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ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

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

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Congratulations to the Lionesses

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

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

Meet the New Chair of ABPS:

Dr D. Gwynne Harries, FRPSL

It is a great honour and privilege to step into the role of Chair of the Association of British Philatelic Societies and I would like to begin by acknowledging the dedicated work of all those who have held this position before me, whose efforts have helped shape the ABPS into the respected organisation it is today.

As I begin my two-year tenure, I am keen to build on that strong foundation and help raise the profile of the important work that ABPS does - not only for exhibitors at national and international levels, but also within what has been the vibrant community of local societies that are the lifeblood of British philately.

Sadly, we see an increasing number of clubs having to close, as age profiles and social demographics influence stamp collecting and postal history interests with the younger generations. Of course this isn't helped by the lack of mystery of finding something new from what has become a paucity of decent affordable philatelic material for new and younger collectors and those with limited means. We see some postal agencies stopping issuing stamps at all and by necessity the world is now occupied by email junkies.

However, over the next two years, I hope to strengthen our support for societies and collectors at every level. This includes ABPS continuing to offer practical resources such as supporting facilities for club meetings at special events, as well as enhancing our developing programme of regional support for societies across the country. These initiatives are designed to foster closer collaboration, help societies grow, and ensure that philately continues to thrive in both established and hopefully new communities.

When I first started looking for a society to join (when I still had hair and a six pack), I couldn't find any information in my local library (and there were 5 societies within 10-20 mile radius!). It was the ABPS handbook, distributed free with a copy of a monthly philatelic magazine that allowed me to find a local society. Today, some 45 years on, of course I use the internet. To that end another target I hope to set up is the opportunity for each society, who so chooses, to have their own website at very little or indeed no charge. Websites are so helpful as an advertising and marketing platform and they are the 'go to' way younger generations seek information. I believe that the more we share our interest on such platforms the more budding collectors will potentially join in and help strengthen the philatelic community we all enjoy.

I look forward to working alongside all of you - collectors, exhibitors, and society members alike - to champion our shared passion for philately. Together, I believe we can continue to celebrate, promote, and preserve this remarkable hobby for generations to come.



Editorial



What an exhausting time I had at EuroPhilEx. I was there for a whole week trying to make myself useful. As can be expected at such an event, there was much to do and not always enough time or people to do it. We need to remember what went well so that we can repeat it, and what didn't so that we can find ways of improving on that. Something like that can never be perfect but Birmingham NEC seems to have satisfied many people. I certainly enjoyed meeting old friends and making new ones. If you didn't come and lived within 50 miles, shame on you - I hope to see you at the next one.

I was able to talk to a few people for whom this was their first visit to a Stamp etc. Exhibition. The British Guiana stamp was naturally a topic of conversation and I was quizzed on its history, value and then appearance. I ended up talking to about half-a-dozen people, ages from 12 to unknown, about that stamp, Penny Blacks, Covers, and so on. The usual question is "What should I collect?" My answer is always "What you like - nothing else matters in the early stages. Then you can aim your collection(s) in certain directions." We then moved on to look at some of the displays - Postal History evoked the response "But this is fantastic history", Postcards were "just fascinating - did they really send these through the post 100 years ago?", Thematic and Open "Wow - this is great." and Traditional evoked discussion on designs, production and so on. I ended up exhausted but exhilarated - Philately is still alive and kicking, but remember that we started with stamp collecting and enjoyment not Gold Medals.

Whilst writing this I am mentally preparing for York - another good time - only two days this time, but preceded by a Regional Royal/Postal History Society meeting. I also hear of other successful events having taken place or being prepared around the country. Please support them if you can. Officials and helpers put a lot of effort into them and deserve your support. I hear sometimes of people complaining that not much is available, but it is if you look for these fairs and exhibitions and take the trouble to go to them. We cannot expect them to continue if the support falls away.

Of course, all of these events, federations and societies need helpers of various sorts. We continue to hear of societies closing for three reasons: Lack of members, lack of money and lack of officers/helpers. The first needs careful thought - see David Smith's 100 Steps on the ABPS website. The second is a problem that can only be solved by sensible subscription levels, fund-raising or sponsorship - but remember the ABPS Small Grants Scheme. The third is down to us all - don't put too much on the same people for too long and then complain when they decide to stop.

Off my soapbox now and back to collecting.

Keith Burton

Obituaries

Alan Huggins RDP

(1936-2025)

With deep regret we heard of the death of Dr Alan Keith Huggins RDP (1936-2025) on 27th May. Alan supported philately with many contributions at all levels. He was instrumental in promoting the idea of a federation of all the European National Associations in order to promote cooperation and mutual support, and became the founder President of FEPA from 1989. He was the Chairman of the FIP Postal Stationery Commission, a subject which was dear to his heart. His research and scholarship were recognised and celebrated by philatelists across the globe. For all of his work,



knowledge, research and experience he was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Alan has also been the President of the Royal Philatelic Society of London and the Great Britain Philatelic Society as well as supporting many societies by giving displays of the highest calibre.

Rod Unwin

The West Riding Stamp Club 2025 is saddened to report that Rod Unwin died during the night 28th/29th April 2025 and his funeral took place on Friday 23rd May 2025 at Park Wood Crematorium, Park Road, Elland HX5 9HZ.

Rod was a Fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society of London and a member of their Expert Committee for which he expertised stamps and postal history of Syria and Palestine. He was also a member of the Oriental Philatelic Association of London, which covered the Ottoman Empire. OPAL closed in 2023. He was a Fellow of the Society of Postal Historians, a member of Huddersfield Philatelic Society, West Riding Stamp Club and Halifax Philatelic Society from 1979 where he was the librarian, YPA Delegate and later the archivist. He was president three times over the years. Halifax closed in February 2025.

Rod gave Stamp and Postal History displays to many societies throughout Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire and the Midlands. He also entered philatelic competitions at local level and was awarded many trophies for his entries. He obtained a Gold Medal for his entry in a National Exhibition and following this with a Vermeil Medal in a later International Exhibition. He also had articles published in philatelic publications and was co-author of the book *"The Philatelic History of the Arab Kingdom of Syria"* with Alexander Kaczmarczyk of Paris – first edition 2002 plus a revised 2nd edition published later.

Douglas Armitage and Adrian Lee

Rachel McHugh (1932-2025)

Harrogate Philatelic Society is sad to report that we have lost a stalwart member of the society. She died just one day short of her 93rd birthday after a steady deterioration in her health. Rachel had held many posts in the society, including president on a few occasions during her 50+ years of membership of the society. She had also acted as the society representative to the YPA over many years. Rachel was a lover of the sea - collecting lighthouses, sailing ships and steamers - all on stamps, of course. She was very willing to show them to other societies until travel became a problem. She was very proud to have received the ABPS Award of Merit



Keith Burton

North Kent has bid a sad Farewell to two members recently: **Eileen Elton**, a long-time and stalwart member of the Sidcup Society and **John Corderoy**: a long-term member of the National where he displayed, a frequent and well-regarded speaker, invited to present displays covering regions like Gibraltar involving postal stationery and postal history. He was engaged at the club level, entertaining, encouraging and educating fellow collectors.

John Sinfield

Two further obituaries are not of people but of societies. Both have closed due to falling numbers, increased ages making going out to meetings less inviting and resultant financial problems.

Keswick Philatelic Society had fallen to around six members and decided to close the albums. Some of its members will be considering visiting Cockermouth PS, where I am sure that they will receive a great welcome.

At the other end of the country **Truro Philatelic Society** has closed in its 60th year for the same reasons. Once one of the largest societies in the South West of England, Covid and falling numbers since have led to its closure.

For those who cannot travel I hope that they will consider joining other more distant societies in their Zoom programme. I know that my own society, Harrogate, will welcome them - see our website via the ABPS website for details.

Keith Burton

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.

Congratulations

Smithsonian Philatelic Achievement Award Recipients in November 2025 include:

Chris King

Christopher M B King RDP FRPSL, United Kingdom (born 1948), is a prolific collector, researcher and exhibitor specializing in the philately of Denmark, the Duchy of Schleswig, Lübeck and Napoleonic Europe as well as illustrated, propaganda and censored mail. His exhibits have won numerous international gold and large gold medals, especially “Schleswig, From Danish Duchy to Prussian Province: Early Mail to 1867.” He frequently contributes articles to publications such as *Scandinavian Contact*, *Posthorn*, *London Philatelist* and *Collectors Club Philatelist*. He is an internationally accredited juror for postal history.



Chris joined the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) in 2005 and advanced quickly through its ranks. He became a member of council in 2007, was elected a fellow in 2008 and served as a vice president from 2009–2012. As president from 2013–2015, he focused on positioning the society’s library, building and membership for the future. He led the effort to find a new home for the RPSL, completed in 2019.

His record of service to international philately includes Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (2009–2015), chairman of the British Philatelic Trust (2010–2015), executive board member of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (2009–2012) and board member of the Club de Monte-Carlo de l’Elite de la Philatélie (2016–2024).

He was elected a *membre associé* of the Académie de Philatélie (France) in 2013 and invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2014. He received the RPSL’s Bacon Medal and was named an Honorary Fellow in 2018. He received the award of the European Parliament of L’Académie Européenne de Philatélie in 2018 and the Collectors Club of New York’s Alfred F Lichtenstein Memorial Award for Distinguished Service to Philately in 2019.

The Smithsonian Philatelic Achievement Award (SPAA) was established in 2002 to honour and celebrate living individuals for outstanding lifetime achievement in the field of philately. This achievement may include original research that significantly advances the understanding of philately, exceptional service to the philatelic community or sustained promotion of philately to the benefit of current and future collectors.



Congratulations to all those who displayed at EuroPhilex

and particularly those from the UK.

There were

13 Large Gold medal winners: Bill Barrell, Professor Peter Chadwick, John Davies, Andrew Dove, Dr Stewart Gardiner, James Grimwood-Taylor, Joseph Hackmey, Dr Richard Hobbs, Chris King, Simon Martin-Redman, Glenn Morgan, Atef Sarian and Anthony Whitehead

22 Gold medal winners: Peter Cockburn, Wayne Cox, Dr Richard Hobbs, Dr Alan Huggins, Alfred Khalastchy, Laurence Kimpton, Chris & Birthe King, Robert May, Terence Pickering, Dr Robin Pizer, Tony Plumbe, Atef Sarian, Graham Stockdale, Dr Danna Strydom, Chris Symonds, Andy Taylor (2), Richard Wheatley, Yvonne Wheatley, Paul Woods and Jack Zhang

31 Large Vermeil medals, 16 Vermeil medals, 8 Large Silver medals, 5 Silver medals and 2 Silver Bronze medals.

There were of course many other medal winners from the various countries that participated from around the world. I am sure that their national federations are as proud of them as we are of our national participants.

Inevitably there will be some people who are disappointed by their results. As a non-competitor I can sympathise, but I still have great respect for all the research and learning that you all showed. The displays were very enjoyable and enlightening.

Finally I must congratulate the 3 winners of the Grand Prix Competitions:

Luis Barreiros of Portugal won the Grand Prix International with his *Portuguese India - The "Native Issues" 1871-1888*

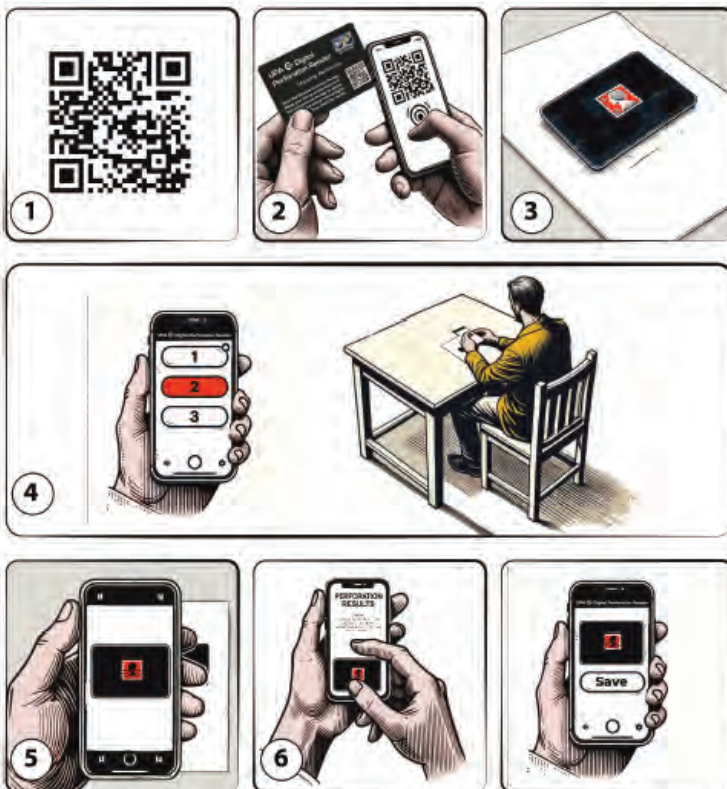
Steve McGill won the Grand Prix National with *GB Machins*

Tom Komnaes of Norway won the FEPA Grand Prix with *Norwegian Skilling Covers*.

