

Celebrating 100+ is a Piece of Cake



See p 6



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ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

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

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Volume 29, Number 1, Spring 2022 (whole number 113)

Editor: Keith S Burton FRPSL

(ISSN 1353 6869)

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Cover picture: The Cambridge President guards the Centenary cake at the Garden Party on the 25th July (Detail of the cake in inset).

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

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

Copy dates: please send your material as soon as ready; at present the copy deadlines are 15th January, 15th April, 15th July, 15th 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:



As I write this *Chair's Update* in mid-January, I think a lot of people are really looking forward to *London 2022* taking place. Hopefully by the time you read this it will have taken place and have been very successful too! I know how much hard work the organising team have put in to the event. They deserve our thanks for all their efforts with an event that really highlights this country to the philatelic world!

So what is the ABPS Executive Committee working on at the moment? So that we can grow and develop the ABPS and philately in general, we must have clear objectives. We must be clear about what we want to do, how we do it and how we can measure if we have been successful. The Executive Committee is currently working on these clear objectives. In the next edition of *ABPS News* I will outline what these objectives are and how we are going to achieve them.

As I said in my last *Chair's Update*, the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain 2022 is going to be held in Birmingham. It was last held there in 1947 - so 75 years later it returns! The dates have now been finalised so do put them in your diary - Thursday 8th September to Sunday 11th September. Further details and booking forms will be published soon - so do keep your eye on the ABPS website.

Can I remind everyone that the ABPS is here to support ALL the affiliated societies and clubs? If your society or club would benefit from a small financial grant to help it to grow and develop, then do make an application to our small grants co-ordinator, Nigel Gooch. His email address is shown in the general information section at the back of this *ABPS News*.

I always like to stress the importance of communication. Without good communication who knows what's going on or what the current issues are in philately that need addressing? This is why I really want to hear from you; from federations, societies, clubs or individuals. What are your thoughts about where the hobby is and its future? What should we be doing? Please do let me know what you think. My email address is chair@abps.org.uk and my postal address is Steven Harrison, ABPS, c/o RPSL, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW. I really want to hear from you!

Steve Harrison FRPSL

Your article?

Have you a good idea for an article? Please send your item to the Editor who will let you know if it can be used. Ideally it will fill two A5 pages, a picture relating to the subject matter is always a help (300dpi jpg or photograph). We do not pay for publication, and any items may be edited for length or content.

Editorial



Joy - after the winter shut-downs and Covid 19 reduction of meetings - now the reports have been coming in thick and fast to show that organised philately is back in action across a substantial part of the country. Some societies kept going with Zoom and have found that the interest generated and the possibilities of wider appeal are very great. Monthly meetings are continuing for some - based on many local or specialist societies as well as the two national ones. "Visits" between distant societies are becoming a feature of a number of programmes. Also the membership of these meetings is spreading wider and wider - not just for the Royal but for most local societies too. They come from Germany, USA, South Africa, Malta and many other places - all linked by our joy in sharing our philately and all are welcome. New means of building contacts have been explored - Facebook, new websites actively maintained (nothing worse than a website showing 2019's programme) and now an active contact between two specialist societies in distant lands - see the Sudan Study Group anniversary report on page 10.

But there is another side to this. We have heard of societies that have closed their doors for the last time and others whose numbers have fallen to seriously low numbers. In these societies the difficulties in persuading people to take on specific posts become increasingly great. Even well-populated societies have this problem. Perhaps it is time for new looks at who does what, how jobs are distributed - indeed how societies are run. If you have found a way round these problems, why not share it with everyone. I am sure that we could feature ideas in ABPS News and probably on the website too (not my responsibility!). Of course there will be some things that do not work as well as hoped, but sharing those might stop others from going down the same rocky path.

As I write this in early January, I am looking forward to two big events. The York Stamp Fair is in two weeks time - will it be able to go ahead? - we hope so. There might be new restrictions or different arrangements but the chance to be able to see people again, to look through dealers' material in person and to spend some money is definitely something to look forward to. A month later comes long-awaited LONDON2022 (ex 2020). Again I intend to be there - even more people to meet, purchases to make, displays and competition entries to see - thinking that I could, or more likely couldn't, do better. This is an opportunity for you to tell me in person what you think of ABPS News - positives very welcome, positive suggestions for improvement even more so, but don't expect sudden changes - I am a creature of habit. It has taken me nine years to make changes from the format handed over to me by Dr John Gledhill. The biggest is going digital and that apparently was a good idea - another positive from the pandemic, but we keep the printed version too. *Keith Burton FRPSL*

Society anniversaries

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

100th Anniversary - Cambridge Philatelic Society

The trials and tribulations of the Cambridge Philatelic Society Centenary

Almost all the celebrations of our Centenary have at long last been satisfactorily achieved despite the several delays and cancellations caused by the Covid 19 pandemic.

The first face-to-face meeting since the pandemic started was held by us as an informal outdoor Garden Party on 25th July 2021 where members and partners met, fortunately on a fine sunny afternoon. A special Centenary Cake decorated with a reproduction of the Centenary cover stamp and postmark was consumed!

The main celebratory event of the year was the Centenary Luncheon which took place successfully at the Arundel House Hotel in Cambridge, where thirty-one members and guests assembled on 29th November. It had only been delayed some thirteen months since the actual original intended date! There were sixteen members present, mainly with their partners. On previous special anniversaries we have been honoured by the presence of the Cambridge Mayor



The Chain Gang at the Centenary Luncheon: Councillor Mike Brindle (Mayor of Thetford), Councillor Russ McPherson (Mayor of Cambridge) and John Spencer (Chairman of MAPF)

and on this occasion **Councillor Russ McPherson** was our guest of honour. After a welcome from the president, the mayor proposed a toast '*to the next hundred years of the society, sorry the next ninety-nine years!*'. Other special invited guests came from as far as Kings Lynn, representing neighbouring societies who had helped with our society activities during the past year. **John Spencer** represented the Mid Anglia Philatelic Federation.

Alas, other plans for displays to neighbouring societies and to the public fell by the wayside, victims of the pandemic. However, there remains one final step in the celebration of our centenary and

that is the completion of our Centenary Book, which is being compiled by the president with contributions from society members. It will be covering firstly the history of the society, its members and events, and secondly selected aspects of its postal history. It is designed to complement and supplement our first curator,

Derrick Muggleton's *Postal History of Cambridge*. It is intended that this book will be completed in 2022.

The president would like to say a special '*Thank You and Well Done*' to all the members and friends who contributed to the organisation of our various celebratory events, but especially **Peter Morton** (secretary), **Graham Wyld** (treasurer) and **Rufus Barnes**. **Shiela McNally** kindly made the Centenary Cake, and **Christine Wyld** took the photographs at the Centenary Luncheon.

Dr Simon R.A. Kelly

The Southampton & District Philatelic Society – 90 Years

On 17th May 1932 an article appeared in the Southern Daily Echo announcing the preliminary meeting of the Southampton Philatelic Society at Lowman's Café, Above Bar. Due to the Second World War the society had to close but on 28th January 1946, it re-formed. During the war all of the society records were destroyed due to bombing so it had to start from new.

We grew slowly over the following years with the society publication *Postmark* appearing in 1948. It is still in 2022 our flagship publication. From the 20th to the 24th May 1952 we organised the 34th Annual Philatelic Congress of Great Britain at the Polygon Hotel and, in 1982, hosted the 64th British Philatelic Federation Congress of Great Britain. We have continued to grow and in 2021 our membership stands at 161. We look to our 90th birthday in 2022 and have a program containing many events around the figure '90' but this at the moment (December 2021) will depend on the current situation of Covid19 and the Omicron variant so please check our website for program updates.

→ www.southamptondps.org.uk

Steve Gerrard

75th Anniversary of Luton & District Philatelic Society - November 1945 to November 2020

- celebrated one year late due to the pandemic!

It finally happened! Despite being delayed by a year, members and invited guests were able to celebrate it on Friday 5th November. After the welcomes we were given a brief history.

In August 1945 20 people (all men) attended an initial get-together in Luton to "unite a large number of unattached enthusiasts to form a strong philatelic society worthy of the District." The first "official" meeting of the society took place on 23rd November 1945 at the George Hotel, Luton. There were 50+ attendees and 41 became fully paid-up members. The first speaker at the opening meeting was **Mr Armstrong** - Editor of Stamp Collecting Magazine. From the outset it was difficult to attract junior members (nothing changes!). The first lady member joined in 1953.

The meeting venue has changed a number of times over the years. Most recently, we have been meeting at Bushmead School for almost 25 years, usually on the first Friday of the month, between 7.00pm and 9.30pm. We have held a number of postage stamp exhibitions in the town over the years.

The first was in 1953, when there were 9257 visitors! Luton Society also hosted the first UK Thematics Exhibition in 1970, followed by thematic exhibitions in 1971, 1972, 1974 and 1976. For our 50th Anniversary an Exhibition of Postage Stamps was held at Luton Museum. It ran from 13th January to 3rd March 1996 and more than 2000 people attended in the first week alone! A limited edition of 250 commemorative covers was prepared, cancelled with a special slogan and hand-stamp. The slogan was also applied to mail at Luton Sorting Office from December 1st 1995 to March 3rd 1996.

Our membership peaked in the 1970s, with 60 paid-up members. Since then numbers have dwindled steadily and there are now only 15 hardy individuals.

After the history we were treated to displays of *GB Postage Due Labels* and *Falkland Islands* stamps by members. This was followed by a free buffet and a grand raffle with 26 prizes up for grabs! To finish the evening, there were displays of *Liechtenstein* stamps and a thematic collection of *Orchids*. Everyone was thanked for attending and making the night so special. Feedback afterwards from invited guests was extremely positive, particularly as they had all won raffle prizes! → finodon@hotmail.com *Fin O'Donoghue*

50 Years - Cornwall Philatelic Federation

To mark our 50th Anniversary 25 members and guests gathered at the "Inn for All Seasons" near Redruth on 7th November 2021 where we enjoyed a delicious carvery and dessert. The Cornwall Federation of Philatelic Societies, as originally named, was formed at an inaugural meeting at Falmouth on 9th November 1971 with seven clubs being represented - Falmouth, Helston, Liskeard, Newquay, St Austell, Truro and West Cornwall. In 1985 the name of the Federation was



shortened to Cornwall Philatelic Federation. Over the last 50 years the fortunes of the CPF have waxed and waned, with 11 clubs at its peak. The recent closure of Liskeard PS has reduced our numbers to 6 clubs - Falmouth, Launceston, Newquay, Redruth, St. Austell and Truro. The Cornish clubs have a close working relationship with CPF with club representatives attending actual or virtual meetings to coordinate philatelic activities in Cornwall. Annual fairs are held at Launceston, Redruth and Newquay (St Eval) together with the County's CORNEX held at Pensilva near Liskeard. CORNEX attracts visitors from across the South West, with 19 dealers present this year. *Des Kent*

Redditch Philatelic Society - 50th Anniversary 1971-2021

The society was formed when a group of local collectors decided to form a club and hold regular meetings. These were held monthly on a Monday initially and, as our membership grew, this was extended to meeting twice monthly, with the

second meeting on a Thursday to give members a different evening of the week to meet. Our meetings were at The Smallwood Almshouses in Redditch; one of our members was secretary and a trustee, so it made sense for us to support them. Meetings were originally a simple affair. Members brought along swaps in stockbooks for everyone to hunt through. As we became more established, we began inviting guest speakers, which is a marvellous way to view material that we would not usually come across, and to learn more about our hobby at the same time. We soon began holding stamp fairs at various local venues. These were well supported by local dealers, members and the many collectors in the area. By the end of 1979 we had five stamp fairs and an auction under our belts.



We joined our local philatelic federation – the Midland Philatelic Federation (MPF), and also the British Philatelic Federation Ltd (forerunner of the current ABPS). This enabled our members to have access to far more information and knowledge, in addition to meeting fellow collectors from further afield. In 1986 we hosted both the MPF Spring Convention and in the autumn our own Annual Stamp Fair. At our most recent fair in 2015, we hosted the MPF Autumn Convention and competitions.

In 1987 we joined the Three Counties Federation of Philatelic Societies, covering Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. Sadly, this Federation is no longer in existence, but we provided no less than three presidents and a secretary and also hosted four Federation Conventions and Federation quizzes. Also in 1987, we began what has been an unbroken run of annual Stamp and Postcard Auctions. These are still popular over thirty years later and still attract collectors from a wide area.

In 1993 we changed our meeting venue as a result of the conversion of the Almshouses building into social housing, and we decamped to nearby St George's Church Hall. When the church premises were closed in 2011 we moved to the current base: The Bridge Church Memorial Hall on Evesham Road. This hall is large enough to enable the society to run our 500-lot auction each year and currently to provide ample space for meetings with social



The current membership

distancing. To improve communications for members and other philatelists, we introduced our website: www.redditchphilatelic.org.uk During last year's lockdown, we turned to Zoom to continue our meetings. Since September we have returned to physical meetings. We still meet twice a month, but on the first and third Thursday evenings.

Our members' interests cover all aspects of philately: traditional stamps, postal history, postcards and thematics. A number of members have been successful in federation and national competitions and this participation is actively encouraged. We run four competitions each year, the most popular being the one-sheet competition which regularly gets more than twenty-five entries. The first fifty years have seen the development of a well-established stamp club and a membership of keen philatelists who really enjoy their hobby. Our philosophy has always been: "Philately is fun" and we strive to ensure everyone makes this a reality.

Alan Godfrey FRPSL

Sudan Study Group - 45 Years

We are celebrating our Sapphire Anniversary (45 years) in 2022! As part of that occasion we have launched a major recruitment campaign, perhaps using approaches that might be of interest to other societies? The strategy consists of several prongs. We are:

1. offering 2 years electronic membership for the price of one
2. promoting this offer on our Sudan Stamps Facebook Group pages (over 400 members)
3. also "selling" this same deal on eBay (because there are always many people looking for Sudan stamps on that site)
4. offering half-price Junior membership (under 18 years) for the first time.

As a result we have recruited half a dozen new members in just the first couple of weeks (we started just in time for Christmas).

In addition we have decided to broaden our international perspectives by forming an association with the Sudan Philatelic Association (SPA) of Khartoum. The SPA has some 40 members, mostly based in Sudan. We will form a no-cost partnership with them whereby members of either the SSG or the SPA will have access to the other society's publications etc. Already most of the SPA members have joined our Facebook Group and good discussions are starting to flourish (thanks, in part, to Google translate!).

In addition, we plan to hold our AGM in March 2022 as part of an event-packed, residential weekend in Derby. This will be a hybrid Zoom/face-to-face meeting so fingers crossed for good health all round.

Malcolm Coe

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



ABPS accredited judges

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

from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**Are You **THINKING** of **SELLING?**

This is How The Stamp Trade Works

Philatelic Expert Lets You into his Selling Secrets so you can benefit from a totally different (and New) Selling Experience

1 If you want to learn how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholess I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for the orders to roll in... I'm still waiting, 51 years later!...

Wrong Offer Wrong Price Wrong Place
 (none sell) - me but I was only 15 at the time!



