

The Past, The Present and the Future



created by Paul Sobon using AI

See p.17



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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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Volume 32, Number 2, Summer 2025 (whole number 126)

Editor: Keith S Burton

(ISSN 1353 6869)

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Cover picture: created by **Paul Sobon**, Secretary to the American Helvetia Philatelic Society, to show three generations enjoying their philately in the ways relevant to them and their time - created using AI - see page 17

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:

This is my final update as Chair of ABPS as I am standing down in June. Subject to approval by the AGM, I will be replaced by Dr Gwynne Harries, currently Vice-Chairman. I am very grateful to him and the rest of the Executive Committee for all their hard work, help and ongoing support to keep all aspects of UK philately going.

As you read this, we will, no doubt, be reflecting on the outcome of EuroPhilEx. I am expecting this to be a great success attracting a wider audience because of its accessible location at the NEC in Birmingham.

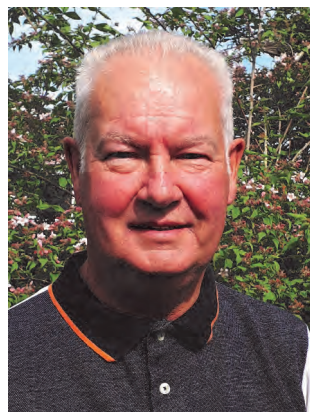
There have long been calls to move events outside London. This one has attracted more dealers than Stampex (with twelve booths taken by participants from overseas) and with 2000 frames of exhibits there will have been much to entertain and inspire visitors. Organising such a huge event, with volunteers, is an enormous challenge and even getting to the start line is a great achievement. My thanks to the Organising Committee, led by Jon Aitchison, for their superb effort. I hope it has been rewarded by lots of visitors to the show. Jon will receive the Congress Medal in recognition of his many contributions to philately over the years during the event. This is well deserved.

My personal challenge over the last twelve months has been to get more people involved in organised philately through a network of ABPS Regional Representatives. Although this started slowly, good progress is now being made but we need many more people yet to come forward to help. Please email me at chair@abps.org.uk if you can help personally and we can let you know much more about this new role.

Once again, my thanks and best wishes for the future of ABPS and UK philately.

My email address is chair@abps.org.uk The postal address is: 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



I doubt that anyone can really be more involved in national philately than John has been since I first joined the ranks of ABPS over 10 years ago. He was then organising much connected with Youth philately at Stampex and many other places. He also got more people involved so that ultimately he was able to pass on that role in order to take up more in ABPS - Public Relations, Vice Chair and then Chair. At the same time he has been heavily involved with the Great Britain Philatelic Society. The Royal and local societies - in fact I don't know all the societies of which he is a member. He has produced major prize-winning exhibits and written about them - and taken displays to many societies all over the country. Thank you John for everything, including friendship. Editor

Editorial



This editorial might seem a bit different - mainly because it is. When you read this I will have finished being busily involved at EuroPhilEx in Birmingham. If London 2022 is anything to go by I will have a good time - and my bank balance will be smaller - less money to worry about.

After the last issue I had a number of correspondents about the membership ideas from David Smith, asking for the 100 ideas that he had developed. They are so good that our Chair asked for them to be put on the website so that anyone can see them and perhaps start their own progress, based on those ideas, or others that they have developed. It is always gratifying



to get a response - even a negative one can be interesting, even if I disagree. I have also had the opportunity to visit societies or groups that I have never visited before, for example a long trip to Surrey, visiting Guildford and a meeting at the home of the secretary and live wire of the West Indies Study Group (see the cake eaten at Guildford - not all by me - and pages 29 and 38). It was good to feel so welcome - and the journey was pleasant too. I haven't finished my wanderings as so far I have agreed to visit three more societies at least, as well as the York Fair and a society weekend. The social side of our

hobby suits me - watch out, you never know where I might get to.

Sadly I still hear of societies which are in danger of closing because no one will volunteer to take part of the organising over and do something to relieve the burden on a few people who have been working hard at it for years. Come on folk - give it a go, take over a small or big part.

Another sadness is when societies decide that they no longer want to be affiliated. Is this a failing on our part in making it clear what the Association is about? It is not just for those who like taking part in competitions - I don't for one. I know that sometimes it is the rising costs of room hire and falling numbers of members that trigger the decision to withdraw. But dare I ask, when was the last time that they increased their annual subscription? I know that many societies are still charging the equivalent of between three and five cups of coffee for a year's membership, but the members will pay more than that for a single item at a Fair and even more in an Auction. Don't forget that if there is a short-term problem that requires some help, the Small Grants Scheme from ABPS might well give you sufficient time to make adjustments or new arrangements so that the society can carry on and stay as part of the British philatelic community. We are willing to help, by telling you what we are about and if necessary by considering requests for financial aid. Next time - me at EuroPhilEx. *Keith Burton*

Society anniversaries

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

Channel Islands Specialists' Society – 75 years



CISS members with RPSL President, Simon Richards

Nineteen displays by our members filled 54 frames at the Royal Philatelic Society London on 9th January, marking the start of our 75th anniversary year. Exhibits ranged through *Early Forwarding Agents*, *Ship Letter Mail*, *Sub-Post Offices*, *Smaller Channel Islands*, *The German Occupation*, *Third Anniversary of Channel Islands Liberation*, *Postal Independence* and four frames of postcards. An exhibition booklet accompanied the display. Steve Wells

Heartiest congratulations to all involved:
If you think we've missed you out, please let the Editor know.

Your society information?

Please let the ABPS Secretary know of any changes to the details, including the information on the ABPS website about your society. Contact details are on p 62. Please tell your Federation Secretary too.

Also if you want changes in times, venue, website or email addresses and telephone numbers of your secretary to appear in the Amendments List, send them to the Editor - details also on p 62.

Obituaries

Dave & Moira Edwards

It is with great sadness that the Channel Islands Specialists' Society (C.I.S.S.) advises that its former Membership Secretary, Moira Edwards, and former Chairman, Dave Edwards, died within a week of each other in November 2024. David and Moira joined the C.I.S.S. in 1995. A quiet couple, their main interest was Channel Island postcards. They formed a superb collection including almost complete runs of the Allix and LL cards.

David was born on the UK mainland. His parents had been evacuated from Guernsey in 1940. Following the liberation the family returned to Guernsey where he was educated. David met Moira whilst at Cardiff University, where they both studied teaching. Following their graduation, David became a teacher and they took up a two-year posting to the Gilbert Islands (now known as Kiribati). On their return to England, they settled in Sandon, Essex and David took up positions in various schools teaching science.

They entered the C.I.S.S. annual Postcard Competition and between them won 13 of the 16 competitions held between 2002 and 2017.

In September 2002 they took over running the circulating packet service which they efficiently operated until 2007 when Moira then took on the Membership Secretary's role, which she held until 2017. In 2009 David took on the role of Chairman of the society, which he managed until 2017.

Moira passed away on the 23rd of November 2024 and David six days later on 29th November 2024. Their funeral took place on 15th January 2025 at Chelmsford Crematorium. It was well attended including six members of the C.I.S.S present.

Steve Wells

HAMPEX 2025 **Hampshire Philatelic** **Federation**

STAMP FAIR
20th September 2025
10.00 am - 4.30 pm
Entrance Free



The Wickham Community Centre,
Mill Lane, Wickham, near Fareham, PO17 5AL
HPF Website www.hantsfederation.org.uk/hpfx.htm

Congratulations

ABPS Spring Exhibition

18 medals were awarded to the competitors whose entries were on display at the Royal, 15 Abchurch Lane, London in February.

They ranged from Silver to Large Gold - well done to all who took part.

The Large Gold medal winners were:

William Barrell, Brian Callan, Simon Richards.

Gold medal winners were:

Lloyd Hogg, Jan Nyeki, James Podger, Brian Sole

There were 8 Large Vermeil medals, 2 Large Silver and 1 Silver.

The Winner of the Best in Show was:

Dr Brian Callan of Ireland displaying

British & Irish Telegraph Development 1851 to 1901

Congress Medal 2025

The Association of British Philatelic Societies is delighted to announce that this year's recipient of the prestigious Congress Medal is **Jon Aitchison, FRPSL**.

Jon is the Chairman and principal organiser of EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025 International Exhibition. He gained experience of organising an International Exhibition as he was on the Organising Committee of EuroPhilEx London 2015.

In fact, Jon's work for International Exhibitions has resulted in his being the UK Commissioner at numerous exhibitions in different countries since 2015, often involving more than one a year. In addition, he is in charge of international commissioner appointments.

Being involved, at a high level, in conjunction with philatelic exhibitions and congresses has been one of Jon Aitchison's main contributions to organised philately. He has organised displays by members of the Royal Philatelic Society London at various events as a Council member of that Society. He has also been active for ABPS on the Exhibitions and International Committee. One of his main contributions being his drive to get various new classes adopted at national exhibitions as British national classes. Since 2016 Jon has been Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and all that position entails.

Jon Aitchison has served on the committees of several specialist societies holding positions of President, Vice Chairman, Librarian or Auctioneer. His



collecting interest are various, of which the Channel Islands is his principal interest. In the late 1980s to early 1990s he was Advisor to the Landmark Trust and Lundy Island on philatelic matters and stamp issues. He has authored and published ten books on various subjects in connection with the Channel Islands as well as being a prolific contributor of articles for philatelic publications.

Looking at Jon's Philatelic Curriculum Vitae, he has been heavily involved in voluntary service for British philately since 2016. Considering his own admission that being principal organiser for EuroPhilEx has required two and a half year fulltime work it would have been understandable if he had stepped down from his demanding other philatelic positions. Not Jon, he has continued in the positions of Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and his work on the ABPS Exhibitions and International Committee.

In June this year he will be off to Liberec, Czech Republic, as Commissioner for a European Stamp Exhibition.

Jon Aitchison was nominated by the Channel Islands Specialist Society and the Egypt Study Circle, Egyptian philately being another of his specialised collections. He has contributed to the Egypt Study Circle as President and meetings secretary for over six years.

Jon' Aitchison's outstanding voluntary service to British philately at national and international level makes him a worthy recipient of the Congress Medal for 2025.

Yvonne Wheatley

Chairman ABPS Awards Committee

Roll of Distinguished Philatelists

New Signatories for 2025

At the meeting of the Board of Election of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists on 6th February 2025, it was unanimously agreed that the following philatelists be invited to be the new signatories to the Roll:

Adriano Bergamini, RDP, Switzerland

Birthe King, RDP, United Kingdom

Eddie Leibu, RDP, Israel

Simon Richards, RDP, United Kingdom

The new signatories join 94 other current living RDPs from 30 countries, spread over six continents. More details on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists can be found at: <https://www.abps.org.uk/roll-of-distinguished-philatelists/>

Birthe King, RDP, United Kingdom.

The name of Birthe King has become synonymous with the growth of Open Philately as an approach to collecting and exhibiting. Her promotional work has been seen across many countries and continents and her exhibits have gained high awards in competition. She has been a member and secretary of the FIP working group set up following the FIP Congress in Portugal in 2010 to examine



the new class of Open Philately. The new Open Philately Guidelines were agreed at the FIP Congress in Indonesia in 2012. The Class has been particularly popular in Europe, with more than 30 exhibits in competition at the London 2022 FIP international exhibition. As hoped, it has attracted numbers of new exhibitors who had previously not been involved in exhibiting.

As a Director of FEPA during the period 2013-2019, Birthe promoted the FEPA Regulations for Picture Postcards, combining the rules of several of the federations and consulting with prominent exhibitors of picture postcards. These regulations were agreed at the FEPA Congress in Athens in 2015 and Picture Postcards were adopted as an FIP experimental class at their Congress in 2018.

Birthe has developed and exhibited her own Open Class exhibits, which have gained high awards at exhibitions. Among them, *Denmark: Conscience, Conflict and Camps 1932-1949* received large gold medals at Melbourne 2013 and London 2015 international exhibitions. This collection has also been featured as an Edition d'Or, published by Heinrich Köhler. The exhibit *The Re-Unification of Southern Jutland with Denmark 1864-1920* was awarded a gold medal at the Prague 2019 international.

Active in the promotion of Open Philately, articles by Birthe have been published in magazines in Europe, America and Asia promoting and explaining the concept as a collecting approach and its exhibiting. Birthe has delivered numerous PowerPoint presentations at local, national and international level and participated in discussion groups and seminars. She has also participated in several interviews for magazines and radio.

Apart from her international appointments with FEPA and FIP, Birthe has been a Council Member of the Royal Philatelic Society London from 2012-2019 and chairman of the Membership & Representatives Committee during that time.

Simon Richards, RDP, United Kingdom.

As a collector of a wide range of subjects, Simon Richards has been very active in philatelic collecting and exhibiting. He is chairman of the ABPS Exhibitions and International Committee and a director of Stamp World Exhibitions, in which roles he is much involved in the various UK and international exhibitions. He represented the UK at the FEPA Congress in Copenhagen in 2024.

He is a qualified FIP Juror and participated in the Jury at London 2022, Westpex 2024, San Francisco and Hafnia 2024, Copenhagen. Over the last year he has been acting-



President of the Royal Philatelic Society London during the illness of the President and was elected President upon the recent death of Mike Roberts. He is also a member of the Royal Expert Committee.

One of Simon's core collecting interests has been the stamps of the West Indies, and he continues as President of the West Indies Philatelic Study Group and runs the society's auction. He chaired the first meeting of the combined UK and USA societies of this collecting area at the Great American Stamp Show, in Hartford in 2024. He has been treasurer of the National Philatelic Society since 2001 and of the Stuart Rossiter Trust since 2015.

Among Simon's collections and exhibits, his *British West Indies Maritime Mail* was a candidate for the Grand Prix at Hunphilex, 2022 and won large gold at Stockholmia 2019 and IBRA, Essen, 2023. High awards have also been achieved for *The Postal History of Savoy*, *The Postal Stationery of Grenada* and *Classic Victoria* (Australia). These collections formed major displays to various societies, including to the Society of Postal Historians. His display of Dominica won the Tilleard Medal for the best 1:00pm display to the RPSL.

Simon has been the author of numerous articles on a wide range of subjects. Recently published is a much expanded and researched book entitled *Dominica: Philately to 1967*. This covers both the stamps and postal history and includes considerable original research from the National Archives at The British Library and Postal Museum that was not covered in previous volumes on the subject.



Rossiter Trust Seminar

Instead of an annual lecture, this year the Stuart Rossiter Trust is hosting a Seminar on "What is Postal History?". An all-day event, it will feature presentations and discussions from a team of six well-known specialist speakers with divergent views on a variety of aspects.

