at £55 (£49 to RPSL members)



## Italian World War II Prisoner of War mail from Fossoli di Carpi camp and one notable inmate

Prisoner of war and internee mail is subject to postal censorship, permitted under Articles 70 and 71 of the Third Geneva Convention (1929-1949). It is frequently subject to both military and civil postal censorship because it passes through both postal systems. There are many examples of prisoner of war mail which was also inspected or censored. Censored mail can be identified by various postmarks, dates, postage stamps and other markings found on the front and reverse side of the cover. These covers often have an adhesive seal, usually bearing special ID markings, which are applied to close and seal the envelope after inspection.

### World War II

During World War II, both the Allies and the Axis instituted postal censorship of civil mail. The largest organisations were those of the United States of America, though the United Kingdom employed 10 000 censor staff, both blacklists, to observe suspicious mail, and whitelists, to list those whose mail was exempt from censorship. The average soldier wrote six letters a week. These letters took one to four weeks to arrive.

### PG 73 Fossoli di Carpi, Near Modena

The Fossoli camp (Italian: Campo di Fossoli) was an internment camp in Italy, established during WWII and located in the village of Fossoli, Carpi, Emilia-Romagna. It began as a prisoner of war camp in 1942, later being a Jewish concentration camp, then a police and transit camp, a labour collection centre for Germany and, finally, a refugee camp, before closing in 1970.

It is estimated that 2844 Jews passed through this camp, 2802 of whom were then deported.

### History

The Prisoner of War camp was established by the Royal Italian Army on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1942 for the British, South African and New Zealand military personnel captured in military operations in North Africa and originally called Campo PG 73. On 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1942 1800 prisoners of war were moved to the camp and

accommodated in 191 tents in what was called the "Old Camp", the Campo Vecchio. With the surrender of Italy on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1943 the camp was evacuated and all prisoners of war moved to Germany.

*Fig 1. Italian Prisoner of War postcard exempt from posting charges, dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 1943, from Sergeant Holdsworth to Mr and Mrs Beard, Peterborough, with Italian censor mark 391/1, prisoner of war stamp, UK censor mark PW 3110.*





*Italian Prisoner of War folded letter exempt from posting charges, dated 8<sup>th</sup> July 1943, from Private Bartlett to Mr and Mrs Tann, Portsmouth. No censor marks.*

## Concentration camp

After the surrender, the camp was enlarged by 60 wooden and 20 stone barracks which became the "New camp", the Campo Nuovo. In December the camp was renamed Fossoli di Carpi and became the "national concentration camp" for the Jews in the Italian Social Republic, following the issue of RSI Police Order No 5. The camp was operated by the fascist Italian militias. Police captain Domenico Avitabile was the first commandant of the concentration camp, described by former inmates as a kind but corrupt man. In March 1944, owing to the camp's strategic location close to the Modena-Verona railway line, the Campo Nuovo came under

German control and was renamed

Transit Camp Carpi. It now fell under jurisdiction of the German Commander in Chief of the Security Police, Wilhelm Harster, who was based in Verona.

The purpose of the camp was to act as a transit camp and to be filled to capacity with Italian Jews and, once full, these were to be deported predominantly to Auschwitz for extermination. It was during this period that the first two trains left for Auschwitz on 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1944, with the camp still under Italian control. The second convoy left with 650 prisoners (which Primo Levi recalls in the first pages of *If This is Man*).

During its existence as a transit camp, the camp had a total of 5000 inmates, of whom half were Jewish. The last transport left the camp on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1944, Fossoli having become too insecure because of the proximity to the front line. It was replaced with the Bolzano Transit Camp.

## After the Second World War

From November 1945 to May 1947 the camp was once more in use, now for foreign refugees, some of them Jewish Holocaust survivors. Notable inmates included Roberto Angeli, Nedo Fiano, Mario Finzi, Odoardo Focherini, Primo Levi, Liana Millu, Teresio Olivelli, Raimondo Ricci, Francesco Venturelli, Ricardo di Luca, Armando Vezzelli, Jerzi Sas Kulczycki, Carlo Bianchi, Leopoldo Gasparotto.

Primo Michelle Levi, 31<sup>st</sup> July 1919 - 11<sup>th</sup> April 1987 was an Italian Jewish chemist, partisan, Holocaust survivor and writer. He was the author of several

books, novels, collections of short stories, essays, and poems. His best-known works include "If This is Man" (1947, published as "Survival in Auschwitz", in the United States), his account of the year he spent as a prisoner in the Auschwitz concentration camp in Nazi-occupied Poland; and "The Periodic Table" (1975), linked to qualities of the elements, which the Royal Institution named the best science book ever written. Levi died in 1997 from injuries sustained in a fall from a third-floor apartment landing. His death was officially ruled a suicide, but some have suggested that the fall was accidental. The Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel said at the time "Primo Levi died at Auschwitz forty years later. "

### War story

The Italian resistance movement became increasingly active in the German-occupied zone. Levi and some comrades took to the foothills of the Alps, and in October formed a partisan group in the hope of being affiliated to the liberal Giustizia e Libertà. Untrained for such a venture, he and his companions were arrested by the Fascist militia on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1943. When told he would be shot as an Italian partisan, Levi confessed to being Jewish. He was sent to the internment camp at Fossoli near Modena. He recalled that as long as Fossoli was under the control of the Italian Social Republic, rather than Nazi Germany, he was not harmed. "We were given, on a regular basis, a food ration destined for the soldiers ", Levi's testimony stated, "and at the end of January 1944, we were taken to Fossoli on a passenger train. Our conditions in the camp were quite good. There was no talk of executions and the atmosphere was quite calm. We were allowed to keep the money we had brought with us and to receive money from outside. We worked in the kitchen in turn and performed other services in the camp. We even prepared a dining room, a rather sparse one, I must admit."

### Auschwitz

Fossoli was then taken over by the Nazis, who started the deportations of the Jews to eastern concentration and death camps. On the second of these transports, on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1944, Levi and other inmates were transported in twelve cramped cattle trucks to Monowitz, one of the three main camps in the Auschwitz concentration camp complex. Levi (record number 174517) spent eleven months there before the camp was liberated by the Red Army on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1945. Of the 650 Italian Jews in his transport, Levi was one of twenty



*Fig 3. Italian Postal Services. Primo Levi commemorative stamp on cover with special first day of issue postmark 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012 commemorating 25<sup>th</sup> death anniversary.*

who left the camps alive. The average life expectancy of a new entrant at the camp was three to four months.

Levi knew some German from reading German publications on chemistry; he worked to orient quickly to life in the camp without attracting the attention of the privileged inmates. He used bread to pay a more experienced Italian prisoner for German lessons and orientation in Auschwitz. He was given a smuggled soup ration each day by Lorenz Perrone, an Italian civilian bricklayer working there as a forced labourer. Levi's professional qualifications were useful: in mid-November 1944, he secured a position as an assistant in IG Farben's Buna Werke laboratory that was intended to produce synthetic rubber. By avoiding hard labour in freezing outdoor temperatures he was able to survive; also, by stealing materials from the laboratory and trading them for extra food. Shortly before the camp was liberated by the Red Army, he fell ill with scarlet fever and was placed in the camp's hospital. On the 18<sup>th</sup> January 1945, the SS hurriedly evacuated the camp as the Red Army approached, forcing all but the gravely ill on a long death march to a site further from the front, which resulted in the deaths of the vast majority of the remaining prisoners on the march. Levi's illness spared him from this fate.

Although liberated on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1945, Levi did not reach Turin until 19<sup>th</sup> October 1945. After spending some time in a Soviet camp for former concentration camp inmates, he embarked on an arduous journey home in the company of former Italian prisoners of war who had been part of the Italian Army in Russia. His long railway journey home to Turin took him on a circuitous route from Poland, through White Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Hungary, Austria and Germany. In later writings, he noted the millions of displaced people on the roads and trains throughout Europe in that period.

This article was written with following anniversaries in mind:

75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of end of war in Europe; 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp; 101<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary of Primo Levi; 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of closure of Fossoli di Carpi camp.

*Carlo Consolante* of Bedford PS

## **Are you looking for a speaker for your Society's programme?**

The British Thematic Association can provide a wide variety of speakers and topics ranging from Archery to Waterfalls, from Aviation to Music. If you are trying to fill a speaker's slot then go to the BTA's web site,

**<https://www.britishthematic.org.uk/>**

and look for the 'List of Speakers' which can be found under the 'About' tab at the top of the first page. I'm sure you will not be disappointed.

*Barry Stagg*, Chairman BTA.



## Coronavirus and Post Offices' Reaction Around the World

This unprecedented event has enabled thinking caps to be put on by many postal authorities around the world. Some have issued stamps, some special cancellations; others have produced special stationery or even coloured post boxes. The majority, though, have done nothing! Not illustrated, due to their size, are the Isle of Mans's regular and self-adhesive sets of eight, with different messages.



