

Large Gold for Stamp Active



See p 54

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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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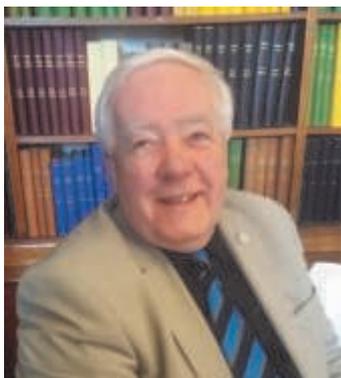
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Cover picture: *The home page of Stamp Active which won Large Gold at Italia 2018 International Stamp Exhibition. Take a look at www.stampactive.co.uk*

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

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

Copy dates: please send your material as soon as ready; at present the copy deadlines are 15th January, 15th April, 15th July, 15th October. We cannot guarantee to include items in specific editions. Items may be edited for publication. Email copy is preferred (unformatted). Send copy to the editor: Keith S Burton (see p 58) Illustrations should not be assumed to be accurate as to size or colour.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

I think that I managed to break my record this year, by doing a display before 6th January, my previous earliest. I was at Grimsby PS on Wednesday 2nd showing my *Golf* and **Francis Kiddle's Goats**... I always show the latter in Francis' memory. One day I intend to make it into an Open Philately exhibit, but for now it remains written-up as he did it - a Thematic.

The Grimsby Society is one of the friendliest that I visit. They are a knowledgeable lot too, so you need to know your stuff. I can't mention

Grimsby without saying something about **John Mileman** and **Dave** and **Judy McCann**. Since 2000, they have raised money for St Andrew's Hospice in Grimsby by running Charity Stamp Auctions. Currently, they have raised £40 000 for the Hospice... not bad at all! Their auctions are always before Christmas, and are well worth a look, especially for such a good cause. By the time you read this, Spring Stampex will be past. I'm sure the King George V theme will have been well received. I do like these themed exhibits, and they seem to work well. If anyone has any ideas for a theme, I'm sure that Bill Hedley, the ABPS Exhibitions Chairman would like to hear from you.

Finally, a number of great things to look forward to in the first half of the year: The Northern Exhibition in Perth at the Scottish Congress, Friday 12th and Saturday 13th April; Stockholmia, Tuesday 28th May to Sunday 2nd June; The ABPS Day at the York Fair with the AGM and **Alan Holyoake** showing his *Early Letters* on Saturday 20th July. Anyone who has not seen Alan's display should make this a date. It is one of the great Philatelic Displays in the world. *Graham Winters* FRPSL

ABPS Awards of Merit and the Congress Medal

The Awards Committee is waiting to receive nominations from Affiliated Societies, Federations and Friends of ABPS for worthy recipients of the above-mentioned Awards.

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

Do have a look and if you have suitable candidates in your organisations, please complete the nomination form and send it to me at awards@abps.org.uk

Editorial

I am always pleased to hear from readers, especially when they say nice things about the magazine. It makes up for remarks, made soon after I took over the role of editor, that ABPS News was well-known to be the "worst philatelic magazine produced". Both types of comment make me wonder what the purpose of the News is - clearly not one that will have research material regularly included, but it must be alive and interesting. That could mean changes - I have made very few as I took over a going concern from Dr John Gledhill. Naturally I do not want to change to something that is wildly different but I would like to know what you, the readers, want. A quiz or something similar has been suggested; more pictures of stamps, covers and postcards etc. rather than of people staring at the camera; more people identified; fewer people identified to preserve their privacy; a fuller report on the federation, national or international exhibitions and competitions and so on. We must remember that there is quite a time lag between issues and some of these reports etc. appear in commercial magazines with more regular issuing policies so it could be "Old News" - also space is limited by the A5 format and the cost restrictions on weight as all copies have to be

posted to individuals or societies. Over to you for comments.

I was concerned to learn that when

I was writing this there had been no nominations for the Award of Merit for this year. Surely there are people who deserve recognition for their service in various aspects of philately over a number of years. You know who they are - Yvonne and the Committee don't until you tell them. If you aren't sure of their eligibility look at the website or contact Yvonne. Time is running out - indeed it might already be too late for this year!

A puzzle question for you: Which 2 countries currently producing stamps have only done so for a few years, having been part of a greater empire, part of a republic, a protectorate and then assimilated into another country, part of 5 republics with one name but different sub-designations and then divorced amicably? (Answer on p 33)

My apologies for an error in the last issue. On page 13, the caption should have read David Hilton not John Hilton. Another senior moment on my part.

Keith Burton



If you wish to speak to me for guidance my telephone number is 0113 2601978

The closing date for nominations for this year's awards is 1st March 2019.

Yvonne Wheatley
Chairman ABPS Awards Committee

THE KAY GOODMAN LECTURE 2018 - THE FUTURE OF PHILATELY AS SEEN IN 2018

The full text of the Paper supporting the lecture given at the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain by **Michael Lockton** on behalf of the W4 Philatelic Think-tank can now be seen on the ABPS web-site at: http://www.abps.org.uk/Philatelic_Congress_of_GB/index.xalter

The W4 group is collecting views and comments with a view to publishing a second version of the paper in due course.

Please send comments to W4@abps.org.uk

A Response to reading the W4 Group's Report

Thank you for sending me a copy of the W4 Group's report on "The future of Philately as seen in 2018", that I read with great interest. It reminds me of my introduction to philately and my limited efforts to encourage young philatelists.

When I was young in the 1950s many newsagents in the Southeast of England had a board inside displaying small 'sets' of stamps, typically made up of 2 to 6 stamps, often from Monaco, San Marino, Poland, Paraguay etc. Stocks of these stamps were held by the shopkeeper and were sold to customers (children) for between 3d and 1/-. After the board had been up for some time it was replaced with new stamp sets and the shopkeeper returned the unsold sets of stamps to the dealer. This was how I and several of my friends got involved with stamp collecting.

I discovered that the source of all these stamps was a neighbour, Mr Ottoway, whose main job was selling wholesale stationery to shops in the Southeast. When he died his widow asked me to sell the returned stamp sets. I hawked them around the Strand and the best offer I received was £1 per box of returns. After selling several boxes I decided to buy the rest myself at £1 per box.

Much later, when my sons were going through Cubs and Scouts, I sold these stamps at their Scout fairs. I added simple sets of UK stamps and also some individual sets that were surplus to my collection. The local stamp dealer (Epsom Stamp Co) gave me albums and accessories to broaden the appeal of my stamp table, on a sale or return basis, giving a discount that went to Scout funds along with my sales' income. I still have many sets of stamps wanting a home. No doubt many of them would now be classed as thematics.

What fascinated me at the Scout fairs was that although most of the boys passed my table by, a small number were hooked and kept coming back for more! I guess in the context of the future of Philately, there are always some people that enjoy, perhaps even have a need, to collect things. Our challenge is how to reach them and to identify the aspects of philately that might intrigue them and encourage them to take up the hobby. Maybe this could be something for Bookham Stamp Club to explore. We certainly have no shortage of enthusiasts!

Arnold Pindar

Society anniversaries, 2019

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

Heartiest congratulations to all involved in these milestones:

The Royal Philatelic Society London - 150 years

The Royal is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its foundation this year. The historic meeting took place on 10th April 1869 at the premises of J C Wilson, a stamp dealer of 93 Great Russell Street. At that meeting, a President, Sir Daniel Cooper, and Committee were elected. Many of those present had already been meeting informally on Saturday afternoons.

Initially, of course, the Society did not include 'Royal' in its title: King Edward VII granted that privilege in November 1906. Prince George was an enthusiastic stamp collector and was the Honorary Vice-President from 1893, President from 1896, until he became King George V in 1910. He remained as Patron of the Society, a role since graciously held by King Edward VIII, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II.

One of the Society's first aims was to encourage research and knowledge through publications. This it has achieved with countless published works, not least its own journal, *The London Philatelist*, first published in 1892 and still highly regarded.

Another early ambition was to create a library, an accomplishment resulting in one of the world's finest philatelic libraries, with conservation and accessibility being the key factors, and every work listed online. A natural progression has been the Museum & Archive, accredited by Arts Council England and now known as The Museum of Philatelic History at The Royal Philatelic Society London.

Among the services offered by the Society is that of its Expert Committee, aided in its work by the many collections received over the years.

With its growing international membership and activities, the Society urgently needs more space, not least to accommodate the growing numbers attending its meetings generally held twice a month. So, in this anniversary year, it is moving from 41 Devonshire Place to 15 Abchurch Lane in the City of London.

Richard West



Burnley and District - 75 years

Our society was founded in March 1944 so we are now celebrating our 75th year. As part of our promotions we have held exhibitions in Burnley and Blackburn libraries and this February we will be local again, this time in Accrington. For publicity purposes we are now a Stamp Society and advertise ourselves in our

newspapers, stamp magazines and on Radio Lancashire. We have invited more speakers so far this season rather than entertaining ourselves, and several of our members are on the speakers' circuit in the North West. Philately speaking, at our meetings to date we have visited Czechoslovakia, the Dutch East Indies, Africa with Dr Livingstone, cruised the coastline of South America, met the Rajahs in Sarawak and viewed an extensive collection of Queen Victoria. Our twin society in Marl in Germany will also be 60 this year and we regularly exchange material and newsletters. Currently we are 22 in number aged 50 to 90, all still active. We look forward to the birthday cake.

Barry W Evans



Swindon Philatelic Society - 75 Years

The society has waited a long time, but at last on the 10th December 2018, we celebrated its 75th Anniversary. We were very pleased that we managed to reach such a landmark in the current climate. The society was formed in the local Council Offices, and as the informal meeting was taking place, there was a German air raid on the local Spitfire works at South Marston. Luckily no-one was injured. **Alan Wood** was one of the young lads in attendance who had shown a great interest in stamp collecting stamps and has gone on to have an illustrious philatelic career.

To celebrate the anniversary, an evening Anniversary Dinner was held at the Chiseldon House Hotel where 43 members and guests enjoyed a drinks reception followed by an excellent dinner. This was followed by **Nigel Borlase-Hendry**, President of the Wiltshire Federation, giving us an insight into how the Federation works and the benefits it offers to all its members. Nigel was followed by **Andrew McGavin** who gave us a very interesting overview about his business and how fickle the philatelic world is.

Swindon PS is a very active and go-ahead society; it has over the years gone from strength to strength and still boasts a strong and vibrant membership. A full programme of events always draws in an excellent number of members. It also runs a very successful Packet and manages to organise the very well thought of 'SWINPEX' stamp fair each June.

David Gibbon

Taunton Stamp Club 75th Anniversary

Yes, it is 75 years since Taunton Stamp Club had its first meeting on 26th January 1944. There have been a number of milestones since then. The last celebration was held in 2004 for our Diamond Jubilee when all Members and partners were invited for a celebratory meal at a smart hotel in the Blackdown Hills (Somerset). This time around we have decided to hire a comfortable coach to take Members to MIDPEX and invite our partners to join us on the trip, where they can possibly spend lunch and the afternoon in Leamington Spa. We stamp people will be far too busy at Midpex to worry about what our partners will get up to in Leamington. In January, we held a celebratory buffet at our Annual Competitions Night.

We regularly takes part in the Dorset and Somerset Federation Annual Quiz and have been winners for the past three years. We have a full programme of



A find at Taunton's Club auction

speakers and events for our Club Meetings held on the first and third Monday each month from September to April, with a further two meetings in June and July. We still hold our Annual Stamp Fair each autumn and the eleven dealers present last November were very pleased with their sales. The 2019 Fair will be held at St James Church Hall, Taunton on 16th November (10.00am to 4.00pm).

Unfortunately, as with many other

clubs, numbers at the club are falling away - especially as we had to abandon our Packet Circulation last year. Consequently, we will be offering the coach trip to MIDPEX to our neighbouring clubs, hoping that we will be able to fill it. The coach will stop at Taunton, Bridgwater and Burnham on Sea. Any enquiries re the coach trip or Annual Stamp Fair → our Chairman, Peter Hardie 01823 666371.

Peter Hardie

The Association of Essex Philatelic Societies - 75 years



AEPS launched its 75th Anniversary year with a highly successful display to the Royal in London on Thursday 10th January. 27 members representing 14 societies displayed 588 sheets of material from the 16th Century to the present day, covering all branches of philately and all the continents, including Antarctica. Participants ranged from first-time displayers to an RDP signatory, but the standard was consistently high throughout the display.

