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See p 6



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ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

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

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Cover picture: *Minehead celebrate 50 years; Stanley Gibbons' Birthplace; Stanley Gibbons and the sailors' Cape triangulars in a sack; George Struble (USA) explains the fascinating history of Bolivian SCADTA airmail*

An electronic copy of the newsletter can be viewed on the ABPS webpage www.abps.org.uk soon after publication.

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

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

Collectively Speaking

A view from the Chair



I was reading the "American Philatelist" the other day and came across an article concerning the number of collectors belonging to the

Philatelic Society. The overall membership has fallen over the past 28 years from a peak of nearly 58,000 back to the level of 1972. The leaders, like ABPS Executive, have pondered the cause and reluctantly reach a consensus that it is a generational shift as the baby boom population ages and gives way to other modern interests.

There is no doubt that as a hobby in the UK societies are having difficulty in maintaining the society membership due to age issues and finding officers to run the club. I am concerned that the present club officers will not be on the scene in 10 years' time so the time to act is now. The issue that faces the USA is similar to our own. For example, roughly 16 000 belong to a stamp club of which only 7850 are members of the American Philatelic Society. The cost to those members is \$48 per annum considerably lower than an average UK club membership fee of £10.

I believe that the number of collectors in the UK who are not a member of a local club is about twice the number of those who are. This must be a priority

for clubs to address and I would be pleased to hear of any successful membership drives to share amongst all ABPS member clubs.

In our last edition, there was an appeal for a volunteer to stand in my place for election at the next congress. I am able to state that two members, both eminently suitable, have stepped forward and I will be discussing the role with both of them in the coming months. It gives me confidence in knowing that the ABPS can maintain its position in the world of philately.

In three and a bit years the 2020 London stamp extravaganza will be taking place and plans are already being made, and I ask all the Federations for suggestions on how ABPS should be involved in this opportunity. In 2010 I visited every federation for their local event and I hope to work on a similar programme for 2020. Please if you have any suggestions forward them to me or to any member of the Executive.

Over the past few months we have lost two vice presidents of ABPS: Tom Poynton and Cliff Garside. Their work for ABPS is acknowledged and our sympathies go to their respective families. Also, I wish to acknowledge the death of David Stirrups who was to have chaired the Cambridge congress.

I trust that you will all have a pleasant Christmas time and be able to enjoy the hobby to the full in the New Year.

John Baron

Editorial

As usual I visited Stampex for the four days but this time there was an added incentive. I am not one who has done much in the competitive side of philately - just a few offerings in my local society competitions and then three of those went forward to the Federation competitions. After the latest of these I was persuaded to put in my single-frame postcard entry for a national competition. It was nerve-racking waiting for the judges to finish their deliberations. How would they and others consider my 16-sheets? I was pleased with the result and the comments were very helpful - making me think that there are some changes that I could make and perhaps gain an extra mark or two. Even better were the comments from friends and acquaintances - not just "Well done" but positive comments and positive support. So why am I telling you all this? - well it is to reinforce the appeal for people to take part in competitions and for societies to put them forward for Federations, and for the Federations to take part in the revived Inter-Federation Competition for Autumn Stampex 2017. There is certainly more room available for competition entries at every level and if the judges are as good as the ones at Stampex you can learn something from it to improve your own knowledge and presentation of your philatelic material. It is still disheartening to hear and read of the problems which local and specialist societies and federations are having in filling the committee posts or

to do certain tasks to make a society better known. We have to find more members if the enthusiasm that I see in the Stamp



Active area on the Saturday of Stampex is to be built on when the children return home. There is little chance that they will want to go to meetings with long talks and a different level of collecting but there might be other possibilities of providing interest for them in schools, libraries and other local outlets or contact points. We need to share good ideas if philately as we know it is to continue and develop.

Some people have done their bit or in some cases a very great deal (as reported in later pages). Personally I feel that every member of a society should be asking himself or herself what they could do. Too often all the tasks fall on a very small increasingly elderly group. No wonder that societies are closing or threatened with closure. It is very rarely because they have run out of money, but more often because they have run out of impetus and heart.

There are many other collectors out there - let's see if we can between us reach out to them and start to involve them. It would also be excellent if every society would work with its regional or national federation. We are willing to spend a substantial sum on philatelic material but are we willing to invest time and effort in the future of our societies and hobby?

Keith Burton

Society anniversaries

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

Heartiest congratulations to all involved in these milestones:

Minehead & District Stamp Club 50th Anniversary.

In what seems to the traditional way of such things, on the second Tuesday of March 1966 eight stamp collectors, philatelists and no doubt the odd postal historian met in Minehead and agreed to form a Stamp Club. For many years it continued to grow and flourish mainly by holding an annual exhibition to attract new members so that in spite of declining membership in 2016 it achieved its Golden Anniversary.

This event was celebrated by a dinner held at The Northfield Hotel in Minehead on 17th May and it was most rewarding that practically all our current members were able to attend with their guests. We had been very pleased to re-establish contact with **John Murrell** who we believe now to be the only surviving founding



A cake to celebrate

member but who had ceased active philately over 25 years ago. However he was delighted to join in the celebration with his wife Jean and to give a summary of the founding of the Club and its early years. To mark the event one of our members, **Nigel Cox**, had assembled a very interesting two frame exhibit of philatelic events of 1966 and **Carol Turner**, our President, also showed a nostalgic frame of early club programmes,

menus, newsletters, certificates, press cuttings etc. This was complemented by a table full of silver cups and shields which in the Club's heyday were awarded for an astonishing number of competitions and achievements.



Our Chairman, **Ingrid Swinburn**, welcomed everyone to the splendid dinner, at

the conclusion of which the President proposed a toast to 'Fun, Friends and Philately' and the Club. Finally a celebration cake was cut.

The Club still meets on the second Tuesday of every month at the Friends' Meeting House, Bancks Street, Minehead at 7.30pm to enjoy a programme of displays by visiting guests and club members. New members are always welcome; for details contact the Hon. Secretary, **John Bayly** on 01643 341158.

Mike Sanders

The Helvetia Philatelic Society - 70th Anniversary

To mark our 70th anniversary a celebratory 3-day event was held in Lucerne, Switzerland, in June. 22 HPS members and their partners were joined by 15 guests and invitees from Switzerland, Germany, Holland and USA. We were based in the superb premises of well-known auctioneers Röllli, directly overlooking the famous timber Kapellbrücke that bridges the River Reuss. Guest speakers included some of the great and good of Swiss philately, including **Giovanni Ballmann** who is president of the *Consilium Philateliae Helveticae* (Swiss philatelic council). Over two days there was a fantastic range of displays provided by our host country's representatives including proofs of the 1880s Standing Helvetia issue, SCADTA mail between Bolivia and Switzerland, mobile post offices, a comprehensive summary of tax marks on covers and a truly breath-taking display of 1860s Sitting Helvetia postal history. Some of these were world-class presentations by any standards.

The event included a celebratory dinner in a traditional Swiss restaurant overlooking the lake where many of us tucked into the local Lucerne speciality



HPS members enjoy the society's 70th anniversary dinner

'Chügelipastetli' and enjoyed fine Swiss wine. The last day of the event consisted of a train trip to visit the Museum of Communications in Berne that now incorporates the postal museum. Having endured two days of thunderstorms in Lucerne we had a scorching hot day in the capital for us to enjoy a stroll around Switzerland's historic capital. It was a truly entertaining and

unforgettable event – never mind that beforehand some people said that it couldn't be done and that no one would go! We were even congratulated by our Swiss friends afterwards for our efficient planning and organisation. New members and visitors are welcome: please check our website www.swiss-philately.co.uk/ or contact Bob Medland librarian@swiss-philately.co.uk

Bob Medland

The Society has recently rejoined ABPS. We are delighted to have this report.

Macclesfield & Prestbury Philatelic Society - 50 years

When thirteen collectors met together in the autumn of 1966 to found the Macclesfield and Prestbury Philatelic Society, they chose a young **Peter Kirk** to become the group's honorary secretary. It was an inspired choice for fifty years later, as the Society meets to celebrate their golden anniversary, they also celebrate Peter's fifty years of continuous service in that secretarial role. It is a remarkable achievement. Over the years he has always undertaken the task with good humour and enthusiasm, never failing to organise a varied and fascinating programme of speakers for the Society's monthly meetings. Peter's own stamp collecting interests are a varied mix of the Cayman Islands, Pitcairn Island, Macclesfield Postal History, GB Postage Dues – and giraffes. For good measure he is also honorary treasurer of the North Western Federation of Philatelic Societies. Congratulations, Peter, on a job well done!

Alan Dinnis, Chairman

Well done, Peter - I hope that you have someone well-trained to take over when you have had enough.

Editor

The Spanish Study Circle - 60 Years old but gasping

We have been in existence since 1956, but sadly, in common with many other Societies, the membership has dwindled and is now around 100. Following the sudden death of the Editor of the magazine, the person who volunteered to take it on failed to produce one, no one else was prepared to take on the role, so the main channel of communication with the membership was closed. Pleas for help fell on deaf ears. An invitation to hold meetings in other areas also fell on stony ground. We are holding our Society Meeting in Bournemouth in April, including the Annual General Meeting when we may have to make a decision on the future of the Society. After 60 years of maintaining a British interest in Spanish stamps, and a close cooperation with Spanish Philatelic organizations, particularly the Malaga Society, it would be sad to think that this might all end! But these are quite common problems it seems and if there is anyone out there who can give us some advice on how to pick ourselves up it will be very gratefully received. → spaincircle@gmail.com

Edith Knight

If you think we've missed you out, please let the Editor know.

The Postal History Society - 80 years

We marked our 80th Anniversary in 2016 having been founded by a small group of collectors meeting in London on 24th October 1936. The first President was the well-known philatelist Fred Melville while among the luminaries on the Council was Robson Lowe. It is a sign of the times that each copy of Bulletin No 1 included an original copy of the scarce publication, the Daily Packet List, published by the Postmaster General. By April 1937 there were just over 50 members.

Today the world's oldest society devoted solely to the study of postal history worldwide has a membership of some 300 enthusiastic collectors and publishes a quarterly full colour Journal with well researched articles from some of the leading specialists in this field. While the Journal is the main means of communication, in this digital age the Society also has a flourishing website at postalhistory.org.uk which includes a catalogue of one of the largest libraries of its kind which is freely available to members. Meetings are also held at various points around the UK, usually with an invited speaker supplemented by contributions from members present. The Annual Conference and Auction gives members the opportunity to combine their enthusiasm for the hobby with socialising with members and partners.

This year's celebrations have been divided into two so that members living at opposite ends of the country have an equal opportunity to benefit. In July the Society was privileged to have a rare opportunity to view **Gerald Bodily's** collection of *Hong Kong and the Treaty Ports* in the historic surroundings of



Gerald's display comes under serious scrutiny at the Guildhall

London's Guildhall. In October we gathered for the annual weekend in York where a variety of speakers entertained and informed those present.

One of the main aims of the Society is to increase awareness of postal history beyond the confines of the hobby and we are one of the co-sponsors of A2SN (The Archives & Artefacts Study Network) which is now a registered charity in its own right with the aim of bringing together collectors, archivists and researchers. We welcome new members, whatever their level of expertise, from absolute beginners to more knowledgeable collectors. A year's subscription for those living in the UK is £24 and further details about the Society's activities can be found on the website or by contacting Steve Ellis at steve@homestead75.co.uk or John Scott at john@historystore.ltd.uk

John Scott

Sex change in Bulgaria

In 1885 the need arose in Bulgaria to add two new low-value definitives, 1 and 2 stotinki. The stamps were printed at the Russian Government Printing Office in St Petersburg. Unfortunately, although Russian and Bulgarian are closely related Slavonic languages, the gender of the word "stotinki" differs, and the printers used the Russian "male gender" for the words instead of the Bulgarian "female gender" form. So in 1886 the stamps were reissued using the correct Bulgarian word forms.



