

The Fruits (and Vegetables) of Philately



See p. 27



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2026

The 107th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain



4th - 6th September 2026
Nottingham

ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

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CONTENTS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 4 British Stamp News: <i>Keith Burton</i> | 16 Emergency Post in Somalia. |
| 5 Editorial: <i>Keith Burton</i> | 1991- 92. <i>Keith Lillywhite</i> |
| 6 Obituaries: Mike Bolt <i>Sue Crane</i> ;
Bill Trower <i>Len Stanway</i> ; David
Hooper <i>Robert de Smit</i> ; Stewart
Grainger <i>George Henshilwood</i> | 18 Artificial Intelligence for Philatelists
<i>Steve Cowles</i> |
| 9 Anniversaries: West Africa Study
Circle (75) <i>Paul Redhead</i> ;
Harrogate (85) <i>Keith Burton</i> | 19 On The Club Circuit: Specialist
28 Federation and Local |
| 10 Awards of Merit for 2025 <i>Yvonne
Wheatley</i> | 51 Report on My Visit to Stampex
<i>Editor</i> |
| 11 Congratulations London Autumn
2025 | 52 Poppyland <i>Keith Lillywhite</i> |
| 14 <i>What is Postal History?</i> Seminar
Report | 55 Amendments re societies |
| 15 <i>Censorship in WWI by L'Armée
française d'Orient</i> - new SRT book | 56 Diary of local events, national
and international exhibitions |
| | 58 ABPS Executive, other officers and
associates |

Cover picture: *A prize for knowledge of the fruits and vegetables of the West Indies - in the quiz at the West Indies Study Group Convention in October. See page 27 for the link. A rum connection.*

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.

British Stamp News



It is some time since I included the latest stamp news, so I thought that you might like to see some of the higher values again. I must admit that the number of these that I have seen coming through my letterbox, suitably cancelled of course, is a large zero. I always live in hope.

This is the highest value from the first January set showing scenes from TV's The Vicar of Dibley. I wonder what Letitia

had put in her sandwiches for Vicar Geraldine. The next one is also from a January set, this time celebrating the Royal Armouries. It is difficult to imagine Henry VIII wearing something like this, but it was intended for his younger days. February brought AC/DC to our envelopes and perhaps your memories. Not being a rock fan this was one set that didn't do much for me, but I did notice this stamp relating to an event in Boston. It reminds me that there is another Boston event in a few months. For my fourth choice I have come to the Mythical beasts, brought to us in March. This first class stamp is of a Selkie that can shapeshift between seal and human forms.

Editor





Editorial

Oh dear - on page 18 of the Autumn issue, I made a significant blunder in the congratulations from Barnsley PS to their member Dr Dinar Athale. He was of course invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Yorkshire Philatelists. My profound apologies to all concerned, including the signatories to both Rolls.

I have been looking back through my records and realised that this is the 50th issue that was edited entirely by me, The previous two were done with the significant assistance of my predecessor, **Dr John Gledhill**. What else did I notice - the same societies producing the reports often, though the number has increased. We regularly have reports and photographs from about 60 societies, federations etc. Back then it was lucky if we broke 40. That explains the increase in pages to 60+ and the pressure from me to restrict the size of contributions - still often unsuccessful. Too much of a good thing sometimes. However there are still some societies that have never sent me copy - come on folk, do I need to name and shame? Surely something is happening philatelically in The number of articles has increased too - thanks to a very small number of contributors. Keep up the good work chaps and chapesses. See those in this issue.

The time will come when I can no longer do this. Is there someone out there who wants to think about taking over from me? Do you feel that you could add something, change some part of the News, get more out of people? I think it is fair to say that you need to feel comfortable on a computer, making mistakes sometimes, cursing Windows for changing something when it was working well and so on. Please get in touch. I don't really want to be trying to do this for another 13 years, - my own collections (or should I say accumulations are suffering) and my family are pressing for me to sort out the boxes, cases and drawers which are full of stamps and covers. Don't wait for me to make even bigger gaffes than I admit to at the top of the page, or even worse from my and my family's point of view, die off in harness - leaving you all Newsless.

On a more positive note, I have an offer to make. I enjoy giving my displays (egotism - I know) on Bavaria, Baden, postcards of Harrogate and so on - even more if I get to work on some others that are in the afore-mentioned piles. My local societies in Yorkshire have probably seen enough of them so I am thinking of venturing further afield. I am going to show to Portsmouth next April, because I can visit my son in Chichester at the same time. I will be willing to come to you and perhaps a couple of other societies in your area. I will stay somewhere for a few days, do some sightseeing - giving me a break from my housework, and at the appropriate time show to societies in the afternoons or evenings, according to their usual programme. It needs you to check if societies near you might be interested - most preferred to be affiliated to ABPS but I will throw in for a non-ABPS society to try to enlist them. Talk to them and me for 2026+. *Keith Burton*

Obituaries

Mike Bolt

President Portsmouth & District Philatelic Society

Mike joined the Portsmouth & District Philatelic Society in 1985, and became a committee member in 1986. Mike served the society as packet superintendent from 1994, meetings secretary from 1996 and programme secretary in 1999. In 2005 he was elected president and also took on the role of auctioneer. Mike took on the work of treasurer after the loss of John Campbell during Covid and adjusted the system to meet current needs. As well as organising his often unusual president's evening, he also provided the Christmas Quiz, a challenge of philatelic and general knowledge, stumping most members, supported by mince pies and a tombola raffle.



As a philatelist Mike was presented with the Micklam Award in 1995 for Long and Valued Service to the society, and between 1990 and 1999 he won a series of society and federation awards including the William Cox Cup, the Alvington Cup, Thematic Class Competition and the Marmion Cup. There is no award for turning up to almost every meeting with a smile, listening patiently and keeping the show on the road when volunteers are hard to find; the Portsmouth Society is very fortunate to have had Mike Bolt as a member.

Many of our members belong to adjacent local societies, some large and others small and local; Portsmouth has a very relaxed, friendly atmosphere, reflecting the commitment, effort and enthusiasm of Mike who was a gentle, unassuming man, combining a good sense of fun with his extensive philatelic knowledge.

The Portsmouth and District Philatelic Society will remember Mike as a dedicated friend, a giant of the society, who will be sorely missed. *Sue Crane*

William (Bill) Edward Trower 1930-2025



It was with deep regret that we received the sad news that one of the stalwarts of Essex philately, Bill Trower, passed away on 28th July. An engineer by profession, Bill was, for many years until its closure in 2018, the chairman of Hullbridge society and a member of Rayleigh. Hullbridge was the last Essex society to have a separate junior society under its wing, with Bill active in supporting junior philately. His main field of study was American aerophilately and he was a senior member of the British Aerophilatelic Federation, later the British Air Mail Society, although

he had much wider interests, generally with a leaning towards the USA. From 1976-1978, Bill was AEPS Assistant Secretary, then, from 2013-2016, he served as its president, having been vice president 2010-2013. He was awarded Life Membership in 2018. Bill was a frequent participant in competition, at home and abroad, on one occasion being surprised to receive a four-feet high trophy from a competition in, if memory serves, the Philippines! Bill's humour and friendship will be deeply missed by his many friends.

Len Stanway

David Hooper 1928-2025

On 3rd September 2025 David Hooper passed away peacefully – he had just turned 97 and is believed to have been one of Bristol's longest serving members becoming an Honorary Life Member in November 2020 when Bristol Philatelic Society members visited his home with his certificate. He was in fine fettle but not looking forward to another lockdown! Members also recall taking him and his great friend Jean to dinner at the Traveller's Rest in Pensford for his 90th Birthday. His daughter, Jennie, confirmed her father loved to travel and had visited over 90 different counties. He had amassed, as an avid photographer, many albums chronicling his adventures. For many years, he had been a dealer and worked at Josh Gregson's stamp shop in Clifton, Bristol. Described as a quiet, modest, knowledgeable, and approachable man by our members. One particularly recalls an event when he made an unusual display of postal hardware including several heavy cast-iron Victorian post boxes, which he managed to get upstairs and down again without mishap – probably won't see the like again. Another member recalls his BR1stOL FIRSTS collection and display being both outstanding and delightfully impressive.



Our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Robert de Smit

Dr Stewart Nairn Gardiner (22/12/1945 - 3/8/2025)

Born in Newcastle, Stewart's family moved to Glasgow when he was quite young. He did his schooling in Glasgow including a degree in Natural Philosophy ('Physics') at Glasgow University and a PhD in Nuclear Physics. Although he worked in that field for a year or two, he soon moved into the IT business where he spent the rest of his working life, latterly in a consulting role on large IT contracts. After a few years working in Australia and then in London, he moved back to Glasgow which he regarded as his home town.

Stewart had a lifelong interest in philately. I recall stories of his first forays into the hobby at the age of 8, visiting one of the Glasgow stamp shops and using



his meagre cash very discerningly (unlike the rest of us, Stewart ignored the large colourful stamps showing butterflies and football), cursing that he could not afford the more expensive gems on offer. Along the way, Stewart changed from being a mere stamp collector to a serious philatelist with a keen interest in the printing of stamps and in postal history. His attention to detail reflected the scientist in Stewart.

In Australia, he was an active member of the Canberra Philatelic Society, winning a Certificate of Participation with an early exhibit! He was a member of the Glasgow-based

Caledonian Philatelic Society for more than 50 years and a member (then Fellow) of the Royal for almost as long. Stewart played a very active role in the three Glasgow societies and entertained societies across Scotland with his seemingly endless range of interesting material.

Stewart represented the Royal North of the Border for many years and organized an annual meeting for Scottish members. He never understood the reticence of others to show off their material.

So what did Stewart collect? It is difficult to label his interests. He described himself as a philatelic dabbler. He loved buying lots of mixed material at auction and was rarely disappointed with the outcome. The Auction Houses will miss him!!

Reflecting the demands of his business career, Stewart took to exhibiting quite late. But, with his usual determination, he regularly won competitions at club and annual Scottish Congress. But he was most proud of his exhibit - '*Sealing and Securing the Letter*' - at EuroPhilEx (May 2025). He had great fun with his journey from a 3-frame exhibit at Scottish Congress to an 8-frame International exhibit. Along the way, Stewart was awarded the prestigious Lee Medal by the Royal for a Zoom display of his exhibit. The end result was a high quality and most attractive (artist meets scientist?) exhibit. I had the pleasant task of phoning him to tell him the result - a Large Gold. A telephone call I will never forget! Summing up Stewart's contribution to philately, I can do no better than quote a senior figure at the Royal who wrote on hearing the news "Terrible news. Stewart was a tower of strength in Scottish philately." We will all miss him and our thoughts are with his wife, Denise.

The universal reaction to news of Stewart's death has been what a gentleman (and gentle man) he had been, friendly and generous in so many ways, with a very dry sense of humour. Since his retirement, Stewart and I met regularly for coffee. These occasions were always fun and we always put the world (philatelic and real) to right. Sadly, he could never properly explain the theory of relativity to me. I will miss him dearly.

George L Henshilwood

Anniversaries

The West Africa Study Circle - founded 1950

This year the West Africa Study Circle (WASC) celebrated its 75th birthday with a dinner in September, and members will give a display to the Royal Philatelic Society London on Thursday 20th November.

The Circle meets in person twice each year in London, annually in Salisbury, and meets online via Zoom three or four times a year. Every second year, WASC holds a weekend conference, at which members get together for displays and talks and generally exchange notes and views.

During the last few years our website, at www.wasc.org.uk, has become a valuable open-access resource for philatelic and postal history research relevant to West Africa and includes many of our past publications, copies of *Cameo* (from the first issue dated January 1975), files of recent Zoom and meeting displays, copies of Government reports and other out-of-copyright books and finally maritime and air mail history, including maps and timetables. With over 200 members, WASC is still going strong, and can look forward to the future with confidence.

Paul Redhead

Harrogate Philatelic Society - 85 years

Your editor's own society has celebrated its 85th year by producing another volume of *Stray Thoughts*. As with previous issues we included articles written by various members, reflecting their many and varied collecting interests. This issue was made possible by the generosity of late member, **Paul Tennyson**, who left his collection to the society. After a lot of work by members **Peter Rix** and **Bill Tait**, the society benefited from the sale of the collection with some pieces and parts going to individual members, no doubt to be seen again at appropriate member displays during the years to come. The new *Stray Thoughts* 85 includes an article, written by Paul before his death. The first *Stray Thoughts* was produced in 1980 to celebrate HPS 40th Anniversary. It was painstakingly printed from a type-written copy, with black-and-white illustrations. The new one shows that we have grown with the times (though not in numbers) - it is 72 pages in full colour, produced on computers and in a larger font for our failing eyesight. We give a copy to our outside speakers - any offers? *Keith Burton*

Congratulations to WASC, Harrogate and other societies that continue to thrive

We often hear of great service being provided to societies by individual members, but almost always it is after they have died and their obituary shows how much they were appreciated by the other members. The service that they have given over many years, in many roles and sometimes in more than one society would have almost certainly made them eligible for the ABPS Award of Merit. Why not show your appreciation when you can all enjoy celebrating them and their hobby? The form to complete is on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk/awards-of-merit/ Nominations by March 31st.

Recipients of Awards of Merit 2025

Paul Green – Nominated by Association of Essex Philatelic Societies

Paul has served the Association in a wide variety of roles since 1964 including president, secretary, and service to the Executive Committee for 41 years and the Inter-County Cup Committee for 31 years.



Yvonne Wheatley presenting the Awards of Merit to Rodney Knight (left) and David McMann (right) during the York Stamp Fair in July.

