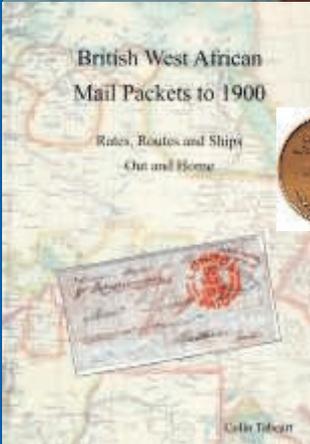


## My Cup Runneth Over



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



# Stanley Gibbons Publications

## 2016 Collect British Stamps

Your personal checklist of Great Britain stamps.

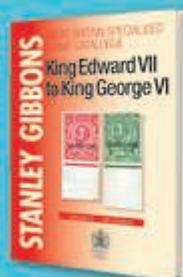
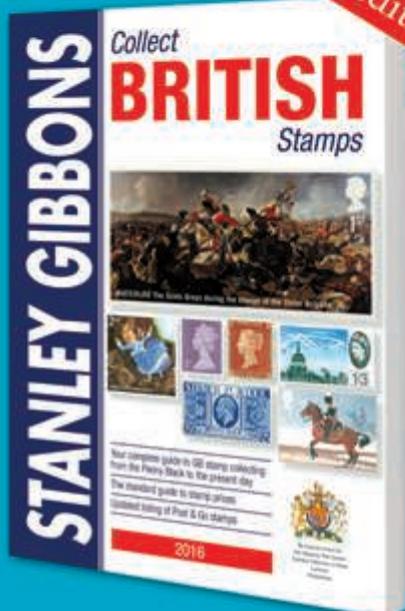
This all colour catalogue provides a straightforward, simplified listing of every British stamp from the Penny Black to Christmas 2015, with all commemorative designs illustrated for ease of use. With fully updated listings of the popular Post & Go stamps and a fully priced list of Royal Mail Philatelic, Numismatic and Medallic covers.

Apart from the stamps of Great Britain, the Collect British Stamps Catalogue also covers a number of other areas of interest:

- **Great Britain, 1840-2015**  
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- **Regional Issues:**  
England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey
- **Postage Due Stamps**
- **Prestige Booklets**
- **Royal Mail Postage Labels**
- **Official Stamps**
- **Post & Go Stamps**
- **Philatelic, Numismatic and Philatelic Medallic Covers issued by Royal Mail**

There is a helpful design index to commemorative stamps, introductory articles on choosing accessories and stamp pricing and a glossary of Great Britain philatelic terms.

R0289-16 £14.95 57th Edition: November 2015



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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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**Volume 23, Number 2, Summer 2016 (whole number 90)**

**Editor: Keith S Burton**

**(ISSN 1353 6869)**

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**Cover pictures:** 1 *Richard Solly - Oliver Nugent Cup*; 2 *Sandy Sloss - Rose Bowl from Francis Podger (Dundee)*; 3 *Susan Oliver - Kay Horowicz Shield (Kingston)*; 4 *Peter O'Keefe - Bromley & Beckenham Cup*; 5 *Stephen Holder RDP*; 6 *Jean Osborne - Congress Medal; Harry Cope Medal and the covers of the winning books (see p40)*

An electronic copy of the newsletter can be viewed on the ABPS webpage [www.abps.org.uk](http://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



The committee's work on Congress in Cambridge is developing well and we should have a good few days with the RDPs and ourselves enjoying the hospitality of Cambridge University. The programme is almost complete and we are looking forward to some key presentations on the Theme for the Congress of "Islands".

I am very pleased that the new Directory and Speakers list (Combined into one booklet) has been issued and that John Walden has quite correctly received a large number of congratulations for producing the latest edition. As with any publication of this nature there are a number of corrections, some of which are due to my computer failure for which I apologise. Often though we do not receive any notification from secretaries and we do need to address this issue. There are a number of instances where the directory and the web site are giving different details and we hope to be able to address this in the coming months.

We are looking at a revamp of the website, now that we have Maurice Buxton and Neil Ritchie on the Executive and they together with Paul Gaywood and Keith Burton will oversee any changes that need to be made. This is an opportunity for our members to make suggestions for areas of improvement as it is our intention to be the point of all knowledge for philatelic societies.

I ask all Federation Secretaries to keep the Editor advised of any local Federation events. We will provide as much publicity as possible through the website.

I receive a number of requests daily and I do try to respond as quickly as possible to them. Neil will be taking this responsibility from me in the next month and I trust that you will all give him as much support as possible. One query that I have yet to respond to and I am appealing to members for assistance in providing the answer. Can anybody provide me with any information about "The Postal History Society" which was active in the 1980s?

It was good to hear from Paul that his course of chemo has been completed and I have also been told that my cancer is in remission. I am looking forward to visiting Federations over the coming year.

Wishing you all a happy and warm summer with plenty of successful purchases

*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

With the new handbook now available and distributed to affiliated societies, local and specialist, it has become apparent that some details that we held had not been updated everywhere. The amendments are contained in this issue. Probably there are some others that have not come to light yet – if you find one please let me know as soon as possible. I will pass it on as appropriate, to the webmaster, handbook editor, membership secretary or whoever. Please don't leave it to someone else. I would rather receive multiple comments than none at all. I am still concerned that some societies are under-represented in these pages and that those who do appear might sometimes feel aggrieved by the massaging (sorry editing) that I do to their reports. I like to include lots of reports preferably of between 50 and 200 words. If your report is longer I have to edit it which could result in my taking out what the writer considers the most important part of the display – sorry if I do, but I am not psychic and I didn't come on the day. As for photographs - please do not embed them in the text as that makes my task much harder and often makes them "fuzzy". They are much better as separate attachments. Of course, some correspondents do not use computers and email, which is fine. To make sure that there is minimum delay, please use my Harrogate address rather than the RPSL address in London. You might have noticed that I prefer pictures that have some character.

Please look at the background as well as the foreground – lots have coat hooks, fire exits and strange notices which I



cannot cut out when cropping. Also I know that an important part of the end of the evening is the vote of thanks and the President handing over the certificate, gift and whatever. However that is not good from readers' point of view. They don't want to see the same person (the President) over and over again. It is much more interesting to see the speaker reacting with the audience or pointing out something special in the display – well in my view. Please humour me if you can.

On a different matter I again visited Spring Stampex and met up with many young friends. One had a lucky Saturday, winning a Penny Black on cover – courtesy of Stamp Active and Mulready Philatelics. Whilst having lunch with him and his grandparents a dealer from whom I had bought came over to pass the time. I was delighted by how he spoke with Wilfred – interested, not condescending. Later I was impressed by the generosity of two other dealers in letting him have some items for his GB collection. It gives me even more hope for our hobby when I see how many people are willing to help these future long-term collectors.

I must apologise to Tony Plumbe for misspelling his name in Harrogate's report last issue - oops!

Keep up the good work everyone.

*Keith Burton*

## Society anniversaries, 2016

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

Heartiest congratulations to all involved in these milestones:

### Oxford Philatelic Society - 125 years

As part of our celebrations we marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of **Frank Bellamy**, who played a key role in the development of the society as its founding Honorary Secretary and Treasurer from 1890 to 1936. Founded in December



*Oxford Chairman Stephen Marks at the graveside*

1890, at a meeting at which Bellamy took the minutes, the Oxford Philatelic Society has been celebrating its 125th anniversary. Bellamy also helped to establish the Oxford Photographic Society, was an active member of the Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire, and contributed significantly to astronomy in his post as an observational astronomer at the Radcliffe Observatory. At St Sepulchre's cemetery, Frank Bellamy's grave is virtually the first you encounter as you walk through the entrance archway.

Members of the following groups attended: Oxford Philatelic Society, Friends of St Sepulchre's, Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire, and Museum of the History of Science. After several words of thanks for the life of Frank

Bellamy, a wreath was laid.

*Simon Heap*

### Petersfield & District - 50 years

In March 1966 a number of collectors planned an inaugural meeting with the intention of forming a Petersfield stamp club. It was held on March 15<sup>th</sup> 1966 in a back room of the Sun Inn in Dragon Street. Twelve collectors attended and elected: Chairman – **Reggie Dingwall**, Secretary – **Dave Allen**, Treasurer – **Tony Hutchings**, Committee members – **R. Newman** and **J. Gammon**. Membership increased rapidly and after the third meeting a new venue was needed. By the end of the first full year membership had risen to 37. In 1969 annual competitions were inaugurated and the society participated in an exhibition at the Town Hall featuring Arts and Crafts.

The society's first chairman, and later a life member until his death in 2003, **Reggie Dingwall**, held office for four years and guided the committee members with wisdom, ensuring the society's future prosperity. Since then a new chairman has taken office every three years. **David Allen**, founder secretary,

completed 11 years in office and is now president in succession to Reggie Dingwall. The society became affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation (now the Association of British Philatelic Societies) and to the Hampshire Philatelic Federation. We regularly participate in county exhibitions and annual competitions. We have won the Howard White Inter Society Trophy in the Federation's annual competition more than once and individuals have gained success in county and national competitions. In 1973, 1979 and 1996 we hosted the county meeting, now known as Hampex. Membership once exceeded 100 but has now dropped back to 60, with average attendance at meetings of 28. Our first newsletter was issued in April 1970 and the first 'Petersfield Philatelist' in spring 1978. An anniversary lunch is planned for May 19<sup>th</sup> 2016. *David Allen*

## Isle of Man Postal History of 20th Century Internment Mail.

### Isle of Man Postal History of 20th Century Internment Mail



Published by  
The Isle of Man Postal History Society 2016.  
Bernard Osborne

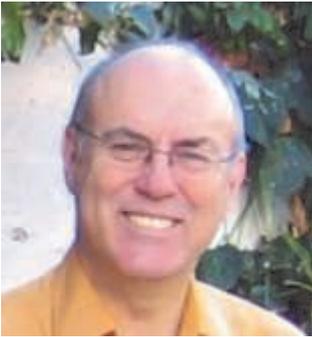
A new book, published by the IOM Postal History Society, author **Bernard Osborne**, President of the Castletown Philatelic Society.

The postal history of internment mail with its associated cachets was first highlighted in a series of short publications by **JB Leece** and **R Ward** followed in 1981 by the catalogue of **Dr JT Whitney** and in 1989 a catalogue by **Charles Field**. It has become clear that with much new material coming to the notice of the society it would be of value for this to be made available in a more up to date book, hence this recently published A4 hard back book of 180 pages.

The publication has hundreds of colour illustrations, many never before recorded or illustrated, of cachets, covers and postcards together with valuations (shown as suitable auction estimates), also maps

of both first and second world war camps, paper money and details of each camp. There is a section showing related Isle of Man Post Office issues and comparative numbers with Field, Whitney & the new IOMPMS numbering system.

The price is £29.95 from Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box IOM, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1P, **Post Free**, world wide.



## An Introduction to your new ABPS General Secretary

From the beginning of 2016 **Neil Ritchie** has taken on the role of the General Secretary of the ABPS. Neil has a long philatelic background as he started as a junior member of Harrogate Philatelic Society in the 1960s during the period that his father **Dr G G Ritchie** was President. His father was a keen philatelist being a founder member of the Roses Caribbean PS (now the British West Indies Study Circle) and extensive

writer on the subject of St Lucia. He was also YPA President and signed the YPA roll of distinguished philatelists in 1978. "It was a good way to bond with my father by taking an interest in his main hobby, however he did instil in me that the hobby should be fun but in a serious way".

