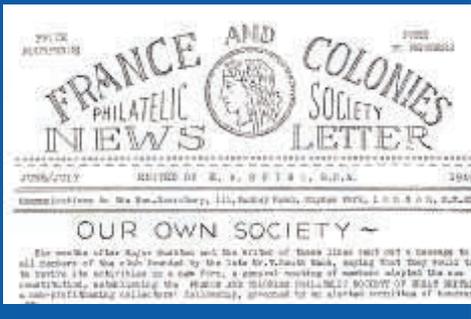
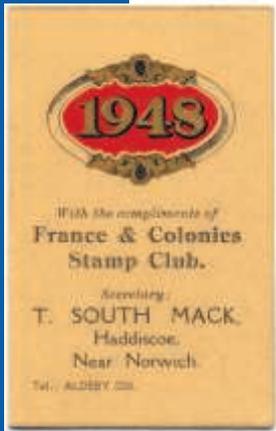


Félicitations à la Société philatélique de France et des colonies - 70 ans



Chaque mois, nous vous donnons un aperçu du contenu des publications d'associations qui nous parviennent.



See p 6

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4	3

**The ABPS News is also available online
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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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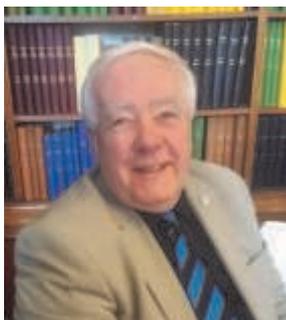
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Cover pictures - all relate to France & Colonies anniversary: 1 *Facsimile of the first newsletter*; 2 *The anniversary Journal*; 3 *Review of the Anniversary Journal in the French Philatelic Magazine*; 4 *a 1948 membership card*

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.**



FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

I must begin with many congratulations: Firstly, to the PTS team at Stampex; Suzanne Rae, Megan Tester and Isobel Klempka, three delightful young ladies who are full of ideas and always open to suggestions for improving our flag-ship UK exhibitions. This time, PTS-inspired talks/ discussions, interviews and tours through the exhibits were amongst the innovations. Secondly, on Stampex Thursday, the new Royal Philatelic Society opened its doors for the first time at 15 Abchurch Lane in the City of London. A triumph over many adversities, thanks in no little measure to the tenacity, perseverance, and I suspect sheer “bloody-mindedness” of Chris King, the well-chosen leader of the move from the old home in Devonshire Place. Of course thanks are due also to many others, notably Past and Future Presidents and Council members who have done an outstanding job for what is, after all, the ABPS’s Senior Society. Many enjoyed the Australian States Displays from Her Majesty the Queen’s collection, put together by Ian Greig and Ralf Vousden; many congratulations to all of them for all their efforts.

Of course, the second display at the new Royal on September 26th was an event particularly close to my own heart - a display by the North Region. I was really looking forward to this but unfortunately was unable to attend as I was unwell. However, all the reports that I have heard suggest that it was both very well attended and very well received. Congratulations must go to Northern Regional Representatives, Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL who coordinated the exhibits, and Barry Burns FRPSL who produced the booklet.

Returning to ABPS matters, we wish Bill Hedley success. He has been nominated by ABPS to be President of FEPA the European body in charge of organised philately throughout the continent. If successful this will be a great honour for him personally, and also for ABPS, whose voice will be heard all the more clearly on the European Stage. Bill will be replaced as Chairman of the Exhibitions and International Committee by Simon Richards, the Treasurer of the Royal, and an experienced exhibitor and juror. Having known Simon for a number of years I am sure that he will do an excellent job in this role.

So what next? Great Britain will play an important role at the major Postal History event at Sindelfingen in Germany. The British delegation is led by the irrepressible Alan Holyoake RDP, so it will be lively! I was meaning to attend this event in 2019, as it is one of, if not the main, Postal History Show in Europe and I have never been. However, the Scottish Federation wanted *Golf* at their biennial Dundee Weekend, and the dates clashed, so Sindelfingen will have to wait another year! Finally, I hope all societies now have a “Stamp Day” meeting in May, as close to the 6th May as possible.... If not please try again next year.

Graham Winters FRPSL

Editorial



September marks the return to meetings of many local societies though some have re-adjusted their year and meeting times to accommodate their members' advancing years and lower mobility. It is always interesting to hear how these changes have affected the different societies. Unfortunately this is also the time when some societies decide that there is no future for them as they run out of members, officers or money. It is always sad to record these closures in our amendments page, but even sadder to record that some societies have withdrawn from ABPS affiliation. ABPS needs your support as it represents you all on the international scene at European and Worldwide levels. If we have no National Association we lose our voice in the broader world of philately. We also will lose all prospect of FEPA* and FIP** support for the international events like London 2020. We are one of the leading philatelic nations in the world and ABPS is absolutely essential to that. It always astonishes me that individuals object to paying realistic amounts for society subscriptions, federation and national affiliation fees but will happily pay substantial sums for items in auctions. Golfers will pay hundreds of pounds for the right to play on their home course (weather permitting) and have the use of the club house - we seem to think that 50p to £1.50 for a fortnightly or even monthly meeting is all that our hobby is worth. Strange - perhaps this is a topic for each and every AGM throughout the land. Not what can we get out of our societies and associations but what can we put in. If you cannot persuade your society to affiliate to Federation or ABPS why not become a personal supporter, Friend or Patron?

More positively we have had Stampex in September and personally I had a very good time. I didn't spend as much as usual but I did find a few items and a lot of friends - some old, some new. After that I went to my first specialist society weekend with the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society in Coventry. I went with some apprehension as to the suitability of my *Baden* material. Those present were very welcoming and gave me some useful pointers to further information. The variety of material on display exceeded my wildest expectations. I now understand why specialist society weekends are so well reported. Whether anyone else will provide a report I don't know but I am happy to say that I found the whole experience very enjoyable. A positive AGM lasting only 30 minutes, a very useful bourse and a quick, efficient and lucrative auction - can't be bad.

There is no Stampex in February so I will be saving up for a long stay in London for London 2020 in May. I am one of those who go for a long time, helping where I can. I hope to see you there. If I can help you let me know!

Keith Burton

*FEPA = Federation of European Philatelic Associations

** FIP = Fédération Internationale de Philatélie

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:

Bradford and District PS – 125th Anniversary Celebration



This event was mentioned in a previous issue of ABPS NEWS and I am pleased to report that it took place and to prove it here is a photo of the ABPS Chairman, **Graham Winters**, cutting the cake. Members displayed some remarkable material that could have been shown in 1894. One member even producing a 1d lilac stamp with a fine postmark of 26th September 1894, so the letter which it franked would have been delivered the following day - the actual day of the first meeting of the society 125 years ago!



We now look forward to the 150th anniversary in 2044.

Richard Wheatley

France & Colonies PS - Our 70th Anniversary

The Society was launched in the early 1940s as the 'France & Colonies Stamp Club' by a stamp dealer called Thomas South Mack, initially as a commercial venture for his stamp business which also provided a newsletter, a new issue service and an exchange packet. After his death in 1948 the club was relaunched at its AGM on 21st May 1949 as the 'France and Colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain' offering extra services such as regional meetings, auctions and an expertisation committee. It is from this date that we calculate our anniversaries and hence the 70th anniversary this year. The achievement was celebrated at our annual weekend in March at Charlecote in Warwickshire. Mick Bister related the founding of the Society to the attendees after which



1950s George Nash 2019

glasses (of champagne of course) were raised to honour the 1949 committee and to toast the future of the Society. In the following month we published a special edition of our Journal featuring an illustrated article *From Stamp Club to Philatelic Society* relating our history. Although we no longer have any founder members, our two longest serving ones were invited to contribute. **George Nash**

(Member N°30) reminisced about the Society in the 1950s and **Bill Mitchell** (Member N°50) wrote on the issues of Mauritania. With the Anniversary edition of the Journal members received a facsimile of the first F&PCS Newsletter dated June/July 1949. This was a surprise to everybody as the original copy had only recently surfaced in the archives of a late member. The cherry on the anniversary cake was a review of the special edition of the Journal in the May edition of the French philatelic magazine *Écho de la Timbrologie*. *Mick Bister*

The Netherlands Philatelic Circle – 70 years

The Circle brings together people interested in Dutch philately, with members in the UK, the Netherlands and further afield. We study the philately not only of the Netherlands, but of her former colonies (Netherlands East Indies, Netherlands New Guinea, Netherlands Antilles and Suriname) and Indonesia. It was formed in 1949 by the expansion of the Netherlands Study Circle, a group of enthusiasts mainly based in Glasgow, to include members drawn from the rest of the UK and overseas.

We publish ongoing information on the stamps and postal history of the above territories, providing a forum for members to exchange specialist knowledge, and opportunities for them to add to their collections by buying material from packets and auctions. Members can borrow items from our library of more than 400 books, journals, monographs and articles. They receive three copies of *The Netherlands Philatelist* annually. It was first published in 1949, containing articles based on the research of members and translations of articles published in Dutch. A Newsletter, also published three times per year, includes details of new issues and special cancellations, notes of relevant articles published elsewhere, forthcoming events and a members' Q&A, which offers expert answers to queries. We hold an annual weekend Congress at a hotel in the UK, which includes talks, displays, an auction, a bourse, a group dinner and a separate non-philatelic programme for partners and guests. We also meet informally at Exhibitions.

To join, or for more information → www.netherlandsphilatelic.org.uk

Ray Welland

Redcar and Cleveland PS 50th Anniversary



The year 2019 is the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Redcar and Cleveland Philatelic Society at the present location of Redcar East Community Centre, Durham Road, Redcar. The fortunes of the Society have varied over time, with at one stage a membership of just five. The Society has bounced back and now boasts a total of 18 members with a

regular attendance of 13/14. The photograph shows some of our members but lacks the glamour of our two lady members, both of whom were unavailable when the photo was taken!

(Photo courtesy of Martin Snowdon)

Throughout the life of the Society we have tried to operate an informal and friendly society, which caters for people who are interested in stamps and stamp-related material at all levels. Visit us, you will be made most welcome

Geoff Reynolds

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

A taste of things to come

Gibraltar Study Circle will be celebrating 50 years in May 2020. They visited Gibraltar in October as part of the Royal 150th Anniversary celebrations.

London 2020 oversubscribed

London 2020, the international stamp exhibition to be held at the Business Design Centre in London's Islington from 2nd to 9th May next year, is substantially oversubscribed. So many collectors wanted to exhibit at the event, that an allocation of the frames available has had to be made. Equally, all the stands have been sold, and there is a waiting list.

The exhibits will be shown in two sections. The first half (Saturday 2nd May to Tuesday 5th May) will include Postal History, Revenue, Open, Picture Postcards, Postal Stationery, Modern and part of Youth. The second half (Wednesday 6th May to Saturday 9th May) will have Championship, Traditional, Aerophilately, Thematic and the rest of Youth. One Frame exhibits will be shown alongside their parent class.

Applications for the Literature and Digital Literature classes can still be made, until 31st December 2019, through National Commissioners in the usual way. For those wishing to book a hotel in London during the exhibition, please use the hotel booking facility on the website www.london2020.co/hotels.

Philatelists from all over the world are being invited to be patrons of the exhibition to support it financially. Details can be found at www.london2020.co/supporters, but a major new benefit for patrons is a preferential rate on bookings at a nearby hotel. This offer is limited, and thus subject to availability. Those potentially interested should email patrons@london2020.co for further details. This is available to existing patrons as well.

The entire organisation of London 2020 is being undertaken by volunteers. Many have already offered their services – but more are needed! Please register via www.london2020.co/volunteers.

For more information, go to www.london2020.co/mailchimp/ to receive newsletter updates about the progress of the exhibition and receive important announcements as they are made.



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 Titchmarsh. Andrew's area of expertise is unusual - in so far as his grounding in collecting and wide philatelic knowledge has given him a deep understanding of Philately. He has studied Philately for the past 45 years, in combination with commerce and Marketing Expertise, enabling him to create synergies in 'Lifetime' interlinked Stamp Selling Systems, selling unit-priced stamps through to handling collectors & Rarities up to £700,000 each. Today Andrew is fortunate to be co-owner with his Wife, of Universal Philatelic Auctions (aka UPA) - the Largest No Buyer's Premium Reducing-Estimate System Stamp Auction in the World, creating records selling stamps to 2,261 different bidders from 54 different countries in his latest auction. Andrew stopped collecting stamps aged 18 reasoning that his enjoyment of stamps would be in handling them and selling them...

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

~~Wrong Offer~~ ~~Wrong Price~~
~~Wrong Place~~
(naive seller = me but I was only 15 at the time!)

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

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

~~Wrong Presentation~~ ~~Wrong Place~~
therefore ~~Wrong Price~~

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

~~Wrong Estimate~~ ~~Wrong Presentation~~
~~Wrong Structure~~ ~~Wrong Protection of Price~~

- Lucky for the seller that 2 well-healed bidders saw the potential value that day or it could have been given away... the seller

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

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

The Secret is Simple -

IT'S ALL About TIMING.

