

Something a Bit Different



See p. 20



See p. 25



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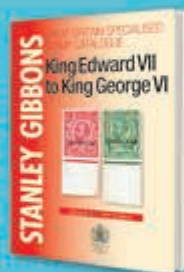
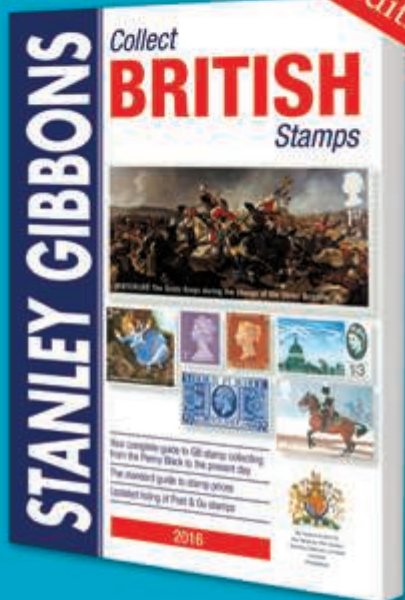
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ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

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

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Cover picture: *No stamps to be seen at Croydon; The Blackmans' Bromley parasol show; Cover from Shanghai to USA via Trans-Siberian Railway and Liverpool shown at Ferndown; The earliest Falklands letter; Gillen and Timothy Holden of Bromley receive their Penny Black prize from Jeffery Matthews, MBE after the Bromley Library display*

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

Copy dates: please send your material to the editor as soon as ready (see page 54); at present the copy deadlines are 31 December, 31 March, 31 July, 14 October. We cannot guarantee to include items in specific editions. Items may be edited for publication. Email copy is preferred. Illustrations should not be assumed to be accurate as to size or colour.

Collectively Speaking



A view from the Chair

It is difficult to believe that it is winter with temperatures into double figures but to accompany that the north of England and Scotland have

experienced terrific floods with household possessions being destroyed. My sympathies go out to all affected especially the philatelists. Events like this should make us check our insurance policies as I discovered when I realised that my steady purchasing over the past five years had significantly increased the value of my collection.

The past twelve months have been quite traumatic for a number of the Executive with health at the top of the Agenda. In the last issue I notified you of the death of Francis Kiddle, and I am slowly coming to realise how much he meant to the hobby. Thanks to my daughter driving me to and from the memorial service at the end of November I was able to join with over 160 others in celebrating his life. I recently received an email from Lynda Gaywood to say that Paul has been

back to hospital as his cancer has returned in a more virulent form and that his chemotherapy has increased to a full day every three months. This means that he will need to reduce all his involvement in the congress, and I will be talking to Gerald over this matter early in the New Year. I am still waiting for an update on the excess fluid on my brain and my inability to maintain my balance. So no driving for me for the near future.

There must be a number of collectors out there who could play a part in the future of ABPS, and if you think that you have an amount of spare time where you could make a contribution then please email me or telephone. I have received two notifications of people who are looking to assist - more about them in the next edition. We are intending to issue the new directory and speakers list early in 2016.

I trust all those who wish to enter Stampex in the Spring have their entries ready, and I wish you all success at the event.

Finally I wish to apologise to anybody awaiting a reply from me as my computer has decided that 5 years' service was all I was entitled to so I had to obtain a new laptop. If I have not replied please send a duplicate of your request and I will reply as soon as possible.

Happy New Year and good health to you all!
John Baron

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.

Editorial

I have had more contact with federations recently - a pleasant and informative trend. You might recall that a few issues back a dealer expressed concern at the number of Federation fairs that were organised close to each other physically and in time, to the extent that he was withdrawing from most of these fairs. He thought that there should be better organisation of dates by Federations, ABPS or both. The usual follow-up to such a call is for most people to ignore it and a few to say that it would be a good idea for someone to do it. Step forward the Federation officers of Kent, Essex, Surrey, Sussex and Middlesex, following an initiative from Michael Dobbs of Kent. They have compared dates and places and tried their best to arrange minimal or no overlap of their own and society fairs. The list of dates is organised by Michael Dobbs of Kent and sent out to all the other Federations, allowing planning to go ahead into the next few years without fear of too many clashes. The listing sent out includes some commercial fair dates too so as to avoid those whenever possible as well as dates of local fairs in Kent made known to Michael. The full listing is also sent to me so that the Diary at the end of each issue can be as accurate as possible. Well done all of you – I am grateful and I hope that lots of other people in your areas and on their fringes are grateful too. Can other parts of the country manage similar arrangements? The South-East has shown that it can be

done. And societies and members - don't forget that it is up to you to support these fairs when you can – don't leave that to everyone else, or the opportunity might be gone.



The Cornish Federation is a long way from the South-East and most other societies too. It also covers a long and thin county with travel often made rather difficult by weather, terrain and tourists. So they have three well-organised and spread fairs, supporting societies as well. See the diary for the details of REDEX, NEWQUEX and CORNEX for 2016. I raise the flag for you on the front cover.

At the end of each year I contact those societies who have a noteworthy anniversary during the following twelve-month period - but only if we have a current email contact. Telephoning and letter-writing are both too time-consuming and expensive. If your society does not appear at the appropriate time that might be the reason. Another reason is that the dates of founding of some societies are incorrect or missing.

It would be a great help to me and others if we could have an email contact for each society, so that important information could be sent easily, for example: notice, agenda and minutes of the AGM, availability of the News being online, places on seminars for judges, new leaflets. You could even stipulate what should/should not be sent if you wish. Please help us to contact you more efficiently.

Keith Burton

FROM THE CONGRESS COMMITTEE.

What: The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain 2016

When: 21st- 24th July 2016.

Where: The Cambridge Belfry.

At a recent meeting of the Congress Committee several exciting events for the Congress were discussed and put in preparation.

Not to give too much away, there will be excellent opportunities to visit the beautiful city. The use of St. John's and Peterhouse Colleges' facilities for the RDP Ceremonies has been arranged.

The main theme for displays and papers will be *Islands*. There will also be an entertaining look at *Excellence in Displaying to Societies*. There will be mementos and souvenirs of the Congress, including, hopefully, something to do with punts!

The Hotel is a spacious modern building a short distance from the city, but on a frequent bus route. We hope to see all our usual friends plus some new ones at the event this year. More news after the next meeting of the Committee on the 21st January.

Graham Winters FRPSL

FAREWELL TO A GENTLEMAN.

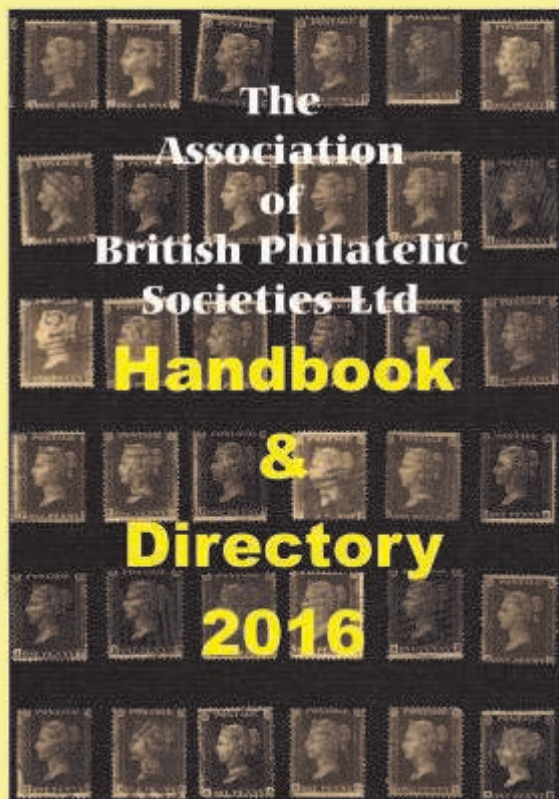
Cliff Hopes, former Chartered Accountant, ex Surrey 440 yards junior record holder, ex Royal Navy, charity worker and poppy seller, was laid to rest at Harrogate Crematorium on Friday 18th December 2015. His philatelic accomplishments included being President of the Harrogate PS, Treasurer of the YPA and Regional Representative of the Royal Philatelic Society. He signed the Roll of Distinguished Yorkshire Philatelists, and was best-known for his many displays of *Snippets of Harrogate Postal History*, his adopted town, which he loved so much. Farewell Cliff, we will miss you.

Graham Winters FRPSL (Regional Rep. Royal Philatelic Society)

Your article?

We are always pleased to consider articles by our readers. Please send your item to the Editor for consideration. 350 words maximum please, and a picture relating to the subject matter is always a help (300dpi jpg or photograph). We do not pay for publication, and any items may be edited for length or content.

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Society anniversaries

According to the date of foundation shown in the societies' information on our records, significant anniversaries include those shown below (though several societies have not let us know their foundation date, so there may be more). We contact those societies who have a noteworthy anniversary if we have a current email contact. If your society does not appear at the appropriate time that might be the reason.

Heartiest congratulations to all involved in these milestones:

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Under this title the very successful Jubilee Exhibition of Postage Stamps, which formed so attractive a display in the Museum at Leeds last May, has borne fruit in the establishment of a society for the promotion of the study of subjects connected with philately. Other objects which are in view are to provide a means of social intercourse and interchange, both of thoughts and specimens, among the amateur collectors of Leeds and neighbourhood. It is also intended to form a library of useful works of reference. This is the first provincial society to be formed; and as London was the first city in the world to form a society of this kind, Leeds is the first British town to follow the Metropolitan lead, even as the Leeds Jubilee Exhibition was actually the first in the field, and by no means the least interesting of all the exhibitions that were held. Already a good number of the most enthusiastic of the town have joined, the original membership being such members of the Exhibition Committee as intimated wish to join. Membership will be open to all who take an interest as amateurs in the study, the professional dealer-element being of course considered ineligible. The subscription is 5s., and the session is to extend from October to May in each year, philately being essentially a winter evening pursuit. A convenient and comfortable room at the Mechanics' Institute has been secured, and the meetings are held twice every month, on the first and third Saturday, at 6.30 p.m. The officials of the Philatelic Society of London have taken considerable interest in the movement, and their secretary, Mr. Douglas Garth, has with great courtesy intimated a desire to further the Leeds society's interest to the extent of his power. The officers of the society are practically the same as those of the original Exhibition Committee, and are a president, two vice-presidents, a treasurer, a librarian, and two secretaries, all of whom form the committee.

The next meeting—which is practically the opening one for philatelic business, and the regular programme of the society—is to-day (Saturday), when it is expected that one of the vice-presidents will introduce a definite subject, not yet announced, and afterwards the meeting will be open for exhibits. Members will, it is hoped, bring objects for exhibition, and (by permission of the Chairman) may introduce friends as visitors.—R. S.

