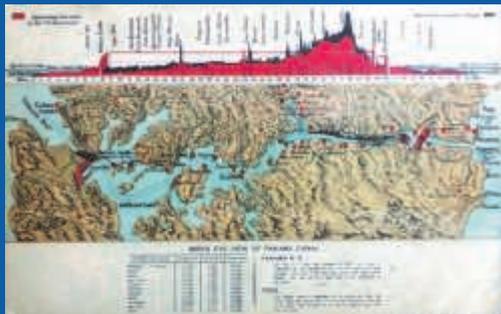


From Three Displays at Ferndown & West Moors



See p 29

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ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

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

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Volume 24, Number 2, Summer 2017 (whole number 94)

Editor: Keith S Burton

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CONTENTS

4, 5	Collectively Speaking; Editorial	21	Competition Workshop for
6-8	Anniversaries: Great Yarmouth (80) Newport (70) Halifax (70)		Pembrokeshire Young Collectors, School Stamp Still Active in Liverpool <i>David Rossall</i>
8	Introducing Barry Stagg		
13	Postcrossing— <i>Chris Wheeler</i>	22-52	On the Club circuit
14	Award of Merit, Congress Medal	32-33	I Spy
15	Rhodesia and Nyasaland Postal Rates—Review <i>Richard West</i>	35	I Spy Index
16-17	Obituaries: Cliff Garside, Alan Drysdale, John Goodman, Morley PS	53	Report on Spring Stampex
18	Updates and amendments	54	British Stamp News
19	York July National Exhibition	55-58	Stamp Active
20	Roll of Distinguished Philatelists <i>Jon Aitchison</i>	58	Museum of Philatelic History
		59-61	Diary: Local Events, National & International Exhibitions
		62	ABPS Information

Cover pictures: Clockwise from top right : *Herm Triangulares, 1958 Postcard from Herm, 'Resettlement Programme - Portrait of Anton Steckbover Farmery', 'Letter - Polish forces in USSR - the Polish Peoples' Army', Bird's Eye View of Panama Canal, Railway Advertising Postcard of Chateau Frontenac, Quebec*

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 facing 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 (see p 62)

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

Collectively Speaking

A view from the Chair



The winter is hopefully behind us and we can look forward to brighter days as we move towards Summer. The Congress at Cardiff is drawing near and as I

will be retiring from my post of Chairman at that event I am looking forward to an interesting final meeting with a lot of regret but also a chance to meet up with old and new friends. The congress has taken on a different focus for me as I have been awarded the Congress medal for 2017 and the presentation will be in Cardiff City Hall on the Friday. On the Saturday Graham Winters will be taking over from me as Chairman and I know that he will receive the same amount of support from the membership that has been accorded to me over the past 8 years. Over the past six months I have received many personal thanks for my chairmanship and I thank the Societies that have taken the trouble to write to me. My health is slowly improving and I am looking forward to giving three displays later this year. Next year I hope to repeat that number and I have been invited to give the Paul Gaywood lecture in October 2018. This is a great honour for me as Paul served as my Vice Chairman over several years and his support was invaluable. I must congratulate the North-West Federation for the initiative in creating an annual commemoration for Paul.

This year's lecture (the first) will be given by Chris Taft of the National Postal Museum on Tuesday 3rd October in collaboration with Trafford Philatelic Society. More details to follow.

I would not have been able to fulfil my role as Chairman without the support of my colleagues on the Executive and I extend my thanks to them, and also to the many collectors throughout the country. At the end of March I attended the Thames Valley Federation annual event at WestBex and I take pride in the quality of that event as it is my home society in Thatcham that have put on the event for the past 17 years. When it was first mooted we had little money and we were fortunate to obtain a council grant for the initial event. Any profit that we made has been reinvested into the following year and again we had 20 dealers in attendance, some of which have been to every Fair. As collectors, we owe it to the organisers of these fairs to support in any way possible.

At the AGM Graham Winters will be discussing the future of ABPS in the Kay Goodman lecture. I am interested in what he will be saying as it will determine the way ahead for us all. I will support Graham in his objectives as I continue my involvement with ABPS. I trust that all the societies will look at ways of also working with Graham. Also if you have any thoughts on how ABPS can be involved with London 2020 please let any executive members know.

This may well be the last 'Collectively' that I write from the Chair. I am grateful for a very interesting 8 years on the Executive.

John Baron

Editorial

It is always saddening to see the list of societies that have closed for whatever reason—shortage of members, age causing problems in filling the society's offices or problems with finance or meeting places. It is even more disturbing to see the number of societies withdrawing into their shells, not willing to be part of the bigger picture. However then there are the societies that seem to be rising to the challenge—what a joy to me to receive reports from “new” societies, to hear that a Federation is actively promoting activities in their area and that so many Federations have expressed an interest in the Inter-Federation competition at Autumn Stampex. If you can—come to see the entries and “cheer” on your Federation. Being in the North I look forward to visiting York in July, meeting old and new friends though these days I sometimes need reminding of their names when we meet or a hint as to where we last met. I have also been pleased to have some correspondence. You may recall that last issue included a comment on the Yorkshire cancellation shown in the Winter 2016 issue. Well, the research has been done and the answer is clear—“From time to time it is necessary to check that all proposed slogans will fit within the parameters in conjunction with the Mail Centre location postmark. To ensure that it fits satisfactorily, a test is carried out using the maximum character contents possible in this area; hence the location wording used on this particular test. Details of the Bishopmark slogan sent to you by Royal Mail Media Office

inadvertently used an illustration incorporating the fictitious test details.”

So now you know, courtesy of Tom Norgate, that it was all a mistake on the part of someone in Royal Mail.



We have now reached the stage in the year when I ought to remind you that I should not include reports from societies that have not paid their ABPS affiliation fees (due last January, in case you don't know). I have always worked on the principle laid down previously that for the first two issues in a year I will not check. Now however I will start and at the last count 1/3 of local and specialist societies have not paid. If you intend to send a report by the end of July, please check that your treasurer or secretary has sent off the affiliation fee. It will save both of us toil, tribulation and embarrassment. I know that some societies need to consider things at the AGM but surely the 2016 AGM should have authorised the payment for January. Your expenses carry on during the year—so do ours. We need the funds in order for me to get the issues of ABPS News printed (most important of course) as well as for the support for Stamp Active, Small Grants Money, Affiliation to the International Scene, Exhibitions, Judges' Training and so on.

I enjoyed my time at Spring Stampex, as expected, and spent more money than I should have probably. I will still have some left for York and Autumn Stampex as well as to go to Congress in Cardiff. If you see me at one of these events, please make yourself known.

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:

'The 70 year History of 'The Great Yarmouth Stamp Club'

The Club started life in 1947 when a few like-minded stamp collectors got together, and under the Secretaryship of Mr Alf Hedges, formed a club. The first meetings were held in the old Great Yarmouth Library opposite the east foot of the Haven Bridge over the River Yare – very appropriate as Alf was the chief librarian. In 1962 a new library was built behind the Toll House, (dating from 1362), and the club quickly moved to these new premises. However in about 1981 the building was redesigned as 'open plan', and so became unsuitable for our meetings. Still keeping with the theme of using libraries, we moved to the Gorleston Library situated in Gorleston town centre over the River Yare and just south of Great Yarmouth. During this period we were the most easterly stamp club in England beating Lowestoft by about 100yds. Today we are happily ensconced in the spacious, clean, quiet and very pleasant surroundings of the Cobholm Community Centre, ironically only about 500 yards away from our original home of 1947.

Our membership has never been huge but it has always been extremely loyal and knowledgeable, and we are extremely proud of our club. Among our membership we boast members of various specialist societies, study groups, authors of philatelic literature, national competition winners and one Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London. We are and have always been a very friendly club, welcoming new members and guests, and very willing to share our knowledge with those who ask.

We remain a 'Stamp Club' as opposed to a 'Philatelic Society' after a number of unsuccessful proposals to change our name. We are a Club and proud of it. The attendance at meetings, which averages around 75% of the total club membership, reflects the interest and loyalty. About 10% of our members also give displays and talks to clubs and societies throughout East Anglia and beyond.

Unlike many clubs we don't have a break during the summer, and we meet on many of the minor Bank Holiday Mondays, thus ensuring a continual programme for our members of about twenty-three to twenty-five meetings a year.

I think our future looks bright, but this is only due to the enthusiasm and willingness of the members to take part and talk about the many and varied subjects which form part of the wonderful and fascinating hobby of Stamp Collecting.

Bernard Mabbett, Secretary

Newport & Gwent Philatelic Society – Celebrates 70 Years

On 16th October 1947 a meeting was held at 221 Caerleon Road Newport "by kind permission of Mr [Graham] Meaker" to discuss the formation of a society for stamp collectors. The name of the society adopted by the 14 people present that evening was the Newport (Mon) Philatelic Society. In 1974 the society changed its name to the Newport and Gwent Philatelic Society to reflect local government changes. Despite further re-organisation, the name has remained unchanged ever since. Having met at several locations, the club finally settled into rooms at



Some of the Newport members at the competition night in March 2017

the Civic Centre in Newport in 1987. The club prides itself on being friendly and outgoing. It has organised several stamp shows, the first being in 1951. As a founder member in 1971 of the Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies, the club has hosted both the Annual Convention and Autumn fairs. It has an extensive visiting programme with other societies in South Wales and South West England. It also runs a club at The Dell primary school in Chepstow. As a prelude to the 70th anniversary, the club will be involved in the ABPS Congress in Cardiff in July 2017 and will host the South Wales Federation Autumn Stamp and Postcard Fair on 23rd September 2017 at the Graig Community Centre, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8HZ.

The club has its own website newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com, which is full of information about its activities.

John Perry

Halifax PS - 80 Years Strong

We are in our 80th season, being formed in 1937. We have a small number of members who have enjoyed more than fifty years membership.

The society enjoys a consistent number of members and it is gratifying that the percentage of regular attending members at our fortnightly meetings is high. Our meetings are of an informal nature. During the last five years since our 75th season, celebrated with a Society Dinner and a special cover, we have extended our circle of friends by having an interesting and diverse series of visiting philatelists, postal historians and trade visitors, who receive a certificate of appreciation. This appears to be a successful formula and we intend to continue.

We have visited other societies and entertained other societies and will continue doing so.

A large percentage of our members enjoy membership of specialist societies covering GB, Switzerland, Falklands, West Africa. India, Postal History, Air Mails, all of which make members' display nights interesting and diverse. Several members have achieved gold medals at national and international philatelic exhibitions.

Several of our members have signed the Roll of Distinguished Yorkshire Philatelists. Our members have been keen participants in a recently introduced local daytime stamp club together with individuals and members of other local societies. This has tended to form close relations with other local societies and has introduced individuals into society membership.

We hold a Library of specialist information and several members have been responsible for publishing specialist books which continues to build on the information available.

Adrian Lee

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

Introducing Barry Stagg



I cannot remember a time when I did not collect stamps. I was encouraged by my Mother in the 1960s which was an exciting time for GB stamp collectors. My collection and collecting interests have grown over the years and although I still collect GB (just Edward VIII these days) my main interests are now Thematic and Postcard collecting. I belong to a number of clubs including my local club, Cheltenham Philatelic Society, and the British Thematic Association of which I have the great pleasure to be chairman. I love to attend Stamp fairs, particularly since my retirement last year, and I have enjoyed meeting dealers and collectors from Perth to Cirencester, from Stampex to Midpex. One of the joys of Thematic collecting is that you never know what you may find next to tell your story better! I also enjoy visiting stamp clubs up and down the country to give talks and presentations. Recently I have trained to be a Federation judge, and I am currently 'under training' to be a National judge. I joined the ABPS committee a few months ago and I was delighted to pick up the ABPS News Advertising Manager and Membership Secretary roles. I look forward to a long and fruitful time working with the ABPS for the betterment of all collectors, even if they are not Thematic collectors!

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

Congress takes place in Cardiff from 27th to 30th July
at the Jury's Inn, Park Place, Cardiff, CF10 3UD

For more see: <http://gbcongress.uk/sample-page/2017-invitation-to-congress/>

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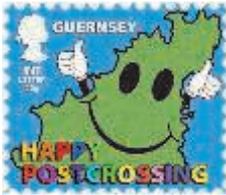
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Guernsey 2014

Postcrossing

I first learned about Postcrossing when I received a copy of the pair of Guernsey 2016 stamps which simply said “Happy Postcrossing” on them. So, I Googled what it was about, and found that several stamp issuing authorities had released stamps to promote their interest in this new ‘social craze’.

I then found that Guernsey had already issued a single stamp on this theme in 2014.



Belarus 2014



Russia 2015



Slovenia 2015

Postcrossing is a social craze that allows anyone so inclined to send and

then receive postcards through the mail from random people and places round the

world. It was started in July 2005, when Paolo Magalhães set up a website for the purpose. In April 2008, the millionth postcrossing postcard was sent, the total is now over 40 million, with some 438,000 in transit at the present time. The total mileage covered by all these postcards at the end of February was 126,039,192,028 miles! As shown in the examples above, stamp issuing authorities have released commemorative stamps to help (cash-in on) this hobby. Similarly, some postcard companies now print specific postcards, and some produce pre-stamped and pre-cancelled maxicards.

