

ABPS news

Spring 2017

Official magazine of the Association of British Philatelic Societies
Volume 24 Number 1

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See p 21& 33

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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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Editor: Keith S Burton

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CONTENTS

4	Collectively Speaking	18-19	Postal Museum News; Friends of Postal Museum <i>Richard West</i> ; The Royal is on the move
5	Editorial		
6-7	Anniversaries: Bromley & Beckenham (85), Minehead (50), City of Preston (80)	20- 47	On the Club Circuit (p 28, 29 I-Spy)
8-9	Obituaries: Professor John West; Reverend Alan Roy	31	Index to I-Spy
10	Amendments to Society Information	47	Revenue Stamps posher than Postage stamps <i>John Gledhill</i>
15,16	ABPS Small Grants Scheme;	48	British Stamp News
16	Introducing Rufus Barnes	49-50	Stamp Active
17	ABPS Congress: Cardiff 27 th to 30 th July	51-53	Diary: Local Events, National & International Exhibitions:
		54	ABPS information

Cover pictures: *Bev Davies with some of the members of The Dell Club (Chepstow) with their Autumn Stampex entries; Don Brookfield, John Corderoy & Judith French of Bexley,*

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 as soon as ready; 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 (unformatted). Send copy to the editor: Keith S Burton - editor@abps.org.uk Illustrations should not be assumed to be accurate as to size or colour.

Collectively Speaking

A view from the Chair



Another year has passed so now is a time for reflection on the past twelve months. A very successful Congress at Cambridge under the chairmanship of Rufus Barnes was undoubtedly

one of the highlights. It was not a good year however for ABPS as a significant number of individuals passed away and they are sorely missed. We are pleased that new volunteers have stepped forward and these are listed on the back pages of this bulletin. We have also been successful in identifying my successor and I trust that you will give him the support that is needed to fulfil the role. I will be stepping down at Cardiff but will continue to be involved on one of the sub-committees which will not involve any travelling.

I am very pleased that Graham Winters has accepted the role of Chairman following Cardiff and other appointments include Barry Staggs looking after membership, and Rufus Barnes accepting not only the Federations role but also that of Vice-Chairman. Together with Neil's these three new appointments will enable me to leave the ABPS in safe hands. They have several positive thoughts and it promises a solid future for ABPS.

Rufus is currently involved with resurrecting the InterFed competition and I trust that the Federations will take

this on board and provide some much-needed competition within ABPS. Also on competitions there is still time to enter Autumn Stampex this year. It would be good to think that all collectors are striving to enter the national competition at least once.

The new website is progressing well and Maurice Buxton is looking for comments on how the old one can be improved. If you have some ideas don't just think them - please share them.

I travelled by train for the North-West Federation day in Horwich recently and I was pleased to meet some old friends. I stayed overnight locally which proved to be a positive move as the rail travel took some 10 hours against a schedule of 5. The packed trains and the delays confirmed that I am no longer fit enough to make these journeys and as such Cardiff cannot come quick enough. As it will be my final congress in the chair I hope to see as many of you as possible at this major event. I have been informed by Gerald that all is well on the way and a good Congress is promised.

A shorter than usual "Collectively" which will allow Keith to use the extra space due to my restricted availability to travel as my health remains a concern.

I wish all collectors a Happy and prosperous New Year,

John Baron

Editorial

I have been heartened as the reports came in for this issue by the number of good wishes for Christmas and the New Year and kind comments made by some of my/your correspondents. As my own collection has suffered from neglect recently whilst I have been working on the News issues it is heartening to hear that the effort has not been in vain. In some respects this is much like hearing from a judge that your competition entry was worthwhile and deserved an award of some merit. It is certainly better than being told that you have wasted your time. Remember this when your committee asks for your help - a few words of encouragement and some assistance in anyway that you can will mean more than you can possibly realise. On the more sombre side it is sad to note that Edenbridge is one of the latest societies to close its doors as the number of members willing and able to organise and run the club has finally dried up. If you can volunteer to help but don't want to be stuck with the task for longer than you can bear why not put a time limit on your involvement with that particular role - and then stick to it? It is easy to get stuck with a job and then go stale in it - to no-one's benefit. Some day I will want to relinquish this post - so prepare yourself to take over - but not yet. My family still see me enjoying what I do so there are still a few years left in me until I will need a change.

For the first time that I can remember I received a request for more information on an item that I included in the last issue. It was a final addition to the British Stamp News and nearly didn't

make it for inclusion. I look forward to hearing more about the research that this has generated. Who would have thought that the addition of a small piece on a new cancellation in the Yorkshire area would lead to a strand of research for someone. It is most gratifying.

So thank you to all those who follow up on items and push the boundaries of knowledge further and further.

You will no doubt have talked in your own societies about the lack of new collectors and how youngsters these days aren't interested in stamps. Isn't it marvellous to see a photograph on the front cover of so many children who have been inspired to be members of their own club? Of course they needed and no doubt still need support but South Wales appears to have got the message across. As Congress in 2017 is in Cardiff I hope that some of the people responsible will come along to tell the rest of us how they did this wonderful job. Perhaps they will be able to inspire others to try some of their ideas or to have some themselves for their own particular area. I don't expect that the children will want to visit Congress but would they be prepared to lend their exhibits for us to see what they produced? It's a long way from Chepstow to Stampex but not too far to Cardiff.

Keith Burton



Society anniversaries, 2017

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:

85 years for Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society

minutes of a Preliminary Meeting at Philadelphia held at 18 Northlake Lane, Brooklyn, New York, on Saturday 29th January 1960 at 8 P.M.

Present:-
Mr. J. L. Smith,
Mr. C. H. Davis,
Mr. J. J. F. East,
Mr. G. W. Bellows,
Mr. J. A. Biele,
Mr. J. L. Smith,
Mr. J. L. Thompson,
Mr. J. L. Brown,
Mrs. Spear.

Mr. J. L. Thompson took the Chair.
The Chairman proposed and Mr. Andrew assumed, that these present would incorporate themselves as a Club under the name of "The Broadway & Market Philadelphia Society". This resolution was put to the meeting and duly carried. A short discussion ensued, as a result of which, it was decided to postpone the election of officers until a subsequent meeting.
It was resolved to hold the next session at Broadway 19th October 1960, at 8 P.M. London time. Further, the members of Mr. J. L. Smith, who kindly wished to display his collection of bones,
It was reported that Mr. J. L. Smith and Mr. J. L. Brown (J. A. Biele) had succeeded to secure shares of the Society.
The determination of the nature of the society, its constitution and the adoption of rules, was postponed to a later meeting.

G. Brown, Treasurer.
Chairman.

The Society will be entertaining the Mayor of Bromley at their celebration in February. They have produced a book on the early days of the society and have very full records as can be seen from the photographs of the first meeting and its location. It makes fascinating



reading for people who are interested in how societies started and have developed. David Rennie can be contacted on davidjrennie@ntlworld.com if any readers are interested in obtaining a copy. It is a remarkable achievement for a society to have

grown and maintained their numbers as this one has done.

Macclesfield and Prestbury Philatelic Society - 50 years

We celebrated on November 7th by organising an evening of entertainment to give thanks to members of neighbouring societies and others who had given us displays and helped in many other ways during past years.

In a packed evening, fourteen Macclesfield members each presented short displays on subjects of their choice, including *The Early Years of the United*

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States, The 1893 New Zealand Advertising Experiment, Hungarian Hyper-inflation of 1945-46, Poland, Franz Joseph Haydn and Macclesfield Postal History.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a gift and certificate to **Peter Kirk**, who has been Hon Secretary of the Society since its foundation. Peter was



Viewing 50 years of Macclesfield & Prestbury PS

invited to cut a celebratory cake and the evening ended with refreshments.

Alan Dinnis

City of Preston Philatelic Society Celebrates 80 Years

To do this in great style, we entertained the City's Mayor who joined us for a celebratory dinner. Our President, who this year also had his 80th birthday, was



presented with his Presidential collar, designed by our Chairman **Niall Thomson** and completed by **Mrs. Liz Jackson**, the wife of one of our members.

Everyone enjoyed the dinner immensely and despite our advanced years of existence, we are a forward looking society who are actively involved in displaying and showing stamps to several schools in and around Preston.

We aim to revive the wonderful art of

Stamp Collecting and gain more younger members in order for our Society to enjoy another 80 years of life.

Ann Beaver-Thomson

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

Rest in Peace - Professor John C West



OUR LOSS OF A VALUED MEMBER

Petersfield and District Philatelic Society have to record with much regret that one of our most respected members, Professor John C West, died at St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, on October 29th at the age of 94. He is survived by his wife and three daughters.

He joined the Petersfield society in January 2003. His quiet disposition when he first came gave members no idea that, as well as being a leading philatelist, he was, in fact, a renowned academic with an impressive career in electrical engineering.

He was a vice-Chancellor of Bradford University and later at the University of Sussex.

He joined the Royal Philatelic Society, London, in 1960 and was elected Fellow in 1971. He was a director of the Phillips' Philatelic Unit (1970-78), a member of the Sociedad Filatelica de Chile (1970-2001), Chairman of the British Philatelic Council (1980-81), Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (from 1992) and a signatory of it in 2000, a Fellow of the Institute of Paper Conservation (1997). His publications include 'The Postal History of Chile' (2002). In 'Who's Who' his interests are recorded as philately and postal history (especially Chile and Peru).

He always showed a keen interest in our club's activities, entered many of the club competitions, and entertained us with philatelic gems whenever we had a 'members to display' meeting. With a wide-ranging source of information, his friendly manner and good humour will be sadly missed.

His funeral was held on Wednesday, November 16th at the Meeting House of the University of Sussex attended by family and friends. He lived at Stedham, West Sussex.
David Allen

Professor John C West CBE of Great Britain has had a distinguished career as a scientific academician, a one-time President of the Institute of Electrical Engineers and retired as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bradford. He first made a mark as an important philatelist in 1970 when he was founder member and Director of the Philatelic Unit of Sussex University. Also in 1970 he presented eight programmes on Thames Television under the auspices of the Stamp Collecting Promotion Council. He has done research into the preservation of covers and ink and in this connection was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Paper Conservation.