Plus the 3 Philatelic 'P's -

Presentation ✓ Place ✓ and Price ✓

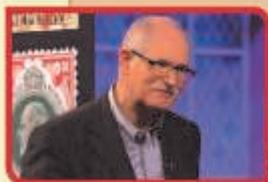
4 Understanding the problem... I always remember the car trade had their own little 'bible' - Glass's Guide. I've no idea, I've not even looked - in this internet-dominated world, it may even have disappeared. Well, there's an insider Stamp Trade publication for Stamp Dealers called 'The Philatelic Exporter'.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

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

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

Strange that, nobody ever asked me the same question back - because my answer would have been entirely different (and I don't treat it as a problem) - I seek to satisfy collectors

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



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW TV

REQUEST Your 'Tips of the Trade' FREE copy >



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 65th 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...

Isn't the Solution Staring us Right in the Face?

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

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

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

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

The auction sold your stamps to a dealer for \$1,000 - but You received circa \$656

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

10 Sounds Good Andrew, but Can You 'Deliver'? Obviously, nothing is as simple as that, and as we auction stamps to collectors some collections may 'break' to the example \$2,000+/- but the stamps may be sold for more or less - especially as we reserve all lots at 20% below, (Estimate \$2,000 - \$1,600 reserve) and not everything sells first or even 2nd time so prices may come down... Naturally, it's not that straightforward for a dealer either - he may sell at a discount to 'move' stock OR, like many dealers he may be sitting on the same unsold stamps, that you see time and time again, in dealer's stocks years later and still at the same unattractive prices...

So, I think it is more reasonable for you to expect up to 30% to 50% more, indirectly or directly via my Collector's Secret Weapon: Universal Philatelic Auctions, which moves material more quickly, by incrementally reducing estimate (and reserve) price in a structured selling system...

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

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

This is a rather long explanation, I don't want to bore you, but 18 years ago, when my wife and I set up Universal Philatelic Auctions I detected that the stamp trade's biggest problem then was not what sold - but what didn't sell... So, because I didn't want to try to keep on offering the same either unsaleable or overpriced stock I created the unique UPA Reducing Estimate (and reserve) Selling System. Simply put, if a lot doesn't sell in the 1st auction we reduce the estimate (and reserve) by 11% and unlike other dealers and auctions WE TELL YOU - 'US' - once unsold if unsold after the following auction we reduce by a further 12% and WE TELL YOU 'US2', if unsold after a 3rd UPA auction we reduce by a further 13% and WE TELL YOU 'US3' 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)

In Hindsight Dealers warned me 18 years ago that my idea wouldn't work. 18 years later I think I've proven that it does. (Reader: Please Request a complimentary UPA catalogue - using the contact details further below)

13 OK, Cut to the Chase Andrew, what's the offer? All of my Selling Systems are based upon selling to Collectors Globally, so that 95% of stamps sold by UPA are

ATTENTION OWNERS OF LARGE/ VALUABLE COLLECTIONS –

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

14 AND the SMALL PRINT?

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

15 OK, What Do I Do Next?

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

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

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

16 What Happens then?

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



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:

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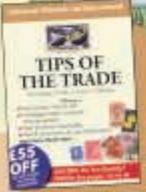
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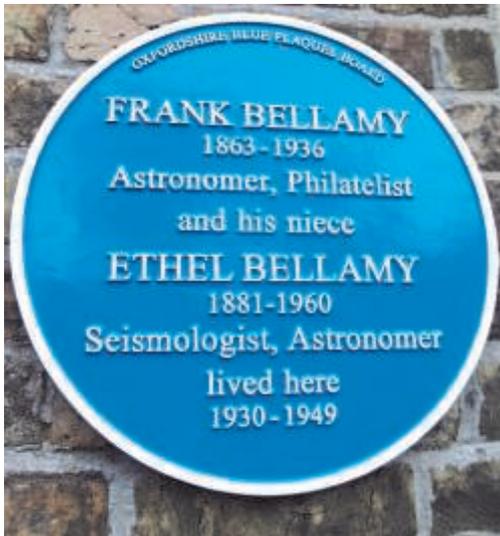
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Frank Bellamy



A Blue Plaque commemorating FRANK BELLAMY (1863–1936), astronomer and philatelist, and his niece ETHEL BELLAMY (1881–1960), seismologist and astronomer, was unveiled at 2 Winchester Road, Oxford, OX2 6NA, on Tuesday 8th October.

Frank was born in Oxford, the son of a bookbinder, and educated at Magdalen College School. In 1881 he became an assistant at the University Observatory and was set to work on the Astrographic Catalogue, an ambitious international project to map all the stars, shared out between eighteen observatories around the world. His assignment was to take photographic plates, measure and

reduce thousands of star images and prepare them for publication. The initial work took ten years and he then undertook work for other zones such as those of the Vatican, Hyderabad and Potsdam observatories. Over 46 years he photographed and catalogued over a million stars. In this he was more than ably assisted by his niece Ethel recruited for the work when she was only seventeen. Both were later made honorary Oxford MAs and Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society. He resigned from the Observatory in 1936 after a strong disagreement about future directions with the new Savilian Professor, H. H. Plasket. Frank died only two weeks later and is buried in St Sepulchre's Cemetery, Jericho, Oxford.

He is also an esteemed figure in philatelic circles and founded the Oxford Philatelic Society in 1890, serving as secretary and treasurer until his death. He was made a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society. His stamp collection, started when he was five years old, comprised over 200 000 items and was nationally famous. College Messenger stamps from Oxford and Cambridge were an unusual feature, some now held in the Bodleian collections. The Oxford Philatelic Society made the proposal for this Blue Plaque, recognising his truly remarkable contribution to the intellectual and cultural life of the city in so many areas. He collaborated on initiatives in field botany and meteorology, was a pillar of the Oxfordshire (now Ashmolean) Natural History Society, and a founder member of the Oxford Photographic Society. His images of Oxford are valued holdings in the city archive. He was also Vice President of the Oxfordshire Cricket Association.

His niece Ethel Bellamy not only collaborated on the astrographic work but branched out into a new pioneering field, that of seismology. In 1918 she was

recruited by Professor Turner to operate the seismograph and collate data from 600 stations, all the time working in an unheated hut. She prepared the results for the International Seismological Summary and became editor after Turner's death. During WWII she computed the epicentres herself and was the mainstay of operations during that time. She retired in 1947 when seismology was discontinued at the University Observatory and transferred to Kew. She and her sister Edith, an invalid, had shared a home with their uncle Frank and continued to live at 2 Winchester Road until 1949. She died in a nursing home in Weymouth in 1960. Ethel Bellamy is a striking early example of a woman doing important scientific work in the man's world of that time.

The speakers at the unveiling were Mr Bill Jackson, Past President of the Oxford Philatelic Society, and Professor Karin Sigloch of Oxford University's Department of Earth Sciences. Approximately 30 members of the Oxford Philatelic Society and members of the public attended the unveiling, later retiring to a local pub for a light lunch.

Simon Heap

Robert Johnson RDP FRPSL

The trustees of the Stuart Rossiter Trust would like to pay tribute to Robert Johnson RDP FRPSL who died on the 25th September 2019.

Robert was instrumental in setting up the Trust on behalf of his friend Stuart Rossiter and served as a trustee from its inception in 1985 until 2003.

Robert brought his considerable skills, knowledge and generosity of spirit to everything he did and the Trust was no exception.

Rest in Peace

Italy and Colonies PS also noted Robert's death. They were on their visit to Naples and remembered him as he used to join them on their visits before his illness.



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The Postal Museum

In September the Postal Museum had Royal Mail Post & Go stamps marking the centenary of several Airmail "firsts" in 1919 – the RAF flights to Cologne, the first flight across the

Atlantic, the first flight to Paris and the pioneer flight to Australia. All were available from its Post & Go machine from 11th September. The stamps featuring the Mail by Air theme, first issued in 2017, replaced the Union Flag design with the 'The Postal Museum/ Airmail 1919' overprint.

In addition to Post & Go stamps, a First Day Cover and a Presentation Pack containing a collector's strip of six 1st class Mail by Air designs are available to purchase from the museum's shop and online until further notice.

The Museum opened its new additional Post & Go machine in the Mail Rail exhibition on Tuesday 29th October. The machine will vend two designs - The Post Office Underground Railway and 1st class Machin, both with a new overprint "Mail Rail" of all values.

The original kiosk in The Postal Museum will remain operational as usual. A first day cover was also available to purchase in the museum shop or online. The Post & Go machines are available at The Postal Museum during normal opening hours. Please see www.postalmuseum.org for more information.

From October 2019 to April 2020 the Museum has a temporary exhibition entitled *The Great Train Robbery: Crime and the Post*. This is an event that many of us will remember from August 1963.

There is more information, and on-line previews of exhibitions, at postalheritage.org.uk

Eliska Bejrova



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Largs & District - keeping the membership up.

As a small local club, the Largs & District Stamp Club has been very successful in maintaining membership numbers. Over the last few years we have been able to keep our membership at around 40, despite the inevitable losses of an aging list. This has largely been achieved by making our existence known locally. One such example has been our participation in the yearly Open Evening organised by the Largs Library, where local groups and organisations in the area are given an opportunity to advertise their activities. This year's event, in the middle of August, was attended by **Robert Watt, Ellen Linton and Rod Trott**. They arranged a small display and were available to answer questions from members of the public. We also have good contacts with the local press who are kept advised of any relevant activities and provided with reports of all our meetings. Such efforts make the public aware of our existence and have resulted in numerous contacts that would not otherwise have happened, whether they resulted in new members or not. We can only hope to keep our membership up if local collectors or possible collectors know of our existence and are encouraged to contact us.



Rod and Ellen at Largs Library

→ davidrossall@sky.com

David Rossall

Thank you and Welcome

Deborah Gooch has retired as Exhibitions Secretary to STAMPEX after many years' service. Thank you, Deborah, for all that you have done in your quiet and very helpful way.

She is succeeded by **Nick Martin** who will be using the same email address exhibiting@abps.org.uk as Deborah did before.

Please note that there will not be another STAMPEX until Autumn 2020.

Many volunteers work like this behind the scenes. We need you and more!

ABPS Awards of Merit and the Congress Medal

It is the time of year to be thinking about members in your Federations, Local and Specialist Societies who would be missed if they were not there carrying on their work for those organisations. The Awards Committee would very much like to hear about them and their work. Such people carry out their work on a regular basis without thought of recognition and will be delighted to receive the Congress Medal 2020 or an Award of Merit. Local and Specialist Societies which are affiliated to ABPS, Federations and Friends of ABPS can nominate worthy recipients for the 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 awards@abps.org.uk or If you wish to speak to me for guidance telephone 0113 2601978.

The closing date for nominations for next year's awards is 1st March 2020.

Sadly, I have to report the death of Robert Johnson who was the only RDP who also received the Congress Medal. It was presented to him in 2008.

Yvonne Wheatley
Chairman ABPS Awards Committee

Congratulations to all who took part in Stampex

Particularly to Simon Richards who won Best In Show

with his display of

The Postal History of Savoy 1636 -1875

Large Gold medals were won by: Philip Cheetham, John Davies, Stuart Gardiner, George James, Simon Richards (2), Atif Sarian (2), Stephen Schumann, Chris Symonds, Graham Winters.

Gold medals were won by: Graham Booth, John Colton, Hans Dahl, Markand Dave, Jon Higgins, Kathryn Johnson, Chris Jones, Michael Lockton, Kim Stuckey, Brian Warren

16 Large Vermeil, 11 Vermeil, 3 Large Silver, 1 Silver and 1 Silver-Bronze medals were also awarded.

The classes involved were: Aerophilately, Ephemera, Maximaphily, Philatelic Literature, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Revenue, Thematic and Traditional.

The work done by those entering, those responsible for erecting the displays, and the judges produced a very satisfying competition. The organisers look forward to more entries in future Stampex competitions.

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.

Adur

In 2016 we amalgamated Shoreham by Sea Stamp Club with Southwick Philatelic Society forming the Adur Stamp Club. This seems to have been successful and we go from strength to strength. 2019 has been an interesting year with displays from visiting speakers and our own members, starting with members showing their recent acquisitions. The chairman showed his varied collection of *This and That and Things Gone By*. There was a visit from Mid Sussex Philatelic Society, when **John Bushell** showed *Chile - Odds and Ends*, **Malcolm Price** brought *Japanese BEF Mail* followed by **David Sumpter** with *Gibraltar*. Then **Colin Lewis** showed us *Brighton Part 2* - more lovely interesting material. The Chairman and Secretary were re-elected, a new Vice Chairman and a new committee member joined the team. We have had new members join us to swell the ranks. In June we were treated to *The History of Swedish Stamps* by **Dillon Larg**. He showed a wide range of varied issues. At our most recent meeting we enjoyed a visit from Heathfield Philatelic Society,

when we were treated to **Chris Maugham** showing *Croydon Airport*, **Mrs Dee Pullen** with *Australia Mail Disrupted in Transit*, **Jeremy Stone** showing *Persia* and **Bob Ely** with his *Bits of Canada*. This splendid evening proved the benefits of inter-club visits again. We will be returning the compliment next year. We meet on the 3rd Monday of each month at Southwick Community Centre and welcome anyone who is interested. → Bob Knight 01273 592518. *David Hilton*

Amersham & District

The 2019/20 season opened on 19th September with a well-supported *Fill a Frame or Two* evening using *The letters R and/or S*. Nine displays were presented including *Postal Stationery of Queen Victoria*, *Seahorses*, *Return to Sender*, *Sterling Surcharges*, *St Helena*, *Rhodesian Political Covers*, *Revenue Stamps of Southern Ireland* and *Stellaland*. The speaker at our second meeting was **Brian Hague** who gave us a presentation on a little known wet and windy country *The Faroe Islands*, which belong to Denmark but are not within the European Union. All 18 islands are

situated halfway between Shetland and Iceland. The Faroes have fallen into the same greedy trap as most small countries over the past 30 or more years by releasing too many issues of stamps, which Brian has ceased to collect. However he shared some very interesting covers with our members, a number of which related to WWII when the islands were under the friendly occupation of the British military, who stationed “walking wounded” and reservists there. The First Lord of the Admiralty at the time Winston Churchill had expected to use the islands as naval bases, but in the event that did not happen. However the Faroes did help our war effort by supplying Britain with about 25% of our fish consumption.