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE STAMP TECHNICIAN SHOW ITV

About The Author ▶ Andrew found his father's stamps at the age of 10. A year later at Senior School he immediately joined the School Stamp Club. He collected (1) in British, but soon was interested in Queen Victoria which he could not afford. The 2nd to last boy winning short trousers in his school year he regularly bought Post Office Now Issues on Tuesday with his pocket money. He soon found that he enjoyed swapping / trading stamps as much as collecting them. Aged 19, attending University he quickly found a philatelic career in London, leading to creating his own company in stamps. Andrew has authored many international published Stamp Tips articles appearing on Local Radio and National TV promoting Philately with Alan Titchmarsh. Andrew's area of expertise is unusual - in so far as his grounding in collecting and wide philatelic knowledge has given him a deep understanding of Philately. He has studied Philately for the past 31 years, in conjunction with Commerce and Marketing Expertise, enabling him to create synergies in 'Vintage' internet-based Stamp Selling Systems, selling unprinted stamps through to landing collectors & Retailers up to £700,000 each. Today Andrew is fortunate to be co-owner with his Wife, of Universal Philatelic Auctions (aka UPA) - the Largest No Buyer's Premium Reducing-Estimate Stamp System Auction in the World, creating records selling stamps to 2,251 different bidders from 54 different countries in his international system. Andrew stopped collecting stamps aged 30, realising that he enjoyed the handling them and selling them... He has working in stamps.

2 Three years later, attending my first public stamp auctions I wondered how some bidders seemed to buy everything, paying the highest price? It didn't occur to me that they were probably Auction Bidding Agents, paid by absent (dealer) bidders to represent them. I wondered why two collectors sitting side by side muttered to each other "he's a dealer" as if that justified him paying the highest price...

...but did it really? What was the real reason? How could a Dealer pay a higher price than a Collector? It doesn't make sense, does it? Collectors are customers. Customers usually pay the highest price, unless... for a Collector this was...

Wrong Presentation Wrong Place
 therefore Wrong Price

3 Fast-forward 48 years later to a British Empire collection, lot #1 in an International Stamp Auction - Estimated at £3,000, but we were the highest bidder at £21,000 - YES - some 7x higher. Including Buyer's Premium in the extraordinary sum of £4,788 we actually paid GBP£25,788= upon a £3,000 estimate... however, we broke it down into sets, singles, mini-collections etc. We made a profit. Some might say it found its price. Others may say:

Wrong Estimate Wrong Presentation
 Wrong Structure Wrong Protection of Price

- Lucky for the seller that 2 well-heeled bidders saw the potential value that day or it could have been given away... the seller could easily have lost out couldn't he/she?

So, by un-peeling the layers of obfuscation, hopefully we can all agree:

The Secret is Simple - it's ALL ABOUT: TIMING

Plus the 3 Philatelic 'P's -
 Presentation Place and Price

4 Understanding the problem... I always remember the car trade had their own little 'bible' - Glass's Guide. I've no idea, I've not even looked - in this internet-dominated world. It may even have disappeared. Well there's an insider Stamp Trade publication for Stamp Dealers called 'The Philatelic Exporter'. There's nothing that special about it - and you won't learn much or find massively reduced prices by subscribing - BUT - it is a forum, a paper focal point, a last bastion' in this on-line transparent world that we inhabit... whereby dealers (and auctioneers) can try and communicate with each other. I publish my own articles there...

Recently I discussed the outcome of my 10 years' simple research, asking dealers and auctioneers 'what is your biggest problem?'

To a man, (why are we almost all men), they replied - "my biggest problem is stock, if I can get more of the right stock I can sell it easily"

Strange that, nobody ever asked me the same question back - because my answer would have been entirely different (and I don't treat it as a problem) - I seek to satisfy more collector clients than any other stamp auction

This is the reason why my company has such massive advertising. This is the reason why we spend up to 8% of turnover - up to £200,000 per annum in marketing costs. (Most dealers don't even sell £200K per annum)

5 Why is that? Because, as the world revolved the Stamp Market, imperceptibly Changed, and incrementally -Massively

So, although few will tell you this, it's clearly evident that the problem for most Sellers of Stamps today is no longer absent stock - but absent collectors in



the place they choose to sell their stamps in. Simply put, other Dealers, Auctions, Stamp Fairs have not invested in marketing to have a strong Customer-core. To be fair, this is not true of all – but it is true of most – so that our former competitor 'Apex' had 800 bidders in a recent auction. In my most recent 20,000+ lot UPA 77th Auction we had 1,793 different bidders from 49 different countries; 95% of whom were Collectors. Some other well-advertised auctions only have 200 bidders (a high percentage of whom are dealers – so that, essentially they are Dealer-dominated auctions) – so that when you sell through them – you're paying up to 18% (including VAT) seller's commission and the buyer is paying up to 25% and more in Buyer's Premium, credit card fees, on-line bidding fee, delivery and insurance etc... **AND all of that so that your stamps may be sold, wait for it – TO DEALERS (and some collectors),** but Dealers, that naturally must make a profit to survive...

6 Now, let's examine the cost implications – Example: Your stamp collection sells in public auction for £800. Upon a 25% buyer's premium, the dealer pays £1,000 and it could be more. He breaks it into £2,000+ selling price (much lower and he'll go out of business). The auction charges you a seller's commission of up to 18% (VAT included) upon the £800 sale price. This is GBP£144. Therefore you receive approaching £656 – which is approximately 33% of the dealer's £2,000+ retail selling price – **BUT...** now that we have identified the problem...

Isn't the Solution Staring us Right In The Face ?

7 Why Pay an Auction to Sell to Dealers: Sell to Collectors instead? In our example with buyer's premium, seller's commission, lotting fees, extra credit card charges, VAT and even insurance – you're already being charged in different ways up to 40% of the selling price to sell, possibly or probably, to the wrong person.

Why not direct that 40% cost you're paying to sell to Collectors instead? Sounds good, so why hasn't this been done before ?

8 Truth is, it Has been done before... Sometimes the 'old' ways are the best ways aren't they? But in today's enthusiasm to obscure the



Contact UPA: 01451 861 111

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:

Dear Folk at UPA,

I've dealt with the public for 37+ years, and as both a consumer, and a businessman, I have created huge numbers of orders from all over the world from a complete range of suppliers from all aspects of our daily lives.

But I don't believe I have ever encountered such sensitivity, such kind thought, such understanding as I have with you in our initial meeting, our subsequent successful transaction, and now this.

I recall well the item you highlight, and realize that this one item has such colossal personal value, I could never part with it.

It has been an absolute pleasure dealing with yourself, and I am more than willing for you to use this e-mail as confirmation to others who may be thinking of disposing of their collection...


Many, many thanks for a memorable experience, and I will try to emulate your thought and care in my own business sphere.

Yours sincerely
D. E. B. Bath, UK

obvious so that money may be taken, almost surreptitiously, in numerous different ways, (without us apparently noticing until we see the cheque in our pocket) – the transparent 'seller pays' has been deliberately 'obscured' – so much so that, **amazingly**, the latest 2017 European Auction Selling Legislation just introduced – now requires auctions that charge 'buyer's premiums' to warn the buyer in advance. Just imagine going into the petrol station, and being warned that the price you're paying to put fuel in your tank is not the real price, you have to pay a premium! Obviously, there would be an uproar...

9 How can you cut out the middleman and sell to Collectors instead? Well, I can think of two ways. 1) **DIY** – Do It Yourself selling on eBay. That may be fine for lower grade material – but, would you risk auctioning relatively unprotected rare material on eBay ? We don't and we're professionals, so we should know what we're doing. Or 2) **Cut out the extra middle-man. Use my company UPA, which reaches collectors instead.** Here's how it works: Continuing from our previous **Example:**

The auction sold your stamps to a dealer for £1,000 – but You received circa £656

UPA sells them to collectors for you for up to £2,000 – even after 40% commission you receive up to £1,200. Up to £544 more. Now that's amazing, isn't it? 

10 Sounds Good Andrew, but Can You 'Deliver'? Obviously, nothing is as simple as that, and as we auction stamps to collectors some collections may 'break' to the example £2,000+/- but the stamps may be sold for more or less – especially as we reserve all lots at 20% below, (Estimate £2,000 = £1,600 reserve) and not everything sells first or even 2nd time so prices may come down... Naturally, it's not that straightforward for a dealer either – he may sell at a discount to 'move' stock **OR**, like many dealers he may be sitting on the same unsold stamps, that you see time and time again, in dealer's stocks years later and still at the same unattractive prices... So, I think it is more reasonable for you to expect up to 36% to 50% more, indirectly or directly via my **Collector's Secret Weapon: Universal Philatelic Auctions**, which moves material more quickly, by incrementally reducing estimate (and reserve) price in a structured selling system...

Request Your Next FREE Catalogue NOW 



UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS ABPE


4 The Old Coalyard, West End, Northleach, Glos. GL54 3HE UK

Tel: 01451 861111 • Fax: 01451 861297




11 QJ What is the Collector's 'Secret Weapon'?

A.J It's called the Unique UPA Reducing Estimate System...

This is a rather long explanation, I don't want to bore you, but 20 years ago, when my wife and I set-up Universal Philatelic Auctions I detected that the stamp trade's biggest problem then was not what sold – but **what didn't sell...** So, because I didn't want to try to keep on offering the same either unsaleable or overpriced stock I created the unique UPA Reducing Estimate (and reserve) Selling System. Simply put, if a lot doesn't sell in the 1st auction we reduce the estimate (and reserve) by 11% and unlike other dealers and auctions **WE TELL YOU – 'US'** = once unsold. If unsold after the following auction we **reduce by a further 12%** and **WE TELL YOU 'US2'**, if unsold after a 3rd UPA auction we reduce by a further 13% and **WE TELL YOU 'US3'** and so on till the lot finds its price, is sold or virtually given away... 


12 Any Scientist will tell you

that combinations of ingredients can produce powerful results. So we created the unique combination of my UPA Reducing Estimate System, married (in stone), with UPA's fair 'NO BUYER'S Premium' policy, PLUS each lot carries my total 'no quibble' guarantee – this formula is the reason why within the span of 4 auctions (one year)... 90%-95% of lots broken from a collection have sold. This Unique Philatelic Selling System **Formula** is the reason why we are the largest stamp auction in the UK today with more than 2,250 different regular bidders. 


In Hindsight Dealers warned me 20 years ago that my idea wouldn't work. 20 years later I think I've proven that it does. (Reader: Please Request a complimentary UPA catalogue – using the contact details further below)

13 OK, Cut to the Chase Andrew, what's the offer?


All of my Selling Systems are based upon **selling to Collectors Globally**, so that 95% of stamps sold by UPA are sold directly to Collectors. If you wish to benefit by up to 50% or more, depending upon

your circumstance and type of material, by cutting out the middleman – then this offer may be for you. Generally 'time' is the enemy in our lives, and for most dealers not being able to sell stock. Now is the time to let 'time' do the 'heavy-lifting' and consider making 'time' work for you, so that at UPA you can make time your friend. 


14 AND the SMALL PRINT! Some

lots are too small in value for us to offer this system. Other lots may not be suited to selling in this manner (e.g. surplus mint British decimal stamps best used for postage) – especially if the market is heavily compromised by stock overhang in specific areas. Some Collectors will not wish to use time and systems to leverage price, others will want to agree a specific price and know that they are paid precisely this amount. No client is treated like a number and no client is forced like a square peg into a round hole. 

15 OK, What Do I Do Next?

- a) You contact UPA to discuss with Andrew or a highly-qualified Auction Valuer/Describer what you have to dispose of and your options bearing in mind your specific interests / requirements.
- b) If you wish, get a 2nd opinion, but investigate what type of auction / dealer you are dealing with. Is it a Dealer's auction with relatively few collectors? Can you see where / how the Dealer sells? If you can't easily see any pricelists or high quality selling catalogues – that Dealer may sell your stamps to other dealers...
- c) Finally you ask U.P.A. to collect your stamps, insure in transit for an estimated replacement retail value... 


16 What Happens then? A member

of my Team telephones/e-mails you to confirm safe receipt. 'Overnight' valuations, unless simple, are rare. Valuing stamp collections that have taken tens of years to create takes time. Depending upon your priorities / timescale I, or an experienced member of my Team will contact you to discuss your requirements and the options available to you for the sale of your collection. Provided only that you feel well-informed and comfortable do we agree strategy. 


17 How Strong is the Stamp and Cover Market?

Everybody knows that the strongest areas are GB and British Empire. Post-Independence / QEII material sells but if hinged at considerable discount. Mint hinged material pre 1952 is regarded as the industry 'norm' and therefore desirable – but genuine never-hinged commands a premium Europe sells but at reduced levels, Americas is good, as generally is Asia but the 'heat' has come off China which is still good – and Russia which can still be good. East Europe is weaker. Overall, Rarities throughout can command their own price levels and real Postal History has good demand.


18 What Should I Do Next?

Discuss your collection with U.P.A. Contact Andrew or an experienced member of his Team now... 


19 Guarantee: I want You to be absolutely Sure

So If You're not sure we'll transport and return your stamps for FREE up to £200 in actual shipping cost at our expense. It sounds generous (and it is), but it's far less than the cost of driving 100+ miles each way and 3 to 6 hours in your home valuing your stamps. 

20 My Double Cast Iron Guarantee:

We can do a better job valuing your stamps in our office than in your home. If you don't agree I'll pay you an extra £50 for you to pay somebody trusted to open the boxes and put your albums back, in the same place, on the shelf they came from. 

21 Act NOW: Contact Andrew

or an experienced member of his Team using the on-line selling form at our website, by fax, telephone or by mail. We'll work harder for you not to regret the decision to sell all or part of your collection... 



Andrew McGee, Philatelic Expert,
Author, Managing Director
Universal Philatelic Auctions, U.P.A.

UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS ABPS

4 The Old Coalyard, West End, Northleach, Glos. GL54 3HE UK

Tel: 01451 861111 • Fax: 01451 861297

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The Collectors' Secret Weapon

Discover the UPA reducing-estimate system ...
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Join 2,000+ regular bidders, 95% Collectors from 54 different countries who have discovered the Collectors' Secret Weapon – No Buyer's Premium, ALL Lots Guaranteed, Loyalty insured Airmail Post-Free delivery Auctions, **PLUS ... your 1st £55 value lots are on me ...**

Collectors – New to my UPA auctions?

Let me tell you an open secret ... with up to 19,000+ world-wide lots in each auction, unsurprisingly ...

Not everything sells 1st or even 2nd time offered

This is your chance to turn this to your advantage ... in 'archaic' philately, it is high time for a refreshing change, isn't it?

If you are tired of unrealistic Dealer's selling prices, don't be any longer, because unlike the rest of the stamp trade, each time an auction lot is **UNSOLD** – we reduce the estimate (and reserve), and furthermore ... we inform you!

Instead of typical trade 'cover-ups' (altering descriptions, repeated same estimates and reserves) ... here is how my 20-year time-proven unique UPA reducing-estimate and reserve system works, allowing lots to find their own value, and you to find extraordinary value, even bargains:

When you see ...

'US' after a description – 'US' indicates the number of times that a lot has been **UNSOLD**, and how many times the lot has been reduced in price by initially 11%(US), a further 12%(US2), a further 13%(US3) etc.

Yes, each time a lot is unsold the reduction is 'ramped'...

... and because reserve is always 80% of estimate ... a US4 lot will start at ... as little as 46% of 1st time estimate...

This is the reason why some collectors do not even bother to bid in our auction! ...

They simply wait to buy unsold lots at reserve !!

So ... looking for the 'US' makes sense, doesn't it

... and you can join them. If you would like to spend some philatelic time, looking for the 'US' (Unsold lots) ...

