

One Hundred - and still counting



See p 18



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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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Editor: Keith S Burton

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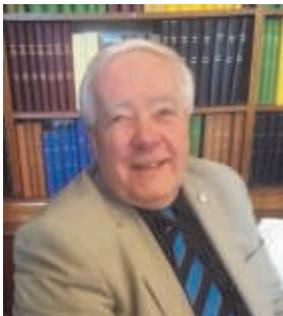
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Cover picture: *Alex Walker (on the right) co-ordinates the Aberdeen team of Fred Jefferies, Ian Kennaway, Ken Bruce & Michael Hart installing the frames for the Centenary of the End of WWI; Centenary Cake - a surprise from Roy Richardson; One of the Centenary Souvenir Postcards*

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:



As I lie here on a Greek Island in the warm sunshine on holiday, I have been reflecting on the start of the new season. Stampex, as ever, was a fine exhibition.

The Americans did us proud with a number of great exhibits. I cannot remember being part of a jury which awarded so many gold and large gold medals. It was good to see so many old friends from the USA, only usually met at Congress or RDP ceremonies. Late in September, the Postal History Society held its second successive annual Conference at Ironbridge. The Star attraction was **Alan Holyoake's** "Early Letters", a quite breathtaking array of letters from the reign of King John, through the Black Death to the Wars of the Roses, Civil Wars, Great Plague, Fire of London, and on...and on, marvellous! There was also plenty of time for members to show their collections, and a fine President's display by outgoing President, **Robert Galland** who has served the society

very well for two years. These Philatelic weekends are really great social events as much as anything else. After a great deal of thought, and discussions with a number of people, I have asked **Steven Harrison** to take up the post of ABPS Vice-Chairman. He has worked on the Congress Committee for several years with distinction. He is currently Chairman of the Midlands Federation, and has been a member of the Royal Philatelic Society since the early 1970's, when he was very young! He is currently a Midlands Representative for the society. Of course, this is only a recommendation to be put to the Committee in November, then hopefully ratified at Congress in York next summer.

Finally, mention of three famous philatelists: this is the last ABPS News before the FIP election of a new president in December. Very best of luck to **Chris King**, our nomination for President.

Many congratulations to **John Scott**, an inspired choice to be Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection following **Michael Sefi's** retirement after a good many years of outstanding dedication and effort.

I do hope everyone has enjoyed the start of their season as much as I have mine.

Graham Winters FRPSL

Specialist Societies

As most specialist societies do not have regular monthly meetings, ABPS welcomes an annual report of any major meeting of the society (eg the AGM), or an "article of the year" from their newsletter or journal. Obviously the ABPS newsletter does not have room for articles of over 1 side of A5 and cannot guarantee inclusion. Pictures always look attractive too and may well elicit enquiries from potential new members.

Editorial

As I started to build this issue I realised that it is the 100th ABPS News to be produced. In those 25 years the nature of philately has changed somewhat - certainly the number of local societies has fallen. Stamp shops have closed and school clubs are fewer than previously but we must not be pessimistic. Many items are still available for sale and those willing and able to use the Internet can purchase from almost anywhere in the world. There are still lots of active auctions and fairs which give a more hands-on approach. It is also clear that there are many collectors who enjoy their collecting in isolation. We can be aware of the situation and we can try to persuade them to come to society meetings occasionally especially if we know that there is something planned which might be of interest. But first of all we must be prepared to talk about what we enjoy in our collecting. No - I do not mean that everyone ought to be displaying, entering competitions or giving talks to outside groups - but aren't we lucky that so many people are willing to do these things? I have recently started taking aspects of my collection out to other societies. They are very polite and express interest - and actually I believe them especially when members ask questions or query

something in my display. I am not good at entering competitions - I don't think that my material is good enough but then I didn't think that it was



up to display standard and I am being proved wrong. So I promise to try to do better - will you all join me in that, please? If you can stand my sense of humour you could even try to persuade me to show at your society some time. I went to Congress in Gateshead this year so I was lucky enough to see one of the iconic stamps - the Swedish "Treskilling" Yellow, or three schilling banco error of colour. I never thought that I would see such a famous (and expensive) stamp and yet just by turning up I was able to see it on a frame just a foot away. What an experience! I went to Stampex too and saw more brilliant displays, spent too much as usual but came away with a sense of elation - this is what I like about our hobby - the kindness of people, the joy of filling the gaps in my collection, sharing what we have. Long may it continue. I have been delighted to have responses to my editorials - positive and negative. It shows that they are read. Thank you to all correspondents.

Keith Burton

To all Club secretaries and treasurers

The request for **ABPS affiliation fees** for 2019 will be going out by email (or in the post if your club has no email contact) **on or shortly after the 1st January 2019**. If you are responsible for your Club's affiliation and you have not heard from me by mid-January please do not hesitate to contact me via email at membership@abps.org.uk The fees remain the same at £1.25 per UK member.

Barry Stagg - Membership Secretary

Society anniversaries, 2018

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

Heartiest congratulations to all involved in these milestones:

Stratford upon Avon Philatelic Society: 30th anniversary, with cake

The society was launched in 1988, by means of an advert in the Stratford Herald on 23rd March, placed by **Kurt Mannaberg**, inviting expressions of interest.

There was sufficient response to get the club going in a very active way, not least in persuading the GPO to open a philatelic counter at Stratford post office.

For quite a while we also produced our own newsletter "Avon Mail", edited by **Alan Godfrey**. Our initial setting up was supported and assisted by **Ken Trehwella** and others from the established Coventry PS.

The photograph shows the anniversary cake at our meeting on 5th September 2018, being admired by five of the founder members, still



members after 30 years (left to right): **Graham Jervis, John Holland, John Hill, Clive Golding and Alan Godfrey**.

We meet on alternate Wednesdays at Stratford upon Avon School Community Sports Centre; for membership details contact **Colin Fountain** on 01789 841 606. Our programme can be seen online by searching for "Warwickshire stamp clubs". We work in close cooperation with the nearby Leamington and Warwick PS, in that we meet on the alternate Wednesdays, which provides a weekly stamp



.. nearly gone

Our celebration cake

opportunity for several people who are members of both societies - A very fruitful collaboration.

Dr John Gledhill

It is always good to hear from our affiliates - let us know what you are doing.

Hampshire Philatelic Federation – Golden Anniversary Year – 2019

A meeting of representatives from societies interested in forming a Federation of Hampshire Philatelic Societies was held in Basingstoke on 9th July 1969. The inaugural meeting on 20th August 1969 elected the initial officers with **Mr G Robinson** as Chairman, **Mr F Kiddle** as Secretary and **Mr A Parkhurst** as Treasurer. At the next committee meeting on 20th October 1969 apologies were received from the by then president, **Mr F B Howard-White, FRPSL**. That minute goes on to recommend holding a convention in March 1970 in conjunction with BPA at Winchester. It was suggested to hold an inter-society competition at the convention consisting of two nine-sheet entries from each affiliated society. The society with the highest score would be awarded a trophy. It was also suggested that a talk on judging competitions be given with special reference to the convention's competition. Committee member **Mr JAC Farmer** had approached a local craftsman to carve a wooden shield with a Wyon or Machin head to form a trophy. Mr F Kiddle undertook to obtain the necessary permission from **Mr Machin**, and reported that Mr Howard-White would present the trophy to the Federation. The June 1975 AGM minute records that **Mr J Kaluski** was elected Chairman for 1975-76 and **Mr C Philips** was elected as Bulletin Editor.

Fifty years on and the Hampshire Federation runs an annual convention – HAMPEX – with an inter-society competition, now of two 16 sheet entries per society, for the Howard-White Trophy. There is also an individual 32 sheet competition for which the best entry is awarded the Jan Kaluski Cup. The entries are judged by nationally accredited judges on a separate day prior to being displayed at HAMPEX. The Bulletin continues with the same three issues per year under the stewardship of **Steve Gerrard** and the Federation Committee meets three times a year under the chairmanship of **Julian Jones** with **John Campbell** as Secretary and **Brian Hague** as Treasurer.



President Paul Davidson discussing the HAMPEX prize giving with Chairman Julian Jones. On the right is the original "Machin Head" Howard-White Trophy.

Courtesy E Mays.

HAMPEX is host to some 20 dealers each year and the competition typically attracts 20 - 25 frames of competitive entries. The Federation was pleased to win the 2017 ABPS Inter-Federation competition against some tough and worthy competition. In an attempt to raise our game the Federation has run a seminar on "How to Tell a Story" in 2018 to improve the treatment of competitors' entries and displays generally and two societies have included competition workshops in their programmes.

Details of the Federation are on www.hantsfederation.org.uk/

Julian Jones

The 75th Anniversary of the Newcastle Upon Tyne Philatelic Society

The Newcastle upon Tyne Philatelic Society will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in March 2019. As part of its anniversary celebrations it will be opening its doors to the public, philatelists and non-philatelists alike, to view displays by its members. The displays will include all aspects of philately and will be shown at the Literary & Philosophical Society (Lit & Phil) 23 Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1SE on the 8th and 9th of March 2019. They will be available for viewing on Friday 8th March between 10 am and 4:30 pm and on Saturday 9th March between 10 am and 3 pm. Members will be there to answer any questions that visitors may have on the displays themselves, or on philately in general. If you are in the area at that time, please call in. You will be made most welcome.

The Newcastle Philatelic Society was founded in March 1944 and, since September 1993, has held its twice-monthly meetings at the Lit & Phil.

Glen Wilson

Wakefield Philatelic Society - 80th Anniversary Year 2018

On 8th December 1938 a group of enthusiasts met together as they felt they had a lot to gain by forming a local stamp club and so the Wakefield Philatelic Society was formed. We are affiliated to the Yorkshire Philatelic Association and also the Association of British Philatelic Societies. We have around 40 members with an average attendance of 25 to 30 at each meeting.

Looking through some of our records we see many notable people in the Wakefield area have been involved in the society for many years and we are fortunate in that many of our members are still involved after probably 30 years or more, and perhaps even longer, being regular and enthusiastic members at the meetings.

A very much enjoyed celebratory dinner for members and guests was held in Wakefield to mark this anniversary.

The earliest recorded postal marks in Wakefield are noted from 1712 to 1791. Wakefield has the oldest known post slot, dated 1809. So Wakefield can be justifiably proud of having the first receptacle for posting mail. The slot is on display in Wakefield Museum.

In 2008 the Wakefield Philatelic Society celebrated its 70th Anniversary. It also produced a Philatelic cover to mark the 200th Anniversary of this earliest known postal facility. You can see, therefore, that we have a history of which we can be proud. *Julie Hitchcock*
If you think we've missed you out, please let the Editor know.



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

Are You **THINKING** of **SELLING**?

This is

HOW THE STAMP TRADE WORKSPhilatelic Expert Lets You into his *Selling Secrets* so you can benefit from a *totally different (and New) Selling Experience*

by Andrew McGavin

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, (wholesale I thought), broke

About The Author Andrew loved his father's stamps at the age of 10. A year later at Senior School he immediately joined the School Stamp Club. He specialised (!) in British, but soon was interested in Queen Victoria which he could not afford. The 2nd to last boy wearing short trousers in his school year, he religiously bought Post Office New Issues on Tuesdays with his pocket money. He soon found that he enjoyed swapping / trading stamps as much as collecting them. Aged 18, eschewing university he quickly found a philatelic career in London, leading to creating his own companies in stamps. Andrew has authored many internationally 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 45 years, in combination with Commerce and Marketing Expertise, enabling him to create synergies in 'lifetime' interlinked Stamp Selling Systems, selling unit-priced stamps through to handling collectors & Barries 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 System Stamp Auction in the World, creating records selling stamps to 2,261 different bidders from 54 different countries in his latest auction. Andrew stopped collecting stamps aged 18 reasoning that his enjoyment of stamps would be in handling them and selling them...

it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for the orders to roll in... I'm still waiting, 48 years later !...

~~Wrong Offer~~ ~~Wrong Price~~
~~Wrong Place~~

(naive seller) - ~~me~~ but I was only 15 at the time!

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-healed bidders saw the potential value that day or it could have been given away... the seller

could easily have lost out couldn't he? or 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 ✓

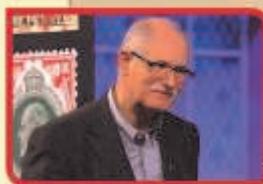
4 Understanding the problem... I always remember the car trade had their own little 'bible' - Glass's Guide. I've no idea, I've not even looked - in this internet-dominated world, it may even have disappeared. Well, there's an insider Stamp Trade publication for Stamp Dealers called 'The Philatelic Exporter'. 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 collectors

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).