Subsequently, in a story similar to many collectors, the next years were occupied with education, training to be an architect, marriage and bringing up two children. Around 1985 Neil took up philately again and joined the Sheffield Philatelic Society where he has had the roles of Librarian, President (twice) and Syllabus Secretary (for a long time). A keen speaker, he has previously given displays on Liechtenstein and German Hyper-Inflation Mail but his current collecting and displaying interests are on the subject of Russia in the First World War focussing on the censorship of the mails, the Allied Intervention and the consequential effects of that conflict on some of the surrounding countries such as Latvia, Finland and Poland. Neil says "to balance this eastern approach to World War One I also collect the Canadian Expeditionary Force from 1914-1919. It's surprising how much connectivity there is between the west and eastern spheres of that conflict".

With regards to the general secretary's ABPS role Neil is hoping to bring his love for the hobby and also apply some of his Project Management experience to the task in hand. "I feel that the great amount of help that the ABPS has to offer to the ordinary collector isn't penetrating to the grass root level as effectively as it could. I hope to be able to develop methods of communication using computer technologies, those that many of us take for granted on a daily basis, to the benefit of the philatelic community".

Neil asks that if anyone has ideas, criticisms, comments or issues they wish to discuss or even if they would like him to present a display then please make contact at [secretary@abps.org.uk](mailto:secretary@abps.org.uk).



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out to 1<sup>st</sup> 50 Societies**

A trial beta test £150 Credit Voucher donated by U P A was auctioned late last year at the Dundee Philatelic Convention and raised £84, which amount supported the Convention. A further U P A £150 Credit Voucher raised £95 at the Bookham Stamp Club Christmas Lunch... for club funds

A simple concept open to the 1<sup>st</sup> 50 Philatelic Societies to request in 2016, there being only one qualification – the society must be active with at least 25 members.

Each £150 Credit Voucher must be openly auctioned to members, is not negotiable or transferable and may not be sold for lower than a reserve of GBP£75. The funds realised to credit the society funds. The name, address, telephone/e-mail of the winning bidder to be notified to UPA so that future catalogues may be mailed as required till the credit has been 'drawn' down by the voucher winner successfully bidding in forthcoming U P A auctions.

Naturally voucher winners may not use this voucher in conjunction with any other offer excepting the newly introduced U P A beta auction loyalty 'Post-free' delivery status bonus.

It is my hope that U P A can assist Societies in this way, whilst at the same time Society members may consider bidding in U P A auctions should suitable material whet their appetite.

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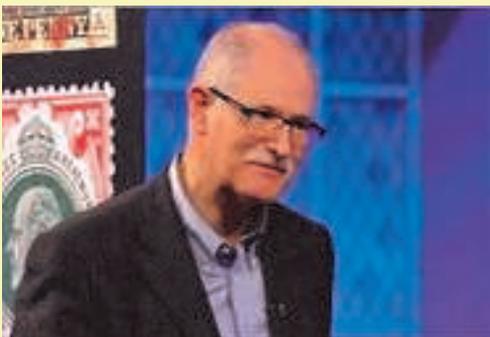
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# retroReveal - A new technique for detecting faint cancellations

Here is an example of using this free online technology which can be accessed on <http://retroreveal.org/>. This is a new tool hosted by Utah University. Quoting from their website: "The retroReveal Channel Inspector losslessly or nearly losslessly transforms images from a standard RGB colorspace into a variety of other colorspace. In certain of these spaces, obscure content and even unsuspected features of the object(s) in the image may become starkly clear. Color scientists have created algorithms for transformations between these colorspace. Image processing scientists and engineers often transform images into these colorspace to aid "image segmentation" in which the image is segmented into related regions, allowing features of interest to be isolated etc" [Yockman, et al. (2008)].

It can be used for any images including faded old manuscripts, historical artefacts, satellite data and so on. It works best with coloured cancellations in my experience. A whole series of images in the various colourspace is provided of which a few would be quite revealing. The example used here is one of the most desirable of North Borneo cancellations, the Silam intaglio postal cancellation in red. Using this software more than 20 different images are



*Original*



*Positive Image layer*



*Negative Image layer*



*Showing pen cancel*

provided from which some are revealing as shown here. The image of the lion can be seen very clearly in both positive and negative images as well as the inscription around it. Because it examines the image in layers, one can see the pen cancel as well. This is definitely a very good technique in elucidating faint or unknown cancellations. I hope readers will find it as useful and interesting as I did.

*Liau Fah Onn*

## The Friends visit the College of Arms

The Friends of The Postal Museum began their 2016 programme of events on 22<sup>nd</sup> March with an evening visit to the College of Arms (The Herald's College) in the City of London. A party of 20 (the maximum allowed) assembled in the Earl Marshal's Courtroom and were greeted by **William Hunt**, Windsor Herald, for a tour that included the records library, to which the public are not normally admitted. A splendid selection of the priceless records was brought out for the group to see and Mr Hunt's presentation was both extremely entertaining and informative. Many of these documents date back to late Plantagenet times when the College was incorporated by Richard III. In particular it was a privilege to be shown the original hand written records of the Heralds' Visitations outside London in 16th and 17th centuries to confirm who was entitled to claim and use Arms. These form an invaluable historical document. Mr Hunt also explained and illustrated the process of granting of Arms from the initial petitioning to the issue of Letters Patent. The evening ended with an informal buffet supper with Mr Hunt tirelessly answering questions from the group.

Further visits arranged by the Friends in the coming year include Apsley House in London, the London Transport Museum depot (to see the Poster Collection) and Cartor, part of International Security Printers, near Paris.

This is a very important year for The Postal Museum, as the building work moves towards completion on the new museum complex and the Mail Rail Experience. The Friends will be supporting and encouraging this major project.

<http://postalmuseum.org/friends> or write to the Friends of the Postal Museum, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL.

*Brian Livingstone  
Trustee FTPM*

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## Another Box of delights.

On a wet mid-winter Sunday I drove to a neighbouring town to a stamp fair. Due to incessant rain dealers outnumbered collectors. I came across a 'glory' box of mixed postal history - each item £2! Tongue in cheek I suggested perhaps dear at half the price, the dealer reacted favourably. He WAS having a bad day.

Shortly I found a German postal stationery card commercially used from Constantinople, later sold to a collector for £40. Next a greyish blue card with the address in immaculate handwriting, and postage met by a Queen Victoria ½d value with perfect Ealing postmark caught my eye. Diagonally across the top left hand corner was a pen drawing of two love birds on a branch. I know little of GB postal history but was drawn to the message. It was from a young lady to her beau. The message said that she was posting the card on the first day homemade postcards were permitted in the post. I paid my £1. I sent a copy to a member of my 'foreign' society employed by Cavendish. He telephoned suggesting £140 realistic and it was sent for sale.



*Illustration kindly supplied by  
Cavendish Auctions*

Weeks later my wife answered the telephone and noted my contact called to say the item sold for £240. I was delighted. Weeks later I attended the society weekend and the Cavendish man without mentioning figures enquired if I was pleased, I confirmed I was. He told me the item was sold over the telephone and he handled the bid. The penny failed to drop

and nothing more said. Before the event closed he circulated the Cavendish news letter which was placed in my briefcase. At home that evening the newsletter was read at midnight and the item illustrated on the back page. Then I learnt that my wife noted an incorrect figure. It realised £2400. There are eight such items recorded, the purchaser like me was attracted by the card itself and although he held another considered mine considerably finer.

I still browse through £2 boxes but lightning has yet to strike twice!

*Name & address withheld*

## ABPS accredited judges

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

## Youth and the Future - Philately and Education

I have collected Hungarian stamps and postal history since I was 17, attracted by fine “wallpaper” stamps in a dealer’s shop window. I joined the then Magyar, now Hungarian PS in its founding year, 1964, and was soon asked to be magazine editor. I lost the job because the then President did not like an article I wrote about the future needs of younger collectors! I am currently President. Fairly quickly, under the inspiring influence of **Gary Ryan FRPSL**, I found collecting covers more interesting, developing to postal history. I have formed collections of stationery, dues, inflation and now railways, and exhibited nationally and at FIP events.

Hungary’s postal history inextricably links to much of central Europe, including two world wars and their outcomes. In 2020 Hungary will remember losing 70% of their nation to its neighbours, including allegedly new ethnically pure successor states that have failed the test of time. Railway philately (tracks, stations, rolling stock and staff) and postage rates, occupations and management changes can become a treatise of history.

Today’s children may have far more time on their hands than we ever had. It is our opportunity - except that stamps now serve little beyond basic post and general revenue purposes. Postal history provides a satisfying and rewarding, tactile and non-digital hobby but also a documentary teaching much of the world in which children live and which they sometimes formally study.

I would urge a concerted effort by ABPS, all societies in the handbook, all philatelic publications, to spell this out, supporting existing efforts to involve schools. The National Curriculum requires local study; postal services seem an excellent candidate. The history and geography alone certainly inspired my interest in starting MIDPEX because specialist societies harbour so much of the evidence. Ten years at Tile Hill was an education itself because, as my friend **Michael Goodman** often said, it really did bring the right people genuinely together. We need something similar for the future of our hobby- and urgently if other modern distractions are not to deter us and future collectors.

*Mervyn Benford*

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## It's not just “Oldies” who collect stamps

The Newport & Gwent Philatelic Society has an active approach to encouraging the younger generation to take up the hobby. **Bev Davies** is the new youth officer of the Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies and runs the stamp club at the Dell Junior School in Chepstow. While our member **Erene Grieve** is very busy encouraging youth philately throughout the UK, she still finds time as a member of our club to get involved in local activities and is looking for members of all clubs, not only our own society, to recommend schools to visit to promote the hobby.

We had a most successful morning at the Dell School in Chepstow on 10<sup>th</sup> March, with a group of 60 juniors enthralled by Erene Grieve's introduction to stamp collecting. This was the prelude to the new group joining the stamp club run by Bev Davies, Newport member and youth officer for the Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies, and assisted by **John Perry**, secretary of our club and currently chairman of the South Wales Federation.



*Prospective Collectors of Dell Junior School, Chepstow*

---

The knowledge and interest shown by this group of young people was astounding. Although only a couple currently collected stamps, many in their families were philatelists.

As well as listening to Erene and answering questions enthusiastically, the children were able to choose stamps to take home to start a collection and given “Stamp Active” material to enable them to develop their interest.

The session ended with a quiz. Without giving anything away, **Jack Woodman** gave the correct answer to the question that Erene posed at the end of the morning. This was to estimate how many stamps were in her ten shilling bag of stamps that she had acquired many years ago. Jack won a prize of a GB presentation pack.



*Erene with Jack, the winner*

---

As well as the schools, the club has run sessions in local libraries. While we do not expect youngsters to join our societies, which usually meet in the evenings, we hope that the interest gained will stay with them. As they get older and have more time they may now think of taking up the hobby actively and secure the future of this fascinating window on the world.

*John Perry FRPSL*

## Covers 2016

Take care in what you buy for your collection. I recently saw the picture of a cover in a magazine. It was a steam train at Waverley Station, east end, with a nice view of the back of the old GPO and the clock of the Balmoral Hotel (North British in those days). The writing was small on the picture in the magazine but I bought it for my wife as she has postcards, stamps etc of Edinburgh and her Dad was a steam train driver. She was not impressed as the event written on the cover was for something in England. So why is it a picture of Edinburgh? According to the dealer (postal) if we are not happy return it. That is not helpful as it is a nice picture. I asked what was the connection to the event with Edinburgh? That was the best picture of that specific engine we could find. So, in other words they can put anything they want on their covers without much regard for the collectors. With a little thought they could easily have put a note on the insert card – Engine xxx leaving Waverley on its way to Newcastle prior to its record breaking journey to Kings Cross. My guess was they did not even know it was Waverley.



