

West Indies went to Boston



See page 6



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ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

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

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Cover picture: *Pictures taken at Boston 2026 showing a general view of the Hall, including a few display frames. The lower one is of a particular stand, Commemorating the Centenary of the Birth of Queen Elizabeth II.*

Courtesy of Susan Taylor and the WIPSG

An electronic copy of the newsletter can be viewed on the ABPS webpage www.abps.org.uk a few months after publication. Contact details for ABPS are on the page by the inside rear cover.

Copy dates: please send your material as soon as ready; at present the copy deadlines are 15th January, 15th April, 15th July, 15th October. We cannot guarantee to include items in specific editions. Items may be edited for publication. Email copy is preferred (unformatted). Send copy to the editor: Keith S Burton (editor@abps.org.uk) Illustrations should not be assumed to be accurate as to size or colour.

Notes FROM THE CHAIR:

As I write these notes, much of the country is enjoying another spell of glorious, if not too hot, summer weather. The sunshine has brought with it long, rather warm days, bustling gardens, and perhaps a welcome opportunity to sit outside with a favourite album, a recently acquired cover, or the latest philatelic journal. Summer offers us a chance to slow down, reflect, and rediscover some of the pleasures that our hobby brings.

Across the country, many societies have now reached the end of another successful season of meetings. I would like to thank every volunteer who has worked so hard over the past year, committee members, speakers, exhibitors, auction organisers and everyone who quietly helps behind the scenes. Local societies remain the lifeblood of organised philately, providing friendship, knowledge, encouragement and inspiration for collectors of every age and experience.

Although many clubs now pause for the summer, the philatelic calendar is far from quiet. The coming weeks provide opportunities to visit exhibitions, organise collections, prepare displays and, perhaps, introduce a friend or family member to the enjoyment of stamp collecting. Every new collector strengthens the future of our hobby.

Our attention is also turning towards the highlight of the ABPS calendar; the ABPS Congress, which this year, as I have pointed out before, takes place in Nottingham at the beginning of September. Congress is always far more than a series of meetings and thought-provoking talks and seminars, it is an opportunity to renew friendships, exchange ideas, celebrate achievements and discuss how we can continue to support societies and collectors throughout the United Kingdom. Whether you are attending for the first time or are a regular delegate, I look forward to welcoming you.

As Chair, I remain committed to ensuring that the Association continues to support societies both nationally and locally, promoting the many benefits of organised philately and helping our clubs to thrive. Together we can build on the enthusiasm and dedication that already exists across our membership.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this Autumn edition of ABPS News. Wherever the season takes you, I wish you a relaxing summer, successful collecting, and I look forward to meeting many of you in Nottingham in September.

Dr Wynne Harries FRPSL



Editorial



2026 has been a fascinating philatelic year so far and my forecast is that it will continue to be so. I didn't go to Boston 2026 but the reports that I have read or heard showed that despite some forebodings it was a great success for all concerned. I hope that the final financial situation is as good as the constituent meetings, seminars etc - West Indies Study Group view of it can be seen later in this issue.

I have just returned from an excellent York Fair and the one-day joint meeting of the Royal (Northern) and the Postal History Society before it. The meeting reinforced the pleasure that I get from meeting up with friends and in seeing new material, well-presented and so very varied. Linking such meetings to the Fair is a wonderful opportunity. I didn't intend to buy much at the Fair, as I still have previously bought material to sort and write up, but I succumbed to a few pieces - two of which will become star pieces in displays or Zoom meetings.

In September comes the ABPS Congress in Nottingham. I look forward to Congress as another opportunity to see and learn, and even more to meet up with friends. It includes the AGM so I hope that lots of my reporting societies will be represented - and even more important will enjoy themselves. Of course it is my last Congress as editor, so in a way it will be a fond farewell. It does not mean that I will not be at other Congresses but at least I will have one job fewer to think about.

A month later I will be enjoying the Germany & Colonies weekend at Ludlow - an opportunity to visit a hotel that I have heard of and now will be visiting. Taking part in society weekends has many benefits. A month later is the Leeds Stamp Fair, two days locally that usually produce a few new items as well as another opportunity to talk to old friends and make new ones.

You will be welcome at all these events, but I am sure that you have your own opportunities, probably more local. Please support the people who have given of their time and experience to set these up. Use it or lose it is a hackneyed statement - but it is true!

In the next issue, I will say my farewell and introduce your new editor, Adel. Please keep sending reports to editor@abps.org.uk, they will come to me until November/December and then I hand it over. I expect that we will see some changes over time or even quickly - good, one reason for not doing a job until death do us part, is that there is a danger that methods and content become fixed and sometimes very boring. I will enjoy new ideas, new ways of presenting and the opportunity to do more work on my own collection. I might even get round to writing an article.

This editorial has been about me - sorry about that, but I feel that I am talking to friends. Don't forget that I am willing to show to any society - how about you?

Keith Burton

West Indies PSG Went in Style to Boston 2026

Boston Expo 2026 was huge in scale. Many of our members were there: **John Seidl, Darryl Fuller, Simon Richards, Chris Harman, Nigel Mohammed, Steve Zirinsky, Susan Taylor, David Taylor, Chip Gliedman, Melanie Rogers, Roger Edghill, John Chay, Keith Moh, Willard Allman** and **Sam Cutler**. Not everyone was able to attend our meeting as some were busy running stalls and/or attending other meetings. However, there were some



non- members who joined us on the Friday morning for what proved to be a most friendly and informative meeting. We must thank Nigel for organising the room hire and a delicious breakfast spread.

Sam Cutler started the meeting with an

8-page display of *Jamaica's King Edward VII Stamp and Postal Stationery*. **Chip Gliedman** shared his incredible selection of *Trinidad Lithos* and explained the history of these historically important but often unattractive adhesives. **David Taylor** talked about his collection of *Early Montserrat Revenue Stamps*. **Susan Taylor** ran quickly through a presentation on the *Development of Trinidad's Post Pre-1900*, then **Nigel Mohammed** wowed us all with some beautiful *Early Trinidad Covers and Stamps*.

It was good to see **Steve Zirinsky** and **Willard Allman's** stalls both busy with keen collectors. If you missed Boston why not visit Steve's website at <https://zirinskystamps.com/>. If you are searching for something special write to Willard at PO Box 626, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey 07417, USA.

We were delighted to note that some of our members won awards at Boston. **Chip Gliedman**: three Golds for *Mail Routes of Rupert's Land, British North America; Imperforate Line Engraved Stamps of Great Britain, as viewed through Plate Position 'CG', and Leominster, Massachusetts. Provisional Postage Due and Instructional Labels*.

Jazad Ali won a Gold for his book *The Stamp Cancelling Machine Slogan Postmarks of Trinidad & Tobago 1923-2023*.

Large Vermeils were gained by **James Podger** for his *British Virgin Islands* and **Darryl Fuller** for his *The Consular, Service Fee and License Stamps of Israel*.

As ever, it was good to be able to catch up on one another's philatelic news.

Nigel Mohammed and **Roger Edghill** took some photos as they toured the event, two of which can be seen on the front cover. *Susan Taylor*

A New Initiative for Federations

“Now that we have started talking to each other, let’s carry on doing so”. This was the feeling at the end of a Zoom session held in late May when representatives from thirteen federations met to discuss what their federations did, and to consider how successful strategies might be shared for mutual benefit.

Some of the observations voiced were not new, but nevertheless important enough to be reiterated in the drive to find solutions.

In a climate of dwindling numbers of members in local societies and their subsequent closing down or amalgamation, it is important for federations to provide motivation and support to their constituent societies wherever possible. This support, however, needs to be reciprocated. They cannot function effectively unless these same societies are prepared to support their local associations by active participation. It is a sad fact that not only societies but also some federations have closed down in recent years because nobody would take on the administrative positions needed to maintain their function. There is a tendency to assume that people who have been doing such jobs for a decade or more will always be willing (and able) to continue.

Looking at ABPS News, it is rare to see any reference in society reports about what said society does in conjunction with its federation. Is this because the answer is nothing? Collectors need to realise that via their local society, their federation is a portal to the national philatelic scene and beyond that to the worldwide hobby. Can we encourage a curiosity in our members for looking beyond the four walls of their own meeting room, better still, beyond their local area?

Agreeing to hold regular meetings, we decided that each should focus on areas where development might be achieved. By the time you read this we shall have had another meeting, a main topic of which will be communication, which is where we, as a community, often fall down. Good communication at all levels of the hobby is essential for recruitment and retention of members.

The thorny question of competitions was discussed and divided opinion, some federations reporting enthusiasm about local and national competitions whilst others indicated that member societies showed no interest, concentrating solely on giving displays. The whole issue of competitive philately could be a topic at a future meeting. There is a perception that the ABPS puts an undue emphasis on competitive philately. One need only refer to the Chairman’s notes in the previous issue to discover several other activities which are sometimes overlooked.

Future meetings will be open to anyone from any federation, not just presidents, chairmen and secretaries. If you can make a positive input and would like to participate, please contact me (see back page) and I will send the link.

Daphne McMillan FRPSL

Happy 90th birthday to the Postal History Society!

The society was founded in 1936 by a group of eminent philatelists, including Robson Lowe and Fred Melville, with the aim of promoting the study and enjoyment of the history of postal communication. The publication of original research is at the heart of the society's activities with over 100 publications to date and a quarterly journal, *Postal History*. While members are encouraged to attend meetings around the country during the year, as well as the annual weekend which this year takes place in Kenilworth, electronic membership and a monthly Zoom presentation enable members to participate regardless of where they live. In addition, the society hosts a lively Facebook page which provides a forum for questions to be asked and, in most cases, answered. The society also has a very substantial library from which books can be borrowed.

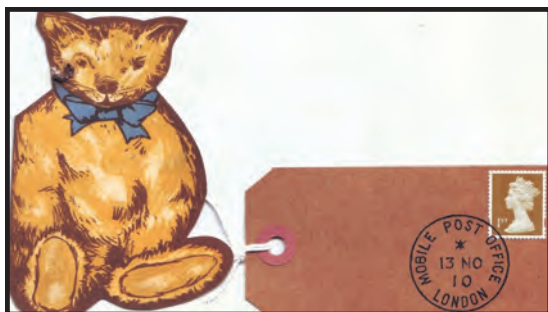
While societies are often seen as exclusive and forbidding, the Postal History Society welcomes new members, from absolute beginners to specialists in their fields. Whereas membership back in 1936 cost one guinea a year, which is now worth about £60, digital membership is only £15 per annum, a relative bargain which gives the collector access to an accumulated base of knowledge unrivalled in any other society. Whatever your period - from the 16th to the 21st century - and whatever your country, you can be assured of the warmest greeting when you join the world's oldest society devoted to postal history. Full details and an application form can be found on the website at

postalhistory.org.uk

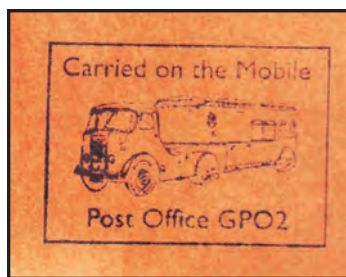
John Scott



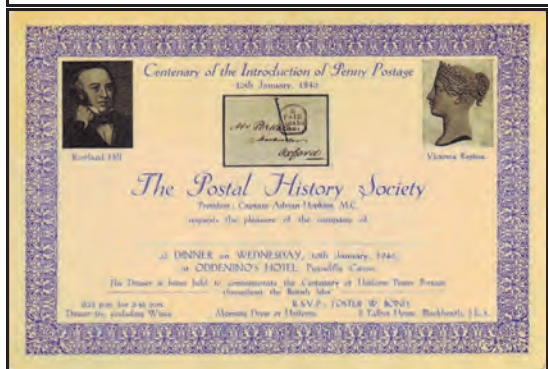
Members at the society's meeting in Bath in 1947



A reproduction Edwardian novelty card carried on GPO2 in the Lord Mayor's Show in 2010



The cachet applied to the reverse of the Bear card



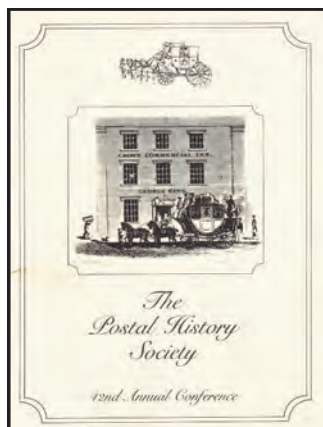
Invitation to the Society's Dinner in 1940 to mark the centenary of Uniform Penny Postage



The souvenir card issued to mark the King's Lynn Conference in 1962



The special postmark applied for the Knutsford Conference in 1983



The Lyndhurst programme in 1986 featured the Royal Mail outside the Crown Inn in Devizes.



