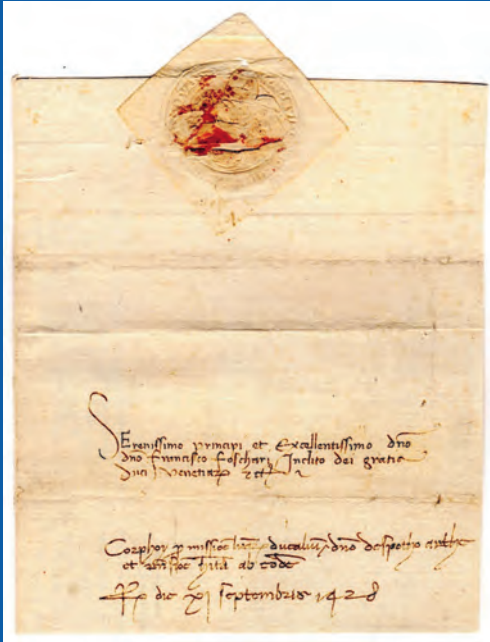


In the Court of Honour, EuroPhilEx May 2025



See p. 11



The ABPS News is also available
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ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

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

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Editor: Keith S Burton

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Cover picture: *Three items that will be on show at EuroPhilEx in Birmingham in May: 1428 letter Corfu-Venice; Mulready Caricature cancelled with a Maltese Cross; British Guiana 1c black on magenta (courtesy of Stanley Gibbons).* See page 11 for a fuller listing of exceptional displays that will be on show.

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, 15th April, 15th July, 15th October. We cannot guarantee to include items in specific editions. Items may be edited for publication. Email copy is preferred (unformatted). Send copy to the editor: Keith S Burton (editor@abps.org.uk) Illustrations should not be assumed to be accurate as to size or colour.

Notes FROM THE CHAIR:

Looking back on 2024, ABPS can be proud of the continuing support it is giving to philately in the UK. In particular, the website has had a complete review with updates to the Speakers List, the start of a new section called "Learn" to encourage new and intermediate collectors (watch this for future new content coming soon) and regular news features to inform collectors as well as a general clean-up by archiving older content. Mike Hoffman, as our new webmaster, will take developments forward in the coming year. The ABPS also stepped in to provide meeting facilities for specialist societies at Stampex with all six sessions taken. The re-location of the national competitions went well with over 400 people visiting the displays in London at the Royal Philatelic Society. There has also been continuing financial support to Stamp Active, small grants to societies and much more. ABPS News remains the showcase for all that is going on and thanks to Keith Burton for all his hard work in putting together four issues every year. It does provide information and ideas for programme secretaries as well as sharing best practice. Thanks, of course, to all those who contribute articles and reports. All of the Executive Committee are volunteers and they have played their part in supporting philately in the UK in 2024 and my personal thanks to all.



Stampex, organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society (PTS), moved successfully to its new location within the Business Design Centre. It was well attended and clearly showed that philately is alive and kicking.

Looking to 2025, this is going to be an even bigger year for UK philately. The big event will be the International Exhibition in Birmingham which is taking place at the NEC from 7th to 11th May in Hall 9. It is easily accessible by road and rail. Birmingham International Rail Station is on site! Virtually all the dealer booths have been sold, so it will be bigger than Stampex. There will also be around 2000 frames of exhibits (all taken up), so the opportunity to see some of the best collections in the world. There is also a whole programme of society meetings, events such as the RDP presentation and a one-day ABPS Congress. Thanks to Jon Aitchison and his team for all their hard work in putting the event together. It is an opportunity not to be missed. For more information, go to the EuroPhilEx website www.europhillex2025.co.uk

As I explained in my first report, I said that my big personal challenge in 2025 is getting more people involved in supporting ABPS around the country by creating a network of regional representatives to act as ambassadors for the hobby. I am pleased to say that a few people have stepped forward to offer support but not

as many as I had hoped. So, I will be speaking to individuals and organising an online get-together of Federation Chairs and/or Secretaries to take this and other initiatives forward. If you would like to get involved, please email me and I will be pleased to provide more information.

My best wishes to everyone for 2025 and enjoy your collecting throughout the year. I hope to meet up with many familiar and new faces at EuroPhilEx.

My email address is chair@abps.org.uk My postal address is: John Davies, ABPS, c/o RPSL, 15 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 7BW or write to Keith Burton, the editor of ABPS News at editor@abps.org.uk

John Davies RDP FRPSL

Editorial



I have been heartened by more correspondence (not just reports and articles - though they are always welcome). I received a request for information on who to contact about GB post offices in the Middle East. I hope that I helped a bit but it raised the question of where can an individual find out about a particular topic, theme, period in philately etc. Any ideas of what I should have answered for this or future queries? Could there be something on our website where individuals could ask questions, receive answers? Who would do it? Any suggestions or offers?

I also received an article from Trafford PS and the NW Federation - a combination of positivity and concern - see page 15. When people work together progress is made, when we stay small, isolated and shrinking we disape...

It's not every day that a philatelist has a hug from a bear but it happened at the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow - see the report from the Caledonian Society - but while you do see how they have worked to involve youngsters and their families with philately. Will they all continue - of course not, but the seed has been planted and the joy has been felt. I loved it and fully support their involvement. In our or your area - any similar or different opportunities?

Talking of opportunities, I was contacted by David Millar of Dundee about the possibilities of using new technology to enhance our availability. He showed a display about Victorian Mail in and out of Dundee. He then made it into a video on YouTube - the first part is now live at the Dundee clubhouse to promote the club and maybe attract new members. Have a look - the link is https://youtu.be/0iSiZu_FapI Yes - I know that we can't all do these fancy things - but some can so let them help. What do you think?

Which brings me to my last correspondent. This time it is from David Smith of Maidenhead who sent me a copy of his 29-page document on the state and future of club philately. I have used some in the pages of this magazine but it would have taken up most of the issue to show it all. Look, think and maybe respond. Thanks to all my correspondents - you keep me going. *Keith Burton*

Michael Roberts FRPSL

It is with great sadness that the Royal Philatelic Society London advises that its President, Michael Roberts FRPSL, died on Thursday, 26th December 2024.

Michael was elected President in 2023 but for several months has been unable to attend meetings while receiving treatment for cancer. However, in recent months, he was able to send messages to the members using video links, and all were hoping that he would once more be able to be at meetings from early 2025.



It has therefore come as a great shock to learn of his death following a heart attack. His jovial personality and the wit that he displayed at meetings will be greatly missed by all.

From RPSL

Mike was a member of so many societies that the shock will ripple through most of British Philately. To Harrogate Philatelic Society members he was a staunch supporter and to me personally as president a great friend. His sense of humour could enliven an evening and his knowledge of many aspects of philately was always available to anyone who was willing to ask and/or listen. We hoped that we would have many years of his support after he made some progress with his chemotherapy. It was not to be - we have good memories and the thoughts of what we have lost. Thanks Mike.

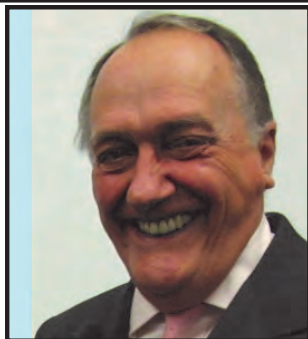
Our condolences go to his family and friends.

Keith Burton FRPSL

Michael Medicott

It is with great sadness that the West Indies Philatelic Study Group notes the death of Michael Medicott

Michael had been a member for almost 55 years. He was passionate and academic about West Indies stamps from the age of 5 and was well known for his kindness and his encyclopaedic knowledge of all things philatelic. He co-authored the now famous *Trinidad* book with two other philatelic giants - Ben Ramkissoon and John Marriott.



Michael's thoughtfulness was epitomised by the appreciative emails he posted to members who researched and wrote good articles, and the time he put into writing detailed book reviews. His presentations on Trinidadian philatelic subjects were epic, and he always went out of his way to support and encourage fledgling members.

Our thoughts are with Michael's wife, Susan and his wider family.

Michael's funeral took place on 3rd January, near Newbury.

Susan Taylor

John Francis Roe 1947-2024

Bristol Philatelic Society members were shocked to hear that John Roe had succumbed to a late Cancer diagnosis. He passed away shortly thereafter – heart-felt condolences went to his wife and three children. The ceremony held at The Memorial Woodlands on 28th November was a celebration of his life. The celebrant and John’s two sons gave good account followed by a poem delivered by his daughter.



John was an active member at BPS (Redland and Woodlands), being the president for 2000-2002 and then 2014-2015, also volunteering at the Bath Postal Museum continuing through its closure right up until mid-August. For the 2023-24 season he had amassed eleven cups won at competitions – nine with the BPS and two with WDPF (Wiltshire & District Philatelic Federation). He was particularly keen on Lilacs and Greens, Crash Airmail and Cinderellas having presented at numerous venues including the Royal Philatelic Society London and also contributing to the Stanley Gibbons Monthly magazine where his articles appeared from time to time. He was down to do a presentation at BPS in April 2025 on *Airmails to 1939*.

Words used to describe him include – well-versed in a good number of subjects; pleasant; had a good sense of humour; would be missed for his regular superb displays; competitive; possessing a brilliant mind. Summing up – a good man who enjoyed digging into the past and sharing his findings through both presenting and competing. Very active - he will be missed.

Robert de Smit



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MV *Georgic* & the “10 Pound Pom” Emigration Scheme to Australia.1949



His Majesty's Transport Ship *Georgic*.

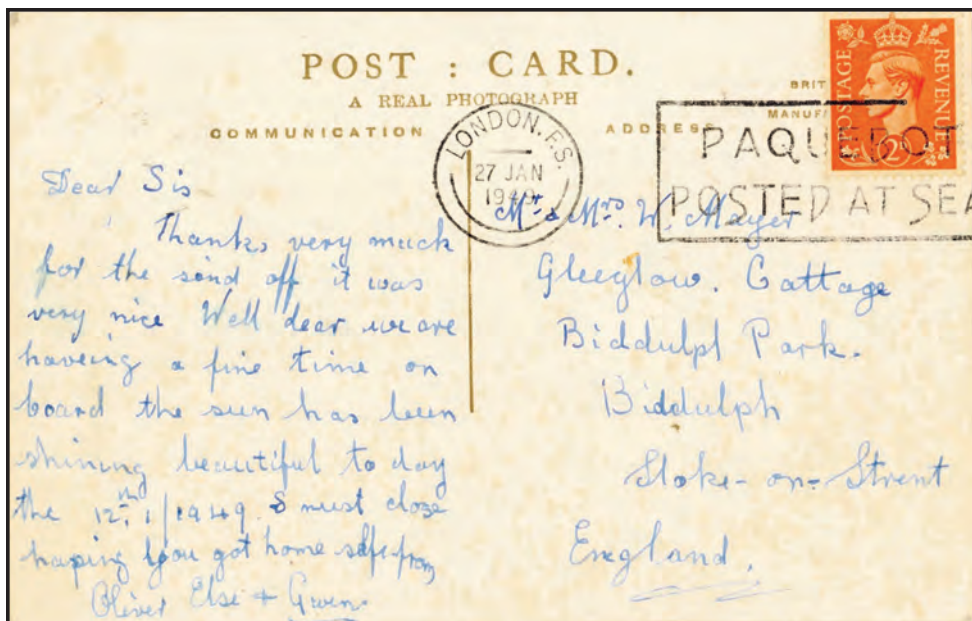
Whilst browsing on eBay, looking to find any covers/postcards that had a history and told a story I came across a postcard of HMT *Georgic*, a British Troop Transport Ship which operated from 1940 to 1948 and 1953 to 1955. With the requirements for troop transport reducing and the demand for emigrants to Australia & New Zealand increasing it was decided to restore *Georgic* to her original civilian service, she having been a Transatlantic liner from 1932 to 1940 before she was requisitioned by the Admiralty. She was badly damaged by the Luftwaffe in a bombing raid on Port Tewfik, Egypt, in 1941 and had to be returned and rebuilt in her original Belfast Shipyard.

Her appearance was altered in the rebuild, her original two funnels being reduced to one.

The rebuilt 'MV 'Georgic' 'was the first all-British migrant ship which left Liverpool in Britain on the 11th January 1949 and arrived at Station Pier in Port Melbourne, Australia on the 12th February 1949. The *Georgic* operated for the UK-Australia Emigrant Service from January 1949 to October 1953 and 1954/55.



Australian Emigration Service.
Poster



The above postcard was sent by a passenger on board the *Georgic* on the ship's first voyage for the Emigration Service to Australia in January 1949. The postcard bears a London FS Machine Cancellation dated the 27th January 1949 with a 'Paquebot Posted at Sea' boxed cachet. The passenger writes on the 12th January to thank the recipient for the send off and says that "they are having a fine time on board and that the sun had been shining beautiful that day" The



British émigrés were to become known colloquially as "10 Pound Poms" due to the charge of £10 in processing fees to migrate to Australia.