Russian

Bulgarian

To some extent it was similar to GB stamps being printed by a US printer using US spelling and vocabulary.

John Gledhill

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.

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Continued overleaf

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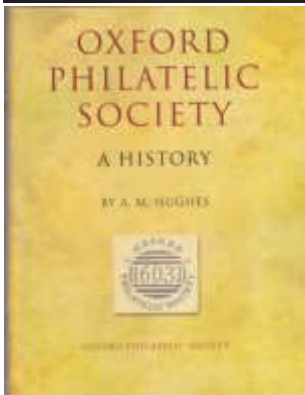
Spreading the Word – Philately!

Hereford & Mid-Wales PS was pleased to take part in the Christmas Tree festival held in Ross-on-Wye Parish Church last December. Numerous local Clubs, Societies and Businesses provided a forest of Christmas Trees, all decorated in an individual style; many representing the interests of the provider. Our members were asked to provide used spare Christmas stamps to make the decorations, which they did in abundance – and also came up with a spare artificial tree, sets of lights and tinsel too! The decorations were easily made by sandwiching fine decorative thread between pairs of stamps with double sided mounts. A letter addressed to Santa Claus at the North Pole topped the tree. Stamp Active leaflets and our society programmes were provided for visitors to take away, and many favourable comments were received. Events like this can provide an economical and useful way to promote local Philatelic Societies to the wider public and improve the image of the hobby.



Nick Nelson sends a letter to Santa from Hereford & Mid-Wales

Janet Nelson



This impressive new publication is the result of in-depth research into the 125 year history of the Oxford Philatelic Society. It covers the development of the society from its foundation in 1890 to its current rude health, with portraits of key philatelic personalities along the way. The Oxford Philatelic Society printed this important



publication from its own funds, so a donation of £10 per copy is suggested - Postage free to UK addresses; ask about postage to addresses outside the UK. ~Please send name, postal address and cheques payable to "Simon Heap", posting to 76 Waynflete Road, **Oxford**, OX3 8BL, or PayPal Simon through effaheap@aol.com

Neil Ritchie - A New Secretary's Thoughts

Congress is well past and hopefully all who attended will have had a relaxing break and a great time. I enjoyed meeting old friends, making new ones and talking to many people about this hobby of ours. Every one I spoke to was passionate about the hobby and concerned about its future and the steady decline in membership numbers. I delivered my Secretary's report and focussed on two issues in developing the hobby and serving the general member namely the ABPS website and the Philatelic Training Project. I was also glad to be able to talk to a number of people about the ongoing promotion of Philately through mainstream media and the ways that this could be taken further.

The Philatelic Training Project will be aimed directly at the general membership in providing information about those basic and not-so-basic items involved in our hobby, to demystify and give clarity, and equally important to help somebody who is thinking about starting to collect to make easy informed decisions. Where does this information come from? Within the membership lies a huge resource of philatelic knowledge and it is that know-how that will be at the core forming the content and shape of the training. Over the coming months I will be looking at ways in which that knowledge can be given to the Project. I do know that the bulk of the Training will be delivered over the internet only, as this is the most cost effective method, however the submission of information can be achieved in whatever way is easiest for the person giving it. I hope that as many people as possible will give a small amount of their time from the comfort of their own home to support this project.

I ask that if you would like to find out more and be involved in the Philatelic Training Project in whatever way suits you or if you have any ideas, criticisms, comments on this or any other topic please make contact at secretary@abps.org.uk

Neil Ritchie

Obituary: Tom Poynton

We note the death of Tom Poynton, the well known philatelist in the Midlands. Tom's main collecting interests were Portugal, particularly the WWI period and Portuguese colonies, anything connecting aerophilately and Portugal, the Peninsular Wars, and postal history associated with Elmdon, Birmingham's original airport.

Tom was not only a collector but also a hard-working and enthusiastic member of several philatelic societies over the years, including the Portuguese Philatelic Society, the Birmingham PS and the Streetly PS where he was chairman on several occasions. Tom was also very much involved for many years with the MPF and MidPex when first started. He was also an Honorary Life Vice President of the Association of British Philatelic Societies. Tom will be greatly missed.

Steven Harrison

The Friends of The Postal Museum



We see London Transport's Poster Collection

A group of the Friends of The Postal Museum were given a private view of the London Transport Museum Poster Collection on 26th July. It is housed within the London Transport Museum Depot at Acton, a large store containing many artefacts including decorative ironwork that formed the entrances to tube stations, vehicles and station signs, items that cannot be accommodated at the Museum in Covent Garden.

There are similarities between poster and stamp production, with the need to commission designs, seek preliminary artwork before the final poster is ready. Many designers whose names are familiar to philatelists were involved in this work. The idea of artistically designed posters to encourage the use of public transport began with Frank Pick who joined the management of the Underground before WWI, and the tradition has continued, with many classic designs, including the recent "Art on the Underground" posters.

The original artwork is kept within special storage facilities; hence there is limited access to the collection. The range of subject matter is immense from adverts for using the Underground and for London sights, to wartime propaganda posters. While many of these are nostalgically familiar, some are also important works of art by famous names.

The Friends have a programme of similar visits throughout the year. In addition, the Friends raise money to pay for specific projects for The Postal Museum and Mail Rail Experience, both due to open in 2017. → postalmuseum.org/friends or The Friends of the Postal Museum, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. *Brian Livingstone Trustee FTPM*

The Exhibitions and International Committee

Chris King (Chairman)	Nigel Gooch (Finance)
Bill Hedley (Commissioner Matters)	Brian Trotter (Jury Matters at all levels)
David Alford (Exhibitions)	Frank Walton (Chairman 2020)
Gerald Marriner (Philatelic Congress of Great Britain)	
Jon Aitchison (Keeper of The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists)	
Mrs Deborah Gooch (Exhibitions Secretary)	

→ exhibiting@abps.org.uk: 00 44 (0)1892 613176: www.abps.org.uk

To contact the chairman, please do so at chris.king@postalhistory.net

ANNUAL AWARDS

CONGRESS MEDAL AND AWARDS OF MERIT

Notes for the Guidance of the Nominator. Please read carefully before completing the form. Nominations must be made on the approved form.

The Congress Medal is awarded for outstanding voluntary service to British philately at National level and the levels appropriate to the Award of Merit will also count towards the award of the Medal. The nominee must be a member of a Society/Federation affiliated to ABPS. There is only one recipient of this medal each year.

Awards of Merit, which consists of a framed certificate, are given for outstanding voluntary service to British philately at local, regional and/or specialist society level. Service in more than one category will enhance the chance of achieving the award. A nominee must be a member of a Society/Federation affiliated to ABPS.

'Outstanding voluntary service' includes work to advance philately appropriate to the particular award, carried out on a voluntary basis over a considerable period of time.

A nominator must expand on the details of service and include any particular features or achievements reached whilst holding any position of responsibility. It should be appreciated that these awards are competitive, any CV which merely lists the offices held by a nominee will not be sufficient. It must be expanded and developed if a nomination is to be successful. Dates during which the nominee held a particular office are imperative.

As these awards are for service, the Awards Committee will not give consideration to philatelic research and studies; the formation of collections, journalistic work, giving displays or the reading of papers, as it will be assumed that all nominees will have been involved with one or more of these activities.

All nominees who are not successful on the first occasion will remain so nominated for four years, during which time they will be considered at the annual deliberations of the Awards Committee. Unsuccessful nominations can be updated each year by the nominator(s) if they so wish.

Each year, those who are successful in receiving an award will have their names entered in the ABPS Book of Merit and will receive a copy of the year page on which their name is entered.

This Book of Merit will usually be displayed at the annual Philatelic Congress. Once a nominee has received an award they cannot be nominated for the same award.

Nominations for the Congress Medal must be signed by the nominee. It is preferable for nominees for the Award of Merit to sign the form but is not essential if the nominator wants the award, if successful, to be a surprise for the

nominee. Nominations for both awards must give the preferred wording for the recipient's name for engraving on the Medal or adding to the certificate.

Completed nomination forms should be sent to the Chairman of the Awards Committee

Guidelines for ABPS Awards

The Awards Committee has studied the Guidelines with a view to clarifying the criteria in the hope that more applications will be submitted.

The main amendment is to clarify the level of service required for each award. The previous Guidelines required the nominee to show outstanding voluntary service to advance philately at three levels, local, regional and specialist for the Award of Merit with an additional requirement of national service for the Congress Medal.

There could be instances, for example, where a person has served a local society in various positions over a considerable number of years or taken office in more than one society simultaneously. Such a person would be excluded from receiving an Award of Merit and we felt this was not intended when the Award was introduced.

Our amendment does not specify the number of levels in which outstanding service must be shown but it must be substantial over a lengthy period.

The requirement for the nominator to be an officer of a society or federation affiliated to ABPS has been removed to enable individuals such as a Friend or Patron to put forward a nominee.

Two new Guidelines have been added. A recipient of an award is not eligible to be nominated for the same award a second time.

In addition proposers may not wish to inform a nominee that their name has been put forward for an Award of Merit. It is now possible to submit an application without the nominee's signature. This does not apply to the Congress Medal.

To accelerate the process of preparing certificates for the Award of Merit the proposer is required to specify the name of the nominee in the form in which it is to appear on the certificate.

There is no limit to the number of Awards of Merit which are presented in any year but only nominees who fulfil the criteria set out in the accompanying Guidelines will receive the Award. Only one Congress Medal is presented each year.

I look forward to receiving your nomination forms and will be happy to answer any queries you may have. The closing date for nominations for 2017 is 1st March 2017.

The application forms may be downloaded from the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk use the tab 'Awards' and 'Congress Medal'.

Applications for Small Grants are also invited.

Yvonne Wheatley Chairman Awards Committee and Small Grant Coordinator

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

For our first season's meeting we were delighted to welcome guests from south of the border. They travelled by car from Leicester and had a mini holiday on route. **John Jackson** displayed *Netherlands* and **Mike**



John Jackson & Mike Fulford

Fulford brought *Cyprus*. Both presentations were excellent and both subjects had rarely been seen before by us. The quality of the material and the expert knowledge of the speakers was greatly appreciated by all present. John was particularly impressed by the half time cakes! We told him they were

known as "fine pieces"not a Philatelic term. A most enjoyable evening was had by all. *Sheila Den*

Amersham & District

After a twelve week summer break we started our 2016/17 season with an auction which was surprisingly well supported with an attendance of 40 despite the warm weather. Our second meeting invited members to fill a frame or two using the letters I, J and/or K and this attracted nine interesting displays, including **Kent** scout mail, **Islands** (Ascension, St Helena and Falklands), **Interrupted** mail due to aircraft failures, **lbadi** a Muslim religion which predates Sunni and Shia and is prominent in Oman, **Jersey**, **Kakapo** the endangered New Zealand ground parrot, **Johnny Cash**, penny blacks and penny reds under the caption "**In first**", **January and July** issues of King Edward VII definitive stamps, **Imperial Airways** and **Ice** covering Antarctica. Sadly two of our members have passed away within a few days of each other. **John Payne** was a very active and popular member and one of our

most successful vendors at auctions and in the circulating packets. **Andrew Ruxton**, unable to attend meetings due to work commitments, was a strong supporter of the circulating packets.

