



ABPS

The Association of British Philatelic Societies Ltd

“The Voice of British Philately”

EXECUTIVE BULLETIN

March 2025

We would remind all societies to share this bulletin and the digital copy of ABPS News with their members and please circulate this bulletin to any philatelic friends to show what the ABPS is doing to promote philately across the UK. Also, please visit www.abps.org.uk

NEWS AND EVENTS

The ABPS website is being kept up-to-date with the latest news and events. Please take a regular look at www.abps.org.uk

New UK RDPs.



We are delighted to see that Simon Richards and Birthe King from the UK have been elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. They will sign the Roll at a ceremony during Europhilex to be held at the Council House in Birmingham on Friday 19th May. The event is open to all and admission is free.

FEPA Award to Solihull Philatelic Society



THE FEPA CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION, 2024, has been awarded to: Solihull Philatelic Society (United Kingdom)

Since its inception in 1970, the Solihull Philatelic Society has offered a comprehensive program of weekly meetings with an average attendance of 22 members. The society features talks and displays by international speakers and encourages member displays. An annual 16-sheet competition attracts many entries, with options for novices to progress to higher levels. The society organises stamp fairs and participates in the Knowle Stamp Fair. It maintains a library with over 350 books and offers an exchange packet for members. The society supports charity efforts, including a recent raising of over £5,000 for the Marie Curie Foundation.

ABPS IS SEEKING REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Lack of awareness of ABPS, and the difficulty we had in filling vacancies on the Executive Committee over the last twelve months, has shown the need to get more people involved. We would like to see individuals acting as **Regional Representatives** for ABPS, making contact with local societies in their area, offering support, seeking feedback and creating greater participation in the work of ABPS. A “job description” has been drafted and we would like to hear from anyone who would be prepared to take on such a role. You can decide the size of the geographical area that you would cover, so limiting the scope of the role for yourself. Please email chair@abps.org.uk if you are prepared to help.

MAGNET INSURANCE PARTNERS WITH THE ABPS

Magnet Insurance are delighted to announce our partnership with The Association of British Philatelic Societies.

Many of you will already know that Magnet Insurance acquired the Stamp Insurance Services business in 2023 from Barry Horne, following his retirement. Our aim is to support the Philatelic community by providing relevant, competitive insurance products to cover the wide and varied risks across the philatelic sector. This new partnership harnesses the collective buying power of the ABPS membership.

For policies with an effective from 1 January 2025, ABPS members, whether existing or new Magnet customers, will receive a 10% ABPS member premium discount.

We will also be providing useful information and content within the insurance section of the ABPS website, to keep members up-to-date with insurance matters relating to Philately.

How do you receive your 10% Member Discount?

For New Enquiries

When you contact us for a quote, let us know you are an ABPS member, we will check the ABPS member directory and apply your 10% discount.

For Current ABPS clients

For those members who are already Magnet customers, we will apply the 10% ABPS member discount automatically for renewals due on or after the 1 January 2025 and the ABPS logo on our letter will indicate that the discount has been applied.

For Stamp Societies, Clubs, Federations and Associations, we offer products covering various options, including:

- Circulating Packets
- Material held at Packet Secretary's home
- Auction Stock
- Club Contents
- Contents at Exhibitions, events
- Public Liability
- Employers Liability to cover volunteers
- Money and Personal Assault

For further details, please visit our website: www.stampinsurance.co.uk/clubs-societies/ or phone us on 01636 858249, during normal office hours (9am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday) for a quote.

EUROPHILEX



The European International Exhibition, an ABPS event, under the auspices of FEPA with FIP Patronage, will take place at the NEC, Birmingham, from 7th to 11th May 2025.

Individuals and trade organisations can support the event as Sponsors. You can also become a Supporter or Patron with a range of exclusive benefits. Full details can be found on the website. <https://europhilex2025.co.uk>

Everything is going well with plans for this show, which takes place in Hall 9. Virtually all dealer booths have now been taken and the 2000 exhibit frames are fully subscribed. It has been advised that ALL the competitive exhibits will be on show for the whole period of the event. It should be an exciting show, so please put it in your diary.

STAMP ACTIVE

Stamp Active will be at Europhilex on Stand 1 with plenty of free activities, free goodie bags and much more. Please bring along any youngsters for a fun day. Up to 50 Youngsters will receive vouchers for £20 to spend at the show.

STAMP ACTIVE YOUTH STAMP COMPETITIONS

The Stamp Active Network, the voluntary organisation that promotes stamp collecting for children in the UK, is organising the national youth stamp competitions. Full details of the competitions for 2025 and entry forms can be found on the Competitions section of the Stamp Active website.