His forte, however is the postal history of Chile and the history of the air mail in South America. These subjects he has studied in depth and has exhibited his collections at International Gold Medal level. When the Sociedad Filatelico de

Chile celebrated its centenary in 1989 he was invited to display and lecture in Santiago. John West was co-author of the Post Marks of Valparaíso published in 1995 and has been Editor of Chile News for the International Chilean Philatelic Society, London since 1989. He has contributed articles to The London Philatelist and various other philatelic journals.

He has been a Trustee of the British Philatelic Trust since 1989. In 1992 he became Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and Honorary Secretary to the RDP Board of Election. These posts included taking the Roll to GENOA '92 and SINGPEX '98.

ABPS was honoured to include him as one of its Honorary Vice-Presidents

Chris King

Rev Alan J. Roy BSc, MA, BD 1934-2016

Alan was twice president of Dundee and District Philatelic Society. His involvement in the cataloguing of the society's large collection of books was invaluable and he was a keen supporter of the informal monthly morning meetings.

He was president of ASPS Congress in 1999 and for a number of years was the ASPS Junior Competition secretary.

Alan was an extremely knowledgeable collector who shared his knowledge in an unassuming manner. His good humour and positive outlook were much appreciated. One of his entries on Scottish Postal History gained a Large Vermeil at national level. He was also a keen collector of Machins, Northern Rhodesia/Zambia and GB overprints and POs of the Levant.



Alan's willingness to help fellow collectors was evident recently when, from his hospital bed, he answered a plea from a collector in Australia for information on routes taken by mail north from Edinburgh. Unable to use his computer he dictated the information to his wife who then e-mailed this to Australia.

Alan will be sorely missed and our thoughts are with his widow Roma, his children Keith, Colin and Heather and his grandchildren.

Colin Campbell

ABPS Handbook & Directory: updates

The details below are those which could affect your contacting a society or speaker. Other less immediate changes will appear in the details on the website abps.org.uk 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. I will pass them on and/or use them as necessary. We apologise for those errors that have caused problems or distress. Please note the changes below.

Federations

Thames Valley & District Philatelic Federation (p 62): has 9 member societies, including the renamed Windsor & District Philatelic society, formerly the Windsor & Slough Philatelic Society

Specialist Societies

The Bechuanaland & Botswana Society (p 67):

Secretary: Tony Stanford, PO Box 2675, Maidenhead SL6 9ZN, UK

Editor: Otto Peetoom ottopeetoom@btinternet.com

Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain (p 69): New Secretary: John Watson, john.watson1949@btinternet.com

Gibraltar Study Circle (p 75): has a temporary Secretary: Susan Dare

Local Societies

We welcome as returned affiliates: **Hereford & Mid-Wales** (p 121): Secretary: Frank Bennett, 01432 354917 frank.bennett@hereford4.freemove.co.uk

Chichester & District PS (p 105/6): Secretary contact: 01243 527068

Huddersfield PS (p 124): Secretary: Graham Simpson 01484 841668

simpson_d7@sky.com Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at: Turnbridge Working Men's Club, 9 St Andrews Road, Huddersfield HD1 6SB

Maidenhead & District PS (p 135): Treasurer: Eddie Spicer

e.spicer2@btinternet.com

Perth PS: (p 143): has a new Treasurer: David Hogarth 01250 875467

djh720@btinternet.com

Windsor & District PS (p169): is affiliated to ABPS. Remove from p 176.

I regret to inform you that **Edenbridge Stamp & Postcard Club** (p 111) has closed.

**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.**

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value of your collection we'll come up with, suggest, even create selling solutions designed to address your circumstances and the type of collection that you have created.

Sometimes we'll recognise that we may not be able to offer you the best solution and we'll suggest different ways that you may wish to consider selling – even through un-associated companies.

Continued overleaf

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The ABPS Small Grants Scheme

The aim of the Small Grants scheme is to enable individuals, societies and/or Federations to undertake activities that require additional funding. Its purpose is not to 'balance the books' or to meet a deficit that becomes apparent after the event; nor is it simply to promote the name and activities of the ABPS. Requests for funding should be for something special, not for routine items that should be fully covered by the budget for the event. Below are some examples of the acceptable use of small grants.

- ◆ If a stamp fair or exhibition is being held, it is essential that the organisers ensure that the basic expenditure (hire of the room, display frames, judges etc.) is met by the budgeted income. However, if it is thought worthwhile publicising the event to a wider public, say by taking an advertisement in a local newspaper or other publication, that cost could be covered by a small grant. Such a request must be accompanied by an indication of what it is intended to achieve. In this example, if the event was advertised to a wider public, what additional attractions would be provided to appeal to the non-committed audience and how might any potential collectors be further encouraged?
- ◆ Might a public meeting at which an excellent speaker gave a talk on an aspect of the hobby prove beneficial?
- ◆ Could a local library be used as a way of reaching a new audience? Is there a way of attracting potential young collectors in your area?

Any of the above and similar activities would be suitable for a grant application.

Grants for activities that fall outside this scheme should be sent to the Chairman of the Philatelic Trust.

The Small Grants Committee deals with applications as quickly as possible but in several instances further information is required therefore it is recommended that applications for Small Grants should be submitted as early as possible and preferably at least three months before the date the grant is required. Requests from societies with less than two years affiliation to the ABPS or from unaffiliated societies are unlikely to be approved as available funds are limited.

There is no application form to complete and requests for a Small Grant should be sent to the schemes administrator containing the following information:

- ◆ The purpose for which the grant is sought
- ◆ What it is hoped the initiative will achieve
- ◆ A budget for the event, including the activity for which the grant is sought
- ◆ For societies and federations, a copy of the applicant's last Balance Sheet and/or its income and expenditure account
- ◆ The date by which the grant is required

After the event, a grant recipient will be required to provide the following:

A short report, particularly emphasising how the grant was used and the results of the initiative. This may be published in whole or in part in ABPS News.

A final account for the event. If the event shows a surplus in excess of the amount of the grant, it is expected that part or the entire grant will be repaid.

Yvonne Wheatley awards@abps.org.uk

Awards Committee Chair & Small Grants Coordinator

Rufus Barnes, Vice-Chairman ABPS



Rufus has a long involvement with organised philately, but has only recently got involved at national level after having chaired the 2016 Philatelic Congress in Cambridge.

Rufus's somewhat eclectic collecting interests cover Abu Dhabi, Burma, Canal Zone, Christmas Island, Easter Island and Tokelau as well as world-wide TPO and underpaid covers. His interests have resulted in him serving as Chairman of the Pacific Islands Study Circle on two occasions (nearly 30 years apart!) and he currently serves as Chairman of the Burma (Myanmar) Philatelic Study Circle – a small but growing organisation reflecting the world-wide increase in interest in the philately of this former backwater.

Locally Rufus is currently President of the Cambridge Philatelic Society and he served as President of the

late-lamented Finchley and District Philatelic Society (FDPS) in the early 1980s and again in the early 2000s. Whilst a member of the FDPS, Rufus was involved with the Middlesex Federation for which he organised the Annual Federation Convention in 1983 and served as a society level competition judge, albeit after less stringent training than judges have today (note to self – must get requalified under the new dispensation!).

Rufus has joined the ABPS Council keen to work with others to ensure that ABPS meets the needs of 21st century organised philately. He has taken on the role of liaison with Federations and Local Societies.

Your society information?

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

THE 99th PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

JURYS INN, CARDIFF

Thursday 27th - Sunday 30th JULY 2017.

The theme for this year's Congress will be "*Celebrating Wales*".

There will be Joint Chairmen from local philatelic societies: Paul Clarke from Cardiff, and John Perry from Newport and Gwent. The Bridgend society is also a key supporter.

Once again, the main sponsors will be Stanley Gibbons and Stamp Insurance Services.

There will be presentations by each of the new RDPs and the Congress Medallist. Last year's presentations were highlights of the event and enjoyed by all who saw them.

All of the usual events will be included; The RDP Ceremony on Saturday; the Congress Medal Ceremony; the Kay Goodman lecture designed to provoke thought and debate as well as the ABPS AGM and Receptions given by our main sponsors. Static displays of South Wales Postcards, Monmouthshire, Pembrokeshire, and a presentation of Welsh Regionals are amongst the celebrations of the Welsh Principality.

Full details of the Congress package will be available on the ABPS website soon. Prices will be similar to last year, in the region of £100 per night for Dinner, Bed and Breakfast.

The Congress Committee member to contact for further details is:

Steven Harrison, 56 Woodberry Drive, Sutton Coldfield B76 2RH.

Home Tel: 0121 313 0671. Mobile: 07979 597498.

Email: sharrison500@btinternet.com

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.

New York 2016 is over, so now the next major world stamps show in the United States is in preparation. It will be held for a week in May 2026 at the Boston Convention and Exposition Center in the Boston Waterfront District. The President Nancy Clark, Vice President Yamil Kouri, Treasurer Cass Rejent, Resident Counsel George Norton and Executive Director Mark Butterline have now been joined by 13 other key chairs to deal with matters from Awards to Social Media and from Beginning Collectors and Youth to Court of Honour. Clearly there is much work to do in preparing for such major shows. We wish them well.



The
Postal
Museum



Post

& Go Mail by Rail to go on sale at The Postal Museum



We are pleased to announce that from Wednesday 15th February 2017 the Royal Mail Heritage: Mail by Rail Post & Go set with The Postal Museum overprint will be on sale. The set of 6 stamps will be available on 1st class only.

The stamps can be purchased from the A001 Post & Go machine located at Freeling House, The Postal Museum's present offices. They will be available from 10.00-17.00 on the first day of issue and from 09.00-17.00 Monday to Friday after that. Please note that the Search Room is currently closed and only the foyer will be accessible.

The current Hibernating Animals Post & Go set on 1st and 2nd class stamps will finish on Friday 30 December 2016.

In addition to Mail by Rail, The Postal Museum will continue to offer the Union Flag, Mail Coach and 1st and 2nd class Machin stamps. Mail by Rail presentation packs, first day covers and a postcard set will be available to pre-order online from 1st February.

Sign up to The Postal Museum's Post & Go Bulletin for alerts – shop.postalmuseum.org/pages/bulletin
Harry Huskisson Head of Communications and Marketing

The Friends of The Postal Museum

Moving ahead with The Postal Museum

It will not be long before the doors to the eagerly awaited new Postal Museum and Mail Rail open. The Friends of The Postal Museum are looking forward to this new beginning for the museum and philatelic collections and the archives.