Jim Drummond

Barnet & District

In our Spring Auction **David Frome** offered over 350 lots in under 90 minutes. Our May meeting was the AGM, Bourse and Social Evening. Twenty members attended, attracted no doubt by the prospect of cheese and wine for just £1. This didn't carry over to the single vacancy on the committee, so the same officers and committee members were voted in for a further year. In June **The British West Indies Study Circle** paid a visit with *Jamaica Stamps & Postal History*. We were shown a very wide range of items including early 18th Century mail from Britain, inter-island mail, together with more modern issues and some of the shade variations and printings from the George V period, all most beautifully written up and displayed. Later **Denis Vandervelde's** extensive display of *Quarantine & Disinfected Mail from The Plague – 1830* included documents and mailed covers dating from as early as the 15th century, many of which were unique, was truly enlightening and showed just how this difficult subject was dealt with over the years.

Alan Harris

Basildon

Meetings continued through the summer. In July, members displayed *Modern Material (1986 to date)*. This was followed a fortnight later by **Ken Burr's** display of *Great Britain 1830-1901*. The members' evening in mid-August was on *12 pages from My Collection*, and then early in September *The Committee Entertains*. You can't help but have a wide variety of topics, themes and material with evenings like these. Then in late September **Eric Lienhard** took us, philatelically, to one place - *Switzerland*.

Adapted from *The Basildon Philatelist*

Basingstoke & District

In June our visiting speaker was **John Armstone** speaking on *These are a few of my favourite things* - no resemblance to the music from the "Sound Of Music". He divided the evening on Cinderellas into *A World Tour* and *The British Isles*. Part One covered Australia (1850 Gold Rush), New Zealand (Trade Exhibitions), USA (Wells Fargo), Africa, New Hebrides, British Solomon Isles and Europe. Part Two featured the Isle of Wight, Revenue Stamps, Local Authorities, Individual Carriers, Norwich Union and the 1981 Postal Strike. In July **John Tingey** brought *The Englishman who posted himself* which began with a projector / computer show on Mail Art – a subject in its own right. It featured a variety of fascinating designs on

**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.**

envelopes - with strong resemblance to the Victorian Mulready Envelopes. We were then introduced to W. Reginald Bray (1879 - 1939) an accountant living in the Forest Hill area of London. His passion was sending unusual items through the mail. In 1898 he purchased the Post Office Guide and studied their regulations. John traced the Bray Family Tree and utilised that information to identify items posted by relations on his behalf. He posted all manner of items (large and small) through the mail challenging the authorities as to whether the items were legal or otherwise. He always ensured that the correct postage was affixed. There then followed a section on Bray's autograph fascination and the methodology in how he obtained them. From *Hampshire PF Bulletin*

Bexley

The start to our 2016/17 season – over its first two meetings – has focused on Germany.

John Corderoy kicked off with *post-WWII Eastern Europe*. In the first half he outlined the history of Berlin and its split into zones. He displayed early overprints and chronicled the problems caused by the Ostmark that resulted in West Berlin bringing out a new overprint that could only be bought with Deutsch Marks. In the second half, he showed some unusual imperforate miniature sheets, some of which are not even catalogued in Stanley Gibbons (though they are in Michel). A number of interesting Cinderella and postal history items graced the interesting Third Reich display of material from *Germany* and *Czechoslovakia* of **David Luckhurst**



Judith French and David Luckhurst

from Deal. Propaganda items made up a significant portion, including a fine example of the prepaid postcard with faux Churchill stamp, a destroyer breaking in two over his head, with the 1 Pfennig value crossed out, and German text written underneath: "Not worth a Pfennig". There were also anti-Bolshevik postcards taken from a Nazi exhibition in Berlin and Vienna lampooning the 'Soviet paradise': a black and white photograph of a decrepit courtyard was said to be a worker's restaurant, another shows a cobbler in a run-down cluttered room. In the second half, he displayed Czech covers tied with temporary John Bull-type cancels during its German occupation, including a handmade TEPL cancel (Tepla u Touzine) dated October 1938. Adrian Smith →01322 559 210, or adethebeak@yahoo.co.uk

Will Dalrymple

Bromley & Beckenham

Three members' meetings in the summer produced 27 displays. The new season began with three visiting speakers. **Brian Sole** and **Robin Ollington** took us to *Guernsey*. Brian showed an array of stamps from the wartime issues, including the 2d Bisects, the Victory/Peace issue, before moving on to Regionals and

Guernsey PO issues. He showed stamps and Colour Proofs for the Liberation and Agriculture issues, Maxi Cards, Stamp Booklets and finally some tourist issues designed by our second speaker, who spoke about his experience of dealing with the Guernsey authorities, and the struggle to get co-operation between the Tourist and Post Offices. He then showed a range of issues with collateral material in which he had been the main if not sole designer. These included a 1971 Postal Strike issue and finally the 2002 Victor Hugo set with the Les Miserables designs. He explained the difficulties met when placing royalty on a stamp, copyright of film stills etc. and the research necessary in order to ensure accuracy.



Tony Stanford

Tony Stanford brought *The British Salonika Force in WWI*. He started by explaining the situation that led to British troops going to Salonika. His display included picture postcards, letters and military documents showing the events and personalities involved, as well as overprinted stamps and censors etc. He touched on the Zeppelin raids, the demise of the LZ85 and the disastrous fire in Salonika of 16th August 1916. The vast majority of deaths were due to malaria and other disasters.

David Rennie

Cambridge

In September, our president, **Rufus Barnes** gave a fascinating display of covers and stamps from the *Tokelau Islands* which comprise Nukunonu, Fakaofu, Atafu and Swains Island. The islands were initially under the control of the Gilbert and Ellis Islands until August 1925 when they transferred to New Zealand jurisdiction. Examples of unusual covers included Swains Island free to Samoa then USA stamps placed on for transmission to the USA. The second half continued with many covers with varieties such as an unusual purple date stamp on cover from Atafu. Stamps denoting different sports appeared to be favoured with examples on many covers. Unusual covers were also in evidence such as one from East Germany to Samoa which came via Reykjavik in Iceland, and a first day cover dated 10th November 1975 followed without explanation a few days later by the same stamps on cover correctly dated in 1981. In October **Peter Cockburn** gave us a detailed *History of the formation of the British Military Administration in Malaya*, formed in 1945 after four years of Japanese occupation. He showed his very impressive International Exhibit comprising the different stamp printings arising initially from Kuala Lumpur, London and Sydney, covers, and items from the DLR archives. In the second half he showed dozens of examples of postal history, especially the many different AR marks on covers, as well as postal stationery items. ➔

info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk

Peter Morton

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Warwick & Warwick

Chelmsford & District

At the first meeting of the season, we stood in silence in memory of **Tony Davies, Adrian Goodall, Lawrence Gorrolini** and **Tony Wilkins**, members who all died recently. Adrian and Lawrence were regular attenders and had been at our last meeting. Members had been asked to bring new acquisitions. The results were **Eric Lienhard** *Swiss postcards*; **Chris Norton** *Hong Kong airmails and revenue stamps*; **John Came** *PO stamp Sheets*; **John Rawlins** *Postage due covers*; **Tore Torkildsen** *Post & Go stamps*; **Paul Green** *Egyptian covers including the 1882 British Expeditionary Force*; **Nick Harris** *Airmail covers Rhodesia, South West Africa and Fiji*; **Richard Barnett** *South Africa postage due covers*; **Allan Boyce** *Italian States and first unified issue* and **Pat Adams** *Norway essays, Xmas seals and illustrated envelopes*. At our next meeting our visitor, **David Tett**, told us the *Story of Allied internees and prisoners of war in Japanese hands in Burma and Thailand 1942-45*. Communication was difficult, slow and infrequent but David has acquired a considerable amount of material to enable him to publish six books on the whole subject of Far-East prisoners. Much of his display related to prisoners working on the infamous Burma Railway. We also heard the story of David Nelson who compiled a record of prisoners and their whereabouts so that incoming mail could be forwarded to them. This was a thought-provoking and emotional display. →01245 420196 *John Rawlins*

Croydon

Three members of West London PS visited us. **Maurice Buxton** displayed covers of *American Stamp Dealers Trade Mail* advertising their trade by attractively decorated envelopes from 1816 onwards. **Chris Oliver** showed *Korean War Mail* from the South African forces to their homeland, including letter cards, postal stationery and envelopes with examples of "Free Forces Mail". Then **Melvyn Green** produced *Local Interest*, which was a wide ranging assembly of mail, including perfins, from the London districts of Brentford and Ealing plus a few from Croydon. This was a fascinating record of the economic and social aspects of life in those areas and included examples of cancels from many of the post offices in the area. At the next meeting eleven members brought displays on *M* – with much variety as usual. In September **James Podger** gave his display on *Africa and Adjacent Islands*. The first part of the display was Ascension Island with



James Podger, home from Africa

some material from St Helena. James' material was varied with postcards, blocks, sheets, individual stamps, postal notices and air letters. James gave an insight into life on the islands and his experiences during his time there. The second part of the display was largely of material from the African countries he had visited as a sea captain such as Gambia, Nigeria, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, Zanzibar and Mauritius. For our next meeting we were visited by two members of Wokingham PS, **Alwyn Lowe** and **Eric Holmes**.

Graham Harker

Dundee

The new session started with the President's Night display when our president, **Francis Podger**, displayed some of his material relating to the use of *Revenue Stamps in Singapore from*



Francis Podger on Singapore

1937 to 2012. His informative talk, aided by the use of a data projector, gave an in-depth view of the use of revenue stamps after which we viewed the material on display. The evening ended with the customary refreshments and cakes. The president's wife, Lyn,

had iced a cake to reflect the theme of the evening. At our second meeting three members of Arbroath and District Stamp and Postcard Club gave displays. **George Parker** had an informative display of *Scots on Stamps* that showed the great influence Scots had across the world and included some relatively unknown people and facts. **Ann Findlay** showed her collection of *U.S. Presidents*. This covered every president to date and had interesting background information. She awaits with interest the outcome of the forthcoming US election. **Brian Cargill** gave two displays - *Mozart* and *Lighthouses* - both of which we found interesting and informative.

A minute's silence was held in memory of Professor David Stirrups FRPSL, a former member and chairman of the society who died in August in Cambridgeshire where he and his wife had moved. *Colin Campbell*

Harrogate/Austrian PS

Andy Taylor of the Austrian PS presented *Aspects of Austria* as the 2016 John Whiteside Memorial Display in October. He began with a summary of Austria's history, which interestingly, and sometimes amusingly, interwove with its stamp issuing policy. The first half of the display of 120 sheets, began with an overview of the Austrian Empire's stamp issues which, Andy explained, was so well written up by its previous owner that he'd left it untouched ! Four Music Composer-folders provided the opportunity to explain and comment on Austria's "Personal Stamps". The definitives of



Harrogate President Alan Green gets the point about Mozart from Andy Taylor

the old Empire were then shown in detail, followed by the First Republic charity issues and the effect on postage stamps of Austria's many currency changes. A further row of frames began with recent miniature blocks and sheets, exemplifying the "because we can" approach. This philosophy has also resulted in the recent issue of stamps in a range of different materials, including ceramic, glass, leather, etc. Most of the Second Republic definitives came next, and the round concluded with a "Heimatsammlung" of stamps and covers from the town of Hall in Tirol. For round two Andy brought his award winning 80 sheet Newspaper Post exhibit providing opportunities to elaborate on various aspects of competitive philately, and he finished with 40 sheets from his ever expanding accumulation of "philatelic items more or less connected with Mozart".