... and because most clients support UPA by bidding in future auctions, I'm making this easy for new clients like you to get started –

Dedicated to De-mystifying Philately



Andrew McGavin
Andrew McGavin
Author, Managing Director
Universal Philatelic Auctions
(UPA)

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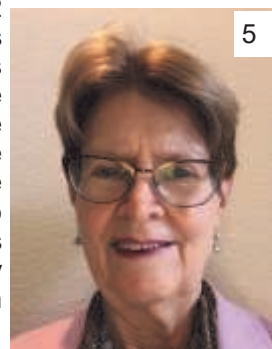
The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists

New Signatories for 2022 and details of the signing ceremony An open invitation to all, in person or by Zoom.

At the meeting of the Board of Election of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists on 2nd January 2022 it was unanimously agreed that the following philatelists be invited to be the new signatories to the Roll:



1. **Dr. Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi, RDP, FRPSL (Italy)**
2. **Reinaldo Estevão de Macedo, RDP, FRPSL (Brazil)**
3. **Hugh V. Feldman, RDP, FRPSL (United Kingdom)**
4. **Malcolm Groom, RDP, FRPSL (Australia)**
5. **Patricia Stilwell Walker, RDP, FRPSL (USA)**



This year's signing ceremony, on the occasion of the 101st anniversary of the first signatories to the Roll, will take place at 5.30pm on Monday 21st February 2022 at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW, during the London 2022 International Philatelic Exhibition. The 2022 signatories will be accompanied by some from the last two years who have not yet been able to sign because of the pandemic. There will also be a small exhibition of the collecting interests of some of the signatories and the ceremony is followed by a drinks reception. Attendance at the ceremony is open to all and there is no need to pre-book. The RDP collecting interests' exhibition opens from 2pm and attendees should gather for the ceremony from 5pm. The ceremony will also be broadcast live on Zoom so that it can be seen by a worldwide audience.

A New Club on the ABPS Block:

Introducing 'The American Stamp Club of Great Britain'



Whoa there! We're not that new. In 1954 our founder, Edgar Chase, asked Kenneth Chapman, editor of *Stamp Collecting*, if there was a philatelic society in Britain that catered for collectors of United States. He was told "No. But if you want to start one, I'll give you a free advert."

And so, a few weeks later a small group of United States collectors met in a shipping office in Leadenhall Street in London, and **The American Stamp Club of Great Britain** was born.

I joined soon after, and learned a great deal about United States philately attending meetings in that same Leadenhall shipping office. The Club grew and a library was established, and circulating packets of stamps for sale began under the supervision of a Packet Organiser. Rules were established and an Annual General Meeting was inaugurated. We became a properly regulated Club. I guess this is the pattern of most societies.

The Club is constituted as a Mutual Society for tax purposes. We currently run three different packet circuits for Stamps, FDC/Postal History, and Revenues/Cinderellas. Our journal, **The Mayflower**, publishes quarterly, free to members, with news, articles and a postal auction included. We run a New Issues service, and have a Library available for members to borrow books, which cover most aspects of United States philately. We hold an Annual Convention with an AGM and Competition. We are affiliated to the American Philatelic Society. And all for just £10 a year. New members pay a once-only £5 joining fee. We welcome both beginners and advanced collectors. If you collect United States you can't afford not to join. Contact me by email at ponte38@msn.com for more details.

John Edwards - Acting Secretary

Affiliation in 2022 to the ABPS

All societies and individual members that were affiliated to the ABPS at the end of 2021 have been sent a request to affiliate for 2022.

If you are responsible for the payment of the affiliation fees and know nothing about the ABPS request please don't hesitate to contact me.

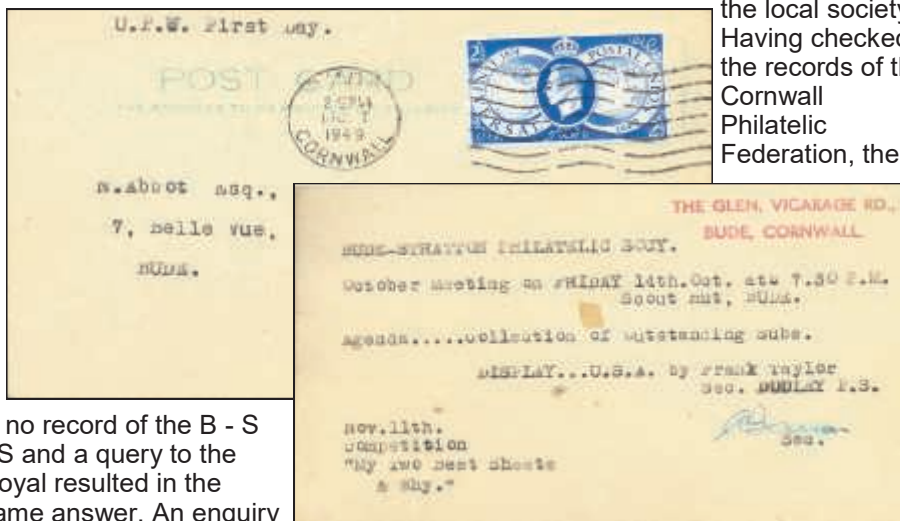
Barry Stagg, Membership Secretary
membership@abps.org.uk

"Philatelic - definitely !"

In my quest to find postmarks from towns and villages with "Stratton" in the cancellation, ebay offered the illustrated postcard.

I duly purchased it as not only is it a first day of issue but is sent from the secretary of the now defunct Bude - Stratton Philatelic Society. This card aroused my curiosity, as I have lived in Bude since 1974 and had never heard of

the local society. Having checked the records of the Cornwall Philatelic Federation, there



is no record of the B - S PS and a query to the Royal resulted in the same answer. An enquiry to the three Cornish clubs

that where in existence back in 1950 has resulted in one member of Newquay & District PS remembering the B - S PS but little else.

Fortunately Arthur's son, Michael, lives in Bude and he was able to tell me, Arthur used to run a new issues service under the name of Stour Stamps. I understand Arthur "Bert" Bowman moved back to Kidderminster in the mid 70s originally from Stourbridge and if anyone can throw any light on Arthur, Stour Stamps, Frank Taylor ex Secretary of the Dudley PS or the B - S PS please contact me (deskent@talktalk.net or 01288 355918)

Des Kent

ABPS Offers Support for Society Websites

Does your society need a website?

The ABPS can offer help to affiliated societies who need some hands-on help to get up and running. The former ABPS secretary, Neil Ritchie, is very willing to help you if you can find someone willing to set up and run the website going forward. Some have already sought help from ABPS with considerable success, so I am sure that you can also give it a try if you have not yet ventured into the world of technology - but first you have to volunteer and to give it a go.

Contact **Neil Ritchie** on neilritchie@netscape.net

Russian Currency Stamps

During 1915-1916 the Imperial Russian Government disintegrated under the pressures of WWI. From 1915 to 1917 Russia issued eleven "currency stamps" - ungummed postage stamps printed on thin cardboard instead of stamp paper. They were meant to be used as coins to save metal.

The first three currency stamps were issued in 10, 15 and 20 Kopeks values. The designs used the 1913 Tercentenary of the Romanov Dynasty commemoratives. The original printing plates were used, so they appear exactly like genuine postage stamps. However printed on the reverse is "Having circulation on a par with silver money".



10, 15 and 20 Kopek values. Silver coins surcharge

The Germans counterfeited the 15 and 20 Kopek stamps, changing the last three lines to anti-Russian messages. The purpose was to undermine the value of Russian currency and destroy confidence in the Imperial Government.



German counterfeit 15 and 20 Kopek stamps overprinted to the reverse with anti-Russian messages

Surcharged anti-Russian messages:

"Has the circulating equivalent of with bankrupt silver coins" 15 Kopek stamp

"Has the circulating equivalent of a robbing and deceitful ruler" 20 Kopek stamp

Late in 1916 the second issue of currency stamps appeared in 1, 2 and 3 Kopek values; the 1 and 2 Kopek values were uncirculated. A revised inscription was printed on the reverse "Having circulation equivalent with copper money"



1,2 and 3 Kopek values. Copper coins surcharge

In January 1917, a third issue of currency stamps was produced with overprinted 1 and 2 Kopek surcharged values to the front, the reverse surcharged remained as the 1916 issue.



1 and 2 Kopek numeral surcharged values. Copper money surcharge.



March-April 1917. 1, 2 and 3 Kopek values surcharged 1 and 2. Copper money surcharge.

By March-April 1917, the Provisional Government issued the fourth and final set of three currency stamps, 1, 2 and 3 Kopek values. Surcharged 1 and 2 Kopek values on the front of the first two values, and a new surcharge overprint to the reverse with a numeral.

Carlo Consolante
Bedford PS

References,
Stampboards,

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue, Europe, Q-W, 78.

The ABPS Congress Medal

The 2022 Congress Medal has been awarded to **Michael J Roberts** of Huddersfield. Mike's philatelic life can be traced back to his fourth birthday when he started collecting. He joined Huddersfield Philatelic Society aged eight and four years later was Junior Representative on that society's committee. Sixty years later he remains a member having fulfilled a number of committee positions in the intervening years.

Mike has proved there is enthusiasm for local societies. As a firm believer in daytime meetings, he proposed establishing West Riding Stamp Club, acting as contact for many years. Interestingly, the Club does not, by choice, have elected officers. Similarly, in 2014 he established Cockermouth Stamp Club with Mike Mapleton. This has grown to twenty local members, plus many more joining its Zoom events. Through Mike's enterprise in organising two auctions a year, now with 500+ lots per sale, both clubs have raised their profile within the wider philatelic and local communities.

Not content with just being a member of various specialist societies he has held office in the West African Study Circle and the Sarawak Specialists' Society and is currently the secretary of Cumbria Postal History Society. He founded the Pakistan Study Circle in 2000 with three other members since when he has been active on the committee. At the same time, he has served on the Council of the Royal Philatelic Society London and is currently a Regional Representative and has been the Secretary, President and Chairman of the Society for Postal Historians.

From grass root societies to International Exhibitions Mike is very active in all categories of philately. He was a member of the Organising Committee for the London Internationals held in 2010 and 2015 and is a member of the Core Team for London 2020/2022, with responsibility for staffing.

As a keen numismatist he has encouraged links between stamp collectors and coin collectors, giving philatelic displays to the latter and lectures on various numismatic topics to the former.

Mike has been a keen supporter of ABPS and a Friend since its inception. He has encouraged several philatelic societies, of which he is a member, to join or re-join the ABPS and for the last few years has declined invitations to give displays to societies which are not affiliated to ABPS.

For upwards of twenty years Mike has provided advice, usually on a pro bono basis, to executors and family members regarding the disposal of philatelic material.

Mike Roberts was nominated by Cockermouth Stamp Club and the Society of Postal Historians and is a worthy recipient of the ABPS Congress Medal for 2022.

*Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL
Chairman ABPS Awards Committee*

A Thematic Example

In early 2021, our society was approached by the daughters of Mary Metcalfe – a former member of Leeds Philatelic Society. They asked us if our society would accept a donation of their mother's collection. We gratefully accepted and then sorted the material, finding 5 thematic collections of various lengths and completeness.

All the collections were written up superbly. One of them – **“After the Bellman”** – displayed material related to the development of the post box. This display took 1st place in the society's competition in 1979. Pages 11 and 12 of the 53-sheet display are shown below.

A ROUND FOR 90 YEARS

The British had some slight design changes, but in 1872 British leaders for the supply of boxes were brought in. It was decided to revert to a cylindrical design. This was a very successful and practical design continued for many years.



GERALDIN



DEVAID

General thinking of them, all regard British boxes. Examples can be found in Capetown, Victoria and Guyana.



10p



10p

These oval boxes were introduced in London in 1899 & extended to other cities in 1902.

Specials designed for them in 1902. Letters were provided to speed the sorting.

In 1900 the oval post boxes were used in London & later extended to other major towns. This ended in 1938 when carriage of parcels mail by normal feature.



8p

1936
EDWARD VII - LEEDS



No 304 - Cookridge Lane, Wetherby Lane.








10p

In 1936 there were 61 pillar boxes used with the Edward VII design but after the abdication name had their doors replaced. About 100 were used in Leeds, 5 were in Yorkshire. The only one in Leeds is at Cookridge.

What sets these collections apart, is the quality of the layout and the writing – yes all by hand. Sections of the pages illustrate this. Note the fainter references, in pencil detailing the stamps used.

In 1900 the oval post boxes were used in London & later extended to other major towns. This ended in 1938 when carriage of parcels mail by air became a normal feature.



8p



10p



10p

In 1936 there were 61 pillar boxes used with the Edward VII design but after the abdication name had their doors replaced. About 100 were used in Leeds, 5 were in Yorkshire. The only one in Leeds is at Cookridge.



With the display material there is a large folder of supportive material (postcards, articles, letters) and another folder of information from the Letter Box Study Group (LBSG). One of the support material pages is shown alongside.

Derek Baron scanned all the collections and support material and **Roger Dedman** collated and catalogued both the support and LBSG material. All scans have been placed on the society's USB stick in the hope that the material will provide future members with both guidance and inspiration when putting together a thematic collection.

Richard Smith

If responding to an advert, please quote that you have seen it in ABPS News

FREE CATALOGUES - NO BUYERS PREMIUM

Your collection could gain – give us a call – send an email



BIL & CO

LIVE & Postal Auction
LINCOLNSHIRE

Excellent day out

2nd Saturday even months

Established over 18 years

FILL Δ the Δ GAPS

The Collector's Postal Auction

Single stamps, sets & covers

2nd Friday odd months

Established over 20 years

Email: auctionsbil@btinternet.com

Phone: 01400 230769

Web: bilandco.co.uk

Give Bil Tilbury a call or send an email

London 2022

The Stuart Rossiter Trust will be at London 2022. We have a table in the Reading Room and hope to meet new and long term friends.

It is a long and busy exhibition, the Trustees cannot guarantee to be at the table during **all** the opening hours: if you want to be sure of talking with a Trustee please email srtcorr@gmail.com to arrange a mutually convenient time.

The Rossiter Lecture

Simon Richards FRPSL

will give the lecture entitled

The Influence of Military History on Postal History:

Anglo-French Rivalry in the Caribbean

at the RPSL Abchurch Lane on **28th April 2022**.

Details of how to book your ticket will be in the next SRT e-news letter and on the website www.rossitertrust.com

What You Might Win at London 2022



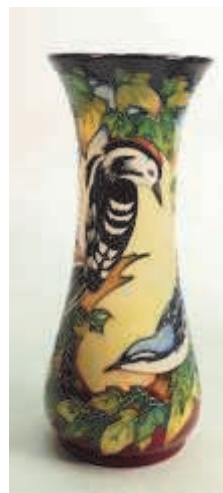
The Grand Prix National will be awarded to the best exhibit of a predominantly British subject. It is a cut-glass, silver-capped claret jug kindly donated by the Great Britain Philatelic Society.



The Grand Prix International is for the best exhibit, not of a predominantly British subject. The award, donated by the Royal Philatelic Society London, is a British Gold

Sovereign, dated 2020, in a presentation box.

The award for the best exhibit in the World Stamp Championship Class is a Moorcroft vase and has been donated by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP).



No report of your society? Why not send one to the editor? It could get you new members, and also give hints on good speakers to other societies.

ABPS Awards of Merit

Although the ABPS Congress Medal has been awarded for 2022, to enable the presentation to be made at the Congress Medal and RDP Ceremony to be held during the London 2022 International Exhibition, there is still time to make nominations for the 2022 ABPS Awards of Merit. The closing date for nominations is **1st March 2022**.

These Awards are intended to give an opportunity to Local and Specialist Societies, and County Federations to show their appreciation to the stalwarts who have held various posts in these organisations for many years and keep them functioning. The recipients are always delighted that their voluntary service to British philately is acknowledged in this way.

