ABPS news

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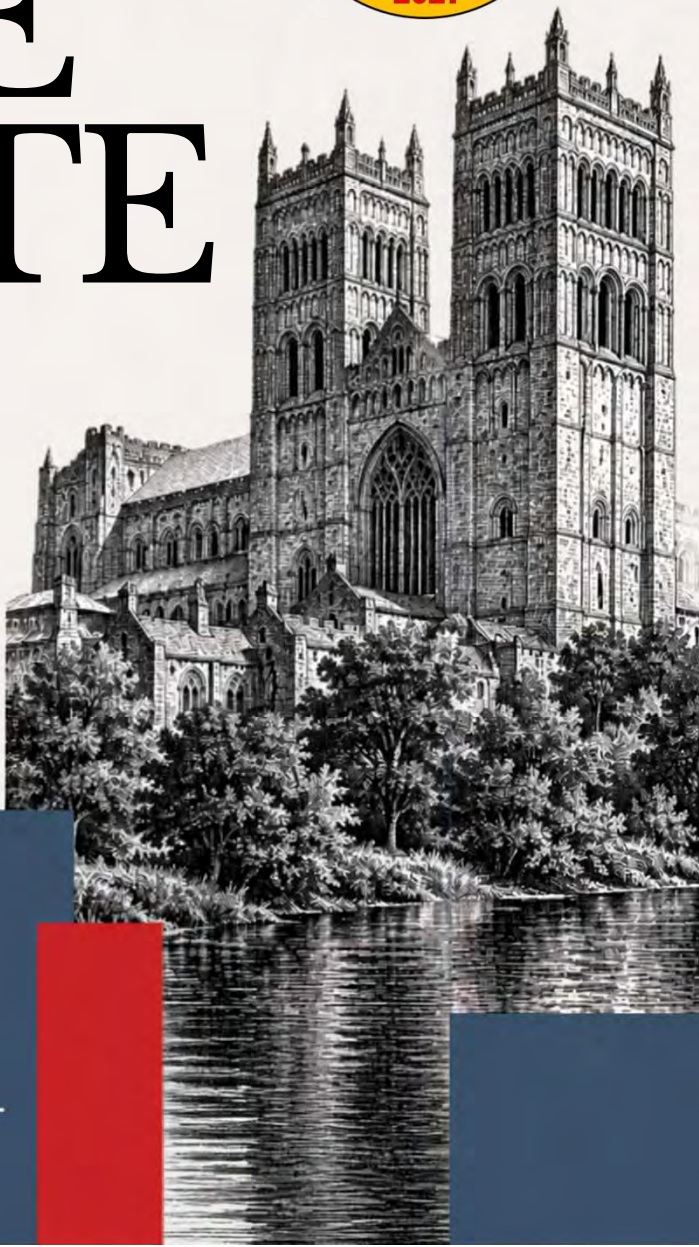
See p. 35

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

SAVE THE DATE

PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN
2027

108th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain



23–26th September 2027

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ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

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Cover picture: *A display by Bolton PS President, who spotted a box posted from China, abandoned in a skip, rescued it and turned it into a six-sheet showing of 397 stamps, paying postage of the equivalent of over £50 - Serenskipity!*

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: Adel Bulpitt (editor@abps.org.uk)
Illustrations should not be assumed to be accurate as to size or colour.

Notes FROM THE CHAIR:

The success of our recent Philatelic Congress in Nottingham is a fitting reminder of the strength, enthusiasm and fellowship that continue to underpin our collecting interest. It was a pleasure to see collectors and society representatives come together to share their interests, exchange ideas and celebrate philately in all its many forms. It was especially pleasing to see the entries to the competitive exhibition and the large number attaining high awards. A new feature in this congress was an expanded bourse which was enjoyed by all - to which my wallet will attest! My thanks to our sponsors, Stanley Gibbons, Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, Bill Barrell Ltd, all the dealers and to everyone who helped make the Congress such an enjoyable and worthwhile occasion.

As we look ahead, preparations will turn towards **Philatelic Congress 2027 in Durham**. I hope that as many as possible will make the opportunity to attend, meet fellow collectors and contribute to the continuing development of our philatelic community. Let's make it bigger and better than 2026!

I would also like to take this opportunity to record our sincere thanks to **Barry Stagg** for his long and dedicated service as ABPS Membership Secretary. Maintaining membership records and supporting our affiliated societies is an important responsibility, often carried out quietly behind the scenes, and Barry's commitment has been greatly appreciated. Likewise, I offer my warm thanks to **Keith Burton** for his service as editor of *ABPS News*. Keeping members informed and connected through our magazine is an essential part of the ABPS's work, and Keith's contribution deserves our recognition and gratitude.

These acknowledgements also bring me to a subject that I believe is more important now than it has ever been: **the need for our societies to work together for the benefit of collecting**. Local societies, specialist societies and national organisations each have a valuable role to play. They offer friendship, knowledge, expertise and opportunities for collectors to develop their interests, whether they are newcomers or experienced philatelists. Yet we must not see these different groups as working in isolation. By sharing ideas, supporting one another and looking for opportunities to collaborate, we can make our societies more welcoming, more resilient and more relevant to future generations.

This cooperation must extend across the whole philatelic community, including e.g. the Philatelic Traders' Society (PTS). Collectors, societies, dealers and the wider trade all have an interest in ensuring that philately remains accessible, vibrant and sustainable. There is much we can achieve when we recognise our shared interests and work towards common goals.

The challenges facing voluntary societies are well known, but so too are the opportunities. By working together, encouraging participation and welcoming new collectors, we can help secure a strong future for our hobby.

I look forward to building on Nottingham's success and to seeing many of you in Durham in 2027. Meanwhile, let us continue to strengthen the links between our organisations and demonstrate what can be achieved when the philatelic community works together.

The future of our hobby is a shared responsibility, and one we should approach with confidence and purpose. *Dr Gwynne Harries FRPSL*

Editorial



What an interesting few months this has been, with much to be involved with and some to anticipate. Were you at Congress? If not you missed what is generally seen to have been a good event. Many people have said to me that they think that Congress is only for the “Top Philatelists” and is not for “ordinary stamp collectors”. To those who came for the first time this year, that was proved to be incorrect. Many said how much they enjoyed it and how they enjoyed the social time together as well. Having dealers there was a return to previous occasions. This one worked very well indeed and my contact told me that he hopes to be involved again. It proved to be an expensive time for me - ah well!

Next year is intended to be in the Durham area. We look forward to having lots of philatelists, stamp collectors, postal historians or whatever you want to call yourselves from the local area coming to join in, have their voices heard and show that the hobby is alive and well. You don’t have to come for the whole time - choose a day or two and join in. Anyone within the North East and Borders should find it reasonably easy to make the trip - it will be worth the effort.

Coming up (over by the time that you read this) is Stampex. The PTS offer. I hope that, if possible, you all will be involved. We need to do our best to attract people back into the hobby, or to bring in starters - not with lots of specialisms but by providing an interesting display outside the immediate philatelic community, by talking to individuals, by inviting people to our meetings and making them feel very welcome if (dare I say when?) they come. That is my aim from now on - Have stamps, will travel is my offer. See the ABPS website speakers listing for my details. I aim to add some more displays of both types.

Lots of organisations bemoan the lack of volunteers for elected posts, regular duties and occasional jobs. We are not alone in that respect. Age is a factor but. without more helpers there will be even fewer societies left in a year’s time. Don’t forget to thank those who are doing the tasks during their tenure and after they have finished - ABPS Awards of Merit are one public way of doing so. Also remember to support the newcomers as they step in to take over.

And finally thanks to all my correspondents over the years. Some have now ceased to write for various reasons, but many have been my friends for all my years as Editor. I pass on now to Adel with hope that even more societies, federations and article writers will send in suitable material so that she can have plenty to work with, and so be able to put her mark on the issues to come. I am sure that at times you have been annoyed or bored by what I have included, so expect some changes as Adel puts her slant on it and in the process, no doubt, make it all more interesting. I look forward to seeing the results.

Keith Burton FRPSL

ABPS UK National and International Exhibitions

UK exhibitions are organised by the ABPS Exhibitions Committee and currently take place at The Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW and subject to demand, elsewhere. In 2026, the National Exhibition took place in Nottingham during The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain from 4th to 6th September 2026. The venue was The Jubilee Hotel and Conference Centre.

The 2027 National events are in London and Durham. (*See page 56*).The next UK International will take place in 2030 at the National Exhibition Centre from 30th April to 5th May. While International exhibitions are slightly different, readers might like to know the background process undertaken at our National Exhibitions.

Judges: UK National judges have to formally qualify. Each candidate must have attended and qualified at an ABPS Federation Exhibiting and Judging Seminar and exhibited to a reasonably high level at a National exhibition.

The Apprenticeship: Each person invited to become a National Judge must do two apprenticeships at a National exhibition. At each one, they will be part of a team and will be expected to fully engage in the judging task as well as judging, solo, three exhibits chosen by the Team Leader.

National Judges Training: Each National judge must continue to exhibit and attend ABPS National Judges' Seminars on a reasonably regular basis.

The Judging Team: The UK Chief Judge, currently **Michael Smith**, will ask for availability to judge from the panel of judges. He then appoints a Chairperson, a Secretary and draws up a provisional jury. Once the number of exhibits and classes are known, the jury is finalised and the judges are allocated to a team by the Chairperson and Team Leaders appointed. All UK judges are expected to judge different classes, but at least one person in a team will have knowledge of the class judged. Hint to exhibitors, not always remembered: Do not expect judges to have as much knowledge as you of your exhibit subject, so include appropriate information and references on your title-page.

The Office: Currently, there are two people closely involved, the Jury Secretary and the Exhibitions Secretary. The Exhibitions Secretary acts as the first port of call and can be contacted at ***exhibiting@abps.org.uk*** These two run the ABPS exhibitions part of the ABPS website. This is where exhibits are listed and all the information about past and future known UK exhibitions are stored. Entry to ABPS National Exhibitions is normally via this ABPS website: ***abps.org.uk/exhibiting***, where you will find a list of exhibitions, rules and entry method together with various other pieces of information. Alternative entry methods may be available on application to the Exhibitions Secretary. Any number of frames may be requested up to five. However, if an exhibit has received 80+ points at a previous exhibition it can be increased up to eight frames.

There are a limited number of frames available, so once the exhibition closing date is past, selection of accepted exhibits is made and exhibitors notified and invoiced for their entry fee. Entry to ABPS National Exhibitions is normally via the ABPS website: ***abps.org.uk/exhibiting***. Potential exhibitors might like to know of the current Special Offer available by generous sponsorship of the Philatelic Fund. £25 per frame is payable on acceptance, whether single or multiple frame exhibits, and £25 per literature entry. However, first time UK-domiciled exhibitors who are Patrons or Friends of ABPS, or members of an ABPS society, can obtain a full refund of frame fees on request to ***exhibiting@abps.org.uk*** **Only one entry per exhibitor**. The fee will be paid by ABPS with funds provided by The Philatelic Fund.

As part of the entry procedure, the first page of the exhibit is required. This is so that the judges can do research on the subject in order to better understand the exhibit and give it the best award possible. Without this aid marks may not be so good. Exhibitors can also provide a synopsis of the exhibit. This is to give the exhibitor the opportunity to provide information not normally wanted within the exhibit. Ideas on what to provide in the synopsis can be found on the Internet. But, remember, that as with all web information, some are better than others. With the number of entries decided, the floor layout is produced. This will vary depending on the entries received. Sometimes it might be by class, country, or at other times by subject e.g. insurance next to parachute jumping. A separate, private, database for use by the exhibition organisers and jury is also kept.

At the Exhibition: Frames are labelled with number, name of exhibit and exhibitor. Space is provided for the name of any sponsor too. Exhibits are brought in to a signing-in place (the bin room) and exhibitors or their agent are directed to their allocated frames to allow them to mount their pages. Frames are locked during the exhibition. Exhibitors can request a feedback session at this time. This work relies on volunteers, as does much else in the organised stamp world. Judges are provided with score sheets for each exhibit. Exhibits are judged in accordance with the International Rules and Guidelines for each class, which can be found on the FIP website (***https://www.f-i-p.ch/regulations/).*** However, the number of points required to achieve each medal level is five points lower than it is at International level.

Once the first round judging has taken place, each judge has the opportunity to view all the exhibits in the exhibition. Any queries can be raised by any judge for any exhibit. Next comes a review by the Chairman and Team Leaders of all the exhibits to see if there are any obvious anomalies. Candidates for Best in Show and winner of the Silver Mailcoach Trophy are determined. All jury members get a vote to determine the winner.

Once the final scores are agreed, an awards list is produced for public display. Certificates are printed for each exhibit showing the medal level, a breakdown of marks and any comments the judges have made.

The Awards Ceremony: On the last day of the exhibition, awards are made, usually by the Chairman of the Jury/ABPS. The presentation of the Silver

Mailcoach is the highest accolade of UK National exhibiting. Exhibitors who have requested feedback are asked to attend at their frames at the agreed time. Once the exhibition has closed, usually 3pm on the final day, exhibitors are asked to go to the bin room and are directed to find the frame key holder to collect their exhibits. On return to the bin room, certificates and any awards are given if the exhibitor missed the awards ceremony. Finally, the frames are relocked and stored until the next time. *David Alford*

Clearly, there is a great deal of work and commitment involved. The need for volunteers at all levels is clear - the organisers of any exhibition are always willing to be contacted well in advance if there is any possibility of a person being available for some of the tasks - mounting exhibits, directing exhibitors, helping in the bin room, general factotum etc. All roles need some training to some degree. Please do not hold back.