Keith Lillywhite

Georgic arriving at Station Pier in Port Melbourne 12th February 1949

EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025



The international stamp exhibition, EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025, will be hosted by the United Kingdom, and will be held at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham from Wednesday 7th May until Sunday 11th May 2025.

The National Exhibition Centre is easy to reach with Birmingham International Station and Birmingham International Airport both close by. There are frequent and fast connections with the centre of Birmingham and to Coventry. The venue is situated close to several motorway junctions, and has 16 500 car parking spaces with shuttle buses to the venue.

On the opening day, 7th May, the exhibition will be open from 11am to 6pm, and admission will cost £10, with early bird admission from 10am for £20. On all other days admission will be free, the exhibition being open from 10am to 6pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and from 10am to 4pm on Sunday, 11th May.

There will be over 60 dealers present, including a stand for Royal Mail. In addition there will be 2000 frames of exhibits from more than 30 countries. The classes being shown are: FEPA Grand Prix Class, Traditional Philately, Postal History, Aerophilately, Revenues, Postal Stationery, Thematic Philately, Open Philately, Picture Postcard, Maximaphily, Astrophilately, plus Philatelic Literature.

There will be a free souvenir sheet for visitors every day, while special cachets and cancellations will also be in use.

- Thursday 8th May will be Society Showcase Day, with societies having tables (some still available at £20 plus VAT). Several societies will also be holding meetings during the event (rooms still available at £150 plus VAT).

Other events during the exhibition will include:

- The Signing Ceremony of The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (Friday 9th May);
- Annual Congress of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (Saturday 10th May);
- Federation of European Philatelic Societies (FEPA) Congress (Sunday 11th May)
- Auction by Cavendish Philatelic Auctions (Sunday 11th May).

Court of Honour not to be missed

Star attraction will be the unique British Guiana 1c black on magenta of 1856, which is kindly being shown courtesy of Stanley Gibbons Ltd.

Other exhibits in the Court of Honour will include the following:

- An exhibit of early writing, starting from 5000 year-old cuneiform tablets, brought together from the collections of **James Grimwood-Taylor**, **Bill Hedley**, **Jon Aitchison** and others.
- **Bill Hedley** will also be showing *The Merchants of Venice, Trade and Administration in the Golden Age of La Serenissima* covering the 14th to 17th centuries.
- **Howard Hughes** will be showing *The Maltese Cross markings of Great Britain*,
- **Joseph Hackmey** will display *Classic France* and *Classic Romania*.
- *Stampless Maritime Overweight Mail in pre-GPU times (1838-1876)* will be shown by **Paul Wijnants**,
- **Hany Salam** will display early *Egyptian Maritime Postal History*.
- The exhibit from **Chris Harman** will feature *Classic British Empire – Perkins, Bacon issues: the Chalon head design*,
- **Geoffrey Lewis** will display his exceptional *Mail routes in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans, plus the routes between the oceans*.

Also on display throughout the exhibition will be the original five parchment rolls of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025 is being organised by the Association of British Philatelic Societies in conjunction with Stamp World Exhibitions Ltd, and has FEPA patronage and FIP (International Federation of Philately) recognition.

Further information can be obtained by visiting www.europhilex2025.co.uk

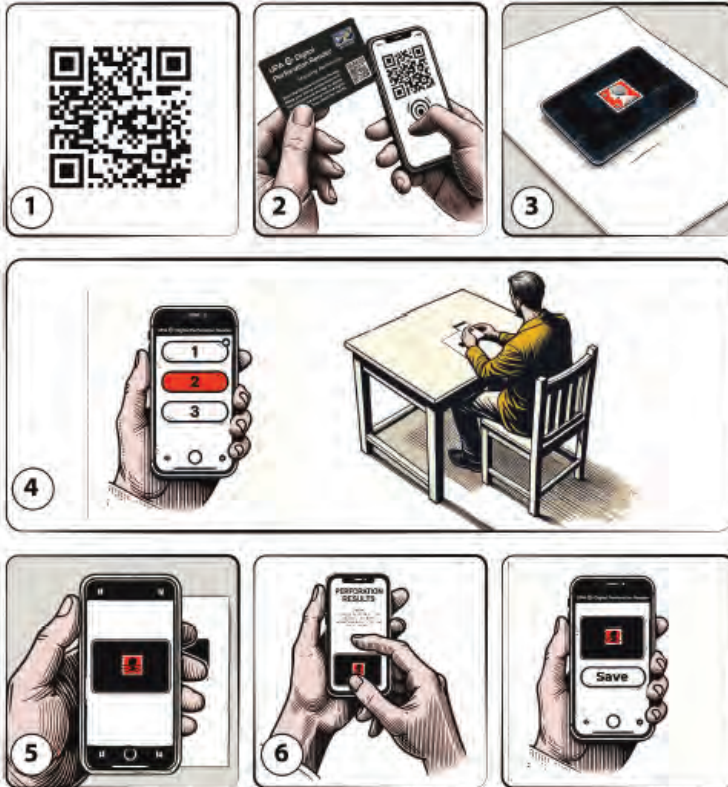


No report of your society? Why not send one to the editor? It could get you new members, and also gives hints on good speakers to other societies.

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106th PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

EuroPhilEx 2025 Birmingham

Meeting Room 5 11.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday 10th May 2025

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain for 2025 is being held in conjunction with EuroPhilEx in Birmingham and is a one-day event.

There will be no charge to attend the event and ALL are welcome!

Programme

- 11.00am** Welcome and the official opening of Congress by the Congress Chairman
- 11.15am** Presentation by the 2025 Congress Medal winner
- 12.15 pm** The Kay Goodman Lecture - "*So is context philately expanding with collectors?*" - a leading philatelist looks to see if there is an expansion in the number of collectors adopting the idea of context philately - and if so, why.
- 1.15 pm** Lunch
- 2.15 pm** Welcome to the afternoon session of Congress by the Congress Chairman
- 2.30pm Presentations by the newly elected RDPs** - Marking 104 years since the establishment of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the 8th Congress in Harrogate in 1921.
- 4.45pm** Closing remarks by the Congress Chairman
- 5.00pm** Close of Congress

The Annual General Meeting of the Association of British Philatelic Societies will not be held at Congress this year.

It will take place later in the year on Thursday, 26th June 2025 at 11.00am at the premises of the Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 7BW.

This is a great opportunity to see and hear what Congress is like and to meet lots of other people from a variety of philatelic backgrounds, counties and countries. Why not take the opportunity and tell us then what you think. Editor

A Report, Message and Comment from the North West Federation

Trafford Philatelic Society was delighted to welcome exhibitor and dealer **Bill Barrell** to our 19th November meeting in Timperley, north Cheshire.

Each year normally, the North West Federation of Philatelic Societies invites an esteemed speaker to give the Paul Gaywood lecture. Paul was the president of the federation, but died very suddenly in 2017. Previous lecturers have included **Chris Taft** of the National Postal Museum, and **Hugh Jeffries** of Stanley Gibbons (both talks given at Trafford PS). We were delighted to welcome guests from other local philatelic societies, so we had a good number of attendees, which was very encouraging.

Bill Barrell, as we all know, is a great speaker, and always presents first class material. His display for us was his large gold medal winning exhibit from Hafnia on GB Postal Reform. It seemed to this observer that every single item he showed was a rarity of some sort. We saw a 1d black on first day cover, the finest example of the "B Blank" error and also Archer Rouletted 1d reds, which I'd never actually seen in the



flesh, but was now treated to singles, blocks and even on cover. Another stand-out item was a leaflet sent to all postmasters explaining what a postage stamp looked like, but this one still had the two 1d blacks attached. Truly outstanding. Bill also brought along some of his stock for sale. I for one, couldn't let the opportunity pass. It can be my Christmas present, I told my wife. She can always return the slippers!

On another topic; I too am saddened by the drop off in members attending club meetings. It is very obvious that stamp collectors are aging, and that Royal Mail and other postal authorities are not helping by producing vast numbers of stamps which are very unlikely to appear on mail received in people's homes. Therefore young people see no relevance in stamps and so have no desire to collect them. I wish I had some answers....
Chris Hawley

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 54. 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 54.

IDEAS FOR MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

If what you're doing isn't working, try something new

I joined Maidenhead Philatelic Society (MDPS) in April 2024 and was recently made Secretary. At our social recently, I was given a copy of ABPS news from Winter 2023 with a suggestion that I contact you given the comments in the "Notes from the Chair" and "Editorial" sections about the future of societies and new members.

At the Maidenhead & District Philately Society AGM on May 21st someone asked, "How do we get more members?" This echoed a similar question in issue 22 of Henley Stamp News "At the Henley Stamp Club we are asking and seeking ways to get new members – has anyone got any bright ideas?" and a sentiment expressed by the outgoing President in the RPSL's 2022 Annual Accounts namely "One sadness is the depletion in numbers of members ..."

This document aims to address these comments. It comprises seven sections covering all aspects of membership of a philatelic society, followed by a section comprising a list of ideas.

Although you might be tempted to go straight to the ideas, reading sections 2 to 8 first will provide the context and explanation to the ideas listed in section 9.

Section 2 - THE EXISTING MEMBER EXPERIENCE - Existing members are the reason that the society currently exists, so understanding their experience with the society, should provide information on what may attract new members.

Section 3 - DEFINING OUR VALUE - We need to clearly define the value of philately and membership of our society, to make membership attractive to potential members.

Section 4 - IMPROVING OUR APPEAL – We need to ensure that potential members see us in a positive manner so they are encouraged to join.

Section 5 - NEW MEMBER BENEFITS - What benefits can we offer to encourage potential members?

Section 6 - THE NEW MEMBER EXPERIENCE - We need a new member experience so that when we get new members there is a higher probability that they will stay on as active members.

Section 7 - IDENTIFYING AND REACHING POTENTIAL MEMBERS - We need to identify who we are trying to recruit so we can target how to reach them, to maximise the benefits from our resources and not waste money/effort in the wrong places.

Section 8 - PARTNERSHIPS - We need to work with the other groups which have a vested interest in the long-term strength of our hobby.

Section 9 - LIST OF IDEAS - A list of 100 ideas based on the comments in the previous sections.

There is a degree of overlap between these sections, so don't be surprised if ideas come up more than once in different sections, but (hopefully) with different explanations so it's not too repetitive.

It is important to stress, that looking at and making changes to help recruit new members is not a reflection or criticism of what the officers (who put a lot of effort into the society) have done, or are doing. Instead it's a reaction to the questions about membership growth and an attempt at constructive dialogue to encourage this.

Even if you decide not to do a membership drive, some of the ideas in this document may be beneficial (e.g. improving the websites).

One point on the cost. Most societies seem to close with money in the bank. There's no point having money in the bank if you end up with no members, so the money goes to another society – spending some of your reserves to create a longer-term future for your society is a good thing.

Some of the 100 ideas of the way forward from the current situation through a new drive are précised below, but if you need more use editor@abps.org.uk to send a request. The whole document is a 29-page Word document:

1. Survey and involve past and existing members before, during and after the drive.
2. Consider what membership of the society and philately offers. It must offer more than can be done solo.
3. Get feedback from anyone about your website: members, non-philatelist friends, member from other societies.
4. Think about the name of your society - does it appeal or seem exclusive
5. Consider adding personal touches to the website like meet the committee, or meet the members etc.
6. Consider how meetings are reported – can these be more colourful and personal?
7. Review all the content on the website and ensure that it gives a positive image of what we do. Take out negative content, or at least make it a positive (e.g. an inherited collection may not be financially valuable but it will bring you hours of entertainment).
8. Demystify some of the terminology and practices with clear explanations (e.g. our website talks about a circulating packet – I had no idea what it meant and couldn't find any explanation on the website).
9. Create a new member offering: prepare a welcome pack; offer a mentor/buddy to help with your collection, how to collect, how to compete etc.
10. Welcome visitors to meetings and introduced them to everyone present and everyone present to them (only if there are more than 10 members present, would a group introduction be appropriate).
11. Don't try and get all and everyone to join – people who join who aren't really interested are more likely to leave (and potentially say bad things about us (online) creating negative publicity).
12. Identify all the potential places that we could advertise for new members, Bank, Building Society, Post Office etc. community boards, libraries, local museums and Identify local groups that may be interested in being given a

presentation Consider holding (some) meetings earlier in the day (so people who don't like travelling at night can attend).

13. Discuss with the Federation e.g. about support for sharing membership ideas and providing support for how to use technology etc.

14. Discuss with dealers on the support they would give to help with a new member campaign.

15. Analyse failures to learn from our mistakes.

16. And finally share failures and the causes with other interested parties – to help them avoid making the same mistakes.

David Smith

The whole document is very thought-provoking. One person cannot do it all, so everyone needs to feel part of the process, in thought, words, actions or however their abilities can be used. Thank you, David. Personally I am very grateful for it all, including your insistence on positivity.