The nomination form and guidelines are on the ABPS website
www.abps.org.uk

Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL
Chairman ABPS Awards Committee

Problems with Banking?

A Response to the Editorial in ABPS News Winter 2021

I read with interest about multiple signatures being a (potential) barrier to online banking for societies. It needn't be. I am secretary of a small limited company with 35K turnover, which is set up to look after the maintenance of the block of flats in which I live. We have recently gone through the "closure of accounts" trauma, and have switched from Nationwide to Metro Bank. We have a compound service which, although largely digital, also has a debit card. Multiple signatories are permitted and (to date) no charges are made for cheque processing although we are now >95% digital. We have three signatories on our account: a primary signatory (treasurer, who acts as focal point), but the other signatories (secretary and chairman) have equal access to the banking app, equal approval rights for payments, and a debit card each.

The process to switch accounts was quick, about 30 minutes per signatory, and we have had no issues so far with how our account has been run.

The equal approval rights on the app simply means that we have to talk to each other more, which is no bad thing.

A lot of homework went into this decision, and in the end Metro Bank were the only one which ticked all our boxes. Starling Bank promise much, but delivered very little.

Another Philatelic Society, of which I am treasurer, still clings on to a community account with Lloyds, but I suspect that this won't last for much longer (though it's a race between the demise of the society and the account...)

Tim Harrison FRPSL

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. Contact details for the societies are on the ABPS 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.

Federations

Hampshire

Our 17 affiliated clubs and societies, with over 600 members are holding regular meetings with average attendances of around 30% to 50% of their total membership attending meetings. They have all been very active with meetings and talks from members and guest speakers. The Federation committee organised HAMPEX with 21 dealers and 100 attendees which in the circumstances was a great success. We are looking forward to 2022 events and continued club and society meetings but these will be subject to Covid 19 and Omicron. → www.hantsfederation.org.uk

Steve Gerrard

Wessex

Federation activities have been quiet over the Covid period, with most of our most active members doing their best to keep their own stamp clubs going. Despite those best efforts we sadly have to report that two of our clubs have decided they have no alternative but to close down. Bideford club was re-launched, in recent times, with Federation support, but unfortunately, this was not enough to fight the continuing trend of dwindling membership. The other club which has closed down is Liskeard, at the beginning of last October. Despite these setbacks, the Federation is determined to do what it can to promote philately in our area. To that end we are in negotiations with the Taw & Torridge club to put on a stamp fair in the North Devon area in the autumn, to promote all aspects of collecting, and to showcase the 2022 Federation Competition entries. Competition entry forms will be available shortly, via the federation website at [index \(wessexpf.org.uk\)](http://index.wessexpf.org.uk). Members of Wessex Federation clubs are invited to support the competitions, for which there are the usual varied categories, and to download the forms to enter. For the immediate future, it is likely that Federation Committee meetings will be by Zoom, although it is recognised that not

everyone is willing or able to participate. This is something we will need to manage, and it would be good to hear from other Federations how they have addressed this. Comments to dave.cleaver@btopenworld.com please.

Dave Cleaver

Wiltshire and District

After missing a year, WDPF successfully held its AGM on the 4th December in Swindon. Concurrently the results of our 16-Sheet Competitions were announced. The Victor Hutchinson Memorial Trophy was won by **Barbara Borlase-Hendry** of Swindon. The WDPF Federation Trophy was jointly won by **Nigel Borlase-Hendry** of Swindon and **David Winnie** of Salisbury. This year's 9-Sheet Competition will be held at Swinpex on 11th June 2022 with the last date for submission of 'best quality colour photocopies' being 1st May.

Paul Latham-Warde



The Chairman (on the left) presenting David Winnie with the WDPF Federation Trophy during the Salisbury and District Philatelic Society Christmas Social

Local Societies

Ayrshire

We welcomed our first visiting speaker in October, when **Elizabeth Nairn**

brought her display of *Maritime History*. Originating from her father's work as a marine engineer, initially on Merchant Navy tramps and as Chief Engineer on the "Shieldhall", the Glasgow Corporation sludge boat operating on the Clyde, the theme developed with Clyde navigation, the Arran Mile for ship trials, and a fascinating display of Clyde-built ships. She



Ken Gibb (Secretary), Margaret Morris, Elizabeth Nairn, David Connelly (President)

touched on Operation Pedestal (the convoy that relieved Malta) and the sinking of the Empress of Ireland. We enjoyed Elizabeth's visit, accompanied by **Margaret Morris**, one of our honorary life-members. In November we held a Postcard Night, which brought out an unexpected array of members' interests. Opening the evening, **Brian Keutzer** showed *Gibraltar*, where he was once based. He was followed by **Ken Gibb** with a journey round *Jura*, his latest collecting interest. **Ian Smith** gave us *Railway Engines around the World* and **Ian Barker** took us up the *Great Orme Railway at Llandudno*. *Edward VIII* was the topic for **David Bowman**, as Prince of Wales, King and Duke of Windsor. **Dennis Gray** gave us a great variety of *Edwardian comic cards*, followed by *Artist cards of the city of York*, from early to modern, by **David Rossall**. We finished with a display of cards of *Prestwick Airport* by **Dan Ross**, a large card of Kilmarnock Cross charged at full letter rate, and a Belfield House card which Dan believes is the first card sent locally at postcard rate.

David Rossall

Basildon

In October we held our *12 or more Pages from my Collection* displays. **Charlie Mead** opened with *Fiji Postage Paid in Cash from 1930*. **Garry Green** followed with *GB Royalty Stamps*. **Peter Nye** produced *Overprinted Change of Names to be used in Different Countries*. **Claude Crowder** concluded the first part with *Spain and Belize, plus Albus on Show* - two albums for members to look at. **Maggie Thompson** opened Part Two with *Saar Revenue Stamps*. **Alf Potter** followed with *Postcards from around the World*. **Ian McElwain** closed the evening with *Malta 1973-1991*. At the AGM in November the meeting (3 committee and 4 ordinary members, 6 apologies) noted the reports of the officers and thanked those who had worked hard to keep the society in being during lockdown and to relaunch it. The accounts for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 were approved. The present officers were re-elected, but it was noted that new officers were needed in the long-term to allow the secretary and others to take a well-earned break. In December The Festive Quiz for the Tomex Trophy for 2021 was won by **Ian McElwain** with 24 points. **Maggie Thompson** was runner-up with 22 points. We finished with the traditional refreshments.

Adapted from *Basildon Philatelist*

Bath

We are now holding our meetings in the Limpley Stoke Hotel Bath on alternate Wednesday afternoons. We started meetings during September 2021. We now have a website www.bath-philatelic-society.co.uk thanks to **Clive Edwards**, one of our new members. The picture shows the 9-sheet competition judge, **Don Jeffreys**, with **Kim Stuckey**.

Nic Hillier



Bookham

The Christmas meeting was attended by 35 members - a good turnout considering the current situation. We enjoyed some fine wine and the usual



David Bravery with microphone and wine - mapping his way.

superb buffet lunch. Then the secretary drew the raffle prizes which included a torch, a watch and festive prizes. The star prize was a wonderful hamper, won by **David Plant**. We had two non-philatelic displays from **David Bravery** and **Chris Bishop**. David showed a selection of very Early "miniature" maps of the Bay of Cattaro, from the first very inaccurate maps of the 17th century to the fairly accurate depictions of the 1850s. David also talked about **Barry Feltham's** display of *The Local Christmas Charity Post* and being a co-founder gave us the background and information about the money raised over its 35 years of continuous service. Starting in 1984,

over 500 000 cards have been delivered and over £100 000 raised for Third World charities. Sadly, it has now come to an end due to far fewer volunteers. Chris talked about his family company *Bishops Move* with models and some fascinating items from their archives. Bishop & Sons' Depositories was established in 1854 by Joseph James Bishop, who came to London from Norfolk to join the police force. He subsequently opened a greengrocers from which he also provided cartage services. Over the years the company evolved always maintaining family members within the business. It is now the largest privately owned removals company in the UK. A very successful, enjoyable, and fun afternoon.

David Bravery

Bromley and Beckenham

Since July 2021 we have held a mix of Zoom and Hall meetings. The former included single speakers and members' evenings. By Zoom **Wendy Buckle** taught us about *Paper, Watermarks and John Dickenson Paper Manufacturers*, **Richard Wheatley** took us to *The Netherland East Indies* either side of WWII and **Katrin Raynor** further in *Exploring Astronomy and Space Through Philately*. **Dr Jean Alexander** introduced us to *Andrew Davidson, the Designer*. Jean showed the stamps that he produced but also lots of peripheral material. Members' displays included material from **David Rennie**, **Nick Hervey**, **Adrian Thomas** and **Graham Boutle**. Our Hall meetings have been at our new venue, the Melvin Halls, Penge. We started there with **Ron Burn** investing new president, **Andrew Harris** with the insignia. Then **Nick Hervey**, **Grahame**



President Andrew Harris received his certificate from Santa's helper

Boutle, Peter Newman and **David Rennie** showed a variety of material with a leaning towards the Asian world. In November **Graeme Ashdown** brought his display of *New Zealand Airmails*. He opened with an 1897 pigeongram between Auckland and Great Barrier Island. The service continued until 1907 when a telegraph cable was laid. The airmail covers included relief flights after earthquakes and other

problems. We enjoyed visits from three members of Lewisham: **Michael Dobbs**, **Geoff Richardson** and **Tony Hickey**; two from Sidcup: **Cliff Gregory** and **Geoff Hannay**. Their displays included the *NATO HQ designated SHAPE*, *early Third Reich German booklets*, *the 1938/39 Anschluss in Austria*, *Indian POW and Internment camps during WWI* and *Whitstable postcards with frozen seas 1895-1963*.
David Rennie

Burnley & District

During 2019 we celebrated our 75th anniversary (founded 1944) and also had a pre-season dinner in the August to congratulate **Sarah Greenwood's** 50 years with the society and two other members. Sarah (age 91) was part of a team visiting Leeds PS in the November time (aged 91). Leeds' reciprocal visit due in March 2020 was subsequently cancelled due to Covid lockdown and we only began meeting again in October 2021. Sadly Sarah passed away just before our start-up. We have also lost other members in the lockdown period - all will be sadly missed. We decided to meet monthly initially and in October we had a *Latest Acquisitions Night* - all members to show something they had found in the past 18 months. November featured a talk on GB material with the *Essays of 1879*. Early December was *Christmassy* and we treated ourselves to a well-attended Christmas lunch in late December prior to the new variant appearing on the scene. We have organised a full syllabus of fortnightly meetings from February with guests kindly fulfilling their previous engagements which had been postponed. Our thanks to them and we anticipate reporting on these in future dispatches.
Barry W Evans

Cambridge

In early November president **Simon Kelly** gave a very interesting display of stamps covering *The GB 1879-1880 Tender Issues* including the many varieties. Later that month we were entertained by three members of Stafford PS by Zoom

displays on *University Mails of Oxford and Cambridge, German Feldpost to 1920s* and *Portraits of a King: Italian Definitives 1900-1929*. These provided a diverse and interesting evening. On 29th November we held a Covid-delayed celebratory lunch at the Arundel House Hotel, Cambridge, with over 30 members and guests present, to mark our centenary; this should have taken place a year earlier. A more detailed report appears earlier within this Issue. The scheduled Christmas Social evening on 1st December was replaced by a members' evening. Nine different members displayed twenty frames of very varied and fascinating material. → info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk

Peter Morton

Chelmsford & District

For our final meeting of 2021 members were invited to present something on a subject of their choice, preferably on a festive theme. First up was **Eric Lienhard** whose presentation included envelopes with *Cachets for the Swiss town of Bethlehem*. He was followed by a presentation of envelopes and correspondence from the sunnier setting of *Jamaica and the Up Park camp*. **Paul Green** explained the history of the camp dating back to British involvement from 1874 and the three uses the camp enjoyed over the years - a base for soldiers, internment during WWII and evacuation from Gibraltar during the same war of citizens who wished to leave for their safety. **Chris Norton** concluded the first part of the afternoon meeting with a display covering *Christmas cards from Hong Kong*. **John Rawlins** opened the second half with recent purchases that he has added to his collection, comprising *Envelopes with cachets sent during the period of early flights in Canada* including the Trans-Prairie route of the 1930s. **John Copeland** followed with a display of *Essex Post Offices* illustrated on postcards over the years. This was followed by an update by **John Came** of a display by **Derek Connel** at the previous meeting re the *First Flights carrying Mail* and showed a 1911 cachet for a Flight in India. Finally **Patricia Adams** displayed a selection of *Christmas Seals from Norway* produced over the decades to generate funds for various charities. → 01245 465506 or davideverard@live.com

David Everard

Cheltenham

We emerged from hibernation on 15th September and, quickly disposing of outstanding AGM business, viewed philatelic gems members had acquired during lockdown including *QV postal stationery, British industrial covers and letters, Hungarian oddities and a 1d red to plate!* Some members attended Zoom meetings organised by other societies during the hiatus, but we kept our packet circulating most of the time since we last met in March 2020 which kept communication going between members. Having resumed fortnightly meetings, **Alan Godfrey** displayed *Falkland Islands* and our own **Dick Lloyd-Thomas** celebrated *Czeslaw Slania's birth centenary* in October with a talk on the output of the great engraver. In November, **Andrew Millington** stepped in and talked about the *World of Copper* (his recent Stampex exhibit) when our scheduled speaker was incapacitated. Hereford and Mid-Wales visited later and exhibited

Puerto Rico (Nick Nelson), Brazil postal stationery (Janet Nelson) and Madagascar & Dependencies (Peter Cliffe). We held our Christmas quiz and social in December, and in January paid a return visit to Hereford and Mid-Wales. Some members are wary of attending meetings at present and attendance has been lower than before Covid lockdown, averaging 15 compared to the low 20s. Sadly we lost five members since March 2020, including **Ken Hamilton**, our immediate past president and long-time club auctioneer. This 'philatelic year' we have introduced a winter break and extended our season to July.

Andrew Millington

Chichester & District



Sadly several members have passed away. **George and Kathleen Nash, Mrs N R Wright and Bryan Kingswell.** All were respected members of our society and will be truly missed. Our first post-lockdown meetings in August and again in September were non-competitive display evenings, the first based on what we did during lockdown. The next was a George Nash Memorial Evening. (Kathleen did not collect stamps but enjoyed meetings with her husband). We have since donated towards a Memorial Bench for them both. Subjects for displays were quite a worldwide mix



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and included Cinderellas. October was an informative and enjoyable evening by **John Armstone** with his *Australian Cinderellas*. November's AGM bid Adieu and great thanks to **Martha Brown** for holding presidential office for four years! - two years being through the Covid period. **Bob Tebbit** was elected as the new president. **Howard Morgan** stepped down as treasurer. We thank him for his service. **Heather Lawn** was elected as his replacement. We congratulate Heather for the Vermeil picked up at virtual STAMPEX 2021 in a one-page display! All other areas of the agenda were dealt with efficiently and quickly. Beverages and nibbles were served during a quiz.