James Podger, Mike Smith, John Davies and Birthe King



The entries



Chris King, deep in thought, as he marks and records

ABPS accredited judges

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



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Awards at Congress

Congress is an opportunity to thank and applaud the achievements and involvement of some philatelists. This year the Congress Medal was awarded to **Steve Harrison,** well-known as the secretary of the Royal, a member of many societies and the former Chairman of ABPS. One of the ABPS Awards of Merit went to **Steve Jarvis**, proposed by the West Indies Philatelic Study Group, represented by **Susan Taylor**. Remember theses awards need to be proposed - by you and your societies.



1


2


3

1. Award of Merit Certificate and The Congress Medal
2. Steve receives his medal from Gwynne Harries
3. Gwynne Harries with Steve Jarvis and Susan Taylor

The need for a second signatory on your bank account

Two ABPS societies found themselves in financial difficulties this year when their treasurer died. The bank would not allow them to access their money for many months as the treasurer was the sole signatory for using or moving money! One of these societies is likely to close because of the lack of funds. PLEASE ensure that you have at least two signatories on your society bank account to stop this situation happening to you. If you require two signatures on cheques or instructions, make sure that you have at least one more than the number required.

PRAGA – A Tradition That Continues

PRAGA 1938



Official postcard for the first PRAGA exhibition



PRAGA 1962



For almost ninety years, the name PRAGA has held a special place in international philately. The exhibitions held in Prague have reflected changes in collecting and exhibition standards, as well as the dramatic history of Central Europe. Yet their purpose has remained constant: to bring collectors together and present outstanding philatelic material to an international public.

The story began with the PRAGA 1938 International Stamp Exhibition, held from 26th June to 4th July. Almost 400 exhibitors took part, around 250 from abroad, and 21 countries were represented by their postal administrations. The exhibition was held under the patronage of President Edvard Beneš and the FIP, whose Congress also met in Prague.

After WWII, **PRAGA** returned in **1955**. More than 100 000 people visited, and discussions with FIP representatives helped prepare the way for Prague's first World Stamp Exhibition.

From International to World Exhibition

PRAGA 1962 was the first World Stamp Exhibition held in Prague. Its principal venue was the Industrial Palace, the magnificent late nineteenth-century exhibition building that became closely associated with PRAGA. Around 6500 frames were displayed, philatelists from 85 countries participated and approximately 283 000 visitors attended.

Only six years later came **PRAGA 1968**. It became the world's largest philatelic exhibition at that time, with almost 10 000 frames across its venues. Some 345 000 people visited, including an estimated 60 000 from abroad.

The scale remained remarkable at **PRAGA 1978**, with 1405 competitive exhibits and more than 335 000 visitors. Among the great attractions were the British Guiana One-Cent Magenta and the Mauritius “Post Office”.

PRAGA 1988 again became part of the life of Prague. Exhibits came from 55 countries, attendance exceeded 200 000, and PRAGA displays even appeared in shop windows across the city.

A New Era

Political and economic changes after 1989 transformed both the country and organised philately. **PRAGA 1998**, held at the Trade Fair Palace and Postal

Museum, was smaller than its predecessors but successfully continued the international tradition.

The World Stamp Exhibition **PRAGA 2008** returned to the Industrial Palace. Exhibits arrived from 60 countries and the Court of Honour included treasures from The Royal Philatelic Collection of Queen Elizabeth II, among them the Blue Mauritius and a block of ten Penny Blacks used on the first day of issue. Demand was so great that visitors sometimes waited for several hours.

Ten years later, **PRAGA 2018** welcomed exhibits from 69 countries. Its Court of Honour again attracted international attention with an exceptional group of Mauritius “Post Office” stamps, including the famous Bombay Cover.

Through very different political periods, exhibition formats and generations of collectors, one thing has remained unchanged: Prague continues to be a meeting place for world philately.



PRAGA 2028 – The Tradition Continues

The next chapter will be written from **22nd to 26th March 2028**, when the **PRAGA 2028** World Stamp Exhibition welcomes the international philatelic community back to Prague.

After its complete restoration, the historic **Industrial Palace** will once again host PRAGA. World exhibitions were held there in 1962, 1968, 1978, 1988 and 2008, making the building itself part of PRAGA's philatelic history.

We expect approximately 2500 exhibition frames covering most competitive classes, together with a dedicated dealers' area for collectors to meet leading international dealers and auction houses.

But PRAGA has always been more than an exhibition of stamps. It is about meeting friends, discovering exceptional material and bringing together collectors from different countries and generations. Outside the exhibition hall awaits Prague itself - one of Europe's most beautiful historic cities.



Industrial Palace - venue for PRAGA 2028



The beautifully restored interior

Join us in Prague and become part of the next chapter
PRAGA 2028 World Stamp Exhibition · 22nd –26th March 2028 · Industrial Palace · Prague **www.praga2028.cz**

Jiri Kraus, President of Union of Czech Philatelists

SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM!

Most of us are deeply involved in our collections and more than happy to share by showing what we have lovingly accumulated. The rest of us enjoy and can learn from these displays. I had better declare my interest now: I love to share my collection and as I no longer exhibit the best way is by giving displays to whoever will invite me! And I have thoroughly enjoyed looking at others' displays at all levels of philately.

We all know how important the quality of presentation is; we often go out of loyalty to our club for a subject that is of no interest to us – and have a thoroughly good time because the speaker has made the subject so interesting. The problem is that many others, who have fascinating material to show, are unable to present it well.

In September I attended the ABPS Congress in Nottingham. I had a good time for lots of reasons but one in particular was the attention given to the sound system in meetings, which meant we could listen to all the speakers without effort. Hurrah! Mike Hoffman was attentive to the volume and quality of sound, making frequent adjustments which even included moving hand-held mikes closer to a speaker's mouth, rarely done but oh so helpful.

Best of all, on the first evening for the "Four Pages tell a Story" event, as each person got up to speak, they were given a microphone by Adel Bulpitt (about-to-be new editor of ABPS News) with the instruction "Use the mike and face the audience". There was laughter the first time but not for long.

Face the audience! How often have we been at club displays where the guest speaker mounts the pages and then walks along the frames seemingly talking to them with their back to the audience, the club members - very hard to hear what is being said and there is no speaker/audience communication. At a congress meal we were talking about this and as I always have plenty to say on the subject, I was asked to write a piece for ABPS news, so here it is. I will try to give helpful advice to give confidence in communication and hopefully more pleasure and satisfaction all round. And may I say right now that I admire those who don't find presenting easy but have a go. Aren't club displays key to sharing our hobby?

The other day, as a member of the RSPB, I joined its AGM on-line. Always professional, the sound systems were faultless and all the speakers, although reading their speeches, looked up at the camera and read with expression as if they were talking to us, to me.

So, some of you will be thinking, 'How is this relevant to our local clubs, to me showing my collection to a small group of people in a church hall?' I would say, 'a lot' so let me explain. The principles of presentation are the same everywhere.

Firstly, the equipment. - *NEVER REFUSE A MIKE!*
Not all clubs have sound equipment but an increasing number do. Find out what is available and, if possible, get familiar with it and test the volume *before* the meeting starts. Head-worn mikes are the easiest as they move with us. If clipped

onto our clothes it needs to be central or on the side we are most likely to turn to. Hand-held mikes can be very good as long as we remember to hold them in the right position, usually close to and just below our mouths; not ideal if we are actively showing a display. It's very poor to start to talk, and the volume is wrong or the mike is not even turned on! Too late for faffing about, that needs to be sorted before starting, with confidence that we shall be heard.

Secondly, talk to your audience, *not your pages!*



This might seem obvious but as mentioned already, some speakers do have their backs to us, muttering it seems to themselves. If (often with advancing age!) we cannot remember what we are showing, one solution might be to face the audience and read a summary of the display, occasionally turning to point to a page for emphasis. It works well to pick up a few pages to read facts and figures or make an emphatic point but there is never time nor is it desirable to speak about every page, so a summary could be useful, leaving time for everyone to look at the pages themselves. We should always be facing the audience when speaking.

Thirdly, be heard and interesting.

Speakers are there to inform and entertain, whether at the Royal Philatelic Society in London, or a local club. The principles are exactly the same.

As we begin, we SHOULD NOT raise our voice to its loudest to call out 'Can you hear me at the back?'. Our voice will inevitably drop and I find that those at the back who are least likely to hear are also the ones least likely to call out and say so. Maybe they can be encouraged to move forward before we start but anyway, we need to do the best we can to be heard.

And be interesting. We are the experts on our collections, but that is not enough; we must communicate our enthusiasm to our audience. If reading, we can do so with expression and be familiar enough with the text to be able to look up frequently; it is a good idea to make eye contact with different members of the audience to keep them engaged.

Conclusion

So, my final thought is: let's continue to enjoy showing our material, with our enthusiasm and knowledge. Big or small, very knowledgeable or beginners, it

doesn't matter. Let's speak *to* our audience. Let them feel we *want* to entertain them, that they matter most as we share our beloved display.

And as a final word, if you have never given a display, why not have a go? Start maybe with one frame at a members' display meeting at your local club. I have watched many people start in this way and love it, love the sharing and showing, don't want to stop – do we know that slippery slope? *Grace Davies, FRPSL*

Note: *If anyone would like to talk about this with me, I would be very happy to do so, perhaps on a video call. I am not an expert but have a lot of experience and at least sharing ideas is helpful.*

My email address is ***gracedavies1807@outlook.com*** *Grace Davies*

ABPS National Congress at Nottingham

If you missed the Congress or don't know what Congress is like, here are a few photographs as sent to me by your new Editor, **Adel Bulpitt**, and the official Photographer, **Dane Garrod**.





1. Viewing displays
2. Bill Barrell ready to talk or sell
3. John Davies and Adel
4. Some of the Nottinghamshire members who displayed
5. Being sociable

This could include you if you come to Durham in September 2028







Some more photographs from the ABPS National Congress



1: The Venue 2: Gwynne Harries welcomes the Lord Mayor

3: The Ladies Welcoming on Reception 4: We have to eat too (and talk)

5: Simon Martin-Redman at the Thursday Fun Display 6: Meet Your Editor

Interested in supporting ABPS and British Philately in your own name, not just through your society memberships? You could become a Friend (£25 p.a.) or a Patron (£60 p.a.). See the ABPS website ***www.abps.org.uk/abps-friends-and-patrons/*** to see how to do this and what it involves, or contact the membership secretary on ***membership@abps.org.uk***

Obituary
Gordon Peters



The Malaya Study Group regrets to announce the death of Gordon Peters at the age of 97 years and 8 months.

Gordon was a prime mover in setting up the UK Branch of the Malaya Study Group, founded in 1959 by Howard Selzer in the USA. When Howard became unwell, Gordon became editor of its journal *The Malayan Philatelist*, a post he held for forty years. A great achievement.

He was made an Honorary Life Member of the society as long ago as 1980. He supported our hobby by travelling extensively in the UK giving displays to many societies.

His other interests were cycling, to club time trial level when a young man, and bell ringing, in which he retained a life interest. He was a founder member of the Roving Ringers which combined both hobbies as they cycled around churches to ring.

Gordon did his National Service in Malaya with the Royal Engineers. He enjoyed Malaya so much he started a collection of its philately. He formed an enormous collection of the many interesting aspects of this country, concentrating on postal history, postmarks, unusual stamps and specimens rather than bling high values intended for revenue use. His vast collection took over three years to sell, mainly through Argyll Etkin Ltd for whom Gordon worked for several decades. Ably assisted by Grosvenor PA who helped in particular with the sheer bulk of his extensive postcard collection and library.

Gordon died peacefully in his Nursing Home in Sutton on Tuesday 25th August.

Susan McEwen

Sheffield Philatelic Society

will welcome visitors to

The FRANK WALTON MEMORIAL DISPLAY

given by **Simon Richards RDP**

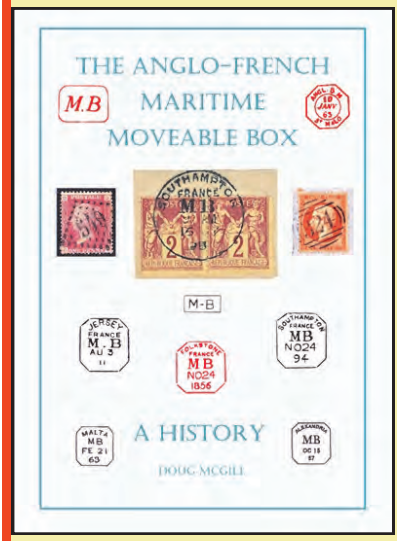
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at 2pm on 24th March 2027

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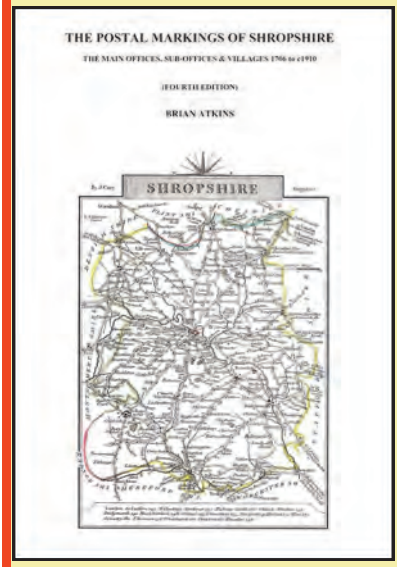
Two Recent Publications
by The Stuart Rossiter Trust



The Anglo-French Maritime Moveable Box
by Doug McGill

Doug McGill records his research into the maritime Moveable Box concept arising from the 1843 and 1857 Anglo-French Postal Conventions. Written as a history, this book explores its usage over almost 100 years in British, French and Mediterranean ports, and particularly in the Channel Islands, exploring new discoveries and including detailed listings of the markings and their usages.
135 pages, A4 Hardback, Price £25.