An extensive database maintains records of all its members and their activities, and sends regular information to its members. It works very simply:

1. Register your details on the website
2. Request a name and address and receive a postcard ID
3. Send a postcard to that address
4. Receive a postcard from another postcrosser
5. Register the postcard ID you have received.
6. Start again at No 2. (You can have up to five postcards in circulation at any one time).

Chris Wheeler



Kazakhstan 2015



Netherlands 2016



Rumania 2017

The ABPS Awards of Merit

The ABPS Awards Committee was disappointed that only one nomination for the Award of Merit was received despite the Committee reviewing the Guidelines and making it easier to make a nomination as the nominee has to demonstrate outstanding voluntary service to British philately at one level only, either local, regional or specialist society instead of giving service at all three levels. In addition Friends of ABPS as well as societies affiliated to ABPS can make a nomination.

The requirement that the nominee is still active in giving voluntary service was waived this year and Dennis Firth was awarded the ABPS Award of Merit posthumously – nominated by the Leeds Philatelic Society.

The Leeds Society very much regrets that it was dilatory in making the nomination. Other societies and federations are urged not to leave it too late.

The ABPS Congress Medal for 2017



Happily there were more nominations for the Congress Medal than last year.

This year it goes to John Baron, nominated by the North Western Federation. This was extremely well deserved as John has been involved with organised philately for many years. In 2008 he was appointed to the ABPS Executive Committee taking over the chair in 2009. He was an integral part of the Festival of Stamps 2010 visiting every Federation in the year, and so became the first Chairman to do the task. He was a key member of the Festival of Stamps organising committee working with the representatives of the Post Office and Postal Museum. He is also a member of the Postal Advisory Council and represents the ABPS in this role. He ran the ABPS website for 5 years.

After 2010 John looked at the ABPS Directory and Speakers lists which were out of date and required full revision. John set about updating the information, both in the directory and on the website. One of his main concerns was that the overall constitution was out of date and as a qualified company secretary he took on the arduous task of rewriting the constitution which was adopted in 2014.

In regard to Federations, one of his biggest contributions has been with the East Midlands and East Anglia Federation in their reorganisation to the Mid-Anglia Federation. He has signed the roll of distinguished North Western Philatelists for his contribution to that Federation and is now its President.

In 1991 John was elected to the committee of Thatcham Philatelic Society, a position he holds to date, and was Chairman from 2001 until 2009. He was one of the members of that society who suggested that the society ran a major

stamp fair in 2000 and this has become the successful 'WestBex', organised by a dedicated committee with John playing an integral part.

John Baron has shown all the qualities required for the award and the ABPS is delighted to make the award of the ABPS Congress Medal to him for 2017.

*Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL
Chairman ABPS Awards Committee*

News from the Executive

Rufus Barnes says: Since my appointment as Vice Chairman with responsibility for Federations I have been concentrating on liaising with the Federations on the availability of competition judges in their areas. The provision of judges able to judge at local and federation level is one of the most important things we do, for local societies in particular. ABPS has sensed the list in the ABPS handbook is out of date and my enquiries have confirmed this showing that some parts of the country have a serious shortage of qualified judges. We will be urgently considering how to respond to this with some training and refresher sessions being organised around the country. I have not been involved in the reborn Inter-Federation Competitions as Chris King and his colleagues have done a good job on this so it would be unhelpful for me to interfere.

Graham Winters is looking forward to Congress and taking up the reins.

Rhodesia and Nyasaland Postal Rates—*Collated and Edited by J B Horne*
Published by the author from 16 St Peter's Mount, Exeter EX4 2JD at £10 (plus £4 p&p) ISBN: 0-949000-05-1

One of the challenges when faced with a cover is to determine the rates paid by the stamps or other markings, or indeed whether the correct postage has been affixed. It can be a laborious task checking sources for information on rates.

In this work Barry Horne has brought together information relating to the territories generally known as 'Rhodesia and Nyasaland'. To detail the coverage, it is: BSAC, Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia from 1892 to 1953 (with Bechuanaland from 1885 to 1891); Northern Rhodesia from 1891 to 1953; British Central Africa and Nyasaland from 1891 to 1953; Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland from 1953 to 1963; Rhodesia from 1963 to 1978; Zimbabwe from 1978 to 2015.

The author has gathered the information, which includes both surface and airmail rates, from several sources, arranging the listings in tabular form using a 'landscape' format, thus making it easier to follow. In some instances, information is still sought, especially for Malawi and Zambia since independence, and some of the more recent rates from Zimbabwe. The author welcomes input from others.

For those specialising in this part of Africa, this will prove an invaluable work and, at only £10, will repay its cost time and time again by saving time in endless research.

Richard West

Cliff Garside 1942-2016

With great sadness the death of Cliff Garside was announced.

Cliff had worked tirelessly for ABPS and was made an Honorary Vice-President when he was no longer as actively involved. He had also been an active member of the North-East Philatelic Association Management Team, organising their biannual Auction, and was a Past President of the Association and the holder of their Award of Merit. The success of the North East Philatelic Weekend was due to Cliff's enthusiasm for philately, shown by his being treasurer for the event.

Cliff was the Secretary for the Durham City PS for over 20 years and was due to be the President for the 2017-18 season. After his death with the consent of his family, the society held a Memorial President's night in January at which Cliff's Falkland Islands Collection was displayed. It was a wonderful reminder of his collecting interests and a memory of the many times that he had displayed to other societies. The evening was attended by Cliff's widow, Christine, and Robert and Daphne McMillan—committee members of the North East Philatelic Weekend and Hull PS. Robert talked about the Falkland Islands, being a member of the Falkland Islands Study Group. The evening was a wonderful reminder of Cliff and the pleasure that he gained from philately.

Cliff will be sadly missed and our thoughts are with Christine and sons Nick and Steve as well as the rest of the family. *Val Beeken, Durham City PS President*

Alan Drysdall RDP, RDPSA, FRPSL – 1933 to 2017

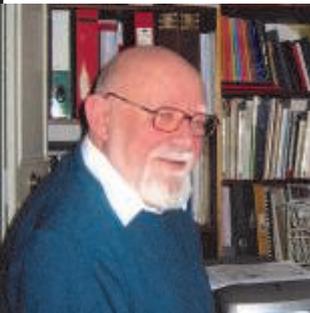


Photo by kind permission of S.D.P.S.

Alan was born in Southampton in 1933 and obtained his Doctorate in Geology at Southampton University in 1957.

He worked in southern Africa and became a philatelic expert and prolific writer for the Rhodesia, Transvaal and Natal Study Circles. He returned to Southampton after he retired and became an active member of the Southampton & District Philatelic Society, serving both as President for a number of years and Convenor of the afternoon meetings.

A Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, he signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists both here and in South Africa. Alan displayed at many international exhibitions, and amongst his awards

was a Gold Medal for his Transvaal collection.

Alan was a philatelist deeply committed to furthering our hobby and his death is a great loss, both to our Society and more widely – he will be sadly missed.

John Berridge, President of Southampton & District Philatelic Society

John Goodman

Ferndown and West Moors Philatelic and Postcard Club have announced the sad news of the death of John Goodman, a long standing and honorary member who spent nearly 30 years as Packet Secretary, a hugely responsible and most complex task. At one time, John maintained both the Ferndown and the Bournemouth club packets and was instrumental in extending the packet circuit to various other clubs in the area. He was noted for his meticulous control and bookkeeping. John was very well respected also in his world of banking and indeed on the green... 'a great man for bowls'!! Sadly missed... so very well remembered.



Paul Barry

Morley Philatelic Society 1970-2017

On the 24th September 1970 twelve members attended the first meeting of the newly formed society. The address book by 10th May 1973 listed 44 members. Sadly by 2000 this figure was back down to twelve members. 2017 we are down to six members, so it has been impossible to put together a programme. A big thank you to all the visiting speakers who have turned up in the last few years to a small audience (we did warn them in advance). A sad goodbye from Morley Philatelic Society.

Valda Fountain

Thinking of having a Society meeting at Stampex?

You need to get in touch with Lucie Warren at the Philatelic Traders Association. Call 07949 912 621 and she will be able to give you more information about what is available, when and at what cost.

An Open Meeting with a sensitive display could lead to new members.



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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 any errors that have caused problems or distress. Please note the changes below.

Federations

Cornwall Philatelic Federation (p 55): Add Packet Secretary: David Payne, 01637 874562 david.payne008200@gmail.com

Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies (p 57): has 16 affiliated societies. President: **Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins**, philatelicsecretary@yahoo.com or 07783 807549

Acting Chairman: **Paul Cahill**, cahillpaul1@aol.com or 01303 873260

Secretary: **Nicola Davies**, nicoladavies27@aol.com or 07581 147640

Editor: **Jenny Viggers**, jcats@btinternet.com or 07429 254427

Website: www.kfps.website

ABPS Rep Michael Dobbs

Societies affiliated to the Federation: Delete:

Ashford (Kent) Dartford PS (closed) Isle of Thanet PS (closed)

Edenbridge Stamp & Postcard Club (closed) Herne Bay PS

Kent Postal History Group Malling Stamp Club

North Western Philatelic Federation (p 61) The following societies no longer meet *Garstang SC, Mold & District PS* and *Ormskirk & District PS*. They should be deleted from pp 175/176. *Rochdale PS* should be added to pp 61 and 176.

Specialist Societies

Egypt Study Circle (currently p 173) have rejoined ABPS—Welcome

Secretary: Mike Murphy egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com egyptstudycircle.org.uk/

Gibraltar Study Circle (p 75): has confirmed their Secretary: Susan Dare gibraltarestudycircle.wordpress.com

Scandinavia PS secretary is Mrs Susan Oliver, susan.m.oliver@virgin.net

Local Societies

Axe Vale Stamp Club (p 90) will be meeting at the Bradshaw Room, Heritage Centre, Silver Street, **Axminster** EX13 5AH in future.

Burnley PS: (p 101): Secretary's new email: barry.ribbywood@gmail.com

Derby PS (p 109) have rejoined ABPS. Welcome—I hope to hear from you.

Fenland Stamp Club: (p 114): has a new Secretary: Richard Lewis
01945 700954 richard@lewis8571.plus.com

Ferndown & West Moors P&PC: Secretary's new telephone 079325 81791
Website is now: www.philatellyinbournemouth.co.uk/

Heswall & District PS (p 121) is now called **Wirral PS**. → mail@wirralps.com
Website www.wirralps.com

Launceston SC (p 129): Remove Packet Secretary

Perth PS Secretary's address is now: 33 Sycamores, Muirs, **Kinross**, KY13 8GG

Rayleigh & District PS (p 148) Secretary's email is: ray.how@btinternet.com

Stirling & District PS (p 157) will move to Allan Community Centre, Fountains Road, **Bridge of Allan** FK9 4AT from 12th September.

I regret to inform you that **Farnham & District PS** (p 113), **Morley PS** (p 138), **New Forest PS** (p 138), **Andover SC**, **Brentwood & District PS**, **British Rail (Cardiff)**, **Dartford & District SC**, **Exeter & District PS** (p 175), **Isle of Thanet PS** (p 176), **Kingsbridge PS** (p 175), **Moulsham Lodge PS**, **Tiverton SC** (p 176) have closed and that **Gateshead & District PS** (p 115), **Lagan Valley PS** (p 128) and **Tynemouth PS** (p 165) have resigned.

Speakers:

Val Beeken (p190): mobile number 07710 147192

M L Bister (p191) has a new contact: m.bister@btinternet.com

Wendy Buckle (p 194) gives the following displays: 1) Latvia 1785 - 1945
2) The Write Stuff: aspects of written communication. Delete all others.

Margaret Morriss (p 229) is no longer showing Greenland. She does not expect expenses but appreciates being looked after on arrival.

Neil Prior (p 237) Correct telephone number is 01656 740520

Dr Bob de Vekey (p 203), **Frank Soutar** (p 244) and **Rev John Walden** (p 252) are no longer giving displays.

Our Next National Exhibition

ABPS York Fair National Exhibition: 21st - 22nd July 2017
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See the Rules and Entry Forms at [www.abps.org.uk/
Exhibiting/Exhibitions/index.xalter](http://www.abps.org.uk/Exhibiting/Exhibitions/index.xalter)

Deadline for receipt of application forms is 22nd May 2017

Roll of Distinguished Philatelists

We are pleased to announce that the following were elected as signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the annual Board of Election meeting in March.



Alan Holyoake RDP (U.K.)



John Hotchner RDP (U.S.A.)



Colin Tabearth RDP (U.K.)



Steven Walske RDP (U.S.A.)

This is one of the highest and most prestigious honours in philately, which recognises achievement, research, publication and service. The Roll was first signed in 1921 and this year's signing ceremony will take place in Cardiff, Wales on Friday 28th July. They join 78 other current RDPs from 25 countries spread over five continents. More details on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists can be found at www.abps.org.uk/Awards/Roll_of_Distinguished_Philatelists/index.xalter.

