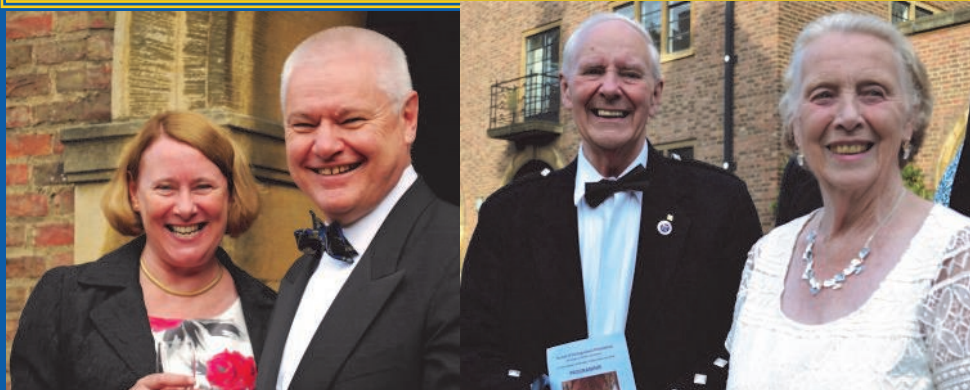


## Did you meet these folk at Cambridge?



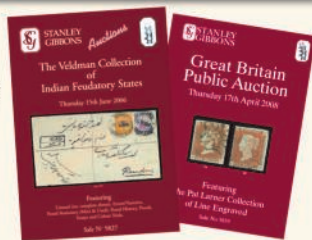
The ABPS News is also available online  
[www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk)



# Create a piece of philatelic history



**Have you completed your current collection?**  
**Have you finished exhibiting your current display?**  
**Are you looking to finance a new one?**  
**Turn your collection into an auction**



One of our recent single vendor auctions resulted in a 100 per cent sell out with every one of the 378 lots being sold. The auction realised £150,000 against an estimate of £100,000, highlighting the strength of today's auction market.

The lot on the right, from the Pat Larner sale, is an 1840 1d black envelope, stereo A145 (Spec ME2), used with indistinct MC in red and Poulton Penny Post cancel in black on front, with Preston cds for NO 2 1840 on reverse, faults to rear from opening, cat £425 was estimated at £200 and sold at nearly double catalogue for £800.



The Pat Larner collection was consigned to us ahead of a number of other auction houses as we offered an entirely bespoke service, including a reception in our Guernsey office, national promotion of the sale and much more.

## Is my collection suitable for an individual sale?

If you have a specialised collection with a quantity of rare items then the answer is probably 'Yes'.

## Could my collection be a part of philatelic history?

Yes. Auction catalogues attract strong interest as reference material, especially specialised catalogues. Selling through Stanley Gibbons can create an everlasting record of your collection.

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Leave that to Stanley Gibbons. We have the world's largest philatelic database, reaching over 100,000 potential buyers plus massive worldwide exposure through our website and Gibbons Stamp Monthly. All at no charge to the vendor.

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**Now!** Time is running out to consign items to our popular June auction, don't miss out on the chance to sell with Stanley Gibbons.

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# ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

The Magazine of the Association of British Philatelic Societies, published four times a year: spring, summer, autumn, winter.

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**Volume 23, Number 3, Autumn 2016 (whole number 91)**

**Editor: Keith S Burton**

**(ISSN 1353 6869)**

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**Cover picture:** *Clockwise from top left: Liz and Frank Walton; Ken Norris and Jean Osborne; Rob Swain and Brian Trotter; Michael and Harriet Sefi.*

An electronic copy of the newsletter can be viewed on the ABPS webpage [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk) soon after publication.

Contact details for the 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 31 December, 31 March, 31 July, 14 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 (see p58)**

**Illustrations should not be assumed to be accurate as to size or colour.**

# Collectively Speaking

## A view from the Chair



For those who attended the Congress in Cambridge I trust that you found it an enjoyable event. If you do have any thoughts on

improvements, please forward them to Gerald Marriner. Personally I did find it very enjoyable with good speakers and displays. I thank the members of Cambridge Society for their participation especially those who displayed on the Sunday. It is always interesting to see other people's collections.