Order from the Trust at ***www.rossitertrust.com***



The Postal Markings of Shropshire (Fourth Edition) by Brian Atkins

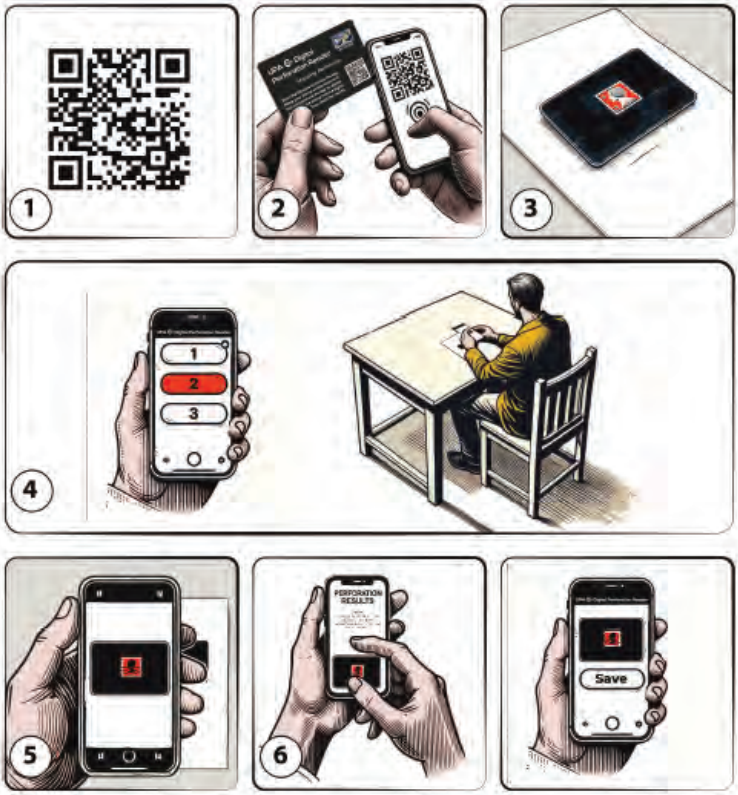
A study in 168 pages, *Shropshire Postal Markings* details the postal markings of the county from 1706 to c1910. Since the third edition in 2024, twenty pages have been added to include those villages issued with Post Office numbers, much additional detail and more than 200 other changes, to include new markings, new codes, and amended earliest and latest dates.

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

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Word War II Forces Postal History & Postcards.

Royal Air Force.

“The Waltzing Mosquito” Presentation Aircraft.



Fig 1

The Waltzing Mosquito was a WWII Presentation Aircraft funded by the Ballroom Dancing fraternity. The Government of the time urged the public to “Do their bit” by donating to funds that would “buy” Military Equipment. “The Waltzing Mosquito” is one of the Presentation Aircraft given to the RAF. Records show that “The Waltzing Mosquito” was photographed at Hatfield by a de Havilland photographer on 10th October 1943 (Fig 1). A cropped version of this photograph (Fig 2) was used as a basis for the production of a postcard of the aircraft. These postcards, it is thought, were given out to attendees at the Ballroom Dancers Festival held in London in 1944 as a thank you for their donations. Fig 3 shows the reverse of Fig 2 where one of the attendees at this festival asked other dancers to sign their postcard as a souvenir of the event. It is thought that this postcard and signatures may be



Fig 2

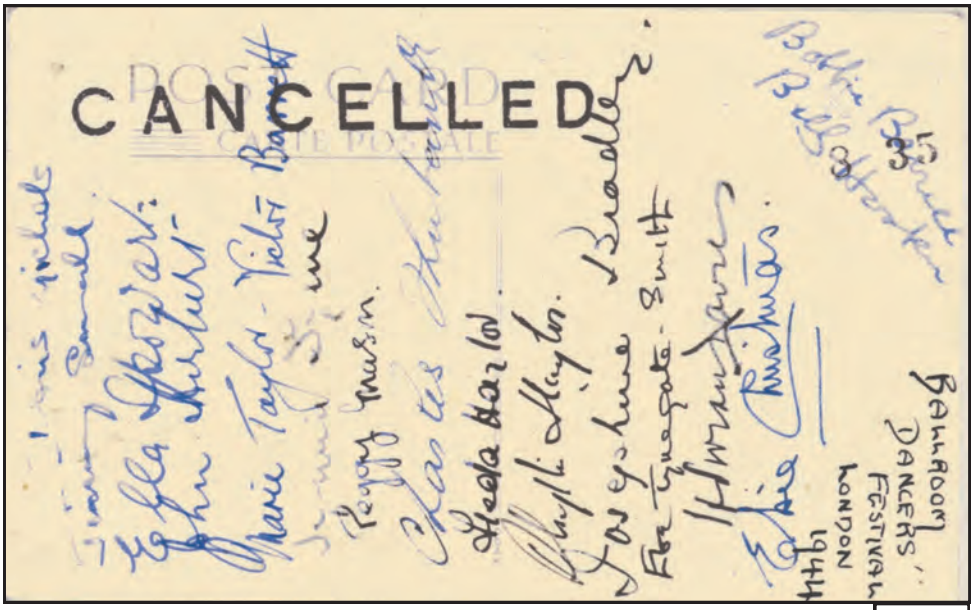


Fig 3

unique as it is doubtful that any other has survived the passage of time. It is thought that the straight line cancelled mark could refer to the aircraft being lost. During the war 1409 Flight flew 1364 operations with the loss of just three aircraft.

The service history of the "The Waltzing Mosquito" a type B Mark IX shows that it served with No 1409 (Meteorological Reconnaissance) Flight which was formed at RAF Oakington on 1st April 1943 with seven Mosquitoes to act as Bomber Command's own meteorological unit. *Keith Lillywhite*

The author is indebted to Mr Ian Thirsk, Acting Head of Collections De Havilland Aircraft Museum, for his information and original photograph of "The Waltzing Mosquito".

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

Specialist Societies

Channel Islands

24 members attended our 76th Annual General Meeting on 18th July in London (11 via Zoom). A new Constitution was adopted; all current Committee members were re-elected for a further year; and Honorary Life Membership was conferred on both **Alan Moorcroft FRPSL** and **Gerald Marriner FRPSL**. They are only the third and fourth members to be given this honour, and between them have been members for 98 years, always active in serving and promoting the society. After the AGM closed displays were given by **Jon Aitchison**, **Julian Bagwell**, **Alan Moorcroft** and **David Winnie**. Just eight members attended our hybrid meeting in person on 19th September, again held in London. The theme was Cross Channel Mail between the Channel Islands and France. The morning session commenced with a 50-lot room auction and concluded with two displays provided by **Nick Stuart** *French-based Forwarding Agent Mail* and **Steve Wells** *Anglo-*



Alan Moorcroft



Gerald Marriner



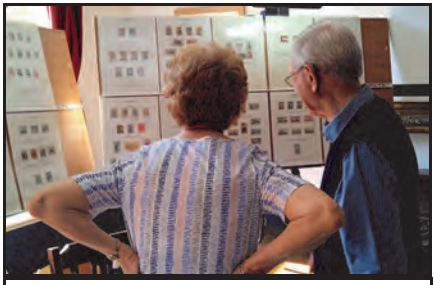
1828 letter via Cherbourg

French Postcard Rates. The afternoon Zoom meeting saw a further seven members participate online to view the presentations given by **Richard Flemming** *Handstamps applied to Mail between the Channel Islands and France 1776 - 1840*, including rare items where only two or three examples are known, and **David Winnie** *Mails between the Channel Islands and France 1850 - 1939*, including some unique and rare material not shown before.

➔ ***https://www.ciss.uk/*** *Steve Wells*

The Czechoslovak PS of GB

Our London meeting in September was **Ken Burr**'s *The Stamps of the Republic of Czechoslovakia 1948–1989* – a 'refresher course' on communist Czechoslovakia as reflected in philately. The first leader after the 1948 coup was Klement Gottwald, a long-term communist who took great care with his image – stamps sometimes showed him dressed as a marshal. Recurring themes appear in these stamps – the Soviet 'triumph' in the space race, for example (including stamps featuring the hero Yuri Gagarin), and a stamp celebrating Czech cosmonaut Vladimir Remek, the first non-Russian to join a Soviet space mission. Gratitude towards the USSR for liberating Czechoslovakia from Nazi oppressors is also a regular theme – Lenin and Stalin put in frequent appearances, and the military is depicted as a 'friend of the people' (including small children!). Despite Kruschev's secret denunciation of Stalin in 1956, Czechoslovakia remained resolutely hardline. Gottwald was succeeded by Zápotoký. Stamps during this period were mostly recess printed, so high-quality reproduction was retained. Zápotoký was succeeded by Novotný, another hardliner, but stamp issues continued to celebrate sport, space travel, and the arts. By 1968, stamp designers were exercising more artistic freedom – something of a 'golden age' of Czechoslovak stamp design. Zápotoký was replaced by Svoboda and then Husák, fated to preside over the collapse of communism in 1989. Beautifully presented, Ken's display clearly demonstrated the attraction of Czechoslovak stamp design, both artistically and as a reflection of the rise and fall of communism.➔ ***www.cpsgb.org.uk*** *Tony Holdsworth*



Yvonne & Richard Wheatley

East Anglia Postal History

A very enjoyable meeting was held on the 19th September with 18 members and one guest attending. Displays were provided by seven members. The attendees brought a packed lunch and refreshments; 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. In addition a new

venture was undertaken by **Andy Soutar**: a philatelic quiz of 20 questions. This was enjoyed by the members present and may be a regular feature at future meetings. The winner on this occasion was **Carl Stott** who received the prize of a stockbook. Displays were provided by **Judith Bradshaw** (*Southwold*); **Derek & Peter Jefcoate** (*Bishops Stortford*); **Stephen Teuma** (*U.P.P. Marks of Suffolk*); **David Leathart** (*A 1579 letter & its story*); **Scott Kibby** (*Boston, Lincolnshire*) and **Alan Moorcroft** (*Colchester Penny Post*). A particularly special event was the celebration of **Derek Jefcoate's** birthday. He was presented with a cake by **Linda Moorcroft** and the candles indicate what a marvellous birthday it was.



Alan Moorcroft

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. Recent meetings have included an early Christmas - and I don't mean 25th December - I was referring to our September meeting when **Peter Burrows** gave a display of *POW Christmas Mail from POWs/Internees* around the world which also included a quantity of Easter and Whit Sunday mail as well! This was followed in October by a talk and display by **Michael Dobbs FRPSL** on *Atomic Bomb Tests on Christmas Island (in the Pacific) and Australia*. In November we will be having a talk and display on *Kenya - the Mau Mau Period* by **Richard Berry FRPSL**. Our Christmas meeting (the *real* Christmas) will be an all-day meeting in Banstead on 12th December and will feature our 9-page President's Cup Competition as well as recent acquisitions and queries. As usual we hold regular Zoom meetings with a varied number of topics from members - these are open to all, so please do get in touch if you would like to join us. 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

We are the leading society for anyone interested in GB philately including stamps, postal history, booklets, postcards and more. The Great Britain Philatelic Society was founded in 1955 to promote, encourage, and contribute to the advancement of the philately of Great Britain. Since then, it has grown steadily and now has more than 850 members in the UK and abroad. We have a network of specialized consultants who draw upon world-leading expertise in GB postal history, postal stationery, QV, EVII, GV, EVIII, GVI, EII and back-of-book stamps to help solve complex queries regarding specific issues, plates, cancellations, shades and more. **Alan Vaughan**, a GBPS consultant, commented "During the last year I have answered questions covering a wide variety of aspects of EVII philately. These included enquiries relating to three half-penny shades, 2d De La Rue scarlet vermilion stamps, 3d printings and

shades plus variations on the 6d plate proofs". For GB stamp collectors, researchers, and dealers alike, membership of the GBPS provides free access to this expert consultancy service. We produce a colour Journal, accompanied by a Newsletter, six times each year. Additionally, several philatelic publications are sponsored by the society. The extensive GBPS website provides the latest news and information and resources for collectors such as historical information on postal rates, copies of award-winning exhibits and much more. For more information about GBPS membership, please go to ***http://gbps.org.uk/join***

Dr Bill Bradbury

Italy & Colonies

We recently held our AGM long weekend with displays, auction, and some very enjoyable socialising. It was a new venue for us, a motel north of Oxford near the Park and Ride bus terminal, enabling quick bus access into the glorious city. There was free time to enjoy Oxford and members thought this an excellent location. **Paul Woodness**, Auction Secretary, took us through another successful auction, No 202, with over 700 items on offer. Paul is this year's winner of our Richard Harlow Trophy for his long and dedicated service to the society. Our Newsletter, compiled by **Roger Harrison**, is circulated to all members and continues to inspire comments and discussions, helping to involve our overseas membership, mostly in Italy and the USA. As well as news and notices, Issue 4 had articles on *Revenue Stamps on ID Cards*, *The 1908 Messina Earthquake* and *The Republic of Venice AQ lettersheets*, introduced in 1608 and considered the world's first postal stationery. Italian philately and postal history offer a wealth of interest and collecting opportunities at all levels. New members are very welcome. Please have a look at our ICSC website (***www.icsc-uk.com***) for all the details. There is no annual subscription at present, just a low £16 joining fee, remarkable value which among the many other benefits gives access to the vast fund of philatelic interest in the digitised archive of our award-winning journal Fil-Italia.



