

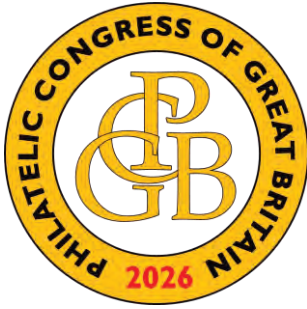
The 2026
Signatories
of the
Roll of
Distinguished
Philatelists

See p 16



The ABPS News is also available
online at www.abps.org.uk





The 107th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

4th to 6th September 2026

Jubilee Hotel and Conferences
Nottingham

www.gbcongress.uk

The **Philatelic Congress of Great Britain** is delighted to announce that its **107th Annual Congress** will be held at the elegant **Jubilee Hotel and Conferences, Nottingham** - Friday 4th to Sunday 6th September 2026.

This year's theme is "**Grass Roots to Grand Prix**" - exploring philately from the beginner to the expert. The Programme includes the Kay Goodman Lecture, displays and presentations from across the philatelic community as well as discussions and social time.



- **ABPS Congress Banquet & Awards Ceremony**
- **ABPS AGM**
- **Congress Medallist**
- **ABPS National Competition**
- **RDP Panel Discussion**

This year the ABPS National Competition is at the same venue and we look forward to welcoming you all. Accommodation is available from £99 B+B per room from the venue directly via a booking code.

Please visit at www.gbcongress.uk where you can find booking details and order dinner and banquet tickets.

For more details please contact Mike Hoffman, congress@abps.org.uk

www.abps.org.uk/philatelic-congress

This event is generously supported by **The Philatelic Fund**

ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

The Magazine of the Association of British Philatelic Societies is published four times a year: Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter.

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Editor: Keith S Burton

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Cover picture: *The four new RDPS* - Alexander T Haimann (USA), Jon Aitchison (GB), Dr Andrew Cheung (Hong Kong, China) and Ding Jinsong (People's Republic of China)

An electronic copy of the newsletter can be viewed on the ABPS webpage www.abps.org.uk a few months 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, 1st 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 (editor@abps.org.uk) Illustrations should not be assumed to be accurate as to size or colour.

Notes FROM THE CHAIR:

Plans move on apace as we look forward to the many philatelic events across the country in the coming months. I particularly have my eye on Congress which is being held in Nottingham: 4th to 6th September. Many new elements are being trialled to make the event a tad more interesting for a wider audience, so please put the dates in your diary as I believe it will be a very special weekend. I really hope you will be able to attend.

Congress promotion over, NO wait! There are so many other things that ABPS does which isn't always understood or recognised by many philatelists. To list a few:

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain: As already mentioned above is an annual event that has been running since 1909. It provides a venue for collectors to gather, featuring displays, discussions, and of course the Congress Banquet where the Congress Medal is presented.

National Exhibitions & Competitions: The ABPS hosts national competitive exhibitions (such as the upcoming Autumn 2026 National in Nottingham) that cover various classes including Traditional Philately, Postal History, and Thematic. Remember Anyone who is entering the national exhibition for the first time will not be charged an entry fee thanks to the support of ABPS and the Philatelic Fund, providing they are a member of a society affiliated to ABPS or a Friend or Patron of ABPS. This offer also applies to individuals who enter an International Exhibition for the first time.

Youth Engagement (Stamp Active): The ABPS supports youth collecting via "Stamp Active," which includes a free postal club (*Kidstamps*), workshops, and national youth stamp competitions, often displayed publicly at national exhibitions.

Information Sharing: The ABPS News magazine is published four times a year, providing updates on society meetings, feature articles, and forthcoming events.

Support for Societies: Offers advice, insurance discounts, and "Small Grants" to affiliated clubs, federations, and societies.

International Representation: The ABPS helps coordinate UK participation in international philatelic exhibitions and provides information on FIP (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie) regulations. It is only through ABPS that such activity takes place as it is the UK representative body on the international philatelic network.

Seminars & Workshops: Provides educational sessions on exhibiting, judging, and researching philatelic materials.

So, lots to look forward to. I hope to meet some of you at these events. Happy collecting.

Gwynne Harries



Editorial



I have been very heartened by a number of messages from societies and individuals from around the country. Thank you to all the secretaries, reporters and articles writers who noted my moving the copy date forward so as to enable me to do the necessary work before going on holiday in late April/early May. It has enabled me to have things ready for the printers before the end of the first whole week in April - well ahead of my usual time. Not only that but so many were kind enough to wish me well for my holiday. I do not collect Swiss, French or Italian stamps or covers, other than those countries being on the receiving end of mail from Great Britain, Bavaria or Germany - but my knowledge of viaducts might well be stretched in my journey by rail. Who knows what else I might find myself collecting after this trip?

Another heartening thing was the number of reports that comment on an increase in membership in some societies - usually because they have presented themselves slightly differently, or gone out in some way that drew people in for an initial visit which was then built on by members reacting positively to a new face - not pressing for specialisation but purely expressing an interest in the way that the individual had started or re-started their collecting interest. Macclesfield and Prestbury did a good job like this in their anniversary celebration in conjunction with their local Silk Museum (see page 34).

I have welcomed a couple of reports from societies from whom I had never heard before. That leaves 1 federation, 10 specialist societies and 23 local societies from whom I have no record of having ever had a report in 13½ years. I wonder if they all know that they are in this list - no I am not going to name them here but I might get round to sending them a message hoping to receive a response before my red pen is pensioned off in late October this year.

I am now arranging some of those trips that I offered - going on protracted trips to show some of my wonderful and fascinating material (according to me). The first will be over by the time that you read this as I will have called in on Portsmouth when visiting family in the south. After the Congress I am fitting in two more in the south - as I head off to visit friends and then already have two more in May next year. It is wonderful to make new friends and acquaintances and to share my collecting passion with others. It never worries me how few or many are there, so long as I have an idea in advance - then I cannot be disappointed. So if you are looking for a willing speaker for your programme - ask - not only me but all the other speakers on the various federation and ABPS lists.

Even better - add your own name and interests to the lists and see how much fun you can have. People are kind - just give them a chance. *Keith Burton*

Obituary

P Jane Moubray RDP

It is with great sadness that we note the death of Jane Moubray on 29th December 2025 at the age of 93.

Jane was president of the Royal from 1996 to 1998 and remains the only lady president in its history. Always supportive of the society, and willing to offer encouragement and advice to those who needed it, Jane will be sorely missed by all who knew her. She was without doubt one of the great philatelists of her time and held numerous prestigious posts within the philatelic world and received numerous honours.

She was well-known to a wide range of philatelists together with her husband, Michael, since both were seen regularly at both national and international exhibitions. Some, such as their transatlantic mails, were joint, whilst others were focused on the interests of one or the other. Jane's particular interests were the GB line engraved 2d Blue and she also had a fine collection of Canada. All their collections were beautifully presented; both had a keen eye for a pleasing design presentation and their quest for quality in the items that they purchased shone through. Members of numerous societies benefited from displays from both of them.

At the Royal both separately received the Tilleard medal, awarded for major displays to the society. They also jointly authored an important article in *The London Philatelist* that was awarded the Tapling Medal in 1984 for the best article published that year. Both Jane and Michael put in much time and work on the Royal Expert Committee, both in the administration of running of the committee and, since 1979, Jane was a member of the committee itself. She was awarded the society's London Medal in 1991 for services to the expert committee and her card index reference collection of items from worldwide auctions is still used by the committee in its researches. Her wide knowledge of both the stamps and the postal history aspects made her a valuable member of the expertising team.

The book *British Letter Mail to Overseas Destinations 1840 to UPU* was a joint effort with Michael. Originally published in 1992, it is now in its second, revised and expanded, edition (2017) and remains the standard work on the postal history and rates for British worldwide mail. Meticulously researched for the routes, postal conventions, regulations, shipping contracts and despatch date information, and covering a wide territorial range, this is probably the book that gets more use from collectors of Great Britain and its Empire than almost any other. It was deservedly awarded the RPSL's Crawford medal in 1992 for "the



most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately in book form during the relevant period” and the Lindenberg Medal of the Berliner Philatelisten-Klub for conspicuous services to philately.

In 1997 Jane was elected to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (“RDP”) and signed that year in Coventry. She went on to become a member of the RDP Board of Election and, following the retirement of Patrick Pearson, became its chairman.

Jane’s father collected stamps and she inherited the interest from him. In fact it was she who encouraged her husband Michael to begin a collection – an unusual inversion of roles. Jane was in demand as a member of the jury at both national and international exhibitions and could always be relied upon to have done considerable study of the various subjects of the exhibits she was going to judge. She and Michael exhibited their transatlantic mail at several international exhibitions as a joint collection and achieved high awards to large gold medal standard. Their book on transatlantic mail also achieved large gold medals in international exhibitions, a particular challenge in the literature class.

She leaves a son, Charles, a daughter, Catherine, and a grandson, James. We are aware that some of the family have an interest in collecting stamps and we understand that part of the collections have been passed to the next generation.

Obituary & Photo courtesy of RPSL



Christopher Oliver

The ABPS Awards Committee announces with great sadness, that Christopher Oliver, has died. He received the Congress Medal in 2014 at Market Harborough. Christopher held many offices in local societies, but his major contributions to British philately was on four national fields: National Philatelic Society, Middlesex Federation, ABPS and the South African Collectors Society. In 2010, due to no other offers for the post, Christopher became the UK communications co-ordinator and instigated nine publicity leaflets on various aspects of the work of ABPS. Always keen to volunteer for posts,

he offered to serve as chairman of the Middlesex Federation due to the resignation of the then chairman. During his time as chairman of the federation, he chaired their Diamond Jubilee stamp day. At the same time, he took over as membership secretary of the South African Collectors Society upon the sudden death of his predecessor. A year later he became general secretary, taking over at a difficult time he steered the society back on an even keel. These days, when it is difficult to find any volunteers for society offices, Christopher Oliver stood out as an exemplar of selfless and excellent service to British philately. Christopher was married to Susan, also a well-respected philatelist, to whom we extend our sincere condolences.

Yvonne Wheatley

Brian Sole FRPSL

ABPS sadly has to announce the death of another Congress Medallist, Brian Sole. Brian received the Congress Medal in 2002 at Dawlish. He was a member of the ABPS Awards Committee for many years and he was still serving on the Committee at the time of his death. He will be sadly missed as he was meticulous in his consideration of the candidates for the Awards giving details of his analysis of the merits of each nominee.



He was a passionate thematic and founder member, secretary, chairman and later president of the British Thematic Association; Brian worked tirelessly to promote thematic collecting, co-translating the Handbook of Thematic Philately. He was president of the Bicycle Stamp Club (2002–2016), and a qualified thematic judge in the UK and at European level.

Brian served as secretary of Kingston Upon Thames Philatelic Society and president of the Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies. In addition, he was a British Commissioner for a number of International Exhibitions.

He is remembered for his scholarship, diplomacy and generosity. We send our sincere condolences to his wife, Penny.

Yvonne Wheatley

Chair ABPS Awards Committee

100th Anniversary of First Chinese Air Mail Flight from Peking to Tientsin on 7th May 1920

This envelope was sent to me by David Lu, a correspondent in China. It has the picture of a cover, from David's collection, which was carried in a British-built Handley Page 0/7 aircraft, on 7th May 1920 which was the first official airmail flight in China. The envelope has a China Post 100th Anniversary commemorative (meter) mark dated 7th May 2020 and was delivered on 21st



July 2020, having been in the post for 75 days. Has anyone received mail recently that has been in the post for longer than this?

Brain Asquith

ABPS Awards for 2026

ABPS is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2026 Congress Medal is Steven Harrison FRPSL.



Steven's contributions to the world of philately are remarkable. His deep knowledge and passion for philately are truly inspiring. His dedication to preserving the history and nuances of philatelic material is remarkable, and he has become a vital part of the philatelic community.

He has contributed to UK organised philately at national level for many years, notably, most recently as chairman of the ABPS Executive Committee from 2021 to 2024 and as secretary to the Royal Philatelic Society since 2021.

Steven was chairman of the Congress Committee from 2020 until last year as well as secretary of Midpex from 2017, again stepping down last year. In addition to his national roles, he found time to act as secretary of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Philatelic Society and other roles including programme secretary.

Steven Harrison is a worthy recipient of the Congress Medal whose contribution to organised philately has been exceptional in carrying out so many roles simultaneously.

ABPS is delighted to announce the recipients of the Awards of Merit 2026.

Steve Jarvis is a hardworking, modest person in the UK philatelic world and always ready to use his IT skills for the benefit of the societies in which he has been involved. Steve has been a member of the British West Indies Study Circle, (subsequently the West Indies Philatelic Group) since January 1984. He has served as editor of the society's journal, webmaster and chairman. He oversaw the merger of the society with the American-based British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (to form the West Indies Philatelic Study Circle in 2023). He joined the RPSL in 2006 and has been actively volunteering ever since. First as chairman of the IT Committee and then as a member of the Publications Committee, a post he still holds. In this role he has typeset several of the society's publications. Steve was the editor of the RPSL journal, The London Philatelist and an ex-Officio member of the Council. In 2012 the RPSL joined forces with the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum and the American Philatelic Research Library to form the Global Philatelic Library to provide a centralised information gateway to the world's greatest philatelic research. This involved reformatting and uploading the data from 27 libraries.

Steve Jarvis was nominated by the West Indies Philatelic Study Circle.

Mike Slamo has given exceptional and sustained service to organised philately over a period approaching forty years, most notably through his dedication to Shoreham Philatelic Society and its successor, the Adur Stamp Club. He joined the Shoreham Philatelic Society in 1986 and quickly became an active and valued member, making use of his professional expertise in insurance and finance. This led to his appointment as treasurer in 1989 serving continuously in this role ever since. This involved the society's transition and reformation as the Adur Stamp Club. Mike served The Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies with distinction over many years. Initially he represented Shoreham Philatelic Society on the Council of the Association and in 1995 he was appointed treasurer, a position he held until 2024. He also gave valued service as a judge for the Association's competitions, contributing his expertise to maintaining standards and encouraging exhibitors.

Mike Slamo was nominated by Adur Stamp Club and the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies.



Congratulations to Paul Green

Paul was awarded the Award of Merit in 2025, but was unable to receive his certificate when intended. He was recently presented with his award on ABPS's behalf by **Len Stanway**, secretary of the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies, who sent in the nomination.

Paul has served Essex Philately with distinction since at least 1964 holding a variety of roles in the Federation and the East Anglia Postal History Society.