Switzerland, with appropriate tab



Two stamps from Bosnia with imaginative designs



Czechoslovakia, with facemask designs



Greece, First Day Cover





*Republic of Togo 5000f stamp & the stamp face covering in use*



Cancellations in Great Britain have come with different wordings and formats, as the disease has progressed, now with awareness wording about mental health as a result of lockdown. Captain Tom was commemorated not only with



special cancellations but with his local post boxes being painted NHS blue, and special wording applied.



*Examples of "Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Captain Tom" and "Thank You NHS" blue post boxes*



And to close are these four Great Britain cinderellas from Positively Postal which leaves us wondering what will come next before this epidemic is all over!

*Chris Wheeler*

## **The Future of Our Philatelic Societies after Lockdown**

What the future holds after Covid-19 may be uncertain, but it seems to me that this much is certain: this disease has shattered lives, disrupted markets, exposed the competence (or lack thereof) of governments, changed our cultural lives and modified all our outlooks. It will inevitably lead to permanent shifts in political and economic power and patterns of behaviour. It will change our views of what is important and how we relate at a personal and societal level, all in ways that will become apparent only later.

These are big issues which will affect every part of our lives. Our philatelic societies have been forced to take a break and we are having to consider how we will return to "normal" and continue (even prosper) in the future. During the lockdown period, some of us have been using on-line technology to continue our society activities. Others may not have done anything during this period. Whatever we have done during this time, we cannot expect to return to our usual practice as though nothing has changed.

Many of our members will think carefully about attending a society evening. Travelling to a cramped room and crowding round display boards in close proximity to and even touching others may seem intimidating. If members are to continue with us, then we must ensure the new situation is safe in terms of social distancing requirements. This is, however, the least of our problems.

Maintaining (or increasing) membership numbers was a challenge even before Covid-19. That challenge has now become even greater. The numbers in our societies are dwindling. In order to attract more people to our hobby we must advertise it and advocate for it, in radically different and more relevant ways in this "social media era".

What we do during our society evenings has basically remained the same over the last 100 years. An expert comes along, places his/her collection on boards around the room, talks about it whilst pointing out the highlights, and then we all look at them. During the talk, it is impossible for people in the audience to see the items clearly - stamps are small, postmarks just a little bigger and envelopes a little larger. In contrast, working at home on our tables and desks, the beauty and fascination of these small objects is much more easily appreciated.

During lockdown, if societies have been active on-line, then our members have become used to seeing large philatelic images on their screens - their beauty and finer details easily absorbed and for as long as they like. Why, during society evenings, do we not regularly use up-to-date projection techniques to show the highlights of a presentation to the audience in a similar, easily accessible way?

Over the last 20 years, philatelists have used computer technology to easily and effectively improve the layout and display of their material - both on their album pages and on their presentation material. Why not embrace the technology further to make the experience of our society evenings much more accessible to everyone?

Any potential member entering one of our meetings will inevitably expect the visual aspect of the evening to embrace these technologies - they already form a

significant part in their present lives. They are also heavily involved in many and various social media platforms which provide an integral and necessary part of their everyday life. Our failure to similarly embrace these platforms will guarantee the inevitable demise of our societies.

When leading and managing change in the world outside philately, three questions are regularly asked:-

1. Should we constantly look back on how we once did things?
2. How can we welcome (even encourage) new ideas?
3. Is there a different, more effective, way of doing what we do?

I consider our biggest challenge for the future, is to work out how to expand our membership within this social media arena. Attending a society meeting will be one aspect of our society activities. It is likely that society meetings will remain for the reduced number of members who want to meet up in person ---- **but** we could have a large, flourishing on-line membership, who rarely come to meetings, but who receive and provide fascinating material and contribute to the development of the society and the wider world of philately.

If we are to achieve this, then we have work to do. Will it be worth it? Only time will tell.

Richard Smith                      June 2020

## Stamp Collecting Parrot Fashion.

Like a number of stamp collectors these days, I started collecting when young, stopped when studies and work took over, then returned to the hobby after a long break. This return was brought on by finding my parents' collections and then looking back at my own stamps which I had kept.

My collection consisted of two Great Britain albums from the first Penny Black stamp of 1840 up to about 1985 (with numerous gaps), a couple of international albums with stamps from around the world (with even more gaps) and thematic stamps featuring mostly horses, dogs and a few cats.

Since forming these collections I'd developed an interest in ornithology and when I went to my first stamp fair about five years ago and explored stamps online I was drawn to bird stamps. I quickly realised that to collect all bird stamps would be a huge undertaking. According to the collecting website [www.colnect.co.uk](http://www.colnect.co.uk), there are currently (March 2020) over 40 000 postage stamps worldwide that depict birds and this number is growing all the time.



*Yellow-crowned  
Amazon parrot*

I then noticed that some of the most attractive and colourful stamps featured parrots. These reminded me of Pedro, a yellow-crowned amazon parrot (*Amazona ochrocephala*) that belonged to my parents a number of years ago. An example of this bird can be seen in the 2002 stamp from the Suriname

series of Parrot stamps. I decided to concentrate on parrot stamps (although I still fill in the gaps in my other albums). Would collecting all the parrot stamps be





*Rose-ring  
Parakeets*

feasible? Well, it might be. There are over 350 species of parrots and at the moment there are over 2000 parrot stamps, with new issues appearing all the time. I have nearly 600 stamps, so I have a way to go. The next consideration was how to organise the stamps. At first, I decided to arrange the stamps in order of country and then issue date. In 1985, Afghanistan issued a miniature sheet with two Rose-ring Parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*). These birds might be familiar to some as there are several feral populations in Northern Europe including the South East of England.

I then started to read the guidelines for exhibiting thematic stamps. One of these is that the theme should extend across a wide period of time. I had seen mostly modern parrot stamps. Were there any early issues? Indeed there were. The first postage stamp that featured parrots was the 1897 dark violet from Tonga. The image was of a Maroon Shining-parrot (*Prosopeia tabuensis*). Tonga used this design again in 1923 and in 1942. The watermarks are the main way to distinguish the 1897 and 1942 issues. The parrot was introduced to Tonga in prehistoric times.



*Maroon Shining-  
parrot (Turtles  
watermark).*



*1923 Overprint*

*Heather Lawn of Thatcham.*



*Illustration from The Children's Golden  
Treasure Book for 1937. Photograph: Getty*

Today people share their stamps via Twitter and Instagram. It was once a byword for boring, but it seems stamp collecting is finding a new – young – audience, despite the fact that some hobbyists have never actually posted a letter. Philately is gaining popularity among millennials, many of whom see the creative pursuit as an escape from their screen-based lives, says 37-year-old **Suzanne Rae**, from North

Yorkshire. "Philately is tangible: it's relaxing and unplugged. It's also very Instagrammable," says Rae, who is only the second female chairman the Philatelic Traders Society has had in its 91-year history. "Twitter and Instagram enable young collectors to find people like them, and see that it's not only a geeky old man's pursuit."

# On the Club circuit

## A roundup of what has been happening in British Philately in the last few months

*Visitors are welcome at all societies listed. "→" Indicates contact information.*

### Amersham & District

In line with probably all member societies because of the coronavirus we have held no meetings since our auction on 5<sup>th</sup> March. We are living in very strange times and nobody can tell when we can reconvene. Our AGM was scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> May and President **Chris Marsh** organised a "virtual meeting" by email which elected **Keith Wright** as Secretary to replace **Jim Drummond** who has stood down after 12 years in that post. The committee has been strengthened by the addition of **Brian Feakes**. In addition expenditure was ratified to update our website. We hope this will be up and running by the end of July. At this stage we are all waiting Government guidance when it will be possible to start planning the reorganisation of our meetings. In the meantime we are hoping to restart our packet circuit in the early autumn.

*Jim Drummond*

### Basildon

On 21<sup>st</sup> April although it was not possible to hold a viewing, **Claude Crowder** was able to operate our Spring auction as a postal auction, which was very successful in the circumstances, selling 207 out of 500 lots. Our next auction will also be a postal one on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Further details are available on our website

[www.basildon-philatelic.org.uk](http://www.basildon-philatelic.org.uk) Our packet has now restarted, new members will be very welcome.

→ [len.stanway@btinternet.com](mailto:len.stanway@btinternet.com)

*Len Stanway*

### Bolton

We have decided to suspend all the meetings including the Stamp Fair which was due to be held in October. Meetings will start again in January 2021.

*Howard Anderson*

### Bookham

The future of stamp clubs, and even the more elevated philatelic societies is currently most uncertain. Resumption of meetings in the short to medium future seem questionable - even if the social distancing rules could be accommodated (doubtful). Most of the membership falls into the "extra vulnerable" category by virtue of age alone, even before members' underlying health considerations are taken into account. Here with a usual attendance at our monthly afternoon meetings of 50 social distancing in the Barn Hall, where our meetings are held, would be very difficult to achieve: and even if the trading tables were to be done away with as an additional safety precaution it is doubtful if many members would be prepared "to risk" attending. It is therefore unlikely that any meetings can be even considered before the autumn, later if we have a



“second spike” which, at the time of writing this, seems increasingly likely. However in the meantime, in an effort to give our members something for their subs we have moved our Trading Section stamp sales onto the club website, as the trading tables were always one of the most popular features of our meetings. Sales from the website, on a “first come first served” basis, have been most encouraging to date. We “refresh” the stamps for sale each month.