When it opens The Postal Museum will be offering a Membership scheme. At its Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 6th December, the Friends endorsed the decision taken by its Trustees that existing Friends be entitled and encouraged to join this new Membership scheme, at preferential rates for two years. As a result no new Friends will be enrolled and The Friends of The Postal Museum will cease to exist during 2017.

The Friends, indeed many collectors, were dismayed when the National Postal Museum closed in 1998 but have faithfully supported Royal Mail in its efforts to find a new home. Many individuals have remained as Friends from the outset, and have been anxiously looking forward to the time when a new museum would emerge. Their wait, and that of many, many others - with the added bonus of the opening of Mail Rail - will soon be over.

Richard West

The 'Royal' is to seek new London premises

The Royal Philatelic Society London has been based at 41 Devonshire Place in London since 1925: this is a wonderful 'heritage' building that dates from the 1790s. However, as the Society grows, so the need has arisen to find more suitable premises.

In recent years the Royal has expanded in terms of membership, attendance at meetings and its collections, and continues to do so, meaning that 'No. 41' is no longer fit for purpose.

The Council of the Royal has looked long and hard at ways of renovating its much-loved headquarters, but no affordable scheme has been identified that fulfils all of the present and future needs.

The current President, **Frank Walton**, RDP FRPSL, explains: 'Although every member has very fond memories and attachments to our Marylebone home, the level of support for the decision to seek a new home has been overwhelming.'

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

In December our guest speaker was **Ron Goodfellow** who travelled up from Monikie in Angus. Ron is a member of



Ron delivers a point

Dundee PS as well as Aberdeen. He was resplendent in his kilt and we were treated to a display of *Commerce in the Post (Part 3)* having previously seen Parts 1 & 2. He feels a Part 4 is distinctly

possible. The presentation had something for everyone and showed the illustrations, detail and adverts which had travelled through the mail system. He had thoroughly researched the material and members took time to view everything. It was a great educational evening. Roll on Part 4. Perhaps there will be even more than the 35 members present.

Sheila Den

Amersham & District

We started the season in September with an auction which was surprisingly well supported with an attendance of 40 despite the barmy 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**, **Ibadi** 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**. Two specialist societies **The Falkland Islands Study Group** and the **British West Indies Study Circle** gave us excellent presentations including a selection of high quality pre-stamp covers. The BWI evening gave us **Jamaica** by **George Dunbar**, **St Vincent** by **Terry Harrison** and the others as a potpourri by **Ian Jakes**.

Sadly two of our members have passed away within a few days of each other. **John Payne**, a very active and popular member and one of our most successful vendors at auctions and in the circulating packets, died on 23rd August aged 84. **Andrew Ruxton** who was not able to attend meetings due to work commitments, but was a strong supporter of the circulating packets, died on 1st September aged 62.

Jim Drummond

Basildon

Fakes, error and Omissions was the subject for our Members' displays in October. **Claude Crowder**, **Len Stanway**, **Ian McElwain**, **Charlie Mead** and **Maggie Thompson** all proved that they are very observant or have been very gullible. Next meeting Rayleigh PS visited when **Geoff Howard** opened with *Transportation of Mail*, followed by **Mac Nunn** displaying *All for Nothing*, being free gifts obtained from stamp magazines, exhibitions, etc. **Bill Trower** showed an extract from *Battle for the Pacific*, first shown at the society some 40 years ago! Later in November **Len Stanway** continued from where he left off *Singapore* in 2012, displaying the stamp issues and related material of 1987 to February 1994 and postmarks used by the General Post Office from the 1860s to date. For the new month **John Rawlins** took us through *Great Britain Telegrams and Free Franks* - the story of the free postage afforded to Members of Parliament and some other officials including uses and abuses. Survival of so many cover fronts is due to the pre-stamp hobby of collecting the signatures of such persons. He continued with a display of telegrams from the early private

services to modern greetings telegrams.

From Basildon Philatelist

Bexley

Orpington PS visited us in early November with displays ranging from *cold (British Antarctic Territory)* to *hot (Gulf states)*, by way of *USA air mails* thanks to **Robert Hurst**, **Rodney Pomfret** and **Alan Hall**. At our friendly club-judged competition evening, winner of the eight-page traditional display to 1937 was **John Topliff's** entry *Events of the nineteenth century*. For postal history, the winner was **Don Brookfield** with *Bermuda key plate issues*. Competition secretary **John Corderoy** was pleased to see so many entries. *Newfoundland* is different, claimed **Cliff Hurst** in his traditional display of the country. It was Britain's first overseas colony, discovered in 1497, and its first stamp series from 1857 was unusual because it did not feature a portrait of Queen Victoria. Shown was a sheet of the 2 cent value from 1897 issue, overprinted; one of only two known. He moved on to show some *historical materials of early Atlantic crossings* (one of the first, incomplete, was from April 1919, followed a few years later by Alcock & Brown). The collection ended with an item postmarked 10 pm 31 March 1949, just two hours before Newfoundland officially became part of Canada. **Judith French** presided over our friendly Christmas get-together, showing her collection of *modern Hong Kong commemoratives*, stylishly written up, including 1996 Olympics, gold-plated stamps, insects, centenary of the Star Ferry and some postcards. ➔ Adrian Smith, 01322 559 210, or adethebeak@yahoo.co.uk

Will Dalrymple contribution to The Society over many years – an honour well and truly deserved. Immediately following this,

Bolton

At the October meeting our own **Derek Ernsshaw** gave an excellent display of *Different Aspects of British Postal History*. Later in October we hosted the North West Federation Convention, at their annual Stamp Fair. This was very well attended by collectors from all over the North West, 20 dealers filled the school hall with their stalls and displays. At the November meeting **Nial Thomson** from Preston gave us a very entertaining talk and display on *Japanese stamps and postal history*. At our Grand All Day Auction, held in November, over 1000 lots were offered to room bidders and postal bidders. The December meeting was an informal meeting for Christmas.

Howard Anderson

Bookham

In October we were entertained by Epsom & Ewell PS. **Robert Mott** displayed *The German inflation period of 1923*, when there were 16 increases in postage rates. The cost went from 50 marks to 100 000 million marks in that year! Robert showed us many covers, some of which had half postage stamps and half paid by cash, which had to be rubber stamped by the postal clerk to clarify that the cash had been paid. Then **Anthony McLenland** showed his collection of *GB Queen Victoria stamps* starting with the first ever stamp, the penny black. He explained why the penny red was introduced and the different types. In November we heard of the achievement of our Secretary, **Barry Feltham**, in being made a Fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society in recognition of his significant

Roger Morrell gave a superb PowerPoint presentation entitled *The Salonica Campaign*. As knowledge of WWI outside of the Western Front is very often scant the whole background to the war in the Balkans was explained expertly yet in a simple entertaining style. Roger showed us a wide range of postal and social history items including newspaper cuttings,



*Learning of the Salonica Campaign
with Roger Morrell*

postcards, POW letters and field postcards from all sides of the conflict together with the different postmarks of the army base camps and mobile Post Offices.

→ www.bookhamstampclub.com

David Bravery

Bromley & Beckenham

In October **Dr Pat Reid** gave his talk and display entitled *Tasmania & Tattersalls Lottery*. On 7th December a total of 44 people were present

including 18 members of 4 visiting societies for the 6th Annual Inter-Society meeting. This year there were fourteen displays from **Michael Dobbs, Graham Brown, John Tompliffe, Ron Burn, Judith French, Cliff Gregory, Tony Hickey, Don Brookfield, Lindy Bosworth, Grahame Boutle, Geoff Hannay, Adrian Thomas, Frank Simpson** and **Paul Elliot**. After all the displays were on show, the audience members were asked in a secret ballot to nominate the display which they personally liked the most. The winner was Adrian Thomas with *The Invisible Light: X Rays, Radioactivity, MRI etc.* He was presented with a bottle of bubbly. The following week our President **David Milsted** gave his display of *King Edward VII's Coronation Year*. The King succeeded to the throne on the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, and his Coronation was to have taken place in June 1902. However the King suffered from severe appendicitis in May, requiring an operation, and the Coronation was postponed until 26th August 1902, necessitating a total reprinting of everything for the service and celebrations. David showed a wide range of material for both dates, or undated, including invitations and tickets, photos and magazine page-pulls from the Sphere and Tattler etc. Amongst the philatelic material were stamps with relevant postmarks, official stationery, and a rare PPC used with the ½d "RH" Royal Household overprint.

David Rennie

Caledonian

In October we held our 2500th meeting in Glasgow with an appropriate display of *Clyde Coast Postal History* by **Hans Smith FRPSL**. He showed material



Adrian Thomas with his winning display

from the small ports and coastal towns of Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, Bute, Cumbrae and Argyllshire. This included many letters coming from abroad and landed at these ports showing many scarce Ship Letter handstamps. The display also showed many postmarks from the 18th and 19th centuries with pre-stamp, maltese cross, numbered, local namestamps and datestamps from these towns and ports.

Terry Woods

Cambridge

In early November we held the first part of our annual competitions. The judges were **Ed Hitchins** and **David Gottesmann** from Sudbury PS. Winners were: *Postal History* - **Graham Wylde** with *Line engraved cancellations*; *Great Britain* - **Graham Wylde** with *Characteristics of the 1d Black*; *Cinderella* - **Stafford May** with *British Document Exchange* and *First Timers* - **Roger Carr** with *Lord Baden Powell*. A fortnight later Bury St Edmunds PS visited. **Rod Finn** opened the batting with a display of *Rhodesia from 1924 to the mid-1950s*, including

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mainly stamps with some proofs and vignettes and a few items of postal history. **Christine Finn** followed with *GB during WWII*, showing the difficulties arising from paper shortages and the ability to get suitable quality ink for printing. **Kenneth Burr** concluded with *GB postal history from around 1660 to 1901* with a variety of covers showing the main rate changes during the period. This featured many exceptional covers including superb examples of the embossed series and a wonderful strip of 6 of the 1841 2d on cover to America. In December we held our Christmas Party when members and their partners or guests enjoyed a pleasant social evening, which was combined with a few philatelic quizzes and seasonal stamp displays. ➔

info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk
Peter Morton

Chelmsford & District

George Oliver from Frinton was our guest speaker in October. He gave a very interesting presentation of *Stamps of France issued between 1849 and 1943*. It included the Ceres and Napoleon series as well as a selection of commemorative issues with an additional charity premium, often only a small percentage of the postage but in others a 300% addition. In November **Richard Barnett** brought us *Rhodesia During UDI and Victoria Falls*. First he displayed a variety of stamps and envelopes primarily covering the UDI period from 1965 to 1988 and then material from his extensive collection of stamps and other artefacts relating to the Victoria Falls. Our second November meeting contained presentations by **Chris Norton** - *Hong Kong Air Mail Services* and **Paul Green** - *Egyptian Franking Marks*.