It will take place on Wednesday, 24th September 2025 at the Royal Philatelic Society, London (15 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 7BW). Attendance is free and light refreshments will be served. Space is limited, however, so you are advised to email srtcorr@gmail.com to reserve your seat. Further details will be announced later.

The Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund is a Charitable Trust supporting research and publication relating to the history of communication through postal systems of the world.

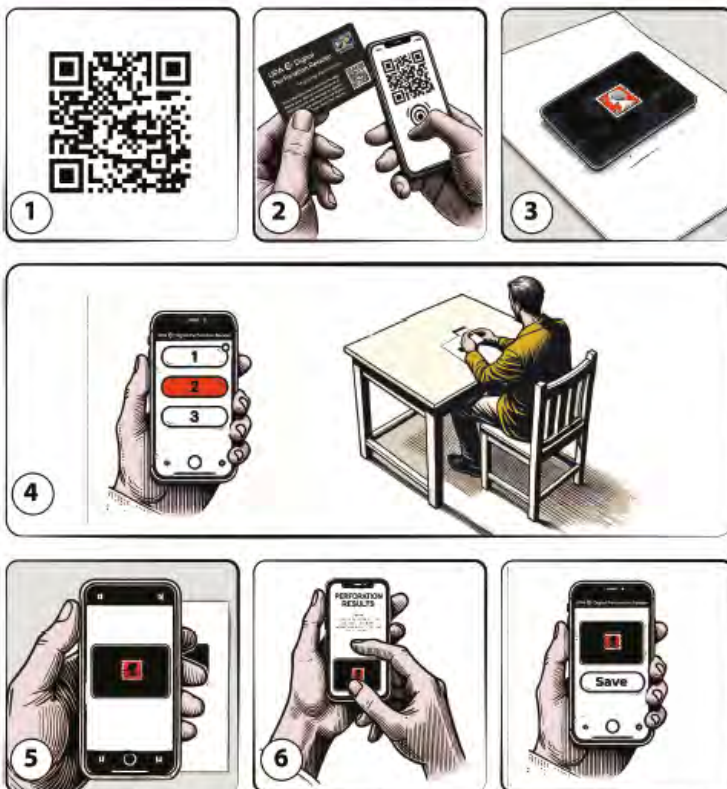
To date, the Trust has published 52 books on Postal History, and funded 29 research projects. It has also hosted 25 annual Lectures.

➔ <https://www.rossitertrust.com/>

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Engaging with 'Collectors' from the Third Estate

Some personal thoughts

On my return from a very enjoyable "Annual Weekend" with the France & Colonies Philatelic Society near Stratford-upon-Avon, my wife (*that is the appellation she insists on*) greeted me with "Did you have fun?" and "How many did you kill?" She is not exactly into stamp collecting, but she is fascinated by my choice of light reading – the "Keller" books by Lawrence Sanders, in which a professional assassin intersperses his deadly work with a passion for collecting stamps. The author is a serious collector, indeed he has written a regular column for Linn's Stamp news, and the philatelic detail in the five books is very engaging. But to my wife the association of my going away for a day or two with 'stamps' as cover for reducing the world's population is intriguing.

Two weeks later I went to the two-day Kempton Park Stamp Fair, another very enjoyable experience, but only after giving a guarantee that I did not have a secondary lethal motive.

One aspect of both events was that there was plenty of time for chatting with old and new friends about some of the wider issues that are challenging philately. I need not dwell on these as they have been well covered for years in this newsletter and other places: ageing philatelists, lack of younger members, closure of stamp clubs and shops, fewer people using stamps for the purposes for which they were intended etc.

So informally I asked several others what our hobby is, and how we should describe ourselves. This often proved quite humorous. Are a group of philatelists "a pinnacle" as they strive to reach excellence, and a group of stamp collectors "an album" as they seek to expand their collections? Is it "a pinnacle" because the achievement of gold medal collections, which require extensive research, includes the ownership of unique material, and ascent over time of a pyramid from local to regional to national, and finally the pinnacle of international recognition? Is it an "album" because competition is not necessarily excluded but the pursuit of ever more material, written up for enjoyment, embracing ever more themes or topics, as a more dominant characteristic? There was no agreement on this of course, but a broad understanding that there are important differences, and these affect the nature of stamp communities that will attract, or put off, new members.

One topic that interested others was my recent experience in utilising eBay to reach stamp collectors who probably do not belong to stamp clubs, or display their treasures, or even attend local or national fairs? Does eBay reach (to hark back to the French Revolution) a 'third estate' of stamp collectors, who operate below the radar of the first estate of national societies and Stampex exhibitors, and the second estate of club members and attendees of local fairs? I thought that there might be. So they challenged me to write (briefly) about it.

Four years ago I was asked to meet with a lady who wished to dispose of her late father's collection. This was housed in several WH Smith spiral bound albums, and SG cover albums. It comprised a world-wide collection of used stamps circa 1970-1990, together with quite a large number of Royal Mail issued First Day covers. Apart from being grouped by country in the albums, the stamps were not written up, were not in any form of chronological or topical grouping, and some were damaged or poorly hinged. She had contacted one or two dealers who were in her words 'not particularly interested' as most of the stamps were of 'common usage', postally used, and included many Asian, East European, and South American countries that were not particularly sought after. They also explained that there was a glut of GB covers on the market. The remarks were fair and little money was offered. She therefore wondered if we might enter the collection at our next club auction? However, we were just recovering from the Covid shut-downs, only small numbers of people were returning to our auctions the display in the albums did not indicate the likelihood of finding many 'hidden gems', and it was unlikely to attract many bidders.

As we talked through the options the owner made it very clear that she did not want any money for the collection. Her priority was that the collection her beloved father had built up over many years, and especially when he was seriously ill, should go to other collectors. In a sense so that his collection should live on, and the enjoyment of the stamps would be passed on to others. The one thing she did not want was for some items to be sold if possible but the majority to probably eventually be regarded as rubbish.

We agreed that I would try and honour this commitment, and I embarked on the disposal of the collection to collectors who would prize the stamps and covers, with the proviso that if there were any funds generated these would be donated to the Alzheimer's Society. So over the last four years I slowly donated some elements of the collection to KidsActive and other charities, offered small selections at local auctions, but broke the bulk down into very small lots and offered these on eBay.

As a result over 600 lots eventually sold on eBay with an average realisation of about £2.00. Taking into account postage and fees (eBay still charged fees for most of this period) there was a small surplus which went to the Alzheimer's Society as requested. These offers of small, low-priced lots, with the stamps described, scanned and off paper, was to facilitate the commitment to rehome as much of the collection as possible with other collectors. The simpler bundling of countries still on album leaves would have taken much less time and probably produced a similar revenue, but risked the cherry picking of a few stamps and then disposal of the rest more likely.

The success of these lots through eBay was quite a revelation. Firstly, they all sold, although it did take four years! Secondly, the feedback (when it was offered) was very positive, and in the phrases used showed that in many cases the stamps were very much appreciated by the new owners. Perhaps more importantly, as the sales slowly proceeded, I noted that the buyers were spread all over the country. In the final analysis there were buyers from every county in

the UK, from every region in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and even some (despite the listings specifying UK only) from Canada, the USA and Europe who somehow managed to make bids. I looked up many of the UK addresses on maps and whilst there were a number of London districts, the majority were from small communities, and often at some distance from larger towns. I also noted that in several cases the payee differed from the bidder in terms of title and gender, surmising that together with the phrasing of the feedback from some of these, the actual buyer was probably a younger person. So why did my friends suggest I wrote about this? Apart from the ability to reassure my wife that I had talked about stamps and not practiced the *Assassin's Creed* with them, they were amazed at the spread of active stamp collectors across the country as revealed by the bids received; the likely presence of a significant younger population amongst them; the variety of interests shown by bids for the stamps of every country and topic offered; the probability that many of them did not belong to clubs or attend many stamp fairs because of their geographic location; and the unsolicited feedback from strangers who took the brief opportunity to 'talk about their stamp collecting'. This initiative reinforced my belief that there is a large and active 'third estate' of stamp collectors in the United Kingdom and that digital connection is the key to creating collecting communities to supplement the local stamp clubs and stamp shops that are now struggling. My own society, like many others, is therefore investing more in Zoom meetings, on-line forums, and postings on social media. We are also seeking to increase our face-to-face outreach through a club presence at national and regional fairs, and to supplement our former regional meetings where travel and suitable space is an issue with very local gatherings, in coffee shops or pubs as well as in parish rooms etc. Next March we will be holding our 50th Annual Members Weekend in Stratford-upon-Avon and I hope that once I have reassured my wife that I am going away to talk about stamps – and not as a contract killer – that our chatting will be about how these activities are engaging with more of this 'third estate' of collectors and, although our primary interest is French and Colonies stamps, we will not need to replay the French Revolution.

Roger Niven

A surprising and very pleasant email.

Imagine my surprise when I discovered the report from Taw and Torridge on page 42 ABPS News (Summer 2023) - thanks to Google! It related to a box of letters that belonged to Mr Gilbert Corelli Fenton in Borneo (1920s until 1948) I have Mr Fenton's medals and 50 years of his diaries. He was a remarkable individual who was a Marconi operator on merchant ships during WWI before being commissioned into the Royal Flying Corps. His career as PMG in Jesselton, British North Borneo was cut short when he was forced to take early retirement in 1948 as one of his staff had stolen a large amount of stamps and poor old Gilbert had to take the flak as he should have known!!!!!!! Happily he and his wife Hylda retired to Jersey and lived happily until Hylda died in 1974.

William Cooper

DOOM AND GLOOM, OR BLUE SKIES AND SUNSHINE

DOOM AND GLOOM - "We can't get new members", "I offered my collection to my grandkids and they didn't want it" and "young people are just not interested". Comments, or words to that effect, that I've heard several times and which I suspect other readers have heard and maybe have even said.

All a bit doom and gloomy, much like the picture on my parent's first TV, which weighed a ton, took up a whole corner of the living room, and showed a grainy, black and white picture that went fuzzy whenever the wind blew, or it rained too hard. Is this the TV you'd watch now, or buy for your grandchildren?

I suspect that most people's answers to both those questions is an emphatic "No" and that instead they watch a sleek, thin, wall-mounted, colour TV with a picture quality their parents could only dream of.

The world of TV has changed and we've happily moved with it, so why then are we surprised when our offspring are not interested in taking over our stamp collections which are in the same format that our parents collected stamps, or that we can't attract new members when our societies are substantially unchanged since their formation.

To engage our offspring and new members we need to make our hobby and societies more relevant to their (our) world, by adopting and embracing the various digital technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, Facebook, YouTube, Podcasts, Google etc all of which can enhance the enjoyment and exercise of our hobby, as could membership of online communities such as Stampworld.

For example, it took less than 30 seconds using artificial intelligence, to create the picture on the front cover, showing different generations enjoying philately with the technology available through the ages, from a physical album and magnifying glass, to managing an album online, to scanning a stamp with digital facial recognition technology to count the perforations.

Similarly, identifying a stamp is so much easier and cheaper, searching for a match using the images section of Google search, rather than having to look through a catalogue.

This is not the first time we've had to adapt our hobby and societies. With the advent of the internet we developed websites and when the pandemic hit, we moved to online Zoom meetings, but to stay relevant in a changing world we need to continue to change with it. A challenge, but one that with the support of organisations like ABPS, we're perfectly capable of conquering. **BLUE SKIES AND SUNSHINE.** **David Smith**

David's positivity is inspiring to me and I hope to others. It counters the feeling from some that there is nothing that we can do about falling numbers of members and the lack of volunteers to take on the roles in societies. Perhaps some roles should change. Perhaps we need to think of raising membership fees from the price of 3 cups of coffee for a year of meetings. Perhaps we can be more friendly? My society has gained 3 members this year - Great! Editor

LAST FEW OPPORTUNITIES AT MIDPEX 2025



MIDPEX 2025

Warwickshire Event Centre,
Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN
5th July 2025 10:00am – 4pm

There are only a few spaces remaining for dealers and societies to sign up for MIDPEX, sponsored by Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd. This is a great opportunity for both dealers and collectors to enjoy a quality philatelic event.

Organiser, Steve Harrison, commented "Dealers are always enthusiastic about the show with 35 dealers already booked and at least 20 Specialist Societies taking part. Dealers and Societies should book promptly if they wish to secure tables as further opportunities are limited."

MIDPEX is the biennial exhibition first held in 1995 and attended by stamp collectors from across the UK. It brings together Specialist Societies with local, national and international dealers covering all aspects of Philately. The spacious venue is the same with extensive free parking and a free shuttle bus from Leamington Spa railway station.

It provides an opportunity for Specialist Societies to show off their sphere of interest to other collectors, to recruit members and identify common ground with members of other societies. It also provides an opportunity for societies to promote their publications and research projects and for members to meet informally, particularly those members who find it difficult to get to meetings in London. The event in 2025 has again expanded with space for ephemera and post card dealers as well as stamps, thematics and postal history.

For more information and booking forms please contact Steven Harrison by email: sharrison500@btinternet.com

Further details and booking forms can be found on the Midpex website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/midpex>

Additional details of the venue with views of the hall and site location including parking, can be accessed on <https://www.warwickshireeventcentre.co.uk>



The scrapped 19p stamp.

Philatelists pay penalty of Euro loss

IT WAS to have been the pinnacle of Roy of the Rovers' glittering career. The Melchester Rovers striker would have been the star of a

set of stamps to commemorate England winning the Euro 96 championship.

But Gareth Southgate's penalty miss in the semi-final against Germany meant not only England's exit, but also the scrapping of the stamps.

Because no living person other than a member of the Royal Family can appear on a stamp, the honour befell Roy Race of Melchester Rovers, a comic-strip hero for more than 30 years, to

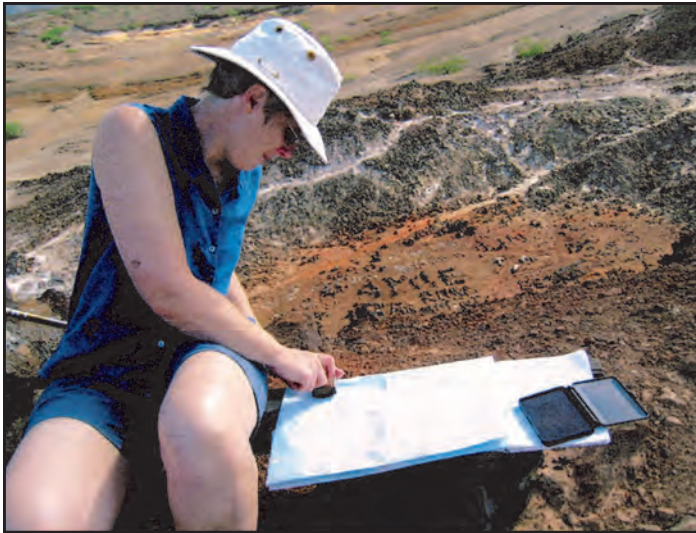
capture the occasion.