Also very popular at our meetings was the sale of stamps for charity. So as a further initiative our past chairman, **Graham Mytton**, is offering bundles of selected stamps sorted into Continents or into Thematics for sale in aid of the Save the Children charity. Packets are sent out to members post free, with a stamped addressed return envelope. These packets offer exceptional value and our members collecting say Europe or such themes as fish, birds, aeroplanes, chess, snakes, butterflies, stamps on stamps, will certainly find a few bargains. We have supported this charity over many years and we are determined to continue to do so. The nearby Epsom and Ewell club (where a number of our members hold dual membership) have initiated a most excellent “virtual presentation” feature on their club website. Rather than try and compete with this, E&E have given us permission to have a direct link to this feature from our website to theirs. It is proving popular. More dual memberships are surely on the way. Since the shutdown we have held two very successful “virtual” committee meetings using Zoom and we are looking into holding our AGM using this format later in the year. Also “on the cards” – depending on the ongoing

Covid virus situation is the changing of our usual club's autumn “public” auction, to a postal auction. Our Packet circuit is in the process of being reactivated “by popular demand”. We will be trialling a “Virtual Meeting” on Zoom next month, with others already in the pipeline if the trial is successful. So all is not gloom and doom by any stretch of the imagination. We also hear that the auction houses are having their best sales in years. Stamp dealers who sell on the internet are also doing very nicely, thank you. There are even reports that new collectors are taking up the hobby. Alas this may be “fake news”! And just think how lucky we are to have the wonderful technology available to us today. Keeping in touch with members, friends and family has surely never been easier - save for the Luddites. Had such a shutdown happened just 20 years ago, things would be very different and far worse. At Bookham we hope to live to fight another day. The committee are seeking more ways to stay in contact with our members and to coming up with more initiatives to engage members during these crazy times. However, like many other clubs and despite a current membership of over 100, we struggle to get new blood onto the committee. Why do members go AWOL when pleas go out for members to stand for office or to assist current overworked officers? This apathy is one of the main reasons why clubs close down – it is not lack of members but rather a lack of members willing to take on a job of work. End of gripe. ➔

[www.bookhamstampclub.com](http://www.bookhamstampclub.com)

*David Bravery*

## Bromley & Beckenham

I imagine that many societies will be in difficulties as a result of the virus, but here at Bromley & Beckenham we are perhaps in a better state than many. During "lock-down" the committee have made some pre-emptive decisions, The main ones are: In view of the long break the committee have decided to extend all members' current subscriptions until August 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 at no cost to the members - we are fortunate in having sufficient reserves to make this possible; **Ron Burn's** Presidency will end at the 2021 AGM (possibly in May), when **Andrew Harris** will take over for his full year 2021-2022; as previously mentioned, **David Milsted** will take over from me as secretary at the 2021 AGM, and will work with me from September 2020 to ensure a smooth handover - I hope members will all give David the same support as they have given me over the past 15 years; We are also seeking replacements for our auctioneer, packet secretary and programme secretary, all key posts in their own way, and influential for the society's well-being in the future.

*David Rennie*

## Cambridge

With our twice monthly evening meetings cancelled from mid-March until the end of August, the main challenge for the Committee during the Covid-19 restrictions is how best to communicate with the membership, especially on the philatelic aspect. Following the success of a remote Zoom conference meeting for the society officers in May a full committee meeting was held in early June with 8 out of the 10 committee members

participating remotely. The decision was taken at that meeting to press ahead with the AGM on its set date but via Zoom conference facility. We are fortunate in having over 80% of our membership on email. All members received a special newsletter in early June with full details and reports for the AGM. The AGM was held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June when 14 members participated remotely. The main challenge for members was getting used to a new form of technology.

Looking ahead, although a programme of events has been agreed from September this year through to the end of March 2021, the fact remains that it is still not clear whether normal evening meetings will be able to be held given social distancing requirements. With this possibility in mind the Committee is looking closely at two aspects covering electronic philatelic displays: firstly a few members making power point presentations and these being viewed and talked over by the presenter via Zoom, secondly the possibility of small displays being uploaded to a members' section of the society web site. The society does celebrate its centenary later this year as it was founded in October 1920. At present we can but continue with what was planned and adjust accordingly should Covid restrictions still be a factor. ➔

[info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk)

*Peter Morton*

## Cockermouth

Although there are no immediate plans to hold our regular monthly meetings, we are determined that there will be at least some philatelic activity in West Cumbria. It was necessary to cancel the auction due to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> March, but this will now go ahead

as a postal only sale to close on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September. The sale has 527 lots, the majority from deceased estates, including boxes and albums of general material, GB & world collections, sets & singles, GB & worldwide postal history, together with a good section of coins & a few football programmes. Viewing in Cockermouth prior to the sale will be available by prior appointment in a Covid-safe environment. More details and a copy of the catalogue are available from Mike Roberts

[mike@mikerobe.co.uk](mailto:mike@mikerobe.co.uk) or

07885839622

Mike Roberts

## Dawlish Stamp Club

We have been quite busy during lockdown communicating via an email forum. Much has been added to the club's website at [dawlishsc.org](http://dawlishsc.org)

A number of useful articles have been added to the Publications Page and members appear to have been working on their collections. It is hoped that meetings will re-start in September and we will be looking to use a larger room for both safe distancing and using projecting facilities for displays. The club's Annual Auction will proceed as normal in October, if for any reason it cannot be a live auction it will be postal only. It is anticipated that the Auction Lots will be able to be viewed online from an interactive listing of the lots along with a facility to print a listing.

Jim Wigmore

## Great Yarmouth

As we were unable to have our usual meetings I, as secretary, resurrected our monthly newsletter called Broadside (a pun on the area we live in, the Norfolk Broads) in the hope that it would keep our members' philatelic interest going during lock-down. I



*To Bark Atlantic, from Amherst,  
Mass, dated 27<sup>th</sup> January 1879*

started with a couple of covers from my own collection relating to Mail for Whalers. Now I wait for the members' responses and ideally some of their own stamps, covers, write-ups and questions.

Bernard Mabbett

## Halifax

News from behind the mask. The 2019-2020 season has unfortunately come to a grinding halt, as we all appear to be confined to barracks, or put on gardening leave. I assume that our members as with other societies will be busy researching and writing up those projects that previously have been set to one side; there should be some brilliant displays to come when we all get back together. I know things are happening with members as auction catalogues are still arriving and there are comments by phone and email from those who are busy claiming not to be watching TV. The zoom phenomenon is becoming an increasing method of communicating between society members who are on line. On the positive side there are some that are planning for next year, which is something to look forward to.

Adrian Lee



# Selling your stamp collection?

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## Leeds Philatelic Society Communication Bulletins

When the Covid-19 lockdown started we, like all philatelic societies, cancelled several meetings (including the AGM), our annual dinner and other planned activities. In the first days of lockdown, my wife Pauline asked whether all stamp collectors would now be squirrelling away at home and not be contacting their fellow collectors? She pointed out to me that our hobby relies on communication for its success. So, the idea of a 'Communication Bulletin' was born. Number 1 sent to all members began with the following -----

Hi Everyone,

Philately - **our hobby** - is based on communication. Our philatelic society, like all other societies, has relied on - and will continue to rely on - dialogue, interaction and the sharing of experiences and ideas.

During this period, when we can't meet and communicate as usual, I propose to send out to members a regular bulletin which has information, stories, ideas and comments based on any aspect of our wide-ranging hobby. I will use our group email facility to send out to you any items anyone wishes to share. Just send them in to me - no matter how small - and I will collate them and send them out to everyone.

If you want to do something, keep busy during these uncertain times and keep our philatelic spirits high, then just join in with your ideas - I'll do the rest. To start the ball rolling, here comes the start of Bulletin 1 on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

### It Arrived in the Post Today

This first item told of an inexpensive stamp that had proved elusive, finally being bought on eBay and arriving from Australia. Other items immediately flooded in from members covering a wide range of topics, including



Australian stamp details; London Postmarks; finds when tidying up; reflections on why we collect stamps ----- and many, many more. A fabulous mix covering a wide range of philatelic interest

As I prepare this for the ABPS Bulletin (May 15<sup>th</sup>) I have just distributed bulletin 17!!

*Richard Smith - secretary*

### The Variety in our Philatelic Bulletins

Over the course of the 2-month lockdown period, 20 of our members provided over 80 articles and 200 illustrations/scans or photographs for inclusion in the 20 bulletins produced and circulated. These covered a wide and diverse range of philatelic topics.

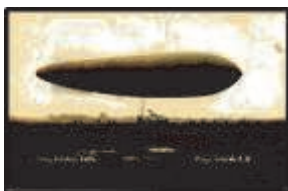




There were detailed and serious analyses of the early stamps of Victoria (Australia) and of some of the early London postmarks, together with a look at the postal history of Pontefract.



Several members discussed the ways in which they pursued their hobby, following unexpected avenues after coming across an unusual item in a job lot they had bought. Other members - having spent many years researching covers and postmarks - returned to their childhood roots during lockdown and mounted stamps on album pages ----- remembering what these were for!