Rodney Knight – Nominated by the Spanish Study Circle

Rodney has been chairman of the Spanish Study Circle for more than 20 years and can be found promoting the society at York Stamp Fair, Midpex and other stamp fairs where societies are invited. He currently indexes the journal of the National Philatelic Society.

David McMann – Nominated by Grimsby & District Philatelic Society

David joined the local society in 2000 and quickly became embroiled in their activities, especially the annual charity auction for the local hospice. From the first came a modest cheque of £350, this year's cheque was £5400. He is kept busy at stamp fairs where he has a stand selling donated material. David supplies packet of stamps for sale in three of the hospice's charity shops. All his efforts have raised £153 500 for the charity and he has no intention of retiring.

Ivor Moore – Nominated by Borneo Philatelic Society

Ivor has been the auctioneer of the Sarawak Specialists Society now the Borneo Philatelic Society for an astonishing 47 years. Two physical auctions are held each year with approximately 600 lots usually exceeding £50 000 in sales. He does all the work himself, collecting collections, describing and lotting, conducting the auction then despatching the sold lots to all parts of the

world. He was the organising secretary for the 58th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in 1976.



Andy Taylor – Nominated by Austrian Philatelic Society

Andy joined the Austrian Philatelic Society in the mid-1980s and has been one of its most active members ever since. He edited the society's journal for 25 years. The journal has won many awards. He was treasurer for eight years as well as serving as president, webmaster, and editor at the same time. He has organised conferences and exhibitions for the society and edited several of the books the society has published. If ever a job needed doing, Andy has always been the one to step forward.

Mike Wilesmith – Nominated by Harrogate Philatelic Society

Mike was elected to the committee of the Harrogate Philatelic Society in 1998 and has served in various ways ever since then. He took charge of the society's library and when the library was damaged by flooding, he arranged the salvage of the books. He has served as president on two occasions and as treasurer until a serious vision problem forced his resignation. Not willing to retire he became the chief liaison officer with the Visual Impairment Centre where the society holds its meetings. He organises the annual dinner and the meeting refreshments.

ABPS congratulates these worthy recipients and thanks them for all their work carried out for their societies and federations.

Next year, your society or federation could be celebrating the achievement of one of your members. Societies affiliated to ABPS can submit a nomination on the prescribed form to be found on the ABPS website, www.abps.org.uk

Yvonne Wheatley

Chair of ABPS Awards Committee

Congratulations

There were 12 entries in 4 classes (Literature, Postal History, Postcards and Traditional) for the ABPS London Autumn 2025 competition at the Royal in Abchurch Lane in September. The awards ranged from Large Silver to Large Gold.

Winners of Large Gold were: **Anthony Bard**, **Joseph Hackmey** (5); **Chris Hibbert**

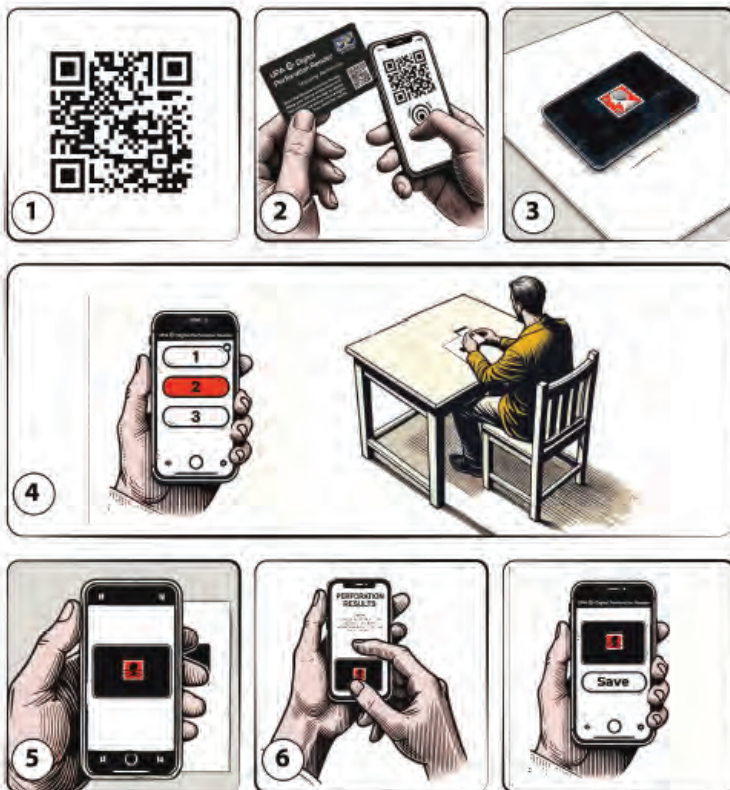
Markand Dave, **Chris King**, **Garrie Naden** and **Susan Taylor** achieved Gold and **Malcolm Coe** won Large Silver.

The Winner of Best in Show was **Joseph Hackmey** with his Traditional class display of *Classic South Australia*

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"What is Postal History?"

Report on the Seminar 24th Sept 2025

Sixty-three attendees gathered at RPSL for this event. If asked "Are you a Postal Historian?" some would have replied "Yes" some "Not Sure" and others would have echoed the title - "It Depends, What is Postal History?"

These notes are only a very brief summary; the links to the YouTube recordings of the presentations will be found on the SRT website www.rossitertrust.com with the PowerPoint presentations from the speakers.

The Corresponding Trustee **Andy Gould FRPSL** opened the event with some background on Stuart Rossiter the man, and on his eponymous Trust.

James Grimwood Taylor RDP FRPSL's presentation entitled *Was the Most Important Event in Postal History the Invention of the Postage Stamp?* suggested various other possibilities. Starting with the invention of writing, the production of paper, creation of Royal Mail, postal charges, postal stationery etc etc.

Douglas N Muir RDP FRPSL's presentation *Must Postal History have a Stop?*

We can (and do) collect artefacts about postal history but cannot and do not actually collect history – it being the study of events. It included an extract of film about the first machine to sort the mail, and another in which Douglas was interviewing David Gentlemen, designer of many British postage stamps. The short answer to the opening question is *No, history doesn't stop; therefore, postal history doesn't stop.*

After lunch **Theo Brauers** talked on *The Treatment of Mail on the Continent*. This is a highly complex area with problems relating to varying routes, multi-currency rates, and multiple postal conventions. Attendees admired his diligence and achievement, though several expressed relief that they personally had chosen less taxing areas to research.

Nigel Gooch FRPSL *Is Postal History only Rates, Routes and Postmarks?* Using examples from his collection of Iran Nigel showed confusing rates, obscure routes and postmarks in Farsi. He was then able to show that these illustrate: a cholera epidemic, postcard tax, postal agency in Turkey, alternative uses for registration labels, famine, and regime change, etc. Again, the short answer to the question is *No.*

Birthe King RDP FRPSL is well-known for promoting Open Philately and her presentation was *An Open Goal...* Her approach is that we can include whatever we like in our collections. Rules only apply if and when we want to enter competitions. The main difference between Postal History Class 2C and Open Philately is the amount of non-philatelic material used. In Postal History the non-philatelic material must have close relation to the philatelic items and illustrate these. In Open Philately the non-philatelic material must illustrate the philatelic items and bring the story forward. Birthe illustrated the differences with pages from her Postal History and Open Philately displays. She ended with *enjoy your collecting, displaying, and exhibiting.*

Wolfgang Maassen's presentation was *The Next Steps?* - this is research, documentation and publication. He emphasised the importance of using primary sources for research, not relying on what has been published before, the results

of this research need to be documented carefully and then published. Otherwise, it is all for nothing! Your good work is lost. Wolfgang publishes a journal, four times a year, downloadable as pdf from www.philahistorica.de. At the close, **James Podger FRPSL**, who had acted as Master of Ceremonies all day, thanked the Royal PS staff for their organisation and catering, and **Mark Bailey** for his IT expertise.

This was an International event, with speakers from the UK, Germany, Belgium and Denmark. The audience also included visitors from USA and Canada. We were particularly pleased to meet **Marty Bratzel** from Canada as the SRT has sponsored his publications about the Cameroons.

Censorship in World War 1 by the Armée française d'Orient

Censorship in World War 1 by the
Armée française d'Orient
A Catalogue of the Handstamps and Labels
Peter Gassmann



[A Catalogue of the Handstamps
and Labels]

by Peter Gassmann

This monograph identifies, lists and illustrates the various types of censorship cachets and labels used by the French Army in the Aegean during World War 1.

The scope includes military and civilian mail as similar types of devices were, in certain cases, used for both civil and military censorship.

Published by the Stuart Rossiter
Trust

66 pages, A4, Price £10.

Order from the Trust at

www.rossitertrust.com



Your article?

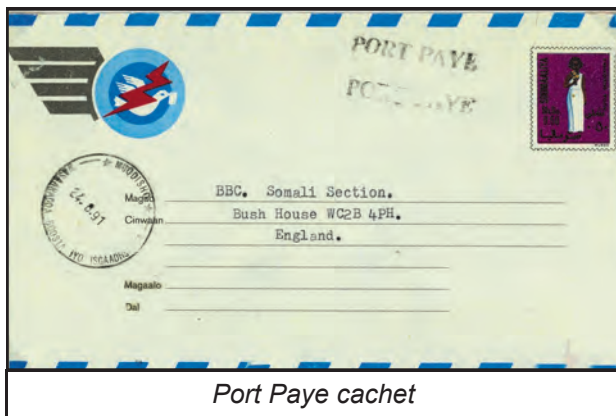
We are always pleased to consider articles by our readers. Please send your item to the Editor who will let you know if it can be used. 500 words roughly please, and a picture relating to the subject matter is always a help (300dpi jpg or photograph). We do not pay for publication, and any items may be edited for length or content.

Modern Postal History.

Emergency Post in Somalia. 1991- 92.

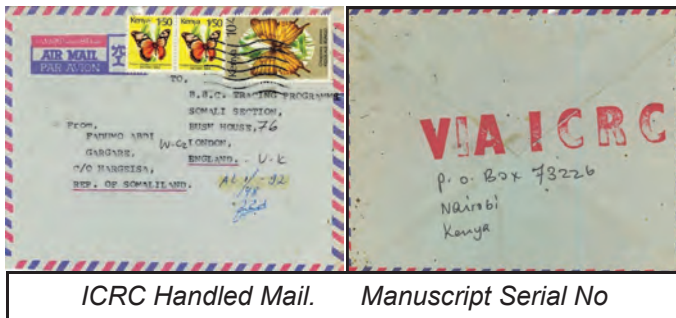
by Keith Lillywhite.

During the 1980s the Somalia Government disintegrated resulting in anarchy, as rival war lords fought each other for territorial gain. In the ensuing mayhem normal postal service had by 1990 ceased to operate. When stamps ran out in Mogadishu prepaid mail was accepted and franked with a single line cachet PORT PAYE plus other various Post Office cachets. Examples seen are Customs, Savings Bank and Parcel Cachets, this practice lasting from around the middle of 1990 until September 1991 when it is presumed that the postal system ceased completely.



Port Paye cachet

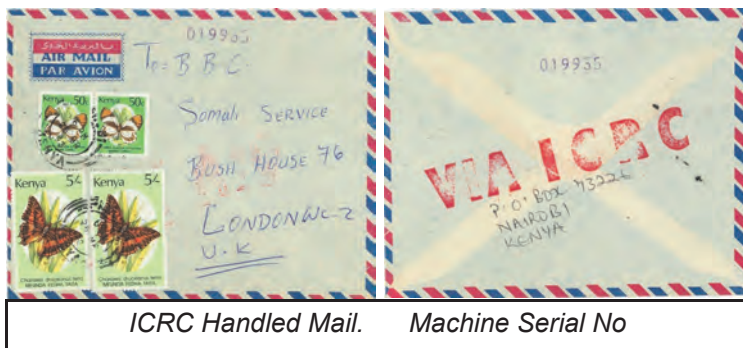
Following the breakdown of the postal system mail was handled by ICRC (International Red Cross Committee) who processed the mail in late 1991 with just a serial number in manuscript. Then in the period December 1991-January 1992, mail was forwarded to Nairobi, Kenya where Kenyan stamps were affixed, a serial number still in manuscript applied, with a VIA ICRC in red backstamp. PO Box 73226, Nairobi, Kenya in manuscript was also applied on the reverse before being passed into the postal system.



ICRC Handled Mail.

Manuscript Serial No

Then in the period March to May 1992 mail was treated as before except that it received a machine serial number front and back in lieu of the manuscript serial number to the front.



ICRC Handled Mail. Machine Serial No

Sometime in 1992 the practice of franking individual letters with Kenyan stamps was subsequently discontinued, the ICRC then forwarding mail in bulk to the BBC in London.



ICRC Bulk Mail Cover to BBC London

Other interesting examples of Somalia mail being taken to surrounding countries for forwarding to the BBC in London exist but are outside the scope of this short article.

This Modern Postal History was made available by Dr Graham Mytton who at the time was Head of Audience Research BBC World Service. It was passed to a number of Philatelic Societies in the Home Counties by Graham and Mr John Ager. All proceeds being donated to the Save the Children Fund.

Acknowledgements: Dr Graham Mytton, Mr John Ager.

Late Mr Bill Dennis. Emergency Post in Somalia Article FPHS Newsletter. Winter 1994.

Artificial Intelligence for Philatelists

Anyone having difficulty identifying strange looking stamps? – The Google Lens app is invaluable. You may find it already on your smartphone, if you dare own such a thing. Using it is straightforward; it takes a picture with the phone camera and searches the web for similar images, directing the user to various websites featuring a similar image (and what other people say it is). In many cases, it will provide a summary telling you what it believes the stamp to be. It's often quicker than using a catalogue too.