And Congratulations to West Riding Stamp Club FEPA Certificate of Appreciation 2025 West Riding Stamp Club (United Kingdom)

The club was set up as an informal club to encourage collectors with modest collections and newly retired collectors to meet together. The founder acted as chairperson/secretary/joint auctioneer and programme officer. When he died two collectors took over his roles and the club continues to flourish with the same aims.

When a philatelic society in the area closed its members either joined the West Riding Club or the Huddersfield Philatelic Society. Now the two societies hold their separate meetings at the same premises on the same day and time on an alternating fortnightly basis from September to May. The membership is much the same and they use the same display boards.

The club holds two auctions a year with around 300-400 lots each time, submitted by collectors, the public and local businesses in the region. It is primarily a collector-to-collector auction. Electronic catalogues are distributed to

all secretaries in the National Federation with the request that they are distributed to their members. Prior email, telephone and written bidding is offered. About half the membership of the club form the team on the auction day. Vendors are charged 10% commission unless the proceeds are to go to charity. Between 40 to 50% of the lots sell. The net commission, after expenses, is split equally between both the club and the Huddersfield Philatelic Society and this pays for their operating costs.

The initial idea of helping modest lone collectors, who would never have felt qualified to join a formal philatelic society, has developed so that they are able to learn from the members of the philatelic society and enjoy displays from more advanced collectors. This has encouraged them to improve their own collections and enjoy each other's company.

Do you know of a society which has developed new ideas or an individual who has done similar roles for a long time in the service of a federation or society? Consider how they would feel to be appreciated by receiving such an award. Someone has to take the first step in recognising their worth and the second step in putting them forward for 2027 or beyond. Why not you?

The Stuart Rossiter Trust

The 2026 Stuart Rossiter Trust Lecture is:
"Postal History in the Digital Landscape"
by Rob May FRPSL

Tuesday 15th September 2026
@ 16:00 hours at RPSL,
15 Abchurch Lane,
London EC4N 7BW
Please note the date.

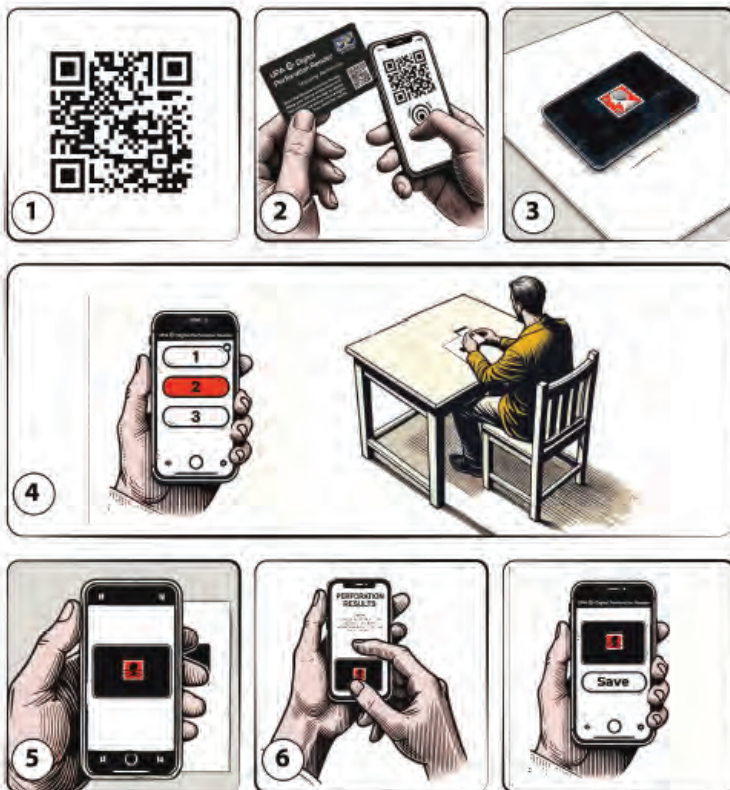
The Trustees regret to announce the death of Dr Robin Pizer FRPSL FSPH on 11th March 2026. Robin served as a Trustee of the Stuart Rossiter Trust from February 2003 till November 2013, including as Corresponding Trustee from 2003 to 2010. His main collecting area was German Postal History, on which he published many articles. His knowledge and his calm, wise counsel were greatly appreciated by his fellow trustees. He will be missed by his many friends in the Postal History world.



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Imagine a world where the intricate details of stamp perforations are no longer a mystery, where collectors and dealers alike can utilise technology on their mobile phone to identify scarce, even rare perforations with the touch of a button. This is not a distant dream but a reality we have been painstakingly crafting toward for the past six years. We are thrilled to finally introduce the world's first Philatelic automatic Digital Perforation Reader (DPR), powered by cutting-edge Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) on your mobile smartphone.

Our mission is simple yet revolutionary: to provide an affordable, global philatelic resource that is universally accessible. Whether you are a seasoned collector or a curious beginner, our DPR technology is designed to make perforation measurement easy, accurate, and environmentally friendly. For just £1 (US\$1.30, €1.20), you can embark on this journey with us, gaining access to a 30-day free trial of unlimited digital perforation reader usage, plus save your results on your own device.

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Society anniversaries

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

Heartiest congratulations to all involved in these milestones:

Faroe Islands Study Circle – 35 Years



The society was founded in 1991 as the inspiration of **Douglas Scott** (Norfolk) and **Marilyn Amedro** (Midlothian). Marilyn placed a small note in one of the stamp magazines asking if there was support for a society devoted to the Islands. Thirty-four collectors 'signed up'. Initially, all members lived in the UK but shortly afterwards we welcomed our first non-UK member, in Canada. Sadly, Douglas died not long after the society's creation.

Marilyn soldiered on in most roles (secretary, journal editor, treasurer, librarian) until other willing souls shouldered some of the burden. **Norman Hudson** (Cheshire) took on the journal editor's job in 1995 and also became secretary in 1998 and still does both of those jobs. **John Smith** (Wirral) has been treasurer since 1998 and auctioneer since 2012. In 2018, non-UK members outnumbered those in the UK for the first time, with significant numbers in the USA and Germany. Marilyn died in March 2025 but saw the circle flourish and develop into a respected philatelic society, based on friendship as much as philately.

The May 2025 edition of our journal was dedicated to Marilyn. Its main feature was a celebration of 50 years of Faroe Islands' stamps. Two editions of the journal (called "238") and two editions of the more informal *Newsletter* are published each year. The journal was awarded a Large Vermeil medal (one point away from Gold) at the Great American Stamp Show in Cleveland in 2023.

Norman Hudson



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 62. 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 62.

Society of Postal Historians - 75 years

An outstanding response:

No fewer than 146 members, fellows and guests came to the meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society London on 12th February when the displays were presented by members of the Society of Postal Historians (SPH), celebrating the 75th anniversary of its founding. As **Simon Richards RDP, FRPSL**, president of the Royal, commented, it had been 'tremendous to see so many participating, with 53 individual displays'. The 53 members of the SPH who displayed each filled one frame, resulting in an exceptional variety of material to be enjoyed. This was a record number of displayers on one day at the Royal.

Lundy Collectors Club - 70 years

Lundy Collectors Club has only recently affiliated to ABPS but I am very happy to congratulate them on having a growing membership in their 70th year. They have generated a new logo to celebrate the year, so if you see this remember to "Give them a Happy Birthday". We look forward to hearing more of this vibrant society, which has shown that there is plenty that can be achieved by stepping into the limelight.



British Consulate Post Office at Bangkok 1855 to 1885

A comprehensive study of stamps, covers and historical documents.



River View of the British Consulate in 1867

Michel J.R. Houde

Stuart Rossiter Trust

Supplement to:
***British Consulate
Post Office at Bangkok
1855 to 1885***

by Michel J R Houde

Corrections, updates and additions to this book can now be found using the following

<https://michelhoude.com/Book-Update/Index.html>

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Announcement of the New Signatories for 2026 and details of the signing ceremony

An invitation to sign the Roll is the highest and most prestigious of honours in philately. It recognises significant levels of achievement, research, publication and service in many areas of philately. The Roll was instituted in Harrogate, England in May 1921 and the signature of His Majesty King George V appears at its head as its first signatory. The total number of signatories, up to and including those selected in 2026 (but excluding HM King George V) is 420 from 44 different countries. In its design, the Roll contains the names of 46 "*Fathers of Philately*", names of great philatelists who would have been invited to sign had they still been alive when the Roll was inaugurated. At the first ceremony in Harrogate the signatures of the initial 39 names were added to the Roll.

The new signatories join 92 other current living RDPs from 31 countries, spread over six continents. More details on the background and history of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists can be found at: <https://www.abps.org.uk/roll-of-distinguished-philatelists/>

This year's signing ceremony, the 105th anniversary of the first signing, will take place at 5.00pm on Thursday 28th May 2026 in a separate room within the exhibition complex during the Boston 2026 World Stamp Expo, Boston, USA. The ceremony will be followed by a drinks reception to which all attendees are invited. Dress code is flexible, although most attendees wear lounge suits and ties. The main participants in the signing ceremony will wear black tie.

Unusually, the Board of Election met during the summer of 2025 to discuss a nomination for Jon Aitchison, United Kingdom, who is the Keeper of the Roll. It would have been inappropriate for this to be discussed at the main February 2026 meeting of the Board with the Keeper in attendance. It was unanimously agreed by the Board that he should be invited to sign.

At the meeting of the Board of Election on 26 February 2026, it was unanimously agreed that a further three philatelists be invited to sign. Thus the 2026 signatories to the Roll will be:

Jon Aitchison RDP, United Kingdom

Dr Andrew Cheung RDP, Hong Kong, China

Alexander T. Haimann RDP, United States of America

Ding Jinsong RDP, People's Republic of China

Attendance at the signing ceremony is free of charge to all; there is no need to pre-book and attendees should gather for the ceremony from 4.30pm. The ceremony will also be broadcast live on Zoom so that it can be seen by a worldwide audience. The login details will be announced on the ABPS website in due course.

Jon Aitchison RDP, United Kingdom

Jon has been active in many different areas of philately over many years, including collecting aspects that do not receive the attention of many collectors. Several of his collections would come under the heading of Cinderellas, including local posts, revenues and telegrams. He is a signatory of the Roll of Notable Cinderella Philatelists.

Jon is particularly known for his collection of the (British) Channel Islands, where his interests range beyond the main islands to the many lesser islands around the Channel Islands and French coasts, including Herm Island, Les Iles Chausey and the Isle of Man. He has written extensively on these subjects, including producing the standard catalogues for several of those collecting fields. His catalogues of Channel Island local issues and the local issues of the Isle of Man remain the main catalogues on their subjects, and he has published two editions of *The Stamps and Postal History of Lundy Island* that have sold over 1600 copies. He is currently working on other catalogues including franking meter marks, telegrams and British parcel carrier stamps.

Jon is a prolific exhibitor and has gained numerous gold and large gold medals for a wide range of subjects, including the inaugural ABPS multi-class award for achieving British national gold medals in at least five different classes. Aspects of his collection of Egypt have gained high awards both nationally and internationally for postal stationery and officially sealed mail, as have his exhibits of Siege of Paris mail. Apart from his competitive exhibiting, Jon has provided displays to numerous societies, including the Royal Philatelic Society London, Collectors Club New York, Monacophil and at several national and international philatelic exhibitions.

His involvement in international philately extends into organisational aspects. He is managing director of Stamp World Exhibitions Ltd, the organising body behind UK philatelic exhibitions, and was chairman and principal organiser of the EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025 international exhibition. Jon has been British commissioner to more than a dozen international exhibitions and continues to be a regular attendee of such events. He has been chairman and held posts in several specialist societies, he was honorary secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society London from 2019 to 2021 and was, until recently, a long-standing member of the Council of the Society.

Jon has been Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists since 2016 and it is his intention to continue in that role.

Dr Andrew Cheung RDP, Hong Kong, China

Dr Andrew Cheung is a familiar figure at philatelic events around the world. He is regularly in demand as a member of the Jury at international exhibitions in both Traditional and Postal History classes.

Former chairman, and current vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Philatelic Society, Andrew was for 20 years the editor of the society journal and has written numerous articles for this society and for others, including *The London*

Philatelist, as well as being webmaster for the HKPS. He is currently the Hong Kong, China representative for the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Andrew has built many fine collections which have achieved high international awards, including Postal History of Hong Kong and the Treaty Ports (Large Gold and FIAP Grand Prix d'Honneur), British Treaty Port Post Offices in China (Gold), Russian Post Offices in China - overprints 1899-1920 (Gold), Imperial Russian Postal Stationery used in China (Gold), Guatemala Airmails 1924-1945 (Gold).

Other activities have included being secretary to the FIP Postal History Commission from 2008-2022 and since then serving as the secretary of the FIP Traditional Commission. In appreciation of his contribution, he was awarded the FIP Medal of Appreciation. One of his contributions has been to hold training sessions for aspiring judges within the FIAP (Federation of Inter-Asian Philately) and FIP organisations. He has been a long-standing member of the FIAP executive committee and for each of the FIAP exhibitions held in Hong Kong in 2001, 2004, 2009 and 2015, he served as chairman of the exhibition committee.

Generous with his considerable knowledge on postal history and Chinese philately generally, he has been a member of AIEP (Association Internationale des Experts en Philatélie) for many years and is involved in offering expert opinion on material.

Alexander T. Haimann RDP, United States of America

The impact of Alex Haimann on organised philately over the past 25 years has been significant, both within the United States and internationally. From an early stage in his philatelic journey, he has sought innovative ways to present philately to wider audiences, including many with no prior exposure to the field.

In 2008 he initiated and developed the Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship programme of the American Philatelic Society (APS). More than 35 graduates have since emerged from the programme, with several taking on important roles within professional philately and volunteer leadership positions across organised philately. He served as chairman of the APS Board of Vice Presidents from 2013 to 2016 and as chairman of the APS Campaign for Philately Committee from 2016 to 2022, during which time the APS reorganised and strengthened its principal annual events.

Alex has also played a leading role in fundraising for major philatelic initiatives. He helped secure more than \$250 000 in support of the New York 2026 World Stamp Show and encouraged substantial American participation at international exhibitions, including Stockholm 2019. He was instrumental in mobilising support among American members for the establishment of the American Tea Room at the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) headquarters in the City of London.

His principal collecting interest has long been the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879. He has formed a comprehensive collection of philatelic and postal history material alongside a broad range of non-philatelic artefacts connected with this period of southern African history. Over a period of years, he developed an innovative

exhibition concept integrating these varied artefacts to present the subject within its broader historical context. This work culminated in a major public exhibition at the RPSL in July 2023, attracting more than 2000 visitors, many of whom were encountering philately for the first time. The exhibition's impact has extended beyond the gallery through online presentations derived from its content, which have attracted over 1.4 million views.