Chris covered from the cessation of hostilities after the First World War until 1939. Initial airmail involved use of ships as well as aircraft to cover the journey. Prior to this the mail was carried by a combination of boat and rail across Asia and Europe including using the services of the Trans Siberian Express. Imperial Airways finally developed a regular service. Paul covered franking marks on Egyptian post from 1922 to 1952. He confirmed that franking marks are often considered the Cinderella in philatelic circles and as a result envelopes containing them tend not to be saved by recipients and dealers are often not interested. ➔ 01245 465506 or davideverard@live.com

David Everard

Dundee and District

In October **Sheila Den** brought *Cuba* from Aberdeen. She started by providing a brief history of Cuba from Spanish Colony to independence. The display was of Cuban stamps, covers and postcards including the 3 years between 1899 and 1902 when it was under US Administration. In November, **Ian Anderson** and **Jim Morrison** of Falkirk & District PS entertained us with four displays. Ian began with *The Life & Times of King Edward VIII* and then *GB miniature sheets* which consisted of stamps not part of the actual commemorative issues. **Jim Morrison** started with *Hong Kong between 1937 and 1985*. The sets of definitives on display included a 1/- booklet which was issued experimentally using a razor blade dispensing machine. Jim's second display consisted of *Early QEII issues for commonwealth countries alphabetically from Aden to the Cayman Islands*. At the following

meeting we were entertained by a display of *German East Africa during WWI* from **Gordon Shepherd**, a member of the Rhodesian Study Circle. One interesting fact was that the leader of the German forces, Von Lettow-Vorbeck, was unbeaten during any incidents. Gordon displayed a series of postcards which effectively covered the entire conflict from 1914 right through to 1918, when the German forces in German East Africa surrendered 2 weeks after the armistice as they were unaware of it. At the final meeting **Colin Rochester** won the rose bowl with *Shipwreck mail from the SV Albatross on its way to Singapore* in our one-page competition.

Colin Campbell

Harrogate

We ended October with a visit from **Mike Roberts** telling us that *Philately will get you Nowhere* but then proving the very opposite in a fascinating display of the way that his collection was built. This was followed by a return visit from Sheffield PS. **John Colton** brought *Big Ben*, **Richard Hindle** showed *Byrd's Polar Explorations*, **John Penrose** took us to *Iceland in WWII* and our former junior member, **Neil Ritchie** showed us *Russian WWII Illustrated Fieldpost*. Our own **Derek Lilley** brought his *Postal History of Malton and Pickering* to entertain and educate us at the end of November. We saw a wonderful selection of postcards and cancellations from many villages and small post offices - often unheard of by the majority of our members. Our Auction in early December produced the best sum ever for our funds mainly because the Bidding Voucher kindly donated by UPA went for over £100. *Keith Burton*

Huntingdonshire

Adrian Boggust was our guest speaker when he displayed *Newfoundland*. Their first stamps were issued in 1857. Along with the first Official hand stamp issued in 1840 we were shown forgeries of the 1865-68



Neil in full explanation mode

issues. The 1918 Contingent issue featured the Caribou, each value bearing "Trail of the Caribou". The same issue was overprinted First Transatlantic Air Post 1919. Mail was shown including TPOs carried by ships. Later that month **Peter Pugh** displayed *Another Bloody Railway*. This concentrated on Mail sent to England via the Trans Siberian Railway. It was in October 1903 when a railway line was built from China to Siberia which became known as the "Trans Siberian Railway". We were shown postcards showing construction of the railway and the engines used. In November 1903 The GPO announced the availability of British mail from China to be transmitted by the Trans Siberian Railway. This was short lived when the Japanese Russian conflict meant mail could not be sent, and it wasn't until 1907 when hostilities ceased that mail was able to be sent again. With the outbreak of the First World War mail sent by the Trans Siberian Railway was

stopped and the route changed. With associated ephemera, post cards, examples of mail censored and uncensored and an interesting speaker this made for an interesting display especially for our steam train enthusiasts. For our December meeting members were asked to display anything to go with mince pies. They proved that anything goes.

David Birkert

Kendal & District

The first meeting in our 2016-17 calendar year was devoted to *Recent Acquisitions*. Active buyers showed a range of philatelic material together with purchases of philatelic literature and books relating to their thematic interests. In October, we held an in-house session which had three elements: First, some, who were in the process of creating competitive displays, showed their current state and explained what still had to be done. They sought feedback on where others felt that improvements could be made; second, displays of competitive exhibits, which had been assessed, were shown and we were advised of the feedback given by the judges; third, there were purchases which had an element of mystique about them when bought. One was a Lloyds Bank registered cover on which the attached adhesive stamp bore a letter K perfin (not LB or something similar). As a result of research, an explanation for the letter K being applied was given to members. In November, **Peter Howitt** from Morecambe & District PS gave a presentation entitled *Double Meaning*. This was a presentation with a difference, the result of which was wide ranging discussions after both the first and second halves of Peter's display.

In December, members were invited to produce materials *Relating to the letter H*. Besides H countries, we saw materials showing *Horses* and *The Battle of Hastings*; images of *Her Royal Highness* and other individuals, such as *Hindenburg* and *members of Pakistan's Habib dynasty*; and *stamps printed by Harrisons*. Philip Gerrard

Kingston & District

Since the summer recess we have held four meetings of which two involved guest speakers. On 6th October, **Denis Vandervelde** entertained with his display of *Disinfected and Quarantined Mail*. This was a good show, as one would expect from Denis. He explained the reason for disinfection of mail to prevent the spread of plague, sometimes effective, but often not. This was carried out from about 1370 until the 20th century. **Robert Mott** gave a superb display on 21st October in which he described *the Effects of hyper-inflation in German stamp production* and linked it with a description on how the German Post Office coped with this. An interesting slant on the subject, excellently presented.

On 29th October we hosted a very successful stamp day at Claygate, on behalf of the Philatelic Federation of Surrey. **Robert Mott** opened the show, as President of the Federation. We hope to host a similar Stamp Day in October 2019. After our Christmas Social and a members' meeting we adjourned for the Festive break. ➔ Brian Sole, FRPSL on 01932 220677 brian.sole@btinternet.com

Chris Oliver

Launceston

We held our AGM and Autumn Auction in October. The Chairman confirmed

I Spy...

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



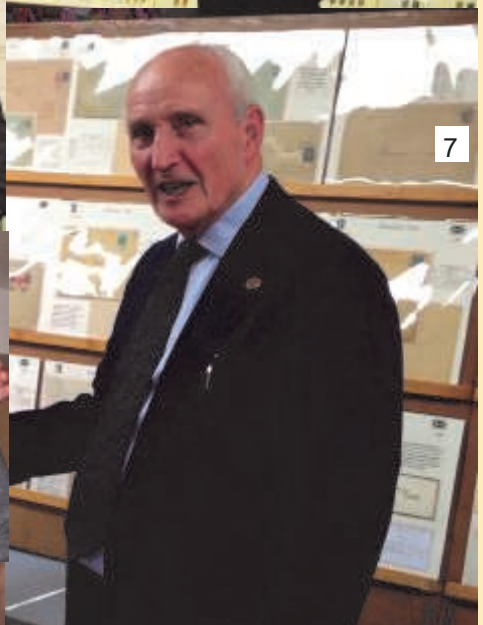
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6



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14



15



the change of venue for Club meetings to the Methodist Church Hall at Ladycross on the B3524 Launceston – Bude road half a mile north of Yeolmbridge will be effective from January 2017. The Auction of 334 lots followed, with **Rex Eccott** acting as Auctioneer, assisted by **Viv Sandercock** and **Mike Tooley**. In November **Des Kent** and **Viv Sandercock** were congratulated on their successes at Cornex where Des won the Royal Mail Cup for a “new entry” with

This date 22nd October and Viv won the Open Class with *The Royal Visits of King George VI* and the one page entry of *Odette - National Heroine*. The

speaker **Bill Gibb**, from Huntingdonshire PS is currently President of the Mid Anglia Federation. His presentation was *West Indies Pot Pourri* drawn from his extensive collection of postal material from the former colonial Caribbean countries, focussing on Grenada, British Honduras (Belize), Anguilla and Turks & Caicos Islands with postal history being traced from the days of the packet boat mail through independence to present day definitive and commemoratives. The highlights



Denis Vandervelde

included superb examples of packet mail to Grenada dating back to 1764, the problems of decimalisation and the Gold Standard on British Honduras stamps, the Anguillian uprisings in 1967 & 69 and its secession, the postal service operated by a CIA agent, and on Turks & Caicos from piracy to sea salt collection, tourism and its ongoing constitutional problems.

Howard Hamblin

Maidstone & Mid Kent

In October **Richard Wheatley FRPSL** gave us a remarkable display of *Dutch East Indies*. The first half focused on Postal History from 1789 and was followed by the first stamps with perforations and forgeries along with definitives and proofs. Throughout the display there were several unique items. This was followed by a visit from the current Kent Federation President, **Paul Cahill**. He started with *French Airmails/Aircraft*, then told us of buying a collection of 1950/60 hand-drawn maps from a dealer. They showed all the first airmail routes from countries around the world. Paul had added stamps showing the planes – fascinating development. In November we enjoyed a visit from Herne Bay. **David Goodbin** displayed *Modern Australia from 2012 to 2014* **Alan Munday** then showed *Bits and Pieces*, including Telegraph/Railway Perfins, Fiscals and Philatelic snippets from the Thanet area. **Brian Epps** followed with a display of *Covers and postcards all hand-illustrated*. In December we were entertained by **Linda Bosworth** with a fascinating display of material covering the *Austro-Hungarian Navy in WWI*. We saw a range of covers and postcards featuring all the different ships that were in their Naval Service,



*Bill Gibb receives his certificate
from Des Kent*

including some with scarce submarine cancels. Our morning meetings have been well attended including **Brian Stalker** showing us *Newfoundland to Canada Mail Steamers and how they related to the first railway services* – a great speaker. For the November

meeting **Bob Palmer** from Dover gave us an interesting display on *early France up to the 1950s*.