Editor

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

Postal History Society has a new secretary: **Marc Oxley**
secretary@postalhistory.org.uk

Local Societies

Ashford (Middx) & District Philatelic Society has some changes:
a new secretary **Wendy Rushton** rushwendela@yahoo.co.uk
and a new website: ashfordstampclub.wixsite.com/home

Frinton & District Philatelic Society has a new secretary: **Steve Alpe**
steve_alpe@hotmail.com

Grantham Stamp Club has a new secretary/treasurer: **Steve Carter**
steve.carter57@live.co.uk

Launceston Philatelic Society has a new secretary: **David Richards**
david.richards296@btinternet.com

Poynton Philatelic Society has a new secretary: **Dr Gary Cook**
garyac161@hotmail.co.uk

Telford Stamp & Card Club has a new secretary: **Richard Camp**
mail@richardcamp.co.uk

We regret to report that Halifax Philatelic Society has closed.

TELFORD STAMP AND CARD CLUB

Monthly meetings (except July/Aug.)
2nd Monday,
7.30pm to 9.30pm
with a full programme of speakers
and stamp demos to improve your
experience.

Stamp, Card and Coin Fairs

2nd Saturday of
January, April, July and October,
10am to 2pm
Friendly Fair with good range of dealers.
Free entry

All meetings in the Belmont Community Hall,
off the

FREE Tan Bank Car Park, Wellington,
Telford, TF1 1HJ

Contact: Richard Camp,
Telephone: 01952-405458

On the Club circuit

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

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

Federations

Essex

We have arranged the 2025 Philatelic Seminar for Saturday 8th March at Henry Dixon Hall, Henry Dixon Road, Rivenhall End, Witham, Essex CM8 3HR, starting at 9.30am and finishing at approximately 4.30pm. We have always said that this seminar is designed to assist and advise collectors to make more of their collections, so, for our 28th annual seminar, we have decided to invite **Alan Moorcroft FRPSL** to talk about *Postal History Routes and Rates*, and how to write and display. Following this, there will be four rounds of ten 8-sheet or five 16-sheet displays, open to everyone. We hope that the day will help to give people the enthusiasm, confidence and interest to exhibit their collections to fellow members at their home societies and also provide a shop window for society programme secretaries looking for speakers for their next season. Even if you have never displayed before, your participation will be very welcome. If you do not want to display, do not let this put you off coming! Just come along and enjoy the variety and the social aspect. As always, there will be plenty of experts present to help you with any aspect of collecting with which you would like assistance or to point you in the right direction to find out more. There will also be plentiful opportunities to ask questions. The cost will be £25 per person. This will include morning coffee, buffet lunch and afternoon tea.

→ ray.how@btinternet.com

Len Stanway

Sussex

Over recent years the number of clubs affiliated to the association has declined either as a consequence of closure, or more positively by mergers. However, in support of continuing officers, fresh volunteers have come forward to serve on our executive committee thus ensuring the continuing activities of the association. Our handbook containing the contact details of all affiliated clubs and members able to provide displays will soon be circulated, our website

continues to be updated and preparations for our annual South of England Stamp and Post Card Fair at Ardingly on 11th October are well in hand.

Jim Etherington

Wessex

Last season's Zoom programme ended on a high note with 22 attending the May meeting. Thanks to Keith Burton for sending on the invitation to many others who not only came along, but some had short presentations to share. I've simply not had the time to arrange any Zoom meetings since then, but it's on my to-do-list. We had a fairly ordinary AGM in September, with very little on the agenda, apart from the necessary business items. Our Fair and Exhibition was held at Torquay Boys' Grammar School on 30th October. There was not a huge footfall, but the exhibition was much better supported than the previous competitions. Collectors in the area seem much more comfortable with exhibiting than competing, and I'm pleased that the committee was able to read this trend and to do something positive about it. We had eighteen entries from six different clubs, and even one of the local dealers exhibited a frame, for which we are very grateful. All exhibitors should receive a certificate of participation, when our Exhibition Secretary has sorted out a troublesome IT issue. *David Cleaver*

Specialist Societies

Borneo

25 members and partners attended our AGM weekend, 4th to 6th October, at Chesford Grange, Kenilworth, easy to access with excellent facilities. We will be returning there in October 2025. As usual it was a crowded weekend with displays that ranged from *Early PPC's*, to the *Aesthetics of Exhibiting* via the *North Borneo 1894 pictorials*, *Early Sarawak Air Mails and RAF Flights*, *Japanese Occupations stamps of Brunei* and *Labuan Anniversaries*. There were two auctions; a general auction with material from all four former British Protectorates and East Malaysia followed by an auction of the Sarawak collection of a former member, in total 700 lots. Dedicated auctions are something that we are always willing to consider for major collections. Our next meeting is at the Devon Hotel near Exeter on the 28th to 30th March 2025. The Hotel is highly rated with easy access to the M5 and by public transport to central Exeter. Displays will include *Sarawak Paquebots and Ship Mail*, *Labuan 1894 Pictorials*, *Sarawak 1875 3 cents*, *The First De La Rue issues of Sarawak*, *Sarawak Gold Medal* display of the stamps of Vyner Brooke. Plus two auctions totalling about 700 lots. As ever non-members are welcome,

ABPS accredited judges

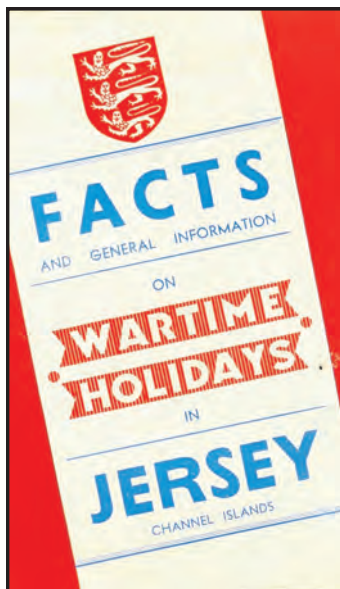
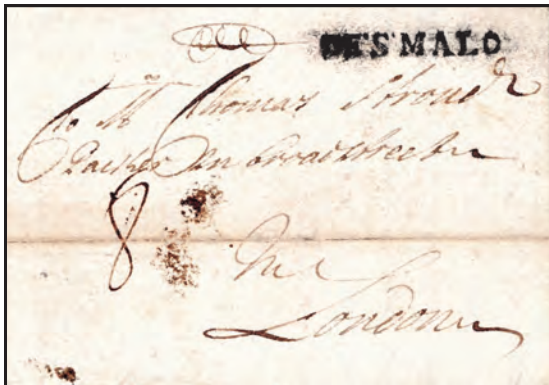
The current list of ABPS accredited exhibition/competition judges can be found on the ABPS web site www.abps.org.uk Click on the "Exhibiting" tab, then the "Judges" tab that is on the 2nd line of tabs.

including day visitors → secretary@b-p-s.org.uk. A meeting room has been booked by the society for Thursday 8th May 11.00-13.00 at EuroPhilEx at the NEC Birmingham. All are welcome, do come for a taster of what the society offers. → www.b-p-s.org.uk

Jon Higgins FRPSL

Channel Islands

A total of seventeen members and one guest attended our members' meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society in London on 30th November, with a further six joining via Zoom in the afternoon. The day's programme started with a 59-lot room auction realising £767. Lot 25, a 1698 entire sent from St. Malo to London via Jersey bearing a rare DE S'MALO handstamp, offered at £75 sold for £190. Members present had the opportunity to



preview some of the 75th Anniversary displays to be shown at the RPSL on 9th January. **Jon Aitchison** showed *Ballon Monté* covers; **Nick Stuart** *Guernsey Postage Due & Instructional Markings*; **David Winnie** *Jersey Penny Post*; **Julian Bagwell** *Pre-Adhesives* and **Jill Flemming** *Guernsey Hotel Postcards*. Zoom presentations were given by **Gerald Marriner** on *Channel Islands Postage Due & Instructional Markings* and **Alan Moorcroft** on *The 1940 Evacuation of the Channel Islands*. This included a fascinating brochure on Wartime Holidays in Jersey published before the German Military Occupation! **Roger Harris** showed an important new acquisition. It was an envelope containing one of only three two-page letters dropped by air early on 1st July 1940 addressed to the 'Chief of the Military and Civil Officials on Jersey (St. Helier)' outlining the terms of surrender. The letter was signed by the Commanding General of the German Air Force in Normandy. The envelope was endorsed 'dropped at airport 0540'.

Steve Wells

Cyprus

The society has brought its London-based meetings to a close in favour of Zoom meetings that reach out to the whole of our worldwide membership. Our 2024

series of Zoom meetings has been very interesting covering a wide variety of subjects and the 2025 programme is as follows:- All on Saturdays: 1st March – *Postmarks of Cyprus*; 7th June – *Flaws on GB Stamps Overprinted CYPRUS*; 6th September – *Flaws on Modern Stamps of Cyprus*; 6th December – TBA. All meetings start at 13.30 London Time. The link is posted on the CSC website and is sent direct to those expressing an interest to attend. We would like additional displays from our members and **Jim Wigmore** will translate your scanned images if you do not know how to put together a Zoom PowerPoint-type display. We would like to see both a growing attendance and membership participation at these Zoom meetings. For all details regarding ZOOM meetings please → Jim Wigmore at jameswigmore@talktalk.net Jim Wigmore

The Czechoslovak PS of GB

Eleven members attended our meeting at The George Inn in November 2024, which began with judging for two biennial competitions: the George Pearson Trophy and the Francis Pettitt Salver. The former, which focuses on Czechoslovak philately before WWII, had entries from four members, on a range of subjects from postal stationery to perfins, and was won by **Rex Dixon** (*The Hultschin area: Czechoslovakia, 1920–1938*). The latter (on postwar material)



Wojciech Kierstan, right, receiving the Pettitt Salver

had three entries including the *Treasures of Prague Castle, Stamp Design* and Material from the 75th Anniversary of Heydrich's Assassination. It was won by **Wojciech Kierstan** (*Vaclav Hollar – Engraver*). As usual, the voting was very close, and the chairman, **Peter Williams**, commended everyone who had taken part. The remainder of the meeting was a presentation by Wojciech on *The Most Beautiful Stamp* competition held from 1963 to the present day in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic. Using souvenir sheets, miniature sheets, and First Day

Covers, the display was both a study and a celebration of the changing trends in stamp design. Categories for the winning stamp designs tended to change – most beautiful, best series, best cover and so on. From 1965, voters received a souvenir sheet in a folder with an engraving based on the stamp design. All were

in agreement that the examples of the engraver's art shown, on the souvenir sheets and their covers in particular, displayed the artistry of Czechoslovak and Czech stamp design at its very best. → www.cpsgb.org.uk Tony Holdsworth

Forces Postal History

During the past year we held two joint meetings: in March with the West Africa Study Circle and in September with the King George VI Collectors Society. In November

2025 we will be holding another - this time with the GB Overprints Society. Joint meetings are a wonderful opportunity to see a variety of forces-related material from other societies. We hold monthly meetings (except August) split between the Union Jack Club (UJC) at Waterloo (afternoons)



Happy members at the joint FPHS/WASC meeting held at the Royal

and the Community Centre at Banstead (all-day). We also hold a number of Zoom meetings usually at 2pm on a varied number of weekdays and Saturdays. Full details of our meetings can be found on our website. We will be holding our AGM and an auction at Banstead on 26th April and members' displays at our UJC meeting on 17 May. This will be followed by another Banstead meeting on 7th June at which we will have a guest speaker on the subject of *HMS India: The Men who Sailed and who Survived Her*. The vessel was sunk during WWI and the survivors found themselves interned in Norway. The group included a relative of the speaker, **Rebecca Clarke**. Our meeting reports are placed on our website and many of our Zoom displays are also available there as well.

→ www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk

Michael Dobbs

France and Colonies

In November our latest Zoom meeting, attended by fifteen members, comprised three displays. **John West** showed a comprehensive introduction to *WWI Red Cross Reply Service Tracking Labels*; **Loic Dufresne de Virel** presented detailed illustrations of *WWI censored Groupe Type* and **Roger Niven** who displayed a *Historical Perspective of Stamps Illustrating Tapestries*. Our next Zoom meeting will be on 11th February when **Mick Bister** will be giving the first of three planned Zoom meetings for 2025: a colourful 40-frame presentation on the *Colonial Exhibitions of France from 1894 to 1931* showing stamps, postal history, vignettes, postcards and postmarks. In December we published our latest 64-page journal with major articles on *Usage of the Beautifully Engraved*

Monuments and Tourist Issues (1938-1941) by **Edwin Voerman**; *Precursors of the French Postal Card* by **Frans Jorissen**; *The 25-franc Marianne de Muller issue* by **Mick Bister** and *Show Business Connections on French stamps* by **David Parmley**. The next journal is due for publication in April. Preparations are now underway for our 49th Annual Philatelic Weekend 6th to 8th March in Stratford-upon-Avon, when we are planning for some 20 formal presentations over the three days, together with about a dozen informal 'show and tell' displays in the evenings. With several new members in 2024 we are hoping to better the attendance of 27 members of last year. Any enquiries are welcome.