A different cover dealer has issued some covers with historically wrong information on them. I quote "A truly remarkable cover that commemorates the history of the postal service in both Britain and the United States. It features Rowland Hill and Benjamin Franklin who are responsible for the introduction of the first postage stamps into each of their respective countries." Bla bla bla, it is yours for only £550. A few facts from a Google search (less than 5 minutes) to confirm my understanding of America. I was well aware that Franklin was one of the negotiators following the War of Independence, more than half a century before the penny black. And at that time he was in ill health and quite old.

Benjamin Franklin:- 17 Jan 1706 – 17 Apr 1790  
Rowland Hill:- 3 Dec 1795 – 27 Aug 1879 United Kingdom's 1d Black 1840 ~~USA's first postage stamp 1847

I am not a regular church goer but I'm not a disbeliever. Because of the above I think I will return: Miracles do happen (according to a cover producer).

Rowland Hill is historically credited with being the inventor of the postage stamp. And here is the



miracle, Hill invented the postage stamp and Franklin is credited with getting the postage stamp into America. How? He died 5 years before Hill was born. Yes, Benjamin Franklin was one of the founding fathers and the first Postmaster General of the USA after the war of Independence in 1776. And I agree that the USA first stamp was a 5c with Franklin on it.

From another cover in the same Magazine – “the cover features Benjamin Franklin, who introduced stamps in America following their success in the UK....”  
- A brilliant achievement after being dead for 57 years. *Richard Catto*

## Thanks to Peter O’Keeffe

At the Bromley & Beckenham meeting in early March David Rennie in a short speech praised Peter for all his work over the years for Kent Federation, particularly as the Bulletin Editor for seventy-five issues in twenty-five years culminating in issue 200. He was also a regular displayer and had visited Bromley and Beckenham PS either as an individual, or part of a visiting society team, on numerous occasions. He had regularly come to judge our competitions, and had been a supporter of all the events BBPS had organised over the years. As a token of the Society’s appreciation and thanks, the President, Ian Reed presented Peter with the Society Mug, in the hope that retirement from the editor’s post would allow him more time to enjoy a mug of coffee, while working on his collections.

## 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.

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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

At our recent Members' Night four gentlemen set out to prove that they could do just as well as the ladies (see Spring 2016). **Steve Kirk Roy** covered *GB 1850-1880*, **Roy Burnett** brought *A Snapshot of Egypt*, **Jack Taylor** proved *Gone but not Forgotten* and **Michael Holt** whisked us off to *BMA Malaya*. It was another very enjoyable evening. *Sheila Deri*

### Amersham & District

Our first presentation of 2016 was given by **Andy Mydellton** on *Zululand*, a former British territory within South Africa which issued stamps from 1888 to 1898. Andy was very fluent and knowledgeable especially regarding the various postmarks, most of which were little known even to our Southern Africa collectors. Our second meeting was an informal one when members were asked to display anything they wished. The eclectic selection included *British Virgin Islands*, *Auctions Mix*, *Picture postcards from Max Romer (Madeira)*, *GB booklet panes of King George VI*,

*GB Officials and how they were subjected to abuse, Lebanon and South African Bantustans*. **David Turner** showed *Numbers on the Maltese Cross* and explained why number 4 is scarce, probably because in the Post Office Headquarters the franking clerk would have been sitting next to the external door, a position which would have been cold and draughty! Our President **Les Gwilliam** has always been very modest when asked about his collection, but on President's Evening he surprised us with the high quality and detailed knowledge of his Indian States material under the heading *All Things Indian*. **Lorraine Maguire** gave us a very lively display of covers under *The Story of New Zealand Soldiers in WWII*. She is a New Zealander who has lived in England for many years and parts of her presentation related directly to her late father, who had served in the war. **John Hawkes** who is chairman of the North Herts Stamp Club, gave us a display of *Singapore* which started from 1948 when the first stamps were issued, previous issues having fallen

under Straits Settlements. At that point Singapore was a crown colony. He traced the subsequent issues through full independence to the present day. John displayed some interesting covers including one of a Concorde aeroplane half owned by Singapore Airlines and British Airways, where the port side showed the livery of Singapore while the British livery was on starboard.

*Jim Drummond*

## Basildon

After our January Thematic Night when four members displayed we set off to far-flung parts.

We started with *British Post Offices in the Gulf - Overprints on King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II* with **Barrie Cook**, whose encyclopaedic

knowledge gave us a good insight into the various Great Britain issues that were used to establish postal services in the rapidly-growing principalities of eastern Arabia. Then we went with **Jeremy Gaskell** to *Borneo & Sarawak*. He began with an entertaining introduction to the four territories, peppered with anecdotes. He went into the early issues of Brunei and the issues of the Crown Colony of Labuan, then moved on to North Borneo and finished with the White Rajahs (and Ranees) of Sarawak. He emphasised the benefits of a philatelic library, displaying a wide range of books on the history and culture of the island. We returned home via *West Africa* in the company of **Arthur Ritchen** calling in at Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, then the French colonies of French Guinea, Ivory Coast, French West Africa, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo. This was a fascinating evening

with many issues never before seen at the club displayed in full. After all that travelling we were pleased to stay at home for March with a *Discussion*



*Arthur Ritchen*

*and Bourse* and then *New Acquisitions*. **Claude Crowder** and **Len Stanway** led in the first with the problem of defining colours, the different types of phosphors and optical brightening agents, how to detect them, and when and how they were used. Six members responded to the second; **John Cowlin, Claude Crowder, Alf Potter, Ian McElwain, Len Stanway** and **Barry Mead**.

*Len Stanway*

## Basingstoke & District

In March **Hugh Jefferies MBE** took us through *The Life and Times of Stanley Gibbons*. In the first session, Hugh told the story of the life of Edward Stanley Gibbons, born June 21<sup>st</sup> 1840 in Plymouth. In 1870 he moved to Clapham Common, South London. Here the business employed young women to make up packets of stamps. The business also had many gentleman callers and, not understanding 'stamp collecting', the neighbours began to question the nature of the business conducted at the premises. In 1890, the SG business was sold to Charles Phillips of Birmingham for £25 000, and Edward retired. Hugh's talk included extracts from the Stanley Gibbons scrapbook which included photographs, memorabilia and a Victorian Mulready envelope. In his private life Edward

came close to rivalling Henry VIII but only had five wives. His death in 1913 was shrouded in mystery. It was rumoured he had died in the arms of a young lady at the Savoy Hotel and was subsequently transported in a rolled carpet to his nephew's house near Piccadilly where his death was officially recorded. For the second session Hugh concentrated on the history of the SG catalogues and talked about future developments. The talk was illustrated with a fine array of SG catalogues representing many years of progress and development. The meeting concluded with a question and answer session. One member asked why Ireland was included in the Commonwealth and British Empire Catalogue? History had some bearing but Hugh pointed out that the Irish had never objected!

Roddy Owen

## Bolton

At our January meeting our own **Adrian Jones** gave a talk on *How to display sheets of stamps for local and national exhibitions*. In February **Howard Anderson** also from Bolton displayed *The History of the Street Letter Box*. Our March meeting was the usual quarterly auction. Over 400 lots were offered to members and visitors. Any member of any ABPS



Howard Anderson on Post Boxes

society is invited to receive a catalogue and bid at any of the Bolton Society's four auctions - postal bids are also accepted. → Joan Foster 01942 720749. Howard Anderson

## Bromley and Beckenham

You would expect events after Xmas to slow down a bit, but not for us as the following shows. In January, **Chris Sands** gave his display of *Malaya* from his Commonwealth collections. He showed ninety sheets of fresh mint stamps from Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth. Brunei, Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, all the individual Malay States, BMA issues and Sarawak were well represented and there was an especially strong section of Japanese Occupation overprinted issues. Later **Professor Adrian Thomas** gave his display entitled *Marie Curie: Philatelic Superstar*. He began with a résumé of the development of Sciences during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and then outlined the Skłodowska family tree and Marie Curie's part in its success and its influence upon her and her work ethic. He showed a variety of stamps, but also postcards, banknotes, medals, cigarette and trade cards, playing cards, telephone cards, supported by many pictures and copies of photos and other documents. This included an original copy of the commercial edition of her first thesis. February has been more leisurely with just two meetings. First **Tony Merson** brought *The French Army 1792-1802*, including the campaigns in Spain, Italy, Egypt, Belgium, etc. and **James Podger** then took us to *Cayman Islands: Queen Victoria and King Edward the Seventh*



*James Podger, President Ian Reed and Tony Merson*

period stamps, postal stationery, and postal history. Early postal history is hard to come by, but postcards and postal stationery are more often seen and a good range of these was also on display. The second meeting was the Oliver Nugent Cup: *Letter R*. Five entries were received from **Grahame Boutle**, **David Milsted**, **Richard Solly**, **Mike Dobbs** and **Ron Burn**. Richard Solly was judged the winner and the President presented him with the cup. **Jennie Viggars** was presented with her medal for winning in 2015.

→ David 020 8778 7001, Chris 020 8402 1263 or on [www.beckenham.net/leisure.asp](http://www.beckenham.net/leisure.asp)  
*David Rennie*

## Cambridge

In January **Richard Husband** entertained us with *70 Not Out*. This comprised a wonderful display of GB perfins which included single stamps, blocks of stamps and stamps on postcards and covers including wrappers. The display covered the reign of Queen Victoria when perfins were first used to the current reign of Queen Elizabeth II. In February **Reg Hounsell** visited us with a display which covered the detailed history of the formation of *Imperial Airways* in 1924 to its demise in the early 1930s

when British Airways and BOAC came into being. The display included first flight covers, and crash covers for what initially were mainly freight and mail routes into Europe, before later routes were established to Cairo and Baghdad, and beyond. Later that month we held the second part of our annual competitions. The judges were **Bob Hill** and **Rob Lester** from Hitchin PS. Winners were: 35 Year Trophy - **David Stirrups** with *The Niuafo'ou 1<sup>st</sup> issue and overprints 1983*, Transport of Mail - **David Stirrups** with *Non-contracted Maritime Mail to and from Cadiz 1836-1838*, Thematics - **Graham Wylde** with *History and Development of Welding Technology*; Foreign - **Simon Kelly** with *Menelik II and Throne of Solomon*, Commonwealth - **Simon Kelly** with *Bahamas QE2 overprints* and Open Class - **Simon Kelly** with *Army and Navy Cooperative Society*. →

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

*Peter Morton*

## Chelmsford

On 9<sup>th</sup> February **Geoffrey Miller** gave a display of the *Stamps Overprinted during World War One to pay a war tax on letters and postcards*. Twenty-seven Empire countries issued special stamps, seventeen were in the Caribbean, where the funds raised were used to support a West Indian Contingent of troops, to buy war equipment and to meet various local needs from natural disasters, loss of tourist trade, etc. We also saw some of the Red Cross labels sold to raise funds, and sometimes put on letters. On 8<sup>th</sup> March **Peter Kennison** showed