I've also used the ChatGPT application (free version) to create summaries of a country's philatelic history for album frontispieces. It's fairly fast and where plenty of data exists and there is consensus within that data, then it rarely produces garbage (which is what most people worry about).

It can also generate images if you provide a short brief. Here is my image for an introduction to my stamps of the Caucasus created from this brief: *a colourful image / montage of the Caucasus highlighting some of the main landmarks and culture*. The result shown below, is a single, flowing scene of the Caucasus, blending landscapes, architecture, culture, and wildlife into one panorama. Asked what it contained ChatGPT replied:

- * Snow-capped mountains rise in the background, with a winding blue river cutting through green hills.
- * Historic churches and watchtowers dot the landscape, their red-tiled roofs standing out against the greenery.
- * A large statue of a woman holding a sword (similar to Tbilisi's Mother of Georgia) stands prominently in the middle ground.
- * In the foreground, a man in traditional Caucasian attire (red chokha with cartridge holders and papakha hat) plays a woodwind instrument, possibly a duduk or zurna.
- * Beside him, a woman in a red and gold traditional dress stands calmly.
- * A colourful woven carpet and pottery jar rest at their feet.
- * On the right, a dancing couple in matching yellow-and-green costumes perform a folk dance.
- * A wild goat (ibex) grazes near some stone towers, symbolizing the mountain wildlife of the region

Almost magic.

Steve Cowles



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. 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* "➔" Indicates contact information.

Specialist Societies

American Stamp Club of Great Britain

The club continues to cater for those who collect the stamps and postal history of the USA and its possessions. Following a period where the ill-health of our former president impacted on his role as editor of our quarterly magazine, *The Mayflower*, a fresh team has presided over a revamped publication with the assistance of **Tony Bard**, also Editor of the RPSL's London Philatelist. In 2025 we have so far produced three issues full of interesting and absorbing articles with a further issue (no. 257) due this winter. For 2026 the club will resume holding its quarterly auctions in addition to the range of other services we provide which are scheduled on our website. We welcome both new and advanced collectors, and new members will receive free membership for the first year.

Luigi Wiechula

Channel Islands

At the AGM in July French Canadian member **André Dufresne RNCP** was awarded the John Hirst Salver for his series of articles in *Les Iles Normandes* on the artwork for the Isle of Jethou carriage labels. A total of 13 members attended our meeting on 13th September in London. The theme for the meeting was postcards. The morning began with a 48-lot room auction generating sales of £270. A compulsorily registered cover sent from Sark to Austria in 1983 struck with a '£1.00' **TO PAY/POSTED UNPAID** handstamp, realised £80 against a reserve of £5! To complete the morning programme, **Richard Flemming** showed *Corbière Lighthouse* postcards and his wife **Jill Flemming** showed postcards of *Guernsey Churches and Hotels*. The afternoon session started with **Steve Wells**



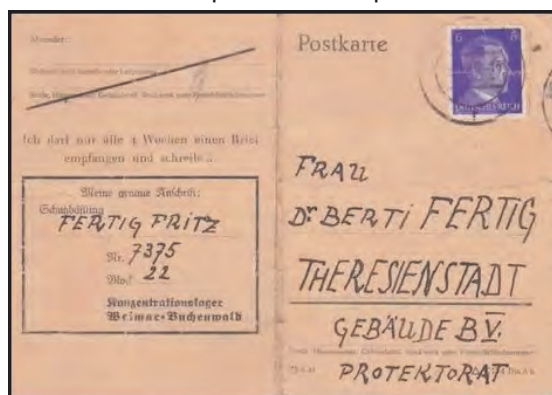
showing a number of court cards, the earliest form of the picture postcard, which were only permitted to be sent by the Post Office from September 1894. The display included the earliest known Guernsey postcard sent in May 1897 to Germany. **Nick Stuart** showed postcards relating to *Victor Hugo* and **Brian Austin Jersey Liberation Postcards**. **David Winnie** gave a 32-sheet display of *Herm-related Postcards*, including scarce Thomas Bramley and Tuck cards: he explained that this display of postcards had not seen the light of day since the 1980s! **Simon Burke** followed with a 50-sheet display of *Sark Postcards*, the earliest dating from 1894. and, **John Triggs** showed 15 *Guernsey Postcards*. Finally, **Nick Martin** showed 16 *Chausey Postcards bearing Hotel Cachets*.

➔ <https://www.ciss.uk/>

Steve Wells

The Czechoslovak PS of GB

Gerhard Hanacek gave a Zoom presentation on *The Theresienstadt Ghetto* in October. His collection gave a thought-provoking insight into the chilling bureaucracy of the holocaust. Ghetto mail was handled in Prague by The Jewish Council of Elders in Prague. For recipients outside Prague mail was sent in collective envelopes to the respective branch offices. In November 1941, 340



Jewish craftsmen were sent to Theresienstadt to construct accommodation there – for just five days they were permitted to send mail back to Prague, but this was stopped by the SS to prevent news of their work leaking out. An extremely rare example was shown dated 28th November 1941. One rare (and heart-breaking) postcard to Theresienstadt was from Buchenwald concentration camp with the message '*A hike for two through the Beskids, a tango in the Bristol – you in your most beautiful dress, a beautifully set*

The Buchenwald to Theresienstadt postcard

table with all our loved ones – just courage and a healthy 1943'. To regulate parcels traffic an 'admission stamp' was produced. With much supporting materials, Gerhard showed how the system worked. Stamps were printed in sheets of 25, originally in black but subsequently in green, symbolizing nature. Proofs, blocks of four, imperforate stamps and colour varieties were all included, together with examples used on piece. The final section of the presentation focused on the 18th century Small Fortress of Theresienstadt, used by the Gestapo as a transit camp for Czech resistance members on their way to the concentration camps.

➔ www.cpsgb.org.uk

Tony Holdsworth

France and Colonies

This year has been busy. Whilst age has taken some much-mourned colleagues, we have welcomed eleven new members. The circulation lists for both the France and Colonies packet have grown. Our latest postal auction sold 30% of the 932 lots offered to 50 bidders. Our next Zoom display *Philately and Postal History of WWII* by **Chris Hitchen** and **Mick Bister** will have been held by the time you read this. The revived London Group has had two meetings, the second with an attendance of ten, who saw displays on *Designs by Ouvré*, *A Light-hearted Look at Semeuse*,



Members at the Royal in October

Colourful Martinique, *The Emperor Bokassa*, *Postal History from WWII*, and *Transatlantic Mail during the Second Empire*. Similarly the Northern group will have met in late October with *Easter* as its topic. The August Journal again totalled 64 pages in colour and had seven major articles including **Edwin Voerrman**'s continued exposition of *The Usage of the 'Monuments' Higher Values, Precursors of the French Postal Card* by **Frans Jorissen**, and **David Parmley**'s *Show Business Connections on French Stamps*. The compilation of the December Journal is now well underway. We have continued to develop our website and have supplemented this with regular posts on X and Facebook. An innovation has been to arrange informal "coffee meetings" in central London when any of our members from further away are passing through: we greatly enjoyed meeting **Martin Brazil** from Canada in this way when we leafed through some of his Cameroun material.

Roger Niven

GBPS Northeast Group

In mid-September several GBPS members and friends gathered for the Autumn event, overseen by **Graham Winters** and **Peter Chadwick**. There were two invited speakers in the morning, and attendees showed in the afternoon. We began with **Steve Perola**'s philatelic *Journey from York to Berwick, a journey of 135 miles*, which in 1834 could be achieved by coach in 15½ hours with sometimes only minutes allowed at each stop for changing horses, eating etc. We were guided through the development of postmarks and the addition of mileage marks. **Mike Lewis** followed with a display about *The Impact of Railways on Trade and Transport*, including documents from Turnpike Trusts and information about the effect on the transport of coal from the mining areas to the coast. After a substantial buffet lunch we saw several short displays, starting

with **Keith Burton**, showing the *Story of his Life (Personal and Philatelic)* told through barred numeral and duplex cancellations. **Robert McMillan** showed *Hull Postal History from 1668* including a much travelled 1844 ship letter from Stettin to Stornoway. **Derek Lilley** showed *Mail to and from York*. **Peter Chadwick** showed *Anti-Graham caricatures*. **Tony Ward** told us of *WWI Intercepted, Salvaged and Damaged Mail*, and of three stowaways hiding among mailbags. **Ken Mitchell** showed *Early Great Western Railway*. **Clive Jones** told of the *Founding of Saltburn*. **Daphne McMillan** showed *Holyroodhouse-linked Material*. **Graham Winters** showed *Fake and Real Blitz Postmarks, Service Suspended and Undercover Mail*. Yes, of course there were cream cakes.
Daphne McMillan

German & Colonies

The society are delighted to report upon yet another superb AGM weekend. The Chelmsford venue was a perfect setting for the reception, AGM, bourse, philatelic presentations, auction, gala evening dinner and awards ceremony. Members and guests were also given the opportunity to visit Ingatestone Hall, a 16th Century Tudor manor house located not far from the venue. There was



Rex Dixon, having received the cup, marking his best article in Germanica from Albert Jackson

something for everyone! During the three-day event members were invited to present 30-sheet displays. There were various aspects of German philately discussed, including *The Volkssturm 1944/45*, *Mail from December 1923*, *The Leipzig Fair* (many thanks to **John Panckridge** for taking the time to visit us from Tasmania during his European tour!), *The Red Cross 1933-45*, *Poststellen covers of West Germany from 1950*, *Danzig Zeppelin mail*, and *What the sheet margins tell us* (a large display by **Rex Dixon** answering many of those questions we all ask about the finer points of printing administration). All in all the presentations made it a most enthralling day and we must thank all those members who marvelled us with their research and inspired us with their enthusiasm. We would also like

to remind present and future members of the next AGM (get it in the diary early!)... it's over the weekend of the 2nd - 4th October 2026. The venue being the historic Feathers Hotel in the beautiful market town of Ludlow. Why not join the society? Visit www.germanphilately.org for more details on all we have to offer.

Carl Buck

Italy and Colonies

We held a very successful combined AGM, auction, member display sessions and social long weekend at the end of September. **Paul Woodness** took us through the 200th auction for the society, over 700 lots, and numerous and varied displays sparked much discussion. The venue this year allowed time to be spent in Colchester, an interesting historic town with numerous places of interest including the oldest and longest-surviving Roman Wall. The society has members mostly in the

UK, Italy and the USA and has produced an award-winning journal, *Fil-Italia*, since inception some 50 years ago. Over the past year we have had to adjust to the resignation of our journal editor and to the need to fill the secretary post.

Consequently journal publication has been suspended and we are seeking an editor. The secretary post has been filled with **Susan Chislett** stepping up; double congratulations to Susan, who also won our annual Richard Harlow Award.



New secretary Susan Chislett in action

Susan has been a member for 45 years and is the organiser of our AGM weekends and Italy tours. We have a packet scheme and a new informal Newsletter, and welcome new members; currently there is a low, £16, joining fee but no annual subscription. Details on the ICSC website. Kevin Newson

Joint Central European Philatelic Societies

Another very successful annual get together of the **Austrian, Czechoslovak, Hungarian** and erstwhile **Polish** and **Yugoslav Societies** has taken place this year, with more participants than before at this venue. Twenty one-, two- and three-frame exhibits were briefly presented by the participants over six rounds, with plenty of time for viewing and discussion, summarised as follows in display order: *Provisional Postmarks of Poland 1944-1948*; *Serbian Pre-stamp Mail 1820s to 1840s*; *WWII Czech Forces Mail*; *WWI Censorship in the Bohemian and Moravian Provinces*; *TPOs on the Zillertal Narrow-gauge Railway in Austria*; *Hungarian Passport and Consular Stamps from the 1930s*; *Pre-stamp Mail to Pécs in Hungary* in multiple languages; *The Institution of Newspaper Tax in the Austro-Hungarian Empire from the late 1780s*; *Parcel Card Tax in Hungary*

during the 1945-6 Hyperinflation; Early Polish Meter Mail; Pneumatic Mail in Prague; Use of Austrian Stamps in Austrian Galicia (Southern Poland) from 1850; Austrian Parcel Cards from 1945-54 under Zonal Occupation; Charity Stamps of Austria from 1922-1938; Polish Fieldpost in France and the UK, 1939-45; 2025 Austrian Stamp Issues for the Bicentenary of the Birth of Johan Strauss the Younger; Czech Postal Inflation 1918-1922; pre-WWI East Prussian TPO Cancellations and finally, Czech 1945 War Hero Stamps used on mail to the various occupied zones in Germany and Austria. Many thanks to **Yvonne** and **Richard Wheatley** for organising and hosting the event, which is always educational, thought-provoking and very well received by attendees. We all look forward to next year's event.



Viewing some of the displays

Roger Morrell

Malaya Study Group

The Standing Display of *The 80th Anniversary of the Defeat of Japan* at RPSL included covers from members of MSG. At our Forces Correspondence meeting on 20th September, **Richard Berry** of the Forces Postal History Society gave a moving display based on *The Experiences of an Uncle taken Prisoner, and Other Internees*. **Susan McEwen** showed *Frith Correspondence from a Lieutenant Colonel of the 10th Baluch Regiment* starting near Kota Bharu in Kelantan and the retreat southwards, previously written up in TMP 29/57. **Charles Mackonochie** showed scans of paintings of distressing scenes of *Prisoners of War at Nong Pladuk* and also photos of *HMS Belfast entering Shanghai* to recover internees at the end of the War. Varied other contributions were made by **Peter Cockburn** (BMA), **Dominic Morris** (*Malayan Forces in the Congo*) and **Andrew Norris** who showed a display about *The Centre at Singapore* where sick prisoners of war recuperated well enough to be returned to UK and Australia. If philatelists wish to join us at our meetings starting on Saturday at 1pm at Spink Auction House, 67-69 Southampton Row London WC1B 4ET they are most welcome as guests. Up-to-date subjects of our meetings and times may be found on our MSG website <http://malayastudygroup.com> as well as membership details should you wish to join the Malaya Study Group.