After a very complimentary vote of thanks, the AEPS President, **Len Stanway**,



Len with Patrick Marselis & 16 of the team

received the first RPSL Sesquicentennial Medal from the RPSL President, **Patrick Marselis**. In reply, he thanked his team for doing Essex proud and explained that when societies are faced with falling roles, there is a tendency for them to withdraw into their shells, stop displaying, stop competing, stop getting speakers, etc. One of his successful objectives for

this event was to show that this was unnecessary and, instead, however small the club, its members can still have their place in the sun. Each participant received a certificate and a box of chocolates from the RPSL President, who then entertained members and guests to a "standing dinner" of exquisite hors d'oeuvres crafted around "Essex" dishes, served with fine wines including



Dedham Vale sparkling wine, detailed in a commemorative menu serviced with a Belgian RPSL stamp and a special commemorative postmark for the event, provided by Belgian Post and incorporating the AEPS emblem.

Other events for the Anniversary Year include:

26th January, the annual Seminar at Rivenhall End. This year, "Open Philately", a new type of collecting combining stamps with related ephemera;

27th April, the annual Spring StampEssex exhibition and dealer fair, hosted this year by Ipswich PS at Kesgrave;

3rd June, a commemorative luncheon at Chelmsford and

23rd November, the Autumn StampEssex exhibition and dealer fair, hosted this year by the Association itself at Great Baddow, Chelmsford. *Len Stanway*

Rutland Philatelic Society – 40 years

We recently marked our 40th Anniversary at a meeting in Oakham. We were joined by guest speaker

Frank Walton RDP FRSL who gave two excellent and contrasting displays. The first concerned the early postal history of *Sierra Leone*. He showed a number of prestamp covers which most members had not been aware of previously. The second presentation was a detailed study of the *Wilding issues of GB*. Members were amazed at the interest that could be generated from a relatively recent and common issue of stamps.



The massed ranks of Rutland with Frank Walton on the right.

The society was formed in 1977 by a group of 19 enthusiasts in the Rutland, Stamford and Melton Mowbray areas. Membership gradually grew, but has recently steadied back to about 14, the majority of whom attend our monthly meetings. We meet in the Congregational Church Hall, High Street, Oakham from 7.15 on the second Wednesday of the month from October to May. There are two Members' Evenings where members display items from their own wide-ranging collections. The remaining meetings are devoted to displays given by invited guests, arranged by our Programme Secretary and founder member, **John Jackson**. We are a small and friendly society and would give a warm welcome to new members. → Dave Lucas at Dave.L17@btinternet.com or 01664474596. *Dave Lucas*

We are always pleased to consider articles by our readers. Please send your item to the Editor for consideration. 350 words maximum please, and a picture relating to the subject matter is always a help (300dpi jpg or photograph).

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 found his father's stamps at the age of 10. A year later at Senior School he immediately joined the school Stamp Club. He specialised (I) 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 19, 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 Techmarsh. 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 'Vintage' unretired Stamp Selling Systems, selling unit-priced stamps through to handling collectors & Bantles 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 2,267 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 **TINING**.

Plus the 3 Philatelic 'P's -

Presentation ✓ Place ✓ and Price ✓

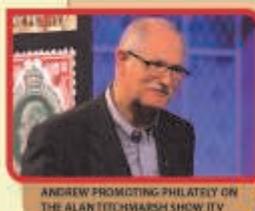
4 Understanding the problem... I always remember the car trade had their own little 'Bible' - Glass's Guide. I've no idea, I've not even looked - in this internet-dominated world, it may even have disappeared. Well, there's an insider Stamp Trade publication for Stamp Dealers called 'The Philatelic Exporter'. 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 TECHMARSH 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 GBP\$144. Therefore you receive approaching \$656 - which is approximately 33% of the dealer's \$2,000+/- retail selling price - **BUT... now that we have identified the problem...**

Jan & the Solution Stampus
Right in The Face?

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

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

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

AJ 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'** and so on till the lot finds its price, is sold or virtually given away... ✓

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

sold directly to Collectors. If you wish to benefit by up to 50% or more, depending upon your circumstance and type of material, by cutting out the middleman – then this offer may be for you. Generally 'time' is the enemy in our lives, and for most dealers not being able to sell stock. Now is the time to let 'time' do the 'heavy-lifting' and consider making 'time' work for you, so that at UPA you can make time your friend. 🍷

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

15 OK, What Do I Do Next?

a). You contact UPA to discuss with Andrew or a highly-qualified Auction Valuer/Describer what you have to dispose of and your options bearing in mind your specific interests / requirements.

b). If you wish, get a 2nd opinion, but investigate what type of auction / dealer you are dealing with. Is it a Dealer's auction with relatively few collectors? Can you see where / how the Dealer sells? If you can't easily see any pricelists or high quality selling catalogues – that Dealer may sell your stamps to other dealers...

c). Finally you ask U P A to collect your stamps, insure in transit for an estimated replacement retail value... 📦 📄 📧

16 What Happens then?

A member of my Team telephones-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
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Hemel Hempstead – 55 Years to the day

Hemel Hempstead Philatelic Society was formed on the 3rd December 1963 holding its first meeting in The Mayor's parlour (a supporter!). It is quite remarkable that two of the founding members who drove the formation of the society have remained active with us ever since. Thanks to **Roger Dymond** and **Colin Peachey** for their original foresight.

On the 3rd December 2018 we held our annual Christmas Dinner at The Plough, Leverstock Green and were very pleased to have 20 members and wives/partners present. Sadly this very enjoyable event will also be our last. After 55 years to the day we have decided that we must close the album on our society for the final time.

At our zenith we had in excess of 60 members but during the last year we frequently had no more than 8 members at our meetings. At our AGM this year our 2 founder members (see above) moved that it was time to acknowledge that we could not continue as a viable society. This was accepted by all present. Fortunately there are a number of other societies within a reasonable travelling distance so it is to be hoped that they may benefit.

Keith Wright

Famous Collectors

Every now and then we read about some personality who is revealed, usually with great surprise, as being, or having been a "stamp collector" – Maria Sharapova (who later worried about being seen as a wimp); Nicolas Sarkozy; Ronnie Wood; Freddie Mercury; John Lennon etc.

I noticed on some EBay sites recently that a number of modern British First Day Covers were coming up for sale and on closer examination the addressee was Eric Bristow MBE in Leek. Some research reveals that this is indeed "The Crafty Cockney", renowned World Champion Darts player who may be regarded as the player who brought darts to a mass TV audience, and later was known as a TV pundit as well as a Celebrity Get-me-out-of-here.

Given his champagne lifestyle involving much drinking, smoking and partying, collecting FDCs as a hobby does seem surprising. Bristow died suddenly earlier this year aged just 60. However one of his tweets just last year confirms his interest in modern British stamps – he commented favourably on the Classic Toys issue. His obituary in the Times ended with this: *At times Bristow led a hellraising life, but one secret he almost took to his grave was that he was an avid stamp collector. He spent many a contented evening in white gloves with a pair of tweezers and his Stanley Gibbons guide. The scene could not have been farther from the world of darts.*

Perhaps it is time for our Magazine to run an appropriate vale dictum to another of our stamp collecting fraternity?

Russ Walker

An official April Fool?

It is not unknown for stamp magazines to include spoof articles about non-existent stamps. But Luxembourg, by accident, did indeed issue a stamp that was a bit of a joke.

Until 1882 Luxembourg did not issue a 1 Franc stamp, so when a need arose in 1872 they overprinted the current 37½c stamp with "UN FRANC" (quite scarce) and in 1879 with "Un Franc." (less scarce) (SG56).



Unfortunately one stamp on the sheet had a misprint (SG56a).

This is now catalogued at £8000 unused. Some prank!

John Gledhill

(Illustrations courtesy of Jonathan Samuels, Wrexham, and Tony Lester auctions respectively)



Correspondence - Response to an Editorial

I am a Member of Cambridge Philatelic (plus GBPS and the Royal) and although our membership has actually increased very slightly recently I was anxious to explore how we might find some new members. One initiative I am embarking on is that I have offered a course on 'The Joy of Philately' to my local U3A (University of the 3rd Age). I half expected this to fall on stony ground, but 8 people have registered. At this stage I have no idea if they already have a collection, are thinking of starting out, or just coming along because it is a bit different. I plan to go around the group at the start to see if I can determine their interests and what they would like to get from the course.

I have offered this because I believe 'the 3rd age' may be a more fruitful group for new recruits than the younger generation. Certainly my own granddaughters are more interested in playing games on their I-pads than looking at grandad's stamps! I live in hope that will change!

Going back to your editorial, clearly I have to be very careful not to turn people off by being disparaging about any collection they may have, or conveying the impression that philately can only be enjoyed by those with deep pockets. There are so many branches to our hobby, I really hope I can inspire some of the attendees to perhaps re-kindle an interest they had previously, or even take this up as a new hobby.

Interestingly I posted that I had offered this course on the Mulready Group and it seems that The Royal Society has similar views and indeed have already been working with the local U3A, although they do not run any courses.

Let's hope I don't turn everyone off at the first session!

Very best regards

Graham Wylde

I hope to hear of what happened and where it led. Editor

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR THE PHILATELIC TRADERS' SOCIETY

At the PTS Council meeting held on the 14th December 2018, **Rick Warren** stood down as chairman after five years' tenure being replaced by **Suzanne Rae**.

Suzanne will bring a fresh and youthful approach to PTS matters, most especially in the area of Information Technology. Rick will continue to serve on Council as Vice-Chairman until the 2019 AGM in September.

"I was thrilled to be asked to step into the role of Chairman. I look forward to working closely with the PTS Council and our members in implementing some of the latest ideas aimed at boosting the hobby of stamp collecting and positively promoting our trade." Suzanne Rae, Chairman, The Philatelic Traders' Society

"I've enjoyed being chairman of The PTS over the last 5 years and have many fond memories. It has also been a pleasure to work closely with my daughter Lucie who joined the company 2 years ago. We've achieved a lot in this time and I'm delighted to be handing over the reins to Suzanne." Rick Warren, Vice Chairman The Philatelic Traders' Society.
Isobel Klempka

Stuart Rossiter Trust

FEEDBACK wanted on www.rossitertrust.com

The SRT website has been redesigned in 2018. Do you have any comments for us on the new design?

Please email: srtcorr@gmail.com

We are pleased to have helped **Peter Kelly** self-publish his book:

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December's Book of the Month

Postmen at War

A History of the Army Postal Services from the Middle Ages to 1945
by **Colonel E.T. Vallance CBE ERD (Late RE)**

£25 + p&p to order contact **John Jackson FRPSL**
john.w.jackson@care4free.net

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.

Amersham & District

In October in partnership with Middlesex Philatelic Federation (MPF) we celebrated our 60th anniversary with a stamp fair Stampersham60, which was well supported by the members of neighbouring clubs, as well as our own and the general public. We advertised and promoted the event as widely as we could, with encouraging results. In the run-up it was gratifying to receive so many unsolicited offers of help to publicise the fair, including from ABPS, The Stamp Lover (National Philatelic Society), Royal Mail Philatelic Bulletin, MPF and a local directory Your Amersham. Ten dealers supported our fair and all seemed happy with the day's trading. The MPF competitions were judged in advance with St Albans winning the Traditional, Barnet the Postal History and Watford the Thematics disciplines. The Team Competition was won by Watford, with Amersham second and Pinner third. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to **Richard Akers** for organising the competitions so well again. Our regular fortnightly meetings drew presentations from **Len Stanway**

Aspects of Malaya and **Dr Jean Alexander** (despite suffering from laryngitis) displaying *Unusual Aspects of Modern GB*. 2018 concluded with our Winter Auction and our normal Christmas social evening.

Jim Drummond

Ayrshire

We celebrated our 80th anniversary in October with an illustrated talk by **Andrew Dick** on *Ayrshire Mining History*. He started his talk by showing actual lamps, from the early tallow lamp through the carbide and Davy lamps to the modern electric helmet lamp. We were then taken on an illustrated journey round the more notable colliery sites including Barony A frame, the Knockshinnock disaster at New Cumnock, Connell Park and the lost villages of Patna, Kames, Glenbuck and Muirkirk. We touched on Keir Hardie at Cumnock, the Duke of Portland's Laigh Milton viaduct, and the story of Andrew Fisher of Crosshouse who, having been blacklisted, went to Australia and became Prime Minister. Other interesting topics included the role of the mining companies' stores, pit ponies' lives and the road-building

of John Loudon McAdam. A buffet supper was followed by an informative question and answer session, helped by the fact that a number of our members have a mining background. In November a change of programme resulted in *The Committee Entertains* with **Dan Ross, David Rossall, Ken Gibb, Robert Watt, Ian Smith and Ian Turner** providing the turns. Later that month **Gary Cheyne** and **Mike Cleary** of Glasgow Thematic Society showed us *WWI* and *A Dose of Medicine on Stamps* respectively. We met war



Gary, John Chalmers and Mike

poets, artists, cartoonists, tank battles and the various fronts in the first and William Harvey, Jenner, Lister, Roentgen and Madame Curie in the second. This was a very mixed and fascinating meeting.