Dozens of articles by Alex have appeared in a wide range of publications, including *The London Philatelist*, *The American Philatelist*, *The Chronicle*, and *Linn's Stamp News*. He also developed numerous online exhibits and mini-articles for the Smithsonian National Postal Museum's virtual collections website, focused on expanding digital access to philatelic scholarship. He regularly presents displays and lectures on a wide range of subjects to philatelic and non-philatelic audiences in the United States and internationally, both in person and via Zoom.

Ding Jinsong RDP, People's Republic of China

Ding Jingson ranks as one of the most important philatelists within the People's Republic of China (PRC). His contributions cover both his studies of the classic stamps of China, which form his collecting areas, and his involvements in the organisational and promotional aspects of philately.

Ding's main areas of study and collecting cover the classic issues of China from the Large Dragon and Small Dragons up to the stamps of the Liberated Areas. In particular, he has made a study of the Red Revenue surcharges of 1897. The Red Revenues collection was shown at the Royal Philatelic Society London as part of the cultural events organised around the 2012 London Book Fair by the State Post of China and the ACPF. It again formed part of the cultural backdrop to the 2015 American Book Fair when it was shown at the Collectors Club New York, organised by the ACPF and the American Philatelic Federation.

He is vice-president of the Shanghai Philatelic Federation and vice-president of the All-China Philatelic Federation (ACPF), the national philatelic organisation within the PRC. He has participated in the management and organisation of the various exhibitions in Shanghai and across China. These have drawn in huge numbers of visitors. He has always been willing to provide material from his own collections to attract visitors. His collections have also had an international audience through many exhibitions, both in the Asian region and worldwide.

When shown at exhibition, Ding's collections have achieved high awards, including winning Grand Prix in both FIAP and FIP exhibitions for both his 1897 Red Revenues exhibit and his exhibit of The Postal History of Mongolia (1854-1921). He is known for his detailed knowledge of the many aspects of Chinese philately and his various studies, in particular relating to the 1897 Red Revenues, have been the subject of numerous articles with details of his research and discoveries. The major book on the subject, written by him, was published in 2024 in Chinese and will shortly be available in an English translation. The book was awarded a Large Gold medal in 2025 at PhilaKorea World Stamp Exhibition.



Association of Essex Philatelic Societies

Are pleased to announce the return of their

Essex Stamp Day

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British Library accepts donation of Barnet Postal History

The British Library has accepted the donation of the **Roy Henderson and Donald Knight Barnet Postal History Collection** by the Barnet and District Philatelic Society. This means that the unique collection will be preserved in perpetuity at the library, and will be held in their climate-controlled facilities, at the premises in Euston Road, London. It will be available for anyone to use for research, by request to the Philatelic Section.

The collection is not restricted to postal items from the pre-stamp era through to recent times, but includes essentially everything to do with the history of the post office and postal services, in the Barnet area. Such things as car tax discs, postal orders, lists of postmasters and picture postcards of the area are integral to the extensive and well written-up collection.

Don Knight, president of the society, has also been curator of the Postal History collection for over 45 years. He took over this role from Roy Henderson who commenced assembly of the collection in the 1950s, soon after formation of the society, when the membership agreed to establish a collection of local postal history. At that time there were fairs in the area which prompted many people to bring and dispose of their unwanted items, so worthwhile items of postal history could readily be acquired.

When he became curator, Don continued to acquire, and so enhance the collection, both with historic and new material as it became available. However, since the 1980s, mail has not been cancelled at the New Barnet sorting office. The only local postmarks have become those offered for certificates of posting and similar items, at local post offices. Considering our own ageing membership, the society sought a new home for the postal history collection. The offer to accept it by the BL is perfect as we would not want it to be broken up, since a collection in this depth could never be replaced.

Steve Fraser



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Postal History & Postcards.

White City Exhibitions 1908 – 1914.

Novelty Attraction: The Flip - Flap.

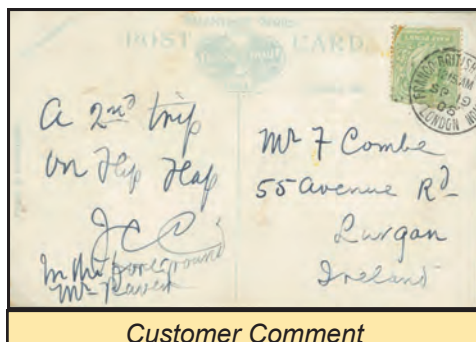


Besides the many eye-catching Exhibition Halls, Country Pavilions and other displays there were a number of Novelty Attractions - the most popular being The Flip-Flap. Donald Knight in his book on the 1908 Franco-British Exhibition

describes the Flip-Flap thus “Designed by Mr Imfe Kiralfy and built by the Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company of Darlington it had two arms each 150 feet in length. The weight of materials used for its construction was considerable: two counterpoise weights of 200 tons, the two arms each of 160 tons, the two uprights and gears weighing 100 tons and the reinforced concrete in the foundations weighed 900 tons.

In addition there were 64 wooden piles”

The Flip – Flap ride provided for a





Flip-Flap. New Viewing Platforms

charge of 6d an Ariel view of the White City Exhibition Site. The ride lasted for just over three minutes. In its first year it carried over a million people netting £27 770. Such was its popularity it was retained for subsequent Exhibitions right up to 1914 when the site was closed early due to the outbreak of World War One.

The Flip-Flap changed its position on the site for the 1912 Exhibition and also its viewing platforms, which were changed to a rotating circular design which provided different views as the arms traversed



"Take me on the Flip-Flap" Song Score.

past one another.

Not long after the Flip-Flap opened a comic song was written "Take me on the Flip-Flap" which was performed in three London Music Halls.

Besides the many views produced of the Exhibitions, Valentine's and a number of unknown publishers produced comic alternative postcards which tend to be scarce due to the possibility that as they were not Official they were not offered for sale in the Exhibition Grounds.

Keith Lillywhite



Flip-Flap Comic Postcards.

The Rocket Mails of India

A Visionary Work of Stephen Smith

Part - 1



Markand Dave FRPSL

Representative for India,
The Royal Philatelic Society London

The Rocket Mails of India

(2025; Nadiad) by Markand Dave FRPSL.

In English, case bound, (9 inches by 11 inches),
303 pages, color throughout. ₹3750 | \$ 45 |
£ 35

ISBN: 978-93-343-5638-0

Available from markand7@yahoo.com

As collectors of aviation and space postal history, we look to a scant few pioneers who both recognized significant events as they unfolded, and the even smaller number in that group that made history. A dentist from Calcutta, working in isolation, epitomized both the history maker and recorder of that history. Markand Dave, with this volume, does justice to the man rightly regarded as the Father of Indian Aerophilately.

The British recognized early that aviation was key to connecting a far-flung empire.

So, it was no surprise that much of the

earliest mail documenting activity by air would come from India. Collectors the world over are most fortunate that Stephen Smith was the leading force of a nascent Indian Air Mail Society in the 1920s. In addition to the large body of aerophilatelic documentation Smith created of inaugural routes, he would go on to pen the landmark reference works, *Indian Airways Part I* (1926), *Indian Airways Part II* (1927), and *Indian Airways Part III* (1930).

While the aviation side of philately by Smith would merit a first-rate treatise, Markand Dave has chosen to focus his considerable expertise on an even more remarkable part of Smith's contribution to the hobby, *Astrophilately*.

In the decade before the WWII, amateur experimenters tinkered with rockets in many nations. Often, philatelic mail was carried both to publicize the effort and to raise funds to pay for the experiments. The programs varied considerably from serious (Tilling in Germany) to shyster (Zucker, also from Germany). Stephen Smith belonged to the former.

Of his 270 flights, a full 80 were postally documented leaving a legacy for Astrophilatelists. Having letters that have "been there, done that", enables us to tell the story of the conquest of the heavens through the lens of stamp collecting. But it was far more than the sheer number of flights that hold significance. Stephen Smith interacted with world leaders including King George V and the King of Sikkim to stress the practical value rockets could provide. He would demonstrate the capacity to transport livestock, food, and medicine over otherwise inaccessible distances during times of natural disaster. And unlike Werner von Braun, who received encouragement and resources from the government, Smith soldiered on in isolation.

The Rocket Mails of India: A visionary Work of Stephen Smith is the definitive volume on the period 1934 to 1944. In thirteen chapters the author does a deep dive from the first experiments at Saugor Island to the rare examples of the War Rockets. It begins with a primer on rocket labels, watermarks, location of rocket mail experiments, and a glimpse at contemporaries during the period.

In sixteen pages, the author does a deep dive into the papers, colours, proofs, and colour trials for the Saugor labels. He shares the unique record card for the flight, sketches of the different rocket launches, exemplars of the flown mail, and an exhaustive commentary on the details of the events as well as the philatelic documentation. No other Astrophilatelist has a comparable collection from which to draw illustrations. Each of the remaining twelve chapters holds similar gems and thoughtful research.

If this sumptuous 303-page gold embossed, case bound volume (with metal corners, blue ribbon, and a dust jacket) were simply a vanity project to display the crown jewels of Indian Astrophilately it would be worth the \$45 price. Instead, Markand Dave, a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London and member of the Club de Monte Carlo, scours Smith's meticulous documentation and follows it with thoughtful analysis. For example, the author spends an entire page explaining how sheets of nine of the 1937 Jamboree rocket stamp are reprints. While he puts great stock in the extensive documentation of the experimenter, Dave does not hesitate to question or contradict when the preponderance of evidence points in a different direction.

Although the research ends with the 1944 experiments, the author rounds the subject out (with the assistance of Walter Hopferwieser) with an interesting bridge. A 1938 photograph shows the transportation in a bullock cart of a Stephen Smith rocket. On the same page is a bullock cart carrying the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) satellite wrapped in protective gold foil en route to the launch site in 1981. He also introduces us to Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma (India's first astronaut) who flew aboard Soyuz T-11 in 1984 and Group Captain Subhanshu Shukla's mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in 2025.

Both Smith and Dave are clearly audacious. Smith with his dozens of payload contents in 270 rockets, and thousands of astrophilatelic documentation. Dave hints on the book jacket, "Part -1". As a serious researcher on the subject, Dave has created real-time updates to the book through an active website (<https://www.indianairmails.com/rocket-mail.html>) and an invitation for collectors to increase the pool of knowledge on the subject.

It should be noted that the volume represents one of the most attractive, well-researched, and beautifully written philatelic works you are likely to encounter. A word to those who are not Aero or Astrophilatelists. This book is so chockful of colourful essays and proofs to dazzle the eye, and replete with wonderful stories to engage the mind that you will want to pick it up and not put it down. Turn a few pages and you will be hooked. You might not toss your current collecting interest overboard, but you will enjoy how Markand Dave breathes new life into a 1930s dentist experimenting alone in rural India.

David S Ball

On the Club circuit

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

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

Special Societies

Austrian and Czechoslovak - Joint

Undeterred by the miserable weather, thirteen members of the two societies were rewarded with the usual rich variety of presentations, with something for members of each society. After welcome and introductions – including free postcards from **Andy Taylor**, **Yvonne Wheatley** thanked the Austrians for their invitation to join them, and **Terry Hancock** invited members of the Austrian Society to make use of our library, after their own's closure – there were presentations from **Tony Holdsworth** (*Mozart and Bohemia*), **Joyce Boyer** (*The Winter Olympics of 1926, 1948, 1968, 1984*), **Andy Taylor** (*Austrian Stamps with a Musical Context*), **Lubomir Spacek** (*An Update on his Prague Pneumatic Post Study*), **Richard Jagielski** (*Austrian Occupation of Poland* inherited from his father), **Keith Brandon** (*Mail from the Mountains*) and **Richard Wheatley** who was inspired by a Yugoslav item bought at a stamp fair, Richard shared a collection of First Day Covers sent to Vienna from Czechoslovakia between 1948 and 1952, which had raised a query for him: what was the significance of the triangular handstamp on each of them? A handbook recommended by Joyce Boyer had provided the answer – they each related to different censorship authorities operating in different zones of occupied Vienna (US, French, and International). At the end of a busy meeting, **Keith Brandon** (who had organized it for us) thanked everyone for their interest – and for the good turnout!

Tony Holdsworth

**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.**

Channel Islands SS

Our Competitions Meeting held at the Royal Philatelic Society, London in February 2026 was attended by 14 members and one guest. Three non-competitive displays were given in the morning. **Richard Flemming** showed *German Occupation of Guernsey*, **Gerald Marriner** *The Gunner Smith Correspondence*, *Red Cross Message Forms* and **David Winnie** *Herm 1969-1977*. The Competitions were organised by competition secretary **Julian Bagwell**. The judges were **Graham Winters FRPSL** and **Dr Patrick Reid FRPSL**. A total of 16 entries were received in four different classes. Announcement of the results and viewing of the entries took place in the afternoon, with certificates awarded by the president **David Laurillard** to the participants present at the meeting. **Richard Flemming** received a Gold for his *Ship Letter Handstamps Applied to Channel Islands Mail 1802-1852* entry in the Postal History class; **Nick Stuart** a Large Vermeil for his *Edmund Blampied – Designer*; and **Ron Brown** a Large Vermeil for each of his entries in the Occupation Postal History & Markings class, *Channel Islands Internee Mail* and *Civilian Mail Between the CI and France during the German Occupation 1940-45*.



David Laurillard presents Richard Flemming with his Gold Award

→ <https://www.ciiss.uk/>

Steve Wells

The Czechoslovak PS

An excellent turnout saw **David Luckhurst's** display on *The Masaryk and Beneš Years*. The variety on show was a testament to the broad nature of David's collection. Starting in 1918, with the setting up of the Czechoslovak Republic and Masaryk's arrival in Prague, David took us right through to the death of Beneš in 1948 and the communist takeover. Part 1 took us up to Masaryk's retirement in 1935 and the appointment of Beneš as president. Material



Members enjoying David Luckhurst's display

included covers, postcards, and commemorative sheets. The latter demonstrated the new nation's love of commemorative cancels to mark notable occasions, but there were plenty of commercial items amongst the philatelic memorabilia. Part 2 began with the death of Masaryk – photographic postcards showed scenes from his funeral and his burial at Láň, near the castle that had been his summer residence, and remains for current presidents of the Czech Republic. The election of Beneš, the new president, was marked with plenty of attractive philatelic sheets. Part 3 recorded the final years of democratic government before the communist coup in 1948. Material marked the visit of Beneš to the Old Town Square in Prague in May 1945, and the Soviet Marshals Konev and Malinovsky a month later. Similarly, there were items commemorating the visit of General Patton to Strakonice, and of General Eisenhower to Prague, later the same year. The presentation finished with the last-gasp Sokol Slet of June and July 1948, and the death of Beneš that September. ➔ www.cpsgb.org.uk *Tony Holdsworth*

Falkland Islands



Most of the Falklanders enjoying the sunshine

In March we held our celebrated annual residential weekend which in recent years has found its home at the Leigh Park Hotel in Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire. An outstanding range of presentations were made this year by, among others, **John Shaw** on the *Battle of Coronel and the Battle of the Falklands in 1914*, **Stuart Dewar** on *War Stamps*, **Kim Stuckey** on *Camp Mail* (mail outside the

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. 500 words roughly please, and a picture or pictures relating to the subject matter is always a help (300dpi jpeg or equivalent). We do not pay for publication, and any items may be edited for length or content.