David Bravery

Kingston & District

Our two members' meetings were on *Australasia and Far East and The 1950s* respectively. The former took us to seventeen different countries, led by 6 members. In the latter we reminisced

with 5 members but entirely outside the United Kingdom in 5 very different parts of the world. *From Geoff Chivers, Kingston Newsletter*

Launceston

In August we were visited by **Mark Humphrey** from Bideford. He is a self-confessed Orchid Lover and when asked the origin of his interest he recalled visiting a small stamp shop in Shrewsbury with his wife and buying a book on the collection of stamps with orchids on them. For this, his second visit, he brought *Orchids of the Commonwealth* followed by a shorter presentation of *Pictorial Postal Stationery*. The display included stamps featuring orchids issued by each country. After an interval for refreshments Mark moved on to his display of Postal Stationery which included an item featuring an orchid dating from 1897. **Terry Cowlard** came from Plymstock in September to show us his collection of *Rhodesian Postcards*, which extends to some 230 postcards from the former British colony of Rhodesia then Northern and Southern Rhodesia. The first part of his



Terry Cowlard and Viv Sandercock

display started in 1889 and ran through to the 1950s, including many featuring the same steam locomotive crossing the famous bridge over the Zambezi River. In the second part of his display he featured the life and times of the founder of Rhodesia, Cecil Rhodes, son of a vicar, who left England, aged 16, to join his brother in Natal. Other postcards included David Livingstone, Victoria Falls and views of the country in the 1900s and the Great Zimbabwe Ruins dating back to C15 and finally Zimbabwean banknotes including a \$100 trillion note then worth the price of a cup of coffee.

➔ Evelyn Sandercock 01566 772846
Howard Hamblin

Maidstone & Mid-Kent

Our 94th season started with a visit from Lewisham PS. We were entertained with four interesting and different displays. **Nigel Gooch FRPSL** followed with *Persia*. Nigel's interest in Persia began from all the letters received by his antiquarian book-dealer father. He was encouraged not to soak off the stamps leading to a very interesting display. The first half focused on the period from 1830 to 1910 with the second half showing the modern period from 1939 to the early 80's. Our morning meeting was for our members who brought along their material with a *Royalty* theme. Again there was a varied selection of material that always surfaces on this type of meeting. Remember that we are hosting the Kent Federation Summer Meeting on 15th July 2017 at the Aylesford Community Centre, near Junction 6 of the M20 Maidstone Kent. The Stamp Fair will have around 17

dealers with a wide range of material. You may not be interested in the Federation meeting, but do come by car, train or bus to enjoy the Stamp Fair and refreshments.

Brian Stonestreet

Morecambe & District

Our September and October meetings were both about Postal History. **Alan Kelsall** brought us *Post from the UK to Italy from 1500s to 1876*. **Phillip Longbottom** displayed *The Development of the postal system in Turkey to 1876*. Both speakers gave interesting and very concise presentations mixed with humour and a willingness to discuss their subjects.

Frank Colling

Ringwood

In July member **Hugh Jefferies** gave a highly detailed and entertaining presentation relating to the professional and more private life of Stanley Gibbons. This illuminating account threw light, more on the Man than the Company. Stanley was born in 1840, the 'Penny Black' year, the 5th child of a Portsmouth dispensing chemist. The legendary story of the 'Cape Triangulars' was retold, whereby in 1863 two seamen emptied a couple of sacks of these now iconic stamps onto the shop floor which Stanley promptly purchased for a small figure! At age 50, he sold his business and led the rich life with numerous ladies in tow!! Visits in 'company' to the Savoy, opposite 391, were apparent, his final visit (1913) resulting in a heart attack, whereupon the managers of this top hotel and of Stanley Gibbons together arranged for his body to be rolled up in



Rowan Brockhurst having received his lifetime membership award

a carpet and quietly removed to a modest address to avoid unwelcome publicity!! President, **Rowan Brockhurst**, has completed 49 years in this post. He was a founder member along with **Gillian Habbin** and the late **Wally Crumb**. In recognition, Rowan was presented with Honorary Life Membership. He greeted his successor **Colin Mount**, who as Chairman had completed no less than 29 years. **Paul Barry** was appointed as the new Chairman while continuing as Publicity Officer. We also welcomed two new committee members **John Stevens** and **David Etchells**. Eight Members displayed a wide variety of topics in the first meeting of our year. *Paul Barry*

Royal Sutton Coldfield

In October **Bill Pile** from Solihull came with a display entitled *Aspects of Japan*. He worked in Japan for a number of years in the 90s and showed on a map the various places he visited during this time. This is when he started his collection of Japanese postal history, purchasing material at the various places he visited on business. He started his display with postmarks called Botes - small, large

and white from the 19th Century. There were cancels with Roman letters used on mail being sent abroad, registered covers, postal stationery from 1874-6, stamps and miniature sheets issued from 1938 to 1956 to commemorate the National Parks, undeliverable mail cover with return to sender mark, a sheet of forged stamps and postmarks, covers with timed date stamp cancels, AM/PM prior to 1965 and then 24 hour afterwards, simplified registered mail/cash through mail covers and postage due marks and stamps on cover. Bill completed the first half of his display with a cover with a bar code label from 1984. Bill continued with various long running series of issues starting with New Year Greetings stamps which have run from 1935 to date. Other items included the Nature Conservation issues featuring birds, flowers and animals, the Philatelic Week issues, stamps and miniature sheets from 1955 to 2000. Bill ended his display with Christmas Charity Seals issued by the Anti-TB Association of Japan. Though we couldn't read it all, we did enjoy the display. *Albert Smith*

Scottish

The new season opened with the *Presidential Display* by **Eric Mason**. The following meeting was by Mrs. **Mavis Pavey** of Border PS. She brought displays of *France*. Her full display was preceded by **Mike Humphries** with a half hour *Not France Day*. All meetings are held at Unitarian Church, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh on alternate Tuesdays. →

www.scottishphilatelicsociety.co.uk

Gordon Moir

I Spy...

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

4



1



5



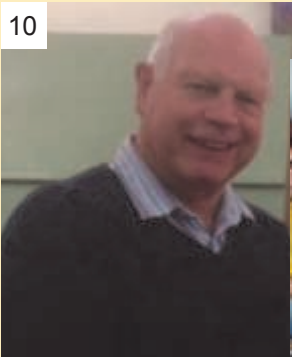
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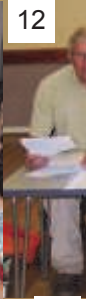
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12



14





South Midlands

Biggest plane EVER: The Club celebrated the record brevity of the AGM by showing displays on “Trains, Boats, Planes”. Striking displays included **Alan Godfrey’s** *Early submarines under the North Pole*, which were largely funded by commemorative envelopes. **John Walker** showed the *Thai-Burma “death railway”*, then we saw *Anzac landings, Tuva, planes on stamps from Bulgaria, Poland and Italy, mail ships using the British “Treaty Ports” in China*. **Bryan Hyner**



Bryan Hyner shows the huge Dornier Do-X

showed what was built as the “biggest plane ever”, the *Dornier Do-X* of 1929, built in Switzerland to get round the prohibition of Germany building planes after WWI: it failed in commercial use but was

successful as a troop carrier. →
01789 842112 or

www.sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps/smids John Gledhill

Southampton & District

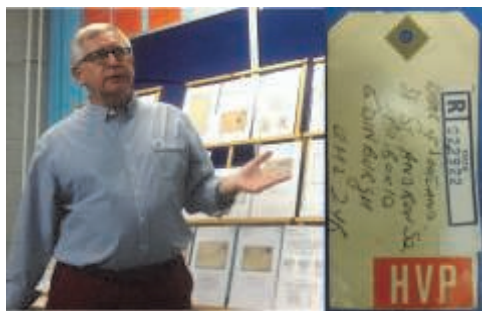
At our July Sociable at Chandler’s Ford there was as usual no formal talk and display but we were able to see a five-frame display of picture postcards relating to the history of Southampton and particularly buildings that no longer

exist, the Woolston-Itchen Ferry and events from the past. These were provided by **Colin Bayley**, **Alan Leonard**, **Paul Gosling** and **Steve Gerrard**. There was a steady stream of viewers despite the draw of the excellent refreshments. The main competitions in July had six entries – rather disappointing in number but not quality. **Julian Jones’** *Transatlantic Postal History: Treatment of Newspapers and Prices Current between USA and GB 1840-75* and **Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye’s** *Mail in Transit via Memel* will go forward as our entry for the Jan Kaluski competition at Hampex.

From *Postmark-Southampton’s Quarterly Magazine*

Stratford upon Avon

How to help train robbers: The new season was launched with the traditional display of recent acquisitions and the equally traditional remarkable variety of our members’ interests: *Indian revenues, British Rail newspaper letter stamps with decimal overprints, Canal Zone last day of issues, Gentoo penguins from Fiji, Tuva, Malta, stamps printed on porcelain and leather, Anzac landings, traders’ illustrated covers*, etc. and not least a letter written from Gloucester prison in 1690 pleading for financial help with his debts. In late September **Steve Harrison** showed an impressive display of the development of *British registration envelopes*, with various compensation scales and registration labels. The most striking was the post office’s special bright red “HVP” labels for “High Value Parcels”, widely used by banks sending packs of up to £100 000 worth of banknotes: these labels



Steve Harrison at Stratford shows how RM helped the Great Train Robbers

were so prominent that they made it somewhat easy for the Great Train Robbers to identify the bags full of bank notes in the ill-fated robbery of 1963. → Colin Fountain 01789 841606.

John Gledhill

Thatcham

In July after The Gerry Wilson Cup Competition, won by **Martin Farr** with

Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio 4 members showed a variety of *Flowers*. **Tim Usher** and **Ron Jones** of Camberley PS came to show us *The American Civil War* and *Poland* respectively. Tim included patriotic covers from both sides followed by Postal history with covers, stamps and bank-notes including low values 'fractional currency' issued when coins had been hoarded. Ron's display covered the period from WWII to the present day. He showed and spoke about many famous Poles including Nobel prize-winners that appear on the country's stamps including Marie Curie, Helena Rubenstein and Sam Goldwyn to name a few. In August it was *Show, Tell and Sell* with 16 members taking part, showing a very wide range of material. *Steam Engines* was the topic for September. Nine members

Captions for pages 30 and 31

1. Peter Kirk, Secretary of Macclesfield & Prestbury since 1966
2. Brian Sole, David Milsted & Robin Ollington at Bromley & Beckenham
3. David Richards & Mark Humphrey at Launceston
4. Helvetia PS members enjoying their reserved railway carriage en route to the postal museum in Bern
5. Ron Brown with Frank Walton at the Royal after Ron's Channel Islands Occupation Display
6. Brian Cargill, Anne Findlay & George Parker of Arbroath at Dundee
7. Maurice Buxton at Croydon
8. Melvyn Green shows *Local Interest* of and to Croydon
9. Tim Usher of Camberley with the *American Civil War* at Thatcham .
10. Peter Todd of Warminster received his certificate from Wiltshire competition.
11. The Auction gets under way at Autumn Stampex - keen and ready to spend their points.
12. Thatcham's Committee with John Baron at the AGM
13. Chris Board & Brian Asquith from Croydon visiting West London
14. 11 members on display at Croydon
15. Bromley & Beckenham viewing the members' display of *The Tropics*

responded including **Bob Paterson** who had no steam engines but brought cards of the steam ships of the Falmouth Estuary and early 1900 steam yachts – St Maws, Rossland, SS Victor, some passenger steamers and many others. Surely that counts as steam engines!