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Warwick & Warwick



Peter Kennison flies in

us material from the *Pioneer Days of the Zeppelin airships up to 1920*. Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin built his first airship in 1900 on

Lake Constance in a floating hanger, which could be turned into the wind for take-off. During WWI the Zeppelins were taken over by the military and we saw examples of mail from the crews. Each unit had its own cachet. Peter told us some of the stories of the Zeppelin raids over England and showed us pieces of one which came down near Billericay. Later in March **Dane Garrod** gave us a PowerPoint display on many aspects of *the British Royal Family* and their overseas cousins. We saw many letters and their envelopes written by royalty, together with all manner of ephemera: invitations; investitures; overseas visits; correspondence from the royal yachts; etc. etc. Dane brought these all to life by his stories of the people involved and some secrets not known to the public. 01245420196 or

[john@jr226.plus.com](mailto:john@jr226.plus.com) John Rawlins

## Dundee

February brought visits from two societies. Three visitors from the Caledonian Philatelic Society gave different and interesting displays. **Lyn Robinson's** display of *Stamps and Covers on the American Civil War* also contained a letter written by John

Wilkes Booth (Lincoln's assassin). **Richard Beith** displayed *Czechoslovakian censored mail over a two month period in 1938*. **Colin Caskie** showed a wide range of *Canadian Pacific pictorial postcards* used to send dividend information to shareholders. Aberdeen PS member **Bruce Walker** gave an insight into the *History of Stamp Development in Aden and Zanzibar* and the political events in that region - including the "38 minute war". **Joe Ritchie's** display of *Jammu and Kashmir* included the interesting history of the postal service and the difficulties of having to print stamps on any type of paper that was available. In March members were entertained by a display on *Four of the Unfederated States of Malaya* by **David Mekie** of the Scottish Philatelic Society. His display and talk gave an insight to events in the area from the early 1900s up to the Japanese occupation and gave members an opportunity to see some rare items from this region. **Harry Jackson** displayed part of his *Indian collection*. The wide ranging display,



*Harry Jackson lays out India*

including a detailed hand-out, showed the first and last stamps issued in that country. The first part of the display included stamps from the East India Company to Independence as well as those of French and Portuguese India. He ended with modern stamps of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

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

Colin Campbell

## Ferndown & West Moors

Recently we enjoyed fascinating contributions from seven members. *Africa* ...a vast subject... and it was no surprise that all displays had their separate identities. **Terry Tuck** shared his 1936 *Johannesburg miniature sheets*, followed by a display of 1937 *Paris Exhibition official facsimiles... 'Arts et Techniques*. On a vastly different theme was **Chris Wheeler's** *The Boer War – Postal Miscellany* which started with a selection of 1d Lilacs with cancels of the British Army. **John Duckworth's** *Nigeria* proved worthwhile too. A particular focus was on GB overprinted stamps with 'Oil Rivers'... 1893 Niger Coast. *First Flight Covers* was **Charles Lennard's** display theme. French West African colonies were featured with mainly Air France flight routes France – South America,



Polish Refugee Mail in Uganda

Belgium – Dakar, Dakar to Cotonou April 1938 and Cotonou – Accra March 1937. **Albert Jackson** focussed on *Polish Civilian Refugees: Africa WWII*. This addressed the little known exodus of Polish dispersals, particularly to Uganda, Tanganyika, Rhodesia, SA and Kenya and was well written up. **Hugh Jefferies'** Album Pages always are present and this exhibit *Cape of Good Hope* received a strong following too. Mainly Victorian, but with an 1828 entire SA to England and the final sheet being Edward VII, the display was full of interest. Not often has the Club enjoyed in 'one sitting' 29 Cape Triangulars!! **Paul Lear** shared his passion for wildlife in philately by displaying *Botswana*. The subject *Egypt* concluded the evening. This was **Don Seaby's** contribution....all postcards (mainly England bound) - Victoria up to WWII. Two had o/printed French stamps (in red), another from the 1914-18 conflict having a censor mark... 'on Active Service'. This was another most satisfying meeting with certainly 'something for everyone'.

Chris Wheeler

## Grantham

At our AGM **Martin Lodge** became Club chairman but is still holding the secretarial reins. **Philip Clarke** remains treasurer and events co-ordinator for the time being. Hopefully we will fill the vacant posts in due course as well as update our web page with names and contact numbers. Martin, my wife **Gillian** and I put together a stand at the Grantham Museum "Do Something New" event in January. It turned out quite successful in that we signed up a new member at the stand and



*Grantham Library Display*

accepted invitations to give talks to two local organizations/associations. We were also able to hand out what was left of the Stamp Active material left from last year's hobby day promotion

in Langar. Hopefully something positive will come of that.

*Philip Clarke*

## Harrogate

Our first meeting of the New Year brought an exceptional display of an iconic Australian stamp issue. **Ben Palmer FRPSL** came to show us *New South Wales Centennials 1888-1912*. He told us that we were the last to see this display before he took off for New York to enter it as a competitive display at 'New York 2016', this year's prestigious American philatelic event. The display was strong right through all eight denominations showing different colour trials, proofs, imperforate blocks, forgeries, bisects and multiples and the



*Alan Green and Ben Palmer discuss over a cup of tea.*

various colours for the 6d. For the next meeting **Colin Marshall** from Leeds brought us *Royal Visits*. This thematic display had a wealth of material from many monarchs, including from a Royal Visit to Harrogate. Another local, **Graham Winters FRPSL** from Wakefield showed us *GB George VI*. Many consider this to be a sparse period of GB philately but Graham proved them wrong with a fascinating and informative display. In March we went further afield with **Nigel Gooch FRPSL** as he displayed *Persia*. With such an unusual country there was some concern that this might be of less interest but Nigel had such an excellent handout, delivery and material that we were all enthralled. There were lots of questions and comments – the latter all very favourable indeed. During this time we have had two displays in local libraries and hope to extend our



*Library Display hoping to inspire Young Collectors*

contacts with the press and community.  
*Brian Coop*

## Huntingdonshire

*The letter "I"* was the subject for a members' evening in early February. As is usual with these evenings this was a varied and interesting one. For

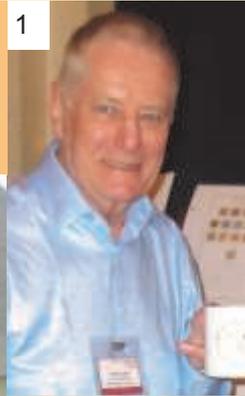
# I Spy...

A selection of images sent from clubs and societies. No prizes for spotting yourself ...

4



1



5



10



9



15



14





2



3



6



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8



11



12



13



16



17



18



19

the following meeting in March **Rufus Barnes** displayed *Island of Tokelau*. Formerly known as the Union Islands they were administered as part of the Gilbert and Ellis Islands until transferred to New Zealand in 1925. Their first set of three stamps were issued on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1948. We were shown examples of overprints, constant flaws and printing errors. **Alister Kinnon** was our guest speaker later in March when he showed *St Lucia*, which changed hands 14 times between France and England. The earliest letter he had was one from 1802 sent to New York when the island was under French Occupation. Before they issued their own stamps they used the stamps of Great Britain with the cancellation of A11. This was an excellent and comprehensive display with something for every one. → D Birkert 01480 468037

David Birkett

## Kendal & District

In January, we held our first meeting in the new venue, our former meeting place having been hit by the December floods. This was a recent acquisitions session in which those members who were active purchasers displayed material that had been bought during the latter part of 2015. In addition to various stamps and covers, one member displayed some philatelic books which had been bought for him as Christmas presents. In February, we welcomed **John Atkinson** of Morecambe and District. In his first half, he showed a wide range of *Canada first flight covers*. Some of the places that were referred to on the covers were so remote that he was still

searching for their precise location. Then he focussed on the *Early Christmas stamps of New Zealand*, referring in the first instance to the objections that were raised following the Postal Authority's decision to issue such stamps. Then came our Chairman's evening, in which members saw the second half of his *Commercial Banks* collection. His exhibit focussed on Commercial Banks in The Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania. → [www.kendalstampclub.wix.com/kdps](http://www.kendalstampclub.wix.com/kdps) Phil Gerrard

## Kingston & District

We are still busy preparing for the Stamp Day at Claygate Village Hall, Surrey KT10 0JP which we are hosting for the Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016, less than six months away. This show follows the usual format with competitions, good dealers and catering par excellence, as visitors to previous Stamp Days at Claygate will be aware.

February displays included *The Union of South Africa* by the President and a visit from Federation Secretary, **Peter White**, with his showing of the stamps of *Monaco 1885 -1956* including some postal stationery.

In March we held our AGM and annual competitions. The current team was re-elected for the 2016/17 season and in the competitions two of our members shared the



Peter White

trophies between them. → Brian Sole, FRPSL 01932  
 220677 or [brian.sole@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.sole@btinternet.com)  
 Chris Oliver

## Launceston

There were fifteen members present for January's meeting with six providing displays for the evening. **John Henderson, Des Kent, Viv Sandercock, John Harrison** with three separate displays, **David Richards** and **Mike Tooley** made very varied contributions to making the evening a success. In February **Terry Mounce** introduced his impressive collection of information, documents and ephemera on the *Creation and Development of the National Savings Movement* which came into being in March 1916. At our March meeting **Graham Eva** introduced *Israel* with a brief history of the events leading to the proclamation of independence on 14<sup>th</sup>



*David Richards and Graham Eva discuss a finer point*

May 1948. He explained that the first Israeli stamps were designed and printed in secrecy by underground organisations and, as the new country had yet to be officially named, these stamps were issued by the Hebrew Post. The first official Israeli stamps, Doar Ivri, were issued on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1948. Graham pointed out some unique features of Israeli stamps including the emblematic tabs describing the stamp in Hebrew and

### Captions for pages 28 and 29

1. Chris Sands with Malaya
2. Steve Kirk, Roy Burnett, Jack Taylor and Michael Hart - the Aberdeen 4
3. Jeremy Gaskell in Borneo by way of Basildon
4. Colin Marshall with a silk scarf from the Jubilee Durbar
5. Bruce Walker (Aberdeen) on a trip to Dundee
6. Tony Puckeridge & Gareth James of Gibraltar SC
7. Terry Mounce - National Saver
8. Geoff Chivers with one of his three trophies at Kingston
9. John Beech sails with the Austro - Hungarian Navy, and Ken Flint joins the Canadian army
10. Adrian Thomas fêtes Marie Curie
11. David Mekie of Dundee
12. Akis Christou at the Royal
13. Ivor Moore takes a bid
14. Alistair McKinnon with the our Newport winners
15. Viv Sandercock of Launceston
16. Ernie Burkin of Bromley & Beckenham in New Year mood
17. Melvyn Green in West London
18. Joe Ritchie (Aberdeen) also visiting Dundee
19. Keith Hanman of the Postal Stationery Society



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the trilingual inscriptions in Hebrew, Arabic and English. The collection, which is virtually complete, spans the initial twenty-five years of the State of Israel and provides an interesting insight into its development. → Evelyn Sandercock 01566 772846

Howard Hamblin

## Leamington & Warwick

**Corks! And heavy Christmas dinners:** Over recent meetings we've covered the usual wide range of topics and speakers. **Alan Godfrey** showed early and later stamps from *The Falklands*, including early cork cancellers before proper postmarkers were available. A visit from members of



Clive Jones follows a train of thought on TPOS

Redditch PS brought some remarkable *mail from the Civil War, Chilean airmails, "What the Victorians did for us", and the history of Midland Red and Stratford Blue bus parcel stamps.* **Clive Jones's** covers from *Travelling Post Offices (TPOs)* took us on a rail journey from 1838 to 2004: one letter posted in Frankfurt on Christmas Day was delivered (via TPO) to Bath on Boxing Day - a feat hardly imaginable in modern posts; in fact it had a cachet "do not deliver before 7.30am", presumably so as to let the recipients have a lie-in after a heavy Christmas dinner. Another marvellous range of early covers came from **Nick Bridgwater's** *Taunton Postal History*.

