

ABPS news

Spring 2026

Official magazine of the Association of British Philatelic Societies

Volume 33 Number 129

£2.00

Lundy welcomes the Lundy Collectors



And so does ABPS as they have recently affiliated - Welcome to the Precancel Society too.

See p. 53



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ABPS News, for and about Societies

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

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Cover picture: The Lundy Collectors make an annual visit to the island - and clearly find a good place to meet and chat - and perhaps warm up a little.

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, 1st April, 15th July, 15th October. We cannot guarantee to include items in specific editions. Items may be edited for publication. Email copy is preferred (unformatted). Send copy to the editor: Keith S Burton (editor@abps.org.uk) Illustrations should not be assumed to be accurate as to size or colour.

Notes FROM THE CHAIR:

As I sit at my desk writing my chairperson's missive for this edition, New Year celebrations are only a week past and already my diary is rapidly filling with the various philatelic events and activities that are on the horizon even as far away as the end of the decade! However, before I get to that I am reflecting on another busy philatelic year past, with not only my ABPS hat on but also the wider world of philately, my involvement in it and the role ABPS has played in all that.

For some time now I repeatedly hear the question, *'What does the ABPS do for me'*? This is usually followed by a general criticism of organised philately in broad terms. Plenty of criticism with few suggestions and certainly no offer of help. Sadly, it seems, with the exception of the few, gone are the days when collectors were excited to get involved and enjoyed the camaraderie of the social side of philately.

Now I know that not everyone in this world enjoys gathering with like-minded individuals and prefer to collect in isolation. That's fine. Each to our own. However, the fact that such individuals are attending a club or specialist society shows that they do enjoy getting together in that social way but seem reluctant to help.

Whilst it was before my time, if we look back to when clubs and societies saw a significant expansion and growth in the late 1940s and 1950s, we see enthusiastic collectors of post-war Britain actively involved. Luckily, I have enjoyed that legacy and it has allowed me to become a member of some of the many specialist societies that grew exponentially at that time. You can see their success in that so many are now celebrating the 50th, 60th or 70th anniversaries over the next few years. These groups across the nation didn't just happen. They were organised and they helped build the philatelic network that we enjoy today and ABPS was and is integral in all of that.

That said, members from that time, the organisers and the grafters, are now elderly, if indeed they are still with us, and their proactive successors are getting fewer and fewer in number. We see that in the demise of several societies and indeed federations, not always because of a lack of numbers but more usually because no one is prepared to step up to the plate and get involved themselves. For my part, I am getting involved and am trying to maintain that legacy by 'getting stuck in and doing my bit', so to speak.

In the same way of course, this is where the ABPS does a lot of work, often unseen, and by some, not valued. That is of course until your society needs help. ABPS supports by bringing together organised philately so that speakers can be arranged, legal issues can be discussed, representation with



international philatelic organisations can be supported, small grants can be awarded. Likewise displays, and formal exhibiting is made accessible to all who want to participate and most importantly perhaps, our existence helps ensure that the philatelic trade has an audience meaning you can actually seek out material for your collecting. Yes, there is the internet and there are auction houses but they too only survive when there are collectors actively involved. Without active involvement, access to material for your collecting will dry up and so for all of us the hobby becomes the poorer.

So, what have we done and where are we going ...

Publication and Communications

Throughout the year ABPS News was published, covering a range of society-level activity, reports from local philatelic clubs and federations, obituaries of notable philatelists, other philatelic news and updates on society contacts and administrative changes. It also included announcements of new appointments within ABPS and changes in affiliated societies.

In terms of administrative changes **ABPS is this year actively seeking nominations / volunteers** for two key positions namely that by the end of 2026 at the latest, we will need a **new editor** for the ABPS News and a **new Membership Secretary**.

Keith has been our stalwart editor for more than a decade now and after several attempts to hand over the reins, we had always managed to side track him and keep him in post! However, with our heartfelt thanks and gratitude we have finally accepted his resignation and we will need a new editor by the end of this year if not before! The same is true of our secretary Barry who has also been in post for a decade and who will be leaving in December 2026. Like Keith, I want to heartily thank Barry for his hard work and commitment these last ten years. I urge everyone who is reading this to consider taking on one of these positions to help support the work of organised philately. In truth the tasks aren't onerous or overly time-consuming and you will be helping the interests of our mutual collecting enjoyment. Please contact me for an informal chat if you would like to know more.

EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025 - follow-up and what next?

ABPS organised and co-hosted EuroPhilEx in Birmingham in May 2025. As I am sure you are aware, this was a major international stamp exhibition, with participation from federations, dealers, and exhibitors from around the world. The event was a central highlight of the philatelic year nationally and continued to feature prominently in ABPS activities and reporting into the last few months. It was truly a great experience and I personally saw some wonderful material that made me think carefully about my own collecting areas and ambitions.

I personally am not a competitive philatelist preferring to display rather than compete. However, I am pleased that people do attend such events as it helps

me in my collecting. So, all the people who say 'what has ABPS done for me?' please remember without ABPS and an array of regular supporters, none of this would have happened. You personally may not have decided to go or think it had value but without it, wider opportunities that you enjoy at a local level often are only possible because shows like this operate.

And what next? Well hot off the press I can say that there will be a huge event in 2030!

Contracts have already been signed, hotels reserved and details going to press shortly! So, a date for your diary; **30th April to 6th May 2030**. Further details very soon!

Philatelic Congress & Awards

This last year saw the ABPS Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, held in conjunction with EuroPhilEx. It provided networking, displays, and presentations. Awards such as the Congress Medal continued to be a focal point, celebrating contributions in British philately. Results and highlights from EuroPhilEx (including medal winners, reports on contest outcomes and notable exhibits) were published in ABPS News and referenced by member societies. Now I'm looking forward to **Congress 2026** which is being held in **Nottingham, 4th – 6th September**. This year it will also host a national exhibition alongside a range of our usual debates, seminars and awards. There will be activities and visits for partners and guests and there will be ample time to see parts of this historic city.

Now I should tell you that, disregarding my name and family heritage, I grew up in Nottingham, so it's my old stomping ground and I would be so pleased and indeed delighted to see as many of you come along and join in as possible. We have a lovely location in a university building which is located on the former Raleigh bicycle factory which I remember so well but which is now no longer. (I think Raleigh cycles are now made in China!). We will be welcoming the Sheriff of Nottingham ... yes, he's real and official ... alongside Robin Hood and Maid Marion! It will be a smashing congress I am sure and if you have never been to congress please do try and plan this into your September diary.

Society and Club Network Activity

Numerous affiliated local and specialist societies reported activities through the year, including meetings, fairs, exhibitions, talks, and competitions. Local events from clubs like Barnsley, Salisbury & District, and others demonstrate the vibrant grassroots activity the ABPS supports. Sadly, some societies were noted as closing due to low membership, underscoring challenges at the local level, while others welcomed new officers and expanded activities. This coming year I really hope that all affiliated societies will send in reports of all their activities for inclusion in the Newsletter. Your report helps other societies in their planning too!

Organisational and Membership Updates

Changes in the leadership of ABPS following the AGM were announced in the Autumn newsletter, including the appointment of the new Chair (myself for my

sins). and Vice-President (Simon Richards RDP FRPSL) along with updates of affiliated societies, other reminders and affiliation notices etc.

Youth and Outreach Activity



John Davies RDP, FRPSL et al working hard with Stamp Active Network at EuroPhilEx 2025

Reports highlighted youth engagement through competitions (e.g., thematic one-page competitions) and ongoing support for young collectors via the Stamp Active Network and other youth philately initiatives.

We should remember that the Stamp Active Network isn't a panacea for everything for the future of Philately. However, it is something that we all should support as, though many of these youngsters will I have no doubt stop collecting as their education take a greater priority and ultimately work and family responsibilities grow, they will be the cohort from which some will return to philately later in life in the same way that many of us have done.

For now, it is the retirement planning generation who are the demographic that we need to be welcoming into the wonderful world of philately. They have more time perhaps, more reasons to take up the interest again or for the first time. Our outreach to this

generation will be so helpful in bringing new energy, experience and enthusiasm into the local network of organised philately in order that we can all continue to enjoy our interest going forward. In this we need you to help. Please consider not what ABPS is doing for you which is considerable but more, how you can help ABPS support organised philately in 2026 and beyond.

As I write this it was just two weeks ago that Christmas Day came upon us. I got up early that morning and actually went out and cut the hedge at the bottom of the garden. Later I was fortunate enough to sit down to a hearty Christmas lunch with all the trimmings! Now I am really looking forward to this coming philatelic year. I hope you are too. So can I wish everyone the very best for 2026 and I hope all your wishes, aspirations and hopes are fulfilled.

Gwynne Harries

PS. Don't forget about our need for a new membership secretary and editor!

HN

Editorial

Oh dear, I have done it again. My apologies to all the family and friends of Dr Stewart Gardiner for referring to him as Stewart Grainger in the Contents page. I understand that his sense of humour would have coped with my faux pas. Also I must apologise to Carlos Malpica and the Postal History Society for my error in referring to Carlos as Carlos Malice - none intended - the dreaded Autocorrect.

The Royal is delighted to announce that **Nina Jääskeläinen** is to be the new Editor of its journal, *The London Philatelist*, with effect from 1st January 2026. Nina is a cultural journalist and a digital specialist. She was previously the Editor-in-Chief of *The Filatelisti Magazine*, the leading philatelic magazine in Finland.

She said 'I feel huge gratitude and humility at being given the opportunity to serve the members of the Royal Philatelic Society London, as well as the readers of the distinguished and honourable journal *The London Philatelist*, throughout the whole philatelic world.'

Tony Bard has resigned from his role as Editor of *The London Philatelist*, which was one of a number of philatelic editorial roles he occupied, to take up another position and to allow more time for his collecting and exhibiting. Tony has made an invaluable contribution to the society over the past six years, for which it is most grateful. The society wishes him every success in his future philatelic and editorial endeavours.

One of the challenges that the Royal Philatelic Society London faces is a world in which communication technology is changing rapidly. Nina brings a modern and European perspective to *The London Philatelist* and she is warmly welcomed to the society.

So, as a Fellow of the Royal, I am delighted to welcome Nina and to wish her success and an enjoyable period in office. As Gwynne has written, we need people to step forward to take up the roles which add to our enjoyment of our hobby. Now that I am in my last year as your editor I wait with bated breath for someone, or even a few, to come forward to at least enquire what the post entails and how they might be involved - please don't let me faint from lack of breath!

The New Look Congress with its additional competition element sounds exciting. I intend to be there - and then I am continuing south to one society, Petersfield, that has taken up my offer of a display. Then I continue into Dorset - any society there need a speaker in early September, or perhaps one on my way back to Harrogate after I have visited friends?

This is one of my ways of supporting you all - if I had not got involved with ABPS it would not have happened. It's everyone's turn to find their own way - but don't just moan that no one does anything.

Keith Burton

ABPS Awards



Ivor Moore receiving his Award of Merit from Simon Martin-Redman FRPSL, Vice-President of RPSL and Past President of Borneo Philatelic Society. Immediately after the presentation Ivor conducted another auction for the society. He has organised so many auctions it is difficult to remember just how many, but it is well over 50.

The majority of federations societies and affiliated to ABPS have members who keep their organisations functioning very successfully and would be greatly missed if they were not carrying out their roles with efficiency.

ABPS values these members and is always delighted to award the Congress Medal and Awards of Merit to people who have given outstanding voluntary service to British philately.

The process starts with societies and federations completing a nomination form that can be found on the ABPS website www.ABPS.org.uk and sending it to the Chair of the ABPS Awards Committee. All the details are on the Awards page including the Guidelines.

The Committee is introducing a further Guideline for

clarification:

It is expected that the organisation or organisations submitting the nomination form, sign it as nominator and seconder.

What are you waiting for? Nomination forms for this year's ABPS awards must be submitted by 1st March, 2026.

Yvonne Wheatley
Chair ABPS Awards Committee

It pays to advertise:

Richard Camp was seeking a 1d red stamp tie - asked in the last issue - and had a tie, hanging on his tie-rack before Christmas.

What a great way to start the New Year.

One of the less usual services provided to associates by ABPS

Clearing out the loft

Every so often I decide I must try to tackle all those boxes that have accumulated in our loft, some undisturbed since we moved a quarter of a century ago! Sometimes I do, but more often, as soon as I pop my head through the trapdoor, I remember something more urgent that requires my attention; the lawn, a squeaky back door, the guinea pig. Others, however, are evidently made of sterner stuff and actually get round to doing this kind of thing as I realised when I received an email from a former winner of one of our NW Federation trophies; the Junior Rose Bowl.

I have to confess that, although we have for many years run an Inter-Society Rose Bowl Competition, I had never heard of this particular award, which was specifically targeted at Juniors. **Chris Hart**, the person who had contacted me, told how he had come across his winning entry while clearing his loft and how this had brought back a flood of very happy memories; of working with his father to put together the entry, of the grand presentation ceremony at the Midland Hotel in Morecambe and of his pleasure throughout the following year in seeing the trophy take pride of place in the family living room. Further correspondence revealed the contents of the entry, a very commendable treatment of the postal issues of Cyprus during the Reign of George VI and led to a promise from me to try to find out a little more about this competition.

Whilst I was pondering how to take matter forward, by sheer coincidence, a couple of weeks later I received another email from someone else who had been clearing his father's effects and had come across one of our cups: 'The Junior Rose Bowl'. Eventually, arrangements were agreed for this to be returned to me. As far as can be gathered from the inscriptions on the cup itself and the little plaque showing winners' names, it was presented to the federation in 1969 by J. Alfred Birch FRPSL, a former president of the federation and, according to the



The Junior Rose Bowl

ABPS 'Who Was Who in Philately', a well-known collector of Scandinavian material who signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1960. The cup appears to have been awarded seven times, the first winner recorded as M. Saas and the last as C. Howitt in 1985, after which all records and knowledge of it seem to have disappeared, until the present.