The 107th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

4th to 6th September 2026
Jubilee Hotel and Conferences
Nottingham

www.gbcongress.uk

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

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

This year we are delighted to be sharing the venue with the ABPS National Competitive Exhibition. The Exhibition is open throughout the 3 days of Congress.

Our on-site accommodation is now all full, but there are a number of hotels nearby.

If you have never been to congress then come along for a full day of events.

Please visit www.gbcongress.uk or www.abps.org.uk where you can find booking details for day delegates as well as booking dinner and banquet tickets.

For more details please contact Mike Hoffman,
congress@abps.org.uk
www.abps.org.uk/philatelic-congress



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



ABPS National Competitive Exhibition Autumn 2026

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

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

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

The Exhibition is open throughout the three days of Congress.

Applications for entries at: <https://exhibitions.abps.org.uk>

Congress Information and Booking: <https://gbcongress.uk>

Congress Programme Highlights

Friday, 4th September 2026

- 9.30 am **Nottinghamshire Postal History:** Mick Gill
Midland Philatelic Federation
- John Walker, Gerald Marriner, Malcolm Hughes
History of Philatelic Congress of Great Britain
- Steven Harrison
- 2.00 pm **Official Opening of Congress**
The Kay Goodman Lecture
Richard Wheatley
The Congress Medallist Steve Harrison
Why Exhibit? Why Display?
- Andy Donaldson, Chris Harman
- 6.30 pm Drinks reception followed by an informal dinner
- 8.30 pm Four sheets to tell a story

Saturday, 5th September 2026

- 9.30 am **RDP Discussion Panel:** Lead by Chris King
The Next Generation of Philatelists
- 2.30 pm **The AGM of ABPS**
Philately as a Way of Life:
Richard Morel (British Library)
Are you afraid of the Philatelic Trade?
Simon Carson (PTS)
Competition Results
- 7.00 pm Drinks reception followed by the **Congress Banquet**
ABPS and FEPA Award presentations

Sunday, 6th September 2026

- 9.30 am **Local Societies Entertain: Not Just Stamps**
Notts Philatelic members present in a variety of styles
ABPS Societies Panel Discussion:
Membership Growth
- 12:30 pm Presentations and close of Congress

Visit www.abps.org.uk/philatelic-congress for tickets.



Obituary

Margaret Morris, FRPSL

1931 to 2026

It is with great sadness that the ABPS Awards Committee reports the death of Margaret Morris who passed away peacefully on 27th April.

Margaret received the Congress Medal in 2001 at Hereford and for some years was the Chair of the ABPS Awards Committee. Many recipients of the Medal chose Margaret to give their citation at the Congress Medal ceremony, which she was always delighted to do. She was a great supporter of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain and took a leading part on the organising committee when it was held in Renfrew in 2006.

Margaret was a great inspiration to thematic collectors; her own collecting interest was philately and postal history of astronomy which had formed the focus of her career. Often taking part in national and international exhibitions, Margaret won many awards.

Margaret was a founder of the British Thematic Association, acting as secretary and editor of that society's journal, *Themescene*. In 1994 she became President of the BTA a position she held until 2003. She was very active in Scotland serving as President of the Caledonian Philatelic Society and until her death was President of the Glasgow Thematic Society.

Helping and encouraging others with their collections gave her great joy and she gave many workshops to help collectors with their exhibition entries. She was especially supportive of new collectors.

Margaret was a collector most of her life giving many displays however far she had to travel. Her inspiration and hard work for philately will be very much missed.

Yvonne Wheatley

Chair ABPS Awards Committee



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.

ROYAL MAIL'S NEW PILLARBOXES

The red pillarbox, or postbox, has a varied history, with the author Anthony Trollope suggesting them in the 1850s whilst working as a surveyor's clerk for the Post Office. The design was standardised in 1859 when two sizes with a cylindrical shape, painted green, were settled upon. However, people complained that green was difficult to spot and, in 1874, the distinctive red colour was chosen to replace it, although it took 10 years to repaint them all! Over the years several types have been produced.

In April, 2025, Royal Mail announced a new “digitally-enabled” postbox of the future which was rolled-out in many cities from August 2025. It appears that existing pillar-boxes can be adapted to the new design, as well as new pillarboxes being made to the new design. The pillarbox, below, outside the Brooklands shops in Wellington, Telford, was adapted early in 2026. To use the latest sort, one needs the RM App and the ability to print-out a postage paid label with barcode. The main features of the new design are:

- It enables small parcels to be posted as well as letters, without the need to have a receipt of posting.
- The RM App may be used to obtain a label online with postage & barcode which may be scanned at the postbox to open the flap for a parcel or to obtain a receipt of posting for a letter/parcel. Stamps cannot be used.
- The top of the postbox has a solar panel to power the scanner. This means that knitted tops must not be put on the box!
- New services could be introduced later?

Richard Camp



New Style Postbox at the Brooklands, Wellington, Telford. (The box behind is a postman's bag box).



The front panel of the New Style Postbox as at the left. The handle at the top opens the larger parcel aperture.

The Royal's Awards for 2026

Each year awards are made by the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL): for 2026 a new medal was awarded for the first time.

When the Covid pandemic struck in 2020, the Royal, like many other organisations, started to provide presentations using Zoom. These still continue, alongside the more familiar 'in person' displays and presentations. The new medal, to be awarded annually for the best RPSL digital presentation, is known as The Frank Walton Medal.

Frank, who sadly died in 2022, was a past President of the Society and former Editor of its journal, *The London Philatelist*, and gave the first such presentation to the society on 23rd April 2020. The first recipient of the new medal is **Apratim Bhattacharya**, whose presentation was *Armed Struggle of Indian Independence – Indian Independence League in Japanese Occupied SE Asia*.

The other recipients in 2026 are as follows.

The Tapling Medal for the best article or supplement in *The London Philatelist* was awarded to **Abhishek Bhuwarka FRPSL** for his articles *Letters from Mauritius to Europe via India and Ceylon, 1843-1846*.

The Tilleard Medal for the best afternoon display given to the society went to **David Feldman FRPSL** for *Imperforate Classics of the World in Green*.

The Lee Medal for the best afternoon presentation went to **Bill Barrell FRPSL** for *Great Britain Postal Reform and the Development of the Penny Value*.

The London Medal for exceptional services to the society was awarded to **Richard West MBE, FRPSL** for publicity work with media, and to **Damian Devoy FRPSL** for work within the Philatelic Collections.

The Crawford Medal is awarded for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately in book form. It has been awarded to *New York City Foreign Mail 1845-1878 (Volume 1: 1845-1870)* by **Nicholas M Kirke FRPSL**.

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.



Rob May FRPSL

Postal History in the Digital Landscape

- 1) Dictionary definition of "Post" and consider the future of letter post. Soon to be as redundant as the stagecoach? The study of postal decline is a valid postal history topic.
- 2) Lack of digital preservation of contemporary electronic records (websites evolve and die, e-mails get deleted).
- 3) AI for good or ill?
- 4) Access to archives. The roles of philatelic societies and specialist libraries.
- 5) Finding aids and sources.
- 6) Preparing and marketing a digital publication.
- 7) Should on-line publications be freely available?
- 8) Promoting postal history on-line more widely. Is there a parallel interest with family history and genealogy?

The lecture will be followed by wine and light refreshments.

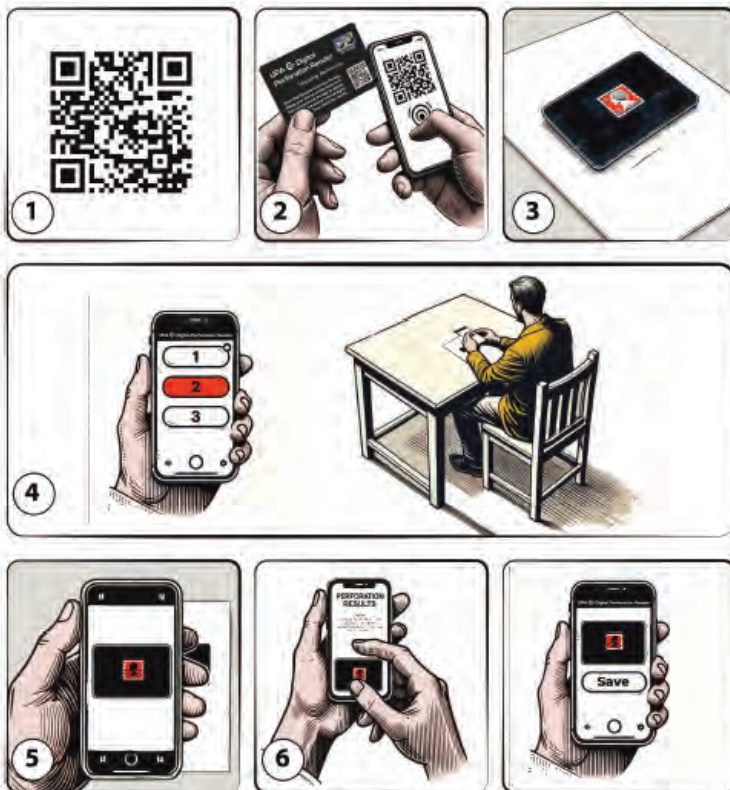
Free admission is only by ticket on application to:
James Podger FRPSL at pee-j-aggie-boo@ntlworld.com
Early application is advised

ABPS News, Autumn 2026

NEW: Digi-Perf-Reader from UPA VIP/DPR

Join us on the Journey

1. Start Now – Scan QR Code below:



8. ... Or if you wish to learn more first –

Read: Invest in **1st** Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) for Philately -
We did: thereby inventing DPR?

Visit: www.upastampauctions.co.uk ... select: **DPR**

Together: we're *Mapping Perforation*

NEW: Digi-Perf-Reader from UPA VIP/DPR

What is DPR? - a DPR is a DIGITAL PERFORATION READER, but a DPR is not a physical object, because it's a web-app on your Mobile Phone, enabled by the DPR card we'll mail/airmail you when you REGISTER.



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

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

Join us as we work to transform the way perforation is measured and understood. With your support, DPR 'default' is for personal private philatelic use only, but we aim to build a comprehensive library of images and data, facilitating global philatelic research and collaboration which you can elect to join and share as we grow DPR membership internationally on-line. Let's not just collect stamps; let's explore, learn, and innovate together, a catalyst to a brighter philatelic future:



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www.upastampauctions.co.uk/dpr

The Digital Bridge: Saving Our Societies One Grandchild at a Time

By *Colin Proctor*. Just a hobbyist

The survival of our local philatelic societies is often discussed in hushed, worried tones. We see the average age of our members rising and our meeting halls thinning. But the solution isn't just finding new "old" members; it's about inviting the next generation into our world through the language they speak: technology.

The Grandchild Connection.

Many of us have grandchildren who are "digital natives." They are wizards with a smartphone but may have never felt the thrill of identifying a rare perforation. We have the knowledge; they have the tech-savviness. If we don't show them why we enjoy this hobby now, we risk our collections, and our societies, fading away. By embracing tools, like the one I have developed, we can turn a solitary afternoon of cataloguing into a shared activity. Imagine asking a grandchild to "scan this" to find its value or origin. Suddenly, a dusty album becomes a high-tech treasure hunt.

Tools for Today's Club Leaders.