Martin Farr

Twickenham and District

A joint auction where we hosted other Surrey societies rounded off our previous season in June. There was some spirited bidding on over 400 lots. The society plans to host a similar auction in June 2017. We will end 2016 with a grand Christmas Auction on December 15th with seasonal refreshment. Guests from other societies are welcome. We meet from September to June on the first and third Thursday evening of the month at the St John's Ambulance Hall, Park Road, Teddington. →Mike Goodman. 0208 568 2433 Mgoo831975@aol.com

Mike Goodman

Wakefield

In late September **Les Goodens** paid us a visit and displayed *Gibraltar* which included stamps, covers and a few items of postal stationery. In October our President, **David Horner**, gave a display of stamps, postcards and covers relating to *The British Empire Exhibition*. Both of these displays were accompanied by very knowledgeable and enjoyable presentations which were thoroughly enjoyed by all members present. We will be holding our tenth catalogue Auction on Wednesday 19th April 2017 at Standbridge Lane Community Centre. The sale will commence at 6.30 pm

with viewing from 4.00 pm The auction is open to members and non members. We welcome lots / collections from members of the public.

→Brian Hitchcock 01924 271218.

Julie Hitchcock

Warminster

At the first meeting of the new season, members made their treasurer, **Julian**



Julian and George Frost

Frost, an honorary member in recognition of the 26 years that Julian has been the Society's treasurer and for his work in organising and running our stamp fair for the last 14 years.

Peter Todd was also presented with his certificate for his entry in the Wiltshire Federation's 9 sheet competition held in June.

We now look forward to a season of excellent meetings and displays.

→Colin Baker 01985 840033 or colin.baker333@gmail.com Colin Baker

Watford & District

After the summer break we began our new season in September 2016 with an informal 'Bring and Buy' evening. Several members brought along surplus items to sell, including a large selection of catalogues and handbooks

donated by **Mick Goldsmith**, with the proceeds going to club funds. Thank you Mick.

After showing us *Anschluss Part One* last year, **Tony Hickey** returned in October to show us the second part, displaying material all related to the events of 1938: the German invasion of Austria and the subsequent 'plebiscite', which resulted in a landslide victory for Hitler (surprise, surprise!). As well as stamps (including full sheets), Tony showed us special postmarks, postcards and propaganda ephemera: he even showed some examples of the actual voting forms used. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by the members present, and rumour has it that Mr Hickey is coming to see us again next year. You really are a glutton for punishment Tony!

→ Brian Thurlow 01923 243243 or wec_@live.co.uk Wayne Cox

West London

Croydon Philatelic Society made a return visit in October in the persons of **Dr Chris Board** and **Brian Asquith**. Chris displayed the extensive research which he had carried out with regard to the *First stamp of the Union of South Africa*. This included the difficulties between the established customs of the four colonies, the design & printing development of the stamp and the complications caused by King Edward VII's death. After a break Brian's display covered aspects of the *Postal history of Wakefield*; use of postage stamps on bank notes & orders, revenue stamps and airmails with anecdotes on judging these exhibits overseas. *Chris Oliver*

Federations

Kent

We organised three successful rallies for 2016. Like all federations and societies we are suffering from a lack of infusion of "younger" members (by that I mean anyone below retirement age!). This impacts upon the running of an organisation, in particular the lack of volunteers to fill posts necessary for the smooth running of an organisation or helpers generally. This could well see more societies close down. It helps greatly if those involved in running an organisation have access to the internet and email – but we are grateful to have a volunteer as Secretary (**Grahame Boutle**) without such access. We have also lost our Bulletin Editor (**Peter O'Keefe**) who retired after 25 years and the 200th issue in spring (see the report giving thanks to Peter in the Summer edition of ABPS News) - we are still looking for a new Bulletin Editor.

I was sad to learn that Swale PS had resigned from ABPS but we also have had resignations - Kent Postal History Group decided not to renew this year. On a brighter note, we are pleased to record that Kent won the Inter-Federation "Dawes Cup" competition, but sad to say that only two federations entered it this year. We are also pleased to report that at our AGM **Lewis Giles** of Maidstone & Mid Kent PS was awarded the Lingley. It can be awarded annually by the Executive Committee to a member of a Kent philatelic society who has contributed significantly to the well-being of that



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society, to philately in general or the Kent Federation over a period of time.

Michael Dobbs

Sussex

The South of England Stamp and Postcard fair organised by the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies and sponsored by Cavendish Auctions took place on 8th October at the South of England Showground at Ardingly, near Haywards Heath. This popular event continues to grow and now fully utilises the second floor of the Norfolk Pavilion to accommodate all the dealers who wish to come.

In addition to over 40 dealers other attractions included the exhibition of the Sussex Federation and British Thematic Association annual competition entries, the opportunity to view the ASPS auction lots and to partake in the popular bid board. For the first time the event was the venue for a British Airmail Society meeting to which visitors were invited to view a standing display and to chat with BAMS members.

In an adjacent room the ASPS held its 69th annual general meeting in the afternoon during which officers and an executive committee were elected and

competition winners received their awards from a representative of Cavendish Auctions.

Plans are already underway for next year when the Fair will be held on the 14th October, full details of which will appear on the Association's website www.sussexphilately.org.uk

Jim Etherington

National and specialist societies

Austrian

Peterborough Fest, Friday 9th - Sunday 11th Sept

The Fest weekend proceedings began with the now traditional Grand Auction on the Friday evening, where a combination of postal and room bidders secured 85% of the 100 lots offered. Members and partners then enjoyed a convivial evening meal. On the Saturday morning, the members provided two rounds of displays on a wide range of themes (24 in total) punctuated by a coffee break, viewing and lively discussion. After lunch, the weekend's key speaker **Lindy Bosworth** presented her acclaimed *Austrian Navy* display, giving us two

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Lindy Bosworth takes the Austrian Society on board the Kriegsmarine

rounds of 25 frames of stamps, covers, postcards and other ephemera relating to the whole Austro-Hungarian Kriegsmarine. Such a wide range of wonderful material is seldom seen and Lindy's in-depth knowledge and polished presentation was hugely appreciated. The annual Competition was *9 sheets on a subject beginning with H*. The winner was our President **Keith Brandon**. On Sunday **Andrew White**, son of the late **Henry White**, joined us for a Philatelic Tribute featuring displays inspired by Henry's interests. **Joyce Boyer** gave a moving

tribute to the major role that Henry had played in the APS over many years; following which members enjoyed displays of the *cancel classification system, postal stationery, Hesshaimer labels, Bosnia and Herzegovina, slogan cancels* and the classic "costume series". The Society's AGM followed by a 'review of 2016 and preview of 2017' brought the weekend to a close. →

www.austrianphilately.com

David Bravery



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British Thematic Assoc.

We held our third successful bi-annual gathering over the weekend of 30th September - 2nd October at the Oxford Spires Four Pillars Hotel. Over thirty members and guests were thoroughly entertained by a wide variety of thematic displays provided by invited speakers and those attending. The invited speakers presented three full displays on consecutive days. On Friday evening **Paul Leonard** gave a highly amusing presentation of Gerald King's humorous contribution to philately entitled *Alice in Wonderland and Beyond*. On Saturday **Lesley Marley** showed her International gold exhibit *The Whale's Tale* and on Sunday **Peter Wood** introduced an interesting display entitled *Ireland's Invasion of the World* which traced the influence of Irish emigration around the world. Members also contributed to the Weekend's entertainment with no less than 67 twelve sheet displays covering an enormous variety of collecting interests including *supermarket philately*, *World War II armed merchant cruisers*, *the Hydrological Cycle*,

Waterfalls and Postcards of Henley. The occasion proved highly enjoyable for all those attending and they left looking forward to the next gathering in 2017
. *Jim Etherington*

Channel Is Specialists'

Our July meeting, which included the AGM had displays with Alderney as the theme. **Jon Aitchison FRPSL** and **Robert Shaw** showed *Alderney Parcel Delivery Service*; **Ron Brown** displayed from his *German Occupation collection pertaining to the island*; **John Hirst** brought a 12-sheet display on *Alderney comic postcards*. At the AGM **Gavin Wood** stood down after six years as Auction Secretary and latterly as Competitions Secretary. **Alan Moorcroft FRPSL** replaced him as Competitions Secretary, in turn replaced as a Members' Representative by **Christine Earle**. For the regional meeting at Wakefield in September the day's theme was the letters *H, I and J*. **David Horner** displayed *Jersey postcards used between 1904-1948*. **Moira Edwards** then showed 10 sheets of *Bailiwick of Guernsey hotels* including the

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Hermitage, Houmet du Nord, Idlerocks, Imperial and the Hotel Jerbourg. The main 128-sheet display, entitled *The First Herm Stamp Issues and how to Identify the Eighteen Printings* was given by **Jon Aitchison FRPSL**. The display was also entered for the national ABPS competition at Stampex, where it won a gold medal, 'Best in Show' and the Silver Stage Coach trophy. **Bob MacDonald** followed with a 4-frame *Internment* display, followed by **Graham Winter** showing some *Island stamps* from his George VI collection, **David Horner** with cards posted to *Jersey from India, the Cape of Good Hope, Russia and Japan*. The final display was from **Dave Edwards** and showed *Inter-Island shipping postcards* from about 1900 to the ferry boats of the 1950s and 60s.

Steve Wells

East Africa Study Circle

We meet three times a year at the Union Jack Club in London (near Waterloo Station) on the Saturday of 'Stampex week' in February and September and in mid-June, with a members' bourse at the summer meeting and an auction in February and September. Major displays this year have included *The Missionary Stamps of Uganda* by **John Griffith-Jones FRPSL**, *Imperial Airways proving flights 1925/6* by **Bill Colley FRPSL**, *East African Machine Cancellations* by **David Easson**, *Zanzibar and Pemba Island Cancellations* by **Bruce Walker** and *Early British East Africa* by **John Wilks**. To mark the centenary of the Belgian occupation of Tabora in September 1916 we held a joint

meeting with the Belgian Congo Study Circle at which five of our members and three leading Belgian Congo specialists from Belgium contributed wide-ranging displays. Our journal **B.E.A. – The Bulletin of the East Africa Study Circle** is issued to members three times a year and is acknowledged as the leading publication in its field.