Leeds Philatelic Society - 125 and still counting

The edition of Leeds Mercury published on Saturday 7th December 1890 reported that the first meeting of Leeds Philatelic Society would be held that day at 6.30 pm in the Mechanics' Institute. It was expected that 'one of the vice-presidents would introduce a subject, not yet announced, and afterwards the meeting would be open for exhibits'.

The Jubilee Exhibition of Postage Stamps held at the museum in Leeds in May that year had been very successful and the level of interest indicated that a society should be established 'for the promotion of the study of subjects connected with philately. Other objects were to provide a means of social intercourse and exchange both of thoughts and specimens among the amateur collectors of Leeds

and neighbourhood'. It is interesting that membership was confined to amateurs, which followed the principle of the Royal Philatelic Society London which, until recently, had a similar rule. The Committee consisted of a president, two vice-presidents, a treasurer, a librarian and two secretaries. Members wishing to introduce friends as visitors had first to seek the permission of the president. The subscription was five shillings for a season of meetings held twice a month on the first and third Saturday during the months of October to May. The



membership fee was quite expensive considering that it was equal to the cost of sending 60 inland letters. If local societies followed the same ratio, subscriptions would now be £32.40. If members were willing to pay subscriptions of that level today the hobby would be in a much better state in Great Britain.

Is Leeds Philatelic Society the first to have its own 'Smiler' sheet? The sheet features the logo of Leeds Philatelic Society on the label. It can be ordered in sheets of 10 or 20. → whyareuu@outlook.com or 0113 2601978.

Yvonne Wheatley

Tunbridge Wells Celebrates Its 70th Anniversary

A meeting was called in November 1945 to see what support there might be for the formation of a 'new' Philatelic Society in the town; fourteen people turned up and it was decided to proceed. I say 'new', as there was a Society existing as early as 1905, known as the Kent & Sussex Philatelic Society but unfortunately we have no more information, and do not know when it closed down. Later there was a Tunbridge Wells Pioneer Society but we have very little details of when it existed, but we understand that it ceased in mid-1945 - perhaps it had a military connection, and when the war ended its members or staff had been demobbed. We know that there was a military establishment somewhere in or near the town. The present club held its first meeting on the 28th November 1945, and at its peak had over 100 members. In 1954 the Society added the title 'Royal' to its name. However the minutes do not give any reason. King Edward VII had granted the town the title in 1909. The Society was a founder member of the Kent Federation in 1947, and with a close connection with Sussex we also affiliated to that Federation in 1954. Also in 1954, a leading member, **BTW Stevenson**, donated a collection of local postal history to the town, together with some other donations of postal history. The club's bi-annual journal has to date had 146 issues, in two volumes, unfortunately with a break between 1978 and 1996. We have hosted the GB Congress (1950) and 2 Kent Federation Rallies, the last in 1995. Among our more prominent members we include **Jack Cartwright**, who was President for a total of 16 years (in five different periods), **BTW Stevenson**, **JW Brewer**, **Henry Hupfield** (a founder member who died 2

years ago), **Dougie Read**, and three surviving life members - **W J Raven** (Hon. Treasurer for 28 years), **Frank Blicow** and **Gordon Bass** (Packet Secretary for many years). To celebrate the anniversary, we arranged a lunch on the 8th December at the local Indoor Bowls Club, where we have held a New Year lunch over the last 4 years.

Peter O'Keefe

The Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle – 40 years old

2016 is our 40th anniversary. It was in 1974 that **Dr Wolfgang Hellrigl** placed a small advert in a stamp magazine asking for anyone interested in collecting Nepal to contact him. He had two replies, from **Purnendu Gupta** in India and myself. This was the beginning of the formation of the society. By contacting some of the well-known collectors in the USA interest grew by word of mouth until by 1976 there were some 50 members and the society was put on a more formal footing. I became the secretary/treasurer, a post which I still hold today. Of the three original founder members I am the only one surviving and now also hold the position of the society President. One of the aims of the society was to encourage members to publish their studies and this has led to ten major books being published covering almost every aspect of Nepalese and Tibet collecting, some of which have received gold medals at international exhibitions. We currently have a worldwide membership of approximately 125, and the vehicle that keeps members informed of the latest information is a quarterly magazine 'Postal Himal'. This is available to members either by hard copy or by email with back copies being available on the Internet from the first one in 1976. Subscription rates vary depending upon the method of receiving the magazine. Meetings are often held in conjunction with international exhibitions, and there is an annual meeting every April at the Westpex exhibition in San Francisco.



Colin Hepper

Faroe Islands Study Circle - 25 in April 2016

The Study Circle was formed in 1991 with an initial membership of 34, all living in the UK. Despite the passage of time, 11 of those founders are still members. It was the inspiration of **Marilyn Amedro** (Edinburgh) and **Douglas Scott** (Norfolk), though, sadly, Douglas died very soon afterwards leaving Marilyn to do much of the work in nurturing the young society. **Norman Hudson** (Chester) took over the journal editor's job from Marilyn in 1995. He also became secretary in 1998 and has held both posts continually since then. Nominated by Study Circle colleagues, Norman received an ABPS Award of Merit, "for service to British philately", in 2010. Almost as long-serving, **John Smith** (Wirral) has been the Study Circle's Treasurer since 1998 and was also Chairman from 1996 to

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2000. So, the society has benefited from great stability on its organising committee.

We bring together collectors of Faroe Islands' postage stamps, postmarks, postal history and so on. Many members also have a more general interest in the Faroes - their geography, history, culture, wildlife etc - so the society also endeavours to cater for these wider interests. A reviewer, writing in one of the UK's philatelic magazines in January 2000, said that the Study Circle is "a very lively group which really enjoys its collecting and many associated activities". We now have members in 18 countries, in addition to those in the UK. A geographically widespread membership means that meetings are not often practical but, when held, have usually coincided with national philatelic events. The society's award-winning journal and newsletter, both published twice a year, are the main ways of bringing members together. Since 2012, members have had the option to receive the Study Circle's publications electronically, thus saving on printing and postage costs. The annual membership subscription ranges from £12 to £25, depending on the type of delivery (electronic or postal) and where the member lives (UK, Europe or rest of world). Norman Hudson

And Finally news of a New Club for Stamp Collectors being formed in Cockermonth, Cumbria

A new group for those interested in collecting stamps, postal history and postcards has been established in Cumbria. To be known as "The Cockermonth Stamp Club" the group will meet monthly at the Conservative Club on Main Street. One of the founding members, **Mike Roberts**, said "I was sure that there were plenty of philatelists living in the Cockermonth area but was delighted when nearly twenty philatelists contacted me to support the idea of forming a club, and most of them came to the inaugural meeting in October". Philatelists from Whitehaven, Wigton and Cleator Moor were amongst the 14 attending.

Mr Roberts said that everyone wanted future meetings to be very informal and that new collectors and those returning to the hobby after a break would be particularly encouraged to join. The meeting on 26th November was a "show and tell" presentation describing up to four items from their collections. The meeting on December 17th had to be cancelled because of the flooding.

All meetings commence at 11.30am at Cockermonth Conservative Club, Main Street, Cockermonth. More details are available from Mike Roberts (087885839622).

We look forward to their joining ABPS and sending us reports

...delivering The **Postal** Museum

Post Office Books of Remembrance donated to British Postal Museum & Archive

London, 13 November 2015 – Two books of remembrance listing all postal workers killed in the two world wars have been donated to The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) for accession into its permanent Museum Collection. The books were handed to the BPMA by The Post Office Fellowship of Remembrance at a special ceremony of remembrance held in the Dumbleton Hall Hotel near Evesham on 11th November.

The books are a significant historical record, and provide the only known complete record of post office employees who served and fell in the two world wars. They will be available to view on request at the BPMA's archive in London. The Post Office Fellowship of Remembrance was established after the Second World War to support postal workers affected by the war. The two books of remembrance were created under the terms of its establishment, and have been held by the Fellowship ever since.

Chris Taft, Head of Collections at the BPMA, said "We are honoured to be asked to permanently safeguard these books of remembrance - important records of our social and military history. The General Post Office was a massive organisation during both world wars, involved in fighting on all fronts as well as keeping lines of communications open. In this, the second year of the First World War Centenary, it is important that we remember those normal people who fell in the line of duty, either on the front line, or undertaking their duties as employees of this vital organisation."

Alan Bealby, Chairman of the Post Office Fellowship of Remembrance, stated "We are delighted that the Remembrance Books are going to a home where they can be looked after in an environment that will ensure their longevity. We are also pleased that the BPMA recognise their significance and will make them available for the general public to research and appreciate their intrinsic value."



*Chris Taft views one of the
Remembrance Books*

These unique books record the 12 830 men and women of the GPO who gave their lives in two World Wars and we are privileged to have looked after them for 58 years. They now move to the BPMA who we know will look after them and continue to maintain this invaluable legacy.” *Harry Huskisson*

The Friends enter an exciting phase

At the AGM of the Friends of the British Postal Museum & Archive, **Brian Sole**, the Chairman, presented a cheque to **Chris Taft**, the Head of Collections, for the final instalment of a donation of £5000. This will be used to buy a secure display cabinet for the new Postal Museum, due to open at Calthorpe House in 2017.

With the pending opening of the museum, the BPMA has been renamed The Postal Museum. With this in mind, Friends at the AGM voted to change the name of the organisation to the Friends of The Postal Museum.

Activities organised by the Friends in 2015 were extremely well supported and those proposed for 2016 are already well booked, especially a return visit to Cartor, the arm of International Security Printers based near Paris. The other planned visits include the College of Arms, Apsley House and a return to the London Transport Museum to see the poster collection.

After the AGM, BPMA staff gave an excellent presentation about the development plans for the new museum and especially the spectacular creative design concept for the Mail Rail experience.

Then **Julian Stray** presented his research on “*The Post Office in 1890*”. This is the story that contrasts the celebration of 50 years of the Penny Post with the substantial staff unrest over pay and conditions at that time.

These are exciting times both for all involved with The Postal Museum and Mail Rail, and for the Friends in supporting and encouraging this major project. For details about becoming a Friend go to www.postalheritage.org.uk/page/friends or write to the Friends of the Postal Museum, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL.

Brian Livingstone Trustee FTPM

More information, and on-line previews of exhibitions, on postalheritage.org.uk

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On the Club circuit

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

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

Aberdeen

Our last meeting of 2015 was a Ladies' Night. Four members displayed with **Jean Robson** opening with *Rowland Hill* and *Stamps on stamps*, followed by **Linda Barron** with *Belgium* and **Chris Jefferies** showing *Nursery Rhymes* and *Hans Christian Anderson*. **Connie**



Chris Jefferies, Linda Barron, Colin Kirkpatrick and Jean Robson

Kilpatrick was to be fourth but could not come so her husband **Colin** showed her *Geology* display. He had thought of wearing "a wee black dress" but luckily we and he were spared.

Sheila Den

Amersham & District

During the last quarter of 2015 three of our invited speakers were members.