→ secretary@fcps.org.uk

Roger Niven

Germany & Colonies

We have specialist study groups within our membership. **The Danzig Study Group** (UK) offers a quarterly subscription to their specialist journal whilst the **Third Reich Study Group** (TRSG) also offers a free (on-line only) news sheet. The TRSG also meets three times a year for membership presentations and a bourse. To register your interest in the TRSG News Sheet, please contact **Carl Buck** at carl.buck01@btinternet.com There is an associated group in the USA, the **German Colonies Collectors Group** which offers another journal. We would also like to inform fellow collectors that membership is free to those who are under 18. So if you know of anyone who has a burgeoning interest in philately, please let them know. Details of all these groups and membership can be found at www.germanphilately.org

Carl Buck

Malaya

Three meetings were held. 19th October and 7th December (Christmas) were at our usual venue, Spink Auction House, London WC1 and a Zoom Meeting more accessible to distant members on 23rd November. The first commenced with a presentation by **Peter Cockburn** on *WWII*. **Len Stanway** followed with a display of *Airmail from BMA onwards*, showing BOAC, Pan American, Qantas and Malayan Airways. **Martin Roper** gave a study about *8c East Coast Railway definitive of 1957*. **Susan McEwen** displayed *Singapore Mobile Post Office*. **Andrew Norris** displayed *Wearne's Airmail* and **Dominic Morris** rounded off with a display about *Various Malayan Sultans*. In November **Michael Waugh** gave the Zoom Display. It was the *History of Airmail to and from Malaya until the Japanese Invasion in 1941*. KLM from 1928 had a head start. Imperial Airways started from Singapore on 1st January 1934 and during the rest of the thirties there was competition between the two airlines. KLM was more expensive, but faster and more frequent. From 1st March 1938 Empire All Up at 8c was introduced. WWII made for pooling of resources and the strategy of routes which did not fly over enemy territory. In December **Susan McEwen** displayed items relating to *WWII*. **Andrew Norris** showed *Social History of Singapore*. **John Higgins** brought a *Postcard to Edvard Lampriere in Labuan in 1881* followed by **Roger Johnson** showing *Postal History about Sarawak*. **Nick Hervey** ended with a variety of *Postal History relating to Malaya*. *Michael Waugh FRPSL*

National

Our members have enjoyed two outstanding displays by visiting speakers, one online, the other live. The online display in December was on the subject of *Christmas* and presented by **Julian Bagwell**. He approached the subject from several fronts, tracing the origins of Christmas mail, with some early pre-stamp material, and covers posted on Christmas Day. He also asked what is a Christmas issue and when was the first one. The Hungary 1943 issue and the Cuba 1951 issues were the first to tick most of the boxes. The London display in January 2025 was by **Mick Bister** who presented *A Philatelic Romp through one of France's most colourful Colonies - French Somali Coast*. He explained the history of this outpost on the Gulf of Aden, the various name changes, together with some scarce 19th century material including French Colonies key type issues used in the territories. As usual in London there was also a 400-lot room and postal auction which was well-attended with some keen bidding. We alternate London meetings with auctions held at the RPSL premises, with monthly virtual meetings held on Monday evenings. Future displays include *Brazil* (February 10th), *Mauritius* (March 8th), *Belgian Congo, the Katanga crisis* (April 14th). We will be sponsoring the Court of Honour at EuroPhilEx in May. For further details see our website: www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps We also offer a bi-monthly journal *Stamp Lover* and an extensive nationwide exchange packet. Membership enquiries to **Peter Mellor** npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk or 01582 762284.

Michael Goodman

Royal

We welcomed **Thomas Mathà FRPSL** in November, giving his third presentation to us. His subject this time was the *Postal History of the Italian Islands*, showing the origin and development of the organised postal service to the islands, concentrating on the mail connecting the islands with the mainland. The presentation was divided into groups of islands: Maritime islands including Sicily and Sardinia; Lagoon islands in the Adriatic Sea; Lake islands; River islands. The display of *China: 300 Years of Decline, Struggle and Revival* given by **Danny Kin Chi Wong FRPSL** was filled with incredible covers and letters,



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Danny Kin Chi Wong at the frames

1810-1880, the material on show was truly exceptional. Every aspect was covered, from the moves for postal reform, the development of the Penny Black including entries in the Treasury Competition, the issued line-engraved penny stamps, the Penny Black, including concerns

of fraudulent re-use of stamps to the subsequent Penny Red. There is a wealth of material that can be collected from the Channel Islands, as was shown on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of **the CISS**. We saw a fascinating insight as to why these islands offer so much to collectors.

West Indies

Our positive news is about **Simon Richard's** recently published book *Dominica Philately to 1967*. As president, Simon took up **Victor Toeg's** 1994 commitment (as former president) to another volume on other aspects of Dominica philately. The result is a comprehensive review of all things philatelic for Dominica up until 1967. Evidence of the island's postal history begins with a French letter written by MG Mayne St Luce from Loubiere on 8th April 1795 to Captain Brough of the Royal Marines, HMS Panther. Ship Letters, early Packet Letters, French occupation and the introduction of date stamps are all carefully detailed in a manner that provides a good insight into the issues affecting many Caribbean islands at the time. The book covers postmarks, post offices, stamps and postal stationery. In summary it is a thorough and captivating read that will delight any Caribbean collector. To purchase your copy go to <https://pennymead.com/productdetail?home=1&item=35702&ft=newlyUpdated&pg=1> Susan Taylor

ranging from the Imperial Courier Post of 1644 to 1912, up to the unification of Hong Kong on 30th June 1997 and of Macao on 20th December 1999. The display given by **Bill Barrell FRPSL** in December was probably the finest seen for many years of classic Great Britain. Titled *Great Britain – Postal Reform and Development of the Penny Value*



Simon Richards with Bill Barrell

Only 20% of Specialists each issue - what happens at the rest?

Editor

Local Societies

Amersham and District

Alan Tunkel from Barnet PS presented *Stamps depicting Queen Victoria* in October. The sheer scale of the display was amazing, and his simple display technique should give encouragement to our more reluctant members that you don't need to have Grand Prix levels of presentation to show your material and keep everyone thoroughly entertained and interested for an evening. However the highlight of the month was **Wayne Cox's** display *Letter Boxes*, which featured his Gold Medal winning display from The RPSL. Our November auction saw 60% of lots sold with a gross turnover of around £4200. The 2024 season closed in December with members' 1- and 3-sheet competitions. Winners were **Tim Harrison's** 1-sheet display *British Mark V Tanks in The Russian Civil War*, **Neil Cooper's** 3-sheet novice class *Son of my Father*, whilst **Mark Ladd** won the Ruby Cup with a 3-sheet display *BCA Mail Route through NE Rhodesia*. Highlights for early 2025 include *1887-1901 Jubilee Controls* by **Stephen Reeves** showing previously unknown material, *Austro-Hungarian Army and Navy in WWI* by **Roger Morrell** (in March), *Card Post* by **Maurice Buxton** (March) and *Danish Postal History* by **Chris King** (May). Visitors and guests are very welcome to join us. Our next auction will be on 3rd April in the New Drake Hall at the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre. The catalogue will be found on our website (<https://stampersham.org.uk/>), 3-4 weeks before the sale. *Tim Harrison*

Ayrshire

On 15th October members invited by the president brought displays. Opening the evening **Dan Ross** showed his collection of *Early Kilmarnock Letters*, including the earliest recorded mark, followed by other early postmarks from East Ayrshire. **David Bowman** took us through *The Background to the US Space Race*, covering Apollo 7 to 17, using in his words "some dubious material". Next **John Chalmers** led us on his *Holiday across Canada from Toronto to Vancouver* in stamps, postcards and covers, and **Ian Smith** completed the evening with *The Reign of King Carol I of Romania, 1940-47*, showing how the gradual increase of Russian influence was reflected in the stamps issued. Our meetings from 29th October through to February are being held in the afternoons at 2pm. At the first one the *Committee Entertained* with a variety of offerings. **Robert Watt** showed *Items of Banffshire Postal History* and a display of *Jodrell Bank* which was followed by miscellaneous sets accumulated by **David Connelly**. **David Rossall** contributed a display of the *Quaker Chemist and Meteorologist Luke Howard* and **Ken Gibb** showed his *French Marianne Issues*. In the second half **Ian Smith** produced *Aspects of the British Indian Ocean Territories* and **Russell Ramsay** brought matters to a close with *French issues from 1853 -2007*. At our afternoon meeting on 26th November members were invited to show Recent Acquisitions. **Ken Gibb, Dan Ross, David Rossall, James Irving, Ian Smith, Robert Watt** and president, **Russell Ramsay** rose to the occasion. → Ken Gibb at ayrstamps@yahoo.com *David Rossall*

Basildon

October's meetings were by **Alan Moorcroft** on *Campaign Mail of the Napoleonic Wars* and members on *Anything but Stamps*. **Maggie Thompson** brought various *Philatelic Christmas cards* and some *Football Postcards*. **Alf Potter** showed *Military Uniforms on Picture Postcards* from 1740s to the modern era. At Alf's request, **Len Stanway** performed from Shakespeare's Henry V appearing on one of them. Len completed the evening with two rounds from his collection of *Singapore Postcards*. He included views of the GPO and its predecessor, the old Tank Road station and its pre-1932 route through the north of the city, plus modern views of the now-defunct monorail around Sentosa island. In November **John Copeland** showed *Bells - An Essex Postcard Publisher*. "Real photograph" cards were the bulk of production between 1903 and 1955 closure. Forays into comic postcards and both civil and military ships were seen, the latter curtailed by a Defence Of The Realm notice in 1915, but resumed post-WWI. Later that month *The Committee Entertains*. Chairman, **Ian McElwain**, displayed *New Zealand*, originally bought for resale, but no longer! Secretary **Charlie Mead** continued with postal history from three of the four *Meadvill towns in the USA*, - Pennsylvania, Nebraska and Mississippi. **Alf Potter** had *Comic and Postal Regions Postcards*. **Harry Flatman** brought *1950s/1960s Pop Music*, illustrated by 45rpm singles. President **Len Stanway** closed with *Hungary to 1942*. In December **Ian McElwain** took us to *Pitcairn and Montserrat* and the year closed with *Festive Night & Tomex Quiz* – and refreshments!

Fly on the Wall

Bolton

October was our evening auction which had 450 items listed. We are now getting a lot of postal bids. It was a busy evening but there are always a few unsold items at the end. In November our secretary **Eddie Dunn** give us part 2 on his talk *France - a Coastal Journey* where he took us on a philatelic journey around Normandy and Cherbourg. In the second half of the afternoon was



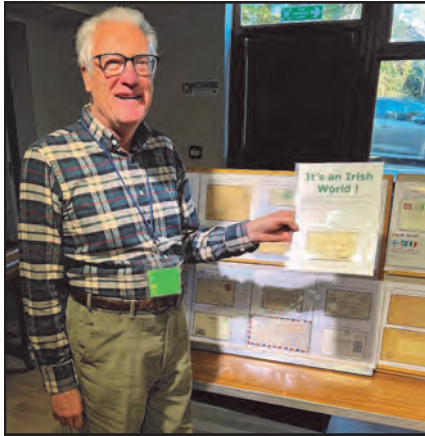
Robin Heap showing his display of The Ghent World Fair 1913

French Red Cross Issue Stamps from the earliest in 1914 to the 1990s. In December was our Christmas social and competition afternoon. We had a buffet provided by a local bakery. Our first competition was 9 sheets on any subject, these included *The Ghent World Fair of 1913*; *Greenland Christmas labels*; *Postcards of Churches in Bolton*; *George V New Zealand stamps*; *Various Bolton First Day Covers* and *Victorian mail showing Too Late Cancels or Missed Deadline for Posting*. The second half of the afternoon was 3 sheets with the letter U or V, which produced stamps showing a *Visit by QE11*, *US Army mail*, *Victory stamps of Belgium* and *Victorian*

Stamps Different Perforations. The final part was a single sheet competition, with the following entered: *Stamps of the Pantheon Mausoleum, Paris, Stamps of the French colony of Mayotte, The Mexican Revolution, British PO in Egypt and Stamps of Penrhyn Island*.
Henry Lisowski

Bookham

In October we had our annual auction with over 300 items. November brought us a fun, and meaningful thematic display from **Peter Wood** with his presentation of *It's an Irish World*. We learnt all sorts of interesting and wonderful facts relating or loosely relating to Ireland and its people. Peter covered many topics from its history, the geography, sciences, authors, religion, arts, sports etc. It was a fascinating and entertaining afternoon. At the end of November we held the annual Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies Fair (FSPS) with 15 dealers attending. The Christmas meeting was attended by 45 members. We enjoyed a wonderful buffet supplied by Harrington's Bakeries along with a glass or two of wine. We also had a quiz and a raffle



with the star prize being a superb hamper. The winner of the Roy Gilbert Cup held in September was **Steve Paice**. Our upcoming meetings are by **Philip Cant** on *The Titanic* (February); **Alan Hall** on *A Trip round Saudi* (March); **Grace Davies** on *Nobel Prize Winners* (April); AGM & Auction (May); **Ian Marshall** on *London Coffee Houses* (June) and **Lorraine Maguire** on *Every Cover and Letter tells a Story* (July). We meet every 4th Tuesday of the month (except for December) at the Old Barn Hall, Church Road, Great Bookham and our very popular Trading Tables start opening at 1.15pm, with displays commencing at 2.15pm → www.bookhamstampclub.com Barry Feltham

Bristol

With two venues and thirty meetings the 2024-25 season provided six speakers taking us up to Christmas. Five meetings supported by contributions provided by members – a great way to learn from each other. Truth be said, some pressure though to delve a little deeper in what we collect. Two new members joined but sadly one of our most active members died in October – **John Roe**. His contributions and competition entries are going to be greatly missed. One colleague believes he had won more cups than any other member at the society. Speakers, so far, included **Wendy Buckle** (*Writing Materials through the Age of Illustrated Script* - intense and expert); **Austin Meares** (*Norfolk Islands*); **Barry Stagg** (*Parachutes* – an interesting A3 presentation); **Kevin Darcy** (*Turks and Caicos Islands* – and the ¼d values) backed up by **Carlton Jones** (*Entertains*) and **Ian Spencer** (*20 000km around Australia – East Coast*). Of further note –

the Open Evening brought in outsiders – certainly two of whom would be keen to come along to the next open evening.