→ www.easc.org.uk or
secretary@easc.org.uk 023 8028 2474
Michael Vesey-FitzGerald

Gibraltar Study Circle

The Travelodge Hotel, Newmarket Road, Cambridge was our venue for the annual competition weekend 23rd - 25th September 2016. Although numbers were down it was a good and successful event. Before the mini auction and members' own individual 9 sheet displays on the Friday evening, a one minute silence was held in memory of Professor David Stirrups who sadly passed away in early August. **Simon Kelly**, **Roger Carr** and **Peter Morton** from the East of England Federation judged the competition entries on the Saturday afternoon whilst, at the same time, a display was given by **Eric Holmes** on *GB Used in Gibraltar*. The competition winners were: **Stan Lawrence** *The elaboration & artwork of the Gibraltar 1977 definitive issue*, **Eric Holmes** *Spanish adhesives used on mail from Gibraltar*. (Postal History), **Eric Holmes** *Queen Victoria issues* (Adhesive Class), **Eric Holmes** *GB postal stationery used in Gibraltar* (GB Used in Gibraltar Class), **Stan Lawrence** *The Gibraltar 1977 definitive editions stamps* (QEII Class), **Bert Burton** *Gibraltar & aspects of the U-*



Stan Lawrence receives his trophy from Tony Puckridge

boat war in the Mediterranean (Open Class) → ericholmes@talktalk.net

Bert Burton

The Great Britain PS

Many members, including several from overseas, attended Autumn Stampex 2016 enjoying the chance to meet fellow members, browse through dealers' stocks, visit the displays and, for several, await the results of the ABPS displays.

During the final afternoon of the Fair, we held the first meeting of the new philatelic season when **Tom Siemons FRPSL** displayed a section of his fantastic collection of the *Early postal history of Suffolk*. No boring catalogue of the postal markings was forthcoming but an interesting and informative talk of reasons how, why and when a very diverse range of marks and charges were made throughout the county from the earliest known postal marking from Ipswich in 1707 to the early months of the Uniform Penny Post. →

www.gbps.org.uk or
membership@gbps.org.uk

Janet Bygate

National

Members will again be volunteering to run the Information Stand at Spring and Autumn Stampex, where we hope to gain some new recruits, who will enjoy a special introductory offer with reduced subscriptions. We offer members monthly room and postal auctions with over 400 lots, displays, nationwide circulating packets of GB, Commonwealth and Foreign material, the bi-monthly journal *Stamp Lover*, which carries features and reports on the displays, and a large library with online search facilities. The society held a successful AGM in early July when **Michael R. Thompson** was re-elected President and Auctioneer. The Treasurer **Simon Richards** reported that we once again made a surplus on our activities and subscription fees remain frozen. Memorable meetings last season included the President's display of *Caldey Island*, **John Swade** with *US Revenues* and "back of the book", and rare classic *Philippines* from **Nigel Gooding**. The meeting venue is The Welsh Centre 157-163, Grays Inn Rd, London WC1X8UE. → www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

Mike Goodman

The Royal

The new season opened traditionally with a display from The Royal Philatelic Collection, shown by gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen. The chosen countries were British Guiana and Barbados. As **James Podger** remarked 'Where else could you see twelve of the so-called "cotton reels" of British Guiana, plus a further six examples on five covers?' Less



Frank Walton receives a finer point from Michael Sefi

crude was the first issue of Barbados, known as the Britannia design. The original watercolour portrait of Queen Victoria by EH Corbould has the pencil inscription 'The Engraver with a magnifying glass (such as I have not) can finish the toenails rather more.' The display was arranged by **Michael Sefi**, assisted by **Ian Greig** and **Rod Vousden**. The story of the *Occupation of the Channel Islands* from 1940 to 1945 was told by **Ron Brown** in a poignant presentation in late September. Guernsey and Jersey issued their own stamps during the occupation. Particularly interesting are those produced by Jersey, including the swastika overprints on low value definitives and Postal Centenary special issues of Great Britain. The Jersey Arms issue, designed by Major NVL Rybot, featured tiny letters in the corners. On the ½d these were AABB standing for 'Atrocious Adolf Bloody Benito', and on the 1d AAAA standing for 'Ad Avernum! Adolphé Artox' (To hell with you atrocious Adolf). Ron also told the stories of some of the Islanders who became civil prisoners and were sent to penal prisons and concentration

camps, for such crimes as listening to the BBC.

Richard West

South African Collectors

A small but select band of five members gathered on a warm, sunny Saturday afternoon to discuss the second definitive issue of the Republic of South Africa: **John Archer, Tim Harrison, David Page, John Shaw** and **Chris Oliver**. Four others had sent their apologies. Before the displays, we determined that the themes for the 2017 London meetings would be *Postage Dues* and *Cinderellas*, and the dates were booked for 18th March and 23rd September. John Archer displayed his collection of the *2nd definitives* which was that formed by Bill Branney with some additions. Much had been written up by Bill. Chris's display was very similar being the collection formed by Alec Page with one or two pages added. The displays prompted much discussion, mainly on colour reproduction and on printing techniques. The 4c value was particularly noticeable for its colour variety. After a refreshment break, with sandwiches provided by John Shaw, we looked at the 3rd Definitive issue *Proteas* which Chris had brought. It was an enjoyable afternoon which finished at 5pm.

Chris Oliver

Sudan Study Group

Following our regular 100 lot auction, which saw very strong bidding for WWII material, the afternoon of the autumn meeting was devoted to Official stamps. **Derek Barker** presented a display which included the first S.G. hand punctured stamps followed by O.S.G.S. overprints on the first Camel

set. Firstly local overprints on the 1 Millieme value with "oval O", "round stops" and high overprint varieties. Then the De La Rue types with "malformed O" and the rare "accent on G" varieties. Large and small format Camel stamps punctured SG by De La Rue, including a die proof of the larger puncture not previously seen by members, were of great interest. Then came the later issues overprinted SG including some die proofs SG in red or blue and examples of the small format Camel with double SG and pictorial with inverted SG. Members contributions included the various orientations of the hand punctured stamps and examples of several issues used on cover. →

Grigg240@btinternet.com or www.sudanstamps.org Paul Grigg

WETS

At our meeting in Buckfastleigh in April, **Carol Turner** from Minehead



Carol Turner infecting WETS

presented her thought-provoking display *Malaria & Man*. She began by telling us of the large number of deaths caused by the mosquito and the debilitating effects on armies in the field by malaria. She continued with the

search for an antidote and the realisation that the bark of the cinchona tree produced Quinine which protected from malaria. In 1854 cultivation was increased when Hasskarl smuggled Cinchona plants to Java. India also became a producer. Carol displayed a number of her treasured "props", including Cinchona Bark, various packets of anti-malarial products and a tin of PaludrineProguanil Hydrochloride Tablets produced by Imperial Chemical Industries. She showed her Palm D'Or medal from Torquay 2006. Her material was wide ranging consisting of various covers, stamps and cards including a superb card sent from Monaco advertising the eradication of malaria (Paludisme), a telegram to a mum telling her that her son had been ill due to malaria, pages from a wall calendar quoting "repellent is a sure thing against malaria", a wonderful advert for Bickfords quinine wine (now that's my sort of medicine) and some hilarious French comedy cards advising "soldier take your quinine each day" and "always sleep under your mosquito net". Carol ended by showing her roll of Cinchona bark explaining how she got it. *Martin Ellam* Congratulations to **Gary Green** and **Vicki Wigmore** on achieving Gold in the Wessex Federation Competitions. *Jim Wigmore* from *WETS Newsletter*



A pick-me-up from the past

Calling all Federations

And your Committees - and Competition Officers
- and all members who enjoy and value the hobby of philately.

Yes, I am writing to all of you who value your hobby and the organisations that support it and want it to continue in a strong and healthy way. Philately can take so many forms which are an essential part of its richness, allowing collectors of different styles and interests to find some aspect of it to suit them. We can see this clearly wherever there are exhibits, whether club competitions or national displays. The variety is astounding, if one thinks about it.

Many exhibit in the spirit of competition and here we come to the reason for my writing. This is an appeal for us all to think seriously about the value of competition, particularly at Inter-Federation level. For ABPS, any federation only needs three people to submit one frame each.

I am the Competitions Officer for ASPS, the Sussex Federation. I am fortunate in that ever since I have been involved, and before, the Executive committee has always been very supportive of competition, and members of ASPS have entered at all levels. I am known to be encouraging to beginners. 'Have a go and enjoy it' is my mantra, 'and don't worry about the comments and marks. But if you want to improve, listen to the judges'. And many do, and go on to county competitions – and then what next?

Inter-Federation is what should be next. Sussex has taken part regularly at this level but as club memberships have decreased we decided to focus our resources on the ABPS. What happened? In 2015 the only entry was from Sussex; in 2016 – nothing. On behalf of the ASPS Executive I wrote to express our disappointment. Chris King took this up and some emails flew around.

The outcome was this: The ABPS will run this competition in 2017 if there is enough support. It will only consider it if at least 6 federations express their interest in advance – soon – to Deborah Gooch. Reasonable or what?

So, my fellow Competition Officers.... I could list lots of benefits of competition but much better for you to discuss this yourselves in your committees and in doing so consider the following:

Does competing help us focus on our collections and see parts in a new light? Do we learn more? Do we spend more, which dealers like? Does it 'up our game'? Do we enjoy looking at others' exhibits?

And finally, if we have club and county competitions on one hand and national on the other, do we need something in between to bridge the gap, to provide a natural progression, to help those who cannot make that leap without it. In my view the answer is a resounding Yes. If you agree, Use it or Lose it.

Grace Davies, ASPS Competitions Officer, gracedavies@waitrose.com 01273 471372

Temporary closure of The Postal Museum Search Room supports move of collections to new home

As part of its ambitious plans to open a new museum and heritage attraction in Spring 2017, The Postal Museum closed its Search Room at Freeling House from Friday 11th November 2016 to support the move of its archive collection.

The Archive will be accessible again in spring 2017 as part of the new Postal Museum on Phoenix Place in Clerkenwell, Central London.

The closure will allow us to record, pack and ready all the archive collections to be safely moved to their new home. During the closure period detailed research will not be possible but email and telephone enquiries will continue to be responded to where possible.

The new facilities will include:

1: State of the art storage for the archival material, ensuring it will be well-preserved and safeguarded for future generations to consult:

2: A brand new, comfortable and welcoming room to access the Archive, opening as part of The Postal Museum building

3: A shop and café which will be accessible to researchers

4: In house digital reproduction facilities allowing us to make more content available online in the future. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this unavoidable closure, and looks forward to welcoming you to our new home in 2017.

British Forces Philatelic Society

Fundraising for our Forces through Philately

First Ever Use Of The Helicopter For An Assault Landing

Operation Musketeer was the Anglo-French plan for the invasion of the Suez Canal in 1956. As part of this helicopters were used to transport Royal Marines of 45 Commando 9 miles from the aircraft carrier HMS Theseus to Port Said.

This was the first ever use of helicopters for an assault landing.

BFPS has produced a commemorative cover to mark this ground-breaking use of helicopters.

The images used on the cover and the specially produced smiler stamp were taken by 'troops on operation' and provide a real sense of history in the making. The smiler stamp will be cancelled by the 'BFPS 3201 Operation Musketeer' handstamp, which incorporates an image of the iconic Wessex Whirlwind helicopter.

The cover may be ordered from the BFPS online shop (www.bfps.org.uk/shop) from the 18th October 2016 and will cost just £7.50 (UK/BFPO p&p free).

You can also order the covers by post by sending a cheque (payable to 'BFPS CIC') to BFPS The Old Post Office, Links Place, **Elie** Fife KY9 1AX.

Future Collecting

I have recently written in this journal about my commitment to the young collector and ways to generate interest through education. I now turn to a different aspect of the future to which today's young people will graduate. It is unlikely to be one in which conventional options such as career and profession open as we have known them. Jobs of any sort may be difficult to come by. We face a society being rapidly and radically changed by technology. Technology owns the mantra- "Don't think for yourself- we can do it for you, and better!" In my profession as an educator I could argue this more fully with the hard evidence.