At StampLens, we are developing features specifically to help society leaders re-engage their members:

Interactive Club Quizzes: We've made it incredibly simple for leaders to create digital folders that can be exported as shareable PDFs. Imagine a club night where members (and their young helpers) compete to "Spot the Forgery" or "Identify the Rarity" using their phones.

Shared Society Accounts:

We are exploring "shared folders" where a society can upload new finds or mystery stamps. Members can then discuss them in a private, digital space between physical meetings, keeping the conversation alive all month long.

A New Way to Communicate:

By providing easy ways to share collection highlights via email and social media, we can ensure that our hobby is visible where the next generation is looking.

Action, Not Just Observation

The ABPS has recently highlighted that thriving societies are those that take "ACTION". By introducing these digital tools at your next meeting, you aren't just modernising; you are providing a way for your family to participate in your passion. Let's not wait for the next generation to "find" philately. Let's hand them the smartphone, show them the stamp, and build the bridge together.

➔ stampLens.co.uk

Please feel free to visit my website, it's 100% secure/private, that's why users have to login. Any feedback would be very much appreciated.

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



Plus - On display will be the entries for the

SURREY FEDERATION ANNUAL COMPETITIONS



Bookham Stamp Club

Invites you to our

STAMP FAIR

Saturday 21st November 2026

10am - 4pm

The Old Barn Hall, Church Road
Bookham, Surrey
KT23 3PQ

17 Dealers' Tables

ENTRY FREE

Tombola & Light Refreshments

Free Parking

For more information please visit
www.bookhamstampclub.com
or contact Peter White on **01932 345798**

Nostalgic Postcards.

BBC. ITMA. (It's that Man Again)

Raphael Tuck & Sons. ITMA Wisecrack Series.

By Keith Lillywhite



"It's that man again" Show Title



*"Can I do you now Sir"
Mrs Mopp (Dorothy Summer)*



*"Don't Forget the Diver"
The Diver (Horace Percival)*



*"I'll have to ask m'Dad.
Mark Time (Jack Train)*

Readers of a certain age may well remember listening to the very popular BBC Radio comedy programme ITMA that ran for twelve series broadcast between 1939 and 1949. In the central role, the programme had Tommy Handley, a popular comedian of that time, and a long list of character actors and actresses who with their ITMA Catchphrases were to become well-known in those troubled times. These included Jack Train and Horace Percival,++ who both were to play a variety of characters, Deryck Guyler, Molly Weir, Hattie Jacques, Sam Costa, Dorothy Summers, Maurice Denham and a host of others.

The success of the radio programme prompted the postcard publisher Raphael Tuck to issue, in 1945, sixteen ITMA Wisecrack Series Postcards drawn by the artist Bert Thomas with patriotic slogans (Fig 1-4), themed on the more well-known programme catchphrases. From the author's modest collection the

earliest postal use found of any of the series is July 1945 with the majority being August 1945.

Such was the popularity of these catchphrases with the public I well remember our cleaning lady putting her head round the lounge door and calling out in the style of Mrs Mopp to my older brother who was sleeping on the sofa (my visiting grandmother had his bedroom) "Can I do you now Sir". Happy Days.

After WWII a new series of ITMA Catchphrase Postcards were produced by Bert Thomas (Fig 5) this time without the wisecrack and patriotic wording. Also in this series were postcards with phrases like "lovely grub" and "strike me pink" which had been used by the troops and found their way into everyday language of that time

Acknowledgements: Wikipedia:
Picture Postcard Monthly Dec 1992
Article "Arf a mo Bert" (sic) Bert Thomas by
Jim Crawford



Olympic Games 1940

A promotional envelope for the 1940 Helsinki Games posted from Tallin in Estonia to Liverpool on 18th August, 1939 shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War some two weeks later. The front of the envelope shows the brand new Olympic stadium built in 1938 especially for the Games. The rear



shows images of the city of Helsinki. The 1940 games were originally awarded to Tokyo to be held in October, 1940 but were re-assigned to Helsinki to be held in July/August following Japan's invasion of China. The Helsinki games were cancelled because of the outbreak of war but were eventually held in 1952 following the London Games of 1948.

Viv Sandercock

Amersham and District Philatelic Society

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Local Societies

Banbury

Banbury Stamp Society is organising its bi-annual Festival of Stamps again this year with a major event to be held on Sunday 15th November 2026. It is a joint venture with the Midland Philatelic Federation and Thames Valley Philatelic Federation both hosting their annual competitions. The Fair and Conventions will take place at Blessed George Napier School, Springfield Avenue, Banbury, OX16 9JD from 10am to 4pm. The Fair will feature up to 20 dealers in stamps, postal history and postcards as well as members of the local stamp club. There will also be displays by the Banbury Stamp Society, TPO and SeaPost Society and the Stamp Active Network will welcome young visitors with free goodie bags and activities. The venue has free parking and refreshments will be available all day. Chairman, **Ian Grace**, commented "We will be pleased to welcome both novice and experienced collectors with something of interest for everyone. This has proved a very popular event and we are grasping the opportunity to again promote philately. It is a worthwhile, interesting and sociable hobby that is good for mental health and there is always something to learn." For more information, go to www.banburystampsociety.co.uk or contact John Davies at davies1890@btinternet.com

John Davies

Barnet and District

At our final meeting of the season on June 15th, we were admirably entertained, with excellent presentations from three visitors from Watford PS. First, **Martyn Ayto's** display of *Post and Go*, as well as telling the history, and showing the dispensing machines and stamps used, made very clear to us the great extent of all sorts of printing errors, that can readily occur. Next **Graham Walker** showed us a large selection of *Native American Place Names*, both on stamps and on covers. Finally, after the interval, **Steve Birch** gave a fascinating display of the very many issues released by both sides, related to *Spanish Civil War*. These



Steve Birch with his Spanish Civil War

presentations were naturally very different, but each was a display of rare and specialised material, so together highlighting the very different forms that our hobby can take. At our previous meeting, the AGM, we agreed to change our name to The Barnet and District Philatelic and Postcard Society to more accurately represent the interests we cover. We've always had meetings and competitions related to postcards, but by including them in the title, we hope to generate more interest. We also decided, that with a diminishing number of members attending meetings, and continuing cost increases, we are no longer able to support a fortnightly meeting, so from September, we will meet only monthly. This will be on the

third Monday, with a break in July and August.

Steve Fraser

Basildon

Meetings in May and June were both for members' displays. In May **Garry Green** opened proceedings with some *Stamp Issues of Alderney*. **Len Stanway** followed with *Postcards of Malaya*, the majority showing the construction and features of the Penang Hill Railway and its brief predecessor. After tea, **Charlie Mead** showed the *"Paid in Cash" Handstamps of Fiji* and the subsequent introduction of meter marks for larger businesses and post office counters. The following month **Garry Green** began again but this time with *2006 Alderney Booklet Panes showing Seabirds*. **Mark McShane** followed with three displays, the first being the *1954 Issues Marking the Silver Jubilee of Stamps on Lundy*. He followed with postcards and postmarks from the *Prague Reich Arbeitsdienst Art Exhibition of 1944*, and ended with *Airmails and Aerogrammes from the Philippines*. **Brian Tett** showed us *Gibraltar issues from 1935 to 1974*. **Alf Mead** closed the first half with *Postcards showing US Marine Corps Uniforms, backwards from 1985 to 1775*. After the break, **Len Stanway** showed *Issues of the United Nations Postal Administration from 2022 to 2025*. At the AGM the only change was **Ian McElwain** has, once again, taken over as Programme Secretary.

Fly on the Wall

Bristol

We have had seven speakers present on the following: *The Belgian Congo*, *A WWI Miscellany*, *Ethiopia*, *Mint GV West Indies* and *North Borneo Revisited*. Whilst local presenters covered *Inland Airmails* by **A Phillips** of Newport, *Fiji's Covers* and finally *Perfins*. All so varied and not to everyone's particular niche but very wide and for me always something to go away and think about. It is the PASSION of these specialists that we learn from and the very wide coverage – like a Sunday Newspaper Supplement but strangely missing the Sport, Food

and Advertising elements – perhaps a theme for future consideration? The geography and history should appeal to so many more and to this end at our AGM we hope next year to drive our hobby to a wider audience with renewed vigour – hope this comes about under our newly elected president **Ron Gillard**. So thank you to our speakers **Julian Frost, Graham Mark, Norman Elston, Phil Stevens, Colin / Carol Harris, Carol Turner, Roy Bentley, Martyn and Margaret**. And, of course, our programme manager **Ian Spencer** who should also be remembered for his work on our Open Auction in April. Thank you. Ian also came away with two wins at the recent Wiltshire & District Federation 9-page competition, winning the Revenue Trophy and the Cinderella Award. There is just one more meeting left to end this season – members' *Something Interesting* and bourse. The new season starts with our visit to Newport in September.

Robert de Smit

Burnley and District



The Winners

We are now in a recess for the summer beginning again on September 3rd with an open night and displays by members of their *Latest acquisitions* purchased over the period. We always look forward to the unexpected on the night as collecting is wide ranging. The July York fair is always a great opportunity to find new items and to socialise with other society members and is a rewarding experience after rummaging through shoeboxes. Our final meeting prior to shutdown was our AGM which was well attended and our current president consented to another year and we also had a

vice president come forward for the following season. We are now in our 82nd year as a society but several members are also of similar age; fortunately the society is in good hands with the “younger” element. The syllabus for next year is well in hand and it is always gratifying that speakers are prepared to travel out of region and visit and progress our hobby. Thank you to them. *Barry W Evans*

Cambridge

Our April meeting was the second of our competition evenings. During the judging **Tony Crowther** gave a very detailed and comprehensive display of *The Scottish Additional Half Penny Mail Tax*. **Jamie Smith** presented the April Zoom display covering *West Africa Frontier Post from 1895 to the Beginning of WWI*, which included both outgoing mail to the UK and parts of Europe and incoming mail to ships and bases. The May meeting was a slide show presentation undertaken by **Hugh Feldman** which covered *Mail Coach Routes in East Anglia*. This was a very interesting and detailed commentary on the subject. The May Zoom meeting saw **Jack Penfold**, based in Canada, present a fascinating and unusual presentation on *The Australia 1d Red King George V Head Line Engraved Issue of 1913-1914*. The start of Jack's research was taken from the

details set out in the book written by Dormer Legge on the subject, with further analysis undertaken by Jack. We will continue with a face-to-face meeting in Cambridge, at Oddfellows Hall, on the first Wednesday each month and also a Zoom presentation on the third Friday each month.

Peter Morton

Chichester & District

We recently welcomed guest speaker **Peter White** from Surrey with his



Russell Smith and Peter White

excellent display *Monaco 1885-1956*. His first item was a complete set of Charles III (Charles Honore Grimaldi) issued 1st July 1885. He continued with a marvellous set of scarce Zeppelin covers; all sent from Marseilles for onward delivery as Monaco has no airport. Also interesting was a first flight cover to Bamako, South Sudan via Algiers. Next was a full set of Postage Due stamps from May 1946 and a miniature sheet of Prince Louis II from 1947. He also showed many First Day Covers concerning the accession to the throne of Prince Rainier III in 1949. His full title is Rainier Louis Henri Maxence Bertrand Grimaldi. The marriage of Prince Rainier to Grace Kelly on 18th April 1956 was hot news internationally. Again, Peter provided colourful covers of this. Two other

philatelic subjects were the 1953 Helsinki Olympics and the 26th Monte Carlo Rally in 1956. Annie Soisbault was one of the finest women racers in the 1950s and she featured as a backup driver in this rally. It was won by Ronnie Adams (Northern Ireland), Frank Bigger (Ireland), and Derek Johnston (Scotland) driving a Jaguar Mark VII saloon. They were the top finishers in a field of some 351 drivers. Peter displayed his knowledge on his theme and his enthusiasm shone through. All members thanked him for a fine evening of philately. We welcome new members. → <https://chichesterps.wixsite.com/chichesterps> or email our secretary chichesterps@yahoo.com

Martha Brown

Croydon

In June **Oscar Young** spoke about *The Life and Times of Stanley Gibbons*. Oscar provided a very entertaining and informative presentation on the life of Stanley Gibbons and the company he created. Born in 1840, Stanley began buying and selling stamps as a teenager using part of his father's pharmacy premises. After his father's death the pharmacy business was sold and Stanley concentrated on his philatelic business which became the world famous Stanley Gibbons Ltd. The company moved to its current 399 Strand address in 1981, correspondence is still being sent to 391! Our July speaker was **Grace Davies** who presented her thematic collection on *Peace*. Grace had a wealth of material including stamps, postcards, covers, photographs to illustrate aspects of her presentation. There were many topics all related to Peace and all carefully

written up. The following were covered by the display: *The Boer War and Post-WWI*; *Post-WWII* including New Zealand and Great Britain; *South American Peace Conferences and Treaties*; *The Peace Movement*; *The League of Nations and the United Nations*; *Peace & Justice*; *The Names of Hotels which include Peace*; *Symbols for Peace* such as pigeons and doves; *A Miscellaneous Section including the World Peace Jubilee*; *Nobel Peace Prize* including famous people who have not been awarded it, such as Ghandi, Picasso and Einstein. It was a very enjoyable display and Grace was thanked by president **Richard West** for her wide-ranging and interesting material.