Ed Hall gave us an absorbing display of postal history from the ever topical *Sinai and Gaza*, when he managed to summarise the complicated morass of the region's politics. Two weeks later **Rob May** delivered a smooth and articulate presentation of *Cameroons from 1890*. High Wycombe PS visited us in November with a team of four.

The secretary **Ken Richardson** displayed *A Variety of foreign stamps* while **Stuart Catchpole** exhibited *A Selection of Postage Dues*. **Alan Druce** presented a most impressive range of *British Postal History dating from 1586 to 1878*. Later, because of a cancellation, into the breach stepped our member **Peter Coe** who gave us a light and entertaining display of *American Postal Stationery*, some of which was recognisable to those of us with relatives in USA after WWII. We closed the calendar year with a very successful auction attended by 53 members and visitors. 52% of the 519

lots were bought to achieve a record sales figure. *Jim Drummond*

Basildon

For Ladies' Night **Vivien Holloway** presented the first round as a *Did You Know...?* miscellany of strange facts and tales from around the British Isles with a mixture of stamps, postcards and ephemera. **Anne Stanway** is just starting a collection of *Essex Churches on postcard* and displayed her first section, featuring St Martin de Tours Church, Basildon. The evening was completed by **Claude Crowder** with a display of *New Zealand 1997-2000*. Presentation Packs & More - only two members brought material for this members' display. **Len Stanway** started by displaying *First Day Covers & Presentation Packs of Great Britain from 1936 to 1970*. **Claude Crowder** then displayed the *Miniature sheets of Australia and New Zealand*. Finally, **Len Stanway** returned with *Singapore issues of the first half of 2006*, including covers, packs, hongbaos, MyStamp sheets, etc. In early December **Geoff Howard** began a very varied evening by looking at the backs of stamps.



Geoff Howard

Starting with prayers from Portugal, he took us through an amazing variety of material from maps and banknotes from Latvia to Russian currency stamps and Gibraltar regimental histories. Then he covered reuse of envelopes and recycling of banknotes,

calendars, maps, newspapers, etc as envelopes, postcards or wrappers. The third section gave us the tale of Richard Sharp, a publican and grocer who decorated the whole of the Rising Sun pub in Birsted, Sussex with stamps on every surface. Examples of early postcards decorated with (mostly) Chinese stamps led on to the question, "what do you do with your surplus stamps?" and Geoff's revival of the craft of creating artwork from stamps.

Len Stanway via Basildon Bulletin

Bexley

Our 2015 season began with an unusual thematic display: **Malcolm Roberts** presented a wide-ranging collection on *Lighthouses on stamps*, starting from the oldest known example in the world (Alexandria, Egypt; toppled over in 1300 AD after an earthquake). Two weeks later, in a change from the programme, **John Sinfield** stepped in for **Brian Day** to display items from *Gibraltar*. In early November, **Ray**



Ray Downing

Downing charted the evolution of postal mechanisation, which started in 1857 with the first automatic cancelling machines. Across the Channel postcodes had already been in use for

70 years or so, being used to indicate the French départements. A piece from 1797 was shown. In the UK, the first offices to employ coding machinery using the national postcodes were Luton and Norwich. At the next meeting, three members of Malling Stamp Club displayed aspects of philately old and new. Old came from **Lindy Bosworth**, who showed items from her collection of *Czech air mails*. Then **Margaret Emerson** explained her interest in *UK Post & Go stamps* (because the first pictorial issues of the stamps featured birds - which she collects). She displayed several samples with no value that had successfully made their way through the post. **Tony Bosworth** rounded off with classic *Falklands*. The first stamps were from 1878. Among the highlights were three Madame Joseph forgeries. Finally, just before Christmas, president **Judith French** led the traditional festive celebrations with samples from her own collection. → Adrian Smith, 01322 559 210, or adethebeak@yahoo.co.uk

Will Dalrymple

Bromley and Beckenham

In November **Mike Blackman** brought us *Umbrellas and Parasols*. This was its first outing and ranged through stamps, postcards, trade cards, postmarks and meter-franks. Mike gave a brief resumé from the use of

large protective tropical leaves, via simple flat boards, to modern spring-loaded items, and with his wife Hilary showed some intricately designed parasols from the far-east and south-east Asia. **Jeffery Matthews, MBE** then gave a brief account of his involvement in the *Matthews Palette*, a selection of colours used for the GB definitive Machin stamps, both the original scheme and the subsequent additions. At the next meeting **Len Barnes** showed us *Aspects of French Colonial Aviation*. He was particularly interested in those Colonies which had remained true to France: Martinique, Guadeloupe, Réunion, New Caledonia, St Pierre and Miquelon but also included planes, companies, pilots, routes and the competition from other countries. Early in December Bexley,



Tom Hiskey shows V for Victory

ABPS accredited judges

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

Croydon, Lewisham and Sidcup societies joined us. Each brought three members to put up one-frame displays. This is the fifth time we have hosted this, providing hot refreshments, raffle and bourse tables. **Tony Hiskey** won the popular vote and received a Certificate and bottle of “bubbly” shown in our picture in suitable pose for his *V for Victory* display. Our last meeting in 2015 was our President’s Evening when **Ian Reed** showed his *St Lucia*. He showed a range of picture postcards with views and people; also the *St Lucia* parrot now increasing in numbers again. Amongst the covers were registered items and postal stationery, “Missent to *St Lucia*” handstamps etc. → David on 020 87 78 7001 or Chris on 020 8402 1263 or www.beckenham.net/leisure.asp

David Rennie

Caledonian

At our recent meeting our three nonagenarian members were all present. All are regular attenders, health and weather permitting, and all take an active interest in Society affairs.

Alexander Kerr

Cambridge

Our first November meeting was the first part of our annual competitions. The judges were **Richard Page** and **John Hossack** from Leighton Buzzard. Winners were: Postal History - **David Stirrups** with *Spanish Mail transiting through Gibraltar to and from Malta and the Philippines*; Great Britain - **Peter Morton** with *Queen Victoria Imperforate Plates of the 2d Blue*; Cinderella - **Simon Kelly** - *George VI*

Cinderella Stamps 1937-1952. At our next session **Peter Pugh** talked about *Another Bloody Railway: - Part 1*. This covered a detailed display of British mail emanating from Hong Kong via Siberia, and European mail from the far east all brought by the British postal system via Siberia. We also saw the type of engines and rolling stock used at different times to bring the mail. At our Christmas Party we enjoyed a pleasant social evening, combined with a few philatelic quizzes and seasonal stamp displays. →

info@cambridgephilatelicociety.co.uk

Peter Morton

Chelmsford

In November our first visitor, **Stuart Henderson**, showed us part of his collection of *Poster Stamps and other Cinderella Items*. This included the publicity labels issued for each Philatelic Congress of Great Britain from 1911 to the 1940s, full colour copies of posters advertising holiday destinations in the UK supplied with the Children’s Newspaper, Belgian poster stamps warning of dangers at work, Swiss Army stamps, and much else. The following evening fourteen members and guests had dinner at a local hostelry to celebrate the 96th anniversary of the founding of the Society. Later **Derek Connell** brought along a comprehensive selection of the many *souvenirs issued for philatelic exhibitions held in London since 1890*. He started with 1950 to 2015 Europhilex and then went back to the first exhibition in 1890. To celebrate 50 years of penny postage at the Guildhall

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Warwick & Warwick



Derek Connell enjoying his display

and the South Kensington Museum, special postcards and envelopes were issued with all sorts of souvenir postmarks. Recently we were asked to bring items with a Christmas theme. We saw *Christmas cards from Hong Kong, Norway and posted in advance in Britain, Charity seals from Rhodesia and Norway, Christmas stamps from the Channel Isles, Switzerland and the NAAFI in Egypt, GB Christmas air letter sheets*, and much more. **Carl Stott** spelt out his greetings with:- *Malta maritime mail to Corfu - Essex postmarks - Royal posts - Romford postmarks - Yemen airletters - Corfu - Hong Kong Railway postmarks - Iraq airmail - Singapore first flight - Tristan da Cunha - Mevagissey, Cornwall - Amoy - Skeleton postmarks.*

→ 01245420196 or
john@jr226.plus.com John Rawlins

Croydon

One of our October evenings was divided into 2 displays relating to *Guernsey*. Firstly, **Brian Sole** displayed a small section of his major display which he has collected since

1969. The display was an extremely attractive array, mainly of stamps, from the period when Guernsey was occupied from 1940-45. The display included postcards, booklets and air-mails, with stamp designed by **Robin Ollington**, who was contributing the second part. Robin spent 16 years providing designs promoting the Channel Island's tourism, agriculture and philately with each department discussing design and influencing the choices, protocol, printing and approval. For our second October session **Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins** gave his display on *Russia*. He focussed on the Russian postal worker and his work. Postmen were shown in



Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins

a variety of uniforms or none if they were in isolated areas. The evening was a fascinating insight into the Russian postal service. In November **Philip Mackey** gave his presentation of *France: The Golden Years*. The first half covered the stamps from 1849 to 1876. The display was carefully written up with many examples of essays, proofs and trials being shown. The

second half featured postal history used for maritime and internal use. Philip introduced the term 'Janus' Philately – mail into France with foreign stamps such as from America and mail sent the other way with French stamps used. There was a French postmark on a British stamp as the letter had been posted from Guernsey. *Graham Harker*

Dundee and District

The latter part of the year saw a number of guest displays with the usual wide variance in topics. In October husband and wife team **Jean** and **Crawford Alexander** of the G.B. PS displayed respectively *Surprises in GB* and *Postcards of Steamers* including those of the River Tay. In November **Jimmy Crawford** of Bearsden & District PS gave two widely differing displays – *Golf Courses* and *A collection of covers related to the Glasgow Penny Post issued between 1829 and 1840*. The month ended with



Tony Cochrane, Paul Stephens and Ian Smith from Perth

a visit by members of Perth PS when **Ian Smith** displayed *Ceylon 'Chalons'*, **Tony Cochrane** displayed *postcards mainly from Queen Victoria period related to Gunboats and Sloops* from a variety of countries and **Paul Stephens** provided a display of *Sudan Air Mail from 1931-35*. The year ended with the familiar one page competition and members' displays of recent acquisitions. The competition was won by **Sandy Sloss** with his entry of an *1845 cover from Dalmellington to Ayr* which Sandy traced back to have family connections. *Colin Campbell*

Enfield

In September we were asked to bring in items with the theme of *The Continents: Asia* with seven meeting the challenge to show a very diverse and interesting range of material. For the next meeting we had a highly entertaining display from **Lorraine Maguire** *Lest we Forget* which focussed on her New Zealand family's contributions in WWI. The season continued with members displaying items under the title *½d Only* and it was fascinating to see the wealth of material our members were able to extract from their collections. In November **Bill Trower** came and showed us his *Flightpath "Pacific"*, a highly informative and impressive display which detailed the emergence

Your society information?