Paul receives the cup from Susan Chislett

Kevin Newson

Lundy Collectors

We have enjoyed one of our most active and ambitious years in recent memory, marked by well-attended meetings, strengthened outreach, and a renewed commitment to member engagement. The summer programme was a particular highlight. Members participated in a successful day trip to Lundy, hosting an



Luke McShane & the Vicar of Lundy, Reverend Jane Skinner

open day at St Helen's Centre that attracted enthusiastic visitors and notable guests, including the Rector of Lundy and the island's Managing Director. The following day, the annual summer meeting in Bideford combined a lively bourse, well-supported competitions, and an energetic auction where rare postal history items achieved impressive results. Our refreshed competition format now welcoming remote entries proved highly effective, with sixteen submissions across four categories. Member activity beyond the island has also flourished. LCC representatives delivered displays at philatelic societies across the UK and internationally, while Lundy philately received prominent coverage in *Stamp Collector* magazine. Our growing visibility has contributed to rising membership, now standing at 106. Looking ahead, we have announced an expanded meeting schedule designed to improve accessibility, including Zoom presentations, regional gatherings, and the flagship summer weekend in Bideford. A major highlight for 2027 will be the release of a new Lundy stamp timed to coincide with our five-day visit to the island in March. With strengthened outreach, increased participation, and a clear forward programme, we continue to demonstrate our role as the leading centre for Lundy philately and postal history. *Mark McShane*

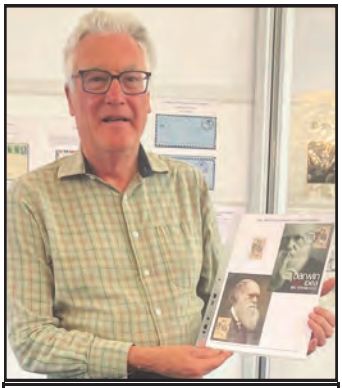
Malaya Study Group (MSG)

Recovering from the scorching summer, Autumn is the time to return to reality. Malaya Study Group exists to further knowledge and research into the increasingly important area of Malayan Philately. The opening of a Singapore office and an inaugural auction on 28th October 2026 for Stanley Gibbons is welcomed. Membership of MSG not only covers UK, but is especially strong in Singapore, Malaysia, and Australia with international members throughout the world. That is why not only are there London meetings but at least twice a year Zoom meetings and an annual out of London meeting in Leicester. How to join? Membership Secretary **Martin Roper** email ***martinsroper@gmail.com***
It is worth joining just for the excellent auctions of this popular area in October and March, only open to members. This report covers our meetings since Leicester in May, where *KLM Early Flights*, *Netherlands East Indies Postal Agents*, *Perak including Survey Department Essays* and the *Civilian Aspects of the Malayan Emergency* were displayed. The Spink (London) meeting in June dwelt on *Trengannu*. Major aspects dealt with the various printings of pre-war definitives and how to distinguish them, often best illustrated when compared with some of the Japanese Occupation overprints. July was a Zoom meeting in

which **Michael Waugh** led on *Early Straits Settlements (from) 1809 Pre-stamp Postal History*. Then, our season 2026-2027 commenced with a Spink display afternoon on 19th September. on all aspects of *Pahang* from 1889 until modern times shown by several members. *Michael Waugh FRPSL*

National

The most recent meeting was on October 12th when **Richard Hindl**e presented an online display about *Polar Explorer Roald Amundsen, conqueror of the South Pole in 1911* and how he attempted flights to the North Pole during the 1920s. One of the ways Amundsen financed these flights was the sale of specially postmarked postcards depicting himself and Polar scenes. His final flight was a rescue one in 1928, where sadly he went missing. At the London meeting in September, **Peter Wood** presented some highlights from his extensive Irish collection, some of which has won international awards. His diverse display included early Irish Free State, forces mail of Irish troops on UN peacekeeping operations, Unionist and Nationalist propaganda, modern coil stamps, similar to GB Post and Go, and Irish exhibitions. August's virtual display was by **Keith Burton** on *Fackellauf*, the 30-day, 5000km relay of the Olympic Torch from Olympia to Munich for the 1972 Munich Olympics. His display included a fascinating philatelic tour of the Balkans, The NPS alternates bi-monthly Saturday London meetings, which include a 400-lot room and postal auction and a guest speaker display, with bi-monthly Monday evening virtual meetings. Our London meetings are held at The Royal Philatelic Society in Abchurch Lane, EC4N 7BW. Members receive a free bi-monthly full colour journal *Stamp Lover*. A thriving packet circuit offers GB, Commonwealth and Foreign material.



Peter Wood with PHQ cards on Darwin

➔ Peter Mellor 01582 762284, ***npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk*** or visit ***www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps*** *Michael Goodman*

Postal History

Our Annual Conference was held Friday 18th to Sunday 20th September 2026, at the Holiday Inn in Kenilworth. A standing display of Kenilworth postcards was shown throughout the weekend, by PHS treasurer and webmaster **Mark Bailey FRPS**L. Our president, **Clive Jones**, formally welcomed all to Conference in our 90th anniversary year. **Julian H Jones FRPSL**, gave the first display of the weekend, *Transatlantic Mails between USA & GB 1775-1875*. followed by an hour of members' displays. The buffet supper preceded a display given by

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.



All the delegates at a convivial get-together.

David Curser *A Victorian Correspondence*, fascinating letters from 100 years of correspondence including a letter from Edith Cavell, the murdered British Nurse of WWI. Day two opened with **Morris Buxton FRPSL** giving a display of *GB Registered Mail* and its associated services with many very rare examples on display. Then came the 16-sheet competition for the Society Cup, won by **Morris Buxton FRPSL** using *Early Aspects of GB Registered Mail*. In the afternoon **Richard Farman** gave a display *What is Postal History?- Interesting Old Letters*. The evening finished with a drinks reception and banquet dinner which included a 1-sheet competition for the President's Prize, won by **Claire Scott FRPSL**. Other Society prizes; the Gilbert Cup for the best article in the Journal 2026 **Ken Snelson** - *Joseph Ady Revisited* and the Steve Ellis Medal **Dr John Scott FRPSL**. At the AGM all Council members were re-elected, with **Peter Webb**, the new president-elect, and **Julian Jones** publications manager.

Marc Oxley

Joint Postal History and Royal

The Joint meeting held with the RPSL (North) at York on Thursday 16th July was hailed a great success by all who attended. This year it was organised by the PHS and **Marc Oxley** was the master of ceremonies. We were treated to 30 displays across six sessions with ample time to look at each frame in detail. Ranging from **Adrian Pearson**'s *17th C Franche Marks* to **Peter Webb'**s *Indian Boer War POW Camps*. There was something for everyone. Of particular note was **Karen McShane**'s display of *Sunday Scallop Frees* and **Tony Walker'**s display illustrating *Heroism and Tragedy in WWI*. Karen had travelled from Ireland to take part and enjoyed it so much that she decided to join the PHS on the day. Next year it is the turn of the Royal to



Claire Scott mid-display

organise the event and once again it will be at the Delta Hotel in York, on Thursday 15th July 2027. As always it will coincide with the York Racecourse stamp fair. *Marc Oxley*

Royal

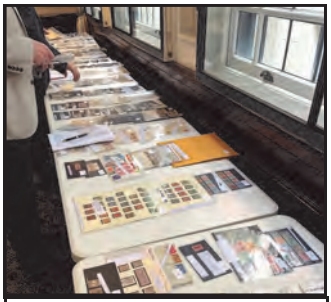
It was owning two fine covers bearing the first stamps of China, the 'Large Dragons', from the Chinese city of Chefoo, and the fact that there was a lack of reference information available, that led **Sam Chiu FRPSL** to concentrate on *The Postal History of Three Cities in China*. For Chefoo the period chosen was 1880 to 1911, concluding with the end of the Qing dynasty. The city was served by not only the Chinese Imperial Post Office but also five overseas post offices. Wei Hai Wei was shown from 1895 to 1949, including when it was under British occupation. Hankow, a hub for mail going up and down the Yangtze River, was covered from 1891 to 1919. In many cases, for particular rates or services, Sam had managed to acquire the majority of known covers. *The Republic of Venice: Postal History 1200-1797* was presented by **Bill Hedley FRPSL** on 8th October. President **Simon Richards RDP, FRPSL**, introduced it as 'an incredible display that shows the love of the subject on every page, with so much information beautifully presented'. Asked why he had chosen to collect 'La Serenissima', the traditional nickname given to the Republic of Venice, Bill explained that he had seen some Venetian items offered at auction, and thought it would prove interesting to develop the study further. He admitted that translating what is written in correspondence can be a major problem as much is in local dialects, but information often comes with the material when purchased.



Simon Richards with Bill Hedley

West Indies Study Group

We held our AGM followed by the 54th annual auction, in October 2026, at Abchurch Lane, home of the RPSL. Chairman, **Steve Jarvi**s, opened the meeting by thanking the committee for their continuing efforts. In particular, he thanked **Raymond Stanto**n who was retiring from the role of treasurer after 29 years. Steven reported that the society's finances were healthy and that this consideration, in addition to a donation made by members who had jointly produced some articles for the Gibbons Stamp Monthly Magazine, meant that attendance at the 2027 Convention (2/3 October 2027 at Sedgebrook Hall) would only cost £80 a head, inclusive of lunches and the Saturday night event dinner. Dealers would be invited to attend the convention. Membership rates



Lots to view

would also be held (£8 for online membership). The other major forthcoming event was the WIPSG Presentation taking place at the RPSL on Thursday 25th February 2027 where 57 frames of high quality, covering the entire extent of the Caribbean will be presented by 29 members. The AGM was followed by the annual auction, which offered 520 lots. There were 54 postal bids and 16 room bidders plus one telephone bidder. The realisations reached £20 503, with a very gratifying 77% sold. As ever, there was no buyer's premium. The WIPSG extends its grateful thanks to Keith for his considerable efforts over many years as ABPS Editor and extends best wishes for success to Adel as she takes over.

Susan Taylor

Federations

Cornwall

Thursday 1st September 2026 saw 22 members of the Cornwall Philatelic Federation gather at the Chapel Hall, Ladycross near Launceston for the AGM and Quiz. The present officers: **Neil Sargent** chairman, **David Lethbridge** vice chair, **Des Kent** secretary, **Sue Burn** treasurer and **David Payne** packet secretary were re-elected for a further 12 months. Once the business of the AGM was completed the Quiz commenced, with 3 teams competing. Host club Launceston, current holders of the Quiz Cup, Falmouth and a third "Ad hoc" team came under orders of quiz master **Neil Sargent**. After ten rounds of varied questions on philately and much banter, Falmouth (**Adele Gunn**, **David Lethbridge** and **Nigel Tregoning**) finished as clear winners.



Sue Burn receives thanks from Neil Sargent

Des Kent

Essex

Autumn is with us. It is already time to book for the AEPS Seminar 2027 to secure your place! These are always pleasant springtime social occasions and very instructive on all aspects of philately. We have arranged the 2027 Philatelic Seminar for Saturday 6th March 2027. (See Diary page for details). We want the Seminar to assist and advise collectors to make more of their collections, so, for our 30th annual seminar, we have invited **Chris Harman FRPSL** to talk about *Fakes and Forgeries*. Afterwards, those attending are invited to display parts of their collections, either in a display of 8 sheets or 16 sheets. We hope that the day will help to give people the enthusiasm, confidence and interest to exhibit their collections to members at their home societies and provide a shop window for society programme secretaries looking for speakers for their next season. Even if you have never displayed before, your participation will be very welcome. If you do not want to display, do not let this put you off coming! Just come along

and enjoy the variety and the social aspect. As always, there will be plenty of experts present to help you with any aspect of collecting with which you would like assistance or to point you in the right direction to find out more. There will also be plenty of opportunities to ask questions. The cost will be £30 per person. This will include morning coffee, buffet lunch and afternoon tea.

Len Stanway

Mid Anglia

Our Convention was at the re-arranged venue of Tempsford in Bedfordshire on Saturday 20th June as a replacement for the disappointment of the cancellation of the regional Philanglia Stamp Fair. **Terry Wagg, FRPSL**, reports: "All had been well set up for the day, with refreshments available for all on arrival. The hall was set out with a display area, tables for our three dealers and competition entry displays in the adjacent committee room and on the hall's stage. In addition, there was an area for a bourse. The event was hosted by our president, **Peter Morton** during which there were three rounds of displays with a break for lunch and plenty of time to visit the dealers and view the competition entries, some of which were changed at lunch time. A raffle raised £75 towards the cost of the day; our thanks to those who donated the prizes." We were delighted to have 33 entries for our competitions, although this proved an onerous task for our two judges, **Ray Howe, FRPSL** and **Len Stanway, FRPSL**. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who took part. The Kay Goodman Trophy for the best entry went to **Martin Lovegrove** of King's Lynn.



Martin Lovegrove receives the Trophy

Mike Kentzer

Midland

MIDPEX 2027 CANCELLED

The Midpex Organising Committee has recently been told that the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre is being sold and will no longer be available for Exhibitions. Plans were in hand for an event in 2027 but, given this situation, the Committee has decided not to go ahead with the event. The Committee has decided that

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 png). We do not pay for publication, and any items may be edited for length or content.

the remaining funds will be distributed equally to ABPS, Stamp Active and the Midland Philatelic Federation. Both the ABPS and Midland Federation have a small grant scheme that is available to societies who need finance to continue or to facilitate promotional activity to encourage new members. Stamp Active, of course, undertakes a programme to encourage a new generation of collectors including the free postal club, Kidstamps. Chairman of Midpex, **Clive Jones**, commented "I am extremely grateful for all the efforts by the Organising Committee over the years to enable Midpex to take part. I think it has made a major contribution to the promotion of philately over that time. Given that the venue is no longer available it is with regret that it is no longer practical for both financial and organisational reasons for Midpex to continue at this time."