Postcards provided a strong pictorial look to our bulletins. One member provided a wonderful insight into the life of his Great Aunt Florry, when he sorted out her collection of postcards received before and during WWI. His account - with over 40 illustrations - took us to one

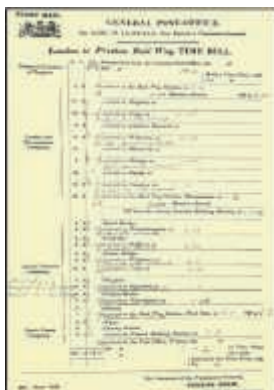
person's life at that time.

Inevitably, we received lots of accounts of how the lockdown had provide an opportunity to tidy up - and of what that tidying up had revealed. We saw before (like this example) and after photographs of this tidying process.

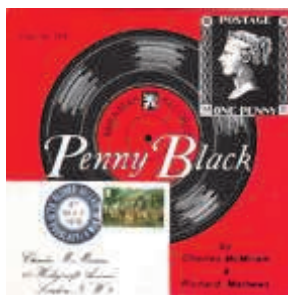


In Bulletin 17, we were able to report on the success of our youngest member (currently in year 12 at school) in the Stanley Gibbons online one-sheet competition. He was placed in the top eight for his entry - The 1924 Mount Everest Expedition. Many members used the lockdown time to catch up on their philatelic reading and research. Included in this





was finding a new meaning to Penny Black, looking at the stamps to commemorate WWI and a discovery of 'King Time'.



We were told of the novel ways postmen left the mail to keep social distancing rules and of a rather paranoid approach to PPE by one of our members. During this time, we all received mail with this post mark.



I have only been able to include a 'snap-shot' of the items in our bulletins. My apologies to those members not included here. *Richard Smith - secretary*



A lovely range of stamps totalling £5.92 - beautiful cancels for a change - but what did the 9p Huish Episcopi, Somerset stamp do wrong that it should be the only one not cancelled? Sent by *Des Kent*

## Harrogate

We have embraced the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - well some of us have, by having fortnightly Zoom meetings organised by our secretary, **Bill Tait**. We started by showing covers to the camera but soon learnt that scans, screen-sharing and slide presentations did a better job. 40 minutes have flown by so now we are thinking of ways to extend the sessions, preferably without spending lots of money. After all - we have been spending on Ebay and at auctions. If you would like to join us, let the editor know by email. We look forward to the future - whenever that might be.

*Keith Burton*

## Huddersfield

The 2019-2020 season has stopped. Even the venue, Lindley Liberal Club Lindley Huddersfield HD3 3EQ, has closed until the Government relaxing of the present restrictions on meetings. Our president, **Peter Clemenson**, has been trying to rally the members by phone and electronic mail. It's interesting that you don't know what you have missed until it isn't there; even philatelic banter from colleagues sometimes helps when you are forming a display. Perhaps we are entering the virtual world with the possibility of displays shown on line. The grape vine suggests that some members are in "sort it" mode but are keeping quiet about their efforts.

*Adrian Lee*

## Ipswich

Adapted from the first issue of *The Ipswich Lockdown Newsletter*: I received an interesting item in the post a few days ago from a regular Delcampe contact of mine in Amsterdam, or should I say the



envelope which held the item had been made interesting. The letter had for some reason been selected for examination by the Home Office Border Force, (the failed modern day attempt to replace Her Majesty's Customs and Excise). It contained only a set of stamps in a small inner envelope and the seller's business card. I spent my whole career in that proud department (hence my biased comment above) and I was therefore well-acquainted with colleagues' work in parcel post depots throughout the UK, the best known one being at Mount Pleasant. Customs Officers selected suspect parcels for examination which then had to be opened by Post Office staff for Customs perusal. As far as I was aware standard 6.5 x 4.5 inch envelopes with no thickness other than a business card offered no threat to either Customs duties or prohibitions.

Things must have changed. My letter had been opened for examination for some inexplicable reason then resealed with a strip of bright purple 'Home Office Border Force' sticky tape (right across the stamps of course!) It made for an interesting item which I intend to send to my seller in Amsterdam for his amusement, or is he the one who is suspect, I wonder?

*Roger Swindells*

## Lostock

Like many others, in April 2020 we had to postpone meetings until further notice. We contacted ABPS for advice and were advised to look at September or October 2020 as our earliest opportunity to hold meetings. Then we e-mailed our members and planned visiting speakers due to attend this year to explain the situation.

Government rules permitting we will hold our first meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> October. All meetings in 2020 will be with our own members as speakers. As one of my daughters is a teacher we have been well-advised on the correct procedure used in schools as a guide to holding future philatelic meetings, considering the age group of our membership - 50 to 85 years. Upon entry to the meeting each member will be tested with an Infrared thermometer and a clear reading will show in green. We have agreed if your reading is red and above the safe limits set you cannot attend that meeting and must leave immediately. Now is the time to buy a quality infrared thermometer. It looks like a gun, does not touch your skin, and is simply pointed at your forehead to test your temperature. It is already available and costs about £40. Add to this at least four recommended hand sprays. Seating will simply consist of

sensible seat space without anyone sitting immediately behind another. We hope this information gives help to other societies. We were close to closure a few years ago and survived because of help from ABPS and the many visiting speakers who have encouraged our survival. *David Morley*

## Maidstone & Mid-Kent

Whilst we have been in lockdown several members have been putting items of material from their collections on line, which have then been circulated to our members by our president. I have also received material from other societies as well so there has been a good selection of material being circulated. *Brian Stonestreet*

## Morecambe & District

Our last meeting was in mid-March, when **John Owen** of Bolton-le-Sands spoke to us on *The Strange Behaviour of The Irish Post Office*. We all found it a very interesting evening. Our Annual Fair was cancelled but is now booked for April 2021. We still hope to hold our Annual Auction on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October either as normal (with luck) or as a Postal Auction. Who knows? One member has suggested a direct approach to Boris for us to hold our usual meetings – no chance or maybe?

*Frank Colling*

## Petersfield

It has been a difficult time for us since last year. It was agreed at the AGM that the rules should be changed to allow the chairman to serve for six years rather than the former three years, and **Robin Pizer** agreed to hold the fort for another three years. After long and diligent service from **David Whitehouse** as treasurer his place has



been taken by **Steve Farago**. The demise of the Alton stamp club has resulted in two of their former members, **Stephen Miles** and **Nick Twining**, joining Petersfield and sharing the secretary's duties following the resignation of **Victor Collins** after two years of hard work and ill health which has forced his departure. Grateful thanks to Victor for a sterling effort. We still have a membership of 46 and with a newly formed committee will hope to resume our monthly meetings in due course. Last November we were entertained by **Tom Norgate** with *Methodist Postcards* followed by chairman's night with mail gathered to illustrate the *Rejection of letters by German Authorities* during the years following the end of WWI. Displays by members in January included *charity labels, Spanish Guinea, Argentina, Sudan, slogan postmarks of Petersfield, a comprehensive display of Seychelles and Thurn and Taxis*. The annual auction was held on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, just days before the shut-down, and, despite lower attendance, it was another successful meeting. Thanks to **David Snowden** (auction secretary).

David Allen

## City of Preston

In common with other societies, all our meetings have been cancelled for the time being. We hope for some return to normality in autumn, but in these strange times, who knows what will happen. We have obviously missed the talks and presentations, but we have also missed the social get-togethers and chats. We set up an email group for our members to opt into and I'm pleased to say a good number of our members have taken up the offer. We share stories about how we are coping with the Lockdown - walks, gardening, housework, meals and TV programmes all the regular things of the new world. Our occasional quizzes have also been quite popular. Fairs may be closed, but the internet does provide some access to new material. Members have shared their new acquisitions. It's been obvious that some members have been using the free time to tidy and reorganise their collections, which has led to some very interesting discoveries and debates. South Africa Postal History, Edward VII Controls, Storks on stamps, and GVI Gambia are just a selection of our discussions. Our latest item is correspondence about the Berlin Airlift following one member



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discovering an envelope in his collection recording 100 days of the Berlin Airlift. This virtual link doesn't replace our meetings, but it does keep us in touch. *Bernard Walmsley*

## Solihull

Our 2019/2020 Season was brought to an abrupt end at the beginning of March when it became obvious that COVID 19 was a real threat to members attending meetings. This meant cancelling plans for the celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, several first class scheduled displays and our forthcoming stamp fair and auction. On 24<sup>th</sup> March, one of our members, **Alan Spencer** sent a short display/article to our secretary to circulate by email to our members. Entitled *In Touch* this was well received and was the start of something new. Thanks to our enthusiastic members and our go-ahead secretary, an 'In Touch' email has gone out almost every day since! These consist of 2 or 3 attachments being a balanced mixture of philatelic queries and follow-up answers together with interesting and amusing videos or Youtube clips. Our programme secretary is working on a provisional programme for next season but its final form may well depend on how the national COVID situation develops. However at some stage in the future we will be holding our big charity auction raising funds for the local Marie Curie Hospice. Any donations of philatelic or post card material for this auction would be most welcome. Please get in touch with our Secretary, Paul Woodness 01564 776879 or [paulwoodness@aol.com](mailto:paulwoodness@aol.com)