Jon Aitchison FRPSL. Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and Secretary to the Board of Election.

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 A5 and cannot guarantee inclusion. Pictures always look attractive too and may well elicit enquiries from potential new members.

Competition Workshop for Pembrokeshire Young Collectors

In December **Erene Grieve** organised a workshop for young collectors in Pembrokeshire at the Steyton Community Hall in Milford Haven. Erene is the coordinator for the Stamps in Schools project. **John Davis** Chairman of Stamp Active led the workshop, which was for those who had already entered stamp competitions with the aim of developing their entries. The youngsters were accompanied by their parents plus **Bev Davies**, who runs the stamp club at The Dell Chepstow, and two other assistants from Pembrokeshire. All agreed that it had been a most successful and rewarding day.



8 young collectors, with their own displays in the background, flanked by John Davis and Erene Grieve.

School Stamp (still) Active in Liverpool

Great news that the stamp club at Runnymede School in Liverpool, which had ceased to function, was reinstated last year and now has 28 members – 11 boys and 17 girls from 7 to 11 years old. Thanks are due to a visit from **Erene Grieve**, with her Stamps in Schools project, but also to **Steve Pye** who, although not a collector himself, was so impressed by the interest shown by the children that he agreed to get the club going again. He says that the children's enthusiasm made starting the club easy, especially with the material support from Stamp Active, and they now meet for two lunchtimes each week. Each child now has their own album, and also their own choice of how and what they collect. A recent visit by the club to the Liverpool Stamp Fair was met with a generous response from the dealers, and the children had a great time. Steve is now running a local in-club competition to give them further incentives – with prizes for all their efforts. Stamp Active Network are proud to be associated with the developments at Runnymede, and with the backing of our supporters, will continue to help Steve in any way we can. This applies to all the clubs that we are in contact with, and we are always pleased to receive progress reports and ideas on how we can be of more assistance.



David Rossall

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

Since the beginning of the 2017 session we have participated in a fun "F" alphabet night and been entertained by displays of *Cuba, India* and *Straits Settlements*. In February, three members from Arbroath and District Stamp and Postcard Club visited us. **Ann Findlay** showed a comprehensive thematic display of *The*



Ann, Brian and Ineke from Arbroath

Statue of Liberty and **Brian Cargill**, assisted by his wife **Ineke**, showed a beautifully presented display on *Lighthouses*. We greatly appreciate the links and exchange visits with our neighbouring societies and all the friendships made. We are looking

forward to three more meetings before the summer break. *Sheila Den*

Axe Vale

Our season started in September with a display of Russia by the Secretary, **Graham Rankin**. In November we had a good turn-out for the annual dinner and a week later we hosted the Somerset & Dorset Federation Competition. Members and guests look forward to the first showing in the West Country by **Christine Earle FRPSL** of *The Post Office Went to War* on 11th July at 7.30. This will be at our new venue - the Bradshaw Room, Heritage Centre, Silver Street, Axminster EX13 5AH. *Dave Speer*

Barnet & District

Our President, **Don Knight**, displayed part of his collection of *The 1966 World Cup* showing us the special Royal Mail issues, the many first day covers with specially sponsored handstamps prepared for each match, including the final on 30th July 1966 and the numerous sets produced by other countries around the world. He also treated us to covers with the two sponsored handstamps produced for

the 50th Anniversary of England's World Cup win together with 50+ other sheets of hand-stamped covers celebrating it - one with Ray Wilson doubly stamped 30th July 1966 and 30th July 2016. Don never ceases to surprise our members with his illuminating displays.

Alan Harris

Bexley

David Sumpter took us to *Gibraltar* in January. He started with pre-stamp cancels, including the Arc cancel, demonstrated on an 1838 entire to London. Gibraltar initially used British stamps, cancels were an upright G. The first stamps marked Gibraltar were ordered in 1885, but were late arriving, so the colony had to overprint some Bermuda stamps instead. A visit from Ashford Philatelic Society in early February brought a wide variety of material. **Ray Barton** showed some *Hand-illustrated covers, mostly views of Kent*, posted from Kennington to Ontario. He was followed by **Graham Saxby** giving us a view of his *Modern GB collection*. **Bob Carr** showed *Rhodesia*, particularly focusing on British postal treatment of the Southern Rhodesia issues of the 1960s unrecognised by Britain, so marked postage due. Subsequently the British Post Office even printed a special postage due label for the occasion, also shown. At another meeting **Geoff Hanney** offered an in-depth presentation on *Haiti*, of which the first known item – sadly not in his collection – came from a fellow traveller of Christopher Columbus. *Haiti* has the distinction of being the first black republic, declaring its independence from France in 1804. Before stamps, black seals marked 'payé' were used in some places, a system that returned



Geoff Hanney and John Shaw

when issues ran out. The country's first issue was in 1881. Starting in 1915, stamp issues were split between internal ('centimes de gourde') and foreign ('centimes de piastre'). We saw multiple examples of each. → Adrian Smith, 01322 559 210, or adethebeak@yahoo.co.uk

Will Dalrymple

Bolton

In January, our President, **Eddie Dunn**, gave a very interesting *Miscellany of French postal history* and lots of different post marks. Our visitor in February was **David Hudson** from Rochdale with his display of *Various Cancellations on British Stamps*. The first Auction of the year was held on Thursday March 16th when over 400 lots were offered to members and visitors. There were many postal bids. Any member of an ABPS Society is welcome to bid at any of our auctions either by post or coming to the auction.

Howard Anderson

Bookham

62 members attended our Christmas lunch at our regular meeting place, Bookham Barn Hall. There was a comprehensive array of stamps, covers etc. from the local Christmas Charity



Barry Brown shows WWI silks

Post by **Barry Feltham**. Following the lunch with wine a very successful stamp auction of 120 lots was held. Club funds were enhanced particularly as UPA supported us with a very generous auction bidding voucher raising £100. In January our *Members Displays* meeting was as usual very popular. Eight members displayed a wide variety of topics - *WWI Silk postcards and medals (Barry Brown)*, *The Falkland Islands (John Lea)*, *The Red Cross (Malcolm Cole)*, *Welsh Pre-stamp covers (James Podger)* - including one from the Battle of Trafalgar, *Devon Postal History (Michael Lockton)*, *Austrian covers (Paul Taylor)*, *The Hitler Youth (Simon McArthur)*, and *Sydney Harbour Bridge (Christine Earle)*. Since this meeting the club has received the sad news of the death of founding member **John Salmon** - a much loved and respected philatelist. In February **Richard Stock** produced a fascinating display of *The stamps and postal history of Sudan*. He started with early mail to and from merchants, administrators and explorers including General Gordon. During the late 19th Century campaigns mail services expanded to cater for Empire soldiers.

Richard included officers' and soldiers' rate covers. The second half opened with the "Camel Postman" stamps and Kitchener's unique letter requesting De La Rue to prepare the dies and plates. The display concluded with extensive material from the Company archives.

→ www.Bookhamstampclub.com

David Bravery.

Bromley & Beckenham

For our first 2017 meeting **Chris Sands** showed us *Hungarian stamps 1916-1956* which included fine ranges of Harvester and other definitives with watermark and perforation changes, and overprinted issues. He pointed out the inflation period Pengö and Adópengö issues of 1945-46, culminating in the Forint's introduction in August 1946. After our 85th Birthday Dinner came the Oliver Nugent Cup on *Letter M*, won by **Adrian Thomas** with



Adrian Thomas receives The Oliver Nugent cup from David Milsted

Magnetism. February started with a visit from Lewisham - **Tony Hickey**, **John Rawlins**, **Bob Higgins** and **Maurice Flack** with a wide variety of subjects. Then came the BBPS Stamp & Postcard Fair, hosting the Kent Federation AGM and Spring Rally, opened by the Mayor, Councillor **Ian Paine**, who was on good form We had an excellent day with 40 local members

and almost 100 "strangers" from all over Kent and the southeast. Later **Chris** and **Birthe King** gave slide presentations on *Denmark during WWI & WWII*, with informative and entertaining commentary. Both displays contained many covers, letters, postcards, and other documents.

Denmark remained neutral during WWI which caused problems, especially with internment camps for non-Danish residents, and military escapees who became de facto POWs - a wide range of nationalities so letters related to many different countries. Birthe dealt with WWII when neutral Denmark was occupied in April 1940. Using Open Class format, Birthe included a wide variety of collateral material such as medals, leaflets and a song book of Danish traditional music. ➔ David 02087787001, Chris 02084021263 www.beckenham.net/leisure.asp

David Rennie

Burnley and District

As we approach our 75th year in 2019 we, like most Societies, are trying everything to increase our membership. This year we have again had a large display in our local libraries with stamps from the reign of our Queen ranging from the Coronation, Concorde, royal weddings, Olympics and Mr Men. We advertise in local newspapers, Stamp magazine, are on the internet and even on Radio Lancashire. This has resulted in some phone conversations but generally from persons who have found albums in attics, expecting treasure. Your note on members not taking up office is familiar and our last two Presidents have taken on a second term. Many of our audience have been past servants and as our ages range from 50 to 90 years



Burnley's Library Display

we are rethinking. Most recent meetings have had a theme and in February "Art on Stamps" attracted several local art lovers, so some lateral thinking and publicity does work. We have now renamed ourselves locally as a "Stamp Club" as we don't think "philatelic society" is getting through. We have several members on the speakers' circuit in the North West but are we preaching to the converted? Our twin society in Germany has 135 members all over 65 and they have trouble attracting younger ones too. Meanwhile I am assembling next year's syllabus; watch this space.

Barry Evans

Cambridge

The Society Auction was held on 1st March with our president **Rufus Barnes** as auctioneer. Compared to the previous year the value of lots sold was higher, which included the sale of surplus society books, with a good contribution being made to Society funds. We gave a warm welcome to

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Bill Gibb, the federation president later that month. The topic for the evening was *Commonwealth Fiscals and Revenues*. Bill mentioned that in several cases he found the fiscal and revenue stamps to be better designed and more attractive than the basic issued stamps. From a large selection of countries we were treated to fiscals which ranged from cheque duty, stamp duty on legal documents, burial certificate, unemployment stamps, weights and measures stamps, cigarette duty, electricity and gas inspection stamps, bill of lading and drinks licence; and also a large variety of revenues. The first half covered mainly Gibraltar, Malta, Canada, India, Africa and Australia, with the second half covering the Caribbean Islands. → info@cambridgephilatelicssociety.co.uk

Peter Morton

Chelmsford & District

In January *The Committee Entertains* involved presentations by our Committee members. **John Rawlins**, **Allan Bryce**, **Ray Goodey** and **Pat Adams** rose to the challenge with great variety. **Geoffrey Miller** took us to *Falkland Islands Dependencies* in February. His very interesting presentation comprised two parts. The first was dedicated to the stamps issued covering South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands, South Orkneys, South Shetlands and part of Graham's Land, Alexander Land and part of Coat's Island. Initially, the stamps were Falkland Island issues with either the name of the island overprinted or the origination was identified by the postmark. The second part concentrated on South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, which started issuing stamps from 1986. The

remaining islands now form part of British Antarctic Territories which issue their own stamps. **Edward Hutchings** and **David Gottesmann** visited from Sudbury later that month. Edward brought a *Miscellany of items not normally found in stamp catalogues*, such as savings stamps, a variety of gift tokens and material with respect to the 1901 Pan-American Exposition. David displayed *South West Africa*, from when it was a German colony until it became Namibia. A fortnight later **Don Davies** showed *GB Postal History with a difference*. We saw covers with penny black stamps torn off, stamps used as seals, triangular envelopes and stamps that had been reused. Don also showed the backs of the covers with strokes to assist illiterate post boys in ascertaining the correct charge for the postage.

Dave Everard

Chichester & District

2017 started with a splendid turnout of members, despite thick fog, for a members' *British Isles* theme display evening. We saw '91' cancel strikes for *Bognor Regis* which included two full pages of penny reds, *Postal cards showing old Selsey buildings* and *Postcards from numerous islands* including Thorney, Portsea, St Michael's Mount, Brownsea and the Scillies, *A National Trust theme* and *Art galleries and cathedrals on stamps*. *Cricket* came from one of our thematic collectors, including interesting material from county cricket championships, competitions and even a Stampex souvenir sheet. Amusingly one cover showed Paddington Bear 'who scored a six!' *The British Virgin Islands and Leeward Islands* might be across the sea, but they are part of the Commonwealth and thus British Isles.

Our President showed *Stampless GB covers* that still had the letters - transcriptions were on hand so we could read these interesting letters from days gone by. We also welcomed two new members to our society. What a great start to the New Year for us.