Sussex

The Association again held its successful annual South of England Stamp and Post Card Fair at Ardingly Showground on 10th September. Over 30 dealers were in attendance and a good number of collectors came through the door to rummage through their stock to add to their collections. Next year's event will be held at the same venue on 9th October 2027. Our AGM with representatives of ten of its 19 affiliated clubs and societies being represented was held at the same event. **Norman Sansom** was elected as the Association's new president and **John Bushel**l as vice-president. **Jim Etherington** and **Eric White** were re-elected as secretary and treasurer respectively. *Jim Etherington*

Yorkshire

After our AGM, (held at the July York Stamp Fair courtesy of the organisers), the President, **Richard Hindle**, presented trophies to competition winners. The Sidebottom Trophy (Best in Show) was awarded to **Neil Ritchie** of Sheffield for his *Icelandic Postal Stationery* exhibit. We are grateful again this year to **Steven Harrison** of the Midlands Federation for his judging and feedback. Entries will be available to view at the Leeds Fair in November. This year we welcomed a new signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Yorkshire Philatelists, **Keith Burton FRPSL** of Harrogate. A Past YPA President and its current Webmaster, since the 1980s Keith has also fulfilled several roles in the Harrogate society including President, Packet Secretary and Webmaster. He is involved nationally in ABPS and is a regular RPSL Stampex volunteer, also taking a full part in Europhilex last year. He is probably best known to you all as Editor of 'News' for the last fourteen years, a post which he relinquishes after this edition to concentrate on his collections. The YPA is launching a new event in January. On the Thursday before the York Fair (14th) we are holding an all-day meeting at the Delta Marriott Hotel (see separate advertisement). Attendees may show short displays on any subject, and there



Signing the roll

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Daphne McMillan mcmillandaphne@yahoo.co.uk

will be talks on *Improving Presentation Skills* by **Chris King RDP** and **Birthe King RDP**. Why not arrive a day early for the fair and join us? *Daphne McMillan*

Local Societies

Amersham and District

We held another successful Stampersham stamp fair on Sunday 13th September, with eleven dealers in attendance, and a good selection of home-made cakes. Our forward programme appeals to a broad church as always, and kicks off on 8th October with the always-entertaining **Lorraine Maguire** displaying *Every Cover Tells A Story*. On 22nd October we have **Malcolm Gascoyne** displaying *Ecuador* and *Evolution of The Postcard*. Our Autumn Auction will be held at 7.30 on 5th November in the New Drake Hall, Amersham HP6 5AH. The catalogue and bid form are available to download from our website ***https://stampersham.org.uk/auctions***. You can submit postal bids, or come along to bid in person. Viewing starts at 6.30 on the auction night. We will hold our AGM on 19th November, followed by a members' display, and the year will close on 3rd December with our one- and three-sheet competitions. New members and visitors are always welcome! *Tim Harrison*

Ayrshire

Incoming president **Robert Watt** opened the meeting by welcoming members to the new session and thanking them for electing him president for the second time. He then requested a minute's silence in respect of members and friends of the society who had died since our last meeting, namely **Margaret Morris**, **Rod Trott** and **Duncan Turner**. This prompted a reflection on the declining membership which is an issue everywhere, although active collectors not associated with any club are still much in evidence locally. The President then opened his display showing in Round One *Plated Penny Blacks and Reds*, including a large variety of interesting cancellations, both on- and off-piece. Round Two consisted of a selection of *Early Victorian Covers* related to a fantastic variety of topics including a military cover addressed to a Victoria Cross recipient and an apparently unique cover which had made its way from the tiny Ayrshire hamlet post office at Auchincloich via Kilmarnock and Liverpool to West Canada in 1858, apparently completing the journey in a mere fifteen days! The display was also a homage to several members who are now no longer with us, namely **Willie King**, **Bill Bamford**, **John Nixon**, **Roy Wickham** and **Bob McSherry** whose various postal history interests and distinctive write-up styles were reflected in several of the sheets on display. *Ken Gibb*



Lisa Whittle thanking Robert Watt

Basildon

In September we had two meetings. **Ian McElwain** brought *Malta Revisited***.** He began with a brief description of the early history of Malta to put the display into context. The establishment of the Falmouth Packet in 1806 enabled regular mail to and from the UK. Ian's first cover was from Valetta in 1809. Quarantine of sailors and disinfection of mail began in the 1820s and the latter continued until 1929. Several examples were shown, including a cover from HMS "Benbow". Mail to and from the Crimean War was routed via Malta and received distinctive postmarks. Malta became "A25" in the British postmark series and examples were shown on GB stamps used in Malta. In 1860, Malta gained its own stamps. In 1902, the Postmaster-General was caught profiteering from an overprint error and was forced out. The first session took us to the issues of 1926. Part 2 started with the 1928 Air Mail overprint and took us through to 1980, including Zeppelin covers and a letter from a member of the wartime bomb disposal squad. Ian closed with postage dues and revenue stamps. Later **Garry Green** opened proceedings with the *1983 Definitive Series of Alderney*, including some booklet panes. **Alan Taylor** continued with an extensive display of *Stamps Issued to Mark the Birth of Prince William of Wales*. Then **Len Stanway** showed us *The 1967 Canada Definitive Issue to May 1979*, a period of change with the introduction of Hybrite papers and of Winnipeg and Ottawa tagging.*Len Stanway*

Bolton

Our July meeting was a members' display afternoon with many interesting items to see. There is never any pressure for anyone to give a talk on their display as some members do not feel comfortable with public speaking. Many of the items brought in had a local connection, either postcards or local covers, even items covering the British Empire Games held in Cardiff in 1958. One of the most unusual items was brought in by our president. He had found it in a skip, a large box which was covered in stamps which he recovered and carefully cut up. The square box had been sent from China via post and was covered in roughly 400 stamps and after converting Chinese currency to GB pounds the postage came to roughly £52. In August our guest speaker was **Derek Burton** with his collection on *Czechoslovakia 1919-1923* when lots of European countries were gaining their independence.



Viewing the Chinese post

Henry Lisowski

Bookham

In July we were treated to another wonderful afternoon from **Grace Davies** on the subject of *Peace*. Grace first visited us in 2018 with a PowerPoint presentation, but today she showed us a varied version from her vast collection,

which is being added to all the time. Grace displayed a broad range of material from stamps, covers, original artwork, postal stationery and ephemera. August was an enjoyable afternoon with member **Graham Mytton** displaying stamps from *Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika*. Graham worked with BBC radio in Africa for many years and he gave us a wonderful insight into the countries and the people including the rulers, all through the stamps that the countries produced. September brought us our annual thematic Roy Gilbert Cup competition for members, and in October was our annual auction. Bookham Stamp Club, founded in 1993, meets every 4th Tuesday of the month (except for December) at the Old Barn Hall, Great Bookham in the afternoon.

➔ ***www.bookhamstampclub.com*** *Barry Feltham*

Bristol

Last quarter having been invited to write in another way I mistakenly declared a change of president. **Les Ashton-Smith** remains our president. My apologies. We rounded off the year with a Bourse and *Something Interesting*, - one of eight speakers giving an emotional story regarding a letter found on a young Polish scout mercilessly shot down by a German during WWII. Another one included a look at Swiss stamps, including the *Pro Juventute stamps (Charity for Swiss Children and Youth) Starting in 1912*. From 1926-1973, however, Pro Juventute funds were used against the children of Yenish, Manouche and Sinti people in Switzerland. In February 2025 the Swiss Government formally acknowledged the forced removals and assimilation efforts constituted a crime against humanity under international law. More recently the Bristol & District Federation Cups were fought for and judged by **Barry Stagg** who marked the 18 entries for the (5/6) categories. High marks for the submissions were given with the highest joint equal in the General Philately and Cinderella submissions (*France Unpaid* by **Paul Grigg** and *New Zealand Cinderellas* by **Carlton Jones**). Winners for the other categories were **Ian Spencer** with *QANTAS* (Aerophilately), **Phil Shipp** *The History of the SS Great Britain* (Thematic) and **Alan Harris** *Gibraltar Early Postal History* (Postal History). Summing up good quality submissions from the Bristol and Thornbury Societies – advise was –" Don't be modest, keep to the scope and restrict the title!" *Robert de Smit*

Bromley & Beckenham

We have enjoyed a variety of displays at Beckenham Halls including Past President **Ian Reed** whose musical career was successfully reflected in his philatelic display with musical accompaniment. **Peter Lister FRPSL** showed us a collection inherited from a good friend with classic material and **Huw Williams** gave a display of postal history which included *Used Postcards from the New Zealand Contingent during the Boer War*. Competitions have retained their momentum with 29 entries for the Society Open and Thematic categories. **Tony Hickey** judged from a neutral standpoint. Past President **Andrew Harris** was the overall winner of the Stanley Gibbons Trophy having left his entry of *St Christopher Mint Issues* with society organisers before jetting off to Australia on holiday. The result was wired to him in Adelade where he raised a glass with

wife Sue to his success while looking forward to the presentation on his return from down-under. The society retains a solid membership of over 50 enthusiastic collectors and continues to offer advice on valuations and potential sales from local residents. *David Milsted FRPSL*

Burnley and District

We started up once again on September 3rd with an open night, and displays by members of their *Latest Acquisitions* purchased over the period of the summer. Bargains galore and the usual very rare or unique items were shown. Guest speakers in the autumn gave us an insight into *The Rainhill Trials and the Building of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway*, its postal system and celebrations of the recent 200 years of the railways. We continued with *Australian Post from the First Fleet Arrivals until WWII*. *Transportation of Trains and Boats and Planes* with members' displays moved us into the darker evenings, *Italy with Victor Emmanuel III* and an evening of cinderellas and postcards sleighed us into Christmas.



Keith with Stuart Calderbank

Between times we have local stamp fairs, Stampex, postal auctions and *Pudsey Bear* with Leeds PS. That's our business bit. We would like to give a big thank you to **Keith Burton** (ABPS Editor) who is stepping down, for keeping it all together during Covid-19 with news in the magazine. Keith visited us in Burnley and gave his first ever philatelic talk on Germany on 17th April 2014. In lieu of expenses he kindly accepted a certificate and a 1923 German 100 000 mark banknote. Ever the gentleman. Enjoy the break Keith and we will see you around.

Barry W Evans

Cambridge

The June meeting in Cambridge was a members' evening. As is usual on these evenings a wide range of material was shown. The June Zoom meeting involved **Peter Morton** with a display covering *The GB Carl Hentschel & Co Limited essays and colour trials for George V* issued in 1910 and 1911. The July Cambridge meeting was the AGM which saw **Michael Brindle** installed as the new president. The July Zoom meeting involved **Graham Wylde** with *The Evolution of the GB Line Engraved 1d issues 1840-1879*. This was a wonderful display of the changes, markings and printing errors of the different issues, and how to try to place any individual stamp into the correct listing. **Mike Kentzer** from King's Lynn displayed in August *GB Free Mail* which was introduced in 1652 mainly for MPs and government officials. Many examples were shown both for privileged mail, and its abuses. Handstamps were introduced from 1795. The second half covered *Scarborough*. **Andy Soutar** gave a Zoom display covering *Penny Black Anniversaries*. The display commenced with various 1940 covers from around the world, not only from commonwealth countries but many other

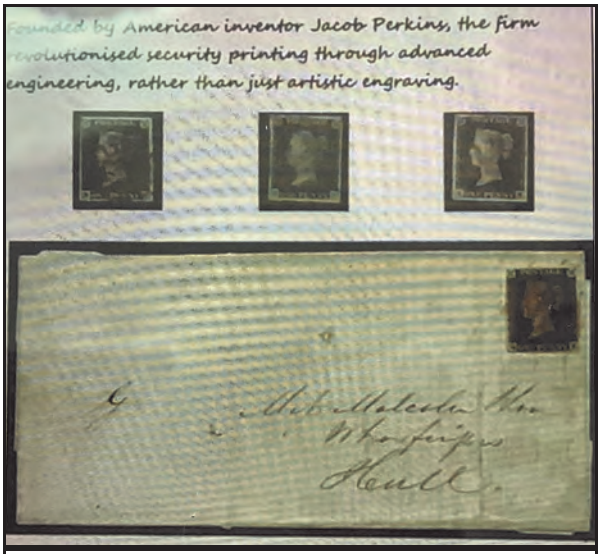
countries such as Cuba and Mexico. We will continue with a face-to-face meeting in Cambridge, at Oddfellows Hall, on the first Wednesday each month and also a Zoom presentation on the third Friday each month. *Peter Morton*

Chelmsford and District

All meetings now have presentations by our own members with a varied range of subjects. Our first meeting on 12th May, following our winter break, had presentations by **Rob Myers** on *Early Afghanistan Postal Services*, **Derek Connel** on *London Exhibitions*, **Pat Adams** on *Norwegian Postcards* and **Nick Harris** on *Boer War Sieges*. On 9th June our meeting included **John Copeland** displaying on *Abu Dhabi*, **Derek Connell** with *1923 London Stamp Exhibition*, **Nick Harris** showing the *Japanese Occupation of Gilbert and Ellis Islands during WWII* and *Operation Tabarin in the Antarctic* with overprinted Falkland Island Dependencies stamps. The 14th July meeting enjoyed presentations by **John Copeland** with *Aerial Views of Essex* on postcards, **Derek Copeland** on *1934 London Stamp Exhibition*, **Nick Harris** on *Overprinted Seahorse Issues* for various agencies and **Pat Adams** with *Postcards depicting the Whaling Industry*. After a short summer break our first meeting enjoyed displays by **Rob Myers** on *Kashmir and Jammu* and **John Copeland** on *Postcards showing Essex Post Offices and Postal History*. For our details please telephone **Dave Everard** on 01245 465506 or email: ***davideverard@live.com*** New members and visitors are always welcome. *Dave Everard*

Chichester & District

A good show of members ensured there were plentiful entries for the final competition evening of the year. Competitors showed their philatelic offerings in three different categories. The Peal Cup appealed to a general collecting specialty. It was won by **Russell Hill** with early stamps from 1840-1842, and was entitled *A Brief History of Stamp Printers*. *East Africa Specimen Stamps* were displayed with all their overprint markings and 'Specimens' overprint markings by **Frank Griffiths** winning second place. **Neil Smit**h, third place, with his continuing *Study of the Printer Albert Decaris* in the 1956 period. Decaris is a French artist, engraver, painter and



Penny blacks to view

Olympic gold medalist. There were hundreds of designs that he engraved for postage stamps, many colourful examples shown by Neil. Also shown were. *King Edward VII Wedding Covers* by **Michael Asteris**, *King Charles III Stamps* by **Christopher Dudeney** and *British Columbia Vancouver Issues* by **Bob Tebbit**t. The Allam trophy concerns specific philatelic study. First place was won by **Christopher Dudeney** with his *Cyprus Publicity Handstamps*. **Russell Hill** was second with *Pre-stamp and Victorian Commercial Ephemera on Entire Letter Sheets*. **Frank Griffiths**' *Private Ship Letter Stamps of the Caribbean* came third. Finally, the award of the Birkin Trophy went to **Mike Asteris** showing his collection of *The Royal Mail 'Frama' Postal Label Experiment*. **Russell Hill** came second with *Royal Mail Prestige Booklets* and **Frank Griffiths** took third with *British Prime Ministers*. Also **Anthony Parker** showed *British Stamps Issued In 200*3.