Richard with Grace Davies

Dawlish

At our meeting in the Manor House on 13th May members were enthralled by two displays of *Cyprus Postal History* by **Jim Wigmore**. The first display was of material that carried *Cancellations from Cyprus Government Railway Stations* after travelling on the railway. Such items are very rare and were backed up with screen displays of other aspects of the railway that were shown on stamps and via photographs taken by Jim. The second display was about *Publicity Hand Stamps* that were applied to mail leaving the island in the years between 1935 and 1940. These hand-applied stamps were CYPRUS FOR A HOLIDAY, CYPRUS ORANGES and VISIT CYPRUS. They were only applied for short periods in the years stated. Some are very rare. The membership were most appreciative of this amazing display. Visitors are always welcome to meetings. Information about the club or its meetings can be found on the club's website or by calling 01626 864844.

Jim Wigmore

Frinton

On the 11th May **Graham Wylde** from Cambridge entertained members with a superb display entitled *GB Line Engraved*, covering the classic 1d black, 2d blue and 1d red issues. He began by explaining how these stamps were engraved and then showed his 16 sheets winning display in the East of England competition, covering plate 1 of the penny black, some with re-entries or partial doubling of the design. The first cover shown was of a penny black dated May 8th 1840, only two days after the first day of issue. Then came various later plates of the 1d black, some repaired or with recognised flaws, followed by a lovely 9-



Graham Wylde receives his certificate

sheet display of 2d blues, plates 1 and 2, and then 1841 2d blues with white lines added. Despite Maltese cross postmarks never being intended to differ, Graham showed several varieties. In the second half of his display Graham showed the progression of the 1d red from imperforate to perforated, first perf 16 then 14 and a change of die and watermarks as well as the introduction of letters in all four corners. Graham's display included rarities such as a 1d red plate 22 small crown on cover where only one other is known. He ended showing the development of postmarks from Maltese crosses to the first dating on covers plus some humorous contents of some Victorian letters. An extremely interesting and entertaining display. For further information visit frintonphilatelic.com or contact David Pugh 01255 429849

Steve Alpe

Guildford

In February, **Simon Burke FRPSL** presented *The Oil Rivers Protectorate*, summarising the philatelic and political history of the territory established in 1884 to control the Palm Oil trade with examples of postal stationery and stamps. In addition, he exhibited *Penny Farthing Post*, outlining the evolution of rates, late fees etc. Simon also displayed *£10 Stamps* and *Valentines*, including a delicate "beehive" card. In March, **Mark Bailey FRPSL** showed examples of stamps and covers issued by numerous countries, from Bulgaria to the USA, to celebrate *Expo '58' in Brussels*, which comprised 150 pavilions from 52 countries. His display included slogan postmarks, publicity cards, cigar bands and a postcard of the iconic Atomium. In April, **Chris King RDP, Hon. FRPSL** presented *Anglo-Danish Mail*, illustrating the complexities prior to the 1846 Postal Treaty and UPU. He explained how this involved different currencies, imperial/metric weights and sometimes three units of distance. Chris described how the European wars led to modified routes and the impact of the railway. **Birthe King RDP, FRPSL** presented *Denmark in WWII*, showing examples from the anti-war



Birthe and Chris King with Susan Taylor

movement and material printed by the Danish Nazi Party and collaborators. She illustrated how different groups of people were interned as WWII progressed, e.g. British Citizens and Resistance Fighters. Birthe

explained how some Danish Jews fled to Sweden avoiding internment on Yom Kippur 1943 and concluded with the impact of WWII on her father's family in Northern Jutland. Our AGM in May was followed by a Caribbean Quiz and

displays entitled *One Sheet and Poem*. Offerings ranged from Stephenson, Roos, Samuel Cody, Cats and Herons to *The Soldier* by Rupert Brooke. Our new season starts with *North Borneo* on 9th September, followed by *GB Overprints and Underprints* on 14th October. → www.spanglefish.com/guildfordstampclub.
Rob Cooke

Harrogate



Peter Rix, also having won the PG Walker Owl

We have had only two full meetings (and a very good end-of-season dinner) since the last report. **Mike Wilesmith** and **Peter Rix** joined in April to show *A Local Miscellany* and *Australian Airmails*. It is always good to see what members have been collecting and are ready to display. The final meeting was our AGM and Charity Auction - the latter resulted in over £300 for St Martin's Children's Hospice. During the AGM competition winners received our acclaim and their trophies. As usual the call was for more entries. Our monthly Monday afternoon meetings continue with a steady small number enjoying a social get-together and the opportunity to see small selections from individuals' findings, mini-collections or what they have been recently working on. Our Zoom meetings also continue as we work through our

strange titles. Try displaying on *Sausage Roll*, *World Environment*, *Back to the Future* and soon *Macbeth*. We have done and turned in some brilliant lateral thinking to match the title to our own collections. We get between 15 and 25 to each meeting – others will be very welcome.

→ harrogateps@gmail.com

Keith Burton

Huddersfield

In April, **Julian Tweed** presented *GB Express Mail*, from its introduction in 1891 through to 1980 (when special delivery was introduced). He included express mail sent overseas, and sent from abroad to GB.

Geoff Blackwell presented on *Photography in Philately* in May, covering the history of photography through stamps. Geoff explained how the first stamps based around a photograph were the Downey Head issues for George V which, of course, proved to be quite unpopular with the king. In June we held our AGM and had a series of members' displays. **Philip**



Julian Tweed in Express Mail Flow

Smith gave a display about *Henry VIII*, highlighting the Tudor ship, the Mary Rose and Henry's six wives. **Brian Wilkinson** celebrated *World Oceans Day* (8th June) and the protection of our marine environment and also *Bounty Day* (also 8th June), a major holiday in the Norfolk Islands, commemorating the arrival in 1856 of 194 Pitcairn islanders, descendants of the mutineers from HMS Bounty. **Charles Squire** showed *A Few GB Covers from QEII*, including overprints. **Graham Winters** focused on *Ceylon* with stamps from George V and, particularly, a display celebrating the Silver Jubilee. **Adrian Lee** showed a complete collection from the *United States of the Ionian Islands* – they only issued three stamps – highlighting how these stamps were heavily forged. **Tony Plumbe** presented *Express Mail from Nigeria*, which officially started in 1958, although Tony was able to produce an example from 1957. ➔ jondtaylor3@gmail.com for further details. Jon Taylor

Hull

In April, our guest speaker was **Michael Waugh**, who entertained and educated us with a display of *Siam*, an area with which we were all unfamiliar philatelically. He gave us a very interesting history, tracing the development of the postal service from the establishment of the British Consular Post Office in Bangkok in 1858. May brought **Edith** and **Rodney Knight**, showing *Spanish Tapas* and *Sahara and Ifni* respectively. We always enjoy dipping into Edith's varied mix of Spanish material, ranging from pre-1900 postal history to early American tourism and the Spanish Civil War to mining and railways. The Spanish Overseas Province of Ifni was a mystery to most of us until Rodney led us through the chequered history of the area, showing many attractive mid-century stamps before expressing disillusionment with later issues (not shown) as "A lot of rubbish stamps not in Gibbons"! Having seen **Graham Winters'** display of *Yorkshire, My Adopted County* when he gave the Frank Walton memorial lecture at Sheffield recently, it was a pleasure to have more time to enjoy this compilation of all things Yorkshire, which ranges from penny black covers and postal history to postcards, presented, as always,



Michael Waugh shows the way to Siam

ABPS accredited judges

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with knowledge and humour. We awaited **Gwynne Harries'** visit with curiosity, and his display, *A Cornucopia of Stuff* was well appreciated by the members. To find out what his cornucopia contains, just invite Gwynne to your own society!

Daphne McMillan

King's Lynn

Zoom meetings continue to attract members and guests, with **James Wigmore's** *The Cyprus Government Railway* but they were disappointed that they would have to wait a little longer to see **Mark Bailey's** display with the intriguing title *Putting Together Pieces of the Puzzle*. **Mike Kentzer** stepped in with an excellent trio of displays on *Free Mail to 1840*, *King's Lynn Mileage Marks* and *Mail Relating to Napoleon*. **Paul Bush** gave a very informative and entertaining display *That Railway Thing* on 10th April, consisting of modules of what interests him in railways. Illustrated with early postcards of stations and steam engines, cachets, stamps, miniature sheets, covers, first day covers, photographs, North Yorkshire Moors Railway issue stamps to raise revenue, comedy postcards and railway ephemera, the display also gave the history of Sir Nigel Gresley, his mascot, the WI locomotive and a superb set of paintings on covers. A change to the programme gave members an opportunity to share their varied interests



Paul Bush being thanked by president Donald Birdseye

with subjects such as: *Scarborough Postal History from 1655 to 1840*; *Meter Marks from Companies and Other Organizations in Cambridge*; *Picture Postcards from 1900s to the 1990s*; *Mulready Envelopes and some of the Caricatures Ridiculing them*; *KEVII Morocco Agencies Stamps*; *1961 Issue of North Borneo, the Independence Issue of Sabah and Sabah 1961 Provisional Overprints*; *Postal History of Gough Island Post Office*; *Spitfire 90th Anniversary and Scouts and Scouting*; *Stamps and Covers from around the World*. The season concluded with the AGM and an auction.

Dahlia Harrison

Launceston

At the May meeting there was a one-to-three-page members' competitive display using the letters *D*, *E* and *F* judged by the members. There were six entries. First off the rank was **Viv Sandercock** with *Dick's Engines of Fire* which showed covers, a postcard and stamps all with a Richard Trevithick theme. Next

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was **Terry Mounce** who displayed a *Passport from 1818 which was issued to a Diplomat for travel in Europe as a Free pass*. **David Richards** followed with a specialised showing of farthing stamps and covers from Dominica in the West Indies which he entitled *Dominica's Elusive Farthings*. **Brian Whyte** displayed a selection of French stamps which featured French stamp designers and engravers. He had selected stamps either designed or engraved by *Decaris, Eve Luquet and Forget*. It was pleasing to see **Paul Lloyd** entering a display for the first time with a selection of items on boats more particularly *Dhows, Elizabeth (the Queen) and Flying boats*. Paul's items included items on the Queen Elizabeth and the Dornier Do X flying boat. **Dave Hatwell** showed a postcard of *Delabole Quarry* written in 1915 by a steam roller driver to his mother. Steam roller drivers were often away from home for periods and towed a caravan behind the roller. When the displays were finished members voted as follows - 3rd **Dave Hatwell**, 2nd **Paul Lloyd** and 1st **Viv Sandercoc**k. Viv was presented with a small gift by **Rex Eccott**.
Viv Sandercoc

Leeds

We enjoyed a varied programme in Spring up to our AGM on 28th May. An auction night was excellent, run by **Nigel Grizzard**, followed by a Zoom presentation by **Janet** and **Nick Nelson** on *Brazilian Postal Stationery*, postal cards, letter cards and more. **Geoff Blackwell** shared his passion for *Photographic Philately* showing the history of photography. Many famous photographers have been commemorated in stamps. **Nick Levinge** shared many covers from *George V 1935 Silver Jubilee Tour*. An interesting title *From Ugly Duckling to Swan, GB IR Stamps* from **Gordon Hardy** explained about the taxes on various items: medicines, gaming, playing cards etc to fund war efforts. He told us about the background to



Gordon in full flow

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dyes for stamps. We ended our philatelic year with our AGM and some wonderful philatelic advertising at work. A quiz provided much amusement too. We look forward to meeting socially mid-August and our Autumn meetings begin on 8th September. All are welcome. Our annual philatelic fair is on November 21st & 22nd.