→ Nick Bridgwater 01926-423685 or [sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps](https://sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps)

John Gledhill

## Maidstone & Mid Kent

Our second half kicked off in January with **Mrs Susan Targett's** fine display of *Women of Achievement* which features material on famous women around the world in all aspects of life from politics to sport. February started off with our Traditional and Postal History/Aerophilately competitions and bourse evening. Then we welcomed **Peter Pugh** with his brilliant display on *Another Bloody Railway Part 1*. This covered post from Hong Kong prior to 1917 travelling via China and Russia to reach this country. The covers were superb and the history behind the journey was fascinating. Then in March **Peter Nason** displayed on the *Masons* which was his A to Z collection on all philatelic items relating to the history of the Masons.

Our morning meetings featured our members in January with the letter "D". The diversity and sometimes tenuous links to the material shown never cease to amaze me. In February our own **John Dann** gave us a superb display of *Fiji* with some remarkable material.

Brian Stonestreet FRPSL

## Middlesbrough & District

**Stephen Holder** of Bradford displayed the *Franco-Prussian War 1870-1871* in March. He explained this was his third collection on this subject which was originally started in 1967, and this explains the wealth of knowledge that has gone into this superb talk and display. He divided his material into four chronological sections: the 'first'



*Stephen Holder holds his audience*

war starting 19<sup>th</sup> July 1870 culminating in the Battle of Sedan; the second phase including the Siege of Paris 18<sup>th</sup> September to 28<sup>th</sup> January 1871; the Armistice period and aftermath, and finally the Occupation of Northern France. In addition to a wealth of philatelic items including military mail, balloon flights, the pigeon post, the "boules de moulins" underwater mail, re-routed mail and occupation issues, a wide range of maps, telegrams, documents and even coins and medals were shown. In his useful hand-out Stephen noted: "Can any other short period of a few months have produced such a profusion of philatelic and historical material of such a varied interest?" On this showing, No!

Phil Harriman 01287 637270

*Barry Burns*

## Newport & Gwent

Nineteen members turned up for the first meeting of 2016, when we moved through the alphabet to *The Letter E*. This brought out a wide range of material from Einstein to Elephant Island. For the chairman's night **Alistair MacKinnon** continued his Antarctic theme with a display of *Graham Land*. February started with

**Martyn Britton** reminiscing about his holiday in *Fiji*. The auction night attracted a large numbers of items with low reserves with sales totally more than £220 on the night. The club competition night on 9<sup>th</sup> March attracted only seven entries this year. The winners were **Erene Grieve** for her thematic display on *The Written Word*, **John Perry** for the *Postal History of Bratislava from 1838 to 1939*, **Michael Bale** for his entry in the general class of *King George VI Bahamas* and **Roy Bentley** for the best eight sheet entry comprising *Phillips airmail to Canada*. We have an active programme of exchange visits with other clubs in South Wales and the nearby English clubs. The first visit of 2016 was to Cardiff on St David's Day. **John Perry** started the evening with a display of *GB stamp issues relating to the day* including several illustrated covers for the Welsh Bible issue. He then followed with a viewing of his planned competition entry on the *Postal history of Bratislava*. **Roy Bentley** showed *Lundy stamps from the first issue*, **Martyn Britton** brought along *Paquebot material from Newport and from Fiji* and **Alistair MacKinnon** completed the evening with another aspect of Antarctic philately, this time *The British bases*.

→ [newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com](http://newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com)

*John Perry*

## Oxford

2016 started off with a meeting displaying the themes of exotic flowers and birds. Then **Colin Lee** and **Bob Patterson** of Reading showed the *Faroes* and *Solar System* respectively. In the next meeting, Joint Secretary

**David Potts** displayed diverse material relating to *Opatija in former Yugoslavia*. Mid-February was our annual 9-page competition, judged by **Patrick Reid** and **Christine Earle** – not an easy task when accompanied in the same room by the tricky and boisterous annual Philatelic Quiz. Marking the early days of the society, a March meeting was titled *The 1890s*, with members displaying a variety of countries: from *QV GB, Persia and scenic views of British Guiana, Tasmania and New Zealand to the Treaty Ports of China and Sweden's lovely SON postmarks*, while two displays concentrated on the *Royal Niger Company and Niger Coast*, showing some very rare material on cover. Simon Heap

## Petersfield

**- A SLICE OF HISTORY - 50 years:** Fifty years of philately in Petersfield and district were celebrated when the local club held its annual meeting at Petersfield Community Centre on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Chairman **Tom Norgate** presided. Three enthusiasts of the original twelve who joined in 1966 are still members but only **David Allen** (president) was present. Another successful year was reported with all the officers presenting favourable accounts. Club officers were re-elected with the exception of **Victor Collins** and **Stuart Graham** who retired, being replaced by **Michael Wigmore** and **Peter Marshall**. This year's competition winners were: 16 sheets: **Fred Horsted** (*German East Africa*) and Club classes (8 sheets): General - **Brian Marshall** (*Brunei*). Postal History - **Fred Horsted** - (*German E. A. Railways*), Thematic - **Fred Horsted**

(*Royal Wedding*) and Marcophily - **David Allen** (*postmarks of Tasmania*). The Single Item competition attracted 15 entries and covered a wide range of subjects. After a members' vote **Brian Wilson** was declared the winner and presented with his trophy by the chairman. The president then unveiled a celebration cake, suitably inscribed with the club emblem, which had been made and decorated by Marie Pugh, of The Great British Cake Shop in Lavant Street, Petersfield.



David Allen

## Poole & Bournemouth

The New Year's programme began with members displaying postcards from their collections. **Tony Arnold** started with *Swanage*, many of which were cards on the same subject but from different publishing companies, and then *Humorous Cards* not previously shown. **Mike Houchen** brought *Ships I served on during my maritime career*, with descriptions of life aboard and life abroad. **Bryan Cribb** then displayed *Some of the 1500 villages of Dorset*, the favourites being those designed by Harold Shield. **Chris**



**Wheeler** had *Colourful postcards by a wide range of artists*, and series, featuring posters used by *London Underground* over the years to promote their services. Finally, **David Lockwood** brought *Non-philatelic international exhibitions* from the early decades of the 20th century. An extraordinary range of unusual covers formed the basis of **Charles Leonard's** display of *Russian Overseas Mail*. It was a real eye opener to have explained with the examples on show, the huge variations in the way overseas mail to and from Russia was processed and paid for, with allocations of postal rates to the various countries en-route. Several rate and procedural changes took place during the period with new Treaties every few years – a philatelist delight or perhaps nightmare. Charles closed with a frame of Registered Mail bearing various marks and handling methods, and finally with a couple of postcards following the final postal rate change introduced with the GPU requirements bearing half the new 2½d letter rate of 1¼d. We started with an 11½d rate in 1852, and closed with a 2½d letter rate in 1875!

*Chris Wheeler*

## Ringwood

Our first meeting of 2016 was *Mini Displays and Bring & Buy*. This provided an opportunity for members to share interesting aspects of their collections or their latest acquisitions. It began with a fascinating cover dating from WWII. This local item had a back story...because of the devastation being caused by Battle of Britain activity, the GPO established Ringwood as the distribution centre for

New Forest deliveries, in place of Southampton. This cover was posted 'South Cave, Yorkshire' and diverted 10<sup>th</sup> September 1940 to Ringwood for Brockenhurst delivery. (In manuscript marked... 'Out of Course and delayed owing to Air Raids'). Then followed a detailed study of GV GB Jubilee stamps, an envelope postmarked Fanning Island in the Gilbert & Ellice Islands addressed to Westcliff on Sea, Essex, GB Horizon Labels and a superb 15 sheet display on *Historic Libraries*. The meeting concluded with a busy 'Bring and Buy' session and a lively philatelic exchange of information, fairs to attend and forthcoming regional and postal auctions.

*Paul Barry*

## Salisbury and District

Well attended meetings this year have seen displays by **Alan Wood** with *Countries I don't collect*, **Jeremy Martin** on 'Salisbury Villages', **Trevor Buckell** and *Unusual Airmails* and a really enjoyable day meeting organised by **Pat Campbell**. Over 30 people attended the day meeting with 22 displaying proving a real philatelic treat.



*Caroline and Pat & a couple of mugs*

As this was Pat Campbell's last meeting before they move 'up North' we took the opportunity to present him and his wife, **Caroline**, with our

commemorative coffee mugs to thank them both for their many years of support to our Society.

→ [www.salisburyphilately.org.uk](http://www.salisburyphilately.org.uk)

Paul Latham-Warde

## Sevenoaks & District

We began the season with a Competitions Night. This was followed a month later by **Colin Clarkson** and **John Crowe** entertaining us with *WWI French Flag Postcards* and *Airmails between England and Australia* respectively. In November **Brian Stalker** produced *Carlisle – A Railway Town*. This detailed all the various railway companies that operated through the city with Mail Train routes, sorting carriages and lots of ephemera including from his grandfather and father, who were both engine drivers. 2016 began with our Social organised by **Gordon & Mrs Darby**, with a marvellous buffet, raffle and quizzes.

From *Kent Federation Bulletin*

## Sheffield

The meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February was titled *8 sheets (no rules) competition*.

Members responded with the usual diversity of subjects: *13 Unusual Issues and Countries*, *Unexpected and Interesting Palestine WWII*, *The Forfar Shortbread Tin Find*, *Complexity of the Wilding Stamp* and *Ethiopia* for example. After all the exhibitors had spoken briefly about their entry, members then voted for their favourite two. After counting, Competition Secretary **John Penrose** announced the winner as **James R. Hartley** for his *Commemorative Covers of British Guiana* - another very enjoyable evening.

Steve Cook

## South Midlands

**Terry Pratchett, warships and sickbags (unused):** At our monthly afternoon meetings we have recently covered *The 70s*, which ranged through both early and late issues of *Malta*, *St Vincent*, *Chile* and even *Fujeira*. The letters O,P,Q brought *Novelty Postcards*, *ABPS Philatelic Congress*, and *Terry Pratchett cinderellas*. *My other collection* caused a surprising range of interests, not least a frame full of *airline "sick-bags"*, all guaranteed unused; apparently collecting these is a valid part of the history of airlines, with the world record collection holding 6290 different examples. Two visiting speakers gave us outstanding presentations of specialist collections: **Ken Flint** with *Canadian Military Mail*, and **John Beech** with *Austro-Hungarian Navy*, the latter including an almost complete collection of picture postcards of all the warships in the years when Austro-Hungarian borders stretched to the Mediterranean Sea. → John Gledhill 01789 842112 or [sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps/smidsc](https://sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps/smidsc)

John Gledhill

## St Albans, Harpenden & District

In November we were very pleased to welcome **Lorraine Maguire** with her display *Lest We Forget, the Story of New Zealand Soldiers in WWI*. This magnificent and moving display of philatelic material, postcards and ephemera really conveyed the sacrifices made by the New Zealanders in their Lemon Squeezer Hats in Gallipoli and on the Western Front.