→ davidrossall@sky.com

David Rossall

Bexley

Frank Parsons opened our 2018-19 season with his own collection and that of his late wife and fellow collector **Pat**, who died earlier in the year. Her display was of *National Savings Stamps*, which started in 1916, initially intended for use by children. A few years later these items included, rather shockingly, a swastika; but he explained that its use as a symbol of



Frank with his Fiscals & Revenues

good luck pre-dates the more familiar Nazi usage. The second half featured *Fiscals and Revenues*, including gramophone labels and vehicle tax discs. At our early October meeting, Romney Marsh PS members presented a wide variety of displays, including *Nyasaland and Zanzibar postcards*, a thematic presentation on campaigning physician *Albert Schweitzer*, a focus on *Bird Paintings and American Naturalist John James Audubon* and *South American Lighthouses*. Following our usual autumn auction was a competition and bourse. In November, members shared their own materials without any responsibility to speak; it was our first 'silent display'. Finally, at our traditional pre-holiday meeting in December, president **John Corderoy** showed stamps from *Monaco*. The world's second smallest country used French stamps until 1885, and John showed seven used examples from the difficult-to-find first issue. There were also miniature sheets, including an imperforate national fête day during the reign of Louis 2 (1922-1949), and a full Red Cross charity sheet. He also revealed that his love for the country comes partly from its preference for the recess printing process, particularly the

work of Polish engraver Czeslaw Slania. *Will Dalrymple*

Bolton

At the October meeting, **Max Smith** gave an excellent display of Indian Philately. *The Indian Mutiny*, history through the post from 160 years ago between 1857 and 1859. The November meeting was our fourth Auction of the year; over 400 lots were offered to room and postal bidders. December is always a social meeting: members were asked to display three sheets on any subject beginning with the letter Q. Any member of an ABPS society is very welcome to bid at any of our auctions. For a catalogue → Graham Travis 07939 056421.

Howard Anderson

Bookham

Lindy Bosworth was our speaker in November showing *The Austro-Hungarian Navy in WWI*. The display aimed to give an overview of the many vessels in the Kaiserliche and Königliche



Lindy brings the Austrian Navy

Kreigsmarine (Imperial and Royal Navy) from 1914 until its abrupt demise in 1918. The Austrians acquired their first warships in the late 18th century. From then until the end of WWI they had a significant naval presence in the Adriatic, mainly based at Pola (Pula) on the Istrian peninsula. In March 1915 a specific Marine Field Post Office (MFPA) with its own cancel was set up. The second half of the afternoon was for the submarine fleet, which had 27

submarines. 6 were lost during the war. Each of the Adriatic Fleet vessels had its own (or several) cachets to authorise mail. At war's end Kaiser Karl authorised the transfer of the whole fleet to South Slav National Council (later known as Yugoslavia) but the Allies (most notably the Italians) did not recognise this and eventually vessels were allocated amongst the Allies as part of war reparations. Over 60 members enjoyed the buffet lunch and wine at our Christmas meeting. There were displays from the Secretary showing covers and stamps from the *Local Christmas Post* (now in its 34th year) and the Programme Secretary who displayed *New South Wales Postal Stationery Christmas and New Year Greetings* cards from the 1890s. We also had a small auction and a raffle with the star prize being a super hamper.

David Bravery

Bromley and Beckenham

In November **Peter Lister** showed *Something Different*. He began with GB pre-stamp postal history dating from 1591 with many 18th Century items including Queen Anne's Bounty items, rare "Enfield Bag" items and a turned letter.



Peter with mug and certificate

He showed his friend's wonderful mouth-watering and unique display of GB line-engraved stamps all with "N-J" letters in the bottom corners with 1d blacks from the different plates, including many matched pairs with 1d reds. He continued the "N-J" theme with the Die 1 early plates, followed by ½d bantams, and 2d blues in similar

fashion. His final display was a big change: *The 1934 MacRobertson Air Race to Australia*. Only nineteen planes took part from sixty applications, leaving London on the 20th October. Most carried unofficial private mail. Later in the month **Brian Asquith** gave us *A Miscellany of Collectibles*, including what must be the largest "USED ON PIECE" item - from Australia. We were delighted to host the Annual Inter-Society Display when members from Bexley, Croydon, Lewisham and Sidcup Societies joined us to put up 15 displays which could be on any subject the displayer chose. Finally in 2018, **Grahame Boutle** gave his display *Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered by Black Borders* of mourning covers, cards documents and other ephemera all with black edges. Grahame signed off with his "coffin pose" and although well into his 80s we sincerely hope he does not need it for a few years yet. → 02087 787001 or 02084 021263 *David Rennie*

The Caledonian

We have been engaged in a year-long partnership with Glasgow Museums Service Community Project. Most recently, this involved a circus theme. We encouraged youngsters to select animal stamps to make up their own



The Caley Circus

circus. The stamps were mounted on a page and a frame added so that it could be put on display at home. In addition, young folk were encouraged to send themselves a postcard that was provided. Both activities proved very popular. Another product of the cooperation has been a lecture related to a theme chosen by the Museum. The latest example of that was World War One: the lecture given by **Stewart Gardiner FRSL** was on *Philatelic witnesses to WWI*, in which he explained the various types of material that helped to tell the story of the war and individual participants.

Chelmsford & District

In November we had two meetings. **John Copeland** showed us *Essex Postal History*. He began by giving an overview of postal services from 1590 up to the present day. He showed the various type of handstamps, introduced as the postal service developed from one for only royal use to being for the general public. The change to stage coach distribution of mail in competition with private companies was described in detail. For the second part of his presentation John concentrated on more modern times including the introduction of first and second class post in July 1979. Then we saw examples of different cachets and handstamps for train mail and postage due, both pre-1940s marks and then stamps. **Derek Connell** gave a two part presentation to our first winter afternoon meeting. First he entertained us with *The Jubilee Celebrations of the Uniform Penny Post*. His display included material concerning the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the various postcards and postmarks to celebrate the 1890 Jubilee. Then Derek focused

on what is claimed to be the first air post - that from Hendon to Windsor. This part included the cachet specially designed for the event as well as other material. For our final afternoon meeting prior to our Christmas/New Year break members were invited to submit presentations under the theme of *Seasonal Items*. We were spoilt for choice with many diverse subjects ending with **Pat Adams** showing her grandfathers' and her husband's grandfathers' experiences during WWI.

David Everard

Croydon

In September we held a Members' Evening on *Letters U and V*. 6 members responded, with some less expected interpretations such as Upper Volta, Undin Point postmarks and Vini Landi. Also on show was a cigarette card with a Boer War VC winner. **Ray Barton** visited in October to show *Mexico*. Texas was annexed by the United States in 1845, and the



Ray with Graham Harker

following war which Mexico lost resulted in California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and part of Colorado being ceded to the USA. In 1856 the first stamps were issued but because of banditry, involving the theft of stamps in bulk, they were only valid if hand stamped with the district name.

This led to a rather complicated variety of issues including colour changes, overprints, and bisects - vertical, horizontal and diagonal. Ray showed a comprehensive range of stamps and covers including the Eagle postmark, Civil War Period, Revenues, Wells Fargo, Hidalgo Express and Forgeries right through until the end of WWII. WWII also figured in **Barbara Priddy's** *West African Airmails*. There were many censors' marks, maps, varying routes, links with foreign airlines and the post-War resumption of services to West Africa and South America right up until the jet era. In November we welcomed 4 visitors from Maidstone & Mid Kent PS. *Red Coats* from **John Mortimore** was a well-presented history of British Army regiments. **Bob Higgins** followed with *KGVI Gibraltar* and then **Brian Stonestreet** displayed *New Zealand Definitive Issues*. **Tony Davis** closed with *Victorian 2d Blues*.

Graham Harker

Dundee and District

Charles Lloyd stepped in at short notice to show a fascinating display of *UDI Rhodesia and Zimbabwe*. He provided us with a comprehensive



Charles shows some of his stamps

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overview from the transition period in the 1960s, through UDI in 1965 to Zimbabwe in 1970. Charles also explained how the mail during the UDI period was subject to sanctions. Illness struck members of Dunfermline PS who were next due so eight members brought some of their own material. This resulted in over 250 sheets of stamps being displayed on a great variety of subjects. Thanks to **Charles Lloyd** (again), **Ron Goodfellow**, **Robert Duguid**, **David Easson**, **Colin Campbell**, **Harry Jackson**, **Peter Dix** and **Norman Kelso**. For the next November meeting three members of the Scottish PS, **John Law**, **Ian Anderson** and **Richard Cuthbertson** visited. They showed us *Charity Stamps* including the earliest known charity stamp from Jamaica, Togo and The Portuguese Colony of Timor respectively. Ian then showed *Stamps and Postcards relating to Tea* for **Eric Mason**. The final meeting of the year involved a One Sheet Competition and *Recent Acquisitions*. The winner of the Rose Bowl for the One Sheet competition was **Francis Podger** with *Singapore Free Post 1945*. The first meeting of 2019 involved members sharing their thematic interests. For some this was their first venture into

thematics but all came up with interesting displays. These included *Printing, Belgium Overprints, Trees, Victoria Falls, Singapore International Stamp Show, Refugees, Penguins, Ships, Boys' Brigade* and *Transport*.

Colin Campbell

Falkirk

The meeting on 29th November was very different from normal in that there were no displays. Instead our guest speaker, **Robert Murray**, dealt with the subject of colour perception. After explaining how images are transmitted from the retina to the brain he carried out an experiment which showed that some of the audience saw a test piece in slightly different colours. He also showed how a colour can appear different depending on the colours adjacent to it. This led on to tips on the use of colour gauges for matching stamp colours with those listed in the stamp catalogues. This is not helped by the lack of consistency between catalogues. To emphasise the point Robert showed a page of a dozen stamps described as scarlet in stamp catalogues, but which were all visibly different!

Mike Turnbull



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Ferndown & West Moors

Our September meeting was most memorable. We had the benefit of a great speaker, **Richard Stock FRPSL**, presenting not only the little-known *Sudan, The Camel Postman*, but with superb material, the like of which would not be seen elsewhere. The write-up



Richard with some of his camels

was first-rate, as was the detailed information imparted. Richard's historical journey mapped out the development of this famous issue, whereby a designer, Edward Stanton, was ordered by Kitchener to produce within a week an acceptable drawing. A local tribesman was required to pose in full war kit, and this, together with the most pleasing subsequent De la Rue printings in wonderful dual colour combinations, completed the task. The result was iconic! Richard provided a highly detailed and complex backdrop to the issue, which he illuminated with numerous examples of essays, proofs, stamps as singles and in blocks, some of which were very scarce limited printings. He discussed different inks used, both in GB and foreign

production, particularly Egyptian. 'Late Fees', official hand stamps, telegrams, TPO use, registered, crash and campaign covers were all in the mix. A section dealt with papers, watermarks and overprint varieties. The coffee break barely provided us with enough time to peruse. This was a major and unique study...exquisite!! *Paul Barry*

Grimsby and District

With half the season being behind us, it is time to reflect on what has gone. We have had five guest speakers, who have shown us some remarkable subjects: *Railways, Volcano and Atlantic Islands, Isle of Man, History of Golf, Seaside Postcards* and of course our annual dose of **Peter Wain's Rubbish** - where he stores the mountain of Post Office detritus is anyone's guess. These nights have been backed up by club members showing their own collections during five further meetings. A special mention should be given to **Chris Dodsworth** who showed a display of *Brigg Postal History* and a surprise guest, his 12-year-old granddaughter **Faith**, who



Faith with her butterflies

spoke on her display of 126 sheets of her thematic collection of *Butterflies on Stamps* (all her own work). Faith even took questions at the end. The only other event of the first half of the season has been our annual charity auction in aid of St Andrews Hospice, where we have raised approximately £3300. The exact final total is still to be finalised as some monies are still in the post at the time of going to press. This is a fantastic amount for which our auctioneers roundly thank all bidders. Also thanks to those who helped out. If you were unlucky then there is always 4th December 2019 when we will be doing it all again.

Mike Webb

Harrogate

Bill Gibb from Thrapston showed us *GB Used Abroad*. The introduction focused on mail passing through POs in the western hemisphere especially South America, Mexico and St Thomas's in the Caribbean. A wide range of interesting material in the usual 2 rounds was displayed including

covers and individual stamps with relevant marks. What a large number of offices and agencies existed. For some reason surviving mail was more prevalent in

one direction than the other. *GB Postal History to 1840* was in three parts from **Peter Chadwick**. We were helped by a handout to understand Bishop Marks from 1661 and early mail from all of Britain, Paid applied improperly instead of Payd, illegally collected fees and the short-lived 4d post of 1839. Peter explained two golden rules of exhibiting: Show a FDC (we got one from Aberdeen) and a Penny Black! Finally we saw a frame of stunning Mulready caricatures (including the awaited 1d black). A favourite was a penny lilac applied horizontally with an executioner holding an axe above, steadying his aim, before applying the



Bill in action

Henley & District Philatelic Auction

Wednesday 13 March 2019

at 7.45 p.m. Bix Village Hall

Henley on Thames RG9 6BS

See the Auction catalogue on the society's website from mid-Feb

www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

Auction viewing on Wednesday 27 February at 7.30p.m.