At the AGM I announced that I would be retiring as Chairman immediately after the Cardiff Congress having served for seven years. Health has taken preference and I will be reducing my involvement during the year. I hope that a willing volunteer steps forward soon so that s/he can have a full introduction to the role. I have fully enjoyed the role and my visits to societies throughout the country and I thank those who have made me welcome. I hope that I can continue to assist in some ways but that will be the decision of the new Chairman and his committee. My role on the Philatelic Advisory Council is to be taken by Chris Oliver and I trust that he will enjoy his involvement as I have. He is joining at an exciting time with the new Postal Museum, including the

Mail Rail venture, which are all on schedule both financially and in time for opening next year. Douglas Muir on the Museum's behalf visited New York for the International Exhibition and displayed a sheet of penny blacks and two-penny blues. A significant amount of publicity was gained internationally in such papers as *USA Today* and *Tagesanzeiger* in Zurich as well as the *Telegraph* and *Mirror* in the UK. He also gave a PowerPoint presentation on "Postal Reform and the Penny Black". The following appointments to the Museum have now been confirmed: Senior Curator Philately - Douglas N Muir, Curator Philately - Stuart Aitken and Assistant Curator - Georgina Tomlinson.

During the past three months a society resigned stating that ABPS have failed to meet their requirements. Few societies leave ABPS but if there are ways that you think that we can improve please tell us so that we can consider them. At times there is a willingness to knock ABPS and in many cases the information being quoted is inaccurate. We circulate to all affiliated societies an Executive Bulletin which updates members on the Executive meetings and our short term plans. We need to remember that the team at ABPS are all volunteers, are stamp collectors, and at all times have the hobby at heart. We are currently short of two positions on the Executive so if you feel that you can make a difference please let me know. On the Executive we are all getting older and would welcome support in a number of areas to allow some of us to retire and



# Editorial

Before taking up my editor's post I was very parochial in my view of philately. I knew what I liked to collect and to see in displays, and occasionally I went to local Stamp Fairs and my own Federation's annual convention. I even did a bit for the Federation for a few years. Big exhibitions, like Stampex, were distant and not really for me. Competitions and exhibits were for those with deep pockets and fancy collections not a collector of my non-standing.

Now that I am more involved that has changed somewhat. I am far more willing to go outside my comfort zone. I am starting to display on my own to other societies. I have entered competitions locally and in the Federation - won and lost - and most importantly gained pleasure and knowledge. The next step is entering a national competition - see you at

Stampex when you can pick holes in my effort - postcards rather than stamps, but I don't care. I have had great support from new friends as I have spread my wings.



So this is to ask you to take your own steps out of your comfort zone - look wider, look deeper and give back to your society and your hobby.

Of course, as usual I have an apology to make in that I called Robert Catto Richard when accrediting his article entitled "Covers 2016" in the last issue. He took my error in good part - thanks Bob. I also managed to misnumber the photographs of Stephen Holder and Jean Osborne on the front cover - but if you didn't realise that yourself I don't understand how you can spot the niceties on covers, stamps and other philatelic material. Stephen and Jean were equally considerate of my feelings.

*Keith Burton*

work on the hobby in different ways.  
RANT OVER.

One concern that I have is the belief of a number of societies that Federation membership is the same as affiliation to ABPS. It is not and for those societies who wish to know more please contact the Membership Secretary whose details appear on the back page.

In June we were all shocked at the sudden death of Philip Mackey who for years had acted as MC at Congress. Our thoughts are with his wife Brenda at this time. I was privileged to attend

his funeral in Solihull and to meet his family and many local collectors on that day. Thank you Philip for all your contributions over the years. Since beginning this report I have been notified of the death of the vice-chairman, Paul Gaywood, after a long illness, and a fuller tribute appears later in this magazine. As has been pointed out it is not a good year in this respect.