Martha Brown

Cockermouth

Although we were relative late-comers to the concept of Zoom meetings, the last year has seen our attendances gradually grow and we are now regularly attracting audiences in the high twenties to our meetings. Highlights from late 2021 included **Richard Stock** (*Boer War*) and **Wendy Buckle** (*A History of Watermarks*). We will be continuing to hold Zoom meetings throughout 2022, usually at 2pm on the second Thursday of each month. Guests are always welcome. The highlight of 2021 was undoubtedly our Christmas lunch at the Bitter End, arranged by **Malcolm Parker**. The photo shows some of our



members raising glasses to the hobby and looking forward to a philatelically interesting 2022. Face-to-face meetings returned in October and these are held at the Friends' Meeting House, Kirkgate, Cockermouth, on the fourth Thursday of the month at 2pm. A varied programme to appeal to all levels of

collector will take us through to 2023, including an auction of 550+ lots on 28th April. An exhibition in the town centre to celebrate National Stamp Day is planned for early May. Whether resident in West Cumbria or visiting the Lake District on holiday, you will always be welcome to join us as a guest.

→ mike@mikerobe.co.uk

Mike Roberts

Croydon

We decided to resume meetings from October 2021 following closure of the Society Meetings due to the Covid pandemic for many months. It was agreed to proceed with caution and therefore to meet once each month on the second Tuesday. The first meeting on 12th October was a Members' Meeting. Four members presented material showing a range of interests: **Chris Board** – *Union*



Derek Mauri with his display

of South Africa Definitive Stamp Design Competition, January 1911; **Graham Harker** – *British Army Vehicles, 2021*; **Chris Hitchen** – *French Airmails and New Year Post*; **David Milsted** – *Boer War and D-Day*. On 9th November the meeting was made up of a display by two of the members. **Brian Asquith's** presentation covered the *Postal History of Wakefield, Yorkshire*, whilst **Chris Hitchen** showed material on *Paris Stars* – a method of cancelling stamps on letters from 1863 to 1876 by use of a star as an obliterator in

Paris. The final meeting of 2021 was held on 14th December when **Derek Mauri** showed his collection of *German stamps* covering the period 1872 to 1972.

Graham Harker

Dundee & District

Our season opened with a Zoom display by **Gerald Marriner** on *The Katanga Crisis*. One envelope was particularly notable, being from the Katanga President's Office. It contained a letter personally signed by President Moise Tshombe. In November, we were still visiting Africa, but this time courtesy of **Charles Lloyd** who at short notice took us to *Portuguese East Africa*. He took us through the very varied history from kingdom to independent republic in 1975. We saw King Louis I embossed stamps, surcharged and charity stamps. Our next visitor was **Stewart Gardiner FRPSL** from the Caledonian PS. He showed a fascinating display of Prussian History Mail from the 1800s to 1840s which included some parcel post letters whereby when a parcel is sent a letter accompanies it which provides a description of the parcel, weight etc. Also

RIP Alan Dovey

I knew Alan Dovey from 1957 when we were both in the RAF and playing table tennis in our spare time. In 1980, now serving at RAF Waddington, I founded a station stamp club and Alan, living close by, became a member and aggressive bidder at our auctions. He collected Cinderella material among other things and would probably eventually have exhibited his GB KG V "best unissued stamp" essays. He was a staunch supporter of Congress and seldom missed attending. Alan was also an unfailing supporter of our Sunday coach outings to Philatex held at the Horticultural Halls, and usually came back with a few "treasures". Having suffered a heart attack in Cyprus, Alan retired on medical grounds about 1984 and soon after became involved in Stamp Active and, I believe, last helped out at Autumn Stampex 2019, so he did much for many years to promote the hobby we all love. He will be sadly missed. *John Shaw*



Stewart Gardiner in action

included was some Official Mail where the Justice Department Officials' names were on the cover. There were stamps and covers relating to an internment camp from WWI, which occupied an old racecourse. The internees created their own postage stamps and cancellations and Stewart was able to show some genuine and forged mail as well as some external mail sent from the UK to the camp. In December we had our one-page competition, jointly won by **Francis Podger** and **Harry Jackson**. We finished with a "Worst Cover"



competition, won by **David Easson** with an envelope with 143 stamps attached. Some licking must have been required!

Colin Campbell

Ferndown & West Moors

We have enjoyed excellent meetings. Five members showed various Anniversaries and Jubilees: **Paul Lear** - *Botswana over 50 years*, **Hugh Jefferies** - *KGV 1935 Jubilee Windsor Castle*, **Phil Olds** - *Travencore - The Investiture of the Maharaja*; **Spence Coaker** - *Hong Kong - Victory issue* and **Julian White** – *Bournemouth Celebrations*. **Terry Kirkman** took us back to



childhood with *Rupert Bear*. Born as a result of a circulation battle during WWI, Rupert's life developed and engendered postcards, books, annuals and ultimately a fascinating assortment of Rupert-themed stamps from various postal administrations, which included the 2020 UK and Guernsey issues marking the Rupert cartoon centenary. In 1966, the Bournemouth Evening Echo ran a prime time supplement featuring Rupert and Terry on the front page. The Southampton Balloon and Flower Festival had a Rupert balloon, which towered above all the other balloons!! We also learned more of *The Battle of Britain* and *The Battle of Waterloo* from **Bob Small**. In 1½ frames, Bob included the four stages of the former: the attack on shipping, the raids on airfields, the Blitz on the cities and then the increasing Luftwaffe losses leading to the abandonment of the Invasion of Britain. He then switched to 1815 and showed a lockdown model he had made - a Napoleonic

prisoner of war blockhouse. Otherwise we saw lots of philatelic material to illustrate the course and consequences of both battles. Bob finally produced sixteen sheets of Hampex award-winning *Napoleonic POW censorship mail*.

Paul Barry

Grimsby and District

With the enforced pressures of lockdowns and covid restrictions we have only recently reopened our doors to face-to-face meetings, though at the earlier time of 2pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month instead of the later 7pm start. It was good to see so many of the old members attending, also one or two new faces, though it was still the case that at least two members could not attend due to underlying medical conditions. What we were able to do was keep our packet circuit going, hold two club auctions and two grand charity auctions, the last charity auction being after open-up in the first week of December. It was a resounding success, as were all the previous auctions, with cheques in excess of £7500 being handed over to St Andrews Hospice from the last two charity auctions. **Dave McMann** (the organiser) would like to thank all the collectors who donated auction material, made plentiful bids and made generous donations both in time and money. Going forward we have a full program of meetings for this year including two more club auctions and of course our charity auction in December.

Mike Webb

Halifax

The Zoom meetings continue with guests from other societies and countries, and our members have attended a number of other society meetings. We saw **Jamie Smith** showing *Aden January 1839 to 31 March 1937* which included QV, KEVII and KGV issues of India with 124 Aden cancellation, B-22 Aden Camp and other cancellations. He included information about HMS Griffon which was active on anti-slave patrol calling in at Aden. **Adel Bulpit** introduced us to *Antoni Gaudi (Architect) 1853-1926 of Catalan Spain*. The display featured postage stamps, photographs and postcards showing examples of completed buildings with information on when and where they are located and construction periods.

David Wilson presented us with a detailed insight into *The Use of Postage Due labels* originating in France in 1859, the calculation of the various GB postage due rates and the subsequent systems. Members **Mike Roberts** showed a recently issued *Booklet of stamps from Finland* which encouraged a topical promotion of "green" behaviour and **Bill Tait** a postcard *1895 from Germany addressed to Liverpool* which went to Liverpool, Valparaiso in Chile, then back up to New York and finally to Seattle. Bill asked for help in deciphering the postmarks and tracing the route, some helpfully given. **Max Smith** highlighted the recent *Royal Mail Surprise* in their collection of revenue/delivery charges for recently received post, **Paul Allen** gave us an insight into *Mails and the Charges from India via Egypt and Marseilles 1854-1856* with pre-paid and unpaid rates to early 1870s.

Adrian Lee

Harrogate

Our members were treated to a fine display of fireworks when **Mike Roberts** visited on 5th November. Mike's display of *Great Britain QEII Castle high values* included an informative PowerPoint presentation as well as a display on the boards. This was so much better than the usual method of talking to the sheets.

Highlights of the display were a fine group of essays and proof material and some impressive large-size commercial covers with eye-watering high value frankings, mostly registered airmails to foreign parts.

Our monthly Zoom meeting in November had 20 viewers from anywhere within 2000 miles of Harrogate. The theme was "*The Twenties*" which stirred eleven people into action – a record for a members' display. The displays included *Covers from 21st October (1920s)*, some *Royals from the 20s*, *All World material from the 2020s*, *Postcards of Majorca in the 1920s*, *Bavaria in 1920 as it was absorbed into the Reich* and *A Sarawak cover*. So we went all over the world - one of the delights of Zoom.



David Druett & Keith Burton

Haverfordwest

It's all change at Haverfordwest Stamp and Postcard Club, with a change of venue, day and time. The New Year saw us in a smart new venue on a Friday afternoon. It was a lovely change from the cold, damp church hall that we have been meeting in for many years. We were forced to make a move (temporarily?) while they deal with the extensive dry rot. Yes, it is costing more, but everyone agrees that it is well worth it - but subs will have to go up from the derisory amount that we have been paying over the years. It is hoped that this change will encourage new members for whom evening meetings are a problem because of the lack of public transport or not wanting to drive at night. The club now meets on the first and third Friday of the month. The theme for the first meeting of the year in our new premises was *The letter I*, with an eclectic mix of interesting displays from several members. These included *Icelandic stamps*; postcards of *Royal Navy Vessels starting with I*; *Immigration on stamps* (and an amazing family history connection); *the Invention of Ink* (and a display of stamp boxes attached to inkwells), and postcards of *Folk Costume and Folk Dancing from India, Ibiza, Ireland and Iraq and several other countries*. Erene Grieve

Hinckley & District

Glad to be back!

Our new season began with the AGM attended by 24 members and two visitors. It was good to see so many again after the enforced break. The second meeting consisted of a display of *Airmails of the World* by **Chris Hailstone**. **Ian Varey** entertained us next with a very mixed selection of mini-displays, which included

a study of *The House of Windsor — George V to the Coronation, of Queen Elizabeth II*. He also showed us various methods of mounting stamps and covers for competition such as his entry of *'he Belgian Congo*, and ways of displaying to encourage young collectors in his work for Stamp Active. On 13th October following an 85-lot auction, we saw a display of *German Material* by **Tony Strelitz**. He first showed a selection of maxi cards (cards with the picture, postage stamp and cancellation being connected to the same theme). The second part included a stamp issued by Austria commemorating the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union. On 16th November **Richard Flemming** gave an experimental power-point presentation of *Channel Islands Routes and Rates*, showing scarce postal history items sent overseas from Guernsey. The meeting on 30th November consisted of **Chris Hailstone** showing another part of his *Airmails of the World* collection. This time he displayed a colourful selection of airmail stamps and philatelic items from Great Britain, The Philippines, Liberia, Iceland and the Balkans. *Peter Thomas*

Huddersfield

The 2021-2022 season continues with meetings being held during the afternoon from 13.30. Unfortunately a long-term member and former YPA treasurer **David Brown** has died. He will be sadly missed. Some of the recent face-to-face meetings have produced a variety of displays. In members' displays **Douglas Armitage** presented *Australia*, **Rod Unwin** tackled *Ottoman Revenues*, **Ken Moody** showed *Europa stamps*, **Mike Roberts** took us to *Malta* and **President Peter Clemenson** showed *German Private Posts*. **Charles Squire** presented postage stamps, saving stamps, covers and ephemera connected with the *Royal Family* from the death of EVII to our present monarch. He included various Royal Tours, the Investiture of Charles Prince of Wales, the 1975 referendum leading to membership of the EEC, the Opening of the Humber Bridge, First Day of decimal currency and the Falklands War. *Adrian Lee*



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Hull and District

New Year – New Name – New Venue

At the beginning of December we held our first meeting since before lockdowns began. This was a social and discussion afternoon held at a local hostelry where, suitably sustained and glad to be meeting in person again, we talked about our future, numbers having dwindled over recent years. Everyone was very positive about continuing after the enforced break and several volunteered displays. We decided to re-launch in 2022 as The Hull Stamp and Postcard Club. Our aim is to appeal to a wider circle of collectors and to de-mystify the hobby, hoping to attract postcard collectors, local historians and new collectors who might have been wary of the 'Philatelic' tag. Meetings will be on the third Wednesday of the month, 1.30 to 3.30, in our new venue, the Arlington Hall, adjacent to St Mary's Church, Hallgate, Cottingham.

→ Robert McMillan, robertfmcmillan@gmail.com or

www.hullphilatelicsociety.com

Daphne McMillan FRPSL

King's Lynn

The season continued with normal face-to-face meetings plus fortnightly KLPS Zoom meetings and joint Zooms with Cambridge. We enjoyed Zoom presentations on *The 1936 Olympics*, *Czech Airmails* and *Oxendales Remembered*. Monthly meetings continued with a display on *Chilean Classics* and *Comic postcards and their censorship* by **Don Davies** in October. His display contained some lovely classic stamps, examples produced from different printing plates, fakes and forgeries, finishing with the history and development of comic postcards. Members were entertained by two displays later in October. **Dahlia Harrison** gave a thematic display with a variety of philatelic and non-philatelic items to illustrate the literature theme: *Fairy Tales to Fantasy*. **Terry Harrison** concluded the evening with a display of rare and classic material on *Saint Vincent 1861-1897, the Postage and Revenue Stamps produced from Perkins Bacon Plates*. **Carol Turner** entertained us in November with her display on *Waterlow and Sons, The Printers* - an interesting history of the family firm with a vast array of material shown, including 1924 Exhibition and Charity labels, early postcard printings of designs submitted by The British Library and The Eastern Telegraph Company – Malta Station. Members' one frame any subject did not disappoint with eleven displays on various subjects. The year finished with a PowerPoint by **Terry Wagg** on *The History of the Christmas Card* followed by seasonal refreshments and static displays of cards and slogans provided by **Terry Wagg** and **Dahlia Harrison**.

Dahlia Harrison

Kingston & District

We have now established ourselves at the new venue at the Day Centre at Claygate, Surrey. This venue is still within easy reach of the centre of Kingston upon Thames, has excellent facilities and a congenial atmosphere with excellent car parking. We are also inviting new members from those who would find Claygate more convenient to attend an evening meeting here rather than at



Brian Sole mid- display

Surbiton. We have had regular meetings on the first Thursday and third Friday of each month, where interesting displays have been viewed - often suitably masked. Our annual social event was a problem, in December, as many members are still very cautious regarding the pandemic.

➔ secretary, Brian Sole, FRPSL on 01932 220677 or brian.sole@btinternet.com or see www.kingstonphilatelicssociety.com

Chris Oliver

Largs & District

The meeting in October took the traditional format of 4 *Wee Haufs* - four half-rounds by members of the club on a topic of their choosing. **Gordon Shepherd** started the evening by taking us back to *From Rhodesia to Zimbabwe* showing us the changes made in postal services, cancellations, registered covers and postage dues. This was followed by a first-time display from **Russell Ramsay** who, based on his general collection, showed the *Role of Women* on stamps from Austria through the alphabet to USA, with costumes, workers, nurses, soldiers, dancers, mothers as well as famous women. **Rod Trott** opened the second round with his collection of *Cyprus from the partition* and especially the rarely seen issues of Northern Cyprus. The final wee hauf came from **David Rossall's** collection on the *Treaty of Versailles*, showing contemporary photos of some of the participants in the peace talks, the effect on Germany's former colonies, and issues celebrating the centenary of the signing. In November *The Committee Entertains* was the title. **Duncan Turner** took us to *Antarctica* in all its details. **Angus Dodds** followed with *Rotarian Special Events*. **Ricky Boyd** showed *A Variety of USA* from independence to Space and then **Robert Watt** (in absentia) provided the *Fairy Stories of Hans Christian Andersen, Brothers Grimm and Charles Perrault*. ➔ David Rossall at davidrossall@sky.com

David Rossall

Leeds

Back in our Venue

Before returning to our venue, we worked with the manager to re-arrange the room giving more space between chairs and around/between the display boards. Our committee decided that masks would be worn throughout the meeting, except when standing to speak to the audience. Those arrangements stayed through from September to December and will remain for the beginning of 2022. At our fortnightly meetings we enjoyed a wonderfully varied programme: September - shortened AGM with secretary's display of varied material acquired during lockdown and members' evening of lockdown projects using eight sheets each, October - **Michael Meadowcroft** with *Leeds Ephemera* and **Janet and Nick Nelson** with *Brazil*; November - **Mark Bailey** with *Brussels Expo 1958* and **Peter Hewitt** with *1945*; December - President's evening; **Paul Kellett's** video of



printing techniques relevant to stamp production and **Rick Rickwood's** *History of the Marianne Stamps*, and to end 2021 a Zoom meeting with members from The Caledonian Society giving five short displays. We also returned this year to holding our annual Stamp Fair. Successful for all concerned - dealers, customers and our society. We encourage all presenters to give a short projected/digital display as part of their presentation. Members appreciate and enjoy this, valuing the advantages of seeing large projected images of small philatelic items. We start in 2022 with the same measures in place - that is if the situation doesn't change!