Brian Stonestreet FRPSL

Mid Sussex

Our season got off to a good start with our first visiting speaker, **Brian Sole** showing his highly regarded thematic display *Go by Bike*. He was followed by **Michael Farrant** with a detailed account of the postal history of *East Africa during Wartime*. In December **Robin Tapper** presented *The Machin Story*, an exceptionally well illustrated account tracing the development from the first pre-decimal issue through to the present 'Post and Go'. We also hosted a visit from Littlehampton & Rustington PS who, as is usual on these occasions, presented an evening of varied displays. Our Members' meetings have been equally entertaining and have included both

Captions for pages 28 and 29

1. Peter Williams checks on his Czech display
2. Roy Bentley at the Newport 50+ Day
3. Hugh Jefferies at Southampton
4. Richard Chaloner, Geoff Reynolds and Phil Harriman win the Christmas Quiz at Redcar
5. Dr Stewart Gardiner FRPL receives the Caledonian PS Rose Bowl
6. Frank Walton with Robert Abensur at the Royal
7. Gavin Fryer RDP FRPSL at Salisbury
8. John Davis with Wendy Buckle at Ringwood
9. Otto Peetoom is presented with the South African Manfred Weinstein Medal by Brian Trotter
10. Barry Burns at the Royal
11. Paul van Zeyl is congratulated by Alan Drysdall on signing South Africa's Roll of Distinguished Philatelists
12. Clive Jones shows Sheffield Postal History at Solihull
13. Kingston & District PS celebrate in style
14. Something really interesting at a Czech Society Meeting
15. Robert Mott at Kingston

philatelic and postcard displays. Probably the most challenging for members was the meeting held on St Andrew's Day given the title of *The Scottish Connection*. Unbelievably only one member displayed Scottish stamps, instead displays included *Sarawak* (early issues were printed by a Scottish firm), *Chile shipping* (built on the Clyde) and *postcards of Scottish hockey*.
 Jim Etherington

Newport & Gwent

The new season started in September with the usual *new acquisitions* evening. Two weeks later we had a visit from the Cardiff Society. Next on the agenda **Janet** and **Nick Nelson** from Hereford & Mid Wales gave a display accompanied by brigaderos, a Brazilian chocolate speciality, and a Monmouthshire delicacy, St Arvans Fat Rascals (Welsh cakes). A bring and buy evening was followed by a visit from the Bridgend club. These visits are always enjoyed by our members and we hope by the societies when we reciprocate. So far this Autumn we have visited the Thornbury and Barry clubs. The junior club at The Dell (Chepstow) continued to thrive, with the youngsters producing one page entries for the Autumn Stampex competition. We submitted an amazing thirteen entries and the children gained a first (**Connor Bramham** with *Military*) and a third (**Matthew Kouba** with *About Me*) prize in the 10–12 age group. At the other end of the age spectrum, our club had a table at the annual Newport 50+ day in October. As the Newport club was formed on 16 October 1947, it will be time to celebrate our 70th anniversary next year by hosting the South Wales Federation Autumn stamp and

postcard fair on 23rd September 2017 at the Graig Community Centre, Bassaleg, Newport. →
newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com

John Perry

Oxford

The 2016-17 season, which has seen two new members recruited, began with a Silent Auction. A morning meeting was devoted to *Art and Artists*. At the next meeting, two members of Leighton Buzzard Philatelic Society, **John Hossack** and **Richard Page**, gave noted displays on *Sierra Leone* and *Birds of Prey* respectively. Another morning meeting covered the letter 'P', with *Panama*, *Paraguay*, *Peru*, *Poland*, *Port Said* displayed as well as *GB POs abroad*, *Paquebot Covers through Japan*, and *Pottsville, USA*. **Malcolm Gascoyne** of the neighbouring Henley Philatelic Society gave an excellent display on the *Stamps and postal*



Connor Bramham and Matthew Kouba with their prizes

history of Sarawak. In December, the society held its well-attended Christmas Social. Later in the month, the always popular *Recent Acquisitions* evening gave members a chance to show everyone their new philatelic procurements. *Dr Simon Heap*

Redcar

A week before Christmas 18 members of Redcar & Cleveland Philatelic Society attended the President's *End of Year Social* at Turners Mill Public House in Redcar for a soporific afternoon lunch. Crackers were pulled, paper hats adorned, jokes exchanged and a fine alcohol-fuelled banter exchanging afternoon was enjoyed. Photographs were taken but were of such an exuberant nature they cannot be published before the nine o'clock threshold!! Instead I will report on events a week later when a grand night was had by all at our last meeting of the year, *The President's End of Year Christmas Quiz*. A fun filled evening with the 'little grey cells' being flushed with red wine and oodles of mince pies, Christmas cake and cheese. Much head scratching and ceiling gazing failed to produce full marks but the winning 3-man team was **Richard Chaloner**, **Geoff Reynolds** and **Phil Harriman**. The survivors of the evening posed for a group photograph.

Martin Snowdon

Ringwood

We enjoyed two very different topics at our October and November meetings: *Open Philately* and *Tin Can Mail*. **Christine Earle** described a collecting/display method in which stamps and associated philatelic material are incorporated with other items such as maps, photos, posters, official notices,

newspaper cuttings, plus 3-D items such as ration books and coins. She brought her subject to life by sharing a section of one of her own exhibits which dealt with *WWII Britain*. Here the rules of 'Open Philately' were in evidence with the subject being developed in 'an imaginative and creative manner'. Members were greatly impressed by the quality of items on display, some of considerable rarity, and all written-up and organised in an eye-catching way to tell a story.

John Davis took us to the island of Niuafoou, 'discovered' in 1616 and first charted by Captain William Bligh of 'The Bounty' fame. This remote island benefitted hugely from Tin Can Mail and it was not until the early 1980s that it ended. John's display included covers, letters, photos, maps, newspaper and magazine cuttings. A special study was made of cachets including an example having the wording 'Damaged by salt water in Tonga'. A considerable range of fascinating covers formed the display's central development with 'destinations', 'wartime censored', 'cartoons', 'underpaid', 'volcanic evacuation', and the inevitable more recent 'cruise ship' mail. In addition, Niuafoou's proximity to the International Date Line had produced numerous 'meridian' illustrated covers, as in the example 'yesterday was also Tuesday'.

Paul Barry

Royal Sutton Coldfield

Our November speaker was **Roy Summers** from Wombourne, with *Wolverhampton Postal History*. Roy explained that there was no general postal system in Wolverhampton before 1660 so any post had to be sent by a private carrier. The first item



Redcar's survivors - Geoff Reynolds, Brian Dobie, Phil Harriman, Bill Gamble, Geoff Harland, Dennis Huzzard with Alan Rodgers (treasurer), Martin Snowdon (president), John Simms (vice president), Elaine Strickland, Rita Hart, Jonathan Carr in front

shown was a letter carried privately from Wolverhampton to Walsall. Other items in Roy's extensive display included a cover of 1660 with the first Bishop Mark, a Wolverhampton reversed horseshoe handstamp on cover, an 1839 Universal Four Penny post cover and a temporary travelling postmark on cover. The travelling



Colin Mount with Christine Earle

handstamp was used when the original was damaged and needed repair or replacement. Roy ended the first half of his display with a cover where a Maltese cross postmark had been used to obliterate an incorrectly struck Paid mark. He continued his

display with an 1845 cover from Wolverhampton with a misprint to Birmingham mark. Other items included various covers with penny black and two pence blue stamps, a registered cover to Trysull with stamps to cover 1d postage and 1 shilling registration, a cover dated 1885 from Wolverhampton to a soldier in the Crimea, a cover from Wolverhampton to Calcutta dated 1858 addressed to a soldier in the 77th Regiment of Foot on duty during the Indian Mutiny, and a cover addressed to Charles Pelham Villiers, the MP for Wolverhampton from 1839 until his death in 1898. There were also covers, postcards etc. from some of the over 80 sub-post offices that have existed in Wolverhampton. *Albert Smith*

Salisbury & District

Our first meeting was an opportunity for the society's President, **Paul Latham-Warde** who is also President of the Wiltshire and District Philatelic

Societies, to present the Postal History Cup to **David Ashby** for his entry of *The European and Australian Royal Mail Co (EARM) 1856-9* at Swinpex earlier in the year. **Bill Pipe** gave an excellent display of *Dorset Postal History*, starting with a cover of 1606 and running through to current times, including a unique Penny Post cancellation. **Gavin Fryer RDP FRPSL** gave an outstanding display of *Blindman's Mail* which is the title of his book on the subject. This was an amazing account not only of the life of Louis Braille but also the postal rates for the blind throughout the world covering 200 years. **Tony Howgrave-Graham's** first Day Meeting at the Grasmere House Hotel was a great success with a turnout of 26, including visitors from Bath, Swindon, and Warminster. We started with a very comprehensive and interesting standing display of *Postal History of the Isle of Wight* from **Bob Allison**.

Included were sections on pre-1840 showing Bishop marks, Osborne House, and the royal connection with a letter signed by Queen Victoria, through to Slogan Postmarks all pointing out the delights of the Isle of Wight. An amazing display as Bob had only worked on it for 18 months! **Claire Scott, Mike Moody, David Ashby, Jeremy Martin, John Scott, Alan Wood** and **Tony Howgrave-Graham** also presented displays. **Colin French**

Solihull

Our programme of weekly meetings has continued to provide some first class talks and displays. In recent weeks we have been entertained by visiting speakers **Theo Schilderman** with *Diamonds & Gold*, **Max Smith** *Indian Mutiny*, **Nigel Sudborough GB**

Penny Blacks, **Alan Godfrey** introducing *The Last Great Explorer* and by our own members **Laurence Kimpton Australia & New Zealand War-time Airmails, **Clive Jones** *Sheffield Postal History* and a Two Member Evening with **Mike Dovey** and **Ray Sheppard** showing *Transatlantic Mail* and *Great Americans* respectively. Our thanks go out to all of our visiting speakers for the time and effort in putting their displays together and**



Paul Latham-Warde presents the Postal History Cup to David Ashby

giving our members the opportunity to see some unique collections.