December brought our Christmas social. The three-sheet competition introduced in 2014 once again featured a good number of entries. This year's winner was **Colin Narbeth** with *Egypt*. **Fin O'Donoghue** returned in January to give us *Lovely Liechtenstein* - the second part of his fine display on this wealthy Alpine Principality.

*Peter Mellor*

## Stratford upon Avon

### From village drums to a hot

**Christmas:** Towards the end of 2015 we saw a gem of a display by **John Mayne** on *Togo, the German period*, which totally belied his introductory description of it as "just a gap on the map between Gold Coast and Dahomey" until Germany felt a desire to have an overseas empire. The approach of the postman was transmitted from village to village by drum messages. At the following meeting **Dave Williams**, part of a visiting team from Cheltenham, talked us through the "*Unfathomable rates*" of *Hungary during mid-century posts*.

**Alan Godfrey** later took us on a chilly November walk *To the ends of the earth*, polar exploration mail, stamps, picture postcards, maps and valiant but fated explorers. In between these meetings we had members' displays on



*Rosalind Ragg's Campione memories*

*I*, which was predictably stretched to include "isthmus", "interesting stamps", and "ink-jet postmarks"; and, to warm us up in December, some *Summer memories*, delightfully including New Zealand Christmas stamps, December being antipodean summer!

The new year brought a "*Brains Trust*", "*Red, White & Blue*", and **Ray**

**Sheppard's History of the Olympics.**

→ Colin Fountain on 01789 841 606

*John Gledhill*

## Streetly

In January we held a morning meeting for **Colin Searle** with *The Philatelic Congress of GB*. It was a PowerPoint presentation with the material on the display boards for viewing later. Colin began with a brief background of the Congress, first held in February 1909 at the Hulme Town Hall, Manchester and hosted by the Manchester Branch of the Junior Philatelic Society (London). The material in the display included programmes, menus, photographs, certificates, stamps, labels and covers. Various books were also on show and included a handbook with the cover showing the architecture of Birmingham's Curzon Street station. After a short break Colin continued starting with 1930 Torquay which was the first time congress was held at the seaside.

## Swindon

The spring programme began with an Auction with a large number of lots. We then held another Daytime Meeting, this time on *How to Display*. Five members supplied various displays then **David Gibbon** and **Malcolm Watts** dealt with three aspects of

making a successful display. After an excellent lunch provided by our President, **John Wand**, the meeting was a definite success. Our next meeting was the 'Brian Buckle' nine-page competition on the letter *X or A*. A wide variety of ingenious subjects were displayed with the eventual winner being **Barbara Borlase-Hendry** with her entry of *The Exe Estuary; Topsham*. Early in February **John Davis** enlightened the members with his Gold Medal Exhibit of *Tin Can Mail*. We then had our last Auction and Bourse of the season; again very successful with some interesting material on offer. Our latest guest speaker was **Colin Such** of Warwick & Warwick who entertained us with *40 Years on the Rostrum*. He gave a very entertaining display of Postcards that had been auctioned over many years. Without a doubt, the Society's big event of the year is the forthcoming 'Swinpex 2016' event on June 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph's Academy where we hope to see as many keen collectors and philatelists as possible, remember 48 top dealers in attendance.

*David Gibbon*

## Watford & District

At our January meeting we welcomed back **David Tett FRPSL** for his second visit. This time he told the story of *Prisoner of War mail in Malaya and Singapore*. The first half of the display related to mail sent to the prisoners; the second half concentrated on mail from the prisoners. Following much research, David was able to tell the stories of the people behind the covers shown. Our annual nine page competitions were held at the February

meeting, all judged by **Richard Akers** of Pinner PS.

In March, our annual auction night saw 177 lots swiftly and surely 'knocked down' by our auctioneer **Brian Thurlow**. This year was particularly notable for the variety of countries represented by the lots: a truly worldwide selection of material for sale! → Brian Thurlow 01923 243243 or [wec\\_@live.co.uk](mailto:wec_@live.co.uk) Wayne Cox

## West London

Our President, **Melvyn Green**, gave a display of *Local perfins and other philatelic items of local and social interest* on our first meeting of 2016. Our next meeting dwelt on members' new acquisitions and, in March, we went on a group visit to London Transport Museum Depot which is nearby in Acton. Although not particularly philatelic, this trip was enjoyed by all. → Christopher Oliver, on 020 8940 9833 or [olivers.of\\_ham@virgin.net](mailto:olivers.of_ham@virgin.net) Chris Oliver

## Federations

### Essex

In January was our traditional "Seminar" (previously "Workshop"). This had presentations by **Malcolm Roberts** and **Bill Trower** of Hullbridge Society and **Len Stanway** of Basildon on the *Transport of mail by sea, air and rail*. It was very well attended with many new faces, and was enjoyed by all. These annual seminars are very much social events which allow people from member societies to meet in an informal setting. 2017 is already in the planning stage. We continue to hold "Stamp Essex" events in Spring and

Autumn. We ourselves are hosting a return visit to the excellent and spacious Marconi Social Club at Chelmsford on October 29<sup>th</sup>. We hold quarterly meetings which give delegates from member societies the opportunity to meet and question the committee. When the committee suggested that the number of meetings might be reduced, there was a strong feeling against this but for the next meeting which included the AGM there was a poor attendance. We realised that like others we need to consider our constitution. This matter will be treated with urgency. Turnout for our March meeting was excellent. Despite the first increase in capitation charge since 2009 subscriptions for 2016 have been paid promptly and our reserves remain adequate despite having funded a new and more secure store for the Association's display frames.

*John Dickenson*

## South Wales

We will be holding our 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Stamp and Postcard Fair on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May. There will be about 15 dealers present, providing a wide variety of stamps, postcards, postal history and accessories. The Annual Competition entries will be displayed. For further details see the diary on page 55 or → Neil Prior on 01656 740520

*Neil Prior*

## Wiltshire and District

We now have our own website at [www.wiltsfed.org.uk](http://www.wiltsfed.org.uk), thanks to **Bob Bradford** for securing this domain name and to **Bob Harding** for single-handedly constructing the website. As well as detailing Federation awards,

competitions and news there is a link to details of meetings at our constituent Societies. This year's competitions will be displayed at Swinpex on the 11<sup>th</sup> June as best quality colour photocopies repeating last year's successful trial.

*Paul Latham-Warde*

## National and specialist societies

### Austrian

In early December 2015, several members made the trip to Vienna to visit Numiphil, a stamp and coin event held at the Kursalon in the Stadtpark. Members were able to renew old friendships and make new ones, do research, and visit the Favoriten Philatelic Club. **Andy Taylor** had been awarded an Honorary pin and glass cuboid 'Klapperpostbote' for his exceptional work as editor and writer of many articles in the Society magazine 'Austria'. This is VÖPh's (Austrian equivalent of ABPS) highest award and Andy is the first British recipient. **Joyce Boyer** was awarded the Gold pin for her long membership and work in establishing and keeping links between us and the Philatelic Club Merkur in Innsbruck. Andy, Joyce and her husband Tony were invited to a celebration meal at Huth's restaurant with members of the VÖPh board together with **Hans Moser** from Innsbruck.

*Joyce Boyer*

### Our Lincoln Meeting in March:

The "Rohrpost 2" CD was formally launched. This is a substantial update of the on-paper first edition of "The Vienna Pneumatic Post". It includes descriptions of the system, numerous

examples, copies of all available maps, illustrations of the apparatus, lists of the offices, copies of the decrees and regulations - indeed everything that resulted from ten years of research!

The authors, **Andy Taylor** and **Colin Tobitt**, have been assisted by contributions from colleagues in Austria, Germany, Canada and USA. The 'book' is in full colour, with almost 1000 illustrations, and is presented as a web site on a CD. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-10-14. As a web site is not easy to show to a meeting, **Barry Clark** brought part of his collection of pneumatically-posted items and explained what each was and how it fitted into the system. After a break for refreshments (thanks, **Mrs Madeley**) and CD sales, several members displayed a variety of subjects. **James Hooper** showed how *First Day Covers of modern stamps* could be made attractive to a non-specialist audience. **Andy Taylor** presented a 'work in progress' on the *Official newspaper postage labels*. **Joyce Boyer** followed with a miscellany of *Newspaper items* as used at Innsbruck, and various forms including parcel cards. **Colin Tobitt** followed with *Special Postmarks for 1937*, **Keith Brandon** produced two frames of *Mixed Frankings* and finally **Brian Madeley** showed the *1867 stamp issue*. *David Bravery*

## Channel Is Specialists'

We started our 2016 programme with the Competitions Meeting, held at the Royal Philatelic Society's headquarters in London in February. Twenty members and one guest attended. The judge for the day was once again **Graham Winters FRPSL**. As

previously he gave an excellent debrief regarding the entries presented for judging within the various classes and explained how those competing might improve their entries. Members submitting material for judging other than the winners included **Nick Stuart** *Guernsey Postage Due & Instructional Marks*, **David Laurillard** *Royal Guernsey Light Infantry*, **Robert Corden** *Regionals* and overseas member **John Goose**, who sent his *Occupation Arms Stamps* from New Zealand by way of scans. The winners were:

Society Cup – Stamps (Traditional) *Jersey Social & Insular Insurance (Waterlow Archive Sheets)*, **Jon Aitchison**, John Sussex Cup/ Postal History - *Handstamps Applied to Mail between the CI & France 1773-1843* **Richard Flemming**, Tom Green Cup/ Occupation Postal History - *Biberach Internee Mail 1942-1945* **Ron Brown**. We also held a mini-auction with some excellent lots from the Goodwin collection and followed up with short displays by various members.

→ [ciss1950.org.uk](http://ciss1950.org.uk)

Steve Wells

## Czechoslovak

**Rex Dixon** presented *Czechoslovakia in 1939* to 11 members. He showed the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia following the Sudetenland crisis of the previous year. Poland and Hungary occupied areas on the borders, Slovakia gained independence, the Carpatho-Ukraine region also declared its independence before Hungary occupied it. The development of the postmarks as the language of the rulers changed was shown, along with further refinements of the border, such

as the Hungarian claim for a slither of Slovakia overlooking a strategic railway, which the German agreed to despite a recently signed treaty between Germany and Slovakia. The second half covered the development of the postal services for Bohemia and Moravia. The gradual alignment with German rates was clearly illustrated. The display ended with the movement of further land from Poland into Slovakia in the Teschen area. We were impressed by Rex's knowledge of the name changes, often over short periods. Finding such items required quite an encyclopaedic memory.

*Robert McLeod*

## The Forces Postal History

We are pleased to announce that the "Harry Cope Memorial Award for Literature" for 2015 has been awarded jointly to the authors of two publications:

**Colin Tabcart** for *British West African Mail Packets to 1900, (Rates, Routes and Ships, Out and Home)* and

**Nick Colley** and **Ian Muchall**, Editors of *Censorship in the Royal Air Force 1918-1956, 2nd Edition*.

Colin is the current Editor of the Forces Postal History Society Journal and has been since 2005. His book describes the Packet mails, i.e. those carried under contract, between West Africa and Europe over a span of more than fifty years. The first official Packet service to West Africa was in 1848 and used vessels of the Royal Navy whose crews were mainly on anti-slavery patrols at the time. RAF Censorship publication is a first for the FPHS, being the first entirely electronic-only publication. Dr Nick Colley and Ian

Muchall have spent the last 12 months re-writing the classic RAF censor book, Colley & Garrard, of 1993. In response to collector needs of seeing more covers and those covers in colour they have included lots of illustrations and, thanks to its electronic format, they have included all known recordings for each censor number. For the benefit of country collectors each censor type is also broken down by country, with each censor type having its own chapter (pdf file). As in the 1st Edition, there are brief discussions of geographical and recorded usage, updated where required after an extra 22 years of recordings. The entire publication is in the region of 71MB in size (about 370-380 pages) and being in electronic format it is easy to update information by simply providing a replacement chapter. It is believed that this is a new concept for postal history publications, and if kept up-to-date through an easy delete and replace process such a publication will always remain current.