Please let the ABPS Secretary and editor of the Handbook & Directory know of any changes to your society details, including the information on the ABPS website about your society. Contact details are on p.54. Please tell your Federation Secretary too.

of the mail-carrying services across the Pacific, with emphasis on PanAm. For the Spring season we have organised a **Stamp Fair** on 8th April, 2016 at St Paul's Centre, Church St, Enfield Town, EN2 6AR (14/15 dealers) and decided on a change to usual weekend fair dates – it's on a Friday (also Enfield Town's Market Day) where collectors (and partners/friends?) can also take advantage of Enfield's impressive adjacent shopping centre. →

01992 638514 teofil@btinternet.com

Luigi Wiechula

Ferndown & West Moors

Historians of any description, let alone Railway buffs were in for a feast – a treasure trove! -when **Peter Pugh** displayed his *British Mail via the Trans-Siberian Railway*, making insightful references to maps of Hong Kong and China. Considering that he had only begun his collection some five years previously, the display was all the more astounding. Our journey began in Vladivostok in May 1891 with the future Nicholas II digging the first sod for the railway track, which was to be built in 6 sections....the final being completed in 1916. Key to the development was Russia's 1898 agreement with China. Building in Siberia was highly problematic with the track having to be laid across swamps, vast forests, rivers and permafrost areas with sparse populations. The completed system allowed for 26 days travel time - Vladivostok to Charing Cross - while the Suez route took 6 weeks. With links between ports via steamers, the new railway linked the world. The display drew together a wealth of philatelic

material – covers, stamps and correspondence, postmarks and censor marks, photos and images of construction workers, railroad, stations and a fine range of locos. Maps with routes, time-tables, icebreakers and shipping added to the story. The second half of the presentation featured the period 1918-1940. Here was a study of the routes then operating, with the wartime delays and diversions. Despite the chaos brought about by conflict, efficiency frequently



Registered cover to Stockholm

prevailed and mails often managed to reach destinations, sometimes using considerable diversions. Main routes included the Holyhead link to Ireland, Liverpool through to New York and Boston, Persia via Hong Kong, the Berlin to Bagdad and the Russia – Finland to Stockholm routes to name but a few.

Paul Barry

Harrogate

One of the most important aspects of philately is the way that it can be used to portray events in both a historical and social way. Our previous display had been about the social life of a

highly placed Victorian family and this week we were plunged into the horrors of the *Biafran Independence War*, just over 40 years ago and still strong in the memory of many. **Tony Plombe** from Bingley showed a full grasp of the War and of his material which illustrated its progress through the stamp issues, covers and correspondence, most of it rare or unique. Biafra responded to Nigeria's invasion by launching its own counter-invasion coming within a few miles of the Nigerian capital Lagos before wavering. The Biafrans captured large quantities of currency and stamps from Benin. These stamps including those collected from Post Offices within Biafra were overprinted to give the first Biafran issue. Biafra's first official issue on the 'First Anniversary of Independence' was designed by a Biafran artist and printed in Lisbon, depicting the macabre realities of the War. Both this and the second issue on the 'Second Anniversary' were poorly printed so we saw examples of several errors of colour and position. Tony illustrated the often complex and

clandestine ways that mail was brought into and out of Biafra. Charity stamps and labels were issued to try and raise money to fight both the War and, increasingly, the famine for which this War is often remembered. Towards the end of Tony's display we saw letters describing the horrors that some had gone through. No war can have a happy ending but Tony did stress the lack of reprisals and spirit of reconciliation within Nigeria which felt a sense of shame about the War. Many years later the leader of the Biafrans was buried with full honours in Nigeria and treated as a hero. *Brian Coop*

Huntingdonshire

John Hawkes was our guest speaker in October showing *King George VI Fiji*. He began with Coronation covers from 17th May 1937. Examples of Registered and Airmail letters were followed by Civil Censorship mail used in 1944. In November **Lorraine Maguire** displayed *Steam Railways of New Zealand*. In the late 1800s the railways first came to North Island. In 1908 the main trunk



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line from Auckland to Wellington was built. We were shown examples of various TPO marks along with Newspaper stamps. The worst railway disaster happened on the 24th December 1953. The Whangachui river bridge collapsed beneath a Wellington to Auckland express. The collapse of the Tephra dam destroyed one of the bridge piers at Tangiwia only minutes before the train reached the bridge. Lorraine showed postcards of various places on the South Island which were served by the railway. For the society's last meeting of 2015 members were asked to display anything to accompany mince pies.

David Birkert

Kendal & District

Our September meeting was a recent acquisitions session. Members showed a diverse range of materials including stamps, covers and philatelic books. In October, the Preston and District PS visited us. It was interesting to see the wide range of collecting interests of our visitors. In November, **Alan Kelsall** of the Bolton le Sands PS gave a

presentation which related to *Mail addressed to destinations in France or passing through France*. His earliest exhibit was an item mailed in the late 17th century. Alan did not collect mail posted after 9th October 1874. On this date, the Treaty of Bern, which created the General Postal Union, was signed. Four years later, the organisation was renamed the Universal Postal Union. Sadly, the floods, which hit various parts of Cumbria in the early part of December, caused our Christmas meeting to be cancelled. A few days earlier, flood water had poured into the premises. Our frames were luckily positioned well above the highest level of flood water. Some of our books and magazines were not so fortunate. Those stored on the lower levels of the cupboard were so badly damaged that they had to be thrown away. New premises are currently being sought and, hopefully, our January 2016 meeting can be held as planned.

Phil Gerrard

Kingston & District

On 16th October members were invited

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to display European items from their collections. This meeting was well attended with some interesting material seen. During November we had two guest speakers. **Geoff Richardson** displayed, to a good number of members, *the Austrian Day of the Stamp series* followed by *Austrian Scouting*. Both had a thematic angle with much interesting and seldom seen material. The title of the meeting on 20th November was *Aspects of Postal Stationery* and was, again, well attended by members. **Roger Morrell** gave an excellent display and explanation of some of the origins and peculiarities of the subject in a relaxed manner. We did see some bias toward Austro-Hungary, Roger's other philatelic love. Our meeting on 4th December was a members' meeting themed around *the letter P* which featured a few good displays. On 18th December the Society held its annual social event. Visiting speaker, **Keith Whitehouse**, diverted from the philately of Fulham & Hammersmith to give an interesting talk about *the 26th Middlesex Cyclist*



*Keith Whitehouse
with a Volunteer's*

Volunteers, with the aid of slides and artifacts. Founded in the late 19th century and established firmly during WWI, this volunteer group was based in Fulham. Our Secretary produced a non-philatelic quiz, and a standing display on *Guernsey in WWII*. The other diversion was a one page competition which was won by **Peter Wood**. → Brian Sole FRPSL 01932 220677 or brian.sole@btinternet.com
Chris Oliver

Launceston

In November our visitors were from the Taw & Torridge Club. **Peter Harris** introduced his team members and their specialities: **Beryl Lloyd** - *Gibraltar and Malta*, **Lee Styles** - *Czechoslovakia*, and **Andrew Austin** - *National Parks*. Finally, Peter's own presentation of his personal collection of *Photographic Reminiscences and their look-alike stamp issues*. The unique difference between this and most collections of travel photos is the direct link between each of Peter's photographs and the corresponding stamps featuring the same place of interest or landmark. Peter's display ranges from a magnificent ancient tree in Sanaa in the Yemen to the Giant Kauri Tree, Tane Mahuta, North Island, New Zealand. At our December meeting a warm welcome was

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extended to new member **Simon Dixon**. The evening's Speaker was Club member **Roger Winn** from St Breward. Roger introduced his collection of *Postcards from WWI* with the familiar comment that it all started in his early teens when an uncle, knowing of his interest in stamps, passed on some 30 postcards sent by family members to each other in the run-up to and the first half of the war. Roger pointed out that families (and sweethearts) would often use word codes to conceal personal messages in their correspondence or by placing single letters in the corners of a card which had a secret meaning. Even the positioning of the postage stamp could convey a special meaning. As Roger said although the origins of his

collection were family based it has developed into a much wider reflection of the social history of that generation.

→ Evelyn Sandercock 01566 772846

Howard Hamblin

Leamington & Warwick

60 years alive!: 10 years after our celebration of still going strong after 50 years, we celebrated 60 years alive and kicking. Appropriately the meeting was built round members' displays on the theme of *Diamonds and Jubilee*.

Nick Bridgwater showed Queen Victoria's jubilee charity labels, diamond shaped stamps from Lithuania and Tuva, and some humorous postcards. **Ray Kear** had 1955 issues from the UK and Spain. **Steve Bence** showed the so-called "jubilee" issue of

Captions for pages 28 and 29

1. Mike Blackman shows Umbrellas and Parasols at Bromley
2. Robin Ollington, designer of many Guernsey stamps
3. Philip Mackey displays on France...
4. and Len Barnes likes French Colonial Airmails
5. Margaret Emerson with Tony and Lindy Bosworth at Bexley
6. Jean Alexander at Dundee
7. David Richards receives the CPF Cup from Paula Cant
8. Peter Wood receives his prize from Chris Oliver at Kingston
9. Brian Sole mentally on Guernsey, physically he was at Croydon
10. Leamington & Warwick show both the rare entire and bisected Diamond Jubilee Cake in their collage.
11. Peter Harris, Beryl Lloyd and Lee Styles from Taw and Torridge at Launceston
12. Lars Jorgenson with a winning smile at the South African Collectors' meeting
13. Roger Morrell at Kingston
14. Malcolm Fenning at The Royal
15. A miscellany of South African viewing at Royal Leamington Spa
16. Yamil Kouri at The Royal
17. Elsie Miller with Caledonian's three nonagenarians Jack Kilpatrick, Bill Neithercut and Bill Colley
18. Italy and Colonies Group at Lana Stamp and Postcard Fair
19. Colin Baker receives the Tony Chilton Competition Salver from Jan Kosniowski at the Postal Stationery Society meeting at the Royal.

1897, all with perfins. **Ken Flint**, a guest from the Coventry Stamp and Postcard Club, brought a very nice full set of the Canada Queen Victoria Jubilee set. **George Dunbar** showed Leamington postal history from 1955 and **Colin Fountain** had a display of stamps from Sierra Leone bearing their national motto "Land of Iron and Diamonds". The second half brought a surprise, with **Andrea Filipiuk's** almost complete display of the Society's programme cards right from its first season! At the end of the meeting, **David Botterill** from the Coventry Stamp and Postcard Club, who came to celebrate the jubilee, was made an Honorary Life Member as he is the earliest still living current/former member of our Society, and although now living in Coventry still manages to come to some of our meetings every year. During the teabreak, the Society's jubilee cake was happily bisected.