Islands' capital Stanley), **Roger Mazillius** on the *Mailboats* issues, **Dave Mountfort** on the Dependencies *1956 TAE stamps* and **Hugh Osborne** on *Early Air Mail and WWII*. At the AGM on the Saturday two new committee members, **Stefan Heijtz** and **Stuart Dewar** were elected. **Roger Mazillius** has stepped down but members were delighted to hear that Roger will continue to organise the popular South West Regional Meeting, the next of which will be held at Tiverton on Sunday 11th October. Replacing the greatly missed **Mike Roberts**, the new president of the Group is **James Grist** who also co-edits with wife **Liz Grist** the quarterly journal the *Upland Goose*, whilst **Kim Stuckey** and **Morva White** continue as chairman and secretary respectively. The next year promises to be busy indeed with the planned publication of more specialist monographs and important anniversaries looming – including the Group's 100th auction.

➔ www.fipsq.org.uk

James Grist

Forces Postal History

We started off the year with members displaying up to 15 sheets *From the Collection* in January (ten members showing over three sessions). Our February meeting was all-day at Banstead with our 15-sheet John Daynes Plate competition with the winner an American member who entered for the first time and sent his entry via email showing *Nyasaland Field Force in German East Africa, WWI*. March saw an excellent all-day joint meeting with the East Africa Study Circle where we had three sessions of showings by 13 members. April will be our AGM at Banstead with a display on *WWI Charities and other Fundraising* by **Paul Baylis** in the afternoon. Our president will display in May and we return to Banstead in June with three different displays by **Nick Harris**. In addition we hold monthly Zoom meetings where members show a variety of subjects. These are held on different days of the week and are also open to non-members - please contact me if you would like to join us. Recent topics at our Zoom meetings have included *Ambulance Trains, WWI Tobacco Parcel Cards, The French Battleship Richelieu, WWI Indian Hospital Ships, Sudan Military, Life in the Trenches, PAIFORCE* and *Royal Navy WWII*. Our meeting dates and reports are placed on our website and many of our Zoom displays are also available there as well. ➔ www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk

Michael Dobbs

Great Britain

This year's competitions, held at the end of March, were a highlight of 2026 with 22 entries. **Chris Harman**, Head Judge, commented: "We expect a pretty high standard and everyone has done a very good job indeed. I would encourage those who have not yet done so to exhibit nationally". Postal Stationery proved particularly popular in this competition. Chris highlighted three general points. 1. The title page should explain what the exhibit is all about. 2. Avoid writing too much about individual items. 3. Avoid duplicating the title of the exhibit on every page – prefer a title that describes what is on the page. Award winners were: RAG Lee Cup (Traditional) - **Robert Galland** *Evolution and Impact of Corner Letters on Low Value, Surface Printed Postage Stamps*; Martin Willcocks Plate



Viewing the entries

(Postal History) - **Maurice Buxton** *GB Registration Marks with Overseas Country or City Names. 1858 – 1871*; Theo Jones Salver (Open) - **Stephen Teuma** *The Uniform Penny Post Exhibition at South Kensington of 1890*. The Virtual Competition: Traditional - **Chris Forwood** *The GB George V 1½d Definitive*; Postal History - **Jack Zhang** *The British Franking Privilege, 1652 – 1840*. The Secretary's Cup for the most promising entry went to **Olaf Groth** for *Single Frankings During the Reign of Queen Victoria* and The MacPherson Cup for a first-time exhibitor was awarded to **Paul Matthews** *King Edward VII Illustrated Mail*. For entries, see

Zoom or the GBPS website. For programme and other details →

www.gbeps.org.uk or contact 01295 255831 davies1890@btinternet.com

John Davies

Helvetia

The society is now in its 80th year since its conception by **Edward Spiro** in 1946. The annual weekend



meeting once again took place in Worcester on 28th-29th March. Several displays highlighted both the philatelic issues, notably few in that year (1946), and events in that post-war year as an orderly return to life in Europe was sought. **Richard Akers** gave the annual invited display in memory of **Marc Burgess** who generously left the society a legacy in support. He told the story of the Soldier stamp issues of WWI. Switzerland was far from the wealthy nation as seen today with an army based only on a standing militia summoned in wartime. The production and sale of these stamps was a fund-raising initiative to support the welfare of the troops. Our website has an accessible archive of newsletters and research links. Members enjoy additional benefits including participation in regular Zoom meetings which can now be viewed retrospectively. We welcome interest from all philatelists and postal historians. Membership is only £10 per annum for electronic subscribers! → www.swiss-philately.co.uk

Mike Sharp

Italy and Colonies

We have just completed another successful postal auction, No 201, with nearly 600 items on offer. One of the scarcer items, a Sardegna (Italian State) stamp of 1853, is pictured. The third issue of our Newsletter, compiled by **Roger Harrison**, has recently been circulated and was well-received.

Publication of our Journal, Fil-Italia, which first appeared in 1974, is currently on hold whilst we seek an editor following retirement. There is no annual subscription at present, just a low £16 joining fee, remarkable value which among the many other benefits gives access to the vast fund of philatelic interest in the digitised archive of 196 journal editions. Our AGM weekend, with the auction and numerous displays, is near Oxford this year, at the end of September. Italian philately and postal history offer a wealth of interest and collecting opportunities at all levels. New members are very welcome,

➔ www.icsc-uk.com for details.

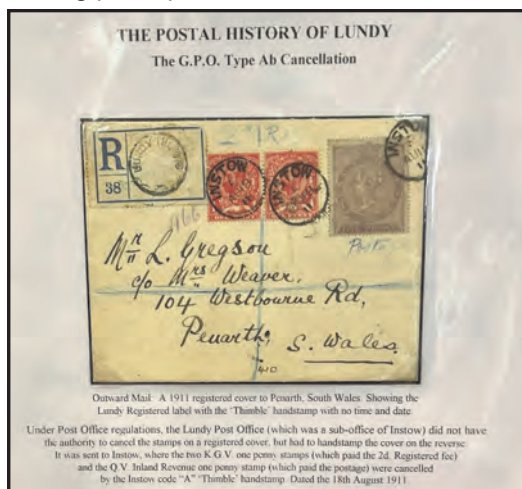


Kevin Newson

Lundy Collectors'

We have entered 2026 with notable momentum, marked by enhanced engagement and strengthened institutional presence. A significant influx of new members, alongside heightened social media activity, reflects our successful outreach initiatives and growing visibility within the philatelic community. This year we also celebrate our 70th anniversary and proudly look back at our remarkable heritage as the premier collector's group for Lundy philately. Our early-year meeting, held in February at Easter Compton, exemplified this renewed vitality. With a strong membership attendance, the event achieved strong participation and facilitated valuable in-person engagement among

members. The programme combined scholarly displays of Lundy postal history with a well-supported auction and member bourse, demonstrating both academic depth and active collecting interest. Presentations highlighted rare and historically significant material, including early Lundy postal history and a rare 1911 registered letter from Lundy. There was a fascinating display of inward covers to Lundy from some very unusual countries, reinforcing our role as a centre for specialist study. As the LCC celebrates its 70th



anniversary in 2026, it does so with a clear commitment to heritage, scholarship, and community. The current trajectory suggests a resilient and forward-looking organisation well-positioned to sustain and expand interest in Lundy philately. A members' presentation of Lundy Postal history at Boston Expo 2026, our inaugural Zoom meeting and our very popular members' August weekend in Bideford with a day trip to Lundy are just some of the events we look forward to.

Mark McShane

Malaya SG

Most philatelic societies have officers' committees which plan ahead for the forthcoming year. In many societies, duties fall on a few. We could do with some younger active volunteers. In January, members displayed many aspects of Perak philately. **Andrew Norris** showed a standing display of the *Notes of the late Dr Gaden Robinson and Small Village Postmarks compiled by Gordon Peters in the 1960s*. **Len Stanway** displayed a selection of *Perak Stamps and Postal Stationery 1880-1945* including Survey Department essays. **Michael Waugh** brought *Perak Government Service PGS(1889) on Straits Settlements* with some varieties and many postage due covers into Perak mostly from India till 1940. He also showed an almost complete sheet of 2c thin striated paper with the thick 2c at R10/10. **Susan McEwen** showed *Perak 1880-1900* starting with a Straits 2c brown with a (forged) oval 'c star and P' and then a good range of Perak on Straits 2c brown and 2c rose including the PERAK error corrected in ink to PERAK. Then followed many 1892-1895 Tigers and Elephants. **Peter Cockburn** finished the meeting by showing a range of *Perfins on stamps used in Perak and Straits Settlements*.

Michael Waugh FRPSL

Manchukuo

If you have an interest in general Japanese philately (not just Manchukuo) you might like to know that the Manchukuo Philately Group hosts the ISJP (international Society for Japanese Philately) "UK Chapter" Zoom sessions. Though sadly the BSJP (British Society for Japanese Philately) closed recently it still acts as the ISJP Zoom usually once a month on a Friday at 2.00pm. Despite the British name and origin we actually have members from the USA, Canada, Europe, Israel, and other nations, including Japan and Australia as well as the UK. Our 2.00pm UK time means early or mid-morning in the Americas; mid or late afternoon in Europe; and late evening in Japan and Australia, but it seems to work. We have both informal conversations and informative power points. If you would like to join us, with no obligation, then please contact me for further details: life.draw@btinternet.com

Philip Reynolds

Royal

It was an evening of nostalgia in January when **Andrew Nixon** paid *A Homage to Stamp Collecting* – with no talk of philately. Like most collectors, Andrew at first attempted to collect the entire world in a printed album, his enthusiasm sparked by the gift of a 1949 catalogue and a perforation gauge from his father. His presentation and display focused on the interest that resulted – the British

Empire and Commonwealth of Nations from 1930 to 1960 brought together in a collection of postally used single stamps housed in a dozen albums. He showed a collection that goes back to basics, mounted on black leaves with no write-ups and no varieties. It ends at 1960, a time for Andrew when photogravure came more to the fore, and standards of design and printing started slipping. At the end of the month **Chris King RDP** demonstrated how much enjoyment and satisfaction can be achieved from a postal history study. His display of *Denmark, the United Kingdom, and Mail across the North Sea*, embraced not only superb entire letters, wrappers and envelopes, but much more of interest including maps, engravings and official decrees. He supplemented his material with a presentation during which he explained that there is so much more to postal history than the study of rates, routes and modes of transportation. Every single item hides a fascinating story that can only be uncovered by careful research of the newspaper archives to learn more about each sailing, and other extensive material.

Sudan

SSG held its annual conference at Derby 20th-22nd March. 16 members attended, 4 of whom came from



overseas. The three-day event consisted of committee meetings, the AGM, annual competitions, auctions and multiple extensive presentations by members. The Saturday evening was for the annual Major ECW Stagg lecture, this year presented by **Sue Burn FRPSL**. Her topic was *Rise of the Flying Boats and the Empire Airmail Scheme* – of great interest to many SSG members who collect postal history related to the first flights through Africa. The auction generated considerable interest, both postally and amongst the actual attendees, with some lively competition for the more attractive items. As always, the commission on all items sold helps boost the society's funds. Partially as a result the AGM decided, once more, that there was no need to raise the annual subscription cost. However members were encouraged to consider how we could increase our membership numbers which have been stable around 70 for the last few years. The main topic of discussion, looking forward, was the 50th anniversary of the SSG which falls in 2027. The society will make a one-day presentation at the Royal in November of that year. A management committee was elected to promote a hugely successful event. Overall, this was another very lively and philatelically-filled weekend. Members headed homeward after Sunday lunch clutching their newly acquired items to help enhance their collections, and promising to return next Easter with thoughts for the 50th anniversary show.

Malcolm Coe

West Indies & King George VI Collectors

The WIPSG was delighted to be joined by the KGV CS at the Kempton Park Stamp Fair on Saturday 21st March. There were some excellent presentations including **Rod Vousden** *Antigua WWII US Mail*, **Simon Richards** *Dominica Censorship*, **Brian Pugsley** *A Display of KGV Stamps* including a number of unusual varieties, **David Taylor** focussing on *Montserrat Stationery* up to and including the KGV period, **Gerald Marriner** displaying *UK Mail to West Indian Destinations during the KGV Period*, **John Spratt** shared *KGVI Leeward Island Stationery* and reminded members of a project by the KGV club to update Leeward Island Postal records. **Roger Harrison** closed the event. He showed



two St Lucia stamps in blocks of four. These were the November 1949 1c green perf 14 line, and 2c deep magenta perf 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 14 comb. These perforations were intended to be used only for coil stamps, with the regular 'sheet' stamps being perf 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ line. It seems that a few of the perf 14 etc stamps were produced in sheet form, and if one can obtain a block of four then this proves the point. Roger also showed shades of the *KGVI 1938 Definitive Set from Trinidad & Tobago, Recess Printed by Bradbury*

Wilkinson. The fair itself was outstanding, with more than 50 dealers and a wide variety of philatelic material. If any other clubs want to use the venue in future contact James Leigh, jcbuying@btinternet.com The next Kempton Park Fair is on 26th/27th June.

Susan Taylor

Federations

Essex

Spring is here at last, we hope. Our season continues with our relaunched Stamp Essex Day on Saturday 9th May. It will host the Association's Spring Competitions for 2026. Please make sure that it is in your diary and that you come along to show your support. There will be a wide selection of dealers and displays. Don't miss it! It is a good social and philatelic occasion. Contact Colin colinmaxine2005@hotmail.com or on 07914489814 if you want more details or see the Diary on page 60.