John Barker

Southampton & District

The visit by the Ferndown Society featured four excellent displays. The year ended with member **Len Yandell** entertaining with his collection of *Le Havre, including WWI*. We had a stand at the Hampex 2016 at Wickham in mid-October. This year we were in the main hall giving us a better profile and more visitors. The other major success in the autumn programme was the annual 'Grand Auction'. We hoped that with the quantity and quality of the lots



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being offered, over 900 this year, the auction would be successful, but results exceeded our expectations. There were more bidders, present and postal. For the first time hammer sales exceeded £10 000, enabling us to freeze subscription at £10 for 2017. That could be a real bonus to members as in 2017 we will be celebrating our 85th Anniversary. **Kevin Chard**, the Programme Manager, has persuaded a great set of guest speakers to visit, including **Michael Sefi** who will be talking about *The Royal Collection* at our anniversary meeting in May. Before that though, the year starts with a joint presentation by **Mike Batty** and **John Dorrington** on the *History of the Society* - Which leads nicely into a sales pitch. If any of you used to be members of our society and have memories or photographs from those days we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch using

prstoton@gmail.com or Southampton & District Philatelic Society, "Sheridan", Rutland Gardens, Bursledon, Southampton SO31 8FZ. → www.southamptondps.org.uk

Eddie Mays

Stirling & District

The 2016–2017 season was successfully launched in September with a goodly audience for the traditional *President's Night* display given by the new President, **Don Crawford**. Don's display was devoted to both modern British philately and the wider world; especially FDCs with a Scottish content. On 4 October **Eric Ross** from the Lanarkshire Society treated us to *Mountains*. Eric commented that 'He was a hill walker who collected stamps with hills on them'. He took us through 'Mountains

of the World' and 'Mountains and the leisure activities they supported'. The audience was greatly taken by a Mountain Rescue postcard showing two fully kitted-out rescuers with a mountain on their stretcher! Group visits from other societies are always welcome; the visit from the Scottish P S of Edinburgh on 18th October was a noteworthy example and four Stirling members visited the Perth PS on 27th October to a warm welcome. **David Hogarth** from Perth visited us on 1st November with a detailed and much appreciated display on *French internment camps in WWII* and their postal history. The first camps dated back to the arrival of victims of the Spanish Civil War and former members of the International Brigade who had supported the Spanish Republic in that conflict. → www.nzstamps.org.uk/sdps

Richard Beith

Thatcham & District

We will hold our major Stamp and Postcard Fair on Saturday 25th March. The National PS will hold a regional meeting and the Thames Valley Federation 9-sheet Competition entries will be on display. The Iranian PSC will put on a display and Grosvenor Auctions will be attending to value collections. Also 22 Dealers will be here with stamps, postal history and postcards.

Martin Farr

Twickenham & District

During the autumn members were treated to displays of *Haiti* by **John Shaw FRPSL**, *Catapult Mail* by **Eddie Spicer FRPSL**, a visit from Kingston with displays by **Geoff Chivers** (*British Africa*) and **Brian Sole FRPSL** (*Cycling*). Our home-grown displays attracted the usual diverse material

such as *Subject to Letter Rate* and *Liechtenstein*. Once again our annual Christmas auction proved a convivial evening with traditional seasonal refreshments, guests from other societies and a variety of lots in the auction. On June 1st we will host the joint Surrey Societies Auction. See Diary (p 53) or Surrey Federation Website. ➔ Michael Goodman 0208 568 2433 Mgoo831975@aol.com

Michael Goodman

Wakefield

In early November **Jeremy Piercy** paid us a visit to show us *Great Britain Returned Mail from WWII* which



Brian Thomson and Eric Ross

included mail that was suspended because the recipient was a POW and various other reasons. Later that month **Richard Wheatley FRPSL** brought along his collection of *Leeds Postal History* which included material from both WWI and WWII, a 1706 Handstamp of Leeds, postmarks and

mileage marks. Our members' evening entitled *Something Beginning with F or G* produced displays which were various and thought-provoking, including a selection of *Covers from Guatemala, Government overprints, Stamps and covers relating to football, sets of birds stamps representing Feathers, some Forgeries* and a lovely thematic collection of *Goats* on stamps and covers. In early December **Nigel Harpham** gave a display of *U.S.A stamps and covers relating to Abraham Lincoln*. This was accompanied by a very knowledgeable and interesting historical presentation of the late President Lincoln. ➔ Brian Hitchcock 01924 271218. Julie Hitchcock

Warminster

Our season started on 13th September with a display of *Austria* by our chairman, complete with a finger buffet in the interval. Since then we have had displays by **Paul Skinner** - Philatelic Curator of the British Library, **John Roe** on *British airmails*, **Mike Breward** showing *Eritrea* and **Tony Hickey** telling us about the *Take-over of Austria by Germany in 1938*. One particular highlight this season was the presentation of the Wiltshire & District Philatelic Federation Victor Hutchinson Award to **Norman Elston** for services to philately in Wiltshire. This was well deserved and we are proud that it was given to one of our members.

Your article?

We are always pleased to consider articles by our readers. Please send your item to the Editor who will let you know if it can be used. 250 words maximum please, and a picture relating to the subject matter is always a help (300dpi jpg or photograph). We do not pay for publication, and any items may be edited for length or content.

Our stamp fair in September was a great success and we finished the year with a December meeting where members showed some of their own material and enjoyed seasonal food and drink in the interval.

Members are looking forward to more excellent displays in 2017. *Colin Baker*

Watford & District

In November **Alan Vincent** gave us his first *President's Evening* display. Alan told us that, after collecting as a child, his passion for stamps was re-ignited when he went to the Philympia exhibition in 1970 and saw the world's rarest stamp, the British Guiana 1c Magenta, on display, with two 'heavies' guarding it. Alan entertained us with a display of *Great Britain postal history*, collected as much for the writing style and contents of the letters as the postal markings. One notable item was a free front signed by Lord Lucan. Alan also showed an eclectic mix of GB material including modern sheets, the experimental Fruit & Veg self-adhesives, and a mint 2d Mulready!

For our December meeting **Eric Keefe RPSL** returned and displayed two aspects of his excellent collection of *Finland*. The first half was concerned with the country's experiences in WWII, including field post franking labels used to send mail to and from the soldiers, and humorous postcards relating to the Swedish and Danish Volunteer Forces. Another interesting fact relayed by Eric was that the London Fire Brigade sent a fire engine and nine crew to help in the Helsinki blitz of 1940-41. In the second half Eric showed us maritime items, including Finland's distinctive boat handstamps and mail posted on ferries of the Viking and Silla Lines. He brought the meeting to a 'Finnish'

looking at the Åland Islands with their own paquebot postmarks.

→ Brian Thurlow on 01923 243243
wec_@live.co.uk

Wayne Cox

West London

On 1st November **Nick Kerridge** visited and displayed *Wei Hai Wei* from 1895 until the British left in 1930/31. The British had been invited to the port in North China by the Chinese authorities to replace the invading Japanese. By 1899 a postal service had been established. Nick showed the build up to this and its continuation. He completed the display with postcards and other documents depicting life in the territory during British occupation. Our December meeting was a social where members & friends met for a



Norman Elston

meal. → Christopher Oliver, Hon. Secretary 020 8940 9833
olivers.of_ham@virgin.net or 01932 220677 brian.sole@btinternet.com

Chris Oliver

Federations

Hampshire

HAMPEX 2016 was held at Wickham on 15th October and got off to an excellent start with over 200 visitors to sample the wares from more than 20 dealers. Meetings were held by the Hampshire Postal History Society and the British Society of Australian Philately. The TPO & Seapost Society and Southampton & District Society were also in attendance. A Junior Workshop was held by **Paul Davidson** during the morning session. The competition exhibition had 27 entries across all competitions with a total of 33 frames of material to view (six 32 sheet entries and 21 single sheet entries). Seven societies contested the Howard White Inter-Society Trophy which was won by Southampton & District PS by just one point with Petersfield & District PS as runners-up. The Jan Kaluski 32 sheet Trophy was won by Waterlooville & District PS member **Fred Horsted**. The judging was held prior to the event with judges **Chris Harman, Pat Reid, Ken Burr** and **Christine Earle**. Pat Reid and Christine Earle also attended HAMPEX to answer questions from entrants – many of whom sought their advice on how to improve. *Julian H Jones*

Kent

Our Autumn Rally, the last of three in 2016, was on Saturday 24th September at the Mick Jagger Centre, Shepherds Lane, Dartford, Kent DA1 2JZ. Like many others we suffer from a lack of “younger” members (meaning anyone below retirement age!). We need volunteers to fill posts or to be helpers generally. Ideally those involved in

organising should have access to the internet and email – though we in Kent are grateful to have a volunteer as Secretary (**Grahame Boutle**) without such access. We also lost our Bulletin Editor (**Peter O’Keeffe**) after 25 years and the 200th issue this spring (an appreciation of Peter was written by **David Rennie** of Bromley &



Nick Kerridge points to Wei Hai Wei

Beckenham and published in ABPS News) - by the way, we are still looking for a Bulletin Editor. I regret that Swale PS resigned from ABPS but we are not immune – Kent Postal History Group decided not to renew its Federation affiliation. Happily we are pleased to record our win in the Inter-Federation “Dawes Cup” competition, but sadly only two federations entered. Another positive – at our AGM in April **Lewis Giles** of Maidstone & Mid-Kent PS was awarded the Lingley Shield (presented to the Federation by Sidcup in 1986 in memory of **William (Bill) Lingley**). It can be awarded annually by the Executive Committee to a member of a Kent society who has contributed significantly over time to that society, to philately in general or the Federation in particular. *Michael Dobbs*

Somerset & Dorset

Our Competition entries were on view at Axe Vale Stamp Club. There were 28 entries filling 40 8-sheet frames. The Senior Judge was **Colin Mount**. Seventeen First Class and sixteen Second Class Diplomas were awarded. The Somerset & Dorset Trophy was won by **B Paull** of Bridport & Charmouth SC for the Open 16-sheet competition. In the 8-sheet classes, **R Marsh** of Yeovil won the General Class taking the Mather Memorial Shield, and the KJAO Manning Trophy for Postal History was won by **J F Roe** of Bristol. B Paull also won the Hossell Cup (Thematic) and The Aerophilatelic Trophy (Airmails). The 16-sheet Postcard class was won by **S Page** of the home club, Axe Vale. The judges and members who helped, particularly those of Axe Vale Stamp Club, were thanked by **James Hooper**, the Federation Competition Secretary.