*John Barker*

## St Albans, Harpenden & District

As with others our programme of meetings and displays is currently in abeyance as a result of the Coronavirus emergency, the 2019-20 Season having come to a premature ending in February. Although currently, we aren't able to have the usual displays, we have been encouraging our members to participate in a new *From my Collection* feature on [www.stalbharpstampclub.org.uk](http://www.stalbharpstampclub.org.uk) We have asked for scans of stamps, covers or album pages together with some words explaining what is of interest about the item, much as you might comment if presenting the sheet as part of a display, and the aim is to add a new item each week. It is good to report that a number of our members have come forward with a wide range of items ranging from Malaya to Medicine and Printers to Pre-stamp. In some cases it has provided an opportunity to show something that caught the owner's fancy for one reason or another but which might otherwise remain hidden because it doesn't naturally form part of an evening's display. Either way, we like to think that the feature may be a way of bringing the different aspects of our hobby to a wider audience, as well as keeping our members involved until we are once more able to gather for our evening meetings at Childwickbury. ➔ Peter Mellor 01582 762284 or [p.mellor@btinternet.com](mailto:p.mellor@btinternet.com) *Peter Mellor*

## Woking

We had three meetings before the start of lockdown. Two were members' showing on the themes *The Colour is Yellow/Gold* and *Cinderellas or Railway*

**Stamps.** In the first we saw gold ornaments on Egyptian stamps, GB stamps on yellow paper or with gold in the design, Banana stamps from Tonga, gold Horizon labels, 2012 GB Olympic Gold stamps and Hyperinflation in China leading to the introduction of the Gold Yuan in 1949. From the other we saw 7 displays including a variety of charity labels, railway stamps and Swiss Pro Juventute 1912 charity labels and stamps, some of them very rare. The other meeting was a display by **John Lee**. It was a varied display including material from Egypt, where John served in the Army Education Corps. He showed foreign post office and hotel stamps, set up because there was no Egyptian postal service. There were postal seals from 1864 and British Army postal seals – a great collection.

He followed on with embossed Natal stamps, early Ugandan stamps and lots of other African material. Lastly John moved to Frank Ives Scudamore, the chief examiner of stamps at Somerset House from February 1854 to March 1855. He used his own hand stamp on wrongly-printed stamps, which are now available and listed in a specialist QV book by Stanley Gibbons. We were told that the title was *John Lee Entertains* and he certainly did that.

*Brian Sheriff*

## Yeovil & District

From March we have been in Lockdown with Covid-19 Pandemic. Let's hope it will be under control soon then we can get back to some sort of normal, but I don't think it will ever be the same.

*David Bryant*



## Southampton & District Philatelic Society POSTAL AUCTION OF PHILATELIC MATERIAL

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latest information**

**The Grand Auction  
has been postponed  
until MARCH 2021**

**Full details will be on  
the website and  
published as soon as  
they are available**

## Southampton & District

The Lockdown in mid-March was a rude awakening. It was particularly disappointing to have to cancel all the meetings until September (initially) because not only was the AGM lost but also the return visit of **Michael Sefi** in May, as well as the visits of both the Petersfield and Thatcham societies.

By the middle of April the technophiles in our midst believed that to try and hold a video meeting using the Zoom package might be a feasible way of keeping in touch. **Alan Whittaker** bravely put his head above the parapet and said that he had a presentation that might work. We had a couple of trial meetings and the early indications were good. However our first attempt at a proper presentation went pear-shaped. Alan's microphone system sulked and wouldn't cooperate. As the old song goes 'We went away and had a cup of tea' and, with the microphone sorted out, a week later we were up and running.

Alan's presentation on *The German Occupation of the Channel Islands* contained a very wide range of material. There was a good selection of philatelic material but it was the ancillary documentation; the identity cards (seen opposite), ration books et al that brought the talk alive and gave the 12 members attending a real sense of life during the occupation.

In early May our second presentation was given by **Julian Jones** and we had attracted a slightly wider audience; two members from Vectis and a philatelist from Malta joined and they were very welcome. International already! The evening's subject was *Early Transatlantic Mail between the US & Europe* and starting with an example from



and starting with an example from the very first recorded flight on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1911 (shown alongside) from Windsor to London Julian took us through all the stages of air mail development; how in July 1924 the USA was divided into three postal zones and their different postal rates, then onwards to the first German Graf Zeppelin flight with two original documents shown. The talk ended in the early 1940s when the regular air service was



established between the two continents.

At the beginning of June *The Early Postal History (1868 -1920) of the Sudanese port of Suakin* was presented by **Malcolm Coe**. He started with a résumé of the port before introducing his first philatelic material, four Interpostal seals from the 1868-1882 era. The earliest Egyptian stamps had Italian inscriptions and cancellations whilst the second generation of stamps were French produced by De La Rue (1885). During the siege of March to July 1885 the British Army occupied the port and had their own Post Office using QV 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d and their own cancellations. An Indian Brigade was stationed there in 1886 and Malcolm's next



slide had defeated him so far. It was a postcard written in the Modi script in the Marathi(?) language. So far he had not found an expert who could translate the writing. So if there is anyone reading this who thinks they may be able to help please contact me and I will pass your details on to Malcolm. He ended by summarising the rapid

decline of the port in favour of Port Sudan. By now we had established a regular routine of having fortnightly presentations and the audience had grown as well and was averaging 22 or 23 attendees each time, including a certain Mr Burton.

**Tom Anderson** started his presentation on *The Forces Mail during the Indonesian Conflict, 1963 – 66* by defining the various BFPO areas. He then illustrated the differences between concessionary mail and regular mail, including examples sent to an American lady, Miss Betty Miller. She specialised in writing to British troops in order to get replies for her collection. Included in the 'slide show' were examples of Commonwealth troops' mail, and Tom finished with covers of a dubious origin addressed to Mr Hare, who had a liking for bending the rules.



At the end of June **Mike Torreggiani** gave an illustrated talk about the German Allied zones between 1945 and 1948. He concentrated on the British and

American zones this time but has promised to give another presentation about the Russian zone at a later date. It was essential that the postal system worked as it was in fact the lynch pin for many sectors of the economy. There were many obstacles to be overcome: very few stamps, leading to locally printed stamps, incorrect postal stationery, even the vans had to be repainted. Most of the covers that were shown were for local mail and Mike highlighted the fact that both Hitler's image and Reich propaganda messages had to be eradicated, sometimes not successfully. Taken overall the display was a fascinating insight into the complexities of the aftermath of WWII for the Allied Forces.

Our latest offering has been **Brian Hague's** illuminating tour of the *Lighthouses of the Faroe Islands*. It was not just the great selection of material shown but Brian's expert knowledge of the islands and the history of the lighthouse system that brought the talk alive. In the early 1900s, when many of the lighthouses were built, there were many problems with physically building the lighthouses, there were also instances of members of the same family serving at different locations. There are two more evenings planned before September. At present we have visitors from several of the local societies joining us and we have some free spaces for more visitors so if you would like to come please let us know. We held a Committee meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July. As a result of that meeting all Tuesday evening meetings at Bugle Street are cancelled until the end of December. The Thursday afternoon meetings at Chandler's Ford may start before then providing that all the necessary health guidelines can be met. The Grand Auction due to be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October has been postponed until March 2021 with the date and venue to be confirmed. Instead there will be a reduced club auction on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Full details of this event will be on [www.southamptondps.org.uk](http://www.southamptondps.org.uk) as soon as they are confirmed. Anyone needing more details on any of the Society's activities please contact the Secretary, Eddie Mays, at [sec.sdps@gmail.com](mailto:sec.sdps@gmail.com) or on 02380 802194. Eddie Mays

## Federations

### Essex

Congratulations go to Ipswich PS on winning the Stokes Cup Competition for 2020. The individual results which gave them this victory were from the wins by **S Teuma** (Stamps), **A Soutar** (Postal History and Foreign - George Pearson Cup) and **R Swindells** (Aerophilatelic). **R E How** of Rayleigh won the GB Postal History Class and **M Nunn** took the Postcard Trophy.

Len Stanway

### Kent

With the UK in lockdown due to the Coronavirus there has understandably been little activity on the Kent Federation front. However, we did publish our long delayed KFPS Bulletin in May thanks to our Editor, **Jenny Viggars**, who had to overcome a number of obstacles such as moving home and being a clinically based NHS worker! Thanks to **Michael R Thompson** this is available to view and download through his website "Supporting Philately in Kent" (<https://kentphilately.weebly.com/j-read-or->

[view-the-kfps-bulletins.html](http://view-the-kfps-bulletins.html)). I have kept clubs informed of the situations regarding fairs both within Kent and at national level. Clubs are beginning to send me details of their 2020/21 programmes in the hope that they will re-start in September. In addition, within Kent there have been emails circulating between collectors using club contacts or the extensive philatelic distribution list of **Michael R**

**Thompson** whereby individuals have shown an item or items (stamps, postal history or postcards) from their collections with an explanation to go with it - either as scanned written-up pages or scanned items with suitable text in an email. These have covered a variety of subjects and show how diverse our hobby can be. *Michael Dobbs*

## North West

Lostock's Chairman **Adrian Jones** will become the new vice-president of the North West Federation. He has given up the post of federation secretary. Adrian asked the NWF to arrange for



his presentation and certificate to be issued at a Lostock society meeting. This was agreed for which the society members are very grateful. Adrian has had several months in hospital after heart problems so it is good to see him back in action.