North West

The 2026 **Paul Gaywood Memorial Lecture** was given in March by **Graham Winters FRPSL** in the Macclesfield Silk Museum as part of the Macclesfield and Prestbury Philatelic Society's 60th Anniversary Celebrations. In his talk Graham focused on a little-known aspect of WWI postal history; the range of embroidered silk postcards depicting butterflies, produced in France, which were

sent back to their loved ones in Blighty by serving British soldiers. However, these were not usually any butterfly known to lepidopterists, since the wings of the butterflies frequently incorporated the colours of the flags of some or all of the Allied Nations taking part in the conflict against the Central Powers. As well as the butterfly design, the postcards also carried various personalised salutations such as: 'To My Dear Wife'; 'To My Dear



One of the cards featuring in Graham's display

Sweetheart'; 'From Your Loving Son'; 'Happy Birthday'; as well as more general messages such as 'Souvenir from Belgium' or 'Always Merry'. The card production technique emerged in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, and while Graham's display mainly highlighted items from the war, he also included later examples from WWII. Everyone, including **Lynda Gaywood** who was in attendance, appreciated the clarity of Graham's presentation and marvelled at the vibrancy of the colours of these cards the majority of which were over 100 years old.

Clive Griffiths

Local Societies

Amersham and District

The new season opened on 22nd January, when members showed their new acquisitions. February 5th was the first of the competition nights, with one-sheet (winner **Tim Harrison** with a much-travelled postcard) and three-sheet (winner **Steve Newman**, with *Madagascar Stamps*). **Paul Miller** from the France and Colonies Studies Circle displayed a small but exquisite selection of the stamps illustrated by the *French Master Engraver Achille Ouvre* on 19th February. He showed us a selection of artist's proofs, essays and issued stamps, the delicate beauty and detail of which had us more enthused than I have seen for a long time. 5th March saw **Tony Stanford** display on the *1922 Transition in Ireland*, with a bewildering selection of overprints on British stamps, and some superb items of postal history. On 19th March, **John Powell** showed us a selection of *Gold Coast Stamps and Covers*, including many items of marcophilic interest, and some wonderful airmail covers and Ashanti Wars postal history. Further evening displays include *Belgium* by **Fin O'Donoghue** on 2nd April and the club competition on 16th April. Our auction will be held on 30th April at 19.30 in the New Drake Hall at the Chiltern Lifestyle Centre, Amersham HP6 5AH. Full details and the PDF catalogue are available on our website

➔ <https://stampersham.org.uk/>

Tim Harrison

Ayrshire

Following the unprecedented cancellation of our annual Christmas event in early December due to severe storm winds, members were shocked to learn of the sudden death of our president **Peter Smith** just before Christmas. Despite his long illness he had been very active and enthusiastic in promoting our society and recruiting new members, and he is much missed. On a happier note, we were pleased to welcome **Sandy Forbes** in March, who educated and entertained us with a display entitled *Timber*. The material delivered a philatelic tribute on all things wooden – from trees and timber to ships and musical instruments. The presentation was delivered with Sandy's unique mixture of erudition and pawky humour – who knew that the Forestry Commission has branches all over the country, or that you can tell the age of a palm tree by checking its dates? Our penultimate evening of the session was our annual Competition Night, where members hone their skills and whet their appetites for the National Competitions at Scottish Congress in April. This year's winners were **Ian Smith** who took the Presidents' Trophy with *Nevis Queen Victoria*, and the 20th Century Cup with *Guernsey German Occupation*, and **Ken Gibb** who won the Finnie Shield with *Life of David Livingstone*.

Ken Gibb

Barnet



Don Knight & Richard Morel

Our meetings normally consist of two sessions with a tea break between, but to say farewell to the Postal History Collection, Don managed to show part of the collection over four sessions at our meeting on 2nd March. We were delighted that **Richard Morel**, Curator of the Philatelic Section of the British Library, was able to attend and explain to members how they will be able to access the collection in the future. Richard explained that he may be able to use parts of the collection in public displays at the library, and some might even get into the pull-out display boards!

Steve Fraser

Basildon

In January, **Charlie Mead** displayed *The Tin Can Mail* that operated from 1882 on Niuafu'ou, a small island in the Pacific between Fiji and Samoa. He took us through its history and showed us the many cachets used. Then **Len Stanway** showed the *2025 New Issues of Singapore*. Much reduced from its heyday, Singapore's stamp and stationery issues are now only available online or from three SingPost shops, everyday mail using postage labels issued from counter machines. For the next meeting **Mark McShane** brought *The Special Covers Produced over the Years for Lundy Collectors' Clubs*, often referencing individual events during the visit and many including Cinderella stamps produced by the societies concerned. **Charlie Mead** followed with *Paquebot Mail from Ships calling at or leaving Fiji*, with a wide variety of cachets and

details of the ships themselves. Our first February meeting was **Len Stanway** showing *Origins of and Introduction to the United Nations*. He gave us the reasons why international organisations came into being, starting with the International Telegraph Union in 1865. continuing through the growth of their number through the late nineteenth century. The formation of the League of Nations after WWI, enabled them to be brought under an overarching structure, and its eventual merger with the United Nations, formed in 1940 to enable the USA to join WWII. He finished with some early stamps of the New York offices of the UN.

Fly on the Wall

Bolton



David Brigden in action

January started off with our new president **David Brigden** giving us a talk about *The Tobacco Industry in the Early 1900s* with a display of colourful advertising ephemera, postcards and tax stamps. In the second half his talk was on *British Army Military Mail sent from Various Camps in Egypt*. February saw our regular evening auction attracting lots of room bidders and postal bids with nearly 500 lots. March marked the return of **Mark Everiss** from Burnley to give us his talk on *The Russian Revolution*

Part 2. He last visited us in 2022. This time he talked about the overprinted stamps used by the Kuban Cossack Government of South Russia.

Henry Lisowski

Bookham

In January the club held its one-sheet competition for members. We had a variety of entries from the *Monaco Aerial Rally in 1914*, *WWI POW correspondence to Postal History Covers from GB, Canada and Germany*. The winner was **Graham Stockdale** with his cover written by the hand of KGV to Lady Maud Carnegie in February 1925. In February **Peter Cockburn** gave us a wonderful and informative afternoon with his amazing display of *Postal History, Stamps, Censor Marks, Revenues and Picture Postcards of North Borneo*. Among the superb items on display were the plating of the early issues and the 1931 issue to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter to The North Borneo Company - a superb afternoon. In March, member **Geoff Richardson** gave a display on *Bosnia*. Geoff informs us that he has four collections on Bosnia but today he displayed the early Bosnia stamps with all their many different perforations, shades and errors on mint and used stamps, we also saw die proofs, colour trials and postal stationery. In April our secretary, **Barry Feltham**, will present his PowerPoint display on the *Tower of London*. Throughout history, the Tower has been a visible symbol of awe and fear. Kings and queens imprisoned their rivals and enemies within its walls. The stories of prisoners, rich and poor, still haunt the Tower. We meet every 4th Tuesday of the

month (except for December) at the Old Barn Hall, Great Bookham in the afternoon. → www.bookhamstampclub.com

Barry Feltham

Bristol

The New Year began with an auction at our Woodlands venue followed by a club night that included presentations by **Phil Shipp, John Edwards, PJ Lasek, Ian Spencer and Robert de Smit**. A visit to Thornbury PS included *Royal Household Mail* and a mixture comprising *Dutch Christmas Stamps, Bristol Aircraft on Stamps, Filton's Concordes* and *KLM Royal Dutch Airlines*. The Nine-Page Competition marked by **Carlton Jones** resulted in winners **Phil Shipp** *Thematics - The History of the SS Great Britain* and Postal History - *Early Inspectors*, **Neil Jones** General Philately - *New Zealand*, **Ian Spencer** Aerophilately - *QANTAS and Cinderellas - Scottish Bus Companies*. Both **Phil Shipp** and **Ian Spencer** went on to draw for their entries on Revenues **Phil** with *Georgians will Tax Anything* and **Ian** on *Tasmania*. **Roger Martin** provided a presentation on *Alice in Wonderland - A Philatelic Fantasy* – yes definitely! **Carl Varnam** presented - *An Interesting Mixture* which included mis-sent St Helena, Falklands, Grenada, Cuba, Madagascar, Lady Boats Canada, British Virgin Islands, Albania, Greece, Jamaica – indeed a veritable 'smorgasbord'. **Wilf Vivers** produced a presentation on the *Falkland Islands from 1872 by the German Cosmos Line Mail Service* and a study into *The Cork Postmarks*. **Dave Gibbon's** superb presentation on *Aspects of Mauritius* included 'the Mauritius Shekel' from the detention camp of Jewish internees. Ahead lie a further 10 meetings for this season. Note the Newport Philatelic Society Zoom Meetings have also afforded truly fascinating entertainment through a wider pool of collectors.

Robert de Smit

Bromley & Beckenham

We have enjoyed a variety of displays at Beckenham Halls including past president **Ian Reed** whose musical career was successfully reflected in his philatelic display with musical accompaniment. **Peter Lister FRPSL** showed us a collection inherited from a good friend with classic material and **Huw Williams** gave a display of postal history which included *Used Postcards from the New*



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Zealand Contingent during the Boer War. Competitions have retained their momentum with 29 entries for the Society Open and Thematic categories. **Tony Hickey** judged from a neutral standpoint. Past president **Andrew Harris** was the overall winner of the Stanley Gibbons Trophy having left his entry of *St Christopher Mint Issues* with society organisers before jetting off to Australia on holiday. The result was wired to him in Adelaide where he raised a glass with wife Sue to his success while looking forward to the presentation on his return from down-under. We retain a solid membership of over 50 enthusiastic collectors and continue to offer advice on valuations and potential sales from local residents.

David Milsted FRPSL

Burnley and District

Our January president's night meeting was reported in the last review and was attended by local archivists from Pendle who had been involved with the president in cataloguing local postcards and postal history. Their efforts have been made available now on Lancashire Libraries Archive website. Wintertime is always difficult attracting speakers so it is always a bonus to have a member giving a display. Our own **Roger Badman** entertained us early in February with a collection he based on the *GB Red Cross Centenary Conference Issue of 1963*. We continued with members' favourite items as our second February meeting. We are now in a phase of welcoming visiting societies from Rochdale, Preston and Bolton with our competition night being held on the Thursday before Easter. In May we wind down for the summer with a night of our own displays, a dinner at a local hostelry and the AGM. The process of compiling our new syllabus starting in September starts now and we look forward to stamp fairs and topping up the collections in the summer.



Roger Badman by his display

Barry W Evans

Camberley and District

At our recent AGM **R(Dick) Hewitt** replaced **Tim Usher** as chairman. **Tim Usher** had been chairman for nine years. He was widely praised by the membership for his leadership through difficult times caused by COVID and its aftermath. The club had four visiting speakers during the year who all gave very interesting and informative displays. Members provided the remainder of the 21 Meetings with very varied interesting and enjoyable displays. Well done everyone.

Jeff Wood

Cambridge

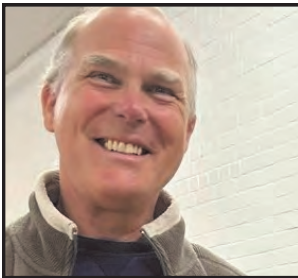
The January Zoom presentation by **Terry Wagg** from King's Lynn was a very fine display of *The Engraved Stamps made by Czeslaw Stania* over many years. In the second half **Peter Morton** presented a display of *Barbados Mint Stamps* from Queen Victoria to the death of King George VI. The February Zoom presentation was given by **Andy Soutar** from Leiston PS which covered *Overprints & Surcharges from countries A to B*. This was very comprehensive and enjoyable display. The first of the competition evenings reflected seven very good nine-sheet entries across two main subjects. **Graham Wylde** won the Great Britain category with his entry covering the *1840 2d Blue Stamps*. He also won the Postal History category with *Scottish Maltese Cross Cancellations*. We were very grateful to the two judges who travelled from King's Lynn for the evening. For the society auction there were fewer lots than normal. There were several of very good quality, which enabled a good return to be made for the society. Grateful thanks are due to our president **Rufus Barnes** who collated all the lots and ran the auction. The March Zoom display evening saw an excellent and very detailed presentation from Jamie Smith which covered *Censorship Mail from Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika*. We will continue with a face-to-face meeting in Cambridge, at Oddfellows Hall, on the first Wednesday each month and also a Zoom presentation on the third Friday each month.

→ info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk

Peter Morton

Chichester & District

Our January meeting was a fine *Members' Night*. Several members turned up with displays. First to show was **Frank Griffiths** who displayed several cheques,



Russell Hill

covers and postcards from *Barclays Bank*, previously known as The National Bank of South Africa. Barclays bought the share in 1919 and subsequently changed name to 'Barclays Bank'. A selection in English and Afrikaans were shown from around the globe including New York City, Germany, South Africa and Israel. It certainly illustrated the bank's global reach. **Russell Hill's** display was *Chichester Postmarks, Markings and Mail*. Most were from the 1960s, so plenty of *Machins* and *Wildings*! He included the first season of Chichester Festival Theatre, and Bosham Station Post Office. There was a curious cover with a smudged postmark reading "last date stamp from Chichester".

Neil Smith produced a fine display concerning *Albert Marius Hippolyte Decaris (1901-1988)* who was a French engraver. One of his top fans was General Charles de Gaulle. His display showed French Territories from 1937 to 1946, including the 1938 air mail set from New Caledonia, and the 1939 New York Exhibition. All of the stamps were issued in the various colonies, never in France. **Heather Lawn** gave a beautiful display of colourful *Tropical Birds*, all from south of the equator! She had two sheets from the Pitcairn Islands,

apparently identical but of different currencies. There were also stamps from Ascension Islands, Singapore, New Zealand and Fiji.