Back to collecting I wish all entrants at Stampex a successful time and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

*John Baron*

## Rebirth - Lostock

### Where there's a Will, there's a way

Late in 2015 our secretary moved away and I was drafted in. Among the issues inherited was the reality of only enough funds to run until the end of the year. After emergency committee meetings we found cheaper premises for our monthly meetings. Following this we offered our findings to the members and with a choice of three locations of varying monthly rental the members voted to stay at the same address but move to a smaller ground floor room. Then I set about finding speakers for the coming year. With a combination of good spirits and a lot of moral support now some six months down the line we are still able to meet and have been visited by **Les Gandy** for *QEII Errors*, **John Parkin** with *Canada* and **Alwyn Peel**

showing *Captain Cook part two*. We run a monthly raffle - members bring unwanted quality presents from home and each month two or three decent prizes are won. We have 21 members, several being able to give displays. We



*Les Gandy points the errors of her ways*



*Alwyn Peel*

advertise in the local Lostock Parish Hall and their manager Peter promotes our society. In addition we have placed advertisements in local libraries. We are about to learn how to launch a Facebook page and in the near future plan to have our own website. We believe the youth should be encouraged to collect and plan to promote a young members' group in 2017. We want other struggling societies to read this and pull together and survive - what's the old saying - "Where there's a will, there's a way". One final plea: If your

group would consider offering a guest speaker to visit Lostock PS, we would be very grateful to hear from you. ➔ [david18alex@gmail.com](mailto:david18alex@gmail.com) or telephone 01024 389683.

*David Morley*

**ABPS accredited judges - The current list of ABPS accredited exhibition/competition judges can be found on the ABPS web site [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk) Click on "Exhibiting", then "Judges" on the second row.**

## Society anniversaries - 2016

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).

Heartiest congratulations to all involved in these milestones:

### Faroe Islands Study Circle – 20 years

The Study Circle is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2016. For more than 20 of those years, Norman Hudson has served as both the society's secretary and magazine editor. In recognition of his contribution to the Study Circle, a special presentation was made to Norman during the joint meeting of the Study Circle and the Scandinavia Philatelic Society in Salisbury on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Knowing Norman's interest in postboxes, his fellow Study Circle members had arranged for a Faroese postbox to be sent to the UK by the islands' postal authority. The postbox, a standard, dark-blue box found throughout the Faroes, with its earlier "Postverk Føroya" inscription, was presented to a clearly very surprised Norman by the Study Circle Chairman, Roger Tozer.



*Roger Tozer & Norman Hudson*

*Norman Hudson*

### Carmarthen & District – 35 years

Following an article in the local paper on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1981 a meeting was held at the Golden Lion Hotel, Carmarthen on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 1981. Eleven people attended with Llanelli club offering advice and support. The appointed officers were secretary Mr **Peter Ayre**, treasurer Mr **Colin Evans** with Mr **Stuart Young** as his assistant. They together with Messrs **Dewi Evans** and **John Thompson** constituted the executive committee. The next meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> May a further six members joined. In the first year the Club relied heavily on outside speakers and competitions to fill their programme, but with growing experience and confidence the Club now provides most of their programme from members within the club. Being affiliated to the South Wales Philatelic Society helped to develop the standing of the club, with members contributing to the Annual Competitions and being successful. In 2010 Postcards were included in the Club title and this brought in more members. Mr **Richard Hirst** agreed to publish our quarterly journal and the 1st edition was in February 2005. This is a very high quality journal. The high point was a thirty-one page issue to celebrate the 25th



*Carmarthen's three longest members are Mr H & Mrs B Spiller and Mr C Williams*

anniversary of the club featuring Carmarthen Postal History with a limited edition Postcard hand stamped cancellation. The journal continues to flourish and the magazine "The Post" was awarded a Bronze Medal in the literature section in the International Exhibition Prague 2008. In 2009 the Association of British Philatelic Societies awarded **Richard** the Society Journal Of The Year - a memorable achievement for a small club. One of our members is the current

Chairman of the Gibraltar Study Circle and our Treasurer Mr **Charles Williams** is currently President of The South Wales Federation. From small beginnings it is hoped our club can continue to serve the stamp and postcard collectors of West Wales for many more years to come.