As can be seen from the photo included, the Junior Rose Bowl is an attractive little cup, especially after I had given it a bit of a clean, and my next task is to try to locate the other winners, who will probably be in their late 70s, to see if they, like my contact, have any happy memories to share and to see if they are still active in philately. So, if any names ring any bells with anyone, please get in touch.



*Tony Bowers Trophy for
Postal Stationery*

Along with the Junior Rose Bowl, I was also left with another trophy, a large glass bowl on a wooden plinth described as the Tony Bowers Trophy for Postal Stationery. Etched in the glass bowl are the words 'Chester 2002', presumably referencing the event organised that year at Chester Racecourse by ABPS. I have approached several contacts to see if anyone knows anything about it or to which philatelic society it might belong, so far without success, but if anyone reading this knows anything about it, please contact me, as I am very keen that it should not end up in my loft which is full enough, and still, I'm afraid, unsorted!

Clive Griffiths

Chair, North Western Federation of Philatelic Societies.



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Society anniversaries

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

West Africa Study Circle - 75

We held a display at the Royal Philatelic Society to mark our 75th anniversary. Twenty-two WASC members showed high-quality material over 59 frames, dealing with virtually every aspect of philately that WASC covers.

The display was very well attended – indeed we ran out of printed brochures just before the end, but a copy of the brochure can be downloaded from <https://www.wasc.org.uk/WASCmeet.html>

– its 40 pages cover all the displays. In his vote of thanks RPSL past-President **Peter Cockburn** was gratifyingly

positive about the event. Special thanks to **John Hossack** for all his work organising the day, and to **Rob May** for preparing the event brochure. WASC is happy to welcome non-members to its Zoom meetings, which consist of a mix of short displays and members' queries. If you would like to receive a Zoom invitation please contact Paul Redhead (via webmanager@wasc.org.uk).

Paul Redhead

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



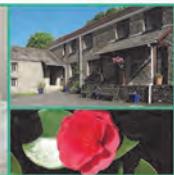
Philip Quirk, Peter Richards and Simon Heap at the Royal

Heap at the Royal

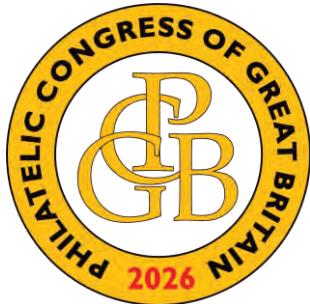


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The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is delighted to announce that its **107th Annual Congress** will be held at the elegant **Jubilee Hotel and Conferences, Nottingham - Friday 4th to Sunday 6th September 2026**.

This year's theme is "**Grass Roots to Grand Prix**" - exploring philately from the beginner to the expert.

The Programme includes the Kay Goodman Lecture, displays and presentations from across the philatelic community as well as discussions and social time.



- **ABPS Congress Banquet & Awards Ceremony**
- **ABPS AGM**

- **Congress Medallist**
- **ABPS National Competition**
- **RDP Panel Discussion**

This year the ABPS National Competition is at the same venue and we look forward to welcoming you all. Accommodation is available from £99 B+B from the venue directly via a booking code.

Please visit at www.gbcongress.uk where you can find booking details and order dinner and banquet tickets.

For more details please contact Mike Hoffman, congress@abps.org.uk

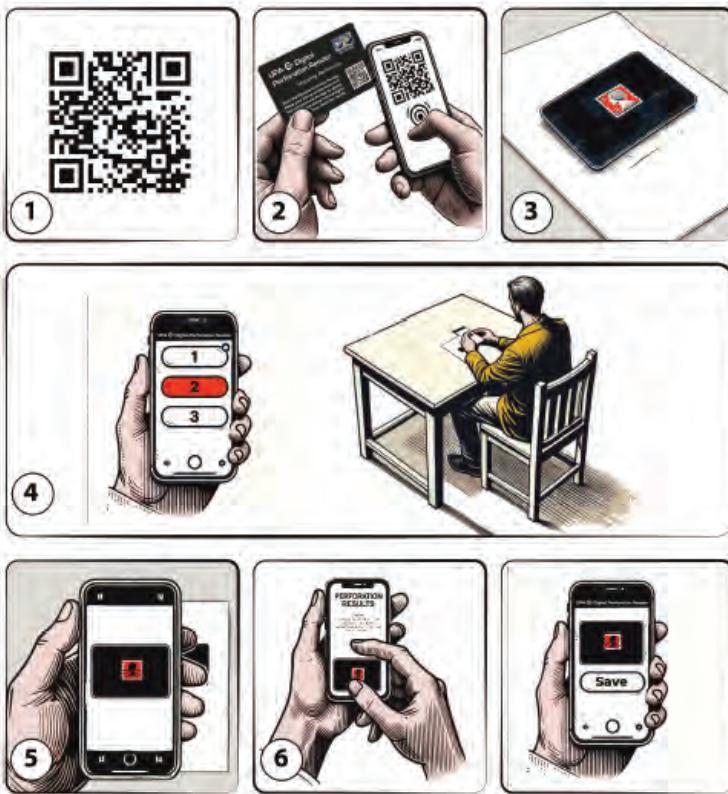
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Scilly Isles 1917-19



Tresco Sea Plane Base



Felixstowe F3 On Trolley



Beached Curtiss H 12



Tresco Sea Plane Base

The idyllic Scilly Isles set off the Cornish Coast was to become the ideal location for the construction of a Seaplane Base for the RNAS long-range flying boats. The area around the New Grimsby Harbour on the Island of Tresco provided a suitable stretch of calm waters where the Flying Boats could take off and land. The RNAS Seaplane Base was established on a 20-acre site fronting the Harbour with hangars, offices and living accommodation together with a wooden slipway so that the flying boats could be brought ashore for maintenance.

The RNAS & the RAF operated from Tresco between February 1917 and May 1919 providing an important contribution to the protection of British Shipping from German U-Boats. It was a Flying- Boat from RNAS Tresco that scored the first successful sinking of a U-boat by a plane anywhere in the world.

The next cover sent to a Corporal C Pritchett through Field Post Office A.D.1 (1st Army Depot) on active service at RAF Tresco bears a Double Ring with



~~On His Majesty's Service.~~

~~O - a - s~~

Cpl. C. Crittett.

R.A.F.

Tresco.

C

Scilly Isles.



Incoming RAF Tresco cover

trade) and bears the Small Tresco Postmark dated 20th November 1918.

The last operational flight from Tresco was on 10th November, the day before the War ended. 234 Squadron remained at Tresco until it was disbanded in May 1919 and after that little further use was made of the base, although the RAF occasionally used it as a reserve flying boat mooring during the 1920s.

Keith Lillywhite

Authors Foot Note: Forces Mail from the Scilly Isles in both World Wars is scarce which is surprising when one reads of the number of personnel in the three services who were either passing through or stationed on the islands.

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.

thick bars
Postmark (Type D2) dated 11th October 1918 and a boxed Passed by Censor No 2978 mark.

The postcard below was sent by AC1s Collett No1 Air Construction Section RNAS who was a Store man on the Base. (The 's' in his rank indicating his



Tresco PC November 1918

BOOK REVIEW, by Ken Sanford

This review was originally published in the Airstop Journal of the American Air Mail Society.

A New Perspective on Airmail Operations during the Siege of Przemyśl - (1914-1915), by Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Weglinski, FRPSL

*Collectors Club
Monograph Series No. 2*



**A New Perspective on Airmail Operations
During the Siege of Przemyśl (1914-1915)**

by Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Weglinski, FRPSL

Second in a series of Monographs published by The Collectors Club, 11W 42nd St, New York, NY 10036-8008. \$25 plus \$5 postage (media mail) within the US. Inquire for postage cost outside the US. collectorsclub@collectorsclub.org

Initially published as a supplement to The Collectors Club Philatelist, May/June 2025, vol. 104, No. 3. ISBN 978-0-9975119-2-5

Hardbound (7"x10" format); 88 pages, 97 illustrations, 2 tables, 4 appendices

This monograph offers a fresh viewpoint on the postal history of one of the most devastating sieges in modern military history, when the town of Przemyśl in the Polish province of Galicia in the Austro-Hungarian Empire was besieged by the Russian Army during the winter of 1914-1915. Establishing a provisional airmail service by the Austrian Air Force in Przemyśl marked a historic moment, as it

was the first time civilian mail-laden airplanes took off and landed in a besieged fortress. This initiative was not motivated by philatelic interests but was crucial for maintaining communication between the defenders and the outside world. These events unfolded in a remote region of Eastern Europe during the early stages of World War I, shortly after the launch of the world's first airmail service in Allahabad, India, in 1911. Although the philatelic community recognizes the significance of the Przemyśl Siege mail, it has not achieved the same prominence as the Siege of Paris (1870-1871). Nonetheless, it constitutes an essential component of aerophilately, offering ample research opportunities for postal historians and shedding light on the operation of the world's first humanitarian airmail bridge, while preserving human stories captured in vintage cards and covers for over a century.

Keith Tranmer (1928-2018), a prominent British authority on the Przemyśl Siege, wrote: "There are many interpretations of what constitutes postal history but in my long experience that human aspect that the student can discover is the true reward of collecting, and in a subject such as the siege of Przemyśl, which has a

defined beginning and end, the collector is able to relate closely to some of the personalities engaged." This monograph explores a group of individuals I have come to "know" through their messages on flimsy cards sent by air from the besieged fortress over a century ago. I trust the senders and recipients do not mind my intrusion into their private exchanges as I seek to shed light on the intricacies of wartime postal operations. The philatelic aspects offer a glimpse into the unique circumstances that reflect the challenging conditions under which these messages were crafted. These fragile, aged cards often tell remarkable stories of human resilience.

The Przemyśl Siege during the early stages of the Great War highlights the operational effectiveness of the Imperial and Royal Air Force, as well as the military and civilian Feldpost services. Although it was a brief and irregular operation, "Fliegerpost Przemyśl" symbolized resilience and facilitated family communication. Additionally, it was used to bolster troops' morale for war propaganda purposes. Ultimately, "Fliegerpost Przemyśl" was instrumental in establishing the world's first regular and international civilian airmail service, also Austro-Hungarian, along the Vienna - Kraków - Lwów - Kyiv route by the conclusion of World War I in 1918.

Many different cards and balloon mail covers are shown in color. There is an extensive bibliography, and 4 appendices showing forerunner air cachets on unofficial mail, airmail cachets & camouflage markings on official mail, official censor marks on flown mail & cachets on paper balloon flown mail from Przemysl. This is an excellent book on a little known aspect of aerophilately.

A Revenue Error?



FOURTY
Forty is spelt

Part of one of the Indian Court Fee documents shown by **Howard Morgan** to Chichester and District Stamp Club.

See page 25.

The stamp is a wonderful work of art but how many people who have seen it and its fellows have noticed the interesting spelling "mistake". I would not dare to complain as my knowledge of foreign languages, especially distant ones is definitely not worth anything but surely someone in the Indian Civil Service should have checked.. *Editor*

On the Club circuit

A roundup of events and speakers at local and national societies.

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

Local Societies

Amersham & District

Andy Harris stepped into the breach on 9th October at very short notice due to the illness of our planned speaker, and showed an excellent selection of *Italian States, and more...* Peter White displayed a short and sweet *Monaco 1885-1956* on 23rd October. Our AGM was held on 20th November, after which our president Chris Marsh showed us a selection of *Trucial States Stamps and Oman Revenues*, many of which were on document. Peter Wood entertained us hugely on 4th December with *It's an Irish World*, a thematic display with a difference. Our auction was held on 6th November in the New Drake Hall, and grossed just over £3800. We are currently accepting lots for the next sale on 30th April: ➔ auctioneer Steve Newman stevenewmn@aol.com if you are interested. The catalogue will be available in due course on our website stampersham.org.uk and bids from non-members are welcome (subject to terms and conditions). Our 2026 season will open on 22nd January with a members' display evening *Recent Additions To My Collection*, followed by One- and Three-Sheet Competitions on 5th February. Tim Harrison

Ayrshire

We continued our 25/26 programme with the ever-popular "Four Wee Haufs" evening where four members give short displays. Firstly however, our Congress Organiser Robert Watt reported on a very successful South West Scotland Stamp and Postcard Congress hosted this year by Ayrshire. All dealers reported good profits and we even had two visiting dealers from Leeds and Stafford. The

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.

president then introduced the evening's team who presented in order of membership seniority leading with **Ian Barker** who reprised his history with the society beginning with an early display of *St Vincent*, then *Snowdon Railway*, *Machin Booklets* and finally the *Machin Penny Black Anniversary Issue*. The material was presented in chronological order and showed the evolution of presenting styles from hand-written, typewritten, word processing with incorporation of clip art and finally desktop publishing. Then followed **David Bowman** who showed *American Space-related Material*, including an interesting account of 400 covers smuggled aboard Apollo 15 and carried to the surface of the moon and back in a deal between the crew and a German stamp dealer. The plot however was discovered by NASA who reprimanded the crew and confiscated the covers. After the break **Ian Smith** showed *Railway Travelling Post Office* material from across the UK, and **Ken Gibb** finished up with a display of *Scottish Patriotic Labels* promoting various organisations and cultural events, mainly promoted by the Scottish Philatelic Secretariat which eventually became the Alba Stamp Group.