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New Vice-President and Chair of ABPS

At the ABPS AGM at the Royal in July amongst all the usual business were two important occasions. **Steven Harrison**, the former Chair and currently secretary of the Royal, was appointed as a Vice-President of ABPS. **John Davies** was



pleased to congratulate Steve before he himself handed over the Chairmanship of ABPS to **Gwynne Harries**.

To the left: Steve Harrison and John Davies

To the right: Gwynne Harries with John Davies



ABPS updates

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

Specialist Societies

Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group secretary has a new email:
morvaawhite@gmail.com

Local Societies

Hinckley Philatelic Society has a new website
HINCKLEYPHILATELICSOCIETY.CO.UK

Largs & District Stamp Club has a new Secretary: Mrs Ellen Linton
ellenlinton@gmail.com

Poole & Bournemouth Stamp & Postcard Club has a new secretary:
David Morris davidlytch@gmail.com

Salisbury & District Philatelic Society has a new secretary: **Claire Scott**
claire@historystore.ltd.uk

Taw & Torridge Philatelic Society: Helen Soby has resigned as secretary - new secretary not yet known

We are delighted to note that **Loughborough Philatelic Society** has rejoined ABPS

We regret to report that the following societies are no longer affiliated to ABPS: Cumbria Postal History, Great Yarmouth Stamp Club.

Amersham and District Philatelic Society
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Mark David Stamps - Postal History Stamps Postcards Cinderella.

John Kinnard - GB Line Engraved

Malcolm Lacey - World Postal History and Covers

Minster Stamps - World stamps, covers and themes

Paper Heritage - Themes and Foreign Stamps

Chris Proctor - European and World Postal History

Stephen Reeves - Postcards and stamp country collections on leaves.

Simon Shaw - Stamps All Periods of GB, CI, IOM, Commonwealth & Foreign.



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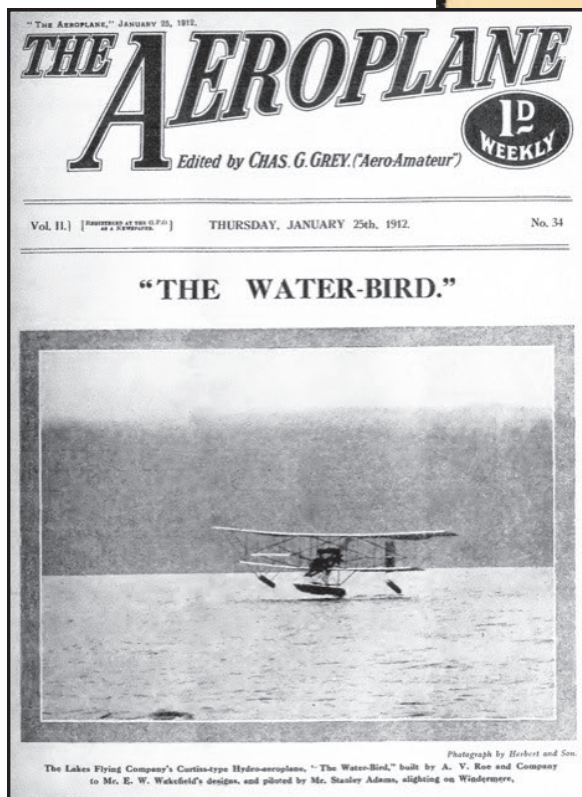


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Forces Postal History & Postcards. First World War Royal Naval Seaplane Station. Hill of Oaks. Windermere 1916-17.

Keith Lillywhite

This bereavement cover with no visible date sent possibly from Manchester (just the first two and a half letters of the postmark location being visible) is addressed to Aircraftsman R Fuller who was based at the Royal Navy Seaplane Station, Hill of Oaks, Windermere. Mail to and from this small Seaplane Station which existed for just over a year could be considered as scarce.



Flying from Hill of Oaks, Lake Windermere dates back to 1911 with the "Lakes Water Bird" Floatplane making the first of many successful flights until it was destroyed with its hanger in a freak storm in March 1912 at Cockshott. Waterbird 'had the distinction of being the first successful British hydro-aeroplane.

The Lakes Aviation Company was taken over in November 1914 by the Northern Aircraft Company which had been training pilots and was recognised by the Military. In May 1916 the RNAS decided to fully take over and Windermere became known as RNAS Windermere or RNAS Hill of Oaks. However, financial difficulties

encountered by the civil company later that year forced military instruction and the base itself to cease by the end of June 1917.

The aircraft flown at Hill of Oaks during its service as a Royal Navy Seaplane Station were Short 827 Seaplane (3), Nieuport MH Seaplane (4) and FBA Type A Flying Boat.

References:-
waterbird.org.uk
abct.org.uk



Short 827 3328 flying over Windermere, with F.B.A. 3206 at the Hill of Oaks slipsay. Note the early Union Jack rudder markings appearing through the weathered blue, white and red striping.

(F. Bostett)

TO ALL SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS

Will you PLEASE check that you have paid your annual affiliation fee to the ABPS for 2025? Sadly, a quarter of you have not yet paid! If you are not sure whether you have paid or not, then please contact me. My details are at the end of the magazine.

This will be the last ABPS News and communication from the ABPS to societies that have not paid until payment has been received. If there is a problem in paying then please contact me as soon as possible.

Barry Stagg

ABPS Membership Secretary

PS It also means that you are not eligible for the reduced Insurance rate with Magnet Insurance.

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On the Club circuit

What is going on in local and national societies.

Please send 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 have agreed to their photo appearing in this national issue.* "➔" Indicates contact information.

Local Societies

Amersham and District

Since the last newsletter, we have had another series of excellent displays. Henley Philatelic Society visited us, with displays from **Anne Stammers** (*Gold*) and **Ian King** (*Argentine Illustrated Postal Stationery*). **Chris King**'s display on *Danish Postal History* focussed largely on pre-stamp mail, and offered a fascinating insight into the social history of parts of the country. **Hugh Osborne** displayed a very impressive collection of *Falkland Islands mail, 1937-71*, covering all the rates with non-philatelic material, a difficult task indeed. Our club competition evening was held on 29th May, with five different winners in the five categories, whilst the **Malay Study Circle** concluded our season on 12th June, their fine display compensating for the sad news of the unexpected death of one of our members, **Ian Gordon-Cummings**. During the summer break we will be finalising our preparations for the STAMPERSHAM fair. This will be held in the Chilterns Leisure Centre on Sunday 21st September. The venue is just over 5 minutes' walk from the Metropolitan Line and Chiltern Railways station at Amersham. All-day parking should cost around £1.50, and plenty of sandwiches and home-made cake will be available. We currently have all dealer slots filled, and full details can be found on our website at <https://stampersham.org.uk/>. The new meeting programme will also be available on our website in due course.

Tim Harrison

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.

Barnsley

Our member **Dr Dinar Athale** had a triple success at EuroPhilEx Birmingham. He won a Large Vermeil for *Development of Air Mail Service in India 1911 to 1947*, Vermeil for *Postal Stationery of India 1856 to 1947* and a Large Silver for *Diabetes The sweet smell of success* (Thematic). At the recent YPA AGM Dinar was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. We are proud of his achievements.

Glenn Fearons



Basildon

In April **Maggie Thompson Entertained:** with *Triangles*. Liberia came in for close scrutiny, including complete sheets, proofs and essays. Usage on covers was not neglected. Then came her revenue stamps and markings of the Saar valley region, beginning with a document of 1877, and ending in the 1960s. Each German region had its own revenue stamps. The chequered history of the area meant that she included the alternating influences of French and German authorities. In May **Mick Carter** showed us *British Forces in Egypt 1932 to 1951*. The British military presence in Egypt lasted until after World War Two. British services personnel were given concessionary postal rates by the Egyptian Post Office in 1932, for which the Navy, Army and Air Force Institution (NAAFI) issued postal seals that had to be applied to the backs of envelopes. For airmail or other premium services, additional Egyptian postage stamps were required. A few postcards were used to “lighten” the display. He also showed us WWII, with censorship and the presence of other Allied troops. In June **Charlie Mead** entertained us with four very educational films, covering the work of Jean de Sperati, the master forger of early issues; the “CANCELLED” postmark on certain Pitney Bowes remainders; a documentary showing how mail was got to Royal Navy ships at sea, and then **Bill Barrell** on how to float off and “improve” Penny Blacks and Reds and Twopenny Blues.

Fly on the Wall

Bookham

In April **Grace Davies FRPSL** gave an unusual display on the theme of *Peace*, which was surprisingly broad. Her display began with two frames of Argentina 1903 postal stationery, including the vignette ‘Paz y Labor’ (Peace and Work). The bulk of the display illustrated Alfred Nobel and the Peace Laureates. It was an interesting and thought-provoking display. Our AGM was held in May when **Malcolm Cole** was elected as our new Chairman and **James Podger** as Vice-Chairman. **Chris Lucas** joined the committee as Publicity Secretary. **Richard Park** was awarded the Norman Frost Salver for



Richard Park receives the trophy

2025. **Ian Marshall** was our speaker in June. He began his display with a brief history of coffee, which arrived in England in 1652. Coffee houses, of which there were well over 2000 in London over a 200-year period, played a very important role both in the development of the City of London and in the distribution of mail during this period. The display illustrated this with many examples covering the period to the 1850s by which time the so called "coffee house craze" was abating because of competition from, amongst others, a more efficient Post Office, the development of offices, the arrival of London Gentlemen's clubs and changing social habits; which brought about their fairly abrupt demise. A thoroughly engaging and entertaining display. We meet every 4th Tuesday of the month (except for December) at the Old Barn Hall, Great Bookham in the afternoon.

➔ www.bookhamstampclub.com

Barry Feltham

Bristol

We have enjoyed three speakers: **Ken Flint** on *Cyprus* with a long history spilling over into present day unease between the Turks and Greeks, **Kim Stuckey** on *QEII Pre-decimal Postal History* offering Scottish High Value Labels to send used bank notes and pay NHS Prescription charges with particular attention to the correct usage of each value and finally **Chris Harman** on *Classic GB Local Posts*, the first half included Parcel Post labels and the second College post labels majoring on Oxford – a high quality collection. In-house, **Ron Gillard** gave a comprehensive presentation on *King Wenceslas* (10th Century Bohemian King) with the reminder of doing good and emphasizing the relevance of our Christmas Carol 'Good King Wenceslas'. **Ian Spencer** provided an impassioned evening on *Australian Rail Stamps/Labels*. The 9-page competition for Bristol & District Federation of Philatelic Societies took place with marking by **Barry Stagg**. Some 16 entries over the five classes under consideration. The winning entries **coming from Martin Elliott, Carlton Jones, Alan Harris** (of Thornbury PS) and **Ian Spencer** (of Bristol PS) – a big thank you for the members' efforts. The internal Auction held at Woodlands where eight tables of up to 20 items provided further action – thank you to all those who participated. Ahead just three further meetings before the season ends – a visit from Newport PS, an AGM and 16-page competition and finally members invited to present collections on WWI or WWII followed by a Bourse. Happy Summer to all. *Robert de Smit*

Burnley and District

As I write this report we are now on our summer break at the end of our season and putting together a syllabus for the next one which will start on 4th September. We had the pleasure of a society pub evening dinner at the start of May and then visited EuroPhilEx held at the NEC in Birmingham. Several members made the visit spread over different days as each had a different

**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.**



John Jones and Howard Hughes

reason for going. Overall it was voted a success and a change from the London venue. The AGM passed off well and being still solvent we look forward to our next season. The chain of office was passed from **Howard Hughes** to **John Jones** who will preside for 2025-26. Most officers stood again but like many societies we are still a happy band of pilgrims and will welcome new members if we can find them. We always look forward to some of the larger stamp fairs in July at Midpex and York.