Liz Schweiger

Lostock

We opened our May meeting with one minute's silence in respect for the recent passing of our dear friend and member **Alan Butterworth**. Alan had been a member for many years and managed to give a talk displaying his own collections of selected British stamps before his health prevented him from attending. In May our visiting speaker was **Mark Everis** from the Burnley Philatelic Society who gave a very informed talk and display entitled *Siberia and the Far East*. Our June speaker was **Barry Evans** with his detailed talk *150 years of UPU*. Attendance has improved since our change to meeting on the first Tuesday of each month 1pm until 3pm.

David Morley

Maidenhead & District

2026 started with **Tony Stanford** presenting *The Will Paine Collection*, followed by a night of *Your Latest Acquisitions*. In February we saw a presentation by **Neil Sargent** on *The Countries that made Rhodesia and Nyasaland*, then an evening on *QEII*. In March **David Walker** presented *Admiral Byrd - Arctic and Antarctic Explorer* and we ended the first quarter with an open evening. April began with **Tony Stanford** presenting *Ireland's 1922 transition* and next came the AGM. Looking forward we have presentations by **Hugh Osborne** on *South Georgia*, **Lorraine Maguire** on *Aspects of New Zealand* and our own **Rex Dixon** on *Germany DDR*. On the membership side of things, our president set up a Facebook account – Maidenhead & District Philatelic Society and next we're going to look into running an event like the superstars at Macclesfield.

David Smith

Maidstone & Mid Kent

Another season has now finished; really where has the last ten months gone. We have held twenty evening and eight morning meetings and have enjoyed a good variety of subjects. Covering our last quarter for the remaining evening meetings **Phil Clarke**'s first of two visits covered the *War Tax Issues of the Commonwealth*. This was followed by **Peter Cockburn**'s entry for the forthcoming Boston (USA) competitions with *Ceylon Revenues* which with Peter's superb knowledge of this subject kept us all enthralled. We understand he was awarded a Large Gold with over 95 marks. Our final visitor for the season was **Tom Smith** from the nearby Ashford Kent PS. He gave a display of **Stamp Printers of GB Stamps** which we all found interesting. This was Tom's first ever major display to another society and was very professionally put across. We have also held our Biannual Auction and AGM. For the two morning meetings we have experienced a *Postal History Journey along the Kent Coast from Dungeness to Hythe* by **Robert Uden** which most of our members know

well. We are looking forward to part 2 next season. For our other morning meeting we welcomed back **Phil Clarke** this time for a *Tour of the United Nations*. The new season starts on the 10th September for the evening meetings and the 17th September for the morning meeting. Both will be members' displays. Brian Stonestreet

Mid Sussex

We completed a very successful second half of the season, with attendance frequently nearing 20 and members enjoying excellent displays from visiting speakers and club members. Our president, **John Bushell** entertained at our first meeting after Christmas with a display of the *Chilean Antarctic*. Displays by visiting speakers followed; **David Hilton** with *VE and VJ Day*, **Chris and Birthe King** showing *A Danish Pot-Pourri*, **Alan Hall** with *New Zealand Health Stamps*, **Bill Headley** with *Communications in the Venice Republic* and finally two displays presented on the same afternoon, **David Milsted** showing *WWI War Tax Stamps* and **Andrew Harris** *St Kitts Nevis*. These were interspersed with displays given by club members and included **Sean Partridge** displaying *Romania*, a country not previously viewed by our members, a comprehensive display of *Mulreadys* by **Norman Sanson** and one afternoon display provided by a number of members under the heading *Islands and Peninsulas*. Members also had the opportunity to buy and sell at our annual auction and bourse. After a summer break, we reconvene at the beginning of September. Jim Etherington

Middlesbrough & District

In April our president **Ken Mitchell** took us *Down the River Tees*. He introduced the topic as he had seen displays of the Tyne and the Wear but never the Tees so he thought it deserved similar treatment. The display covered three areas: Upper, from source to Barnard Castle; Middle, from Barnard Castle to Darlington and Lower, from Darlington to the outskirts of Yarm. The conurbations of Darlington, Stockton and Middlesbrough were omitted. The display centred round the history, geography and postmarks of the settlements along the river as well as those lying on or near the tributaries of the main river such as the River Greta, Langley Beck, Clow Beck and River Skerne. He included many early



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Further details: Kevin Dillistone:
[***Dillyboy4744@gmail.com***](mailto:Dillyboy4744@gmail.com)

penny posts and undated circles but he stressed that most of the settlements were small and marks difficult or impossible to find - many having only been recorded in the proof books. Later marks were also not commonly found in good condition as more of the mail was sent to be serviced at the Head Office of Darlington. The display was enhanced by the added interest of anecdotes and stories about the people, industry and transport along the route. We have a new meeting venue for the season starting on 23rd September. This is at Langdon Square Community Centre, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough TS8 0TF. Visitors and prospective members most welcome on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:30pm.

Barry Burns

Norfolk and Norwich

Our penultimate meeting of the season saw a welcome visit from three leading members of the Ipswich Philatelic Society. Our visitors introduced several attractive displays, reciprocating for an NNPS visit to a recent Ipswich meeting. **Kevin May** showed *British Honduras* and then **Steve Teuma** showed *Early Suffolk Postal History*. Not to be outdone, **Andy Soutar** displayed both *Germany 2pf. Usages* and *Greece 1941 to 1954 issues*. At our AGM during late June, **Peter Boyce** was chosen as president for the year, but gallantly agreed to also continue as treasurer. **David McIntosh** will continue to serve but as vice-president. Other officers will continue in post, while **Michael Stronge** will become our librarian.

Chris Southgate

NW Kent

In April, we welcomed **Raymond How** who fascinated us with his display and stories of *Law & Order* - the development and tales of the police from an ex-officer. On 12th May **Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins** returned with his enthralling *Serbia Collection* from Pre-stamp to modern and the development of the country and its postal history. It was our president **Philip Clarke**'s turn to show on 26th May. He chose *Early to modern British Postal Rates*, displaying a variety of printed covers and explained the introduction of postcards and registered mail. Early in June we welcomed **Robert Prentice** with his fascinating *Naval Military Post* with a great variety of letters; ranging from 18th Century stores requisition to enquiries into the sale of prize ships. In the 19th Century were letters from Wellington, Lord Raglan and Sir John French; a letter requesting the purchase of a commission. Onwards to the 20th Century and the story of the rescue by Royal Navy evacuation in 1919 of Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna, born Princess Dagmar of Denmark, Mother of Tsar Nicholas II. After the Bolshevik takeover she remained in the Crimea, refusing to abandon wounded soldiers and loyal civilians. In April 1919, the Royal Navy battleship HMS *Marlborough* evacuated her from Yalta, along with about 80 Romanov relatives and staff. She occupied the Captain's cabin during the voyage to Constantinople and then Malta, before settling permanently in Denmark where she died in 1928.

John Sinfield

Just 33 current local or specialist societies and federations have never sent me a report in my 13¾ years. Last chance in October - what a good way to go!

Oxford

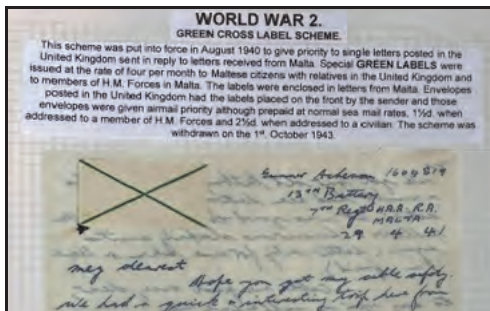
The Club Auction always offers many interesting lots at modest cost and the largest attendance of the season (including members who we normally only know as names on the packet). This year's auction in March was no exception, and it made a record profit for central funds, equivalent to having fifteen extra members. In April, members displayed up to a frame on *Railways and Trains*, covering many countries, a variety of engines and rolling stock as well as Travelling Post Offices. In May, my presidential display examined the fascinating *Postal History of the City of Aba in South-East Nigeria*, whose initial postal service in colonial times reached its height in the 1950s and 60s and then declined significantly as electronic communication swept in. Our AGM in June showed how active and engaged are the officers and members of the society. For example, the recent introduction of bank transfers, rather than cheques, has modernised the payment of packet bills and subscriptions. Keeping in the shade while we coolly do our philately remains the key task of the coming summer months.

Dr Simon Heap

Peterborough

Summer Term started by showcasing the collecting interests of two of our members. First, a personal story from **Val Molyneux**, recounting her journey in collecting *Music on Stamps*, from the very first stamp purchased to the developed collection displayed today. Secondly a comprehensive collection of *Netherlands Child Welfare Stamps* displayed by our president, **Angela Cooper**. Next, our Malta specialist, **Alan Bannister**, treated us to a huge variety of *Maltese Postal History*, including Village post office covers, police office and

Paquebot mail, WWI prisoner and disinfected mail, WWII military post offices and instruction markings. In our next meeting we were entertained by **Dahlia Harrison** who provided us with a very interesting and beautiful display portraying many aspects of *France*. Highlights included Lyon through postcards, a tour of Paris, the postal service and railway stations, detailed studies of the Sower and Marianne definitives and the stamp designs of Jules Piel. This latter section included many high-quality enlarged images of



Part of the WWII display

individual stamps which enabled us to appreciate the intricate detail of these miniature works of art. Our End of Term gathering was a members' afternoon focusing on the letters *U* and *V*. Exhibits included a display of *Anniversaries marking the Introduction of the Universal Penny Post* from **Brian Scotney**, a *Postal History of Upper Silesia* by **Alan Berrisford** and *Around the World with Countries beginning with U and V* from **Colin Thorpe**.

Paul Boswall

Poole & Bournemouth

The first June meeting topic was the *History of Music Through Stamps*. The exhibit traced the evolution of world music, from the early period to the modern music of today. The exhibitor displayed a selection of material that documents not only the composers themselves but also the technical innovations in instruments (from 'then' to 'now',) manufacturing and the social history of the concert hall. By incorporating diverse philatelic elements—including commemorative issues, postal stationery, and unique cancellations—the display illustrated how postal authorities have historically celebrated musical heritage.

The exhibitor began by delving into Apollo, the god of music (stamp of Czechoslovakia) and St Cecilia, the Patron Saint of Music and Musicians, showing stamps of France, Vatican and special postmarks from the now defunct Philatelic Music Circle. The following material was on show; Beethoven, Chopin, Mozart and many other European, American and South American composers and musicians; male tenors, which included a cover signed by Beniamino Gigli,



and many female sopranos from around the world, Maria Callas being the exhibitor's favourite. Musical instruments, from the very early to modern, followed by Folk and Popular music were covered. A cover signed by Joan Baez was shown. The exhibitor acknowledged that the material on show barely scratched the surface of the topic. He encouraged anyone interested in Music philately to join [https://](https://www.motivgruppe-musik.com/en/musikus/)

[www.motivgruppe-](https://www.motivgruppe-musik.com/en/musikus/)

[musik.com/en/musikus/](https://www.motivgruppe-musik.com/en/musikus/) an excellent worldwide group issuing magazines written in German, English and French. The event ended with the exhibitor showing an *Orchestra of Stamps* on a design created by a friend in NZ.