Robert de Smit

Burnley and District

Our 80th year of celebrations has now passed and we can concentrate again on extending the membership and keeping hold of our slowly ageing brigade. Enthusiasm for the hobby however continues and we still have several members giving talks around the area. Several local societies have now moved to afternoon meetings which is fine in the summer but in wintertime fewer guests are willing to venture out in the evenings. We are still fortunate in having working members though and switching to afternoons would preclude their attendance.



Viewing Topical Display sat our Christmas Social

Our 2025 season started in January with our President's Night with **Howard Hughes** showing *Some Aspects of his award-winning GB collection*. As we continue into springtime we are planning for several members-to-show events, including a *Letters DEF* night, *Local Postcards* and *Postal History* and *12 favourite sheets*, to encourage displays. We will follow in March with society visits, a competition night, guest speakers and round off with an AGM and Pub Dinner. We retire for the summer and start up again in September.

Barry W Evans

Caledonian

We have had a relationship with Glasgow Life / Museums for a number of years by attending events organised for families held in the Kelvin Hall, which hosts sporting and cultural events in the West of Glasgow run by Glasgow Life which is affiliated to the local museums. A Family event was held in November 2024 and had as its theme *Wildlife and the Environment*. Glasgow Life had also organised sporting activities designed for children. The Caledonian PS provided a stamp display on *Wildlife on Stamps* originally created in the 1950s by **Willie Rae**, a society member. We also created templates with pictures of endangered species with a panel for the children to stick animal-themed stamps. Another stamp activity involved the children completing three "stamp snakes" started



Secretary Stewart Gardiner being accosted by a bear



Engrossed children working on their stamp pictures

during previous family days. The Family event was well attended with over 500 people attending during 4 hours. The Caledonian PS children's activities were by far the most popular with about 150 children completing "stamp pictures" and the stamp snakes. *Stewart Gardiner*

Cambridge

Despite the adverse weather and change of date, the Members' evening covering letters G, H and I was well supported on 6th January. **Mike Brindle** gave us a very informative display on the *Island of Heligoland* and explained how it had changed from British to German hands in 1890 in exchange for Zanzibar. **Tony Crowther** showed us a selection of Victorian covers featuring either *Halfpenny Cancellations* or *Halfpenny Stamps*. This included a very unusual and perhaps unique late use of an additional halfpenny strike possibly because there was no halfpenny stamp available. **Stafford May** gave us an informative talk about the introduction of the impressive *Integrated Mail Processor* from the Cambridge sorting office which has replaced a number of separate machines by combining various sorting functions. **John George** showed us a selection of stamps, covers and correspondence from the *Indian State of Cochin*. As usual John's display contained material we are unlikely to see anywhere else. Our president, **Rufus Barnes**, rounded off the evening showing us a selection of album pages from a *Great Britain Collection* he was given covering the late Victorian and Edwardian periods. The highlight being a superb Victorian 10/- blue which made the GB collectors present somewhat envious! We will continue with the format of a face-to-face meeting in Cambridge at Oddfellows Hall on the first Wednesday each month and a Zoom presentation on the third Friday each month. → info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk

Peter Morton

Chelmsford and District

In October we held our AGM at which committee members were reappointed for the forthcoming year. As our membership ages, numbers continue to fall. The past year saw two members sadly die and another move away from the area. For our meeting in November we welcomed **Rufus Barnes** who presented under the title *Pages from my Collection*. His excellent display featured material on Burma and Christmas Island. Our final meeting before our winter break, featured members presenting their *Favourite Things*. Displays included *Mint Stamps from the British Empire, Hong Kong Victory Issue, Swiss Trade Exhibitions of 1883 and 1896, Early Airmail and Surface Mail* and *Bell's Postcards*. For details please telephone Dave Everard on 01245 465506 or email: davideverard@live.com New members and visitors are always welcome.

Dave Everard

Cheltenham

We had a colourful Autumn - first being treated to a very colourful *Brazil* display by **Rick** and **Janet Nelson**, accompanied by delicious and hardly healthy Brazilian sweets at the coffee interval! Then **John Button** ran a workshop on *Colour in Philately*. A grey evening between these two was enlivened by bidding at the club auction and we finished the year with our Christmas Social – the usual mix of quizzes, food, drink and conversation. We will resume after a January break with the chairman's entertainment, a members' display evening and *Jamaica* before Easter – Read all about it in the next ABPS Bulletin. Our new website went live in November, which you can check out at cheltenhamphilatelicsociety.com At the Brazil evening our guest speakers (both members of the British Thematic Association) presented the club's vice chairman, **Barry Stagg**, with the BTA Cup which he had recently won at the BTA Annual Competitions held at the South of England Stamp Show.

Andrew Millington

Chichester & District

Guest speaker **Denis Noe** certainly packed a punch with his knowledge and vast array of philatelic and non-philatelic items shown to members of the society. Ranging from Queen Victoria through to King Charles he showed items such as 1916 Savings bank slips, an 1880s postcard, cancelled dies, 1916 National War Savings certificates, including the “good luck sign” swastika issues. During WWI cigarette cards were collected, many depicting men-in-action and medals. There were King George V De La Rue die proofs, and Post Office Savings stamps. Indeed, many of these were propaganda labels or posters used throughout the British Empire in schools and work canteens during WWI. From the QEII era we were shown a transfer die roller with a working proof sheet of 4d fiscal stamps that showed the red ink markings that pointed out needed corrections. Finally, Princess Anne and Prince (now King!) Charles were featured on blocks of four National Savings stamps that continued in use until January 1967. It was an excellent evening enjoyed by members. Our thanks to Mr Noe. Anyone

interested in our society please enquire on 01243-527068 or use our website <http://chichesterps.wixsite.com/chichesterps> or email the secretary on chichesterps@yahoo.com Martha Brown

Dawlish

The Christmas themed meeting at the Manor House on 11th December was quite eventful. The competition questions about Post Codes showed our ignorance on this subject but we excelled in pointing out the flaws on postage stamps.

Some philatelic bargains were had in a mini-auction and the single sheet competition on the subject of Christmas was won by the recipient **Colin French**, shown being presented with the trophy by our chairman **Dr Bill Lusty**. He must also be thanked for producing an excellent buffet. Our next meeting will be on 8th January at the Manor House when we expect to be fully entertained by our chairman, but what has he shown? You should have come along to find out. All meetings at the Manor House start at 7.00pm. Guests are always welcome and further information about the club can be found on our website or by calling 01626 864844 Jim Wigmore



Colin French and Bill Lusty

Epping Forest & District

We started our 24/25 Programme after the summer recess with the traditional members' evening showing *Recent Acquisitions*. A wide variety of material was shown by club members **Keith North, Richard Trotter, Ron Crump, Ian Reede, Nick Kkama** and the deputy chairman **Keith Lillywhite**. For the October Meeting we had the pleasure of receiving a display of Irish Postal History by **Stan Challis** on the theme *Irish Overseas Mail in the mid and later part of the Nineteenth Century and later examples of Censorship & Condemned Mail to Ireland*. The plethora of unique and interesting material was enjoyed by all with a lot of resulting discussion. In November we saw the return of Basildon's **Len Stanway** - this time showing *Singapore* with a comprehensive display of stamps and covers which again was enjoyed by our members. To round off the year we held our Christmas Evening where members were asked to bring along and show their tools of their hobby i.e. equipment and publications they used in displaying their collections. **Eric Hutton** started the evening with a comparison between the cataloguing



Stan Challis on Ireland

formats used in the Stanley Gibbons and Scotts Catalogues followed by **Nick Kkama** showing a variety of stamp handling aids he had collected over the years and finally **Keith Lillywhite** showed Bill Garrad's Postal Markings of RAF, RFC & RNAS Stations in UK and a few examples of early post-war RAF mail, Registration Labels and postmarks from RAF bases in Essex. *Keith Lillywhite*

Frinton & District

In November after a successful bourse we had an excellent selection of members' displays. **Jonathan Juby** showed *First Flight Commonwealth Airmail Covers* and **George Oliver** presented a miscellany of *French Red Cross Stamps, 1930s Airmails* and a silk postcard. **Trevor Potter** then showed commemorative postmarks for the *25th Anniversary of the Falklands Conflict*, **Geoff Miller** followed with *St Helena-Tristan Da Cunha Relief Fund* and a *Falklands Whaling Cover*. Chairman **Bob Hider** presented an interesting display of *Channel Islands WWII Material* including an essay of swastika overprints and **Mick Carter** ended with some *First Flight and other Covers of Imperial Airways 1924-1932*. In December we held our annual Christmas celebrations. The evening started with displays of stamps and postal history. These included *Christmas Cards of both World Wars, First Stamp Issues of France, RAF Bombing of Falkland Islands Airstrip via Ascension Island, Christmas Cards containing Town Names* and *Booklets of GB Machin stamps*. The Howard Davis Trophy for the 2024 best display went to **Alan Moorcroft** for *Other Post Office Services*. The evening finished with Alan's Quiz about 25 various stamps and postal covers. This was our first quiz and proved very popular. In January we had a varied range of excellent displays from members on the subject of *One Hundred Years Ago*. These included *George V Postal Stationery* from **Steve Alpe**, an *A to Z of British Empire Stamps* from **David Pugh**, and the *British Empire Exhibition Essays, Proofs and FDCs* from **Bob Hider**. *Steve Alpe*

Glasgow and Caledonian PS

Our joint Christmas meeting of the 2024/25 session of the two societies was held on the 17th December 2024 in Partick Borough Hall. This was a members' meeting with short one or two board displays on a topic or a one-sheet display illustrating their favourite items. Many members of both societies gave displays and all enjoyed festive refreshments provided by the presidents. A fitting end to the year looking forward to 2025 when the societies intend to merge and the "The Glasgow Caledonian Philatelic Society" would be born. *Stewart Gardiner*



A Brace of Glasgow Presidents

Grantham

Our December meeting was the 9-sheet competition for the Kirk Hillard Cup. The winner for 2024 was **Phil Clarke** with his display on *The Evolution of GB Postage 1757-1861*. Well done Phil. **Bill Tilbury** was second with his display on *Dogs - with Robert Perry at the North Pole* and third was our newest member, **Andy Beech**, showing *Operation Grapple - Testing of the H Bomb 1957-1962*. There were nine entries this year from the members present and all were of good quality. Competition over it was time for Christmas nibbles and soft drinks whilst people perused the exhibit entries. A good evening was enjoyed by all.



Chairman Barry Saunders, presenting Phil Clarke with the Kirk Hillard Cup

Guildford

We entered the Surrey Federation Mason Cup again this year and achieved a creditable third place, only seven points off the top spot. The entry by our team comprised: *Oil Rivers Protectorate: Its Postal History etc.* (**Simon Burke**) for which he received the Ewart Sanders Cup, Norwood Salver and Federation Cup; *Marianne – The Changing Face of a French Icon* (**Charles Smith**) and *GB Definitive Se-tenant Pairs & Their Sources* (**David Whitby**) for which he received the Derek Nathan Trophy. This is the third year in succession that GDPS has held the latter. **Susan Taylor** submitted a solo Social class - *Knowing the Truth about Columbus*. In November, **David Whitby** (our VP) presented on *Australia 1913-2013*, showing a comprehensive range of the five "Roo" issues up to 1947 and the various "GV Head" watermarks and shades released following a change of Government. His display included Ozzy Rules Football, Pets and the Sydney Olympics 2000. He remarked on the huge increase in the number of commemorative issues in recent years and explained how difficult it was now to find any



Simon Burke and David Whitby with their booty

postally used, relying on CTO examples. Our annual Christmas Social, including a Philatelic Quiz entitled *Nobel Laureates on Stamps* was held in December. Our next meeting will be *The Centenary of the Postage Stamp - 1940* on 12th March 2025. Visitors will be very welcome, as always. The current programme and further details → www.spanglefish.com/guildfordstampclub.