## **Thatcham Philatelic Society - 50 years**

On Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of May celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> year,  
We held an anniversary lunch with history and talks to hear.  
Our members and their partners came in to join the meet,  
With a lovely buffet all laid out for all of us to eat.  
Lovely cakes baked by **Viv** and **Ann** were spread about to take,  
Fruit, coffee and creamy sponges and a tiered anniversary cake.  
Tony served up all the wine in glasses that were wide,  
To whet ones whistle so to speak with juices on the side.  
When everyone had had their fill with many back for more,  
Was time for talks and speeches and **Graeme** took to the floor.  
He told the history of the Bluecoats school from its earliest inception,  
That quite recently had been renovated for events like our reception.  
Its history was shown behind on pictures and research data,  
And if you had not seen then you could come and view them later.  
Then chairman **Barney Bardsley** gave a brief history of the Society,  
From its very first year in 1966 to its present notoriety.  
The full story was in the booklet and all of us should now have one,  
With a mug as well for a souvenir all designed by **Tony** – well done!  
Then our President **John Baron** proposed a toast to the Society,  
So all of us raised our glasses and drank with some propriety.  
Our guest speaker was then introduced to us who was seated at the rear,  
**Thomas Plant** from S.A.S. Greenham who spoke of his career.  
How he started in his early days as a junior auctioneer,  
Who banged his gavel, often hard, to make the bidders hear.  
And how he joined the business to deal in ceramics and silver,  
To now being the head of the company and the services they deliver.  
He said many of his early estimates were £30 to £50 price core,



But got it wrong quite often when items sold for much more.  
One item was a Persian carpet with a reasonable reserve price to sell,  
With lots of Net and phone bidders and some sealed bids as well.  
It sold for many thousands on the night much more than was expected,  
As there was an image within the design and hence the price selected.  
Thomas spoke of Bargain Hunt and Flog-It that brought him T.V. fame,  
And how the contestants were selected to produce a better game.  
So all in all a terrific speaker who entertained us all  
And brought an air of jollity to the old Bluecoats School hall  
Thank you Thomas. Martin Farr

## City of Preston Philatelic Society (CoPPS) - 80 years

(Formally the Preston and District Philatelic Society)

November 13<sup>th</sup> 2016 will be the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Society, which is very well supported and meets fortnightly at the Thurlby Club, Egerton Road, Ashton, Preston. The Society attracts speakers and displays on all subject to do with stamp collecting. The Society also owns a



comprehensive collection of the postal history of Preston. We provide speakers on the subject to other Societies, as well as visiting local schools introducing stamp collecting to children. The society's historical records are kept in the Lancashire archives at Bow Lane, Preston and are available to the public on request. A celebratory dinner will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> October with displays by members of examples of their collections. New members and visitors are welcome. → Mrs Ann Beaver-Thomson 01772 716556 [ann.beaver-thomson@hotmail.com](mailto:ann.beaver-thomson@hotmail.com) Derek Williams

## The Stuart Rossiter Memorial Lecture 2016

We are pleased to announce that the 2016 memorial lecture will be held at 5.00pm on Friday 4th November at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London, W1G 6JY, when **Chris King RDP, FRPSL** will give a talk entitled "*Challenges and Opportunities of Researching Online – Napoleonic Denmark, a Case Study.*"

Hidden behind the letters and documents held by postal historians around the world is the history of the writers and recipients and the geography of the past. This lecture concerns the use of the Internet to reveal these.