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW TV

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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 nearest competitor 'Apex' had 800 bidders in a recent auction. In my most recent 20,000+ lot UPA 68th Auction we had 2,184 different bidders from 58 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 GBPS144. Therefore you receive approaching \$656 - which is approximately 35% of the dealer's \$2,000+/- retail selling price - **BUT... now that we have identified the problem...**

Isn't the Solution Strangely Right in The Face?

7 Why Pay an Auction to Sell to Dealers? Sell to Collectors instead? In our example with buyer's premium, sellers 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 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...

11 Q) What is the Collector's 'Secret Weapon'?

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

This is a rather long explanation. I don't want to bore you, but 18 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'**, 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 2,184 different bidders in my recent auction. 🍷

In Hindsight Dealers warned me 18 years ago that my idea wouldn't work. 18 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

ATTENTION OWNERS OF LARGE/ VALUABLE COLLECTIONS -

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/Descriptor 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 telephonic-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



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 realise 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 commendation 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

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

Andrew McGavin, Philatelic Expert,
Author, Managing Director
Universal Philatelic Auctions UPA

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ABPS Awards: Good News for Federations

The Guidelines for the Award of Merit state that a person who does exceptional service for British Philately should be nominated for the Award by the body for which the service has been rendered.

There was a difficulty in the case of Federations because they have a special status within ABPS. They are members without paying a per capita fee but they have no voting rights. Consequently, they were unable to propose a person who is eligible for an award.

The Awards Committee proposed at the AGM held on 27th July 2018 that Federations should be included in the category of nominators for ABPS Awards. This was seconded and was approved by all those present.

The Awards Committee has said 'goodbye' to **Frank Soutar** and **Pat Rothnie** who wished to retire after many years of service on the Committee. We have welcomed **John Davies** and **Steven Harrison** who have joined the existing members **John Baron**, **Nigel Gooch**, **John Jackson** and **Brian Sole**.

Societies and Federations are urged to consider who, within their membership, has done outstanding voluntary work for British Philately over a number of years and then submit a nomination for an award which is on the ABPS website together with guidelines. The closing date for next year's awards is 1st March 2019.

Yvonne Wheatley, Chairman Awards Committee

Some of this year's awards

David C Hilton

The newly formed Adur Stamp Club nominated David Hilton for an Award of Merit because he has worked very hard over a number of years to further the enjoyment of the hobby for other people.

Recently he orchestrated the amalgamation of two well established philatelic societies, Shoreham-by-Sea and Southwick. He has held many offices at Shoreham-by-Sea Philatelic Society where his skills of organisation coupled with his wealth of ideas were always impressive. He encouraged members to display in local exhibitions open to the public. He also produced a series of covers commemorating notable



Yvonne Wheatley presents the Award to John Hilton

anniversaries of the Shoreham-by-Sea Society. He hosted a lunch for members of the Adur Stamp Club and their partners to celebrate his award and the fact that over 40 people enjoyed the lunch is an assurance that the new society will do well under his influence. *Yvonne Wheatley*

John Smith

Four members of the Faroe Islands Study Circle made a pre-arranged visit to the headquarters of Posta, the Faroe Islands' postal service, on 18th July 2018 whilst on a week-long tour of the Faroes. **Roger Tozer** (Chairman), **Norman Hudson** (Secretary and Journal Editor), **John Smith** (Treasurer and Auctioneer) and **Sheila Denholm** (founder member), were given a guided tour of the HQ, including the philatelic section, and afterwards enjoyed coffee,



Roger Tozer (FISC Chairman), John Smith (FISC Treasurer), Marianna Nattestad (Posta), Sheila Denholm (FISC founder), Ingun Olsen (Manager, Posta), Norman Hudson (FISC Secretary and Journal Editor)

cakes and a discussion with Posta staff. During the preceding week, John had been presented with the ABPS Award of Merit, granted to him for outstanding voluntary service to British philately. The award, one of only seven made by the ABPS in 2018, was presented to John by **Roger Tozer** at a meeting of the Wirral Philatelic Society, John's local society, on 10th July. John took a copy of the certificate to Tórshavn to show our friends at Posta HQ. *Norman Hudson*

John Woodson received his award for his services as the Packet Secretary for the now closed Winchester Society and the work that he has done for all of you in sending out the ABPS News and Handbooks over the last 13 years. He was delighted by this unexpected recognition, equating it to one received in his professional life.

Mike Turnbull

At the end of the Scottish ASPS Awards Ceremony in Perth on April 20th **Graham Winters** (Chairman of ABPS) spoke about the ABPS Award of Merit. He then asked fellow Falkirk Stamp & Postcard Member Jean Osborne to present the Award to Mike Turnbull for his outstanding service over many years to the society and the Scottish Federation.



Graham, Jean and Mike with his framed award

An ABPS Award means a lot to the recipients and shows they are appreciated as well as giving publicity to the organisation which nominated them.

Autumn Stampex - some of the results

The Winner of Best in Show was **Professor Paul Allen** of United States of America for his display *Outgoing Victorian Indian Mail 1854-1876* which scored 95 points, but clearly it was a close-run contest as there were 2 other exhibits with the same score from **Sandeep Jaiswal** and **Alfredo Frohlich**.

The entries for Autumn Stampex were clearly of a very high standard as there were awards of 23 Large Gold (to 21 exhibitors) and 20 Gold. Visitors from the United States took 19 Large Gold, the remaining 4 went to Colombia (1) and the United Kingdom (3). The United States also won 8 of the Gold, Canada won 3 and the remaining 9 went to the United Kingdom.

Sandeep Jaiswal took 3 Large Gold with *Jammu & Kashmir Telegraphs, The 1st Issue of Jaipur* and *British India - Queen Victoria Postal Stationery*.

Congratulations to all who took part - you all were part of a great display.

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PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN 2018

In 1909 the first Congress was held in Manchester, so this year's, held at the end of July in The Jurys Inn Gateshead, overlooking the River Tyne, was the 100th. Congress was chaired by officers of two local philatelic societies: **Roy Richardson** and **Val Beeken**. It proved to be very popular with 108 people attending.

The first event was a fine presentation by **David McMonagle Philatelic Art Gallery**. This was a display of illustrated envelopes beginning with the 1840 Mulreadys. He included penny blacks on cover, military and attractive commercial advertising covers. Prior to the next display, there was a surprise treat: Roy Richardson arranged for a magnificent special cake to celebrate the 100th Congress. The title of **Mike Gibson's** display was *The River Tyne*, which was a fascinating local history of the area helped by local postcards and ephemera. **Tony Walker** gave the last presentation of the day entitled *World War I and the Battles of Coronel and The Falkland Islands 1914*. Dinner was preceded by a reception kindly provided by Stamp



David McMonagle



The story tellers - John in the middle front

Insurance Services. In addition to listening to presentations, we like those attending to participate in this event. Their chance came after dinner in the light hearted 4 sheets to tell a story competition. This attracted a lot of entries. All the delegates voted resulting in **John Hotchner** being declared the winner.

The official opening of

Congress was by the Mayor of Gateshead, Councillor Jill Green. This year to mark the milestone the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain Study Group provided a superb standing display of Congress material for the years up to 1940. **Gerald Marriner**, Chairman of ABPS Congress Committee, and **Colin Searle** enthusiastically escorted the Mayor around this display explaining some of the items. Then Colin Searle, founder of the PCGB Study Group, gave an entertaining Powerpoint relating to this display.

The Kay Goodman lecture followed. This was a paper given by **Michael Lockton**. The title was *The Future of*



Michael Lockton

Philately. This was a shortened version of a comprehensive report by members of the W4 group (made up from Fellows and Members of the Royal Philatelic Society London). The full paper can be seen on the ABPS website. Delegates joined in a long discussion after lunch. The final event of the morning was the AGM of ABPS. The annual Ceremony of the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was held at the Assembly Rooms in Newcastle. The Congress Medal is also presented at this event. This year, the Congress medal was presented to **Erene Grieve** for her work with young collectors over many years. There were four new signatories.

Erene's thought-provoking subject was *Why aren't Youngsters Interested in Stamps Anymore*. Erene explained to the delegates how we can all get involved in attracting the younger generation to the hobby. The four new RDPs then gave short presentations, beginning with **Robert Abensur**. His title was *French Offices in the Levant* containing postal history between 1837 and 1849.

Geoffrey Lewis followed with his presentation entitled *What is Obvious to Some is not Obvious to Others*. He showed postal history material that was not quite as it first appeared. **Gustaf Douglas** then presented his display entitled *Sweden Number One and Subsequent Important Gems*. This turned out to be one of the most memorable highlights of the weekend. One of the rare stamps he displayed was the famous Treskilling Yellow error of colour. Being able to see this very famous error written up on an album sheet at close quarters was a surprise for us all. The final RDP display was given by **Dr Cheryl Ganz** who brought *Zeppelin Matchmaker*.

She showed various Zeppelin items which had been reunited. Her display included a crash mail cover from the Hindenburg's last disastrous flight in 1937. Two local dealers were in attendance during the Saturday afternoon: Corbitt Stamps and Mark Bloxham, who also kindly sponsored the drinks reception prior to the Saturday evening banquet, held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Newcastle. **Neil Ritchie** provided the first display on the Sunday morning: *Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914 – 1919*. He was



Martino was very surprised

followed by **Martino Laurenzi** who had flown over from America just to present his display of *Communications Between Italy and Great Britain During The Great War*. The postal history began before the outbreak of war and went on to show how communications were affected.

Martino was awarded the Stanley Gibbons Cup for the best presentation of Congress – an award he richly deserved. Congress concluded as usual with a wide variety of standing displays

provided by members of local philatelic societies. *Gerald Marriner FRPSL*



The local members on show

On the Club circuit

A roundup of events and speakers at local and national societies.

Please send your reports direct to **the Editor**. We cannot undertake to include every report sent to us, and reserve the right to edit the reports we receive in the interests of space; short reports are best please. Full contact details for the societies are in the ABPS handbook and website. **Visitors are welcome** at all societies listed. *When submitting photos please ensure that any people shown (especially children) have agreed to their photo appearing in this national newsletter (Data Protection and all that...).* "→" Indicates contact information.

Aberdeen

Three years ago we received a legacy from a late member **Mike Ward** to help "**promote Philately in the North East**" (Scotland). With the assistance of the ABPS Exhibition team, we purchased 3 of the new secure stand-alone A-Frames as seen at Stampex last spring. These have recently been used in local museums and libraries, carrying displays of "An A-Z of stamp Collecting", "Scottish Soldiers" & "Mail from Balmoral Castle". Our informal opening meeting on 13th September was followed on the 27th with **Dr David Kindley** entertaining in his inimitable style with *The Northern Isles, Orkney &*

Shetland from the 18th century to the present day. For a month prior to the Anniversary of the Armistice, we have mounted a small exhibition in the main City Library marking the end of WWI. Half a dozen members have each contributed 16-sheet displays with such themes as *Soldiers' Mail, Silk Postcards, Thinking of You, The Grand Fleet in Orkney* and *The Break-up of the Ottoman Empire*. →

seafield28@gmail.com Alex Walker

Amersham & District

After the 13 weeks summer break eight members displayed at our first meeting of the 2018/19 season *Fill-a-Frame using the letters O, P or Q*. As usual



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the members showed considerable imagination with titles *World Overprints, Overprint Machins, Princes & Queens, GB Officials, Paquebots of Japan, Orange Free State Occupation* (by the British), *Oman* and a rag tag of *two very Old Albums* and *unusual Postage Dues*, including one from Aberdeen where a 2p stamp had been applied instead of a second class stamp! In the first display **Roger Elliston** had invested much time and skill in producing a display of two frames of overprints from numerous countries. Our second meeting was an auction which was fairly successful, attended by 40 members and visitors. On 4th October **Peter Pugh** and his wife **Rosemary** drove all the way from Rugby to give us an exceptional presentation *Another Bloody Railway*. Despite the disparaging title the subject was most absorbing, being the Trans Siberian Railway from 1898 until 1914, which provided a much quicker postal route from Europe to China than via Suez. Every sheet has at least one illustration and our members greatly admired the quality of research and hard work invested in this display.