James Hooper

Sussex (ASPS)

We are again holding our annual Stamp and Post Card Day at the Victoria Baptist Church Hall, Eldon Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1UE. Continuing what has now proved to be a successful format the day will include in addition to nine dealers two displays given by guest speakers. At 11.00 **Lindy Bosworth FRPSL** will present *The Austro-Hungarian Navy in WWI* and at 2.15 **Graham Booth FRPSL**, maintaining the nautical theme, will display *Trans Atlantic Mail 1860-1914*.

Jim Etherington

Wiltshire & District

We recently held our 16-Sheet Competitions and as usual entries were

of a very high standard. Winning the Federation Trophy was **David Gibbon** with his entry *Mauritius Air Letters*. The Victor Hutchinson Memorial Trophy went to **Barbara Borlase-Hendry** for her entry *Tin and Copper Mining in Cornwall during the 19th and 20th Centuries*. We also presented **Norman Elston** with his Federation Medal for outstanding service to Societies within the Federation. → www.wiltsfed.org.uk
Paul Latham-Warde

Yorkshire

We hold an annual Convention, usually in June, which is hosted by one or more societies. In 2015 Leeds, Bradford & District and Harrogate Societies were the hosts. They discovered that there was no guidance for societies on how to organise a Convention which meant that some societies were reluctant to host the event because of lack of experience. The three societies have produced detailed guidance to help any prospective society in the YPA area organise the event. Although the guidance is YPA specific it could possibly be of help to other Federations in organising conventions. The guidance can be accessed at www.y-p-a.org.uk/Images/ypa_convention_guidance.pdf or from the YPA Home page Notice Board at: www.y-p-a.org.uk *John Edwards*

National and specialist societies

British Thematic Assoc

Our Competition entries were displayed at the South of England Stamp Fair and Sussex Convention held in the Showground Ardingly on 8th October.

The winner of the 2-frame BTA Cup competition was **Grace Davies** with *The Dove and Olive Branch: Symbols of Hope and Peace*, judged to Large Vermeil standard.

There were 5 entries in the competition for the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy. This was a 16-sheet Open competition, with no rules, and visitors voted for their favourite entry. Votes were quite evenly spread but the winner was **Janet Nelson** with *1000 years of Annoying the French*. **Erene Grieve** was the runner-up with *The Written Word – The Tools and The Trade*. The BTA welcomes all collectors with an interest in Theme-based Philately and/or Postcard collecting. ➔

Capt. Peter Denly 01279 652458
peter.denly@btinternet.com Brian Sole

British West Indies SC

We will have our AGM and auction at Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions premises in the Strand on Saturday 22nd April. New members will be welcome. In the last year, we have been represented at fairs from Scotex in Perth to the New York International, via Swinpex, Worpex and a meeting at Stampex in September. Recent publications include *The Tudway Letters* by Mary Gleadall, *Antigua – The Stamps and Postal History* by Charles Freeland and John Jordan, and *Classic Collections – St. Lucia* by Charles Freeland.
➔ www.bwisc.org George Dunbar

The Great Britain PS

At a recent meeting members were entertained by **Ken Burr** and **David Leathart**, both displays creating much interest for those present. Ken's display of *GB Stamps & Postal History from the Late 17th Century to 1900* gave an overview of many pre-stamp items –

Bishop marks, Dockwra & Peter Williamson's Penny Post, high postal rates, Fifth Clause Posts & the 4d uniform rate. Uniform 1d Post items & Late Fees were on display, also overseas mail plus College & Circular Delivery Companies. There was certainly something of interest for all. In the afternoon David's display was titled *Standing in the SPECIMEN Footsteps of Marcus Samuel*. Pre-production Queen Victoria items such as essays, die proofs and similar set the scene for the stamps themselves, all overprinted SPECIMEN from 1841 onwards including those used for official purposes. Telegraph & Revenue stamps were shown, as was a range of Specimen postal stationery. The following month members welcomed **Gavin Fryer RDP FRPSL** who gave a display entitled *British Printed Papers by Post 1836 – 1876*. Gavin's descriptions and depth of knowledge of his subject was truly informative and covered a wide range of wonderful and strange material passing through the post. Later, **Richard Wheatley FRPSL FSPH** transported us to Leeds with his display of *Leeds Postal History*. He showed postal history of the Yorkshire town spanning two centuries from 1706 when the first hand stamps were used there. Members were again treated to an in-depth display ➔ www.gbpb.org.uk or membership@gbpb.org.uk

Janet Bygate

Italy & Colonies SC

A total of 31 members and wives attended our weekend at Lea Marston near Birmingham. Whilst members enjoyed the 19 superb displays with varied subjects, the wives participated in organised trips to Aston Hall and Winterbourne House with RHS Garden.

The highlight of the weekend was the presentation of the Richard Harlow Cup to **Richard Harlow**. Richard instigated the formation of the Study Circle and as Secretary, has for the 42 years of its existence, held the tiller and been instrumental in communicating with, and achieving growth of, USA and Italian members. He has run the highly successful quarterly auction, helped develop the highly acclaimed fil-Italia journal and also introduced the structured trips to Italy which have given and still do give so much enjoyment to members. The "Cup" was purchased by members to show how grateful they are, and it was agreed that Richard should be the first recipient. Richard was also given a bottle of his favourite wine, and his wife Pia, a bottle of Limoncello for putting up with 42 years of Philately. Plans are already underway for a trip to Bologna and Marche Region in May 2017, whilst the first 2017 quarterly meeting and auction at the Union Jack Club in London is scheduled for 25th March. → Richard Harlow on 0208 977 8737 or www.icsc-uk.com Paul Woodness

National

Members enjoyed a variety of displays during the autumn with **Allen Wood FRPSL** showing *Basutoland* in August, **Frank Parsons** with *Switzerland* in September and **Dr Christopher Cooksey** with *Rhodesia* in October. November included the annual competition where the winners were **Michael L. Goodman** (traditional and postal history), **Rodney Knight** (social) and **Howard Morgan** (thematic). **Nick Kerridge** received the Johnson Literary Award for the most popular feature among readers of the society's journal *Stamp Lover*. They voted

overwhelmingly for his features on *Wei Hai Wei, the British Treaty port in China*. The December meeting was a Christmas party with displays by NPS members. → www.uk.philately.org.uk/nps or see us at Stampex.

Michael Goodman

Postal Stationery

At our meeting held on 22nd October at the RPSL building in London, we held our AGM. Officers were elected for the next 12 months and the annual subscriptions were set at the previous year's level. Following this, the 16 page Tony Chilton Competition for any entry of postal stationery was won by **Neil Sargent** for his *Registration Envelopes of Turkey*. In the afternoon Neil ran the Society's autumn auction when over £5000 worth of material was sold. The next meeting is to be held on 1st April when **Colin Baker** will show the *Postal stationery of East Africa*.

Colin Baker

The Royal, London

The displays on 10th November came from members of the West Africa Study Circle. The focus, however, was the islands of the South Atlantic, Ascension Island, St Helena and Tristan da Cunha, embraced because most of the ships that served the islands went via West Africa. Co-ordinated by **Barry Burns**, no fewer than 15 members provided what **Frank Walton**, President, described as 'fantastic material'. Barry expressed his thanks to all who had contributed. On 24th November 21 members of the Académie de Philatélie from both sides of the Channel displayed an outstanding selection of material representing the best of international philately. Understandably most of the



Richard Harlow receives the cup from Paul Woodness

exhibits had links with France. The displays were co-ordinated by **Robert Abensur**, who produced a fine documented record of the material on display. **Yvonne Wheatley**, a member of the Czechoslovak PS for 45 years, presented a thorough examination of *the Allegory Issues of Czechoslovakia from 1920 to 1926* on 8th December. Yvonne explained that the issue started with a wish to mark the first anniversary of the independence of Czechoslovakia on 28th October 1918. Despite two stamp design competitions, no suitable designs emerged. However, one known as the Chainbreaker by Vratislav Hugo Brunner, while liked, was considered too futuristic. Later this

design inspired the decision in 1920 to produce a new definitive series with designs on an allegorical theme. Four designs were chosen: Dove; Chainbreaker; Agriculture and Science; Hussite Priest. The stamps were issued between 1920 and 1926.

Richard West

South African Collectors'

In spite of minimal attendance five of us examined the *2nd & 3rd definitives of the Republic of South Africa*. **John Archer** displayed his collection of the *2nd definitives*. **Chris Oliver's** display was very similar. The displays prompted much discussion, mainly on colour reproduction and on printing techniques. Why was the colour "ladder" printed on the stamp selvedge? How was it possible that the colour for "A" Pane was stronger than that on the "B" Pane? The 4c value was particularly noticeable for this. Then we looked at the *3rd Definitive issue (Proteas)*. We were as usual participants at the Southern Africa Philatelic Societies Weekend Convention, held, this year, at the Honiley Court Hotel, Warwickshire. This year the Tony Chilton Trophy was

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won by a new and recent signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelist of South Africa, **Paul van Zeyl**, for his display entitled *The Rise and Decline of the Nationalist Party in South Africa 1948/94*. At the recent Philatelic Congress in South Africa, Otto Peetoom had been awarded the Manfred Weinstein Medal for "excellence in philately, in research and the sharing of knowledge". Brian Trotter, accompanied by three other winners of the medal, presented Otto with his, well deserved, citation & medal. More displays were viewed on Sunday morning and in the afternoon

by **Nick Arrow** with his team. It was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend, well organised by **Simon Peetoom**.