For further information, and advice on preparing an entry, go to www.stampactive.co.uk

There is now a new guide to stamp competitions, called “STAMP FUN – Showing Your Stamps”, which can be downloaded from the Stamp Active website Competitions page. Please have a look. This might help some adult visitors too!

ABPS NATIONAL STAMP COMPETITIONS

Following the success of the recent ABPS competitions, held at the Royal Philatelic Society London, where around 400 people visited the exhibits, the exercise will be repeated in 2025 from 27th February to 1st March. The event will be known as the “ABPS Spring National Exhibition”.

There will be no competitive exhibits at York in 2025.

Enquiries to: exhibiting@abps.org.uk.

MIDPEX 2025

Midpex will take place at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre on Saturday 5th July 2025. This popular event, organized by ABPS and the MPF, is the showcase for UK Societies as well as one of the largest Stamp Fairs in the UK.

Full details can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/midpex/>

Dealers and Societies who wish to book space should contact Steve Harrison.

STAMPEX INTERNATIONAL

Stampex, organized by The Philatelic Traders’ Society, took place from 23rd to 26th October 2024 at the Business Design Centre, London. The new location within the BDC in the Gallery Hall and Atrium seemed to work well and attendance numbers increased this year.

The BDC is already booked for the 2025 Show which will take place from 22nd to 25th October 2025, so its another date for your diary!

ABPS has decided to book Meeting Room C, to make it available to Societies for meeting on the Friday and Saturday only.

This initiative has been supported by The Philatelic Fund.

If you are interested to hold a meeting at the event, please contact John Davies davies1890@btinternet.com

ABPS NEWS

The latest issue of ABPS News will be circulated shortly. Back issues can be downloaded from the News section of the ABPS website.

The closing date for the next issue is 15th April.

Final dates for copy for later issues are 15th April, 15th July, 15th October, 15th January.

Good reports are received from most societies. Some Societies have not sent a report in for some time and we would be delighted to hear from them, and which in turn help them.

Some branches of Tesco have Community Rooms and these can be used by Societies. We are seeing if we can get a list of Branches that have these facilities. In the meantime please have a look at your local Branch or enquire.

Please remember that affiliated societies can benefit from putting information into ABPS to publicise themselves. Here is a detailed reminder from our Editor:

Any affiliated society is eligible to send in

(i) an advertisement for any activity (meeting, AGM, weekend, fair) once a year. This should be sent as a jpeg or Word document and be suitable to fit into an A5 page (allowing a 2mm margin round the page).

(ii) notification of any meetings etc to be included in the Diary. This should be in Word and give date, title, times, address, contact details. Details can be sent at any time but must be received at least 3 months before the event to allow for the publication and distribution.

(iii) reports on their meetings and other activities, up to 250 words per issue. This will be edited to fit the space available. Photos are welcome (usually one per report is the maximum). As before, Word and jpeg or equivalent are the necessary means = I use Arial 10, single-spacing - no other format as I have to remove it before inserting.

Articles and enquiries relating to ABPS News can be submitted via the website or you can write direct by email at editor@abps.org.uk

EXHIBITING

Full details of all opportunities to take part in both national and international stamp exhibitions can be found in the Exhibiting section of the ABPS website.

ZOOM MEETINGS

Some Societies hold regular meetings on Zoom and welcome visitors. I am pleased to share details of those that have shared their information. Thankyou.

Details of speakers who are prepared to give displays via Zoom can be found on the ABPS website by doing a search of "Zoom" on the Speakers page.

INVITATIONS TO ZOOM MEETINGS

ABPS would also like to compile a list of Societies that have a ZOOM programme. If you do so, please email pr@abps.org.uk

We are pleased to share details of those Societies who invite wider attendance at their Zoom Meetings, are below:

This is to inform you that the **Sheffield Philatelic Society** hosts one meeting a month via Zoom. This is on the first Thursday of every month except for August. All are welcome to attend.

This Zoom meeting is in addition to two in-person meetings a month which are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, except for August and the meeting on the fourth Wednesday in December.

Details of programmes and dates may be found on the Society's website www.sheffielddps.org.uk. James H. Grayson, Secretary, Sheffield Philatelic Society

Southampton & District Philatelic Society has an established Zoom programme with meetings on the last Tuesday of the month.