Jim Drummond

Ayrshire

Our new president, **John Chalmers**, opened the new season with his inaugural display for *President's Night* in September. He began with stamps from the German colonies pre-1919, followed by issues from Allenstein, Memel and Danzig post-Versailles. We then jumped to WWII with German issues for Bohemia/Moravia and the occupation of Poland, followed by an interesting range of the allied occupation stamps, including French and Russian issues. The second half of

the evening continued with German stationery from 1873 to 1938, including the inflation period when postage jumped from 20M in June to 4000M by September. He finished more locally with *The History of the Auchencruive Estate, Oswald Hall, Mount Hamilton*, which became the factor's residence, and correspondence to Patrick Cambell, who was factor 1804-1836. The second meeting was a bourse and then in October we were treated to a veritable feast of *Early German* philatelic material from the collection of **Dr Stewart Gardiner**. We saw unfamiliar stamps from German local town posts of the 1860s to 1900s including bogus issues and forgeries of



Stewart Gardiner and David Rossall

bogus issues, and a commemorative envelope of 1889 featuring Roland Hill and James Chalmers as inventors of the postage stamp. Then came Kamerun and Togo up to their occupation and loss after WWI. His second round featured stamps from the various German states prior to the creation of the German Empire in 1871. Those states too small to make their own arrangements often used the

services of the family-run Thurn & Taxis postal service.

→ davidrossall@sky.com

David Rossall

Barnet & District

At the first Members' Evening of the year, no less than 10 members gave displays of their *Latest Acquisitions*.

Trevor Milton set the evening off to an excellent start by showing us covers and complete sheets of souvenir stamp issues from *Philatelic Congresses*, some going back to as early as 1913.

Other displays included postcards showing local scenes, postcards around Potters Bar, RAF commemoration, missent Royal Mail, humorous postcards, complete sheets of Australian Olympic winners (2000), a Penny Black damaged during printing, some Barbados Victorian proofs and some as yet uncatalogued

Commonwealth flaws. The evening wound up with a most illuminating display from new member **Gerry Treptow** showing some of the thematic material on *Firefighting* that he had been collecting since the early 1960s – the highlight being a card franked by the 1970 German Voluntary Relief Services 30pf honouring the firefighting service, that being particularly pertinent as he had spent some time persuading the German postal service to include honouring firefighters amongst their commemorative issues. *Alan Harris*

Basildon

In July **Stuart Henderson** stepped in at short notice to show a wide range of banknotes including a £1 million note printed for the film of the same name, bogus Confederate notes and British Armed Forces emergency standby

currency. Then came revenue licences, registered mail from holiday camps and a whole host of other paper ephemera.

Later **Paul Green** showed *Jamaica*, also at short notice, due to illness. After a brief history of Jamaica and its posts, his stamp issues started from 1870 with plate proofs in blocks of four. He collected issues up to, but not including, Jamaica's independence. Postal stationery included telegraph forms of Queen Victoria, newspaper wrappers and airletters. He also produced unstamped postcards printed by prisoners in 1877. His display ended with postal history from 1756 to the patriotic labels from both world wars. Next we welcomed **Richard Husband** and **Rufus Barnes** from Cambridge. Richard brought *The Story of Perfins*. Copestake & Sloper persuaded the GPO to allow perfins. The Sloper machine was explained and he showed the use of perfins on postal stationery. Rufus followed with *Abu Dhabi*, starting with British overprints used at the agency office from 1963-1966, and continued to when it joined the United Arab Emirates. He then displayed *Burma fantasy issues* and *TPOs*. As our third replacement **Christopher Cooksey** showed us *Rhodesia* from



Rufus Barnes and Richard Husband

the early issues of the British South Africa Company to the Admirals issue, the 1959 definitives and its Post-UDI successors to 1978. *Len Stanway*

Bexley

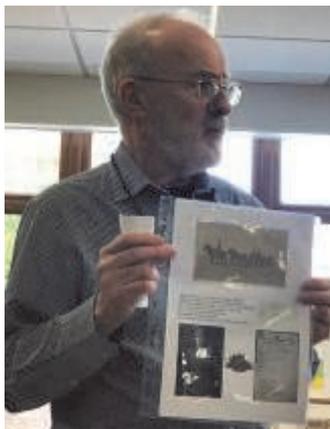
In May, presentations from Redhill included *The GB Swiftair overseas priority mail service, 1980-2003, US naval mail*, a thematic display *The history of first class mail, The Croydon aerodrome* (closed in 1956) and *New Zealand health series of charity stamps*. At the next meeting, **Cliff Ayres** provided a philatelic account of the *History of the World Cup Football Tournament* – looking forward to the competition that started a month later. Following the AGM, **Pat Adams** provided an interesting presentation about *Norway and Spitzbergen*, the arctic islands far north of the European mainland used as a whaling base, then abandoned until the 20th century, when a colony was established for coal mining. At the next meeting, members came out in a show of force for the *Members' Displays*. They included KGV Silver Wedding Issue, early postcards, German inland postcards, Haiti 1934-1950, a thematic display of stagecoaches, and a display of railways. There was even a post-mortem tribute: former club president **Frank Parsons** gave a presentation taken from his late wife **Pat's** extensive collection. Pat, who died in June, was remembered in a service at Eltham Crematorium a month later. Club member **Mike**



Thompson read the eulogy, recalling fond memories of postcard collecting. Pat was a member of Bexley, serving on the committee for many years, Sidcup stamp club, and the Kent Postal History Group. She was a founder member of the North West Kent Postcard Club too. ➔ Adrian Smith, 01322 559 210 or adethebeak@yahoo.co.uk

Will Dalrymple

Bookham



Malcolm Cole on The Red Cross

In September **Malcolm Cole** gave an excellent presentation on *The Red Cross*. He explained that it all began with Henri Dunant and his horrific experiences with the wounded on the battlefield after the Battle of Solferino in 1859, when Napoleon defeated the Austrians. The presentation then followed the development of National Societies and the League of Red Cross Societies, through to International Conferences. Using stamps, covers and postcards he demonstrated how the Red Cross symbol had developed

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over the years, along with the organization itself and the introduction and evolution of ambulance trains, hospital ships, and horse and motor ambulances. It included an interesting range of fund-raising material in the form of cinderellas, labels, ephemera, etc together with post sent to and from POW camps during WWI. In August **Grace Davies** gave a display entitled "Peace – Pages from a Collection." Peace is a broad theme and Grace brought 200 pages and a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate its many aspects. The material was deliberately varied to provide something for everybody - stamps, postal history, first day covers, letters, postcards, cinderella items, posters, and original artwork of all sorts. *Members' Day* resulted in four members displaying: **David Carr** - *Snakes*, **Simon McArthur** - *The Liberation of the Netherlands in WWII*, **Arnold Carsten** - *Cross Border Parcels in Europe* and Vice Chairman, **Patrick Reid** - *New South Wales Tax Marks*. *David Bravery*

Bromley & Beckenham

The season began with a Gold medal winning collection of *German East Africa 1941-1917* by **Michael Farrant**, who opened by explaining the postal arrangements existing for GEA (now Tanzania) when war was declared in 3rd August 1914. The Allied campaign effectively cut off the colony other than via Portuguese East Africa, (Mozambique). We heard of SMS Königsberg, a light cruiser on station and hidden there. Early in 1916 a blockade runner reached the colony bringing not only war supplies but fresh stamps and new "16" year date slugs for the cancellations. These were distributed to the remaining German



Michael with a rare small "16" year slug on a cover

post offices and are quite scarce being restricted to a few weeks or even days in some places. Michael was able to present a vivid picture of the events as they unfolded backed up by suitable rare or even unique items. We also enjoyed **Graham Booth's** display of *The Five Antarctic Voyages of Admiral Byrd*. Graham displayed many covers, photos and other memorabilia, much of it philatelic, to promote Byrd and the expeditions, but some crew and personal letters were included. **Philip Cant** brought *Titanic, From Cradle to Grave*. The story of Titanic is well known, so it was good to see the wide range of photos, cuttings, and other ephemera connected to the ship and its ill-fated voyage, as well as many of the stamps issued for the centenary in 2012. → David on 02087787001, Chris on 02084021263 or

kentphilately.weebly.com/ca-bbps.html

David Rennie

Cambridge

The new season opened with a Members' Evening showing *The Letters Q, R and S*. As usual on these evenings a very diverse and interesting range of material was shown. Various members displayed stamps and covers from as far away as St Helena,

Switzerland, Simons Town in South Africa, Stamboul - Salonica - Smyrna, and Sierra Leone. Our new Japanese member put up stamps with many varieties on the Koban, Japan, whilst others on the theme of the evening showed railway parcel stamps from Denmark, railway stamps and covers from Belgium, flown RAF covers, QE II perfins and photographs and covers from various Lincolnshire towns beginning with "S". On 21st September our president **John George** gave a detailed display of *GB King George VI issues* with particular reference to the various controls, and also listed and unlisted errors on both definitives and commemoratives. The display was enhanced with many covers showing actual usage of the various stamps. → info@cambridgephilatelicssociety.co.uk
Peter Morton

Chelmsford & District

Andy Soutar and **Robert Mason** from Ipswich opened the new season. Andy's display was a miscellany of materials including a selection of stamps from *Colonial French Africa through to federalisation*. He also showed stamps featuring Cameroon and explained the history of the region. Robert followed with *Russia following the 1992 breakup of the Soviet Union*, including a number of stamps for the Russian Federation, with some large relatively unknown countries. For the next meeting **Rufus Barnes** divided his presentation into two parts, the first being *Christmas Island* located in the Indian Ocean. The first post office opened in 1900 as part of Straits Settlement postal services with Straits Settlement stamps bearing an identifiable postmark from the island, the earliest in his possession being one

for incoming post from Glasgow in 1898. He followed with material covering *Tokelau*, previously known as the Union Islands. Originally part of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands whose stamps they used, they were transferred to New Zealand control and administered from Western Samoa in 1926. Samoan stamps were used until 1948 when the islands issued their own. From Colchester, **Maureen Evans** brought *Easter Island*. It was originally run by Peru, but has been administered by Chile since 1888. There was no postal system on the island until 1952. She finished with material from her display on stamps of *Maps, mapping techniques and the history of mapping*. → Dave Everard davideverard@live.com or 01245465506
David Everard

Croydon

In July **Nigel Chandler** showed *Tobago* which changed hands 31 times before finally becoming British in 1814. Nigel started with a GB stamp cancelled by the



Nigel Chandler in action

Tobago Bar Oval 14 handstamp. The 1879 stamps began as fiscal but soon were for postage. There were bisects, overprints, varieties and flaws and then examples of Tobago stamps, including forgeries, used in other islands. Then came postal history including an 1837 Tobago Fleuron addressed to Glasgow. Unusual destinations included Montenegro (1895) and San Marino (1896). In 1899 Trinidad and Tobago came into being but stamps for

this did not come into being until 1913. 10 members produced material for the August meeting. **David Rennie** was followed by **Chris Hitchen**, **Robert Raju**, **Richard West**, **John Ray**, **Chris Board**, **Paul Percival**, **Brian Asquith**, **Frank Simpson** and **Pauline MacBroom**. As should be expected the displays were very varied and interesting. The next month **Alan Tyler** took us to *Palestine*. Until WWI it was part of the Ottoman Empire. British and Anzac troops opened an offensive in October 1917 and took Jerusalem in December. The first stamps, inscribed E.E.F. (Egyptian Expeditionary Force), were issued by the British Military Authorities in February 1918. Numerous errors and varieties, missing dots, inverted overprints and military cancellations were shown. The story continued through Mandate to the start of the State of Israel in 1948 and on to Israeli stamps used in Gaza after the Six Days War in 1967.

Brian Asquith and Graham Harker

Dundee and District

Sadly the first meeting of the new session started with a one minute silence in memory of a long standing member, **Sandy Sloss**. The president, **David Millar**, then displayed *Victorian Mail* with examples of the development of cancellation methods and cross writing that proved a challenge to read. He also sought help – with some success - in deciphering a number of words that Victorian handwriting style had proved difficult to read. The interesting history of the covers had required hours of internet searching. **Richard Cuthbertson**, of Scottish PS, displayed part of his *Macau* collection including most of the issues from 1910 to 1920 with varieties of overprints,



Richard Cuthbertson

paper type and colour. This was followed by stamps and covers up to the 1950s.