Richard Smith

Lostock & District



David Glassbrook at short notice

In November **Brian Lythgoe** talked about *The Cameroons*. Our December speaker was unable to come so **David Glassbrook** created a short talk on *GB stamps* and **David Brigden** brought along some interesting older *Egyptian stamps* from his collection. Waiting in the wings should we have another such situation is **Robin Heap** who has created a fascinating "stamp quiz." After so long in lockdown we have once again shown our ability to survive and give a creative image. We sincerely hope some of the ideas catch on with those clubs still waiting to hold their first meeting. As members of ABPS we share every positive

event in this magazine. One such being our change from evening to afternoon meetings, now held the first Friday of each month 1.00 until 3.00 giving members time to travel home in daylight. Sadly we have learned that one of our valued long-time members died in December. **Joan Foster** had been an avid collector and supported all Lostock activities. She introduced a simple monthly raffle. As she was an expert gardener and studied gardening as a career many years ago, Joan amused the members from time to time by offering rhubarb as a

prize. 1st prize a very big bunch, 2nd prize a smaller bunch, 3rd prize a tin of custard. Truly an old-style enthusiastic philatelist.

David Morley

Lothian Philatelic Group

The new group has started. Meetings will continue at the same venue, St Marks on Castle Terrace, meeting alternate Tuesday evenings, starting on 16th of January. There will still be an exchange packet circulating among members. We already have members from all three Lothian Counties as well as the City and hopefully this will attract more members.

Robert Catto

Luton & District

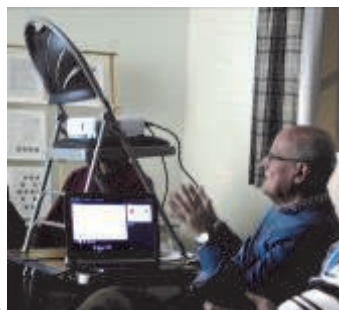
On Friday 3rd December we continued our 75th Anniversary celebrations with a Grand Stamp Auction. Members entered 280 items for sale, ranging from small sets of stamps to serious stamp collections. By the end of the evening 150 of the lots were sold. Some items sold for a few pence, some for a few pounds, with the top item - a comprehensive Great Britain stamp collection containing a Penny Black - selling for £215!

Fin O'Donoghue

Macclesfield & Prestbury

In December our chairman **Alan Dinnis** gave a most interesting and detailed PowerPoint presentation of the stamps of the *Queen Victoria issues of Great Britain* including the background to why they were issued. This was a magnificent presentation as it allowed watermarks and perforations to be fully explained whilst members were able to remain seated at the correct distances apart. We hope other members will follow and give similar presentations in this way.

Peter Kirk



Maidstone & District

I am pleased to say that the numbers attending our meetings have held up well, even though the room got colder as the winter season progresses, with members coming well wrapped up. Our programme has continued with a variety of displays from our members and one guest speaker, **Peter O' Keeffe**, who was prepared to brave the elements to give an interesting display called *It's Official*. This covered all forms of Official Mail, Registered, OHMS and Official Paid mail. The majority of the items were freebies which come through the post, but he had also done well from dealers' boxes. Another member display was **Tony Bosworth's** excellent display of the *Falkland Islands*. President **Tony Davis** for his President's Evening had invited a long-standing member **John Dann** to show some of his collection of fantastic local postal history. John started with early mail to Charing (Kent) with the final part of the display being Postage Dues in the Maidstone area. We also held our Thematic competition plus members entering four sheets (not candles) with members choosing their

favourite. Both competitions were won by **John Mortimore**. Our morning meetings have also been well supported. Our members have shown *Early USA, Medical, Remembrance* and *the 1936 Olympics*. We are looking forward hopefully to a good 2022 especially as this will be our Centenary Year and before our Editor says anything I have not been a member for all that time!!

Brain Stonestreet

Morecambe and District

Our season hit its first Covid-related bump in October when a scheduled visit from **Yvonne Wheatley** with her *History of Czechoslovakia* had to be cancelled, although we hope to reschedule later in the season. Club stalwart **Peter Aveyard** stepped into the breach filling in at short notice with some of his *Penny*



Stuart's display generates interest and discussion

Reds, always well displayed and informative. In November we held a *New Acquisitions* members' night and a talk from **Stuart Calderbank** on the *Security of the Postal System*. This was illustrated by many fascinating articles including pistols used to protect mail coaches! This was followed in December by our Single Page competition and a Christmas Quiz and we started the New Year with another members' night, this time with the theme of *Obscure*. It's always interesting to see how members interpret the theme given for these nights, some taking things very literally and others coming at it from unanticipated angles, often making for an educational evening!

The New Year also sees us finalising preparations for our next Stamp Fair, on 30th April, once again at the Platform on the Promenade in Morecambe.

Lesley Vincent

Oxford

For our first main evening session **Gerald Marriner** of Solihull PS provided a strong display of the *Stamps and Postal History of the Belgian Congo*, with some rare and beautiful covers. Three well-attended November meetings then covered a great deal of philatelic ground. First, *The letter C* provoked displays on *Censored Mail, Canada, Crimea, Charity stamps, Coils, Chess, Cartoons* and *Cinderellas*. Second, after time spent with the UN in Geneva to aid his collecting, **Bill Jackson** showed *Switzerland*, and shared the meeting with **Julian Bagwell** who teased the audience in his worldwide *Hunt for the first Christmas stamps*. The meeting was completed with more Cs covering *Cricket*, such as WG Grace and Arthur Conan Doyle (whose only first-class wicket was WG). Third, with

many years of collecting and auctioneering to call upon, **Dave Armit** completed the month with a wide-ranging and engaging display on the *Stamps of the Balkans*. In December, **Tim Harrison** of High Wycombe and District PS beautifully laid the interplay of Estonian, German and Russian elements in *Estonia's Postal History* in the first half of the evening. In the second half, members were grateful for the tremendous material and clear explanation of how each territory issued its own stamps and then came under the umbrella of the *Union of South Africa in 1910*. At the start of 2022 members took the opportunity to show off their Recent Acquisitions, and we hope we can continue to meet in person, safely and enjoyably.

Dr Simon Heap

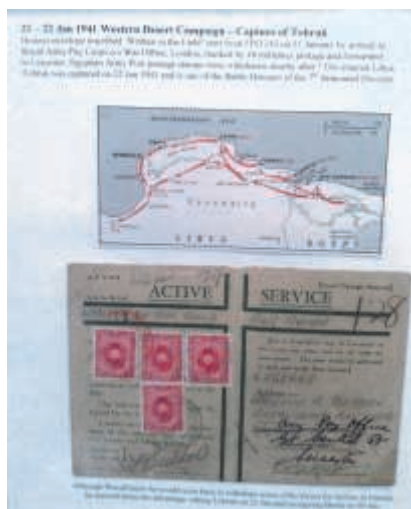
Portadown & District

We held a successful Stampex and Collectors Fair on Saturday 30th October in Portadown Town Hall in a joint effort with the Northern Ireland Postcard Club. Having been unable to hold or attend any such Fairs since March 2020 it was good to be able to meet and greet friends from all over the Province and from the South of Ireland. The dealers present had lots of items for sale, both for the stamp and postcard collector, and many items were picked up by those wishing to fill gaps in their collections. We received good coverage in our local press and a ten-minute interview with our local Radio station on the morning of the Fair - all of which helped to stimulate interest and attendance. On display were several selections of GB and Irish stamps, booklets, international reply coupons, local postcards and a comprehensive collection of stamps, covers and correspondence relating to the Ulster 71 stamp issue, including items signed by the artists. Having been unable to hold our Exhibition and Fair last year because of Covid 19 this joint event proved very successful and well-attended and we hope to repeat the effort again next year.

John Proctor

Ringwood

Following a lengthy period of lockdown, we were very pleased to re-convene with **Gavin Fryer's** engaging presentation *The Western Desert Campaign 1940-43*. This was a rich historical philatelic journey into a major and pivotal part of the war, superbly supported by maps, newspaper cuttings, stamps, original covers and letters, telegrams, censored mail, Christmas cards and detailed information sheets. A major emphasis dealt with the concluding episodes of the conflict, which finally saw nearly 240 000 German and Italian soldiers captured, with Alexander's signal to Churchill stating *The Tunisian Campaign is over...we are masters of the North African shores*. Stamp dealers may be among the very best placed to build up not



only a grand personal collection, but also a huge knowledge of a given theme or subject. **Martin Appleton** is no exception here and our members were gifted a truly wonderful afternoon. His presentation, *The Postal History of Basingstoke around the A30* was fascinating, colourful, informative, decidedly humorous, and bursting with postcards, covers and philatelic gems. Martin regaled us with numerous stories of life in and around the town and the A30 over many years, including the military, railways, solicitors' archives and not least those emanating from public houses! It was evident that Martin had grown up in the town with a keen awareness of history all around him and his understanding of this, combined with his collecting expertise and turn of humour, provided the ingredients for this powerful address.

Paul Barry

Rochdale

November's meeting's first subject was the *Hudson Motor Company, Detroit*, showing covers, stamps and pictures of the first cars manufactured. *The British Empire 1924 Exhibition* followed as portrayed on covers, stamps and memorabilia. Next a short postal history was given of *Germany's Three Reichs* as told through its stamps. Before our interval we were shown 20th Century British covers where postmarks had been omitted. The evening recommenced with *Local Covers depicting Post Office Code Numbers* relating to postage dues, wrong addresses, unknown addresses, non-delivery and codes relating to different rates due. The *Postal History of the Bahamas* followed, from early times through to Independence in 1974 and finally concerned *New Zealand first day issues* with stamp varieties. Aptly, a display of *Victorian Christmas Cards* began our seasonal meeting of members' philatelic items. Next was the *Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games* with many different items, then a specialist Malta collection about WWI Prisoners of War held on the island, from information on Prisoner of War post. *New Zealand Christmas Stamps* came next starting with single stamp issues from 1960 to 1970. Christmas Stamp Sets were then issued each year after 1970. *Italian postcards* mailed from tourist hot spots where we used to have proper holidays followed. A colourful display of *UK Christmas stamp booklets* completed our evening before we enjoyed our mince pies.

→ Neil on 01706 665698. or Neil.Wharmby@gmail.com Peter Grimshaw



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Rugby

Like everyone else we have been trying to return to some sort of normal. We have welcomed some excellent guest speakers and hosted a society visit. Our new year program starts with several in-house displays before three guest speakers up to the end of the season. My hope is that our several new members, YES several, will be inspired to join in the in-house cup competition at the end of the season. Several members have been asked to display at other societies over the last few months and we are as always looking forward to returning society visits.

Steve Williams

Solihull

Our return to weekly meetings after the restrictions due to the Covid crisis has been met with great support from our members. The move of our meetings from evening to afternoon has opened them up to members from further afield enabling them to travel to and from the meetings in the daylight. Our programme secretary has secured visits from prominent speakers on a wide range of subjects which can be seen on our website. In January we started the New Year with President's Evening. **Gerald Marriner** who was a founder member of the society way back in 1970 gave the third part of his display of *Belgium Congo* focussing on the issues around WWII. The following week, **Brian Purcell** entertained us with his display of *Postal History and post cards from his home town of Cannock*. We continue to meet at the Solihull Cricket & Tennis Club, Marsh Lane Solihull B91 2PF where there is ample parking. For those who enjoy a more informal meeting, the Stamp & Post Card Club meet on the second Thursday morning of the month. Here you can chat over tea/coffee & biscuits, buy, sell or exchange material and use the display boards to show items from your collections. → www.solihullphilatelicsociety.org.uk or Paul Woodness 01564 776 879

John Barker

Southampton & District

We have been holding regular meetings between September and December in Southampton with two monthly evening meetings and a daytime meeting at Chandler's Ford, and a Zoom meeting once a month with some very interesting speakers and subjects. These have included *German Mail on Rail* from **Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye FRPSL**, *The 1971 Postal Strike* - **Jim Rankin**, *De La Rue Printing Technology* - **Malcolm Gascoyne** (via Zoom), *Norfolk Islands* - **Austin Mears**, *The Dismemberment of Czechoslovakia 1938/1939* - **Rex Dixon FRPSL** (via Zoom) and *Mauritius* - **John Berridge**, a Grand Auction and members *Letter 'W'*. We are a very active society and are planning our 90th Birthday in 2022 subject to Covid 19 and Omicron.

→ www.southamptondps.org.uk for more information on our 90th Celebrations, 2022 programme and the Zoom programme Steve Gerrard

If you want changes in times, venue, website or email addresses and telephone numbers of your secretary to appear in the Amendments List - send them to the Editor - details on p 62.

Taw & Torridge Stamp Club

ANDREW AUSTEN 1968 - 2021

It was with great sadness that members of the club learnt of the sudden death of a friend and colleague, Andrew, on 17th October. Andrew was the backbone of the club. He was chairman between 2003 and 2005 but his main role was as secretary of the club for the years 1997 to 2003 and from 2005 until his passing in 2021. He had many personal qualities and this shone through his secretarial skills that were always carried out with a smile and wanting to help others. Andrew had an interest in wildlife, nature and the environment and his stamp collection contained stamps on this theme. He was also involved with the West of England Thematic Society (WETS). He will be missed by one and all.

Beryl Lloyd

Torquay and Teignbridge

Happily, our membership has now increased to 26, as a result of a concerted effort to publicise the club through stamp and local magazines, and promotion of our centenary last year together with the events and commemorative covers we organised. We still have a number of covers and "Boots" labels available for collectors to buy - contact dave.cleaver@btopenworld.com if you would like to buy any. We are continuing our programme of meetings by Zoom, over the winter months, with face-to-face meetings recommencing in March with one of our club competition nights. We will review at our next AGM in July, whether this year's "experimental" arrangement of Zoom meetings (over the winter) is the way forward. However, for the remainder of this cycle, our "all-year-round" programme of Zoom and actual meetings will continue. Please visit the home page of torquayandteignbridgestampclub.org for details. We will also have a table at the Torquay Stamp Fairs this year. These will be at Torquay Boys' Grammar School TQ2 7EL on 23rd February, 20th April, 10th August, and 26th October. Collectors in the Devon area are strongly encouraged to attend, as this is a good fair, at an excellent venue, with plenty of parking and refreshments, and deserves your support, to ensure it can continue. You know the old adage – Use it, or lose it!