The first stamp was to have shown Roy called up for the tournament. Another would have depicted him scoring Alan Shearer's goal against Switzerland. However, he may yet appear if England win the World Cup next year.

*Found by Richard
Smith*

Ascension Island - Letterbox Walks.

Keith Lillywhite



The Idea of Letterboxes goes back to the 17th Century when outward-bound ships would leave messages on the Island for the next ship to take home.

Today there are some 22 or more Letterbox Walks around the Island and at the end of each walk a Box can be found containing a log book and a rubber stamp to

prove that someone was at the letterbox.

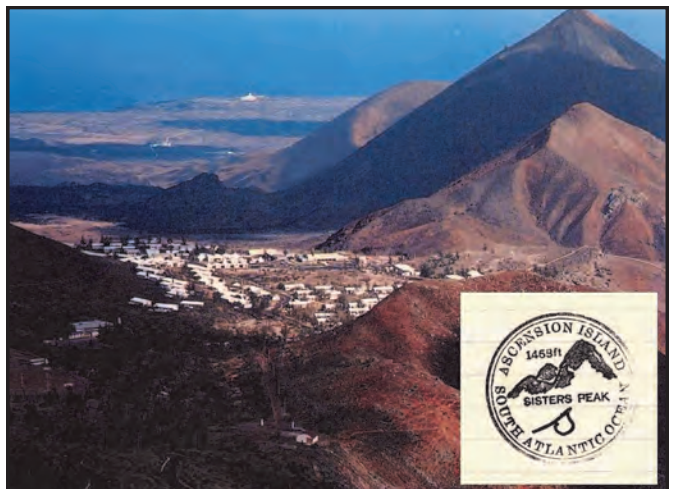
Sister's Peak is one of the most recently active volcanic peaks (500 to 700 years ago) of the island and dominates



Examples of the Letterbox Walk Handstamps on Ascension Island.

the skyline. The current series of boxes began being set-up by Sean Newbery, the BBC Resident Engineer and keen walker.

A path was cut to the top in 1972 when it was opened as the Hannay Pass but is also famed as being the first 'letter box' walk along with Letterbox to have been established on the Island.



Magnet Insurance partners with the ABPS

Magnet Insurance are delighted to announce our partnership with The Association of British Philatelic Societies.

Many of you will already know that Magnet Insurance acquired the Stamp Insurance Services business in 2023 from Barry Horne, following his retirement. Our aim is to support the philatelic community by providing relevant, competitive insurance products to cover the wide and varied risks across the philatelic sector.

This new partnership harnesses the collective buying power of the ABPS membership.

For policies with an effective date from 1st January 2025, ABPS members, whether existing or new Magnet customers, will receive a 10% ABPS member premium discount.

We will also be providing useful information and content within the insurance section of the ABPS website, to keep members up-to-date with insurance matters relating to philately.

How do you receive your 10% member discount?

For New Enquiries

When you contact us for a quote, let us know you are an ABPS member, we will check the ABPS member directory and apply your 10% discount.

For Current ABPS clients

For those members who are already Magnet customers, we will apply the 10% ABPS member discount automatically for renewals due on or after the 1st January 2025 and the ABPS logo on our letter will indicate that the discount has been applied.

For Stamp Societies, Clubs, Federations and Associations, we offer products covering various options, including:

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For further details or a quote, please:

visit our website: www.stampinsurance.co.uk/clubs-societies/

or phone us on 01636 858249, during normal office hours (9am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday)

This is the latest added benefit coming from being affiliated to ABPS. Make sure that you have paid your affiliation fee before you pay your insurance bill. Editor

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.

Specialist Societies

Channel Islands SS

Twelve entries were submitted in February, covering four competition classes: Occupation Postal History and Markings; Postal History; Stamps and Postcards. Entries came from the UK, the Channel Islands and New Zealand. The entries were judged by **Graham Winters** and **Patrick Reid** prior to the event, with Graham Winters attending the Royal on the day to provide feedback on each entry. Two members won gold for their entries, **Richard Flemming** for *Jersey Ship Letter Mail* and **Nick Stuart** for *Commemorative Stamps for the 3rd*



*Chairman David Winnie with
David Gurney*

Anniversary of the Liberation. At the same meeting **David Gurney FRPSL** was awarded Honorary Life Membership, recognising his substantial contribution to the society. David joined in November 1970. In September 1974 he became Packet Superintendent, which he held until June 1995, then becoming Auction Secretary. In June 1999, David took on editing our Journal, a post which he held until December 2023. He became the third president of the society, after founders **Bill Newport** and **John Simpson**. David wrote many of the standard reference books on Channel Islands philately, including *Channel Islands Sub-Post Offices and their Postmarks* (1983), *Red Cross Postal*

Message Scheme with the Channel Islands during the Occupation 1940 – 45 (1992), *The Post Offices of the Smaller Channel Islands* (1993), *The Postal History of the Guernsey Sub-Post Offices* (1995), *The Postal History of the*

Jersey Sub-Post Offices (1995) and Letter Forwarding Agents of Great Britain handling Channel Islands letters 1673 – 1855 (2011). He celebrated his 90th birthday in April. → <https://www.ciss.uk/> Steve Wells

Cyprus Study Circle

We have submitted our most recent version of our memory stick that contains all the publication issues by CSC since their beginning in 1972. The stick holds everything fully indexed and in an interactive format. At our Zoom meeting in March there was a very interactive discussion about Postmarks as defined in Study Paper No 8. The Rural Cancellations were of particular interest and **Rob Wheeler** showed some very rare examples. The means of defining which postmarks belonged to what postal route was also demonstrated. The new study on *Advertising Cancels* by **Chris Georgallis** also generated a lot of interest as it is now possible to define what they say and when and where they were actually used. The June Zoom meeting will be looking at *Stamp Flaws* – all are welcome to join in. The log-in details are on the CSC website. Jim Wigmore

The Czechoslovak PS of GB



Mark Bailey on Expo 58

Our first 2025 London meeting was on 22nd February 2025 at the Dean Swift pub near Tower Bridge – **Mark Bailey** gave a rich and varied display on *Expo 58*, the 1958 Brussels World's Fair, including stamp issues, cinderellas, and other philatelic items. The logo for the event was by Lucien De Roeck and featured a five-pointed asymmetrical star. An additional design promoted the idea of 'building the world for mankind', and both were used to create publicity labels – Mark had blocks and sheets of these,

together with examples of their use. One of the iconic features of the Fair was the 'Atomium', a giant model of an iron crystal that visitors could enter and explore using the tunnels and escalators that connected each part of the structure. This landmark naturally featured on many of the stamp issues and First Day Covers. Czechoslovakia was the third country to issue stamps for Expo 58: a set of five issued on 25th March 1958, promoting the national products on show, just before the opening of the Fair, and a later stamp with an illustration of the Czechoslovak pavilion. Decorative Bohemian glassware won a Grand Prix, commemorated on a special label. Many countries produced commemorative matchbox labels – including Czechoslovakia – as well as special cigar bands! There was a wealth of supplementary material on display – such as a leaflet advertising loaves of bread with coupons incorporated into the packaging, which could be redeemed for entry tickets. → www.cpsgb.org.uk

Tony Holdsworth

East Africa Study Circle



Harald Krieg in front of the first two frames of his display

13 members of the Study Circle met on 22nd February for the first meeting of 2025 at the home of the RPSL. After a members' bourse and conversations during the usual tea and coffee in the members' lounge we held our first auction of the year which could also be participated in via Zoom. With 143 of the 150 lots selling this was another quite successful result! The display of the day was *British East Africa* by our chairman **Harald Krieg, FRPSL** starting with the German Post Office in Lamu, followed by British East Africa stamps and their usage, the revenue stamps, railway telegraph stamps and finally the postal stationery. All

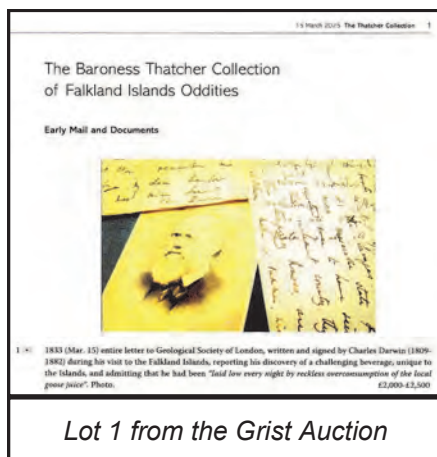
in all, the material was shown in 12 frames. We hold three meetings a year in London interspersed by three online meetings via Zoom. Interested guests are welcome to attend. ➔ www.easc.org.uk

Harald Krieg

Falkland Islands

Over forty members of FIPSG and partners returned to Bradford on Avon in March for their annual weekend convention. As always, this was a busy three days of displays and talks, learning and levity with a lot of input from the attending members. We were saddened to record the death at Christmas of our president, **Mike Roberts**, an internationally acknowledged expert on Falkland Islands philately and mentor to many in the group. His expertise and friendship will be sorely missed. A bottle of Mike's favourite whisky was auctioned by **Roger Mazillius**, with the proceeds going towards a proposed memorial award.

Major displays were given by **Nigel Kaye** (*World War II*), **Malcolm Barton** (*Designs and Designers of FI Stamps*), **Stefan Heijtz** (*Freight in the Falklands*, including the only known instance of a lawnmower being posted via FIGAS), **John Spencer** (*Dependencies Map Stamps*) and **James Grist**, reviewing auction history and how auctions actually function, including a mock auction of some recently discovered historical items. Two sessions of members' displays encompassed most aspects of Falklands philately. Subjects included: *Inwards Mail from Tristan, Air*



Letter Forms, Stained Glass, The First QEII Set, PSNC Cards, Madame Joseph Forgeries, Whaling in South Georgia, Rainer Goldsmith and The Trans-Antarctic Expedition, Cork Cancellations on Cover and others too numerous to mention. Thanks went to **Morva White** and the committee for delivering another great weekend.

Daphne McMillan

France and Colonies

Before Christmas three members gave presentations to the Leeds Philatelic Society: **John Morton** on the *Spanish Roads* with mail from the 15th to 17th Centuries, **Michael Meadowcroft** on *The Transition from the 2nd to 3rd Republics* and **Alan Goude** on *French Territories in WWII*. Then In February **Mick Bister** gave an enthralling Zoom display, including video material, on *Colonial Exhibitions of France from 1894 to 1931* to members from the UK, Australia, France and the USA (now available for members to view on our website). In March we had our annual weekend near Stratford-on-Avon; attended by 18 members together with five guests. During the two days we were entertained by 19 full displays, with postal history, stamps, postcards and supporting ephemera; including *Martinique* and *The Imperial Eagles of Reunion*, *Early French Mail to Italy*, *Monaco*, *The 15c Blue Sage*, *3 Fr Petain*, *20 Fr Marianne de Muller Stamps*, *International and Insured Mail 1875-1925*, *Precursor* and *Pneumatic Mail*. In addition on the two evenings we were treated to 12 informal *Show and Tell – Anything Goes!* displays where postal history, stamps, philatelic, 'back-of-book', topical, social, thematic, and open material proved of great interest. Full details will be published in the August edition of our Journal. Zoom meetings and local face-to-face meetings are now being planned for the rest of the year.

secretary@fcps.org.uk

Roger Niven

Germany & Colonies

We would like to remind all potential members of our excellent journal *Germania*. Published quarterly, the journal covers all areas of German philately with articles, queries and news. The full colour publication also includes information



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on local area group meetings, study groups, regional reports, the society's library and book reviews, packet exchange and new issues from Germany. There's plenty of interest in its 72 pages. A big thank you to **Rex Dixon** for being such a masterly editor! If you require more, there's the society's 'X' (Twitter) account [@GermanPhilately](https://twitter.com/GermanPhilately) which promotes German stamp collecting and social history. Join the society now by visiting our website at www.germanphilately.org, and to all members reading this - remember the AGM later this year. There will be plenty to do and see, as well as good company amongst fellow philatelists. See the website or *Germania* for details. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate member **Carl Buck** on his recent presentation in Munich. Pending an article in *Germania* and presentation at the AGM, suffice to say that sixty letters originally sent from the Royal family in Bavaria have been returned to the Geheimes Hausarchiv (Secret House Archive) which forms part of the Bavarian Main State Archive. The letters, written between 1936-1940, were handed to Dr **Gerhard Immler**, director of the State Archive, where they'll be stored for safe keeping and further research. We look forward to hearing more at the AGM! See you there.



Carl Buck

Great Britain PS North East Group

In late March an enthusiastic group converged on Stockton for our biannual meeting. The main speakers were **Steve Perola**, who gave a substantial lecture about *The Development of Mail Services via Great North Road*, and **Peter Chadwick**, organiser and MC for the day, who rekindled our interest in the humble *Penny Red* by showing the **Guy Bridges** collection. After an excellent buffet lunch several members offered short displays. These included **John Sussex** showing *Scottish Islands: Jura, Rhum, Eigg and lesser known Gigha*, which had a mail service from 1824. **Graham Winters** showed a range of *World War II Material*, talking about forgeries, and the use of artists held in prison camps to produce them. We also saw a ship card marked 'repatriation suspended', background unknown. The WWII theme was continued by **Daphne McMillan's** selection of *Mail Rejected by the Censors*, and *Forces Registered Mail*. **Robert McMillan** presented his comprehensive study of *Hull Ship Letters* and **Keith Burton** showed *Registered Covers from GB to All Corners of the World*, including the Falkland Islands, Tonga and British Guiana. Time allowed Graham to show all the *GB rates to Ceylon between 1830 and 1900*. Peter Chadwick completed the afternoon by showing the late **Phil Harriman's** deeply researched *Northallerton Collection*, including many earliest known strikes. Our thanks go to Peter for organising the event and to Vana and Dawn who provided continuous tea and coffee. Did I mention the cream cakes? There were lots.