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

*Michael Dobbs*

## Germany & Colonies

We are to hold our Annual General Meeting Weekend at the East Cliff Hotel, Bournemouth, from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The weekend's attractions include members' displays, auction, celebratory dinner and a day trip to a local place of interest. The general public are welcome to visit the hotel on Saturday when a number of stamp dealers will attend. →

[germanphilately.org](http://germanphilately.org) *Albert Jackson*

## Gibraltar Study Circle

The Hotel Campanile, Kingston upon Hull was the venue for our AGM held over the weekend 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016. As is now tradition, the mini auction and members' own displays featuring 9 sheets using *The Letter I* were on the Friday evening. During the free time on Saturday morning local member Les Goodens conducted a walking tour of the Old City of Hull for those who were fit and able. The afternoon display given by Les started with *Registered envelopes* followed by *Morocco Agencies overprints on the stamps of Gibraltar* from Queen Victoria up to QEII. At the AGM **Tony Puckridge** was elected Chairman with **Bert Burton** as Deputy Chairman. The weekend concluded with the Society's Auction on the Sunday Morning. The competition weekend will be held 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016. *Bert Burton*

## The Great Britain PS

We began 2016 with a meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society London when **Philip Lindley FRPSL** gave a display on *Royalty & the Mails at Windsor*. His talk on social and philatelic aspects of his subject was fascinating and informative with the material on display creating much interest and discussion. Later, our annual competition entries were on display and these contained a pleasing range of subjects. Successful entrants were **Richard Hobbs** with *Propaganda Envelopes*, **Maurice Buxton** with *Insured Letter Irregularities*, **Glenn Morgan** with *An Olympic Effort* and **Martin Lloyd** with *Used in Malta*. At the meeting held during Spring Stampex **Graham Booth**

**FRPSL** gave a display entitled *Spoon Cancellations of Great Britain & Ireland*. Graham explained the first duplex cancellations were introduced as part of an experiment to speed up the mail. The main experiment ran between 1853 & 1859 in London and some of the Provinces, and by 1855 the cancellations were in use in Ireland. His comprehensive talk and display was much enjoyed by his audience.

→ [www.gbps.org.uk](http://www.gbps.org.uk) or Peter Tanner at 13 St. Hubert's Close, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 7EN. *Janet Bygate*

## Postal Stationery Society

**Keith Hanman** gave a wonderful display of the *Postal stationery of the Bahamas* at our London spring meeting in March. It included many rare items with proofs and essays in abundance. This was followed by Our One Sheet Competition, won by **James Bendon** with his extremely large sheet of *French Indo-China*. After a sociable lunch at the Kings Head, members were invited to show a few sheets from their own collections. These ranged from an array of *GB subjects* to *Stamp Dealer Mail* from around the world. The Society's next meeting is at Swinpex on 11th June. →

[pss.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:pss.secretary@gmail.com) *Colin Baker*

## The Royal PS London

The display of *Gold Coast* given on 15<sup>th</sup> January was the first time this country has been given as a full display to the society since 1959. This time the material was shown by **Jeremy Martin** and **Ian Anderson**, and covered the period from 1787 to 1957. During Stampex we were shown the *Victorian issues of Cyprus from 1880 to 1896* by

**Akis Christou.** 'I have never before seen so many die proofs in one go.' was **Frank Walton's** comment when introducing the display of *The Dutch Antilles in The West Indies* by **Deo van Wijk** in March. Deo explained that, when he was six years old, he was introduced to stamps by his father. Putting aside his stamps when he reached 15, he came back to the hobby at the age of 30. He then 'went wild', buying as many collections as he could. 'I had a room full of albums and boxes to the ceiling. I was trapped. I didn't know what I had.' St Patrick's Day (17<sup>th</sup> March) proved to be the perfect occasion for members to enjoy four fine displays on *Ireland*. **Des Quail, Dieter Michelson** and **John Sussex** displayed chronologically and were followed by **Peter J Wood** with his *Irish Stew* – a potpourri of visually appealing items. → Administrative Office 020 7486 1044.

### **Sarawak Specialists'**

Just over 20 members gathered at our Spring meeting at Tiverton, again ably organised by **Carol Turner** and presided over by **Roger Johnson**. Our main attraction was the society auction, consisting of 503 lots with few unsold. A wide range of material was shown from our territories of Brunei, Labuan, North Borneo and Sarawak including Japanese Occupation by **Jeremy Dickson, Richard Garbett, Jon Higgins, Len Stanway** and **Bernard Lardner**. **Carol Turner** completed the meeting with a fine and detailed study of all aspects of the *North Borneo 1939 pictorial and postage due issues*. This included Japanese Occupation

overprints and also the original not overprinted stamps used during occupation. There was also a range of different locally censored covers used with the 1939 issue. *Fah Onn Liau*

### **South African Collectors**

Our meeting was held in Carlisle in March and, in London, we have a meeting themed on *Aerograms, Airgraphs and Air Letters*, in April. We shall hold our AGM weekend in early June, as usual. → Christopher Oliver [olivers.of\\_ham@virgin.net](mailto:olivers.of_ham@virgin.net) or 020 8940 9833 or view [southafricacollector.com/](http://southafricacollector.com/)  
*Chris Oliver*

### **Strathclyde Postcard Club**

We were honoured to welcome **Dr Fiona McEwan** in January. She was the Vice-Chair of the planning committee and Secretary General for the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games. She displayed – with postcards, stamps, covers, airmails and related ephemera - a history of the *British Empire Games of 1930* through the various title changes to the *Commonwealth Games of 2014*. Her replica Queen's Baton for 1994 – held



*Dr McEwan with replica 1994 Baton*

in Victoria, Canada – showed tribal decorations which were incorporated on the stamps issued for the Games. Her replica Baton for 2014 was inscribed with her name – and she

showed the Quaich – as was presented to all winners. A really wonderful display! *Elsie Miller*

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Each postcard sale is to raise vital funds for the British Heart Foundation and are issued in association with Murray Payne Auction Ltd, the world's leading stamp dealer in the stamps of KGVI. To find out more about where the funds for each postcard purchase will be spent then please visit [www.justgiving.com/RunningTheGreatWallOfChina](http://www.justgiving.com/RunningTheGreatWallOfChina)

## Do local philatelic societies have a future?

At last year's Congress I posed the question "Do local philatelic societies have a future?" Based on the demographics of the hobby I concluded that, in many cases not, but that if we worked hard and were open to change another twenty to thirty years was possible for a significant minority. I'm not looking at collectors under the age of fifty; they are generally not "joiners". Concentrate on retaining current members and attracting those about to be or recently retired who affectionately remember their school stamp clubs and no longer have the capacity to chase a football.

So here are a few ideas;

Are you making it easy for your existing or potential members to attend meetings? Stairs, lack of public transport, dingy and cold meeting rooms, make an evening at home watching Sky Sports a tempting alternative. If necessary, actively look for a new warm, welcoming, venue, preferably with a bar. If it costs more, so what? I don't know of a philatelic society which has run out of money, but of plenty which have run out of members.

Also, has the time come to hold meetings during the day? This may not suit everyone (the biggest obstacle appears to be looking after grandchildren) but personal experience in helping to set up two new daytime clubs has convinced me that this is the way forward. I may have fallen lucky but local Liberal and Conservative clubs respectively with ground floor facilities and in wonderfully convenient locations have been happy to provide meeting rooms for free in exchange for modest lunchtime bar takings. And why not meet throughout the year? I see no logic in shutting up shop from May to October.

Look at your organization. Clearly the more members involved in running the club the better, but two or three enthusiastic hard workers is sufficient. A large committee which cannot even agree a date upon which to meet is a recipe for disaster. I know of one club still obsessed with filling the post of Deputy Librarian; no-one has used the library for at least two years. Although it helps, your officials don't need to be expert philatelists – far better that they work well together and are enthusiastic. Potential members respond positively in a friendly, well organized environment. If the officials appear glum and disorganized do I really want to join?

Offer a programme of events which appeals to all levels of collector. Displays from eminent speakers are fine, but include quizzes, treasure hunts, more members' nights, brains trusts, competitions which anyone can enter, as well. Make it a social event if that's what the members want. Or if this is anathema, continue with "serious" meetings on an evening and launch something new (and please call it a "stamp club") during the day.

Let the outside world know you are there. There are thousands of collectors out there who, we know, would love to join a philatelic society. Bombard your local press with well-crafted press releases about things you have done and are going to be doing in the next few months. Ensure you are in every local listing. Swamp the town with fliers. Make sure you have an up-to-date website (absolutely essential!) and you are linked to as many others as possible. Send everyone you know who may be vaguely interested an email about your forthcoming meetings on a regular basis. Invite other clubs to your meetings (if there's a display of local postal history invite the local history society). Build up a good relationship with the local U3A group. Ask the organizer of your nearest stamp fair to give you a free table. Run a raffle offering as a prize a locally used penny red cover (cost £5). Anyone entering has to give you their contact details. Bingo, an instant database of maybe fifty new members.

And that's just a few random thoughts in the limited space allowed by your editor. There's a future for local societies if we're prepared to be flexible, imaginative and welcoming, but, I'm afraid, not much of one if we're not.

*Mike Roberts*

## Specialist Societies

As most specialist societies do not have regular monthly meetings, ABPS welcomes an annual report of any major meeting of the society (eg the AGM), or an "article of the year" from their newsletter or journal. Obviously the ABPS newsletter does not have room for articles much over 1 side of A4 and cannot guarantee inclusion. Pictures always look attractive and may well elicit enquiries from potential new members.



# Warwick & Warwick

Trustee Department

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

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

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# British Stamp news

I have become used to the idea that all of our GB stamps will be very colourful, probably to catch the eye of the public and persuade them to buy lots. The January issue to



commemorate Shackleton's epic voyage to Antarctica proves to me that multicoloured design is not necessary in all cases. The eight stamps (what a lot we have to buy - but right in this case) show the fascinating



and dangerous stages of the whole adventure. They will obviously be popular with many thematic collectors -



Adventurers, Explorers, Ships, Polar and no doubt many more but also with young collectors looking for a good set on a subject that catches their fancy. What a good Birthday or Christmas present in appropriate cases! How many will

appear on my own postage? - one so far (uncancelled by Royal Mail!)

February's Post and Go stamps/labels could also fit into many themes but the main one to me is showing the History of Transport, showing mail transport. At the time of the Re-creation of the Postal Museum this fits very well. Lots of colour of course. Finally there are the six values of the British Humanitarian issue in March. Back to black, grey and white - effective but as yet not on my mail. *The Editor's views are not necessarily those of the ABPS*



# Stamp Active Network

## Original ideas in Stamp Active Comp

This year's competition, sponsored by The Great Britain Philatelic Society and Stanley Gibbons Ltd, again proved that there are young collectors around who have imaginative ideas when it comes to creating a stamp exhibit. The judges (**Christine Earle**, **John Davies** and **Richard West**) were delighted to see that the majority of the exhibitors were entering for the first time with many original ideas evident.