Received from *David Morley*

## Wessex

We have been holding discussions involving key committee members and feeding information to our clubs giving advice of what clubs are doing during lockdown in an attempt to encourage all to pick up on the ideas and where possible incorporate them into their own club actions. The circulating display to member clubs for 2020 has had to be halted. Our involvement in Mayflower 2020 has been deferred until 2021 and we will need to review our Competition Policy which has been disrupted for 2020. The Federation Secretary, **David Cleaver**, is to be thanked for his work in requesting club feedback and circulating the information around all participating clubs.

*Jim Wigmore*



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## National and specialist societies

### Channel Is Specialists'

We held Postal Auction No. 12 on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. The auction had sales of over £11 200 with lots from 18 vendors. There were 90 bidders. The prices realised ranged from £1 to £250. Lot numbers are shown in brackets in the following report. Several lots were of themed displays. *The Story of the Vega*, a lovely collection of original photos and postcards, sold for £170; *Ships of the Liberation* raised £120; *Jersey Lifeboats* sold for £34 and a nice display of *Jersey Harbours and Potatoes* went for £60. Early postal history sold well: a scarce Guernsey 1909 Parcel label used for Customs Duty payment (34) sold for £250. There were several lots of postcards (36) with Christmas Day cancellations all selling for a few pounds. The Occupation section had a wide range of material

including Ration Books, a Warrant Card for an ARP Warden, *Feldpost*, Bisects, Imprint blocks, various covers, Internee Mail (136) and Red Cross forms. There were several aviation covers especially BEA ones from the 1950s (172, 173). All were sold for around £10 each. A rare Guernsey variety, the 1969 4d U.M. booklet pane with missing green stem (188), SG18c, sold for £120. Virtually all the lots

Lot  
188



included images and can currently be found on our website:

[www.ciss1950.org.uk/latest-auction/](http://www.ciss1950.org.uk/latest-auction/)

The next postal auction will be held in November 2020 and will again have a wide range of postcards including an almost complete run of Sark LL cards.

Steve Wells

### Faroe Islands SC

A new two-year term of office for all members of our committee began on 1<sup>st</sup> June and, for only the second time in the society's 29-year history, a Chairman has been elected for whom English is not their first language. Scottish Gaelic is the first language of **Alasdair MacEachen**, a crofter from the Western Isles (Outer Hebrides). Professionally, Alasdair was an environmental health officer with the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western

Lot  
34





Isles Council) until his recent semi-retirement. He is one of the six Deputy Lieutenants for the Western Isles (the Lord-Lieutenant being the monarch's personal representative in the islands). He is Chair of the Islands Book Trust, a cultural organisation based in the Western Isles, and a member of the board of the St Kilda Club. Alasdair took over as Study Circle Chairman from **Roger Tozer** (Manchester) who had served for two consecutive two-year terms.

*Norman Hudson*

## Forces Postal History Society

The coronavirus continues and we don't know as yet when society meetings will re-start, perhaps in September, but lots depends on the infection rate and we, as a society, will make that decision towards the end of July / early August. We had hoped to hold our very successful War & Philately stamp and postal history fair at Banstead in August, but then took the decision to cancel it as we realised that self-distancing could not be achieved in such small confined environments. Our last meeting in March was a talk and display by **Tony Walker** on the *Royal Naval Air Service Armoured Cars in WWI*, their formation and use on the Western Front and in Russia. Tony travelled all the way down to London from Newcastle upon Tyne for the day. Because we were not going to hold meetings for some time we made our Summer 2020 issue a bumper 60-page edition. It was also available to the widest philatelic audience possible as a free download from our website. To publicise this we sent out an email to all the local and specialist societies that we could

identify. We have received a good many reports from both societies and individuals about our initiative. We may well do the same for our next, Autumn, Journal. To keep our members entertained our Publicity Secretary, **Peter Harvey**, started the 'Cover of the Day' idea on our members' only online discussion forum late in March. Members could upload a cover and explain what it is about; it could be a recent acquisition, a favourite, or one they are seeking information on or quite simply a cover plucked from the collection! It grew from strength to strength in the early weeks but has now stopped as its use reduced. However, the discussion forum can continue to be used in this way, to display, ask questions, discuss research, seek advice and support, or to share a member's own research. We promote this as a significant feature of our membership. We are very pleased to take an active part in "Summer of Stamps virtual festival" organised by Stamp Collector magazine in conjunction with ABPS and others. It is a wonderful publicity opportunity not only for us, but for the hobby in general. Our website contains meeting reports going back to 2002 - meetings for 2020 can be found on our Home Page and for earlier years just look under the "Society" tab and select "Meetings Archive"; many reports in recent years are very detailed and contain illustrations on the subject matter. There are also 34 displays available for viewing on a variety of subjects - again from the "Society" tab simply select "displays" to bring up the listing. All these are available to anyone to view.

[www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk)  
*Michael Dobbs*

## Gibraltar Study Circle

Like all other societies, our meetings have had to be suspended due to the current crisis. Provided the lockdown is lifted, the Study Circle is proposing to hold the bi-annual competition meeting over the weekend 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>

September 2020 at the Golden Lion Hotel, Northallerton, North Yorkshire. As the spring AGM meeting had to be cancelled, it has been rescheduled to coincide with the competition over this weekend, with the competition being judged on the Saturday morning, and the AGM being held at 16.30 on the 26<sup>th</sup>, following the display of *Gibraltar Airmails* by **Colin Searle**. The AGM 2021 will be held at the Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke from the 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

*Bert Burton*

## The Great Britain PS

Our awards for 2020 are: The Presidents' Cup for Research to **Colin Tabcart** for his book *British Long Distance Mail Packets 1793-1815*, The Literature Award to the late **Edward Klempka** FCA FRPSL for his numerous articles in Gibbons Stamp Monthly over the last two years, The GB Journal Cup for the best article to **Matthew Healey** for *Chasing the 2d Tyrian Plum* published in 'The GB Journal' Vol. 57/6 of November/December 2019, The Alf Kirk Rosebowl for the best display to **Ian Pinwill** for *The Post Office Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain 1875-1881* given on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020 and The Harry Dagnall 'Thank You' Award to **Maurice Buxton** for his much appreciated services in managing the website over the past twelve years. Due to physical meetings not presently being permitted, the presentations will be made at the start

of next season. We also awarded Honorary Life Membership to **Michael Sefi** LVO RDP FRPSL FRPSC, **Michael Lockton** FRPSL and **Ian Harvey** FRPSL in recognition of outstanding service to the society over many years. All are former presidents of the Society as well as undertaking various other roles,

*John Davies*

## Malaya Study

Thankfully I am neither the chairman nor honorary secretary of the group who have to do the planning for 2020-2021 within rules laid down for the safety of all of us, but I am told the programme is well advanced. In December we held our Christmas Celebration. 11 wonderful displays were given on many different and often, even to specialists, on obscure themes. Two struck me as significant. **Gordon Peters** with rare postal history material from *Johore, Kelantan and Pahang* and finally **Peter Cockburn** with *BMA* material and a large range of perfins. The New Year Theme was *Postmarks and Postal markings*. There were 8 displays. Yours truly showed *100 years of cancellations* including "BEARING" to Baring's bank from Penang in 1849, Gimlette correspondence, and a lovely Hapsburg eagle cancel from the Consulate to the Duke of Parma in the 1890s. **Susan McEwen** showed some excellent and unknown *Cancels of the Japanese Occupation* and **Nick Hervey** A post-war *Sitiawan registered postal stationery cover* to HL Barnett interned in Changi 1942-45, whose wife was rescued, but soon after was tragically drowned in the evacuation of Singapore in 1942. At the stormy February meeting **Len Stanway** gave a

superb display of *SAM (Super Automated Machine)* issues from 1997 to 2018. Back 100 years **Mike Padmore** went into the intricacies of *Surcharges of Federated Malay States* including those of Perak and some judicial overprints from Selangor and Perak. As often **Gordon Peters** ended with a display only he could produce, of the *Johore surcharges of 1903-4*.