It means we may have more time for things that work suppressed. Hobbies and interests may, curiously, survive the tech age except where the collecting tasks are genuinely eased and there is no implicit attempt to order our ways. It is highly unlikely stamps will be around except as history. Already they are far less used for postage and becoming little more than colourful and occasionally informative labels.

So I ask the significance of the jiffy bag front from which I have copied the franking(s) and part of the address. I have the whole document naturally. Readers may hazard a guess what Feldman's would say if I sent it them for



auction as a philatelic gem! But when my grandchildren are my age? How would we regard it today anyway? The most recent of clearly three mailings for this envelope was to me using the new Queens Head postage labels with e-symbols etc and stating that it was paid at the 1st class rate of £1.71 for a packet 317g on 19th August. The VAT is even cited. Clearly it has been sent by someone else to a third party, probably my sender, using stamps. Readers will

recognise its existing philatelic connotations, a mix of definitive and commemorative stamps some rather from the distant past. It came to me via the Hungarian Society exchange packet and was sent to my sender no doubt by another HPS member. Before that there was a third sending, no doubt similar, but using the label once more. The middle sender clearly tried to remove the label but did not complete the exercise. The final label obscures one of the postage stamps which otherwise total 87p, not terribly close to the 1.71 total even allowing for weight to have been reduced by anything bought. Maybe more stamps are obscured by the latest label.

Careful manipulation of the original label might reveal its weight - just 'kg' is visible. There is good scope for the kind of philatelic investigations we recognise today as valid postal history study. In 50 years time even the labels may be historical items - and may be valuable because who apart from me is collecting them? We have been rather naturally focused on "classical" and then 20th Century material in present and past collecting priorities. Had we looked to the future in 1929 we might have invested in a few Postal Congress £1 stamps or the Silver wedding versions of the next monarch. Were many of those actually used? My wife worked for an Australian company in the UK and came home one day with the top card section of a large package that had arrived for them. It had many high denomination stamps but still needed postage due here paid in blocks of high value 'dues.' The company would have simply binned the box - stamps and all!

But everyday mail would not have caught our attention in the same way. There is always so much of it. That is not so today. It would be a challenge to find in even the near future every stamp of a UK commemorative issue actually used for genuine private or commercial purposes rather than philatelic. A 31p Christmas stamp should have ended up mainly in foreign parts not on an HPS packet years later. For as long as I can remember post offices have been required to return unused commemorative stamps after a few weeks and use may have been rather limited, with recipients not necessarily so sensitive to future philately.

I have cheated a bit by asking many of my overseas and UK friends to return envelopes and similar to me because I have made intriguing frankings for the particular rates. But I have only ever done that when I had some genuine reason to write in the first place - as when sending documents to committees on which I served as secretary - often quite heavy and involving higher denominations. Birthday presents serve the purpose well. Large flat packets at overseas rates at least afford the chance for an issue in strip or block form to be used as such. I feel like the notorious - or famous - Hungarian Captain Péterdi who fashioned a range of ship mail within significant stretching of the rules, or absence of them, for mail posted on the high seas. And many were less than necessary mail to the particular correspondents. In my case I am preserving evidence that might otherwise have been thrown away.

So I could if I had the money regale a “Stampex” audience with some possibly remarkable, indeed unique examples of mailed items already postally historic. Should we, for the sake of the future hobby, try to keep at least the history cycle alive as long as we can? There will still be Penny Blacks on cover lurking in the minds and collections of the wealthy as do great works of art today. But today’s humble stamps may also still have a tale to tell if they survive. I am not suggesting we all keep every item we receive with a basic rate stamp on it. But perhaps if we are more sensitive to the future we may not discard everything or assign it to the charity shops however much they may ultimately benefit. Some covers with 2nd class stamps may have something else - perhaps a slogan postmark that tells of the age. It may have been underpaid and no ‘postage due’ will have been attached but a process will have applied and may have changed over time.

The 2nd class rate will also have changed. Perhaps the stamp was bought at a lower rate - a modest profit for users of non-denominational values after a rate increase. I sent a birthday card to an American friend including in the franking an earlier ‘E’ stamp of which I had bought a sheet just before a steep rise in the rate. From the 39p I had spent I gained the equivalent of 50p profit using it as 89p of the US letter charge. The Post Office had just been privatised and typically a harsher business climate rapidly developed, insensitive and grasping, and someone in London had stopped the letter claiming it was under-franked. I corrected their ignorance and they agreed it had its current face value as postage in all circumstances but they refused to apologise to the lady who missed her card or forward it by special delivery to atone for their sins. But an interesting story!

Those young people for whom I wrote last time may thank us for any such deliberate exercise in conservation and preservation of history. Letters as such seem destined ultimately no longer to survive anyway. Philately may prove one of the essential lifelines humanity still has for actually thinking, making decisions and taking responsibility rather than blindly obeying technology and its corporate masters - that is until the machines themselves take over as no less than Stephen Hawking fears.

So I am setting my words into rather deep philosophy, but at the heart remains my commitment to study and learning that stamp collectors and postal historians have done so much to serve already, and I would wish to inspire today’s younger generations similarly.

Mervyn Benford

ABPS accredited judges

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

ABPS Inter-Fed Competition at Autumn Stampex 2017

It is proposed to hold an inter federation competition at Autumn Stampex 2017. In order to see what level of interest there might be, federations are asked to send an expression of interest to Deborah Gooch at exhibiting@abps.org.uk, by 31st December 2016.

We need at least six federations to make this viable, and we have widened the scope of the competition to include more classes than in previous years. You can see the rules and other information at: abps.org.uk under the Exhibitions tab at Downloads.

Advice and Support for Exhibitors and Organisers

The ABPS Exhibitions and International Committee recognises the wish for Federations and Clubs to exercise their judgement on the suitability of local rules for the organisation and judging of exhibitions.

However, in order to assist exhibitors and to work towards common standards between Federation and National competitions, organisers are encouraged to consider the use of the ABPS advice and support documents on the website in their competitions. See abps.org.uk under the Exhibitions tab at Judges.

Seminars are given to support exhibitors at least twice annually at Stampex, and Federations are encouraged to organise seminars locally, both for exhibitors and judges. These can involve more than one Federation or Society, and are more effective with twenty or so participants, extending over two days. Contact Bill Hedley at ewlhedley@yahoo.co.uk if any Federation is interested in helping to organise or host a seminar

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ABPS Handbook & Directory: updates

We have been informed of further amendments to the Handbook & Directory (2016). I will be grateful if you will send any more amendments or error notifications as soon as possible to me at editor@abps.org.uk. We apologise for those errors that have caused problems or distress. Please note the changes below.

David Stotter (p 27) Surrey Federation judge has died.

Middlesex Philatelic Federation (p 59): Watford & District PS should not be in italics as they are affiliated to ABPS

NorthEast of England Philatelic Association (p 60): Berwick & District PS should not be in italics as they have affiliated to ABPS.

Specialist Societies

British Air Mail Society (p 67):

Membership Secretary: Mike Buchanan mibairmails@gmail.com

Editor: Dr. Richard Saundry richardsaundry@btinternet.com

Scottish ("North of the Border") Region - Dr Robert Clark, 119 Grampian Road, Stirling, FK7 9JN rgc119@hotmail.com

Sarawak Specialists Society (p 82);

President: Malcolm Gascoyne president@s-s-s.org.uk

Secretary: Roger Johnson, 9 Chipstead Park Close, **Sevenoaks**, Kent, TN13 2SJ. secretary@s-s-s.org.uk

Journal Editor Ray Price editor@s-s-s.org.uk

Website www.s-s-s.org.uk

Local societies

We welcome as new affiliates: **Berwick & District Philatelic Society**: Add to p 94: Secretary: Jeff Armstrong, Herringfield, 15B, **Lamberton**, Berwickshire TD15 1XB 018907 81400 jeffrey.armstrong@virgin.net

Barnet & District: (p 91) New Secretary:

Alan Harris, 0208 4493971 alanandritaharris@hotmail.co.uk

Meetings are held from September to July

Barry Philatelic and Postcard Club (p 91) has changed its web site address to fswps.weebly.com/barry.html

Ferndown & West Moors P& PC (p 114): Secretary's new address: Paul R Barry, c/o 27 Blandford Road, **Corfe Mullen**, Dorset BH21 3HD, 07932581791

Launceston Stamp Club (p 129): from January 2017 will be meeting at Methodist Church Hall, **Ladycross**.

Morecambe & District PS: (p 138): Founded: 1947, Membership: 31, Federation: North West, Secretary: Frank Colling, 15 Newcroft, Warton, **Carnforth** LA5 9QB 01524 733589

Treasurer: 20 Sedbergh Drive, **Kendal**, Cumbria LA6 6BJ

Meetings are on 1st and 3rd Tuesday from September to May.

Poole & Bournemouth Stamp & Postcard Club: (p 144): Chairman: Chris Wheeler chriswheeler07@btinternet.com, Secretary's new email address: michael.p.mawdsley@gmail.com

Rugby & District Philatelic Society (p 151): Meetings have moved to Overslade Community Centre, Buchanan Road, **Rugby**

Watford & District Philatelic Society (p 167): President: Alan Vincent; Editor: Wayne Cox, 6 Wellbury Terrace, Leverstock Green, **Hemel Hempstead**, Herts HP2 4NX, 01442 233143, wec_@live.co.uk; Publication: The Annual, annually

Wimbledon & District Philatelic Society (p 168):

Secretary's email: bmkpriddy@hotmail.com

I regret to inform you that **Hertford & District Philatelic Society** (p 121) has closed

Speakers

Gavin Fryer RDP, FRPSL (p 207) Dorset Tel 01308 427 314

Displays: 1) GB QV Printed Papers by Post

2) GB KGVI mail to and from Islands

3) GB KGVI WWII Christmas Message

4) GB KGVI WWII British Censorship

5) Somalia collapse of economy 1991-94

6) Blindman's Mail worldwide

Visits by arrangement

David Walker (p 252) Add Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire

New displays: Antarctica and Mexican Coats of Arms

The following speakers are no longer in communication or have ceased to give displays: **Prof David Stirrups**, **David Stotter** (p 246).

British Library Philatelic Exhibition

Don't forget that you can go at any time to see the British Library's permanent exhibition of stamps, next to their coffee bar; you don't need to have a British Library ticket. It is not far from Euston, St Pancras or King's Cross stations.

If you want to see their enormous collection not on permanent display contact Paul Skinner at the British Library.

Editor

British Stamp news

I received my first instance of the Fire of London stamps recently and thought that the Royal Mail had gone into publishing cartoons. The stamp was cancelled






so perhaps used cartoons was the new vogue. Then I thought again. This was sent by a young corresponding collector who clearly liked it, so perhaps my ideas need rethinking. These stamps tell a story, both visually and literally, they tell the

history of one of our cities and they catch attention. They might even be of use in Education. Actually now that I have seen them all - I like them! However - still why couldn't two of them have been 2nd class stamps - that would have increased the chance of the message getting across and the extra use being recognised and less expensive.

I am still waiting to receive any of the August issue of Landscape Gardens stamps commemorating Capability Brown's 300th Anniversary in my post, which is a pity as I consider them to be another good production. I have visited some - Blenheim, Alnwick and Highclere - great popular tourist attractions and so perhaps one of the reasons for their inclusion. The other five have now whetted my appetite for other visits. Perhaps I might manage to call in on a society meeting in the areas at the same time.