Rob Cooke

Harrogate

Our November Zoom was on “*All Saints*” – short displays by any member wishing to do so. Seven responded so we saw saints from *Maltese Statues*, *West Germany*, as *Churches on Old Notepaper*, and *Saint Solomonia and the Maccabees* amongst others. The next week we saw *Hull Postal History* from **Robert McMillan** (YPA President). This was a fascinating display covering hundreds of years of the mail through an active port and city. Robert told a fine tale and kept his audience entertained and enlightened. A Members’ Evening on *Stations* resulted in seven mini-displays including *LNER Parcel Stamps* from **Martin Kingdom**, *Postcards and Cancels from Local Stations* from **Mike Wilesmith** and **Peter Rix** produced material from *American Exhibitions* – the Post Offices there are called stations. Of course we celebrated at the end of the year, the refreshments were possibly more important than the mini-displays on *The End of the Year*, though that was given some interesting interpretations. Snow and then storm killed both our January meetings – from one we would have skated away on thin ice, at the other possibly blown away by Eowyn (the name was enough to worry me). Thank goodness for our Monday afternoon monthly meeting and Zoom. We are alive and kicking.

Keith Burton

Haverfordwest

An interesting afternoon was spent focussing on the theme of *Shipwrecks*. With all members living either on the Pembrokeshire coast or not far from it, our displays are often connected to the sea. The session was led by **Ken Watson**, whose idea it was to use this theme. Ken showed many postcards of ships that had been wrecked and spoke knowledgeably about the circumstances involved - inspired by his experience of being a merchant seaman. Members were asked to bring along items of any kind associated with the subject - not just philatelic. They included a large map showing all the shipwrecks there were around the Pembrokeshire coast (over 200 in all); books about shipwrecks; postcards of various disasters and a presentation about the *Titanic*. Some members shared their memories of the *Sea Empress* oil spill disaster in 1996, when the ship became grounded on mid-channel rocks at the entrance to Milford Haven. Over the course of one week, she spilt 72 000 tons of crude oil into the sea, which is within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park - one of Europe's most important wildlife and conservations areas. Much of the Pembrokeshire coastline recovered relatively quickly. Five years on, the affected marine wildlife population levels had more or less returned to normal. However the memories of the events have endured in people's minds.

Erene Grieve

Huddersfield

In October **Tony Plumbe** introduced *Nyasaland Airmails: Connecting 'Darkest Africa' 1911-53*. He reminded us that Nyasaland (now Malawi) is located in the East African Rift Valley. He told how the rail lines had regularly been disrupted (and moved) by earth tremors.

Nyasaland has never had a direct air connection with England (and still doesn't!). Tony included the first scheduled internal airmail service from 1938, two of the three known covers addressed to Nyasaland from the 1939 'Challenger' crash and concluded with covers from 1939-44 Trans-Atlantic and Wartime Mails. In November **Graham Winters** began with *Goats: the most important animals in the world*. He looked at the animals themselves and breeds of goats - there are a lot! Apparently there are more stamps showing a Chamois goat than any other type. Finally, he included goats in history, religion and mythology. He followed with *Silk Postcards with Butterfly Motifs*. These cards

are often linked with WWI. Some were produced before and after this. Although postcards, they were not designed - because of their fragility - to be sent through the post as cards. Rather, they were purchased in a grease-proof envelope and then posted in another envelope. Perhaps, unsurprisingly, few of the grease-proof envelopes survive, and even fewer of the outer covers! In December,

Brian Wilkinson's theme was *American Indians* on stamps and postcards;

Charles Squire presented *QEII Regionals* and **Tony Plumbe** introduced *Nigerian Artwork*, mainly derived from the Michael & Sylvia Goaman archive.

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Jon Taylor

King's Lynn

In October **Richard Moss** gave a fascinating display on *Hurtigruten – the Coastal Express*, a daily service conceived in 1881 to connect North and South Norway. This was illustrated with photographs, postcards and commercial covers of a journey which Richard undertook in 2008.

The second half of the meeting was **David Leathart's** display of *Norfolk Postal History from 1579* – a collection of very early letters commencing with a Mulready cover. David's display concluded with a variety of bright, colourful revenue stamps. From the Zoom meeting in November, members enjoyed **Charles Lloyd's** presentation *My Imperial Airways Africa*



Tony Plumbe explaining



Two happy presenters

Service 1. **Ken Burr** judged the 9-sheet competition entries in early November, providing very useful and instructive feedback. He then entertained members with a five-frame display of *Postal History from the Beginning of the Reign of King George VI*. November's visit by **Peter Watts** on the following Friday gave members an interesting insight into *A to Z Postage Dues around the World*. This included a number of scarce covers with combinations of two countries' dues on the same cover. In December **Mike Kentzer** entertained members with an insightful Zoom display on *Irish Postal History 1813-39* and a second covering the *Lynn Penny Post*. **Lilian Swift** joined members for the last meeting of the year producing an interesting and unusual display of *Christmas Seals*. This was a very apt subject for the Christmas meeting which concluded with the usual seasonal refreshments provided and enjoyed by all who attended.

Dahlia Harrison

Largs and District

Our first December meeting this year was our *Alphabet Night* when each member had drawn a different letter for their display. The meeting was run alphabetically with **Ellen Linton** starting with her *Trips to Antarctica*, **Bill Clark's** early issues of *British East Africa* and **Dennis Gray's** *Disney Issues*. **David Rossall** showed *Bela Szekula's Time in Geneva* and **David Bowman** gave us *H in the USA from Hancock to Honolulu*. Jersey was **Howard Hughes'** contribution and **Martin McBurnie** contributed *Three Kings from Egypt*. **Ian Smith's** themes were *Murders and Martyrs*, **Caroline Watt** had *Oilette Postcards* and **George Bunch** had *Paquebot Mail*. **Robert Watt** finished the second round with *Men who had Served the Queen (Victoria)*. **Angus Dodds**, out of sequence, gave us the *Faces of Edward VII and George V (GB)*, **Russell Ramsay** resorted to countries with a *W in their name (NorWay, SWeden, RWanda, BotsWana, etc.)*, and **Andy Shand** showed *People and Machines linked to X-rays*. **Hugh Lapham** chose *Yesterday's First Day Covers* and **Ricky Boyd** finished with *Zlotys from Poland*. This year's meetings ended on the 18th December with members' Recent Acquisitions. These included **Dennis Gray's** *Two Penny Blacks found at the Bottom of a Glory Box*; **David Bowman** - *Scottish Place Names in the USA*; **Ian Smith** - *British Bases in Antarctica*; **Angus Dodds** - *George VI Coronation Issues*. The second round included *African Countries* - **Martin McBurnie** and *Scottish Congress Covers* - **Ricky Boyd**, and **Howard Hughes'** *Cocos Keeling Islands*. → davidrossall@sky.com David Rossall

Launceston

At our recent AGM **Evelyn Sandercock** stood down as secretary after 35 years' service and **Viv Sandercock** relinquished being chairman after ten years. Evelyn joined the club in 1979 together with present day members **John** and **Vera Ellacott** and **Arthur Wills** and apart from serving as secretary also served as chairman for three years. After the AGM the incoming chairman, **Barry Mudie** paid tribute to and thanked Evelyn for her long and loyal service to the club. He outlined how she had been awarded life membership of the club and had received awards of merit from the Cornwall Philatelic Federation and the



Viv, Evelyn and Vera with Cake and Bouquet



ABPS. He presented Evelyn and Viv with a cut glass vase and a voucher for use at a local hotel and conferred the title of Honorary Life President of the Club on

Evelyn and Life Membership on Viv. Evelyn was then presented with a bouquet by Vera Ellacott. Later, a celebration cake was produced by treasurer **Des Kent** bearing an image of a 'double head' stamp with Evelyn and Viv's pictures substituted for the originals. The afternoon was rounded off by Viv's displays of *Flaws on the Stamps of King George VI* and *Gold Tags used by the Gold Miners of Western Australia in sending their Gold to the Perth Mint*. At our January meeting members showed recently acquired items. These included *Postal History from a Local Solicitor* and *A Personal Message from Montgomery to his Troops on the Eve of D-Day* amongst many others. Des Kent

Leeds

In October we had three visitors from the French society giving us a wonderful Pot Pourri, starting with the *History of France from the 1600s*. The first stamps were issued in 1849. Pigeons were used in 1870/71 to send letters but of the 600 sent only 22 arrived in Paris. Our third speaker spoke of the *French Cameroun up to Independence in 1960*. On November 12th **Les Pearcy** gave a fascinating display of *Succulents on Stamps*. On November 26th eleven members displayed a variety of topics: stamps, postal history and postcards. For our December meeting we learnt about the stamp trade from a dealer stressing



Clearly it was a good lunch

the importance of sorting one's collection. On December 17th we enjoyed our Christmas lunch at the Print Works. We have begun 2025 with a discussion followed by displays from members. We look forward to a full programme in 2025, and our annual Fair at Pudsey Civic Hall on November 15th & 16th. All welcome.

Liz Schweiger

Lewisham

In November 2024 members enjoyed an unusual presentation by **Geoff Hanney** on *Haitian Philately*. Haiti was originally inhabited by the Carib people who were virtually wiped out by waves of Spanish, French and English settlers, following in the wake of Columbus. Achieving independence in 1804, the country struggled



Geoff takes us to Haiti

to settle into successful self-government, so involvement by France and Great Britain continued. Pre-stamp covers were shown with marks applied in both French- and British-run post offices. When stamps first appeared, this continued, with stamps sent out from France and England to the respective offices. In 1881 Haiti decided to join the UPU and ordered its first set of stamps – the ‘Liberty Head’ design – from a French company. Unstable government led to regular changes of President – and each time there were overprints and new stamp issues. Forgeries abound – a favourite early 20th century pastime, aimed at collectors rather than postal

users. These include inverted overprints, ‘missing heads’, and erroneous perforations. Around 1900 the American Banknote Company got involved – but the administration was not good at paying their bills. From 1914 until the early 1930s US troops were in the country and virtually took over the administration, including finance and the postal service. All in all, Haiti was a fascinating focus for philatelists seeking something out of the ordinary – provided you are not insistent on establishing whether *all* your stamps are genuine: after all, some (like those created by Fournier) are probably worth more than the real stamps!

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Tony Holdsworth

Lostock

Fourteen members attended in December. The raffle raised £27. Our chairman **Adrian Jones** encouraged all members to bring along philatelic books or unwanted stamps for the next auction. Vice chairman **David Hargreaves** presented **Phil W** with the Lostock certificate of appreciation following Phil's talk in November 2024. We then held our long-awaited members' displays of something beginning with "K". Eight members competed. All members then voted for a favourite display. On this occasion the winner was our vice chairman. Additional stamps from new members supported the display with stamps from their own collection. During the afternoon we enjoyed an open buffet provided by all the members who brought along a grand selection of food and drink, including **Elizabeth Mitson's** fabulous trifle. The Christmas quiz was quite competitive and the nearest table to 100 points was table number one with 97 correct. On behalf of his table Phil W collected the prize - a tin of assorted hand creams. After a little persuasion Elizabeth Mitson ended the afternoon with her now famous Christmas poem and had everyone amused. Part of the January

meeting was shared by a talk by our chairman Adrian J and David Hargreaves. **Robin H** explained to everyone about the proposed Bourse meeting. To be held on the 4th February 2025. Then spoke of encouraging new members to plan a talk about 30 minutes or one hour. At the February meeting we will issue our new syllabus covering events and speakers up to June 2025. *David Morley*

Maidstone & Mid-Kent

The first half of the season has sped by very quickly and we have been treated to very enjoyable displays. For our evening meetings we have had a superb display of *Plymouth Postal History* by **Robin Tucker** and *New Zealand Postal Stationery* by **Michael Wilkinson**. In addition we have held our usual competitions and bourse and the Autumn Auction finishing off with our president's evening where we were treated to seeing some wonderful material from *Russia*. The morning meetings have been equally entertaining with the usual members' displays and displays on *The London Coffee Houses* by **Ian Marshall** and a display of Christmas material by two members. For the second half of the season we will have displays on the *Development of the Post*, *Lighthouses of Great Britain*, *League of Nations*, *Red Cross*, *Early France*, *Lundy*, *The Republic of Venice*, *GB Postal History with a Difference* and *The Ottoman Empire* as well as the usual members' contributions. *Brian Stonestreet*

Mid Sussex

We have just come to the end of the first half of our 2024-25 fortnightly programme and so far we are enjoying excellent and very well-attended meetings, always well into double figures. An additional bonus is our enjoyable convivial lunch at a local hostelry once a month before our meeting. Going over to day-time meetings has certainly bolstered our attendance. Our season opened with a display of *Falkland Islands Aviation* given by **Richard Hewitt** followed by a guided *Trip around Arabia* by **Alan Ball**. Our next display was given by **Phillip Cant**, who traced the ill-fated *History of the Titanic*. **Malcolm Green** and **Sue Taylor** were our final visiting speakers, Malcolm showing *British Philatelic Exhibitions* and Sue *Trinidad and Tobago*. Two members' meetings were included in our programme. The first entitled *Postal Items with more than One Head* produced entertaining and varied displays and the second was a display of *Transvaal* by one of our new members, **Danna Strydom**.