Internet & Postal Bids must be in by midday on the 13th March

blow. We also enjoyed *Railways* by **Yvonne Wheatley**. This included a notice reassuring passengers that when an accident occurred there would be a plentiful supply of coffins at the station to collect their heads and bones! **John Jackson** took us to *The Dutch East Indies* – a new topic here. After a short history lesson – much needed – we saw 8 snapshots of his collection. Each was worthy of a whole evening.

Bill Tait

Huntingdonshire

At our 13th October meeting our guest speakers were members of Kettering PS. **Tony Martin** gave us a display of *Exploring the Horizon Label*. These labels which were introduced on the 14th February 2002 were printed by De La Rue. They started plain white with straight edges, added security slits, simulated perforations, turned gold, added Welsh, VAT and barcodes by September 2015. **James Dickinson** showed us *Airgraphs* in use from 17th April 1941 to 31st July 1945. We saw one from Monte Cassino and RAF and the Eighth Army Christmas greetings. In November two members of the Forces Postal History Society visited: **Alan Baker** and **Peter High**. Alan focused on *The Great War*. We saw War Tax stamps, mail from various Allied forces in France as well as German ones. Belgium occupied part of German East Africa and overprinted the stamps of Belgium Congo. Examples were shown on registered mail. There was Prisoner of War mail from both sides including Red Cross Postcards. Finally we saw postcards of some of the ships involved in the Battle of Jutland along with a propaganda card of the battle. Peter's subject was *Hospital Ships of WWI*. Although they

were covered by the Hague Convention of 1907 many were attacked on purpose or by mistake. Postcards and mail for Allied and German ships were shown. Ambulance barges were used on French rivers and canals. The people of Madras donated a vessel for a hospital ship. →
01480 468037 *David Birkert*

King's Lynn

At our December meeting we were entertained by **John Shaw**. His various displays are usually centred on events of 1937 and over the last 20 plus years John has given us many displays. This year the title was *Zionism and the History of Israel*. He included historical information on Egypt, Canaan, Israel and Judah, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Alexander the Great, Ptolemy, Rome, The Jewish Revolt, Christian Orthodox



John Shaw receives honorary life membership from Mike Kentzner after his display.

and Roman Churches, Islam, the Crusades, Islamic expansion, Christian conquest, Spanish Inquisition, the Ashkenazi, Mizrahi and Sephardi Jews. Among more modern issues were Br Relief Act, Lovers of Zion, Edmund Rothschild, the Zionist Congress 1877, Palestine Jewish Colonization Association, Protocol of the Elders of Zion, WWI Germany, Balfour

Declaration, 1st British High Commissioner, Mandate 1922, League of Nations and James de Rothschild. Among items shown were first flights, telegrams, world Jewish census, a refugee letter, Palestine Orchestra 1937, Peel Report, Map of partition, philatelic material relating to Hore-Belisha, Haganah, Wingate, King David Hotel, Saraford camp, military PC, Yellow star etc, Dachau, Kristallnacht, Kinder transport, Schindler, the Maccabiah Games, White paper 1939, photos UN partition plan, Israel Declaration May 1948, maps and the National Anthem "Hatikva" the hope. Quite a mixture. *Terry Wagg FRPSL*

Kingston & District

Last season ended with two evenings when all members were asked to display items on a pre-decided theme. These seem to attract more members than invited displays so in the 2018/19 season more of these have been included in our programme. Our first invited display was given on 1st November by **Tony and Lindy Bosworth** on *SOKOL, the Czechoslovak Gymnastics Organisation*. This is a joint collection to supplement their individual collections. SOKOL means Falcon and



Tony Bosworth on SOKOL

was founded in 1862, as a gymnastic organisation. After a slow start it became a national body which developed into a disciplined, nationalistic organisation. It held periodic gatherings known as Slet and published its own newspaper. At the 4th Slet, in 1901, women and children took part, with many Czechs from overseas attending. Souvenir cards had been produced before that date, but the 4th Slet heralded an increase in souvenirs, of all kinds, being issued. We saw a number of these cards together with artists' proofs. During WWII SOKOL developed a military wing to support its nationalism. The display continued with the inclusion of poster stamps and the badge and items from the SOKOL movement in other countries: Austria, USA, Bulgaria, Croatia, UK, Germany, Poland and Russia. Our meeting in December was a Social Evening. Members and their partners displayed ephemera whilst enjoying a seasonal repast. We have launched www.kingstonphilatelicociety.com which although in its infancy, will bring us into the 21st century. → brian.sole@btinternet.com or 01932 220677 or the website. *Chris Oliver*

Largs & District

The meeting in late October was the start of a number devoted to our forthcoming hosting of the annual congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies next April in Perth. One part of the functions of the host society is to provide displays showing the varied collecting interests of its members. The host society are also responsible for providing souvenirs of the event. We showed our cover/envelope commemorating the 200th anniversary of the death of James Watt

of Greenock, celebrating his invention of the first commercial document copier. We will also issue a postcard of yacht builder William Fife's favourite design, the Latifa, and a miniature sheet of labels showing William Fife with some of his designs, plus the weather-vane on Fairlie Church and the memorial to the yard on the seafront at Fairlie. *Parachuting* was the unlikely subject on 7th November. Our visitor was **Barry Stagg** from Cheltenham with his award-winning collection. 40 years ago Barry did a series of six jumps with his local flying club, getting progressively worse, but

put together some stamps on parachuting. He was now able to show his amazing collection starting with the fundamentals of parachutes continuing to modern sports uses such as paragliding, sky-diving, hang-gliding and BASE jumping. His second round followed similar themes but illustrating his story with postcards. Barry said that all the best displays could include a picture of Marilyn Munroe, his excuse being that she had been a parachute inspector. ➔ davidrossall@sky.com

David Rossall

Launceston

We held our AGM and Autumn Auction in October. The AGM confirmed our sound membership, finances and committee. In the Auction **Rex Eccott**, ably assisted by **Mike Tooley**, **Dave Richards**, **Des Kent** and **Howard Hamblin**, raised a total of £287.75 with a top bid of £60 for an Irish collection in three albums. At the CPF quiz final held in Truro recently the Launceston team represented by **Rex Eccott**, **David Richards** and **Viv Sandercock** came within two points of winning the trophy, Falmouth being the winners. Truro and Liskeard took third and



Barry and the parachute inspector Marilyn Monroe



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1



I Spy...

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

3



4



7



8



9



13

14



prizes

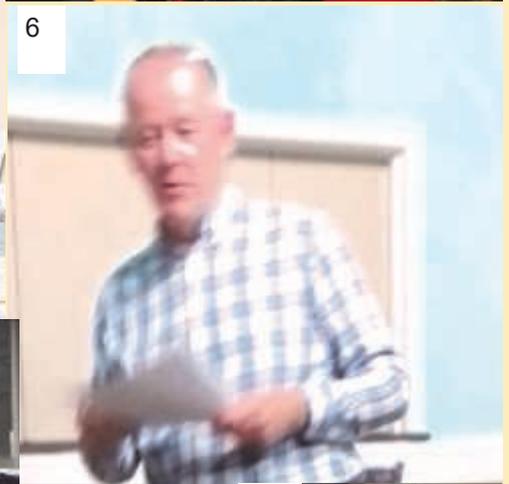
2



5



6



10



12



11



15



fourth places. Cornex at Pensilva was a success and **Viv Sandercock** was congratulated on winning the Gordon Rowe Cup with a superb Guatemalan display. In November **Des Kent** showed *ABC Commonwealth and Beyond*. Des had brought two parts, the first a collection of sets of definitive issues from Commonwealth countries listed in the 1977 edition of the SG British Commonwealth Catalogue. This was just twenty-four sets of stamps in alphabetical order from Abu Dhabi to Zanzibar – no X or Y in the catalogue. The second half was devoted to postage stamps issued by each of the seven members of the *Trucial States* (*Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras al Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm al Quwain*). This was prior to their independence and the formation of the Union of Arab Emirates in December 1971. The December meeting was for postcard displays from Club members.

Howard Hamblin

Leeds

We have happily settled into our new premises at the Crypt Conference Centre. Everyone appreciates the modern facilities with early evening parking easily found just outside. We have had some fascinating meetings since October. **Tony Plumbe** led us through *Postal Aspects of Modern Nigeria* showing rare material unfamiliar to most of us. **John Church** followed with a superb display of *Confederate History of The American Civil War* with great knowledge shown over a variety of printings and their use. Any talk given by **Edward Klempka** is always fascinating and this time, just before his display was to be shown in Bangkok, we were treated as usual to a rich display of Immediate Pre-post

Material, Penny Blacks, Maltese crosses galore all on cover, Mulready's and period commercial advertising material enough to make any GB postal historian green with envy or should it be delight. This year our 2-day Pudsey Stamp Fair in November was moved to a Saturday and Sunday. This has turned out to be a more successful way of running the fair and dealers and collectors were happy. Later in November was a members' evening for postal history and picture postcards. President's Evening in December demonstrated the professional knowledge and collecting interests of **Rick Rickwood**. He began with a magnificent display *Pre-stamp Material* mostly London post. Then came a superb showing of *Volcanoes and Mineralogy* filling us up for the second part, assisted by **Richard Smith** our Secretary's mince pies.

Michael Waugh FRPSL

Maidstone & Mid-Kent

Our 96th season started with a visit from the Sidcup Society. Due to traffic problems on the motorway only **Geoff Hanney** had made it by the start and bravely stood in for the first half with displays of *Indian Army Uniforms, Indian Forces in Egypt in WWI, Chile's Involvement in Antarctica* and finished off with *Postcards of Whitstable*. Brilliant!! The remaining team members finally arrived and we saw a display by **John Couldroy** of *Israel/Palestine Stamps* complete with tabs and **Frank Parsons** showing *Customs and Excise Material* from his late wife's collection. Following on we were then privileged to see fine collection of materials on WWI and WWII by **Chris** and **Birthe King**. In October we had brilliant displays from **Bill Hedley** on *Hungary* and **Pat**

Reid on *Tasmania*. It was thought that this was the first time that Tasmania had been showed at the Society. In November four of our members visited Redhill and Croydon Societies and we have also enjoyed a fine display of *Nelson and Trafalgar* as well as our Bi-Annual Auction. Our morning meetings have seen a members' display of *Military Mail*. Two of our members have shown *My New Collections* and *WWII - Occupied Territories*.

Brian Stonestreet FRPSL

Mid Sussex PS

Our afternoon and evening meetings continue to be well attended and to our great satisfaction only two members failed to renew their annual subscriptions. Undoubtedly this

continued support is the result of our programme secretary putting together an excellent list of speakers giving a wide variety of displays and the friendly and good-humoured atmosphere of our meetings. Although we are a 'philatelic' society postcards are not excluded from our programme and we were entertained at our first meeting of the season by two members, **Peter Lindfield** and **Brian Stevens**, displaying postcards of *Local Towns and Villages*. This was followed by a display of *the Stamps of Canada* by **John Wright**. Next came **Lindy Bosworth** with a mixture of postcards and postal history telling the story of the *Austro-Hungarian Navy during WWI*. Then going from sea to air, we flew *On Dragons' Wings* with **Brian**

The answer to the problem on page 5 in the Editorial is, of course, The Czech Republic and Slovakia

Captions for pages 30 and 31

1. Graham Boutle in "Coffin " pose at Bromley & Beckenham
2. Bookham enjoy their Christmas lunch and the displays, of course
3. Pudsey 2-day Fair run by Leeds PS was a great success
4. Barbara Priddy lets fly with West African airmails
5. Sylvia Daintrey with some of her family's material shown to the Czechoslovak PS of Great Britain
6. Des Kent tours the Commonwealth at Launceston
7. Clive Jones showing Great Britain Travelling Post Offices for the President's Evening at Southampton
8. Malcolm Gascoyne from Henley showing *Sarawak* to Maidenhead & District PS.
9. Frank Bellamy looks down on Bill Jackson at the Bodleian in Oxford
10. Dr Simon Heap Chairman of the Pacific Islands Study Circle receiving the group's plaque from Patrick Maselis after their display at the Royal.
11. Charles Usher of Harrogate viewing the display
12. Chris Dodsworth considers his display at Grimsby
13. John Law, Ian Anderson, Richard Cuthbertson of Scottish PS visiting Dundee
14. 24 members of Scottish PS at Royal Burgess Golfing Society, Edinburgh celebrating their 125th Anniversary with a lunch etc.
15. Robert Watt, John Chalmers and Andrew Dick leading the mining discussion at Ayrshire

Asquith, a display of Chinese airmails. Again moving away from the purely philatelic **Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins** displayed an account of *Russian Posts and Postal Workers* from 1780 to the present, an eclectic collection of postcards, ephemera, and postal history with just a few stamps. Our final two meetings before Christmas were provided by two members. **Richard Berry** presented a postal history display of *The Rhodesian and Zimbabwean Security Forces* followed by **Roy Ferguson's** display of *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa*.