Dave Cleaver

Wakefield

In November we were privileged to receive a Zoom visit from America when **Edward Grabowski** (USA) gave a display entitled *Philately and Mail Order Fraud*. Also in November at a face-to-face meeting **Mark Bailey FRPSL** presented *The Centenary Celebrations for the First Postage Stamp 1940*. In December **Graham Winters FRPSL** gave members a varied display of subjects which included some very attractive Tuck postcards. 2021 was rounded off on 15th December when the season was celebrated with a Christmas Buffet and members displaying various Omnibus issues. In January we commenced our New Year programme with an afternoon meeting. **Martyn Cusworth FRPSL** gave a display entitled *Air France Pioneers in Aviation to South America*. Our

next public auction will be held on the 20th April at Thornes Junior Football Club, Queen's Drive, Ossett WF5 9BE.

For further details → Brian Hitchcock on 01924 271218

Julie Hitchcock

West London

We have held regular monthly meetings since September. These were all member-orientated, although we hope to have a visiting speaker in May, Covid permitting. We did, however, hold a pre-Christmas social evening when nine members, duly masked, jabbed, tested and careful had a meal in a restaurant where only four tables were taken. For details → secretary, Chris Oliver on olivers.of_ham@virgin.net or 020 8940 9833.

Chris Oliver

West Riding



An Auction in Action

We emerged from lockdown in November with a 600-lot auction, featuring a large South African library and a wide range of stamps and postal history. There were bargains to be had for as little as £1 and a top price of £500 was achieved for a Jersey collection in two large cartons. The variety of material on offer produced a record number of absentee bids, and free pie and peas attracted room bidders from around Yorkshire and beyond. We will be holding regular meetings throughout 2022 at Lindley Liberal Club, Occupation Road, Lindley, Huddersfield, HD3 3EQ on the fourth Monday of each month commencing at 1pm. Informality is our watchword and guests are always very welcome.

Mike Roberts

Worthing

Since recommencing meetings in September and the change from evening to afternoon meetings, attendances have improved and we have attracted new members. In December we had the usual Christmas social where the one-sheet competition was won by **Garry Sims**. Our president, **Roy Bond**, is moving to Kent so members elected Garry to be interim president until our AGM in June.



The late Graham Booth (seated) with president Roy Bond at the start of the season in September

To end on a sad note, former president Graham Booth died suddenly in December. His loss will be felt in the many societies he was part of, including the national and international competitive world from which he derived much pleasure. *Brian Baldock*

Specialist Societies

American Stamp Club of Great Britain

We held our Covid-delayed Annual Convention at Stafford in conjunction with the November 2021 Stafford Stamp Fair. In the morning there was an informal meeting and a ten-frame display of the *Spanish-American War of 1898*, telling the story of the War. It featured soldiers' letters from Cuba and the Philippines, covers showing the military leaders, and a colourful range of patriotic covers. The blowing up of the battleship USS Maine in Havana Harbor, with the loss of about 260 American seamen, sparked the War. The papers at the time claimed it was caused by a Spanish mine, though it later proved to have been an accidental spark from the combustible coal used which ignited the powder store. In the afternoon we held our Annual Competition and the AGM. Competition winners were: Pre-1890 Class, **Michael Goodman** (*US Revenues First Issue*); Postal History Class, **John Walker** (*Wallpaper covers of the Southern Confederacy*), and Thematic Class, **Michael Chapling** (*Battle of Gettysburg*). At a meeting of committee members, it was decided that the club should affiliate to the ABPS. Reports from the packet secretaries revealed a slow-down in activity due to the pandemic, but it was hoped it would pick up in 2022. Dwindling numbers of members due to an aging membership was a cause for concern. For information → the Acting Secretary, John Edwards, ponte38@msn.com

John Edwards

Channel Islands Specialists Society

For our October Auction, there were over 100 bidders generating an excellent £19 918. The bidding for many lots was very strong, such was the rarity of some of the material on offer, and over 80% of the lots were sold. We held our first hybrid meeting combining displays both in person and via Zoom in London. Nine members attended at the Royal Philatelic Society's premises and a further 15 used Zoom. We started with a 60-lot room auction: 80% of the items were sold generating £720 in total. The two Zoom presentations were given by **David Winnie** and **Richard Flemming** on *The Post Office in Sark 1858-1969* and *Routes and Rates Related to Mail to and from the Channel Islands* respectively.

When these presentations ended, those attending the meeting in person enjoyed a further series of short displays based on the theme of *Letters Q, R and/or S*. **Jon Aitchison** provided a 50-sheet display consisting of a cornucopia of material; **Mark Bailey** showed several items relating to the 2021 *Sark Dark Sky Island* stamps produced by the Guernsey Post as well as 2d revenue impressed stamps used on Sark cheques; **Gerald Marriner** showed a range of Channel Islands surcharged mails; **Robert Shaw** showed ephemera relating to *Smoking and the Channel Islands* and **David Winnie** showed two rare Sub-Post Office items, a *St. Aubin skeleton handstamp* – one of only three known – and an unrecorded single-ring *St. Aubyns date-stamp*, used on an item of mail to Switzerland.



Envelope dated 2nd December 1879 from Jersey to New Zealand routed via San Francisco.

Steve Wells

Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group

From 23rd to 25th September the group was finally able to enjoy our annual Residential Weekend, postponed three times due to the pandemic. Highlight of the weekend was an entertaining visit to the SS Great Britain at Bristol with an excellent lunch served alongside onshore. The next Weekend, from 18th to 20th March marks a change in venue to the Alexandra House Hotel, just south of Swindon.

James Grist



The Great Britain Philatelic Society

is proud to report that its website www.gbps.org.uk has been awarded Runner Up for the FEPA Francis Kiddle Medal 2021.

This is an outstanding achievement and recognises the development and management of a world-class website. This new award is named after Francis Kiddle RDP, a great philatelist and an enthusiastic leader in philatelic literature.

Giancarlo Morolli RDP, the FEPA Vice President wrote:

In consideration of the many outstanding achievements by philatelic organisations in developing online offerings of high quality, FEPA has decided to give recognition to this new branch of our activities by awarding a medal to the philatelic website that it judges to be the best in 2021. Nominations were made by the FEPA Member Federations and by a panel of 16 expert advisers, all well-known philatelists, active in different areas of collecting and all interested in philatelic literature, including its digital components. Websites selected should be established in a FEPA member country or provide a significant attention to European philatelic matters.

Phil Waud FRPSL

Malaya Study Group

On 13th November we had our first open meeting since lockdown. Members showed a display of WWII postal history. **Andrew Norris** began with *Press Photographs and other Miscellanea*. **Dominic Morris** followed with *Censored Material from and via Malaya to Abroad*. **Peter Cockburn** continued on this topic with *Patriotic fund labels on mail* and rare items such as *Japanese Occupation Express Mail*. **Nick Hervey** showed *correspondence post-war* from a civil engineer mentioning damage to Singapore dockyard following American bombing. **John Higgins** displayed *Censored Mail from Sarawak and Borneo* mostly censored in Kuching or Miri but often again in Singapore. **Susan McEwen** produced items from *Australian Imperial Forces Post Offices 17, 18, 19, 20 in Malaya*. **Terry Pickering** showed poignant *POW correspondence*. **Tony Plumbe** brought examples of *RAF and RN Censorship*. On 11th December, **Andrew Norris** opened with a display from *Labuan 1925-8*



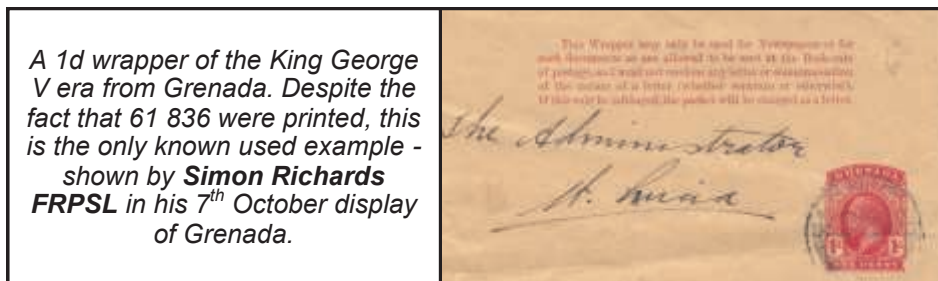
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correlating with steamship sailing days. **Susan McEwen** followed with *Malacca from 1800 to 1941*. **Nick Hervey** gave a display including modern *Malaysian telephone cards*. **Peter Cockburn** brought correspondence in BMA period from *a lady of pleasure in Penang to a service man*. **Michael Waugh** gave a display of personal correspondence between a senior officer seconded to the Indian Army Ordinance Corp and his wife in Bangalore. He was eventually ordered to escape from Singapore but drowned when the Dutch ship on which he embarked from Padang was torpedoed off Sumatra. Michael Waugh

Royal PS of London



Members were delighted that easing of travel restrictions, and determination to give his presentation personally, meant they could enjoy the magnificent display on *Siam: The Early Years* by **Prakob Chirakiti RDP FRPSL**. We marvelled at the outstanding material, detailing the first two stamp issues of Siam, with proofs, essays, varieties, blocks and usage, much being unique. *A Whale's Tale* by **Lesley Marley FRPSL** was a very different kettle of fish. A Large Gold standard thematic display like this is a careful creation over many years – there are no catalogues or textbooks. *Finland at War* showed the struggles faced by Finland in defending her borders from a philatelic perspective, in the display by **Michael Elliott FRPSL**. He followed a timeline from 1808 through to 1945. Every phase was recorded with fine material, much difficult to acquire. **Grace Davies FRPSL** brought *Peace* in early December. She took us through stages of peace: the aftermath of war; the peace conferences, sometimes resulting in a treaty; the League of Nations and United Nations, their reputations and failures; the symbols of peace – the dove and olive branch, the peace rose; Alfred Nobel and the Peace Prize. The display on *Decorative Writing Paper* by **John Scott FRPSL** was another significant variation from the norm. He traced the evolution of decorated writing paper that emerged first in the late 18th century. At first the decoration was applied by hand, later turning to engraving, embossing, lacework, and the development of lithography and photography.

Richard West FRPSL

South African Collectors' Society

We were able to hold an open meeting on 30th October at Letchworth Garden City, where thirteen members and guests attended. **Bob Hill** organised the venue and lunch was arranged by **Rob & Lyn Lester**. There were a number of



Part of Rob Lester's perfin display

interesting displays. The first one was of the archival material *Premiers and Presidents* from **Ian Shapiro**. **Steve Hannath** followed with a superb display of *Simonstown* from its beginning to when the naval base ceased to be in British hands. **Chris Oliver** began the afternoon with a well-researched and detailed 36-page display on *WWII Airgraphs from South Africa*. **Bob Hill's** display was of *The Correspondence of Titus Maleka*, an ANC supporter during the apartheid years who was incarcerated on Robben Island. **Tony Johnson** showed us, largely WWII, well-designed *Advertising Covers sent to Burmeister & Co., of East London*. **Rob Lester** then gave *A Perfin Display* from some of this material which he and his wife, **Lyn**, had assembled. The Zoom meeting held on 11th December 2021, was well supported with some excellent displays from all four corners of the globe.

➔ www.southafricancollector.com or contact the secretary, Chris Oliver on olivers.of_ham@virgin.net Chris Oliver

We need your comments on what you read here or on what you want to read. Don't be coy. We also need reports, articles and photos. Details on p 62.

Stamp Box Study Group

We haven't met face-to-face since the pandemic started, but we have been keeping in touch with each other by email, phone calls and the occasional Zoom meeting. One of our members sends us details of auctions where stamp boxes are being sold, as well as details of interesting boxes that come up on eBay from time to time. There is information about relevant auctions on our website at stampbox.org.uk, and articles highlighting many aspect of these engaging items. We were pleased to see stamp boxes being mentioned and shown at the Zoom event hosted by **Devlan Cruk** recently, and again when that particular talk was reported in the February Issue of Stamp Collector Magazine with illustrations of six attractive examples. It's not the first time that a stamp magazine has published an article on stamps boxes - there was a two-page item in Gibbons Stamp Monthly a few years ago. One member sometimes includes stamp boxes in their philatelic display for the local stamp club. In January, the theme was the letter I; the subject chosen was *Ink and Ink Wells* and included some combination stamp boxes that included ink wells.

Erene Grieve

West Africa Study Circle

Weekend Conference Report, 24-26 September 2021

I am delighted to report that the Conference was able to take place essentially as normal, with the bonus that some sessions were combined with those of the Postal History Society, who happened to be using the same venue. Highlights included a double serving of items from **Majed Halawi's** unrivalled collection of *Sierra Leone stamps, postal stationery and postal history*, **Tony Plumbe's Biafra** (accepted for entry to London 2022), and **Bernard Mabbett's St Helena Boer POW Mail**.

London Meeting, 6th November 2021

We were very glad to be back at Abchurch Lane for a meeting, augmented by our new video equipment for recording and streaming the displays and Zoom to allow participation in the AGM. **Dave Taylor**, the RPSL Custodian, commented on how good it was to see societies returning for their meetings. The venue has taken sensible steps to reduce infection transmission, with a temperature check on arrival and (temporary) use of disposable drinks cups.

The main displays were provided by **Ian Anderson: Gold Coast stamps**, including one of only three known examples of the 1d on 4d surcharge formerly listed as SG 8c, and **Rob May: Nigerian Internal Mail Routes**, including seasonal use of the Cross and Benue rivers. Members' displays encompassed *airmail covers, postmarks from Gold Coast villages, Freetown and its environs and modern Nigerian types, Insufficiently Paid markings from Nigeria and Biafran Government Press Communiques from 1968*.

Philip Quirk

Specialist societies often have good experiences with hotels at their weekend meetings. Why not share that and tell other societies which hotels have gone beyond expectations in some way?

Review, *The History of Airmail in Poland and Its Contribution to Airmail Services of Europe (1914-1939)*, by Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Weglinski



Published by the Collectors Club of Chicago, 2021. This English edition is accompanied by Synopsis and Table of Contents in Polish and German. The monograph, prefaced by Oxford-based Nobel Prize nominated historian Norman Davies, focuses on the development and operations of airmail services on the Polish territories throughout 25 years of turbulent European history during the 20th century. It begins with events originating in WWI in a remote area of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire's Galicia Province. It concludes with the German invasion of Poland in September 1939 and the outbreak of WWII. It is an in-depth encyclopedic history of the development of air post services not only in Poland but also in all of Europe and beyond.

The substantive material is presented in twelve chapters. The first chapter highlights the 1914-1915 airmail effort by the Austrian Army as the Russian forces besieged the city of Przemyśl. The following chapter includes comprehensive descriptions and illustrations of the airmail postal route in 1918 from Vienna to Kyiv via Krakow and Lviv. Further chapters detail the development of domestic airmail operations, as well as joint services by Polish and foreign carriers to other countries and continents, air rallies, crash (interrupted) mail, and the Zeppelin mail from mainland Poland and the Free City of Danzig to the Americas. There are many tables and appendices which provide useful information about cancellations, cachets, miscellaneous postal marking, quantities of airmail carried between various cities, airmail labels used on the covers, a survey of Graf Zeppelin dispatches from Poland to South America, and much more.

The book is well researched and contains a wealth of information about early Polish & European airmail and will be essential for aerophilatelists interested in that area.