Rick Wilmot

Rochdale

At our May meeting, our annual competition was undertaken to win this year's Trophy for the best members' presentation. Our first competitor displayed *1935 GB Specimen Stamps*. He showed examples of common printing errors such as short or long flagstaves and lightening conductors. Next to take the stage was a *French Covers Collection from WWI Hospitals* in barges, trains, temporary and military, together with pictures. Our New Zealand specialist showed material from the Pigeon Post Service between Auckland and Great Barrier Island, 65 miles off shore of the north island. This was instigated in 1898 because of a

shipwreck with many deaths on Great Barrier Island which then had no means of communication to the main island. Stamps depicting *Animals from Malaysia* living on the many islands in the archipelago were then shown. It was noted that one stamp with a Rhino on was in fact at London Zoo. Another display covered many *Penny Black and Twopenny Blue Stamps* as depicted on postcards and material from exhibitions and advertising material. Finally we had a tour of *Islands around the World* and their philatelic history. Peter Grimshaw

Royal Sutton Coldfield

Over the course of the season, we had regular attendances of fifteen members or more, allowing for a good social environment. The first April meeting with the title *Stamps or Postal History?* gave a wide-open choice for our members to display. There were efforts to show the superiority of stamps, but other members did push for postal history. One member couldn't make up his mind so showed stamps and postal history! For our next meeting one of our long-time members, **Michael Chapling**, gave us an informative and excellent display of *Motor Sport*. A very popular topic with our members. In early May with the title *Obscure but Interesting*, members had evidently been searching through boxes of material, long put away and barely remembered. The displays shown included a collection of stamps that could have been used as pub signs! After the formal part of our Annual General Meeting in May, presentations were made to all the members who had won the different categories in our 9-sheet competitions held earlier in the season. We were also entertained with a display of the different uses of registered mail. In June, members gave us displays of postcards - amusing and serious, old and new; those from around the world and those closer to home. We continue with monthly meeting in July and August, looking forward to the new season starting in September. Margaret Langley

Salisbury and District

After a history of just over 130 years our society almost folded at its recent AGM. I fear a similar problem for a number of local philatelic clubs – a shortage of volunteers to fill essential committee posts. Probably the most critical post being that of secretary; the beating heart of a society. We were extremely fortunate that **Mike Moody** came back out of retirement to fill the post. He is one of life's natural organisers with great energy and enthusiasm. So, after this Summer break we can look forward to a full programme for the new season starting on the 9th September with our traditional *Recent Acquisitions*. During this summer break we had a success at the recent Federation 9-Sheet Competitions. **Paul Latham-Warde**



Paul Latham-Warde receiving the Federation Traditional Trophy

won the Traditional Class with an entry looking at *The Stamps issued in 1932 that celebrated the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington*.

➔ www.salisburyphilately.org.uk

Paul Latham-Warde

Sheffield

The March Zoom meeting was on *Minisheets*. There was a vigorous discussion about what constituted a minisheet. Five members gave displays. The next meeting was competition hand-ins and members' displays on *Amphibians*. The final March meeting was the Frank Walton Memorial Display by **Graham Winters** with *Yorkshire, My Adopted County*. This covered some very early material along with a variety of different types of postmarks from around the county. The April Zoom meeting was by **Jean Alexander** with *Supermarket Philately Part II* on Royal Mail promotions intended to increase sales of booklets and other gifts. The next meeting was a members' *Roundtable Discussion on Thematics*. This led to a lively, varied and wide-ranging discussion on what was Thematic, Topical or even Contextual Philately. The Barry Knowles Commemorative Display was by **Mike Lewis** on *The Stockton and Darlington Railway*. In a well-documented talk, Mike described the origins and development of the first railway. Using maps, pictures, tickets, letters and other ephemera. The May Zoom meeting was by **Peter Webb** with *French India*. A very comprehensive and well-illustrated talk on the five French possessions on the Indian sub-continent using maps, charts, covers, stamps, etc. We held our 131st Annual General Meeting plus members' displays on *Music and Dance*. This produced some very interesting displays. The final meeting in May was a change to the programme with an impromptu members' displays of *Interesting Items*. This produced eight displays.

Richard Hindle

Solihull

In April we completed a successful year at our new venue, the Blossomfield Club. The switch to daytime meetings and a new, more accessible, venue has boosted average attendances to just under 30. In March and April, we were entertained to a display on *Luxembourg*, by **Nick Martin**; a subject not previously shown at Solihull. Another outstanding display on the subject of



Viewing Eric Hutton's display of Mauritius

Mauritius was made by **Eric Hutton**. Finally, a different but entertaining and, at times, amusing take on the subject of *Christmas* by **Julian Bagwell**. The season closed with a philatelic quiz set by member **Alan Godfrey**. However, that wasn't quite the end of the season as through the summer we meet monthly to exchange circuit boxes, peruse auction catalogues whilst enjoying an alcoholic beverage at a CAMRA Good Beer listed local cricket club. *Dr Iain Wells*

Southampton & District

Our Zoom meeting at the end of May was a very interesting talk by **Margaret Emerson** on the 1953-4 *Royal Coronation Tour* which showed the ingenuity of philatelists along the route to produce memorial handstamps on covers at very short notice. The June display was by **Clive Jones** entitled *Antipodean Trials and Tribulations*. This covered the problems encountered by early steamship companies trying to set up a mail service between Britain and Australia and New Zealand from the mid-1850s onwards to the 1900s. Clive showed many outstanding covers, some carried on first voyages, mostly bearing early stamps of the Australian Colonies, each of which attempted to be fiercely independent in their postal arrangements. A fascinating story illustrated with great material.

Julian Jones

Swindon



The month of June brought the culmination of the Society's busy programme year with yet another successful **SWINPEX** Stamp and Postcard Fair. The event is run entirely by the membership led by **Christopher Scott**. It attracts 35+ dealers, specialist societies (for their AGM/displays), the Wiltshire & District Philatelic Federation 9-Page Competition and hundreds of visitors. The photograph shows member, **Simon King**, searching for a bargain. The society, under the management of **John Wand**, runs monthly Saturday Stamp Fairs - small but well-attended events which are as much philatelic as social occasions. Anyone with an interest in stamps, postal history or postcards is welcome

to attend meetings held fortnightly on Thursday afternoons from August to May; further details from borlasehendry@btinternet.com *Nigel Borlase-Hendry*

Thornbury & District

I am writing to get off the naughty step and promote the ABPS and Thornbury Stamp club. We are a small club who rejoined the ABPS a few years ago. I can only confirm it was the right decision as we not only receive the support of the ABPS and all they do but we have other contacts who may be advertising a new publication, an auction or even membership. Sadly, the latter is not as frequent as we would like but we have a new programme coming up and guarantee an

entertaining evening so come and join us if you're in the Thornbury area. This coming programme will include our usual visits from local societies of Bristol, Cheltenham and Newport where we always see something different. We have club nights with a chairman's evening (always something special and usually a unique item or two). We have displays for *Samoa*, *The Falklands* and *The British West Indies* (in three separate displays thankfully) and we have displays with *Letter N* and *Letter O*, again guaranteeing something different. We have a competition evening and an evening to buy and sell items so always a mixture of entertaining going on. The members have a wide range of interests and can share knowledge on GB, Cinderella, Thematics and many countries so why not give us a try?

Martin Elliott

Twickenham and District

We have had a good year of alternate daytime room and on-line evening meetings with excellent long and short displays. Highlights have been **Lorraine McGuire** on *New Zealand Every Lover and Letter tells a Story*, **Sue Burn** on



Roger Niven receives the Dibben Challenge Bowl

The MacRobertson Air Race, **Barbara Booler** on *Isambard Kingdom Brunel*, president **Huw Williams** on *Post-war German Zones*, and **Roger Morrell** on *GB Registered Stationery Envelopes*. Ashford (Middlesex) PS visited us. The annual 9-sheet competition was busy in all categories with the overall winner of the Dibben Challenge Bowl being **Roger Niven** for his postal history entry on early

French mail. Three auctions were held over the year with other Surrey Federation members invited and with an excellent turnover to help support the society.

Roger Morrell

Wakefield

On the 18th March **Neil Ritchie** paid a welcome visit to us and entertained members with an interesting display and presentation entitled *Things I No Longer Collect*. April commenced with a meeting entitled *Our Non-Philatelic Collections* followed by a enjoyable *Mini-Auction*. On the 15th April, a *Thirty Stamp Reverse Treasure Hunt* was held together with *Members' Favourite Postcards and/or Airmails*. We held our Annual Dinner at the Wetherby Whaler in Wakefield on the 6th May which was very much enjoyed by all members and guests alike. On the 20th May **Philip Reynolds** gave a very interesting display and presentation of stamps, covers and postal history from *Japanese*

Manchukuo plus 1966-1967 Fishery series. On the 17th June we had our Annual General Meeting and Presentation of Cups to this year's Competition winners. **Dinar Athale** won the following - Thematic Class Society Trophy, Postal History Trophy, Postal Stationery Class, Aerophilately Class, Study of a Stamp Class, Frank Land Trophy for Favourite Members' Display and the Overall Winner Trophy. **Glen Fearons** won Picture Postcard Class and **Julie Hitchcock** won the Lady's entry with the highest score. This was followed by another enjoyable Mini-Auction. Julie Hitchcock

Warminster

On the 25th May the 2025/2026 season drew to an end with the AGM and members displays showing variations on the letters *P* and *S*. The season had included a varied range of displays with outside presentations from **Graham Mark** showing *WWI Postal History*; **Vevers** displaying *St Helena – The Anglo-Boer War Years*; **Malcolm Barton** and **Kim Stuckey** with the *Falkland Islands - Old and New*; **John Moody** showing *The German Occupation of Poland*; **Mike Goodman** displaying *Machin Forgeries* and *Boscombe Postcards*, and **Wendy Buckle** with a thematic display on *Paper, Past and Present*. In addition to the



Warminster Stamp Fair

external speakers' displays, club evenings included the chairman's evening, a Christmas Special, *Recent Acquisitions*, Postcards, the 9-Sheet competition, a Bourse, a Naval Theme Night and the Annual Quiz – this year won by **Richard Secombe**. The prize for the quiz, is that you get to set it next year!!! In addition to all of this, the club members also managed to organise the

Warminster Stamp Fair again, which was attended by sixteen dealers, all giving positive feedback. The new season's programme has now been issued, again with an interesting and varied scope of subjects and will kick off with *Recent Acquisitions* (including a buffet) on the 8th September 2026. An early note for the diary, next year's stamp fair will be held at the Kingdown School, Woodcock Road, Warminster, BA12 9DR on 11th April 2027. Carl Varnam

West Riding

Our meeting on the 30th March featured a visit from **Neil Ritchie** from Sheffield who entertained us with an informative postal history display of the *Military Postal Services of the Canadian Troops serving in France during WWI*. Neil covered the assembly of some 32000 troops in the form of Canadian Province Militias in August 1914, their transport to UK and forward to the battlefields of France by October 1914. He included the organisation involved in providing a postal service into the battlefields and the equipment needed to provide a postal service including the work of the Canadian Railway troops. June brought a surprise influx of potential new members with a larger than normal audience for displays by members **Jonathan Taylor** with his *Postcard Visit to Grassington*,

Adrian Lee presented *France during WWII* featuring the postal issues for the use of the Legion of French Volunteers from France. Officially designated the 638th Infantry Regiment (*Infanterieregiment 638*), it was one of several foreign volunteer units formed during WWII. **Charles Squire** showed *GB stamps 1952 to 1967* noting the Coronation of QEII, Dorothy Wilding Post Office Tower issues Jersey and Guernsey issues, **Tony Plumb** entertained us with wireless telegraphy documents associated with *WWI Nyasaland Field Force* and German troop movements with day-to-day information on prisoners and wounded, demonstrating that wireless was the fastest method of communication. The club continues to attract members with a broad range of interests with informal meetings. October 26th will feature Auction No 4. Adrian Lee