Jim Etherington

Morecambe & District

Back in October we enjoyed a trip with **Richard Wheatley** round the *Hotels of Egypt*, in particular the hotels' interaction with the postal system. At the next meeting **Tim Giddings** spoke on *Breasts*. This was a new thematic to all of us and included some very interesting material. We held a joint meeting with Kendal and Bolton-le-Sands PS in November. **Richard Hindle** took us on a trip with *Polar Explorers*. We saw the trials and problems of the work in the stamps and covers. Later in November **Margaret Chadwick** from Blackpool showed us a different trip round *Egypt*, mixing stamps with postcards. In October we also held our 36th Annual Auction. This was again a success despite some very poor weather. We enjoyed meeting our visitors. *Frank Colling*

Oxford

The 2018/19 season has started well! **David Potts** gave a fascinating display of his wide-ranging *Cinderella Stamps*, aided by an excellent handout summarising the types of such stamps.

Then **David Walker** of Wokingham displayed *The Antarctic Explorer Ernest Shackleton*. November saw an unusual event with Bill Jackson giving a public lecture at the Weston part of the Bodleian Library of Oxford University on our multi-dimensional founding Secretary and Treasurer **Frank Bellamy**, which included a sample of his collection held by the Bodleian in their extensive John Johnson collection. A morning meeting for members to display on *The '60s* produced a wide range of subjects: *Teenage Collecting of China, Austria and Germany, French FDC and Maxim Cards, The GB £1 Windsor Castle Issue, Japan's Millennium Sheets and Demise of the Airmail Stamp*, and three covers of the 1760s! **Hugh Bennet** gave a wonderful display on *The Stamps of Kiribati*. The first half was on the 1970s definitive stamps, including original designs by local children. In the second half, being intimately involved in planning and carrying out the selection, design and production of recent issues, Hugh helped us gain an insider's view on contemporary stamp manufacture. We hope other societies



Hugh goes to the South Pacific

will consider Hugh for future programmes as this was a memorable and different-from-the-usual kind of display. 2019's first meeting on sports, games and hobbies gave the chance for members to show off everything from *Kent County Cricket Club* and *Olympic Stamps* to *Sumo Wrestling* and *Gardening!* *Dr Simon Heap*

Poole and Bournemouth

Over 20 members and guests attended the Club's Christmas evening, enjoying the wide range of food and drink that they had brought. Once the meal was over **Tony Arnold** introduced the Quiz portion of the evening with a "What is this?" One clever member guessed it as being the counterweight from a sash window and was congratulated for his successful attempt. Tony then followed by displaying 76 pictures of items from the 1950s, though only part was shown or the pictures were from unusual angles. The winner got 44 right!! There were displays of *Anything but Philately* producing beautiful ornate ceramic boxes, the full set of 2018 A to Z Great Britain 10p coins, fabulous model aeroplanes, buses and books on Falmouth which those present spent much time studying. *Chris Wheeler*

Prestwick Stamp & Postcard Club

We are based in the Prestwick Community centre in Caerlaverock Rd., Prestwick. We meet every Wednesday from 2.00pm to 4.00pm with approximately 25 members coming to discuss, swap and purchase stamps and postcards. We go on away-days to stamp shows and dealers' premises regularly. Most weeks, two dealers are in attendance with many bargains to be bought. The range of people attending

goes from expert to absolute beginners and everybody is welcome. It costs £1 a week but tea, coffee, cakes and sandwiches are served free. We will be delighted to welcome you - come along and enjoy a couple of hours in the company of fellow collectors. *Iain Gray*

Welcome Prestwick – this is the first time that I have heard from you in my few years in office – I hope that it won't be the last. *The Editor*

Redcar & Cleveland

Our end-of-year President's Christmas Quiz was well supported by 12 members who eagerly consumed the array of cheese, crackers, fruit cake, soft drinks and red wine supplied by president **John Simms**. The quiz John put forward was, to say the least, not easy, causing much head-scratching and ceiling-gazing while the red wine failed totally to refresh the little grey cells. Hilarious laughter dominated the room as most of us failed to put pen to paper, the following raffle, again well supported by prize donations from members, was a great success and by the end of the evening we all left with a general feeling of well-being even though still ignorant of some of the quiz answers. *Martin Snowdon*



Neil Williams, Dennis Huzzard, Harry Reid and Phil Harriman - the winners - all on fruit juice, so we are told.

Ringwood

Our November speaker was unusual – not only in being a prodigious collector and Dorset stamp dealer for 60 years, but having a specialist interest in *English Provincial Banknotes*. **David Muscott** quickly engaged us with superb displays of scarce material and fascinating stories. David's presentation considered original South of England banknotes, demonstrating the subject's history and breadth, followed by production processes and possibilities for forgery. Citing the famous Geoffrey Grant Catalogue, he described how Provincial (i.e. local city and town) banks were allowed to

produce their own banknotes from 1780 onwards, with 1800-1830 being the main period for proliferation. A variety of locally produced notes of varying condition and rarity were displayed – many revealing skilled engraved designs. We also saw design proofs, correspondence and orders for printing. Local banks were subject to licence fees to trade in their banknotes, taxed per note and fined for non-payment. From 1826 many banks became bankrupt not least from taxation, fraud and forgery. Note theft was prevalent and large rewards offered, for example after stagecoach robberies. From a law change in 1844, prohibiting smaller banks, there were many amalgamations. All the banks now existing are from such amalgamations. All defunct notes had to be cancelled and many featured in the display. In 1921 the last English provincial bank ceased printing its own notes. David Muscott is strongly recommended as a very engaging guest speaker.

Gordon Masson/Paul Barry



David Muscott - a noted speaker

Rochdale

Club member **Derek Earnshaw** gave a presentation of *GB Postal History*, illustrated with period covers which had



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mainly been received within the northwest of England. He spoke of the reasons why regular increases in postal rates occurred during the 18th and early 19th centuries. Derek ended the evening by displaying his collection of postal items from the *1958 British Empire and Commonwealth Games* held in Cardiff, with the rowing events on Lake Padarn near Llanberis. In December members are invited to provide mini-displays of a maximum of 9 sheets. We started with *Rhodesian Stamps (1889-1965)*, with an explanation of why the state had multiple name changes. A selection of *Postmarks and Covers related to Lands' End* was then shown, followed by *Religious Themed Stamps from Malta*. After *UK Stamp Booklets* the last display was a selection of *New Zealand 1960s Commemoratives*.

➔ Neil on 01706 665698 or
Neil.Warmby@gmail.com

Peter Grimshaw

Rugby and District

The first half of a very entertaining season of meetings has flown by. In October, **John Anthony** presented an excellent display on the *History of the Austro-Hungarian Empire* until it started to fall apart in 1918. He highlighted mail from the Kingdom of Lombardo-Venezia and the district of Vicenza, and ample philatelic material produced by Austria in the late 19th century when philately really took off. At the end of October, **Alan Godfrey** produced an equally impressive exhibition of *Early Falkland Islands Mail and Stamps*. To that he added the more pictorial later stamps, postal stationery and aerograms. Late November, we welcomed **John Jackson**. He started with the story of the *Definitive Queen*

Wilhelmina Set issued on 1st April 1940, just before WWII, which was withdrawn by the German occupying forces in September, invalidated by them in 1944, but then revalidated after Liberation in 1945 with additional values issued. After a break, the focus shifted to the *Dutch West Indies*, including some rare material from the Dutch West Indies Company. We also had an introductory evening and a social event before Christmas, and members displaying philatelic material under the themes *Anything Goes* and *The Letters G and H*. ➔

theo.schilderman@btinternet.com

Theo Schilderman

St Albans, Harpenden & District

For our October meeting, **Peter Mellor** displayed *Overseas for a Halfpenny* reflecting changing business, social and post office practices as seen through a wide range of items sent abroad at the halfpenny printed matter rate, which lasted for over 70 years. In the 1940s it was cheaper to send a Christmas card to America than to friends down the road! The November meeting was aimed at showing how interest in our hobby can grow and develop. Firstly **Max Schroeder** used the stamps of Germany - from Bismarck to the Fall of the Wall, with the railway post offices of German East Africa thrown in – to tell us how he had come back to collecting. Max was followed by **Richard Sumner** whose display of *Aircraft Stamps* was enlivened with the story of his lifelong interest in flying. December brought our Christmas social – as in recent years, this included the 3-sheet competition, which was won by **Colin Smart** with *Bishop Marks*. Back in October we ran

Stampfest in St Albans where alongside a range of mini-displays, the general public could come and chat about the hobby. Later, an invitation to participate in the Harpenden Local History Society public exhibition on 1st December, enabled us to present *The Great War through the Postbox*, which was well received. Both events proved enjoyable, giving valuable opportunities to present our hobby to a wider public.

➔ p.mellor@btinternet.com or
01582 762284 or

www.stalbharpstampclub.org.uk

Peter Mellor

Scarborough

In September we were entertained by **Pamela Hiscock's** talk on *Piracy* – the third oldest profession (number two being medicine). Her talk was illustrated by over 120 sheets containing stamps, postcards, drawings and a genuine "Piece of Eight". It covered ships, weapons, flags, and biographies and deaths of many pirates. **David Hiscock** followed with *Post Office Telegraph Service*. Again there was a great diversity of material to illustrate the history from the invention of Morse Code onwards.

Our next visitor was **Malcolm Stockhill** showing *Polish Revolution*. This covered the 1980s when the Independent Solidarity Trade Union Group was formed, martial law was imposed and there were no public services. The display was of letters and the stamps, showing national heroes, used illegally. Finally Poland became a free state in 1990 and the USSR left in 1994. For our Christmas meeting many brought some very tasty contributions of food and drink (not stamps). The main quiz was an adaptation of a "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" that **Chris**

Phillips gave the club many years ago. Only in this version all members had a chance to take part. Generally the scores were high, but the outright winner was **Robin Stenhouse**, who only got 3 wrong out of 40. Afterwards, **Robin Peters**, one of our recent new members, gave us a talk and display of *Stamps on Cigarette Cards*.

From Scarborough Post

Sheffield

Another night of surprises for the first Thursday meeting of the new year, a members' night with the topic *Countries beginning with I, Q or T*. What could the members come up with and how strict would they be? The cream of the quality displays included examples from Idhar, The Dominion of India, The Republic of India, Indian Custodial in Korea and The Ionian Islands. Some of the other countries to get a showing were Qatar, Iceland, Togo. Where some of the members bent the rules were Queensland and Transvaal. They may not be countries but do start with Q and T. We had been looking forward to hosting the Yorkshire Philatelic Association convention on 15th June at Bramall Lane (Sheffield United FC). Since booking the venue for the convention, the football club took another booking which required use of the whole stadium. The search is on for a suitable venue. The convention is part of our 125th anniversary celebrations.

Steve Cook

Shropshire

We started our year with a flurry of meetings. The opening session had members showing *Recently Acquired/ Mounted Items*, which was a popular event with a good number of members

displaying a wide range of treasures. The next meeting was a display of *Berlin* by **Fred Iken** – a well supported and interesting evening. Then came our “big event” – our Annual Stamp and Postcard Fair held in Shrewsbury with 17 dealers with a wide range of



Busy looking at the Fair - not found yet

goodies to suit all pockets. The Fair is always held on the first Saturday in October, so note your diaries for next year! **David Petley-Jones** took us on a *Journey around the South Seas*, with a good turnout to support a popular speaker. That’s just the start of our year – we have a very full programme to take us through to the end of May, when we have our summer break. Very sadly the beginning of our year was overshadowed by the death of our outgoing President, **Sue Thatcher**, who was killed in a car crash. Her expertise in the area of Thematic Philately was so masterful that we have now dedicated our Thematic Competition Trophy to her memory.