*Michael Waugh*

## National

There are no meetings, but otherwise it is business as usual for us. We continue to provide services for our members, despite the postponement of meetings due to the Coronavirus crisis. The last time we met before lockdown, on 14<sup>th</sup> March, members were treated to an outstanding display of *Dominica* by our treasurer **Simon Richards** **FRPSL**. It had won international



*Simon Richards showing us  
the way to Dominica*

awards and showed the stamps and postal history of the island from its first issue of 1874 to the colourful issues of the 1970s. Some forgeries of the classics were included for good measure. We have continued with bi-monthly postal auctions on a postal basis each with 700 lots. The next one

closes in September, with lists being sent by email or in the mail out of Stamp Lover to over 300 members. Our journal, Stamp Lover, also appears bi-monthly but with more features than usual as we lack meeting reports. The August edition includes features on South African Wartime Censorship, the life of the poet Lord Tennyson and new issue section focusing on the recent GB Roman Britain stamps, and those for the postponed 2020 Tokyo Olympics. In addition we are updating our website regularly to inform of new development, for example a postal and online ballot to postpone the AGM from July. The exchange packet continues to function and will still welcome new members, with discounted rates for those taking Stamp Lover and auction catalogues online rather than by post. ➔ [www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps](http://www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps) or Peter Mellor 01582762284 or

[npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk](mailto:npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk)

*Mike Goodman*

## Pacific Islands Study Circle

We have over 250 members worldwide and from time to time holds auctions of members' collections of Pacific Islands material, both stamps and postal history. Bidding is restricted to members only. Items are scanned and illustrated on our website and an auction list is published. This may be downloaded from the website but those who do not have Internet access will receive a printed auction list. In May 2020 we held a very successful auction, primarily of Gilbert & Ellice Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu material from a member who had for many years worked in the islands, with supplementary material from the British Solomon Islands, Pitcairn and New Hebrides. There were 46 bidders, 40 of

whom were successful in obtaining material. Out of nearly 400 lots 90% were sold, with fierce competition for some of the earlier items. We offer membership at two subscription levels, for digital or printed copies of our quarterly magazine *Pacifica*. Members who pay for printed copies may also access the digital version, and we have an extensive list of publications, many of which are free for all members to download. Our website includes a members' forum and a Gallery featuring a wide range of Pacific material. The current *Pacifica* is freely available on [www.pisc.org.uk](http://www.pisc.org.uk)

➔ PISC Secretary at 24 Woodvale Avenue, London SE25 4AE or [secretary@pisc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@pisc.org.uk) John Ray

## The Royal

While we, along with all other philatelic societies, have been unable to conduct business 'as normal' over the past few weeks, members have been able still to keep fully involved with the society.

Regular newsletters from the President, **Richard Stock FRPSL**, have kept members informed of developments, including the welcome news that limited staffing arrangements have returned at our home at 15 Abchurch Lane in the City of London. This means that general enquiries, scanning requests, and similar are once again able to be undertaken, with the hope that the loan of books to members can soon resume. While actual meetings have not been held, members have nevertheless been able to enjoy a number of presentations using Zoom (and later able to be viewed on our website). Over 150 members on each occasion have watched 'live' the presentations given by several members including the

President, Past Presidents **Patrick Maselis RDP FRPSL** and **Frank Walton RDP FRPSL**, and Vice Presidents **Peter Cockburn FRPSL** and **Mike Roberts FRPSL**. Members were also looking forward to the President's Dinner at the Guildhall that would have taken place during London 2020 (the exhibition now postponed until 2022). The Dinner will now take place on 19<sup>th</sup> February next year. Hopefully meetings will be able to resume before too long, when there will be a process of 'catching up' with the meetings that have been missed since March. In the meantime members have continued to receive our journal, *The London Philatelist*. Richard West

## Spanish SC

The annual weekend away was cancelled, not because of Covid, but because the hotel we had been using for 30 years closed down, due to a change of management. We have not arranged another and will not think about it until next year. However, we did hold our annual postal auction in March which did very well, and are now issuing sales lists with the newsletters. Having read **Barry Stagg's** article describing how easy it is to put collections on line for society viewing, we have made a start with some of our own but it is still work in progress on [spanishstampdisplays.eu3.biz/](http://spanishstampdisplays.eu3.biz/) One good thing is that the enforced stay at home (lockdown sounds too cruel), has given us the time to start rewriting our collections, even producing new ones. We are participating in the **Allaboutstamps** Summer online Festival running from July until August, and looking forward to joining in. Edith Knight



## A Message from the Editor

When I started thinking about this issue I was worried that there would be a shortage of reports and material so I sent out a plea. I was delighted by what I received. In fact I have received more than I could use. If you sent something to me which does not appear in this issue I have not rejected it, but I have run out of room. I anticipate that the next issue will suffer from the same problem of lack of society reports so I am pleased that the unused articles are ready for me to use. I will be able to make a very early start - many thanks to all those who rose to the challenge. You have made my task much easier - though now I feel guilty.

## ABPS Handbook & Directory: updates

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

## Federations

**Kent** has a new secretary; **Nicola Davies** 07810 490112

## Specialist Societies

**The Aden & Somaliland Study Group** has affiliated to ABPS. We are pleased to welcome them and look forward to hearing more of their activities. The contact is **Neil Williams** [neil53williams@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:neil53williams@yahoo.co.uk) - the editor of their magazine. Please remove them from page 173 and add to page 66.

**The Invalid and Lone Collectors Society** (p 174) has closed and should be removed.

## Local Societies

**Amersham & District PS** (p 89) has a new secretary: **Keith Wright**

[keith\\_a\\_wright@btinternet.com](mailto:keith_a_wright@btinternet.com) 07542 163303

**Stafford & District PS** (p 157): Secretary's new email:

[paul.hill55022@gmail.com](mailto:paul.hill55022@gmail.com)

Anagram Answers from p 2

1. PRESBYTERIAN
2. ASTRONOMER
3. DESPERATION
4. THE EYES
5. GEORGE BUSH
6. THE MORSE CODE
7. DORMITORY

8. SLOT MACHINES
9. ANIMOSITY
10. ELECTION RESULTS
11. SNOOZE ALARMS
12. A DECIMAL POINT
13. THE EARTHQUAKES
14. ELEVEN PLUS TWO
15. MOTHER-IN-LAW

## Stamp Active Network

As it is impossible for children's stamp groups currently to meet, it has been decided that there will be no youth competitions staged in conjunction with the planned Autumn Stampex this year. Instead, the Stamp Active Competition, the British Youth Stamp Championship and the one page My Favourite Things will all be held as part of Spring Stampex, planned for 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at the Business Design Centre. The important dates to note for all competitions:

Entry forms (except one page) to be received by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Entries to be received by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Details of the requirements for all competitions, and the prizes to be won, are on the Stamp Active website, as well as copies of some previous entries for guidance. Despite all the current disruptions this should give everyone plenty of time to think about and prepare their entry. For further help the website also has a copy of our pamphlet "Have a Go. Show" which can be downloaded.

So let us see a great number of entries and some happy winners next Spring.

*David Rossall*

## An Idea from Bromley & Beckenham

In December 1998 **Erica Banks**, the then President of Bromley & Beckenham PS, had a fun competition for the best story told with stamps. The idea was either to write a story and illustrate it with key words replaced by stamps, or to take a quantity of stamps and then use them to concoct a story, or any combination of the two. The story could be as wild and fanciful as you like with no subject excluded, and using the collector's full flow of imagination. Either way it was entirely at the discretion of the author, as was the number of stamps, and was to be written up and read to members. The late **Yvonne Larg** was the winner, (judged by the members present), and **Bob Larg** has kindly supplied her four-page entry. Something to read in the deckchair or to inspire someone that you know – young or old.

*David Rennie*

### THE VISION



The

keeper and his



arrived back

from holiday by



and having studied the



for the best route to the Cattery, they drove off in the



which bore the



and



of Trinity House to

collect their



and was told he had caught a



and a



On the way home they were passed on the



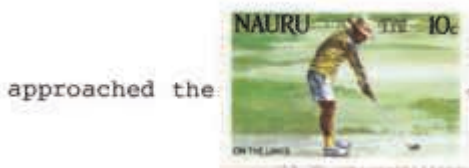
by a



and a



ran underneath. As they



approached the

course a



and his



were standing by a



and staring ahead. When

asked if there was anything wrong he raised his



he tipped his



and with his other hand pointed to the



and said he had just seen an



on the top of it.