Ken Gibb

Barnsley

We celebrated Christmas with a seasonal buffet and displays by **Dr Dinar Athale** with his prize-winning competition entries. Member **Ken Pemberton** suggested a charitable donation instead of Christmas cards. Along with our neighbouring society, Wakefield, we collected £70 for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

Glenn Fearons

Basildon

In October, **Giles du Boulay** gave us a fascinating evening of postal and socio-political history on *Prussian Danzig 1793-1920*. He started by taking us back to the partition of the former Polish Kingdom in 1772, in which Prussia failed to get its hands on Danzig. The borders were redrawn twice, in 1793 and 1795, after which Prussia had achieved its objective. The earliest letter from Danzig shown was one of 1795 to Amsterdam, while revenue documents from 1793 were shown. Much early Danzig mail comes from a Bordeaux wine merchant's archive "liberated" during the German Occupation of that city. Napoleon took Danzig on his way to Moscow and officers' letters were displayed. From 1807-14, Danzig was declared a "Free City" with Napoleon as its Duc. It was returned to Prussia by the Treaty of Vienna in 1815, becoming the capital of West Prussia. Prussian stamps appeared in 1830, Danzig getting postmark 304. Disinfected letters from the 1831 cholera epidemic received a red handstamp after treatment. The Crimean War of 1854-55 included the blockade of the Russian Baltic fleet by British and French vessels. The North German Confederation was formed in 1868, followed by the German Empire in 1871. The Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 generated prisoner-of-war letters and telegrams from Kaiser Wilhelm I giving war updates. 1900 was celebrated with postal stationery postcards. 1914 brought Feldpost and regimental postcards. After the Armistice of 1918, Danzig gained brief independence. Prussia was formally wound up from 22nd February 1947.

Len Stanway

Bolton

Our October meeting was our auction which is always held in the evening. We always manage a good quantity to go under the hammer with over 400 lots and quite a few postal bids. November, and we had a visit by members from Burnley PS. We were shown postcards where people or items were either taken off or added to the same views at different times, a display of items from the *UPU from 1920-47* and lastly examples of *Stamps and Presentation Packs produced by Harrison & Sons*. We had two events in December. First was our annual Christmas meal at the local carvery pub, 15 members turned up. Then came our later meeting which was our competition. Part 1 was nine sheets on any subject which included *Gloucester Station Postmarks, Bury Early Post, MOD Postcards and Stamps from France featuring the 1998 World Cup*. Then three sheets on the letters W, X, Y or Z which included *Duke of Wellington, Lake Wakatipu, and WWI Hospital Mail*. Finally one sheet on any subject included *Seahorses on Stamps, Military Mail from Egypt, Stamps and Mail featuring St John Bosco, WWI Cyclist Corps Mail and WWI Hospital Mail from a Monastery in France*.



Derek Earnshaw with early Bury post

Henry Lisowski

Bookham

We had a superb afternoon in November when two of our members displayed. **Graham Stockdale** led on the theme of *Famous People in British History* mainly people from the Victorian era. Graham showed us signed covers with accompanying letters featuring Queen Victoria, Benjamin Disraeli, Robert Peel, Charles Dickens, Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Rowland Hill, William Mulready and many others. **Steve Paice** followed with the first issue of Australian stamps. Steve went through the history and the production of the stamps in 1913 and its various manifestations until 1938 including the different flaws, perforations, dies and plate proofs. The Christmas meeting was attended by 45 members. They enjoyed a wonderful buffet lunch supplied by Harrington's Bakeries along with a glass of wine. We also had a quiz and a raffle with the star prize being a superb £100 hamper won by **Robert Hurst**. The **Roy Gilbert** Cup this year, which was held in September, was presented to **Peter White** by Roy's wife **Frances**. In January we



Frances hands the trophy to Peter White

have a members' display which will be followed by **Robert Prentice** with *The Crimean War*. In February **Peter Cockburn** will be our visitor with his display of *Postal History & Postcards* and in April our secretary, **Barry Feltham** will present his PowerPoint display of the *Tower of London*. 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

Mid-October we had the 'Phil & Rob Show'- *Telegrams of the World 1837-2013* and *Filton's Concordes* from Introduction to Final Storage. The **OPEN EVENING** included 4-page displays by members, a stamp valuation service, stamp market and a Q&A Session headed by **Ron Gillard** looking at National Events and how to encourage younger members. **Les Ashton-Smith** presented an evening on *Albert Einstein* including his life story and the repercussions of his findings which still reverberate – his theories led to such things as TV and the Atomic bomb albeit he was a peace loving person. **Austin Mears'** evening on *Napoleon & the French Revolution* was an expertly presented and colourful display. At the end of November a members' evening of *Items Beginning Q, R or S* covered such subjects as Swiss Chocolate, covers with a Royal connection, Strike Post, Queensland stamps 1860-1903, Registered Envelopes, Da Vinci paintings shown on stamps from countries beginning Q, R or S, a members Sort-Out material and a Short Story on the Short Brothers Aero achievements 1900-2001. December included a members' evening with a 1-page competition, a 4-page display on Christmas, a Bourse and Christmas nibbles. The final evening of the year was members' presentations on *War & Peace*. This included Chepstow during WWII, New Zealand Peace and Victory stamps, Wartime Mail, Cinderellas and Aircraft that performed in both Military and Civil action.

Robert de Smit

Burnley and District

Sometimes we forget that being a philatelic/stamp society has not precluded us from postal history or postcards (or photographs) and other areas of our local social history. For the past two years East Lancashire libraries have had teams of volunteers digitalising thousands of images and our current president **John Jones** has been part of this. He donated images of his late wife Sylvia's postcard collection (100 000) and his own to the project and this together with



Mike Tanner, Winner of 1-Page Competition on a Boxed GAOL Hand-Stamp

current archives has resulted in local library exhibitions. Accrington, Burnley, Colne and Nelson libraries participated during August and September 2025 and Lancashire Libraries produced several publications regarding the Local History. John will have given his president's talk at our first New Year meeting in January on the project and several team members will attend. This will be image displays and actual material used in the libraries' publications. Whether we can encourage them to become members depends on how widely we can cast the net! For several years we have had great cooperation from our libraries with stamp exhibitions, the latest being in our 80th anniversary year. The balance of our meetings will be mainly from members' contributions until March when we will enjoy visits from our fellow colleagues from Rochdale, Bolton and Preston societies. We will have a competition night in April and wind down in May with the AGM before a summer recess and a pub lunch. More to follow in the next bulletin.

Barry W Evans

Cambridge

In early October we were visited by **Richard Moss**. This time he covered in great detail *Oxendales Mail Orders*, where he worked for many years. There were many inward posted envelopes too from several areas of Africa for items of clothing and footwear. In late November we had a return Zoom display given by **Andy Soutar** showing *Hungarian Inflation, Part 2*. This included many stamp issues from that difficult time. In early December we held an informal Christmas meeting. As well as a few topical sheets, there were plenty of nibbles and soft drinks available. The main area of the evening were a number of mainly philately related quizzes which **Rufus Barnes** and **Graham Wylde** had obtained. The December Zoom meeting had a few members and friends putting up and talking about 2025 acquisitions of material. **Mike Kentzer** displayed several *Items of Freepost from MPs*. **Tony Crowther** showed different covers and parcel address and postal details for packages coming *From Marseilles to the UK*. **Peter Morton** updated us with details of the *Large Format Machin-style Barcoded Definitives* especially the definitive panes from the different Prestige Booklets issued during 2025 for King Charles. The New Year will kick off with a members' evening making use of the letters *J, K and L*. 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@cambridgephilatelicociety.co.uk Peter Morton

Chelmsford And District

For our first meeting after our summer break, members presented on a wide range of themes from *Post on Early Railway Services in East Anglia* to *Stamps from Montserrat*. On 23rd September one of our members, **Nick Harris**, gave a very interesting display entitled *King George V First Flights - Rhodesia and Nyasaland*. At our October meeting **Derek Connell** delighted us fellow members with a display on the *Route of the 2012 Olympic Torch in London*. For the final meeting of the year, it was once again a members' meeting with a range of subjects including *KGV Seahorses, Issues with Overprints for Overseas*

Territories and Forces Post in Bahrain. ➔ Dave Everard on 01245 465506 or email: davideverard@live.com. New members and visitors are always welcome.

David Everard

Chichester & District

Howard Morgan gave a splendid display of his three-year study using stamps purchased from the late **David Springbett**, who inspired Howard in his study of Indian Court Fee stamps, many of which were displayed alongside a PowerPoint explanation. There are around 300 states that used these special stamps. Each state was ruled by a maharaja or raja. There were some 535 postal dependents in India. Each was in charge of their own business affairs. In the main, the Indian States governed themselves; the British only intervened when things became complicated. Court Fees were used for business, agricultural business, deeds, land deeds, house purchases and more. Many had Hindi signatures across the face of the stamp as a form of cancellation. Other examples had diamond or circular punch holes across the stamp. Several had the hole punched through the maharaja's face! An insult or not? According to Howard, the Indian authorities "had no etiquette" concerning this. From the 1947 handover the stamps were still in use until stocks were used up. There are approximately 500 languages and dialects in all of India. Among the most prevalent are Hindi and Gujarati, so many of the items showed notes in their scripts. There are many colours and shades on the stamps. All are perforated, and were roughly the size of an old GB £1 note. Howard's display was a sterling example of excellence in philatelic research. ➔ chichesterps@yahoo.com or

<https://chichesterps.wixsite.com/chichesterps>

Martha Brown

Dundee



Norrie Kelso in action

On presidents' Night **Norrie Kelso** gave a great display on *Canada and GB KGV & VI*. At the visit from Kirkcaldy Stamp & PC Club, **Reg Campbell** showed *Victorian Postal History*, **Martin Kirkbride** produced *Scottish Maltese Crosses*, *Kirkcudbrightshire Postal History* and *Cupar Postal History*. **Susan Taylor FRPSL**, from Guildford and WISC gave a Zoom display on *The Lady McLeod* a three-masted paddle steamer that provided private local post between Port of Spain and San Fernando. A private adhesive postage stamp issued in Trinidad in 1847 was used for prepayment of mail carried by the steamship *Lady McLeod*. It was the first stamp

issued in a British colony. **Ron Goodfellow** entertained us with another fascinating display of *Commerce in the Post*, showing how much fun and information can be had from commercial mail. **John Jackson FRPSL** showed *Netherlands: 1940 Konijnenburg Issue*, including scarce covers, lettercards and postcards printed but not issued until the war ended. He explained the use of PO

Box 601 (Amsterdam until the invasion) and PO Box 506 (Lisbon), organised by Thomas Cook to get mail in and out of the occupied countries. He continued with the Dutch East Indies and the Japanese invasion showing Red Cross mail, POW cards and the Burma Railway. Our year ended with a members' night of *Recent Acquisitions and a One Page Competition*, won by **Jackie Malcolm** with *Ukrainian stamps based on a painting by Banksie depicting a judo throw of president Putin by a Ukrainian teenager.*

Colin Campbell

Epping Forest & District

Our two Auctions, in January and June, had many wide-ranging lots with an encouraging number of bids being received from the hall and by post, the commission from which boosted funds. For the February meeting we welcomed



Chris King on Danish Postal History

Chris King, who with his wife, **Birthe**, exhibited a most interesting display of *Danish Postal History*. In March we were visited by **Cliff Cashman** who showed a variety of *GB Eclectic Items* including war propaganda stamps. Our competitions were held in April with trophies being won by **Richard Trottier**, **Nick Kkama**, **Eric Hutton** and **Keith North**. The AGM was in May along with the Kimber Trophy Competition based on the letters A,B,C. This was won by **Keith Lillywhite** with his *American Forces Mail from the Aleutian Islands in WWII*. We started our new programme after the summer recess with the displays by our chairman **Eric Hutton** showings *Mauritius* and members **Ian Reede**

and **Keith Lillywhite** showing *French Southern Antarctic Territory* and a selection of *WWII Kriegsmarine Material* respectively. Then in October was the traditional Recent Acquisitions Evening with a wide variety of material being shown by club members. In November **Don Davies** returned giving us another entertaining evening with *Penny Posts, Mulready Stationery, Unusual Letter Shapes, Machin Forgeries and Seaside Postcard Censorship*. To round off the year we held a Christmas Social Evening where members were asked to bring along material to display/swap/sell. Also the chairman provided a short *Call my Bluff* quiz on philatelic/stamp related words.

Keith Lillywhite

Ferndown & West Moors

Robin Cassell FRPSL could easily be renamed Mr Mulready!! His knowledge is vast. The range, quality and rarity of his philatelic material is immense. We were treated to a highly entertaining evening. Robin began with a snapshot of the Irish painter, William Mulready (1786-1863). Well-known for his work depicting rural life, he is equally celebrated for creating the artwork for *Mulready Stationery Letter Sheets and Envelopes*. These were produced concurrently with the emergence of the *Penny Black*, and published as part of the postal reforms of



Art of one of Robin's Mulreadys

1840. Robin's presentation was riveting. The artwork was delightful, covering a range of subjects, where these hand-painted gems were in profusion. We can hugely appreciate these superb postal history documents, but in the mid-1800s, there was much opposition, amplified by a vocal press. Robin explained the fascinating development of these philatelic gems. Advertising was frequently present, as was the presence of propaganda intent and as the series

progressed, covering various aspects of both human and rural life, so an increasing number of artists became engaged. As the presentation developed, it became clear that Robin was sharing a huge knowledge which is eloquently produced in his recent co-authored book, *The Mulready Caricatures*, published in two volumes by The Royal PS. This unique presentation was a major contribution to our programme, and was certainly 'up there' with the very best. This brief report can only point the way for fellow philatelists with Victorian postal history interest, to pursue further...just wonderful!!