Colin Campbell

Falkirk

On 20th September displays were given by two Club members. The first was of *GB Victorian Cancellations* by **Jim McHardy** who started with a brief story of the postage costs until 1840. He then gave examples of different Maltese crosses before moving on to a variety of cancellations with numbers and combinations of numbers and letters, explaining their usage. Later sections included circular cancellations and sub-post office identification numbers. The second display was of *Advertising Cards from the 1908 Franco-British Exhibition* by **Mrs Jean Osborne**. Many of the cards were issued by companies now extinct, but several are still known brands today such as Schweppes, Price and Bovril. In each case Jean presented a history of the companies involved. These were excellent displays which had obviously involved a lot of time and research.

Mike Turnbull

Ferndown & West Moors

Frequently collecting interests have their origins in childhood and for **Ian**

Shapiro this was certainly true. Having grown up in Cape Town and had experience of Royal Visits, he developed a growing interest in Royal themed stamp issues and indeed, all matters royal. We were absolutely riveted by this presentation of *Royalty*. Ian had amassed over many years a superb collection and within this evening's display the finest elements were to be seen. The story featured began in 1837, through to near the end of the 20th Century. Early signed correspondence from Queen Victoria and Prince Albert was displayed, as were mourning envelopes, rare royal cancellations, including postal items from Windsor, Balmoral and Osbourne House. An interesting study was made of royal handwriting. Into King Edward VII's reign, the in-depth appraisal

continued, with rare (unique?) items such as a royal cover blessed with a 'postage due' stamp! and later royal telegrams sent around the time of the Abdication. Such was the volume of material and its sheer scarcity, together with the considerable knowledge displayed, both through write-up and exposition, that we could hardly draw breath. For me as for many no doubt, the most *amazing* philatelic items related to the very last days of the Russian Royal Family. These included envelopes with their letters and a Christmas postcard sent by Anastasia, one of the princesses, just weeks prior to execution, together with photographs and documents! Indeed... a *'Night to Remember'*
Paul Barry

Grimsby

Highlight of the last few months was a display of *Brigg Postal History* by **Chris Dodsworth** which included most of the early postmarks, postmasters and various town scenes on postcards. His display was preceded by a comprehensive and well documented display of *Butterflies* from all parts of the world by his grand-daughter **Faith** (13). A generation seems to have slipped through the net!

Catalogues for our annual auction on 5th December for St Andrew's Children's & Adult Hospice have being posted out during October. If you want a copy please contact **John Mileman** on 01472 827396 or **Dave McMann** at mcmann@btopenworld.com

Dave McMann

Harrogate

Our new season got off to an excellent start with 14 members displaying a mixture of *New and re-evaluated material*. About 180 sheets were shown



Postcard from the Royal Yacht, Cowes Official cancellation

with stamps, covers and other interesting material from British Victorian Africa (at least one hero and one villain), Europe, islands in the South and North Atlantic as well as postcard displays and thematic material. Another strong turnout listened to **Richard Wheatley's** fascinating history of the legendary *Spitfire* aircraft. Richard explained that he didn't follow any rules in this



Richard Wheatley and Peter Rix studying Spitfires and airmails

collection and included anything that he liked which would enhance it. *Abolish rules* is the order of the day – it could catch on. He then proved it with another round beginning with Anniversary and Signed covers before including everything possible connected with the name *Spitfire* e.g. warships, dragons, volcanoes etc. Out of a large brown bag – he then produced Spitfire items, including 2 bottles of Spitfire Ale (both lacking the vital ingredient). **Mike Roberts** brought a postal history display on *Falkland Islands* which has already won multiple gold medals. After an excellent introduction by PowerPoint we learned that out of the 7 known early Falkland Island letters/covers, we were seeing 5.

The other material was of a similar standard with exceptionally clear postmarks. A range of maps and a timeline helped our geography and history. The display boards were full and there was the distinct sense that there was a considerable amount of material for which there was no room.

Bill Tait

Huntingdonshire

Our new season started with President's Evening. Our president, **John George**, showed the Commonwealth stamps of GVI in catalogue order. He started with stamps and usage for Aden, Nauru, New Guinea, and Canada. He included material relating to the Montreal 1938 Philatelic exhibition. The second half started with Indian stamps and Bahrain overprints on Indian stamps. An interesting item was an Indian registered book parcel front. The stamps of Pakistan officials and Bahawalpur came next. From South Africa we saw various issues and varieties along with the Coronation issues. The next meeting was a members' *Thematic* evening. *A sack of GB material* bought in an auction revealed a wealth of material, starting off with slogan postmarks then QEII watermarks, missing colours on decimal commemorative stamps. Examples of Field Office postmarks, Perfins, Contract stamps and Registered Mail came next. Booklet stamp strips, Gutter pairs and TV Licence stamps brought the display to an end which had taken two years to put together as there had been so much material. *Fungi on stamps* made for a colourful display followed by *Steam Railway Engines* from various countries. The stamps and postcards of

Gibraltar depicting *Military Uniforms* were followed by stamps relating to the *Peninsular War*. An interesting item showing a Bicycle Slogan on a First National City Trust brought the evening to a close. → 01480 468037.

David Birkert

Kingston & District

At the end of last season we had a number of Members' Meetings. The first was on *European Countries*. **Mike Peddar** started in Portugal and handed over to **Alan Tyler** to take us to Cyprus. **Susan Oliver** did a grand tour of Armenia, Croatia, Slovakia, Italy and the Faeroe Islands but husband **Chris** stayed "at home" in Swanage (still in Europe). **Alan Kent** continued the grand tour, by sea, with ships to USSR French Philatelic Exhibitions and Nazi Germany where **Stan Challis** stayed for the Older states and then flew to Ireland, whereas **Roger Niven** headed for France. **Brian Sole** cycled everywhere, of course, and President **Peter Wood**, returned to Ireland.

Postcards was the next theme. We saw WWI cards from France, views of towns and villages in the Faeroe Islands, Cape Town Pageant scenes and a variety of other topics. The third topic was *Sports and Pastimes* which produced Olympic material from France, cycling, soccer, rugby, tennis, fishing, motorsports, scouting and even stamp collecting. Marvellous how you can find something in any collection to fulfil so many topics.

Adapted from Kingston & District Newsletter

Largs & District

We finished the old session with the AGM. There were a number of changes of office-holders as long-

serving officers stood down. The official part of the meeting concluded with the elevation of **Bob McSherry** to Honorary Membership in thanks for his long service to the running of the club. The evening concluded with three rounds of displays by members with topics including *Mauritius*, *Scots on Stamps*, *Papua New Guinea*, and a selection of *Space on stamps* collected by long-standing member **Jimmy Cameron**, shown by **Ricky Boyd** in Jimmy's absence. The traditional President's Night started our new season. New president, **Angus Dodds**, featured the *Rotary International*. *Rotary Clubs* started in the USA in 1905. The outgoing president, **Roy**



Roy Wickham and Angus Dodds

Wickham, followed with a display of *Postal history of the Unilever Company*, featuring the palm oil industry in West Africa. **Bob McSherry** completed the evening with the *stamps and covers of the Ross Dependency in Antarctica*. The next meeting was a superb display by **Alan Watson** on *Heraldry - the Gentle Science*. He produced a flag showing his own heraldic crest, and explained the different elements that made it personal to him. The main display

finished with an explanation of the Royal Coat of Arms. In October **Elizabeth Nairn** visited with *New Zealand*. We gained insight into many aspects of the country, including Maori symbols, flora and fauna. Postal items showed the links to the UK, including the contribution to the Allies in both world wars. →

davidrossall@sky.com David Rossall

Launceston

In September **Mike Tooley** showed us *The Smaller Channel Islands*. Mike gave us a short history of stamps in the Channel Islands up to 1st October 1969, when Guernsey and Jersey achieved



Mike Tooley on a small island

Postal Independence. The Smaller Islands are Alderney, Sark, Herm and Jethou. His collection is confined to definitive and commemorative stamps together with postal items issued by these

islands during the period 1949 to 1969. They issued their own local stamps referred to as "Semi-officials", which were used to pay for either parcel delivery or for transferring mail to St Peter Port to join the GPO service. Alderney and Sark in the Bailiwick of Guernsey have used Guernsey's stamps since October 1969. In 1965 Sark issued a set of local stamps to mark the 400th anniversary of the Island's settlement. In 1962 the Commodore Shipping Company held the contract for deliveries between Sark & Guernsey and Alderney & Guernsey and issued several interesting commemorative sets. These arrangements ended in 1969. Herm had an official British Post Office between 1925 and November 1938 opening most days for just 30 minutes. The Tenant of Herm began a private postal service from Herm in 1949 to cover the cost of taking mail to St Peter Port in Guernsey in addition to a pigeon post service. Jethou Island issued its own local stamps between 1960 and 1969. Local stamps also exist for the smaller Islands of Brecqhou and Lihou. *Howard Hamblin*



Warwick & Warwick

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I Spy...

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

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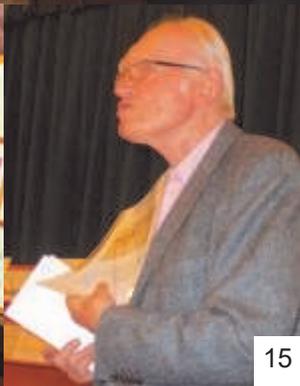
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Leeds

This report covers our activities from April until October. Two meetings in the Spring concluded the sojourn at our previous venue at Oxford Place Centre, a well-researched exhibition and talk on *Baltic Border Changes in World War II* from **Rex Dixon FRPSL**, a reminder of times of sorrow; and showing members' enormous interest in picture postcards, *Pictures in the Post* given by **Stephen Holder** on behalf of **Judith Holder**, great friends of Leeds from Bradford. Earlier a small group were charged with finding a new venue for us, our fifth meeting place in 5 years. Their perseverance has paid off. We moved into splendid new conference facilities at St. Georges Conference Centre (just to the west of the Crypt Centre for homeless people and rough sleepers) from 11th September. All non-members are welcome to visit at any of



Leeds members viewing each other's material

our meetings. The first meeting was a full house with 24 members showing frames, slightly difficult in the course of an evening. Two weeks later our

long-standing immediate past secretary **John Edwards** gave us a prize evening - the fruit of many years collecting - *Back of the Book – United States of America*. There is a full programme extending to the end of May 2019. Not to be forgotten is Pudsey Stamp Fair, at Pudsey Civic Hall run by the society, this year changing to a Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th of November (see *Diary*)

Michael Waugh FRPSL

Maidstone & Mid-Kent

Our 96th season started with our morning meeting with a Members' Display with *The Letters P/Q/R*. As always our members come up with a great range of displays and even Q does not faze them. Our first evening meeting we welcomed Sidcup PS. First of all congratulations for persevering with the tremendous traffic problems that Kent roads were experiencing that night. **Geoff Hanney** was the first Sidcup member to arrive and manfully stood in for the first half with displays on *Forces Post Offices, Chile in Antarctica* (no pun intended), *Indian Army Uniforms* and *Postal History on their time in Egypt in WWI*. He then finished off the first half with a selection of *Postcards of Whitstable*. By the second half **John Couldroy** and **Frank Parsons** had arrived. John proceeded to show *Israel, formerly Palestine*, stamps complete with tabs from the first issue in 1948. Frank gave a display from his late wife's collection on *Customs & Excise and Prison Revenue material*. Sadly **Pat Parsons** died in June. She was a stalwart of the Kent Philatelic World and will be missed by all of us who had the pleasure of knowing her. *Brian Stonestreet FRPSL*

Newport and Gwent

Throughout the summer months we only have one meeting per month. In June three members from Barry entertained us with several interesting displays. In July, **John Perry** gave us a splendid display on *Nordic Countries*, one of John's main collecting areas. John was ably assisted by wife **Anne** who displayed the album sheets as John was wheelchair bound. In August we saw **Neil Jones** give one of his light-hearted discussions and displays on *New Zealand stamps and covers*. In September Newport for the second year in succession held an Autumn stamp fair and despite the heavy rain and high winds the day was a great success with a steady flow of collectors all day.

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Roy Bentley

Oxford

John Davies of nearby Banbury and Stamp Active Network fame gave us a fascinating display on the *Penny Black Jubilee of 1890*, the year that our society was founded. To everyone's amusement, he began by observing how few modern commemoratives make it onto envelopes and, being as scarce as Penny Blacks, he offered the audience considerable sums to buy such rare modern items!