→ Frank 01243 527068 or Martha 01243 779645 (for emails use Stamp Club as header)

frankgriffiths@yahoo.com or
mommybadger@aol.com

Martha Brown

Croydon

The last three meetings of 2016 involved **Cliff Gregory** showing *Undepaid Mail to/from India*, **Roger Dickinson** on *Canada* and **Roger Morrell** with *Hungary to 1940s*. All three were fascinating and well-



Roger Morrell with *Hungary to 1940s*

mounted displays, full of interesting history, covers, stamps and markings – something interesting for everyone. We began 2017 with a Members' Meeting *To begin with the Letter 'R'*. 12 members presented their display. As expected the themes were very diverse including *Rescue* – trains saved following the Beeching cuts, *Reisender geschrieben in die Heimat* – travellers writing home to Goslar, *Recouvrement*

– the French Debt Collection business and *Royal Mail Retail Stamp Booklets* – books with windows. For the next meeting Bromley & Beckenham PS visited. **David Milsted** gave a comprehensive display of *Army Officials 1896 -1904* which included large blocks (up to half sheets). The highlight of the display was a wonderful out-size mourning envelope with many Army Officials, too numerous to count. Appropriately **Graham Boutle** followed showing his *Mourning Covers 1840 - 1940*, including for Queen Victoria, Gladstone and Lord Beaconsfield (Disraeli). The display even included a Great Western Railway ticket. In February **Barbara Priddy** landed with *West African Airmails*. Most of the flights were the 1600 miles down the coast to Dakar hoping eventually to cross to Brazil. In the early days many flights were aborted and Barbara displayed an impressive selection of covers saved from these crashes and with appropriate cachets. She gave a spirited commentary on her many fine pre-1939 flown covers, beautifully written up by hand. *Graham Harker*

Dundee and District

In October **Sheila Den** of Aberdeen showed part of her collection on *Cuba* including stamps, postal and social history. In November there were displays by **Ian Anderson** (*King Edward VIII and GB miniature sheets*) and **Jim Morrison** (*Hong Kong and early QEII* from Aden to Cayman Islands). **Gordon Shepherd**, (Rhodesia Study Circle) took us to *The War in East Africa during WWI*. The next meeting was a One Sheet competition – winner **Colin Rochester** with *Shipwreck mail from the SV Albatross on its way to Singapore* - and

a display of Recent Acquisitions. In the annual competition the winners were:

Norrie Kelso – *The Artefacts and Parliament definitives 1982-89 and Flightless Birds of Antarctica*, **Charles Lloyd** – *First Flight cover from Cape Town to London in an aircraft that crashed twice* and **Harry Jackson** – *German inflation 1916 to 1927*.

January ended with **Ron Goodfellow** displaying *Commerce in the Post - Part 3*. February started with *Night* including a cake in an N-shape and finished with a display of *Netherlands East Indies* by **John Jackson FRPSL** (Malaya Study Circle). In March from Stirling, **Donald Crawford** displayed *Covers with a Scottish interest*. **Bill Izall's** theme of *Scots who care* reflected Compassion, Injustice and Love. **Richard Beith** brought *Censored mail to and from internees*. Finally, **Bill Troup's** intensive knowledge of the *½d green stamp of KEVII and GV* was evident. The month ended with **Mark**

Lendon on *Transylvanian Night – Postal History and Stamps from the Land beyond the Forest*.

Colin Campbell

Ferndown & West Moors

For our first meeting of 2017 **Albert Jackson** took us to one of Europe's darkest periods - *Poland During WWII*. This was a superb presentation covering pre-war, invasion, occupation and forced labour, Katyn and the Russians, the turning tide as Russia invaded and the Polish diaspora and resettlement. Highlights were fine coloured postcards with captions such as 'The Great March into Poland', 'Heinkel He 111 Warplanes over Warsaw' and 'Workers' Regiment defending Warsaw' and three hugely rare postcards from Russian camps associated with the Katyn massacre. We had a truly outstanding evening. In February Members' evening was *9 in 4 - The Americas*. **Chris Wheeler** started with *Panama* - quality postcards showing various aspects of the canal's construction, together with its immediate environments. **Spence Coaker** followed with *Canada* – postal stationery and covers, and then **John Duckworth** took us to *Nova Scotia*, a presentation of early covers, together with one internal Newfoundland flight. *Different Ways By Which Mail is Delivered* was **John Davis's** area including Alaska Dog Team Post.



Mark Lendon and our President protected by Garlic

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. 350 words or so please, and a picture relating to the subject matter is always a help (300dpi jpg or photograph). We do not pay for publication. Any items may be edited for length or content. Society reports are reduced to a maximum of 250 words.

Albert Jackson showed *Poles in Exile*, **Brian Weeks** examined *The Millennium Celebration, Transatlantic Mail* came from **Brian Cropp** and **Hugh Jefferies** concluded with *West Indian Islands*. The following meeting contained *Channel Island Locals* from **Kim Pitts**. His 180 sheets included postal rates, air letter service, colour trials, a Royal Visit, scarce early stamp booklets, overprints, mailbag seals and essays. This was the first outing of the full display and was an eye-opener to many of us. Paul Barry

Harrogate

So far in 2017 we have enjoyed six displays. **Peter Rix** on *Aerophilately* ranged over 17 headings, from the Berlin Airlift to Imperial Airways, from QANTAS to 1911 Coronation Mail. It was all shown with Peter's usual humour, and entertained and enlightened us. After a Members' Evening we were given a *Spanish Evening* by **Rodney** and **Edith Knight** from York. Rodney started with Spanish Study Circle stamps from 1960-1980 showing the history and culture. He then went on to pre-stamp covers, Valencia, postal stationery and covers and Spanish Sahara. Edith started in Mallorca – Sea and Air Mail – and the Spanish Civil War there. Then came Tarragona and Spanish TPOs. The whole diverse evening was accompanied by some very useful notes to keep us clear on when and where we were. We have had two local society visits. Halifax came in the persons of **Adrian Lee** with *Harrogate Postmarks*, **Mike Roberts** fascinating *British Isles Mail by Water and nothing else* – the Western Isles and Orkney etc, **Rod Unwin** on *Syria 1868-1918*, **Max Smith** showing *Indian States*, and



Rod Unwin and Max Smith in discussion

Jack Lemm with *Airmails*. Later **Martin Kingdom**, **Richard Smith**, **Bernard Whitfield** and **Derek Baron** came from Leeds to show us *Australian States Revenues* and *Parcel Stamps of Railways and Buses*, *A Miscellany*, *Bamforth Postcards* – some risqué for Harrogate and *The Postal History of Olomouc* respectively. Both visits were diverse, very entertaining and full of coveted material. Keith Burton

Kendal & District

Our January meeting had two elements. First, active buyers showed some of their recent purchases, not just stamps and covers but also books, bought themselves or received as gifts. In the second part, draft versions were presented of 16 page exhibits which were intended for submission to a forthcoming regional competition. Members took the opportunity to appraise the exhibits and provide recommendations about how they could be improved before they were formally submitted for judging. In February, **Peter Aveyard** of the Morecambe & District PS presented a broad ranging display entitled *Peter Entertains – Anything Goes*. He began

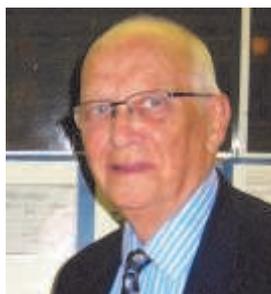
by showing part of his thematic collection relating to Captain James Cook, illustrating aspects of his life and his various expeditions. Next he focussed on The Lancaster Banking Company describing its history, development and eventual merger with a Manchester-based bank. An in-depth display of the postal history of Lancaster followed. The earliest displayed item dated back to the early 1700s and subsequent materials included Mulready envelopes, penny blacks on cover and an array of covers illustrating the city's duplex cancellations. A reconstructed plate of Queen Victoria penny reds, specifically plate 55, die II alphabet 3, followed. Peter ended his presentation by showing a range of correspondence and documentation relating to the Lancaster stockbroker A B S Welch.

Philip Gerrard

Kingston & District

Our Christmas Social was held at the beginning of December and was better attended than other recent Festive

Socials. **Brian Asquith** gave a short and amusing display *Introducing members to bank note collecting*. **Chris Oliver's** presidential display was of the *Stamps of the Republic of South Africa 1961-1994*



Brian Asquith

which included a PowerPoint presentation marred only by the lack of frames in which to display the real articles. Visitors from Twickenham & District PS gave three excellent displays on *GB taxed mail*, *Village postmarks of Antigua* and *U.S.A. back-of-the-book issues* - a high standard of displays from a local club. At the AGM **Bob Holmes** and **Chris Oliver** joined the committee as ordinary members. **Geoff Chivers**, who had resigned as Newsletter Editor for personal reasons, was thanked for having produced over 100 newsletters which came to about

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22

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Brian Sole, FRPSL 01932 220677 or
brian.sole@btinternet.com Chris Oliver

Launceston

In December **Rex Eccott** and **Viv Sandercock** presented displays of original items of postal memorabilia covering all aspects of the *Local Postal Service* from Victorian times to the modern day. Our first meeting of 2017 was for Members' Displays. **Rex Eccott, Viv Sandercock, Terry Mounce** and **Dave Richards** presented displays of original items of postal memorabilia ranging from *KGVI First Day Commonwealth Covers to Spanish Mining Commemoratives, Copies of late 19th C Devon & Cornish Newspapers and Legal Agreements and West Indian Maritime Issues*. After a minute's silence in remembrance of the late **David Bennett**, the evening's speaker was **Roger Winn** who introduced his collection of *Postcards from WWI* - a continuation of the presentation that he gave in December 2015. This display of over 70 more postcards covered the period from 1916 onwards mainly of simple messages on postcards home from soldiers on Active Service at the Front. The collection extends to include postcards of naval and other ships, coloured photo-prints of flowers and family scenes, photo-type postcards of places, sometimes nameless, abroad. As Roger said, although the origins of his collection were family based it had developed



Roger Winn

into a much wider reflection of the social history of that time. We held our Annual Stamp & Postcard two days later. Thanks go to all the Committee and Members who helped make for another successful Fair. *Howard Hamblin & Vera Ellacott*

Leamington & Warwick

Embossed security: Early in the season we were treated to **Clive Jones's** *Postal history of Sheffield*. His display included a remarkable Victorian stamp which was hand-embossed to prevent reuse before perfins were introduced. In the Victorian era, Sheffield was the world leader in specialist steels but in previous centuries its main industry was lead, and Clive showed covers from as early as 1672. It was a



A pre-perfins embossed stamp

fascinating and expert example of the way in which postal history can trace the development of industry, commerce and social life of major cities. Later **Mike Fernbank** brought a fascinating display of *Extreme examples of misperforated GB stamps* and **John Gledhill** gave a PowerPoint display illustrating *Covers of GB postal stationery officially uprated by further imprinted stamps*. → Nick Bridgwater 01926-423685 or sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps John Gledhill

Leeds

Although we have not yet reached the end of this year's programme, just before summer is as good as any time to write about us. We are thriving with well attended meetings, and an excellent programme to attract philatelists with varied interests. The stalwarts who nurture the programme are the President **Martin Kingdom**, our long standing and hard working secretary **John Edwards** with great help from **Richard** and **Yvonne Wheatley** known to many in the philatelic community. It would be boring just to come out with a list of papers and studies exhibited at our meetings but some highlights have been *Maltese Cross* by **Howard Hughes** of Burnley,

The Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1919 by **Neil Ritchie** of Sheffield and *QEII Postage dues* by **John Sussex** of Pocklington and a visit from Harrogate PS where **Keith Burton** demonstrated his enthusiasm for *West Germany* and *The early Australian Commonwealth kangaroos*, followed by a superb presentation on *British Central Africa* from their Secretary **Brian Coop**. Members' evenings always go well. What a varied lot we all are, and **Bernard Whitfield** is rapidly gaining a name for producing wonderful displays illustrating the genesis of picture postcards. Our Annual Dinner in March was a great success. **Derek Baron** organised it with the added incentive of £5 off the price for members who made a 4 page

Captions for pages 32 and 33

1. Chris Sands showing Hungary at Bromley & Beckenham
2. The Croydon 12: l to r - Michael Harris, Graham Harker, David Taylor, Frank Simpson, Paul Elliot, Terry Page, Richard West, John Schofield, Chris Board, Chris Hitchen, Paul Percival and Brian Asquith.
3. David Milsted of Bromley and Beckenham
4. Richard Stock with Sudan at Bookham
5. Sheila Den of Aberdeen at Dundee
6. Cliff Gregory at Croydon
7. Peter Rix of Harrogate in full flight
8. John Jackson at Dundee
9. Robert Mott at Bookham
10. Graham Boutle at Croydon
11. Barbara Priddy flying to West Africa
12. Roger Dickinson on Canada
13. Michael Smith displays at the Royal
14. Michael J Roberts FRPSL at The Royal
15. Croydon members lunch party—Left from front to back Graham and Barbara Harker, Richard West, Chris Board, and right front to back Frank Simpson, James Price, David Taylor, Brian Asquith
16. Donald Crawford, Bill Izatt, Richard Beith and Bill Troup from Stirling visit Dundee
17. Nick and Janet Nelson do Brazil
18. Elizabeth Powell, Gordon Hobbs and Edith Knight at Harrogate
19. David Osborn at the Letchworth meeting of the South African Collectors.
20. Charles Lloyd, Norrie Kelso and Harry Jackson take the Dundee trophies
21. Frank Walton with Steve Jarvis and Paul Wright after their displays
22. Michael Furfie at Twickenham