Barry W Evans

Cambridge

Our Annual General Meeting was held in Cambridge on 4th June. **Michael Brindle** was confirmed as the President Elect, to take over the role of President from the June 2026 AGM. We were also pleased to see **Jan Jirmasek** elected as a new committee member. For the June Zoom meeting display we were pleased to welcome **Andy Napier** who gave a very comprehensive display of *The Fiji Definitive Overprints, a Temporary Solution that has Lasted 20 Years*. We were shown many dozens of examples of the errors that had occurred, all fully detailed as to their nature. In early July we had a visit from **Andy Soutar** who gave a very detailed and informative display of *Grenada; The Spice Island*. This covered both mint and used stamps from the very first issues, including the many revenue stamps, through to the death of King George VI. A few of the stamps included some of the difficult-to-find listed varieties. We will continue with the format of a face-to-face meeting in Cambridge, at Oddfellows Hall, on the first Wednesday each month and also a Zoom presentation on the third Friday each month. ➔ info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk Peter Morton

Chelmsford and District

For our 13th May meeting we were very pleased to have **Maggie Thompson** as our guest speaker, with a fine presentation of German postage including examples during 1923, a period of hyper-inflation. Our scheduled speaker was unable to attend our meeting on 27th May. **Pat Adams** and **Eric Lienhard** kindly stepped into the breach with Eric giving us a tasty treat with *Postcards from Suchards*, the Swiss chocolate maker, whilst Pat presented covers *Promoting Norwegian Tourism, Company Products and Exhibitions*. On 10th June **Ian McElwain** gave us a very informative presentation on *Malta*, including early envelopes and quarantine post. For our final meeting held on 24th June, before our summer break, we had **Giles du Boulay** delight us with a return visit with a wonderful presentation entitled *Danzig LuPosta 1932 Air Exhibition*. Our next meeting will be held on 9th September. For details ➔ Dave Everard on 01245

465506 or email: davideverard@live.com New members and visitors are always welcome. Dave Everard

Cheltenham

After the winter break Chairman **Andrew Millington** entertained us with his *Past, Present and Future* which included a Sierra Leone, Fourah Bay College 150th Anniversary 5c stamp on which his former office window could be seen, Cornish mine mail, and an embryonic 'issued in 1953' collection. The members' meeting on *My Favourite Country* featured *GB, USA, Malta* and *South Africa* displays. **Carlton Jones** gave a hot display of *Jamaica* in March and the next month **Bill Tilbury** regaled us with cold tales of *Antarctica*. Newport & Gwent visited in June and brought displays on *Justus von Liebig, Unusual Post Offices* and *New Zealand*. The final display of our 78th season was **Crawford Alexander's West Highland and Island Steamers**. We enjoyed the company of Swindon Philatelic Society on a charabanc outing to EuroPhilEx. As always, we concluded with the most exciting meeting of the year, the AGM, where trophies were presented to one-page competition winner **Josie Remez** (*Rainbow Trials*) and one-frame winner **Barry Stagg** (*Archery, Archers and Arrows*). The inaugural award of the Joy Simpson Memorial Trophy for the best talk by a club member was made to **Chris Miller**. The Victor Turner Memorial trophy, first awarded in 1968 for the best member's talk was retired as it was literally falling apart! **Barry Stagg** was elected Chair for the next three year at the AGM – we wish him good luck. Andrew Millington

Chichester and District

Peter Cockburn FRPSL was the guest speaker on 28th April. His fabulous and well-designed frames of stamps and bills was entitled *Ceylon Revenues & Telegraphs*. Ceylon was under British colonial rule from 1815. Native sovereignty as a Dominion of the British Empire was granted after WWII in 1948. In 1972 Ceylon became a Republic and was renamed Sri Lanka. In 1862 de la Rue printed the first revenue stamps. These were the brown (with varying shades) 1d and 2d vertical and rectangular issues showing Queen Victoria's head facing to the right. If you look at early Victorian stamps her head faces left. These were used on Exchange Bills. In any monetary transaction there were three parties involved: payee A, payee B and the 'drawer'. Three stamps were used on Exchange Bills. With Queen Victoria's death in 1901, King Edward VII's left-facing side portrait appeared on stamps as is considered normal practice. Peter's display was a wonderful array of fiscal stamps including master die proofs, blocks of three, singles and stamps on Exchange Bills. There were Foreign Bills, Provisionals, Judicials, Telegraph stamps, and Stamp Duty: Over 120 sheets of philatelic study. He was an extremely enthusiastic speaker who obviously loves and enjoys his study. Our thanks to **John Bushell** for an



Peter Cockburn

outstanding display and talk in two parts: *Charles Dickens* and *Chile*. John displayed numerous postcards showing the various homes Dickens lived in or visited. John's collection of 1940s aero-covers, postcards and stamps was interesting.

Martha Brown

Dawlish



Our meeting on 11th June at the Manor House was very well-attended by not only our own members but also visitors from Dawlish History Society - all keen to see a display and talk about *Exeter and South Devon Postal History* by **Roger Mazzilious** shown being presented with a certificate. The display

showed both pre-stamp and stamp material including quite a lot from Dawlish and its surrounding areas. The display was much appreciated by both members and visitors. Our next meeting at the Manor House was on 9th July when our speaker talked about *World First Issues of Stamps and Philatelic material*. Visitors are always welcome to our meetings, more information can be found on our website or by calling 01626 864844.

James Wigmore

Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies
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10am until 4pm

Norfolk Pavilion, South of England Showground, Ardingly,
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Further details: Kevin Dillistone: Dillyboy4744@gmail.com

Dundee

At our AGM the following were elected for 2025-26

President: **Norman Kelso** Vice President: **Brian McQueen**

Secretary and Treasurer: **David Millar**

Exchange Packet Secretary and Librarian: **David Easson**

Publicity Officer: **Colin Campbell** Webmaster: **Stephen Kennedy**

Representative to ASPS: **Francis Podger**

Committee: **Richard Griffiths** and **James Campbell**



The season ended with a dinner attended by members and spouses. The new season starts on 25th September with a President's display - *Canada & GB Stamps KGV-KGVI*. A full programme follows including a number of Zoom meetings that are open to non-members by contacting the secretary. The full syllabus can be seen on www.dundeephilatelic.org Colin Campbell

Frinton & District



The Chairman thanks Derek (right)

In April **Derek Connell FRPSI** presented *The London Exhibitions*. He began with the first London philatelic exhibition in May 1890, a four-day event held by the City of London. There were special postmarks to celebrate the golden jubilee of the uniform penny post and examples of newspaper wrappers. He continued with the exhibitions in July 1890, June 1897, May 1906, 1912, 1923, 1934, 1940 and continued with the shows held every 10 years. He added in the 1899 Manchester Philatelic Society show which was described as the first international philatelic exhibition and

showed some souvenir labels. In May we enjoyed a visit from Ipswich PS with

presentations from **Alan Starkey, Francis Dunn, Kevin May** and **Andy Stutter** showed an amazing variety of material. **Grace Davies** brought us a first class presentation on "*The Nobel Peace Prize*" in June. Grace explained that Alfred Nobel was a Swedish scientist and inventor. On his death in 1896 his will provided for the funding annually of five prizes, comprising the Peace prize and prizes for chemistry, physics, physiology or medicine, and literature. Grace presented an eclectic mix of stamps, postcards and covers relating to various peace laureates over the years. These ranged from Jimmy Carter and Barack Obama, Neville Chamberlain, Gorbachev, Sadat and Begin, to Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, Albert Schweitzer, Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela. In recent years more organisations have received the prize such as the International Red Cross and Amnesty International. *Steve Alpe*

Glasgow Caledonian

In April at separate meetings of the Glasgow PS and the Caledonian PS, the two societies agreed to merge, and immediately following the Caledonian PS

Cornwall Philatelic Federation CORNEX

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Federation Competition & Displays

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for further details

meeting which approved the merger a meeting of the members of both former societies was held to elect the committee of the merged society which will be known as the Glasgow Caledonian PS. A number of informal summer meetings are being planned, and when activities resume in October meetings will be held on Thursdays alternating between afternoon and evening meetings. **George Henshilwood**, formerly secretary of Glasgow PS was elected president of the new society and **Stewart Gardiner FRPSL**, who was secretary of the Caledonian was elected to the same position in the new society. At the Caledonian AGM which preceded the merger, trophies for the various society competitions during the year were awarded as follows: Caledonian Rose Bowl for best display by a member during the season – **Brian Dow**; Frank Brown Rose Bowl for display of stamps of any period – **Anthony Duda**; Jean M Campbell Trophy for Postal History including Aerophilately – **George Henshilwood**; Fairbairn Salver for Postcards and Cinderellas – **Maureen Mathieson** and Merrylees Trophy for Thematics – **Alistair Burrow**.

Alistair Burrow

Grantham

The May meeting convened with two short talks and displays by the Nottingham Philatelic Society from **Bill Whitaker** on *Australian WWII Civilian Censored Mail* and **Mick Britton** on *The Boxer Uprising*. Both subjects were very well presented and much liked by those in



the audience. This comes as part of a reciprocal venture by both clubs to display at each other's events this year and into next. If any member of the APBS would like to attend one of our evenings, then please see our website for a calendar of events that are to be held this year at the club and details of who to contact. All are welcome, along with anyone who wishes to attend our monthly Zoom meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. For details of the Zoom meeting please contact **Martin Lodge** through email at MAVlodge@btinternet.com

Steve Carter

Guildford

At our AGM in May, **Susan Taylor** (President) summarised another successful year for GDPS. Our meetings are well-attended and the club continues to grow. **Barry Stephens** (Hon Secretary) reviewed the programme for 2024/5, which included presentations ranging from *Caribbean Postage Pre-1900*, *Guernsey*,

Australia to the South Atlantic and the Centenary of the Postage Stamp, as well as exchange visits with Epsom & Ewell PS. **David Taylor** (Treasurer) reported that we had done well financially, including monies raised from the Sales Table, and concluded that this success had enabled GDPS to cut the Annual Subscription for 2025/26 from £15 to £10. Following the AGM, there was a members' display entitled *Flora & Fauna*. Several people contributed, showing material from *post-UDI Rhodesia, Australia, Montserrat, British Virgin Islands ('BVI'), Belgium* etc. As usual, **Simon Burke** applied his original interpretation to the topic showing a variety of material. The prize winners were **Susan Taylor** with a thematic display of *Herons on Cover* (plus a teapot), **James Podger** who showed BVI (including original artwork) and **Charles Smith** who displayed *Poster Stamps Issued by Belgian Society of Agriculture and Horticulture*. Our 2025/6 season starts on 10th



September with a presentation about *Monaco 1885-1965*, followed by *Montserrat* on 8th October, a third meeting on 12th November and our Christmas Social on 10th December. The current programme and further details can be found at www.spanglefish.com/guildfordstampclub

Rob Cooke

Harrogate

On ANZAC Day **Peter Rix** showed us material relating to *ANZAC DAY & Other Matters Australasian*. We all learnt a great deal about the conflict in Gallipoli and the ways that it has been remembered and celebrated. A week later at our Annual Dinner **Mike Wilesmith** received his ABPS Award of Merit from **Yvonne Wheatley**, Chair of the Awards Committee, in recognition of his long service to the society. Our Friday evening meetings finished with our AGM and Charity Auction, at which we raised over £100 for Water Aid. Our monthly Monday afternoon very informal meetings continue, with small numbers but great enjoyment. We have also held Zoom meetings on *Things that Grow, Navy and Capitals*. Each one produced a great diversity of approaches from members showing from their own collections. It is remarkable how well different people find a new approach and produce slides that show the details or additional research relating to a single cover, set of stamps or whatever they have managed to link to the stated topic.

Keith Burton

Hereford & Mid Wales

We started our Summer quarter with an evening of members' displays, on the theme of *Youth*. The range of interpretations of the theme was as amazing as ever! From a copy of a letter from George VI to the children of the country in 1946 thanking them for their contribution to Victory; topics included *Youth Stamps from Berlin and Greece, Scouting, Education, Children's Television Programmes* through to *Young Animals*, particularly kittens! June brought an

exchange visit from Newport and Gwent PS with **Les Ashton-Smith**, **Andy Williams** and **Bev Davies** giving displays of *Justus Von Liebig*, *Stamps of Romania* and the *History of the Leipziger Messe*. Our July meeting of each season comprises our AGM and Competitions. I'm sure, in common with many other clubs nowadays, our AGM lasted longer than previously; the issues of society banking and times of meetings needed to be resolved, items which in the past have simply been taken for granted. Business over, **Martin King** won the President's Cup for his excellent display of *Tanganyika 1916-1964*, **John Henshall** took home the Shingler Thematic Cup with his display of Military Aircraft entitled *The Generation Game*. The Novice Cup was once again won by a new member of the society, **David Bruce-Kingsmill** for, as last year, a display on the Falkland Islands, this time *Queen Elizabeth II Commemoratives 1953-1968*. What is it about Novices and the Falklands? *Janet Nelson FRPSL*



Martin King receiving the President's Cup from Helen Etherington

High Wycombe and District

Our season closed with visits by **David Belton**, displaying *Plymouth Postal History*, and **Norton Wragg** helping us travel *Around the World in Postcards from Switzerland*. This should have been shown to us last year, but he left it at home and only discovered the mistake after 150 miles travelling. Thank you for returning and giving us a very entertaining display! **Tim Harrison** displayed *Stamps and Postal History of Estonia First Republic (1919-1940)* at Reading on 6th June, on a reciprocal visit.