The 2017-18 season ended with a new event: a 'social'. On a warm summer's evening, many members brought things to sell and swop and discuss all sorts of matters, philatelic and not so philatelic. It went well, and has found its place in future seasons. Speaking of which, the new one began in September with subs collected, programme booklets issued and a

John Perry

Sadly the display John Perry gave to the club in July was his last, as on the 31st August he died. He lost his long fight against cancer, which he had been fighting for 10 years. John's enthusiasm for stamp collecting was spread throughout Welsh clubs and other societies around the world. Newport club are indebted to John for his constant helpfulness to everyone in the society and his welcoming attitude to new collectors. We as a club need now to maintain John's legacy by encouraging new members to join the club and carrying on giving talks to local schools. John had been a member of Newport for over 35 years with 30 years as secretary.



Roy Bentley, John Perry & Les Ashton-Smith at John's Presentation Evening Retirement as Secretary of Newport after 30 years in 2017.

Roy Bentley

Silent Auction, with bids written down beside items for sale until a designated time when the last on the list paid and carried off their winnings. A morning meeting on *The Letter D* noticeably failed to have any Denmark displayed. Nonetheless members displayed plenty of apposite and interesting Ds: dogs, Disney, the delightful/dire stamps of modern Tuvalu issues, designers and dealers, 'Dwor' – the Polish for manor house, postage dues from and to Japan, dancing, dinosaurs, Danzig, the UN Year of the Disabled, disasters, decolonisation and development, and the aircraft manufacturers of Dassault, De Havilland, Dornier and Douglas.

Simon Heap

Poole & Bournemouth

Emergency Services, Medicine and Health was the topic for our Members' Displays in September. **Mike Houchen** began the evening with three sheets covering *The History of the RNLI* on stamps, postcards and charts, including the GB Rescue at Sea issue with the SOS perforations along the top and bottom of each stamp, closing with some covers from Lundy designed by one of the club's previous members.

Ken Parrott followed with a range of



SOS perforations at top and bottom

covers from various countries, each showing *Different Aspects of Healthcare and Sickness Prevention*. Also included were stamps from round the world on medical themes, including some charity stamps, such as those from New Zealand. **Chris Wheeler** put up two frames of covers, some with letters and inserts, addressed to or from hospitals around the world used in general correspondence or commemorating their anniversaries. After the break, **Michael Mawdsley** displayed a range of stamps on *Medical Issues* from many countries. **Alan King** concentrated on *The first French Red Cross issues of 1914* and the orphan issues from 1917, and also sets of New Zealand Health stamps from 1929 to 1969. Finally, **Mike Trickett** displayed a wide range of postcards and stamps covering many health-related topics including Finland's first Red Cross issues, and a set from Greece.

Chris Wheeler

Portadown

The annual Portadown Stampex and Collectors Fair was held in late September in the Town Hall and was very well supported and attended with visitors from across the Province and as far away as Donegal and Dublin. We have been organising the Fair for over forty years and its popularity seems to get stronger each year; it is now the second highest attended Philatelic Fair in Ireland. The Lord Mayor of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council, Councillor **Julie Flaherty**, attended and was conducted around the Fair by one of the joint organisers **John Proctor**. The displays included postcards and covers of the First World War period which created considerable interest, Irish Postal

History items, other WWI material, and stamps depicting the Downey Head issue of GB. Also on display were Postal History items with a local interest, stamps from Denmark, and postcards and other material with a Banbridge and Portadown connection. Postcards with a military theme were in great demand and those sent home from the trenches were eagerly sought after in particular anything with a Somme or WWI connection. The displays were again up to the usual high standard and the award for the best display was awarded to John Proctor with his exhibit of GB stamps, postcards and covers with a Northern Ireland connection. There was ample variety to satisfy the visitors' curiosity and many went home happy and satisfied with the purchases that they had made. → 0283833496

John Proctor

City of Preston

During our recent return visit to Lostock, three of our members elected to display their individual collections.

Mr Bernard Walmsley displayed his artistic, beautifully drawn and bright collection entitled *Birds of a Feather*. He always illustrates his display with artistic drawings of birds. **Dr Geoff**



Mr Thomson watching as Dr Dyer gives his display

Please note that the minutes of the AGM of ABPS held at Congress in July 2018 are now on the ABPS Website

Captions for pages 30 and 31

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stuart Henderson entertains at Basildon 2. Alan Tyler with a display of Palestine at Croydon 3. Philip Cant with <i>Titanic</i> at Bromley & Beckenham 4. Lorraine Swift, John England and Paul Tennyson viewing Mike Roberts' display at Harrogate 5. Paul Smith shows at Basildon 6. Peter Maybury of Italy & Colonies 7. Hans van Dooremalen shows at the Czechoslovak Society meeting 8. Clive Jones at the Kenilworth meeting of Italy & Colonies 9. John Shawley and Brian Trotter | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Alan Holyoake, Richard Hobbs, Patrick Maselis and Peter Cockburn at the Royal after the 1st competition in 150 years 11. David Millar, President of Dundee, showing Victorian Mail 12. Susan Oliver and Brian Sole at Gateshead. Chris Harman behind. 13. Viewing at Birmingham by Helvetia Society members 14. Mr Walmsley, Mr Thomson, Mrs Beaver-Thomson, Mr Adrian Jones (Chairman of Lostock) and Dr Dyer receiving the certificate 15. Graham Booth on Admiral Byrd's voyages at Bromley & Beckenham |
|---|---|

Dyer showed his stylish display on the *Stamps of South West Africa*. This was an in-depth display about which he is extremely knowledgeable. Finally there was a display by our chairman **Mr Thomson**, who gave an exciting and all-encompassing display on his award winning *The Furness Railway* collection, during which we saw postcards, stamps and other material on the launch, running and final demise of this now defunct railroad. All three displays were very well received by the members of Lostock. The Secretary, **Ann Beaver-Thomson** also went along as a supporter.

Ann Beaver-Thomas

Ringwood

Following the well-attended AGM with award presentations, we were greatly entertained by the President's Guest Speaker, **Michael Elliott FRPSL**. His subject *Aspects of Finnish Philately*



Michael Elliott receives a certificate from President Colin Mount

provided a superb display of this little-known collecting area, depicting stamps, postcards, covers and postmarks, further enhanced by write-up and exposition. Michael had inherited a lovely collection, which had provided the inspiration for further development. Emphasis was on the

MAX WHITLOCK 1936 - 2018

Max, a long-standing member of Redcar & Cleveland Philatelic Society, died on 30th September, aged 82. He had been Treasurer and Auction Clerk for the society for many years.

Although Max collected a wide variety of philatelic material he was passionate about material from South Africa and was also an official in The South Africa Society of Great Britain. He was extremely knowledgeable on philatelic subjects and was always quick to help and guide others, often lending books from his huge collection of catalogues. Shortly before his death he was working on a thematic collection *Bridges of the World* in which he had a keen interest, being a Civil Engineer in his working life. Well-known in philatelic circles, not just locally and in the North East but also much further afield, he will be missed by his friends and colleagues at Redcar & Cleveland PS and elsewhere.



Martin Snowdon

1940s with 'The Winter War', 'The Continuation War' and 'Women at War'. This miserable slice of European history saw Finns fighting alongside German military against common enemy Russia. Michael's knowledge was advanced by a most recent meeting with a local 93-year old lady who had nursed Finnish troops. The display contained a recently acquired postcard selection. Members were privileged to have access to this scarce philatelic material, some of it unique.

Paul Barry

Rochdale

Our club's annual visit from Burnley began with **Barry Evans** recounting his friendship with the recently deceased **Jennifer Toombs**, the renowned British Commonwealth Stamp Designer, who is best known for her 1965/67 Sir Winston Churchill stamps.

Richard Badman continued with a selection of *Original material from Harrisons the stamp printers*. Included were stamps from 1967 trials of self-adhesive stamps and selections of trial stamps with original inspection plates used to locate errors prior to printing.

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or 01706 665698 *Neil Wharmby*

St Albans, Harpenden & District

The new season started on 19th September when **Colin Narbeth** gave his display *The Falklands with a touch of Antarctica*. It centred on the Argentine invasion of 1982, but began in the 1970s with, on the one hand, mail defaced by Argentina to delete "Falkland Islands" and on the other, a message from the Falklands thanking Argentina for assistance given during a particularly harsh winter. Such

co-operation did not continue and by 1982 Argentina had decided to invade. Colin's contacts and knowledge brought us mail from both sides, including a letter with the message "awaiting occupation" sent after the invasion had started, one from Argentine school children to troops on the island and a "snatch mail" cover – a service provided for British troops. Through the material shown and the commentary, the conflict and the personalities involved were fully brought to life, and Colin concluded by explaining the tension surrounding the Thanksgiving Service in London after the islands had been re-taken. We expected a breathtaking show and that is exactly what we got.

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www.stalbharpstampclub.org.uk
Peter Mellor

Scarborough

We enjoyed a superb display of *GB stamps and Postal History* by **Ken Brown** from Leeds. There were clear impressions of early postmarks. One was a letter from Scarborough to Bawtry with a Horseshoe Scarborough mark from 1794. Originally all mail went via London so that it could be inspected. Until 1840 the receiver paid, usually according to the distance travelled. Prices had become very high so the introduction of the 1d post, paid by the sender, caused a massive increase in the mail. If the sender declined to pay the receiver had to pay double the price. The second half followed the changes in designs, including the first ones for George V, which he did not like. The series was changed to appease him. We also saw

a collection of business advertising envelopes. *From Scarborough Post*

Solihull

This season got off to a good start. In September **Colin Searle** showed *Gibraltar* with a good mix of stamps, postal stationery, postal history and personal stories which brought the show alive aided by a power point presentation. The following week, **Richard Wheatley** entertained us with *Netherland Indies, WWI & Stamps*. Once again, Richard displayed some remarkable material coming from this area in difficult times. **John Gledhill** started off our October meetings with a comprehensive display of *Provisional GB Postal Stationery*. Any item of GB postal stationery with some (official) additional printing, be it text, obliterating bar or image is the subject of some of John's latest research. The Post Office could not afford to scrap



John Gledhill with his display

the huge stocks of envelopes etc when postage rates changed so these items were modified to extend their use until supplies were exhausted. **John Sussex** continued the theme of GB postal history the following week with a display of *Modern Postal History*. In particular his display focussed on mail posted abroad using the 'additional'

services such as registration, express delivery, Swiftair and the many other, sometimes short-lived, services. Destinations covered the whole of the globe - including one item to North Korea!
John Barker

South Midlands

Terry Harrison gave a guest special display on his collection of *St Vincent issues*. The early issues were a lovely



Terry takes us to St Vincent

exposition of the complications of early stamp printing, perforation, provisionals during shortages, and all the various things that could go wrong and how they were dealt with. The first essays showed how much work went into the design and the choice of the particular portrait of Queen Victoria. Clearly stock-taking and supply/demand figures were a bit shaky, as shortages were dealt with by surcharging denominations with more stock than current needs required, sometimes more than once: indeed in 1883 "surplus" 1d stamps were overprinted for 2½ pence, but in 1885 they ran short of 1d stamps and re-overprinted remaining stocks of "2½ PENCE on 1d" with another "1d", which they were

originally (SG46). When the contract for printing was changed, De La Rue found that Perkins Bacon held copyright on their plates, so DLR had to make their own, until the copyright expired. All in all, a splendid and informative journey through the early years, moving on to later issues in the second half. →

www.sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps/smidsc

or John Gledhill 01789 842112.

John Gledhill

Southampton & District

We were visited by **Chris Harman** with his *Revenue Stamps* display. Chris began collecting these because the early versions were much cheaper than the postage stamps of the same period. As his knowledge grew he realised that Revenues went back to 1694 when duties were raised to help pay off the War Debts. The original ½d rate increased so that 100 years later it was 3½d. Paper was one of the items subject to duty. The blank paper had to be taken to a Stamp Office to be embossed to show that the duty had been paid before the paper was printed. We learnt of the development of Impressing, Embossing, Escutcheons and the methods of fixing them to vellum documents. Chris moved on to the growth in Almanacs which in book form were subject to a higher duty than when in sheet form. With continuing wars more items were subject to the duty: wallpaper, playing cards, hat linings and road tax (in 1784). Non-paper items were added, such as hair powder; royalty, clergy and soldiers were exempt! There was much more to see and learn until we reached the stamp period. Now a stamp could be affixed to show that the

tax had been paid – hence the stamps were inscribed *Postage and Inland Revenue*.