Jim Drummond

Ayrshire

Our season usually starts with a President's Night, but with **Ken Gibb** unavoidably absent he had asked all members to bring at least one sheet to our first night in September. Over two rounds 14 members showed what they had brought. We had an extremely varied selection of material to view, starting with *The Airmail letter sheets issued by the Scottish Postal Board from 1974 to 1999* and finishing with *Local issues of Guernsey during the German Occupation*. In October we had a busy weekend. On Friday the 4th, we were treated to the Presidential Display by our new president, **Ken Gibb**. Introducing his first round as *Interesting material on a modest budget* Ken gave us a fascinating display on the islands of St Kilda which he had finally managed to visit two years ago. This included postcards, steamer adverts, magazine articles as well as the more traditional National



John Chalmers and Ken Gibb

Trust and other stamps and covers. The second round took us back to Ken's main theme of *Geology and Minerals*, with a world tour of significant geological sites on postcard with a large Scottish section. On Saturday we were hosts to the Annual Stamp and Postcard Fair at Prestwick Community Centre, organised on behalf of the SW Scotland philatelic societies. Special thanks to **Lise Whittle** who, with a good array of Stamp Active material, activities and goody bags, organised a very lively Children's Corner, with a good attendance especially in the morning. → davidrossall@sky.com

David Rossall

Basildon

In July both meetings were linked to Germany. **Giles du Boulay** introduced us to the *History and life of Danzig between the Wars* with postcards, stamps and ephemera. **Andy Soutar** introduced us to *German Inflation*. Using the national inland letter rate as the baseline, Andy showed the stamps and their uses at a wide variety of rates from local printed paper through to international insured and Cash on Delivery, with eye-watering arrays of stamps for the higher rates. Next **Derek Connell** brought us *British Exhibitions*. This ranged from 1890 to

2015 with an amazing range of Cinderella stamps, ephemera and postal history. **Keith Rowland** showed us *GB Queen Victoria*. He started in 1837 before the postal reforms began, then took us through the Uniform 4d and 1d posts, continuing with an amazingly comprehensive display covering a very complex period in GB postal history. For Chairman's Evening **Ian McElwain** invited **John Rawlins** to display the *Airmails of the Americas*. From the French and German South Atlantic services, he went on to the complex issues of SCADTA and other operators - all fascinating and complex. *Christmas Island & Tokelau* were the topics for **Rufus Barnes**. He showed



Rufus Barnes showing Christmas Island registered envelopes.

material covering all periods up to the 1960s, with Australian and New Zealand stamp misused and USA stamps correctly used on one island. The remote Christmas Island, in the Indian Ocean, was administered by Britain from Singapore as part of the Straits Settlements then was transferred to Australia in 1954.

Basildon Philatelist

Bolton

At our July meeting **Barry Evans** gave an excellent display of items from *The Universal Postal Union*. The meeting in August is always Competition Night. Four trophies are competed for. This year's winners were: **Jack Lindley** taking the John O'Shaughnessy Trophy and **David Brigden** winning the other three trophies namely Brian Fielding Trophy, The Postal History and the Thematic Trophy. The September meeting was the third quarterly auction. Over 400 lots were offered to room and postal bidders. Our auctions are open to any members of an ABPS Society. For an auction catalogue → 07939 056 421. *Howard Anderson*

Bookham

Members' day in June resulted in a wonderful assortment starting with **Peter White** giving a short display of *South African airmails of the period 1911 to 1934*. Our Chairman, **Dr Patrick Reid FRPSL**, showed a small selection of *Postage Due markings from Western Australia*, including three items that are the only examples recorded. **Michael Lockton** presented *GB Penny pink covers*, and lastly **Roger Vaughan** talked on the *Ripley Post Office in Surrey*, illustrated with postmarks commencing in 1852 up to the present time. It was gratifying to see that 48 people turned up on a very hot July afternoon to see the wonderful display on *Persia* from **Nigel Gooch FRPSL**. Nigel explained that this is the only country that he collects. The display was designed to show the definitive stamps themselves supported by an examination of the various postage rates and usages, both internally and abroad, using wrappers,



Max Smith showing the way

postcards, envelopes, printed stationery and parcel receipts from the latter part of the 19th century. In August 55 members and two guests were treated to a fine and comprehensive presentation from **Max Smith** on *The Indian Mutiny of 1857*. The presentation utilised a range of documents including prints, photographs, books and maps, as well as a detailed supporting range of philatelic items including some hard to find postal history. A number of these unique letters contained graphic accounts of the bloody actions and massacres in this period.

➔ www.bookhamstampclub.com

David Bravery

Sri Lanka. A feature was the extensive and comprehensive range of postal stationery cards, envelopes, newspaper wrappers and registered envelopes. In October we were entertained by two members of the Pacific Islands Study Circle. Secretary **John Ray** showed *Fiji* from first issues to King George VI. He included the Fiji Express service and stamps, and then an extensive display of the “CR” and “VR” monogram issues. In addition John showed a comprehensive collection of Postal Stationery of all types and an introduction to the island’s village postmarks. **Hugh Bennet** (since 2015 co-ordinator and project manager for the *Kiribati PO*) gave a very interesting talk about the processes involved in designing and printing new issues for the island, in particular the 2016 issue for the Queen’s 90th Birthday. Further issues were shown with original photos, printers’ sheets, proofs, final issues, miniature sheets and First Day Covers etc. including Flowers, Birds, Anniversaries, the Royal Wedding in 2018 and the 40th Anniversary of Independence earlier this year.

David Rennie

Bromley and Beckenham

We had two unusual displays in September. The first by **John Shaw FRPSL** was of *Haiti and Paraguay*. This was a first for each of these two countries as far as we know. Both displays were spectacular containing a wealth of unusual material from early issues, through various revolutions and presidents with essays, trials, specimen overprints, numerous overprint errors etc. The second display was *Ceylon* by **Cliff Hurst** from first issues until it changed its name to



Cliff Hurst with the last of his sheets

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Cambridge

In September President **John George** put on a very interesting display of *GB Queen Elizabeth II pre-decimal commemoratives*. The sheets covered the complete range of mint commemoratives spanning a period of almost twenty years. As well as the mint single stamps there were many examples of control blocks, and traffic light blocks. Also he displayed positional blocks of many of the listed varieties. Within the display there were also postally used commemoratives on cover. The last frame also included some of the pre-decimal Machin stamps. In October we welcomed **Mick Bister** from the France and Colonies Philatelic Society. His display covered *French Somali Coast*. He started with a detailed history of the introduction of the post in Obock in late 1884 through to the increasing importance of Djibouti from 1893 with the used stamps of the period, including overprints. Photographs, postcards and covers were also on display. New stamps were issued in 1896 available in each area which also included proofs from local printers. We also saw bisects with some on cover, and examples of the second printings. There were many pre-WWI stamps by the French government printers. As WWII developed more examples of mail both in and out were displayed. The post-war era saw many rate changes and more use of local printers. By 1977 the country had disengaged from France and became the Republic of

Djibouti. →

info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk

Peter Morton

Chelmsford & District

At the start of our first meeting we observed a minute's silence in memory of **Richard Barrett**, who was one of our long-standing and regular attending members. Then **Paul Green** showed his aptly named *More from the Green Collection*. This was a very varied display including postal stationery and postal cards for the Ottoman Empire region and finally the postal history of Rochford, when it was the main post office serving five other villages including Southend on Sea! Later in September we welcomed **Andy Souter**. He gave a detailed presentation of German postal charges during the inflationary period which reached its peak in 1923. He displayed a range of postal material to illustrate the rate of inflation over 27 increases between the years 1913 to 1923. During phase 1 the internal mail rate was 23pf but during phase 27 it had risen to an incredible 10 000 million Marks. In October's meeting **Christine Earle** provided a detailed *History of the Sydney Harbour Bridge* and the postal history connected to the bridge. She included stamps, letters, telegrams and postcards that were produced and sent worldwide for a number of years from the two post offices at either end of the bridge. **Patrick Reid** brought *Postage Due marks for New South Wales* covering the period 1891 to 1965. He displayed numerous examples of

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

underpaid letters and other mail, showing the various marks and postage due stamps to cover the underpayment for post going to numerous countries. *David Everard*

Cockermouth

We will, at our third AGM, look back contentedly at another successful year, when we have added significantly to our membership, held a local exhibition to celebrate National Stamp Day, conducted two auctions each with over 500 lots, recently hosted three guests from Kendal Philatelic Society, been honoured to welcome the newly elected President of the Royal, **Richard Stock**, to display *Queen Victoria's African Wars*, had successful members' displays and quizzes, learnt about the fascinating things our newly acquired friends collect, and had lots of fun! If you live in Cumbria or are visiting the Lake District on holiday why not call in to see us? We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at 11am at the Friends' Meeting House, Kirkgate, Cockermouth, CA13 0SP. → Mike Roberts mike@mikerobe.co.uk or 07885839622 *Mike Roberts*

Croydon

Our August meeting was based on *The Letter B*. 10 members rose to the challenge with a wide variety of interpretations from *Great Britain to Ballons Monté*, from *Battles to Buca Bay* in Fiji, *Bahamas to Bechuanaland*, *Bicycles to Betjeman* and *Brunswick to Barbados* and many more. This was a feast of ingenuity matched by the next meeting on *The Letter C*. This time we saw *coins, cigarette cards, Channel Islands stamps, castles, coils, Coronation of Edward VII* and so on. All 11 members present rose to the

challenge. Later in September **Terry Page** visited to show his *Russia – Zemstvo Postal History* material, standing in at short notice for the listed speaker who was unable to attend. Terry explained that the Zemstvo



Terry with his fine Zemstvo display

stamp was a Russian local stamp used widely in rural areas from 1865. The Imperial Post was based mainly in towns. The stamps ceased at about the time of the 1917 Russian Revolution. In all there were 33 different Zemstvo postal districts and 160 different Zemstvo issuers some of which provided a free service. There were 371 Zemstvo districts in European Russia, 164 of which issued postal stationery or Post Office stationery. On show was an A to Z of these fascinating issues as stamps, blocks and used on cover from these local areas, some with combinations of Zemstvos from different areas and also with Imperial Postage stamps. Covers to and from foreign countries, bearing Zemstvos were also shown.

Graham Harker

Dawlish

We had a presence at Dawlish Carnival highlighting our existence and what we are interested in. The event had the title *Stamps through Time* and featured



some old-time postmen. We also encouraged young collectors to "Design a Stamp for Dawlish". There were also some interesting displays. The winning entry from the competition was from **Lily Akhurst** with Highly Commended entries from **Travis Passmore** and **Kayla**. All were given a prize of philatelic material and sweets. Wessex Federation President **Jim Wigmore** entertained the well-attended meeting of the club on Wednesday 11th September with *How to put together a Thematic Collection*. This covered the need to plan and to gather only material that meets the need of the plan. There were lots of interesting exhibits of what not to do as well as some really excellent examples of what to do, including one large exhibit that had been shown at the Royal Philatelic Society London. *Jim Wigmore*

Dundee & District

At the 90th Scottish Congress in Perth in April two members of the society were recognised by the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies.