Martha Brown

Croydon



Richard West & Peter

Our September speaker was **Peter Wood** who presented his material under the title *Irish Stew*. The presentation had six different collecting areas within it. First there was a Transition period when British stamps were overprinted because Ireland did not have their own stamps. Then we saw Irish Forces serving with the United Nations Missions such as Cyprus and Lebanon, commemorative stamps used on advertisements with an example being the 25th Anniversary of Aer Lingus, Post and Go Labels numbered and available from Post Offices, Censorship of Internment mail in Northern Ireland, and Irish Exhibitions. Peter covered a broad area in his displays with a variety of material which members were able to view. Peter was thanked by president **Richard West** at the end of the meeting.

Graham Harker

Dundee and District

The final display of 2025-26 was a second visit by **Susan Taylor FRPSL**, from Guildford and District Philatelic Society, who gave an insight into the development of the *Postal System in Trinidad and Tobago* with a slide presentation and display that included examples of early stamps, letters, postcards and the development of cancellations. Wartime examples included the use of Red Cross stamps, the first postage due (1885), slogans and censored mail – even one being sent to



Viewing the President's display

the archbishop! The 2026-27 season started with the customary President's Night when our new president, **Brian McQueen**, gave a display and a very informative talk on *Aspects of the Universal Postal Union*, that gave members an insight into the workings of the UPU, resulting in what we now take for granted in our postal system. In October **Robert Murray**, the well-known Edinburgh stamp dealer, displayed *Stamps for Scotland* and gave an interesting and informative talk on the issues and problems surrounding the issue of stamps relating to Scottish events and, for the first time, members were entertained with a song!

Colin Campbell

Ferndown and West Moors

In September, **Graham Winters FRPSL** showed us *Aspects of Ceylo*n. He brought us a display of different aspects of Ceylonese philately. First up was *Going to Ceylon*: a study of mail into the country from the UK showing the QV single letter rate, then mail from the rest of the world. He then moved on to a short study of the *CAVE* overprints on Ceylon stamps, giving information about the company (publishers and printers), the varieties of overprint, plus examples used on cover. He continued with a section on locally surcharged 5c on 4c 1884 - 94 postal stationery envelopes, which are a subject of some controversy, with some people branding them forgeries, a charge Graham robustly refuted. He identified some varieties, some very scarce. *The Colombo Paquebot Marks* sheets looked at paquebot mail cancelled at Colombo from the 1890s, with a particular emphasis on the cancellations themselves, with all known markings shown. His *Postage Dues to 1936* display examined the postal markings and accountancy marks on covers, Ceylon having never issued its own postage due labels, covering Queen Victoria to George V incoming mail. The special study of *The George V Silver Jubilee Issue* was particularly attractive, as well as showing superb material. To conclude, Graham showed a few sheets of *Golf in Ceylon* - just to demonstrate he also does Open Philately! We meet at the Canford Magna Complex, BH21 3AL, every 2nd and 4th Monday each month starting at 7:30 pm.

John Morgan

Frinton & District

At the latest meeting on 14th September guest speaker **Nick Harris** from Tiptree presented a superb display entitled *The Anglo-Boer War*. This covered the second Boer War from October 1899 to May 1902. The first half of Nick's display was on the sieges of Mafeking, Ladysmith and Kimberley in Natal by the Boers. The display included many covers and letters from soldiers in the relief columns, rare OOTSI army telegraph mail,



Alan Moorcroft and Nick Harris

and covers with stamps overprinted Mafeking Besieged. When stamps ran out in Mafeking they produced internally the 3d and 1d "Mafeking Blue" stamps for internal use within Mafeking. Ladysmith proved more difficult to relieve such that covers and siege mail are rare. However, Nick showed some siege postcards. No known correspondence or letters covering the siege of Kimberley exist but NIck showed some internal covers. For the second half of his display he showed covers of mail to and from Boer POWs in the British camps established on St Helena, Bermuda, Ceylon and India to house the 30 000 Boer POWS. These included interesting censor initials plus original photographs. A first-class display much enjoyed by members. *Steve Alpe*

Guildford

At our meeting in September, **Susan Taylor**, our president, presented a six-frame display entitled *Trinidad Pre-1900*. It featured ship letters, packet letters, early postmarks and the first stamps and Post Offices of the island. Also displayed was the first recorded lithograph adhesive on an entire to Philadelphia, dated 24th September 1852. Equally interesting was a cover that travelled to Australia via London, Malta, Suez, Bengal and Bombay in 1862. In the second half, Susan showed *Birds on Caribbean Stamps*, each page colourfully hand-illustrated. This will form part of a display by the West Indies Philatelic Study Group at RPSL and a study paper. In October, **Andy Donaldson** presented a fascinating display of *GB Overprints and Underprints*. He explained how these were introduced to prevent pilfering when stamps could be used as payment at Post Offices. Andy described how Perkins Bacon were officially warranted to print underprints beneath the gum between 1866 and 1882 showing many examples, e.g. from J&C Boyd and the Oxford Union Society. He also displayed later QV stamps with unofficial underprints. In addition, Andy brought a few items of ephemera produced by the companies concerned. Our season continues with *Irish Stew* on 11th November, followed by our Christmas Social Evening on 12th December, which will include the Club Competition, Raffle and Quiz. The first meeting in the New Year will be *Flying Scotsman* on 13th January 2027, followed by *North Borneo* on 10th February.



➔***www.spanglefish.com/guildfordstampclub*** *Susan Taylor and Rob Cooke*

Harrogate

Zoom meetings continued during the summer and produced the usual crop of extraordinary interpretations of the titles. Now we have done *S or 9* and *O or 10* (or both). There were about 10 people displaying at the last one – with no overlap on subject. Face-to-face meetings included a members' evening showing *Recent Acquisitions*. Our own **Edith** and **Rodney Knight** then took us

to *Mallorca* and *Bulgaria* respectively. The former was not a look at the beaches and hotels but a fascinating explanation of the history and geography of the island through stamps and covers. Bulgaria was new to almost all of us – at best we knew roughly where it was, so Rodney's display and knowledge of the changes in government as shown in stamps and covers was an eye-opener. As a side-line collection it showed remarkable depth of understanding. In October **Peter Chadwick** brought us two half-displays. (His wife insisted that showing just one in both halves would be boring.) The first half took us to *East Silesia*. Again, most of us had to work hard to decide where we were going, but the explanation, maps, covers, stamps and Peter's style carried us all there safely. Not content with using WWI, in the second half Peter went on to the after effects of WWII by showing us material relating to the *Inflation in the Zones* into which Germany had been divided. Fascinating to all of us – there was a lot of discussion and questions.

Keith Burton

Herefordshire & Mid Wales

Last season closed in spectacular manner with our competition evening. There were plenty of entries in all three of the main categories but for the first time in living memory, the same member won each competition! **John Henshall** took the Founder's Trophy with *Postal History of the Antarctic Peninsula*; the President's Cup (Traditional) with *Pictorial Definitives of Tasmania (Barred Numerals)*; and the Shingler Thematic Cup with a display of *Tanks: From Tractor to "Hedgehog"*. The first meeting of this, our 60th Anniversary Season, took the usual form of members' displays on letters of the alphabet now reaching *T, U and V*. These provided Volumes of Unusual Topics including *Teeth, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste*, *Uganda*, *Ukraine*, *Usk*, *Venezuela* and *Victoria* as well as *Volcanoes*, *United States Transport*, and *Undated Cancels*. In October, **Ray Barton** (Ashford PS) gave us an impressive display of his *Mexico* material, even including some amusing examples of stamps being bisected more than once as postage rates changed. We have just mounted an anniversary exhibition of members collections in Hereford city library, receiving plenty of interest from both adults and children throughout the day. We plan a repeat event in Monmouth early in the New Year and hope to have attracted some new members.



Ray Barton receives our thanks

Janet Nelson FRPSL

High Wycombe and District

During our summer break, **Tim Harrison** displayed on our behalf at Wokingham PS on 11th August (*Estonia to 1945*, and *Greek Revenue Stamps and Their Uses*), Reading PS on 18th September (*Iceland Stamps 1873-1943*, and *Yemen*

Stamps and Postal History 1926-1962) and Camberley PS on 24th September (*The Stamps and Postal History of Estonia to 1945*). Upcoming visits to High Wycombe include: Leighton Buzzard PS on 15th October; **Stan Challis** on 29th October, displaying *Irish Postal History*; **Rodney Oliver** on 12th November, displaying *Communist-era Albania*; **Dave Walker** on 26th November displaying *Admiral Byrd*. We are only a small society, but we offer a warm welcome and superb home-made cake to any visitors who want to join us for our Thursday evening meetings. ➔ ***www.hwphilatelicsociety.co.uk*** for more details.

Tim Harrison

Huddersfield

The first meeting of the new season, in September, saw **John Cranmer** present on *The Half-Penny*. John outlined how this collection of GB halfpennies, running through to George V, dated back 55 years. The collection had expanded to include coils, booklets, examples of control numbers and wartime halfpennies from Jersey. After an initial laydown of exemplars of these stamps, John's second laydown comprised halfpenny stamps on cover, which included postal stationery, printed postcards from 1870 (including first day of issue) and Post Office pre-printed ½d stamp envelopes. A vote of thanks was given to John on behalf of an appreciative audience for his extremely interesting, attractive and informative presentation. ***jondtaylor3@gmail.com*** for further details. *Jon Taylor*

Hull



Stephen with an Edinburgh Late Mail

Our 25/26 was rounded off by two fascinating in-depth displays. We are used to enjoying **Stephen Parkin's** Zoom presentations so it was a pleasure to welcome him for an in-person display on the *Postal History of Edinburgh* showing many dispatch, arrival and transit marks of the various post offices. The final display was a return for **Richard Jagielski**, who, by popular request, gave us more Polish history, this time demonstrating the activities of *The Polish First Army*. We also heard about Stalin's plan to destroy Poland, which included sending over two million people to camps in Siberia. The new season opened with *'What Yorkshire Collects'*, when the society was able to see (as scans) all the entries submitted for this year's Federation competitions. We trust that seeing what other societies can produce for one-, eight- and sixteen -sheet exhibits will inspire members to participate next year. **Jeny Wolvers** travelled over the water from Lincoln to give us an interesting display of *Syria and Lebanon*, an area unfamiliar philatelically to all of us and thus an education enjoyed by all. Our forthcoming season encompasses Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Japan, USA, Africa and the oceans of the world. Visit our website (via the YPA) and if you live within reach, visit the society and travel the world – via Hull!