Michael Waugh FRPSL

National

Members enjoyed a splendid social philatelic afternoon at our London meeting in September when **Grace Davies FRPSL** presented her *Peace* display. Her far-

ranging material included anti-war movements, peace symbols, the development of international bodies notably the League of Nations and the United Nations, and notable peace-makers. There was a personal aspect to the collection, a photograph of her father at a meeting of War Resisters International in pre-war Austria, together with a cover addressed to Grace Beaton, WRI's international secretary. The peace organisation helped her parents and 5-year-old sister escape to England in 1939 and find somewhere to live. Grace was named after Grace Beaton! The August virtual meeting featured the *Postal History of King's Lynn and the Lynn to Hunstanton Railway*, presented by **Mike Kentzer FRPSL**. The display included railway timetables, pre-stamp covers, and postcards featuring Royal events at Sandringham which was once



Grace Davies with her special photograph and cover

served by the railway. Despite its Royal connections, the line fell victim to the Beeching cuts. **Cyprus** was the subject of October's virtual meeting, presented by **Jim Wigmore**. For December's virtual meeting **Michael Goodman**, will show *Counterfeit Machin Stamps and How to Detect Them*. The New Year starts with a London meeting where **Dr Roger Morrell** will show *Gems from Bulgaria*. The NPS alternates bi-monthly London meetings on Saturdays at the RPSL with bi-monthly virtual meetings on Monday evenings. The former include a live room and postal auction with over 400 lots. We also run exchange packet circuits.

➔ npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk 01582 762284
www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

Michael Goodman

Postal History Society

In September **Mike Kentzer FRPSL** gave us a wonderful Zoom display entitled *Life & Times of Seahorses*. Our AGM was in Torquay in October at the end of our Annual Conference. All the Council were re-elected and **Clive Jones** has taken over from **Graham Winters FRPSL** as our president. The winner of the Postal History Society Cup for the best display at Conference, as voted for by all present was **Carlos Malice** for his *Early Steamship Maritime Mail Between Peru and France via Panama*. He has agreed to give a Zoom display based on this display on April 13th 2026. The winners of the Gilbert Cup for the best article in our journal were **Ute Dorr FRPSL & Elmer Dorr FRPSL** for their article *The*

Carriage of Mail to and from Guatemala with The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company from and to Europe 1855-1879. The President's prize, a single sheet competition during the Conference Banquet, was won by **James Grimwood-Taylor RDP FRPSL** for a love letter from a female admirer to an early C19 heart throb. **Claire Scott FRPSL** is the first recipient of the Steve Ellis Medal, announced at the Banquet in Torquay. All agreed Claire was a worthy recipient for her unstinting service to the society in a variety of roles for a very considerable time. She was deeply moved when the award was announced as she had been a good friend of Steve and still missed him very much. Many congratulations to all.

Marc Oxley



Claire Scott receives the medal from Graham Winters

Royal

The long-standing tradition that the first meeting in the new season is a display from the Royal Philatelic Collection continued this year with material from the *Northern Area of the Caribbean*. By gracious permission of His Majesty King Charles III, members were able to enjoy displays of *The Leeward Islands*, *Cayman Islands* and *Dominica* spanning the reigns of Victoria to George VI, arranged by **Rod Vousden FRPSL**, Acting Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection. The display featured many unique items, including proofs, colour trials and 'SPECIMEN' examples, plus truly exquisite original artwork, usually hand-painted and some executed stamp size. Among the notable items were the 'WAR TAX' overprints of the Cayman Islands and the pains-taking work that went into creating the 1950 definitives, while from Dominica came the unique plate block of four of the ½d green with the overprint 'WAR TAX' inverted in error. No fewer than 26 German members delighted 100 members and guests later in September with a variety of displays that both impressed and enthralled. The outstanding and superbly presented material had been brought together by **Harald Krieg FRPSL**, ably assisted by **Dieter Michelson FRPSL**. The displays embraced a wide range of subjects; stamps, postal history, covers, plus fascinating insights of social history with identity cards, paid for using stamps, that enabled the holder to buy train tickets at reduced rates. The vice-president praised the exhibitor who had included a QR code on his first page, enabling members to discover more about the subject.

TIE WANTED. Some years ago a firm called "Peter Klinger" produced ties with small QV 1d or 2d stamps all over them. Peter Klinger has gone out of business. I would like to have one with the QV 1d Red stamp on it and if someone has one in good condition which they no longer want, I would like to buy it. If anyone can help, please contact me on mail@richardcamp.co.uk or on 07811-974732. Thank you.

Richard Camp

West Africa Study Circle

We held our biennial week-end conference this September in Kenilworth. Between Friday afternoon and Sunday lunchtime we heard 15 presentations on subjects ranging from airmails (*Aeromaritime in West Africa, Nigeria, and Ghana*), Sierra Leone (*Wilberforce & Ricefields, Censorship, Postal Stationery*), Gold Coast and *Nigeria Cancells*, GVI *Nigeria*, and issues of *Biafra, St Helena* and *The Gambia*. **Jan Clauss** gave a fascinating talk on *The Worlds of Expertising and Auctioneering*. The in-room auction on Saturday sold several thousand pounds' worth of material, with many lots fiercely contested and three quarters of lots finding buyers. Highlight of the week-end was a dinner to mark WASC's 75th anniversary, at which **Jeremy Martin**, WASC member since 1964, and first editor of *Cameo* magazine, was presented with the Frank Walton *Cameo* prize, and spoke about his recollections of WASC's earlier days.



Jeremy Martin (left) enjoying conversation with fellow life member John Powell

Paul Redhead

West Indies

Our weekend Convention held at Sedgebrook Hall 10th to 12th October was a huge success. **Peter Fernbank** was the keynote speaker, and delivered an excellent presentation on the *Bahamas Stamp Issues to 1935*. The auction had takings of over £30 000; there were displays covering many Caribbean islands. There was even an amusing quiz about tropical fruit and vegetables appearing on stamps which suggested that whilst many members know their watermarks and perforations, not many pay attention to the descriptions on the fronts of stamps. The prize was a basket of fruit, vegetables and a bottle of Barbados rum. Many thanks to **Steve and Vivienne Jarvis** for coordinating all of the arrangements.



Simon Richards and Paul Farrimond who together won the basket.

Susan Taylor

Federations

Mid Anglia

The Federation held its 11th display day at Warmington Village Hall, near Peterborough on Sunday, 28th September, the 10th time that **John Spencer** had arranged the event. The displays on offer were: *Post Office Press Notices for Special Issues, 1972 -78*; a fine mint *Barbados Collection from Queen Victoria to George VI*, including die proofs and overprints; an *Illustrated History of the Village Castle Rising with Postal History*; *Revenues of Nyasaland* on court documents, bills of exchange and proofs of debt; *Board of Trade Perfins*, including fakes on stamps and cover; a further selection of *Board of Trade Perfins on Post Cards*; a *Brief Look at TPOs*, both GB and from abroad; *Squared Circle Postmarks*, the 6 types – clearly shown, with examples; *George VI issues of Antigua, Bermuda, Cayman Isles, Dominica and Grenada*; the *First Two Issues of the Isle of Man*, with booklets, 'sachets' and errors; *Malawi – the 1988 Bird Issue* with original artwork, stages in the production process and overprints; an extensive display of stamps, covers and ephemera on the topic of *The Victoria Cross*. This was yet another most enjoyable and sociable day, with next year's event being planned for the end of September 2026. The Federation's AGM followed with **Peter Morton** being installed as the new president taking over from **Richard Husband**.



Peter Morton with Richard Husband

Mike Kentzer

Local Societies

Amersham and District

Our season opened with a members' thematic display, *Letters F and G*. There was an extraordinary range of subjects, from *Fertiliser* and *Nigerian Forgeries* to *French Revolutionary Mail*. The Stampersham Fair was held in the Chiltern Lifestyle Complex on Sunday 21st September with 12 dealers in attendance, and a display of Thames Valley Federation competition winners. It is highly likely that we will be holding the fair again next year. **Laurence Kimpton** displayed *Airmails across the Middle East 1918-1930* on 25th September, and we have forthcoming displays by **Mike Moody** (*Silks of WWI and WWII*), **Peter White**

(*Monaco 1885-1956*) and **Peter Wood** (*It's an Irish World*). **Chris Marsh** displayed *Aspects of Muscat and Oman* to Barnet on 6th October. Our auction will be held on 6th November in the New Drake Hall at 19.30. The catalogue is currently available on our website stampersham.org.uk and bids from non-members are welcome (subject to terms and conditions). Visitors and new members are, as always, welcome. Please check our website for details.

Tim Harrison

Ayrshire

We opened our 2025/26 programme in Prestwick on 2nd September with the traditional President's Night when new president **Peter Smith** gave a fascinating talk and display on his native *Australia* amplified by a PowerPoint presentation. Beginning with his boyhood in Bruny Island, Tasmania, and featuring a number of entertaining anecdotes, he then moved on to his philatelic interests. Among the many highlights was "the second Penny Black" SG1 of Western Australia, issued in 1854, featuring the Black Swan. Interestingly this stamp was briefly used as currency during the Gold Rush of the 1850s when the supply of copper coins from the UK could not match the demands of the huge influx of emigrants seeking their fortunes. Peter also showed a range of interesting Victorian Boer War and Consumption (tuberculosis) Charity stamps and described how for three years after Federation in 1901 Western Australian stamps, along with the five other States, were valid for postage across the whole continent. Several sheets of postmarks were displayed demonstrating this. Peter pointed out how Australia's aboriginal and convict heritage has only comparatively recently been properly acknowledged philatelically, and he himself had only been able to learn of his own convict heritage fairly late in life. Peter concluded his display with a few sheets of the idiosyncratic Hutt River issues, a self-declared principality in West Australia.

Ken Gibb

Basildon

In July **David Church** brought us *Philatelic Terms*, a collection, originally assembled by **Geoff Howard** of Rayleigh society, giving us an A-Z of philatelic terminology with examples illustrating each term. Giving us two rounds, there were too many interesting items to list – a fascinating display. In August we followed with *Eight Pages From My Collection (One Page Competition)*. David Church kindly donated a stockbook as a prize for the winner, **Len Stanway**. **Charlie Mead** produced two displays for the next two meetings. First *The Internet As An Aid To Philatelic Research* he took us through what can be a confusing topic in a clear and coherent manner, which members agreed was an evening well spent. He included the use of computer search engines to find useful information, the various on-line resources that we can use, explained copyright and the various Wiki projects. How Essex Libraries can help was also explained. Then in September Charlie showed the *Fijian Stamps and Postal History of George VI's Reign*, which was affected by the Second World War in both mail handling and stamp printing issues. It was also the period when meter marks made their first appearance. The second half included a large section

dealing with the airmail services provided by Pan American Airlines' Clipper flying boats. *My favourite theme* was the theme for our members' display night. This resulted in *GB Wilding High Values, Machin Printings, Envelopes made from Surplus Maps, Pussy Cats and The Keighley and Worth Valley Railway*.
Len Stanway

Bookham

We were treated to a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon in July when our speaker **Lorraine Maguire** displayed her *Every Cover and Letter Tells a Story*. The letters and covers travelled between New Zealand and its WWII soldiers in North Africa and Europe.

Lorraine, a New Zealander herself came to the UK in the 1960s and collected these letters and covers over many years. In August, **Michael Dobbs** opened his display by stating that NATO (*The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation*) was established in 1949 and his presentation touched upon many different elements of its 76-year



The eight competitors - guess the winner!

history. He showed a range of anniversary issues from many countries as well as a range of postmarks from various Ministerial Meetings. September brought us our annual thematic competition for the Roy Gilbert Cup. This year there were eight participating members producing fourteen entries, the winner will be announced at our Christmas meeting. In October we have our annual auction with well over 300 lots. Bookham Stamp Club, founded in 1993, meets every 4th Tuesday of the month (except for December) at the Old Barn Hall, Great Bookham in the afternoon → www.bookhamstampclub.com Barry Feltham

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Bridlington & District

Mike Lewis got our season off to a good start with his collection of *Edward VIII* material followed by a selection of early illustrated envelopes. Our member **Trevor Wright** delighted us with his interesting range of items relating to the *Postal History of Harrogate, Leeds and Bradford*, areas familiar to him throughout his life. Not to be outdone his school friend, **Tony Horsman**, followed this in January with a video film and philatelic perspective on the *History and Development of New Guinea*. In the first part he introduced the territorial divisions and major features of New Guinea before covering the development of British New Guinea, its successor Papua, and German New Guinea. The second half summarised the formation of The Territory of New Guinea, the unification of eastern New Guinea, ultimately as independent Papua New Guinea. Our president traced *Developments in Southern Central Africa*, beginning with the stamps of the British South Africa Company, to Northern Rhodesia, Rhodesia and Nyasaland and finally Zambia where he highlighted the work of Gabriel Ellison who designed most of the country's stamps from 1964 to the late 1980s. This was followed by a short display by our vice-president of his collection of the stamps of *Zanzibar*. Finally this year **Peter Arnett** was winner of both the John Eaton Memorial Trophy and the Peter Pearson Postcard Cup.