Andy Neal

South Midlands

The end is nigh: At last we reached the end of the alphabet at our meeting on 19th November 2018, with members’ displays around *The Letters X, Y and Z*. The displays showed the usual

remarkably inventive imaginations of our members as to how their displays constituted themes around these three letters, and their displays were as always interesting, informative and often amusing. However the highlight of the meeting came at half time when the raffle was held, and member **Peter Pugh**, who had faithfully bought his regular ticket, at long last won a prize. His delight as shown in the attached picture shows just how important this was for him, and how much he valued the glamour and taste of the prize. We meet all year round on the third Monday of each month at 1.30 in the Memorial Hall at Barford. All collectors, at any level, are welcome to any meeting: there is no annual subscription, pay at the door.

Newcomers can just drop in. → 01789 842112. Full details of the Society on <https://www.sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps/smidsc> *John Gledhill*



Peter Pugh strictly comes raffling

Southampton & District

In September **Brian Hague** brought a display of *The Faroe Islands*. In the 1860s each village was responsible for passing on the mail, a system known as Skjuts. The postal system was under Danish Jurisdiction until 1975 when the Faroes started having their own stamps. WWI caused many difficulties of supply, and in 1918 changes in rates and poor supply resulted in overprinted stamps for 2 øre – the “Chairleg stamps”, as a chairleg was used for the overprinting block. In WWII the British invaded and ran the postal system, using Danish stamps. More overprints resulted. Civilian mail was very difficult and censorship was intermittent. Brian’s display included examples of the Red Cross forms that were used, in particular one from a Faroe lady to her son in Germany. After the postal system became independent Czeslaw Slania engraved 100 stamps for them. Brian included a cover signed by him. A fortnight later we were visited by the Postcard Club. There were five displays with the usual very diverse content; *Numbers, Boys and Girls, Seaside Policemen, Ladies of the Royal Family* and *My Uncle Frank in WWI*. For the President’s Evening we were entertained by **Colin Jones** with *Great Britain Travelling Post Offices*. He began with the 1938 Act for the Conveyance of Mails by Railways and showed how the system evolved to cover the whole of the country. Thursday afternoon meetings at Chandlers Ford included a Ladies’ afternoon and a duet from **Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye** and **Roger Harris**.

From *Southampton Postmark*

Swindon

This year’s ‘Swinpex’ on the 8th June will be the 30th Fair that Swindon PS has organised. It has grown over the years and is only restricted by space available. With regularly well over 45 dealers, specialist societies and lots besides, it is an extremely popular event within the philatelic community. We have collectors attending from all over the country and we even have societies travelling by coach to get to the fair. It is organised by a very friendly and welcoming group of hard-working members, is in a good location and within a superb well-lit venue. Come along and enjoy yourselves.

David Gibbon

Wakefield

In October **Keith Burton** visited us with a double display of *West Germany 1949 to 1972* and *Bavaria 1850s to 1920*. The next month **David Druett** gave an unusual showing of *Scottish Traditional Half Penny Mail Tax*.

Daphne McMillan brought some of her collection of *GV1* which included some interesting Diplomatic Christmas cards and telegrams of the period. Our own **Paul Schofield** showed his fascinating collection of *Mail Boats of Dover/ Ostend Route from 1846* and **Nigel Harpham** entertained us with *The Life and Times of Christopher Columbus*. We held our annual Christmas Social on 19th December where several members presented some very pleasing displays, and on 2nd January the new year commenced with some attractive *Flora and Fauna* thematic displays. All of these displays were accompanied by very knowledgeable and entertaining presentations which were much enjoyed. *Julie Hitchcock*

Watford & District

In October we welcomed two members of Pinner PS. Going first was **Lorraine Maguire**, who showed us *Postcards from the First World War*, with a link to her native New Zealand. These included comic cards by Bruce Bairnsfather and silk postcards featuring regimental badges, some of which were sent to New Zealand by Lorraine's father. In the second half **Gordon Cayto** entertained us with a number of mini-displays, which included a wide range of *Forgeries*, *Stamp Collage Postcards* and *Items relating to the Festival of Britain in 1951*. **Jim McKerrow** came to see us in November, showing us more of his collection of *Material related to UK Stamp Exhibitions*. This time the emphasis was on the 1970s, including Philypia promotional items and four high value machins mounted on a card, signed by Arnold Machin. As usual, Jim's inimitable style made for a most entertaining evening, and he is coming back again in January! Our December meeting was cancelled due to the room being unavailable. We therefore decided to hold our annual dinner instead. Thirteen of us de-camped to the Blue Check restaurant in Bushey, where a good time was had by all! → watforddps@gmail.com or 01923 243243 Wayne Cox

West London

We have held two meetings this season, where members pitted their wits to find material depicting *Industry & Industrialists* and *Fountains & Waterfalls*. A few of our members

visited the Middlesex Philatelic Federation Stamp Day on 26th October when Amersham & District PS hosted a successful day. On 6th November we were treated to an impressive display of the *Cinderellas of WWI and WWII* in a lead up to Remembrance Day. The display was presented by an old friend, **Stuart Henderson**. We viewed poster stamps from France, Italy and GB, labels and postcards of both oppressors and oppressed sides. These were needed to provide visual links prior to television and the web. There was also propaganda to raise



Stuart with his display

funds for the survivors of the Emden. USA was very anti-war before the attack on Pearl Harbour in WWII, after which the mood changed abruptly as seen on American labels and cards. Our December meeting was a Social where members & friends meet for a meal together. → 020 8940 9833 or olivers_of_ham@virgin.net or view our website: <https://sites.google.com/site/westlondonphilatelicociety>

Chris Oliver

**No report of your society? Why not send one to the editor?
It could give hints on good speakers to other societies.**

Federations

Hampshire

John Campbell's Outstanding Contribution to Hampshire Philately



John Campbell

Photo courtesy Eddie Mays, Southampton DPS

John Campbell first appears on a list of those society representatives present at a Hampshire Federation Council meeting in the minutes of the 15th July 1979 Council meeting at Winchester. He came with **David Bradley** both representing Portsmouth. At that meeting Portsmouth was formally accepted into the Federation, proposed by **Mr Mockford** of Southampton and seconded by **Mr Hardy** of Hayling Island. Since then John has an outstanding record of supporting the Federation through Council and latterly as Hon Secretary. He was co-opted onto a study in May 1982 considering how to organise and finance the Federation's Conventions. He has been a moving force in organising HAMPEX and getting

dealers to support it since before HAMPEX moved to its current Wickham venue in 2005. John was recognised with an ABPS Award of merit in 2007. At the January 2019 meeting of the Federation Council, Chairman **Julian Jones** thanked John for his outstanding 40 years of service to the Federation and presented him with a certificate signed by himself and President **Paul Davidson**.

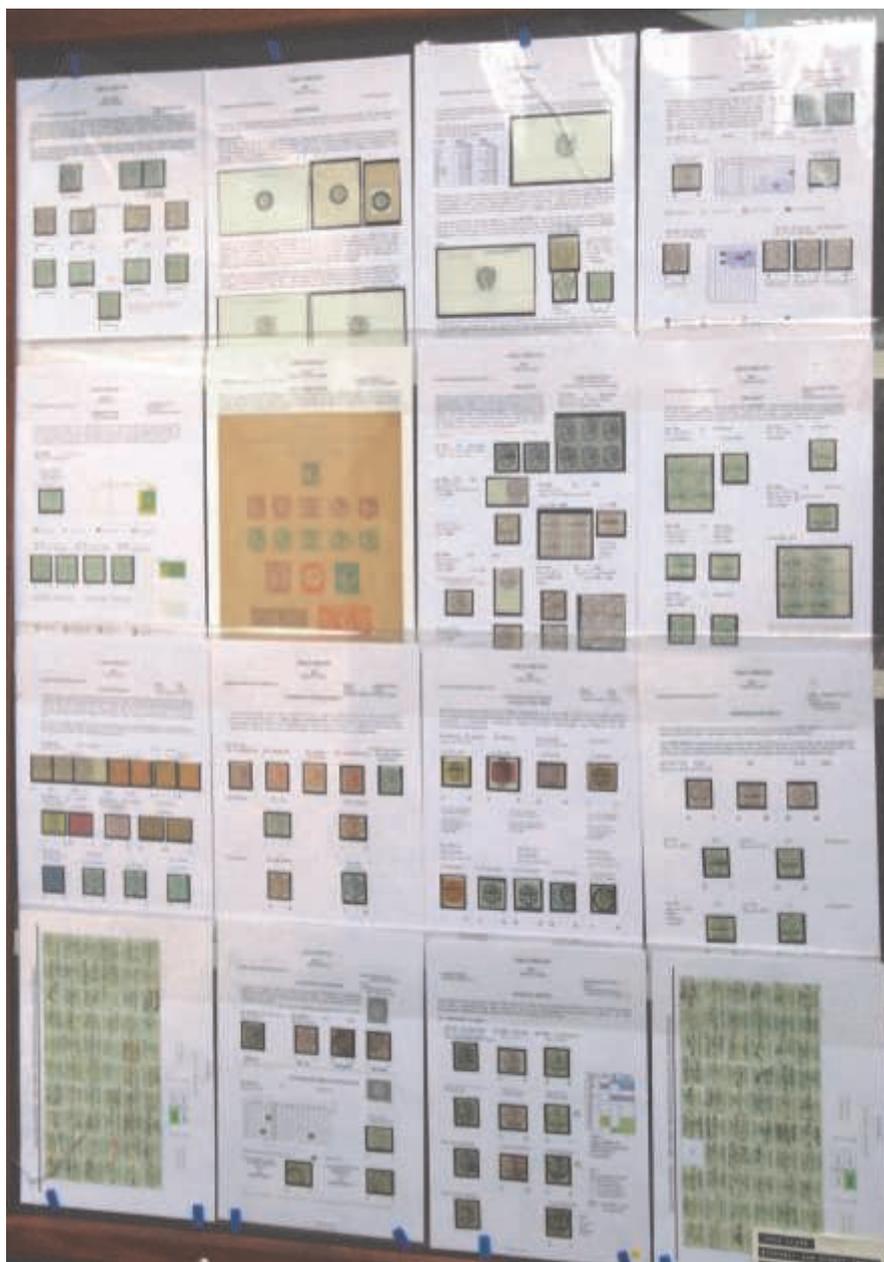
Julian H Jones, FRPSL

Somerset & Dorset

We held our annual competitions at the Digby Memorial Hall, Sherborne in October. There were 34 entries filling 47 eight-sheet frames. The Senior Judge was **James Grimwood-Taylor**. We are very grateful to him and his colleagues. 17 First Class and 16 Second Class Diplomas were awarded. The winners of the 6 classes were: Open – **J F Roe** (Bristol), General Philatelic - **B Paul** (Bridport & Charmouth), Postal History - **M Beward** (Bristol), Thematic – **S Page** (Bridport & Charmouth), Aerophilatelic - **B Hunt** (Bridport & Charmouth), Postcards – **F R Blackah** (Bridport & Charmouth). Congratulations to all these winners but also to all those who



James Hooper (by the cups) and Senior Competition Judge James Grimwood-Taylor with Richard Stroud (President of the Somerset & Dorset Philatelic Federation)



Winning Open Class entry "Great Britain Lilac & Greens of 1884" by J F Roe of Bridport District Stamp Club at Somerset & Dorset Federation Competition

took part. Thanks are also due to those members, especially those of the Yeovil Philatelic Society and of the Federation, for their assistance in setting up, stewarding and dismantling the entries on the day.

James Hooper

Wiltshire and District

The results of our annual 16 Sheet Competitions were announced at our AGM held in Swindon on the 1st December. The winner of the Victor Hutchinson Memorial Trophy was **Paul Latham-Warde** of Salisbury with his entry *The Poor*. The winner of the



Nigel Borlase-Hendry, the President of the Federation, presenting Paul Latham-Warde with his trophy

Federation Trophy was **Stephen Belcher** of Swindon with his *Jamaican Civil Censorship During WWII*. The last date for submission of entries for this year's 16 Sheet Competition will be the 1st November. Details of our 9 Sheet Competitions, being organised by the Bath PS, are to follow.