Daphne McMillan



STAMPLINCS25

Organised by
Grantham Stamp Club



Saturday 25th October 2025

1000 – 1500hrs

Washingborough Community Centre

Fen Road, Washingborough

LN4 1AB

Up to 14 Stamp Dealers Present

Displays provided by Lincolnshire Stamp Clubs

Raffle to benefit local charities

Free Attendance

Tea, Coffee & Rolls available

Free Car Park

Dealers wanting to attend should either contact Bil Tilbury:
01400 230769 / 07578 463155 / auctionsbil@btinternet.com

Or

The Grantham Stamp Club:

www.granthamstampclub.co.uk

Malaya

This time. I write about the renaissance of our group under the leadership of our chairman **Dominic Morris CBE** Why? Covid, Railways closed for modernisation at weekends, and membership in UK growing old have made substantial changes to attendance at meetings. If you are interested in philately of Southeast Asia pay us a visit. You would be most welcome. What are you going to get out of this? You will find unrivalled knowledge of the philately of Malaya from early times until the present with displays and discussion and help given to the novice. If you become a member, you will find not only part of the website open to non-members but an opening to Zoom meetings listened to all over the world by paid-up members, and have the opportunity to take part in MSG Auctions which are an amazing way of amassing the desired philatelic material at lower costs than commercial ones. The next is on 18th October. All 65 volumes of our journal *The Malayan Philatelist*, published since 1959, are now on our paid-up members' website at present, a more complicated task than most would imagine. Our recent meetings were *Incoming, Transit Mail and Paquebots Malaya* and our first 2025 Auction. They are held at Spink Auction House 67-69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET. If interested, contact our membership secretary **Martin Roper** martinsroper@gmail.com *Michael Waugh FRPSL*

National PS

Special EuroPhilEx membership offer

We offered 16 months membership for the price of 12 in a special offer to mark EuroPhilEx in May, and took a table to set out our wares, including our bi-monthly journal and leaflets detailing our activities. Benefits include a free bi-monthly journal, *The Stamp Lover*, bi-monthly Saturday London meetings, at the RPSL premises, feature outside speakers, as well as 500-lot room and postal auctions. The society also holds virtual meetings, also with outside speakers. The NPS also sponsored the Court of Honour at this major international exhibition. The membership offer is still available until 30th June. The cost is £14 (UK members) and £12 (overseas), if they take *Stamp Lover* and the auction catalogues by email. By post the costs are £19 and £30 respectively. We have reported a financial surplus for 2024, helped by increased revenue from bi-monthly room and postal auctions, and commission from our packet circuits. February's virtual meeting featured **Janet** and **Nick Nelson** presenting



Eric Hutton displays a modern cover sent from Tel Aviv to Mauritius but was redirected thousands of miles before being marked "undeliverable"

Brazil, from Bullseyes until the 1940s, while the March London meeting was **Eric Hutton** showing *Mauritius*. Although some classics were included, the emphasis was on modern material, where there are a surprising number of errors and varieties. The virtual display on Monday 9th June will feature **Alan Moorcroft** presenting *The German Occupation of the Channel Islands*. The London meeting on Saturday 12th July is the AGM. For further details of our activities see www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps → **Peter Mellor** 01582 762284 or npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk *Michael Goodman*

Postal History

Our Library is now searchable by author, title or category. With nearly 2400 books available to members, our webmaster **Mark Bailey** has added a plug-in to the website that has allowed him to add a search box to the Library pages. It searches just the library books that we have detailed on the website. This has been configured so that the word(s) entered into the search box will search in the names of the authors, the titles, and the categories. The matching results are then shown in a scrollable list below the search box, to focus attention on the items that match with the search term. At the April Zoom display secretary **Marc Oxley** showed *The Legacy of British Slavery using Prestamp Entires* which was timed to coincide with a similar themed exhibition at the Postal Museum London. **Michael Waugh** produced *Pre-stamp Mail from the Straits Settlements*. If you would like to give a display, please email secretary@postalhistory.org.uk with the details (a title and length of the display). We will be taking a stand at Midpex at Leamington Spa on the 5th July; where we hope to see as many of you as possible. Our annual meeting with the RPSL (North) is taking place at the Marriott Hotel in York on the 17th July. This year it is being arranged by the Royal, contact **Yvonne Wheatley** whyareuu@outlook.com for more details. See our website for more details → www.postalhistory.org.uk *Marc Oxley*

The Royal

Over one hundred members and guests came to the Royal on 6th February to see a feast of exceptional material that had been brought together by members



Dr Andrew Telfer Brunton, Bob Medland, Simon Richards and Dr Ian Pinwill from the South West.

living in the South West Region. The items on display filled 54 frames, including much that was scarce and unusual. By means of an incredible display and presentation, **Daphne McMillan** inspired members at a meeting on 20th February with a look at the life, reign and family of King George VI. Through a mixture of

photographs, postcards, letters, stamps and covers, the story was told of this much-loved King, christened Albert, who came to the throne in 1936 following the abdication of his brother, King Edward VIII. From mail carried by balloon to the time of the Spanish Civil War, **Eduardo Consejo** guided members through *Airmail Related to Spain 1870-1936* by means of a display and presentation on 20th March. The evolution of airmail relating to Spain was told through pieces flown to and from the country, but also flown from and to territories with a clear connection to Spain. Eduardo has no fewer than 37 items of Ballon Monté mail during the Siege of Paris. We were treated to several 'firsts' at the display and presentation given by **Stefan Heijtz** on *The Postal History of the Faroe Islands 1751-1945* in April. We saw the earliest known example of mail from the islands, the earliest known letter into the islands from Denmark and the earliest known Registered letter sent from Copenhagen.

Scandinavia



Per-Erik Knudsen (left) discussing his display with Tony Davis

We held our annual weekend 28th - 30th March at the Holiday Inn, Bromsgrove. It was attended by 17 members and 7 guests and featured 21 displays from throughout Scandinavia. The displays began with a superb presidential display of *Danish Local Stamps* by our Norwegian president **Per-Erik Knudsen**. His display featured the towns of Aalborg, Randers, Aarhus, Horsens and Viborg and included much rarely seen material. During the two days, there were members' displays featuring *Greenland, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland*. See our website for further details of the society at scandps.org.uk *Peter Rooke*

West Indies

Susan and **David Taylor** did us proud for their second WIPSG informal convivial convention, throwing open their home to a motley bunch of philatelists and supporters. **Graham Stockdale** kindly managed the car parking. **Lawrence Grech** showed nine frames of *Barbados 1892 QV½d on 4d provisionals*. **Charles Kinnard** celebrated his birthday with us and had given Sue a British Guiana cover with 1940 red cachet commemorating the postage stamp's centenary. **Frances Stockdale** loved the apricot crumble and performed sterling duties in the kitchen supporting Sue, welcoming us all with teas & coffees. Absolutely Montserrat **Peter Tribe** enjoyed chatting about stamps and sharing knowledge on postal history. **John Black** travelled from Petersfield bringing *Montserrat and St Christopher* treasures. From Harrogate **Keith Burton** (Editor of the ABPS News), shared two covers, one with 1946 GVI Peace and Reconstruction 2½d stamps x 14 to Miss Bessie Harper, of blessed memory.



Jonathan Guy treated us to contemporary *Barbados Recorded Delivery plastic envelopes* for which he made a tour of the island, choice ephemera. David our host showed new *Trinidad and Montserrat Postal History Acquisitions* when not plying us with refreshments, a fine Montepulciano. Sue Taylor, for whom 'having guests is a pleasure', says events like these "make the society more cohesive". Lucy the dog happily snaffled around, and once again blessed by the weather I happily returned to London, the Philatelic imposter [?] grateful for a fine day. Perfect vinaigrette, fab fruit salad.

Stephen King

Local Societies

Amersham and District

Since January we have had a series of excellent displays from **Stephen Reeves** (*QV Jubilee Controls*), **Patrick Reid** (*Tasmania Postage Dues*), **Roger Morrell** (*Austro-Hungarian Army and Navy in WWI*) and a particularly fine one from **Maurice Buxton** on *Card Post*. The Spring auction on 3rd April was successful, well-attended and grossed approximately £3300. Forthcoming highlights are a visit by Henley Philatelic Society, *Danish Postal History* by **Chris King**, *Falkland Islands 1937-71* by **Hugh Osborne**, with a visit by the Malay Study Circle concluding our season on 12th June. Visitors are always welcome. During the summer break



Viewing for the Auction



The Sudan Study Group

*Stamp collecting and postal history at its
classical best*

Aim of the Sudan Study Group

The aim of the SSG is the study of all aspects of the stamps and postal history of the Sudan from earliest times until the present day.

We have a world-wide membership catering for all collectors, whether beginners, specialists or advanced students. New collectors are always particularly welcome.

Membership entitles you to receive the society journal, Camel Post, and the society Newsletter, each twice a year. In addition, the society also holds members-only auctions three times a year, quarterly members Zoom sessions, and once a year a weekend conference to discuss current hot topics. It also has a partner Facebook Group with over 400 members. So, a huge amount for the very modest subscription!

www.sudanstamps.uk

Normal Subscription Costs

Digital membership (worldwide) £15

Non-digital: UK residents £18, Europe £25, Outside Europe £28

(Subject to Change)

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.

we will be finalising preparations for our STAMPERSHAM fair, which will be held in the Chilterns Leisure Centre on 21st September. The venue is about 5 minutes walk from the Metropolitan Line underground station at Chesham, all-day parking should cost around £1.50, and plenty of sandwiches and home-made cake will be available. The meeting programme is available on our website www.stampersham.org, as will be details of Stampersham in due course.

Tim Harrison

Ayrshire

2025 opened with our president, **Russell Ramsay**, selecting the letters *R, U and S*. **David Rossall** opened with *Early Issues of Ukraine*, followed by **Jim Irving** using all three letters. **Tim Stowell** showed *Singapore from George VI*, **Caroline Watt** gave us *Silk postcards* and **Robert Watt** had *Early South African airmails*. Ken Gibb started Round 2 with *Scots on Stamps*, **Ian Smith** followed with *Rhodesia from Independence* and **Dan Ross** brought the afternoon to a close with the *Railway Air Services of the early 1930s*. Our next meeting was displays by the eleven Past Presidents. Thanks to **Alan White**, **John Chalmer**, **Robert Watt**, **Dan Ross**, **Ian Baker**, **Ken Gibb**, **Ian Baker**, **Ian Smith**, **Tim Stowell**, **David Rossall** and **David Bowman** for a fascinating range of topics. Our final afternoon meeting was a visit from **Terry Woods** who had brought a display based on the *Post Offices of Jamaica*. He followed with the *Postal History of Lanarkshire*, from Maltese crosses to items from Prisoner of War camps in Lanarkshire. The visit by **Elizabeth Nairn** brought her fascinating *Life of Captain Cook*. We were treated to details of his early life and his three main voyages, culminating in his death in Hawaii. This was a wonderful display, not only of James Cook, but also of the separate stories of some of the men who accompanied him on his voyages and who would become famous in their own fields of science, navigation, biology and medicine. → ayrstamps@yahoo.com



Terry Woods with Ian Smith

David Rossall

Basildon

Michael Musgrave took us through some more obscure, and mostly uncatalogued, *Aspects of Australian Philately*. After a large interpanneau block of King George V, his first major section showed how Australia handled postage due after PD stamps ceased, notably cards sent to the sender to collect the due sum and the postal markings on detained covers before and after payment. Next came reprint "Koala" and "Kangaroo" markings. A large selection of personalised stamps was followed by a wide range of covers and labels used for premium

and economy services. Postage labels were introduced in Australia circa 1960 and numerous types were shown, including the later types sharing design features with definitive stamps and some used for special events or stamp shortages. At a members' evening **Ian McElwain** opened with highlights of a recently-purchased collection of *St Lucia*, with gaps to fill, followed by a variety of *Preserved Railway Covers*. **Charlie Mead** started the second half with (mostly) *Western Samoa Postal History*, including Paquebot material, airmail, parachute mail and first flight covers. **Len Stanway** closed with the *Singapore new issues of 2024*. In March we held a Philatelic Brains Trust. **Charlie Mead** opened with a presentation on how to establish a digital library for all your reference material using a free software solution known as Calibre, but many of the things discussed will carry over to other digital storage and access solutions. After the break, he continued with a PowerPoint presentation and short display on *Fiji Free Franks*.
Len Stanway

Bolton

Our January meeting was to be the president's afternoon, but we had arranged a visit by the Mayor of Bolton, Councillor **Andy Morgan**, the Mayoress **Karen Holdsworth** and the curator of the Egyptology Department in Bolton Museum **Ian Trumble**. The Mayor had spoken on the local radio about having served in the armed



The Mayor receiving the cheque

forces. When he came out he had the idea of running a local post office. However that never happened. The members were asked to bring as much material covering local postal history including covers and postcards. **David Brigden** brought a small selection of *Egypt Hotel Post from the early 1900s*. Bolton Museum has a world-famous Egyptian Department. We think our guests were very surprised with our displays and each member had time to talk about what they had brought. I think the Mayor's party thought it may have been a room full of people swapping stamps etc. We now think that the Museum may allow us to put up an exhibition in one of their rooms at some point. Before they left the Mayor was presented with a society cheque for £100 for his nominated charity Bolton Hospice. Our February meeting was our auction night attended by 25 people and lots of postal bids, our next auction is in June a list will be available. March and we had to re-jig our meeting. **Jack Lindley** stepped in and gave a talk and display on *New Zealand Second issue Pictorial Stamps and WWII Mail*.
Henry Lisowski

Bookham

In November we had 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. The Christmas meeting was attended by 45 members. They enjoyed a wonderful buffet supplied by Harrington's Bakeries along with a glass of wine. We also had a quiz and a raffle with the star prize being a superb hamper. The Roy Gilbert Cup held in September was presented to **Steve Paice**. In January we had a one-sheet competition amongst our members. It was a close-run contest but the winner was **Denis Littlewort** (pictured left in group photo) with his *King George V Key Plates* showing the Nyasaland 4-shilling



assassination flaw. In the second half we had a fascinating and enthralling presentation from member **Robert Prentice** on *Captain Robert Scott's British Scientific Expedition to Antarctica*. February brought us an interesting display from **Philip Cant** on *The Titanic from Cradle to Grave and Beyond*, which was essentially a pure stamp display. **Alan Hall** was our March speaker with a comprehensive display of mint stamps and covers embracing the *post Turkish Empire, The League of Nation Mandates to France & GB after WWI and the WWII, Syria French issues*. We meet every 4th Tuesday of the month (except for December) at the Old Barn Hall, Great Bookham in the afternoon - www.bookhamstampclub.com

Barry Feltham

Bristol

There have been nine meetings since Christmas. Members provided a number of evenings of their own entertainment which included *Any subject starting with the letter of your Name*, a competition evening, a bourse and an auction. Speakers included **John Biddicombe** – *Interesting Aspects of New Zealand*, including stamp fixing machines and coils, **Philip Shipp** on *Newspaper Philately* including special stamps by various British companies, and **Dr Ken Flint** on *Cyprus from 7000BC to Modern Times and the 2c Refugee Tax being applied to postage*. The visit from Thornbury Philatelic Society included a presentation on *Lundy Postage* by **Carlton Jones** followed by **Martin Elliott** on *Fire Engine Stamps and Covers*. Additionally, a visit was made to Thornbury Philatelic

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.