Tim Harrison

Huddersfield

In April **Richard Wheatley** presented on *Leeds Postal History*. In the first laydown he began with pre-stamp covers, with the first item from 1621. A cover dated 1706 showed the first postmark. He explained how most of the mail came via the Great North Road, via York to the north and Ferrybridge to the south. The Leeds postmark was originally stamped in a straight line, but this became curved and eventually appeared as a full circle. The second laydown focused on spoon and duplex postmarks from 1854, including the various series and types. Richard concluded with cachets of Yeadon and Hunslet, two sub-offices within the Leeds area. In May the first laydown was a presentation by **Jill Fearons** on *Submarines and Maritime Postal History*. This began with the early submarines, through WWII and up to the modern-day, including many postcards which

helpfully illustrated the different types of submarine. She finished with a broader maritime history from local waters, especially from the time around WWII. **Glenn Fearons** presented the second laydown on the *1936 Johannesburg International Philatelic Exhibition (JIPEX)*, held in South Africa. This included a selection of postcards, panes of stamps and covers, together with some memorabilia from the exhibition. In June, the final meeting of the 2024-25 season, the society held its AGM and had a one-sheet competition, which was won by **Brian Hitchcock** with his impressive entry of *Twopenny Blues*.

The society's new season will begin in September. →
jtaylor3@ntlworld.com for further details.

Hull

Recently, we welcomed the chance to spend another afternoon exploring more *Scottish Islands* with **John Sussex RDP**, with his usual appealing and informative mixture of postal history and postcards. Satisfying the society's curiosity as to what was shown at EuroPhilEx, **Daphne McMillan** showed *KEVII Postcards*, including a selection of items left out of the entered exhibit, inviting



Clive Jones with a favourite item

the members to work out why the rejects were rejected. Some of the cards showed the King visiting a local estate in East Yorkshire. We spent another afternoon travelling when **Clive Jones** brought his comprehensive display of *TPOs*, accompanied by many stories of the development of the service. A very entertaining and informative afternoon was spent with **Graham Winters** and his *Goats*. Guiding us through his transformation of the late Francis Kiddle's collection into an 8-frame exhibition entry, he explained structure and balance and the importance of having a good introductory page. The content ranged from postal history through stamps and ephemera, even including a pair of goat ear rings (which Graham declined to model). Of course the final item was a dead goat (thankfully philatelic) I recommend this display to any society with a mixture of well-

established and newer collectors, as whatever their interest or discipline, they



Jill Fearons

Jon Taylor

will be well entertained. **Robert McMillan** completed our season with his thorough and detailed *Postal History of Kingston upon Hull* (also shown at EuroPhilEx), showing pre-WWI material. → www.hullphilatelicssociety.com

Daphne

McMillan

Huntingdonshire

As our expected speaker had to withdraw soon before our 10th June meeting, two of our members stepped in. Our president **John George** opened showing *Great Britain Booklets*. The first one was a 1935 Silver Jubilee along with the different varieties found in the booklets. The EVIII booklet panes had different watermarks which we were shown. The GVI were printed by different firms - all shown. For the first time the booklets carried adverts. There were several Queen Elizabeth II pre-decimal series on Birds, English Heritage, Ships. The stamps for Cooks booklet showed stamps with phosphor bands. From the Decimal series we were shown British Pillar Boxes, Postal Uniforms and Birds continued. A 1974 booklet advertised Canada Life Assurance group along with other series of Country Crafts, British Canals, Railways and Industrial Archaeology. **Alan Duffy** showed us *The Stamps of Germany* starting with the 1949 reconstruction series then onto the 1957 Europa set. In 1958 they issued a set of charity stamps for the Berlin children's holiday fund and they continued Issuing these until 1972 and we were shown many of them. Each year at Christmas from 1978 they issued a sheet of stamps. We saw most of those up to 1984. He finished with a miniature sheet issued for the München Olympics held in 1972. Two different displays but both interesting. Our meetings are held at Hemingford Abbots Village Hall High Street PE28 9AH starting at 7-15

→ David Birkert on 01480 468037

David Birkert

Launceston



Roger and his audience

Our June speaker was member **Roger Winn** whose subject was *My Italian Job but don't Blow the Doors Off!* Roger commenced by showing a range of stamps overprinted for use in Italian post offices abroad particularly those in territories acquired from Austria. This was followed by a selection of Italian stamps for use in the

Dodecanese Islands which had been occupied by Italy in 1912 during the Turco-Italian war after the Islands had earlier in 1912 declared their independence from Turkey. Then followed stamps from the colonies of Italy and finally British stamps overprinted for use in the occupied colonies after Italy's capitulation in WWII. Included within the display was a portrait of Giuseppe Garibaldi. Roger recounted the important role Garibaldi played in the unification of Italy and the

creation of the Kingdom of Italy. An interesting aspect of the presentation was the various anecdotes that Roger could relate about the individual items.

Des Kent

Leeds

Our Summer programme began in April with a fascinating talk by **Richard Hindle** on *The Extraordinary Life of Hubert Wilkins*, born in Australia, joined the Royal Navy, completed many plane journeys. To fund taking a submarine under the Arctic Ocean he signed 543 covers. **Dr Tim Harrison** shared the *Stamps and Postal History of Estonia up to 1945* later that month. Soon after **Richard Smith** shared his *Penny Lilacs with Cancellations*, the story of Madeline Smith of Glasgow, postmarks with arsenic poisoning. His second half was *Romantic Cards* and *Cynicus' Cards* with political and social issues. We concluded with **Martin Kingdom** sharing an interesting display of *Liberia*. At our AGM we adopted a new constitution. After over a year of planning, discussion and contributions from many members, the new constitution is designed to enable our society to function - and develop - in a rapidly changing situation, with a diminishing membership. Our existing rules reflected the time of a large active (and younger) membership, and included roles and structures which were becoming increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to fill. Simply, our everyday running will be in the hands of a three-person Executive (*President, Secretary, Treasurer*), meeting regularly and whose decisions and actions will be communicated to all members within a couple of weeks. This Executive reports to a slimmed down committee of elected members, which meet twice a year. If you would like further details of this development. then please contact our secretary on tomrichsmith@gmail.com

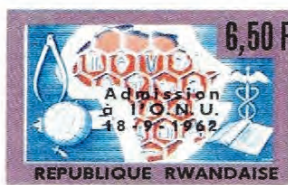
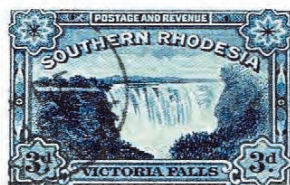
Liz Schweiger

Lewisham

As **Paul Baylis** said in his introduction, he 'collects allsorts', so it was no surprise to members that his presentation on *WWI Charity* was based on postcards and lapel badges related to Flag Day collections. Starting with examples from the UK, including the Queen Alexandra Field Force Fund which sent parcels to the troops, he had postcards and pin badges from France, Germany, Italy and America. Examples focused on blind victims of gas attacks, the Lord Roberts Memorial Fund for homes for the disabled, the American charity 'Fatherless Children of France', and lots of examples supporting Red Cross flag days for hospitals. The Church Army, the Scottish Church Army and the Salvation Army were all represented, particularly with fundraising efforts to construct welfare huts for the troops. The Salvation Army also made donuts for the US troops – they were without all ingredients apart from flour and jam! – which led to the sobriquet 'doughboys' for the American soldiers. The



Leeds Philatelic Society Stamp Fair 2025



Pudsey Civic Hall

Dawson's Corner, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 5TA

15th & 16th November

10:30am - 5pm both days

For further details, contact Richard Jagielski on
07779112037 or rj.jagie@gmail.com

www.leedsps.org.uk



YMCA was well-represented, with plenty of lapel badges, cards, and postal stationery, including one intriguing example that had a section you could cut out and fold up into one of their welfare huts! As the war continued, the focus turned to raising money specifically for munitions, and Paul's presentation ended with a section on war bonds, including Italian, German and British examples. This was a fascinating and absorbing presentation on an unusual collection, and it was much appreciated by our members. ➔ hickey_anthony@hotmail.com

Tony Holdsworth

Lostock

At our April afternoon meeting our visiting speaker was **David Segee** with his talk on *Mauritius*, using a combination of projector slides and specimen stamp displays. In May long-time member **Bernard Hooley** entertained with his talk entitled *Postcards Tour of Bolton including Local Railways*. It included Knowsley Street showing trams in days gone by, Thicketford Bridge way back surrounded by a farm and cottages, The Bowling Green at Haslam Park and similar postcards showing where Bernard used to play cricket. After Bernard's talk **Adrian Jones** presented him with our certificate of appreciation and we had a members group photograph to celebrate the long-term membership of the group. In June our speaker was **Clive Griffiths** with his fascinatingly entitled *The Brutal Friendship: Postal Aspects of the Hitler-Mussolini Alliance 1937-41*. Adrian and Clive had not seen each other for many years having been in the same class as schoolboys over 75 years ago - what a nice way to be remembered. As I write this report we are looking forward to the 1st July when **Norton Wragg** will be speaking about *Postal History of Railways* and finally on the afternoon of 5th August **Adrian Jones** will be talking about *Philatelics in Kenya*. *David Morley*



Maidstone & Mid-Kent

New Season, New Programme and our programme secretary has come up with some interesting subjects. Our evening meetings kick off on 11th September with a members' evening with the subject of *Natural History* followed by **Colin Evans** with a display on the *Ross Dependency*. October will see our Thematic and Novices Competitions followed by a visit from Bromley & Beckenham PS. November starts with our Bi-Annual Auction and a visit from the Medway PS. In December just one meeting which is our President's Evening. The morning meetings start on the 18th September with members finding a display of *Maps*. In October we welcome **Hugh Bennett** with *Kiribati* followed in November by two members showing *Bermuda* and *A Miscellany of Birds*. December will be a display of **Tony Davis's** material. In 2026 we will have evening displays of

Postcards Front or Back, Whatever the Weather, Grant and Revell competitions, Trains of the World, German Aerophilately the First 50 Years, GB Security Overprints and Underprints, Geoff Hanney Entertains, Spring Auction, War Tax, Ceylon Revenues, Stamp Printers and the AGM. The morning displays will consist of L is for...Members, USA Local Posts and Carriers, 12 sheets from my Collection by members, A Trip along the Kent Coast and United Nations. I am looking forward to a very good season.

Brian Stonestreet FRPSL

Mid-Sussex

We completed a very successful second half of the season, with attendance frequently nearing 20 and members enjoying excellent displays from visiting speakers and club members. Our president, **John Bushell**, again devised a varied and interesting programme starting off with something very local with **Josh Spoor** giving a display of *Post Offices from along the Sussex Coast*. Displays by visiting speakers followed: **Ian Marshall** with *Miscellany of Early GB*, **Malcolm Cole** showing *Spies and WWI Prisoners of War*, **Alan Hall** the second part of his *Trip around Arabia* and finally two displays presented on the same afternoon, **David Milsted** showing *World Cup 66* and **Andrew Harris** *St Lucia*. These were interspersed by members' displays including **Peter Cockburn** showing *Ceylon Revenues*, **John Bushell** *More Unusual Items of Chile* and the popular old chestnut of members' displays starting with *R, S and T*. Members also had the opportunity to buy and sell at our annual auction and bourse.

Jim Etherington

Morecambe and District

Our meeting in May fell upon the 6th - The 185th anniversary of the 1d black and 2d blue. The members' night subject was *It was 185 Years Ago Today*. As always members were inventive and imaginative in their presentations. Our newest member came up with a display of *Stamps actually issued on 6th May in GB* over the course of the intervening years. Another display showed Horizon Labels, arguing that nowadays they are the next generation of stamps that are bought at post offices, and used to send mail. The highlight of the evening however was a chance to cut penny blacks from a sheet with scissors, just as they did in post offices in 1840. Members sought their initials in the corner letters. However we had the benefit of bright electric lights and no queue of impatient customers on the other side of the counter.