Daphne McMillan

Huntingdonshire

Our own president started off our new season with a display of *Stamps and Material from WWII*. The YMCA issued envelopes which were sold to raise funds for soldiers and we were shown examples. The Salvation Army had envelopes printed and we were shown one which was sent as a registered one from Buka Passage Post Office. Next came the Australian Mandate stamp Coronation issue with an example on a registered cover followed by a registered cover sent from Papua and New Guinea to Essex. We were then shown an Airgraph sent on the 17th September from Port Moresby. It was posted at Army P.O 214 with boxed Australian Military Forces Passed by Censor. Next came an Air Mail Active Service envelope to Victoria with a boxed Australian Military Forces Passed by Censor mark. The GRVI stamps from Burma were shown with the British Military Administration overprints with examples on an Air Mail cover. When the Japanese took over, they overprinted the Burmese stamps with a Peacock. Some examples were shown. Brunei Protected State stamps were shown with colour changes and Japanese Occupation overprints. He ended with GVI Northern Rhodesia stamps in blocks with colour variations and postage dues. *David Birkert*

King's Lynn

The season commenced with **Bill Lusty**'s Zoom - *Paris Balloon Mail and Postal History of the Franco- Prussian War.* The first meeting was a display by **John Hossack** who distributed a handout on *Sierra Leone* – a small country on the Atlantic coast of West Africa. His display contained many items starting with the definitive issues from 1859 to 1956. From 1843-1873 Freetown was the only post office. Most mail went to and from Europe from Freetown and there was no internal mail system until the introduction of the railways. Members saw maritime items, travelling post offices and picture postcards. October's Zoom was delivered by **Mark Bailey** – an entertaining, illustrative and thoughtful display - *Putting the Pieces of the Puzzle Together*. On 9th October, members were royally entertained by **Hugh Feldman RDP**. Hugh started the evening with a slide show which eloquently presented the background for the display. Illustrated throughout it gave *The History from the Creation of the Royal Mail in 1517 to 1635*, when the service was opened to the public. It continued with the appointment of the post of Postmaster General in 1660 and the introduction of the mail coaches and staging inns from 1784 to 1840. Members were then privileged to view Hugh's stunning display of mail issued between 1785 and 1840. This presentation contained original and facsimile maps and ephemera, original covers with photographs of the staging inns with maps of the journeys taken by the mail coaches - a thoroughly enjoyable evening. *Dahlia Harrison*



Hugh in action

Launceston

Neil Sargent was the speaker for our August meeting, displaying *Postal Stationery*. He started his display with Gibraltar. and after giving a brief history of the 'Rock' he showed a selection of mainly mint registered envelopes beginning with examples overprinted on the stationery of Barbados.in various sizes. Later because of Gibraltar's close ties and proximity to Spain, envelopes were issued in Spanish currency. However, after a time all stationery reverted to sterling currency. Examples were shown for all reigns to Elizabeth II with the exception of the reign of George VI. Neil showed examples where low numbers were issued, specimen overprints and a George VI souvenir letter card. Neil continued with a selection of postcards from Gibraltar with examples overprinted on stationery from St Vincent and Natal and examples illustrating the various postage rates current. As with the envelopes, there were items overprinted in the Spanish currency and those printed in sterling. There were examples of a reply-paid postcard and a pictorial George VI card. The second part of the display comprised *Items from Africa* including those from Oil Rivers and Niger Coast Protectorates, Nigeria and Gold Coast. Again, there was a varied range of envelopes and cards including examples showing the various postage rates prevailing. The display concluded with Gold Coast stationery overprinted for use in the Anglo-French Occupation of Togo. *Viv Sandercock*

Leeds

Summer has gone and hopefully people have more time to devote to their collections. We met in a member's garden in August for an enjoyable catch-up. Our Autumn programme began with a number of members sharing some of their new acquisition: *Stamps*, *Postcards*, *Penny Reds*, *Newfoundland Stamps showing the History of the Area*, *Edwardian Nyasaland* and a *History of African stamps*, and other most enjoyable items. The second meeting was by Zoom in three parts: *Use & Misuse of Free Postage*, *Postal History of Scarborough with Mail & Postcards* and also *An Account of the Disused Railway Line from Scarborough to Whitby*. The line is now great for walkers, cyclers and horse riding. We look forward to welcoming many people to our annual Stamp Fair at Pudsey Civic Hall on 21st & 22nd November. *Liz Schweiger*

Lewisham

At our meeting in September, with the focus firmly on the Central Powers, **Tony Hickey** told us the story of the war to end all wars, *From War to the Treaty of Versailles*. Using a wealth of postcards, stamps, and photographs, he took us through from the assassination in Serbia to the treaties and plebiscites by which the winners tried to clear up the mess. It's a complicated story, with nations joining in at different stages – Italy, for example, bartering with both sides to obtain the best postwar deal, and finally joining the Allies. The war wasn't over on 11th November 1918, of course – that was just the armistice. There were five treaties altogether, with the fate of the Ottoman Empire not finally decided until the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923. Meanwhile, Germany was in chaos, with the



Tony Hickey in action

Wilhelmshaven Mutiny two weeks before the armistice, and the communist Spartacist Uprising the following January. A range of propaganda postcards illustrated the role of the Freikorps militia, roaming across the country to put down communist insurrection. Vignettes known as 'mourning labels' showed the territory lost by Germany at Versailles, while Austria issued two sets of stamps incorporating the phrase 'German Austria' – they had to be replaced, as this was not allowed by the Treaty of St Germain. A final postcard marked the establishment of the League of Nations in 1920 – but as events 19 years later demonstrated this did not provide a route to world peace.

➔ ***hickey_anthony@hotmail.com*** *Tony Holdsworth*

Lostock

In June our visiting speaker was **Peter MacCann** with *GB Queen Victoria Postal History*. Attendance has improved since our change to meeting the first Tuesday of each month in the afternoon 1.00 until 3.00. In July our speaker was **Barry Evans** from Burnley PS with his *150 years of the Universal Postal Union*. Barry opened with a comment about early postal systems. First known postal document found in Egypt dates to 255 BC. After that time postal services existed on nearly every continent in the form of messengers serving kings and emperors and later religious orders and universities added their own message delivery systems. After Barry's talk our chairman **Adrian Jones** presented Barry with our certificate of appreciation. In August we welcomed **Gavin Wood** with his talk *German Occupation of Sark*. September brought **Alan Totten** with his talk *Norway in Stamps and Postcards*. In October **Tim Gidings** will bring *French Military in Stamps*. In November our speaker will be **Norton Wragg** with *Postcards of Switzerland*. We end the year with our Christmas social including light snacks and stamp completion and our usual quiz, plus the birthday celebration of **Phil Wharmby**, our valued member and speaker. *David Morley*

Maidstone and Mid-Kent

Our programme secretary has again provided a varied and interesting selection of subjects for the forthcoming season. We started off, as usual, with a members' evening with a title *It Flies* - 12 sheets. No paper aeroplanes appeared but we did have a varied display of things that fly. This was followed by **Grace Davies**' great display on *Peace* which was interesting, thoughtful and well-received. Evening meetings up to Christmas will consist off **Colin Evans** with *London 1980 International Stamp Exhibition*, Society competitions and Auction, **Ian Marshall**'s display of *Early Miscellany of GB Pre-Stamp to 1880* and our President's Evening. Our morning meetings have also got underway with the usual members' display of *12 sheets from My Collection*. Still to come **Tony Bosworth**'s display of *The Falkland Islands*, and **Bob Norris** and

Margaret Emerson with *Bermuda (Part 2)* and *Birds (Part 2)*. Then it is Christmas - where has the year gone? *Brian Stonestreet*

Norfolk and Norwich

Our opening meeting was simply for sales and exchange among members. Remarkably, the following meeting saw no less than ten members come forward with twelve-sheet displays. Plenty of postal history was shown, including *Historic Mail from Great Yarmouth to Overseas Destinations*. Thematic displays included *Royalty*, *Aeroplanes*, *The 1966 World Cup* and *Scottish Shipbuilding*. A veritable feast added to by *Egypt*, *Russia* and *Shetland* plus *Cinderellas on a music theme*. An extraordinary evening. October began with member, **Mike Brindle**, displaying an array of the *Eastern Cantons of Belgium* - forever in territorial uncertainty on the shifting boundaries between Germany, Belgium and even the Netherlands. Comprehensively illustrated and absorbing. *Chris Southgate*

North-West Kent

In October we welcomed **Tony Hickey** with his *Victory & Peace*, outlining the rise of Hitler and his determination to reclaim territories lost after WWI. Hitler's strategy to "reunite" Germany centred on overturning the Treaty of Versailles and absorbing areas with large ethnic German populations. He rearmed in defiance of Versailles, reintroduced conscription (1935), and remilitarised the Rhineland (1936). The Saar returned (1935), followed by the Anschluss with Austria (1938) and the transfer of the Sudetenland under the Munich Agreement. Hitler rapidly expanded the army and air force, and drew Mussolini into alliance, followed by Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Croatia. He dismantled Czechoslovakia and invaded Poland in September 1939. Italy, acting independently, attacked Albania (1939), forcing King Zog into exile. Under the secret Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact (August 1939), the Baltic states fell into the Soviet sphere and were occupied by the USSR in 1940. Hitler's further offensives followed in 1940 with attacks on Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and France. His greatest error came with Operation Barbarossa, (June 1941), with over three million German troops invading the Soviet Union, breaking the pact and opening the largest front of the war. Post-war, the Allies agreed (Yalta and Potsdam) to create four occupation zones, disarm and de-nazify the country, and rebuild on democratic lines—leading ultimately to the separated East and West Germany. These few words cannot do justice to the quality of this display and the range of material shown.

John Sinfield

Ringwood

Our AGM in July ratified the change in role to chairman of **Gordon Masson** (from secretary) and added **Simon Casalis de Pury** as secretary; **Paul Barry** having moved from chairman to Life Member after many years. Significantly, (as he retires from ABPS as Editor), in September we were honoured to welcome **Keith Burton** as speaker with his excellent *Bavaria* display. Not only was this an entertaining history lesson of the Mid-European “stage” from mid-1800s to 1920,

we also enjoyed the philatelic progress of, particularly, Bavaria through that era. Maps were crucial to his illustration as countries and boundaries altered. He wanted his collection to show “the stamp doing its job” ie currency changes, the country’s political transition, as well as their emblems (eg Coats-of-Arms). Though kings and regents changed, this was (atypically for philately of that time) not reflected by their images on stamps until 1911. The variety of quality in stamp production was reflected at this stage, in weak areas of printing with perfection in other areas. High values had printing errors too. Keith showed mint, used, on-cover and postcards as the depth and breadth of his specialization. I was privileged to give the vote of thanks and present Keith with a commemorative certificate. He was pleased to share his specialism and willing to do this more as his role with ABPS changes. Ironically, he will hopefully “vet” this brief synopsis for its accuracy as well as for its acknowledgement of his success. *Gordon Masson*

Rochdale

Member **Jack Lindley** treated us to his *New Zealand King George VI Plate Stamps* collection. He gave descriptions for each stamp value from 1938 to 1953. which included plate numbers, colours, sheet numbers, overprints and the stamp printers. After half time, Jack displayed *New Zealand WWII Covers, Lettersheets and Illustrated Envelopes*. Patriotic themes included Mother’s Day, victory, ships, aeroplanes and Christmas. Some examples had censor marks applied. New Zealand WWII forces were primarily assigned to North Africa, the Mediterranean and Italy. New members are always welcome at our meetings, which are held at the Rochdale Unitarian Church on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm. *Peter Grimshaw*

Royal Sutton Coldfield

We started the season with *How I Used My Time Over the Summer – Philatelically!*, an enjoyable way for members to catch up and share their activities. This was followed by our own member, **Roger Wood**, who gave a detailed and fascinating presentation on *The Postmarks of Scotland*. Our most recent meeting was devoted to the letters *W, X, Y and Z*. As usual, this produced a wonderfully varied selection of topics, including *The Danish West Indies*, *Venezuela*, *WWII*, *Star Wars* (a comic series featuring Darth Vader as a dad!), a display from *The 1910 Congress* (X = 10, hence 1910) and, of course, *Zululand*. The Royal Sutton Coldfield Philatelic Society website also made its debut – with a little help from AI! You can find us at ***rscps.org.uk*** The idea of creating a website arose from one of the discussion groups at the Nottingham Congress, along with a suggestion that societies should establish trade accounts with philatelic suppliers. Both ideas have now been put into practice. At our latest meeting, members seemed pleased with the website's progress and were enthusiastic about the opportunity to order catalogues and protective sheet covers through the society. Attendance at our meetings continues to be good, and it is particularly encouraging that our members also enjoy visiting other

societies and taking part in regional meetings. This helps maintain the friendly spirit of philately and strengthens our links with the wider collecting community.

Margaret Langley

Salisbury and District

Whilst we might only just be into the start of a new season it's been great to see everybody's willingness to show material. Whatever the main theme of the evening has been, we have also been running a background bourse, which has proved very popular. Our thanks must go to **Tony Hender** of Arun Stamps for proving us with the best tables in the house for the two-day Salisbury Stamp and Postcard Show. Our display this year also included a frame of Wiltshire and District Philatelic Federation material which attracted much attention especially where list of dealers from over sixty years ago were included. Most recently we travelled to the Poole and Bournemouth PS to display to them for an evening. ➔ ***www.salisburyphilately.org.uk***



Russell Freeman ready to welcome new members

Paul Latham-Warde

Sheffield

The June Zoom meeting was on *Instructional Marks on Cover*. This produced a wide variety of marks, many of which were quite rare. The next meeting was *Post Routes and Post Offices of Scotland before 1770* by **Peter Chadwick**. This was a fascinating insight into the development of postal routes in Scotland. The final meeting in June was *Coronation Airmail* by **Dr Gwynne Harries**, chairman of ABPS. He entertained us with not only the topic but other aspects of collecting, especially the value of knowing your collection, showing an Edward VII stamp cancelled on the evening of his abdication. The last correct use of the monarch's reign. The first July Thursday Zoom meeting was a members' display on *Postcards, Personal or Not!* which resulted in a most interesting session. The first Wednesday meeting's programme had to be changed at the last minute due to the speaker's indisposition. The new topic being *Southern Hemisphere Countries*. The second Wednesday had to be cancelled due to a cycle race in the city centre. A sorry end to the philatelic year.

Richard Hindle

Solihull

Our 56th season's highlights include a lively display on *Goats*, an intriguing session on *Dodecanese Mail* (and yes — we'll finally discover where those islands are), plus explorations of *British Forces Mail in Egypt*, *China* and *Icelandic Postal History from 1873–1943*. If that wasn't enough, we have *West Indies A to V*, *Jamaica* and a return visit from **Simon Richards** with *Classic Victoria and Australia Maritime Mail*. Finally, and by no means least, we have a display on *The Philately of the Lundy Isles*. Our first full display was given by our programme secretary, **Gerald Marriner FRSPL**, entitled *Great Britain KGVI Around the World in 80 minutes*. This display featured covers franked with GB King George VI stamps sent to destinations around the world. Gerald is pictured with a background of KGVI Great Britain stamps. Since we moved to afternoon meetings, at our new venue, the Blossomfield Sports & Social Club, audiences have averaged close to 30.