Society where two members presented an evening on *QANTAS*, *de Havilland* and *Holland America Line*. The nine-page competition had seven trophies for grabs with four competitors sharing the spoils. They included **Ron Gillard**, **Neil Jones**, **Philip Shipp** and **Ian Spencer**. The overall winner was **Neil Jones** on *The New Zealand 1d Dominion* – a big thank you to **Carlton Jones** from Thornbury Philatelic Society for rigorously marking the entries. Separately a one-page competition was won by **Ron Gillard** on *Czechoslovakia's early Mucha stamps*. Voting was by members present. Two new members round off this quarter. Another nine dates scheduled to the end of the 2024/2025 season.

Robert de Smit

Burnley and District

As I write this report we are now winding down at the end of our season and putting together a syllabus for the next one which will start on 4th September. We had the pleasure of a visit from Rochdale PS in early March with displays on *France* by **Eddie Dunn** and *New Zealand* by **Jack Lindley**. **Richard Farman** visited mid-March with some *Interesting Old Letters* relating to the English Civil War and aftermath. Our latest meeting was a competition night and the winning entry will be forwarded for a NWFed Inter Society competition. We had six entrants and **Mark Everiss** was our winner with his *Russian Civil War* exhibit. Trophies were presented as usual. Arrangements are now in hand for our AGM and a summer evening event at a local hostelry. We can now look forward to the upcoming EuroPhilEx 2025, Stafford and York Fairs and Midpex and a relaxing summer.



Hatted Mark Everiss receives the trophy from Howard Hughes

Barry W Evans

Cambridge

The February Zoom meeting saw **Richard Moss** from Spalding give a display on *Aspects of the New Hebrides*. This was a well researched and very interesting display. In early February we held the first of our two competition evenings. The Great Britain entry of *Registered Mail* from **Mike Brindle** achieved the highest mark in that section, and the Postal History entry of *Edinburgh Dotted Circles* from **Tony Crowther** won for this latter section. **Geoffrey Datson's** entry for *Gilbert & Sullivan* took the Open Class. For the March Zoom meeting **Paul Redhead** gave us a fascinating and detailed *Study of Nigerian Forgeries*, with many examples showing what was wrong or missing. We will continue with the format of a face to face meeting in Cambridge, at Oddfellows Hall, on the first Wednesday each month and also a Zoom presentation on the third Friday each month.

➔ info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk

Peter Morton

Chelmsford and District

Our first meeting on 11th February following our winter break was a members' display covering Anything Philatelic with six presenting a wide range of topics. On 25th February **Pat Adams** gave a display of her favourite subject *Norway*, whilst on 11th March **Colin Evans** returned with a wide range of material covering *The Letter H*. Another visitor returned on 25th March when **Len Stanway** gave an excellent presentation on *The United Nations*. Finally another returner, **Ray How**, entertained us on 8th April with a presentation entitled *Samples From My Collection*, which covered a wide variety of mostly Irish related topics. ➔ Dave Everard on davideverard@live.com or 01245 465506 Dave Everard

Chichester & District

In January we were greeted with a cornucopia of philatelic material. It was the members' opportunities to display items using the heading of *Anniversaries*. **Martha Brown** showed various examples of *First Flight Covers* including an airmail cover from 1939 flown in an Atlantic Clipper airplane. Hers showed four beautiful orange 6c stamps. Other covers were from Düsseldorf, New York and London. **Anthony Parker** displayed items that were commemorative of the first adhesive stamps, covers from the PO Savings Bank (1961), a Shakespeare First Day cover from 1964, the Battle of Britain series from 1965, and the celebration of Robbie Burns stamps from 1966. **Frank Griffiths** centred on the commemoration of *Sir Winston Churchill*. This display included a signed letter, covers, and first day covers. **Russell Hill** provided a nice surprise by way of a photo of his school teacher who encouraged pupils to collect stamps. He displayed various first day covers of the SRN6 Hovercraft, Concorde, and the 50th Anniversary of Doctor Who. Stepping up to the crease, **Bob Tebbitt**, our own cricketing expert, showed a set of *St Kitts & Nevis stamps*, and the Warner Park grounds in Basseterre. There was a most interesting stamp from Hanoi, Viet Nam showing a military airfield. Also, he showed a poster for the 1988 bicentennial of Australian settlement in Welsh! Arddangosfeydd da! In our competitions the various trophies went to **Russell Hill** (both Viner and Simmons), **Neil Smith** (Symes). Martha Brown

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Croydon

Our speaker on 7th January was **Nigel Chandler** who presented a display of the *Allied Occupation of Germany, Part 2*. Nigel covered the period 1945-1948. The postal rates did not change but the value of the stamps was less because of currency devaluations. A number of covers were displayed including those with an orange triangle denoting cash on delivery. In August 1948 a new issue of stamps took place which funded the repair of Cologne Cathedral. On 1st September 1948 was the final issue of the Building Series comprising 28 stamps, four watermark and many perforation varieties. In February two members, **Terry Page**



Nigel Chandler with Pauline McBroom

and **Chris Hitchen**, displayed. **Terry Page** took us to the *Zemstvo Posts of Russia* which functioned between 1865 and 1918. Zemstvos were local authorities which accepted and delivered mail within the many rural areas which were not covered by the state Imperial Post. They operated in tandem with the state system. **Chris Hitchen** displayed material from the *Franco Prussian War of 1870-71*. Paris was surrounded in September 1870. Balloons were used to take letters out of the capital. One letter was from the ill-fated balloon the *Jacquard* which took off on a stormy November night and eventually crashed off the Scilly Isles. Salvaged mail eventually found its way back to France. **David Walker's** display in March showed many birds – from Buzzards to Vultures. David had a wealth of knowledge to accompany his display. *Graham Harker*

Dawlish

The subject for the meeting on 12th March was *Outposts of Empire* which produced some excellent displays of *The Extent of the French Empire*, *How Canada was prior to the Formation of Canada as a Country*, *Some Very Long-Distance Communication to Cyprus* emphasizing the length of time it took to exchange letters prior to today's speedy means of communication. There were also some minor displays showing the extent of overprinting of some countries, and the reasons for the production of some stamps from Sudan. Visitors are welcome to all the club's meetings: further information about the club can be found on the club's website or by calling 01626 864844 *Jim Wlmore*

Dundee and District

January opened with members displaying on the 1930 theme with some ingenuity in evidence. Then **Jon Higgins FRPSL** gave a Zoom display entitled *1894 North Borneo & Labuan*. In February was Competition Night where the winners were: Thematic - **John Sawkins** - *History of Money*, Postal History -



And the winners were: John Sawkins, Brian McQueen & Stephen Kennedy

Brian McQueen - *The French Zone*, National & General - **Brian McQueen** - *The International Telegraph Union*, Social History - **Brian McQueen** - *Cars & Driving Rules* and **Stephen Kennedy** - *Life & Times of Benjamin Franklin*. Then **Chris Harman RDP Hon FRPSL** entertained us with an outstanding Zoom display entitled *Caveat Emptor: Philatelic Forgers & their Works*. In March **Andy Napier** (Lanarkshire PS) treated us to a very entertaining and informative display entitled *Fiji* - A

Miscellany and members of Glasgow Thematic Society gave four interesting displays on *Aberdeen*, *This Day in History*, *Birds* and *Canada*. *Colin Campbell*

Frinton & District

At our 31st March meeting **Mick Carter** showed an excellent display entitled *M.E.F. 1942 - 1952*. Mick began by explaining that he has been interested in Italian colonies with MEF overprints since 2013. These were overprints on GB stamps issued from 1942 and printed in Cairo and Nairobi for use in the captured Italian colonies in North Africa and the Horn of Africa. He showed the varieties occurring in the overprints, notably in the full stop variations. Also examples of postmarks from various post offices, forgeries, plus many covers, Christmas airgraphs, telegrams, airmail covers and POW covers to Germany. Mick's display notably included some scarce covers and cds postmarks.

Steve Alpe

Guildford

With well-attended meetings and a growing club we have been able to cut the Annual Subscription for 2025/26 from £15 to £10 to attract new members. In



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February, **James Podger** described his Merchant Navy experiences in the South Atlantic as a tanker captain anchored near Ascension, providing fuel for UK and US flights out of Wideawake Airfield. His display comprised many early postcards showing views of Ascension, the Falkland Islands and St Helena and some RAF memorabilia. The following month, **Mark Bailey** spoke about *The Centenary of the Postage Stamp – 1940*. He explained the evolution of the familiar GB GVI issue and how this anniversary was marked overseas. On 19th March, seven members from Guildford headed over to Epsom and Ewell Philatelic Society for an exchange visit. The four GDPS presenters were: **Charles Smith** (*Belgian Exhibition Stamps - Art Deco*), **Barry Stephens** (*Australia: The First Fleet then Gold Coast/Ghana*), **Simon Burke** (*Penny*



Simon McArthur, Chris Forwood, Robert Mott and Barry Stephens.

Farthing Stationery Postcards) and **Susan Taylor** (*Pre-1900 Trinidad Covers*). Simon Burke also gifted Epsom two old council notices, which they plan to display when their Mayor makes the annual

visit. In April, EEPS made the return visit to Guildford: **Simon McArthur** (*German Flight during the pre-WWII 3rd Reich*), **Chris Forwood** (*GB KGV*), **Geoff Richardson** (*Austrian Postmarks 1861 to the 1940s*) and **Robert Mott** (*Telecommunications from the Telephone to the Web*). On this occasion, we also welcomed **Keith Burton** – ABPS News Editor.

→ www.spanglefish.com/guildfordstampclub Susan Taylor & Rob Cooke

Harrogate

January was a bad month for us with ice and snow, then high winds, forcing the abandonment of our meetings. However we recovered in February with three members giving excellent displays. **Alan Green** took us through the history of Switzerland's *Pro Patria Cards and Stamps*. Later **Maria Gibson** reminded us of the *Solidarność Movement* through the covers, cards and stamps produced, mainly illegally, to raise funds and show support, and **Ian Bergel** continued through Eastern Europe with *Bosnia, Austrian Charity Stamps and Hungary from the 1930s*. Our Zoom meeting on *When We were Young* produced six related or unrelated displays. We saw Airgraphs with Disney characters sent by Airman Kirman to his daughter, A youthful trip to Germany, Celebration Telegrams and

Cards, Asterix the Gaul and Comic Stamps and the Birthday Boy from 22nd October with the 2nd most collected country, Egypt, as a follow-on. Why not break the rules if you want to! We had a visit from four members of Middlesbrough. As usual this results in a very varied evening. **Derek Lilley** showed us *Foreign Tourist Cachets* and *Japanese Occupation of China* material. **Neil Williams** followed with an outstanding *George VI Registration Mail to and from Aden*. *GVI Covers* were **Barry Burns'** choice but this time from St Helena. **John Church** finished off with a fine mixed selection relating to *World War I* – particularly the Ottoman Empire and the two German ships that sheltered in Istanbul and changed the course of the war. *Keith Burton*

Hereford & Mid-Wales

2025 has started well. Our January meeting challenged members to display five sheets (exactly) or pay a 50p fine. No less than 15 displays were produced on a huge range of topics, and we had time to see them all. Our annual auction meeting raised little in commission for us, but the charity section raised £150 for the local Hospice, the best figure for several years. In March, our last afternoon meeting of the season, **Richard Moss** entertained us with his comprehensive display of *Postal History of the New Hebrides*. Richard's visit was a wonderful example of the interconnectedness of British philately. He contacted me through a Zoom meeting my husband and I had given, and in conversation, I invited him to present to Hereford. After consultation with diary and map he realised that



Helen's Blue Stamps

our March meeting could be taken in as a relatively small diversion on his journey from Lincolnshire to a philatelic event in South West England, and also give him the opportunity to see a little of a previously unvisited city. Cancellation by our intended speaker for April necessitated finding an easy topic for members' displays. Combining the Wedding Season with April Fools Day, I suggested *Something Old, Something New, Something Foolish, Something Blue!* This proved tremendously popular and **David Bruce-**

Kingmill who had joined the society only a month before, entered wholeheartedly into the theme, including a "Foolish" letter bearing a Post Office slogan postmark "It's quicker to Phone!"
Janet Nelson FRPSL

High Wycombe and District

Our eight paid-up members emerged from the winter break on 27th February to a super presentation of unusual *KGVI/KGVI Material* and *Barbados* by **Terry Brookes** from Milton Keynes PS. **Richard Akers** represented Pinner PS on 13th March, displaying *Swiss Material*. Our treasurer, **Tim Harrison**, made a return visit to a very well-attended Solihull PS on 18th March, displaying *Stamps and Postal History of Estonia First Republic (1919-1940)*. A club return visit to Milton Keynes PS was made on 26th March, also by **Tim Harrison**, who displayed *Greek Revenues* and *Pre-Union Stamps of South Africa*. A big thank you to Milton Keynes PS for making him so welcome. Forthcoming visits to High Wycombe are from **David Belton**, **Huw Williams** and **Norton Wragg**, before we rush to the beaches for the summer.
Tim Harrison

Huddersfield

In February **Robert McMillan** presented *Kingston upon Hull Postal History*. He began with examples of post from the time of King Charles II through to the early 1840s. Early letters were before postmasters and contained many abbreviations including bishop marks. Robert explained how most mail from Hull was transported by horseback to York and thence on mail-coach to London. He presented examples of markings from Hull and also postmarks from various places coming into Hull. From 1840, there were examples of Rowland Hill's Mulready sheet, including one from the second day of issue, and also examples of caricatures of the Mulready. The second lay-down had a focus on ship letters. Of course, Hull is sited at the confluence of the Hull and the Humber and obtained a royal charter in 1299. The display contained an amusing mistake, with one letter from Leeds to Hull originally marked as a 'ship letter'! In March **Rodney Knight** presented on *Spain and the Spanish Colonies*. The focus of the first round was Spain itself and included frames on a thematic collection of Spain, celebrating civilisation in Spain from the Palaeolithic through to C20 art and architecture, pre-stamp covers, Spanish railway postmarks, the Province of Valencia, post-1950, especially covers celebrating trade fairs, advertising covers 1900-1946, postal stationery, including aerograms, and charity stamps. The second round was on the Spanish colonies, including Cuba,



Rodney Knight shows Spain and colonies

Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Spanish North Africa (including Morocco and the Spanish Sahara).