Paul Barry

Frinton & District

At the meeting in November **Alan Moorcroft FRPSL** presented a very interesting PowerPoint display on *Aspects of Collecting Local Postal History*. Alan explained that his postal history covers of Colchester originally started in 1730 but that he then acquired covers from 1586 onwards concerning the production of woollen cloth by refugees in the Dutch quarter and sold in London to the dealers Corsini. Alan's research resulted in a visit to the Corsini archive in Florence and meeting the current Countess Corsini. Alan then showed Napoleonic period soldiers' letters from 1813 when 7000 troops were stationed in Colchester and a further 5000 at Weeley Barracks, the latter to man the Martello towers on the coast. An air letter from the Polish Hostel, Kelvedon 1957 was intriguing and led Alan to find out that after the American Rivenhall Airbase ceased to be used it was occupied by Polish families at the end of WWII who could not or chose not to return to Poland.

Finally, Alan's first cover from the Frinton post office in 1904 concerning correspondence with Belgium led him to find out that Marconi set up the Marconi School of Wireless Telegraphy at 34 Upper Third Avenue in 1901 with a tall radio mast to send radio messages to Belgium as a pioneering early use of radio. Alan's superb talk and display, which also included other stories,



Rob Hider and Alan Moorcroft

demonstrated how lots of local history examples may be found through postal history research.

Steve Wells

Glasgow Caledonian

We began our existence with the traditional President's Display by **George Henshilwood** in October. This was followed by a full weekly programme which began with a posthumous showing of **Dr Stewart Gardiner**'s EuroPhilEx Gold Medal display *Sealing and Securing the Letter* by courtesy of his widow. Members showed *Recent Acquisitions and other things I collect* which featured **Sandy Kerr**'s collection of *Scottish Communion Tokens* amongst the many and varied displays. **Alistair Burrow** took members round Antarctica in a display billed as *A Viking Loses His Way*, while another Viking (**Keith Walker**) showed us *Luxembourg and New Zealand Airmails. Stamps and Postal History of Gold Coast* was the display given by **Ian Anderson**, while **Graham Searle** showed some of his *Early Canada* material, as well as a *Detailed Study of the Centennial issue of 1967*. A number of members stepped in to show a variety of material when the speaker had to call off for a meeting in November, and **Andrew Black, Anthony Duda** and **Sandy Kerr** presented a triple header to conclude November's meetings. December



Members viewing Robert Watt's display

began with a lively Bourse evening, and was followed by **Robert Watt** showing some of his *British Empire in Africa* material to an appreciative audience. 2025 concluded with some Christmas fare and a selection of members' displays.

Alistair Burrow

Grantham



Barry Saunders, GSC Chairman presenting Bill Tilbury with the Kirk Hillard Cup

Our December meeting was the 9-sheet competition for the Kirk Hillard Cup. The winner for 2025 was **Bill Tilbury** with his 9-sheet display on *The Alaskan Iditarod Trail Sled Race*. It was an excellent display which collected many votes. Second place went to **Fina Martinez** with her display on the *Seville 1934 Exhibition* and third place went to **Phil Clarke** showing *Rhodesia and Nyasaland Aerograms*. There were only 6 entries this year

but all were of very good quality and content. Competition over, it was time for the usual Christmas nibbles and soft drinks whilst people perused the exhibit entries. Another good evening was enjoyed by all. If anyone wishes to attend any of our monthly Zoom evenings then please take a look at our website for details, all are welcome to join us.

Steve Carter

Grimsby

With the closing of one year the society has a small break until February when we come back to a full program of displays which over the year will consist

of eight guest speakers, interspersed with members' displays and two auctions, with displays showing material from *The Americas, Europe, Middle East, Australasia and The Antarctic*. One auction, the Charity Auction, is run by **Dave McMan** who has just wrapped up this year's Charity Auction with a presentation to St Andrews Hospice of a cheque for £5000 shown being presented to a member of the St Andrews fundraising staff by **John Lacey**, our president. David would like to thank all

the support he received from both contributors and bidders to this auction. He has already started to think about the 2026 Auction which will take place on the 21st October and will be running a stall at York and Pudsey this coming year, again in connection with the Hospice.

Mike Webb

Guildford

In October, a group visited RPSL and **James Podger** outlined its history and explained some of the artefacts on display. **Lucy Caulfield** described how items are subjected to scientific examination, comparison with reference photocopies and consultation with experts, but a physical examination is essential to decide whether the stamp, overprint and/or cover is genuine. **Damian Devo** showed some rare material, e.g. early GB material; sheets of early Commonwealth printings from Perkins Bacon; and part of a collection of GV Definitives illustrating the evolution of a stamp design and production with engraving guides, proofs, colour trials etc. from Harrisons. The group also visited the library which contains reference books/journals, as well as trophies and other ephemera. In November, we won the Surrey Federation's Mason Cup. The entry

ABPS accredited judges

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

comprised: *Cardiff Pre-1800 Postal History* by **James Podger**, receiving a Bronze Medal and two trophies; *Trinidad Censored Mail 1939-1945* by **Susan Taylor** and *Montserrat Revenue Stamps* by **David Taylor**, (awarded the Derek Nathan Cup), while **David Whitby** submitted *Australia: Postage Stamp Overprints*. In November **Graham Stockdale** presented *Famous Victorians* and **Denis Noe** showed *GB Revenue Stamps*. Our Annual Competition was at the Christmas meeting. **Victor Boonton** won with *French Coats of Arms*. **Barry Stephens** was runner-up with *GB: Charles Dickens*. There followed a quiz entitled *Bridges on Stamps*. Our season continues with *Occupation of Belgium/Northern France in WWI*, *Delayed/Returned Mail in WWI* and *Expo '58 in February and March*. → www.spanglefish.com/guildfordstampclub

Rob Cooke

Harrogate

We ended 2025 with some very good displays. **Andy Taylor** showed Austria of course – but in two parts *Austrian Newspaper Post* followed by *Music*. The first won a high award at EuroPhilEx – well-deserved. The second had stamps galore – not often seen these days. **Neil Ritchie** brought *Things I no longer Collect* showing us some of those side-lines that have started but no longer can be added to – something I can relate to easily. He was followed by **Stephen Parkin** bringing us *Edinburgh Mail by Train*. This was a fascinating look at the use of the railways in North Britain, triggering many questions and a lot of interest. We have been used to seeing Trinidad from **David Druitt**, but his show in early December was described as *Unseen Trinidad*. He was correct – this included new items and some that had been found again and rewritten. Again something that many could recognise in their own collections. We finished the year with our Christmas social and first ever bourse – we try anything! Our Zooms have continued monthly with around 20 viewers from lots of different places – bit like the topics that we try to illustrate. Often initially difficult to think what to show but the variety is incredible. **Mike Kentzer** took us on the Scarborough to Whitby Railway – quite local to us but still new material for most of us to see. Members' shows covered *Something borrowed, something blue, Apple and Tax or Napoleon*. What would you show? Keith Burton

High Wycombe & District

David Belton opened our visiting speaker season on 16th October, taking us on an entertaining guided tour of the *Stamps and Postal History of the Isle of Man*. **Alan Druse** gave us an unforgettable evening on 30th October. Before coffee



Victor receives his cup from Susan Taylor

and cakes, we saw superbly researched *Local Postal History*. After coffee, we were treated to a world-class selection of *GB Victorian Line-engraved and Surface-printed issues*, both classics and major rarities, and without an imprimatur in sight. This was a mere taster for his Royal Philatelic Society display on 23rd April 2026. On 27th November, **Malcolm Gascoyne** treated us to the whys and wherefores of *Sarawak*, a particularly good example of the problems associated with long supply lines and time taken to fulfil relatively small orders. **Rex Dixon** displayed the *German Postage Due System and DDR* on 27th November, featuring his usual high-class material. We closed our programme on 11th December with Christmas dinner at the Grouse and Ale in Lane End. **Tim Harrison** displayed on our behalf at Milton Keynes on 29th October (*Iceland stamps to 1944* and *A Miscellany of Competition Entries; Everything from Tanks to Dandelions*) and Henley on 26th November (*Greek Revenue Stamps and Their Uses*, and *A Miscellany of Competition Entries*). Our next meeting will be on 12th March 2026, when **Alan Tunnel** will display on *Aspects of World War II*.

Tim Harrison

Huddersfield

In October we enjoyed excellent displays by members and invited guests.

Graham Winters provided a *Three-part display* of Ceylon postcards covering the period 1903 to 1908, KGVI internal GB Post Dues, Mail from GB requiring Post Due on foreign delivery. **Martyn Cusworth** provided a selection of *Italian Levant, Crete, Salonika, Alexandria*, with mail both from and into these areas.



Graham shows his delightful Goats

Martyn outlined the events which brought about the demise of the Ottoman Empire and the following European Postal Authorities' provision of postal services from their own offices there. He featured stamps and PH items using overprinted national postage stamps. **Graham Winters** returned in November to present on *Goats*. He explained that his first laydown was something of an experiment in presentation in that it consisted entirely of colour photocopies of material that had originally been put together by Francis Kidde. It was a thematic display that covered various aspects of the goat.

Then came an example of open philately, specifically entitled, *Goats, the most important animals in the world...ever!* In December, **Richard Handle** (YPA president) presented on *Scott & Shackleton Race across the pole*. We started with the Scott & Shackleton expeditions in Antarctica. Shackleton was Scott's subordinate on the 'Discovery' Expedition (1901-04) and later became his rival in reaching the Pole. Then came Shackleton's later expeditions. The 'Rowlett'

Expedition (1921-22) was Shackleton's last. It focussed on scientific research rather than polar conquest but ended prematurely when Shackleton died of a heart attack on South Georgia. ➔ jondtaylor3@gmail.com Jon Taylor

Hull

The winter weather was forgotten when visiting speaker **Tony Smith** transported us to the warmth of *Nauru*. Combining philately with a potted history of the area, he outlined the sad decline of a once healthy area which fell victim to the detrimental influences of western diet and economy. As with some other rogue areas, philatelic production has mushroomed far beyond the real need of the territory. Two members' afternoons, *Anything but Stamps* and *Christmas in my Collection* produced a good variety of material. We saw not only Christmas

stamps and seals and items posted in advance for delivery on Christmas Day, but also Post Office promotional material and even some Christmas coins from the Isle of Man, which were new to most of us. There was a collection of Diplomatic Christmas cards from various Embassies, mainly in Europe. We saw a range of military insignia, badges etc. plus banknotes and share certificates. One member cleverly combined two topics by showing some items created by 3D-printer, including a penny black and some Christmas tree biscuit cutters! In the first display of 2026, **Mike Webb** showed *Gibraltar*, ranging from the early GB stamps used in Gibraltar to more modern

commemoratives with their errors and varieties. Postcards and pictures from his time serving there with the RAF completed the picture. **Daphne McMillan**

Huntingdon

At our meeting in October our guest speaker was **Terry Hughes** who displayed US Postal History. The Post Master General in 1775 was Benjamin Franklin. We saw a sheet showing the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The first official Post Office was in Richard Fairbanks' home and Public House which was used for ship mail passing through the area of Boston, Massachusetts. Stamps showing included Benjamin Franklin, the first president, George Washington, and the Liberty Bell. The Stamp Act of 1765 was the first direct tax on the Colonies. We enjoyed seeing fancy cancellations, Pre Paid Postal Stationery cards and Duplex hand stamps. Military bases used their own cancelling machine. Up until 1963 they never had a Post Code but then the Zip Code came into use. Mr Zip informally Zippy is a cartoon character used in the 1960s by the United States Post Office department to encourage the general public to include the Zip Code. He was shown on philatelic covers, and was very successful, but was eventually retired in 1986. We learnt that Franklin De Roosevelt was a keen



Members viewing the variety



ABPS National Competitive Exhibition Autumn 2026

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

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

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



Applications for entries at:

<https://exhibitions.abps.org.uk>

Congress Information and Booking:

<https://qbcongress.uk>

stamp collector and on his death his collection went under the hammer. We were shown examples of Meter Marks, Tube Mail and Railway Mail cancellations. and Slogans on mail. This talk was an interesting insight into American Postal History.

David Barker

Launceston

Our speaker in December was **Viv Sandercock**, showing **Yemen** which he began collecting by accident when he bought an auction lot for its Aden content.



Barry and Viv after Viv's display

It contained some Yemen which whetted his appetite enough to prepare 128 pages for this display. He outlined some of the history of Yemen which reputedly had links with the Queen of Sheba and the Three Wise Men, being a source of frankincense and myrrh. In Roman times Yemen was referred to as Happy Arabia. Later came Ottoman and then British influence after Britain annexed Aden in 1839. We saw examples of Turkish and Indian stamps used in Yemen.

After WWI the Ottoman Empire ceased, Yemen was ruled for the next 44 years by two powerful Imams. A representative selection of stamps of this period was shown. A revolution in 1962 deposed the Imam and the Yemen Arab Republic was declared. Almost immediately civil war broke out between the republicans and the royalists both factions issuing stamps showing topics such as space, Olympic games, famous people or works of art all of which had little connection with the country. The display went on to show the stamps of the Federation of South Arabia after the British withdrew in 1967, the People's Republic of Southern Yemen, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and finally the unified Republic of Yemen. But alas since the revolution in 1962, Yemen has



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been plagued by almost continual civil war and unfortunately the Yemeni people have been the losers.