Roy Stephenson

Bristol

The last three meetings of the 2024-2025 season included a visit from our Newport neighbours with presentations by **Bev Davies** on *Concorde* and **Roy Bentley** on *Gilbert & Ellice Islands* including material for American service personnel as they were stationed on the islands as part of land lease arrangement with Great Britain. The AGM saw the committee change in presidency to **Les Ashton-Smith** with other committee members remaining unchanged. There followed a 16-page competition with the winner **Neil Jones** on *New Zealand 1d Dominion*. The final meeting of the year included members presenting displays on *World War I or II* with a bourse providing the opportunity to de-clutter! On starting the season, we heard that **David Hooper** - a long-term member and dealer - had passed away at the age of 97. Four of our members attended his funeral on the 22nd September 2025. The new season started first week in September with a members' evening on *New Acquisitions* followed days later by an Auction. **Carlton Jones** gave a *Global Presentation* covering an astonishing range of interests – such a knowledgeable presenter with enough to interest all those attending. More recently, another night with a huge range of material by **Ian Spencer** under the heading *What is this Cinderella "Rubbish" anyway?* Items from 1671 to Covid and Trump peppered the boards and questions were asked on whether items were or were not Cinderella – seems awfully complicated – but entertaining! Looking forward to more up-coming delectables – and perhaps new faces.

Robert de Smit

No report of your society? Why not send one to the editor?

Bromley & Beckenham

The new programme assembled by past president **Graeme Ashdown** kicked off in September with members' *Latest Acquisitions*. Society PR **Mike Dobbs** showed a 1946 cover addressed to a Royal Marine in Naval Party 1742 (Kiel, Germany) and a 1956 cover from Innsbruck, Austria addressed to a Howard S. Dobbs in London SW1. Mike continued with RAF recruitment cachets used on Forces mail from BAOR and a sea bag label from the British Joint Services Mission in Washington DC to the Air Ministry in London. Secretary **David Milsted** showed *Colonel Baden Powell Printed Currency of Varying Values from the Siege of Mafeking*. Without the sovereign's head and printed locally they served to support local trade and were honoured by the Mafeking branch of the Standard Bank of South Africa. The society looked forward to once again greeting past president **Nick Hervey** who has spent several months in St. Thomas's Hospital and is now undergoing rehabilitation. Nick has been much missed although he has kept a close eye on the society and Fulham FC.

David Milsted FRPSL

Burnley and District

Visiting stamp fairs in the summer is always a good occupation and Midpex and York in July did not disappoint. We have recently had local fairs at Preston and look forward to Pudsey. As usual we started up again on September 4th with an evening of *Latest Acquisitions* and a change over of presidential duties from **Howard Hughes** to **John Jones**. Our first speaker's evening featured **Dr Cook**

from Poynton PS with a great display of *Eiffel Tower and the Paris Expositions*. We follow with a *GB Night* (guest) and a *Turkey* night in October before we start entertaining ourselves as the nights draw in. Topics include *War and Peace* and *Letters DEF*. We have considered afternoon meetings in the winter but several members would be precluded as they are still fully employed. We plan an evening visit to Rochdale PS shortly and an afternoon one to Bolton PS. We will round off in December with a Christmas Social and topical display evening.



Gary Cook (holding certificate) and John Jones

evening. In January we will feature our new president **John Jones**. The sad passing of Stamp Magazine should be noted. Whether it was competition, costs or lack of readers it's a sad state of affairs. It provided a forum for dealers, letter writers, articles and adverts (Free) for Societies to promote themselves AND a good read. What's next?

Barry W Evans

Cambridge

The final display of the programme year in August in Cambridge was a members' evening by way of *Show What You Like*. As is usual on these evenings there was a very wide range of subjects and material shown by many of the members present, ranging through *Milk Bottle Tops*, stamps from *Cyprus*, *Czechoslovakia*, *Poland*, *Switzerland*, *Tokelau Islands* and *GB King Charles*. The new programme year kicked off with **Michael Brindle** giving a very wide range of both UK and Worldwide Stamps on covers and in sets under the heading of *Pounds, Shillings and Pence*. This was a fascinating array of items from many countries. The late September Zoom display came from **Michael Kentzer** who gave a very interesting account of the *Scarborough to Whitby Railway* with covers, photographs and articles, followed by an excellent display of *GB Seahorses* on cover going across the Atlantic Ocean. In early October we held the annual president's display with **Rufus Barnes** showing a mixture of mainly postal history covers from his collection. Most of the first half covered *Burma/Myanmar*, which included several special postmarks on covers, many commemorative stamps including butterflies on cover, and the use of Indian stamps on cover from Myanmar. *Easter Island Postal History* which followed included first flight covers, commemorative stamps on cover, and aerogrammes. We will continue with the format of a face-to-face meeting in Cambridge, at Oddfellows Hall, on the first Wednesday and a Zoom presentation on the third Friday each month. → info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk Peter Morton

Chichester & District

A rainy Autumn competition night was another success with a wide variety of material shown by our members. It's always a pleasure to see what people bring in. The P Allam Postal History Cup was won by **Frank Griffiths** with a collection entitled *Private Ship Letters & The Caribbean*. Second place went to **Russell Hill** with his *Great Britain Free Frank Postmarks Signed By the Official Sender*. In third place was **Christopher Podger's** *Cyprus Incoming Stationery*. Postal history concerns postmarks, how mail is transported, how stamps are used in philately, and how covers help us understand how societies use postal communication, methods of transport, special markings on envelopes that tell a story about the letter's journey, and postal routines, among other things. The S T Birkin Modern Stamp Trophy for modern philately and postal history in the last 50 years was won by **Heather Lawn** with a fine display of *Pre-Decimal Machin Stamps*. In second place was **John Armstone** with a display entitled *Australian Stamp Show*. In third place was **Frank Griffiths** showing *Pre-Decimal and Decimal Currency Machins*. The ASW Peel Cup is for displays on any subject in an 8-page display. First was **Neil Smith** with his well-researched display entitled *Albert Marius Hypolyte-Descaris (1901-1987)*, designer of stamps for France and Territories. In second place was **Heather Lawn** with her display *Distribution and Habitat of Parrots*. In third place was **Michael Asteris** with a display entitled *King Edward VIII Airmail First Flight*.
Martha Brown

Croydon

President **Pauline MacBroom** began the presentations. For her interest in *Cats* there was a wide variety of material which she had collected over many years. These included first day covers, presentation covers and postcards, with coins and ornaments as well. **Peter Wood** showed a display based on *Guinness*. We saw first day cover, meter marks, postal stationery, perfins, beer mat and a poem. He also showed

Guinness postcards produced by several UK towns, and a book of Guinness collectables.

Terry Page entitled his display *The Beauty and the Beast*. On the first frame were covers issued by the zemstvo posts which were in good condition, and aesthetically pleasing. The second showed covers in poor condition, some were missing the stamp. **Richard West**

showed a variety of *Smiler sheets*. Personalised stamps were first produced in Australia. Royal Mail used the

idea and produced their sheets a year later and named them Smilers. The stamp issue allowed a self-photograph to be added and several of the sheets shown were with Richard's own photograph. **Graham Harker** was the last member to show his *Controls* material. Controls were first used in 1882, introduced by the printers De La Rue as an accounting method due to the very large number of low value definitive stamps being printed. The display showed mounted mint 1902 Edward VII stamps followed by unmounted mint stamps – 1934-36 George V definitives, 1993-2011 Machins by 3 different printers – De La Rue, Enschedé, and Harrison and 1992-95 Castles printed by Harrison. *Graham Harker*



Terry Page with his zemstvo covers

Dawlish

Our meeting on 10th September was very well-attended to see three excellent presentations. The first by **Jim Wigmore** was *Mail and Rail* covering the move from Stagecoach to Rail with mail being speeded up from 4mph to 48mph. There were problems with Royal Mail who considered the railway were overcharging; it took a while for the PO to realize that people wanted their mail to travel quickly. The second display also by **Jim Wigmore** was of *Odd Items* resulting in added instruction markings, charging customers for underpayment and adding markings to mail to aid sorting. Examples of the use of out-of-date stamps were also shown. The third display by **Robin Buchanan** was *Around the World in 80 Stamps* which started with the Penny Black and moved around the world showing the most valuable stamps with a wide variety of flaws making

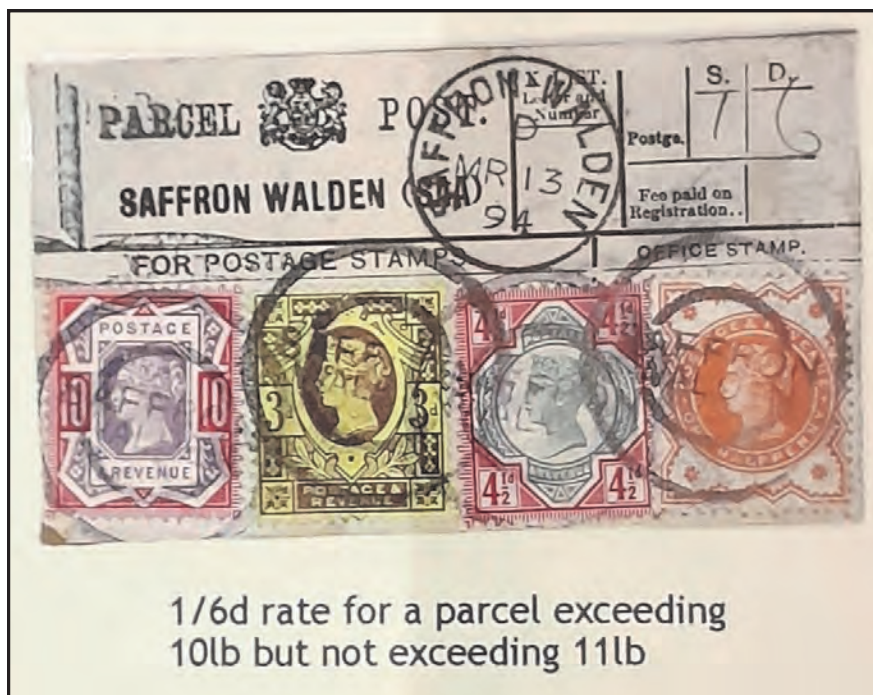
them rare and often very valuable. The displays were much appreciated by all. Details about future meetings can be found on our website or call 01626 864844

Jim Wigmore

Ferndown & West Moors

This middle of summer meeting resulted in an excellent attendance and fascinating displays. *Hong Kong* proved to be a well researched subject. Here, **Spence Coaker** shared information on various branch post offices of the 1860-1880 period. **Hugh Jefferies** displayed his *Islands* theme with an interesting study of *The Bahamas*. 1925 *Weimar Republic* was skilfully assembled by **John Davis**. This study examined the amazing and frightening final year of German hyper-inflation, highlighting the practice of overprinting. Other displays covered *Tasmanian Postal History* and a study of *Northern Ireland Postcards from 1937-1946*, where postage dues were the focus. Concluding was *The Victorian 1887 Jubilee Parcel Post Labels* which included a Turnworth (Dorset) cancellation, a scarce orange Brighton label, and an equally unusual Saffron Walden label having no less than four stamps. This meeting was another most worthwhile event in the club's calendar.

Paul Barry



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Frinton & District

At the September meetings members enjoyed excellent displays. On September 1st guest speaker **Don Davies FRPSL** entertained with a few of his favourites, starting with a display of superb early covers, signed envelopes from Charles Dickens, an advert from a well-heeled gentleman seeking a wife and the replies received, plus some "naughty" postcards. In part two he showed some superb 1d blacks, 2d blues and 1d reds including Maltese crosses and ivory heads plus fraudulent cancellations and copies: a real education and very entertaining. Then on September 15th there were members' displays on *The Letters J, K and L*. Nine members showed varied displays ranging through *Charles Lindberg*, *Kirby Post Offices*, *Labuan*, *Johore*, *Linley Caches Club Covers*, *Luxembourg*, *Loose Letter Cancellations of Australia* and *Locomotives* to the sobering *Japanese Occupation of Sarawak*. In October guest speaker **Colin Evans** from Benfleet presented an excellent display on *Railway Art*. Colin began by showing stamps, postcards and PHQ cards based on the paintings of renowned railway artist Terence Cuneo. These included GB and Isle of Man stamps of steam locomotives and the Douglas horse tram. He went on to display material from various other artists on Jersey stamps, Irish trams and railways, the 150th anniversary of the Liverpool to Manchester railway and some interesting bus and steam transports with street scenes. Especially interesting philatelically were poster stamp advertising labels up until WWI

Steve Alpe

Guildford

At the September meeting, members welcomed **Peter White** who gave a very interesting display on the *Stamps and Postal Stationery of Monaco*. French stamps were used in Monaco from 1860, with the first Monegasque stamps being issued in 1885 during the reign of Charles III. Peter's display included all stamp issues from 1885 up to 1965 and the reign of Prince Rainier III. In October, **Peter Tribe** gave a captivating presentation on the *Postal History of Montserrat*. This covered packet mail, the introduction of hand cancels/date marks, the use of British, Antiguan and finally local stamps. Peter also described the devastation caused by volcanic explosions, earthquakes and hurricanes on this small Caribbean island. He brought with him a boxful of West Indian covers, inviting attendees to take a few, and



Peter White and David Whitby

members asked many questions about the items displayed. As part of the ABPS National Exhibit at the RPSL, **Susan Taylor** (our President) was awarded Gold

for her display of *Trinidad's 19th Century Post*. Our 2025/6 season continues on 12th November with two presentations, *Famous Victorians* and *GB Revenue Stamps*, followed by our Christmas Social Evening on 10th December, including the Club Competition, Raffle and Quiz. The New Year starts with *Bosnia Herzegovina* on 14th January 2026 and *Occupation of Belgium/Northern France in WWI* and *Delayed/Returned Mail in WWI* both on 11th February.