Meetings for 2024 are included in the overall programme: <http://www.southamptondps.org.uk/meetings.html> and video recordings of most past meetings are listed here: <http://www.southamptondps.org.uk/avideolibrary.html>

Dawlish Stamp Club has been holding monthly meetings on Zoom since the first Covid lockdown. They have a new programme, starting in May, in preparation. Zoom meetings are generally held at 19:00 GMT on the third Wednesday of each month

For more information, contact Robin Buchanan at rgybuchanan@btinternet.com

Harrogate Philatelic Society is continuing its Zoom meetings - usually the first or second Friday evening of each month (avoiding our physical meetings).

We open at 7pm and chat, then single or multiple displays on the chosen theme follow at 7.30. We end with more chat - very sociable.

Contact harrogateps@gmail.com for the link and see the Harrogate PS website (via ABPS or YPA) for the programme and other details.

Grantham Philatelic Society

Zoom meetings are held at Grantham Stamp Club on the third Wednesday of each month. For more information, please contact Martin Lodge at MAVlodge@btinternet.com.

Postal History Society

The Postal History Society has ZOOM Meetings on the first Monday of every month at 2.15pm for 2.30pm (London).

Meetings are shown in the overall programme on our website.

**<https://www.postalhistory.org.uk/programme/>
Contact secretary@phs.org.uk for more details.**

CALLING ALL SOCIETY SPEAKERS

If you are a Society Speaker and would like to add your details to the ABPS website, you can do so by going directly to the Speakers section of the ABPS website and complete the form by clicking on “Add your details to our Speakers database here”. There is generally a shortage of speakers for Societies and you will be greatly assisting Programme Secretaries by adding your personal details to the website.

FEDERATION LIAISON OFFICER

DAPHNE McMILLAN has now taken on this role. Daphne is particularly interested in how the ABPS may support Federations to develop and get more out of their websites. Email: mcmillandaphne@yahoo.co.uk

ABPS AWARDS



Congress Medal

The Awards Committee invites nominations for both the Awards of Merit and the Congress Medal for 2026 by 31st March 2026.

See the website for nomination forms and full details of the Award of Merit and Congress Medal. We would encourage both local and national societies to submit applications and recognise the contributions of key people. It is always nice for someone to know that their effort is appreciated. You must know of an individual who should get recognition.

SUPPORT ABPS BY BECOMING A FRIEND OR PATRON

If you are active in the world of philately and want to play a direct part in supporting the hobby today and in the future, please think about becoming a Patron or Friend of ABPS. You will receive personal copies of ABPS News, an ABPS badge and be featured on the website. Most importantly, you will be contributing to the growth of the hobby in the UK.

For more information, go to the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk

ABPS SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

The ABPS is always there to help! If you are planning a local event to promote philately and may need financial assistance, please have a look at this scheme on our website as you may be eligible for a grant.

In particular, there may be some small societies of less than ten members who made need financial help to keep going. ABPS is very willing to consider financial support.

Recent grants have included support for AV equipment and lighting for society frames. The maximum grant is £250.

THE PHILATELIC FUND

The Board of Trustees of the Philatelic Fund have also made clear that they would be pleased to support all areas of philately and would welcome more applications for special projects from both local and national societies. Applications should be addressed to the Fund via the ABPS address at the end of the bulletin.

CALLING ALL STAMP EVENT ORGANISERS

The new website of the ABPS provides the opportunity for organisers of philatelic events such as Stamp Fairs, Philatelic Exhibitions, Society Weekends and Regional Society Meetings, to promote their events free of charge. It is also a chance, if you are planning an event, to check that it does not clash with anything else.

You can request an event to be added to the ABPS Events Calendar directly on the website. Entries will then be checked by the administrator and approved.

Go to <https://www.abps.org.uk/request-event-addition/>

MAKE SURE YOUR SOCIETY LOOKS GOOD ON THE NEW ABPS WEBSITE

Our website has received some very positive feedback so far but we know there is more that can be done. It is the same address www.abps.org.uk

It includes all the usual information about ABPS news and activities. **It includes a searchable list of speakers, judges and an events calendar.**

If you are a speaker or judge or an event organiser, please check the information on the website and advise us of any corrections, updates or additions.

If you are a Society or Speaker, you can add some pictures of your meetings or displays to create attractive content.

If you have any images of your local Society, events or seminars etc. that you think might enhance the website please send them to the PR Manager at pr@abps.org.uk

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO GIVE YOUR COMMENTS,

Please contact those mentioned above, or E-mail: secretary@abps.org.uk

Any feedback or ideas, or if you would like to help, please contact our Chairman, John Davies by email at chair@abps.org.uk or call 01295 255831

The postal address for all ABPS correspondence is: ABPS, 15 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 7BW