→ 01926-423685 or sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps

John Gledhill

Maidstone & Mid Kent

September started with **Dr Garth Taylor's** display covering the *Czech Forces in France between 1939 and 1945* which included Postal History, Postcards, Seals and Printed Labels. Then **Michael Farrant FRPSL** displayed *Zanzibar Postal History*, which covered the initial period of the German Postal Agency 1890/91 before covering Zanzibar's own Postal History up to 1963. October saw **Maggie Thompson FRPSL** showing the French period of ownership between 1935 and 1948 before transferring back

to German ownership. **Marcus-Sherwood Jenkins** showed us a remarkable display covering the Russian Postal Worker and his work from 1750 to date. This was a fascinating evening by one of our own members and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. November started off with our Bi-Annual Auction and was followed by **Mike Roberts** on *The Pitiful and Wasted Life of a Stampaholic*. Although Mike's talk made fun of himself the material he showed was remarkable. In December **John Rawlings** showed *Germany - The War Years 1939-1945* which reflected on life in Germany through the first part of the war when life was reasonable to the latter part when life was not so good. This was a very interesting display which gave a very good understanding of German social history in this period. Our final meeting of 2015 was our President's Evening and **Tony Bosworth** had invited **Geoff Richardson** along to display *Austria*. The first half concentrated on the TPOs to Trieste and covered the 30 different Post Offices there. The second half covered The Day of the Stamp which showed the annual issues and included covers, shades and varieties. Our monthly Morning Meetings started off in September with **Bill Kemm's** display of *British PO's in Latin America*. This was followed by **Paul Cahill** showing *French Colonies Airmails* in October followed in November with **Ian Marshall's** display of *early GB miscellany*. Finally in December one of our members, **Godfrey Prior**, gave a fascinating display on *The Royal British Legion*. Brian Stonestreet

Mid Sussex PS

We opened the season with a very varied display of *GB Revenues & Cinderellas* presented by **Lionel Jones**. Next came **Patrick Reid** and **Alwyd Howe** visiting us from Wokingham PS showing *Centenary Commemoration Issues* and *Tasmania* respectively. In October **Lesley Marley** entertained us with her Gold Medal exhibit, *Whale's Tale* followed by **Peter Pugh's** *Another Bloody Railway*, a detailed account of the Trans-Siberian Railway between 1903 and 1917. He's promised to return from Rugby next season to give us the second half of the display. Four members from Eastbourne & SDPS joined us for our next meeting, providing an excellent variety including *George VI*, *Belgium railway stamps*, *Irish Postal History* and *New Zealand Health issues*. Two weeks later **Michael Farrant** extended our philatelic knowledge with an engrossing display of *German East Africa to 1914*. Our President, **Peter Cockburn**, rounded off 2015 with a very personal display of *postcards*, *philatelic items* and *anecdotes from his time working in Borneo*, concluding by showing his 'other' collection, *silver spoons!* Jim Etherington

Newport & Gwent

The club has had a varied and successful programme for the first half of its 2015/6 season that has included the popular visits to Barry and from Cardiff and Bridgend societies. **Mike Breward** from Bristol also entertained us with an evening on *Helicopters*, a subject on which he was well-versed

having been in the industry for many years. The Christmas social evening provided something different. Last December, members had been given all of the materials to design a Christmas postcard. This year it was their opportunity to exercise their artistic skills on designing a Christmas stamp before being allowed to start on the food. **Molly Lucas** was asked to pick her favourite design and chose the one produced by **Martyn Britton**, to whom Molly presented the prize.



Molly Lucas and Martyn Britton

The club also remains an enthusiastic member of the South Wales Federation and supported it by taking a table at the Federation Autumn Fair hosted this year by the Barry society.

→ newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com/
John Perry

Oxford

In October the energetic **David Rye** presented *Costumes on Stamps*. In November members showed off their new acquisitions, including *Albania*, *Nicaragua*, *Russia*, *French Post Office at Zanzibar*, and *Nigeria and NZ covers to Joan the Wad*. **Simon Richards**



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proudly showed off his medal acquisitions from Germany exhibitions at Gotha and a weighty, impressive Silver [only Gold, Silver and Bronze awarded] medal from Sindelfingen. A meeting on *Transport* gave a chance for members to show off *bicycles, airships, trams, trains, animal transport, TPOs, ships, paquebot, planes, river boats and a range of motor vehicles* from across the globe. In December, the society had a convivial Christmas Lunch at a new venue in Oxford, complete with Chairman's speech and quiz. Our last meeting of 2015 was devoted to the letter G, and members showed off *Germany, Gibraltar, British PO abroad letters to Genoa, Greece, Ghana, GB Graphite stamps of 1957-60, and King Ghazi of Iraq*, amongst many excellent displays, even *Guineaworm and God!* *Simon Heap*

Redditch PS

In October we held a successful stamp fair at Alcester in Warwickshire. The event also hosted the Midland Philatelic Federation Autumn Convention and individual competitions. In addition a number of specialist societies held meetings at the event: the Scandinavia Philatelic Society, the Midland (GB) Postal History Society and the Great Britain Philatelic Society, all attracting good attendances. The Federation's sixteen-sheet individual competition comprised twenty entries across four classes. As usual the entries were judged from scans or photocopies and all twenty entries were on display at the fair. The judges were Prof **David Stirrups** of

Cambridge and **John Davies** of Banbury and the winning entries were: *St Vincent 1861-81 Perkins Bacon Printings* - **Terry Harrison** of Solihull PS (Traditional Class – Gold Medal), *South Atlantic Air Mail – LATI* – **John Smith** of Solihull PS & *Compagnie Generale Aeropostale in Chile* – **Robin Jarman** of Redditch PS (Aerophilately Class – Silver Gilt Medals, Joint Winners), *Midland Red – Parcels & Newspapers by Bus* – **Alan Godfrey** of Redditch PS (Open Class – Gold Medal), *Antipodean Trials & Tribulations* – **Clive Jones** of Solihull PS (Postal History Class – Gold Medal & Best in Show).

Each visitor was given a free credit-card sized magnifier on entry and provided with the opportunity to buy the special postcard, launched at the fair, showing “Early Postmarks of Alcester & District”.

Society Chairman, **Alan Godfrey** said



Viewing the entries

“We set out to give our visitors not just the chance to buy a few stamps, but to enjoy a philatelic experience: to view the competitions, enjoy a drink and a meal and meet other collectors, as well

as having the opportunity to browse through the stock of the more than twenty carefully selected stamp, aerophilately, postal history and postcard dealers. I believe we achieved our objective.”

→ redditch-philatelic.org.uk or 01789 765385.

Alan Godfrey

Royal Tunbridge Wells

Nigel Gooch, one of our members, entertained us with an excellent display of *Persia*, a country he has collected since schooldays. He has a vast knowledge of their mail system. We saw stamps and covers, overprints and surcharges, proofs and labels. **Richard Hart** showed his *World Railways* - a mixture of World stamps, covers, photos and newspaper cuttings plus some interesting anecdotes. Later we had two other members giving a display. **Robin Morton** showed *Covers from Leith – the Port of Edinburgh* with a selection of postal markings and **Lynton Wright** showed *WWI Naval Postal History*. Our morning meetings have included two excellent displays, the *2d Blue* by **Tony Davis** and *Croatia* by **Tony Bosworth**.

From *Kent Federation Newsletter*

Sheffield

At our last two meetings of 2015 we were treated to displays from **Joseph Iredale** of Cavendish Auctions on the *Spanish American War* where he detailed the postmarks of the camps and the military actions during 1898, and by **Neil Ritchie** in his Presidential Display of *the Canadian Expeditionary Force WWI*. Neil said “I only started collecting this fascinating period of



Joseph Iredale and Neil Ritchie

history a year ago and have found it to be an absorbing and emotionally moving subject, very pertinent during this the 100th anniversary of the Military action undertaken by the Canadians”. The members agreed with him and had an enjoyable informative evening hearing about recruitment, crossing the Atlantic, UK training, action in France and the Allied Intervention into Russia in 1919, together with personal details of a few of the men who served in the Force.

Steve Cook

Solihull

Tony Bosworth gave a comprehensive presentation entitled *Anti-Communism in Europe 1919 – 1945*. The accompanying display contained philatelic material from many countries together with contemporary propaganda cards and posters with graphic images of life under Communist rule. An exhibition ‘The Soviet Paradise’ ran from May 8 to June 21, 1942 in the Lustgarten in Berlin. Its goal was to show “poverty, misery, depravity and need” in the Soviet Union and to justify the war against that country. A series of cards was issued showing the appalling living



known subject. → nzstamps.org.uk/sdps
Richard Beith

Swale

Our speaker, **Joseph Cottrial** from Warwick & Warwick Auctioneers, gave us a tremendous Power Point Presentation, entitled *A View From The Rostrum* which included philatelic and other items sold over a number of years. We saw many Cape of Good Hope triangulars and a One Penny milky blur error triangle, which realised £28 000. Then he showed postcards - one being a second class passengers' breakfast menu from the Titanic which sold for £9000 - and a selection of coins and medals. His professional knowledge kept members spell bound as he related stories about other articles sent for auction. Later our old friends from Dartford **Frank and Pat Parsons** entertained us again. Frank started with a stamp display of the *Middle East - Palestine* at the end of WWI until the British pulled out in 1948, and the reign of King Farouk in Egypt up to 1953 when he was deposed. Pat then displayed *Postal History around the 1800s* and a *Postcard History of roads and places in Faversham*, ending with several items from other Kent villages. For our last meeting of the season, we held our AGM at Phoenix House. All Officers were re-elected with the exception of the position of Secretary of the Postcard Section, which remains vacant. There are however two new Committee members, **Mike Wilkins** and Mrs **Karen Blunden**, with Ms **Jocelyn Watson** standing down. Two competitions were well supported, with

conditions within the Soviet Union. Other posters and cards carried grotesque illustrations with parody and satire aimed at mobilising public opinion against Communism and the Communists. This together with the propaganda aimed at other 'minority' groups was used by the Nazi party to rally the German people behind the war effort. The power of the Nazi propaganda machine came over very clearly in Tony's presentation.

John Barker

Stirling & District

The first half of the season passed quickly with many enjoyable evenings. In October we were entertained and informed by a display of *Croatia 1941-1945* from **Tony Bosworth FRPSL** who, with his wife **Lindy Bosworth FRPSL**, had been visiting the Dundee Residential Philatelic Weekend from south of the Border. (It was Lindy who gave the displays on *Czechoslovakia* and on the *Austro-Hungarian Navy in the Great War* at Dundee; Tony had been the speaker there two years ago). Tony's erudite presentation of the historical background was particularly important when displaying a less well

Mrs **Marion Jordan** winning the Postcard Cup and Mrs **Francis Howland** the Members Cup.

From *Kent Federation Newsletter*

Thatcham

Our first October meeting was on the theme of *Farming* when 10 members displayed out of the 19 present. Then on the 15th we were entertained by **Tristan Brittain** with *Rubbish*. He explained that much of the material should have been buried but was



Tristan Brittain sorts his Rubbish

saved for some reason for which he was very grateful as there was much interesting material to research and to find its source. There were many letters which contained quite personal and often funny details. This was a most interesting and unique subject. In early November we brought *Antiques and Art Deco* - but as usual, anything went! Then in early December 14 members came to *Defunct Countries*. Rhodesia and Russia were prominent.