Francis Podger FRPSL received the Association's highest honour, becoming a signatory of the Book of Scottish Philatelists in recognition of his advancement and promotion of the study of Revenue stamps. **Ron Goodfellow** received an ASPS

Award of Merit for his outstanding contribution to philately in Scotland. **George Henshilwood** (Caledonian PS) gave an interesting and informative talk and display on *Greenland*. He highlighted the fact that a new issue of stamps could take at least two years before all areas of the island had them. We saw a cover sent to Dunedin in New Zealand when intended for Dundee in Scotland. Greenland also used an American issue of stamps printed by the American Bank Note Co when running out of stamps. The 2019-20 season opened with President's Night and a minute's silence in remembrance of **Ian Cowan**, a long-standing member. **David Millar** showed us *Machins from 1967 to the present day* showing how Royal Mail had adapted to the needs of



David Millar, President of Dundee

businesses and the commercial aim to sell more stamps. Every stamp that was not used postally was a source of profit. **Robert Murray** of the Edinburgh Stamp Shop waved the flag for philately with *Philatelic Vexillology* featuring flags on stamps. Multi-coloured flags on stamps started in 1969 with the advances in

printing allowing for a multicolour process.
Colin Campbell

Ferndown & West Moors

Our July meeting was *GB and the Channel Islands* by members. **Don Seaby, Chris Wheeler, John Garrett, John Duckworth, David Parsons, Charles Lennard, Rob Greer, Paul Lear** and **Bob Small** all rose to the occasion with diverse and fascinating contributions. The new season brought our brand-new display frames, debated for some 25 years! It seemed right that the very first member to present on our *Postcards* theme should be an old hand, in philatelic terms. **Terry Kirkman** brought a most interesting display on the subject of local postcards. He was followed by **Don Seaby, Bill Laird, Julian White, Spence Coaker** and **John Duckworth**. Later in September we welcomed **Rod Vousden FRPSL** showing *Royal Navy Censored Mail in WWII*. Ron provided a true wealth of fascinating, scarce, rare and unique material. We saw an extensive range of philatelic gems, covering censor marks and inks, seals, postcards, stamps and superb photographic naval shipping images. There were numerous covers and correspondence linked to key players (Churchill) and events (River Plate). Rod underlined the importance of official slogans, such as 'Idle Gossip Sinks Ships'. Many covers were very difficult to source, the rarest being items of submarine mail. A particular feature of censor marks was the 'homespun' variety, created by individual ships lacking supplies of official equipment. There were exceptions where 'good news' was imparted, having a tonic or propaganda value. Rod spoke of the main ports of



Rod Vousden received a whisky tumbler from Chairman Bob Small

Edinburgh, London and Portsmouth which processed censored mail.

Paul Barry

Halifax

The 2019-2020 season was off to a fine start in September with a President's Evening display by **Mike Roberts** (of Ilkley) who showed his *Pacific Steam Navigation Co (PSNC) from 1837 to its demise in 1965*. Mike noted that the company was the world's largest by tonnage in 1870. It was started by the American William Wheelwright in 1838 but began operations in 1840 when two steam ships *Chile* and *Peru* were commissioned to carry mail to and from the West Coast of South America, Chile, Panama, Peru and North America. These routes were of strategic importance particularly prior to the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914. The display contained stamps, documents of social importance and postal history. For the second September display we welcomed **Alwyn Peel** with his entertaining *250th Anniversary of Captain Cook's Endeavour Voyage* - the first of his three voyages. In October we

welcomed **Bill Shand** and his wife who travelled south with his *Straits Settlements stamps and Postal History*. His comprehensive display was informative, a particular delight for those interested in overprinted adhesives. He entertained us with his interesting anecdotes due in part to family connections with the former Dutch colony.

Adrian Lee

Harrogate

Our new season started with a members' evening of *New Acquisitions*. We expected these to be varied and they were, but they were also numerous. We had more people showing than expected and the interpretations were as varied as usual – especially of the word New. After a visit by four members to York which was very well received our next home meeting was of *Netherlands 1850 – 1930* by **Philip Longbottom**. This was another excellent display. The range of stamps and postal history was outstanding, including a fine Zeppelin cover and the opaque envelopes used for postage due items, i.e. you had to pay the PD before you got to see your PC! As well as a host of rarities from early issues several of the 20th century stamps on display looked surprisingly modern and were very pleasing to look at. Wakefield PS visited us in early October. The variety of material seen is always one of the highlights of inter-society visits. This one lived up to that expectation.

Bill Tait

Haverfordwest

This year we decided to hold meetings during the summer holiday - we were surprised that more people came than on usual club night. Our final summer meeting was two displays on the theme

of *The letter A*. **Roy Ayres** showed postcards and stamps featuring the various *Ark Royal ships* and **Erene Grieve** displayed some of her *Advertising envelopes and postal stationery*. We started the Autumn season with a dealer night. **Malcolm Harrington** travelled from Swansea bringing a large stock. Our next



Two junior members choosing their purchases with Malcolm's help

meeting, as you might guess, is on *The letter B* and we are hoping that our Junior members will be putting up their displays as well.

Erene Grieve

Huddersfield

The 2019-2020 season, our 114th, has made an excellent start at a new venue Lindley Liberal Club, Lindley, Huddersfield HD3 3EQ. Meetings are held during the afternoon commencing at 13:30. Members are able to enjoy the great range of refreshments available at the venue and we have enjoyed seeing new members join us. The venue also affords access to people with poor mobility. We began with a duet display in September by **Charles Squire** with *Anniversaries* and

Adrian Lee showing *Liberia*. In October **Susan Crewe** came from Liverpool with her husband to show *King George VI Hong Kong*. This was a comprehensive display with her first round providing a wealth of information on easy ways of detecting varieties of printers, papers etc of the 1938 definitive series and an explanation of why the varieties exist. The second round of *Postal History* covered the varieties of rates and routes pre-, during and post-WWII, together with examples of undelivered, patriotic, crash and parcel mail with various routes and rates into and out of HK.

Adrian Lee

Huntingdonshire

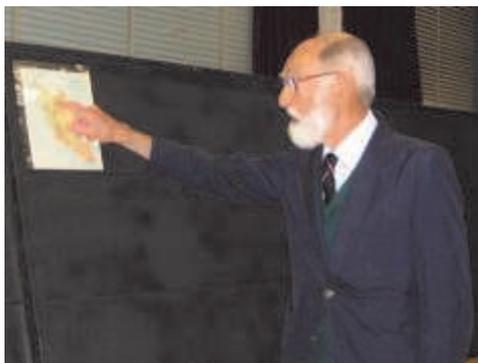
We held our first meeting of the 2019-20 season on Tuesday 11th September. We learnt that our President **John George** has been accepted as a member of the Royal Philatelic Society London and he was presented with the Society tie at the start of the meeting. As usual the first meeting is a display by our President so John showed us *The Commonwealth stamps of King George VI*. The countries displayed were Antigua, Burma, Barbados, Dominica, Gold Coast, Kenya Uganda and Tanganyika, Northern Rhodesia, Swaziland, North Borneo, Singapore and Sierra Leone. The definitive issues were shown as well as stamps commemorating the 1937 Coronation, the 1939 Silver Wedding and Universal Postal Union 75th anniversary. These were shown as single stamps, blocks and part sheets. Varieties included perforation and colour changes. Examples were also shown on ordinary mail and Air Mail letters. North Borneo was occupied by the Japanese in WWII and we saw examples of Japanese

Occupation Overprints on Borneo's stamps. This was a well thought out and interesting display by our president.

David Birkert

Kingston & District

We have had interesting displays from two of our members this season: the oldest serving member, **Michael Pitt-Payne**, and **Alan Tyler**, possibly, the oldest member in years. Michael, who joined in 1963, entitled his display *Some Aspects of Postal History* in which he explained the vagaries of postage dues, particularly those from Britain, amongst other things. The second half dealt with routes rather than rates, to Australasia via the Cape or across Europe to Egypt and thence by sea via India. The display finished with a selection of mail defaced by the establishment. On 3rd October, Alan Tyler gave his display *A Philatelist's progress since 1924*. He was born three weeks before the British Empire Exhibition in 1924 but it took him a while to acquire the stamps. We saw many of the classic stamps of GB before Alan took us on a tour of the Indian subcontinent, Egypt and Palestine going on to Malaysia and the



Alan Tyler on his tour of the Indian subcontinent.

Far East, including a copy of the local Japanese broadsheet, Syonan Shimbun, issued by the occupying forces. From this we learned that the Japanese surrender was completely unexpected by the Japanese military who only capitulated because of total loyalty to the Emperor. We were pleased to welcome Alan's son and grandson who came to support. → Brian Sole, FRPSL on 01932 220677 or brian.sole@btinternet.com or www.kingstonphilatelicsociety.com

Chris Oliver

Largs & District



Willie King handing the cheque to Dr David Mann

At our first September meeting we warmly welcomed **David Mann**, Director of the Scottish Maritime Museum. In April we were the host society at the annual ASPS congress in Perth. The Museum had been very helpful with our project on the work of Willie Fife Junior at the Fairlie Yachtbuilders. We had decided to donate our congress profits, plus other sums raised from the sale of donated

collections, to the Museum, and presented a cheque for £400. Afterwards our president gave us a very varied display from his wide collecting interests. At our next meeting we welcomed **Dr Brain Dow** of the Lanarkshire PS. He showed us *Norway*, beginning with the first Norwegian stamp with a variety of the different postmarks used. He continued with the Nobel Peace Prize Centenary set of 2001 and concluded with stamps issued for local postal services which were licensed until 1913. In October we were visited by two members of Dundee PS. **Harry Jackson** opened with stamps issued by the various *German States before the creation of the German Empire in 1870*. At one point there were over 100 stamp-issuing entities. He finished with stamps from German colonies and post offices abroad. Then **Charles Lloyd** gave us an insight into the politics and reasons behind the stamps of the *Portuguese Trading Companies of Nyassa and Mocambique* concluding with items from post offices along the colonial railways and the British trading port of Chinde.

→ davidrossall@sky.com

David Rossall

Launceston

Richard Griffiths visited us in July to display *The Falkland Islands*. Richard began with a brief review of the geography, history and economy of the Falklands. He explained that his display was a personal collection of not only postage stamps but also included items of postal history, memorabilia and interest relevant to the Falklands. The collection is the result of some 40 years' accumulation of postal material and includes the benefit of personal

I Spy...

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



1



2



4



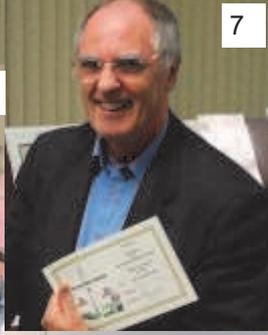
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3



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10



11



14



15



13



knowledge and friendships gained from his visit to the Islands. In August **Darren Shelton** brought us *Butterflies* from all over Africa. There were singles, sheetlets, miniature sheets and covers all showing butterflies. For September we returned to Great Britain with **Viv Sandercock** showing his *King George VI collection*. The display began with a photographic record tracing the line of the House of Windsor from Edward VII through to George VI and his descendants and ended with a copy of the memorable portrait of the King issued to mark his funeral in November 1952. The display extends to over 120 sheets of stamps including those of the Commonwealth countries, photos, articles, labels and postal ephemera from the period of the King's reign from 1937 to 1952. Our 40th

Launceston Stamp Club



Anniversary Dinner will be in October and we have produced an Anniversary commemorative postal cover.

Howard Hamblin

Leeds

Nothing is quiescent even during the summer recess. The Editor of "The Leeds Philatelist" (me) has to cajole some of our better correspondents to write learned, informative and super-quality articles and then arrange with

our most organised secretary **Richard Smith** to manage printing and distribution in time for our first meeting on 10th September. Of course he had everything ready. At that popular meeting he got 16 of our members to show 16 frames which they did with variety and vigour; no hanging around in Leeds. More archive items bought at a local fair now permanently back with LPS were shown with a wide variety of other subjects, some highlights being *Egyptian hotels, Irish first day covers, a philosophical interpretation of Peace stamps, picture postcards* and a superb unique display of *1892 Niger Coast GB overprints*. Our new President is **Paul Kellett**. Our members were pleased to take part in the Northern Display at RPSL in September. We have a members-only superb library run by Librarian **Martin Kingdom**. We welcome everybody interested in postage in its widest sense.

→ www.leedsps.org.uk or tomrichsmith@gmail.com

Michael Waugh

Maidstone & Mid Kent

Our 97th season started with **Graham Booth FRPSL** displaying on *The Battle of the River Plate*. He must be congratulated not only on a fine display, but the extreme efforts he faced in reaching us due to the M25 and M20 having major problems. His display featured postcards, newspaper cuttings, covers, propaganda and fake news. Nothing changes!! We learnt about a design fault on Graf Spey which helped our cruisers, and the aftermath of the battle. On the way home things were not much better for him! The war theme continued with a visit by **Mark Routh** and *The Falklands 1982 War*. Mark has a wealth of

material, and the history made it an interesting evening. Our first morning meeting of the season was for members to provide displays on *The Weather*. Amazing what is shown on these mornings. Leading up to Christmas we have talks/displays on *Go by Cycle, London Coffee Houses, Bi-Annual Auction, Aden* and the *President's Evening*. The morning meetings will feature *France, Small Islands* and *GB Used Abroad*.