➔ www.spanglefish.com/guildfordstampclub.

Rob Cooke, Barry Stephens, Susan Taylor and David Taylor

Harrogate

So far this season we have had two Zoom meetings, two Monday afternoon social sessions and three Friday evening meetings – not bad for so early in the year. Our members' meeting was on *Something New* – always popular after the summer break. The diversity was brilliant as usual, as it was in the Zoom meetings on *Something Old*, *Something New* and *Something Borrowed*, *Something Blue*. We were visited by **Michael Rego** to show *Guiana*. Originally there were five Guianas – Dutch Guiana, French Guiana and three regions which became British Guiana. Guiana means Land of Rivers which became very clear as we learned of the difficulties in maintaining a postal service inland.

Along the coast the system involved boats, trains and tracks, but inland the main routes were by boat or canoe along the rivers to the sugar plantations. We saw postmarks relating to villages and stations, postcards of mail canoes being drawn over rapids and lots of fascinating other material from 1855 to 1960. **Andy Taylor** was our next visitor with his award-winning *Austrian Newspaper stamps*, used from 1851 to 1922. The explanation and presentation showed why he won his medal at Europhilex, though we only saw some of his work. For the second part he showed us *Stamps and Covers showing Austrian Composers*. Both evenings were described by members as brilliant – well worth being seen and heard by others.



Andy Taylor with president Ian Bergel

Keith Burton

High Wycombe and District

Our season opened on 2nd October with a members' display. For the first half, **Stuart Catchpole** showed a selection of *Recent Acquisitions of Commonwealth*

and *Empire Stamps*. The second half had **Tim Harrison** displaying *Tracked and Traced Mail in Post-colonial Tunisia*, and a thematic *F is for Fertiliser*, whilst **Alan Druce** displayed some miscellaneous *GB Postal History and Whiting Essays*. We are expecting displays from **David Belton** on 16th October (*Isle of Man*), **Alan Druce** on 30th October, **Malcolm Gascoyne** on 27th November, and **Rex Dixon** (*German Postage Dues*, and *DDR*) on 27th November. **Tim Harrison** displayed on behalf of the society at Stratford-Upon-Avon on 17th September (*Estonia Postal History to 1945*), and Enfield on 1st October (*Iceland stamps to 1944*, and *Yemen 1926 to 1963*) and has displays planned for Milton Keynes on 29th October (*Iceland Stamps to 1944 and A Miscellany of Competition Entries*), and Henley on 26th November (*Greek Revenue Stamps*, and *A Miscellany of Competition Entries*).

Tim Harrison

Huddersfield

The first meeting of the new season, in September, was **John Church** presenting *The American Civil War*.

The first laydown had a focus on the stamps of the period with an accompanying collection of memorabilia that included musket balls and cotton from Alabama. John began with some historical background, explaining how slavery was present in all American colonies, and that it became very profitable to grow cotton. He explained how the wars of the 1860s were a big decider in the future of slavery and that, as soon as that was won by the North, the number of slave states reduced. John showed us the first issue of confederate stamps, produced by lithography,

before displaying a variety of covers made out of materials such as notepaper, wallpaper and Sunday School notice-sheets. John explained how many of the confederate covers did not have stamps on them but that cash was paid at various points of transit, by the sender and recipient, to those involved in transferring the mail. The second laydown had a focus on the military. It began with naval material before moving on to prisoner of war covers. John outlined how his material linked with various battlefields such as Gettysburg, in 1863. A vote of thanks was given to John on behalf of an appreciative audience for his extremely interesting and informative presentation – undoubtedly one of, if not, the best collection on this theme in the UK.

➔ jondtaylor3@gmail.com for further details.



John Church in action

Jon Taylor

Hull

The season's opening display was given by **Richard Jagielski**, showing material relating to his *Family History, and Poland before WWII*. The members were deeply engaged by his accounts of events and conditions and asked many questions. Later that month, **Dr Dinar Athale**, the 2025 signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Yorkshire Philatelists, gave us an Indian afternoon, featuring firstly *The Development of Indian Airmails*, which included items relating to two pioneering female aviators, the Hon Mrs Victor Bruce, who was also a racing driver, and Miss Joan Page. There was also a variety of RAF material. The second half explained *Indian Postal Stationery from 1856*, when the first letter sheet was issued, up to KGV1, including post cards without printed indicia. They were supplied with adhesive stamps when purchased. October's Members' Afternoon featuring *New Acquisitions*, was led off by **Keith Burton** (our Editor), visiting from Harrogate. His display of *German Rural Postmarks* showed correspondence with grocery suppliers, and we learnt of the customers' love of jam – bought in very large tins. We also saw decorative advertising labels, ranging from biscuits to exhibitions and shoe polish. **Robert McMillan**



Dinar Athale and Daphne McMillan

presented a further selection of *Hull Postal History*, with many 'new older' items including more ship letters. **Daphne McMillan** showed *Cachets from the Royal Courts of Justice*. **Paul Jones** showed hard to find *Modern Canadian Postal History* special services material. **Malcolm Rosenberg** showed *Postcards* (for disposal) on many subjects, some of which found new homes. *Daphne McMillan*

King's Lynn

The 16-sheet competition entries were judged on 25th April whilst members enjoyed searching for a bargain amongst the Bring & Buy tables. During May **Maurice Buxton** gave an illustrative Zoom presentation on *GB Decimalisation and the Post Office*. The season finished with the AGM electing **Paul Lascelles** as chairman who then introduced the members' one frame displays – always an excellent and enjoyable evening with a diversity of subjects. At the first face to face meeting, **John George** entertained members with part of his display of *Huntingdonshire Postal History*, interspersed with several interesting stories about some of his acquisitions. The chairman thanked John very much for displaying part of his tremendous collection and hoped that John would return to share more of his material. The month ended with a display by **Grace Davies** on *Alfred Noble and the Peace Laureates*, a fascinating and informative talk. Grace informed members that the Nobel Peace and the four other awards were

founded in 1900. Those awarded the Peace Prize were represented on stamps, covers, special commemorative covers, telegrams, postcards, mini sheets, artwork, photographs and ephemera. Grace finished her display with a selection of Chinese postal stationery cards issued from 2021-24 relating to activists and journalists in dictatorships plus an organisation in Japan dedicated to nuclear survivors. October commenced with a visit by **Adrian Ritoridis** with his display on *Greece in the Balkan Wars*. *Dahlia Harrison*



John George with Paul Lascelles

Launceston

The September meeting was well attended. A moment of respect was held in memory of past member **Lawrence Plaskett** who passed away recently. The highlight of the evening was a members' display of up to three pages on any topic or subject relating to *A, B or C or All Three*. This resulted in a tremendous turnout of thirteen entries with each entrant introducing their exhibit and explaining its relationship to the rules sometimes using a little poetic licence. There were entries from and about the *Channel Islands, Cabs, Australia with Local Connections, Chillingham Cattle Stamps, Anguilla, French Postal History, Revenues, Columbian States, Faroes Transport – Air, Bus and Car, U.S.A. Bicentennial Stationery, Alberts who became Kings and Aruba, Bonaire and*

Curacao. The entries were judged by the members with the winning entries being - 1st – Faroes, 2nd - Channel Islands and 3rd - U.S.A. Bicentennial Postal Stationery. The winner, **Brian Whyte**, was congratulated by the chairman who presented Brian with a small prize for his efforts. Launceston Stamp Club meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Yeolmbridge Methodist Chapel Hall, Ladycross at 7.30pm (May



Barry Mudie (Chair & 2nd), Dave Hatwell (3rd) and Brian Whyte (winner)

to October) and 2.30pm (November to April). Visitors and prospective members are always welcome.

Viv Sandercock

Leeds

Our Autumn programme of our 136th season began on September 9th with a fascinating talk by **Derek Baron** on the topic of the *Occupation and 'Liberation' of Olomouc*, where he went to teach with VSO after he retired. Derek gave us a history lesson of the political changes over the 20th century with the 'Liberation of Olomouc' on the 7th and 8th of May 1945. An enterprising stamp dealer in Olomouc printed stamps for his business. **David Kindley** came from Aberdeen to share his expertise in stamps and covers, regarding *Belarus*. In the Great Patriotic War (WWII) 25% of the population died. The Orthodox cross featured on the first stamps. Icons feature on many stamps, which is a sign of heaven. One cover had stamps to the value of 500 000 roubles, illustrating how the rouble was devalued. Our annual Stamp Fair will be held in Pudsey Civic Hall November 15th & 16th, 10-30am to 5pm both days, all welcome.

Liz Schweigler



Icon from Belarus

Lostock

In July our visiting speaker was **Norton Wragg** with *TPO Railway History in Switzerland*. As the network expanded and trains could run over more than one company's lines the "named" routes were gradually replaced from around 1870. Among the detailed stationery displayed was an envelope from Fleurier to Paris dated 6th November 1876, being carried by road from Fleurier to Boveresse where it was put onto the TPO to Pontarlier. In August **Dr Geoffrey Dyer** visited with *South West Africa and Overprints*. With over 90 detailed stamp displays and an assortment of material, examples included the SWA overprint, appropriate for both languages, replacing the vertical overprint in English and Afrikaans, which had been used since January 1926 for South Africa's "London Pictorials Series" stamps. For September our popular *Famous for Five Minutes*



Adrian Jones with Norton Wragg

gave our members the opportunity to display favorite stamps from their own collections. **Phil Wharmby** showed his *Italian Display* in October. In November we will hold a Bourse, for up to ten philatelic items for sale at fixed price. Last

year's was so popular that it has become an annual requirement.

David Morley

Lothian

The LPG 2025-26 season has started with 14 Tuesday evening, and 10 Friday morning meetings through till July. Having merged with the Lothian Stamp Group (LSG) last year, this provides us with a daytime meeting monthly on a Friday morning for those who no longer want to venture out on a wintery evening. Our first Tuesday meeting was fairly well-attended (that means more than ten members these days) and featured a display from the president. His choice was *Isle Of Man* and featured mint stamps and miniature sheets from the 1990s. The stamps, often photographs of relevant subjects were all nicely scaled, thoughtfully designed and well received. The next display was a members' night where members are asked to bring 8 or 16 sheets on *The Letter V*, which ought to result in some Victoria, Very interesting and possibly Varied or Various materials.

Steve Cowles

Maidenhead

Since our last update we've had a number of excellent speakers: **Mike Smith** – *Bechuanaland*; **Malcolm Gascoyne** - *De La Rue Stamp Printing*; **Sue Burn** - *Rise of the Flying Boats & Empire Airmail*; and **John Spencer** - *Cruising the Bristol Channel*. By the time of publication **James Podger** will have told us all about *British West Indies* and our last visiting speaker for 2025 will be **Tim Dexter** on *Queensland* on November 4th. We have also had many interesting presentations from members. On a society front, our AGM saw several changes to the rules and running of the society, including reducing the number of officer roles, down from 15 (more roles than members) to 6. No change in what needs to be done, but reflects better what is done and will save 9 embarrassing silences when we ask for volunteers in future years. The president (Tony, not Donald) put a great deal of effort into updating our website to make it focused towards potential new members, (and now that's completed I need to get on and create a Facebook page). We have run ads in a local village magazine (paid) which we probably won't do again and a local area magazine (free) to which we've already sent another ad. These are helped by having a programme that is continually extended into the future so we can advertise what's coming (so hopefully people may think that looks interesting and put it in their diary).

David Smith

Maidstone & Mid Kent

The new season got underway in mid-September with the usual members' evening based on the subject of *Natural History - Bring Twelve Sheets*. A very successful evening was enjoyed by all. This was followed by the first of the morning meetings, again with members bringing along displays on *Maps*. It is amazing how many versions of maps on stamps there are. At our next evening meeting we welcomed **Colin Evans** from Benfleet who gave us an interesting display on *The Ross Dependency* which comes under the control of the New

Zealand Government with stamps issued by New Zealand Post. Future meetings up to Christmas will cover visits by Bromley & Beckenham and Medway societies, *Bermuda*, president's evening, competitions and the bi-annual auction.

Brian Stonestreet FRPSL

Newcastle upon Tyne



Sandy Forbes and his trees

In September **Sandy Forbes** presented his thematic display entitled *Trees and Timber*. He explained that, broadly, tree species are either coniferous (evergreen) or deciduous (with broad leaves which are shed in winter), although the classification of trees into groups is more complex. Sandy set the scene by stating that trees have played a vital role throughout human history. Apart from food, they provide shelter and clothing, tools and fuel, the wheels of transport, wheels that generate power and much more. He stressed the importance of trees in forming the atmosphere, and their role in cleaning and enriching the air we breathe. He displayed stamps with the relevant trees to explain this,

drawn from around the world, starting with conifers. This was done alphabetically to illustrate the different tree types. He addressed the question 'What do trees give us and how are these products applied? Over a further 10 frames Sandy explored tree-related food types and products, flowers, aircraft and gliders over the years. Also pleasure pursuits: sports such as tennis and cricket, sailing boats and horse-drawn wooden vehicles. He also considered the Mighty Oaks which were used extensively in shipbuilding for warships and merchant vessels over the centuries; house building construction (using timber from across the world), as well as the use of timber in the interior of churches and cathedrals etc. With over 100 sheets on display Sandy illustrated in his final frames the role of wood within musical instruments from across the world.