York

Evening meetings: In April **Max Melrose** displayed his superb *Seahorses* collection, which included usages on covers, parcels, receipt forms. The spread of material was staggering. In May **John Church** gave an impressive display *From Jutland to the Junkyard: The Story of the Kaiser's Navy*. This included covers of WWI at sea, including commerce raiders, submarines, Naval airships, etc. Complemented by biographies of key characters and outlines of events, it was a superb historical evening. June saw president **Colin Lea** giving a display of *Maritime FDCs*, which included covers addressed to Hon J A Craig, first Prime Minister of Northern Ireland. Those giving displays are always impressed that York has at least 20 members in attendance. Our weekday meetings have covered *Postal Stationery, The Colour Green, 1939-1945, Flaws and Varieties*. York continues to be a well-attended society, meeting twice monthly, with one evening and one daytime (except for December) session. For details of our programme please visit our website. Luigi Wiechula

Federations

Mid Anglia

At our annual convention we had a wonderful range and number of displays from members of various societies. These were **Peter Morton** (*Charles III Barcoded Machin-style Stamps*); **David Belton** (*Plymouth Ship Letters*); **Terry Wagg** (*Pigeon Post in WWI and Australian Miscellany*); **Martin Lovegrove** (*Saudi Postal History - Forgeries*); **Dahlia Harrison** (*Red Cross' Role in tracing displaced Channel Islanders in WWII*); **Wojciech Kierstan** (*Warsaw Postal Services, 1915-1918*); **John George** (*Mail, 1939-40 and Keeping out the Japanese*); **Stuart Ross** (*Malawi - Post Office Training Stamps*); **Josefina Martinez-Perez** (*Local Censorship during the Spanish Civil War*); **John Sims** (*Brindisi Air Crash and Commercial Air Mail to the Falklands Pre-war*); **Jon Higgins** (*North Borneo - the Confrontation with Indonesia*); **Richard Moss** (*Oxendales Mail from New Zealand and its Islands*); **Terry Harrison** (*German Occupation of Belgium and WWI in Africa & Middle East*) and **Joyce Boyer** (*Lace, an Open Class Study*). There were also 34 entries for the 9-sheet and 16-sheet Competitions – falling into 11 classes in total. Unfortunately space does

not allow for their full listing. The Kay Goodman Trophy for the best entry was won by **Martin Lovegrove** (Kings Lynn). This was also the occasion of the Inter-Society Competition which was won by Kings Lynn with 245 Points over Leiston (239).

Grantham, Leighton Buzzard and Cambridge also took part. We are most grateful to **Ray How FRPSL** and **Len Stanway FRPSL** who had much to do in judging our various competitions.

Mike Kentzer



Martin receives his trophy

Scottish Congress National Stamp and Postcard Fair

The Annual Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS) was again held in The Vine Conference Centre, Dunfermline, Fife on 10th - 11th



George Henshilwood with David

April 2026. The event was sponsored by David Feldman International Auctioneers. Collectors were catered for by over 20 dealers from across the UK and the exhibition area contained many varied and interesting displays both in the competition section and from members of the host society – Glasgow Caledonian PS. Children were catered for with suitable activities. The *Tom Rielly* display and talk, in memory of the well-known Scottish philatelist, was given by Thames Themes dealer **David Griffiths**.

Entitled *Here be Dragons* it was a fascinating

tale of chaos, myth and legend, creation, and even a curse! *Colin Campbell*

Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies

On 10th June the Association held its first daylong meeting at the Birch Hotel, Haywards Heath. Entitled the "ASPS 2026 Symposium", with the view to emphasising the educational aspect of the day, the theme was *Context Philately*. Twenty-one members of affiliated societies attended. Displays and PowerPoint presentations were given by **Birthe** and **Chris King** entitled *Social and Historical Aspects in Open Philately* and *Some Postal History in Relation to Denmark - Hvad, hvornår, hvor, hvordan og hvorfor?* (What, when, where, how, and why?) respectively. **David Beech OBE** presented a talk entitled *Context Philately* which provoked considerable discussion.

In summary it was generally agreed that it is important to promote philately in its wider context as a way to engage with other groups and wider interests. At the gathering the opportunity was taken to present **Mike Slamo**, a long serving



Nigel and Mike

treasurer of both his own local club and ASPS, with the ABPS Award of Merit for his contribution to philately in Sussex. **Nigel Gooch**, the ABPS treasurer present Mike with his certificate. A small gift was also presented to **Grace Davies** for her hard work as ASPS competitions officer. ASPS was grateful for financial support from the ABPS Small Grants scheme.

Jim Etherington

Wiltshire and District

Another extremely successful round of 9-Sheet Competitions were held at Swinpex on the 13th June. Key to this were the sterling efforts of the Swinpex Team led by **Chris Scott**. Comprehensive judging of all of the entries was carried out by **Patrick Reid** and **Sue Burn**. This included detailed written feedback and suggestions for each individual as well as being available on the day for 'face to face' feedback. Individual winners were **David Gibbon** (Aerophilately), **Barbara Borlase-Hendry** (Postal History), **Simon King** (Postal Stationery), **Paul Latham-Warde** (Traditional), **Carl Varnam** (Thematic), **Ian Spencer** (Cinderella and Revenue), **Nigel Borlase-Hendry** (Picture Postcard and Best in Show). Part of the interest each year is the changing tastes. This year we had no entries in the Open Class which is normally popular but a higher-than-normal number of entrants in the Postal History Class. Fascinating. The closing date for our 16-Sheet Competitions is the 1st November.

Paul Latham-Warde

Specialist

British Thematic

We held our seventh residential weekend in April, at our regular venue of the Oxford Spires Hotel. 30 attendees enjoyed a varied and entertaining programme, starting with a display of *Philatelic Firsts* by **Les Ashton-Smith**. this was nothing to do with SG1 but a look at the many innovative ways in which stamp issuing authorities have embedded novel materials into their stamps, from various

minerals, different materials, through to holograms and 'moving images'. Our second guest, **Katrin Raynor**, is an astronomer who has published books on the subject, worked on *The Sky at Night*, and even had an asteroid named after her. She regularly promotes stamp collecting to audiences interested in astronomy, demonstrating to non-collectors just how engaging the hobby can be. On this occasion her talk *Exploring Astronomy and Space through Philately* presented a wide variety of different philatelic materials showing aspects of astronomy from its early study through to space exploration. Our final speaker, **Ian Shapiro**, gave an amazing display on *Royal Household Mail*. This was a mix of covers and other philatelic material, many with very rare markings, plus a range of ephemera to illustrate his story. The talk covered over 400 years of Britain's



Sunny Thematic collectors and friends

monarchs, starting with official correspondence from Henry VIII, Edward VI and Elizabeth I, each marked with wooden handstamps of the monarch's signature, created to allow authorized officials to sign documents on their behalf. Queen Victoria started annotating the address side of envelopes she sent, a practice followed by her successors.

Channel Islands

We held our annual Weekend Meeting at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Kenilworth from 24th-26th April. The Friday evening saw the 'Single Sheet to tell a Story' competition with 12 entries. The winner was **Richard Flemming** with his entry *1941 Registered letter Paris - St. Helier (245 miles) - San Pedro CA – Paris (13,250 miles) in 127 Days*. There was a 760-lot auction on Saturday morning. In the afternoon two major joint displays. **Gerald Marriner** and **Gavin Wood** showed *Captain Gussek and the Jersey First Issue during the German Occupation*, which included the only known example of Jersey swastika overprints on cover. **Bryan Elliston** and **Richard Flemming** showed *Ship Letter Handstamps applied to Channel Islands Mail*. On Sunday morning there were displays by **Jon Aitchison**, **Julian Bagwell**, **David Winnie**, **Steve Wells** and **Nick Martin**.
Steve Wells.

East Anglia Postal History

A new record of 19 members and two guests attended this meeting on a lovely warm sunny day. Displays were held in the morning and after the AGM in the afternoon. The attendees brought a packed lunch and refreshments, cakes, biscuits and cakes were provided. Following the lunch break a bourse was held where members brought items to swap or sell and this was boosted by our new member **Scott Kibby** who brought along a wide range of material which helped stimulate some trading. Scott kindly made a donation to the society at the end of the meeting. Displays were given by: **Paul Lascelles** *Norfolk 16th Century and Post Towns 1700 to 1799*; **Mike Kentzer** *King's Lynn Sub-post Offices and Norfolk MP*; **Steve Teuma** *The Penny Post Marks of Suffolk*; **Terry Wagg** *Cambridge Post Paid Envelopes*; **Michael Golbourne** *Essex Postal History*; **Ken Burr** *Some Interesting Local Covers*; **Bernard Mabbett** *Great Yarmouth Recent Purchases*; **Alan Moorcroft** *Essex Skeleton Datestamps*. Also providing the appreciative audience were **Mike Brindle**, **John Copeland**, **Don Davies**, **Dahlia Harrison**, **Terry Harrison**, **Judy Bradshaw**, **Scott Kibby**, **Kevin May**, **Linda Moorcroft**, **Andrew Skilling**, **Andy Soutar**, **Robert Stephenson** and **Winston Williams**. Our next meeting at Red Gables will be Saturday 19th September 2026. → eastanglianpostal@gmail.com or see www.eaphs.webador.co.uk

Alan Moorcroft

Faroe Islands

The Study Circle was pleased to be awarded 82 points (out of 100) and a Vermeil medal in the Literature class at the Boston 2026 World Stamp Show (23rd - 30th May). Four consecutive editions of the society's journal (called "238") had been submitted as the competition entry. Literature entries had been

submitted at the Great American Stamp Show in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2023 and at EuroPhilEx in 2025, but this was the first time the society had entered the competition at a world exhibition. "82 points is a good result for a specialist society with only a small geographic area of interest, like the Faroe Islands", said **Norman Hudson** (Cheshire), who has edited the society's journal for 31 years. "By submitting entries at such exhibitions, we are drawing attention to the Study Circle and to the Faroe Islands on a national and now international philatelic stage", he added.

Norman Hudson

Forces Postal History

We hold regular monthly meetings (except August) either at the Union Jack Club at Waterloo, London SE1 or at the Banstead Community Centre. At our May meeting we had two very good displays from our president (**Geoff Hanney FRPSL**). His first showing was *Indian Field Post Offices in Italy during WWII* and was completed by a selection of US Air Force covers also in the Italian campaign. The second display concerned *The British Army in Ireland*; the majority were cancels and postcards showing the Curragh Camp. This included examples of most of the different types of cancellers used from Queen Victoria to 1922 when the British handed the Camp to the Irish Army. For June we returned to Banstead with three different displays by **Nick Harris** covering *Anglo-Boer War*, *British Occupation of Former Italian Colonies* and *Nyasaland Field Force*. We hold regular afternoon Zoom meetings nearly every month - open to all, so please do get in touch if you would like to join us; recent subjects have included *Boer War*, *Ambulance Transport WWI*, *RN Submarines Baltic WWI* and *1958-59 Forces Recruitment Cachets* – all available to view on our website. We also hold an annual Banstead Stamp and Postal History Fair in August. Our meeting dates and reports are placed on our website and many of our Zoom displays are also available there as well:

➔ www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk

Michael Dobbs

Great Britain

Members are looking forward to an exciting new season, which will run from September to August 2027. The new programme features 22 meetings, most of



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which are held at the Royal Philatelic Society London but many are also available on Zoom. We also hold a meeting at Stampex, and Stanley Gibbons host Summer and Winter receptions for our members. Some of the varied topics will include *The Team that delivered Penny Postage*; *GB with a Difference*; *Developments in Mail Cancellations in Britain and Ireland*; *Aspects of Collecting Local Postal History*; *The First Postage Stamps* as well as displays of Aerophilately and Members' Displays. There really will be something for everyone. **Alan Moorcroft FRPSL** has taken over as the new president and he looks forward to welcoming both new and experienced collectors to the society. For more information, go to the award-winning website www.gbbs.org.uk