Thanks to RPSL for kindly hosting the judging, and to the PTS for providing the opportunity to display the entries at Spring Stampex.

The winners of the major awards were:

Kidstamps Trophy (for the best overall exhibit): **Sara Llewellyn** – *Making Music*

Schools Trophy: **Doonfoot Primary School**.

Class A aged 14 & 16:

**Joseph Likeman** – *How ships have changed our world* – Silver-gilt (Best Entry),

**Christopher Stuttard** – *Musical Instruments* – Silver-gilt

Class B aged 12 & 13: **Rachel Hall** – *The Art of Philately* – Bronze (Best Entry)

Class C aged 10 & 11:

**Maisie Booth** – *Living Things in my Garden* – Silver-bronze

**Keely Davies** – *Touching Snow* – Silver, **Kylisha Fisher** – *Our Queen* – Silver

**Neil Foster** – *Development of British Military Aircraft* – Gold

**Daisy Jarvis** – *Ball games* – Silver-bronze, **Jack Jarvis** – *Vehicles* – Bronze

**Anna Likeman** – *Raining Cats and Dogs* – Silver

**Carys Llewellyn** – *Flying Flags with Pride* - Silver

**Sara Llewellyn** – *Making Music* - Gold (Best Entry)

**Abigail McPartlin** – *The World of Television* – Gold

**Morven Montgomery** – *The Stables* – Silver-gilt

**Oliver O'Riordan** – *World War II Battles 1939-45* - Silver-bronze

**Roxanne O'Toole** – *Butterflies and Insects* – Bronze

**Nia Roberts** – *Birds* – Silver-bronze, **Alice Watson** – *Summer Time* – Silver-gilt

Class D aged up to 9:

**Ffion Llewellyn** – *Up and Down the Rails* – Silver-gilt

**Nia Llewellyn** – *Children's Entertainment* – Silver

**Sarah Likeman** – *Flowers Forever* – Silver-bronze

**Amy Morrison** – *On the Ice* – Gold (Best Entry)

**Michael Starkey** – *World Cup Championships* – Bronze



David Rossall

## The ABPS Congress Medal for 2016 Awarded to Jean P Osborne

Throughout her life Jean Osborne has done all she can to pass on her own love of the hobby to others and has consistently worked hard for the benefit of philately. In her local society, Falkirk Philatelic Society, she has held a number of offices and is currently the Packet Secretary having taken on that role in 1973. She has also found time to help run the Comely Park Primary School stamp club since 2008. Her responsibilities to the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS) include Assistant to the National Exhibition Secretary from 2008 to date. This means she is heavily involved, particularly in the exhibition side and judging. Of particular note is the fact that she instigated the adoption of the Cinderella Class into the ASPS Annual Exhibition.

Jean plays a full part in the philatelic life of Scotland and is always there when work is to be done including serving on the Committee of the biennial Dundee Philatelic Weekend and plays a full part in every aspect of the event.

However, it is for her special work involving long term commitment and the expenditure of a great deal of time that makes Jean a worthy recipient of the Congress Medal for 2016. This work is on behalf of the Invalid and Lone Collectors Society (ILCS). Due to either distance (living in a remote area) or to illness or disability members of the ILCS are prevented from attending club meetings. Instead, contact is maintained by means of their unique magazine titled 'The Philatelic Circulator'. Members write articles and send these to the Editor. The Editor then interspaces these articles with a number of blank pages and sends everything off in a special binder. Each recipient has several days to read the articles and write their "comments" on the blank sheets then post it on to the next member in the list. When the magazine gets back to the Editor, the individual entries are returned to the authors and the "comments" sheets are recirculated with the next available magazine. Jean joined the ILCS in 1973, edited The Philatelic Courier from 1981 to 1995 and is the current Secretary and Treasurer. This voluntary work of real commitment is in an area which is not widely known. Incidentally ILCS is the only honorary ABPS member society.

Jean Osborne is a truly worthy recipient of the Congress Medal which will be presented to her at the ABPS Congress in Cambridge in July. She was nominated by the Caledonian Philatelic Society and Largs & District Stamp Club.

Awards of Merit for 2016 have been awarded to the following people:

Rosemary Atkins - Bristol Philatelic Society

Eric Keefe -Scandinavia Philatelic Society

John Perry - Newport & Gwent Philatelic Society and

Tony Shaw - Petersfield & District Philatelic Society

If you know of worthy recipients complete a nomination form which can be found on the ABPS website ([www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk))

*Yvonne Wheatley*

# THE WORLD'S FIRST CINDERELLA STAMP CONGRESS

Hosted by the Cinderella Stamp Club of Great Britain

Friday 16th September until Sunday 18th September 2016

At The Royal Philatelic Society London and other London Venues.

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Bältespännaren, the Swedish Cinderella Stamp Club

Cinderella collectors and Societies from around the World are invited to this major event. All collecting interests within the field will be catered for, such as locals, poster stamps, revenues, railways, shipping, aviation and transport, franking meter marks, phantoms and bogus, in fact all 'back of the book' subjects.

The Congress is held at the end of Stampex week, the major British national stamp exhibition that opens on Wednesday 14th September 2016. Stampex will have featured Cinderella exhibits throughout and we encourage everyone to enter. (Entry details from [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk)).

If you have any questions please contact the organiser, Jon Aitchison FRPSL, at Old Tithe Hall, Start Hill, Bishop's Stortford CM22 7TF, Great Britain.

→ 01279 870488. [britishlocals@aol.com](mailto:britishlocals@aol.com)

**\*\*\* EVERYONE IS WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THIS FREE EVENT \*\*\***



*Lars Engelbrecht*

The Board of Election of RDP, comprising **Jane Moubray** (Chairman), **Tomas Bjaringer**, **Christopher Harman**, **Alan Huggins**, **Rolf-Dieter Jaretzky**, **Robert Odenweller**, **Christopher King** and **Raymond Todd**,



*Jonas Hallstrom*



*Roger Brody*

unanimously decided

to ask **Roger Brody FRPSL** (United States), **Lars Engelbrecht FRPSL** (Denmark), **Jonas Hallstrom FRPSL** (Sweden), and **Stephen Holder FRPSL** (United Kingdom) to sign the Roll. The Signing Ceremony will take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016 in the chapel of St John's College Cambridge, during the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

# Diary for the next few months

## Local and regional events by ABPS members

### 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](http://www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/whats-on.php) 01288 355918
- 21 S Wales Federation 46th Annual Convention & Stamp Fair, 10-4.30, The Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, **Port Talbot** SA13 1 PJ → Neil Prior 01656 740520

### June

- 4 RINGPEX, 10-4, Greyfriars Community Centre, **Ringwood** BH24 1DW
- 4 YPA Convention, Rye Hills School, West Dyke Road, **Redcar** TS10 2HN
- 11 SWINPEX, 10-4.30, St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, **Swindon** SN3 3LR

### July

- 21-24 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, The Cambridge Belfry Hotel, Back Lane, **Cambourne** near Cambridge CB23 6BW
- 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](http://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

### October

- 8 Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies Stamp Fair & Convention South of England Showground, **Ardingly**, West Sussex RH17 6TL → Jim Etherington 01273 471897
- 8 Yeovil Stamp Fair, Digby Memorial Hall, **Sherborne**
- 15 HAMPEX, 10-4, Wickham Community Centre, **Southampton** PO17 5AL → [www.hantsfederation.org.uk/hpfhpx.htm](http://www.hantsfederation.org.uk/hpfhpx.htm)
- 22 CORNEX, Liskeard Community College, Greenbank Road, Addington, **Liskeard** PL14 3EA → [www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/whats-on.php](http://www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/whats-on.php) 01288 355918
- 29 Autumn StampEssex2016, Marconi Social Club, Tydemans, off Beehive Lane, **Chelmsford**, Essex CM2 9FH

- 29 Bolton Society Stamp Fair & North West Federation Annual Convention, 10-4, St Joseph's R C High School, Chorley New Road, Horwich, **Bolton** BL6 6HW. → 01942 813386
- 29 Solihull PS Stamp Fair, 10-4.30, Arden School, Station Road, Knowle, **Solihull** B93 0PT
- 29 Surrey Federation of PS Annual Event, hosted by Kingston & District PS, Claygate Village Hall, KT10 0JP → Brian Sole [brian.sole@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.sole@btinternet.com)  
***When sending the Editor details of events please give the postcode of your venues – it helps people with satnavs.***

## National Exhibitions 2016-2017

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

- 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](http://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 2017: Autumn Stampex 2017

## International Exhibitions 2016-2020

- 28 May - 4 June 2016: World Stamp Show NY 2016: Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th Street, **New York**, NY 10001. → [www.ny2016.org](http://www.ny2016.org)
- 8-13 October 2016: PHILATAIPEI 2016 World Stamp Championship and Exhibition: Taipei World Trade Centre, Exhibition Hall 1. UK Commissioner: Chris King: [chris.king@postalhistory.net](mailto:chris.king@postalhistory.net) → [www.taipei2016.post.gov.tw/post/taipei2016](http://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](mailto:ewlhedley@yahoo.co.uk) → [www.finlandia2017.fi/](http://www.finlandia2017.fi/) or [info@finlandia2017.fi](mailto:info@finlandia2017.fi)
- 2-9 May 2020: London 2020 International Stamp Exhibition: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH → [www.london2020.co](http://www.london2020.co)

**Web information** Further information on exhibiting and forthcoming exhibitions can be found on the ABPS website [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk) on the “Exhibiting” tab. Chris King, Chairman Exhibitions & International [chris.king@postalhistory.net](mailto:chris.king@postalhistory.net)

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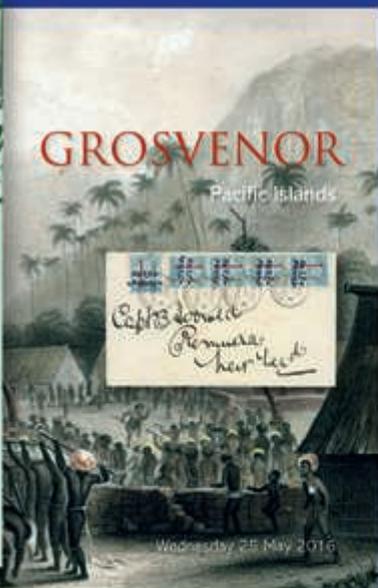
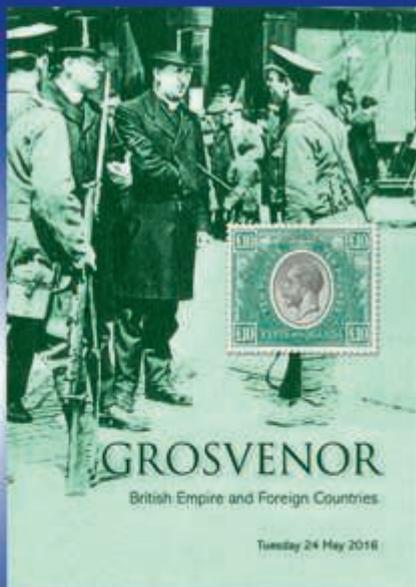
For all other correspondence use:

*ABPS, c/o RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY*

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

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

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