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display, aimed at our non-philatelist guests. (What Yorkshireman would not heed a bargain.) *Michael Waugh*

Lostock

Following ABPS supportive article "Rebirth-Lostock" last Autumn our membership has rallied. The goodwill does your heart good. We now generate enough to pay the rent and running costs. We have entertained brilliant visiting speakers recently. **Alan Rigby** gave a fascinating talk *Flying Scotsman in stamps* and gave us a



Alan Rigby with Adrian Jones (r)

glimpse of his recent new publication with the same title. We look forward to visits from **Alwyn Peel** on *The Life of William Blyth* and **Colin Searle** with two talks - *Malta in stamps* and *the Philatelic Congress of GB*. → david18alex@gmail.com or Google Lostock Philatelic Society including on Facebook. *David Morley*

Maidstone & Mid-Kent

In December we were entertained by **Lindy Bosworth FRPSL** with a fascinating display of *Austro-Hungarian Navy in WWI*. We saw a range of covers and postcards featuring all the different ships in their Naval Service,

including rare submarine cancels. Next at our President's Evening **Tony Bosworth** showed us an excellent and full display of *Bohemia to 1945*. 2017 started with a Members' Evening with the *Letters D/E and F*. Displays covered *GB Definitives*, *Eiffel Tower*, *Naval covers of WWI*, *Dumb Cancellations* and many more. At our next meeting we welcomed **Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL** with *Mail by Rail*. She covered the opening of the Liverpool / Manchester Line in 1830, continued with how the mail was carried, sorted and delivered and then how wagons were converted to have sorting frames installed. There were examples of covers, registered mail, late fees, special handstamps. In March **Margaret Emerson** gave us her first display – *2012 Olympic Games*. She gave us the historic background leading to material on London 2012 ones. Morning meetings continue well attended and mainly have members' displays. **Richard Barnes**, another first-timer showed *On Your Bike*. **Tony Davis** followed with his *2d blue* theme but from non-GB. We had *The letter E* from members with good displays, even if some of the titles were a bit dubious. **Marcus-Sherwood Jenkins** showed *The Postal History of Serbia* and in March we had a visit from four members of Sidcup PS.

Brian Stonestreet FRPSL

Morecambe & District

At President's Evening in February **John Owen** introduced us to the *War Tax stamps of 1916 to 1919*. He was followed by the President, **Peter Howitt**, with *Stamps of the World issued in February*. This is part of a larger project to find stamps that have been issued on each of the 365 days of

the year – good luck in that. **Philip Gerrard** introduced us to some *Postal History between Italy and England from the mid-1500s*. Our final speaker was **Graham Chadwick** with *What might have been if Lundy had published their own stamps*. He showed fine covers and stamps posted and franked (perhaps) to various people – some real, some mythical. This was a very varied and entertaining evening. For the next meeting the society's ladies produced *Stamps from countries visited in the last 2 or 3 years, Stamps from Gibraltar, Greenland – explorers and developers, Sculpture, Altar Pieces and Medieval Art* and finally *British Castles*. This was a fine display from our own talented and knowledgeable members.

Frank Colling

Oxford

The year kicked off with the ever popular Ladies' Choice evening of display on the theme of *Capitals, cities, and cathedrals*. **Bob Galland** gave an excellent display of *Queen Victoria surface printed stamps* at our next meeting. In February, our Publicity Secretary **Simon Heap** gave a morning display on the *Postal system of Calabar, Nigeria, during the colonial period*, which included a detailed history of the four GPOs, numerous pillar boxes and expanding postal service of the town across the seventy years up to 1960. Quiz night brought out the competitive spirit and deep philatelic knowledge (and ignorance!) amongst the six teams of members. In the meantime, the society's annual 9-page competition was being judged – full displays and results at a future meeting. Two more Oxford members, **Alan Cowie** and **Jan Simons**, combined to provide a fascinating

morning meeting on *Aspects of Japan*: a glorious trot through Japan's postal issues from start to present-day and then a wonderfully specialised display on the Japanese postal history in Manchuria. The very well attended society's auction concluded this quarter's meetings with over 200 lots providing for an exciting evening of viewing and bidding for all.

Dr Simon Heap

Petersfield

We are actively seeking new members. Current members collect stamps, postal history and postcards. Meetings are held at Petersfield Community Centre on the first Monday of each month. The evenings comprise invited talks and displays and the average attendance at meetings is about 25. Anyone collecting stamps, postal history or postcards, whether beginners or experienced, is invited to join the society. You could learn more or share your own knowledge. → Tony Shaw 01730 264518. David Allen

Poole & Bournemouth

In January **Tony Arnold** started the evening on *Sport* with a display of postcards on *Motor Cycle Racing*, particularly the Isle of Man TT Races. Pictures included a few accidents, though Tony pointed out that visitors are statistically more likely to have an accident travelling to the event than riders are likely to crash! Tony followed on with some first day covers including cricket, tennis and football. **Mike Houchen**, known for his Lighthouses, showed some of his covers which also feature sports, including Donald Trump's golf course at Turnberry. **Alan King** made several members quite nostalgic when he showed *Sporting*

sets issued by Hungary in the 1950s and 1960s. Eight pages of Hungary were shown, from 1952 to 1965, including the Olympics at Melbourne, Rome and Tokyo. **Michael Mawdsley** showed *Stamps and first day covers from his GB collection* including the 1948 London Olympic games, the 1958 British Empire and Commonwealth Games. **Brian Cribb** brought a different emphasis to the evening with some memorabilia of his and his son's sporting careers in football and athletics. Finally, in absentia a display by **Chris Wheeler** on *Formula One* was shown. February's meeting was educational on *Stamp Design and Printing*. **Wendy Buckle, Tony Arnold, Chris Wheeler and Mary Parsons** took us through every aspect including Czeslaw Slania and David Gentleman's work as designers, printers such as

Australian territory maps, stamps and fascinating scarce flown covers with interesting postmarks; *Wartime Guernsey stamps; Gibraltar* where the focus shifted to WWI; *Curious cancellations* – a highlight being a fabulous multi-stamped cover with some 40 modern stamps, and many



Curious cancellation – Why?



Czeslaw Slania's Bath Mail stamp

Perkins Bacon, De La Rue and Pitney Bowes, stamps and stationery. It was a fascinating and intense evening.

Chris Wheeler

Ringwood

2017's first meeting was *Mini Displays by Members* enabling us to see a wide range of themes. There were: *Early Australian airmail items* including

other interesting topics and areas. The final contribution was via computer enhanced images. Mainly early British Empire stamps were examined in the closest detail. The *scanning* of images was agreed to be the most effective process. Such scrutiny enables the easy detection of watermarks, printing variations, inks, flaws and occasional rarities - happy hunting!! February was non-philatelic providing wider appeal for members' guests. **Tony Flux** of National Trust spoke on *Caring for the Coast for the next 100 Years*.

Numerous statistics accompanied the power-point presentation, notably that 45% of all NT coastal sites exist in the West Country. Do we patch up coastal stretches today, only to return in 20 years for another go? Tony, clearly a passionate advocate of the protected coastal environment, reminded his audience that surveys reveal over 25% of people daydream about *'being by the sea!* March's Annual Competition

Night called in **Julian Jones** as judge. **Paul Dumsday, David Etchells** and **Chris Wheeler** challenged effectively but the one achieving first place was that from **Alan Whittaker** on *German Occupation in WWII*. Julian was thanked for his positive judging expertise.

Paul Barry

Rugby and District

We started the year with members' displays on the *Letters C and D*. They showed the usual variety and ingenuity including *Churches, Castles*, appropriate countries, *the China Coast, Burma Covers and Dues*, and thematic displays on *Coal, Copper* and *Diamonds*. The next meeting was led by **Theo Schilderman** and **Mike Whittaker**. Theo presented *Gold*, including stamps, postcards and postal history items connected to where gold was mined around the world. He talked about gold rushes in North America with all their problems, and about differences between surface and underground mining. Mike presented his collection on *GB King George VI*, including all stamps issued during his reign with a sprinkling of control marks up to when they ceased in 1947. A selection of postage due stamps was also shown and their use on surcharged mail illustrated. Other postal history items showed postal rates, registered mails, wartime postmarks, censored internal mails and reusable envelopes with labels attached. Next, we received a visit of collectors from Northampton, who displayed *Ethiopia* and *Eritrea*. This covered, amongst others, the British campaign against Ethiopia and the conquest of Magdala in the 1850s, and the British occupation of Ethiopia and Eritrea roughly a century later. **Tristan**

Brittain in particular showed much visual material in the form of postcards and pictures. This included the construction of the Dire Dawa railway, the Imperial family and their stay in Britain during WWII, and social history.

Theo Schilderman

Sheffield

With the festive season not far behind, the Members' Night meeting in January was titled *I should have got for Xmas*. Displays were put up with more than the usual number of stamps missing, but there were a few facsimiles to fill the gaps. February produced the annual 8 sheets no rules competition. Entries included *Full sheets, Germany, Explorers, GB Booklets, Sarawak, First Issues* and *The Boots Booklet*.

Members voted on which they thought was the best. After a secret ballot the winner was *British Guyana* from **James Hartley**.

Steve Cook

Southampton & District

For the first meeting of our 85th anniversary we had a double-header. In the first half **Mike Batty** showed his extensive collection of *Bishop's Waltham, postmark '85' covers* and then **John Dorrington** talked about *The history of the Society*, with particular emphasis on the last decade. The Thursday afternoon meeting at Chandler's Ford was well attended and there were a variety of small displays by the members. In a sad start to February's meeting, our President **John Berridge** informed everyone present that Past President **Dr Alan Drysdall** had died after a short illness soon after a recent committee meeting. He will be sadly missed. The returning speaker for the evening was **Wendy Buckle** from the New Forest and on

this visit she was showing her *Latvian 1785 – 1945* collection. We were treated to the turbulent history of the country and how this was reflected in its postal history. The second evening meeting was a members' evening with the *Letter P* bringing a whole variety of small displays. The lateral thinking that goes on against an alphabetical background continues to amaze me. The speaker for March was **Colin Tabear** who brought his collection of *19th century Australian & New Zealand*



Colin Tabear and Julian Jones (r)

mail. His presentation was enhanced by a number of 'slides' that enabled the members to easily grasp the difficulties that existed at the start of international mail, both on water and then later by air. → www.southamptondps.org.uk or prstotn@gmail.com Eddie Mays

St Albans, Harpenden etc.

Our season began in September with the display *British Philatelic Exhibitions* by **Jim McKerrow**, whose sheer enthusiasm and "obsession in acquiring everything" (Jim's words) took us from the 1912 Exhibition with its "Ideal Stamp", to pre-war Airpex exhibitions and exhibitions organised for Polish and Czech exiles during WWII. North Herts Stamp Club visited us in October with two fine displays by **John Hawkes** on *Pitcairn*, that was peppered with plenty of local information, and **David Belton** on the *Postal history of Devonport*, including mail from when it was known as Devonport Docks and with scarce Devonport HMS cancellations. **Susan McEwen** returned in November with *British Levant* and a wonderful range of material from the four British Post offices in the Ottoman Empire. After December's Christmas social, we resumed in January with *Prisoner of War Mail – Burma & Thailand* from **David Tett**. An amazing range of correspondence to and from Internees and Prisoners of War was accompanied by the results of David's remarkable research and knowledge, concluding with material from the



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“secret” POW camps in Indo-China, and from Dutch East Indies POWs who had to remain in Bangkok due to the revolt against the return of Dutch rule. Recently we were saddened by the death of **Pauline Bellew**, our President since 2012 and Secretary for 32 years previously. Pauline’s enthusiasm and unstinting hard work for this Society and The Hale earned her the Middlesex Federation’s Williamson Award in 2010. → 01582 762284 or p.mellor@btinternet.com Peter Mellor

Stirling & District

On the 7th March **Don Crawford** welcomed visitors from the Glasgow Thematic Society. **Dr Brian Dow** opened with a display on *The ships of the ‘Hurtigruten’*; that is, the route of the Norwegian coastal vessels maintaining a daily service to the north from Bergen. Personalised stamps are now available valid for the Norwegian inland rate, each one showing a separate vessel. **Gary Cheyne** showed two fascinating short displays devoted to *War Bond propaganda and associated cinderellas from the Great War* and *Postcards from the 1904-1905 war between Russia and Japan*. Included were cards devoted to the ‘Battle of the Dogger Bank’ when a Russian fleet proceeding to the far east opened fire on the Hull fishing fleet



Don Crawford, Gary Cheyne, Dr Brian Dow and Ken Norris FRPSL (l to r)

under the mistaken impression that they were deadly Japanese destroyers waiting in ambush! Dr Dow returned to introduce *Waterfalls*, a display by **Eric Ross** who was unable to be present. **Ken Norris FRPSL** concluded with a tribute to the *150,000 ton Cunard liner Queen Mary 2* built at St. Nazaire. We were shown a commemorative French stamp and a range of German pictorial cancellations for calls at Hamburg on short cruises.