From Southampton Postmark

Thatcham & District

In July we had two meetings. At the first on *Americana* **Juliet Keel** showed *USA Postcards*, followed by **Graeme Stewart** with *Early post from the USA*. Then **Neil Hatton** took us for *A Ramble Around the States* based on his time there when seconded to the US Forces. **Dave Tanner**'s displays were related to *The Civil War* and *Insects*. Graeme took us to *American Antarctica* and **Ian Keel** had *Cancelled to Order*. For the second **Francis Connolly** brought *Propaganda Stamps* – WWII German forgeries of genuine British stamps - and was followed by **Mike Gurr** showing *Windsor Castle*. This included some of the history, stamps showing the castle and post to and from there. In August we had *What I Collect other than Stamps*. The results included phone cards, models of post office boxes and vans, product labels, cameras and coins. *World War II and the RAF* was the theme in September. Postcards of various types were brought by **Ian Keel** and **Neil Hatton**. **Bob Patterson** produced WWII stamps and a letter that roamed through France before being returned to sender. **Martin Farr** continued with pictures of WWII slogans and security posters, purchased from a car boot sale for £1. **Graeme Stewart** then showed pictures of post boxes particularly a WWII box with paint on its top that changed colour when gas was detected. He ended by showing a book of RAF museum covers.

From The Thatcham Postmark

Wakefield

In early September **Alwyn Peel** gave a very colourful display of stamps, covers and postal history relating to *Cook's Endeavour Voyage*. The next display was by **Richard Wheatley** showing early *Hotels in Egypt* which were of philatelic interest. Included were some very attractive postcards, stamps, covers and postal history items. Both of these were accompanied by very interesting and historically knowledgeable presentations. **Mike Roberts** entertained us with his display *The White Rajahs of Sarawak*. He has a unique presentation and in depth knowledge of this fascinating subject.

Julie Hitchcock

Watford & District

Our April meeting was cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control. This meant we had to squeeze the AGM into our June meeting. Our President of the last two years, **Alan Vincent** reached the end of his tenure and was succeeded by our new President, **Geoff Rooke**. Alan didn't get off the hook that easily however! He was voted onto the committee as **Basil Lewis** had decided to step down after many years' service to the society. With the AGM out of the way, we held our informal cup competitions, voted for by the members present. The S A Jones Cup for the six page competition (this year for subjects using the letters A, B and C) was won by **Wayne Cox** with *Type A, B and C Pillar Boxes*. The Victor Punter Memorial Trophy for the one page competition was also won by Wayne with *French Advertising Letter Cards*. After the summer break, the society re-convened at the start of September with an informal evening for

members to discuss new finds, and a bourse. → 01923 243243 or watforddps@gmail.com Wayne Cox

Wimbledon & District

We were delighted to welcome two fresh faces recently to boost our membership. We continue to enjoy an active programme and are grateful to the visiting speakers who are quite prepared to display to a small gathering. **Richard Berry** showed some fascinating material pertaining to the 1937 *Coronation of King George VI*, and **Ron Burn** showed an absorbing twelve frames of *Tristan da Cunha*. Member **Mike Warwick** displayed *Germany in the Wars*, and the Members' Evenings saw contributions on *Liberian Airways*, *Cinderellas*, *Laos*, *Underprints*, *Butlin's Holiday Camps*, *Donald McGill postcards* and *Sovereign Military Order of Malta*. **Andy Donaldson** and **Mike Warwick** gave a Powerpoint presentation on *The World of Stamps* to a capacity audience at the local Wimbledon Guild. This proved to be a successful way of promoting our hobby and resulted in Guild members attending one of our displays. The Society Dinner was well attended by members and guests. The annual competition attracted six entries, and cups were presented to **Steve Teuma** (Best Overall - *Early GB Maritime Markings, London and Liverpool*), **Mike Warwick** (*War Stamps and Ship Posts of Lake Luzern*), **John Davies** (*The City of Fiume, Priority Mail, and Tripoli di Barbera*) and a Certificate of Merit to **Russell Hill** (*Butlin's - I've Always been a Showman at Heart*). **Andy Donaldson** featured a collection of *Yorkshire Postal History* in his President's Evening display. A number

of members have also given displays to other societies during the year.

Mike Warwick

Federations

Sussex (ASPS)

The Association held the annual South of England Stamp and Postcard Fair at the Ardingly showground on 13th October. Sponsored by Cavendish Auctions and with over 40 dealers spread over two floors in attendance the Fair continues to be a highly successful event on the philatelic calendar. In addition to the dealers' tables visitors were able to view the exhibition of Sussex Federation and British Thematic Association annual competitions entries. The event was also the venue for a British Airmail Society meeting to which visitors were invited to view a standing display. In the county competitions the winners in the Inter-Society Class were British Airmail Society (**Josh Spoor** – *Scandinavian Air Crash Mail* and **Eddie Spice** – *North Atlantic German Catapult Mail*) and in the individual class, **Graham Booth** - *West Indies and South American Mail carried by Great Western*. The 2019 Fair and Sussex Convention will be held next year on Saturday 12th October.

➔ sussexphilately@live.co.uk

Jim Etherington

National and specialist societies

Austrian

The annual weekend took place at The Stuart Hotel in Derby on the 21st/23rd September. This was our first visit to this venue, although it will surely not be

our last. It proved to be a most satisfactory one, despite one member's Satnav deciding to send him from London via Hull! We began with a very successful 240 lot Grand Auction on the Friday evening with over 70% of the reserve value sold. Perhaps the highlight was the sale of a Lombardy Venezia Revenue stamp for over £200. This was followed by an excellent dinner where old friendships were renewed, and new ones made, with liberal helpings of wine to celebrate the President's birthday. On Saturday we had 21 displays by 14 members covering a wide range of Austro-Hungarian philately and history including *Spectacular Postage Dues*, *The Sparer Family of Innsbruck 1938-45* and *Pre-Stamp Budapest*. Then



Andy Taylor displaying his Spectacular Postage Dues

there was a 115 lot auction of maps and philatelic books which proved very popular with surprisingly good sales. The annual 9 sheet competition – this year based on *The Letter F* was as keenly contested as ever and won by **David Bravery** with *Furthest South* (the southernmost part of the Empire at

the Montenegrin border). The day concluded with an excellent formal dinner and later “discussions” at the bar. On Sunday we were treated to a superb two-part President’s Invitation Display of the Austrian *Registered Post 1789-1918* by **Keith Brandon**, and the weekend concluded after our AGM.

➔ www.austrianphilately.com

David Bravery

British Thematic

Over the weekend of 5th – 7th October we held our bi-annual ‘Fun with Philately’ weekend. Over 30 members and partners gathered in the Four Pillars Hotel Oxford where they were entertained by displays given by three invited speakers supported by three sessions of members’ displays. On Friday evening **Jean Alexander** displayed *Stamp Advisory Committee Christmas Lunch Menus*. Jean had served as a member of this Committee for a number of years. On Saturday morning **John Davies** (of Stamp Active) presented *A Jubilee Reminiscence: the 1890 Postage Jubilee*, the range of material exhibited



John Davies with his “mind-boggling” display

provoking the response of ‘mind-boggling’. For the Sunday morning session the Association’s chairman,

Barry Stagg, discussed *Aspects of Postcard Collecting*, the BTA having recently adopted postcard and Open collecting as part of its remit. Barry illustrated his talk with his exhibition exhibit *Parachutes*. The following weekend the BTA’s annual competition entries were exhibited at the ASPS South of England Stamp and Postcard Fair held at Ardingly. The winners were **Wayne Cox**: Thematic Class – *Pillars of the Community*, **Malcolm Gascoigne**: Postcard Class – *Photographs by Lim Poh Chiang* and **Wendy Buckle**: Open Class – *Animal, Vegetables and Mineral*.

➔ jespeth@hotmail.com

Jim Etherington

Channel Islands

In July we held our AGM and a meeting with a maritime theme at the Union Jack Club in Waterloo, London. After a 55-item room auction producing £319.50 in sales, three members followed with displays. **Robert Shaw** showed *Recently Acquired Material*, including a 1924 Guernsey Exhibition label, some Eileen Regan labels for Alderney, and Jersey bus and coach companies’ brochures. **Steve Wells** brought an underpaid 1921 card from Jersey to Belgium bearing a blank hexagonal T/JE tax mark, blank in that no surcharge was indicated. From postage due specialist **Ken Snelson**, Steve learnt that this is the latest recorded strike of this particular tax mark. **Alan Moorcroft** showed material relating to the ‘Bye Boat’ service which ran in the early 19th century in competition with the Royal Mail packet service, including an 1806 newspaper cutting advertising the service. Alan also showed items that went via Southampton at the rate of 1d

THE CHANNEL ISLANDS – SOUTHAMPTON SERVICE
PER PRIVATE STEAMER

TO THE ISLANDS

Privately owned paddle steamers were being regularly well passengered and merchandised between Southampton and the Channel Islands from the 1800s. It was these vessels that carried the mail when a letter is directed to:

Bath to Guernsey 30th May 1844



Guernsey receiving datestamp 1st June 1844

This letter proves the one day service from London to the Islands, as opposed to the two day service it used via the Weymouth packet.

Mail via Southampton- from Alan's display

(instead of the 8d Ship Letter rate) if annotated "via Southampton". Finally, he showed a very rare 1806 Letter of Marque document relating to the ship *Speculation* becoming a privateer, allowing it to attack and capture enemy ships during the Napoleonic Wars. Once the AGM business was completed there were two further displays. **Gerald Marinner** showed three frames of *Internee mail* including Biberach and Laufen. **Richard**

Flemming showed *Feldpost mail from Alderney*, including three items from the first period of Occupation when the 216 Infantry Division was in charge.

Steve Wells

The Czechoslovak

The September meeting was again in two parts. The first section was to give members the opportunity to see the display given by the society to celebrate 100 years of the founding of independent Czechoslovakia in 1918. By kind permission of Their Excellencies the Ambassadors of the Czech and Slovak Republics, eight members gave a display at the Czech and Slovak Embassies on 18th May 2018 which covered the *History of Czechoslovakia from the Habsburgs through to the present day*. This was followed by members each displaying eight sheets showing why they started collecting Czechoslovakia. Reasons varied from one mother giving her hospitalised child stamps to keep him occupied, to sending Bill Haley recordings to Plzen in exchange for Czech stamps. Also shown was the award given to the society at Praga 2017 by the Federation of European Philatelic Associations, having been voted the Best European Philatelic Club of the Year 2017.

Robert McLeod

Specialist Societies

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

Gibraltar

We held our annual competition weekend at the Walton Park Hotel, Clevedon, Somerset 5th – 7th October. It was another excellent weekend, albeit with lower numbers. Friday evening was devoted to the mini auction followed by individual members' displays featuring *The Letter C*. Saturday morning competition entries were handed into **Eric Holmes** the co-ordinator. Judging then commenced. In the afternoon members were invited to return to the Wellington Suite to view the various entries prior to the judge, **Ian Spencer**, giving an overview of his findings and the results. He then gave each exhibitor an opportunity for a private discussion of specific comments related to their exhibit. The winners were: Premium Class (32 sheets) **Eric Holmes** – *Queen Victoria issues 1886-1902*; Postal History (16 sheets) **Colin Searle** - *Gibraltar airmails 1931 -1940*; Adhesive class (16 sheets) **Bob Neville** – *Queen Victoria 1st to 3rd issues*; GB Used in Gibraltar (16 sheets) **Eric Holmes** – *Great Britain adhesives used in Gibraltar 1857-1859*; QE II class (16 sheets) **Bob Neville** –



Bob Neville (right) receives his award

1967 Ship definitive issue; Miscellaneous class (16 sheets) **Bert Burton** – *Force H ships on stamps & relevant covers*. **Colin Searle** also won the Novice class for his entry to the Postal Class. After the auction on Sunday morning we said our farewells. The AGM weekend will be held at the Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke 22nd – 24th March 2019. *Bert Burton*

Helvetia

An inaugural Midlands Group meeting was held in Birmingham in October. Our venue was the family-run Eaton Hotel on Hagley Road, a very pleasant and recommended venue. After some last-minute cancellations, nine members and one partner attended. We had no formal agenda so initial rounds of material displayed were on the subjects of *Mail from the Interlaken Area* by **Mike Sharp**, *soldier stamps for units involving animals* from **Rosalind Ragg**, *government offices mail with official perfins/overprints* from **Bob**



Rosalind Ragg explains soldier stamps representing dog-handling and mounted units of the Swiss defence force

Medland, *World War I postal history* by **David Hope** and *Charity Stamps on Cover* from **Norton Wragg** as well as smaller displays. The quality of material displayed was excellent, some of it to

competition standard, and the lunch provided by the hotel in our private room was superb (always a bonus). Despite the fairly small attendance it was considered well-worth pursuing such meetings, probably on an annual basis to fit in with the pattern of meetings in Salisbury and the national meeting (next year will be in Stroud). Many thanks to **Peter Berck** who organised the event. *Bob Medland*

Italy & Colonies

27 members, partners and day visitors came to Kenilworth in October, including **Mike Bisberg** from Chicago, a regular on our Italy trips. The meeting room was light and spacious and members were entertained over two days with displays by: **Alan Becker** - *Maritime Mail*; **Mike Bisberg** - *Modena*; **Allan Boyce** - *Greek "Patakonia" issue of Aerospresso Italian*; **Ricard Farman** - *Napoleonic*; **Andy Harris** - *Biglietti*



Grahame Lindsey in action

Postale Letter Sheets; Richard Harlow - Postage Dues on Mail from the Americas; Clive Jones - International Mail through Italy; Grahame Lindsey - Aeolian Islands & Tuscan Railways; Peter Maybury - The Franco-Sardinian Postal Treaty of 1817; Peter Rooke - Il Commissario di Guerra; David Trapnell - Italian P.O.W. Camps in



Pakistan

The Pakistan Study Circle is active again with two editions of its journal "Pakphil" already published this year and a full programme of forthcoming events. After a successful gathering in Fradley, Staffordshire in late August another meeting there is planned for Saturday 16th March 2019. We also have a new website and Facebook presence. Anyone with an interest in any aspect of the philately and postal history of Pakistan or Bangladesh.