John Davies

Great Britain North East



April in Stockton heralds one of the bi-annual gatherings of enthusiastic collectors bent on enjoying mainly GB philately. The morning held two invited displays, firstly *KGVI Postal Stationery* by **Daphne McMillan**, followed by *Thirsk Postal History* by **Derek Lilley**. Daphne presented stamped to order envelopes, including commercial window envelopes (sometimes used as late as the 1960s), registered overseas mail and overprinted military wartime envelopes. Derek gave us a comprehensive account of the postal service to, from and through Thirsk from 1723, with a succession of town marks. This and several of the later displays reminded us that postal history is also the social history of an area and a period, bringing the past to life. After an excellent buffet lunch, nearly everyone showed, so briefly, here is what you missed by not attending! We saw: more of **Max Melrose's** *Sea Horses*, including specimens and telegraphic use, plus a Wyon medal. *Cupar Fife* and more, from **Bill Shand**, then *St Helena* KGVI stamps and covers from **Barry Burns**. **Stephen Parkin** showed King *Edward VIII*, **Yvonne Wheatley** showed *Railway Letters*, and **David Watson**, *Thunderstorm Cards*. **Mike Rego** produced *Howden Postal History*, followed by **Rod Combe's** *Cleveland Tontine*, **Richard Wheatley's** *Leeds 447 barred ovals* and **Robert McMillan's** *Hull to and from Scandinavia*. **Graham Winters**, our convenor, showed *KGVI Overprints*, **Dinar Athale**, *Indore Postal History*, **Ken**, the *Greenock-Ardarsaig Packet*, **Steve Perola**, *Scottish Postal History*, and

finally **Peter Chadwick**, *Caithness and Sutherland*. There were cream cakes...
Daphne McMillan

Hungarian PS of GB

We have continued to flourish this year with two national meetings held in Banbury with displays and room auctions, as well as joining in with Austrian and Czechoslovak Society events. Our journal continues to provide news and articles for our membership, and as announced at the AGM, the László Gróf Literature award for the best article by membership vote went to **Robert Lauer** of Ottawa for his article on *The Serbian Occupation of Baja in Southern Hungary, 1918-1921*. Work has continued on updating the postal rates section of our website <https://hpsgb.com> to provide a more friendly approach with much more ancillary information.
Roger Morrell

Lundy Collectors

Although we have not held any physical meetings since the summer edition of ABPS News, club activity has remained exceptionally strong. Our first online meeting, held on 9th May, attracted nineteen members and featured a well-received presentation examining postcards, photographs, and memorabilia associated with the wreck of HMS *Montagu* off Lundy. The promotion of Lundy philately has continued through a number of external exhibitions and society meetings. Club member **Mark McShane** presented displays of *Lundy Stamps and LCC-produced Private Label Material* at the Annual Seminar of the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies and subsequently at Basildon Philatelic Society, where the 1954 Silver Jubilee Airmail with Dates issue received particular attention. LCC members also participated in a joint meeting of the Cinderella Stamp Club and the Revenue Society on 6th June. Presentations included pre-local post postal history, correspondence connected to the Heaven family, examples of Lundy's distinctive Thimble cancellations, and a specialist study of the 1967 *Save the Seabirds* issue. Membership growth remains a notable success, with twenty-five new members joining since October. This increase is attributed largely to the Club's active online presence and ongoing outreach efforts. The LCC continues to explore opportunities for collaboration and joint meetings with fellow philatelic clubs and societies.
Mark McShane

National

NPS held its first ever competition since lockdown. It was an informal affair held after the AGM at the 11th July meeting in London. Members voted in choosing the winning entries for three classes, traditional, postal history and thematic/open. **Michael L Goodman**, NPS President, said, "We have always held displays by members after the AGM, but now there is a competitive element". Also at the AGM **Michael Round** won the Johnson Literary Award which goes to the writer of the most popular feature



*Two Michaels,
Goodman and Round*

article published in *Stamp Lover* the previous year. His was on *Non-PC philately*. London meetings resume on 12th September with **Peter Wood** presenting *More Irish Stew* from his extensive collection of Irish stamps and postal history. The following virtual meeting on 12th October features the exploits of *Polar Explorer Amundsen*, presented by **Richard Hindle**. The 7th November London meeting includes a presentation by **Paul Leonard** on *Forgery Detection*. The NPS, one of the largest non-specialist societies in the UK, now has over 400 members both in the UK and overseas. It holds regular bi-monthly London meetings, which include a 400-lot room and postal auction and a guest speaker display, at the premises of The Royal Philatelic Society in Abchurch Lane, EC4N 7BW. London meetings alternate with Monday evening virtual meetings. Members receive a free bi-monthly full colour journal *Stamp Lover*. A thriving packet circuit offers GB, Commonwealth and Foreign material.

➔ Peter Mellor 01582762284 npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk or

www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

Michael Goodman

Postal History

As part of our 90th Anniversary celebrations we have created a new Postal History Society medal. It was awarded for the first time at Boston 2026 for the Postal History Exhibit with the best original research. It was won by **Eigil Trondsen**. He received a Large Gold / 97 points for *Cunard Line: The Ships And The Transatlantic Mail 1840-1867, The Monopoly Years*. He was also a candidate for the Grand Prix International. The judges agreed he was a very worthy winner of the Postal History Society Medal. Closer to home the meeting held at Oakham, Rutland on May 28th was deemed by all who attended to have been a great success. We had 10 displays ranging from **Hugh Feldman's** display on *Mailcoach routes*, a precursor to his upcoming book on the subject, to **Gerald Marriner's** *German Occupation of the Channel Islands and the Problems caused by Stamp Shortages*. We will be returning next year on May



Clive Jones, mid-display, at Oakham

27th. Our monthly Zoom meetings have all been well received and if you missed any they can be seen on our Facebook page.

They are

on the first Monday of the month, details on our website. The PHS Conference is

being held this year at the Holiday Inn, Kenilworth September 18th-20th and the 90th Anniversary display at the RPSL is on October 29th followed by a dinner at the Guildhall for those displaying. For more details, please contact secretary@postalhistory.org.uk Marc Oxley

The Royal

The passion since childhood of **Robin Pizer FRPSL** was collecting Germany. He was therefore delighted to be invited to display *German Exchange Control 1918-1925* to us on 9th April. He had spent months preparing the material he would show. Sadly Robin died just four weeks before the date of the meeting. However, having completed most of the preparation, and with help from **David Snowden** and **Peter Marshall** of Petersfield PS, our members were able to enjoy and appreciate Robin's achievement. Later that month we were treated to an incredible display by **Alan Druce FRPSL**. The title *A Display of Great Britain: Postal History, Stamps & Ephemera 1403-1971* could not do justice to the wealth of material shown, each item having been meticulously researched and written up, so that every page truly told a fascinating story. From the first frame of documents dating from 1403, previously held at Blair Castle in Perthshire, Scotland, to the final frames covering the early years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, everything shown caught the attention and proved fascinating. The material covered the development of the postal system, up to the time of the fourpenny postal rate, followed soon after by the Uniform Penny Post, and the early line-engraved stamps, including the 'Rainbow Trials' to determine stamp colours and cancellations that would deter postal fraud. Also displayed was correspondence relating to Francis Freeling, who became Secretary of the General Post Office, Rowland Hill and Perkins Bacon.

ABPS updates

The details below are those which could affect your contacting a society or speaker. Please remember to check the ABPS website that details there are correct and send changes to editor@abps.org.uk.

Specialist Societies

East Anglia Postal History Society has recently affiliated to ABPS. Welcome - especially as they sent in their first report. (Specialist section) Secretary is: Alan Moorcroft eastanglianpostal@gmail.com

Local Societies

Barnet & District Philatelic and Postcard Society has recently changed its name to include postcards. Also it will now meet monthly on the third Monday from September to June inclusive.

Middlesbrough & District Philatelic Society will meet at Langdon Square Community Centre, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough TS8 0TF from September.

Salisbury & District Philatelic Society: Michael Moody has returned as secretary. Contact details are mikemoody27@hotmail.co.uk

Diary

August

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

September

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

October

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

November

- 7 CORNEX: 10-4: Millennium Hall, Princess Road, Pensilva, **Liskeard** PL14 5NF
- 15 Banbury Festival of Stamps: 10-4: Blessed George Napier School, Springfield Avenue, **Banbury**, OX16 9JD → www.banburystampsociety.co.uk or contact davies1890@btinternet.com
- 21 Bookham Stamp Fair: 10-4: The old Barn Hall, Church Road, **Bookham**, Surrey KT23 3PQ → www.bookhamstampclub.com or ring Peter White on 10932 345798
- 21-22 Leeds Stamp Fair, Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner, **Pudsey**, LS28 5TA

January

- 14 Yorkshire PA - All-day meeting: 10-5 Delta Marriott Hotel, Tadcaster Road, **York** YO24 1QQ → Daphne McMillan mcmillandaphne@yahoo.co.uk

April

- 11 Warminster Stamp Fair: Kingdown School, Woodcock Road, **Warminster** BA12 9DR

National Exhibitions 2026

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

International Exhibitions 2026-28

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.

- **Philatapei 2026:** 19th - 24th November 2026. FIP Patronage. Full details at: www.taipei2026.post.gov.tw/taipei2026 UK Commissioner: Jon Aitchison jonaitchison.uk@outlook.com Entry deadline: closed
- **Slovphilex 2027**, Bratislava, Slovakia 30th June - 4th July 2027. FIP Patronage. Full details at: www.slovphilex2027.sk Specialised FIP Exhibition: Most Classes, no postal stationery. UK Commissioner: Simon Richards simon@sidebell.co.uk Entry deadline: 15th October 2026
- **Praga 2028** 22nd -26th March 2028. FIP Patronage. Full details at: www.prga20287.cz Specialised FIP Exhibition. All major classes. UK Commissioner: Jon Aitchison jonaitchison.uk@outlook.com Entry deadline: 31st July 2027
- **IBRA 2028, Ulm, Germany** 26th - 29th October 2028. FIP Patronage. Full details at: www.ibra2028.com General FIP Exhibition: All classes. UK Commissioner: John Davies davies1890@btinternet.com Entry deadline: 29th February 2028

The potential FIP show in Belgrade in 2027 has been indefinitely postponed. Bucharest 2029 and Great Britain 2030 have both been approved as full FIP exhibitions, no invitations yet 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 International & Exhibitions Committee* Simon@sidebell.co.uk

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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:

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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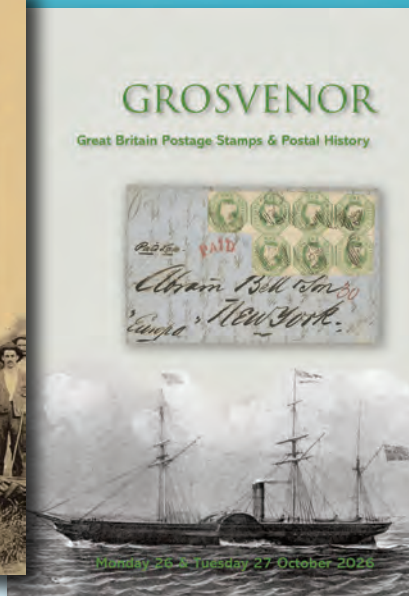
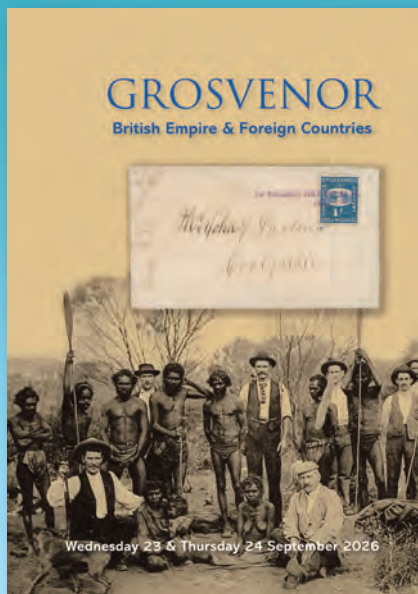
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Featuring items from the libraries of the RPSL, Janet Bygate & Roy Erskine

Wed. 2 & Thurs. 3 Sept. 2026 WORLDWIDE & GREAT BRITAIN

Featuring the Roy Erskine Dunblane & Stirling postal history collections

Wed. 4 Nov. 2026 THE MIKE ROBERTS FRPSL COLLECTIONS

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