Tim Harley



1d a snip

Newport

Here at Newport Philatelic Society we hold two meetings a month on Wednesday afternoons along with Zoom meetings throughout the winter months. We have a strong membership following with some members travelling



STAMP & POSTCARD FAIR

20th September 2025, 10:00am To 4:00pm

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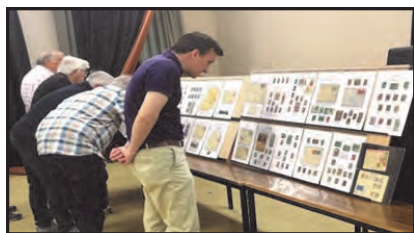
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up to 40 miles to join in our meetings. Our meetings are varied so as to keep all of our members interested in different subjects, the Zoom meetings are very popular. Local societies such as Cardiff visit giving displays that our members find interesting and rewarding to see. Our new venue in Rogerstone Newport has proved very popular

with parking outside the hall and easy access for disabled if required. We are holding a Stamp Fair in September with 10 dealers attending at The Magor Hub Main Road Magor NP23 6GD - 2 mins from Junction 23a M4

➔ roybentley@mylundy.co.uk

Roy Bentley

Norfolk and Norwich+

Our Healthy Transition: A varied and enjoyable season of members' activities was ended in June with our Annual General Meeting. Exceptionally for such an occasion, a valuable exchange of views ensued about how best to develop our programme of events and how to encourage fresh members. Committee will progress. On the personnel front, we finally lost the services of our stalwart – **Larry Lewendon**. He received heartfelt thanks for his immense contribution over many years. He remains a member. **David McIntosh** will continue as president for another year, while **Andrew Cawdron** has become our secretarial officer. **Peter Boyce** continues as Treasurer. Other key personnel also continue as for the previous year. Our programme for the 2025-26 season was revealed. One initiative is that three meetings will be held in the afternoon – to some extent as a trial. Gratifyingly, several expert visiting speakers have agreed to visit us. Members' displays are also planned – both as competitive events and otherwise. We are now well-prepared for another of our Stamp Fairs – held on 2nd August at the usual Hewett Academy location.

Chris Southgate

North West Kent

On 8th April **Robert Mott** showed *Third Reich Private Postal Stationery*. Alongside official state-issued items, many privately produced cards and envelopes, authorized by the Reichspost and bearing pre-printed stamps were sold, often with special designs or advertising. In June 1942 the Reichspost ordered that such stationery could no longer be sold to collectors or dealers, only those commissioned for genuine postal use. This was driven by wartime shortages, the desire to keep propaganda in circulation rather than in collections, tighter control over distribution, and the regime's general disapproval of non-essential hobbies during total war. A fortnight later, **Phil Clarke** showed us *British Postal History* from the 18th Century onwards, preprinted / embossed letter sheets through the 1d post onto the embossed Wilding & Machin with the increasing rates. In May **Paul Davey** brought *Aspects of China* a story of postal activity from 12th Century Government couriers through European Ports occupations, the Japanese occupation to the post-war struggles and **Brian Stonestreet** *New Zealand a New Era*; a comprehensive look at the 1915

1st series issues and the various printings of 1935-42 series. In June **Janet & Nick Nelson** took us to *Puerto Rico & Ifni*, two small but interesting states with a rich history. In July **Ray Barton** showed his display of *GB speeding up the mail 1854-7* a short but fascinating episode in British postal history. *John Sinfield*

Northwich

An Alpine journey along Swiss Railways: We were delighted to welcome back a former speaker, **Norton Wragg**, to give us another display - this time on *Swiss Railways*. The display started with a range of early material, including covers and postcards with the names of the locations on postmarks, which continued until 1880 after which the routes were numbered instead. The first lines started in 1847 and were all smaller railways, on which there were two rates for inland post, (local up to 10km), and national. Shortly after, town names were added to postal stationery to allow for accurate accounting of the revenues that were being charged and distributed from this postal service. By 1880 circular date stamp cancels arrived bearing route numbers and Norton was able to show us a range of these. The main focus of the display was on mail using the Swiss system en route to somewhere in Switzerland, but there were also a number of covers going from Switzerland to other parts of Europe. Overall the display was a great opportunity to show the distribution of mail within Switzerland and around Europe in the late 1880s. *Jonathan Guy*

Rochdale

Our June meeting was the annual cup competition for the best presentation on the night by participating members. **Pete Guest** talked about *P & O Ships that Called at Malta* during WWI and WWII. He displayed sheets depicting the ocean liners together with letters transported between Malta and other ports. **Jack Lindley** presented *New Zealand late 19th Century Pictorial Stamps* where the designs were chosen from public competitions. He highlighted significant errors that occurred on these issues. **David Hudson** explained *The History of UK Registered Postal Services* from its inception in 1878. Payment scales reflected charge rates according to the value of contents. Samples of registered letters were displayed. One of these was from 1918 when women were first allowed to vote. This registered letter informed the lady in question that she had been selected for jury service which is compulsory for voters. **Thomas Barlow** won our competition cup with his presentation of *Stamps from Malaysia*. The country is rich in philatelic interest, due to the changing politics across many Malaysian states. New members are always welcome at our meetings,

Your article?

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

which are held at the Rochdale Unitarian Church on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm.

Peter Grimshaw

Royal Tunbridge Wells

Recently we welcomed **Simon Richards RDP** who gave a magnificent display



in two halves on *Savoy and Classic Victoria*. There were over twenty attendees and twelve of us stayed on for lunch afterwards in very convivial surroundings. We have enjoyed an excellent start to the year with our two morning meetings a month where displays have included *Ceylon Revenues* and *Speeding up the Mail* - something our modern Royal Mail might be interested in trying!

Ian Marshall

Salisbury and District



The Lady Chairman entertains

We ended a successful season with the AGM at the end of May. This was followed by bubbly and the *Committee Entertains*. We now pause before the next season begins in September. As noted in our last report the secretary was retiring and there was no volunteer to take over. The committee has prioritised the secretarial duties and the critical tasks have been allocated between committee

Shropshire Philatelic Society

Annual Stamp and Postcard Fair 2025

NEW VENUE – UNIQUE VENTURE!

The Shropshire Philatelic Society will celebrate its 80th birthday in 2027. Founded in early June 1947 it had 31 members paying a 5/- membership fee. In addition to our regular programme of monthly meetings an Annual Fair has been held each October with dealers in stamps postal history / stationery and postcards in attendance.

Looking towards our next 80 years the Society is delighted to announce that it will be holding its Annual Fair at a new venue from 2025 - the premises of "Hall's Fine Art" auctioneers of Battlefield, Shrewsbury.

The Fair is on Saturday 4th October, from 10am to 4pm with Halls generously supporting this event by providing their superb sale room and associated facilities for use of the Society.

The new location benefits from Free Entry and:

- Easy car access from all points of the compass and large free on-site car parking.
- A modern sales room, with free WiFi and good lighting.
- An undercover area for dealers to unload adjacent to the sale room.
- A cafe for visitors, which will be open during the day.
- Close proximity to other food outlets, a Travelodge and fuel outlet.

Publicity for the event will be enhanced by incorporating details of the Fair in Hall's existing publications and adverts during the build-up to the Fair date. This will supplement the Society's existing Philatelic publicity channels. We aim to capture a wider audience by this approach and extend our use of social media, local papers and radio.

Andy Neal, a Committee member of Shropshire Philatelic Society, who is also Philatelic Consultant to Halls, will provide a stamp valuation appraisal service in the reception area which should further widen the appeal of the Fair. The Society will also have a stand to offer advice on general or specialised Philatelic enquiries, plus of course details of the benefits of membership!

Please add this date (Saturday 4th October 2025) to your calendar or call or email Hon. Sec. David Poynton for further details we really look forward to meeting both regular and new visitors to this exciting development of our fair.

Contact and Location details:

David Poynton 01743 790120 d.j.poynton@googlemail.com

Hall's Fine Art auctioneers, Bowmen Way, Battlefield, Shrewsbury, SY4 3DR.

members. This system will be in place for one year and at the end of next season unless there was a volunteer the society would fold. Since the AGM a volunteer has come forward so hopefully the society will continue. Meanwhile in spite of lower attendances, they are half the level of 25 years ago, meetings are great fun and enjoyed by all. We have had no outside speakers during this period but members provided eclectic, interesting, and high-quality presentations under the title of *Transport*. Mike Moody

The Shropshire

A sub-committee have spent many hours planning the re-launch of our Annual Fair on Saturday 4th October at the showrooms of Halls auctioneers of Shrewsbury. We thoroughly enjoyed really good displays of *Heligoland* by **Norman Hudson** and of *Sudan Postal History* by our own member **Andy Neil**



Prize winners Brian Atkins, Alan Harley and David Poynton with judge Richard Farman

which concluded our current programme. Both the material shown and the delivery by the speakers were exceptional. The Annual Competition saw a diverse range of topics in the different classes which were judged by **Richard Farman** who gave feedback on what made for a winning entry. *David Poynton*

South Midlands

If you miss your philatelic 'fix' during the summer off-season, fear not! South Midlands Stamp Club carries on meeting throughout. Meeting at Barford, a small, picturesque village between Leamington Spa, Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon, our active and popular society meets on the third Monday of the month. One of the popular aspects of the club is that most meetings are member-led displays. This has never yet failed to deliver an amazing array of presentations. Recent themes have covered *Just One Country*, *The Letters T, U*

A SELECTION OF WILLIAM TELL AND TELL BOY THEMED STAMPS



TETE - BECHE FROM BOOKLET SHEETS 1907 - 1933



CORD IN FRONT OF BOW STOCK



CORD BEHIND

VARIETY

SE - TENNANT FROM BOOKLET SHEETS



Attractive Swiss William Tell stamps presented by member, Rosalind Ragg

and V, while forthcoming meetings are looking at *Celebrations* and *Did you know that.....?*
Mat Shaer

Southampton & District

There was no speaker in early May as our normal meeting date clashed with EuroPhilEx. In June the speaker was **Brian Hague**, our member living in York, who gave us an excellent in-person display on *Edwardian Era Pageants*. Brian explained how the idea of pageants was first started in Sherborne, Dorset, in 1905. This was followed by one in Warwick directed by Mr F R Benson in 1906 and by Pageants organised by him in Romsey in 1907 and Winchester in 1908. Brian then illustrated York's Pageant in 1909 with a cast of thousands made up of the local community. His talk was illustrated by picture postcards recording the episodes telling the story of York's development. Our speaker in July was **David Walker** on *Explorer Richard E Byrd* who became famous as an aviator and leader of American expeditions to Little America in Antarctica. David showed many covers bearing cachets associated with Byrd's expeditions backed by voluminous ephemera of the period providing detailed background to the staffing and logistics of these forays into the then unknown. Zoom meetings were held at the end of May: *Postal History of the British Forces in Egypt 1932-1936* by **Julian Bagwell** and the end of June: *Switzerland - Stamps from 1900, with Special Emphasis on William Tell* by **George Henshilwood**. The July Zoom meeting was *Hurtigruten - 130 years* by **Brian Dow**. YouTube recordings of the Zoom meetings may be viewed on our website: www.southamptondps.org.uk/avideolibrary.html



Brian Hague in action

at the end of May: *Postal History of the British Forces in Egypt 1932-1936* by **Julian Bagwell** and the end of June: *Switzerland - Stamps from 1900, with Special Emphasis on William Tell* by **George Henshilwood**. The July Zoom meeting was *Hurtigruten - 130 years* by **Brian Dow**. YouTube recordings of the Zoom meetings may be viewed on our website: www.southamptondps.org.uk/avideolibrary.html

Julian H Jones

Stratford Upon Avon

Our season finished with a flourish of hot pants, alcohol and glory. For more details on the former you will need to come along next season! Any explanation in writing here simply wouldn't do it justice. On the latter, we were treated to some rather excellent members' displays across the full spectrum of categories.



An early piece of Stampex memorabilia from our president.

For the forthcoming season we are also introducing a new novice's cup to encourage those that haven't previously entered and especially our new members to compete. Our president, **Jonathan Durley**, entertained us with a personal journey through his stamp collecting journey including some excellent Stampex memories and memorabilia. Our venue at Stratford-upon-Avon Racecourse continues to be a great backdrop, one hard to be beaten. Our new season commences on 3rd September, with members being given the opportunity to show *New Acquisitions*. Don't miss the opportunity to follow our new Tik Tok channel for video highlights.