Jim Etherington

Newcastle Upon Tyne

In December member **Stephen Dixon** presented a picture postcard display entitled *Anglo-Egyptian Sudan: The Condominium*. The display consisted of 10 frames with over 300 picture postcards on show. The story of early Sudan was illustrated through the medium of contemporary black and white ppcs based upon photographs taken mainly by locally-based photographers. Many were related to news events, and if commercially viable were subsequently produced as postcards. These helped to put the story into context, giving an insight into the developments which took place in Sudan over a 20-year period. From the

early beginnings of the Condominium the exhibit illustrated aspects of the plans set out by the Sudan administration. Part 1 set the scene by examining the governance, secretariat, justice, defence and the Sudanese involvement. With Khartoum in ruins, its construction was featured in 'Khartoum: The Early Years', telling the story of progress with building and development work. Subsequent parts described the many tribes and ethnic groups forming the indigenous people of Sudan - their working lives and cultures. The Governor-Generals feature and their contribution is noted by the news event picture postcards issued. The story of the creation of Port Sudan is covered along with the development of Omdurman and Khartoum North. Although the focus was on the principal urban areas, the hinterland beyond Khartoum was represented. In the final frames the focus moved to the Garrison of Sudan and its composition.



Steve in our room at Newcastle Lit & Phil.

Phil Burn

Norfolk and Norwich

Committee entertains was the brief for our sole December meeting. It was a rousing evening included plenty of seasonal refreshments, plus a well-endowed raffle. Brief displays ranged from *The Icelandic Cod Wars* (**Andrew Cawdron**) to a thematic *Worst of Mozart* (**John Moseley**). Other displays were rather more conventional, such as the well-designed Helvetia *Pro Patria* issues (**Peter Boyce**) and *Early Sets of Hong Kong* (**Colin Taubenhaus**). An intriguing showing of *Fellow Travellers* was offered by **Larry Lewendon**, primarily souvenirs, cigarette cards and stamp related oddities - an appealing philatelic sideline! President, **David McIntosh** dug out further items from his *Scottish Heritage* collection, while **Chris Southgate** proffered another selection of *Montserrat*. **Tony Hender** showed a strangely unhelpful *US Authentication Certificate*, provided for a penny black. It was a successful event, pleasantly ended by **Ian Billings**, who offered a vote of thanks to the Committee for their generosity. Our January programme started with a bang, and seemingly with money changing hands, at a members exchange and sales evening. Our second January meeting has two members' displays of German issues. *Post-war Germany* revealed by **Andrew Cawdron**, followed by *Reunified German Post Office Material* - displayed by **David McIntosh**.

Chris Southgate

Oxford

Our own members continually stepping forward to provide significant displays was shown in this period. In October, **Julian Bagwell** provided an extensive and thoughtful presentation on all the stamps associated with *King Edward the Eighth*. In spite of a short reign and no coronation, there were EDVIII stamps, FDCs, covers, postage dues, flaws, meter marks, and many other philatelic items on display. In November, **Bob Spencer's** informative display on the *Royal National Lifeboat Institution's Work*

was complemented by **Vic Thorpe's** showing of the *Four Kings* (indeed Five, as he added King Charles's barcoded definitives). Later in the month, **David Potts** gave a wide-ranging display on *China: From the Treaty Ports to the Cultural Revolution*. In early December, members covered the frames with *Forgeries, Facsimiles and Reprints*, ranging from Indian States to Italy, Nigeria to Norway, as well as provoking useful discussions on forgers, the background to forgeries and the value of expertising certificates. A well-attended Christmas Social at a local all-you-can-eat restaurant in Oxford was the penultimate meeting of the year. Our final meeting of 2024 saw member, **Simon Richards**, expertly cover *The Postal History of the Kingdom of Savoy*. The first meeting of the New Year was members' displays of their *Recent Acquisitions*, which covered *Norway's Bouvet Island, Italian Republic, Cinderellas, American Airmails, Lagos, Prussian Blues* and *Brand-new stamps from Royal Mail*.

Dr Simon Heap

Poole and Bournemouth

2024 was a busy year for our records. Membership held up pretty well at around 20 members. The programme was varied with guest speakers on *Private Mail Carriers of South America, Designs of Eva Zombory, Zeppelins, Germany: Occupation Zones and the DDR*. Members' displays were all excellent and can be seen at our brilliant website managed by Mr Chris Wheeler who, sadly, is retiring at the end of 2025. (Desperately seeking somebody to take over <http://www.philatelinbournemouth.co.uk/clubs.html> - along with other local clubs.)

The last display of the year was entitled *Most Beautiful Stamps Ever*. There was a vote at the end of the display. Everybody had a good look and discussion before the vote, which was done by a show of hands. The result was a tie for first place between **Wendy Buckle's** beautiful 2023 *Czech Republic sheet showing Shakespeare's Bora Bora Girl*.

Rick Wilmot



It is sad to note that 28 local societies have never sent me a report in all the years that I have been editor - yes, I keep a record. Does that mean that nothing worthy of note or that might help another society has happened in 10+ years? Or is it the case of waiting for someone else to offer to write? Editor

Ringwood

Exhibiting – a Brainstorming Session: With a number of our members not entering displays, the topic was pertinent. **David Etchells** has developed a knowledge and expertise, culminating in his winning our *Postal History Class* and *Overall Competition Winner* in 2023, and top scoring at *The Inter-Club* and at Hampshire Federation Annual *HAMPEX*. President and judge, **Colin Mount FRPSL**, who has been a skilful tutor in all matters of display, was most pleased to introduce David, who presented his superb entry - *The Franking System in England*. He addressed *How you might put on a display?* He underlined key points: the choice of computer programmes, fonts, page size and colour and use of protective covers. Matters of rarity, condition and choice of entry class were considered, along with score improvement. David emphasised the importance of story telling, together with the need for a clear ending, and the need to keep in



Colin Mount with David Etchells

mind the judging process for more advanced entries. Having emphasised the fun of display, and a relaxed approach, David, then focussed more closely on his competitive entry, and considerations which had underpinned its creation. Acquisition of material and the gaining of points were finely examined, with much emphasis on presentation. Provision was made for good discussion opportunities and close display examination. Concluding, Colin thanked David for his most interesting entry and quality presentation. Chairman **Paul Barry** said '*It is a huge privilege to have been*

present today at such a fascinating and informative event in our calendar'.

Paul Barry

Royal Sutton Coldfield

Our meetings have gone very well so far this season, being well attended. Sadly we have lost one member. We had three excellent displays by guest philatelists. **David Macdonald** gave us *A Danish Miscellany*, which was fascinating. **Bob Shaw** gave us *Paraguay, Stamps and Postal History, 1795-1935*, an area which was new to most of us, and finally there was the very knowledgeable talk from **John Davies** *The 1890 Penny Post Jubilee*. Members' displays this season were *Letters K - L - M* and *East and West* both of



From Danish Miscellany

which allowed everybody plenty of choice for some excellent displays! We celebrated the Christmas season with a Christmas lunch before the last meeting of the year at a local restaurant. This was followed at our meeting with a general competition of one or three sheets. This gave us the opportunity to show a very wide variety of items. The first meeting of the 2025 is *Postcards – only the Picture Side!* which should create some colourful displays. *Margaret Langley*

Rugby

We started our new season in September with the sad news of the passing of another member, our thoughts are with his family. At our first meeting, part of our legacy collection was displayed to the members, including so many sub-post offices now shut. It started people recollecting the past. We have had the pleasure of welcoming a range of guest speakers. Each has entertained and educated us and as a very small society we really do appreciate their sharing their time and knowledge with us. For our part several members have displayed at neighbouring societies and enjoyed the chance to show our approach to the hobby. We have a varied program to look forward to for the second half of the season and welcoming our guests. *Steve Williams*

Salisbury and District

It has been a very busy period. We started with an excellent day meeting at which 22 philatelists from around the area joined us. It was as usual a friendly, interesting and informative day.. The standard of displays was very high and covered a wide range of collecting. This was followed by two members' evenings at which the material was as always eclectic, interesting and sometimes eccentric. Then we had **Albert Jackson** on *Poland at War*, one of the very best evenings that I have experienced in my 26 years in the society. He covered the subject superbly telling the story with a mix of stamps, military and social history, ephemera and postal history. We were then lucky to have another very high-class display by **Bill Pipe**, his first display since he suffered a stroke. We very much appreciated the effort he had made to come. We finished this part of the season in early December with our Christmas Social Evening. While obviously philately is our main interest, the social aspect and friendship of the society is important. Nineteen members and partners had a fun evening, which was much enjoyed by all. The enjoyment was helped by copious quantities of food and wine. We then moved on to the one-sheet competition for the Jeremy Martin Cup, which is judged by all present. Then we



Quizzers in action - or is that inaction?



Winner Takes All?

divided into three teams for the Quiz, which is the highlight of the evening and a fitting end to the year.
Mike Moody

Now who cannot agree that philatelic society meetings and members are very sociable and eager to exchange things, Before you know where you are, people are ending up married! PS Congratulations to the photographer in catching the moment - or did they have to take a number of retakes to get it absolutely right.

Editor

Sheffield

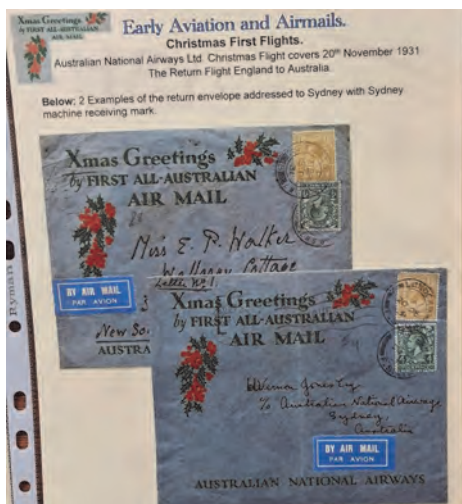
October commenced with **Terry Page** giving a most interesting Zoom presentation on *Zemstvos – the Russian Local Posts*. It was a fascinating insight into the pre-revolutionary Russian mail system. The next meeting was a visit by **Jill Fearons** from Barnsley, who gave us a most entertaining afternoon with *Submarines and Lighthouses*. The last meeting of the month was a members' display of *Countries beginning with the letters S, T and U*, (United not allowed). November began with our own members giving a Zoom presentation on recent acquisitions. This was followed by **John Hunter** with *Something American*. First he showed USA new issues between 1985 and 2024 detailing the complexity of US stamp issues and their varieties. Then came the development of the country's settlements and expansion, the birth of the states, and US Airmails. Later was the 8-sheets no-rules competition. There were 9 entries for this hard-fought event, won by **Paul Johnson** with his *Isle of Man*. In December **David Ball**, the American Air Mail Society President produced *Lessons from Going Postal – the Joy of Discworld Philately* based on Terry Pratchett's book. Many of the "stamps" designs are based on actual stamps – the GB 1913 "Seahorses" issue with the seahorses appropriately replaced by hippopotami. The first Thursday meeting was a programme change with a display of *Sheffield Postcards*, containing views of streets and landmarks over the years from about 1900 to 2010. How the landscape had changed over the years!