The website is pakistanstudycircle.wordpress.com

➔ George Rab, 01926420032 george.rab@googlemail.com *Mike Roberts*

Palestine, Ufficio Prigionieri Ricerche / e Servizi Connessi (A warning) & WW2 French POW mail from German camps stamped or endorsed "C/o General Post Office/via Great Britain; Allen Wood - A Miscellany and Paul Woodness - MEF in Dodecanese, Dodecanese Islands prior to 1912, Squared Circle Postmarks & Siena. On Friday the ladies, led by **Alison Woodness**, took the bus into Coventry and visited the Art Gallery & Museum, had lunch and had a guided tour of Coventry Cathedral. On the Friday evening the four entries for the Richard Harlow Trophy were judged by **Richard Farman**. The standard was particularly high with just one point between the winner and the runner up. The winner was **Peter Rooke** with *L'Armee d'Italia.* *Paul Woodness*

The Royal

For the first time in its 150-year history we held a competition among members in July. 54 Fellows and Members entered the one frame (16 page) competition organised by **Alan Holyoake RDP FRPSL**.

The competition was fully 'open' embracing all subjects and classes, and was judged by the 130 attending the meeting. Winner of the Devonshire Bowl was **Richard Hobbs** with *British Propaganda Envelopes of the 19th century*, and runner-up **Peter Cockburn FRPSL** received the Devonshire Plate for *The De La Rue Foreign Bill stamps of Ceylon*. Both trophies were kindly donated by Alan Holyoake. Well over 200 Fellows and Members came to the first meeting of the new season, which traditionally is a display from The Royal Philatelic Collection, graciously shown by consent of Her Majesty The Queen.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH MICHEL!!!

We will miss you!

The Members of the Royal Philatelic Society London

London, 13 September 2018



Michael Sefi on a Belgian Stamp

The meeting in September fittingly focused on Great Britain material from the reign of King George V. The occasion was made more special by the fact that, after 16 years in the position, **Michael Sefi LVO RDP FRPSL FRPSC** is retiring as Keeper of The Royal Philatelic Collection. He was thanked for all he had done to display parts of the Collection at exhibitions across the world. Three members showed aspects of Latin America at the meeting held in October. **John Shaw MBE FRPSL** displayed traditional philately of *Paraguay and Haiti*, **Glen Stafford** showed *Nicaragua postal stationery*, while **Ray Todd OAM RDP FRPSL** chose traditional philately of *Chile, Postal History of Haiti and Postal Stationery of Paraguay*.

Roy West

British Stamp news

100 years after the War to End All Wars and men and women are still fighting somewhere. Now we have the final issue of the Royal Mail sets to commemorate the ending of World War One. I have often expressed disapproval of the current issues of stamps but these like the four preceding sets have made me



stop and look and think and marvel at how the stamps in their various ways bring home the sacrifice, patriotism, waste, squalor, bravery and stimulation that was WWI. We have much to be thankful for - not just resulting from that war but also from what has followed afterwards through many conflicts. We can still collect our stamps, postal



history, postcards and all the other related items with freedom because of the people who fought, endured and died. We will remember them - soldiers, airmen, sailors, civilians from all parts of the world. Well done, Royal Mail. For what you have produced - now all I have to hope is that they are used on my incoming mail and cancelled nicely by the Post Office so that I can add them to my collection.

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



Mental arithmetic in the Post Office

In J Barefoot's catalogue "United Kingdom Revenues" over 800 stamps are listed for the collection of National Insurance, harking back to the days when you had to buy a stamp to stick on a card. From about 1957 to 1966 the stamps not only showed the total price, but also how it was divided between "National Insurance" and "Health Service". For example 7/6d comprised 7/0½d for National Insurance and 5½d for Health Service:



But see if you can spot what went wrong on these stamps:
I wonder where the other pennies went? *Dr John M Gledhill*



NEW BOOK

The Sub-Office Postmarks of Sheffield by Frank Walton RDP, FRPSL

This book documents the postmarks applied at all post offices that fell under Sheffield head office, other than Sheffield itself.

A total of 330 differently named offices are included, and each one of these has its own page recording the life of the office and illustrating the postmarks used. There are over 1,800 postmarks illustrated and 406 pages.

Available as a **FREE** download from the Stuart Rossiter Trust website www.rossitertrust.com This is our first venture into digital publishing.

How Much?

This is the typical "Yorkshire" response when I say how much money I have made from stamps – and tax free as well.

How did this happen? It all started when on my way to catch a bus home I noticed a part set of stamps of Malay Straits portraying a tiger, which I was keen to purchase. Unfortunately I did not have sufficient money to buy them. In those days there was no such thing as "The Hole in the Wall" banking system, so I caught a bus home, grabbed some money and caught a bus back into town. On approaching the shop I noticed that the stamps were not there. On enquiring as to their whereabouts the shopkeeper announced that he had just sold the set.

Continued →

I left the shop feeling rather frustrated and stopped to light a cigarette, realising the reason I did not have enough funds at the time that I saw the stamps was because just previously I had bought a pack of twenty cigarettes. Immediately I

grabbed the remaining cigarettes in the packet, screwed them up and threw them into a waste container. This with my stamps and a little willpower was the last time that I had a "smoke".

If you reckon 20 cigarettes a day (with more at the weekends) at present-day prices of £9 a packet it equates to about £3500 a year or £140 000 over 40 years. Healthwise I must be better too. Not that I have that much money in my pocket but I do now have that set of tiger stamps and a few more besides.

Ted Lunn



The fifteen young collectors with Patrick Maselis, President of the Royal, at the Banqueting Hall - who says that there are no young collectors?

Meet the young collectors from across the world, including Belgium, France, Germany, India, The Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States, who were invited to come to London for the week of Autumn Stampex in September. During their stay, the fifteen young collectors visited the Royal, saw how its Expert Committee functions and viewed the Museum of Postal History. They also visited The Postal Museum, exploring the Exhibition, Conservation and Digitisation Studios as well as riding on the Mail Rail experience. At the British Library the group visited the Philatelic Collections and Conservation Studio.

Residential recommendations

If your society has had a good experience at a residential "philatelic weekend" with good speakers or seminars please let us know. Why not take the opportunity to write a report too and send the details of the venue?

Stamp Active Network

Kidstamps survey.



Charlie Stewart from Derby was the winner of the Penny Black in the prize draw for youngsters who replied to the Kidstamps Survey. This was undertaken to provide feedback to the organisers on the contents and administration of our free postal club for children aged 5

to 19. The responses were encouraging with very positive comments on the range and quality of the contents of the packs. Our thanks to everyone who took the trouble to send back the survey.

Autumn Stampex

The Kids Zone, run by the Stamp Active Network, sponsored by The Philatelic Traders' Society, was the area of real interest for children at Stampex. There were few children attending on weekdays as this was in term time but we did get a reasonable number of children on the Saturday, taking part in the activities and the auction that followed, which brought very positive feedback from both the youngsters and their parents. A new feature in the youth area was the opportunity to create some "Stamp Art" by decorating a post box.

The theme of the activities this time was "Britain at War" with a range of activities including "Battleships", a Word Search and Quiz based on a display on the theme.

Cartor were unable to provide a dedicated "Post & Go" machine as they were all at a stamp exhibition overseas. However, **Bob Fothergill** provided a facility to print some labels which continued to attract a lot of interest and raise significant funds.



At each Stampex, there is a free points auction on the Saturday afternoon in the Kids Zone for all the youngsters who have completed the Stamp Active activities. After the auction, there was a free prize draw for a Penny Black, again sponsored by Robin Cassell of Mulready Philatelics. The winner at Autumn Stampex 2018 was **Muhammad Abdullah Usman**.

There was also a fun competition to guess the number of stamps in a jar. The winner of the jar this time was **Zoe Nicholls** from Orpington.



We were well supported by a range of volunteers and sincere appreciation to all. We now look forward to Spring Stampex next February, and would remind all young collectors to start their preparations for the Spring Stamp Active Competition. Check our website – stampactive.co.uk – for all the details and entry form.

“BRING A CHILD TO SPRING STAMPEX”

Stamp Active's aim is to encourage more parents and grandparents to bring them along to Stampex to enjoy the fun activities and see some of the attractions at the show. They receive a prize draw ticket for each child under 18 who visits the Stamp Active Kids Zone in Gallery Bay 14. The Winner at Autumn Stampex 2018 was **David Perch**, who received a Press Sheet donated by Guernsey Post.

STAMP ACTIVE YOUNG COLLECTOR OF THE YEAR

This year's "Young Collector of the Year" was **Toby Middlemist** from Haverfordwest, aged 10. He received his trophy, Star Wars Sheets, donated by Royal Mail, and a Penny Black Cover, supported by Beckett Philatelics, from the new Chairman of Stamp Active, **Susan Henderson**.

Toby started collecting stamps after a Stamps in Schools workshop, run by **Erene Grieve**, three years ago. His mother says he came home full of it and so excited to start collecting. People kept telling him he should join a club but he didn't know of any so he decided to create one in his school. He wrote to Stamp Active for a Starter Pack and with some help from a teacher started a club. They have been meeting every week. He has 7 members some of whom were in the original workshop though not all of them started collecting then. A Learning Support Assistant sits in with them. Toby "teaches" them about stamps and stamp collecting and has a great thirst for knowledge himself. He has now joined the local philatelic society. Erene commented "This year he entered his first stamp competition and completed a 12 page entry on *Philatelic Fun* gaining a mark of 78 points. He was attending Stampex for the first time. He had never been to a stamp fair and couldn't wait to see all the stalls. He was so excited. His enthusiasm for stamp collecting and his dedication to it really is remarkable. He loves to teach others and encourage them and has been teaching his little brother at home how to be a stamp collector as he was too young to join his club. I have come across many young collectors in 21 years of running stamp clubs, but I have never come across someone who is so committed and keen to introduce others to the hobby." The presentation to Toby of the "Young Collector of the Year" was a total surprise to him and it was great to see the joy at



receiving his prizes, particularly the Penny Black on cover. Toby also visited the members of the Great Britain Philatelic Society, who sponsor the Stamp Active Competition, after the presentation.

The Stamp Active Competitions

Once again the judges for the autumn British Youth Stamp Championships and Stamp Active competitions were highly impressed by the high standard shown by the entries. The competitions are sponsored by Stanley Gibbons and the Great Britain Philatelic Society. The judging was kindly hosted by The Royal Philatelic Society London, with the entries on show at Autumn Stampex at the Business Design Centre, thanks to the Philatelic Traders' Society. The judges were **Brian Asquith**, **Christine Earle** and **Richard West**.