→ jtaylor3@ntlworld.com for further details.

Jon Taylor

Hull

The first half of our season has brought displays illustrating many facets of collecting from Postal History to Thematics, from ephemera to postcards and everything in between. To open the season we held a members' afternoon which



Garrie showing the routes

was very successful, as everyone brought something to show. We have learnt about the fascinating *History of Photography* from **Geoffrey Blackwell** and been entertained by **Steve Harrison's** lively presentation and beautifully illustrated collection of *Congress Material from 1909 Onwards*. **Garrie Naden's** innovative and very visual display on *Early Postal Routes* was well appreciated by the members, integrating the postal history with geography in an approachable way for the non-specialists. An unexpected change to the programme saw **Daphne McMillan's** second world war display having its second outing in two days

when a speaker failed to appear. (Luckily the frame format of the two societies was identical). In March, **Trevor Wright** guided us through a comprehensive *History of the Harrogate, Leeds and Bradford Posts*, featuring in particular material relating to the solicitors Powell, Eddison, Freeman and Wills of Harrogate and Knaresborough from the early 19th century. This slice of social history included material from the collection of Cliff Hopes. **Colin Marshall's** *Royalty* display was well enjoyed, particularly by this viewer. **John Walker's** presentation of the *Korean War and its Aftermath* was a detailed and fully explained account of an often forgotten conflict.

Daphne McMillan

Huntingdonshire

At our meeting in January we were shown philatelic items from the *United Nations part 3* having previously seen parts 1 and 2. This was the final part of a collection of United Nations philatelic collection by a past member of Cambridge PS, donated to the society. Stamps from various countries commemorating the UN included Honduras, Germany, Cuba, Luxembourg, Liban, Italy and Syria. From 1922 Switzerland issued stamps for use of the International organizations situated there and examples were shown. Mail showing slogan cancellations on mail came next. We then saw the 1970 issue which came out on the 22nd September along with details of the designers of the stamps. On the 7th April 1972 they issued stamps for World Health Day and we were shown them in blocks of four. These were followed by the Economics Commission and Art series sets. In 1975 they commemorated the 30th anniversary of the UN charter and peace keeping relations. The 1980 stamps commemorating 35th Anniversary of the UN were shown as blocks of four. 1600 000 of each value

were printed. Examples on mail carried slogan cancellations. During the issues of the 1961-62 stamps the emblem was replaced by an outline of the UN building. In 1961 an official photograph of the UN Children's Fund and Economic Commission for Latin America stamps was released to the press as were the issues for 1962. The evening ended with examples of commercial postage and meter franking.

David Birkett

King's Lynn

Members have enjoyed Zoom presentations on *Transatlantic Airmail 1928-39*, *Pigeons in Communications WWI*, *India to Scotland Mail 1817-39*, *Cameroons WWII Censored Mail*, *Imperial Airways Africa Service 2* and *Norfolk Social History*. **Mike Kentzer** and **Terry Wagg** entertained members at the first monthly meeting with *Postal History Pot Pourri* and *The Life of the GB ½d*. The Five Frames by Four evening started with **Stuart Ross** – *British Central Africa and Nyasaland*, introducing the history of the region. Next **Terry Harrison** – *Free Czechoslovak Forces in WWII*, detailing how the Czechoslovak Forces came to be in England 1940-44. Then **Philip Illsley** – *Queen Victoria Jubilee and Seahorses*, an interesting selection of stamps, covers, postcards and ephemera. Finally **David Rice** – *Local Postcards*, a whistle stop tour of King's Lynn. Valentine's Day was a members' evening without a valentine in sight! Quality presentations on *Picture Postcards of Sandsend*, *Sir Nigel Gresley's W1 Engine*, *Postal History of North Borneo 1881-1894*, *Ships of Lake Malawi*, *Personalities having the privilege of Free Frank Mail*, *Antigua and Local Ephemera* were appreciated. At the last meeting in February **Dahlia Harrison** entertained members with *Aspects of France*. Next was a visit from Norfolk and Norwich PS with amazing displays on *Germany and Postal Regeneration from March 1945-51*, *Africa*, *The Netherlands 1945-2000* and *Scotland Regional Stamps 1958-70*. Members were royally entertained by **Derek Connell** with his *Road to Wembley* at the end of March followed in April by **George Henshilwood** with his display on the *Cook Islands and NZ Dependencies*.

Dahlia Harrison

Largs & District

Continuing our 2025 session was a visit from **Bob Forrest** on *Scouts*. Starting with a biographical sketch of Lord Baden-Powell his first round concentrated on the commemoration of various jamborees. Then he showed how widespread the Scout movement is with a large range of stamps showing scouting activities from many countries. Our first meeting in March was Competition Night. The number of entries was down on previous years but we had a good range of topics from *Indian stamps used in Zanzibar*, *South African Aerial Post* to *George VI Definitives*. The traditional Alec Hopkins trophy was won by **David Rossall** with *Bela Sekula and Nyassa*. **Ian Smith** took the



Alex Walker receives his certificate

Thematic shield with *Argentina's Claims to the Falkland Islands* and also the 3-Sheet competition with *Marconi and the Titanic*. The only entry in the Postcard class, **David Rossall's** *Early Pro Juventute Cards*, was judged to be of sufficient standard to take the trophy. Our second March meeting was a visit from **Alex Walker** of Aberdeen. He brought *A Counterblaste to Tobacco*, named after a document written by James VI/I. Alex took us through the history of tobacco from when Jean Nicot brought tobacco to France for use as snuff, its use in pipe smoking and cigars to cigarettes in the 20th century and chewing, especially in the USA and Sweden. We followed early methods of promotion and advertising to more recent groundswell against its use, especially after the death of George VI from lung cancer. → davidrossall@sky.com David Rossall

Launceston

The February meeting was exceptionally well-attended with 25 members and guests present. The chairman **Barry Mudie**



Barrie thanking Bob

introduced the speaker for the evening, **Bob Wheeler** from Totnes. Bob had previously displayed to us last year which was well appreciated. This display entitled the *Four Kings* was equally as good with a plethora of unusual items such as proofs, artist drawings, colour trials, printer's waste and paper trials. Among the items shown were essays of a 1923 airmail stamp, 1924 Wembley Exhibition stamps, 1929 Universal Postal Union stamps and the 1935 and 1937 Jubilee and Coronation stamps. Other unusual items included

pencil drawings of proposed Edward VIII high value stamps and essays for a stamp for use throughout the British Commonwealth. There was also an example where colour trials were used to test how the various colours of existing stamps would appear with the introduction of electric light into the post offices. Alas this only describes a small part of the material which was on display. At the end of the presentation the chairman presented Bob with our certificate of appreciation. *Des Kent*

Leeds

Our Spring programme has been most enjoyable and varied, something to interest everyone. On 28th January we had a talk about *Mail Coaches* from **Canon Roger Dedman** beginning from 1784. Our first meeting in February saw many members submitting displays for our competition evening. It is always a delight to see other members' interests. On 25th February **Mike Rego** gave a display of *British Guiana Stamps and*



From Richard Hindle's display

Postal History. We had a lively auction on 11th March which was organised by our member auctioneer **Nigel Grizzard**. On the 25th **Rod Ash** showed his *Railway Postcards and Ephemera*. **Richard Hindle** introduced us to *Hubert Wilkins – An Extraordinary Life* on April 8th. We look forward to three more meetings this season. Our 136th season begins on September 9th. Our annual Stamp Fair will be held in Pudsey Civic Hall November 15th & 16th, 10-30am to 5pm both days, all welcome.

Liz Schweiger

Lewisham

For the first meeting of 2025, **David Britton** took on a huge challenge – telling the story of *Wars and the Men and Women who fought them*. He began with some British Indian Ocean Territory issues commemorating a wide range of British battles, from the Battle of Hastings to Naseby, the decisive battle of the Civil War. A rich variety of material was then used to illustrate the Williamite Wars, the Battle of Culloden, the Seven Years' War, and the Battle of Trafalgar. The second part of his presentation focused on the stamps and presentation packs issued to commemorate WWI – this section was embellished with a replica of Princess Mary's Christmas Gift Box for the troops in 1914 (the curious list of contents included tobacco, cigarettes, and a pipe, but no chocolate!). A huge range of material was then displayed to illustrate aspects of WWII from the point of view of different participants – Greece, Germany, Japan, Great Britain and the US. Some of the more unusual items included:



David Britton with Tony Bosworth

Japanese postcards celebrating their 'victory' at Pearl Harbor, the fall of Hong Kong, and Singapore; stamps issued for propaganda purposes for the Indian National Army; fake Austrian Hitler-head stamps overprinted *Österreich wieder frei!*; and South African Christmas seals issued for each year of the war. In conclusion, Chairman **Tony Bosworth** reflected that taking on over 1000 years of warfare to have impacted the UK had been a brave effort, which members found thoroughly enjoyable. → hickey_anthony@hotmail.com

Tony Holdsworth

Lostock

At our January meeting our joint treasurers **David B** and **Robin H** explained to the members the reason for our having to change banks because of rising banking charges. David B then handed out the full banking report and statement of our funds. David B then entertained everyone with two short talks *Stamps of the Isle of Man* followed by *Pillar Boxes of the UK*. Finally our secretary handed out the new 2025 syllabus listing the next half year's events. In February Robin H ran our first stamp auction in many years. Members were invited to go around and view all displays. Then as each members number came up they had the

opportunity to buy one item for just £2. All of the items on display had a sale value of at least £4 to £6 making the sales very reasonable. This was repeated until all bids had ended. The general mood of the members was this new idea should be repeated later in the year. **Alan Totten** with his talk *Norway: Ships, Trains and Planes* was our visiting speaker in March with over 70 delightful items in his collection. Among them a photographic postcard of Queen Maud, addressed to Hull, posted onboard ship, The Hull Paquebot postmark Hosking 100, dated 4.30am, 27th November 1905 and Bergen to Hull Cover postmark 3rd April 1876, franked with a pair of 3 skilling stamps for ship letter rate. *David Morley*

Lothian



Bob receiving his certificate

Our 2024-25 season meetings are now almost over, and despite steadily falling numbers we have seen many interesting displays from both our members and the Borders society who visited us last November. Next season's Tuesday evening programme has 14 meetings starting on the 23rd December through to April 2026. Sadly, one of our longest standing members, **Jim Haggart** died in April. Jim had been an active member and office holder of both Edinburgh and Scottish societies which preceded us. On a brighter note, in January we were pleased to welcome the Lothian Stamp

Group (formerly Edinburgh Stamp Group) as an associated group within LPG. This group retains some autonomy and continues to plan and run daytime meetings on the last Friday morning of most months. A longstanding and particularly active member, **Bob Catto** who has devoted many years service to our predecessor club as well as LPG was made an Honorary Member recently. His displays are always good and this season we had a most entertaining display entitled *Bob's Birthday* with worldwide material, including covers and cancels all produced on his birthday.

➔ <https://edinphil.wordpress.com/>

Steve Cowles

Maidenhead & District

2025 started with *Your Latest Acquisitions* and *Oversea Mail* in January. February saw presentations by our president and vice president on *British Levant before and after WWI*, followed by *Queen Elizabeth II* and we rounded off the first quarter with a *Cinderella* evening and *Transport on Stamps* in March. On the membership side of things, we ran a membership survey at the end of January and about half our members responded. This gave some interesting results, such as half of those who replied had engineering-related careers, about half our members rarely visit our website and of the half that do visit, the information most relevant to them is about meetings (past, present and future). As a result of the survey, we are looking at re-focusing parts of the website to make it more appealing and relevant to visitors (i.e. potential new members) and

the officers of the society are currently considering a list of potential changes to the website. In addition we've agreed to look into setting up a Facebook page for the society.

David Smith

Thank you David and Maidenhead and District PS. This is the first report that I have received from there since I became editor, many years ago. It is clear that David is a doer in philately - much appreciated.

Maidstone & Mid-Kent

Since the beginning of the year we have enjoyed displays by members and guests. We started with members showing 12 sheets from their collection with the usual variety. This was followed by our secretary/programme secretary **Margaret Emerson** showing us the *Development of the Post* with an interesting talk about her covers and postcards. Our first 2025 guest was **Kevin Dillistone** with an unusual but fascinating display on *Lighthouses of Great Britain*. The display consisted mainly of postcards along with the few stamps that have been produced showing lighthouses. Kevin showed a postcard of Dungeness Lighthouse and a single stamp that was issued by Chile, for some unknown reason. **Phil Clark** followed with a remarkable display on the *League of Nations* and **Paul Cahill** gave an interesting display on *Early France*. Our latest speaker was member **Julie Lester** who gave a remarkable display on *Lundy Island* which started with a description of her latest visit there ending up with Appledore Lifeboat (Devon) having to come and collect her following a fall whilst out walking. A late change to our programme resulted in the committee asking our president, **Marcus Sherwood Jenkins** if he would like to give us a display of his superb *Russian Material* as a tribute to his wife who recently died. Our morning meetings have included members' displays including one by **Tony Davis** on the *Red Cross* which included a range of stamps and covers. **Brian Stonestreet**

Middlesbrough and District

Val Beeken from Durham is well-known for her diverse range of thematic collections. On her previous visit to us we were enthralled with her display of *Bananas* when all attendees were treated to a fine mint example in superb condition. At our second March meeting she displayed *Law and Order* and we wondered what delights she would bring. No free handouts this time but a very wide range of stamps, covers, photographs, postcards, newspaper extracts, and other ephemera were on show. Robert Peel opened the talk, and we were privileged to see her fine Parliamentary Mulready Letter sheet used and signed by Sir Robert. This was followed by a good range of material relating to the Metropolitan Police before moving through the UK. We were surprised by the range of material that Val had located, helped probably by knowledge gained from her previous employment within the force. Following the break Val moved overseas with



Val - ready for action

examples from most continents and many diverse countries. Dog handling, drugs, several famous crimes and prison mail were represented, followed by a selection of Court Fees and Judicial stamps. Comic postcards concluded a fascinating display which is well recommended to other societies. Thank you, Val, for an instructive and entertaining evening.

→ neil53williams@yahoo.co.uk

Barry Burns

Norfolk and Norwich

A Springtime Medley: During February, our member **Peter Watts** presented a comprehensive display of *Romania and Turkey*. Four members followed up in late February - **Terry Blyth** with *Great Britain KGV Issues*, **David McIntosh** with *Netherlands*, **Reg Cullum** showed *Birds* and **John Moseley** illustrated *Nobel Prize Winners*. A members' only competition for the Gordon Rooney cup was well-contested (winner to be revealed later). Our second March meeting saw us welcome **Ray Barton**, offering an authoritative *Mexico* display. Our April Spring Fair at one of the Hewett School halls was well attended and seemingly enjoyed by all.