→ www.wiltsfed.org.uk

Paul Latham-Warde

National and specialist societies

Austrian – Northern Group

In November members of the group were treated by **Keith Brandon** to two high quality displays relating to the Adriatic region of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The first concerned *Maritime Postage* and the handstamps used on uncanceled mail put on board ships of the Austrian Lloyd and other Austro-Hungarian shipping lines. Keith showed examples of mail hand-stamped at various ports on arrival and also mail cancelled by on-board travelling post-offices. Highlights included a cover apparently disinfected in Zara in 1866, a manuscript cancel “Trieste col Vapore” and a hitherto unknown handstamp cancelling mail carried by a ship of the Società Istria-Trieste line to Pola. After a break for fruitcake and cheese, Keith continued with the *Postal History of Mail from Postal Agencies on the Istrian Peninsula* and their connections to the railway network. The Istriener Bahn ran from the important military and naval base at Pola in the south of the peninsula to Divača, a junction town which connected to Vienna and beyond. Many of the postal-agency handstamps were from small villages and are rarely seen. It was a most social, enjoyable and fascinating evening much enjoyed by our members. It is planned to be the first of many. → www.austrianphilately.com

David Bravery

Channel Is Specialists'

We held a postal auction in November. This generated sales of just under

£11 400 with the majority of the lots sold at around their reserve price. There was strength and depth in early postal history with Guernsey and Jersey scrolls and rare Forwarding Agents material. A letter with a superb Jersey Penny Post cachet sold for £240 and a Ballon Monte cover went



£325-worth of Ballon Monté

for £325. There was a large selection of Occupation material, a wide range of Red Cross and Feldpost items especially messages to and from German troops and a good range of Internee mail and POW mail, all of which sold well. A special POW card from a German POW in the Guernsey Camp 801 to his father in Germany fetched £170 and another one went for £200. The sub-post office handstamps were a feature with some of the scarcer Forest ones selling at their reserve prices. We also held a meeting on the 15th December at the Union Jack Club in Waterloo, London. Some 25 members were in attendance with three visiting from Guernsey, Austria and Germany. After a 95-lot room auction,

with sales exceeding £1500, the theme for the day's displays was *Letters M and N*. **John Triggs FRPSL, Robert Shaw, David Gurney FRPSL, Brian Sole FRPSL, Leo Mayr, Christine Earle FRPSL, David Winnie and Alan Moorcroft** rose to the occasion with fine displays of a very diverse nature. Everyone must have found something of interest.

Steve Wells

Czechoslovak of Great Britain

Our AGM was on 3rd November. This was followed by the Kay Goodman Competition which was won by **Reg Hounsell** for his entry *Allegory Issues*.



Members discussing the merits of entries for the Kay Goodman Trophy

Close second and third were **Rex Dixon** with *Polish Annexation of Teschen Silesia, 1938-1939 Zaolzie*, and **Wojciech Kierstan** with his entry *Josef Rossler-Orovsky*, the organiser of the 1918 Scout Mail and other revolutionary issues. In a change to the advertised programme, **Reg Hounsell** introduced a friend, **Sylvia Daintrey**, who brought along various documents and letters relating to her grandfather's family's exit from 1938 Czechoslovakia and their arrival in Britain. Her father signed up for the Czech forces in Britain and was involved in the siege of Dunkirk with the Canadian Army and

ended back in Czechoslovakia with the US army. Sylvia gave us all a rare insight into the difficulties in getting out of Czechoslovakia at that time, as well as the determination of many Czechs to help the war effort whenever they could.

Bob McLeod

Great Britain

Our Programme Secretary, **Andy Donaldson**, organised a dedicated *Machin* day for members to participate in. On the day, collectors of Machin material turned out in force and were treated to a variety of displays. Led by **Scott Kibby** who included early proof material in his display, a further twelve displays were shown. These covered a vast range of subjects – publicity, production, training stamps, the issued stamps from pre-decimal to the present in all forms, postal stationery and postal history, even forgeries. No Machin collector present could have been disappointed by the wealth of knowledge available on that special day. To round off 2018, Stanley Gibbons hosted a seasonal reception for us which was attended by a large number of members and guests. Judging by the many conversations that took place during the evening this was enjoyed by all. We even managed to fit in a few standing displays which attracted much attention and discussion. President **John Davies** thanked our hosts on behalf of all present. Great Britain collectors may be interested to know that our website now contains a complete index of contents of the Great Britain Journal.

→ www.gbpb.org.uk or
membership@gbpb.org.uk

Janet Bygate

King George VI

Stanley Gibbons generously hosted another Open Day for Society members on 3rd October 2018 at their Strand premises in London. Over 20 members, some with spouses, attended during the day. We are extremely grateful to **Andrew Mansi** and his Gibbons' team. Several members brought displays with them. These included **Rod Vousden** - *Military Honour Envelopes*, **Roger Harrison** - *King George VI post-war Royal Visit to Southern Africa* and **Brian Livingstone** - *Bohumil Heinz' engraving of King George VI head for De La Rue's KUT stamps*. We were especially pleased to welcome **Daphne** and **Robert McMillan** with Daphne's Large-Gold medal-winning display *King George VI – His Family, Life and Reign*. This display with many scarce items also showed how imagination in composing sheets will make a really



Daphne McMillan with her Large Gold display of The Life and Times of KGV

good display. It was in sections covering George's childhood; his Royal Navy career; his marriage as a prince to Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon and his surprise accession to the throne in

1936 when Edward VIII abdicated. The wartime and post-war activities and his deteriorating health were also well covered and within the memories of some members present. Later in October, five members displayed at the Autumn display meeting at the Union Jack Club. **Barrie Cook** displayed *British Postal Agencies in the Gulf*, **Graham Little** brought a wide selection, **Mike Axe** showed *GVI Barbados covers*, **Rod Vousden** presented items related to *Ascension Island during WWII* and **Philip MacMurdie** brought a selection of items on the *Bahamas George VI Head Type stamps*. David Rennie

New Zealand

Now in our 68th year, we enjoyed a very successful 2018 with highlights that included an excellent residential weekend in Bath attended by over 40 members, partners and guests. We visited the Bath Postal Museum by courtesy of its co-founder **Audrey Swindells MBE** and held our biennial 16-sheet competition, expertly judged by **Chris Harman RDP FRPSL**. The winner was **John Stimson** with a study of *The Colours used to Print the Advertisements on the Back of the 1893 Second Sideface Issue*. In 2019 we have a varied programme of meetings to which visitors and potential new members are warmly invited. London meetings are held at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London SW1 8UJ (next to Waterloo Station) and topics for 2019 are Early Postcards with stories to tell (30th March), New Zealand Mail in WWII (25th May) and a sorting workshop focusing on some of the early issues of New Zealand (27th July). The AGM and annual auction, at the same venue, are on 30th



Chris Harman (left) with his Perkins, Bacon sample sheet and Neil Jones with parts that had been removed by a previous owner

November. In addition there will be a meeting for members' displays in Oxford on 28th September and regional group meetings in Birmingham (Autumn), Wigan (23rd February, 11th May, 7th September and 9th November), Perth (21st April), Edinburgh (20th July) and Carlisle (12th October). → www.nzsgb.org.uk which includes an extensive research archive and all issues of our award-winning journal, *The Kiwi*, from 1952 to 2014; or Michael Wilkinson 01732 456997 or mwilkin799@aol.com *Mike Wilkinson*

The Royal

The President **Patrick Maselis RDP FRPSL** surprised members with his display *Belgians in the World* in November. Few knew that Belgians had established settlements on or organised expeditions to many parts of the world. Patrick focussed his attention outside Europe, for while Belgian influence in central Africa is well known, its involvement extended to China, Guatemala, New Zealand

and the South Pole. Indeed, a 'Belgian Colony' still exists today, namely Villaguay within Argentina. Amongst the highlights was a share certificate from 1723 for the Ostend Company. Later that month members of the Pacific Islands Study Circle presented their displays of the stamps and postal history of the smaller islands. The material on show included issues of the *Samoa Express Post Office*, *Coastwatchers of the British Solomon Islands* and the tiny coral atoll that is *Clipperton Island*. An incredible array of patriotic covers from *The Confederate Southern States sent during the American Civil War, 1861 to 1865* were shown by **John H Walker** in December. It was a brutal conflict during which some 630 000 Americans



John H Walker with Patrick Maselis

lost their lives, yet it stirred up intense patriotic fervour on both the Union and Confederacy sides. This fervour manifested itself in an array of envelopes with their patriotic imagery and slogans or at times ridiculing the opposing side. Covers from the South are far from plentiful as a result of the limited printing facilities available, with

only about 100 covers known of even the most common designs.

→ 020 74861044. *Richard West*

Scandinavia

At the recent London meeting of the SPS there were nine displays given by members who showed *Finland*, **Eric Keefe** and **Michael Elliott**, *Færoe Islands*, **Susan Oliver** and *Denmark* **Tony Lyford** and **Sandra Poole**. **Tony Davies** brought *Iceland*, President **Pat Adams** showed *Norway*, **Andrew Riddell** and **David Maddocks** produced pages from collections of *Sweden*. No one brought Danish West Indies or Greenland. The displays showed stamps and postal history, with wartime issues and printings, railway items, bills of exchange, the Swedish flag and its history, Nordlands postcards with cancellations, postal stationery, ship letters, and postcards to Vladivostock. Also shown were items from "Magasin du Nord" a department store in Copenhagen, and Icelandic postal stationery cards, various Officials, Military Mail, Postage Dues and many various Cinderella issues.

→ susan.m.oliver@virgin.net

Susan Oliver

South African Collectors'

Our meetings in London and Carlisle in September were both open meetings. These meetings attracted only a low



Viewing in London at SACS

attendance although the material displayed was varied in subjects and of a high standard. We participated in the South African Philatelic Societies annual convention in Meriden which was again well organised by **Simon Peetoom**, and concluded with a successful inter-society auction conducted by **Nick Arrow**. → Chris Oliver on 020 8940 9833 or olivers.of_ham@virgin.net or <http://www.southafricacollector.com>

Chris Oliver

Sudan Study Group

This is a belated roundup of our last two meetings. The first was held back in April and was our Annual Conference, held in Derby. It was a cracking event with members from Australia, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, UK and USA attending. Besides the usual Auction, Bourse and Norton Collier Trophy Competition (winner **John Gibson** from Australia with *Wadi Halfa – Shellal TPO*), we enjoyed *Historical Letters, Gordon Statue Airmails, Pioneer Airmails (Richard Stock), 1940 Provisional Airmails (Peter Halmkin), Meter Mails (Gwynne Harries), Postage Dues (Paul Grigg)* and *Forgeries and Fakes (Andy Neal)*. The After-Dinner event was a marvellous slide show and talk by new member **Dr Jacke Phillips**

concerning the restoration of the Ottoman buildings at Suakin, a project she is working on. We have just held



John Gibson receives the Norton Collier Trophy from Andy Neal

our second meeting of the year in London, where *Postmarks and Postal History of the Pre-Conquest Period* were displayed. These covered the several abortive attempts to relieve General Gordon in Khartoum (Suakin and Dongola Campaigns) and ultimately Kitchener's Nile Expedition which led to the defeat of the Mahdi at Omdurman in 1897. Next meeting will be a study weekend in April 2019 – a joint venture with the Egypt Study Circle to explore the philatelic connections between the two countries. → sudanstamps.org Andy Neal

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.

Some interesting items

Received - but difficult to incorporate in the usual places. Strange size, strange shape or just strange - this is a trial run to see if you find it interesting, enlightening, amusing, zany or beneath contempt. Personally I think that if I cannot laugh at some aspects of our hobby it is time for me to give up and take up knitting or something - at least that would have me in stitches. *Any views expressed here must not be considered to be the official views of ABPS. The editor is totally irresponsible.*



Can anyone beat Brian Asquith's super on piece cover?



Courtesy of David Bravery



Merry Christmas from Bookham Stamp Club



Tony Arnold at Poole & Bournemouth with his sash window counterweight

British Stamp news

Royal Mail's offerings for January take us to what they and, I am sure, others would classify as Great British Classics. They are certainly a long way away from the other modern designs. These are simple, clear and finely executed. Yes - again I appreciate them. I am sad that the letters on the £1 Victoria are JB (my wife's initials) rather than KB (mine), but I have the latter, admittedly used,

so perhaps they didn't have an example to hand. It will be interesting to see how many of these come through my postbox with a beautifully clear dated cancellation. I noted that the 1d black, 2d blue and 1d red did not make the set.

The first of those has appeared often, the last occasionally, but the 2d blue seems forgotten.

I have received notification of the Annual Products for 2018; 2 Yearbooks, 1 Yearpack, 1 Year of Presentation Packs and 1 Year of Miniature Sheets.

If you were generous (or mad) enough to buy one of each the total cost, excluding postage, would be £667. Almost sheer profit for Royal Mail but still no 2nd Class commemoratives, low general availability at post offices, no careful cancellations - what is Royal Mail for?

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



P.O.P. = Post Office Preferred ?

The very heavy post-box that adorns my living room came under Royal Mail's "Post Office Preferred" Project - standard size envelopes resulting in local communities complaining that pre-war letter-box apertures were no longer suitable. Mine was rescued from scrap in 1969. As a serious philatelist I found myself launching, even back then, another POP campaign - "Post Office Please!"