Mat Shaer

Torquay & Teignbridge

Number of members has reduced to 18, but we still usually get an attendance of more than a dozen at our meetings. Our AGM will be held in August, and one of the main agenda items will be the future of our library. This contains many ageing items, some of which were probably the standard reference works of their day, but we find that very few members browse or borrow. Have other clubs experienced this? We have a bulging library, but size is becoming something of a liability. It would be good to know what other clubs have done. Our programme continues to feature the same kind of thing that has served the club well for many years, and members confirm that they remain happy with the content. Club member **Peter Gay** entertained us with Part 2 of *A Trip round the Channel Islands* and **Gary Green** showed us his excellent presentation, on A3 sheets, of *Leipzige Messe*, with the assurance that it was difficult to trim down his collection to a manageable number of sheets for display! We have successfully held our three competitions again this year with a reasonable number of entries. The One-sheet competition was particularly popular, attracting 17 entries, and I'm pleased to say that it was won by yours truly, with an interesting "forerunner" cover from Bohemia & Moravia. This is the first time I've won that competition, and I'm pleased that Bohemia & Moravia has been shown some love!

Dave Cleaver

Warminster

On the 13th May we had our penultimate meeting of the season, when **James Podger** returned to display his outstanding collection of the *Postal History of the British West Indies* arranged alphabetically from A to V, including extracts from his gold medal collection of the British Virgin Islands. The outstanding display of nearly 200 sheets contained many unique items with covers from as early as 1709 to the late 1800s. James gave a very comprehensive review of the material including many anecdotes about the senders and receivers, explanations of the varied mail routes and of course the varied postage rates. All in all, a very pleasant evening for the members.



James receives our thanks

Carl Varnam

Watford & District

Our February meeting was the annual 9-page competitions night. In the Stamps category, we had a tie, but the trophy was awarded to **Graham Walker** with *The USA Transportation Issue 1981*, because it was the first time he had entered this subject. It was a good night for Graham, because he also came out on top in the Thematics class with *The Fighting Indians* after another tie-break! Things were more straightforward in the Postal History section. **Phil Andrews** was victorious

with *Railway Station Post Offices*. In March we held our annual auction, where 186 lots were expertly knocked down by our resident auctioneer **Phil Andrews**. We welcomed **David Belton** in April, who gave us a wonderful display of the *Isle of Man*, which included postmarks from post offices all over the island, mail to and from the internment camps set up during the two world wars, and a fine collection of the regional stamps, including original artwork by John Nicholson. Many thanks to David for coming out to us. ➔ 01923 218433 *Wayne Cox*

West Riding

Our 2025 season of informal meetings continues. April brought a series of members' displays with a theme on *The Letter I*. **Charles Squire** displayed a series of items from the *Independent Postal Authorities* of Great Britain covering a period (1963 to 1972). **Brian Wilkinson** showed us more *GB Independent Postal Authorities* together with some well-chosen *Italian* postal items. **Ken Moody** showed *India* with their first 16 Minisheets and **Adrian Lee** displayed stamp issues of the *Three Kings of Iraq*. **Brian Jones** introduced us to the *Republic of Ireland* and *Indonesia* and **Tony Plumbe** introduced us to the *1891 Africa Anglo-French Transition Agreement* which resulted in the formation of the West Africa Field Force (WAFF) showing examples of covers from troops at 2½ pence per ½ oz rate to 1898. Tony described the route for mail via River Niger with transfers from river boats to sea-going vessels with final destinations in Liverpool or Plymouth. May brought **Brian Wilkinson** with the *Ryuku Islands* off the south coast of Japan brought about with a 1951 Peace treaty after WWII returned to Japan in 1967,+ and at our June meeting we were introduced to the *1903 to 1935 Registration Stamps of Nyasaland* with notable examples shown being Post Office numbers green ink NFF o/prints in red ink manuscript (R)egistration Italic, (R)egistration envelope etiquettes and a Livingstonia postal station standard etiquette by **Tony Plumbe**. *Adrian Lee*

York

In May **David Druett** entertained us with an excellent presentation on *Trinidad & Postal History*. June saw our President's and Vice-President's evening with displays of *Postal History with a Polar Theme* and first day covers of *Maritime Philately*. In July members held a busy Bring & Buy social evening where members had the opportunity to buy and sell (and treat themselves to the secretary's marvellous home-baked cakes). Also in July members gave displays at Sheffield and Scarborough societies. York is a well-attended society, averaging over 20 members at each evening meeting (second Tuesday of each month), and the members have now approved adding a daytime session to the programme. This will now take place in the afternoon on the 4th Friday of each month (except for December). For details of our amended programme please visit our website. *Luigi Wiechula*

Federations

Essex

The keynote speaker at this year's seminar was **Alan Moorcroft FRPSL** of East Anglia Postal History Society and Frinton, who explained *What is Postal History?* In an excellent PowerPoint presentation, he was clear in differentiating between collecting postal history and competing in that category. In competing, there are strict rules about what you can include and what you should demonstrate. In collecting, you can collect what you want, how you want. The important part is to use the material to show the story behind the mail, e.g. the Flemish weavers of Colchester and the Corsini Brothers, Marconi's experiments at Frinton, or the Polish Post Office in the Essex countryside. He thus demonstrated how collecting postal history could lead to all sorts of discoveries and take you to places that you would not otherwise know about, and could be used to further develop other personal interests. The importance of understanding postal markings, rates and routes was demonstrated, showing how, historically, the posting cost between two points could vary according to the route to be taken, in both national and international mail. Later, Alan displayed the actual items that had been illustrated in the presentation. It was then the turn of those members present to display anything that they may have brought. Twelve members availed themselves of this opportunity, namely **Len Stanway, Geoff Miller, Mick Carter, Mark Edwards, Bob Hider, Nick Harris, Mike Burt, Andy Howson, Maggie Thompson, John Copeland, Leslie Peters, Ray How.**

Len Stanway

North Western

The sixth Paul Gaywood Lecture was hosted by City of Preston Philatelic Society on 15th May. **Peter McCann** gave an interesting and informative presentation entitled *Queen Victoria 1840-1915*. He showed a varied selection of material from a Penny Black cover dated 10th May 1840, via a comprehensive display of embossed and surfaced printed stamps on cover, including high values which are not often seen, to the late use of QV stamps before they were finally invalidated in 1915. In addition to his own outstanding material, Peter also included material from COPPS' own collection which, appropriately, given the occasion, had been largely researched and written up by **Paul Gaywood** himself. Items of particular interest were the earliest recorded Preston postmark from 1769 and a selection of magenta Preston Maltese cross cancels on several items. He also shared personal memories of how Paul had helped him in putting together his own collection. There were some thirty attendees with visitors from other philatelic societies in the North West including Kendal, Morecambe, Rochdale and Trafford amongst others. The meeting was opened by **Ian Williams**, the Chair of COPPS and the vote of thanks to Peter was made by **Clive Griffiths**, the Chair of the North West Federation of Philatelic Societies.

Clive Griffiths

Wiltshire and District

Question. What do you do if you have two 'stamp' clubs fairly close to you? Answer. Join them both! So, one of our winners in this year's 9 Sheet Competitions won two separate trophies in two separate Classes representing two separate societies! **Carl Varnam** won the Aerophilately Trophy representing Bath and the Traditional Trophy representing Warminster. Well done Carl. Other winners were **Mike Moody** (Picture Postcards), **David Gibbon** (Open), **Simon King** (Postal Stationery) and **Nigel Borlase-Hendry** (Postal History and Best in Show). All of the Competition entries were on view at Swinpex where the Swindon Philatelic Society looked after us very well. We are also extremely grateful to our Judge, **Wendy Buckle**, who gave all entrants comprehensive feedback. The closing date for our 16-Sheet Competitions is the 1st November.



*Carl Varnam receiving the
Traditional Class Trophy*

Paul Latham-Warde

Specialist Societies

BTA

We are delighted to report a record level of interest from young people entering the biennial One-Page Virtual Competition. The 2025 One-Page Virtual Competition attracted 76 entries from eight countries. We aim to encourage both experienced collectors and those new to the hobby. Telling a clear story in a single page is not easy, but the results were impressive, with three out of 52 adult entries receiving a Diamond award - the top award presented in this competition. Adult entries will be found on the BTA website at www.britishthematic.org.uk/bta-one-page-virtual-competition-2023.htm and following pages.

Jon Matthias

Channel Islands SS

Events to mark our 75th anniversary year continued in April with the annual Weekend Meeting held at the Peninsula Hotel in Guernsey. Over 40 members and guests attended. A visit to Guernsey Post's Envoy House headquarters took place on the Friday morning. 'A Single Sheet to Tell a Story' competition was held on the Friday evening with seven members competing, including husband and wife **Richard** and **Jill Flemming** vying for first place. The latter won with her *Monnaie Chapel* entry. A 596 lot auction was run on the Saturday morning. Postal history highlights included an entire from Montserrat via Antigua and Deal to Guernsey with a DEAL/SHIP LRE cachet which went for £550. Then in the



afternoon **Gerald Marriner** showed *The Channel Islands Internee Mail Service* and **John Triggs** displayed *Guernsey Parish Sub-Post Offices*. The evening commenced with a pre-dinner drinks reception attended by **Bridget Yabsley** and **Lorraine Ecuyer** from Guernsey Post. This was followed by a four-course dinner and the cutting of a 75th Anniversary cake by **Beryl Laurillard**, wife of CISS president **David Laurillard**. On the Sunday morning 12 members participated in the Members' Displays session. Among these were **David Winnie** who showed a new acquisition, being the first recorded example of the Jersey Town Sub-Post

office Great Union Road datestamp on cover; **Richard Flemming** with the *German Occupation of Alderney 1940 – 1945*; **Julian Bagwell** who showed *Guernsey Ship Letter Handstamps* and **Roger Harris** with his *Channel Islands Airmails*. → <https://www.ciiss.uk/> Steve Wells

Cyprus SC

At the recent Zoom meeting of the society members were shown a Powerpoint presentation of the GB stamps overprinted CYPRUS. This was followed by a look at Study Paper 19 (part of the Cyprus Study Circle Philatelic Compendium all held on a Memory Stick) that gives vast amounts of detail about these stamps and the many flaws that are known. It includes the extensive information we have about these stamps, all fully illustrated, including plate numbers' positions on each plate where flaws occur plus the various overprints carried out locally that introduce even more flaws due to positioning errors. We entered our Memory Stick into Europhilex2025 at v3.0 - we actually supplied v3.4. We were horrified when the catalogue of Literature exhibits stated Cyprus Study Circle Memory Stick v1.0 and horror of horrors the results were that v1.0 gained a Large Vermeil exactly what it got at the Previous International. Two questions arise why was it mis-described and did the Judges actually look at what had been submitted? Jim Wigmore

Czechoslovak PS of GB

'Gobsmacked!' was the reaction of one of our members to the online presentation of *First Republic* by **Pavol Lazar**. Twenty-seven members were treated to a rare display – in every sense of the word! – of classic Czechoslovak philately, on 9th April. After summarizing the programme of stamp design, printing techniques, and policy decisions that accompanied the development of the new republic's postal strategy, Pavol illustrated his presentation with a fabulous collection of stamps, many of which are amongst the rarest items in



Rare 50 on 50 postage due

Czechoslovak philately. These included a block of 40 Austrian 12 heller Imperial Crown 'POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ' overprints, and an extremely rare airmail overprint on a violet Austrian 10K Arms. Overprints on Hungarian stamps included a Mercury 5 heller in a strip with four tabs and a section of the margin. There was also a unique cover carrying thirteen overprinted 5 heller Austrian postage due stamps, in a mixed franking with a 10 haler red Hradčany. The Hradčany stamps included a central cross of the 20 haler, taken from the place where each of the four printing plates on the forme came together, and vertical gutter pairs with Hradčany printed alongside newspaper stamps. The Chainbreaker design followed – for the 50 haler value Pavol showed examples of

gutter pairs, blocks including the 'egg' and 'missing head' varieties, and the legendary '50 DOPLATIT' overprint on 50 haler error. Following a moment's astonished silence, members expressed their enormous thanks for sharing such a wonderful collection with them. ➔ www.cpsgb.org.uk Tony Holdsworth

East Africa SC

David Easson, the new chairman of the East Africa Study Circle, welcomed members and guests at its special meeting at EuroPhilEx. Collectors interested in any aspect of East African philately or postal history are encouraged to get in touch by contacting secretary@easc.org.uk
Dr Eric Coulton FRPSL



Forces Postal History

We hold regular monthly meetings (except August) at the Union Jack Club (UJC) at Waterloo (afternoons) or the Community Centre at Banstead (all-day). In August we hold our annual Banstead Stamp & Postal History Fair incorporating War & Philately. Our meetings cover a variety of topics with either a designated speaker or members' displays; this year we have had topics such as *Tobacco Funds*, *Spies*, *Prisoners of War in WWI*, *NATO*, *Naval Mail* and *Ephemera*. We held our 15-page competition in February won by **Richard Berry FRPSL** with an entry on *WWII British Postal Censor Slips*. In June we had a fascinating display

(both slide show and items) by **Rebecca Clarke** about her husband's grandfather who was onboard the cruiser HMS India torpedoed by a German U-boat in 1915. He was then interned in neutral Norway for three years. In addition we hold regular Zoom meetings on different days, which are open to all, with at least six presentations on various topics each time. Future Zoom meetings are scheduled for 17th September, 30th October and 16th December. We are due to hold UJC meetings on 13th September commemorating the 80th

Anniversary of VJ Day with a display on *Far Eastern POWs* by **Richard Berry FRPSL**, followed by our 9-page President's Cup

competition on 4th October. See our meeting reports and many of our Zoom displays on www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk



Geoff Hanney FRPSL presenting Richard Berry FRPSL (right) with the John Daynes' Plate

Michael Dobbs

Germany & Colonies

We are delighted to announce the re-introduction of a regional group meeting in the Midlands. The meeting will be hosted by member **Carl Buck**, who will be welcoming fellow philatelists to Christchurch in the Clarendon Park area of Leicester. The meeting will be held on the 1st November 2025 with subsequent meetings planned quarterly in 2026. G&CPS members can now enjoy regional meetings in London (held at the Civil Service Club), the South East (held in Brighton), South Central (held in Chandler's Ford), the South West (held in Taunton), in Tyne-Tees (held in Durham), and the North West (held in Frodsham). The Society wishes to take this opportunity to thank all our dedicated members who help organise and host these events. Further information on the venues, event dates and contact details can be found on our website and within the pages of our journal *Germania*. Members are reminded that Zoom meetings are available online (thank you **Ged Gallagher** for organising these), as well as study groups for the Third Reich period and Danzig. As ever, there is plenty to do within the society and we look forward to meeting our members at the annual AGM in Chelmsford this October, an opportunity to see, discuss and share. Why not join the G&CPS? Go to germanphilately.org for membership application details.