Des Kent

Leeds

We continued our Autumn programme on 14th October with the intriguing title *An evening wasted with Roger West*, in which he covered stamp forgeries, plenty of anomalies. He shared famous quotes from the Two Ronnies which provided great fun. On 28th October **Max Smith** gave a detailed talk *Philatelic Conservation*, explaining the properties of various papers and how best to preserve one's collections. Our own member **Tony Plumbe** explained the requirements for displays and competition entries at all levels in detail on November 11th. A fortnight later we visited *The Antarctic* with **Bill Tilbury**. We saw stamps and covers beginning in 1890 which started the Golden Age of explorations, expeditions and lots of postcards. Our president **Richard Jagielski** treated us to a wonderful *Lesson of Polish History* from the early 1900s, forced labour, concentration camp post, Polish underground post, and stamps in



Michael Waugh & Stuart Stanley discussing two members' displays in January

Wallingburg. Richard's knowledge made this evening very interesting. On 10th December we enjoyed a Christmas lunch. On the 16th some members showed their collecting interests on Zoom. Beginning 2026 a members' evening encompassed *Siam from 1864, Straits Settlements, KLM late 1920*. We visited *Egypt* beginning with Thomas Cook in the 1880s. We

enjoyed *Early Polish Christmas & New Year Postcards*, a *Collection of Stamp Booklets*, and *Mail in the London Underground*. We saw a last day envelope from Denmark, 31/12/25. Other members showed *WWII Censored Letters*, *Butterflies, Insects, Mobile Post and Aeroplanes*.

Liz Schweiger

Lewisham

Our annual Christmas meeting took place on 16th December, with presentations from eight members on a wide range of seasonal topics. **Geoff Hanney** began with a series of *Christmas cards sent by UN Troops in the Belgian Congo in the 1960s*. A more sombre note was taken by **Tony Hickey** with his display on *Christmas at the Battle of Stalingrad in 1942* – pointing out that the authorities refused to deliver Christmas mail from German troops to their loved ones back home, as the news at the time was so bleak. **Alan Jackson** shared a small



Mary Grindley's Royal Mail
Teddy Bear

display of GB Coronation Cinderellas from 1937 – we all agreed they were much more attractive than the Royal Mail's effort! **John Sinfeld** showed us an *Early Christmas* present to himself – an attractive collection of stamps from Tristan da Cunha. The second instalment of a display of *Christmas stamps from the Commonwealth* was shown by **David Britton**, while **Mary Grindley** showed us *Two Promotional Items from Royal Mail* – a 'letter from Santa' received by her son, and a tiny figure of a teddy bear posting a letter used to promote the sale of booklets. **Michael Dobbs** presented *British Forces Christmas cards from 1944 to 1968*, from troops in Belgium, Germany, the Middle East and Greece. Finally, **Philip Clarke** showed some embroidered *WWI Christmas Cards* sent by troops on the Western Front, and a range of *Royal Mail Christmas Airmail Letters*. All, of course, washed down with cups of tea and Christmas snacks!

→ hickey_anthony@hotmail.com

Tony Holdsworth

Lostock

We opened the October meeting with a one-minute silence in memory of our dear friend and long-time member **Ken Mitson** who died in September. Ken had been our treasurer for almost the whole time the society has existed, retiring from the position due to failing health. Our speaker **Phil Wharmby** with *Postal Italy* unfortunately could not be with us and plans to show later. Our Chairman **Adrian Jones** kindly stood in with a miscellany of rare expensive stamps including Egyptian 1867 1s stamp in green, the 1869 6d mauve stamp, and the 1876 2½d stamp in rosy mauve. In November members attended **Robin Heap's** Bourse giving the members the opportunity to buy and sell from their personal collections. In December we welcomed members, their wives and friends to our special Christmas social. The afternoon opened with members displaying their own one-page entry for the Jimmy Page competition. The result was joint winners: **Bernard Hooley** with *Queen Victoria Jubilee stamps* - 24 stamps show on one page and **David Brigden** with *Forces Postal Concession in Egypt 1932 to 1935*. During the afternoon buffet the members enjoyed a 25-question quiz. Top score was **Phil Wharmby's** 18. Finally **Adrian Jones** spoke about stamps related to the *Railway of*



Adrian Jones and Don Tinsley



We are celebrating our 60th anniversary by staging an exhibition called:

LETTERS FROM MACCLESFIELD

We will tell the story of the postal history of Macclesfield through displays of old letters, postcards, maps, postmarks, photographs and other ephemera

**Where? The Silk Museum, Park Lane,
Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 6TJ**

**When? Friday 6th and Saturday 7th March
10.00 to 16.00**

ADMISSION FREE. SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES

Highlights include:

- ** The earliest known MACCLESFIELD hand stamp ****
 - ** A MACCLESFIELD penny black stamp ****
- ** Items loaned from Post Office Archives in London ****
 - ** Tullis Russell, Macclesfield's global stamp paper producer****
- ** Macclesfield pubs and breweries on old postcards ****
 - ** Post boxes in Macclesfield ****
- ** A look at surrounding villages and Cheshire neighbours ****
- ** A talk on silk postcards (afternoon of 7th) ****
 - ** A display of pandas on stamps! ****
 - ** Brocklehurst family mail ****
- ** Do our QUIZ, suitable for ALL AGES ****

Your society information?

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

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

Tanga to Moshi situated at the foot of Mt Kilimanjaro. The 439km line remained in use from 1912 to 1916.

David Morley

Maidstone & Mid-Kent

The first half of the season has already passed and we have enjoyed a varied programme of interest. The last part of 2025 saw visits from Bromley & Beckenham and Medway Societies with a variety of display some of which our programme secretary has noted down for invitation to display at Maidstone. Another highlight was our annual president's display of *Russian Material* backed up by his amazing knowledge of the country. The subject gives us a good insight into the early part of Russian history. The new year will bring us displays on *The Weather*, *Trains of the World*, *German Aerophilately*, and *The First 50 Years* by our own members and visits from **Andy Donaldson** on *GB Security Overprints and Underprints*, **Geoff Hanney** being entertaining, **Phil Clarke** with *War Tax* and **Peter Cockburn** showing *Ceylon Revenues*. The remaining morning meetings will be *USA Local Posts and Carriers* by **Alan Baum**, *A Trip Along The Kent Coast* by **Robert Uden** and *United Nations* by **Phil Clarke**. Another enjoyable period of Philately we shall no doubt all relish.

Brian Stonestreet FRPSL

Mid Sussex

We have just come to the end of the first half of our 2025-26 fortnightly programme and have enjoyed excellent and very well-attended meetings, always well into double figures. An additional bonus is our convivial lunch at a local hostelry once a month before our meeting. Our season opened with a display by **Brian Stonestreet** entitled *New Zealand – New Era* followed by two displays on two separate occasions of *Bosnia Herzegovina* given by **Geoff Richardson**, the first focussing on the country's stamps and the second its postal stationery. Sandwiched between was a comprehensive display of *Iran from 1935 to the Present Day* given by **Nigel Gooch**. Two further displays by visiting speakers entertained us, **Florence McCarthy** with *Irish Postal History* and **Sue Taylor** with *Anguilla*. Aptly, our final meeting before Christmas was given by society member, **Richard Stephens**, with a colourful and varied display of Christmas issues. Including stamps, labels and other philatelic items.

Jim Etherington

Newcastle

At our 4th November meeting we presented **Rick Temperley** with a certificate to commemorate his impressive sixty years membership of NPS and confer Honorary Member status. He also received a bottle of wine from his colleagues. Rick said the presentation had left him 'dumbfounded!'. NUTPS now has two people with 60 years as members. Rick said that there were 127 members of the society when he joined in 1965, with suits and ties much more common then than now at meetings. Displays then were primarily of older stamps, particularly Penny Blacks, and Rick caused some raised eyebrows when he brought in



A well-deserved award to Rick Temperley

Hungarian pictorials! Rick and his father William were the only father-and-son club members. Rick was secretary from 1996-2006, as well as spending 25 years running auctions for the North East Philatelic Association. He attended NPS meetings held at two previous locations in North Newcastle, before these moved to the current base of the Literary and Philosophical Society, Newcastle. Rick said his main interest is in the stamps themselves and their social and historical context, rather than postal history. His main areas for collecting have been Europe and the Commonwealth. He has made some good purchases, such as a Malawi 9d variant stamp purchased for £6.50 but worth much more, and very successful purchases made on holiday in Cyprus. Rick has displayed his stamps widely in the North East of England, and has travelled extensively, particularly in Europe. We congratulate Rick on his 60 years' achievement.

Phil Burns

Peterborough

Our first meeting after the summer break was a members' afternoon and started with **Alan Bannister** who displayed *Military, Patriotic, Disinfected, Surcharged and Telegraph Mail of Malta*. Next came various members with *British Antarctic Territory, Music, Special Football Mail* and *The Nene Valley Railway*. At the next meeting **Alan Berrisford** presented *Polish Battlefields in the East and Austrian Occupation of the areas of Poland occupied by Russia, 1915/18*. In October we were treated to a display of *Communication, 200 years of Pioneers* by **Derek Pollard**. This ranged from the early inventors through significant developments in telephony, radio and TV to a brief history of the BBC. It was a wide range of



Derek Pollard at the boards

material presented in an interesting and informative way. November saw **Colin Thorpe** display *Czechoslovakia and Czech Republic*. At our last meeting husband and wife team **Mary** and **Ian Stirman** displayed RAF Museum flown covers, Bomber series and Test Pilot series, and flown covers signed by the pilot and crew.

Angela Cooper

Poole & Bournemouth

In April **Paul Latham-Warde** was a guest showing *And I still don't know what to collect*. This was a 'fun' evening. In May an evening of members' displays on *The Day of the Stamp and World Stamp Day*. World Post Day is an international day that occurs each year on 9th October, the anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), started in 1874 in Switzerland. June brought us members' displays on Booklets, prestige booklets, panes, coil stamps, etc. In July **Chris Wheeler** showed *Neopost to Post & Go*, of which a report appeared in GSM. Later in July members displayed *Britons on Overseas Stamps*. There was a wide-ranging selection with diverse people from Harry Pollitt (Russian stamp), Australian Navigators, Baden-Powell (African stamps) and, of course, Rowland Hill. August's members' display evening was entitled *Triangulars, Diamonds and Other Odd-Shaped Stamps*. No shortage of ingenuity here! **Hugh Jefferies** later began with some history of the book *Philatelic Terms Illustrated* which was initially compiled by Russell Bennett and James Watson. At the September meeting members displayed *Children's Stamps*. A brilliant selection of varied 'kid's stuff', and a good display of semi-postals from The Netherlands beginning with the first such series issued in 1924. In October **Bill Pipe** showed his collection of *Royal Navy Cancels and Censors to 1919*. November displays were about *Remembrance*. During the year we held four successful auctions which boosted the club funds. Oh, and we have a new website!

Rick Wilmot

Ringwood

We were treated to a major display, which covered an outline history of *Canada & Newfoundland*, but particularly of Newfoundland, where speaker **Gareth Edwards** had lived for some time. The presentation initially placed an emphasis on 18th and 19th century political and trading aspects, beginning with documents dating from 1812. It was very well written up and supported a considerable range of treasured philatelic material. The 1850s and 1860s were particularly to the fore. All the stamp issues were covered in detail. The collection included covers, entires, and stamps in singles, blocks and sheets. Flown covers and airmails added to the story. A section dealt with seaplanes routes and deliveries. Maps, photos and newspaper cuttings all contributed to the mix along with overprints, inks and printers. Royalty and fishing (cod), seal, caribou and paper manufacture were frequent stamp design themes and both world wars provided their own philatelic studies and issues. This presentation was of high calibre and provided insights into a lesser explored collecting area. Chairman **Paul Barry** concluded this fascinating event by commenting with much appreciation, and thanking Gareth for his superb contribution to our programme. Treasurer's and

Immediate Past Honorary ones are gold dust and ought to be celebrated, with their long-suffering wives. Ringwood did so for **John and Sue Stevens** in January. John has handed over the treasured reins to **John Etchells.**

Paul Barry

Rochdale

We welcomed members of Burnley Philatelic Society who visit us each year. **John Jones** presented his nearly complete French collection up to 1980. His stamps were mounted on Davos hingeless pages together with additions for perforations and shades. John explained the political and philatelic changes during this period. **Barry Evans** continued with a personal history of his uncle, Richard Owen Jones - a sea captain from Anglesey. One of the ships he commanded was maybe the RMS

Empress of Canada which was used as a troop and passenger ship between Liverpool and Quebec and Montreal. Yours truly commented that on a Wakes Week holiday (circa 1950) to New Brighton, my Dad and I had seen her leaving the Mersey painted dark grey to transit the Atlantic. There is some doubt that what I saw may not have been the same ship, because another liner called SS Canada was scrapped in the early 1930s. which was more likely to be Barry's uncle's ship. New members are always welcome at our meetings, which are held at the Rochdale Unitarian Church on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm.

Peter Grimshaw

Royal Sutton Coldfield

In November, **Gerald Marriner** gave us an exciting display of *UN Troops in the Congo in the 1960s*, together with the early history of the Congo. Members gave other displays: **Eric Winter** gave a fascinating display of *Indian Victorian Stamps*, while **Steven Harrison** showed us *How the US and GB used Registered Mail Differently*. Our members gave good displays throughout the season, we had the letters *Q, R & S, Postmarks*, and *The Northern Hemisphere*. This created a wide range of displays including Russia, Aland, Hungary, Stamp booklets, Korean and Second World Wars, gifts from the French Post Office, and postal history. Ships, trains, and tickets appeared, showing just how diverse our collections are. We celebrated the Christmas season with a Christmas lunch before the last meeting of the year which was a general competition of one or three sheets. Our meetings were usually well attended and we gained two new members this season. We are looking forward to hosting another philatelic society in the Spring.

Margaret Langley

Salisbury and District

Whilst over many years our membership has always been on the low side, we have had enough attendees to keep meetings vibrant and enjoyable. The committee works hard to keep this momentum going. For example, our new



*Wine for John,
Flowers for Sue or
both to share*

programme manager, **Tony Howgrave-Graham** already has the programme booked through to May 2027, so no reason to miss a meeting! Our new honorary secretary, **Sue Landon**, keeps us all well-briefed, enthused and on our toes. Our day meetings remain extremely popular and people are willing to travel quite some distance to attend. So we enter into 2026 in a positive frame of mind.