Brian Stonestreet

Oxford

We started our 2019/20 season in September with a Silent Auction, which

may be quiet as prospective buyers examine items brought in by members and quietly place their bid on the bidding form. However, with annual subscriptions to be paid, and the usual busy bourse in play, the Rose Hill Methodist Church Hall was far from silent! Later that month, **Peter Pugh** of Rugby PS provided a most interesting display of *Picture postcards illustrating the Construction and Use of the Trans-Siberia railway* from its start in 1891 up to 1912 together with covers from Hong Kong & PO in Treaty Ports, with all pages profusely illustrated with photography of the trains and ships enabling the mail to run from Hong

Captions for pages 30 and 31

1. Michael Pitt-Payne of Kingston - member since 1963
2. Francis Podger signing the Book of Scottish Philatelists at Perth
3. Members of France & Colonies PS at Charlecote toasting the past and future with champagne - what else?
4. Alan Berrisford explains his Polish postmarks to the Joint Meeting of the Austrian, Czechoslovakian, Hungarian, Polish and Yugoslavian Societies at Bradford
5. Tony Batkin welcoming diners to the Germany & Colonies Annual Dinner - this time in Coventry
6. Max Smith speaking on Bangladesh to a substantial audience
7. Dr Brian Dow from Lanarkshire PS visiting Largs
8. Dave Meaney, John Schofield, Pauline MacBroom, John Ray, Paul Percival, Chris Board, David Rennie, Michael Harris, David Milsted, Frank Simpson with letter C at Bromley & Beckenham
9. Giles du Boulay brings Danzig to Basildon
10. Clive Murray views the display at Austrian Derby meeting
11. The Concorde Study Circle at Stampex - Mark Wright, Bill Baillie, Peter Cooper, Keith Palmer, Henk Heiden (Netherlands), Mark Routh, Brian Service, Brian Asquith and Kim Diehl (USA) - Photo taken by Stewart Carter
12. George Henshilwood when showing at Dundee
13. John Shaw showing Haiti at Bromley and Beckenham.
14. Nigel Gooch introduces Bookham to Persia
15. Dawlish Stamp Club's stand at Dawlish Carnival
16. Richard Griffiths and Des Kent at Launceston in July
17. Keith Brandon prepares his display at the Austrian meeting at Derby
18. Derek Connell exhibiting Exhibitions to Basildon

Kong to Europe by this route. He also covered the effects of the 1910-11 Plague in the Harbin region. It is not often that the word 'Philatelist' appears on a Blue Plaque attached to a building marking the home of a celebrated figure. A special event occurred on 8th October with the unveiling of a Blue Plaque to Frank Arthur Bellamy, our founding Secretary and Treasurer, and his niece, Ethel, whose career was also worthy of note. *Dr Simon Heap*

Petersfield and District

Two visitors from Thatcham & District PS undertook a long journey to entertain us at the July meeting. **Martin Farr** opened by saying that after many years of collecting Commonwealth stamps he decided to make a change and chose China as his subject. His display was primarily of *Stories, Scrolls and Legends of Old China* much of it consisting of series of coloured pictures of episodes of stories, not unlike the kind of strip cartoons that are more familiar to us. Most of the subjects were fantasies bearing such titles as *Romances of Three Kingdoms*, *24 Paragons of Filial Piety*, and *Dreams of Red Mansions*. He was followed by **Graeme Stewart's** show of *Letter Boxes*, consisting almost entirely of photographs in chronological order. Anthony Trollope, a Post Office inspector in Ireland and later in East Anglia, was instrumental in promoting a post box for Guernsey (1853). The first on the mainland was at Carlisle later that year. Numerous changes of design have since occurred: the slot was changed from vertical to horizontal to keep rain out, green gave way to red (and later to blue on air mail boxes), the door height was raised to avoid jamming, the Royal

cipher was introduced and the '2' of 'E2R' omitted in Scotland when E2R boxes began to be blown up, and oval double-aperture boxes were introduced in busy locations. A comprehensive display of *Waterfalls of the World* was given in August by a well-known visitor **Jean Alexander**. *David Allen*

Poole and Bournemouth

One of our topics was *Flora and Fauna*, which spans a vast range of interpretations, many of them utilised by members giving their one frame displays. **Tony Arnold** began by showing mainly *GB FDCs*, but also included some stamp club badges featuring "stamp bugs". **Mike Houchen** and **Ken Parrott** also used FDCs as a base for displaying their ranges of *Stamps and miniature sheets from round the world*. **Rick Wilmot** concentrated on the beautiful and wide-ranging *Stamps from Malawi*, as well as some from South Africa. **Ted Kemp** followed with a display taken from a past competition entry showing three sheets of *Birds from countries within each of the five continents*. **Michael Mawdsley** displayed a range of stamps depicting *Birds from the many Commonwealth countries*, and included some fish as well. **Mike Trickett** put up an unusual display of postcards, Christmas cards and greeting cards, many with a humorous theme covering *Birds, Flowers and Black Cats*. **David Wilkins** concentrated on the *Spanish Colonies and Overseas Territories*, with again examples of the beautiful wildlife living in those regions. **Shirley Kemp** focused on *Czechoslovakia's* many stamp issues from the 1950s and 1960s with designs in various formats and evolving styles, including some of the less well-known creatures such as



A Czech Hazel Dormouse

beetles and dormice. Finally, **Chris Wheeler** showed *Chinese Almanac* displaying stamps and miniature sheets from many countries covering all twelve animals, noting the amazing artwork behind many of the designs.

Chris Wheeler

Ringwood

At our July meeting **David Speer** brought us *Australian Philately*. Starting with Australian Defence Forces David outlined the historical dimensions, supported by colourful stamps depicting British regiments in the period 1788-1870, produced by various postal authorities. This section included campaign medals and gallantry awards. There followed major sections covering the Royal Australian Navy and Airforce with excellent examples of heroes, medals, types of ships and planes. Both world wars were represented and interesting campaigns explained. An emphasis was the supporting Australian Post Office's commemoration material, usually of annual appearance, with a special 'ANZAC Day' focus. The scope was huge and provided us with a most insightful exposure to this fascinating country's past. The new season began with *Members' Displays with Bring & Buy*. **Gordon Masson** showed

Canadian stamps and mini-sheets dealing with Chinese New Year. An in-depth study of GB 1841 Imperfs was shared by **David Etchells**. Then **Bert Burton** produced *Gibraltar – Mail for Force H* – a naval force in the Mediterranean. **Terry Carter's** collectable GB Elizabethan 'Fruit



One of your five a day?

Stamps were colourful indeed, providing an interesting and contrasting display. *Early printing in Europe (Guttenberg/Caxton)* was superbly studied by **Wendy Buckle**, followed by **Paul Dumsday** considering some *Early Argentinian stamps* including Zeppelin and naval ship designs. The final contribution was *New Acquisitions* by **Paul Barry**. He included GB Victorian covers and postcards and a superb King Edward VII 4d value with a quality 'Bosbury' circular cancellation, adding to a 'Herefordshire' themed emerging collection. *Paul Barry*

Rochdale

Our 78th AGM was followed by members' displays. These began with stamps from the *Early Years of the South African Post* and *Chinese stamps showing tourists' destinations*. *19th and 20th century British postal stationery items* followed. Finally, an early 20th century collection of *Personal Correspondence from a Captain C W Townsend* was discussed. Our September entertainment consisted of

members' displays starting with *The Letters T, U and V*. Thematic stamps of popular subjects including *trains, butterflies, cats etc* provided the most colourful of the presentations. The next topic consisted of *old local (Tottington) letters* and postcards containing varied subject matter. Examples of *Victorian stamps* were then shown, many of which due to their high denominations and rarity were suspected forgeries. (It only takes one to be genuine!) Next was a display of *French post office pictures* followed by cachets on post cards from *UK holiday destinations*. Finally we had New Zealand stamps showing *trams, trains, United Nations and victory*. Guests from Burnley PS, on their annual visit in October, began by displaying material from *Harrisons the Printers*. Samples shown included a Bearer Bond with a guaranteed interest of 14% per annum. *Early Rhodesian stamps, covers and post cards* then followed. Many items shown were from lake and river boat postal services. The final talk was *Out of this World* describing covers from the Apollo Moon Shots. → Neil on 01706 665698 or Neil.Wharmby@gmail.com
Peter Grimshaw

Scarborough

In July we welcomed **Peter Pugh** with *Another Bloody Railway – Siberian*. The display was based on the mail transported from and via Hong Kong using the Trans-Siberian Railway. It started in 1902 but until 1916 mail had to be shipped across Lake Baikal. We saw mail starting from Hong Kong and from a large variety of places in Europe and some from America. Peter's knowledge was first class and his material matched it. In August we held a members' evening on *The Letters S,*

T & U. The topics ranged from *Sierra Leone to Spanish Queen Isabella*. There were also *Sixpence and Threepence Machins, Undeliverable Mail and Curtain Up Theatrical Stamps*. Another fascinating mixture of responses to a simple theme.

Chris Phillips.

South Midlands

“The apparel oft proclaims the man.” (Hamlet)

The topic for our meeting in July 2019 was *“Clothes and Materials”*, which of course also included metals, uniforms, vintage sewing machines, US Confederate flags, and “fashion models”, all of these pictured on stamps. **Bob Harper** showed early aeroplanes, whose bodywork was often made from “doped” cloth. The climax of the meeting was **Alan Godfrey**



A Hat for all seasons

wearing a postman's hat (2 sizes too small!) to show the development of postal uniforms. John Gledhill → 01789 842112

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

John Gledhill

Southampton & District

During the summer we have enjoyed presentations from **Peter Pugh**, **Chris Wheeler** and **Malcolm Montgomery**. Our Competition evening in mid-July led to success for **John Berridge** and **Brian Hague** who won the Federation



Brian Hague and Christine Earle

Presland Aerophilatelic Salver and the Jan Kaluski Trophy respectively at Hampex in late September. Records were broken this year at the Grand Auction held at the beginning of October. **Kevin Chard**'s debut as auctioneer was to deal with nearly 1200 lots, by far the largest number we have ever had. He started at 12:45, had a cup of tea after Lot 600 and the Hall was cleared by 17:00. The total hammer price was over £13 500. Well done Kevin, you can come back next year!

→ www.southamptondps.org.uk

Eddie Mays

St Albans, Harpenden & District

At the time of writing we have only one of the new season's displays under our belts, but what a display it was. In mid-September **David Bird** visited us with

Specks, Spots and Nonsense, an intriguing title that gave us a splendid review of printing varieties found on stamps from British Africa up to 1965 as catalogued by Stanley Gibbons. After some explanations and definitions, we began with the embossed first issues of Gambia, moving on through all parts of Africa, taking in the hazards of local overprinting in remote colonies, Uganda missionary stamps, Nyasaland-type King George V high values and the Union of South Africa on the way. As regards the last named, flaws were so common that our speaker wondered whether the country had employed a proof reader who was visually impaired. The whole display was brilliantly presented – each sheet contained the actual stamps, superbly scanned enlargements and writing up that made everything abundantly clear to specialist and non-specialist alike. A fine start to the new season. → Peter Mellor 01582 762284 or

p.mellor@btinternet.com

www.stalbharpstampclub.org.uk

Peter Mellor

Thattham & District

In July we held The Monday Cup Competition for the Jerry Wilson Trophy. Seven members put up their 3-sheet entries for the competition. The winner was **Mike Smith** with *Bechuanaland and its Railway*. To complete the meeting there were four displays of Cinderellas by **Malcolm Hoskins**, **Ian Keel**, **Mike Smith** and **Graeme Stewart**. Graeme and Martin then went over to Petersfield to display – a busy day. Later in July the theme was *Philatelic Halves* with **John Tingey** and **Bob Paterson**. Bob's display was *2000 years to Lift-off*. His

talk described the efforts of mankind to reach the Moon in fantasy, fiction and fact, from the first story written some 1800 years ago to the American Lunar Missions. John's subject was *Reginald Bray*, (The man who posted himself and other curious objects). *Holiday Destinations* came up in August. **Ian Keel** took us to China and Russia. **Dave Tanner** showed many postcards of places visited in earlier years from the club boxes. **Juliet Keel** then showed us postcards, all over 100 years old, showing the places they had been to. **Martin Farr** talked about his recent trip to Jordan. **Nathan Gregory** showed Channel Islands destinations and finally **Graeme Stewart** showed sheets about travelling through Norway on a scouts walking holiday. We are sad to report the death in early July of **David Beddoes**, one of our original members from 1966 and formerly club treasurer 1969-1993. He also received the ABPS Award of Merit for his services to local philately.

Martin Farr

Wakefield

In July we hosted a members' forum where several members brought along displays which included a fascinating *A to Z of War*, a comprehensive *Postal*

History display of Yorkshire and a very interesting display of *Airgraph Service Cards*. A bring, buy and sell bourse was held in August which proved very successful. One of our members displayed an unusual collection of *Newspaper stamps*. Later **Martin Cusworth** gave an amazing display of his *Air France & Lufthansa* collections which included covers and postal history items dating from 1925. This display demonstrated the methods and problems involved in flying mail, during this early period, to various destinations including Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Britain. For our September meeting one of our members displayed his *American Plate Number Blocks between 1928 and 1950*. Finally on 2nd October **Roger West** paid us a visit and gave a wonderful and detailed display of his *St. Helena Forgeries*. All of these displays were accompanied by very interesting and knowledgeable presentations which were very much enjoyed by everyone present.

Julie Barnard

Watford & District

We began our new season as usual in September with an informal bourse, and a chance for members to catch up

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and talk about their summer acquisitions. The latest edition of the society newsletter was also distributed to the members present. Our October meeting was supposed to be a display of France and Switzerland postal history from **Richard Akers** of Pinner PS. However, a few days before the meeting we heard the bad news that a burst pipe had flooded the hall and all meetings had been cancelled, so we will accommodate him another time. Perhaps a display of salvage mail would have been more appropriate!