→ Christopher Oliver 020 8940 9833 or olivers.of_ham@virgin.net or www.southafricacollector.com/

Chris Oliver



Neil Sargent receives the trophy

the traditional auction was conducted



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*Yvonne Wheatley brings early
Czechoslovakia to the Royal*



*Paul van Zeyl receives the
Chilton Cup at the South
African Collectors' meeting*

Revenue stamps posher than postage stamps

John Gledhill

Collectors of South African territories may be well acquainted with the rather crude stamps for Griqualand West, a mining area which is now part of Northern Cape Province: In 1873 it was proclaimed as a British colony, with its capital at Kimberley, and in 1880 it was annexed by the Cape Colony. When the Union of South Africa was formed in 1910 Griqualand West was part of the Cape Province, but continued to have its own "provincial" sports teams. [Wikipedia]



eBay



images by *garykun* 4d, others *middleenglandgirl*, with thanks

The postage stamps comprised contemporary South Africa stamp overprinted simply with a capital "G" or "GW" in a wide miscellany of fonts. However, the revenue stamps are beautifully designed and printed and clearly showed that the businesses in Griqualand did a great deal more "revenue" activity than they did postal



activity.

Compare the above with this lovely design, which can be found in several denominations:

British Stamp news



I thought that you might like to see the Christmas stamps some of which were in short supply just before Christmas. My local post office ran out of all 2nd class stamps a few days before the deadline for posting if you wished the letter or card to be delivered before Christmas. It seems to me to be a strange way to run a business for there to be insufficient of the most saleable items at the critical time. Perhaps that is why there are so few 2nd class stamps amongst the new issues - if they produced any, people might buy and then use them, rather than buy more expensive ones in order to put them in an album unused - clear profit to Royal Mail is much greater with the current system. Looking at these Christmas stamps I must admit that they do not inspire me so I don't see them persuading anyone to start or recommence stamp collecting. The Philatelic Bureau is apparently trying to persuade dealers to support stamp collecting, according to correspondence that I have seen - but at the same time the Royal Mail seems to be more interested in producing more and more expensive and less and less used stamps. The Post and Go stamps strike me as being more



tempting - does anyone collect them unused? *The Editor's views are not necessarily those of the ABPS*

Stamp Active Network

KIDS FUN AT SPRING STAMPEX

There will be plenty for young collectors at Spring Stampex. Stamp Active will again be running the Kids Zone in Gallery Bays 14 and 15. Every child will also get a free goodie bag. The theme of the activities will be THE ROYAL FAMILY, so keep an eye out for some special visitors and have a look at the special displays. There will be the popular activity sheets, based on the Royalty theme, which gain points which can be exchanged for free gifts or used in the exciting free Auction on Saturday at 2pm, held in the Kids Zone. The climax of the auction is a draw for a Penny Black for all the children who take part in the auction, sponsored by Mulready Philatelics and Stanley Gibbons. There will also be a chance to win more prizes in the "Lucky Dip" or "Guess the number of stamps in the jar" sponsored by the PTS. The Philatelic Traders' Society will be giving away Mr Men Stampex Smiler Sheets to the first 25 youngsters (under 18) on each and every day of the Show.

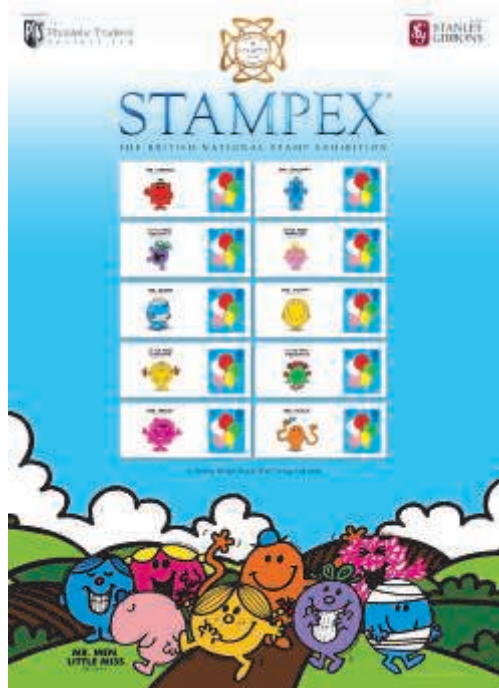
In addition, there is another new attraction. Every day, at 12 noon, there will also be a free STAMP ART Workshop, hosted by Suzanne Ray of Artstamped where youngsters will be able to create their own Stamp Art and take it home. All the materials will be provided.

The youth area will also display the entries in the 2017 Stamp Active Competition, sponsored by The Great Britain Philatelic Society and Stanley Gibbons. On show will be some of the best collections from the UK's up and coming young collectors.

There will be a free draw for all adults who "Bring a Child to Stampex" with prizes generously donated by Royal Mail, Stamp & Coin Mart, Jersey Post and Stanley Gibbons.

For more information about the Stamp Active Network go to www.stampactive.co.uk

Oliver Thomas is one of Kidstamps' newest members, and is seen in the picture with the contents of his introductory packet. Oliver decided to start collecting stamps following





Oliver starts on his stamp collecting - good hunting

his next packet from Kidstamps.

Erene Grieves' "Stamps in Schools" presentation at his school in Basildon, Essex. After sending the completed application form to Kidstamps, Oliver eagerly awaited receipt of his introductory packet, and when he received it he was not disappointed with its contents. Oliver's Mum Sarah said that as soon as they opened the envelope, he had the contents spread across the table and set about trying to see which countries the stamps came from. He now looks forward to sending in his voucher for

David Rossall

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 too and may well elicit enquiries from potential new members.

Diary for the next few months

Local and regional events by ABPS members

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
- 11 Launceston SC Fair: **Launceston** PL15 8BA
→ www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/whats-on.php
- 25 Huntingdonshire Stamp Fair: 10-3, Corn Exchange **St Ives** Cambridgeshire PE27 5AG. → 01480 468037

March

- 4 Royal Sutton Coldfield PS Annual Stamp Fair & Exhibition: 10-4, The Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, **Birmingham** B43 7NF → Steven Harrison 0121 313 0671 sharrison500@btinternet.com
- 24-26 Gibraltar Study Circle AGM, Golden Lion Hotel, High Street, **Northallerton**, North Yorkshire
- 25 WESTBEX 2017: 10-4, Kennet School, Stoney Lane, **Thatcham**, RG19 4LL → Graeme Stewart 01635 866942 www.tdps.org.uk

April

- 8 Maidstone & Mid Kent PS Stamp Fair: 10-3, Grove Green Community Centre, Grove Green, **Maidstone** ME14 5BT → Brian Stonestreet 01622 67874
- 8 ASPS Stamp and Post Card Day: Victoria Baptist Church Hall, Eldon Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1UE → Jim Etherington 01273 471897
sussexphilately@live.co.uk
- 19 Wakefield PS Open Auction: 18.30 onwards (viewing from 16.00), Standbridge Lane Community Centre, **Wakefield**

May

- 13 MAYFEST 2017: Basildon Town Square: Basildon PS will be hoping to recruit new members.
- 20 Cornwall PF - REDEX: **Redruth** TR15 2EG → www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/whats-on.php

June

- 1 Surrey Federation Auction (Hosted by Twickenham PS): 7.30, St. John Ambulance Hall, Park Rd, Teddington → 0208 568 2433
Mgoo831975@aol.com

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

- 30 HAMPEX 2017 - Hampshire Federation: 10-4, Wickham Centre, Mill Lane, **Wickham** PO17 5AL

September

- 23 South Wales Federation Stamp & Coin Fair - hosted by Newport & Gwent PS: Graig Community Centre, Bassaleg, **Newport**
- 29 to 1 October Gibraltar Study Circle Competition weekend: Red Lion Hotel, Red Lion Lane, **Basingstoke**, Hampshire RG21 7LX

October

- 14 Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies Stamp Fair & Convention: South of England Showground, **Ardingly**, West Sussex RH17 6TL → Jim Etherington 01273 471897 sussexphilately@live.co.uk
- 21 Middlesex Federation Stamp Day: Methodist Church Hall, **Ruislip**
- 28 Cornwall PF- CORNEX: **Liskeard** PL14 3EA
→ www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/whats-on.php
- 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 albertward.kemp@ntlworld.com

November

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

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

National Exhibitions 2017-2018

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

International Exhibitions 2017-2020

- 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
- 24-29 October 2017: Brasilia 2017 - World Exhibition, FIP Patronised → UK Commissioner: Frank Walton frank@frankwalton.com
- 2-9 May 2020 London 2020 International Stamp Exhibition: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH → www.london2020.co

Web information

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

FIP Exhibition in Brasilia, Brazil - 24 to 29 October 2017

This specialised FIP Exhibition will be held in Brasilia, the capital city of Brazil, in October 2017. Forms can be downloaded at www.stampbrasil2017.net.br/application-forms or from UK Commissioner, Frank Walton, by email.

A summary is provided below: Important information

1. The exhibition frame at BRASILIA-2017 should be 98 cm x 120 cm. Each frame should have a capacity for 16 (four sheets in four rows) album pages, 22 cm x 30 cm each in size (maximum) including their protective mount (size letter or A4 form);
2. Every exhibit should be allotted five (5) or eight (8) frames (according to GREX Articles 6.4 & 6.5), except: one frame, youth class and Modern Philately;
3. Exhibit Application Forms duly filled should be submitted to the UK Commissioner, Frank Walton not later than **15 February 2017**;
4. Notification of acceptance or rejection should be sent to the applicants through their respective Commissioners on 30 May 2017;
5. The Commissioners are to collect the participation fee from the exhibitors and should remit to the ABPS through Frank Walton by 16 July 2017.

Contact Frank Walton frank@frankwalton.com to determine the relevant fee. Due to the unpredictability of the dollar-pound exchange rates over the next few months, the costs are quoted in a combination of US dollars and British pounds. The fees are to be paid to the ABPS in £, and a mid-point exchange rate will be established by the ABPS Treasurer on 16 June 2017.

ABPS General Information

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

Membership matters (if not emailed): **ABPS Membership, 1 Naunton Way, Cheltenham GL53 7BQ**

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

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

Stamp Active Network: please write to:

SAN, c/o 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.

The Stefan Hejtz Saint Helena



Our April 26th British Empire & Foreign Countries auction will present the first part of the remarkable **Stefan Hejtz FRPSL International Large Gold Medal Collection of Saint Helena Postal History**. Each auction is available to view, with additional illustrations, on our website, www.grosvenorauctions.com, and complimentary copies of the catalogue for this landmark sale will be available on request.

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