Today's researchers have more knowledge, literally at their fingertips, than any previous generation, and the challenges are how to find it and how to judge its authenticity. This lecture addresses these issues with particular reference to Napoleonic mail in northern Europe, although it applies to postal history, archives and correspondences from any time and place.

# Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, Cambridge July 2016

The venue was the Belfry Hotel, Cambourne near Cambridge. Cambridge Philatelic Society under **Professor David Stirrups FRPSL**, the Chairman of the Cambridge Congress Committee, decided on *Islands* as the theme. Sadly, David was unable to take part in the actual Congress because of poor health. At short notice, **Rufus Barnes** took over as Chairman of Congress and led a very enjoyable and friendly Congress attended by collectors from all areas of philately.



*Rufus Barnes and John Baron*

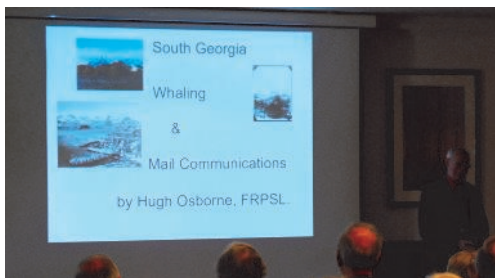
We began on Thursday afternoon with two fine displays. The first, presented by **Dr Simon Kelly**, featured Cambridge postal history. This was followed by the story of Cambridge College stamps and their suppression by the Post Office, presented by **Professor Emeritus Simon Catling**. Before dinner Stamp Insurance Services held a reception. To provide entertainment for the first evening we held a light-hearted competition ~ *4 sheets to tell a story*. It was pleasing to see 15 collectors enter this competition which provided some very amusing anecdotes.

The official opening of Congress by **Sir Hugh Duberly KCVO CBE**, the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, was on Friday morning. He arrived early so that he could see the excellent display on *Newfoundland* by **Adrian Boggust**. Additionally there was a standing display of Falklands 1982 War postal history provided by **Gerald Marriner FRPSL**. The history and philately of *South Georgia* was described by **Hugh Osborne FRPSL** ~ another excellent presentation. The annual Kay Goodman lecture was given by Rufus Barnes. *Affordable Philatelic Excellence* was the thought-provoking subject.



*Careful scrutiny before voting*

The highlights of the afternoon were the Presentation of the Congress Medal to **Jean Osborne** for her many services to Philately in Scotland, and the Ceremony of the Signing of The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, with Master of



*Hugh Osborne en route to South Georgia*

Ceremonies **Jon Aitchison**. Historic St John's College Chapel was a very fitting setting for this memorable occasion.

The subject of the opening presentation on Saturday was *Fiji* by **Bryan Jones**.

This was followed by four amusing displays given by the new signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists ~ **Roger Brody FRPSL**, **Lars Engelbrecht FRPSL**, **Jonas**

### **Hällström FRPSL and Stephen Holder FRPSL.**

The Saturday Banquet took place in the magnificent hall of Peterhouse College, following a reception sponsored by Stanley Gibbons Ltd.

The final morning saw further outstanding displays – *Tonga* by **Professor Iain Stevenson FRPSL** and *Going to Ceylon* by **Graham Winters FRPSL**. The latter was an ingenious selection of covers to Ceylon from the full range of countries from A to Z. A series of short standing displays by members of the Cambridge Philatelic Society completed the morning.

The Congress Committee are thanked for arranging all of these fine presentations. Finally I would like to thank Stanley Gibbons Ltd for their generous support of Philatelic Congress.

This was a very friendly event with several collectors coming for the first time. Next year's Congress will be held in Cardiff from 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

Why not come along? I guarantee it will be enjoyable.

*Gerald Marriner FRPSL*



*What's really in here, Alan?*

## **Stuart Rossiter Trust**

### **Trustee changes**

**Andy Gould** has become the Corresponding Trustee in place of **Rex Dixon, FRPSL**. The email remains [srcorr@gmail.com](mailto:srcorr@gmail.com) **Simon Richards** has become the Treasurer, in place of **David Tett FRPSL**. Both are effective from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016. Rex and David are staying on as Trustees, and Rex will continue to co-ordinate the Annual Lectures. **Richard Wheatley FRPSL** has retired from being a Trustee, The SRT Trustees thank Richard, Rex and David for all their work over the many years, and look forward to working with Andy and Simon.