→ www.nzstamps.org.uk/sdps

Richard Beith

Stratford upon Avon

Early in the season we were treated to an exceptional display of *Early Transatlantic mail* by **Frank Bennett**. The postal markings on the ships often included the name of the actual ship carrying the mail in question. Equally good a few weeks later was **Alan Godfrey's** coverage of the other end of the globe, with *The Last Explorer - Sir Hubert Wilkins 1888 - 1958*, a filmmaker and naturalist as well as being an internationally explorer. The many covers shown included one to mark the scattering of his ashes at the North Pole. At the end of January **Nick Bridgwater** showed *The postal history of Bath*, which included an excellent example of a Turnpike ticket from 1790. In March we had one of our members' periodic *Letter* displays. As usual there was a multitudinous miscellany of mainly “M” themes: *miniature sheets, Mashonaland, military cards, Malta, merchant shipping, Montserrat, Mount Momotombo's influence on the route of the Panama Canal* by naively showing it erupting on Nicaragua stamps, *Mulreadys, meter marks* and many more. But we were also very pleased



A skeleton audience admires a skeleton postmark

that **Colin Fountain's** display of *Postmarks of Mitcheldean* in the Forest of Dean included a "skeleton" postmark to the delight of an onlooker on the classroom wall. → Colin Fountain on 01789841606. *John Gledhill*

Swindon

Spring began as usual, with an Auction, with more lots than ever and nobody disappointed. The very popular 'Brian Buckle Trophy' had an excellent number of displays, this time it was *Letter I or Q*, it taxed the members, but imagination came to the fore with **John Wand** winning by a whisker with *Inspirational Quotations*; he also arranged the excellent buffet that was provided. **Malcolm Watts** came up with yet another excellent variation of *Wiltshire Born & Bred*. We are starting to be serious about Postcards with an evening where nine members put on really interesting displays covering a very wide range from *Cornish Shipwreck Stories* to *Gloucester Churches*, now for Postcard competitions. **Colin Searle** gave an enthralling display of *The Philatelic Congress of GB* and *The Engravings of*

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STANLEY GIBBONS

Czeslaw Slania with much material new to us. At our last meeting **Trevor Buckell** showed us the *Imperial Airways in Africa*. The early aircraft had their problems so mail did not always get through on time! Without doubt, the Society's big event of the year is the forthcoming 'Swinpex 2017' event on June 10th at St Joseph's Academy where we hope to see as many keen collectors and philatelists as possible - remember 48 top dealers in attendance. → 01793-813484 or gibbon35@gmail.com David Gibbon

Thatcham

In March, our guest speaker was **Phillip Cant** and his subject was *I don't do Thematics or other Nonsense*. Phillip deals in Thematic stamps that he and Paula just file and display differently. He then showed examples of the most popular collecting subject - Birds, with a lovely collection of sheets of bird stamps from around the world. He said that next most popular was Animals, and collectors tend to go for their favourite creatures. About 1/3 of all collectors do Wildlife, with another 1/3 collecting Transport - trains and boats and planes. Once again some superb sheets including Indian sets, Aviation sets from NZ, USA and the



A "no nonsense" Phillip Cant

Commonwealth. He finished part 1 by saying 'No - we don't do George V and certainly not Machins'. Phillip started the second half by saying 'So that was the Thematic part and now for the Nonsense'. He showed a fantastic 9-page display of *Railway Artillery* issues - giant guns and armoured trains. Then came military planes from both world wars, completed by a 16-sheet *Aviation* display of quite valuable French Air stamps. Following sheets of Guam *Guard Mail* issues and their historical background, he spoke about many sheets of stamps with things wrong - Titanic stamps that were not the Titanic (funnels and colours incorrect). The last part was a great 'planes' sequence of sheets including Stukas with retractable under-carriages and

An advertisement for Trimstone Manor Country House Hotel & Cottages. On the left is a stone lion sculpture. The text reads: "TRIMSTONE MANOR COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL & COTTAGES". Below this, it says "The perfect place for a peaceful country break, celebration, wedding or business conference." At the bottom, it provides the website "trimstone.co.uk", phone number "01271 862841", and email "info@trimstone.co.uk". There are also two small inset photos: one of a bedroom with a bed and another of the exterior of the manor.

Spitfires with totally wrong markings. What a great entertaining display of wonderful material. Thank you Phillip – most appreciated. *Martin Farr*

Watford & District

We have entered the 21st Century! Thanks to the hard work of Greg Wynn (of Maidenhead) we now have our own website. Please go online to see what happens at our meetings, as well as a pdf version of our current Newsletter. At our January meeting we welcomed two members from Kodak & Harrow Stamp Club. **John Bathard** entertained us with a series of mini exhibits, all beautifully written up, on the theme of *African railways*. **Lorraine Maguire** gave a poignant display of *New Zealand prisoner of war mail*, a relatively new project, where the emphasis was on the people behind the material. February is traditionally our nine page competition night. This year the winners were: **Wayne Cox** in the Stamps category with *Latvia Map Stamps*, **Graham Walker** in the Thematic class with *Native American Place Names* and **Brian Thurlow** in the Postal History section with *Grand Lebanon Airmails*. In March **Jim McKerrow** gave us a display of material related to *Stamp exhibitions*, all delivered in his own inimitable style! Exhibitions covered included the first one, held at Baker Street in 1890, and the Stamp Centenary Exhibition of 1940. → Brian Thurlow 01923243243 or watforddps@gmail.com watforddps.wixsite.com/watford-ps
Wayne Cox

West London

Melvyn Green gave his fourth Presidential display, in January, which included some perfin as well as some



Light-hearted Maurice Buxton

interesting aspects of local postal history. At our March meeting another of our members, **Maurice Buxton**, gave us a light-hearted and amusing display of aspects of *Stamp Collecting in the USA* from 1890s until the turn of the 21st century. Both of these displays were well received by our members. → Christopher Oliver, 02089409833 or olivers.of_ham@virgin.net

Federations

Kent

All Change at the top! At the AGM at Beckenham we had a number of changes. After two years as President **Paul Cahill** was succeeded by **Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins**. Our Chairman, **Ron Burn**, was replaced by Paul Cahill for one year and our Secretary, **Grahame Boutle**, was replaced by **Nicola Davies**. After a year's gap we at last have a new Editor, **Jenny Viggars**, who hopes to have published a Bulletin by now. The Federation launched its own website -



Jenny the Editor

www.kfps.website

Still in its infancy it is slowly being developed. We hope it will prove to be a useful tool in keeping philately alive in Kent - and attract more collectors for their local society. We entered a team in the annual Dawes Cup Inter-Federation competition, being hosted this year by the Essex Federation. Entries were displayed at the Essex Federation Spring Rally at Sweyne Park School, Rayleigh in March. What is the Dawes Cup? In 1957 John Dawes of Middlesex suggested holding an Inter-County Competition, to include Middlesex, Essex, Kent, Surrey and Sussex. He donated a cup for the winning team, and the first competition was held at Greenford in 1957. In recent years the number of participants has declined, and both last year and this year there were only two - Kent and Essex, so Mid-Anglia have been invited to compete. Meanwhile Kent will be entering the ABPS Inter-Federation competition this year.

Michael Dobbs

Midland

Our Autumn Convention, annual competitions and a Stamp & Postcard Fair will be on Saturday 28th October at the Banbury Festival of Stamps (see p 60). There will be around 20 stamp dealers taking part. Refreshments will be available all day. Ample free parking is available to visitors. There is also a railway station at Banbury on the Chiltern Line (Marylebone-Birmingham) for train enthusiasts. Free Valuations of stamps and postal history will be available from Midlands expert valuer, Tony Lester, for anyone thinking of selling all or part of their collection.

John Davies

South Wales

We are holding our 48th Annual Congress in Port Talbot on May 20th at the Civic Centre (See p 59 for details). The admission charge is 50p but this gives you access to the 15+ dealers with a wide variety of stamps, postal history and accessories. You will also be able to see the Annual Competition entries. Parking is limited and charged for in the close vicinity. We look forward to welcoming you. *Neil Prior*

Wessex

The federation has a new website. Visit www.wessexpf.org.uk to see what is going on in the Devon area.

Wiltshire and District

At our recent AGM we welcomed **Nigel Borlase-Hendry** as our new President. His first job after closing the AGM was to present his wife, **Barbara Borlase-Hendry**, with one of the Federation's 16-Sheet Competition prizes. This



Nigel and Barbara keep it in the family

wasn't a fix as the competition had been judged much earlier! We will be holding our 9-Sheet Competitions at Swinpex on the 10th June. As these will be pre-judged viewing will be available from the start of the show at 10am. → www.wiltsfed.org.uk

Paul Latham-Warde

National and specialist societies

Austrian

The annual meeting in Lincoln on 18th March attracted a very good turnout, including one guest. This venue is now a well-established part of our programme of events with members travelling from many parts of the country. The first half of the afternoon was given over to an invited display from **Joyce Boyer** who presented her comprehensive and fascinating collection of material from the *Kufstein-Ala railway-line* in Tirol. Included were the travelling post-offices on board the various trains, from the beginning to modern times, mail from the towns and villages along the way, and special cancellations for various anniversaries connected to the railway.

After a break for tea and biscuits, there were short displays on an interesting range of subjects including: **Barry Clark** - *The Austrian Telegraph service*, **Brian Madeley** - *Lombardy & Venetia*, **Andy Taylor** - *Modern frankings from his postbag*, **James Hooper** - *1920s postal-stationery viewcards*, **Nick Coverdale** - *Croatia in WWII* and **James Hooper** - *WIPA 65 cancellations*. →

www.Austrianphilatelicsociety.com

David Bravery

British Thematic Assoc

Reflecting its change of focus the BTA is revamping its annual competitions for 2017 to include three classes, Thematic, Open and Post Card. The BTA Cup is being retained and will be awarded to the best Thematic entry. The Fosbery Trophy, previously

awarded to the best in a class where no rules were applied and judged by the general public, is now going to be awarded to the winner of the Open Class. An additional trophy, the Brian Sole Cup, will be awarded to the winning entry in the Post Card class. This trophy is so named as a tribute to a founding member of the BTA who is relinquishing his role as BTA Competitions Office after many years' service. Entries for all classes will consist of 16 sheets (1 frame) and will be judged according to National rules. Competition entries will be exhibited at the South of England Stamp and Post Card Fair at Ardingly Show Ground on Saturday 14 October. Further information and entry forms will be available during the summer.

Jim Etherington

Channel Islands SS

In December twenty-four members and guests attended our London meeting themed *Ending in 6*. **Ron Brown** started with some recent acquisitions, including a very rare civilian cover sent to France bearing a *Kriegsmarine* handstamp. **Gerald Marriner** also showed recent acquisitions including a 1942 Organisation Todt cover from Guernsey to France. German member **Olaf Beecken** had a rare example of a family receipt Radio Message card for a message sent from the Channel Islands via Wilhelmshaven. Focussing on the theme, **Jon Aitchison's** show included a 1966 Jethou Norman year miniature sheet. He ended with a Herm 1826 cover. **Ron Osbourne** showed several items ending in a '6' including an 1846 1d red imperforate item bearing a **POSTED AFTER / 7 O'CLOCK AT NIGHT** handstamp from London to Jersey. **David Laurillard**

brought WWI material including a 1916 item headed *Kriegsgefangensendung* [Warfare Consignment]. **Dave Edwards** followed with *Guernsey postcards showing events that occurred during years ending in '6'*, eg For 1906: the Guernsey cattle Show, the Summer Fete and the Guernsey Flower Show. Visiting Guernsey member **John Triggs** started with a Registered letter dated 1896 from A. Cameron in Jersey to Berlin, and concluded with a 1976 letter from Sark to Jersey. **Nick Stuart** started with an 1846 **JERSEY / SHIP LETTER** handstamp on an entire addressed to Huth of London. **Richard Flemming** showed three letters from the Dobree correspondence; one with the **S.MALO** handstamp, another with the **SMALO** handstamp and one with the **ST MALO** handstamp. → www.ciss1950.org.uk

Steve Wells

Falkland Is Study Group

We held two regional meetings in November. In Scotland all the attendees brought material to display, unfortunately there were only four of them. **Robin Sherman** started with a 90 sheet display of *Miscellaneous postal history*. **Geoffrey Barber** followed with *FID/BAT 1944 to date*. Next was a fascinating display of *Covers relating to the Ice Patrol Ship, HMS Protector* presented by **Dave Mountfort**. Finally, **Phil Collar** showed us *Postcards of PSNC ships whose names all began with "O"*. Though few in number they had a very good time. The southern group met in Camberley. There were displays from **Kim Stuckey, Hugh Osborne, Morva White, Roger Mazillius** and **Ralph Riddell-Carre**. Ralph showed an excellent display of *Centenary taxed*



Richard Hewitt conducts the choir at lunch as Roger Mazillius prepares for the solo

covers to Argentina, at a variety of bewildering rates applied by the Argentinean postal clerks. **Stefan Heijtz** picked out two frames from his gold medal winning *St Helena* display, shown at the Royal Philatelic Society in London on the previous Thursday. **Trevor Cornford, Robert Hurst** and **Dave Walker** followed. The final round of multiple displays was led by **Richard Hewitt**, who gave an informative thematic display on Albatrosses that covered the *Three Y's* – PhotographY (with some stunning albatross photographs), OrnithologY and PhilatelY.