→ www.salisburyphilately.org.uk

Paul Latham-Warde



Michael Goodman with Sue Lambton

Sheffield

In October, our Zoom meeting was members' displays of *Trees, Flowers and Fungi*, which included stamp designs from photographs, a selection of fungi stamp, plants discovered on Captain Cook's first voyage of exploration and stamps depicting flora from Southern Africa. Our first Wednesday meeting was by **Colin Mars** with *The 1911 Indian Durbar*, which was a gathering of the Indian rulers to pay homage to the Emperor and Empress of India, which the King attended. Colin showed a wide range of the correspondence associated with the event. The next meeting was a members' display on *Understanding Postal History*. It included some fascinating material backed-up by personal research. In November, Zooming brought **Brian Callan** from Cork on the *Graf Zeppelin LZ219 Flights*. It included examples of flown mail throughout its use for both passengers and freight. The most unusual example being a gorilla. **Roman Rimonis** showed us *Burma and the Japanese Occupation during the Second World War*. He also showed items from *Griqualand West, Heligoland and Batum* in the Caucasus region - a most enlightening display. Then there was a members' display – *Has it really been through the post?* The members showed some unusual material. In December, the Zoom meeting involved **David Ball** with *Stratospheric Balloon Mail* - a display of mail from people trying to attain the highest altitude, training astronauts and testing spacesuits. Then came *Christmas* which included items from non-Christian countries and both the Pacific and Indian Ocean Christmas Islands.

Richard Hindle

Solihull

We have settled into our new venue at the Blossomfield Club. The meetings continue on Tuesday afternoons with audiences averaging 20 and some of the high-profile guests attracting up to 24 members. Topics have included *Malta* by **Mike Fernbank**, the *King George VI Empire Definitives* by **John Spencer** and in an interesting twist *Photographic Philately* by **Geoff Blackwell**. **Chris Grimshaw** brought along his



John Spencer with stamps!

outstanding display of *The Gallipoli Campaign* including some poignant reminders of the casualties of war. **Nick Nelson** and his wife, **Janet**, took us to the sunny skies and vibrant culture with *Treasures of Brazil* accompanied by a PowerPoint display. **Barry Stagg**, Chairman of Cheltenham Philatelic Society, gave us an interesting display about *Parachutes*, during which we learnt that Marilyn Monroe worked as a parachute inspector during WWII. Two of our own members provided us with fascinating in depth studies. **Gerald Marriner, FRPSL** with *The United Nations Operation in the Congo* and **Ray Sheppard** *Early Airmails of the USA*.

Dr Iain Wells

Trafford

Our long-serving secretary **David Sigee** handed over his duties at our AGM last summer, but not before he had organised a very interesting programme for the new session with a good mix of outside speakers and members' evenings.

Highlights have included both pre-philatelic displays from **Mike Birks** (*Free Mail to 1840*) and **Peter Rooke** (*Napoleonic Italy*), and more recent philatelic history from **Derek Burton** (*Czechoslovakia: The First Republic*). We also enjoyed an interesting evening in the company of **Simon Carson** of Philangles (Auctioneers) who not only shared with us some of his collection of local philatelic items but also led an interesting discussion on the future of philately, prompted no doubt by the average age of the audience attending! By popular request we reinstated this year our pre-Christmas meeting, and everyone enjoyed both the mince pies and the entertaining but challenging quiz prepared by our vice-president, **Philip Longbottom**. Our meetings continue into 2026 and all details are available → traffordps.wordpress.com

Clive Griffiths

Twickenham & District

Our 2025/6 programme of alternating room and Zoom meetings commenced with a bring-and-buy sale and the following room meetings including a very successful auction, a visit by **Lorraine McGuire** talking about *New Zealand - Every cover and letter tells a story*, and then members short displays on topics as wide ranging as *Australian Postal Stationery*, *Hungarian Hyperinflation* and *Belgian Orval Abbey Charity Issues*. Our Zoom meetings, which are open to a wide range of philatelists, have so far been themed as *New Acquisitions*, *South America*, *Postal History* and *Anything goes*, with audience contributions of all kinds, short or longer, which are often very surprising and mind-broadening. For 2026, we have two room auctions, three external presentations, the annual competition, the annual quiz, and two more open Zoom meetings on *Postage Due* and on *Postal Stationery* to look forward to.

Roger Morrell

Wakefield

On the 15th October we welcomed **Richard Jagielski** with his display entitled *Polish /Russian Odyssey, My Mother's Family History Through Stamps 1939 to 1948* and on the 27th October **Richard Dedman** gave a Zoom presentation of *Mail Coaches*. At the beginning of November **Elaine Schofield** paid us a very welcome visit with her *British Postal History*. On 19th November **Graham**

Winters FRPSL showed his display of *King George V1*. December commenced with **Philip Reynolds** giving us a look at his *Beginnings of New Collections* followed by a *mini-auction*. We completed the year on the 17th December by holding our Christmas Social and Members' Displays which was entitled *A Sheet indicating why I Like Collecting*. Julie Hitchcock

Watford

We began our new season in September with a visit from **Eric Hutton**, who showed us some of his extensive collection of *Mauritius*, a small country geographically, but with many possibilities philatelically! Eric showed us both early and more modern material, and the members present enjoyed an entertaining evening. We welcomed another visitor in October, when **John Powell** displayed *A Philatelic Journey on the Metropolitan Railway*, a subject none of us had seen before! John showed us a comprehensive collection of MR Railway Letter Service stamps including proofs. In November, member **Geoff Cooke** entertained with an evening of *China*. In the first half we were shown Russian items with Chinese subjects; in the second half Geoff displayed the Chinese Revolution of 1966 and the Cultural Renaissance Movement.

→01923 218433

Wayne Cox

West Riding

Our 2025 season of informal meetings continues. November brought the much-anticipated WRSC Auction No 2 of philatelic material which, thanks to the efforts of club members and the auctioneer **Tony Plumbe** and a faithful band of buyers, resulted in sales of just shy of 50% of all lots entered. The support of Lindley Liberal Club as our venue and providers of facilities to enable consumption of pie and peas and refreshments and bar staff and club secretary is important to our success. The Christmas meeting enjoyed a reverse treasure hunt requiring matching seventeen of the twenty listed postage stamp requirements issued on the AL sponsored list. **Ken Moody** again receiving the prize, from judge **Adrian Lee**. Also all attending members enjoyed Christmas goodies provided by Adrian.

Adrian Lee

Federations

Hampshire

It is with some regret that I report the demise of the Hampshire Philatelic Federation. For over two years we have failed to refresh the committee positions of Chairman and sufficient committee members to run the annual HAMPEX fair and competition. I would like to record my thanks to those members of the Hampshire and Dorset area stamp clubs who have rallied around each year to help keep the show on the road during my tenure as Chairman for more than 20 years. I also thank those dealers who have continually supported the HAMPEX fair over the years. My thanks finally to the other three hard-core committee members who have assisted me in the last two years. As a result, Secure Competition Display Frames (of the "old STAMPEX" style) are available to any



ASPS Scottish Stamp and Postcard Fair with Congress

**The next annual Congress event - the Scottish Stamp and Postcard Fair - organised by the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS) will be held
on Friday 10th April and Saturday 11th April 2026
at the Vine Conference Centre in Dunfermline.**

The Opening Hours will be:

Friday 10th April 10am - 5pm and Saturday 11th April 10am - 3pm.

This annual fair attracts philatelic dealers from across the UK, with a wide range of materials for sale - including stamps, postcards, postal history items, first day covers, catalogues and auction information. The two-day event is open to anyone, at no cost for entry, to browse at leisure, chat make purchases of both rare and more popular philatelic material at various prices. Information about Scottish clubs and societies will be on show, promoting the advantages of sharing your collecting interests with others, and on Saturday 11th April, the event will be inviting young people of all ages (and their accompanying friends and families) to play philatelic-related games, find out how to start a collection, how to identify stamps from different countries, useful websites to visit, to check out some of the main terms used in collecting - all of which will help to equip them with the basics for building a lasting, fascinating and fun educational hobby.

Displays from the hosts (members of the Glasgow Caledonian Philatelic Society) will be exhibited, reflecting a variety and depth of philatelic knowledge, as well as a range of different ways that philately can be pursued.

Also on display will be entries submitted for competitive judging, often with specialist and rare material gathered over many years of painstaking research, accidental discovery and sometimes disappointment!

The venue for this event once again is the modern Vine Conference Centre in Dunfermline, just 5 minutes from the M90 and around 30 minutes north of Edinburgh, on the east side of Scotland. The Centre offers good facilities, a friendly cafe with a good choice of food and snacks, hot and cold beverages - all available on both days - and the staff there ensure that everyone feels welcome.

For more information about the venue go to:

<https://vineconference.co.uk/visitor-information/>

federation or society who would like them at no cost other than the provision of transport to remove them from their present storage site in Wickham, Hampshire. There are sufficient parts for 25 frames. Contact Julian Jones by email jones2@f2s.com

Julian H Jones FRPSL

North Western

The federation continues to operate mainly through its website and email circulation sharing news of philatelic events with local societies across the North West, organising Spring and Autumn competitions and promoting its annual Paul Gaywood Lecture. Reports to the recent AGM of the federation told a mixed story of the closure of one society, of another struggling to maintain a viable membership, but of others that, for the moment, are maintaining low but stable numbers, although some have reduced the frequency of their meetings. One society (Stockport PS) runs Zoom meetings in tandem with face-to-face meetings and the former regularly attract a good number of people from elsewhere in the UK and beyond. Our Spring One-Page competition continues to attract a good number of entries, but the One- and Two-frame competitions are less popular, and we shall be changing the format for the next round. This year's Paul Gaywood lecture will be hosted by Macclesfield and Prestbury PS and will be held as part of their 60th Anniversary Weekend on 7th March.

→ nwfedps.uk

Clive Griffiths

Sussex

The Association's AGM on 11th October was again held during its very successful annual South of England Stamp and Post Card Fair held at the Ardingly Showground. A committee was elected including three new officers, **Jim Etherington** as secretary, **Eric White** as treasurer and **Norman Sanson** as webmaster. The meeting learnt that unfortunately two affiliated societies, Littlehampton & Rustington PS and Storrington & District PS had closed during the course of the year. On a more positive note, details of a new venture being arranged by the association, with the support of an ABPS Small Grant, on 10th June next year was announced. Called the ASPS Spring Symposium it is to be held at the Birch Hotel, Haywards Heath. **Birthe** and **Chris King** will be providing displays and **David Beech** giving a talk. The event will be restricted to members of ASPS affiliated societies due to limited space being available. Preparations for our annual South of England Stamp and Post Card Fair at Ardingly to be held on 10th October 2026 are also well in hand with many of our regular dealers already having booked tables.

Jim Etherington

Wiltshire and District

Our local paper (in Salisbury) recently did a feature on childhood collections. The feature writer reminisced about collecting football-related metal coins in the 1970s, the picture cards from boxes of tea, comics etc, etc whilst being slightly dismissive of stamp collectors as they were 'Boffins'. So, the Boffins of Wiltshire and District recently held their AGM in Swindon where all I met was friendly,

engaging and enthusiastic collectors of all things relating to 'stamps'. Part of the AGM was to present the Federation Trophy (Traditional Classes) and the Victor Hutchinson Memorial Trophy (Contemporary Classes) to our two top Boffins in the 16-Sheet Competitions. These being **Simon King** of Swindon and **Mike Moody** of Salisbury respectively. We were also able to confirm the date for Swinpex, that being the 13th June 2026 and the closing date for submission of all entries for our annual 9-Sheet Competitions, that being the 1st May 2026.

Paul Latham-Warde



The president awarding the Federation Trophy for 2025

Yorkshire



Stamp sorters at work - nobody sneeze!

Over the past year the YPA has attended fairs at York and Leeds to promote its constituent societies. The York 2-day fairs in January and July are some of the biggest outside London, and we have been very grateful to the organisers who have for several years given us free use of a stall to promote regional philately. The Leeds Philatelic Society fair in November also attracts a good number of visitors each year. YPA officers and volunteers run a stand at each event, where visitors can come for a chat and find out about local societies, some of whom (though surprisingly not all) provide copies of their programme for distribution. We like to have material

available to give away free to young collectors and find that adults like to browse too, and are ready to give a donation for material taken, the proceeds going to the two societies who regularly provide items, or to their designated charities. In between chatting to our visitors we often spend time sorting out large heaps of stamps into packets, which can be quite therapeutic and also prevents us from spending too much money with the dealers! We always need more volunteers (what group doesn't?). Why not get involved, either with us or your local federation and give back to the hobby you love?

Daphne McMillan

Specialist Societies

Channel Islands

We held a Regional Meeting at the Three Swans Hotel in Market Harborough, Leicestershire in October attended by nine members and two guests. Prior to

lunch two five-frame displays were given. **Gavin Wood** showed *Sark Material from the German Occupation Period*, including examples from and to the Dame of Sark. **Richard Flemming** showed *Jersey and Guernsey Feldpost Mail*,



1925 Herm post office double circle date-stamp

including a 'Fortress' period letter that was sent on the 11th flight from Guernsey. After lunch, **David Winnie** showed five frames of *Herm* material. Most of the material in the display was pre-1949, including a 1925 Herm post office double circle date-stamp on a postcard. There was also a 2½d Herm meter mark - only used for a few months to cover the sealed letter rate - and examples of the Herm Pigeon Post mail. **Julian Bagwell** gave a display of *Early (pre-1840) Guernsey Postal History*, including a manuscript 'From

Guernsey' on a 1799 letter; a scarce FROM GUERNSEY handstamp on an 1826 letter; a 1d black cancelled with a red Maltese cross on letter sent during September 1840 and an example of a 'Mulready' cancelled with a red Maltese cross dated 5 June 1840 (probably the earliest known example from the Channel Islands). **Nick Martin** showed *Mail from the Channel Islands to France*, including some interesting postage rates on mail into St. Malo. In absentia, **Gavin Wood** showed five interesting frames belonging to **Gerald Marriner** of *Overseas Destination Mail from the Channel Islands*.