Fearing he had had too much to drink they asked if he would like a



cup of



and he followed them home, where they

showed him the



they had found on holiday and

the signed photograph of a



and photographs of the

beautiful



they had seen.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL



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# Diary

**Caveat: Many events might be postponed or cancelled. Please check before making a journey.**

## Local and regional events by ABPS members

### August

- 1 NEWQUEX Stamp Fair: Trevisker St. Eval Community Centre, Orion Drive, **St Eval**, Near Wadebridge PL27 7TU → 01288 355918 or [www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/contact-us.php](http://www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/contact-us.php)

### September

- 11 Cockermouth Stamp Club Postal Auction: Viewing in Cockermouth prior to the sale will be available by prior appointment in a Covid-safe environment. More details and a copy of the catalogue are available from Mike Roberts ([mike@mikerobe.co.uk](mailto:mike@mikerobe.co.uk) 07885839622)

### October

- 10 South of England Stamp & Postcard Fair: 10 - 6, South of England Showground, **Ardingly** RH17 6TL → Colin Lewis 01273 734294
- 10 Morecambe & District Annual Auction: Viewing from 10, Auction starts at 1, The Memorial Hall, Poulton Square, **Morecambe** LA4 5PZ → 01524 733589 or 01931 715600 - **might convert to a Postal Auction**
- 10 Southampton PS Postal Auction: → Kevin Chard 01489 574834
- 10 Telford Stamp, Card and Coin Fair: 9.30 - 2, Belmont Hall, New Street, **Wellington, Telford** TF1 1LU → 01952405458
- 14 Dawlish Stamp Club Auction: 7pm onwards, Mayors Parlour, Manor House, **Dawlish** → [jameswigmores@talktalk.net](mailto:jameswigmores@talktalk.net) - **might convert to a Postal Auction**
- 24 CORNEX Pensilva: 10 - 4, Millennium Hall, Princess Road, **Pensilva, Liskeard** PL14 5NF → 01288 355918 or [www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/contact-us.php](http://www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/contact-us.php)
- 31 Taunton Annual Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, St James Church Hall, St James Street, **Taunton** TA1 1JS → Peter Hardie 01823 666371

### 2021 January

- 30 AEPS Annual Seminar: 9.30 - 4.30, Henry Dixon Hall, Henry Dixon Road, Rivenhall End, **Witham** CM8 3HR

### March

- 6 Launceston Spring Fair: 10 - 3, Central Methodist Hall, Castle Street **Launceston** PL15 8BA → 01288 355918
- 20-21 ABPS Stamp Weekend: Three Swans Hotel, 21 High Street, **Market Harborough** LE16 7NJ → [gerald.marriner@gmail.com](mailto:gerald.marriner@gmail.com)
- 26 to 28 Gibraltar Study Circle AGM: Red Lion Hotel, **Basingstoke**

# For the next few years

## National Exhibitions 2021

Held at Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, **London** N1 0QH unless otherwise stated

- 17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021 SPRING STAMPEX 2021
- 29<sup>th</sup> September - 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 AUTUMN STAMPEX 2021

## International Exhibitions 2020-2022

- 5<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020: Indonesia 2020, Jakarta. FIP patronage.
- 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021: IBRA 2021 Essen. FIP specialised international exhibition with FEPA recognition. Classes invited will be Traditional, Postal History, Thematic and Picture Postcard. → [www.ibra2021.de](http://www.ibra2021.de) UK deadline for entries is 23 September 2020. For entries please contact the UK commissioner Frank Walton. [Frank@FrankWalton.com](mailto:Frank@FrankWalton.com)
- August 2021: PHILNIPPON 2021, Yokohama. FIP patronage. To mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japanese postage stamp. Details awaited.
- 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021: IPEX 2021, Cape Town, South Africa. FIP patronage. UK Commissioner: Jon Aitchison [britishlocals@aol.com](mailto:britishlocals@aol.com) UK deadline for entries is 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Further information on classes, dates and IREX is at [www.capetown2021.org](http://www.capetown2021.org)
- 19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021: NOTOS 2021, Peristeri Exhibition Centre, Athens. FEPA patronage with FIP recognition. All classes invited. → [hps.gr/notos2021](http://hps.gr/notos2021) or [notos2021@hps.gr](mailto:notos2021@hps.gr) UK deadline for entries is 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021. UK commissioner Mike Roberts at [mjyr@btinternet.com](mailto:mjyr@btinternet.com) or 07724 124059
- 19<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022 The postponed LONDON 2020 International Stamp Exhibition: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, **London** N1 0QH. Specialised World Stamp Championship Exhibition with FIP patronage and FEPA recognition. 2750 frames (change-over of material after 4 days). Competitive classes will be Championship, Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Revenue, Postal Stationery, Thematic, Literature (including digital), Open, Modern, Picture Postcards and Youth. IREX will be published shortly → [www.london2020.co](http://www.london2020.co) UK Commissioner: Mike JY Roberts. Assistant Commissioner: Kim Stuckey.

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

### Web information

Further information can be found on the ABPS website [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk) on the "Exhibiting" tab.

*Simon Richards, Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee*  
[Simon@sidebell.co.uk](mailto:Simon@sidebell.co.uk)

## The Philatelic Traders' Society Launch New Online Member Directory



The Philatelic Traders' Society is delighted to announce the launch of their new members directory. The new online directory allows collectors the chance to easily search PTS

Members. It is a wonderful online tool, simple and easy to use. PTS Members can be searched by name, location or category. If you want to find a dealer who specialises in Falklands then you search Falklands and anyone who has told us they specialise in this category will pop up. You can also search by location, if you want to find dealers in Newcastle you would simply put Newcastle into the search box.

Each listing includes information about that company including address, phone number and email. We also include a brief overview of the business, what social media handles they have, eBay and any other associations they are involved with. All our members are vetted before becoming a member, so collectors know they will only be connecting with traders with integrity that they can trust.

For our members, we have made the directory user friendly so they can log in and update their details. Ensuring their collectors are kept up to date quickly and efficiently.

"We get hundreds of calls each month from collectors asking us for our member details. It was important that our directory was user friendly with a wealth of information on each member. This is an exciting new step for The PTS' as we move into a more digital offering, ensuring the philatelic community is advancing, as technology around us changes" *Suzanne Rae, PTS Chair*

Directory here:

<https://www.thepts.net/member-directory.html#!directory/map>

### **About The PTS**

The Philatelic Traders' Society was formed in 1929 for the greater good of philately and to support those passionate about the hobby. Our reputation for honesty, integrity and professionalism spans the globe and the PTS shield is instantly recognised by collectors. Those stamp traders using the shield are PTS trusted and abide by a strict code of conduct. As a collector you can be confident when buying or selling stamps with a trader displaying the shield.

*Isobel Klempka*



# ABPS General Information

## Honorary Life Vice Presidents

Brian Asquith, John Baron, Tony Bosworth, Mike Brindle, Peter Chantry, Michael Elliott, Hugh Feldman, John Hammonds, Phil Kenton, Margaret Morris, Susan Oliver, Pat Rothnie, Neil Russell, Frank Soutar, Richard West, Alan Wood.

## Executive Committee

Chairman: **Graham Winters**

[j.g.winters@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:j.g.winters@hotmail.co.uk)

Vice Chairman: **Steven Harrison**

[sharrison500@btinternet.com](mailto:sharrison500@btinternet.com)

General Secretary: **George Henshilwood**

[secretary@abps.org.uk](mailto:secretary@abps.org.uk)

Company Secretary & Treasurer and Small Grants Chairman:

**Nigel RN Gooch**

[treasurer@abps.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@abps.org.uk)

Minutes Secretary & Editor (Newsletter): **Keith S Burton**

[editor@abps.org.uk](mailto:editor@abps.org.uk)

01423 569907

Awards Committee Chair: **Yvonne Wheatley**

[awards@abps.org.uk](mailto:awards@abps.org.uk)

Communication Director: **Alan D Godfrey**

[communications@abps.org.uk](mailto:communications@abps.org.uk)

Membership: **Barry Stagg** 07858 332620

[membership@abps.org.uk](mailto:membership@abps.org.uk)

Specialist Societies Liaison: **Dane Garrod**

[dane.garrod5@btinternet.com](mailto:dane.garrod5@btinternet.com)

International & Exhibitions Chairman: **Simon Richards**

[Simon@sidebell.co.uk](mailto:Simon@sidebell.co.uk)

PR: **John A Davies**

[davies1890@btinternet.com](mailto:davies1890@btinternet.com)

Congress Committee Chairman: **Gerald Marriner**

[gerald.marriner@gmail.com](mailto:gerald.marriner@gmail.com)

Webmaster: **Maurice Buxton**

[webmaster@abps.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@abps.org.uk)

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[suziemy1960@gmail.com](mailto:suziemy1960@gmail.com)

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**ABPS, c/o RPSL, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW**

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

**Membership** (if not emailed):

**ABPS Membership, 1 Naunton Way, Cheltenham GL53 7BQ**

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

**Editor**

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

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

**SAN,**

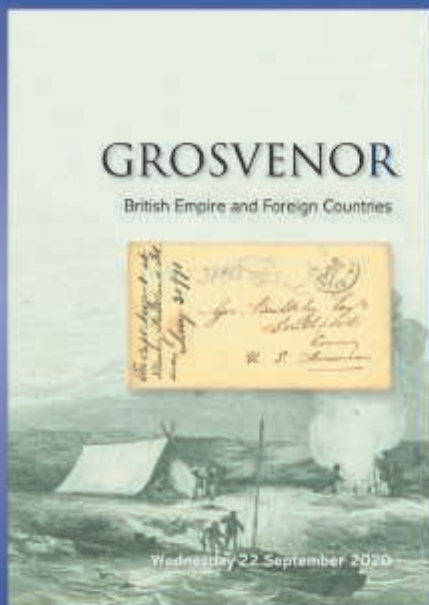
**c/o 21 The Bridle, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4TH**

ABPS News is published by the Association of British Philatelic Societies.

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

# Falkland Islands

## in London



Our British Empire & Foreign Countries auction on **22 September** features our latest specialised section of **Falkland Islands & Antarctica** including rare covers from the collections of Ralph Riddell-Carre and the late Peter Cottis.

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