Carl Buck

Helvetia

It was a busy Spring with the April weekend meeting again taking place in Worcester and the annual series of now well-established and popular monthly Zoom meetings concluding in May for the summer recess. Several new faces have emerged and their contributions on diverse subjects have been greatly appreciated. Discussions about interpretation of postal covers are a highlight during the latter meetings. One seldom fails to learn something new on such



Flying the flag at EuroPhilEx

occasions. We were delighted to be offered an opportunity to take part in Societies' Day at EuroPhilEx in May and, in addition to our promotional efforts, it was a pleasure to view many outstanding displays. The philately of Switzerland was modestly represented but including a spectacular display of Swiss Cantonal stamps and covers impossible to replicate. The writer also noted that a postal history display of the Wynental (1813-1900) reappeared at BerNABA in Bern, Switzerland two

weeks later. Even for collectors, inclined only to share material within their own societies, observation of such displays noting the style and detailing of information can be helpful when contemplating future sharing of personal collections. We welcome all expressions of interest in our society. → secretary@swiss-philately.co.uk Our website has a rich archive of material including 76 years of newsletters as well as other information to support popular research interests. If you have a moment, do take a look. (<https://swiss-philately.co.uk>)

Mike Sharp

Malaya SG

With membership not only in the United Kingdom but overseas representatives in Australia, Malaysia, and Singapore our Zoom meetings are well-attended. In April **Jeff Gunston** (Queensland) presented an overview of the *Federation of Malaya* from Freeport in 1945 to the Malaya Postal Union Postage Dues and the Malayan Federation with a description of the social reasons for some of the issues. The annual Spring meeting was held at Leicester in May locally organised by **John Jackson**. **Michael Waugh** showed *Prestamp Mail from Penang, Censorship from 1939* together with examples of the Walter Magness artefacts on "Henry Waugh" covers. **Dominic Morris** showed a magnificent collection of *Early Perak*. **John Jackson** brought ephemera to do with *Early KLM flights*. **Mike Ludlow** presented *Letters on Royal Navy Surveys from Singapore* including the collision involving HMS Waterwitch in 1912. **Andrew Norris** showed part of his collection of *Malayan Essays*. **Susan McEwen** had *Proofs of 1957 issue* and *Airletters at Different Rates from Singapore*. **Martin Roper** continued with a comprehensive display of the same issue. **Peter Cockburn** talked about plans of RPSL for VJ Day showing several covers of the time. In June - headlined *Kelantan* - **Charles Mackonochie** started the meeting with 4 newspapers showing headlines for Victory over Japan. **Andrew Norris** showed *WWII Censored Covers*. **Len Stanway** produced some *Difficult-to-find Postal Stationery*. **Michael Waugh** displayed *Cancellations of Kelantan on Siamese Stamps*. **Susan McEwen** produced *Japanese Occupation*. **Peter Cockburn** covered *BMA* and **Dominic Morris** focused on *The 1937 Issue*.

Michael Waugh FRPSL

National

We have a new president, **Michael L Goodman FRPSL**, who thanked outgoing president **Peter Mellor** for his hard work in resuming NPS activities after Covid. Michael presented Peter with an engraved glass goblet, a gift from officers and members in recognition of his near 30-year service, while Peter presented Michael with the Johnson Literary Award, which is awarded annually to the writer of the most popular feature published in *Stamp Lover* the previous year. Michael's winning article was "*It all began over a shop in Clapham*" a short history of the NPS published in the December 2024 edition. Michael's former role as Vice President is now filled by **Julia Todd**, assistant auctioneer. Michael will continue to edit the *Stamp Lover*, the bi-monthly journal of the society. His collecting interests are GB, USA and Canada. **Peter Mellor** will remain as membership secretary of the NPS. We alternate London meetings at the premises of the Royal PS with online displays. The May London meeting was the president's display featuring Peter Mellor's "rather eccentric" subject *The UPU's Colour Code Scheme*. At June's virtual meeting, members enjoyed **Alan Moorhead's** *German Occupation of the Channel Islands* which told the story of an often forgotten aspect of British wartime history. London meetings resume on September 13th when **Grace Davies** presents the theme "Peace", something in short supply these days. Membership enquiries to Peter Mellor 01582 762284 or npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk → www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps



Michael Goodman with
Peter Mellor

Michael Goodman

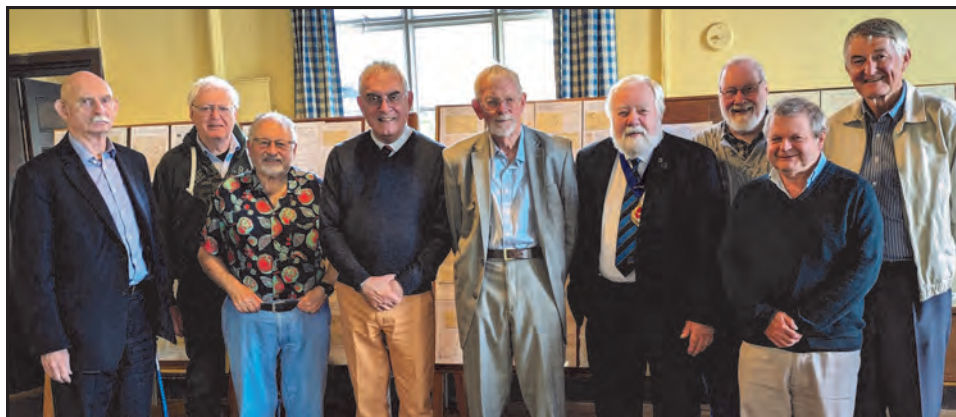
Pacific Islands SC

We held a very successful meeting at EuroPhilEx on Saturday 10th May. Fourteen members, including from New Zealand, Canada, Sweden and Germany, and three guests attended, seven of whom provided a wide variety of displays ranging from a few sheets to three frames each. Among the topics on view were *Single Straight Line Cancellations of Fiji*, *Pictorial Issues of Cook Islands and Niue* including two examples of a major rarity, *Fijian Official Aerogrammes*, *Samoa Express Issues* with proofs, forgeries and perforation varieties, *Covers from the Yandina Postal Agency in the Solomon Islands*, *Flying Boat Service Covers*, stamps from *German Samoa*, *Inter-island Covers from French Polynesia*, *Tonga Censored Covers*, *Air New Zealand and TEAL First Flight Covers* and *Concorde in the Pacific*, closing with *New Hebrides British Administration Free Frank Cachets*. Our two-hour slot was only just long enough to accommodate all the displays and, indeed, viewing was a bit rushed towards the end! We have a very informative website at www.pisc.org.uk with display galleries open to non-members to view. Membership applications are invited –

contact the secretary, John Ray, at secretary@pisc.org.uk for details or download the form from the website.

John Ray

Postal History



The first PHS meeting at a new venue took place in the historic market town of Oakham in Rutland on 29th May. We met for the day in the Congregational Church Hall, on the High Street. Attended by nine members and one guest, who has since become a member. We had a really interesting mix of good quality displays, ranging from *Pre-stamp Material on Early Mailcoach Mail between London and Norwich*, two different displays of *Frees*, *Somerset Mileage Marks*, postal history relating to the *Great North Road*, *Indore State and Paris*, *Borneo Airmails from the 1920s* and finally *Cinderellas* in the form of *Snowdon Summit Cachets* on numerous postcards. Our May Zoom Display was delayed until Wednesday 14th due to members involvement at EuroPhilEx. All those present agreed it was worth the wait. We were given a dazzling display from **Lubomir Spacek**'s collection of *pre-Revolution St Petersburg* material. It clearly showed the advantages of Zoom meetings to assist overseas members who are wishing to give displays. Lubomir is currently working in Dubai, but that didn't stop him putting on a tour de force display. At the Zoom Meeting held in June we welcomed the author **Roseanna Rolph** who talked about her latest project, *Dear Mr Snippet*, a true account of a wartime romance conducted by post during WWII by her Grandparents. Marc Oxley

The Royal

In April the challenge was *The Younger Members Entertain*. The ten displaying were **Johan Agren**, **Tiegan Berry**, **Magnus Cameron**, **Clement Chevallier**, **Paris Dimitriadis**, **Dzintars Grinfelds**, **Hayden Moorcroft**, **Simon Moorcroft FRPSL**, **Jack Preuveneers FRPSL** and **Ricky Verra**. Coming from France, Sweden and the United States, as well as the United Kingdom, understandably not all could be at the meeting in person. In May on show were four quite remarkable collections, demonstrating the depth and breadth of the late



Six of the displayers having received their certificates from Simon Richards

president **Michael Robert**'s collecting interests and knowledge. These were *The Pacific Steam Navigation Company*; *Scottish Islands*; *Great Britain 'Castles' high values* and *Great Britain 'Seahorses' high values*. Two had won Large Gold medals at international exhibitions, the most recent at Uruguay in spring 2025. Thanks to **Alison**, Michael's wife, and **Gwynne Harries FRPSL**, the display was possible. Gwynne commented that 'all who knew Michael will forever remember the twinkle in his eye, his turn of phrase – and the fact he was a Liverpool supporter'. **Hugh Osborne FRPSL** gave our members the most incredible display and presentation of the *Postal History of South Georgia* at the meeting on 5th June. Hugh's display embraced all aspects of the postal history of the island, including items sent before the establishment of a post office at Grytviken in December 1909. Many of the items shown are unique, or just a handful known, including registered mail, the use of bi-sects, and the stamps of Falkland Islands overprinted 'SOUTH GEORGIA/DEPENDENCY OF', emphasising the sovereignty of the island.

West Africa SC



Viewing the displays at Salisbury

Although meetings via Zoom have a welcome place, the three in-person meetings a year remain a vital aspect of WASC's activities. The summer meeting in Salisbury is less formal perhaps than the two London meetings at the RPSL, but provides an excellent and relaxed forum for displays and ideas. The themes for this year's meeting were *The Gambia* and *King George V*. Members arrived to a welcoming cup of tea/coffee and what has become the traditional standing display from **Jeremy Martin**, this year focussing on material from *Cameroons*. The Gambia displays during

the morning session included *QE2 on Cover* (**Philip Quirk**), *The Elephant and Palm Issue* (**John Russell** and **Jeremy Martin**), the *First Two Cameo Issues* (**Jan Berg**), *Postmarks* (**Tony Simmonds** and **Nigel Howey**), and *Airmail Items* (**Peter Richards** and **Nigel Howey**). Following a very pleasant lunch al fresco at the Old Mill, the afternoon's focus was on KGV material. Displays included *Early Airmails* (**Brian Hunt**), *Registered Postal Stationery from Nigeria* (**Neil Sargent**), *Stamps and Cancellations from N and S Nigeria* (**Tony Simmonds**). Then general displays included *Sudan Interior Mission Airmails* (**Barbara Priddy**), *1930s Sierra Leone* (**John Hossack**), *Postal Regulations and Nigerian Gazette Notices* (**Rob May**), and finally *Togo Covers and Cancellations* (**Jeremy Martin**).