From *The Thatcham Postmark*

Watford & District

In November **Wayne Cox** gave the second President's Evening display of his tenure, following on from last year's part of his thematic collection related to

letter boxes, concentrating on early Victorian pillar boxes from their introduction in 1852 to national standardisation in 1859. This display covered pillar boxes from the Penfold, introduced in 1866, to the cylindrical designs used at the end of Queen Victoria's reign and then Victorian letter boxes placed in walls or intended to be attached to lamp posts and telegraph poles. Though there was no real pillar box there was a restored Victorian lamp box, revealed at the end of the meeting, much to the surprise of the members present!



Wayne Cox has his

In December we welcomed two members of Rickmansworth PS for a most enjoyable evening. **Andy Harris** went first, entertaining us with *Aspects of Italian Postal History*, concentrating on the Local and District postal rates. **Carl Barnes** followed with a display of *Cape of Good Hope: the Triangular Period*.
→ 01923 243243 or wec_live@live.co.uk
Wayne Cox

West London

In November we welcomed **Ben Palmer FRPSL** to give a display of *Centennial Issues of New South Wales 1888-1912*. This proved an excellent evening, despite a slightly delayed start due to road works in the close vicinity of our venue necessitating a long

detour. Ben explained the origins of this issue - the first commemorative issue of postage stamps in the world. He described the stamps of each value with their printings, varieties and flaws, all of which were displayed. → Chris Oliver, 020 8940 9833 or olivers.of_ham@virgin.net

Federations

CORNEX - 2015

19 dealers arrived in October at Liskeard Community College for the annual CORNEX Stamp & Postcard Fair. At the outset the weather was not at its best whilst vans were unloaded & signage erected before the 10 am start. Approximately 100 avid collectors of stamps, postcards, postal history & stationery, from across the South West, attended the event which was yet another success for the Cornwall Philatelic Federation. CORNEX attracts dealers from as far afield as Coventry and South Wales supplementing the local dealers who support the local fairs - Launceston Club Fair, REDEX and the CPF's new fair NEWQUEX.

The Competition Secretary **Peter Chantry** was pleased to see an entry from a new competitor and thanked **Paula Cant** for assisting with judging the Open & One Sheet entries and presenting the cups & trophies. Results were: General:- The Royal Mail Trophy: **David Richards** – *Barbados*, The Winning CPF Cup: **Neil Sargent** - *Mulready & Mulready Caricatures*, The Lion Trophy: **Martin Hopkinson** - *Canada - 1962 Cameo Series*, Postal History/Aerophilately:- The Philbrick Cup: **Edward Caesley** - *The Use of the*



David Richards receives from Paula

*Mulready Designs on Facsimile Envelopes, Open Class:- The CPF Shield: **Vivian Sandercock** - Mount Morgan Mining Co Ltd, The 'One' Sheet Entry:- **Richard Wiggins** - Forward to the Past. Des Kent*

Essex Philatelic Societies

The first wintry day of the year resulted in a very poor turn-out for the meetings. The AGM proceeded, but the quorum for the subsequent Council meeting was not achieved, nevertheless an informal meeting was held with the usual reports to save delegates a wasted journey.

John Copeland has replaced **Ray How** as Chairman and, lacking other nominations, Ray has been asked to resume the post of Vice Chairman. He will also take over the Frames Secretary portfolio from **Dave Sibley**, who has stood down from the Executive due to ill-health. Falling society membership is affecting the Association's finances. To avoid imposing a single larger increase in a year or two's time, it was agreed to

raise the annual capitation from 65p to 70p per member for 2016. It is important for the smooth transition of philatelic competitors from society to federation, national and, ultimately, international levels that judging criteria and approaches are harmonised, whilst making allowances for the level of competition being judged. It is therefore important that judges at all levels are regularly (typically every two years) brought up-to-speed with the latest thinking at the higher levels and coached in the way to convey this to entrants without giving offence. AEPS plans to organise a seminar for this purpose in the near future, but first we need to know how many people will want to take part. This should appeal to both existing judges and people who would like to know how to display their collections to best advantage. After the experience of the course, some of the latter may wish to become judges in the future. → Ray How 01702 544632

Len Stanway via Basildon Philatelist

Hampshire

We again held our Convention and Fair – HAMPEX – at Wickham in October 2015 where some twenty dealers looked after a busy gathering of collectors. The Convention included a Junior Workshop run by Youth Officer and President **Paul Davidson** and a display of competitive entries for the inter-society Howard White Trophy, the Jan Kaluski Cup and the Hampshire 16 sheet competitions. The Howard White Trophy was won by Petersfield DPS and the Jan Kaluski Cup by **Julian Jones**. The Hampshire 16 competition was won by past president **Brian**



Julian Jones presents Brian Marshall with the Hampshire 16 Cup and Large Vermeil for his Sarawak Provisional

Marshall. Southampton DPS and the TPO & Seapost Society had tables at the fair and the British Society of Australian Philatelists held an afternoon meeting. *Julian Jones*

Sussex Philatelic Societies

Following the success of our first Stamp & Postcard Day in 2015 ASPS is to hold a similar event this year on Saturday 2nd April at Victoria Baptist Church Hall, Eldon Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1UE. As with last year it will be a mixture of dealers and guest speakers. Nine dealers will be present from 10 am to 4 pm with guest speakers **Peter Wood** and **Brian Sole FRPSL** providing displays at 11 am and 2.15 pm respectively. Peter will be showing a postal history display entitled *Troubles and Transition: Ireland 1900-1930* and Brian will present his gold medal Thematic display *Go by Cycle*. The venue has ample free parking, admission is free and refreshments will be available. *Jim Etherington*

National and specialist societies

Channel Is Specialists'

We held a regional meeting in September at Burbage, near Hinckley in Leicestershire. *The letters E, F and G* were the theme for the day. **John Hirst** led with 34 sheets of *picture postcards related to Howard Davis Park in Jersey*. Then came four frames of excellent *Civilian Occupation Mail via Feldpost* belonging to **Gerald Marriner** but presented in absentia by **Richard Flemming**. **Robert King** showed three frame titles *Formalization* relating to the changes in Channel Islands handstamps, etc. from the straight line type 2 JERSEY used 1807-20, then type 1 JERSEY scroll through to modern times with recent machine cancels. **Bob MacDonald** provided an entertaining display of *Ephemera related to internees detained in German camps* and concluded with a few *Feldpost* items. **Dave Edwards** produced an interesting display of *postcards produced following the visit of Edward, Prince of Wales to Guernsey in 1935*. Dave preceded his display by showing an original copy of the official programme for the Royal visit which he used to illustrate the route and timetable, with examples of postcards produced following the occasion. **Ray Turley** gave an interesting three frame display of *German Feldpost* material and finally, **Richard Flemming** continued the *Feldpost* theme by showing several examples of *Feldpost*



One of the auction lots

mail to and from Alderney, Guernsey and Jersey including an example of 'Fortress mail' carried on the 15th flight. In October we held one of our largest auctions with just under 700 lots and reserves ranging from £3 to £425. Total sales were £10 746 with all sections selling well and virtually all of the 79 bidders being successful. → Moira Edwards, 86 Hall Lane, Sandon, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 7RQ membership@ciss1950.org.uk or www.ciss1950.org.uk

Steve Wells

The Czechoslovak PS of GB

We held our AGM at the Czech and Slovak Club in London. Once the AGM formalities were over, Dutch member **Hans van Dooremalen** gave us a



Hans in mid-explanation

display of *First World War covers from Brünn*, now known as Brno in the Czech Republic. The theme of the display was *War Hospitals during the Great War*. Hans' knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject was evident both by the quality and variety of his display and by his description of the items. **Mark Wilson** presented our library with a copy of his work on the translation of the Czechoslovak Monograph No 1 – a detailed study of the Hradčany issue, the first postage stamps of the newly formed Republic. Mark was visiting us from Arizona. He is the editor of Czechout, the Society's quarterly journal.

He was also presented with a certificate for winning the Bill Dawson Memorial Prize for his study *An Extraordinary Issue: The Mucha Newspaper Stamps*.

→ www.cpsgb.org.uk

Robert McLeod

Gibraltar Study Circle

We held our annual competition weekend at the New County Hotel, Gloucester 30th Oct – 1st Nov. Despite there being fewer people than at previous meetings it was a very good and sociable weekend, starting on the Friday evening with the usual format ie the mini auction and members' own nine sheet displays with the letter "K". Saturday morning was free whilst the judging was in progress. In the afternoon there was a viewing of the entries followed by a very detailed critique by judge Prof **David Stirrups**, then a display by **Eric Holmes** on "Specimens" on *Queen Victoria, KEVII & KGV stamps 1887 – 1929* which

included all the major varieties on singles and multiples. In the evening the marks of the competition entries were announced and the awards were presented by the Chairman. The winners were: Premier Class – *Ships on stamps of Gibraltar & relevant covers* **Bert Burton**, Miscellaneous Class – *Raptors over the Rock* **Doug Corbin**, Postal History Class – *The Frankings on registered envelopes Morocco Agencies 1887-1906* **Geoff Chivers**. The AGM 2016 is 11th -13th March – venue to be confirmed.

Bert Burton

The Great Britain PS

We held a regional meeting at Redditch in October which attracted a good turnout from members. Throughout the day twelve members gave presentations on a wide range of subjects. **Malcolm Allison** *Uniform 4d Post*, **Phil Waud** *The Shades of 1d Red Die 2*, **James Stevenson** *Machin Booklet Studies*, **Chris Grimshaw** *Registered Mail from the Salonika Campaign WWI*, **Crawford Alexander** *Postal Stationery*, **Jean Alexander** *Harrison & other Presentation Cards*, **Anthony Blackstock** *Graphite Wilding Experiment*, **Martin Lloyd** *Covers used in Malta*, **Bob Galland** *Crash & Disaster Mail*, **Ken Tonkin** *Postmarks of the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley*, **Andy Donaldson** *Donald McGill Postcards & Yorkshire Postal History* and finally **Ian Harvey** *Machin Booklets 10p & 30p*. At a more recent meeting, members were shown a wealth of rare and fascinating postal history items by **Colin Narbeth** *Pre-adhesive Mail* and **Chrissie Baker** *The*

Franking Privilege. Both displays delighted the members present and created much interest.