Alan Green and Martha Brown

Dawlish

Our February Meeting was taken up by the AGM where there were no changes to the committee. This was followed by "4 sheets of a £1" there were some really interesting displays, such as *The End of British Rule in Cyprus* a look at some very early *GB Penny Blacks* as well as some displays using our projector. Our Zoom meeting for February was a display of *Balloon Mail* delivered by **Dr Bill Lusty** who gave us an amazing insight into the Siege of Paris and how they communicated with the world outside. This was followed by a display by our youngest member, **Ernest Lusty** aged 9, on the *History of the Royal Navy* shown on stamps of the Falklands that he had purchased using his pocket money. The club's meeting on 11th March was well attended including two visitors: the meeting subject was *Members' Favourites*. We were shown *Balloon Post from the Siege of Paris*, *Cancellations with VR Still in Use* after the death of Queen Victoria, a display by young Ernest on the *Admirals of the Royal Navy*, some *Popular FDCs*, *The Rural Postal Service of Cyprus* and the *Earliest Stamps of South America*. The club's Zoom meeting later in March was on the subject of *Latin American Treasures* by **Robin Buchanan**. Jim Wigmore

Dundee & District

For President's Night, **Norrie Kelso** give a fascinating display on *Canada* and *GB KGV & KGVI*. In October Kirkcaldy SPCC's **Reg Campbell** displayed *Victorian Postal History* and **Martin Kirkbride** *Scottish Maltese Crosses & Kirkcudbrightshire Postal History & Cupar Postal History*. Later **Susan Taylor FRPSL** gave a fascinating Zoom display on *The Lady McLeod*, a three-masted



Jackie receives the Malcolm Rose Bowl for the One-Page

paddle steamer providing private local post between Port of Spain and San Fernando. Next month **Ron Goodfellow** entertained us with another excellent display of *Commerce in the Post*, showing how commercial mail can be used. Then **John Jackson FRPSL** brought *Netherlands: 1940 Konijnenburg issue* followed by *The Dutch East Indies and the Japanese Invasion*. *Recent Acquisitions* and a One-Page Competition (won by **Jackie Malcolm** with a Ukrainian stamp depicting President Putin thrown in judo by a Ukrainian teenager) finished 2025. In January members displayed on *The 1940s* featuring stamps from various countries and events. The January Zoom

was by **James Podger FRPSL** on his collection of *Philatelic Auction*

Catalogues. Competition Night resulted in awards in National & General to **Norrie Kelso** for *Yukon Revenues: Social History* to **Brian McQueen** for *Making Music*; Thematic to **Charles Lloyd** for *Postmarks of Mines in Rhodesia*; Postal History to **Norrie Kelso** for *2d Blue on Covers Used Abroad*. Finally **Dr Brian Dow** used Zoom to show us *Norway*, including a pre-stamp envelope to Scotland, an SG1 on cover, local postage stamps, examples of essays (two cancelled!), 1994 Winter Olympics, ending with a 24-6-28 cancellation!

Colin Campbell

Frinton

On the 2nd March, after a successful AGM, members were treated to the winning displays by the society's first place team at the AEPS Autumn Competition 2024, winning the President's award. **Mick Carter** showed his displays of the *British Occupation of the Former Italian Colonies*, *Middle East Forces Airgraphs*, *Sudan Airmail Covers and Official Stamps* and, for the Literature Trophy - *Why I Collect Egypt*. **Alan Moorcroft** displayed *Some Registered Mail Covers from 1841 onwards* and **Mick Myall** showed some interesting *Edward VIII* material.

Later **David Pugh**

showed some Old French Printed Sheets of various British Empire Colonies, mainly Victorian Stamps.



The Frinton Winners with their Booty

Steve Alpe

Glasgow Caledonian

We have had a successful first season following the merger of Glasgow PS and Caledonian PS. Meetings have been held weekly, alternating afternoon and evening events. There has been both a successful Bourse and Auction. Members have viewed some outstanding displays. These included a posthumous showing of the late **Stewart Gardiner's** Europhilix Large Gold winning *Sealing and Securing the Letter*; **Ian Anderson** with *The Gold Coast*;

Graham Searle showing *Canada*; **Keith Walker** with displays of *Luxembourg* and *New Zealand Airmails*; a double bill of **Ken Liddell** and **Graham U'ren** with *Howzat!*; **Paul Wregglesworth** with the *Third Pictorial Issue of New Zealand*; and *Canadian Revenues* by **Norman Kelso**. The season began with the traditional President's Night with **George Henshilwood**, and in addition to guests and various members' evenings, there were also displays by members **Alistair Burrow** (*A Tour around Antarctica*), **Robert Watt** (*British Empire in Africa*); **Stan Hunter** (*Anyone for Glasgow*); **Ian Mason** (*Malta*) and a double header *A Taste of New Zealand* and *The U.S.A.* by **David Stalker** and **Murray Touche**. We are looking forward to being hosts for this year's A.S.P.S. Stamp and Postcard Fair in Dunfermline, and will be holding informal monthly summer meetings before regular meetings resume in October with president **Anthony Duda** in the chair
Alistair Burrow

Harrogate

In January we were educated and entertained by **Edith** and **Rodney Knight**. Edith brought her *Spanish TPOs* showing the large number that existed all over the country, including some narrow-gauge railways – the last run being on the Madrid to Malaga line in 1993. There were a variety of cancellations, depending on the type of train being used as well as the direction of travel. There were lots of lovely postcards of railways and engines. Rodney followed with *Bulgaria – 1878 to 1920*. Bulgaria's became a Principality after the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in the Russo-Turkish War. Its history after that reflected the conflicts in the Balkan States. Rodney showed us early used stamps and stationery – cheaper than covers when he started. It was a fascinating look into the troubled history of the region. *East Germany (Russian Zone then DDR)* was **Bill Tait's** display for February. He started with the end of WWII, the suicides at Demmin and then charted the development of DDR, the Berlin Wall and ended with reunification and the rise of Angela Merkel. During this he included items relating to his cycling tours through the region with visits to Colditz, Leipzig Fairs and different personalities. He tried to include material that would be of interest to as many members as possible – he was very successful in this, as he knows our like and dislikes. March was competition time – lots of entries for the 8-sheet, a few for 2-sheet and 16-sheet, but a good evening.
Keith Burton

Herefordshire & Mid Wales

2026 started with a visit from **Gerald Marriner FRPSL**. He showed us *Belgian Congo* with material up to 1960, with all the significant stamps and a wide range of mail both to and from the country including some from really unusual places and some very obscure routes. February is our auction meeting and this year produced nearly £30 commission for the society, due to more members' lots for sale and 14 eager bidders. The following day, **Frank Bennett** and **Janet** and **Nick Nelson** travelled to Redditch PS as the first leg of an exchange visit, displaying postal history, postal stationery and traditional material. The following week, three more members travelled to Cheltenham for a revived Three Counties Quiz. Seven teams took part and we were pleased to perform



Birthe and Chris King receiving their certificate from president Helen Etherington

moderately well, finishing joint third, only half a point behind the second team. The highlight of our 2025-6 season came in March with a visit from **Chris and Birthe King**, bringing *A Danish Potpourri*. Chris opened with various aspects of Danish philately including first stamp issues, tickets from mail trains and steamers and illustrated letter sheets from the period of the Schleswig wars between

Prussia and Denmark. Birthe contributed a display of twentieth century postcards illustrating *Women and Peace*. All in all, a magnificent display worthy of two signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. *Janet Nelson FRPSL*

High Wycombe and District

We took a winter break during January and February. During this time, **Tim Harrison** displayed *Iceland 1873-1943* and *Yemen 1926-1962* on our behalf to Aylesbury PS in February. He also displayed *Estonia Postal History to 1945* and *The Stamps of Pre-Union South Africa* to Northwich PS in March. This was a long way from home turf, but was the result of a chance meeting over a cup of tea at The Royal Philatelic Society. Carpe diem! Our season opened on 12th March 2026, when **Alan Tunkel** from Barnet PS displayed on *Aspects of WWII*. Of particular note were some of the propaganda items. Continuing the theme, on 26th March, **Hilton Ellison** displayed on *The WWII Bantam Stamps of South Africa*, with superb original artist's material and historical background on these unique stamps, printed out of necessity. On 27th March, **Tim Harrison** displayed *Estonia Stamps and Postal History to 1945* to the North Herts Stamp Club in Letchworth. To follow in the remainder of the season, we have visits by Banbury PS, **Giles du Boulay** and **Lorraine Maguire**. *Tim Harrison*

Huddersfield

The January meeting was *Members' Displays: Any Topic*, which saw **Roger Mannings** on *Belgium Airmails to Belgium Congo*, **Ken Moody** with *2014 Winter Olympics*, **Adrian Lee** on *1988 Machins*, **Brian Jones** with *Stamps from Islands of the Indian Ocean*, **Mike Pennington** on *Machin Booklet Panes and Coil Strips of the 1970s*, **Douglas Armitage** on *Covers with Machin Small Format High Value Stamps: 1995-2017* and **Tony Plumbe** with *Aspects of Censorship in Cameroon & Nigeria: 1940-44*. In February, **Keith Burton** presented on *Bavaria*. The first issues were in 1849 and Keith took us through a history of the rulers of Bavaria. His second laydown was from the 1890s. 1918 marked the end of

Bavaria as a separate state and Bavarian stamps ceased to be useable in the early 1920s, before being replaced by German issues. Keith ended by showing coloured postcards, 1900-1914. In March, **Douglas Armitage** presented the first laydown on *Castles*. The focus was the more recent high value Castle stamps, produced from photos taken by the then Duke of York and printed first by Harrison & Co in 1988. The display mainly showed these stamps on commercial covers. There were examples of registered mail, air mail, together with special, recorded and guaranteed delivery. The second laydown of this BI themed day comprised **Brian Wilkinson** showing *Channel Islands*; **Philip Smith** with a *Collection of Booklets from 2001 to 2021*, both definitive and commemorative; and **Roger Mannings** on *Covers with Slogans and Advertising Covers*.



Douglas Armitage on Castles

→ jondtaylor3@gmail.com for further details.

Jon Taylor

Hull



Tony Plumbe is congratulated by Christiana

Our Spring displays have been an interesting mix, taking us from the heat of Africa to sub-zero temperatures at the South Pole. **Tony Plumbe's** *Nigeria: Pre-Independence Issues, and Post-Independence Artwork and Proofs* gave an in-depth view which attendees found most interesting, in particular our Nigerian member. YPA president **Richard Hindle** showed *General Polar Explorers*, focussing on some of the lesser known expeditions and introducing us to hitherto unmet explorers.

Robert Shaw's presentation of *Paraguay: Land of the Lion and the Liberty Cap* used these national motifs as a starting point to introduce the history and development of the country and its stamps. We saw maps and military medals and were warned that Paraguay's stamps, particularly essays, are prone to forgeries, so *caveat emptor* if starting a new collection! *Czechoslovakia, the First Year of independence*, was the subject of **Yvonne Wheatley's** March

display. We were led through the complexities of currency changes and multiple overprinting and heard about bad management leading to issues running out within a few days or being over-ordered in their millions and subsequently sold on to stamp dealers. Yvonne clarified the chaos admirably, and I recommend this display to any society which enjoys a good gloat over bureaucratic ineptitude, plus interesting stamps. On April 1st we were treated to **Steven Harrison's** *Registered Mail*, and all agreed that we would have been fools to miss this lively romp through many aspects of GB Registration. Great material shared by a real raconteur.

Daphne McMillan

Huntingdonshire

Paul Bush was our guest speaker at the meeting on the 24th February. His subject was *Railway Miscellany*. He started off by showing *Level Crossing Cards* and then went on to a complete run of stamps issued by the North Yorkshire Moors Railway shown as singles and blocks along with commemorative covers



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John Simmons 8, Westbrook Drive, Macclesfield, SK10 3AQ

or email: johnsimmons.training@gmail.com

and Letter stamps. Next came a section on Sir Nigel Gresley and the locomotive with the same name The train featured on the Great British Trains stamps issued in 1985. These were shown on various Commemorative covers. He continued by showing railway company stamps from the Cheshire, Cambrian, Midland, Great Western and London North Western railway. He then went on to a selection of Victorian railway stamps and Australian parcel stamps. He then told the story of the Silver Jubilee train, which was made to commemorate the year of the Silver Jubilee of King George V, through post cards. Postal letters had special cancellations and we were shown several examples of which some were registered. Mail carried by the Travelling Post Offices of the 1900s was shown with the TPO's cancelling mark. He finished with a postcard celebrating 50 years 1975-2025 - the reopening of Watling Station. Many of our member are keen railway enthusiast so this excellent display brought back memories of the train-spotting days of their youth. Our next meeting was in March when members displayed. *F, G and H* ➔ David Birkert 01480 468037

David Birkert

King's Lynn

Members enjoyed a variety of Zoom presentations on *Nigerian Forgeries, Elections and the Post, Hungary Hyperinflation* and *A Philatelic Journey*. During this time the 9-sheet and 16-sheet competition entries were received and judged to be of a high standard. Several excellent presentations to members were received from **Len Stanway** - *Mail under London* - a very detailed PowerPoint display containing the historical background to the underground Postal Railway

Service from the early 1600s finishing with the modern service until its demise in 2003; **Peter Watts** - *Belgium* - introduced as the most complicated country in Europe with his display containing stamps up until 1920 and covers extracted from his collection of over 20 volumes of material; **Joyce Boyer** - *Christmas in Austria* - illustrated with a pot pourri of Austrian-related Christmas material with a cover bearing a Bethlehem cancellation. Joyce explained that a charity was set up in 1949 to house orphans in family groups; **Terry Harrison** - *St Vincent* - a brief introduction to a volcanic island illustrated with maps to show the location and an 1840 newspaper detailing the shipping which allowed for mail to be distributed. There were examples of mail carried by private or merchant ships and landed on the south coast of the UK.

David Leathart - *Specimen and Sample Stamps* - an opportunity for members to view a superb collection of GB revenue stamps, which is now going to auction. The three evenings dedicated to a variety of displays by members were most enjoyable.

Dahlia Harrison



Peter Watts with David Rice

Launceston

Our January meeting was *Members Recent Acquisitions*. Brian led with some Post Office issue books on Greenland. Both informative and colourful, they portrayed a comprehensive picture of the country - Mr Trump's reading?! Next came Viv with a tatty cover from Guatemala with a not-often-seen postmark and early use of a block of 25 stamps from the 1902 Waterlow issue; a card sent from a soldier who had received a gift of tobacco from schoolchildren during WWII under a scheme organised by the Over-Seas League Tobacco Fund; finally a piece of Launceston ephemera – a wedding invitation sent by Mr Arthur Trewin to a Miss Barron inviting her to the marriage of his daughter Marjorie to Mr Fred Philp. Then Evelyn showed a delightful envelope used by the Australian Philatelic Bureau to mail their bulletins showing a close-up of cattle in a scene from the Melbourne Show. John, who specialises in Great Britain covers, showed a selection of £2 coin covers commemorating events from WWI. Des followed with stamps from Cape Verde Islands and a currency note, recent additions in his pursuit of items from Stratton, Stratton on the Fosse and Stratton Strawless, and items from South West Africa with a cover from Walvis Bay and revenue stamps and finally stamps from Namibia. Terry showed stamps for collecting entertainment tax - you may remember these when attending the cinema many years ago, and finally some Foreign Bills of Exchange or drafts, some with quite elaborate designs.