President seated by the Gordon Rooney Cup entries

Chris Southgate

NW Kent



Viewing the display

Our fourth season as the united clubs of Eltham, Bexley & Sidcup opened on 14th January with a range of members' short displays. What a diverse range of collectors we are. 28th January was our AGM and presentation of our annual competition winner's cup to **Geoff Hanney**. **Jeff Hanney** handed the presidential role to **Phil Clarke**. In February **Bill Hedley** enthralled us with his *Postal History of Hungary* in his inimitable style, covering all aspect of their military, social, political, public health and all aspects relating to the country's evolution. Later in February **Keith Jupp** showed his *Jamaican*

Post in Victorian Times, displaying the variety of postmarks utilized. On 11th March we welcomed **Michael Dobbs** with his *Aspects of NATO*, relating how it was set up in 1949 by 12 countries, as a buffer against the soviets, since expanding to over 30 members. He explained the structure of commands within NATO and how things altered when in 1962 France withdrew. Then in 1999 the

number of HQs was rationalised from 65 to 20 and we noted each of these had their own post offices for British, American & Canadian forces. In April we were delighted to welcome **Robert Mott** with his display of *German Private Postal Stationery* from its inception in 1875. Once again we were awed by the range of items and the depth of his knowledge. We now look forward to the rest of 2025, with a rich and varied programme.

John Sinfield

Oxford

In January, **Stan Challis** displayed a wonderful selection of material covering *Ireland – 1916 and all that*. The following month saw members display a range of material on *Flags, Heraldry and Shields* from around the world. At the next meeting, the quiz challenged members with a limited time to answer blocks of four questions on cards – in the end the winning margin was just half-a-point! At the same meeting, we were grateful for the friendly advice offered to our visiting judge, **Malcolm Gascoyne**, from nearby Henley PS who scored the displays in various classes of competitions and showed how to make improvements in material and write-ups. March saw two members split a meeting between them with apposite material: **Steve Hewitt** on *Heroes and Villains of Norway* – Nansen, Amundsen, Ibsen, Munch and Quisling, to name a few – and **Colin Davies** on *Mechanisation and Sorting of the Mail in GB, 1957-72*, which delved into graphites and phosphors across a range of stamps, booklets and coils. At the next meeting, as always, the auction provoked a very large turnout of members and lots of bidding. In the expert auctioneering hands of **Gordon Bishop**, most of the 320 lots found new homes in just over an hour, helped by most lots helpfully starting at a pound!

Dr Simon Heap

Poole & Bournemouth



Bill Pipe

Our competitions for 2025 are over for another year. We had 14 exhibits, the most we've seen for many years. (Are things on the up?) More details can be seen at <http://www.philatellyinbournemouth.co.uk/>. The judge was **Albert Jackson**. All exhibits were superb but there were two 'stars of the show'. **Bill Pipe** was one with his exhibit of *British & Colonial Hospital Ship Marks of WWII*, (Postal History) for which Bill received a Gold Ribbon certificate with the trophy. Another Gold was



Gareth Williams

won by **Gareth Williams** who produced *Newfoundland Transatlantic Flights in 1919*, (Open). Gareth also won the Members' Choice shield. We have a packed

programme for the rest of the year including a Stamp Fair on Saturday 6th September. (Save the date, details on the website and in the ABPS News Diary page 60).

Rick Wilmot

Preston

Our meetings resumed in March after a Winter break. The first meeting was a members' contribution on *New Acquisitions*. We had some unusual items, including *A Range of Postal History* from **Neil** and **Vesta Power**. Recent meetings have included a talk by our chairman, **Ian Williams**, on his Victorian items and an interesting display on *Postage Due* items. We were intrigued by the variety of reasons for extra charge and the processes for collecting the charge. **Andrew Brooks** visited us with another selection of material from his extensive *Germany Collection*. This time it was mainly postal history from the Third Reich. It was a thoughtful and thought-provoking display.

Bernard Walmsley

Ringwood

In thanking speaker **Hugh Osborne** for his display of *South Georgia Postal History*, our president **Colin Mount** stated that members had experienced a superb presentation underscored by most excellent write-up. This philatelic study was an absolute gem on many levels, not least its clarity of delivery, and the promotion of scarce and unique material. Hugh prefaced his philatelic journey with a most informative outline of the island's history. The developing whaling industry in the 19th and early years of the 20th century was centre stage, with Great Britain, Norway and later Germany being key nations. Vast numbers of whales were killed in the pursuit of this valuable oil resource. Numerous whaling stations were established, with later, ships playing the major part. The Falklands, Argentina and Uruguay featured strongly in this industrial development, and their postal facilities were vital to communication. Post took an age to be delivered, whether inward or outbound, and for 8 months of the year, weather conditions prevented movement. The wealth of correspondence displayed, both commercial and private, was considerable. Maps and photos, were to the fore, and stamps, cancels, letters and covers abounded. Many items were rare and of much value. Talking of such scarcity, Hugh revealed a *South Shetland* cover. Find another one ... but that is another story! **Paul Barry**



Rochdale

At our February meeting, member **David Hudson** presented *A History of GB Postage Due Stamps from 1914 to 2000*, when their use ceased. David discussed the complex rules and regulations covering the many factors relating to postage due and postage return charges. These included weight, size, delivery attempts and return-to-sender costs. Postcards had onerous rules to distinguish them from normal letters, such as the number of words and subject matter. Specific regulations were introduced to prevent postcards masquerading as letters to avoid higher post charges. David said that he gets pleasure from his detective work, trying to work out why charges have been made and under what circumstances they are applied. **Pete Best** gave a talk primarily on *Armed Forces Covers from Malta* in the period of WWI and WWII. Most post, including civilian had to run the gauntlet of censorship, particularly armed services personnel, prisoners of war, hospitals and convalescent facilities for war casualties. Pete displayed many samples of covers showing a fascinating variety of official censorship hand stamps under the headings of: Opened under Martial Law, Passed by censor (number) and Damaged by Immersion in Saltwater. Our April meeting was dedicated to members' displays on subjects beginning with the letters G/H/I. The results included *George V stamps in Malta, Hungarian Stamps, from 1910/1918* and *Irish Diamond Postmarks*. Peter Grimshaw

Royal Sutton Coldfield

Our membership has remained steady this season and we have had very good displays both by members and visitors. **Gerald Marriner** started the displays with a knowledgeable and fascinating display of the *German Occupation of the Channel Islands*. **John Walker**, gave us a very different display *3-Dimensional Philately – Collecting Stamp Boxes*. 'They were beautiful items, many in sparkling silver. Visitor **Alan Spencer** gave us the interesting story of *The Canadian Expeditionary Force in WWI*. Brave men all. In March, **Malcolm Hughs** and **Michael Chapling** showed *Early Russian 1858-1872* and *Equestrian Sports on Stamps* respectively. Both generated plenty of interest from members. Members displayed *Picture Postcards – picture side only* giving us a wide range of places and subjects. Again, the Members' Nine Sheet Display gave us sheets from round the world and from early to more recent stamps and covers. Margaret Langley

Salisbury & District

Another interesting and enjoyable quarter. We suffer, like I suspect many local societies, from low attendance at our meetings, we average nine or ten. But the atmosphere and the friendships are always excellent with a good buzz. We have had four members' meetings and the displays on a wide range of themes have been as always interesting and eclectic. I continue to be surprised at the range of members' interests. In the winter months our specialist talks are given by a member with the second half given over to members on any subject. We auctioned our unused library and had our annual auction. Both achieved good

results, in the case of library surprisingly so. Our day meeting, to which we invite philatelists from around the area, was as usual a resounding success with 21 attendees and 11 displays. Another success was a visit by a team from Ferndown who showed high quality material. While our members always show excellent material, over the years we get to know their collecting habits. These were fresh subjects. We have major problems ahead in the next quarter: the secretary retires and currently there is no volunteer to replace him. *Mike Moody*

Scarborough

Our Competition night was in February. The One Country Cup was won by president, **Peter Arnett**, showing *The 1881 Penny Lilac* in all its guises. **John Penrose** offered *Faroe Islands* and **Ted Lunn** brought beautiful *Newfoundland Issues*. For the Anything Philatelic Trophy Peter had a good evening taking first place with *Anything showing the Head of Queen Victoria*. **Chris Phillips** followed with *Burma* and **Robin Stenhouse** produced *The Life of Robert Fitzroy, Captain of The Beagle*. There were many other displays so in all it was a good competition night. *Ex Scarborough Post*

The Shropshire

The first three meetings with the deliberately vague titles of *Afternoon with the 50s*, *Surcharges and Overprints* and *SE Asia* generated some very creative members' displays. The 50s covered everything from *Postal History from the 1850s*, the *Different Printings in the 1950s of the GB QE2 High Value Issues* and world stamps all showing a 50-currency Value. Overprints, both genuine and forged, on *Stamps from the UK and Germany*, sat alongside scarce *Boer War Postal Stationery* and *Local Handstamps and Cachets from the Victorian Era*. A message of care when purchasing overprinted material was taken on board; particularly important when buying on-line where forgeries are rampant. On 26th February Sutton Coldfield PS joined us with in-depth displays of *Korea*, *Prisoner of War Mail* from **John Walker**, the complexities of the *Slavery Trade* from **Margaret Langley**, *Sport on Stamps* by **Michael Chapling**, and finally three unexpected *Uses of Registered Mail* from **Steven Harrison**. A non-philatelic guest was intrigued to hear how the addressee can be brought to life by internet searches and the correspondence put into a real-life context - there is much more to philately than coloured bits of paper or grubby envelopes! Telford PS recently found our first membership account book and kindly returned it to us - what fascinating reading it makes. Meeting locations, subscription costs of 5/- from the 4th June 1947 and the members including a Lt. Col., a Major, a Doctor and a Reverend! - good material for a display.

➔ d.j.poynton@googlemail.com

David Poynton

*Did you know - some supermarkets have community rooms that you can use, often at no cost? Then you can do your shopping too.
One society already doing this is York.*

Editor

Solihull

At our meeting on 4th March the audience were entertained by **Robert Shaw**, the secretary of nearby Birmingham Society. Robert brought along part of his outstanding collection of *Paraguay*, the first time in Solihull's 55 year history that philatelic material from this landlocked South American country has been shown. It was therefore no surprise there was an above average turnout of 27 members and guests. Robert shared his extensive knowledge of the history of Paraguay from Spanish colonisation in the 16th century, its independence in 1811 to the wars with its neighbours. One of the highlights of the display were some rare pre-stamp covers including an 1812 entire with a straight line PARAGVAY handstamp in red. Between 1864–70 Paraguay was involved in the War of the Triple Alliance when it fought against Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, which resulted in Paraguay conceding some 30% of its territory. Robert showed some rare material from this war.



Robert Shaw and display

Iain Wells

Southampton & District

We started our 2025 speaker's programme in February with an excellent talk by **Bob Small** of Ferndown and West Moors Society. Bob first displayed his covers about *The French Prisoners Of War Held in Britain* during the Napoleonic wars interspersed with interesting ephemera and a riveting story of events. His second half was an even more dramatic talk and display about *The Life of Admiral Lord Nelson*. Our second speaker in March was **Mike Moody** of Salisbury Society showing us his colourful display of *Silks from the First and Second World Wars* with a powerful story about soldiers at war and the significance to their families at home of the themes of the silk topics chosen. Of course, our Zoom programme continued with an attractive and interesting display of *Supermarket Philately* shown by **Jean Alexander** in January and *Parachuting Through the Ages* by **Barry Stagg** in February. If anyone missed either of these then they may be found on the Video Library page of our website: <http://www.southamptondps.org.uk/avideolibrary.html> *Julian Jones FRPSL*

Stroud and District

We hosted a Tri-Club meeting On 3rd April. We met as usual at Painswick for a sandwich lunch and a variety of short presentations. **Austin Meares** showed *Stamps and Postcards from Chateaux of the Loire*. **Tim Kestin** brought maps, stamps and covers of short-lived and slowly diminishing *Biafra*. **John Button** displayed some *Penny Blacks on Cover*, even one with a Stroud postmark. **Mike Parker** produced a couple of frames featuring *Alexandre Dumas Père*, explaining his mixed-race ancestry. **Tom Yerburch** showed *Canadian Stamps*, illustrating how the reigning monarch had aged over the period. **Martin Slinger's** display included the discoverer of an anti-rabies vaccine, an anecdote about

Painswick Post Office, once Britain's oldest but now closed, and the big con in Trinidad and Tobago's independence set: its bottom value featuring the sea by an artist who'd never been to the coast and fish native to Japan. **Andrew Watton** rounded off the meeting on *Postal Mechanisation*. In the 1960s when Ernest Marples was PMG, the phrase AI was in use for promoting technological novelties like inkjet printers and Computer Based Training. Although there was a large number of speakers, the meeting was not over long, and the great variety meant there was something for everyone. This has proved a popular model. The word Tri-Club refers to our practice of having meetings with Gloucestershire and Cheltenham societies every six months, each society taking a turn to play host. We are close neighbours geographically, and the meetings always prove popular.

Tim Kestin

Taw & Torridge

Peter Harris, our outgoing programme secretary, has managed to attract some of the biggest names from UK philately to present to us. That said we also have a wealth of in-house and local talent to entertain and inform us. In January we were treated to presentations from club members. **David Elliott** displayed a relatively small collection entitled *German Hyperinflation*. David explained the



Jeremy Phillips & David Elliott

collection was triggered when given a single stamp by a tour leader on a visit to Germany as a 13-year-old. Over many years of painstaking hunting and considerable investment David's collection has become the masterpiece it is today gaining the accolade 'Best Presented Display' at the Annual Convention: Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society - October 2024. **Jeremy Phillips** showed us: *1st Issue Commonwealth QEII 1953/60*. Jeremy has collected stamps for years but, like many working people his acquisitions tended to get put to one side 'to deal with later.' Having reduced his work commitments in 2024 he agreed to present to the club. Jeremy admitted it was only when he started to prepare his presentation, he realized just how much of a task he'd set himself. Many readers will empathize with Jeremy's admission that he found he not only had many duplicates but also gaps! He was accepting deliveries up to Christmas Eve to compile a presentation with which he was happy. His dedicated hard work certainly paid off as we were treated to an extensive and comprehensive show.