As we neared the end of our Diamond Jubilee Year, we were privileged to give a celebratory display to the Royal Philatelic Society London. A standing display spanning all aspects of British Philately was presented by 46 members of the GBPS. The occasion was very well attended by members of the RPSL and of the GBPS with the displays attracting much interest and



Viewing at the Royal

discussion throughout the afternoon. →
www.gbps.org.uk or Peter Tanner 13

St. Hubert's Close, Gerrards Cross,
Bucks. SL9 7EN or

PetertannerHS13@talktalk.net

Janet Bygate

Italy & Colonies

19 members & partners from the UK and USA travelled to Rovereto in Northern Italy for our latest philatelic excursion visiting the stamp & postcard fair in Lana and the postal history exhibition in Rovereto. The trip included excursions to Merano, Asiago, Valsugana, Levico Terme, Bolzano and Riva on Lake Garda. Visits included a number of Museums dedicated to WWI during which Italian and British forces fought extensive battles in Northern Italy against the Central Powers. We also visited the Italian war graves at Asiago and the British war graves at Roana cemeteries. Gastronomic highlights were many including an evening meal at Castle Noarna near Rovereto and a seeming everlasting lunch at Rifugio Kubelekat Roana and

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the obligatory trip to a Grappa distillery for tasting. At Lana members reported some interesting finds including a rare Ethiopian railway share certificate, and some scarce WWI patriotic postcards and Italian postal history. Our next trip is already scheduled for April 2016 when we shall be visiting Turin and attending the Stamp Fair in Genoa.

→ LR Harlow 0208977 8737 or

icsc.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk

Paul Woodness

Midland (GB) Postal History

Our November meeting was held at the premises of the auctioneers, Warwick & Warwick. The display by **John Soer**, *A Midland Railway Miscellany*, encompassed Station Postmarks, TPOs and The Railway Letter Service as well as related ephemera. We rounded off our 40th Anniversary Year with a meeting at the National Museum of Brewing in Burton-on-Trent. The morning was devoted to members' displays of material carried in *Cross Posts*. In the afternoon we were entertained by **Michael Lockton** who showed *Exeter Postal History and the Great Cross Post*. This thoroughly enjoyable display ranged from Corsini letters to postcards of the Edwardian era.

John Soer

Postal Stationery Society

In October we held our second London meeting of the year at the Royal Philatelic Society. The meeting started with a fantastic display by Dr **Alan Huggins** of *proofs, essays and related material for nearly all British postal stationery stamps from Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth II*. The AGM

followed - a quiet affair. The annual Tony Chilton 16 page Competition was judged by **Mike Smith** and was won by our Secretary, **Colin Baker**, for his display of *Penny Pink envelopes 1841 to 1855*. The afternoon session was taken up with the second of the Society's auctions this year, with over 500 lots of worldwide postal stationery on offer.

→ Edward Caesley 01326 574742, caesley@btinternet.com Colin Baker

The Royal

In his presentation in October, **Malcolm Fenning** examined the *Postal history of Scotland from 1591 to 1711*. The starting date was chosen as the earliest cover on display was sent in that year to London possibly from Kincardine. On 1st June 1711 the Post Office Act saw the abolition of the Scottish Post Office upon the creation of the General Post Office in London. James VI of Scotland (I of England) extended the post road between London and Berwick to Edinburgh, the King's Post being available to the public from 1635. During the 1660s the post roads in Scotland branched out to Glasgow, Ayr and Port Patrick, and to Aberdeen and Inverness. Teasing his audience when introducing his presentation in November, **Yamil Kuori** asked 'where are the Spanish Antilles?' He quickly stopped any guessing by explaining that they essentially comprised Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and the Philippine Islands, strategically situated for trading purposes. Yamil went on to show and describe their first postal issues from 1855 to 1865. *The postal*



Michael Roberts receives his plaque

history of the Falkland Islands from 1827 to 1945 was the title of the presentation and display given by **Michael Roberts** later in November. In fact the time span was from 1800 because a highlight among the superb covers shown was the first recorded letter from the Falkland Islands, only recently acquired by Michael. It was sent on 15th February 1800 and arrived in New York on 15th January 1801 (see front cover). There was a record attendance of 210 at the meeting on 10th December at which The Great Britain Philatelic Society celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. The very first meeting of the GBPS was also held at the Royal in December 1955. → 020 7486 1044. *Richard West*

South African Collectors'

Our northern meeting held in Carlisle in September was sparsely attended, but

we saw a good display of booklets and discussed society matters. In November SACS joined with other societies and people who collect the philately of Southern Africa for an annual weekend conference. The competition for the best Saturday paper was won by **Lars Jorgensen**. In the evening **Richard Stroud** signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of



Richard Stroud signing the Roll

South Africa. The other recipient for 2015, **Mike Tonking**, now lives in South Africa. More displays were seen on the Sunday morning before the meeting culminated with a 257 lot auction chaired by **Nick Arrow**. → Chris Oliver, 020 8940 9833 or olivers.of_ham@virgin.net or southafricacollector.com/ *Chris Oliver*

A Plea from the editor To make my life easier please do not send photographs embedded in the text. They are much better and easier to work on and insert if they are in jpeg format. **It is "Please be kind to your editor" Year.**

Box of delights: outstanding find in job lot of albums

Auction houses haven't got the time to give close inspection to what look like routine stamp collections. So imagine the surprise waiting for one lucky buyer who bought a job lot of old albums in a big London auction: when he took the box full of albums home and gave them a closer look he found on the back of a "Gold Coast" page an old British postal order overprinted for use in Gold Coast. King Edward VII British postal orders overprinted for other countries are extremely rare (only 18 are known), so when he made contact with the GB Overprints Society (GBOS) and through them with the Postal Order Society (POS) he agreed to put it in the POS worldwide auction. What was particularly exciting about this item was that the layout of the overprint had never been seen



before and the society's list of known overprint types had to be recast. It is unique. When the auction closed on 8 November 2015 we were very pleased that this remarkable find was successfully sold for £1200, the second highest auction price ever for an overprinted British postal order. This is indeed a good return on the modest sum paid for the old albums in the job lot! Postal Orders are deemed to be postal stationery by the FIP, so can be an interesting part of a country collection.

The lesson to be learned is clear: never dismiss old "schoolchild" albums, as sometimes they contain outstanding gems.

The POS can be contacted on postalordersociety.blogspot.co.uk

The GBOS can be contacted on www.gbos.org.uk and an extensive display of overprinted British postal orders is on the tab for "Postal Orders" at the left.

Contact John Gledhill jmgstamps@jgledhill.me.uk for more information on both societies.

Follow up to Box of Delights

John and I have corresponded since this article was submitted for consideration. I was concerned that this could mean that job lots of albums would increase in price significantly as philatelists decided that it was their turn to obtain such a prize. He was more concerned that there would now be even more people approaching societies or members with this as evidence that their grandfather's album, found in the attic, was clearly worth a great deal. "Why it even has Stamps for Edward VIII and he wasn't crowned - you know - so they must be very rare."

Who will be proved right? Perhaps both of us. Any more tales to tell?

ABPS Handbook & Directory: updates

These notes only show changes most useful for contacting a society; it is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all society changes.

We are delighted to welcome Ashford (Middlesex) PS as an affiliate of ABPS: the secretary is Mr Michael Miles, 3 Gilmore Crescent, **Ashford** TW15 2DE 07966563422 michael.miles@uk.bp.com

New secretaries:

Bristol PS: Mrs Rosemary Atkins, 269 Canford Lane, Westbury-on-Trym, **Bristol** BS9 3PF

Civil Censorship Study Group: Graham Mark, Oast House West, Hauling Way, **Wiveliscombe** TA4 2PP

Fleet & North Hants PS: Mr John Holmes, Chanterlands, The Hollies, Church View, Hartley Wintney, **Hook** RG27 8NF

Largs & District Stamp Club: Mr. David Russall, 15 Woodlands Grove, **Kilmarnock** KA3 1TY

Poole, Bournemouth & District PPC: Michael P Mawdsley, 1 Heysham Road, **Broadstone** BH18 8LB 01202 604741

Spanish Study Circle: Mrs Edith Knight, 105 Barkston Avenue, **York** YO26 5BA

Walton & Weybridge PS: Andrew McNab, 23 Holme Chase **Weybridge** KT13 0BZ

Change of address: secretary of Redcar PS: 10 Eden Street, **Saltburn by the Sea** TS12 1JZ

Kendal & District PS have moved their meetings to The Lecture Room, Kendal United Reformed Church, 104 Highgate, **Kendal** LA9 4HE

If you see anything else that needs updating in the Handbook & Directory, or in the Philatelic Lecturers & Displays List, please inform the Reverend John Walden at handbook@abps.org.uk

The Stuart Rossiter Memorial Lecture 2015



At the 2015 memorial lecture on Friday 6th November **Ben Palmer FRPSL, FRSPC, APR** gave a talk entitled: "Theory v. Practice in Postal History". He started by examining why some people collect and some people don't.

He then pointed out that we, Postal Historians, should be thorough in our research — be it for Publication or for Competition entries. He gave examples of publications: a) where the author had not been thorough and had said 'not known' when at least one example was known at the time of publication and more were subsequently found.

b) where the authors had been cautious, pointing out that not everything is or can be known on the subject and that some of the sources conflict. (If that has aroused your curiosity more details, including the examples, are in Ben's PowerPoint presentation which is on the Stuart Rossiter Trust website.) As a Competitor and Judge, Ben is understandably interested in Philatelic Competition. He listed the characteristics of an ideal Philatelic Judge. (Does such a paragon of virtue exist?) He ended with 'Never Give Up' which if nothing else proves that he doesn't bear a grudge, he persevered despite being rejected. After the presentation there was a lively Question and Answer session. Richard Wheatley chaired the meeting, and presented Ben with a souvenir copy of 'Express Mail, After Packets and Late Fees In India Before 1870' by Max Smith and Robert Johnson.

Southern African PS, Joint Conference 2015

For several years a number of philatelic societies specialising in the individual countries of Southern Africa have held a joint conference to share items of common interest. This year was every bit as good as the previous ones. They also took the opportunity to launch a new magazine which covers articles of common interest to the individual societies for Natal, Transvaal, Bechuanaland etc.

The members' displays this year included *South Africa in World War I* (photos, politics, covers), *Bechuanaland provisional overprints*, *Boer War railways*, *looted mail*, and much more. But probably the star item (for me anyway) was **Lars Jorgensen's** fantastic display of the numerous and complex issues of *Transvaal*, through the various phases as "South African Republic", and "Transvaal" with a good variety of British occupations, local printings, forgeries, and errors. The most fascinating item was a tête-bêche 1 shilling pair, overprinted "VR Transvaal" with the overprint first upright (ie inverted relative to

the stamp) and then inverted (ie to make the overprint upright relative to the stamp): but alas as a single stamp it takes a real expert to know whether a stamp with normal overprint is indeed a normal overprinted stamp or the inverted electro with an inverted overprint. Such is the fun of philately.

→ southafricanstamps.net/Southern_Africa_Philately.htm

John Gledhill

AWARDS COMMITTEE

I am retiring as Chairman/Secretary of the Awards Committee of the ABPS and am delighted to say that **Yvonne Wheatley** has accepted my invitation to take over the post. Yvonne will be known to many of you because of the roles she occupies in the philatelic world. She is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, a member of the Leeds Philatelic Society and several others including the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, where she has often taken on a post on their Committees.