Paul Redhead

West Indies PSG

Three members have won awards recently. **Simon Richards**, president (also president of the RPSL) was made a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. **Peter Fernbank** has again won the RPSL Tapling Medal, for the best article in the London Philatelist magazine. **Joseph Hackmey** was awarded the RPSL Lee Medal for giving the best 5.00pm presentation. Warm congratulations to all three gentlemen. The society looks forward to its biannual convention, taking place on 11th – 12th October at Sedgebrook Hall near Northampton. There is a full programme. It includes the auction, displays for most Caribbean islands, competitions and a society awards dinner. Further details are available on the [website wipsg.org](http://www.wipsg.org)

Susan Taylor



Rossiter Trust Postal History Seminar Speakers Announced

To be held on 24th September at the RPSL, a day of presentations and discussion with a team of well-known specialist speakers – expect variety, divergent views and plenty of discussion!

Topics include:

“Was the most important event in postal history the invention of the postage stamp?”

“Must postal history have a stop?”

“The Treatment of Mail on the Continent.”

“Is Postal History only Rates, Routes and Postmarks?”

“An Open Goal ...”

“The Next Steps?”

The speakers are:

James Grimwood-Taylor

Theo Brauers

Birthe King

Douglas N. Muir

Nigel Gooch

Wolfgang Maassen

Attendance is **FREE**. You are advised to email srtcorr@gmail.com to reserve your seat.

British Thematic Association One-Page Virtual Competition Gets International Support and Recognition for Encouraging Youth Philately

There were 24 Youth entries divided into age classes of 12 and under, 13-14 and 15-17. As well as entries from individuals, stamp clubs from three schools took up the

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05



DEVANS AND DEVIANS WINNING STAMP COMPETITIONS

Maliyadeva and Maliyadeva Balika students excel in prestigious international stamp competition

By M. P. THEMURU NAVINMA
KEERTHISENA

Kurunegala, Students from both Maliyadeva Balika College and Maliyadeva College have brought pride to their schools and the nation by achieving remarkable success in the One-Page Virtual Competition 2025, organised by the British Thematic Association (BTA), United Kingdom.

This globally recognised event encourages young philatelists to present creative and thematic one-page stamp exhibits, promoting artistic expression and storytelling through the medium of philately. Participants are evaluated based on their originality, presentation, and the depth of their theme.

Outstanding Achievements

Maliyadeva Balika College:

- R. S. Udumabura
- Winner in the Under 12 category
- W. M. G. P. Dorasriya
- Emerald Award
- M. P. Themuru Navinma Keertisena
- Emerald Award

Maliyadeva College:

- W. M. S. A. B. Dorasriya
- Ruby Award
- S. R. Udumabura
- Emerald Award
- C. D. Udumabura
- Emerald Award
- M. P. Themuru Navinma Keertisena
- Emerald Award

The creative efforts and international participation of the Maliyadeva College participants are highly commendable. All students demonstrated exceptional dedication, innovation, and a keen interest in thematic philately, marking a proud moment for both schools and the Kurunegala region.

A thank you note was also published in the BTA's official magazine, specifically acknowledging the outstanding performance and creativity of the students from Maliyadeva College.



The British Thematic Association (BTA) is a respected national organisation in the UK that supports collectors and exhibitors in the field of thematic philately. This practice involves collecting stamps, postcards, and related materials based on specific themes – such as nature, technology, culture, or history – encouraging both artistic and educational exploration. This international victory was the result of a collective effort across multiple levels of support. At the school level, genuine appreciation given by the Principal of Maliyadeva College, Mr. W. M. C. K. Mahamthawa, and the Teacher in Charge

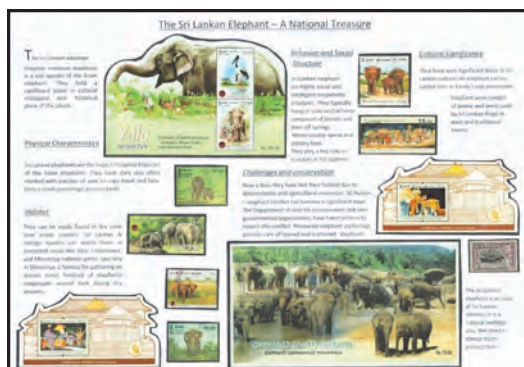
of the Stamps Club, Mrs. Dushmanti Hewakodir, whose guidance and encouragement were instrumental. Equal gratitude is extended to the Principal of Maliyadeva Balika Vidyalaya, Mrs. Niroda Abeywickrama, and the Teacher in Charge of their Stamps Club, Mr. R. K. C. M. Rajaguru. Without their commitment, this success would not have been possible at the school level.

Heartfelt thanks go to Mr. Nandana Rodrigo and Mr. Kumara Gunaratna of the Trinapala Philatelic Club, whose continuous guidance, mentorship, and encouragement played a central role in

nurturing these young philatelists and helping them reach international standards. At the national level, deep appreciation is owed to Mr. Chandra Mahalingam of the Sri Lanka Philatelic Bureau, whose advice, expertise, and support elevated the achievement from a regional success to national recognition.

The achievements of these young philatelists highlight the importance of nurturing creativity and global engagement among students. We extend our warmest congratulations to all participants and wish them continued success in their future endeavours.

challenge. The Lancaster Royal Grammar School submitted eight entries and the Maliyadeva College and Maliyadeva Balika College, both of Kurunegala, Sri Lanka, between them submitted seven entries. The Sri Lankan daily newspaper *Ceylon Today* featured a very full report of the competition. Its coverage clearly reflects the work that went into producing the entries, and the national pride felt in the achievements of Sri Lankan students. Winners in the Youth classes were:



<https://www.britishthematic.org.uk/youth-entries2022.htm> and following pages.

The BTA is committed to encouraging youngsters to get involved in stamp collecting. Its quarterly magazine

Themescene always contains a feature article "Just4Kids", and every Youth entrant in the one-page competition receives a year's free membership of the BTA. BTA Chairman **Barry Stagg** will be visiting Lancaster Royal Grammar School stamp club later in the year to meet the students and discuss thematic collecting.

➔ Andrew Millington on competitions@britishthematic.org.uk

I met some of the group of pupils from Lancaster Royal at EuroPhilEx. Despite the view of many that there are no young collectors it was clear that these were very keen on philately. They were interested to see the competition displays, the British Guiana stamp on display (courtesy of Stanley Gibbons) and what they could do and find at the Stamp Active stand. They are blessed by having a teacher who is interested and runs the club. What children need is support and interest.

Editor

12 and under: **R S Udukumbura**
The Sri Lankan Elephant: a national treasure
13-14: **Leo Daniels**
Marine Life
15-17: **Anbu Chidambaram**
Ink of the Ages

Youth entries will be found at



Diary

September

- 6 Poole & Bournemouth Stamp Fair: 10-4: Upton Community Centre BH16 5JA → <http://www.philatelyinbournemouth.co.uk/>
- 13 NEWQUEX Stamp Fair: the Trevisker St. Eval Community Centre, Orion Drive, **Saint Eval**, Cornwall PL27 7TU
- 20 HAMPEX 2025: 10-4.30: The Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, **Wickham** near Fareham, PO17 5AL CV31 1XN
→ www.hantsfederation.org.uk/hpfhpx.htm or 01489 582673
- 20 Stamp & Postcard Fair: 10-4: Magor Community Hub, Main Road, **Magor** NP2 3GD → www.newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com or roybentley@mylundy.co.uk
- 21 STAMPERSHAM 2025: 10-3.30: Chiltern Lifestyle Centre, Chiltern Avenue, **Amersham** HP6 5AH → www.stampersham.org.uk or 07542 163303
- 24 Stuart Rossiter Seminar: "What is Postal History?": Royal Philatelic Society, 15 Abchurch Lane, **London**, EC4N 7BW.

October

- 4 Shropshire Fair: 10-4: Hall's Fine Art, Bowmen Way, Battlefield, **Shrewsbury** SY4 3DR → David Poynton 01743 790120
d.j.poynton@googlemail.com 582673
- 11 Telford Stamp, Card & Coin Fair: 10-2: Belmont Hall, off Tan Bank Car Park, Wellington, **Telford** TF1 1HJ → 01952 405458
- 11 South of England Stamp and Postcard Fair: 10- 4: Norfolk Pavilion, South of England Showground, **Ardingly** West Sussex RH17 6TL
→ Dillyboy4744@gmail.com
- 22-25 Stampex: Business Design Centre, **Islington**, London
- 25 Stamp Lincs: → steve.carter57@live.co.uk

November

- 1 CORNEX: Millennium Hall, Princess Road, Pensilva, **Liskeard** PL14 5NF
- 15 Leeds Stamp Fair: 10.30-5: Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner, Pudsey, **Leeds** LS285TA
- 16 Leeds Stamp Fair: 10.30-5: Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner, Pudsey, **Leeds** LS285TA
- 22 Hinckley & District PS Stamp Fair: 10-3: The Meeting Centre, Marchant Road, **Hinckley**, Leicestershire LE10 0LQ

National Exhibitions 2025

- London at The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 15 Abchurch Lane. 25th – 26th September 2025. Entries closed
- London National 17th - 19th September 2026. Competitive exhibition
Entry deadline: tbc

International Exhibitions 2025-26

To enter an international exhibition your entry must first qualify by achieving a large vermeil medal (75 marks or above) at a national exhibition. Literature does not need this pre-qualification. To enter please contact the UK commissioners shown. Exhibitors from outside the United Kingdom should contact their national commissioner.

- **PhilaKorea 2025:** Seoul, South Korea. 17th - 21st September 2025. FIP Patronage. Full details at: www.philakorea2025.kr UK Commissioner: Tony Bard anthonybard@gmail.com Entries closed.
- **Dubai 2026:** Dubai 4th - 8th February 2026. FIP Patronage. Full details at: www.dubai2026wse.com UK Commissioner: Jon Aitchison jonaitchison.uk@outlook.com Entries closed.
- **Boston 2026 World Expo:** 23rd - 30th May 2026 FIP and FEPA Recognition. Full details at: www.boston2026.org UK Commissioner: John Stimson john.m.stimson@gmail.com Entry deadline: 30th September 2025
- **Macao 2026:** 26th June – 1st July 2026. FIP Recognition Full details at: www.macao2026.org.mo Specialised FIP Exhibition, no Championship Class UK Commissioner: Jack Zhang Entry deadline: 18th November 2025
- **Philataipei 2026:** 19th - 24th November 2026. FIP Patronage. Full details at: Specialised FIP Exhibition, World Stamp Championship. UK Commissioner: Tony Bard anthonybard@gmail.com Entry deadline: 31st March 2026

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

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

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

Web information Further information can be found on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk on the "Exhibiting" tab. *Simon Richards, Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee* Simon@sidebell.co.uk

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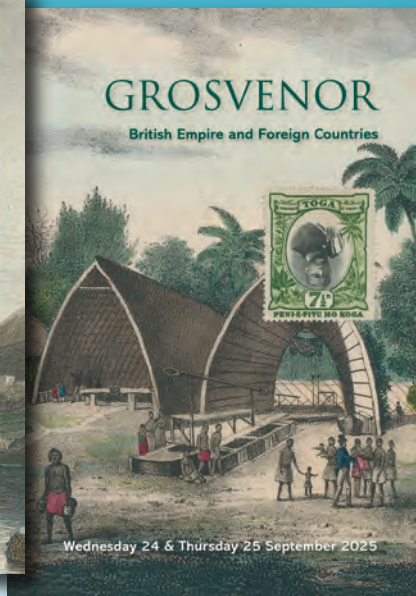
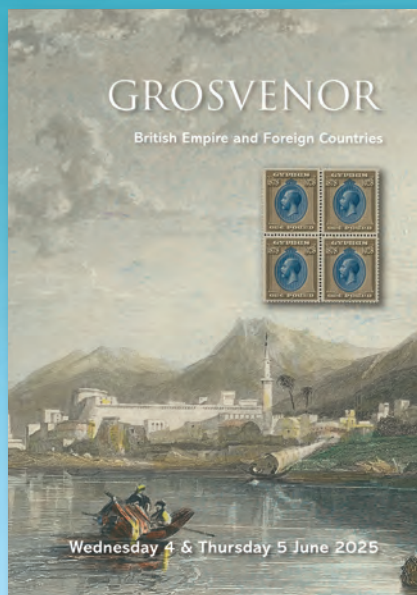
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Website www.abps.org.uk This also holds further information on Committees.

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