British Youth Stamp Championships

The major awards were:

Best exhibit in Class A: Jack Preuveneers

Overall best exhibit and Best exhibit in Class C: Carys Llewellyn

Best exhibit in Class E: Rhys Hart

The individual results were:

Class A (19 to 21)

Toby Asson - *The American Dream*: Small silver medal

Jack Preuveneers - *Sweden: From Oscar to Oscar*: Large silver medal

Class C (14 to 16)

Carys Llewellyn - *Winter Sports*: Large silver medal

Class E (under 12)

Ellie Doidge - *Snake Facts*: Small silver medal

Rhys Hart - *The Battle of Britain*: Small silver medal

Dorothy Wild - *Endangered Species*: Small silver medal

Stamp Active Autumn Competition

The major awards were:

Overall best exhibit and Best exhibit in Class C: Jessica Corbett

Best exhibit in Class D: Eva James

Schools Trophy: Neyland Community School

The individual results were:

Class C (10 and 11)

Seren Abbott - *My Favourite Sports*: Silver-gilt medal

Etain Barry - *Scouts and Guides*: Silver-bronze medal

Jessica Corbett - *Animals in Books and Films*: Gold medal

Sam Evans - *All Creatures Great and Small*: Silver-gilt medal

Alex Faversham - *All About Stamps*: Silver-bronze medal

Connie Gardener - *Butterflies and Insects*: Silver-bronze medal

Teagen Germishiuzen - *Eras in British History*: Silver medal

Connor Jarvis - *Powered Aircraft*: Silver medal

Emma Louise George - *Horses*: Silver-bronze medal

Toby Middlemist - *Philatelic Fun*: Silver-gilt medal
Iwan Morgan - *Transport*: Silver-bronze medal
Darcey Phillips - *Cats of All Sizes*: Silver medal
Ellie May Rhead - *I Like Dancing*: Silver medal
Beatrice Shelley - *Life in the Sea*: Silver medal
Caitlyn Turley - *Dogs are Man's Best Friends*: Silver-bronze medal

Class D (under 10)

Eva James - *Owls: They're a Hoot*: Silver medal *David Rossall*

There were fewer entries this year in this national one page competition which encourages youngsters to have a go at a stamp competition by producing just one page on a subject of their choice. The Stamp Active Network is planning a new promotion and an introduction to stamp collecting activity book that is hoped will stimulate more participation in future competitions. The competition is sponsored by Isle of Man Stamps & Coins.

This year's winners were:

7 Years and Under

First: **Ava Muirhead**: *Jungle*
 Second: **Olivia Blackwell**: *Dogs*
 Third: **Paige Crawford**: *Olympic Sports*
 All from 3rd Alloway Brownies, Ayr

8 & 9 Years

Erin Morrow: *Life in Australia*
Molly Bisland: *Sports*
Ellie Gallagher: *Birds of the World*

10 to 12 Years

First/Best Overall: **Isla McIntosh**, Doonfoot Primary: *My Favourite Activities*
 Second: **Dominic Beattie**, Aylesbury: *Flags*
 Third: **Zara Thomas**, Bexhill on Sea: *Animals in Work* *John Davies*

Congratulations to

distinguished member of Leeds and other societies **Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL** who achieved success in PRAGA August 2018 winning a gold medal for *Czechoslovakia: The Masaryk 1920 Issue and Allegory Issues: 1920-1923.*

and to **Stanley Gibbons** who achieved outstanding results at the exhibition, having been awarded Large Vermeil medals for the 2018 Commonwealth and Empire Stamps 1840 to 1970 Catalogue, their philatelic magazine 'Gibbons Stamp Monthly' and the 9th edition of the King George VI Stamp Catalogue. The Germany and Czech Republic & Slovakia Catalogues both received Vermeil awards.



New RDPs Sign The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in Newcastle upon Tyne

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was established in 1921 by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain with the approval of His Majesty King George V, who was the first Signatory. An invitation to sign the Roll is regarded as the world's pre-eminent philatelic honour.

Not including the newly elected RDPs, 380 philatelists from 40 countries have achieved this distinction. There are at present 78 Signatories from 26 countries including sixteen from the United Kingdom, fourteen from the USA, seven from Germany, four each from France and Belgium, and three each from Australia and Italy. Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, and Thailand each have two, with other countries including Austria, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Greece, Israel, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, The Russian Federation, and Switzerland, having one.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Election, comprising **Jane Moubray** (Chairman), **Tomas Bjäringer**, **Christopher Harman**, **Alan Huggins**, **Rolf-Dieter Jaretsky**, **Robert Odenweller**, **Christopher King** and **Raymond Todd**, the members unanimously decided to ask **Robert Abensur** (France), **Gustaf Douglas FRPSL** (Sweden), **Cheryl R. Ganz FRPSL** (United States of America), and **Geoffrey Lewis FRPSL** (Australia) to sign the Roll. The Signing Ceremony took place on Friday 27th July at The Assembly Rooms in Newcastle upon Tyne, during the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. They later showed some indicative parts of their superb collections to the Congress members to much applause. This custom has become an impressive part of the proceedings.



Gustaf Douglas has formed what are considered to be the most complete collections of both Sweden and Finland in existence.

Robert Abensur - his main collecting and researching areas are the postal rates and regulations of France and Alsace-Lorraine.



Geoffrey Lewis - his collections have included the postal history of Spanish Philippines, of Cuba, of New Orleans and Stampless Mail entering Spain.

Cheryl Ganz is best known for her lifelong philatelic outreach at all levels, engaging collectors from specialists to new audiences.



ABPS Handbook & Directory: updates

The details below are those which could affect your contacting a society or speaker. Other less immediate changes will appear in the details on the website abps.org.uk Please send any future amendments to editor@abps.org.uk I will pass them on and/or use them as necessary. Please note the changes below.

Federations

Kent Federation (p 57): Details can be found on kentphilately@aol.com

Specialist Societies

Pakistan Study Circle: Secretary is **George Rab**
george.rab@googlemail.com

Local Societies

Ayrshire PS (p 90): Secretary's contact details are:

omanbejust@woolfsons.net 01560 484113

Bath PS (p 93) meets at Lee Centre, Ralph Allen School, Claverton Down Road, Claverton Down, **Bath** BA2 7AD as follows:
2nd & 4th Wednesdays September to April; 4th Wednesday May to August. All meetings commence at 7.30pm.

Bridlington & District PS have joined ABPS. Secretary is **Paul Riley**
paulriley57@live.com

Cardiff PS (p 103): New Secretary: Bill Hicks

secretary@cardiffphilatelicsociety.org.uk

Also new venue: Cardiff and Vale Scout Council, Gilwell Room, The Hub, Maitland Street, Gabalfa, **Cardiff** CF14 3JU

Harrogate PS (p 117): Secretary's email is now billtait2@outlook.com

Hereford & Mid Wales PS (p 121): Secretary's email is

fjbennett41@gmail.com

Keswick PS has joined ABPS. Email contact is:

michaeljmapleton@gmail.com

Lincoln PS has joined ABPS. Their secretary is: **Jennifer Wolves**

jenniferwolves@gmail.com

North Berkshire PS (p 140) no longer meet from October to March inclusive

South Midlands SC (p 155): New Secretary is: **Dr. John Gledhill,**

jmgstamps@jgledhill.me.uk 01789 842112

Speakers: Frank Bennett (p 191): new email: fjbennett41@gmail.com

David Holder is willing to give displays within about 40 miles of Bradford – but ask for details. He has many displays. Contact 01274 544 446

stephen@barndance100.co.uk or see www.barndance100.co.uk

This is the final issue of 2018 so I now have a list of all the 2018 amendments. I was surprised that so few societies asked for the 2-year list for 2016-17. If you would like to have either or both of these please contact the editor at editor@abps.org.uk

Diary

Local and regional events by ABPS members

2018

November

- 10 Maidstone & Mid Kent PS Stamp Fair: 10 - 3, Grove Green Community Centre (opp Tesco's), **Maidstone**, Kent ME14 5BT → Brian Stonestreet 01622 675784
- 17 Taunton Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, St James Church Hall, St James Street, **Taunton** TA1 2AS → www.tauntonstampclub.co.uk Peter Hardie 01823 666371
- 17 Leeds 28th Annual Stamp Fair: 10.30 - 5, Pudsey Civic Hall, **Leeds** LS28 5TA → www.leedsps.org.uk 01943 465236
- 18 Leeds 28th Annual Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, Pudsey Civic Hall, **Leeds** LS28 5TA → www.leedsps.org.uk 01943 465236

2019

May

- 11 Bromley & Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair: Langley Park Boys School, South Eden Park Road, **Beckenham** BR3 3BP

June

- 15 Yorkshire PA Convention: Bramall Lane (home of Sheffield United FC), **Sheffield** S2 4SU

July

- 6 MIDPEX: 10 - 5, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, **Leamington Spa** CV31 1XN → www.google.com/site/midpex

September

- 7 Poole and Bournemouth Stamp & Postcard Club - Annual Fair: 10 - 4, Upton Community Centre, Poole Road, **Upton** BH16 5JA. 01202 395484
philatelyinbournemouth.co.uk/poole-club.html

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

For the next few years

National Exhibitions 2019 - 2020

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

- 13th -16th February 2019: SPRING STAMPEX 2019. To mark its 150th anniversary The Royal Philatelic Society London will be the lead contributor with a display on the theme of 'King George V'. This will also be the last opportunity in the UK to qualify for London 2020 - online through the ABPS Website

- 12th - 13th April 2019 Northern National - Dewar's Centre, **Perth**
A full national exhibition will be held to coincide with the Scottish Congress for the first time since 2012. We expect to have at least 120 frames. Exhibits can be entered in all ABPS recognised classes and all exhibitors from the UK and abroad are welcome to apply. The rules and details on how to apply will be posted shortly at <http://www.abps.org.uk/>
- 11th -14th September 2019: AUTUMN STAMPEX 2019. Plans are being made for a special display on Indian philately. Further details will follow.
- There will be no SPRING STAMPEX 2020.
- 16th - 19th September 2020: AUTUMN STAMPEX 2020. The British Thematic Association has offered to take the lead.

International Exhibitions 2018-2020

- 23rd - 25th November ITALIA 2018: Verona as part of a philatelic exhibition devoted to the Great War. Literature Class. For regulations and electronic application forms for each section → www.italia2018.eu No UK Commissioner
- 28th November - 3rd December THAILAND 2018: Royal Paragon Hall, Bangkok. Details at www.thailand2018.org Commissioner: Peter Cockburn pfcoburn@aol.com
The FIP Congress meeting will take place in Bangkok. Chris King is the UK candidate for President and has the support of ABPS
- 29th May - 2nd June 2019 STOCKHOLMIA: Waterfront Congress Centre, Stockholm, Sweden, RPSL exhibition with ABPS recognition. → www.stockholmia2019.se/ ABPS Congress. Closing date for applications is past.
- 2nd - 9th May 2020 London 2020 International Stamp Exhibition: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, **London** N1 0QH → www.london2020.co UK Commissioner: Mike JY Roberts. The deadline for applications will be around the end of February 2019. **Volunteers Sought**
The Organising Committee are keen to recruit volunteers to help run LONDON 2020. If you would like to help, please go to www.london2020.co and click the “**Sign up here to Volunteer**” link.

No details available yet for: BULGARIA 2019 in Plovdiv May 2019, FEPA patronage; CHINA 2019 in Beijing June 2019, FIP patronage; ANKARA 2020 7th -10th October 2020 FEPA patronage; MALAYSIA 2020 Kuala Lumpur in November-December 2020, FIP patronage.

All forthcoming exhibitions are listed at:

fepanews.com/International%20Exhibitions

Web information

Further information on exhibiting and forthcoming exhibitions can be found on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk on the “Exhibiting” tab. *Bill Hedley*, *Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee* ewlhedley@gmail.com

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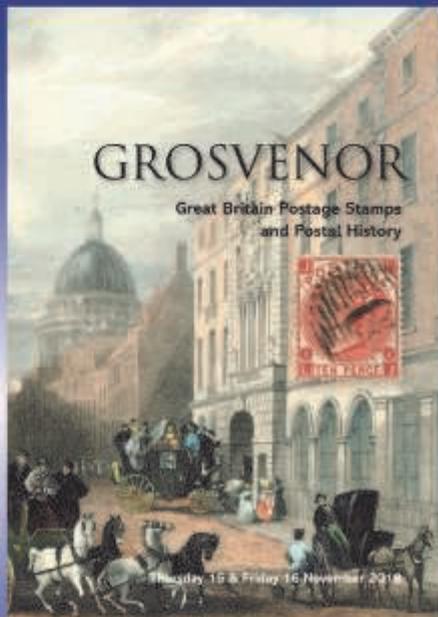
Stamp Active Network: please write to: **SAN,**
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