Steve Wells

The Czechoslovak PS of GB

The last London meeting of the year took place on 1st November, at the Dean Swift pub, close to Tower Bridge (our regular venue). The first session was devoted to ten-sheet displays by members on the theme of *The letter Č*. Five

members contributed: **Roger Morrell** with *Foreign-rate Postal Stationery bearing the legend 'Československa Pošta'*; **Peter Williams** with the *Czechoslovak Republic in Europe, Booklets from the Czech Republic, and the Political Graveyard website (www.politicalgraveyard.com/)*, which has information on where the graves of US consular officials can be found; **Yvonne Wheatley** with the word *Česka* – a Czech woman or girl; **Wojciech Kierstan** with *Černý tiski* – black prints; and **Reg Hounsell** with *Czechoslovak Airmail*. After lunch, under our slightly revised rules and with the addition of a



Roger Morrell presents the Kay Goodman Rose Bowl to Wojciech

Postcard class, the Kay Goodman competition was successfully held with the member judging procedure. The overall winner of the rosebowl trophy by a small margin was **Wojciech Kierstan** with his entry on *Postal Stationery from the 1970s and 1980s*. **Roger Morrell** was second with *Postcards of the 1908 Prag Exhibition*, and third was **Sandy Kerr** with *Junák (Scouting) – some commemorative material*. → www.cpsgb.org.uk

Tony Holdsworth

Forces Postal History

We held our last physical meeting of 2025 at Banstead on 13th December when members showed recent acquisitions and other displays over coffee, biscuits and mince pies! Our last Zoom 2025 meeting was held on 16th December. We have had a successful year with meetings held every month (except August when we hold our annual Banstead Stamp & Postal History Fair) split between the Union Jack Club at Waterloo and Banstead Community Centre; sadly though attendance at our meetings has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. Our Zoom meetings are held almost monthly, which enables us to welcome our overseas members and those in the UK unable to attend our meetings. The Zoom topics are varied - usually 4 or 5 different displays each time; we also welcome non-members. We hold two competitions a year (9 and 15 pages) voted on by the members present. This past year **Richard Berry FRPSL** won the 15-page with his entry on *WWII British Postal Censor Slips* and **Nick Harris** won the 9-page with his entry on *The Overseas Camps for Boer Prisoners of War (St Helena)*. We had society tables at

EuroPhilEx and Midpex where we managed to attract 5 new members from USA, Turkey and UK including a re-join after a 13-year absence. Our meeting dates and reports are placed on our website and many of our Zoom displays are also available there → www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk

Michael Dobbs



Geoff Hanney (president),
presenting the President's Cup
to Nick Harris

France & Colonies

Our year has started well. Membership remains constant as we are delighted to welcome several new members from the UK, France and Canada. A 'Zoom' meeting in October had two outstanding presentations. **Mick Bister** opened with a study of the *1F50 Petain issue of 1942* (Y&T 517), an issue with widespread use. Mick showed examples of artwork, artist's proofs, colour trials and printings before moving on to the "Secours National issue", with colour variations, and liberation overprints. **Chris** spoke from a postal historian's viewpoint about the challenges of mail collection and delivery during the occupation of France in WWII. This included examples of censorship, refugee and POW mail, and the

complexity of transiting demarcation lines. December saw the publication of our latest 60-page Journal which includes major articles on *Sites and Monuments* /*Issues* by **Edwin Voerman**, *Precursors of the French Postal Cards* by **Frans Jorissen**, *Marianne de Muller* by **Mick Bister** and a further foray into *The Representation of Showbusiness and Culture on French Stamps* by **David Parmley**. Our latest postal auction, with 795 lots, will close in January with the next auction to be held in May. We will hold further meetings of our London Group, and the recently postponed meeting of the Northern Group in January/February before we will gather for our 50th annual meeting weekend and celebration in Stratford-upon-Avon in March. Then the London Group will meet again in May, with a full Zoom meeting planned for June. Roger Niven

Germany & Colonies

We wish all our fellow philatelist a 'Happy New Year' and trust that all your societies prosper in 2026. It has been a fantastic 2025, ending on a high with the inaugural meeting of the 'new' Midlands Regional group, held in Leicester. We welcomed **Giles du Boulay**, **Rex Dixon** and **Carl Buck** from the society, presenting discussions on *Danzig - Yearning for the Homeland* - comparing the loss of 'Heimat' after WWI with that of the expulsions post-WWII. Then a fascinating display on the tariffs in Büsing am Hochrhein, an exclave of Germany (Baden), and Jungholz in Tirol. A mix of philately and political geography! Finally, a presentation on the sinking of the SS *Arandora Star* with subsequent mail and ephemera about victims and survivors. These Midlands meetings will continue on 7th February, 2nd May, 1st August and 7th November. We are pleased to announce a couple of milestones! First, the issue of the 200th Third Reich Study Group newsheet. Since 1974 this publication has delivered the highest of standards on German philately and postal history. So many stories to tell! Secondly, we've achieved over 1000 followers on the 'X' media platform. We wish to thank all those members who have supported us! After reflecting on an amazing 2025, we begin the philatelic journey once again into 2026. Why not join us? For more information on the regional groups and so much more → www.germanphilately.org Carl Buck

Glasgow Thematic

We started our season last October with the president's display by **Bobby Forrest** on the theme of *Scouting*. We meet on the evening of the first Monday of the month and attract about 15 people to meetings but have a membership of about 20. In November, we hosted **Roy Burnett** from Aberdeen PS, who gave a fascinating display about *The Silk Road*, making up the various trade routes from China to other parts of the continent. There is a considerable amount of philatelic material on this topic, of which members were mostly unaware. In December we held our annual bourse where members could buy, sell and exchange philatelic material and in January several members provided *Alphabet Lottery* displays, based on a chosen letter of the alphabet – so amongst other things, we saw USA issues produced under the auspices of *James Farley* (F), *Nobel Prize for Literature Awards* (N), and a display about

the *III-fated Balloon Flight of Salomon August Andrée and his two companions, Nils Strindberg and Knut Frænkel*, who perished on the deserted island of Kvitøya (White Island) in the Svalbard archipelago of the Arctic Ocean in October 1897. We also welcomed a new member in January who had reached out to us via our website, and who was therefore attending for the first time. For anyone interested in finding out more about us, we are the only general thematic society in Scotland → www.glasgowthematicsociety.org.uk

Paula Cleary

Great Britain

2025 proved a great success for the GBPS, which continues as the leading society for collectors of GB stamps and postal history with over 850 members in the UK and across the world. As usual the season kicked off in September with a display of *County Postal History* with **Stephen Teuma** leading the way with an excellent collection of *Suffolk*. September continued with a display at Stampex of *Machins* by **Nigel Perrins**. October saw a joint meeting with the Channel Islands Study Circle which was well attended with a wide range of material on show. The year concluded with the usual reception at Stanley Gibbons in December where members showed parts of their diverse collections. **Maurice Buxton** also provided a display of the *Pools and the Post* by Zoom in December. Meetings are held each month at the Royal Philatelic Society London and full details of the society programme can be found at www.gbps.org.uk For more information about membership, go to: <http://www.gbps.org.uk/join> **John Davies**

Tony Walker, who displayed WWI intercepted, salvaged and damaged mail at the GB North East meeting was wrongly identified as **Tony Ward**. Apologies to him for the error.

D E McMillan

Hungarian PS of GB

In 2025 the society has held a general meeting and its AGM at the usual Banbury venue, with varied displays and auctions, and was represented with a table at Midpex to attract new members. Display themes have included: *The Development of the Money Letter through the Ages*, *Artwork involved in the Production of Workers' Union Card stamps during the Early Communist Period*, *Pictorial WWI Fieldpost Cards*, *Parcel Card Tax during the 1945/6 Hyperinflation Period*, and *Early Hungarian Passports* before the use of imprinted tax stamps. This range of topics illustrates not only the diversity of members' interests, but also the fascinating range of topics that the history of Hungary offers the philatelist. Our award-winning journal *Stamps of Hungary*, now in its 62nd year, continues to offer a wide range of articles, and work continues to develop our website <https://hpsgb.com>, especially to extend the date range and details of postal rates.

Roger Morrell

Lundy Collectors

2025 was a busy year for us, with 20 members enjoying the club's spring 5-day visit to Lundy that coincided with the 2025 Lundy Bird Observatory stamp issue. Members were welcomed by Landmark Trust Island Manager, **Derek Green** and

THE POSTAL ORDER SOCIETY



Do you collect Postal Orders?

Did you know there is an international group of
Postal Order collectors?

Based in the U.K. with members around the world,
The Postal Order Society invites you to join.

Philatelists consider Postal Orders to be a form of postal stationery, as they typically bear an imprinted commission or fee stamp. Numismatists consider them to be monetary instruments. So Postal Orders appeal to both collector groups.

The Postal Order Society produces a periodic journal, "Postal Order News", in electronic format. This is the only regular source of research and information about Postal Orders. Regular postal auctions are offered, including several hundred worldwide Postal Orders.

 Annual subscription is only £5 

For more information and to receive a membership application,
please contact one of the following:

In the U.K. or Europe: Vinay Patel at vinay.patel@ntlworld.com

In North America: Jack Harwood at jharwood222@verizon.net

In Australia and New Zealand: Ross Pratley at waratahquilts@gmail.com

In Asia and the Pacific Islands: Dr. Redwan Bhuiyan at drheartbd@gmail.com

a full schedule of events and activities helped fill a busy week for the members. After a very long tenure fulfilling many roles essential to the longevity of the club, secretary **James Thomas** stepped down after handing over to the new club manager, **Mark McShane**. 2025 also saw a refreshed club website launched that now includes a fully searchable archive of the club's journals spanning seven decades, which is all thanks to the work of our new webmaster **André Coutanche**. Rebranding and launching the club on social media saw a significant increase in membership of 15% in the final quarter of the year, which is a remarkable achievement thanks to the LCC management team. 2026 starts with a meeting on 21st February at Easter Compton, followed by the club's annual two-day event at Bideford on 1st & 2nd August that includes a day trip to Lundy. We will also introduce Zoom meetings to ensure the club remains accessible and inclusive for all members, particularly our international members. The LCC will be at Boston World Expo, with our member **Sid Morgenstern** presenting on 9th May. Full details of all future programme events can be found on our website.



Mark McShane

Malayan

Specialist worldwide societies hold members-only auctions so membership is worthwhile if you have got beyond beginner stage. Our 18th October auction was full of rarities, postal stationery and history. The next one is on 28th March. I did the Zoom meeting on 22nd November. I am a great fan of Zoom. You need a volunteer who can manage the Web and Zoom, and a run-through rehearsal to make sure all will go smoothly is good. Audiences are bigger than for a London meeting. The theme was *Some of the more difficult stamps of Malaya for the Philatelist*. I started with Malayan Postal Union, the last issues, used and a mint block of 1956 50c, followed by the small sultans of Malaya, 1949 onwards. After that a throwback to the classical Indian ones used in The Straits Settlements from 1854 onwards - valuable now India has become a favourite investment again. Then came the more interesting issues of all the sovereigns to KGVI again, finishing with the unissued 8c carmine Victory issue of 1946. On 8th December, **Nick Harvey** took us through the sufferings of Vietnamese refugees at Bidong Island after 1978 and then gave a masterly history of the military and personal sides of the Malayan Emergency. **Len Stanway** related the *Year of the Dragon, Singapore 2000*. **Andrew Norris** showed some of the material from auctions of the notable collections of Gordon Peters. Other contributors were **Susan McEwen**, **Martin Roper**, **Dominic Morris**, **Peter Cockburn** and me.

Michael Waugh FRPSL

National

The complicated history of *Bulgaria and its philatelic aspects* were the subject of January's display at our London meeting. **Dr Roger Morrell** showed stamps and

postal history from the Ottoman era, the Tsars, the Balkan Wars., WWII, post-war Communism and its aftermath. Roger is a specialist collector of the Balkans, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The December 2025 virtual meeting featured the *Counterfeit Machin* collection of the president **Michael Goodman FRPSL**, who showed how most can be spotted without a magnifier. The former president **Peter Mellor** also displayed *My Grandfather's Stamps* which included a letter written by Charles Dickens. Future meetings include a display of *Ascension Island and St Helena* at the London meeting in March. The NPS now has over 400 members in the UK and overseas. It holds regular bi-monthly London meetings which include a 400-lot room and postal auction and a guest speaker display. The venue is the premises of The Royal Philatelic Society in Abchurch Lane. London meetings alternate with Monday evening virtual meetings. Members receive a free bi-monthly journal *Stamp Lover*. A thriving packet circuit offers GB, Commonwealth and Foreign material.

→ Peter Mellor 01582 762284 npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk or www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

Michael Goodman



Roger Morrell with map and reference book

Precancel S of GB

Welcome to the first entry for this society which recently joined ABPS. We are now holding our annual postal auction, which closes on 14th March 2026. Please contact our auctioneer, **Harry Machin**, at hnmachin@gmail.com for further details.