Helen Soby

Watford

The members were entertained by our president in December. **Phil Andrews** showed us more of his *Postmarks from Hong Kong Post Offices*, this time concentrating on Kowloon, Hong Kong Island and the New Territories. It was good to see that Phil had managed to find some of the ones he was missing

previously! Our January meeting was a second annual members' postcard evening, though some members had exhausted their postcard collections so showed whatever they fancied! **Steve Birch** gave us a display of *Preserved Railways*; **Wayne Cox** put up some postcards showing *Letter Boxes*; **Arthur Howell** showed some *David Hockney Artwork*; **Martyn Ayto** displayed some *Unusual Bits of Post & Go* and **Phil Andrews** treated us to some *Postcards of Hitchin*, where he grew up. ➔ 01923 218433 Wayne Cox

West Riding

Our 2025 season of informal meetings continues. February brought a series of members' displays on *W, X, Y and Z* - **Charles Squire** brought his *Wales Collection*, **Jonathan Taylor** showed *WWI Knockaloe Internment Camp*, a WWI internment camp on the Isle of Man, at Knockaloe Farm in the parish of Patrick, near Peel, which housed 23 000 prisoners-of-war and 3000 guards between 1914 and 1919, showing examples of free post mail used by prisoners. **Brian Wilkinson** showered us with *Xmas Yemen and Zaire*, **Ken Moody** showed *Zanzibar 1890-1977* and **Adrian Lee** covered *Zante*, one of the United States of Ionian Islands. March brought **Dave Druett** out of hibernation to show us his *Trinidad* collection which was covered in depth with examples of inter-island hand stamps, Perkins Bacon line-engraved, explaining that the narrow sheet margins prevented later perforation and the humid conditions activated gum causing shortages of stock resulting in Charles Petit lithographed issues, followed by the 1858 requirement for mail to be prepaid and examples of the hand perforations. The display moved on to the DLR contract issues and the o/printed surcharged one penny issues brought about by Trinidad joining the UPU in 1879. with examples of manuscript red ink, DLR surface-printed examples, 1882 Revenues FEE o/print post due and postal stationery. Dave also showed examples of WWII censored mail from South America passing through the censors stationed in Trinidad and Bermuda - a treat for all. Adrian Lee

York

We have held four meetings so far in 2025, with an average of 20 members attending each. In January members showed off their *Latest Acquisitions*, followed in February by competition night where eleven members displayed four sheets on *A Subject beginning with D*, won by **Tony Ward**. In March we held our AGM followed by a lively auction. In April our member **Mike Lewis** showed his fascinating and very interesting *Stockton & Darlington and Early Railways* display, timed to coincide with the bicentenary of steam train travel. The Stockton and Darlington Railway was the first passenger railway to use steam trains to transport freight and passengers, operating across north east England from 1825 to 1863. Their first line, opened on 27th September 1825, connected coal mines at Shildon in County Durham to Darlington. Mike's exhibit included covers and correspondence from the founders and principals (including George Stephenson), tickets, flyers, maps, photographs, prints, posters and rare cancellations. Luigi Wiechula

Federations

Scottish

After 20+ years in the Dewar Centre, Perth the 94th Annual Congress of ASPS was held in the Vine Conference Centre, Kirkcaldy. The Host Society for the event was Glasgow Thematic Society, president **Graham Mill**. Over 20 dealers were on hand to tempt philatelists and the many displays and competition entries, including the Junior Competition with 26 entries, covered a wide variety of topics. Prior to the Congress Dinner, sponsored by

David Feldman, there was a welcome by Councillor **Dave Dempsey**, Deputy Provost of Fife. After the meal there was an informative talk on *John Logie Baird and his Development of Television* by **Stewart Noble** of the Helensburgh Heritage Trust. This was followed by the presentation of awards:

Thematic: **Graham U'Ren** - *The Kagu - Iconic Flightless Bird of New Caledonia*

Traditional Non-GB Post-1900: **David Stalker** - *The 1960 Christmas Stamp of New Zealand*

Aerophilatelic: **Brian Dow** - *Norwegian Airmail & Priority Labels 1926-2019*

Scottish Postal History: **Brian Dow** - *Perthshire Local Undated Handstamps*

Traditional Non-GB Pre-1900: **Stewart Gardiner** - *French "Connaissances" – "Bills of Lading" Revenue and their Usage*

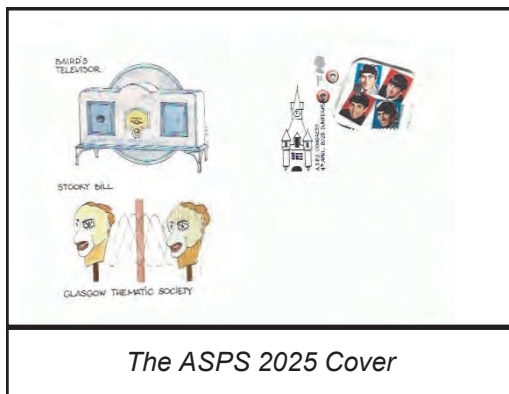
Postal History: **Graham Searle** - *Canadian Flag and Machine Cancels 1896-1902*

Picture Postcards: **Alexander Kerr** – *Craigendoran*

Literature Class: **Brian Dow & Robert Watt** – *Ayrshire Post Offices and Postmarks 1661-2023: Part II Postmarks*

The Tom Rielly Display was given by *Butterflies*.

Colin Campbell



The ASPS 2025 Cover



Maureen Mathieson with Graham Mill

Maureen Mathieson who gave an interesting talk and display on *Butterflies*.
Colin Campbell

Wessex

Again, I'm afraid that there seems to be very little Federation activity to report. At our last AGM it was agreed that the best thing the Federation could do at the

present time was have a good website that supported the hobby in our area, and was able to provide a “signpost”, either to individual clubs’ websites, or to the people who lead and manage the federation’s other member clubs. Now, our website is very old, and very basic, and not particularly attractive, but we decided that it would, at least, work (or serve its purpose) if we had comprehensive, accurate, pertinent and up-to-date information on it. [We thought it better not to spend money on the things associated with building and hosting a trendy new website.] So the call went out, and there have been some responses, although one couldn’t call it “overwhelming”. This is therefore a plea for Wessex club secretaries to send me or our webmaster the kind of information you want us to put out there. It also makes me wonder whether other federations are experiencing similar issues, with what appears to be a lack of interest, or maybe commitment, or whether it is something that Wessex is just doing wrong. If anyone has ideas or views or comments, please let me know. *Dave Cleaver*

Wiltshire and District

Committee members of the federation wouldn’t make very good amateur weather forecasters as we managed to schedule our AGM to coincide with a life threatening storm. So, at a much-delayed AGM we were able to announce the winner of our 2024 Sixteen-Sheet Competitions. All our entries were judged by **Wendy Buckle** who also produced a very comprehensive feedback sheet for each entrant. The winning entry being the *Study of Victorian Stamped to Order (STO) proof and essay material* submitted by **Simon King** of Swindon. All our nine-Sheet Competition entries will be on display at Swinpex on 14th June.

Paul Latham-Warde



Simon King with Nigel Borlase-Hendry

The Crawford Festival & Medal Shortlist 2025

The Royal Philatelic Society London received more than thirty nominations for the Crawford Medal for books published during the years 2023 and 2024. The Society is pleased to announce the short list of six from which the Crawford Medal Committee will select the 2025 winner.

The winner will be announced at the end of the Crawford Festival on 25th June 2025.

The shortlisted books are:



Tété Béche: rarities from the Oval-Issue of Finland by Tomas Bjäringer & Mårten Sundberg.

Italia e Iberia: la posta fra gli stati delle due penisole 1814 – 1876= Italy and Iberia: the mail between the states of the two peninsulas by Lorenzo Carra.

The postal stationery of Nigeria by Peter Hørlyck.

New York City Foreign Mail 1845 - 1878 (2 Volumes) by N.M Kirke.

Dominica: philately to 1967 by Simon Richards.

The Rhodesias and Nyasaland from Colonial rule to majority rule: the evolution of the mails by Brian Trotter, Pat Flanagan & Keith Harrop.

The Crawford Medal is a silver-gilt medal awarded for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately published in book form during the relevant period. This Medal is open to world-wide competition and has been awarded by the Society on over 90 occasions since the first award in 1920.

The medal will be awarded at the end of the **Crawford Festival** which will take place on 24th and 25th June 2025 at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW.

This year's event is kindly sponsored by **David Feldman International Auctioneers** and the theme will be **Archives in Philatelic Research**

Tickets are available here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/crawford-festival-2025-tickets-1289442851279>



For further information contact us at Events@rpsl.org.uk or contact Nicola Davies 020 7486 1044 - Select Option 2

A full schedule will appear in a special supplement with May's issue of *The London Philatelist*.

Although nominations have closed for this year, if you have written, published or read a book that could be a contender for next year's medal (for books published in 2024 or 2025) then you can nominate it by emailing daviesn@rpsl.org.uk and ensuring that a non-returnable copy of the book is sent to 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW by 31st January 2026.

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.

ST HELENA
THE PHILATELY OF THE
ANGLO BOER
WAR YEARS
 APRIL 1900 TO
 DECEMBER 1902



B. J. Mabbett
 &
 W. P. Ververs FRPSL

The Stuart Rossiter Trust presents a new book:

During the Second Anglo-Boer war, guarding Boer Prisoners at the Cape became a security problem and the decision was taken to build Prison Camps on St Helena. This book incorporates much new information retrieved by the authors from the St Helena Government Archives about the period when the Boer Prisoners of War were housed on the island. Their further extensive research has given a fuller picture of the Camps, the prisoners, the British Forces guarding them and the postal activities during the period, including identification of the postal censors and details of the incoming and outgoing mails. Well-illustrated with postal history items, censor marks, and contemporary photos of the era. **250 pages**

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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.

Local Societies

Dundee & District Philatelic Society has a new secretary David Millar
 email dm010b6500@blueyonder.co.uk

Falkirk Stamp & Postcard Club has a new email address:
falkirkstampclub@gmail.com

Kirkcudbright Philatelic & Postcard Society: has a new secretary:-
 Rod McAllister rodathomeuk@yahoo.co.uk

Solihull Philatelic Society has a new venue from September: Blossomfield Sports & Social Club, Widney Lane, **Solihull** B91 3JY (what3words /// event.vase.clash) - step-free access, car parking

Weston-Super-Mare Philatelic Club: for information contact
darrell.kellett@outlook.com

We regret to report that the following society is no longer affiliated to ABPS:
 Welsh Postal History Society

Diary

May

- 24 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
- 19 Weston-Super-Mare Stamp Fair: 10-4: Hutton Village Hall, Church Lane, Hutton, **Weston-Super-Mare** BS24 9SN

September

- 6 Poole & Bournemouth Stamp Fair:10-4: Upton Community Centre BH16 5JA → <http://www.philatelyinbournemouth.co.uk/>
- 13 NEWQUEX Stamp Fair: the Trevisker St. Eval Community Centre, Orion Drive, **Saint Eval**, Cornwall PL27 7TU
- 20 HAMPEX 2025:10-4.30: The Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, **Wickham** near Fareham, PO17 5AL CV31 1XN → www.hantsfederation.org.uk/hpfhpx.htm
- 24 Stuart Rossiter Seminar: "What is Postal History?": Royal Philatelic Society, 15 Abchurch Lane, **London**, EC4N 7BW.

October

- 4 Shropshire Fair: 10-4: Hall's Fine Art, Bowmen Way, Battlefield, **Shrewsbury** SY4 3DR → David Poynton 01743 790120
d.j.poynton@googlemail.com
- 11 Telford Stamp, Card & Coin Fair:10-2: Belmont Hall, off Tan Bank Car Park, Wellington, **Telford** TF1 1HJ → 01952 405458
- 25 Stamp Lincs: → steve.carter57@live.co.uk

November

- 1 CORNEX: Millennium Hall, Princess Road, Pensilva, **Liskeard** PL14 5NF
- 15 Leeds Stamp Fair:10.30-5: Pudsey Civic Hall
- 16 Leeds Stamp Fair:10.30-5: Pudsey Civic Hall

National Exhibitions 2025

- London at The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 15 Abchurch Lane. 25th – 26th September 2025. Entry deadline: 31st July 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.

- **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 Entries closed.
- **PhilaKorea 2025**: Seoul, South Korea. 17th - 21st September 2025. FIP Patronage. Full details at: www.philakorea2025.kr UK Commissioner: Tony Bard anthonybard@gmail.com Entries closed.
- **Dubai 2026**: Dubai 4th - 8th February 2026. FIP Patronage. Full details at: www.dubai2026wse.com UK Commissioner: Jon Aitchison jonaitchison.uk@outlook.com Entry deadline: 31st July 2025
- **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: Jack Zhang Entry deadline: 18th November 2025

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/>

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

Simon Richards, Simon@sidebell.co.uk

Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee



How you could get a good cancel in Denmark in early 2024 - use the slip to show how you wanted it cancelled - but the latest news is that Denmark is giving up stamps and using codes. Here we have stamps but can't always buy or use them! Pictures from Des Kent



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

Membership (if not emailed):

ABPS Membership, 1 Naunton Way, Cheltenham GL53 7BQ

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

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

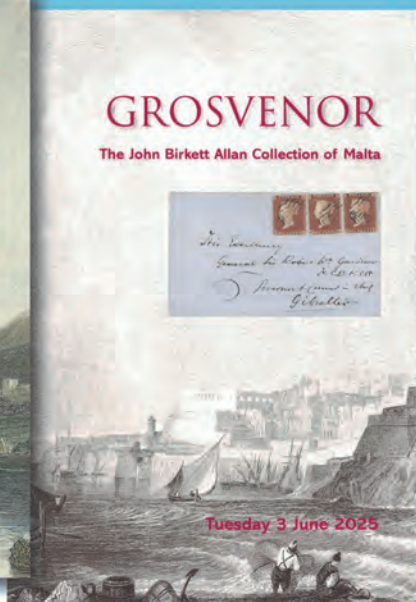
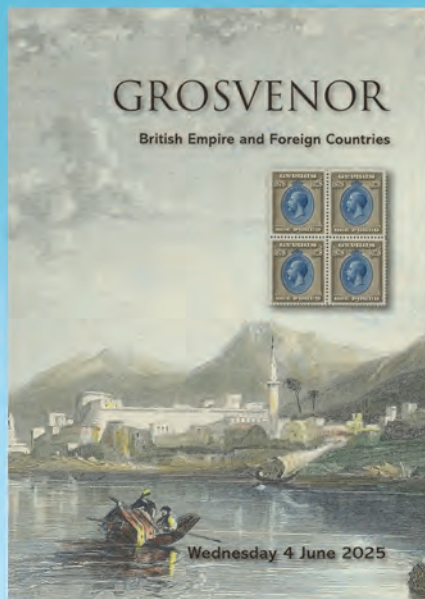
Stamp Active Network: please write to:

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

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

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