→ watforddps@gmail.com

or 01923243243

Wayne Cox

West London

This season we have held revealing members' meetings themed on a variety of subjects. At our next meeting on 5th November we welcome **Barry Feltham** to give his PowerPoint display *The Apollo Story* with some pages to back up his presentation. → Chris Oliver on olivers.of_ham@virgin.net or 020 8940 9833 or : <https://sites.google.com/site/westlondonphilatelicsociety>

Chris Oliver

West Riding

Our informal meetings are held at 11am on the fourth Monday of each month at Lindley Liberal Club, Occupation Road, Lindley, Huddersfield HD3 3EQ. We pride ourselves in having no elected officers, committee or rules. The only fixed points are that the bar opens at midday and the pies arrive shortly thereafter. We are the original "school stamp club with beer". Our programme does not feature guest speakers, but we manage to entertain ourselves with displays by members, bourses, quizzes

and two successful auctions each year. Commission from the sale of material offered by non-members ensures that everyone attending the auctions receives a free lunch. Our next sale to be held on Monday 27th January will include over 500 volumes from Huddersfield Philatelic Society's library. Catalogues will be available from Mike Roberts (mike@mikerobe.co.uk, 07885839622) three weeks before the sale.

Mike Roberts

York

We regret to announce that in July we lost our longest-standing member.

Ralph Peacock died on 1st July at the age of 86. At the time of his death Ralph was our President and Acting Secretary, having previously served as President in 1970-71, Secretary from 1982-83 and Exchange Packet Secretary from 1964-66. He collected lots of philatelic material associated with York. He also wrote a history of York Philatelic Society from its establishment in 1948 to 2005. Sadly we have lost a true gentleman – one of the old school who served us with distinction for decades. He was always willing to help people and roll his sleeves up when there was work to be done. He will be sorely missed.

Richard Billinge

Federations

Essex

Our Seminar on 25th January at Witham will be slightly different. Instead of following a specific study theme, we will encourage all participants to entertain and educate us with their own displays. We will start with a round of two invited 48-sheet displays, then there will be three rounds of twelve 8-

sheet or six 16-sheet displays each, open to everyone. It is hoped that the day will help to give people the enthusiasm, confidence and interest to exhibit their collections to fellow members at their home societies and also provide a shop window for society Programme Secretaries looking for speakers for their next season. Even if you have never displayed before, your participation will be very welcome. If you do not want to display, do not let this put you off coming! Just come along and enjoy the variety and the social aspect. As always, there will be plenty of experts present to help you with any aspect of collecting with which you would like assistance or to point you in the right direction to find out more. There will also be plenty of opportunities to ask questions. The cost will be £25 per person. This will include morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. See the Diary for further details. *Ray How through Len Stanway*

Kent

In September we held our Autumn Rally and Council Meeting at the East Malling Grand Stamp Fair. Sadly we no longer have a competitions secretary so there were no competitions. This will remain the situation until we can find someone to take on the role. It is not the only vacancy we are looking to fill and our situation mirrors that of many of our affiliated societies - it is getting harder to find willing volunteers to take on roles and this together with the lack of new members is the reason for the demise of many local clubs and societies. In August The Romney Marsh Philatelic & Postcard Society closed, the fifth such closure in Kent in the past four years. For the time being we are acting as a communications

hub for philately in Kent - we will publish two Bulletins a year, a Directory and a listing of stamp fairs in the county as well as forwarding emails received from ABPS, Stamp Active Network and other major philatelic organisations. We will be holding our Federation Day and AGM at the Bromley & Beckenham PS Stamp & Postcard Fair on 18th April 2020.

Michael Dobbs

Mid Anglia

The AGM of MAPF was held on Sunday 6th October at Buckden village hall chaired by **Terry Wagg** who, at the end of the meeting, presented the chain of office to **Mike Kentzer** who was elected as president for 2019-



Terry Wagg and Mike Kentzer

2021. This was followed by the MAPF annual stamp day which 16 members from societies in the Federation attended. The event was organised by **John Spencer**. The displays for the first session were given by **Graham Wylde** on *Queen Victoria Jubilee Issues* followed by **Richard Husband's** display of *Great Britain Perfins*. **John Davies** the main speaker for the day was taken ill so **David Belton** stepped into the breach with a display entitled

Mail by Ship, Train and Plane featuring items of Plymouth and Devonport mail. Lunch was organised by **Mike Kentzer** at a local pub and in the afternoon session David Belton completed his display. Vote of thanks for the speakers was given by **John Spencer**. Mike Kentzer also thanked the speakers and John Spencer for his organisation.

Terry Wagg

Somerset & Dorset

There were 34 entries filling 51 8-sheet frames at our annual competitions meeting, this year at Uploaders near Bridport. The Senior Judge was **Colin Mount**. Seventeen First Class and sixteen Second Class Diplomas were awarded. **F R Blakah** won the Open Class and Somerset & Dorset Trophy with *Ethiopia 1894-1974*. In the General Class **B Paull** won the Mather Memorial Shield with *Warsaw Town Post 1915-16*. Both of these winners are from Bridport and Charmouth. From Yeovil & District **B Hunt** took the K J A O Manning Trophy in Postal History with *Bosnia & Herzegovina 1914-1919*. The Aerophilatelic Cup went to **N Arrow** of Axe Vale with *South Africa's First Scheduled Air Service - Crath 13th November 1931*. The other two classes were won by members of Bridport & Charmouth. The Hossell Cup for Thematics went to **S Page** for *Woodpecker Family* and the Postcard class was won by **F R Blakah** with *The Thames Sailing Barge*. Thanks were given to the Federation judges for their services and to all members, especially those of the Bridport and Charmouth Stamp Club, for their assistance in setting up, stewarding and dismantling the entries on the day, also Colin Mount for judging the Open class and overseeing

the other classes. Next year's event will be held at Axe Vale. Colin Mount has agreed to be the Senior Judge again assuming that it does not clash with a prior commitment. *James Hooper*

National and specialist societies

Austrian

Our annual get-together was held again this year at the Stuart Hotel, Derby on 27th-29th September. It was attended by 22 members and their wives who enjoyed the comradely atmosphere and banter and a busy weekend of philatelic activity. We began on Friday evening with a very successful auction of more than 650 lots, before members sat down to an excellent dinner. On Saturday members displayed a wonderful range of Austrian stamps and postal history including such topics as *Galicja*, "*Costume*" series postal stationery, the



Joyce Boyer displaying Costumes Series postal stationery

1938 Anschluss, First Republic postage dues, and Tyrolean mountain huts. This was followed by further displays of *Adriatic steamer mail, post*

WWII censorship and Napoleonic Cattaro. To finish a busy morning we had displays on *WIPA–1933, Austria “Land of Music” and Inflation period 1945-55*. After lunch more members’ displays followed, including *Vienna Post Offices, UN flight covers and Lemburg fiscals*. The new fun topic of *Any Other Collection* resulted in ingenious wide interpretation! Thus we were treated to the *Pinchbeck Post Office, satirical Franz Joseph postcards, mail from Italian States to Austria, the Vienna transport system, Albania and Kenya*. The day concluded with “conversation” at the bar. Sunday morning’s amazing Presidential Display on *The Austrian Netherlands* contained material of which members were totally unaware, and was hugely enjoyed. A further display of *Austrian Netherlands fiscal documents* followed before the final event – the annual AGM.

➔ www.austrianphilately.com

David Bravery

British Thematic Assoc.

At the York Fair meeting in July our President, **Barry Stagg**, presented **Gary Cook** with the Francesca Rapkin Memorial Bowl for his article in *Themescene* entitled *Consumption, the Post Office and the Sanatorium at Benenden* published in September 2018. After the presentation there were displays from **Mike Blackman, David Hope, Rodney Knight, Edith Knight, Anne Stammers, Wendy Buckle and Barry Stagg**. The subjects included *umbrellas and parasols, Swiss Post buses, Chinese paintings, The British fleets in Majorca, gold and silver mining, the printing press and daffodils*. Thematic collecting allows for and offers a great range of topics – the choice is the collector’s. Don’t miss our

next meeting around the country – we just don’t know where it will be yet!

Paraphrased from *Themescene*

Channel Islands Specialists’ Society

At our AGM in July there were nineteen members and one guest. The Chairman **David Winnie** was re-elected as was the committee en bloc. A 50-lot mini-auction followed, which produced £600 in sales. In the afternoon members gave displays.

Gerald Marriner showed recent acquisitions from the *Occupation Period*. **Robert Shaw** displayed a number of *Early Ferry Tickets* with embossed landing tax marks and pamphlets and flyers of the small boat services to Herm Island. **Mark Bailey** brought recent additions to his collection of *International Correspondence to and from Jersey stamp dealer George Campbell in the 1880s and 1890s*. **Richard Flemming** showed a *Letter from Guernsey to Esquerirdreville, Manche* [near Cherbourg] bearing cancelled 5pf and 20pf Hitler stamps but seemingly carried as a favour by a German from Guernsey to France after D-Day (6th June 1944) and then posted in the French Feldpost system. **Brian Sole** had items relating to *Royalty on Jersey stamps*, including miniature sheets featuring Queen Victoria, Edward VII, George V, George VI and Queen Elizabeth II. He also displayed items celebrating the life of Charles, Prince of Wales. **Ron Brown** produced a wonderful display of the *Guernsey/ Jersey Arms stamps*, including several reconstructed sheets of the ½d and 1d Arms and the printer’s engraved blocks. ➔ www.ciss1950.org.uk

Steve Wells

Concorde



Brian happily displays his 32 sheets



Michael Dadds in action

We held a meeting at Stampex and were pleased by the attendance, especially of new member **Kim Diehl** who travelled all the way from Florida to be with us. **Brian Asquith** was very pleased to be asked to display in the Court of Honour. Much of his material is something that most members can only hope to find after the most diligent of searches and a great deal of luck. We enjoyed the opportunity to see it in such a prominent arena. *Brian Asquith*

Czechoslovak

Michael Dadds entertained us with *WWII liberation of Europe: Liberation philately* in September. This was a Europe-wide philatelic view of 1945, which of course places Czech material into context with all the other nations in Europe. He started with the Channel Islands liberation issue produced

somewhat belatedly by the British Post Office, and moved on to heroism, skulduggery by the Soviets, self-interest by the French, low dealing by a few, territory grabbing by some, and vicious executions by occupying forces. This was overprint heaven, as stamps of Vichy France, Hitler's 'greater' Germany and its vassal states, and Mussolini's Socialist Republic continued to be used in a gleeful riot of celebratory overprinting ranging from the inked thumb, through cork or rubber obliterations, the use of national symbols such as the cross of Lorraine or pre-war coats of arms or the 'Red' star, to the more formal typeset commemorations of a new state. Forgeries abound, since quantities of such issues were

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.

generally small, and in some cases it is not even clear if the issue genuinely happened for postal purposes. Mike covered most countries of West and Central Europe, and since most members present focus on collecting Czechoslovakia there was general commenting to the effect of 'never seen that before' or 'didn't know that happened'. There was a good amount of Czechoslovakia, but it was interesting to see how that fitted in with similar happenings all over Europe, from Italy to Norway, and from GB to Bulgaria. *Roger Morrell*

Forces Postal History

As a specialist society with a wide-ranging subject matter we enjoy holding joint meetings with other specialist societies. Both societies can learn a great deal from such meetings



An attentive audience enjoying the displays

and we can view material not previously seen as well as confirming or extending periods of use for datestamps, censor markings, etc. In June we held a joint meeting with the East African Study Circle and in October with the King George Sixth Collectors Society. Next year we shall be commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the ending of the Second World War with a special meeting and society lunch in July (mid-

way between the ending of the war in Europe and in the Far East). If you have an interest in military mails from any country, or any era, why not come along to one of our meetings as a guest. → www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk where you will find write-ups of past meetings. *Michael Dobbs*

Germany & Colonies

We enjoyed our AGM weekend in Coventry this year in early October. The weekend began on Friday afternoon with a variety of members' displays. Following the evening meal, we listened intently to **Heinrich Wasels** of the 'Bund Philatelistischer Prüfer', on the art of expertising. On Saturday, partners visited Coventry Cathedral whilst members enjoyed a bourse organised by fellow members. At midday we sat down to further displays varying throughout the ages of German history and geography. The evening annual awards dinner and drinks were well attended with dedicated members receiving long service awards and life memberships, as well as literary trophies from the editor of the Germania Journal for articles of serious note and scholarship. The last day of the weekend featured the well-anticipated auction, which saw a variety of superb material on offer and high bids from members across the board. We hold our annual AGM weekend in October every year, and the location is always altered to facilitate our national membership. Next year's will be held in Newport, Gwent from 2nd to 4th October. To find out more about our events or to become a member

→ www.germanphilately.org
Wesley Tierney

The Great Britain Philatelic

We started our new philatelic year during Stampex in September when a good-sized audience gathered to see displays presented by **Tony Walker FRPSL** and **Max Melrose**. Tony began proceedings with his display *The Royal Navy Air Service Armoured Car Division in Russia in WWI*. He explained that it was the Royal Navy's use of aircraft which, surprisingly, brought about the formation of squadrons of land-based armoured cars. He concentrated on three of the squadrons which took part in the war in Russia, supporting his philatelic material with fascinating ephemera. Max introduced us to *RAF Airmail APO S40 Cologne & 1919 Railway Strike Airmail*. We were told of the combination of the RNAS and RFC to form the RAF early in 1919 and, with the Allies occupation of the Rhine causing a large increase in mail, bombers being converted to mail carriers for the Army postal service at