Richard A Hindle

Stratford

Is there anything more idyllic than a philatelic society situated in Shakespeare country, meeting in the grounds of a racecourse? Arguably not. So it is with delight that I can report that our Stratford season has had an exceptionally strong start. Attendances have been good, even when flooding has tried its best to disrupt our plans. We have also tried something a little different this season, dipping our toes into the social media world. We now have Facebook and Tik Tok accounts, working with moderate success and interest. We are also using these channels and others to continue the search for new members. Our season

has been marked with some stunning displays and philatelic rarities. Topics have ranged through thematics on *Minerals and Science*, *Early Canadian definitives and Expeditionary Force of 1918-1919*, member-led displays covering a wide range including *Favourite Colours*, and particularly fine collections showing the *History of Yugoslavia*, *The Katanga Story 1960-64* and *Sierra Leone*. We meet fortnightly on Wednesdays, from 1:30pm for 2:00pm to approximately 4:30pm in the "Winning Connections" (formerly called the "Press Room"), Stratford-upon Avon Racecourse, Luddington Road, Stratford-upon Avon CV37 9SE. Visitors are very welcome to any of our meetings, of all levels from novice to expert. If you collect any aspect of stamps or postal history or are just interested, come along and try us out. For programme and further details see our website, social media pages or contact our secretary, **Colin Fountain** at cfountain@talktalk.net or 01789 841606. **Mat Shaer**



Torquay & Teignbridge

There have not been many updates from T&TSC recently, but the club is still going strong with a varied programme of meetings. We held our AGM in August, and the only change is that last year's president is now our chair, and last year's chair is now our president. We also elected a new publicity officer, but unfortunate circumstances have meant that the new incumbent has had to step away indefinitely, and **Brian Austin** kindly agreed to take the reins again, for the time being. Our recent programme featured the same kind of thing that has served the club well for many years, and it still surprises me that, on members' nights, we continue to be treated to an unbelievable range of good quality material we've never seen before. Over the next few months, we will have a visiting speaker (**Gerry Smith** from Exmouth) in February, our *Anything Goes* competition (8 sheets) in March which will be run alongside a bourse, one of our members (a past president – **Peter Gay**) will conduct us on the second part of a tour round the *Channel Islands* in April. In May we have a members' night (four sheets or a £1 fine) and June will see our other two club competitions held on the same night. July sees us welcome **Ian Pinwill** back to share a small part of his excellent collection with us, so we have some very special treats in store for the coming summer

Dave Cleaver

Twickenham & District

The autumn season of our programme has been a very successful mix of daytime displays and evening Zoom meetings. In particular, we have been



David Rolls showing his Peru

treated to a fascinating Zoom presentation by **Sue Burn** on the topic of *Kingsford Smith's Aviation Trials and Tribulations*, and a full display by visiting speaker **David Rolls** on *Peru* with historical links and forgeries. A members' 10-sheet afternoon produced a wide range of contributions including: *Aden - Hadhramaut* (encouraged by finding a book on what happened there); a quick *WWI history from the Sarajevo*

Assassination to Victory expressed in stamps and postcards; *Australian TPOs from the 1880s to the 1950s* with all states represented; *Sudetenland Curiosities*; *British Forces in Kenya during Transition to Independence*; and *Hungarian 1946 hyperinflation* – the worst ever with 27 steps in postal rates over a year. Our Thematic Zoom evening included *Oxford College Mail*, *A Discussion on the Reproduction of Famous Paintings on Stamps* (with mixed quality of result – black and white often being better than colour!), and a wordless *Musical Tour of the Stadtpark of Vienna* borrowed from **Andy Taylor** of the Austrian Society. Our season concluded with a series of short Zoom presentations on aspects of postal stationery including *German States and Colonies*, *Yugoslavia's Political Ups and Downs*, *A Canadian Miscellany* (including the mysterious 'domestogramme'), and *South African WWII Airgraphs*. Roger Morrell

Wakefield

On the 2nd October a members' evening was held when, in memory of **Nigel Harpen**, **Glenn Fearons** displayed a collection and works of Nigel's on the *The Life and Times of Abraham Lincoln 1809 – 1865 (The Sixteenth President of the United States of America)*. **William Smith** presented a collection of covers, sheetlets and photographs of the *British and French Concorde Airplane* and **Alistair Garner** showed a collection of *Missent Mail*. On 16th October **John Cranmer** gave a fantastic display of *WWII Postal History of Canada*. Following which **Graham Mark**, past president of the Postal History Society, gave an historical display of the *Lofthouse Prisoner of War Camp*. November commenced when members displayed some recent acquisitions and a few sheets of minor collections, which was followed by a successful mini auction. On 20th November **Glen Fearons** gave a knowledgeable display entitled *From the Barnsley Archives*, and on the 4th December **Trevor Larkin** gave *Textiles, Fibres, Fabrics and Yarns*. The Festive Season was celebrated by us on the 18th

December with a social evening when members displays and talks were entitled *Why I like Collecting Philately*.
Julie Hitchcock

Watford

Our new season started in September with a visit from **Lorraine Maguire** who displayed *Every Cover and Letter Tells a Story*, which involved items sent from New Zealand servicemen in WWII. Lorraine told us about the intensive research she had done to find out the identities and back-stories of the people involved, which really brought the postal history material to life. The evening was greatly enjoyed by the members present. In October, our members were 'treated' (and I use the term loosely!) to *An Evening of Letter Boxes* by **Wayne Cox**. Featuring all kinds of material, both philatelic and non-philatelic, the first half looked at the history of the lamp letter box; the second half was all about the first 100 years of the British pillar box. The members present seemed to get through it relatively unscathed! Our November meeting featured a display by committee member **Arthur Howell**, who showed us *Watford Post Offices in the 21st Century*. This was a delightful photographic record of Watford post offices, together with, where possible, a postmark from each office. As you can imagine, like in the rest of the country, many of these post offices no longer exist.

→ 01923 218433

Wayne Cox

West Riding

Our season of informal meetings continued. November brought a series of displays given by invited guest, **Keith Burton** of Harrogate PS - a self confessed magpie collector - exhibiting *Keith's Way*. "A" was *Air letters from WWII forces 1943/44*, "B" *Bavaria authorised postal stationery cards and Belgium with PPCs and Maps* including Flemish Red Cross postcards, Louvain University and City destroyed in WWI and *Bangladesh First Anniversary 1972 Postage Stamps*. "C" was *Collection of Viaducts and Stations* of Paris PPC and Metro cards and a 1917 Field Post Card near Dunkirk where the censor had deleted the station name. "D" followed with *Duplex and Square Circle cancellations*. Our club members thanked Keith for his displays and also his unsung efforts in editing the ABPS quarterly magazine which is just one of the benefits of being an affiliated society/club. The Christmas meeting enjoyed a reverse treasure hunt with **Ken Moody** (again!) matching nine of the twenty listed postage stamp requirements issued on the Hornbeam Park, Harrogate sponsored list. He received the prize from judge **Adrian Lee**, and everyone present enjoyed Christmas goodies provided by **Susan Roberts**
Adrian Lee

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 relating to the subject matter is always a help (300dpi jpg or photograph). We do not pay for publication, and any items may be edited for length or content.



STAMP FUN - SHOWING YOUR STAMPS

Stamp Active have produced their latest publication to assist young collectors who may be interested in producing a stamp exhibit. There is now a new guide to stamp competitions, called "STAMP FUN – Showing Your Stamps", which can be downloaded from the Stamp Active website Competitions page at www.stampactive.co.uk

Please have a look. This might help some adult visitors too!

There will be activities for old and new visitors to the Stamp Active section at EuroPhilEx 2025 in Birmingham in May. Why not visit and see what is on offer? There could be ideas that you could take back to your own society or school? You might even think of things that you could do for Stamp Active and the Youth Section of British Philately. See you there?



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Diary

March

- 1 Launceston Stamp Fair: Lifton Community Centre, Park Wood Rise, **Lifton** PL16 0LA (New Venue)
- 8 Essex Association Seminar: 9.30-4.30: Henry Dixon Hall, Henry Dixon Road, Rivenhall End, **Witham** CM8 3HR → ray.how@btinternet.com
- 30 Warminster Stamp, Postal History & Postcard Fair: 9.30-3: Kingdown School, Woodcock Road, **Warminster** BA12 9DR → norman.elston@btinternet.com

April

- 4-5 ASPS Congress hosted by Glasgow Thematic Society: The Vine Conference Centre, 131 Garvock Hill, **Dunfermline**, Fife KY11 4JU
- 12 Falmouth Stamp Fair: Emanuel Baptist Church, Western Terrace, **Falmouth** TR11 4QJ
- 12 Telford Stamp, Card & Coin Fair:10-2: Belmont Hall, off Tan Bank Car Park, Wellington, **Telford** TF1 1HJ → 01952 405458

May

- 10 ABPS Congress at EuroPhilEx 2025
- 20 Redruth Stamp Fair: Jubilee Hall, Wesley Building, Wesley Street, **Redruth** TR15 2EG

June

- 14 **SWINPEX 2025**:10-3.30: Grange Leisure & Community Centre, Stratton St Margaret, **Swindon** SN3 4JY. Hosting the Wiltshire & District Philatelic Federation 9 Page Competition → Christopher Scott christopher.scott174@gmail.com

July

- 5 MIDPEX 2025:10-4.30: Warwickshire Event Centre, **Leamington Spa** CV31 1XN → sharrison500@btinternet.com or sites.google.com/site/midpex
- 12 Telford Stamp, Card & Coin Fair:10-2: Belmont Hall, off Tan Bank Car Park, Wellington, **Telford** TF1 1HJ → 01952 405458

October

- 11 Telford Stamp, Card & Coin Fair:10-2: Belmont Hall, off Tan Bank Car Park, Wellington, **Telford** TF1 1HJ → 01952 405458
- 27 Stamp Lincs: → steve.carter57@live.co.uk

National Exhibitions 2025

- London at The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 15 Abchurch Lane. 27th February – 1st March 2025

International Exhibitions 2025-26

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.

- **Uruguay 2025:** 17th - 22nd February 2025. FIP patronage with limited classes. Website www.Uruguay2025.com UK Commissioner, Simon Richards simon@sidebell.co.uk Entries closed.
- **EuroPhilEx 2025:** Hall 9 NEC, Birmingham. 7th - 11th May 2025. 2000 frames with FEPA Patronage. Website www.europhilex2025.co.uk All FIP classes at £100 per frame or £120 for single frames and £40 for Literature. UK Commissioner: Daphne McMillan. RPSL Commissioner: James Podger pee-j-aggie-boo@ntlworld.com Entries closed.
- **Liberec 2025**, Czech Republic. 19th-22nd June 2025. Czech national show with UK participation. FEPA recognition. Full details at: www.liberec2025.cz UK Commissioner: Jon Aitchison jonaitchison.uk@outlook.com Entry deadline: 28th February 2025
- **PhilaKorea 2025:** Seoul, South Korea. 17th - 21st September 2025. FIP Patronage. Full details at: www.philakorea2025.kr UK Commissioner: Tony Bard anthonybard@gmail.com Entry deadline: 28th February 2025
- **Dubai 2026:** Dubai 4th - 8th February 2026. FIP Patronage. Fuller details not yet available see FIP website. No UK invitation as yet. Entry Deadline: unknown
- **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: 30th September 2025
- **Macao 2026:** 26th June – 1st July 2026. FIP Recognition Full details at: www.macao2026.org.mo Specialised FIP Exhibition, no Championship Class UK Commissioner: tbc Entry deadline: 18th November 2025
- **Philataipei 2026**, Taipei: 19th - 24th November 2026 FIP Patronage Fuller details not yet available see FIP website. No UK invitation as yet. Entry Deadline: unknown

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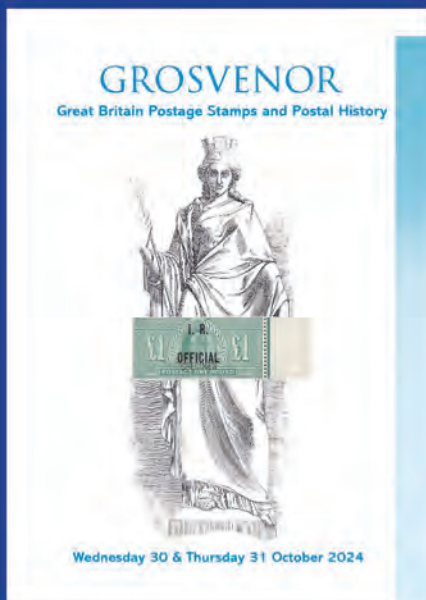
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Website www.abps.org.uk This also holds further information on Committees.

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Upcoming Auctions in 2025:

- 4, 5 & 6 March:** Worldwide & Great Britain stamps & postal history
- 2 April:** Part 2 of the Nigel Cameron collection of British Empire stamps
- 11 May:** Special Europhilex 2025 Collector's Auction (at the show)
- 13 May:** Part 2 of the Michael Caswell collection of India
- 3, 4 & 5 June:** Worldwide & Great Britain stamps & postal history
- 2, 3 & 4 September:** Worldwide & Great Britain stamps & postal history
- 2, 3 & 4 December:** Worldwide & Great Britain stamps & postal history

Also to be featured in 2025:

- The Steve Ellis FRPSL collections of Military & Maritime postal history, etc.
- The Ray Harris collection of Nigeria stamps & postal history
- The Michael Parker collection of Haiti
- The Brian Lythgoe collection of Cameroon
- The John Lea FRPSL collections of the Falkland Islands, Egypt, & Sudan postal history
- The Colin Faers collections of Latin America airmails, Hong Kong, and South West Africa stamps & covers
- The John Colton collection of Free Frank mail



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