I assume that lots of Postal Historians and Thematic Collectors noted the 355th Anniversary of the introduction of the Bishopmark. Even though I live in the area, I didn't see a single use on my mail.



<p>Delivered by</p>  <p>Royal Mail</p>	<p>Royal Mail North, East & West Yorkshire (Var1) (Var2) (Var3)</p>	 <p>The Bishopmark Introduced in 1861</p>		<p><i>The Editor's views are not necessarily those of the ABPS</i></p>
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Stamp Active Network

British Youth Stamp Championships

Sadly there are fewer young collectors taking the exhibits forward to the British Youth Stamp Championships, although the Judges are pleased to note that a very high standard is being achieved. As always, the competition is sponsored by Stanley Gibbons, with the judging kindly hosted by The Royal Philatelic Society London, and the exhibits on display at Autumn Stampex thanks to the co-operation of the Philatelic Traders' Society. The judges were **Dave Armitage, John Davies and Richard West.**

The entries and awards are as follows:

Toby Asson (aged 17) - *The American Dream*: Silver-bronze

Joseph Likeman (aged 15) - *How Ships have changed our World*: Small silver

Carys Llewellyn (aged 12) - *Winter Sports*: Small silver and the Melville Cup for the best overall exhibit

Sara Llewellyn (aged 11) - *Making Music*: Small silver

Young Collector of the Year 2016

Natalia Miskiewicz from Worcester is Stamp Active's Young Collector of the Year and received the "Anne Dummer Trophy", sponsored by Midpex, and a special prize at Autumn Stampex. She received a unique "Alice in Wonderland" cushion (which was never available to the public) together with an "Alice" book and presentation pack. The prize pack was sponsored and presented by **Fraser Chisholm**, Head of Marketing at Royal Mail.

The Anne Dummer Award was created by the East Midlands Federation in memory of Anne Dummer who was one of the founders of Kidstamps and devoted much effort in promoting stamp collecting among children. The award is not for who has the best collection, or the best display, or has won the most trophies. The idea behind the award is to select annually a child who has made a significant contribution to the hobby among young children, by helping and encouraging others, by helping with the running of their local club, or by promoting the hobby in any other way.

Stamp Club Organiser, **Jenni Stephens** at St Clements Primary School, nominated Natalia, saying "Natalia is currently in Year 5 and joined the Stamp



Collectors Club at the beginning of 2015. Her family originated from Poland so she enjoys collecting stamps from her home country and becomes very excited when she finds one or someone brings one in for her. While she didn't have any interest in stamps when she joined SCC she quickly bought herself a folder and has spent time at home dividing her collection in themes e.g. Poland, other countries, animals etc. She shares "doubles" stamps with other members of the club and passes on stamps that may be collected by others. When I commented I put any "glued together" stamps in a separate box she quickly offered to "float" them and return them to me to add to the "swap" collections. She is always first to offer to put the displays up and to show others how to use stamp hinges – great fun, pity not chocolate flavoured. Natalia has actively taken part in all aspects of the SCC by attending every week, has jointly won the "commitment" prize and won the "design a stamp" celebrating Easter."

Penny Black Winner at Autumn Stampex

Once again, the free children's auction, run by Stamp Active in the Kids Zone, proved a hit at Autumn Stampex. After completing the activity pack, the young collectors can gain up to 250 points to use in the Stamp Active auction to try to win prizes donated by dealers and friends. Bidding was lively for a wide range of lots including Penny Reds, illustrated covers and stock books as well as some large packets of stamps.

At the end of the auction there was a prize draw for a Penny Black for all the youngsters who took part. This year's winner was **Cuba Maine**, aged 11 from London.

The runner up was **Wilfred Bazley** who received an Autumn Stampex 2016 Smiler Sheet, donated by the Philatelic Traders' Society.

Cuba was presented with his prize by **Robin Cassell** of Mulready Philatelics who generously donated the Penny Black.



Robin & Cuba

Prize Draw Winners for "Bring A Child to Stampex"

Stamp Active, the UK's leading organisation that promotes stamp collecting to children, again offered a free prize draw for any adult who brought a child to the Kids Zone at Stampex. This has become a regular feature of their programme to try to encourage more people to bring their children and grandchildren to the Show.

The winners at Autumn Stampex 2016 were:

1st **Christopher Barker**: Royal Mail Year Book 2015

2nd **W Jones**, Orpington, Subscription to Stamp & Coin Mart

3rd **Karen Nicholls**, Petts Wood, PTS Autumn Stampex Smiler Sheet

Information about the Stamp Active Network can be found on their website

www.stampactive.co.uk

“My Favourite Things” Competition Winners

Stamp Active also featured a new competition this year. “My Favourite Things” was a national one page competition to encourage young philatelists to take their first steps into national competitions, sponsored by Isle of Man Stamps & Coins. All of the entries were displayed at Autumn Stampex.

They could choose any country or subject to tell a story of their favourite things. The competition attracted entries from all over the UK.

The winners were:

Aged Under 7

1st **Isla Brash**: *Four Seasons*

2nd **Aria McTaggart**: *Plants of the World*

3rd **Piper Green**: *The Queen*

Aged 8 & 9

1st **Hannah Stephenson**: *Penguins*

2nd **Max Fenn**: *Wales*

3rd **Evie Devereux**: *The Seaside*

Aged 10 to 12

1st **Connor Bramham**: *Military*

2nd **Chris Botha**: *South Africa*

3rd **Matthew Kouba**: *About Me*

The Best Overall Entry was judged to be Hannah Stephenson with her display on Penguins. All the prize winners will receive a prize pack from Isle of Man Stamps & Coins.



Buckingham Covers Promote STAMP ACTIVE

A new series of first day covers celebrating the children's classic, Mr Men and Little Miss, are available from leading cover specialist, Buckingham Covers. It features the Stamp Active logo on the front and the printed insert gives details of Stamp Active programmes. A donation will be made to Stamp Active for each cover sold. Our thanks to Buckingham Covers for their support. The covers can be purchased by accessing the Buckingham Covers website.

Donations of stamps, particularly of first day covers and thematic stamps would be welcomed by the organisers to:

Stamp Active Network, 3 Longfellow Road, **Banbury**, OX16 9LB *David Rossall*

Your society information?

Please let the ABPS Secretary and Database 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.58. Please tell your Federation Secretary too.

Diary for the next few months

Local and regional events by ABPS members

November

- 12 Maidstone & Mid Kent PS Stamp Fair: 10-3, Grove Green Community Centre, Grove Green, **Maidstone** ME14 5BT 6LT → 01622 67874
- 19 Bolton Society Grand All Day Auction: Masonic Hall, Bury New Road, **Bolton** BL2 6QJ Over 1000 lots offered. → 01942 813386

2017

February

- 11 Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies Spring Rally & AGM, Hosted by Bromley & Beckenham PS celebrating their 85th Birthday Stamp & Postcard Fair: Langley Park Boys School, South Eden Park Road, **Beckenham** BR3 3BP

March

- 24-26 Gibraltar Study Circle AGM, Golden Lion Hotel, High Street, **Northallerton**, North Yorkshire

April

- 8 Maidstone & Mid Kent PS Stamp Fair: 10-3, Grove Green Community Centre, Grove Green, **Maidstone** ME14 5BT 6LT → Brian Stonestreet 01622 67874
- 19 Wakefield PS Open Auction: 18.30 onwards (viewing from 16.00), Standbridge Lane Community Centre, **Wakefield**

July

- 8 MIDPEX: Warwickshire Exhibition Centre
- 15 Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies Spring Rally, Hosted by Maidstone & Mid-Kent PS: Aylesford Community Centre, 25 Forstal Road, **Aylesford** ME20 7AU

October

- 14 Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies Stamp Fair & Convention: South of England Showground, **Ardingly**, West Sussex RH17 6TL → Jim Etherington 01273 471897
- 21 Middlesex Federation Stamp Day: Methodist Church Hall, **Ruislip**
- 28 Surrey Federation of PS Annual Event, hosted by Addlestone Community Association Philatelic Section: Addlestone Community Association Hall, Garfield Road, **Addlestone** KT15 3SN → Shirley Kemp albertedward.kemp@ntlworld.com

November

- 11 Maidstone & Mid Kent PS Stamp Fair: 10-3, Grove Green Community Centre, Grove Green, **Maidstone** ME14 5BT 6LT → Brian Stonestreet 01622 67874

National and international events

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

- 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

When sending the Editor details of events please give the postcode of your venues – it helps people with satnavs.

International Exhibitions 2016-2020

- 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: contact ewlhedley@yahoo.co.uk → www.finlandia2017.fi/ or info@finlandia2017.fi
- 3-7 August 2017: Bandung 2017 World Stamp Exhibition (Indonesia) - Trans Studio Convention Center, Bandung, Indonesia: Classes: Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Thematic Philately, Youth Philately, Philatelic Literature, One-frame Exhibits, Modern Philately - Entry Deadline: **IMMINENT** → UK Commissioner: Jon Aitchison FRPSL, Old Tithe Hall, Start Hill, **Bishop's Stortford** CM22 7TF (+44) 01279 870488 britishlocals@aol.com
- 2-9 May 2020 London 2020 International Stamp Exhibition: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH → www.london2020.co

Congratulations to the Competitors at Stampex

Gold and The Best in Show was given to **Jon Aitchison** for *The First Herm Island Stamp Issues, Identifying the Eighteen Printings*.

Gold and Special prize for research went to **Maggie Thompson** for *The French Post Office supports the Saar*

Anthony Whitehead won Gold and a Special Prize for his material in *History of The British War and National Savings Schemes From World War I To World War II*

The other 7 Golds went to **Graham Booth, Philip Cheetham, John Davis, Dave Elsmore, Glenn Morgan, Peter Rogers** and **Neil Sargent**.

There were also 14 Large Vermeils, 7 Vermeils, 5 Large Silvers, 4 Silvers - for a total of 40 entries in the 9 classes of Aerophilately, Cinderella, Open Philately, Philatelic Literature, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Postcards, Revenue Philately and Traditional Philately.

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

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

Stamp Active Network: please write to:

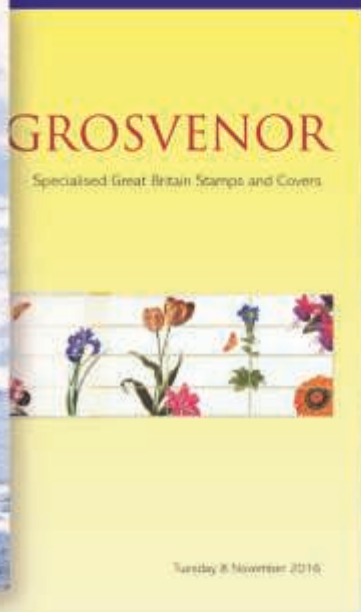
SAN, c/o John Davies, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, Oxon OX16 9LB

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

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

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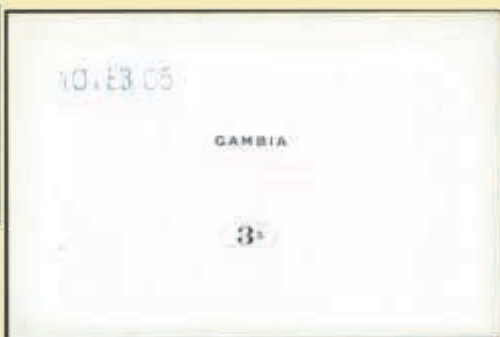


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