Des Kent

Leeds

We continued our 2026 programme in January when **Margaret Emmerson** took us on *The Coronation Tour of 1953/4*. Her Majesty visited Bermuda, Jamaica, Fiji, Tonga, New Zealand, Australia, Ceylon, Aden, Uganda, Tobruk (Libya), Malta and Gibraltar. Stamps were issued celebrating Her Majesty's visit. Some remained on sale for a week or two. The royal tour was by flights and the Royal Yacht, taken out of service in 1997 and now in the port of Leith near Edinburgh. We enjoyed our annual competition on February 10th. 10 traditional and 9 fun entries. One fun entry was *Guess the Caption*, which provided amusement and laughter. **Tony Plumble** provided feedback and suggestions on how one could improve an entry. On February 24th **Richard Moss** gave a very interesting talk



on the stamps and covers of *Tristan Da Cunha* from October 1961 to November 1963. His second part covered Gough Island and post office which opened to serve the survey team December 1955 to May 1957. On March 10th **Nigel Grizzard** organised a very successful auction. We enjoyed a variety of items

stamps, covers, kiloware, books and other items. A fortnight later **Janet and Nick Nelson** brought their talk on *Brazil Postal Stationery*. Nick began by telling us of the vastness of the country - 35 times the size of Britain. Most cities have philatelic societies and dealers. We were shown postal cards, letter cards, wrappers, envelopes and registered envelopes with a see-through area where the contents were visible.

Liz Schweiger

Lewisham

An excellent turnout of members enjoyed **Simon McArthur's** two-part presentation on *German pre-WWII Aviation and the German Red Cross*. The material displayed was full of colour and variety. Part 1 looked at German aviation 1933–1945, and began with the Nazi's decision to start building up air power through civil aviation, with the fleet of Zeppelins and examples of what was then cutting-edge aviation technology – record-breaking flights, the four-engined Focke-Wulf *Condor*, Hitler's Junkers 52, and the mammoth Dornier X, the largest, heaviest and most powerful



Simon in full flight

seaplane in the world. There were plenty of colourful postcards and covers showing how the Nazis used aviation as a key tool in their propaganda war – including gliding and ballooning. Part 2 covered the work of the German Red Cross in the same period. With a history in Germany going back to the Franco-Prussian war, the organization lost autonomy under the Nazis, and the postcards and slogan cancels demonstrated how propaganda had worked its way into the system under Hitler's patronage. International concern over the role of the German Red Cross in the concentration camps was dismissed by the Nazis – they said the organization should focus on military casualties rather than civilians. Yet evidence shows that Zyklon B was transported to the gas chambers in lorries marked with the Red Cross symbol, while even before the war Red Cross nurses were implicated in the Aktion T4 campaign that murdered some 300 000 people with mental and physical disabilities.

→ hickey_anthony@hotmail.com

Tony Holdsworth

Lostock

Nine members managed to attend the January AGM despite the terrible snow and icy conditions. The afternoon opened with congratulations to **Bernard Hooley** and **David Brigden** in *The Jimmy Page Competition*. Our outright winner of the Christmas quiz was our member **Phil W.** with 18 of the 25 questions. Chairman **Adrian Jones** then entertained members with a special



ABPS National Competitive Exhibition Autumn 2026

An exhibition and competition, including all classes (except literature), will be held at

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

The Jubilee Hotel and Conferences, Nottingham
Friday 4th to Sunday 6th September 2026



Applications for entries at:
<https://exhibitions.abps.org.uk>
Congress Information and Booking:
<https://gbcongress.uk>

detailed talk about *Stamps from Kenya*. The new programme for January to July 2026 was handed out to members. In February our treasurer **David Brigden** entertained members with his talk *Tobacco*. This included many detailed documents relating to the products and sales of Egyptian tobacco. Documents promoting many well-known brand names like Benson and Hedges, Gallaher Ltd, Dunhill cigarettes, holders and lighters, and Rothmans. In March **Gavin Wood** was our visiting speaker with *German Occupation of Sark*. In the afternoon our member Phil W shared his birthday by bringing along his birthday cake which went down very well. On the 5th April **Peter MacCann** talked about *GB Queen Victoria Postal History*. On 5th May **Mark Everiss** returns to share his talk *Siberia and the Far East*. On the 2nd June **Barry Evans** will be speaking about *150 years of UPU*. Our July 7th speaker is **Phil Wharmby** with *Philatelically Round the World*. If you live within 40 miles of Lostock you are welcome to attend any of our meetings. We meet the first Tuesday of every month 1-00pm until 3-00pm

David Morley

Lothian

We continue to see reduced numbers attending meetings, although we have had some excellent and interesting displays. These included subjects such as

Kosovo and Solidarność Propaganda Stamp Labels, Sherlock Holmes, Cyprus, Japan, USA Centennial, Scientists, Stamps for Scotland and a members' night featuring postcards and covers. We have also enjoyed multiple displays by visitors from both



Dundee and Borders Societies as well as managing for some Lothian members to reciprocate. The photograph shows our president **Bill Torrance** thanking members of the Dundee club for visiting with three great displays. It has also been a year of donations from people clearing out old collections large and small from their lofts and cupboards. Finding little or no interest in the material from dealers, I am pleased some have thought to contact the club letting us offer the material to our members with any money raised going to the club funds. I say some, because we had one almost unbelievable event, a member witnessed someone at a recycling centre throwing handfuls of stock book pages stuffed with stamps into a skip. Luckily he hadn't quite reached the end and letter S to Z were salvaged, but catching him at letter A would have been better.

Steve Cowles

Maidstone & Mid Kent

Following Christmas we had several members' meetings. They covered *Postcards Front or Back* and *L is for* followed by our secretary **Margaret Emerson** who showed her *Whatever The Weather* which reflects on her career in Metrological Forecasting. Two other members shared an evening with **John Gillespie** showing *Trains of the World* and **Chris Lent** showing *German Aerophilately - The First 50 Years*. These were their first major displays and were well received. In early March we welcomed **Andy Donaldson** who gave us an amazing display of *GB Underprints*. This was really an informative display with many of our members, including myself, admitting that we had never seen any of these before. Our January morning meeting was a members' one with *The Letter L is for* and was followed by the New Year Luncheon. February saw our member **Alan Baum** show *USA Local Posts and Carriers*, which was very interesting and informative. Evening meetings for the rest of the season will consist of **Geoff Hanney** *Entertains*, **Phil Clarke** with *War Tax*, **Peter Cockburn** showing *Ceylon Revenues*, and **Tom Smith** on *Stamp Printers*, plus our Auction and AGM. For the morning meetings we will have *12 sheets from My Collection*, *A Trip Along The Kent Coast* by **Robert Uden** and *The United Nations* by **Phil Clarke**.
Brian Stonestreet

Norfolk and Norwich

Our members showed plenty of enthusiasm for a 'home-grown' programme of events during February and March. First up in February were four members each with a four-board display. An afternoon meeting just two weeks later in February, saw **Peter Boyce** provide a tempting display of *Finland*. March introduced our annual Gordon Rooney cup competition, for which only one board is allowed, and members' secret votes determine the winner. Result to be announced at our AGM. A philatelic quiz followed. Our second March meeting saw no less than twelve displays on a GB theme. An encouragingly active couple of months for our longstanding society. We held our Norfolk Stamp Fair on 10th April.
Chris Southgate

North West Kent

Our season started on 13th January, with a series of members' short displays and the presentation of the annual competition cup to **John Lee**. At our AGM, prior to which I had announced to both the committee and members my need to resign as secretary, not one member was prepared to take up the mantle. As I had already been fulfilling two roles I offered to continue as publicity officer. It was revealed that membership had declined from 47 to 27 members in the 4 years since our formation with two main factors, people moving or expiring. There were a series of proposals for club development put before members, not one making it to a vote after much talk. 10th February brought in **Chrissie Baker** with her *Victorian Ladies and Gentlemen* - a scintillating display with not just postage from the era but also artefacts and timely history. Later in February our friend from over the water (Essex) **Colin Davis** visited to put on a varied display of things associated with *The Letter H*. In March we had our first auction of the

year which, thanks to the generosity of our member **Keith Jupp** (dealer of this parish), was the most successful in years. 24th March we were due to host **Richard Morel** from the British Library however due to family problems he was replaced by our president, **Philip Clarke**, showing a variety of material relating to *German and Japanese occupations in WWII*.
John Sinfield

Nottinghamshire

We are delighted to host the 2026 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. This is the second Congress to be held in Nottingham: the last being the fourteenth in 1927. Local societies are planning two displays: one will be a session on local postal history. The other will be a series of presentations designed to illustrate the wide range of interests that philately covers including postal history, postal stationery, airmails, and revenue and fiscal stamps. Something for everyone! Although final details of the programme are still being finalised, the theme is: 'From Grass Roots to Grand Prix'. The weekend will include presentations and discussions focussing on how we can encourage more people to become stamp collectors and philatelists, and how we can support them to enjoy the hobby. Confirmed speakers include signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and the Curator of Philatelic Collections at the British Library. An innovation this year is that there will be a national competition so there will be plenty of excellent material on display. For further information, the booking form and competition entry forms, please see the ABPS website. We look forward to welcoming you to Nottingham to enjoy the busy philatelic weekend and to make the most of the thriving city of Nottingham.
Andrew Dove

Oxford

In October, members showed *Sports*, which ranged far and wide from football world cups and Olympics, through cricket and football, to baseball and even tug-of-war. The next meeting of two displays saw **Wilson Wamani** show his collection of *Australian Stamps, 1938-77* and **Stephen Kirby** cover the frames with *Multi-Redirected Mail*. The latter showed up to seven redirections, with other envelopes poorly addressed, open to interpretation, but also persistent postal services determined to get it delivered (has that era gone?). **Alan**



Alan Wilson, Wilson Wamani and Stephen Kirby

Wilson, a long-time member but first-time displayer, gave a wonderful examination of *The Independent State of Croatia, 1941-45*. December had three meetings. The first was on *Large and Small Envelopes*, with prizes for the

biggest and tiniest shown. The second was a Christmas Social at a local restaurant. The third was external speaker, **Roger Morrell**, who comprehensively covered *The Stamps and Postal History of Bulgaria until 1945.*, expertly dealing with the material, such as the complexities of overprints in French, Arabic and Turkish. For New Year we saw *Recent Acquisitions*, with many diverse things shown from the newly-issued GB stamps, Memel and Bouvert Island. One highlight was a 'Stamp Case' designed by noted local author Lewis Carroll in 1889. The second half of the meeting concentrated on the re-discovery of the *First Minute Book of the Oxford Philatelic Society, 1890-1901*, which will prove a goldmine of historical information as it is researched. The initial period from 1890 to 1892 saw the minutes of meetings typed up and shown and led to a lot of discussion about the origins of our society. More episodes to follow! **Peter Cockburn** visited us in January and gave a fascinating, colourful display on *Ceylon's Revenue and Telegraph Stamps*. Later, members showed aspects of *The Performing Arts: Music, Theatre, Cinema, Opera and Dance*. A quiz was held in February, while 9-page competition entries were judged by **Malcolm Gascoyne**. In March, members **Bob Spencer** and **Alan Baker** displayed *Censored German Post during two World Wars* and *I Don't Collect Stamps – I Prefer the Selvage* respectively. Later in the month, the annual club auction proved an exciting evening, helping members with their collections and raising money for the society. *Dr Simon Heap*

Redditch

On 19th February we were one of five stamp clubs which entered the Mortimer Quiz at the Royal Oak, Prestbury, near Cheltenham. The Mortimer Quiz was originally one of the activities run annually by the Three Counties Philatelic Federation, which comprised all the stamp clubs in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The Federation was disbanded around twenty years ago, but last year the Cheltenham Philatelic Society came across the trophy and decided to bring back the philatelic quiz to be competed for by the original stamp clubs in the three counties (those clubs that are still in existence). So, Stroud & District PS, Cheltenham Stamp & Postcard Club, Gloucestershire PS, Hereford & Mid-Wales PS and Redditch PS all took part. The winning team was Redditch PS, whose members were: **Malcolm**



Barry Stagg, the refound cup and Malcolm Allinson

Allinson, Clive Jones, Alan Godfrey and **Paul Veal**. The team captain, **Malcolm Allinson** was presented with the trophy by **Barry Stagg**, Chairman of Cheltenham PS. The very able quiz inquisitor and question setter was **Andrew Millington** of Cheltenham. *Alan Godfrey*

Rochdale

Pete Best, our Malta specialist, brought along a huge variety of letters and postcards which represented evidence of the island's importance as the key trading hub in the Mediterranean. His collection was indexed by postmen's handstamps numbered 1 to 79, where impressions were positioned on the back of letters and postcards. Each postman was assigned his own number which stayed with him irrespective of which postal district he might be working. The handstamps were introduced because of the problem of trying to trace undelivered and lost mail. This numerical system virtually eliminated the problem. **Phil Wharmby**, our club member, is certainly one of the most widely travelled persons you could have the pleasure of meeting. Everywhere he goes he buys local stamps and then photographs the buildings, the views, the attractions as depicted on his new stamps. So with the lights down low Phil and his projector took us on some of his memorable trips to the Americas, Europe and South East Asia. New members are always welcome at our meetings, which are held at the Rochdale Unitarian Church on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm.

Peter Grimshaw

Royal Sutton Coldfield

We started off the New Year with members' displays of the *Northern Hemisphere*. **Gwynne Harries** then gave us lift off with the *1911 Coronation Aerial Post* which was a fascinating insight into the stamps' production. In February we had the Nine-Sheet Competition, which was heavily contested with sports, stamp displays and open items including postcards from our own members. We had displays from two of our members: **Roger Wood** and **Bob Shaw**. Roger gave us an interesting display of *200 Years of Postmarks*, showing the diversity of British postmarks especially of the London districts. Bob brought a wide-ranging display of *Meter Marks from around the World*. It was great to welcome the Shropshire PS on a reciprocal visit, in March, to wow us with their displays. *Margaret Langley*



Salisbury and District



Probably not a recommended recruitment technique but our recent Day Meeting gave us the opportunity to hijack a room full of four-year olds, due to a double booking of the venue. Whilst the double booking wasn't our fault it was deemed that forcing the youngsters in the creche to sit through a day of philatelic displays might not be a good idea in the eyes of the

Plenty to view and chat about at a members' show

local papers. Luckily one of our members stepped forward to say that he could free up a 'Wing' of their house to accompany everybody. So, giving his wife a moment's notice, they hosted an excellent Day Meeting. The rest of our season has galloped along in a slightly more conventional manner. With an enjoyable mix of guest speakers and members' evenings we have also kept a viable Competitions Evening running. Our forthcoming auction has over 200 lots and with lighter evenings, all is looking good. → www.salisburyphilately.org.uk
Paul Latham-Warde

Sheffield

Our January Thursday Zoom meeting was a Members' Meeting – *Things I want to sell*. This enabled members to explain how and why they acquired these items, and why they bought them. The first Wednesday meeting was 8-Sheets – *A No Rules Competition*. Nine members put up displays on a variety of topics. **Andrew Fullen** won with *Victorian Specimen Stamps*. Then **Glenn Fearons** of Barnsley PS enlightened us with *Lord Mason Archives*. Mason was an MP from 1953 to 1987, he had held various important offices of state including Postmaster General. The collection also included letters on a variety of subjects, formal invitations, illustrations of various cachets, cancels and other material, especially those showing how the Parliamentary post office operated. In February our Zoom meeting was by **Sue Burns** with *Flying Boats*, which focussed on the eastern route of Imperial Airways to Australia and New Zealand.