It remains valid today as Royal Mail continues to treat attractive philatelic items as if they themselves were scrap. I already have two Christmas envelopes so abused. Many of those of course will survive no doubt properly postmarked. The problem occurs from simply failing to cancel stamps that are scarce or commemorative and then requiring postmen to cancel them before delivery – invariably by scribbling across them with a pen. Some 'posties' fail to do this but without any cancellation the stamps are almost as useless, save for charity shops. Especially today commemoratives are very little found on general mail and it would not be difficult to educate sorting and delivery staff to make philatelic value assumptions and treat with respect. Used stamps have long been collectible, especially by those for whom mint are expensive. Used stamps exist on other than FDCs!

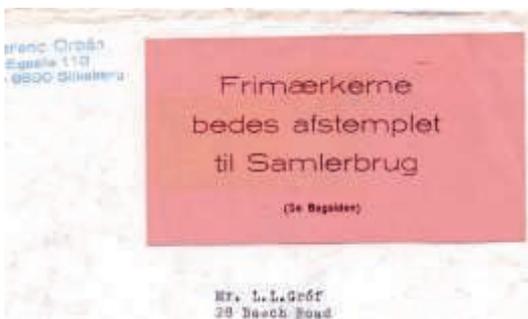
Worse were the violently abusive large rectangular parcel postmarks slapped abundantly across an interesting combination of stamps paying the postage.



This is a block of eight 28p Greenwich Meridian stamps so treated. Even the date is not recognisable yet just how many blocks of that stamp exist today? Used commemoratives can be tomorrow's gems, especially as fewer are actually used. How many sets of covers will exist in 2050 of all ten Harry Potter stamps legitimately used singly, in combinations or mixed frankings for bona fide postal purposes? I already have one - no

cancellation at all! This block, then, is utterly blemished by the refusal over decades of Royal Mail in public or private hands to hear the collectors who generate huge sums for them buying material for which the only service required is making them.

Alongside is an envelope that I received from a Danish collector decades ago. The pink label that collectors could affix over chosen stamps shows exactly, on the back, where the sender wants the postmarks and, in every case, neat clear postmarks are so applied by the Danish Post Office. The front translates as recognition of a request for a postmark for a



collector. Scandinavia may have always been philatelically more community-considerate than us. I have posted a cover with uncancelled stamps back to a main sorting centre and been given a cancellation for my collection. At a time when more and more mail is franked with plain labels the survival of mail stamped with attractive stamps, clearly and neatly cancelled is going to become critical long-term and we really should expect something by way of recognition and appropriately decent service.

Royal Mail is not the only cause of badly franked mail. Meter slogans can make a mess. Here is an item clearly philatelic in flavour brutally franked by a meter, that looks as if used by a Post Office Letter Office, cancelling a commemorative used on the 20th anniversary envelope of the Magyar Philatelic Society. These matters are all within Royal Mail oversight. It is a straight lack of courtesy and consideration despite the major contributions to philatelic events Royal Mail consistently supports. What use is that money to me trying to build my own personal collection, even exhibit, of commemorative and high value covers genuinely used?



My fourth illustration from a collection of over 50 ruined items (on one even the "Stamp Active" label is scribbled through) shows how far back the process goes:



a special delivery cover to my mother-in-law, now deceased, who obediently opened carefully and sent it back to me with the block of 4 x 9d EFTA and the Wilding 4d making the postage rate, completely ruined as a philatelic document except perhaps as warped postal history. And in those days a clear postmark was essential for tracking

purposes! It was a valuable document needing special delivery. In gathering back such envelopes from family, friends and colleagues I have always had genuine reasons for the particular mail item. I have long seen the future of postal history mirrored in the scarcity of Penny Blacks on cover - which I have never been able to afford. That book envelope is surely as scarce in terms of future postal history.



Finally this is clearly contrived but it was to send a book at the 2nd Class large letter rate of £1.12. I managed to find five different 12p stamps and added the standard 50p, - obviously philatelic and yet scribbled through for the sake of finding a standard canceller and doing courteous, helpful

service to a community without whom company profits would be rather slimmer. We need that Danish touch and it would surely not be amiss for collector representatives and leaders with a good relationship already with RM executives to begin asking for and expecting gestures of real change.

Mervyn Benford

Stamp Active Network

David Armitage Wins Bill Hart Award



David Armitage has been presented with the 2018 Bill Hart Award for exceptional service to youth philately. He has served on the National Youth Stamp Group and Stamp Active Network for over fifteen

years and stood down at the end of 2017 as Events Manager. David was one of the leading figures in developing the youth area at both Spring and Autumn Stampex and has put in a huge amount of effort over the years. Apart from his youth work, David has also been one of the key figures in the Essex Philatelic Federation and Canadian Philatelic Society (Past President).

David Rossall



Stamp Active Website wins International Award

The Stamp Active Website was awarded a Large Gold Medal and Overall Best Website (Best in Class) at the Italia 2018 International Stamp Exhibition. This beat many other philatelic websites from around Europe and as far afield as Australia and Brazil.

The Italia 2018 Exhibition was held under the auspices of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) in Verona.

Websites were assessed on Treatment of Contents, Originality, Significance and Depth of Research, Technical Matters and Presentation. Particular consideration was given to User Interface, Search/Navigation speed and Usability, frequency of updates, overall impression of the layout/web design in terms of self evidence of the pages and the quality of the images. The Stamp Active Website was awarded 95 points (out of 100).

Susan Henderson, Chair of Stamp Active said "This is exciting recognition of all the effort that the Stamp Active Network puts into promoting stamp collecting to young people in the UK. It is the first time the site has been entered into a philatelic competition and the award has delighted us all."

The website can be found at www.stampactive.co.uk

Hearty Congratulations to all concerned

ABPS Handbook & Directory: The latest updates

The details below are those which could affect your contacting a society or speaker. Other less immediate changes will appear in the details on the website abps.org.uk I will be grateful if you will send any more amendments or error notifications as soon as possible to me at editor@abps.org.uk I will pass them on and/or use them as necessary. We apologise for any errors that have caused problems or distress. Please note the changes below.

Specialist Societies

Arabian Philatelic Association International (p 66) has re-joined ABPS.

The contact is **Willie King** willieking@btinternet.com

Austrian Philatelic Society (p 66): Secretary is Nicholas Coverdale

01946 693707 cricknufc@gmail.com

Postal Order Society (p 81): Secretary's email is mark.rollason@tesco.net

Local Societies

Chichester & District Stamp Club (p 106): Secretary's telephone is

01243 527068

Dorchester & Weymouth Stamp Club (p 109) has closed.

Enfield Philatelic Society (p 112): meet at Bush Hill Fellowship Hall (situated within Bush Hill Park), Bush Hill Park, Lincoln Road, **Enfield** EN1 4PS

Hemel Hempstead Philatelic Society (p 120) has closed

High Wycombe & District PS (p 122): Secretary has a new email

kenrichardson87@talktalk.net

Huntingdonshire PS (p 125): Contact email is:

huntingdonshire.philatelic@gmail.com

Meeting days are now 2nd Tuesday & 4th Thursday (September to June)

Petersfield & District PS (p 144): Secretary is **Victor Collins** 01730 233793

victorcollins_uni@hotmail.com

Telford Stamp & Card Club (p 162): Secretary's email is

roy_jukes@outlook.com

West Riding Stamp Club (p 168, added): New Secretary is

Adrian Lee, 01422 364952

Speakers

Alan Holverson (p 215) has died.

Your article?

We are always pleased to consider articles by our readers. Please send your item to the Editor who will let you know if it can be used. 350 words maximum please, and a picture relating to the subject matter is always a help (300dpi jpg or photograph). We do not pay for publication, and any items may be edited for length or content.

Diary

Local and regional events by ABPS members

Please give the postcode of your venues - it helps people with satnavs.

March

- 13 Henley & District Philatelic Auction: from 7.45 pm, Bix Village Hall, **Henley on Thames** RG9 6BS

April

- 13 Maidstone & Mid-Kent Stamp Fair: Grove Green Community Centre (opp Tesco's), **Maidstone** Kent ME14 5BT
- 27 Ipswich PS Stamp & Postcard Fair & AEPS Stamp Essex Spring 2019: 10 - 4, Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre, Twelve Acre Approach, off Bell Lane, **Kesgrave, Ipswich** IP5 1JF → 01473 723863 / 01473 611991, www.ipswichphilatelic.uk
- 27 Morecambe Annual Stamp Fair: The Platform, Station Buildings Marine Road West, **Morecambe** LA4 4DB → Frank Colling 01524 733589

May

- 11 Bromley & Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair: Langley Park Boys School

June

- 8 SWINPEX 2019
- 15 Yorkshire PA Convention: **Sheffield**

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.
→ 01202395484 philatelyinbournemouth.co.uk/poole-club.html
- 28 HAMPEX 2019 - Hampshire Federation: 10-4, Wickham Centre, Mill Lane, **Wickham** PO17 5AL
- 28 Somerset & Dorset Federation Competitions: Uploaders Village Hall, **Bridport**

October

- 5 Shropshire Annual Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, Barnabus Church Centre, **Longden Coleham, Shrewsbury**, SY3 7DN
- 12 ASPs South of England Stamp Fair: South of England Centre, **Ardingly**, West Sussex RH17 6TL
- 26 Kingston 2019 Stamp Fair, Competitions & AGM: 10 - 4, Claygate Village Hall, Church Rd, **Claygate** KT10 0JP

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 be the first major event in its 150th anniversary celebrations. Richard Stock is the coordinator. 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 are available on www.abps.org.uk/
- 11th - 14th September 2019: AUTUMN STAMPEX 2019. The National Philatelic Society will be the lead society. Other societies and collectors will also contribute on the theme of the 'Indian Sub-Continent'. Details will be posted on the ABPS website after Spring Stampex 2019.
- There will be no SPRING STAMPEX 2020.
- 16th - 19th September 2020: AUTUMN STAMPEX 2020. The British Thematic Association will be the lead society. Barry Stagg is the coordinator

International Exhibitions 2019-2020

- 29th May - 2nd June 2019 STOCKHOLMIA: Waterfront Congress Centre, Stockholm, Sweden, RPSL exhibition with ABPS recognition. → www.stockholmia2019.se/ ABPS Congress. Commissioner: Mike JY Roberts
- May 2019: BULGARIA 2019 Plovdiv. FEPA patronage. No details yet available.
- June 2019: CHINA 2019 Wuhan. FIP World Stamp Exhibition. Commissioner: Frank Walton. Closing date February 17th 2019!
- September 2019: EGYPT 2019. A FEPA exhibition with FIP recognition is proposed to mark the 90th anniversary of the Cairo Philatelic Society. If confirmed Jon Aitchison will be the UK Commissioner.
- 2nd - 9th May 2020 LONDON 2020 International Stamp Exhibition: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, **London** N1 0QH. Specialised World Stamp Championship Exhibition with FIP patronage and FEPA recognition. 2,750 frames (change-over of material after 4 days). Competitive classes will be Championship, Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Revenue, Postal Stationery, Thematic, Literature (incl. digital), Open, Modern, Picture Postcards and Youth. IREX will be published shortly → www.london2020.co UK Commissioner: Mike JY Roberts. Assistant Commissioner: Kim Stuckey. The deadline for applications has been extended to 30th June 2019.

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

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*,

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

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Stamp Active Network: please write to:

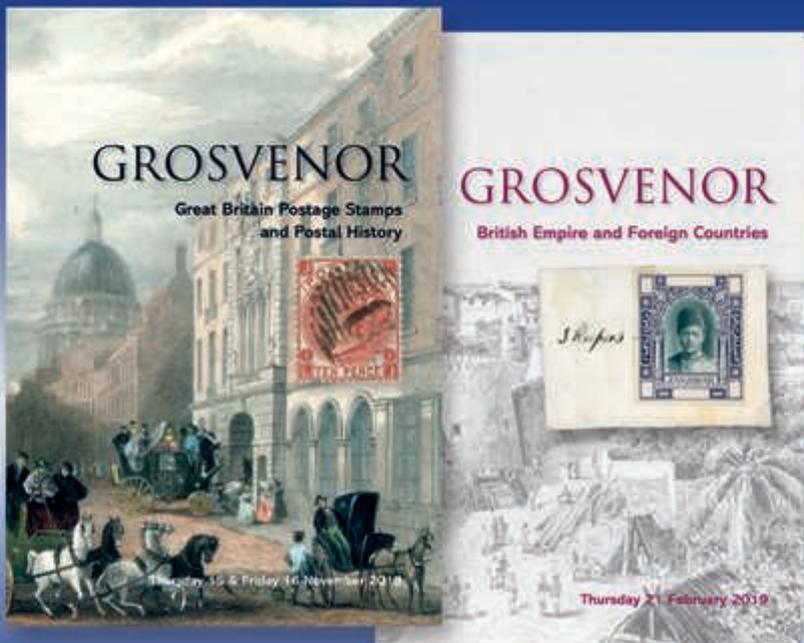
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Website www.abps.org.uk This also holds further information on Committees.

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