APO S40. With demobilisation many former RAF pilots became involved with civilian flying related companies. When the railway strike was called, the civilian companies were called upon to operate an emergency air mail service involving London, Bristol, Birmingham Newcastle and Glasgow. Flights took place over six days. The display included mail from several of the routes and, as Max commented, as many flights as possible. Again, philatelic material was well supported with ephemera. → www.gbpls.org.uk or membership@gbpls.org.uk

Janet Bygate

Joint Societies Meeting,

It is hard to believe that this year was the 22nd joint event between the Austrian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Polish and Yugoslav Philatelic Societies, admirably organised by **Yvonne** and **Richard Wheatley**. This long-running fixture in the calendar remains very popular as a meeting of Central European collectors with a



*Discussing the displays at the Joint Meeting.
Photo by Richard Wheatley*

grand mix of short displays and a great opportunity to mix and discuss. This year was no exception with 24 participants. There were displays from **Martin Brumby** showing *Hungarian hyper-inflation parcel cards*, **Richard Wheatley** with *Czech covers into Austria in 1945/8* with supplementary censor marks, **Michael Waugh** showing *First issues of Austria and Covers from, to and via Trieste*, **Edmund & Richard Jagielski** with *Polish undercover mail via Lisbon*. Then **Nick Coverdale** showed *Yugoslavia stamp issues 1929-41*, **Mervyn Benford** *Hungarian official stamps*, **Keith Brandon** *Austrian 'special services' on letter mail pre-1918*, **John Colton** *Romanian occupation of Debrecen*, **Neil Ritchie** *Independent Latvia 1919-1920*, **Alan Beresford** *Railway post in Austria*, **James Hooper** *Bohemia and Moravia stamps and postal stationery*, **Roger Morrell** *Local issues of Southern Hungary under the 1919 Serbian and Romanian occupations*, **Neil Ritchie** *General Wrangel's Refugee Post*, **Alan Berrisford** *Provisional cancellations of Poland 1945-48*, **Malcolm Stockhill** *Postcards of the 'Drei-kaiser-ecke' and Labels of the pre-war Polish Air Defence and Counter Gas League* and **Joyce Boyer** *Post WWII censorship in Austria*. Thanks went to Yvonne and Richard for their organisation and excellent buffet lunch (that ham was to die for) and afternoon cakes.

Roger Morrell

Italy & Colonies

18 members and partners including 3 from USA spent 11 days visiting the historic centres of Naples and Caserta with the Royal Palace at Caserta being the highlight of the trip. The visit to

Vesuvius was affected by rain, but excursions to the busy Pompeii and less crowded Herculaneum were excellent. On 4th October, **Aniello Veneri** a member from Rome, gave us a PowerPoint display on *The Kingdom*



Alan Moorcroft, Susan Chislett and Aniello Veneri in Italy

of Naples, showing the rarest of the postal history for this area. Naples is renowned for Pizza and we were musically entertained by our hotel restaurant to an evening with a variety of gourmet pizzas. On a sombre note, on 9th October we raised our glass and remembered our dear friend **Robert Johnson**, who had in the past joined us on many trips, and sadly passed away following a lengthy illness. The excursions continued with visits to Salerno, a much quieter city, and we enjoyed another superb lunch of seafood. Following lunch we visited the Allied Military Cemetery. We also experienced an exhilarating coach trip to the Amalfi coast, a journey on very narrow cliff top roads with tight bends. At Positano we took a boat to Amalfi, before returning to Naples through

Minori & Maiori. During our free days most members visited the Railway Museum, local Museums and rode the Funicular to San't Elmo Castle.

→ www.icsc-uk.com or Richard Harlow 02089778737 Paul Woodness

Malaya

The annual Worthing meeting was held at the East Worthing Community Centre, on Saturday 28th September. As usual it was an open meeting for members' displays so we had a wide range of interesting subjects. Worthing retained its title as Sunny Worthing on the Saturday, just.

Displays included *BMA, Malaysia -The Story behind some recent New Issues; War-time shortage stamp usages, Outgoing mail from Thailand routed via Singapore or Penang 1939-1941, Japanese Occupation of Singapore* and *Airmails* - showing some of the wide-ranging interests of MSG members. →

www.malayastudygroup.com/ or the Membership Secretary, Martin Roper martinsroper@gmail.com

Susan McEwen & Michael Waugh

National

We enjoyed a formidable presence at Autumn Stampex. Members staffed the information stand, **Michael Thompson** our Hon President and Hon Auctioneer conducted the Stamp Active auction for young philatelists, and many NPS members helped fill the display frames. We aimed to show visitors the diverse interests of members in the hope of attracting new ones. The subjects covered many different aspects of our hobby, including revenues, social philately and ephemera. Our competitive entries were also successful. **Simon Richards** won two

large gold medals, with his *Postal History of Savoy* being voted "Best in Show". **John Davies** also won a Large Gold for his *Penny Black Jubilee Reminiscence* as did **Chris Symonds** for *GB £1 Queen Victoria*. **Dr John Higgins** was awarded a Gold for *British Borneo airmail*. Large Vermeil medals were awarded to **Mrs Victoria Archard** for her *Postal Stationery* entries, and to **Ken Taylor** for his *Tobacco Revenues of Argentina* and his *Canadian Tobacco Revenues*. A Vermeil was awarded to **Brian Sole** for his *Dibben Archive* entry and to **Peter Wood** for his *Irish Sweepstake*. He also won a Large Silver for his *Irish wildlife and marine life post and go*. We sponsored medals which were presented to everyone who displayed at Stampex, even if they did not compete. Recent meetings have included displays on *Germany* and *Czechoslovakia*. We are changing our venue in 2020 from the Postal Museum to The Phoenix Centre which is also in Phoenix Place London WC1.

→ www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps or 01582 762284 Michael Goodman

Pakistan

At our last meeting **Max Smith** gave us a fascinating insight into the *Postal History of Bangladesh*. Originally East Pakistan, Bangladesh became independent in 1971, and it was the overprints on stamps and postal stationery of Pakistan produced at that time which were the subject of Max's display. The subject is very complex, with countless bogus issues and forgeries available to the uninitiated collector. As is often the case the first rule of thumb is "if it looks too good to be true, it probably is". Our next meeting will be at Fradley Village Hall,

Fradley, Staffordshire on Saturday 21st March when *Pakistan 1961 local overprints* will be the subject for study. We are particularly looking forward to catching up with some of our members from overseas at a meeting to be held on the Thursday of London 2020 at the British Design Centre. → George Rab George.Rab@googlemail.com

Mike Roberts

The Royal

We proudly opened the doors of our new premises for the first meeting of the season on 12th September. The Society's home is now at 15 Abchurch Lane, in the City of London, a short walk from Bank Underground Station. It was highly appropriate that, following tradition, this first meeting should give members the privileged opportunity to see material from The Royal Philatelic Collection, shown by gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen.



Ian Grieg receives a Royal 150 certificate on behalf of HM The Queen from Richard Stock

The areas chosen were *New South Wales* and *Western Australia*, with over 200 members present to enjoy the superb material on display. This was followed on 26th September by displays given by Fellows and Members of the

Society living in the north of England. A diverse range of material was presented by no fewer than 28 members who, in the words of **Peter Cockburn FRPSL** giving the Vote of Thanks, provided the "opportunity to see a range of extraordinary, varied and interesting displays". Those wishing to visit The Royal Philatelic Society London at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW, or be a guest at one of its meetings, are asked to contact the Administrative Office (020 7486 1044).

South African Collectors



Viewing at the Calthorpe Arms

On 28th September we held a meeting at the Calthorpe Arms, Greys Inn Road, London WC1X 8JR. Displays were on any subject related to South Africa or SWA and considered most interesting and informative. We join with our fellow collectors of the philately of Southern Africa on 1st / 3rd November in Meriden. →

www.southafricancollector.com or olivers.of_ham@virgin.net or 020 8940 9833

Chris Oliver

Stamp Box Circle

The recent appearance of a very desirable enamelled Victorian stamp box on the Antiques Road Show seems to have aroused a lot of interest particularly among non-collectors. As a result I seem to be getting several

enquiries through our website stampbox.org.uk where you can see the extract from the show as well as articles about stamp boxes. The displays at our September meeting, held in Hampshire, would have also served to whet anyone's appetite. The theme was *WMF, and other Art Nouveau stamp boxes*. There were many examples on show, from small stamp cases to large items such as desk stands which incorporated ink wells, and even letter scales. WMF (Württembergische Metallwarenfabrik) manufactured stamp boxes in Germany as part of their extensive range of household articles designed in the Art



Nouveau style. These boxes were often made in pewter and silver-plated. Some designs are plain and neat but others have flowing swirls typical of the Art Nouveau style as in the example illustrated.
Erene Grieve

Another Large Stamping



Some time back **David Milsted** brought some material to show to Bromley & Beckenham. If you look carefully you will find that there are 68 ½d and 24 1d QV Army Officials on this oversize mourning envelope, which was sent to South Africa. The item was registered and the total cost was 4 shillings and 10 pence.

Why did someone do this in such a strange way? Perhaps they hoped to appear in a magazine one day - if so, Success!!

Sent by *David Rennie*

And Finally

David Hill commented on Royal Mail sales to Collectors: I must take issue with whoever said "collectors do not generate huge sums". What about all those mint sets/presentation packs they sell knowing that they are stamps that are never going to do postal service?

I would add that they generate enough to make the Philatelic Bureau financially viable so presumably Royal Mail consider them significant.
Editor

The Philatelic Traders' Society celebrates Stampex International

Philately Being Advanced by Youth

The Philatelic Traders' Society is delighted to see the world of philately continue to thrive; this year Stampex International hosted over 19 000 visitors at their biannual show. The recent four-day show held in September saw many world class philatelic pieces being showcased including the Inverted Jenny block of four with an estimated value between \$2-3 million from Spink.

Josh Barber, Philatelic Specialist at Spink commented

"There was much attention and an excited atmosphere surrounding The Centre line Block of Inverted Jenny stamps which we had on show ahead of the sale of them in New York, a huge success with many visitors coming to see this great rarity and have their photograph taken with them."

Also on show, The Apollo 11 cover from Bolaffi, one of the 214 cosmograms carried on board Apollo 11 bearing the signatures of the crew. And philatelist **Brian Asquith** displayed his collection celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Concorde.

Other successes included a sell-out of Royal Mail's Stampex show exclusive. The 7500 mini sheets printed especially for Stampex and celebrating D Day were a wonderful hit. Stampex Talks were hosted throughout the week for philatelic enthusiasts and beginners. The ABPS kindly hosted 2 tours of the competitive exhibits, which were both well received.

Why are people becoming more connected with the hobby?

- Advancements in technology are seeing younger collectors get involved. The rise of the online philatelists means that social platforms like Instagram & Pinterest are being more widely used within the hobby. It's a worldwide hobby with people from all over the world visiting London to celebrate with us. We saw an increase in guests from China and India who are philatelic fans.
- Stampex International and the Philatelic Traders' Society offer a safe way for people to get into the hobby. All the traders at Stampex are members of the PTS, therefore they have all been vetted and can be trusted. If you have inherited a collection, it is important to have it reviewed by someone you can trust.

As always Stampex International is only as good as the opinions of those standing behind the counters. **Suzanne Rae**, Owner of Art Stamped Exhibitor and Chairman of The PTS comments "I specialise in philatelic arts and crafts, so I can always tell when new people come into the show as they will pop past my stand and perhaps buy a birthday card or small gift featuring postage stamps. This show was one of the most dynamic we have ever organised, packed full of activity to further engage our audiences, from those new to philately to those who have been in the pastime for many years. It is about extending the interest and the passion that this great hobby can create."

British Stamp news



Sorry Sir Elton - I cannot claim to be a great fan of most of your music so the stamps didn't do a great deal for me. However I can see them being very interesting to a good number of people - past, present or future collectors.

I think that the September issues of the navy ships of various ages will be very popular with the thematic

collectors. HMS Beagle will fit nicely in at least three themes according to my knowledge: Royal Navy and sailing ships are the obvious two but we can add Charles Darwin or anything related to

Botany, Biology, Science or Creation without stretching things at all. HMS Dreadnought and HMS Queen Elizabeth would clearly fit well with Royal Navy too but the former could also appear for World War I and the latter for aircraft carriers,



modern vessels and Royalty. I am sure that thematic collectors will be able to tell me of many more ideas into which they could be incorporated. I will as usual just hope that the odd one or more sails or steams into view on my mail. They are very appropriate to our country and fine representations, so well done Royal Mail.



I have no problem with the Gruffalo set either. I expect these to be very popular with younger collectors or even to be used to illustrate book reviews at schools all over the country. The need for this many stamps in a set might be a matter for discussion but at least it allows for the



story to be told quite easily and fully. It would be better if the odd set if not all of them contained a second class stamp as well. I must be getting mellow in my old age as I feel less negative towards the actual issues and resulting stamps. Perhaps someone at Royal Mail is reading ABPS News!

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

ABPS Handbook & Directory: updates

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

National Philatelic Society (p 172) From January 11th 2020 meetings will be held at The Phoenix Centre, Phoenix Place **London** WC1.