From Upland Goose

Forces Postal History

We had a great start to 2017 - our 65th Anniversary. Our first meeting was an afternoon with our Three Vees (Vice Presidents). **Richard Berry** roped in other members of the Society to perform or read poem extracts, followed by **Robin Davis**, and then **Geoff Hanney**. Material displayed included *The US Civil War*, a display about an Englishman named *Sidney Coleman* who moved to France in 1909, where he joined the police after the end of WWI, and was an internee in WWII, a selection of very attractive

postcards showing *Indian Army uniforms* used during WWII in the Middle East and South Africa, sent by the Reverend Taggart to his daughter in the Isle of Man, and many others. Our February meeting was members' displays entitled *Events in 1917*. One such was a fantastic array of *Christmas cards from British, Empire and American units*. Some of these displays are on our website for all to see. We held our annual John Daynes plate 15-sheet competition plus a memorial display of WWII US APO material from the collection of the late **Bill Collingwood** presented by his widow and son at our March meeting. → www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk or Martin Hopkinson, Trewinney Barton, **Mevagissey**, St Austell, Cornwall PL26 6TD *Michael Dobbs*

The Gibraltar Study Circle

We held our AGM weekend 24 - 26 March 2017 at the Golden Lion Hotel, Northallerton, North Yorkshire. Superb weather once again and the hotel was excellent. As usual the Friday evening started with the traditional mini auction with much spirited bidding. Then were members' individual displays featuring *The letter R*. After a free Saturday morning we met for the main displays of the weekend which was *Maritime Mail with Favourite items about which I*



Eric Holmes displays at Northallerton

would like to learn more to follow - a very productive afternoon. At the AGM the main changes were: **Tony Puckridge**, Treasurer, **Susan Dare**, General Secretary and **Stan Lawrence** Editor of the Rock newsletter. All other posts remain as before. The next meeting of the society will be the competition weekend to be held at the Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke, 29th September - 1st October. *Bert Burton*

The Great Britain Phil Soc

For the first society meeting of 2017, **Ray Barton** presented his display entitled *Things I Like*. This proved to be a fascinating mix, mainly of postal history material which included Ray's main interests of squared circles, spoon and sideways duplexes. Scottish marks were on show together with several interesting documents and pictorial items. Later, the annual competition entries were on display when members were able to form their own opinion of these before the judges, **Chris Harman** and **Michael Lockton**, announced the winning entries. Successful members were **G Booth**, **S Teuma**, **T Walker**, **R Horton** and **D Simmons**. Many of our members were able to enjoy "The Stampex Experience" in February. We ended the week with a society meeting on the Saturday afternoon when a convivial gathering saw a display by **Richard Husband** FRPSL on *G B Perfins*. Richard concentrated on the development of the security perforations from 1868 when the Post Office gave J Sloper & Co. permission to perforate mint stamps. His display showed the various methods used and the expansion of the system by other companies, not only on stamps but also on postal stationery. Richard

covers (one with notes of the postman's five attempts to deliver) and newspaper wrappers, stamp booklets from 1909 and 1925, FMS Railway Newspaper stamps, 1916 -18 set of FMS charity labels and rubber restriction coupons printed "FMS". February's meeting started with a period of silence for **Joe Robertson** and **Ted Proud**, both recently departed members. Joe had intended to present the first round on the subject of *Rubber in Malaya*. We retained this theme along with other displays reflecting Joe's other philatelic interests. A short paper covering the history of rubber in Malaya was read followed by displays related to the rubber industry included postcards illustrating rubber production, various coupons, share certificates and rubber related slogan cancel. Postcards showed different rubber estates, one with a monorail for carrying latex back from the fields. Covers showed examples of the Henry Ridley 100th Birthday slogan cancel and FDCs of rubber related commemoratives. We also saw maps of Malay Peninsular and SE Asia. The March London meeting was the AGM followed by the Spring Auction. The highlight of the AGM was approval of Honorary Life Memberships for **Susan McEwen** and **Andrew Norris**



Susan and Andrew with President Dominic Morris

for their substantial contribution over many years. →

www.malayastudygroup.com

Martin Roper

Midland (GB) Postal History

Our meeting in March was at Lovatt House, the former goods office of the Great Central Railway in Loughborough. **Brian Atkins** showed *Mail between Shropshire & North America*. The conventional display of



Brian in action

postal history material was preceded by a PowerPoint presentation of the material. This enabled us to follow Brian's explanation of the various rates easily, particularly the complex retaliatory rates. Surely, this is the way forward for philatelic displays.

Martin Soer

The Royal, London

In January **David Alford** and **John Ray** presented *The stamps and postal history of the Pacific island of Fiji*. We enjoyed the Fiji Times express newspaper mail material, including a cover of 1871 with the 1/- Fiji Times and a 2d of New South Wales. A glimpse of life there was afforded by the post office photographs taken by John. Later we were taken on a visit to Jamaica by **Steve Jarvis** and **Paul**

Wright. The material spanned from pre-adhesive and Great Britain used in Jamaica to the post-Independence stamps. **Michael Smith** presented *The Postal Stationery of the Orange Free State* late in February. The reaction of the audience was best summed up by **Lars Engelbrecht** – ‘It is one of the most beautiful exhibits, one which has been meticulously arranged’. A cursory glance at the Stanley Gibbons catalogue devoted to overprinted or surcharged stamps from Pakistan may give the impression that these are straightforward. In reality the situation is very different, as **Michael J Roberts FRPSL** explained at the next meeting entitled *Pakistan Beyond the Catalogue; Birth, Conversion and Divorce*. He covered the local overprints of 1947 and the decimal surcharges of 1961 thoroughly. The ‘Bangladesh’ overprints on Pakistan await, but sorting out the numerous types is a challenge that Mike still has to complete. **Bill Pipe** treated us to an ‘exceptional display’ of *Great Britain Railway Station Cancellations from*

1840. With often just one cover known, bringing together this material was no easy task. → 02074861044.

Richard West

South African Collectors’

Our regional meeting at Letchworth Garden City, arranged by **Bob Hill** at a



Bob Hill organising

new venue, was a great success with nine members and one guest present. Displays included *Modern postal cards*, *The progressive “Drakensberg” flaw on the 1d Animal definitive*, *Kirstenbosch stamps and commemorations*, *Cape postmarks* and *Postal ephemera from various early 20thC shows*. It is intended to repeat this meeting next year. On 18th March there were meetings in both Carlisle and London. The latter had a theme of *Postage Dues of SA*. We go to Meriden for our AGM weekend in May, when we will celebrate our 70th anniversary. → Christopher Oliver on 020 8940 9833 or olivers.of_ham@virgin.net or southafricacollector.com Chris Oliver



Frank Walton and Bill Pipe

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.

Spring STAMPEX 15th-18th February 2017

With more than 450 frames in competition and on display, this was one of the largest competitive springtime exhibitions for a long time.

The special attraction on this occasion was a once in a lifetime collection of exhibits showing material from the former Ottoman Empire. The idea for the theme was developed by Freddy Khalastchy and the late Francis Kiddle, with support later from the ABPS Exhibitions and International Committee.

The theme of the Ottoman Empire created interest in the non-philatelic press with articles in *The Jewish News* (an online and London Jewish Daily), the *Al Sabah Newspaper* in Baghdad, and *the Al-Arab* (London's biggest Arabic language newspaper).

The Turkish Postal Museum participated with five frames showing a selection of material from their museum from both the classic and modern period.

Amazing collections of rare material seldom seen in London drew philatelists to the frames, even those written up in Arabic. Several exhibitors had been particularly busy. Freddy Khalastchy displayed 49 frames of *Iraq 1918-1958*, showing all the stamps that were issued during that time, while Joseph Hackmey showed fifteen exhibits covering aspects of the Ottoman Empire in the Holy Land, Istanbul, Anatolia, Bulgaria, European Turkey, former Yugoslavia, Greece, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Syria, and the Black Sea.

Prominent visitors to the exhibition included the Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq, Dr Salih Husain Ali, and the Ambassador of The Republic of Turkey, Mr Abdurrahman Bilgiç.

More than 90 exhibits competed as well as eight in the Philatelic Literature Class. Several philatelists showed their material in the non-competitive section.

The Awards Ceremony took place on the Saturday, immediately after an excellent presentation by **Chris Harman** on *Collecting and Exhibiting Revenues*, using illustrations from his exhibit with probably the greatest variety of material in one exhibit, including silver spoons with tax imprint.

The very high standard was evident as the Organising Committee ran out of Large Gold rosettes—not a common occurrence. The awards were 27 Large



Chris Harman presents the Silver Stagecoach for Best in Show to Tarik Alireza

Gold medals, 22 Gold medals, and 15 Large Vermeil medals. The award of 'Best in Show' went to **Tarik Alireza** for his Postal History exhibit, *Saudi Arabia: Development of The Ottoman Postal Service (1801-1919)*.

Two new books, published by the Royal Philatelic Society London, were both awarded Large Gold medals, **Brian Trotter**: *Southern African Mails, Routes, Rates and Regulations 1806-1916*, and **Freddy Khalastchy**: *Baghdad in British Occupation - The Story of the 1917 Provisional Stamps*.

British Stamp news

My comments last time about Post and Go stamps seem to have struck two chords. One was with Royal Mail as we now have the Transport series. In 2016 they issued Royal Mail Heritage:

Transport as part of the Royal Mail 500 celebrations. Post & Go issues in 2017 will build on this theme, creating a series of issues showing the transportation of mail in greater detail. In February the first in the series was Mail by Rail (6 illustrations) which coincides with the 90th Anniversary of the Post Office Underground Railway in 2017. The other chord was with **David Sherman** of London who does collect them

mint, though haphazardly. He has a strange one. It is a



1st Class
up to 100g



Union Jack completely blank. It came out first by itself during a recent purchase. Is this a desirable error or just printer's waste? Any answers?

To satisfy my collecting interest there were some more Regionals and Machins in March, though that as usual is related to the increase in postal charges. I wait for them to come through the post suitably cancelled—that can be a long wait. Have you seen the Ancient Britons set

from January—a fascinating mix of colour and monochrome? Naturally the 65th Anniversary of the Queen's Accession was honoured in February, but with Sapphire Blue £5 High Value Definitive, with an iridescent overprint featuring the legend *65th Anniversary of Accession*, on Monday 6th February 2017.

Also in March there are the stamps commemorating David Bowie. For those of a certain age this could be an opportunity for reminiscence or even to find the records/tapes/CDs of earlier years and wallow in nostalgia. None of those have appeared in my post yet in normal usage so if you actually write to the editor you could be kind to him—with a £5 stamp!

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

Stamp Active Network

We Have Another Patron

Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson MP is a former Home Secretary and was once a postman. He has offered his support to our efforts, saying, "Stamp collecting has given many hours of pleasure to millions of people over the years. It is a remarkable offshoot of Rowland Hill's most famous initiative combining the appreciation of art, geography and communications in one satisfying pursuit."



The Chairman of Stamp Active, John Davies, added "We are pleased that Alan Johnson has shown his support to our group. His recognition of the organisation is a real boost to help promote stamp collecting."

Bring A Child to Stampex Winners

We continue to run our regular promotion to "Bring A Child to Stampex" with excellent prizes for those who bring a young collector to the Kids Zone, which is sponsored by The Philatelic Trader's Society at every Stampex.

The winners at Spring Stampex 2017 were:

1st: Penny Black Wallet, given by Stanley Gibbons:

Christine Stuttard, **Southport**

2nd: Royal Mail Year Book 2016, from Royal Mail: **Susan**

Shahbakhti, **London**

3rd: Stanley Gibbons £50 Voucher, from Stanley Gibbons:

Bruce Scott, **Larkhill**

4th: Isle of Man Year Book 2016, from IOM Stamps: **Dean**

Scott, **Romford**

5th: Subscription to Stamp & Coin Mart, from My Time

Media: **Belinda Phang**, **London**

6th: Guernsey 2016 Collection, from

Guernsey Post: **Hayley Hart**, **Banbury**



Christine Stuttard



It is expected that this promotion will also be run for Autumn Stampex, so please come along.

More entering for the first time

Many youngsters entered this year's Spring Stamp Active Competition for the first time. The judges (Christine Earle, Dave Armitage, John Davies and Richard West) were pleased to see the imaginative approach that many showed with their entries. The competition, sponsored by the Great Britain Philatelic Society, was judged at the premises of The Royal Philatelic Society London, with the entries shown at Spring Stampex thanks to the Philatelic Traders' Society.