Phil Burns

Oxford

Let me report on the past six months. In April, a great fun evening meeting saw members bring *Not Square or Rectangular Stamps* - from triangles and hexagons to circles, love hearts and many free forms. The winner of the night was **Priscilla Morris** with her Tongan banana stamps carefully crowded onto some lovely looking covers. We strongly recommend this meeting's topic to other societies! In May, as president, I displayed the *Niger Coast Protectorate*, which had been converted from two stockbooks and a folder of over two decades of serious collecting. In June, our AGM showed how robust the society is in terms of members, activities and finances. Discussion on how to keep the packet worthwhile produced suggestions on how compilers of packet book can make books of even greater relevance to the collecting

interests of members. July saw an excellent presentation of *Canada from QV to GVI*, as well as *Canada in WWII* by our member, **Alan Baker**. An evening of swapping, trading and chatting rounded off our season. The 2025-26 season kicked off with subscriptions being collected and the largest Silent Auction ever seen. At October's meeting, *The Letters U, V and W* meant members showed *Ubangi-Shari, Uganda, Ukraine, USA, Uyo, Victoria, V for Victory, Watermarks, and Wales and Whales!*
Dr Simon Heap

Rochdale

Jack Lindley, our New Zealand specialist, treated members to philatelic material from the *1935 Silver Jubilee*. Three stamps were issued: the ½d, 1d and 6d and printed by Bradbury Wilkinson. New Zealand Dependencies resorted to overprinting existing stamp issues. The next displays concerned stamps, covers and labels from the *1906 Christchurch Exhibition*. Over 2 million tickets were sold when the New Zealand population was less than 1 million. To publicize the event a record-breaking attempt was made to fly from New Zealand to Australia with commemorative letters. After 500 miles halfway across the sea one of the two engines stopped. A crew member crawled along the wing to pour oil into the remaining engine. Half the mail bags were dumped and the plane returned to base. The saved letters were then given a special survival postmark. We continued with scarce philatelic items from the WWI landing and evacuation at Gallipoli. Jack finished with *Postcards from the 1908 USA White Battleship Fleet* (ships painted white), which visited Auckland on its worldwide flag-waving cruise. New members are always welcome at our meetings, which are held at the Rochdale Unitarian Church on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm.
Peter Grimshaw

Royal Sutton Coldfield

Members, coming back refreshed after their holidays into a new season had a busy time with our September displays. The first meeting of the season, *What I did over the Holiday*, showed how busy we all were feverishly writing up material! Our second meeting *The letters Q, R and S* tested our title choices. 'Q' was tricky, but 'R' was *Registered Mail* and *Russia*, whereas 'S' was *St Vincent*



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and any another Saintly Island, together with *Ships, Sports or Snakes*, There was a wide range of other exhibits, from carefully reconstructed full sheets of penny reds to displays from around the world: *Hungary, Korea and Nigeria* were all represented. We were treated to *Uses of Registered Mail in GB and the US* from **Steven Harrison** at our last meeting on 14th October. Jury summons, overseas insured packages and Ocean Letters were all shown. There are usually between 15 and 20 members at our meetings and we are all looking forward to speakers on *India* and *The Congo* in the coming months. We are meeting for our traditional Christmas lunch in December which we combine with light hearted one- and three-sheet competitions!

Margaret Langley

Salisbury and District

As usual we started off the new season with members displaying *New Acquisitions*. Many members displayed including three that had started totally new areas of collecting. This included **Jeremy Martin** who at the tender age of 92 has started a new collection – there is hope for us all. We are very fortunate



Mike Moody ready to welcome new members at the recent Stamp Fair

that **Tony Hender** of Arun Stamps, who organises the two-day Salisbury Stamp & Postcard Show, offers us tables to advertise our society. Whilst most attendees at these shows are from farther away it gives us excellent publicity and as they say “All publicity is good publicity”.

➔ www.salisburyphilately.org.uk

Paul Latham-Warde

What do you think we should include in ABPS News? How can we help your society? Let us know at editor@abps.org.uk

Sheffield

The July Zoom meeting by **Peter Gassmann** was about *World War I Military Post in the Salonika Region*. This included military censorship of mail of the various nations encamped in the area around Salonika including French, British, Italian, Serbian and Greek forces. The first physical meeting was **Mike Lewis** with an entertaining two-part broad ranging display of stamp and postal oddities and forgeries from the *Time of the Penny Black to the Reign of Elizabeth II*. The final meeting of the philatelic year was a Round Table Discussion – *Record Keeping and Storage*. There was a very lively and wide-ranging discussion of how and why various members kept records of their stamps and philatelic material. The new season started with a Zoom presentation by **Rodney** and **Edith Knight** who showed us *The History and Culture of Spain to 1492*. They gave a most interesting presentation of the Iberian Peninsula from prehistoric times up to the time of Columbus' Atlantic journeys to the New World. The first physical meeting was **John Church** with *The American Civil War*. John's presentation focussed primarily on material from the Confederate States of America. The display was rich in history and had a lot of unusual material. The last meeting of the month was *Countries beginning with the letters V to Z*, including: *Venda, Wadhwani, Walmaransstad, Vryburg and Volkrust, Venezuela, Württemberg, Zimbabwe, Vatican City, Victoria Land, Wallis and Futuna Islands, Vanuatu and Zululand*.
Richard A. Hindle

Shropshire

Our new season opened with a Gold Medal display on *Copper* from visitor **Andrew Millington**. He led us on an exciting journey from its discovery, extraction, processing, alloying with other metals and its diverse commercial applications. An inspiration for us to compete in our next Annual Thematic Cup competition! The launch of our new Annual Fair on October 4th at the Shrewsbury premises of Halls Fine Art Auctioneers was a great success for the society, Halls and our dealers. Attendance more than doubled to nearly 150, we recruited two new members and are actively pursuing some other possibilities. There was tremendous interest from the general public in attending our "Stamp Collection Appraisal and Valuation Service" provided by **Andy Neal** and others. Some visitors found, to their delight, that the old box of stamps from the loft were well worth consigning to auction.



Others were happy to send them to a charity shop as they now understood their true value! This year we widened our publicity, including social media for the first time, with success. From the experience and data, we are hoping to make improvements for next year's Fair with improved publicity targeting. At the end of the day I chatted to many of the dealers. They liked the new location and facilities and importantly had good sales. Our innovation of a loop video link listing dealers, society news and the date advertising next year's Fair at the same location - October 3rd 2026 - was well-received. David Poynton

Solihull

We started the 2025-6 season at our new venue, the Blossomfield Sports & Social Club, Widney Lane, B91 3JY (what3words ///event.vase.clash). The initial meeting consisted of displays from the three Solihull members who had distinguished themselves at EuroPhilEx. **Laurence Kimpton** got the season off to a flying start with a display based upon his recently published book *Airmails across the Middle East 1918-1930*, which won gold in the literature class.

Anthony Whitehead won a Large Gold for his *National Savings Schemes from World War I to Post War Savings* exhibit. Tony showed a number of unique items including a complete sheet of the 1918 Birmingham Feed the Guns week labels. The third award winner was the programme secretary, **Gerald Mariner**, who won a Large Vermeil for his exhibit *German Occupation of The Channel Islands - Disruption to the Mail Service - 1940 – 1945*. Our first guest of the season was **Richard Wheatley FRPSL** of Leeds who gave a display on *Dutch*



Some of the mail held by Germany or Britain (see next page)

East Indies World War I. The display included outstanding items that had travelled to the Dutch East Indies via the Suez Canal, mail that had travelled to Europe via the Pacific and North America. Also included in the display were items detained by either Germany or Britain for the duration of the war, showing some rare cachets. *Iain Wells*

Southampton & District

Our Autumn programme continued with a talk by **Grace Davies FRPSL** on the topic of *Alfred Nobel, the Peace Prize and Laureates*. This was a very interesting and informative display delivered with passion in the same week that the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize was announced. It covered background on Nobel and then each of the Peace Laureates to date illustrating how the direction taken by the awarding committee has changed over the years and of late has awarded outstanding people working for civil liberties and human rights in many countries now sadly run by authoritarian regimes. A stimulating display providing much food for thought supported by fascinating ephemera and some unique pieces of postal history and, of course, commemorative postage stamps. Also check out our video library for the latest talk by **Terry Page** on *Russia: An Introduction to the Postal History of the Zemstvos*. This covered a hidden and interesting insight into Russian culture and organisation in the decades prior to WWI.

→ <http://www.southamptondps.org.uk/avideolibrary.html> *Julian Jones*

Torquay & Teignbridge

Since our last update, the club has purchased a larger tripod-mounted fixed screen, to use with the projector. This will give us more opportunity to try more PowerPoint or other computer-based presentations on club nights. The things we have tried have gone down really well, and we can look forward to including a wider variety of presentations in the coming year, which is reflected in our recently released programme. We have started to thin out our library, with some members buying books from the club, and this has gone some way to boost club funds. Other books will be sold in wider philatelic circles to realise their potential value, and we have had a clear out of some of the other stuff that has found its way into the library over the years, and which now has little or no value. In other news, our club website mysteriously disappeared a couple of months ago. We found out what happened, and are currently building a new website with the help of a friend who is an IT specialist. Unfortunately, he doesn't have a lot of free time, and so it may take some time to get the new one up and running. Please bear with us, and we should at least have our programme on the website shortly.

Dave Cleaver

Wakefield

On the 16th July we held a meeting entitled *My Other Collection* for which members brought along items collected, other than their philatelic interests, which included books, foreign currency notes and photographs of Army service. On the 28th July **Daphne McMillan FRPSL** gave a fascinating Zoom display and presentation entitled *Rejected and Returned Mail of WWII*. At the beginning of

August **Robert McMillan FRPSL** paid a visit to the society with a display and presentation entitled *Kingston Upon Hull Postal History*“. On 9th August the members very much enjoyed a lovely barbeque in **Graham and Eve Winters'** garden. The new season began on 3rd September when **Richard Hindle**, President of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association, paid a visit to the society with his display and presentation of *Polar Explorers*. On the 17th September member **Alistair Garner** gave a display and presentation entitled *Technology and Philately*. October commenced with a welcome visit from **Peter Chadwick FRPSL** when he entertained us with his display and presentation entitled *Early Scottish Postal History*. All of these displays and presentations were very interesting and much enjoyed by all those attending. Julie Hitchcock

Watford

In May we held our AGM and appointed **Arthur Howell** as president, succeeding **Phil Andrews**. Phil has done an amazing job for the society, staying on beyond his original two-year term to get the club through a difficult period. Phil also took on, at short notice, the responsibilities for the society's finances, and was confirmed as treasurer at the AGM. **Brian Coates**, who was treasurer for many years, will stay on as a general committee member. With the official business out of the way, it was time for our annual informal cup competitions, with members voting for the winner. There were eight entries in the six-page competition, which had to be (very loosely!) based on *The Letters P, Q and R*. The S A Jones Cup was awarded to **Wayne Cox** with *Russia Currency Stamps*. The one-page competition, for the Victor Punter Memorial Trophy, brought forth seven entries, and was won by **Graham Walker**, with *The Man Who Saved Canada*. Unfortunately, due to circumstance beyond our control, our June meeting had to be cancelled at short notice. Every cloud has a silver lining however; **Phil Andrews** had booked our annual dinner for around the same time, so the club's season ended on a high note, as eleven of us went for an enjoyable evening to a local pub. ➔ 01923 218433 Wayne Cox

West Riding

Our Stamp Club 2025 season of informal meetings continue over the summer period. **Tony Plumbe** introduced us to the *1903 to 1935 Nyasaland Registration Stamps* in their various identifiable forms "into " and "from" with many examples including Edwardian straight line registration stamp cancellations, Post Office No1 green ink Nyasaland Field Force in red ink, pink labels and postal stationery envelopes with pre-printed Italic "R" etiquette. **Brian Hitchcock** exhibited himself in the guise of a National Service REME soldier complete with uniform retrained into The Army Air Corp at Middle Wallop with examples of the Royal Mail Embargo notices he acquired as a serving soldier, who continued his hobby collecting stamps in the late 1950s. **Graham Winters** showed us part of his collection of *Victorian Period Mail on Cover* featuring penny black with identified plate numbers "into" and "from" Yorkshire, International mail featuring German federation accountancy marks, multi franking to Italy, Norway to Whitby via Hull and pre-adhesives to Spain, finishing with examples of Mulready postal

stationery. **Tony Plumble** Introduced *Stamps of Biafra* providing the history of its existence in 1967 with many examples of Lisbon-printed 2d, 4d and 1/-, Harrison-printed animal definitives of Nigeria overprinted showing overprint varieties, perforation changes, first and second anniversary of independence sets with Specimen copies through to the Papal visit miniature sheets in their various colour changes. All provided an entertaining summer of philatelic interest and pleasant company.