ABPS updates

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

Specialist Societies

American Stamp Club of Great Britain has an interim contact after the death of the secretary: Les Archer email dippies2000@yahoo.com

New Zealand Society of Great Britain has a new secretary: Neville Robinson 07770 224 064, email pnrfmt@msm.com

Local Societies

Crewe Philatelic Society has rejoined ABPS - welcome back - email crewephilatelicsociety@gmail.com

Glasgow Caledonian Philatelic Society: Alistair Burrow has now been appointed secretary of the society email alistairburrow@btinternet.com

Salisbury and District Philatelic Society has a new secretary: Sue Landon email suelandon2013@gmail.com

It included numerous covers, correspondence, telegrams, photographs, and ephemera. The first Wednesday meeting was *Captain James Cook from Birth to the Endeavour Voyage* by **Richard Hindle**. It included his time in Canada where Cook learnt surveying and charting the coastline of Newfoundland before leading his first expedition to Tahiti and Australasia. The second meeting had **Neil Ritchie** entertaining us with *The Spanish Civil War, 1936-39* between Franco's Nacionales and the Republicans. It contained a wide variety of material especially the use of fiscal and charity stamps paying the postage, including a bisected fiscal stamp and rare censor marks.

Richard Hindle

Solihull

Since the beginning of 2026 we have attracted several new members and as a result audiences are averaging 28. In January we were entertained by our president, **Alan Spencer**, with material from his extensive *Canadian Collection*. During February and March we hosted four wonderful displays from guests.

Tony Plumbe treated us to a display of his outstanding collection of *British*

Central Africa and Nyasaland. A fortnight later we learnt about the *Development of Airlines to and from South East Asia* from **Michael Waugh**. The following week we were visited by the RPSL president, **Simon Richards**, who showed us a selection of his brilliant *West Indies Maritime Mail from 1660 - 1940* focused on the British postal service. It is hardly surprising that Simon's superb material and



Simon Richards takes us to the West Indies

presentation attracted a record audience of 32. Another interesting and well-attended display was provided by **Andrew Higson** with material from *Shanghai* with advice on how to detect forgeries. A fortnight later **Nick Martin** gave a display of *Luxembourg* commencing with some rare pre-stamp entires. In addition to definitive stamps Nick showed registered letters and also early express items. Also included in the display were Poste Restante letters from

ABPS accredited judges

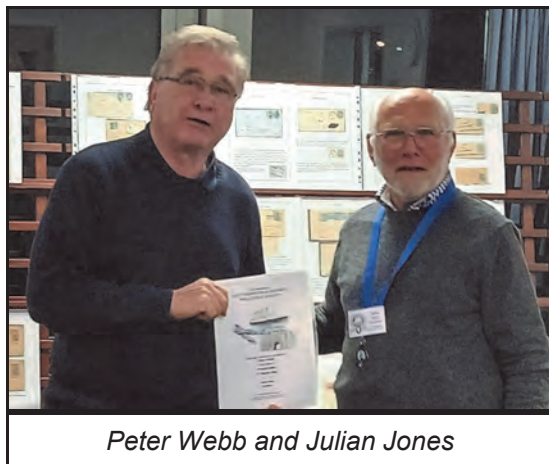
The current list of ABPS accredited exhibition/competition judges can be found on the ABPS web site www.abps.org.uk Click on the "Exhibiting" tab, then the "Judges" tab that is on the 2nd line of tabs.

outside the Grand Duchy that attracted a Luxembourg 10c collection fee resulting in attractive mixed frankings.

Iain Wells

Southampton & District

Our first speaker of 2026 was **James Podger FRPSL** who regaled us with tales of his exploits on and around Ascension Island while captain of an oil tanker moored offshore. His stories were backed by a display of rare and interesting material including covers and postcards relating to the island. This included two postally used covers correctly paid by Ascension Island stamps each including one half of a bisected stamp sent to England. In the second half James' exploits were matched by displays of material from islands he had passed while navigating around Africa along its east and west coasts. A very entertaining evening was enjoyed by a good-sized audience. Our programme continued with a video presentation by **Jon Higgins FRPSL** on *The First 2 Colour Pictorials of the Empire, North Borneo & Labuan*. Jon provided significant philatelic detail but also interesting background and social history about British activities in North Borneo. **Peter Webb** provided our next in-person presentation with a fascinating account of *French India* with historical background of the fall-out from the end of Britain's wars with Napoleon leading to France being given several towns in India, the principal one being Pondicherry. Peter showed covers, stamps, postal stationery and overprints used by the French post offices in India together with forgeries of pretty much everything. A fascinating insight into a piece of Indian history not usually told in Britain.



Peter Webb and Julian Jones

Julian Jones & Steven Gerrard

Stroud & District

A good attendance at our meeting enjoyed a visit from **Giles du Boulay** who gave us his display on *Polish Gdansk*. Gdansk has had a chequered history. From 1300 to 1700 when it was known as Danzig, it was a prosperous trading city of the Hanseatic League and was given special privileges by the powerful Polish king Casimir IV. Giles showed covers from both Dutch and English merchants based there from this period. Although the population was largely German it became the main port for the newly restored Poland in 1919, connected by a land corridor, as Poland was otherwise landlocked. Both the city and Poland set up rival postal systems with different colour pillar boxes, and Giles showed covers posted in the wrong boxes with appropriate marks, and

propaganda postcards as well. There was intense rivalry between Germany and Poland as to who should own the city, especially as the corridor cut off eastern Pomerania from the rest of Germany, and that was Hitler's excuse for invading in 1939. After the war there was a severe paper shortage, and we saw a re-used postcard, pre-printed originally with Hitler's head on, but with a large corner cut off to remove the offending face. Giles was an excellent speaker who obviously loves his subject and the city itself. His final pieces showed the city shipyards, birthplace of Solidarity, the freedom movement founded by Lech Walesa.

Tim Kestin

Wakefield

We began the New Year on 7th January with a very enjoyable members' evening. On the 21st January **Dinar Athale** gave a display and presentation entitled *Development of the Indian Airmail Service 1911 to 1941* and **Philip Reynolds** followed on with a display and presentation entitled *National Parks of Japan 1936 to 1956 and 1962 to 1974* and *Quasi-Parks of Japan 1958 to 1973*. Our Annual Competition took place on 4th February. There were nine entries in the competition which were expertly judged by **Graham Winters**. On 18th February **John Cranmer** presented a display entitled *The Halfpenny Stamps of Great Britain* and on the 4th March **Alistair Garner** presented a display and presentation entitled *Philately and Technology*. All of these displays and presentations were very interesting and much enjoyed by all members in attendance.

Julie Hitchcock

West Riding

We started the new 2026 season of informal meetings with members' displays by **Charles Squire** showing *GB Stamps 1952 to 1967* noting the Coronation of QEII, Dorothy Wilding, Post Office Tower issues; **Brian Wilkinson** and his *Gibraltar* collection, including artillery transport and views; **Tony Plumbe** and his selected display items of *Early Nyasaland Air Mails* covering a period from September 1911 to December 1932 with his detailed description of routes into and out of Blantyre and Salisbury. **Adrian Lee** displayed *Hungary 1871 to 1942* including the Regent Period of Admiral Horthy. February brought a two-part display by **Roger Mannings** and his *Belgium Railways*. In part one, Roger outlined the area of collecting which has many variables and he outlined the enthusiasm of King Leopold III for railway networks, and supporting information on locomotives up to and including electrification in 1949. Part two displayed way bills with details of etiquettes used for special goods that were transported, military issues, special concession rates for medical, students and poor workers. Roger also displayed postcards of locomotives, railway stations and sections of railway line networks. The club continues to attract members with a broad range of interests with informal meetings and we are indebted to the Federation of European Philatelic Associations for being considered for one of their annual awards of a certificate of appreciation for 2025 along with eleven other successful European Philatelic Societies. 27th April will feature our Auction No 3.

Adrian Lee

Diary

May

- 9 Essex Stamp Day: 10-4: The Runnymede Hall Kiln Road, **Benfleet** SS7 1TF
→ Colin on 07914489814 or colinmaxine2005@hotmail.com
- 23 Redruth Stamp Fair: 10-4: Jubilee Hall, Wesley Building, Wesley Street, **Redruth** TR15 2EG

June

- 13 Swinpex 2026 Stamp, Postal History & Postcard Fair: 10-3.30: Grange Leisure & Community Centre, Stratton St Margaret, **Swindon** SN3 4JY.
Includes the Wiltshire & District Philatelic Federation 9-page Competition
→ Dr Christopher Scott christopher.scott174@gmail.com

July

- 11 Telford Stamp Fair: 10-2: Belmont Community Hall, Wellington, **Telford** TF1 1HJ → Richard Camp 01952 405458
- 18-19 York Stamp & Coin Fair: The Grandstand, York Racecourse, **York** YO23 1EX

August

- 8 Banstead Stamp & Postal History Fair (incorporating War & Philately): 10-3: Banstead Community Hall, Park Road, **Banstead**, Surrey SM7 3AJ
→ Peter High peter.high94@hotmail.co.uk

September

- 4-6 ABPS Congress and AGM: **Nottingham**
- 12 NEWQUEx Stamp Fair: 10-4: Trevisker St Eval Community Centre, Onion Drive, **St Eval**, Cornwall PL27 7TU
- 15 Stuart Rossiter Memorial Lecture: 4pm RPSL 15 Abchurch Lane, **London** EC4N 7BW → www.rossitertrust.com booking necessary

October

- 2-4 Germany & Colonies Weekend: Feathers Hotel, **Ludlow**
- 10 South of England Stamp and Post Card Fair: 10-4: Ardingly Showground, **Ardingly**, RH17 6TL → Kevin Dillistone dillyboy4744@gmail.com
website: www.sussexphilately.org.uk
- 10 Telford Stamp Fair: 10-2: Belmont Community Hall, Wellington, **Telford** TF1 1HJ → Richard Camp 01952 405458
- 28-31 Stampex International Exhibition: Business Design Centre, Gallery Hall Atrium, 52 Upper Street, **Islington**, London N1 0QH
→ www.stampexinternational.co.uk/

November

- 7 CORNEX: 10-4: Millennium Hall, Princess Road, Pensilva, **Liskeard** PL14 5NF
- 15-16 Leeds Stamp Fair, Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner, **Pudsey**, LS28 5TA

National Exhibitions 2026

- ABPS National, Nottingham 4th - 6th September 2026. Competitive exhibition
Entry deadline: 18th July

International Exhibitions 2026 - 2028

To enter an international exhibition your entry must first qualify by achieving a large vermeil medal (75 marks or above) at a national exhibition. Literature does not need this pre-qualification. To enter please contact the UK commissioners shown. Exhibitors from outside the United Kingdom should contact their national commissioner.

- **Boston 2026 World Expo:** 23rd - 30th May 2026 FIP and FEPA Recognition. Full details at: www.boston2026.org UK Commissioner: John Stimson john.m.stimson@gmail.com Entry deadline: closed
- **Macao 2026:** 26th June – 1st July 2026. FIP Patronage Full details at: www.macao2026.org.mo Specialised FIP Exhibition, no Championship Class UK Commissioner: Jack Zhang Entry deadline: closed
- **Philataipei 2026:** 19th - 24th November 2026. FIP Patronage. Full details at: www.taipei2026.post.gov.tw/taipei2026 Jon Aitchison jonaitchison.uk@outlook.com Entry deadline: 31st March 2026
- **Slovphilex 2027**, Bratislava, Slovakia 30th June - 4th July 2027. FIP Patronage. Full details at: www.slovphilex2027.sk Specialised FIP Exhibition: Most Classes, no postal stationery

FIP shows in Belgrade 12th - 17th September 2027 and IBRA (Ulm) 26th - 29th October 2028 have been announced but no invitation has been received as yet.

UK handling charges are now standardised for all international exhibitions at £30 per frame for shows in Europe or £35 for events anywhere else in the world, whether single or multiple frame exhibits or per literary entry. This is to cover the cost of getting exhibits to and from exhibitions, FIP capitation fees and other costs relating to processing the exhibits. Overall this runs at a loss. Exhibits that are carried to and returned from an exhibition by the exhibitor are charged at half price. There is no UK handling charge for Youth exhibits. If you are interested in becoming a United Kingdom international exhibition commissioner please contact **Jon Aitchison** at britishlocals@aol.com

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

Web information Further information can be found on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk on the "Exhibiting" tab. *Simon Richards, Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee* Simon@sidebell.co.uk

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

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ABPS Membership, 1 Naunton Way, Cheltenham GL53 7BQ

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

Editor

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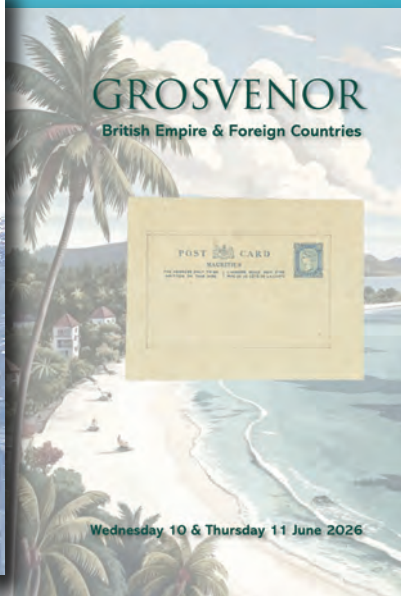
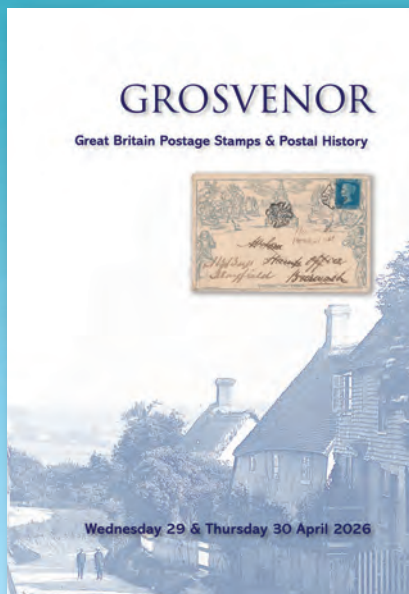
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ABPS News is published by the Association of British Philatelic Societies.

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

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