The major trophies were awarded as follows:

Kidstamps Trophy (for the best overall exhibit): Ellie Doidge – *Snake Facts*

Best entry in Class B: Anna Likeman – *Raining Cats and Dogs* (Silver-gilt)

Best entry in Class C: Ellie Doidge – *Snake Facts* (Gold)

Best entry in Class D: Rhys Hart – *The Battle of Britain* (Gold)

Best Group entry: The Dell Stamp Club – *Only One World* (Silver-gilt)

Schools Trophy: Bishop Carpenter School

Other results in the various classes were as follows.

Class C (10 and 11): Sarah Likeman: *Flower Power* (Silver), Ffion Llewellyn: *Up and Down the Rails* (Silver-gilt), Beatrice Shelley: *Walt Disney* (Silver-bronze), Dorothy Wild: *Endangered Animals* (Silver)

Class D (under 10): Thomas Absalom: *Space* (Silver), Joyce Bazley: *My Favourite Stamps* (Silver-bronze), Sam Evans: *Large Wild Animals* (Silver-bronze), Alex Faversham: *The History of Stamps* (Silver-bronze), Max Fenn: *Wales* (Silver-bronze), Eva James: *Owls* (Silver-gilt), Nia Llewellyn: *Childhood* (Silver-gilt), Evie Mills: *The Coast* (Silver), Iwan Morgan: *Transport* (Silver-bronze), Toby Roberts: *Famous British People* (Silver-bronze), Melissa Thomas: *Flowers* (Silver-bronze)
David Rossall

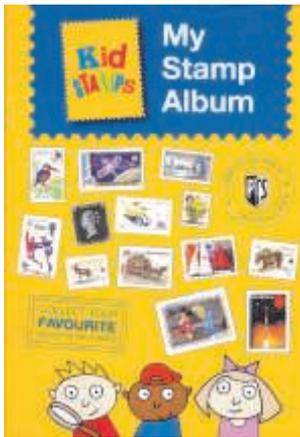
Michael Thompson gets Bill Hart Award

The award is given just once each year to an individual who has given outstanding service to youth philately over many years. Michael, who is currently President of the National Philatelic Society, has run the popular children's auction on Stampex Saturday for a long time. He was presented with a framed certificate, signed the roll of honour and received a canvas print of Lundy Island, one of his favourite collecting areas at Spring Stampex.

Commenting on the award, John Davies, Chairman of Stamp Active said "He always entertains and encourages the children and ensures that no one goes home empty-handed. Michael's professionalism and enthusiasm has established it as a favourite activity amongst our young collectors."

Donations of prizes for the auction would be welcomed by the organisers to:





Stamp Active Network, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, OX16 9LB

Information about the Stamp Active Network can be found on their website www.stampactive.co.uk

New Stamp Album from Kidstamps

Stamp Active, the voluntary group that promotes stamp collecting in the UK to youngsters, has joined forces with the Philatelic Traders' Society to produce a starter stamp album for children.

The 16 page album allows space for their favourite stamps and additional pages for stamps to be collected by country or theme. It will be given to all young visitors to the Kids Zone at Spring and Autumn Stampex and to members of the popular Kidstamps postal club free

of charge.

Kidstamps is a free postal club for children between the ages of 5 and 19. Once registered, children receive a starter pack of stamps, first day covers and other items. In each pack, there is a voucher for their next pack which they return with a stamp-addressed envelope to receive even more items. Packs are sent out about four times a year. Application forms can be downloaded from the Kidstamps page of the Stamp Active website or picked up at Stampex.

Alternatively, write to Stamp Active, 16 Sporhams, Basildon, Essex SS16 5TT with an SAE for a Kidstamps application leaflet.

Commenting on the latest initiative from Stamp Active, Chairman, John Davies, said "We are very grateful to the Philatelic Traders' Society for their ongoing support. They have been very generous in providing space and resources for

the Kids Zone at each Stampex.

This latest project will make available stamp fun to even more young people."



BUCKINGHAM COVERS SUPPORT STAMP ACTIVE

Buckingham Covers has made a significant donation to Stamp Active resulting from the sale of

their Mr Men and Little Miss stamps First Day Covers.

Chairman of the Stamp Active Network, John Davies, said "We are delighted that Buckingham Covers have chosen to feature Stamp Active on their covers. It is pleasing to get anything that raises the profile of youth philately in the UK. I believe that the UK has one of the best programmes in the world but we need financial and other support to keep going. Thank you, Buckingham Covers."

Stamp Active at Salisbury Collectors' Show

Stamp Active will be at the exciting Salisbury Collectors' Show in May being held at Salisbury City Hall. The stage area will provide free stamps, goodie bags and activities for all young collectors. There will be the opportunity to design a stamp, try out some fun games and win prizes on the day...all for free! In addition there will be around 40 dealers taking part in the show.

You can also get a special gift from the organisers: **FREE to all GB Stamp Collectors if you order in advance for collection** on Saturday 20th May 2017, get a GB unmounted mint error, priced in SG concise catalogue at £25 (100 errors available. Only one per customer. Please forward your claim by e-mail and collect at the show. E-mail your name to freestamp@salisburyshow.co.uk. Come along to Salisbury City Hall on 19th May (11am to 5pm) and 20th May (10am to 4pm) Malthouse Lane, Salisbury, SP2 7TU. We look forward to seeing you.

Further information about the Collectors' Show from www.salisburyshow.co.uk where you can also print off a free £3 voucher* to spend at the show (*terms and conditions apply)

Donations of stamps, particularly of first day covers and thematic stamps would be welcomed by: Stamp Active Network, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, OX16 9LB.

Museum of Philatelic History launched

The Royal Philatelic Society London is delighted to announce that its Museum and Archives will in future be designated as '**The Museum of Philatelic History**'. The Museum will continue to be located at the Society's London premises.

By clarifying the purpose of the Museum in this way, the Society wants to bring it to the attention of a wider public and to encourage more visitors and researchers to take advantage of its extensive collections of artefacts and records. The collections of philatelic history include artefacts and materials relating to printing, postal administrations, philatelic exhibitions, philatelic accessories and collectors. The Archives include the records of the RPSL, important records of the Perkins Bacon printing company and a vast collection of papers, research notes and records related to all aspects of philately.

It also wants to encourage collectors and societies to see the Museum as a natural repository for relevant material in need of a permanent home.

The change of name also differentiates the Museum from other philatelic institutions with different functions.

→ The Curator, Wesley Tierney, at museumarchives@rpsl.org.uk or 02074861044, who will be delighted to welcome visitors by appointment.

Diary for the next few months

Local and regional events by ABPS members

May

- 13 MAYFEST 2017: Basildon Town Square: Basildon PS will be hoping to recruit new members.
- 13 WORPEX 2017: 10 – 5: Tudor Grange Academy Bilford Road **Worcester** WR3 8HN → www.worpex.com - NB Parking restrictions apply on roads near the Academy - Please use FREE park & ride service at WR4 9ND - Follow Yellow and Black signs,
- 20 Cornwall PF - REDEX: **Redruth** TR15 2EG → www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/whats-on.php
- 20 South Wales Federation Annual Congress: 10 – 4.30: The Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, **Port Talbot** SA13 1PJ → 01656 740520

June

- 1 Surrey Federation Auction (Hosted by Twickenham PS): 7.30, St. John Ambulance Hall, Park Rd, **Teddington** → 0208 568 2433
Mgoo831975@aol.com
- 4 Great Yarmouth SC 70th Anniversary Exhibition: 10 – 3.30, Hopton Village Hall → 01493 656147 bernardmabbett@hotmail.co.uk
- 10 SWINPEX: 10 – 4.30: St. Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, **Swindon** SN3 3LR

July

- 8 MIDPEX: 10 – 5: Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, **Leamington Spa** CV31 1XN—Many specialist societies holding meetings
- 15 Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies Spring Rally, hosted by Maidstone & Mid-Kent PS: 9.30 – 3: Community Centre, 25 Forstal Road, **Aylesford** ME20 7AU → 01622 675784

August

- 5 Norfolk & Norwich PS Stamp Fair: 10 – 4, Hewett School, Gate 1, Cecil Road, **Norwich** NR1 2PL → Ian Billings 07765 858457

September

- 7 Poole & Bournemouth Stamp and Postcard Club - 50th Anniversary Evening (all local clubs' members are being invited to this event): 7:30 at the Upton Community Centre, **Poole** BH16 5JA
- 9 Poole & Bournemouth Stamp and Postcard Club Annual Fair: 10 – 4, Upton Community Centre, **Poole** BH16 5JA
- 9 RPSL, Wessex Division: from 10 at Grasmere House Hotel, Harnham Road, **Salisbury** SP2 8JN → 01722 333404
- 23 South Wales Federation Stamp & Coin Fair - hosted by Newport & Gwent PS: Graig Community Centre, Bassaleg, **Newport**
- 30 HAMPEX 2017 - Hampshire Federation: 10 – 4, Wickham Centre, Mill Lane, **Wickham** PO17 5AL

- 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 Banbury Festival of Stamps: 10 – 4: Blessed George Napier School, Springfield Avenue, **Banbury** OX16 9JD
- 28 Bolton PS Stamp Fair & North West Federation Annual convention: 10 – 4, St Josephs R C High School, Chorley New Road, **Horwich**, Bolton BL6 6HW → 01942 813386
- 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 albertedward.kemp@ntlworld.com

November

- 11 Maidstone & Mid Kent PS Stamp Fair: 10 – 3, Grove Green Community Centre, Grove Green, **Maidstone** ME14 5BT → Brian Stonestreet 0162267874

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.

- September 13th - 16th 2017: Autumn Stampex 2017
- February 14th -17th 2018: Spring Stampex 2018
- September 12th -15th 2018: Autumn Stampex 2018

International Exhibitions 2017-2020

- 24th - 28th May 2017: Finlandia 2017 – Tampere-Hall, Tampere, Finland. Open to exhibitors from all FEPA countries, the United States of America and Australia. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Finland. UK Commissioner: Bill Hedley: ewlhedley@yahoo.co.uk → www.finlandia2017.fi/ or info@finlandia2017.fi
- 3rd - 7th 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 →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

Forthcoming International Exhibition

Praga 2018 15th - 18th August 2018

Clarion Congress Hotel in Prague 9, Czech Republic
British Commissioner: Yvonne Wheatley whyareuu@outlook.com
Deadline for receipt of application forms 1st November 2017

PRAGA 2018 is a specialized World Stamp Exhibition with FIP patronage and the FEPA recognition, held on the occasion of celebrations of:

- the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic
- the 100th anniversary of the issue of the first Czechoslovak stamp
- the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Postal Museum,
- the 100th anniversary of the end of the World War I,
- the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Czech Republic.
- The objective of the exhibition is to promote philately, to develop mutual relations and philatelic culture, to maintain cooperation among philatelists throughout the world, to present creativity and innovation when treating exhibits, and to promote the Exponet virtual philatelic exhibition.

It will have c. 1500 frames for about 300 exhibits with the following classes, Traditional Philately, Postal History, Philatelic Literature, One Frame Exhibits, Modern Philately, and Open Philately.

Later National Exhibitions in London

Forms will be available from the end of May 2017
Autumn Stampex 2017 13th - 16th September 2017
at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London.

This is an excellent commercial show with now more than 70 dealer stands.

A Full National Exhibition with the Sarawak Specialist Society as lead contributor, with 150 frames, both competitive and non-competitive.

The Hungarian Society will take 20 frames in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Hungarian postage stamps.

Of course frames will be available as usual for individual exhibitors.

If your society wishes to be the lead contributor at a Stampex exhibition, please contact exhibiting@abps.org.uk

ABPS General Information

Honorary Life Vice Presidents

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

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Vice Chair, Federations, Local Societies: **Rufus Barnes** *councilvc@abps.org.uk*

Deputy Chairman: **Graham Winters**

General Secretary: **Neil G Ritchie** *secretary@abps.org.uk*

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01423 569907

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

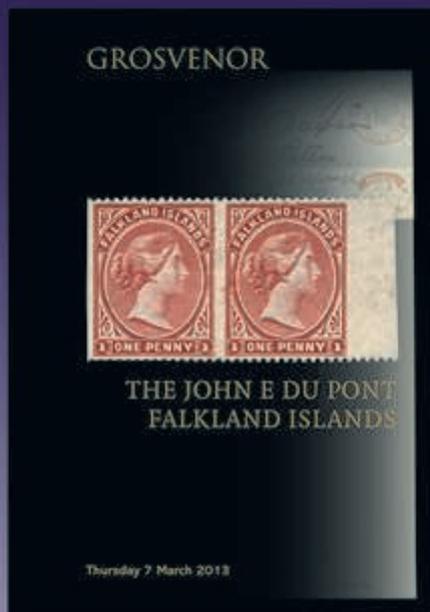
Membership & Advertising (if not emailed): **ABPS Membership, 1 Naunton Way, Cheltenham GL53 7BQ**

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.

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The G. M. Vlachos International Gold Medal Collection of Ionian Islands Postal History, 1428-1864.



Consignments welcome for our 2017 sales. Please contact prior to sending, Greg Spring, Bob Unwin, Ben Palmer, Andy Donaldson, Scott Treacey or James Grimwood-Taylor.

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