Harry Machin

Royal

The simple title of the display *Mexico 1856-1868* on 9th October did not do justice to the wealth of outstanding material to be seen. **Joseph Hackmey RDP, FRPSL** stunned all present by the quality of the stamps and covers, and the depth of his research that was evident throughout. The display of *The Port Phillip District and The Colony of Victoria 1842-1864* by **Ian P Greig FRPSL** came as a huge surprise on 23rd October. Few realised that Ian had, over 50 years, created this wonderful collection. 'Amazing', 'quite remarkable', 'incredible', 'stunning' were just a few of the superlatives heard. An in-depth study of the *Stamps of Transvaal from 1870 to 1885* formed the display and presentation by **Lars Jørgensen FRPSL** on 6th November. Transvaal stamps were issued over a period of 40 years from 1870, covering the First Republic (until 11th April 1877), the First British Occupation (12th April 1877 to 7th August 1881) and Second Republic (from 8th August 1881). **Dr Philip Levine FRPSL** had travelled from Australia to present his magnificent display of *Gold Coast*. Divided into six sections, the display began with the issues of the reigns of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII with studies of the stamps, including many rare and outstanding items such as essays and proofs, usage demonstrated by

fine covers. Then came postal stationery, air letters, postal history and mail from the Ashanti Wars.

West Indies

On Saturday, 21st March, we are holding a gathering at the Kempton Park racecourse, in Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex TW16 5AQ. This coincides with the Kempton Park Stamp Fair → www.kemptonparkstampshow.co.uk/ Do join us from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Bring something to share and enjoy browsing the stalls. We are holding a joint meeting with the KG VI Collectors Society. Their members will bring Caribbean examples to share. The WIPSG will be at the Boston 2026 World Expo → web.cvent.com/event/bbbdc1d9-e50e-44dd-8bef-eb36c9d1251f/summary. We are holding a meeting there on Friday 29th May 10.00am to 1.00pm. Several UK members are travelling to the event (**Simon Richards, James Podger, Susan Taylor**) which is being hosted by **Nigel Mohammed**. We look forward to catching up with all our American colleagues there.

Susan Taylor

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 Please send any more amendments 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.

Federations

Hampshire Federation: has closed - see page 44

Specialist Societies

We are delighted to welcome two specialist societies.

Pre-cancel Stamp Society of Great Britain: Secretary **Harry Machin**
hnmachin@gmail.com

The Lundy Collectors Club: Secretary **Mark McShane**

manager.lundycollectorsclub@gmail.com 07519559869
www.lundycollectorsclub.org.uk/index.html

We regret to report that the Pakistan Study Circle and the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain Study Group have closed, due to falling numbers and the lack of willing volunteers.

Local Societies

Yeovil and District Philatelic Society: Secretary is **David Bowman**
d.bowman2@btinternet.com 07485 124220
Meetings are held on the first Wednesday in the month at St Mark's Church, 64 Chelston Avenue, **Yeovil** BA21 4PU

Isles of Scilly Postal History.

St Mary's. Post Office. Hugh Town.

Postmarks. 1900 – 1945.

A regular weekly mail service to the Scilly Isles was first established in 1804 by a small vessel trading between Penzance and St Mary's with mail receiving a straight line SCILLY postmark.

The Post Office in Hugh Town was built in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and today still functions as St Mary's Post Office. The building was constructed with a granite rustic form and the design was attributed to Thomas Algernon Dorrien-Smith who was Lord Proprietor of the Islands.



This Peacock Series Postcard shows the St Marys Post Office in the early 1900s and bears on the reverse (below) a SCILLY postmark dated the 12th Sept 1905



St Mary's Post Office Postmarks.

Double Ring with SCILLY in capital letters. (Fig 3)

Earliest seen 13th Aug 1901.

Latest seen 13th July 1921.

Single Small Ring with SCILLY in capital letters (Fig 4)

Earliest seen 24th June 1908.

Latest seen 14th Feb 1911.

Double Ring with St MARYS in capital letters (Fig 5)

Earliest seen 12th July 1926.

Latest seen 18th Dec 1942.



Fig 3, 4 & 5

These dates are based on the Author's modest collection of Postcards.
Any reader having a more comprehensive collection may be able to provide
further information and dates. or know of any publication on Scilly Isles
Postmarks.

Keith Lillywhite

Please contact via editor@abps.org.uk

Congratulations to the various winners and runners up of the PTA Annual Awards for 2025:

Collaboration: Heinrich Köhler

Runner Up: Åland Post Stamps

Campaign: Royal Mail

Runner Up: Cwiakala Auctions

Publication: Siegel Auctions

Runner Up: Stamp Active Network

Trade Ambassador: Bill Barrell

Runner Up: Franz Fedra

Philatelic Ambassador: Simon Martin-Redman

Runner Up: Abhishek Bhuwalka

And thanks to all those who cast their votes.

Philatelic Traders Society Award

We are delighted to have been voted runner-up in the Publication of the Year category in the PTS 2025 awards for our 'Stamp Fun – Showing your Stamps'. This is a guide for young collectors on writing up and displaying their collections and is available to download from the Stamp Active website.

Autumn Stampex

This is our opportunity to meet junior collectors face-to-face. In October last year, as usual, we had a large stand which our volunteers manned for the four days.

Unfortunately, Stampex rarely coincides with school half-term so young visitors are few on the first three days. However, we had what is becoming a regular visit from three families who home-school their children. They spend the whole day at the Design Centre and fully engage with our activities, the dealers and the Stampex games such as the Stamp Bug hunt.

On Saturday we welcomed 28 children and their families. Each received an activity pack and vouchers to the value of £20 to spend with participating dealers. This year we based our activity on the Monopoly stamps issued by Royal Mail just before Stampex. Each child received 2 stamps, a souvenir envelope, some 'fun facts' and some philatelic material related to the Monopoly site featured on one of their stamps. There was also quiz and a word search. It was very interesting watching them address the envelope to themselves and stick the stamp on – in the right places! There was a special Stampex post box and all mail received a special Stampex postmark. The idea was that they would actually receive something through the post with a stamp on it, which we all know is quite a rare occurrence now – we hope that they all arrived safely! After spending time completing the activities, they then had time to explore the dealers and spend their vouchers before returning at 2pm for the auction.



The home-schoolers well and truly stuck in at Stampex

Everyone receives 200 points and our thanks go to Patrick from Spink auction house who controlled what was a very excited and competitive auction room. As they departed each child received a goodie bag with an activity book, some stamps, first day covers, and all of the volunteers took a breath and had a well earned cuppa!

This is an opportunity for us to thank the members of the PTS - not only for accepting the Stamp Active vouchers but for the time they spend engaging and encouraging the children:

John Auld Alliance Auctions
GB, Naval World Covers & Stamps
Mulready Philatelics

John Curtin Ltd
London Philatelists
ThematiX

Dauwalders
Paula Cant

The Ann Dummer, Young Collector of the Year, 2025



This year's recipient was **Peter Talks**. Since joining Lancaster Royal Grammar School, Peter has been a leading light at the very active and successful Stamp Club. He encourages his friends to come from Year 9 and supports new members as they join and the success of the club is largely due to his efforts. He enjoys taking part in stamp competitions and encourages others to enter. Peter's main collection is stamps from Canada. Peter and his parents travelled to Stampex where we were able to present the trophy. Peter was delighted and surprised to receive a Penny Black donated by **Robin Cassell** of Mulready Philatelics. Our thanks go to Robin for his continued support to Stamp Active.

Donations and Fundraising

Each year we receive more and more donations - either monetary or material for which we are very grateful. We use donations in a number of ways - some material is sold to raise money to fund the activities and workbooks we develop, some goes to our 'Kids Stamp' administrator to make up packs for subscribers, some is used to make up auction lots and goodie bags. Having a stand at events enables us to meet and thank some of our donors personally. In October I met **Helen Sewell** who brought along a donation of her late father's collection and I was able to show her the Monopoly Activity pack and our workbooks and guides to demonstrate how we use donations. We have recently received a very generous cash donation from the British Society for Japanese Philately. Although we are grateful it is very sadly made as a consequence of the closure of the Society.

In the coming months we will have stands at fairs in York and Macclesfield - if you see us come and have a chat and see what we have to offer to young collectors!

Diary for the next few months

Local and regional events by ABPS members

March

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

April

- 4 Swindon Stamp Fair: 9.30-1.30: Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, **Swindon** SN3 1JL →
<https://sites.google.com/site/swindonphilatelicsociety>
- 10 ASPS Scottish Stamp & Postcard Fair: 10-5: Vine Conference Centre, 131 Garvoe Hill, **Dunfermline** KY11 4JU
- 11 ASPS Scottish Stamp & Postcard Fair: 10-3: Vine Conference Centre, 131 Garvoe Hill, **Dunfermline** KY11 4JU
- 12 Warminster Stamp & Postcard Fair: 9-2: Kingdown School, **Warminster**, Wiltshire BA12 9DR → Norman Elston 01985 846339

May

- 2 Swindon Stamp Fair: 9.30-1.30: Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, **Swindon** SN3 1JL →
<https://sites.google.com/site/swindonphilatelicsociety>
- 9 Essex Stamp Day: 10-4: The Runnymede Hall Kiln Road, **Benfleet** SS7 1TF → Colin on 07914489814 or colinmaxine2005@hotmail.com

June

- 13 Swinpex 2026 Stamp, Postal History & Postcard Fair: 10-3.30: Grange Leisure & Community Centre, Stratton St Margaret, **Swindon** SN3 4JY. Includes the Wiltshire & District Philatelic Federation 9-page Competition → Dr Christopher Scott christopher.scott174@gmail.com

July

- 18-19 York Stamp & Coin Fair: The Grandstand, York Racecourse, **York** YO23 1EX

September

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

October

- 2-4 Germany & Colonies Weekend: Feathers Hotel, **Ludlow**
- 10 South of England Stamp and Post Card Fair: 10-4: Ardingly Showground, **Ardingly**, RH17 6TL → Kevin Dillistone dillyboy4744@gmail.com
website: www.sussexphilately.org.uk

November

- 15-16 Leeds Stamp Fair, Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner, **Pudsey**, LS28 5TA

National Exhibitions 2026

- ABPS National, Nottingham 4th - 6th September 2026. Competitive exhibition
Entry deadline: 18th July

International Exhibitions 2026

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

- **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: closed
- **Macao 2026:** 26th June – 1st July 2026. FIP Patronage Full details at:
www.macao2026.org.mo Specialised FIP Exhibition, no Championship Class
UK Commissioner: Jack Zhang Entry deadline: closed
- **Philataipei 2026:** 19th - 24th November 2026. FIP Patronage. Full details at:
www.taipei2026.post.gov.tw/taipei2026 Jon Aitchison
jonaitchison.uk@outlook.com Entry deadline: 31st March 2026
- **Slovhilex 2027**, Bratislava, Slovakia 30th June - 4th July 2027. FIP
Patronage. Full details at: www.slovhilex2027.sk Specialised FIP
Exhibition: Most Classes, no postal stationery

FIP shows in Belgrade 12th - 17th September 2027 and IBRA (Ulm) 26th - 29th October 2028 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

The Competition during the Congress at Nottingham gives the opportunity to get some individual comments on your entry - in preparation to go further from 1 to 3 frames or 3 to 5. You could find that your material is good to go for an International Competition. Give it a go?

ABPS General Information

Honorary Vice-Presidents

Brian Asquith, John Baron, Tony Bosworth, Mike Brindle, Peter Chantry, Mike Elliott, Hugh Feldman, Steven Harrison, Margaret Morris, Susan Oliver, Pat Rothnie, Richard West

Executive Committee

Chair: **Gwynne Harries** *

* Denotes also a Director of ABPS Ltd

chair@abps.org.uk

Vice Chairman: **Simon Richards** *

vicechair@abps.org.uk

Secretary: **George L Henshilwood** *

secretary@abps.org.uk

Communications Director **Ian Balcombe**

ianbalc@gmail.com

Company Secretary, Treasurer and Small Grants Coordinator:

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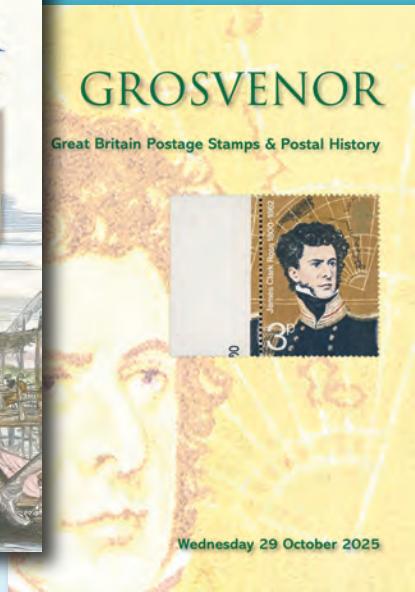
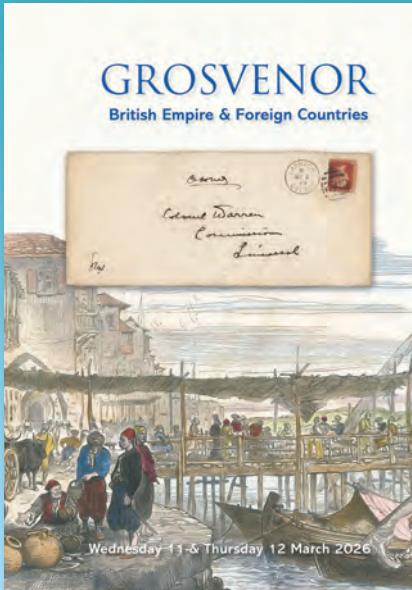
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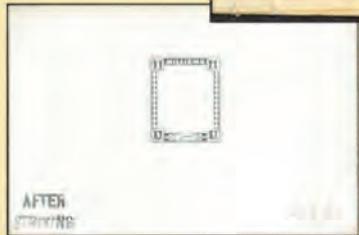


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