Specialist Societies

Belgian Philatelic Study Circle (p 67): R T Harrison is no longer the secretary. The contact email is enquiries@belgianphilatelicstudycircle.org.uk

Polar Postal History Society of GB (p 80) website is www.polarpostalhistory.org.uk/

We welcome **The Oriental Philatelic Association of London** as new affiliates. The secretary is Philip Longbottom prlongbottom@aol.com
Please add them to p 80.

Local Societies

Bishop's Stortford & District Philatelic Society (p 95): Secretary Dave Armitage has died. We do not have replacement contact details.

Chelmsford & District Philatelic Society (p 104) has a new secretary:

Antony Edwards 01245 601884 antonyR.edwards@hotmail.co.uk

Crewe & District Philatelic Society (p 108) has resigned.

Mablethorpe & Sutton Philatelic Society (p 135) has resigned

Minehead & District Stamp Club (p 137): Secretary John Bayly has resigned as he has moved. We have no details of a replacement.

Stroud & District Philatelic Society (p 159) now meet at St Mary's Church Rooms, The Lychgate, Stroud Road, **Painswick** GL6 6UT

Swale Philatelic & Postcard Society (p 160) has closed.

We welcome **Barnsley Philatelic Society** as a newly affiliated society. Secretary is Nigel Harpham 01226 219947

Please note that this is the last issue of ABPS News for this year. That means that I have another year's worth of amendments available. Please contact me by email, through someone else if necessary, and I will send you a copy of this year's and/or any of the previous year's amendments since the Handbook was produced in 2016.

We do not expect to produce another printed version of the Handbook. As soon as printed and distributed at considerable expense it is out of date. Instead we hope to have much of the information on or linked to the website

Also note that 2020 affiliation fees will become due from January 1st 2020. Please do not take too long to pay them. Chasing-up is hard work.

Stamp Active Network

At Autumn Stampex Stamp Active Network released their latest publication in the Stamp Fun series. This concerns Transport on Stamps, and is filled with puzzles, facts, collecting sheets and lots of other ideas for collections of transport themes on stamps. This complements our earlier books in the series, which have all been reprinted and are also available. The books have a face price of £3 plus postage and packing, but are free for young collectors at Stampex. They are available free to organisers of school stamp clubs and will also be distributed free to active members of our postal Kidstamp club. Copies are available through **John Davies** at davies1890@btinternet.com



Some of the Stampex team from Stamp Active. From left to right:
Susan Henderson - Chairman, Peter Barham - Auctions & Donations Manager,
Cliff Jermyn-Francis, Lorraine Simms, Alan Bretherton - Kidstamps.

Attendance at the Kids Zone was disappointing with the lowest number of youngsters for some time at the auction on Saturday . However, the smiling faces of the children who were there and who clearly enjoyed themselves was appreciated. On an even more encouraging note, a school stamp club organiser came along with the Head Teacher from the school and was so impressed that they are looking to organise a school visit next year to the show. Stamp Active again raised some funds by the sale of stamps, £930, to help finance their various projects including the free postal club for children, KIDSTAMPS. In an attempt to attract greater numbers, we intend to offer a voucher for £20 to each

youngster under 18 to spend at the show (limited to the first 100 children). This will be possible through our Dealer Patrons and additional support from the Philatelic Traders' Society. For more information about Stamp Active & Kidstamps → www.stampactive.co.uk

Penny Black Winner



Youngsters visiting the Kids Zone at Stampex complete various activities in order to win points to take part in the free children's auction on Saturday afternoon. Every youngster who takes part in the auction is given a free draw ticket with the opportunity to win a Penny Black, donated by **Robin Cassell** of Mulready Philatelics. The winner of the Penny Black this time was **Amal Usman** from Southend-on-Sea, aged 12.

Young Collector of the Year

Leopold Marie received a Trophy as the "Young Collector of the Year 2019" from **Susan Henderson**. He was also presented with a smaller cup as a memento and a framed set of Harry Potter stamps, sponsored by Royal Mail. He is pictured with **Sophie Moyon**, his stamp club leader who runs his successful school stamp club, and Susan Henderson.



Bill Hart Award to Steve Pye



Steve Pye was presented with the Bill Hart Award for outstanding service to youth philately. He signed the Roll of Honour and received a framed certificate and gifts including a limited edition prestige stamp case, cufflinks and a tie, sponsored by Royal Mail. Steve has run a very successful stamp club in Liverpool and has a huge passion for the hobby and helping young people.

Photographs courtesy of Paul Leonard

"My Favourite Things" Stamp Competition" Results

The winners of the prizes in the one-page national competition, sponsored by Isle of Man Stamps & Coins were:

7 Years	1 st Piyallini Kalaiarasan (6)	- Birmingham	<i>Dogs</i>
and Under	2 nd Florence Martin (7)	- Ayr	<i>Fruits</i>
	3 rd Jashayinni Kalaiarasan (4)	- Birmingham	<i>Cats</i>
8 & 9	1 st Tobi Morga (9)	- Wales	<i>Fun Football</i>
Years	2 nd Lexi John (9)	- Wales	<i>Cute Dogs</i>
	3 rd Ava Muirhead (8)	- Ayr	<i>Flowers</i>
10 to 12	1 st Ama Camps (10)	- Ayr	<i>Beautiful Birds</i>
Years	2 nd Lucy Assur (10)	- Ayr	<i>Terrific Transport</i>
	3 rd Charlotte Brookshank (10)	- Ayr	<i>Flowers</i>

There was a reduced number of entries this year which was disappointing for the organisers and Sponsor. It seems that some who were planning to enter left their preparation too late for the deadline, so think about starting your pages now for next years' competition. This gives you lots of time to get some feedback and improve the presentation and content over the next few months. You will then be ready in plenty of time with a good quality entry. The competition will run again next year with the winning entries being displayed at Autumn Stampex 2020. Full details of the rules and entry form can be found on the Stamp Active website in the Competitions pages. For more information → www.stampactive.co.uk

Donations and Auctions Manager

The Stamp Active Committee are pleased to advise that **Peter Barham** has accepted the position of Donations and Auction Manager, taking over the role previously handled by John Davies, of accepting donations of philatelic material, stamps, covers, etc on behalf of the Stamp Active Network. Please note therefore that all such donations should now be directed to him at 2E Broomwood Road, Orpington, Kent, BR5 2JH.

Peter has also taken on the organisation of the children's auctions at Stampex which prove very popular with our young attendees.

A New Patron



Stephanie Connell, one of the UK's leading consultants in Art and Antiques, has become a Patron for Stamp Active. She is well known as one of the antique and collectables specialists on the popular BBC series, "The Antique Roadshow", "Bargain Hunt" and in Series 18 and 19 of the "Antiques Road Trip". Stephanie has over 12 years' experience within the fine art industry and now has her own retail business. She has a Masters Degree in Fine Art Valuation and a Bachelors Degree in the History of Art and Design (including Film History) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Interior Design.

She has explained that her interest in collectables began with stamps. "Antiques and history have been a passion of mine since childhood. I started collecting stamps aged 9 or 10 and dragged my parents to antique shops to help me find more. Once I saw all the other things you could buy that were interesting, that was it!" She added "Stamps create a window into the world of people, places and history and much more. They have inspired me to look at lots of different things and led me into a career that has brought nothing but pleasure into my life and lots of fun."

More information about Stephanie can be found on her website:

www.stephanieconnell.com

Diary for the next few months

Local and regional events by ABPS members

There seems to be a paucity of events, or is it just that your society has failed to let us have the details? I cannot include commercial fairs but society and federation events are very welcome. Partial information is better than no information at all - just make sure that we receive it in plenty of time - months not days before the event.

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

November

- 23 Autumn StampEssex exhibition and dealer fair: 10 - 4, Hampton's Sport & Leisure (formerly Marconi Social Club), Tydemans (off Beehive Lane), **Chelmsford** Essex CM2 9FH → John Dickenson 01279 722297
dickenson17@ntlworld.com

December

- 9 Grimsby PS Charity Auction: 7pm onwards, Central Hall, Duncombe Street, **Grimsby** DN32 7EG → John Mileman 01472 827396

2020

January

- 25 AESPS Seminar: 9.30 - 4.30, Henry Dixon Hall, Henry Dixon Road, Rivenhall End, **Witham** Essex CM8 3HR → Ray How 01702-544632
ray.how@btinternet.com

March

- 7 Launceston Stamp Fair

April

- 18 Bromley & Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Kent Federation AGM and Spring Rally Competitions: Langley Park Boys School, South Eden Park Road, **Beckenham** BR3 3BP
- 25 Morecambe PS Annual Fair: 10 - 3, The Platform, Marine Road Central (opposite the Midland Hotel), **Morecambe** LA4 4DB

June

- 13 SWINPEX 2020: 10 - 4, St Joseph's RC College, Ocotal Way, **Swindon**, Wiltshire, SN3 3LR

For the next few years

National Exhibitions 2020

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

- There will be no SPRING STAMPEX 2020.
- 30th September - 3rd October 2020: AUTUMN STAMPEX 2020: The British Thematic Association will be the lead society. Barry Stagg is the coordinator. It

will include an inter-Federation competition. Details will be published in February / March 2020

- 17th - 20th February 2021 SPRING STAMPEX 2021
- 29th September - 2nd October 2021 AUTUMN STAMPEX 2021

International Exhibitions 2020-2021

- 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. 2750 frames (change-over of material after 4 days). Competitive classes will be Championship, Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Revenue, Postal Stationery, Thematic, Literature (including digital), Open, Modern, Picture Postcards and Youth. IREX now available → www.london2020.co UK Commissioner: Mike JY Roberts. Assistant Commissioner: Kim Stuckey. **Volunteers Sought** The Organising Committee are keen to recruit volunteers to help run LONDON 2020. If you would like to help, please go to www.london2020.co and click the “**Sign up here to Volunteer**” link.
 - 6th -11th August 2020: INDONESIA 2020, Djakarta. FIP Patronage. UK Commissioner: John Jackson john.w.jackson@care4free.net
 - 17th - 20th March 2021: SOUTH AFRICA 2021, Cape Town, South Africa. FIP patronage. UK Commissioner: Jon Aitchison britishlocals@aol.com Further information on classes, dates and IREX is at www.capetown2021.org
 - 6th - 9th May 2021: IBRA 2021 Essen. FIP specialised international exhibition with FEPA recognition. Classes invited will be Traditional, Postal History, Thematic and Picture Postcard. Details awaited.
 - August 2021: PHILNIPPON 2021, Yokohama. FIP patronage. To mark the 150th anniversary of the Japanese postage stamp. Details awaited.
 - 19th - 22nd November NOTOS 2021 Athens. FEPA patronage with FIP recognition. All classes invited. → hps.gr/notos2021
- Details of FEPA exhibitions are at <http://www.fepanews.com/>

Web information

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

Bill Hedley, Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee
ewlhedley@gmail.com

Your society information?

Please let the ABPS Secretary know of any changes to the details, including the information on the ABPS website about your society. Contact details are on p 58. Please tell your Federation Secretary too.

Also if you want changes in times, venue, website or email addresses and telephone numbers of your secretary to appear in the Amendments List - send them to the Editor - details also on p 58.

ABPS General Information

Honorary Life Vice Presidents

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

Executive Committee

Chairman: **Graham Winters** j.g.winters@hotmail.co.uk
Vice Chairman: **Steven Harrison** sharrison500@btinternet.com
General Secretary: **George Henshilwood** georgelh@icloud.com
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Please use this RPSL address for all correspondence apart from the following:

Membership & Advertising (if not emailed):

ABPS Membership, 1 Naunton Way, Cheltenham GL53 7BQ

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

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

Stamp Active Network: please write to:

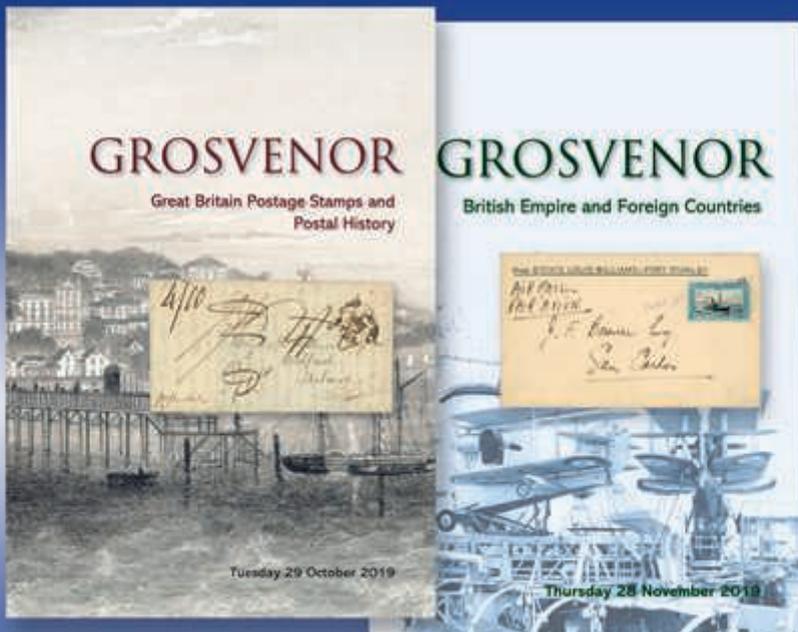
SAN, c/o 21 The Bridle, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 4TH

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

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