*Susan McEwen*

# Obituaries of Valued Friends



## Philip Mackey

It is with great sadness that I report the totally unexpected and sudden death on 18<sup>th</sup> May of the well known philatelist, Philip Mackey. Philip was 74 years of age. By profession, he was a hydrologist and water-engineering expert which involved much international travel.

Philip's main collections were *The Franco-Prussian War*, *Early France* and *Early GB*. Philatelically he was very active being a long standing member of Solihull Philatelic Society and a past president of that society. He also was a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, France &

Colonies Philatelic Society, the Great Britain Philatelic Society and the Postal History Society. He was also a committee member and gave a display at the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain a few years ago.

He will be deeply missed by his wife Brenda who manned the reception desk at the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain for many years, his three children and family plus many philatelic and non-philatelic friends. *Paul Gaywood*



## Paul Gaywood – Vice Chairman ABPS

It was with great sadness that I learned of Paul's death on the 14<sup>th</sup> July in Blackpool Hospital where he had been receiving treatment for his lymphoma.

Paul was a member of the Royal and the Welsh Philatelic Societies as well as playing a leading role within the City of Preston Philatelic Society. He was also the President of the North West Federation and played a major role within the Federation. He was appointed within ABPS as Vice Chairman with responsibility for advertising and was also involved with the design of the new website. He was a

tower of strength to me whilst I was receiving my cancer treatment, covering for me in many ways especially at the Congress in Leeds.

Paul was very active at Philatelic Congress and often assisted presenters with their PowerPoint presentations. He was a rock in the administration of Congress, with the assistance of Lynda. He had been elected as an Honorary Vice President of ABPS which would have been confirmed at this year's event at Cambridge. Yet again philately has lost the contribution of a dedicated philatelist. Our sincere condolences are extended to Lynda and his family and friends. *John Baron, ABPS Chairman*



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### **Stamp Selling Solutions**

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value of your collection we'll come up with, suggest, even create selling solutions designed to address your circumstances and the type of collection that you have created.

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**Continued overleaf ....**

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**Andrew McGavin**

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Fax : 01451 861297



## Thank you to Pat Rothnie from Germany and Colonies

At their meeting in May, **Pat Rothnie** retired as Group Organiser of the Tyne Tees Regional Group after 30 years in post from 1986. This was marked by a farewell presentation and special thanks from all present. Champagne (alcohol free!), cakes and cookies were served in the kitchen as friends and members surrounded Pat to wish him well. In addition, in a surprise presentation, **Giles du**



*Giles du Boulay and Pat  
with his award*

**Boulay**, Chairman of the G&CPS Management Committee, awarded Pat the G&CPS 'Michael Elliott Memorial Trophy', for his exceptional contribution to philatelic development.

Stamp collecting for Pat began at the age of nine when he took up the challenge of collecting the 'world'. He soon realised this was too much and, as he had studied German and history at school, he began to collect Germany which gradually became a collection of Third Reich stamps and postal history. As we all know, collections seem to develop tangents of their own and it was no different for Pat as he now began to collect material from Danzig and Czechoslovakia 1938 - 1945 and post-WWI

plebiscite areas. In the interests of trying to do something different, Pat now has a collection of material from the Kingdom of Montenegro.

Pat has been involved in "organised philately" for a long time. He was chairman of Blyth PS several times and President of Newcastle upon Tyne PS in 1996/1997. At regional level, he was NEPA Secretary 1988 - 1998 and NEPA President in 1992/1993 and has been the Organising Secretary of several NEPA Conventions and of the Philatelic Congresses of Great Britain in 1992 & 2003 held, respectively, in Newcastle and Gateshead. He was awarded the NEPA Award of Merit in 1992.