Yvonne Wheatley

In addition Yvonne and her husband **Richard** organised, and she chaired, the 2015 Congress in Leeds. This included the ceremony of the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and the Award of the Congress Medal which took place at Temple Newsam House.

Yvonne has been the Commissioner for the UK for several International Exhibitions held abroad and this is a very trustworthy job, travelling with and looking after all the UK entries, seeing them through customs, and keeping an eye on them while in the frames at the exhibition halls.

I have enjoyed looking after the Awards for 10 years – I inherited the role from Margaret Morris, and it has been good to give out Awards of Merit and the Congress Medal to the recipients. I am very grateful to the Committee who have worked very well, and who will stay in place with Yvonne; they are **Nigel Gooch**, **John Jackson**, **Pat Rothnie**, **Brian Sole**, **Frank Soutar** and **John West**.

Thank you Yvonne, and I hope you will enjoy looking after the Awards.

Susan Oliver

SMALL GRANTS COMMITTEE

Peter O’Keeffe is also retiring from the ABPS Committee in his role of Small Grants Coordinator, and Yvonne is taking this under her wing also. Anyone wishing to enquire about small grants should therefore now contact Yvonne. (awards@abps.org.uk)

And thank you to both Susan and Peter for the work that they have done in supporting ABPS and philately in the United Kingdom.

The Editor

British Stamp news



As we are deep in the middle of Winter I suppose that it is understandable that the Shackleton issue has been produced and is appropriate. I hope that here in Yorkshire we will not have this quantity of snowfall or York will be even more damaged by the rising waters as the Spring thaw sets in.



Another stamp showing the effects of Winter comes from

one of the Post and Go stamps first issued in October - that of the Red Fox sitting in the snow. I am unsure of these as stamps and have received very few in my normal mail. Some people have started collecting them according to my reading of the philatelic press but at the moment I am just amassing what comes my way whilst I think about how they suit or would fit into my GB collection. 2016 is clearly a noteworthy year for the Royal Mail - will the stamps be equally noteworthy?

1st Class
up to 100g



CELEBRATING 500 YEARS OF ROYAL MAIL
ROYAL MAIL THROUGH THE AGES: 1516-2016
The changing face of the postal service

1780s
Mad Guard uniforms were made to be distinctive in 1875 and were designed to give a sense of authority and responsibility for guarding the mail.

1870s
Royal Mail issued its first uniform in 1784. It consisted of a scarlet tunic with blue lapels and cuffs with brass buttons. Also included was a heavier hat and blue waistcoat.

1930s
The outbreak of WWI saw the introduction of a full uniform specially designed for postmen.

By the 1930s, 250 miles of cloth, 500 miles of cotton fabric, a million yards of tape and thread, and more than four million buttons were used to create 80,000 uniforms for postmen and women.

2008
2008 saw the introduction of the uniforms we see today. Designed in collaboration with postmen and women themselves, the uniforms include a lightweight capsize and all-weather jacket for delivering the mail whatever the weather.

www.royalmailgroup.com/500years

The Editor's views are not necessarily those of the ABPS

Diary for the next few months

Local and regional events by ABPS members

February

- 27 Huntingdonshire PS Stamp Fair, 10-3, Corn Exchange **St Ives** Cambridgeshire PE27 5AG → 01480 468037
- 27 Launceston Stamp Fair, Central Methodist Hall, Castle St., **Launceston** PL15 8BA → www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/whats-on.php 01288 355918

March

- 12 Petersfield PS Annual Auction, 10-4, Petersfield Community Centre, Love Lane, **Petersfield** GU31 4BW → 02392 591413
- 23 WESTBEX 2016 Thatcham Stamp & Postcard Fair, 10-4, The Kennet School, Stoney Lane, Thatcham RG19 4LL. The National PS will be holding a meeting and Grosvenor Auctions will be in attendance to give advice and valuations. → tdps.org.uk or 01635 866942

April

- 2 Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies Spring Fair, 10-4, Victoria Baptist Church Hall, Eldon Road, **Eastbourne** BN21 1UE
- 3 Alfreton PS Stamp, Postal History & Postcard Fair, 10.15-4, Genesis Centre, Church Street, **Alfreton** DE55 7AG
- 8 Enfield PS Stamp Fair, 10.00 - 3.00, St Paul's Centre, 102A Church St, **Enfield**, EN2 6AR (parking EN2 6SN) → Luigi Wiechula 01992 638514 teofil@btinternet.com
- 9 40th Ferndown Fair and Interclub Competitions, 10-4, Barrington Centre, **Ferndown**, Dorset BH22 9TH
- 9 Maidstone & Mid Kent PS Stamp Fair, 10-3, Grove Green Community Centre, Grove Green, **Maidstone** ME14 5BT
- 16 Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies Spring Rally, Mascalls School, Maidstone Road, **Paddock Wood**, Kent TN12 6LT → 01622 67874
- 23 Association of Essex Philatelic Societies Spring Rally Upper School, Beeton's Way, **Bury St Edmunds** IP32 6RF
- 23 North-East of England Philatelic Convention, Bowburn Community centre, Durham Road, **Bowburn** DH6 5AT

May

- 14 WORPEX 2016, 10-4, Tudor Grange Academy, Bilford Rd, **Worcester** WR3 8HN
- 14 REDEX, Jubilee Hall, Wesley Building, Wesley Street, **Redruth** TR15 2EG → www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/whats-on.php 01288 355918

June

- 4 RINGPEX, 10-4, Greyfriars Community Centre, **Ringwood** BH24 1DW

- 11 SWINPEX - St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, **Swindon** SN3 3LR
- July**
- 23 Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies Summer Rally, Norton Knatchbull School, Hythe Road, **Ashford**, Kent TN24 0QJ
- August**
- 6 CPF- NEWQUEX - Trevisker St. Eval Community Centre, Orion Drive, **St. Eval** PL27 7TU → www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/whats-on.php 01288 355918
- September**
- 10 POOLEPEX, Poole Club Annual Fair, 10-4, Upton Community Centre, **Poole** BH24 5JA
 - 24 Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies Autumn Rally, Mick Jagger Centre, Shepherds Lane, **Dartford**, Kent DA1 2JZ

National Exhibitions 2016-2017

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

- February 17-20 2016: Spring Stampex 2016: A full national exhibition with all classes and the Seven Nations Challenge which is an invited competitive exhibition comprising four entries, in different classes, from each of Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom and the USA.
- July 15-16 York Stamp & Coin Fair, The Grandstand, York Race Course, **York** YO23 1EX. A full national exhibition with all classes
- September 14-17 2016: Autumn Stampex 2016: A full national exhibition with all classes with the lead society being the King George VI Society → www.kg6.info There is also a three-day International Cinderella Congress taking place at the same time.
- February 15-18 2017: Spring Stampex 2017: A full national exhibition with all classes and countries, but focussing on the former Ottoman Empire (including North Africa, Egypt and the Balkan States, plus Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Trans-Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Gulf States). Other exhibits will be accepted including those of Iran.
- September 13-16 2016: Autumn Stampex 2017

International Exhibitions 2016-2017

- 28 May - 4 June 2016: World Stamp Show NY 2016: Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th Street, **New York**, NY 10001. → www.ny2016.org
- 21-26 October 2016: PHILATAIPEI 2016 World Stamp Championship and Exhibition, Taipei World Trade Centre, Exhibition Hall 1. UK Commissioner: Chris King: → chris.king@postalhistory.net or www.taipei2016.post.gov.tw/post/taipei2016
- 24-28 May 2017: Finlandia 2017 – Tampere-Hall, Tampere, Finland. Open to exhibitors from all FEPA countries, the United States of America and Australia. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of

Finland. UK Commissioner: Bill Hedley: → ewlhedley@yahoo.co.uk
www.finlandia2017.fi/ or info@finlandia2017.fi

Web information

Further information on exhibiting and forthcoming exhibitions can be found on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk on the “Exhibiting” tab. *Chris King, Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee*
→ chris.king@postalhistory.net

Please include postcodes where appropriate as it helps those using satnav

TAIPEI 2016, 21-26 OCTOBER 2016

Deadline for receipt of application forms 28th February 2016.

For IREX and Literature Forms please see:

taipei2016.post.gov.tw/post/taipei2016/en/download.jsp

Taipei 2016 21st to 26th October 2016 FIP Patronage FIAP Auspices

PHILATAIPEI 2016 World Stamp Championship and Exhibition

Taipei World Trade Centre, Exhibition Hall 1.

See the entry form at gallery.mailchimp.com/6d7d48ed66868337b2bb168aa/files/Philataipei__Exhibit_Application_Form.pdf

FINLANDIA 2017, 24 – 28 MAY 2017

Applications are invited for competitive entries in an international philatelic exhibition to be held in Finland in May 2017. This exhibition will be held in Tampere from 24 – 28 May to mark the centenary of Finnish independence. It has the patronage of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) and FIP recognition. In addition to all the European members of FEPA, applications to exhibit are being invited from the USA and New Zealand. There will be about 2200 frames for competitive exhibits in the following classes: FEPA Grand Prix Traditional Postal History Aerophilately
Revenues Postal Stationery Thematic Philately
Open Philately Picture Postcard Youth Philatelic Literature
The regulations applying to this exhibition, including information on eligibility, are available at www.finlandia2017.fi from where the application forms can be downloaded. They should be completed electronically and forwarded to Bill Hedley, the UK Commissioner, at ewlhedley@yahoo.co.uk The closing date for applications to be received is 31 May 2016.

The entry fee is 60 euros per frame or literature entry, and 80 euros for a One Frame exhibit. In addition there will be an administration charge. For further information please contact Bill Hedley at ewlhedley@yahoo.co.uk

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- Contact for further copies of ABPS leaflets, Handbook/Directory, Speakers List

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

Membership Secretary: *8 Gerard Road, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6QG*

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

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

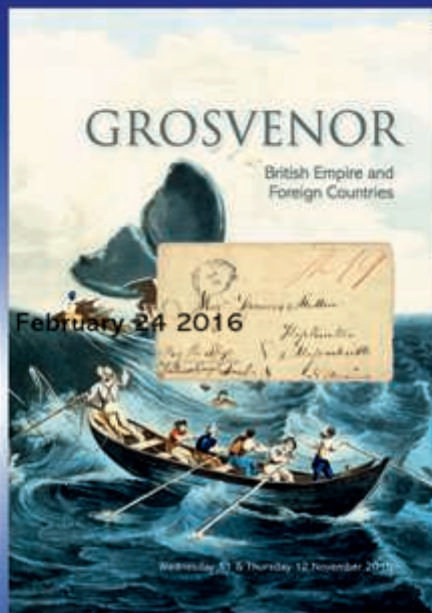
To contact the **Stamp Active Network**, please write to:

SAN, c/o John Davies, *3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, Oxon OX16 9LB*

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