Adrian Lee

York

In August **Richard Hindle** gave a superb and hugely informative display on *Hubert Wilkins and his Eventful and Extraordinary Life*. Born in Australia, Wilkins was a geographer, photographer, soldier, pilot, ornithologist but most famously a polar explorer. The display covered all these in detail. Also in August members were invited to bring in items from *The Reign of King George VI*, with many interesting displays provided. In the September evening meeting members displayed *A Few of My Favourite (philatelic) Things*. It was fascinating to see the wide variety of items that were close to our members' hearts. The daytime meeting had members showing *Australasia*, again demonstrating our members' diverse collecting areas. In October we held a successful club auction and the subject of our daytime meeting later in the month was *The Caribbean*. York continues to be a well-attended society, now meeting twice monthly, with one evening and one daytime (except for December) session. For details of our programme please visit our website. → [//sites.google.com/site/yorkps/](https://sites.google.com/site/yorkps/)

Luigi Wiechula

Most societies comment on how many times they are contacted by someone who has come across an old collection, often in a couple of what most of us would describe as "schoolboy" albums - apologies ladies and girls but I do not recall every hearing them referred to as "schoolgirls'" collections. Often these come about from when the loft, garage or cupboard under the stairs is being cleared out for the final time before a house is sold. My own society has been approached like this four times in the last 12 months. It is hard not to regret that these collections have not continued.

Here is one with a significant difference, from the North West Federation Chair, **Clive Griffiths**.

A large glass trophy - the Tony Bowers Trophy for Postal Stationery (Chester 2002) - has been passed on to me from a similar clear out, in the belief that it was something to do with the NW Federation of which I am Chair. It is not one of our trophies and I wonder if anyone knows who it might belong to? I have contacted both the Postal Stationery Society and the Postal History Society, neither of which claim ownership. As I already have too many NW Trophies in my loft, I am keen to pass it on, if possible. If you know anything about this, please get in touch with Clive. What was the event at Chester in 2002?

Research needed. → clive.griffiths45@ntlworld.com

Report on my visit to STAMPEX

At the end of October I returned home somewhat tired after 5 days in London. Admittedly I went early in order to have a visit to the theatre and to be ready for an early start when the Business Design Centre opened to the public on the Wednesday. It was the second time that Stampex had been held in the smaller side section on two floors with some added stalls in the Gallery. Of course we all have dealers or auction houses that we usually see and I had no difficulty in finding those known to me and starting the process of deciding which of the goodies on show needed to find a new home with me. From the discussions I had with them and others during my time there it was clear that I was not the only one who had found much of interest.

I also helped on the Royal stand for a few hours. That gave the opportunity to talk to many visitors. Some of course are already members and just call round for a chat, but there were many who knew little or nothing of the society. The same must be true at other events, so it shows that we should take every opportunity to spread the word about the advantage of being a member of a society that mirrors our own interest. With the Royal sometimes the perception was that it was only for really serious and learned philatelists, but after a few minutes of talking to me (and others) they were soon disabused of that notion. Being able to talk about the facilities, the available help, the convenience of a base in London if visiting for any reason, the meetings, including Zoom, helped to persuade some to join at once and others to take away forms and information. It illustrated that we should all be doing something on those lines at any possible fair or exhibition, with good information and friendly people available. On the Saturday we even meet some people who were new to "stamp- collecting" - with lots of enthusiasm but little knowledge. Yes - there are younger people who are interested - don't give up hope. Well done Salisbury and Shropshire too.

Also on Saturday I helped on the Stamp Active set-up. It wasn't the only day on which children came but it certainly was the busiest. Enthusiasm and interest was very plain. There were awards to young competitors to be given out as well as the presentation to the Young Philatelist of the Year, whom I had already met at Europhilex. More of that next issue. The activities this time were based on "Monopoly" as the new stamps had recently come out from Royal Mail. Children and parents threw themselves into this with great gusto. Some we have met before, others are first-timers. Almost all of them stayed on for the afternoon auction, run by Patrick from Spinks. No money changed hands as bids were in points and all the lots had been donated by various generous dealers and individuals. From the fervour for some lots you would have thought that another British Guiana 1 cent magenta was up for auction. "See you next year" were the final words from some of my contacts.

Finally as I returned home I talked about stamp collecting etc to a couple of football supporters on the train. They were astonished by what could be found from a stamp or a cover - even a £1 postcard which was 119 years old. *Editor*

Norfolk Postal History & Postcards - 'Poppyland'

By Keith Lillywhite.



Fig 1. Parsons Norman Coastal Poppy Field Postcard.

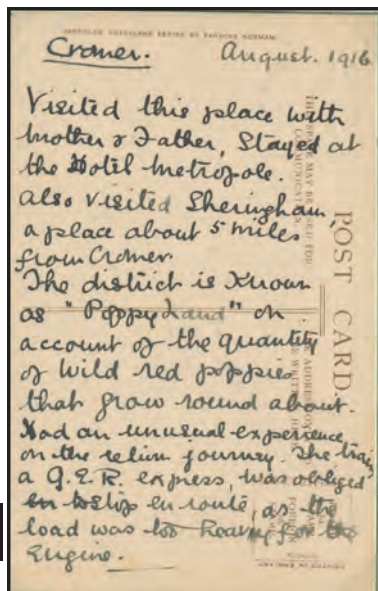


Fig 2 Origins of the name Poppyland

'Poppyland' is the name given to the part of the North Norfolk coast between Cromer and Mundesley and more particularly Overstrand and Sidestrand.

A Parsons Norman Postcard (Fig 1) showing the Poppy Fields at West Cliff Cromer sent in 1916 where the writer refers to the origins of the name Poppyland (Fig 2) for that part of Norfolk,



Why Poppyland ? It all began in 1883 when an article appeared in the Daily Telegraph under the heading of 'Poppyland' written 'At a Farmhouse by the sea by a Holidaymaker'. The article had been written by Clement Scott (Fig 3) a journalist, poet, theatre critic and magazine editor mainly involved in the London scene. Like many of his contemporaries in the arts he came to love the area he called 'Poppyland' and wrote about its attractions for many years. (Fig 4)

Fig 3. Clement Scott
(1841-1904).



Fig 4. Clement Scott's
Poppyland Papers



Fig 5 The Mill House

Clement Scott on his first visit to Cromer discovered the Mill House (Fig 5) at Sidestrand and found accommodation with Miller Jermy and his daughter Louie (Fig 6) who ran the household and was to be later known as "The Maid of the Mill". Louie and the coastal villages were to captivate Scott which showed in his writings so much so that it attracted his poetic friends Swinburne, Henry Irving and others to sample the idyllic setting and stay at the Miller's House.



Fig 6. Louie Jermy
1864-1934

Poppyland and Louie Jermy were to have a strong influence on Clement Scott and his writing. His poem "The Garden of Sleep" was composed in the Sidestrand Churchyard (Fig 7)

(the church tower toppled onto the beach below in 1916). The poem was incorporated in the lyrics of a song entitled "A Summer Song" published by Chappell and Son.



Fig 7. Sidestrand
Churchyard



A number of local artists produced Poppyland paintings which were turned into postcards for sale to the visitors the most popular Artists being George Parsons Norman and Alfred de Breanski. These postcards can be found used with postmarks of Cromer (see left), Sheringham,

Sidestrand, Overstrand (see below), Mundesley and East Runton and possibly other local Post Offices.

Authors Note:

The BBC broadcast a highly acclaimed play in January 1985 entitled "Poppyland" in its Screen Two Series which was based on Clement Scott's discovery of the Norfolk Coast and his friendship with Louie Jermy.

This play might still be available to be viewed on U-Tube.



New society or federation committee members and officers might be interested in the following:

[A Guide to Club Law and Practice](#), by Robert Upex

This book is for those who become involved in a club, whether as a member or as someone who is elected to be a member of the Committee which runs the club. It is intended to provide a handbook or guide for such people to help them in their role of running the club.

Paperback 9781913507718 168 pages Price: GBP 30.00

PDF 9781913507725 168 pages Price: GBP 15.00

<https://spiramus.com/a-guide-to-club-law-and-practice>

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

Glasgow Caledonian Philatelic Society have a new secretary:

Alistair Burrow alistairburrow@btinternet.com

Liverpool & Merseyside Philatelic Society have a new secretary:

Duncan Crewe duncancrewe@aol.com 0151 7331 1291

Norfolk & North Norwich Philatelic Society have a new secretary:

Andrew Cawdron andcaw@btinternet.com

Portsmouth & District Philatelic Society have new details: Secretary

Paul Davidson davidson61@talktalk.net 023 9259 3987

Meeting place: Portchester Parish Hall, Assherton Court (off Castle Street) **Portchester** PO16 9PS

They meet Mondays fortnightly from September to June 7.30-9.30

Solihull Philatelic Society has a new meeting place: The Blossomfield Club, The Wardens, Widney Lane, **Solihull** B91 3JY

ABPS are delighted to welcome as affiliates:

Lundy Collectors Club: Secretary Mark McShane. 07519559869

email contact: manager.lundyclollectorsclub@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.lundyclollectorsclub.org.uk/index.html> for information on meetings, including an annual trip to Lundy.

Peterborough Philatelic Society: Secretary Alan Berrisford 01733 567527

email contact: ac.astro@outlook.com

Meeting place: All Saints Church Hall, Park Road, **Peterborough**

PE1 2UL. They meet 1st and 3rd Thursdays monthly from September to June 2-4pm

Your society information?

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

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

Diary for the next few months

Local and regional events by ABPS members

November

- 15 Leeds Stamp Fair: 10.30-5: Pudsey Civic Hall, **Pudsey**, LS28 5TA
- 16 Leeds Stamp Fair: 10.30-5: Pudsey Civic Hall, **Pudsey**, LS28 5TA
- 22 Hinckley & District PS Stamp Fair: 10-3: The Meeting Centre, Marchant Road, **Hinckley**, Leicestershire LE10 0LQ

December

- 6 Swindon Stamp Fair: 9.30-1.30: Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, **Swindon** SN3 1JL
→ <https://sites.google.com/site/swindonphilatelicociety>

2026 January

- 3 Swindon Stamp Fair: 9.30-1.30: Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, **Swindon** SN3 1JL
→ <https://sites.google.com/site/swindonphilatelicociety>
- 10 Telford Stamp Fair: 10-2: Belmont Community Hall, Wellington, **Telford** TF1 1HJ

February

- 7 Swindon Stamp Fair: 9.30-1.30: Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, **Swindon** SN3 1JL
→ <https://sites.google.com/site/swindonphilatelicociety>

March

- 7 Swindon Stamp Fair: 9.30-1.30: Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, **Swindon** SN3 1JL
→ <https://sites.google.com/site/swindonphilatelicociety>

April

- 4 Swindon Stamp Fair: 9.30-1.30: Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, **Swindon** SN3 1JL
→ <https://sites.google.com/site/swindonphilatelicociety>

May

- 2 Swindon Stamp Fair: 9.30-1.30: Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, **Swindon** SN3 1JL
→ <https://sites.google.com/site/swindonphilatelicociety>

September

- 4-6 ABPS 2026 Congress and AGM: **Nottingham**

October

- 2-6 Germany & Colonies Weekend: Feathers Hotel, **Ludlow**
Don't forget the Strand Stamp Fairs at Bourgogne Room, 1st floor, Novotel London West, 1 Shortlands, **Hammersmith**, **London** W6 8DR from 9.00-3.00 on 9th January, 27th February and 8th May
or York Stamp & Coin Fairs at The Grandstand, York Racecourse, **York** YO23 1EX on 16th/17th January and 17th/18th July

National Exhibitions 2026

- London National 17th - 19th September 2026. Competitive exhibition
Entry deadline: tbc

International Exhibitions 2026

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.

- **Dubai 2026:** Dubai 4th - 8th February 2026. FIP Patronage. Full details at: www.dubai2026wse.com UK Commissioner: Jon Aitchison jonaitchison.uk@outlook.com Entries closed.
- **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: 31st October 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
- **Philatapei 2026:** 19th - 24th November 2026. FIP Patronage. Full details at: Specialised FIP Exhibition, World Stamp Championship. UK Commissioner: Tony Bard anthonybard@gmail.com Entry deadline: 31st March 2026

FIP shows in Bratislava in July 2027 and Belgrade in September 2027 have been announced but no invitation has yet been received.

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

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

Web information Further information can be found on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk on the “Exhibiting” tab. *Simon Richards,*

Chairman ABPS & Exhibitions Committee Simon@sidebell.co.uk

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.

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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

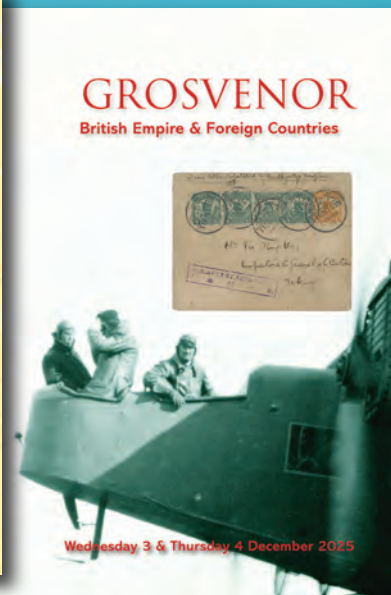
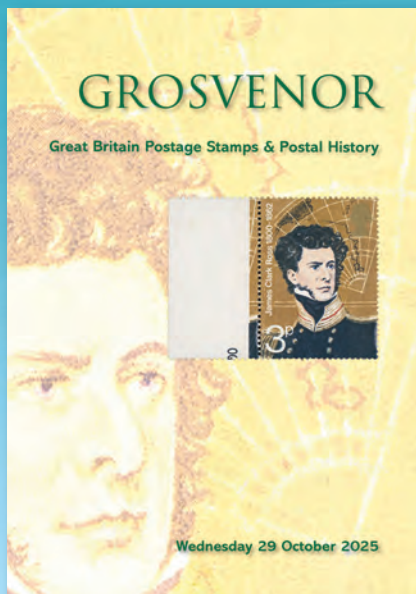
Stamp Active Network: please write to:

SAN, c/o 5 Bramham Chase, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 7LZ

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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