The handbook is hardbound in an 8½" x 11" format (21.5 x 28 cm) and includes 385 pages containing over 700 colour illustrations. The book is available in Europe for €65 plus shipping cost, with PayPal accepted for payment, to:

jkupiec@mednet.ucla.edu To inquire about shipping cost to other countries.

→ Collector's Club of Chicago website for details.

www.collectorsclubchicago.org/product/the-history-of-airmail-in-poland/

Ken Sanford

The History of Philately in Great Britain and Ireland

A Bibliography of Monographs, Grey Literature and Selected Texts

A second version (August 2021) of my bibliography has in recent weeks been added to the website of The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) at www.rpsl.org.uk/Publications/Guides This much expanded version which now runs to 50 pages is fully indexed as well as key word searchable. The first version was published in *The Philatelic Literature Review*, (the journal of the American Philatelic Research Library) Volume 65, pages 93-118, Second Quarter 2016

The bibliography records the published and semi-published texts which give historical and biographical information about the organisation and development of philately in Great Britain and Ireland. It is intended to underpin continuing work to record and understand the history of philately, and philatelic societies in particular, including its development and its context in economic, political and social terms.

As little has been written, in recent years, on this subject this work should be viewed as a work in progress with a special focus on Philatelic Society history. The author would be pleased to learn of any candidate for inclusion in any further version of this listing, or of further information, improvements, corrections, etc: DRBeech@btinternet.com

The Royal Philatelic Society London's Guides web page includes my 2005 How to look after your Collection - A Basic Guide, and my 2019 3rd version of Philatelic Research - A Basic Guide. Also on this page is Charles Oppenheim's splendid What Philatelists Need to Know About Copyright of 2019, and the 2020 RPSL Style Guide for Publications for its journal *The London Philatelist* and monographs.

David Beech



The changing of the times - above is the 1890s Sark Post Office. The older of the two boys is wearing the uniform of a Post Office delivery messenger. Right are the two Sark postmen of 1952 - one served 60 years.



ABPS 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. Please note the changes below.

Specialist Societies

We are delighted to welcome **The American Stamp Club of Great Britain** as a new affiliate. The secretary is John Edwards ponte38@msn.com

East Africa Study Circle has a new secretary Robin Fieth. The email address remains secretary@easc.org.uk

Malayan Study group has a new secretary: Nick Hervey.
Email matazdad@hotmail.co.uk

Local Societies

Alfreton Philatelic Society now meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday each month, from 1.30.

Bath Philatelic Society is now meeting at Limpley Stoke Hotel Bath on alternate Wednesday afternoons.

They have a new website: www.bath-philatelic-society.co.uk

Bexley Philatelic Society has a new secretary: Philip Clark
email philip.clark10@ntlworld.com

Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society are now meeting at Melvin Halls Community Centre, Melvin Road, **Penge** SE20 8EU

Edinburgh Philatelic Society and the **Scottish Philatelic Society** have closed at the end of 2021 and will merge to form the **Lothian Philatelic Group**. We hope that they will affiliate to ABPS.

Haverfordwest Stamp & Postcard Club now meets at Vision Arts, Studio 2, 39-41 Cartlett, **Haverfordwest** SA73 2LH from 2 till 4 on 1st and 3rd Fridays from September to June.

The Hull Stamp & Postcard Club is the new name of the old Hull & District Philatelic Society. They meet on third Wednesday of the month, 1.30 to 3.30, in their new venue, the Arlington Hall, adjacent to St Mary's Church, Hallgate, **Cottingham** HU16 5QF.

Plymouth Philatelic Society now meets at St Budeaux Methodist Church, Stirling Road, St Budeaux, **Plymouth** PL5 1PD

Salisbury & District Philatelic Society: new secretary Mike Moody
email: mikemoody27@hotmail.co.uk

We are sorry to report the closure of **Bearsden & District Philatelic Society**

STANLEY GIBBONS REDUCTION IN LINES OF ALBUM STOCKS AND EXTRA PAGES

When I visited Dauwalders in Salisbury recently I enquired about purchasing additional blank pages for a Stanley Gibbons *Exeter* album, which I had purchased there shortly before their Covid lockdown. To my amazement I was advised that they no longer had any additional pages, as Gibbons had discontinued the line totally and seemingly several other lines at the same time. At one time there was a supplier of loose-leaf albums named *Frank Godden*. They had a small retail outlet at 110/111 Strand, London and produced very good quality hand-made albums with a variety of blank pages. They were the *FG Warwick*, a two-peg binder, and the smaller *FG Graduate*, taking identical pages. When Goddens went out of business their range of albums was reproduced by Gibbons, who initially named the larger album as *Plymouth*, but subsequently sold a similar-sized album as *Devon* and a smaller version as *Exeter*. The dimensions of the pages for these albums identically matched those of Goddens, so it all worked satisfactorily.

I have written a letter of dismay and protest to the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Graham Shircore, at Stanley Gibbons. His prompt response (reduced) was

Thank you for taking the time to get in touch with us. I am sorry that it is a result of unhappiness on your part. When we reviewed our album range over two years ago it was not something which we undertook lightly. We knew that some of the decisions we would make would not be popular, but we also knew it was absolutely necessary. The range as it was had a number of different issues which resulted in a poor and inconsistent customer experience and offering. Added to this, it was, in the round, not economically viable and some suppliers were no longer operating. In short, it was, unfortunately, not sustainable.

..... Our goal was to end up with something which was unrivalled in terms of quality at each price point, where supply was reliable - and as far as we could tell indefinitely so - and which in aggregate was flexible, interchangeable and easier to understand.With regard to the Devon album specifically, the supplier of the Devon album had ceased trading, however there are also a number of additional elements which also played a part in not sourcing an alternative supplier. Most pertinently, over the years, demand for the product had reduced to a point where the minimum order quantities we needed to purchase were preclusive. The only way around this would have been to offer it for sale at an unreasonably high price point.I understand that this is not the answer you were seeking but I do hope that I have helped in some small way by giving you a little more explanation as to not only how we found ourselves at this point but the reluctance with which we took some of the decisions we did.

As Mr Shircore wrote above not the answer that I was seeking! At least I tried to influence a more satisfactory outcome. As an aside, the sales assistant on the telephone at Vera Trinder told me that barely a day goes by without an enquiry about *Devon* pages. Perhaps Stanley Gibbons have not done their homework quite correctly?

Mike Vokes

STAMP ACTIVE AT LONDON 2022 with FREE £20 VOUCHERS FOR KIDS

The Stamp Active Network, the voluntary organisation that promotes stamp collecting for children in the UK, will be at the London 2022 International Stamp Exhibition from 19th February to 26th February 2022 providing free stamps and goodie bags for young collectors. There will be a free activities, with prizes, and the opportunity to create some Stamp Art fun.

There will also be a special section to "Ask the Expert" with experienced collectors able to answer any questions about Getting Started, Arranging and Mounting your collection, The Tools of the Trade, The Study of Stamps, Exhibiting, Computers in Philately and much more. This service will also be available to adults who visit the youth stand. The event will be fully compliant with any Covid restrictions.

Stamp Active will also be giving vouchers to one hundred youngsters U18 that attend London 2022, worth £20 each, to spend with selected dealers at the show. Ten vouchers will initially be available on each day with a maximum of one hundred vouchers overall to be given out during the event.

The Kids Zone will be located at the far end of the mezzanine level on the left-hand side of the Hall.



Calling All Stamp Event Organisers

The website of the ABPS provides the opportunity for organisers of philatelic events such as Stamp Fairs, Philatelic Exhibitions, Society Weekends and Regional Society Meetings, to promote their events free of charge.

You can request an event to be added to the ABPS Events Calendar directly on the website. Entries will then be checked by the administrator and approved.

Go to <https://www.abps.org.uk/request-event-addition/>

Chairman of the ABPS, Steven Harrison, commented "One of the common challenges for organisers of philatelic events is to avoid clashes with other major philatelic events. We hope that the new ABPS Events Calendar will be the "go to" place to check the diary to minimise such problems in the future."

Autumn Stampex – Congratulations

To: **John Davies** on winning a Large Gold (96 marks) and the Silver Stage Coach for Best in Show with his display of *A Jubilee Reminiscence* (Open Philately)

Large Gold medals were won by:

Alan Holyoake (Postal History)
Simon Martin-Redman (Postal Stationery)
William Barrell (Traditional)
Atif Sarian (Traditional)
Wendy Buckle (Open Philately)
Brian Sole (Traditional)
Christopher Harman (Traditional)
Andrew Millington (Thematic)
Frank Walton (Postal History).

Gold medals went to: **Brian Sole** (Thematic) and (Postcards), **Peter Cockburn** (Traditional), **Graham Booth** (Postal History), **Jack Zhang** (Postal History), **Wayne Cox** (Open Philately), **David Ogden** (Cinderella)

The judges also awarded 11 Large Vermeil, 9 Vermeil, 3 Large Silver, 2 Silver, 4 Silver-Bronze, 1 Bronze and 1 Certificate of Participation.

Diary

Local and regional events by ABPS members

2022

March

- 5 Launceston Stamp Fair, 10 - 3, Central Methodist Hall, Castle Street, **Launceston** PL15 8BA → 01288 355918
- 16 Grimsby Club Auction: → Chris Dodsworth 01652 654928
- 26 WESTBEX Stamp & Postcard Fair: 10 - 4, The Kennet School, Stoney Lane, **Thatcham**, Berkshire RG19 4LL → www.tdps.org.uk or Graeme Stewart 01635 866942

April

- 9 Maidstone & Mid Kent PS - Stamp Fair: 10 - 3, Grove Green Community Centre (opp Tesco's), **Maidstone**, Kent ME14 5BT
→ Brian Stonestreet 01622 675784
- 20 Wakefield & District PS - Auction: Thornes Junior Football Club, Queen's Drive, **Ossett** WF5 9BE → Brian Hitchcock 01924 271218

- 22-23 91st Scottish Congress, hosted by Perth PS: Dewars Centre, Glover Street, **Perth** PH2 0TH → www.scottishphilately.co.uk
- 30 Morecambe Stamp Fair: 10 - 3, The Platform, Marine Drive, **Morecambe** LA4 4DB. Contact Frank Colling 01524 733589

May

- 21 Redruth Stamp Fair, 10 - 4, Jubilee Hall, Wesley Building, Wesley Street, **Redruth** TR15 2EG → 01209 213422

June

- 11 SWINPEX 2022: St. Joseph's Academy, Ocotal Way, **Swindon** SN3 3LR

July

- 9 YPA 2022 Convention and Fair: 10 - 4.30, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, 154 Northgate, **Wakefield** WF1 3QX → williamsmithrunehouse@gmail.com or 01226 385874
- 20 Grimsby Club Auction: → Chris Dodsworth 01652 654928

August

- 6 Newquex Stamp Fair, 10 - 4, Trevisker St Eval Community Centre, Orion Drive, **St. Eval, Near Wadebridge** PL27 7TU → 01288 355918

November

- 19 Maidstone & Mid Kent PS - 100th Anniversary Stamp Fair: 10 - 3, Aylesford Community Centre, **Aylesford**, Kent ME20 7AU → Brian Stonestreet 01622 675784

December

- 7 Grimsby Charity Auction: → Dave McMann 01472 887523

National Exhibitions 2022

Held at Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, **London** N1 0QH

- Autumn Stampex, 28th September – 1st October 2022 Theme – Africa
Competitive exhibition Entry deadline: 31st July 2022

We are pleased to include the latest information on international exhibitions that British exhibitors can apply for, and all collectors can visit. If you are a regular international exhibitor please consider entering, but if you have only entered at Stampex before, maybe it is time to spread your wings and try an exhibition further afield. We look forward to receiving your application form.

ABPS Exhibitions and International Committee.

International Exhibitions 2021-2023

- **LONDON 2022** Business Design Centre, London N1 19th – 26th February 2022
Specialised World Stamp Championship Exhibition with FIP patronage and FEPA recognition. UK Commissioner: Kim Stuckey (ukcommissioner@london2020.co) Information is at <http://www.london2022.co/> Closed to new entries

- **HUNFILEX 2022:** Specialised World Stamp Championship Exhibition. Budapest, Hungary 31st March – 3rd April 2022 FIP specialised international exhibition with FEPA recognition postal history, traditional, revenue, thematic, open, literature UK Commissioner: Bill Hedley (ewlhedley@gmail.com) Information is at <http://mabeosz.hu/hunfilex2022> Entry deadline: Closed UK entries accepted
- **HELVETIA 2022:** Specialised World Exhibition, Lugano, Switzerland 18th – 22nd May 2022 FIP specialised international exhibition with FEPA recognition most classes invited UK Commissioner: Chris King (Chris.King@postalhistory.net) Information is at www.helvetia2022.ch Entry deadline: Closed to new entries
- **CAPEX 2022:** Toronto, Canada 9th – 12th June 2022 World One Frame Stamp Championship UK Commissioner: Frank Walton (frank@frankwalton.com) Information is at: www.capex2022.org Entry deadline: Closed to new entries
- **LIBEREC 2022:** Liberec, Czech Republic 13th – 16th October 2022 FEPA patronage with FIP recognition UK Commissioner: Steve Harrison (sharrison500@btinternet.com) Classes invited include Traditional, Postal History, Thematic and Picture Postcard Information is at www.liberec2022.eu Entry deadline: 31st March 2022
- **SOUTH AFRICA 2022:** Cape Town, South Africa 8th – 12th November 2022 FIP patronage UK Commissioner: Jon Aitchison (britishlocals@aol.com) Further information on classes, dates and IREX is at www.capetown2021.org Entry deadline: 15th May 2022
- **IBRA2023:** Essen, Germany 25th – 28th May 2023 FIP specialised international exhibition with FEPA recognition UK Commissioner: Frank Walton (frank@frankwalton.com) Classes invited include Traditional, Postal History, Thematic and Picture Postcard) Further information at www.ibra2021.de Entry deadline: 8th October 2022

UK handling charges (Liberec onwards) have now been standardised on all international exhibitions at £30 per frame for shows in Europe or £35 for events anywhere else in the world, whether single or multiple frame exhibits or per literary entry. This is to cover the cost of getting exhibits to and from exhibitions, FIP capitation fees and other costs relating to processing the exhibits. Overall this runs at a loss. Exhibits that are carried to and returned from an exhibition by the exhibitor are charged at half price. There is no UK handling charge for Youth exhibits.

If you are interested in becoming a United Kingdom international exhibition commissioner please contact **Jon Aitchison** at britishlocals@aol.com

Details of FEPA exhibitions are at <http://www.fepanews.com/>

Web information

Further information can be found on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk on the “Exhibiting” tab.

Simon Richards, Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee
Simon@sidebell.co.uk

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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

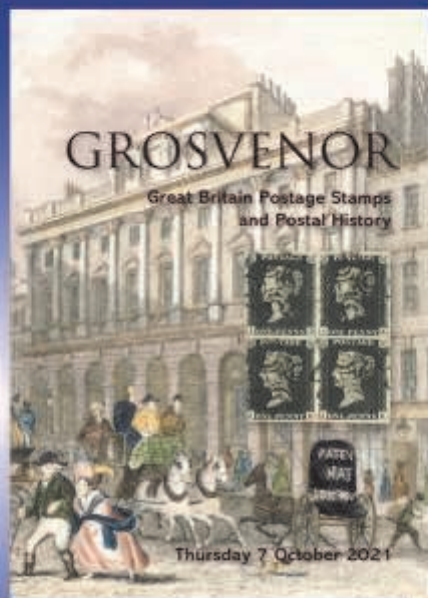
Stamp Active Network: please write to:

SAN, c/o 21 The Bridle, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4TH

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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