Gerald Marriner with King George VI

Dr Iain Wells

Southampton and District

The first half of our 2026 programme finished with a Zoom presentation on *Isambard Kingdom Brunel* and a face-to-face meeting display of *Falkland Islands and South Georgia*. **Barbara Booler** gave us an energetic and detailed history of *The Life and Achievements of IK Brunel* covering not only his railway tunnels and bridges in UK but much lesser-known activities in Europe and India as well as his ocean-going steamships. The talk was well-illustrated with stamps, covers and ephemera. **Hugh Osborne, FRPSL**, gave a superb display of covers illustrating the *History of South Georgia and the South Shetland Islands* with a rounding off of *Airmail Covers to and from the Falkland Islands*. Hugh showed a wide range of material and gave us an insight into whaling activities and how mail was carried to these remote islands. Our autumn season opened with an entertaining evening provided by **Yvonne** and **Richard Wheatley**. Yvonne provided an interesting slant on the *Beginnings of Mails Carried on the Railway from 1833 to 1900* showing covers carried by train before the advent of the Travelling Post Office and then Railway Mail letters carried in competition with the Royal Mail. Richard looked at *The Development of the Spitfire*, referring to the activities leading to the aircraft's development and to pilots' experiences as well as the enemy's view of Spitfires. At our September Zoom meeting we enjoyed **Graham Winter**'s excellent display *Post Cards! Post Cards! Post Cards!*. ➔ ***http://www.southamptondps.org.uk/meetings.html***

Julian Jones

Trafford

This year we have had a change of senior management. Our outgoing president, **Stefano Forcolin** has served his term and handed the reins to **Clive Griffiths**. This means that not only is Clive president of the NW Fed but also returning president at Trafford. The writer has taken over as secretary, and this season will see my first effort at putting a programme together. Now I have the worry of making sure all my speakers actually turn up! We did have a no-show last season, but the evening was saved by Clive and Stefano who dashed to their respective homes and brought back material to show. **Phil Reilly** continues as treasurer, and **Alan (Pitbull) Drysdale** continues to "persuade" members that they do indeed wish to purchase multiple raffle tickets. A special mention also to **Philip Longbottom**, who should have been taking over as president, but had to step aside due to illness. Like most philatelic societies, we suffer from a shrinking membership. We have had a few new, younger, lady members recently, but none has stayed the course. I wonder if this is the thought of having to contribute on club nights, or seeing such an array of so many grey-haired old people? We do have one new, younger male member, but expecting their first child, so will he be able to combine fatherhood with philately?! Meanwhile we need to make some decisions about our future: combining with other clubs, fewer meetings? Some difficult discussions, I fear.

Chris Hawley

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 *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 nine-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 Niven receiving his Trophy

Roger Morrell

Wakefield

July proceeded with **Graham Winters FRPSL** giving a display and presentation entitled *Four Different Things* which included Edwardian postcards concerning a

lady by the name of Kittie, Harry Cave Co. postcards, gold-edged black and white postcards and Louis Wain Cats, Mail into Ceylon from A to Z, WWII Postal History, a frame entitled “The End of Registration” and one frame of KGV key type stamps. On the 15th July **John Sussex RDP FRPSL** paid a visit to us and gave an interesting display and presentation entitled *Something Scottish.* On the 19th August members were invited to our Summer Meeting with a delicious buffet in the garden of Graham and Eve Winters. The new season began on the 2nd September when **Brian Hitchcock** gave a display of *Great Britain EVII Stamps* mint and used and *The Commemorative Stamps of KGV and KGVI* mint and used. **Philip Reynolds** entertained members with a *Japanese Display* and presentation of *Matsu Basho and Haiku, Birds 1963 to 1964 and Insects 1986 to 1987*. On Wednesday 16th September **Elaine Schofield** paid us a welcome visit and gave a very attractive and interesting display entitled *Moving the Mail by Road, Rail and Sea.* This was accompanied by a very enjoyable and knowledgeable presentation. *Julie Hitchcock*

Watford

We held our annual auction in March, when 161 lots were knocked down by our resident auctioneer, **Phil Andrews**, ably assisted by members of the committee. Our visitor for the April meeting was **Brian Davis**, who showed us his extensive collection of *Concorde-related Material*. Special covers, newspaper cuttings and ephemera were all used to tell the fascinating story of this iconic aeroplane. It was competition time in May, when we held our informal cup competitions, judged by the members present. The six-page contest, loosely based on the letters *S, T and U*, attracted six entries and was won by **Graham Walker**, with *Sunk, Tug, USA*. Four members entered the single page competition; the victor was **Wayne Cox** with *Religious Propaganda*. *Wayne Cox*

West Riding

WRSC pass on their thanks to **Keith Burton** for his steadfast editing of the ABPS News for the last fourteen years. Our meeting in July featured **Roger Mannings** with his display of *Belgian Monarchs* including Leopold II and Albert I and of *Sultan of Brunei Omar Ali Saifuddien III*. **Tony Plumbe** showed us the *Use of Nigerian Forces as United Nations Peace-keeping Forces* in various theatres of military unrest and their correspondence and postal use. Our August meeting featured **Adrian Lee** who presented *The Formation of Iraq* after the occupation by British troops in WWI, the impact of the Sykes-Picot agreement on the region and the reigns of the three Kings with the postal history changes up to the Republic period. Two members attended the 2026 Philatelic Congress at which **Susan Roberts** was presented with the Federation of European Philatelic Association’s certificate of appreciation which was shown to members upon their return at our meeting. September brought *Letter G*: **Tony Plumbe** introduced us to Nigeria with a display of *KGVI Stamps*, **Brian Jones** showed postal history items from *Gibraltar*, **Patricia Marsland** brought stamps from *Greece* covering all periods including the second set issued in 1886 and 1911

set produced by Perkins Bacon 1942 showing images of Ancient Greek monuments and **Ken Moody** entertained with *GB*. *Adrian Lee*

York

Evening meetings: July saw the members hold their annual bourse/social evening. In August **Luigi Wiechula** displayed early *USA Postal History* followed in September by members showing *A Few of My Favourite Things*. Four members also travelled to give displays to Newcastle PS. We have as members three couples who both collect stamps. We also have a fourth member whose partner also collects stamps but has yet to join (we're working on it!). Do any other local societies have as many collecting couples? Our weekday meetings have covered *Ephemera*/*Cinderellas*, *GB*, *Letters 'C'* and *'P'*, and *Postcards*. 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 ***http://sites.google.com/site/yorkps/***

Luigi Wiechula

And so I come to the end of the reports and my final words as Editor. I wrote the Editorial for this issue very early in the process of setting it up and before I had read many of the reports and their accompanying emails. So many of those included such kind words about my editorship and the magazine that I wanted to take one more opportunity to thank you all for your support. I now know that I have friends all over the country (and even in Czechia). I look forward to meeting you in person, if possible. Have displays, will travel. *Keith*

ABPS updates

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

Local Societies

Herefordshire & Mid Wales Philatelic Society: New email for the secretary is ***herefordmidwalesphilatelic@gmail.com***

Shropshire Philatelic Society has a new secretary: Revd Nick Webb ***ncvwebb@gmail.com***

Trafford Philatelic Society has a new secretary: Chris Hawley ***chrishawley48@icloud.com***

Yeovil & District Philatelic Society: has a new secretary: Patrick Ager ***patrick.ager@btinternet.com***

We regret to report that **Scarborough Philatelic Society** has closed with a lack of officers.



DUTCH AIRMAIL CATALOG – 2026 EDITION

Review by Ken Sanford

The association of airmail collectors in The Netherlands was founded on 1st January 1936 and was given the name “DE VLIEGENDE HOLLANDER”. The first airmail catalogue was published in 1948. The intention was to regularly release an updated and revised edition. Completely renewed publications were released in 1956, 1961, 1977, 1983, 1991, 1998, 2005 and 2012. And now, with the celebration of the association's 90th anniversary in 2026, a new airmail catalogue has appeared yet again. And what a catalogue it has become.

All chapters have been reviewed in terms of content over the past few years, and where new information was available and corrections to existing content were applicable, this has been incorporated into this edition. Partly as a result of this, the number of pages increased from 688 in 2012 to 841 in this edition.

To facilitate quick finding of the desired chapters, a clearer one-page colour scheme has been applied at the beginning of the book, which visually leads quickly to the chapters with the same border colour on all of the relevant pages.

Compared to the 2012 edition, the overview of airlines appearing in the catalogue has been updated and corrected to reflect the current status. This also applies to the overviews of city names, airports, etc. The chapter structure has remained the same as in the previous edition. The Dutch and English introductions for all chapters have been revised and improved.

In the 2005 catalogue a new chapter 'M' was introduced. It was used for all the crash post flights. In 2012 it was decided to re-shuffle the crash post and bring it back to the relevant chapters and the 'M' chapter was used for clarification where to find the individual crash mail in the chapters. Now Chapter ’M’ includes a new airmail category, 'Dutch Glider Airmail'.

If applicable, they have added previous 2012-catalogue numbers with small characters under the newly used numbers, described as *'ex-old number*', especially in chapters 'D' and 'F'.

The new catalogue has been specially produced as a bound book with a hard cover for the 90th anniversary in 2026. Most of the catalog is in Dutch, but it is easy to follow with the use of Google Translate.

The price of the catalogue is €55,00 and can be ordered by sending an email to ***will.porrio@online.nl***, providing exact name of the buyer and the shipping address. Shipment will be done by Dutch PostNL and includes Track & Trace service. Postage costs to UK €26.75 - for other countries please contact. Payments to be made by PayPal to: ***will.porrio@online.nl***

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED BY STAMP ACTIVE



Stamp Active, the voluntary organisation that promotes stamp collecting to young people in Great Britain is urgently looking for people to assist with its activities.

In particular, someone is needed to take over the running of Kidstamps, the free postal club for children. This involves putting together the initial starter pack of stamps, activity books and other items and then sending out follow-up packs to continuing members several times each year. All resources will be provided by Stamp Active and any costs incurred by the organiser fully re-imbursed. This can obviously be done from home and does not involve any travelling.

We are very grateful to **Ray Watkins** who has run the club in recent years but now has to stand down at the end of the year.

We would also like another person to assist with fund-raising.

If you would like to discuss these roles, please contact John Davies on 07528 333416.

Your help is needed.

Your society information?

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

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

Diary for the next few months

Local and regional events by ABPS members

November

- 15 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***

February

- 27 Launceston Stamp Fair: 10-3: Lifton Community Centre, Park Wood Rise, **Lifton** PL16 0LA

March

- 6 AEPS Seminar: 10-4 Henry Dixon Hall, Henry Dixon Road, Rivenhall End, **Witham**, Essex CM8 3HR ➔ ***ray.how@btinternet.com***
- 24 Frank Walton Memorial Lecture: 2.00: Central United Reformed Church, 60 Norfolk St, **Sheffield** S1 2JB.

April

- 10 Falmouth Stamp Fair: The Emanuel Baptist Church, Western Terrace, **Falmouth**, TR11 4QJ
- 11 Warminster Stamp Fair: Kingdown School, Woodcock Road, **Warminster** BA12 9DR

May

- 22 Redruth Stamp Fair: 10-4: Jubilee Hall, Wesley Building, Wesley Street, **Redruth**, TR15 2EG

September

- 23-26: ABPS National Congress: Radisson Blu, **Durham** DH1 5TA

November

- 6: CORNEX Liskeard: Millennium Hall, Princess Road, Pensilva, **Liskeard** PL14 5NF

National Exhibitions 2027

- 2-3 April :ABPS National, Abchurch Lane, London
  Competitive exhibition, all National Classes except Astrophilately, First Day Cover and Maximaphily. Entry deadline: 22nd February 2027
- 24-26 September: ABPS National Durham. Competitive exhibition. Entry deadline: tbc

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.

- **Philataipei 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: Closed
- **Praga 2028** 22nd -26th March 2028. FIP Patronage. Full details at: ***www.praga2028.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***

Just a reminder that the Specialist Societies will no longer be automatically sent a printed copy of the ABPS News. Many have already stated that there is no point in receiving one as it cannot be shown to many people, given the few physical meetings. The digital copy will, of course, be sent to the usual contact for distribution or to go in your members' section on your website.

ABPS General Information

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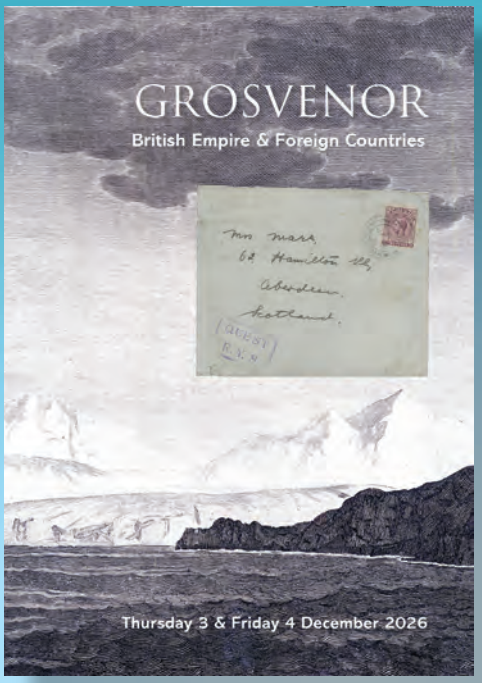
Please use this RPSL address for all correspondence apart from the following:

Stamp Active Network: please write to:
SAN, c/o 5 Bramham Chase, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 7LZ

Membership: If unable to use email, write to: **The Walled Garden, High Street, Hurley, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 5NB**

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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