At national level, Pat became Hon Secretary of the G&CPS in 1988 until approximately 1999. He was Organising Secretary of G&CPS Weekends in Newcastle in 1988 & 1994 and later became Vice President of the Society from 1999 until 2003. He is also a member of the Czechoslovak PS of GB, ARGE Danzig (Germany), Germany PS (USA), RPSL and the Yugoslavia Study Group. Pat was also heavily involved with the ABPS from before its inception, becoming General Secretary from 2000 to 2003 and was the Organising Secretary of the first ABPS national event, Newcastle 1996. He was also London 2000 Bin Room Manager, where competition entries are held before and after the competition. Pat was awarded the Congress Medal in 1996. By 2003, after such a full and possibly hectic career in philately, Pat decided to retire from national activities. Finally in 2016 he has relinquished his longest running post remarking "I can now become a full time philatelist again!"

*Martin Snowdon*

# Are you ready to help ABPS?

In the near future there will be the need for volunteers to step forward to pick up tasks for the benefit of all the member societies of ABPS and UK philately.

Immediately we need someone to deal with Advertising in all its forms, including persuading contacts to advertise in ABPS NEWS and sending out invoices when adverts have been printed. We are also hoping to develop web-advertising in the years to come.

Further details on opportunities to give something different to your hobby can be obtained from the Chairman, John Baron on [chair@abps.org.uk](mailto:chair@abps.org.uk) or 01933 650093

## Bromley & Beckenham PS

have produced the first volume of their history from their founding in 1932 to Post-War Resumption in 1945. They are lucky in that they have almost complete sets of the minute books and programme cards for these years and have done research in Bromley and at the Royal Philatelic Society Libraries. From these we get a clear view of the way that displays have developed and changed over the years. It is also fascinating to see the number of members who have attended meetings - a matter which still gives concern these days. The start and continuation of the Junior Branch is well documented with annual membership costing one shilling in 1937 - a substantial sum then but clearly there were plenty of takers. Some of the comments on how easy it was to find committee members, the unlikelihood of success for society auctions and the desirability or otherwise of running a packet make interesting reading in the current situation in many societies.

Copies have been presented to the Royal and Bromley Libraries as well as to each member of Bromley & Beckenham PS. To purchase a copy (£12 including p&p and society benefits) contact David Rennie on 0208 7787001 or [davidjrennie@ntlworld.com](mailto:davidjrennie@ntlworld.com)



*Lucy receives a copy from David Rennie at Bromley Library*

## The Friends of *The Postal Museum*

### The Friends visit to No.1 London

We continued the 2016 programme of events with a visit to Apsley House in London on 21<sup>st</sup> May. This is a home of the Dukes of Wellington and it is often known as No. 1 London, from a time when the countryside started from the Hyde Park Corner turnpike at the end of Piccadilly. The more prosaic address now is 149 Piccadilly W1J 7NT. The original building designed by Robert Adam was bought by the first Duke from his brother in 1817. Substantial alterations followed with the addition of wings for the Waterloo Gallery and the State Dining Room. All this can be visited following its magnificent restoration by English Heritage. In addition there is the beautiful collection of porcelain, silver and the paintings that were given to the Duke to thank him for defeating Napoleon. Ironically one of the most spectacular exhibits is an enormous nude statue of Napoleon by Canova. This required the floor to be specially strengthened to allow its installation at the foot of the stairs. The tour of the house was followed by a visit to the near-by Wellington Arch in the centre of the Hyde Park Corner gyratory. Apart from the view from the top,



*Apsley House from the top of the Wellington Archway*



there are two displays to visit, one on the history of the Arch itself and the other about the Battle of Waterloo.

The Friends have a programme of similar visits throughout the year, with the next one being a tour of the poster collection at the London Transport Museum. In addition, the Friends raise money to pay for specific projects at this important time for the new Postal Museum and Mail Rail Experience which is due to open in 2017.

→ <http://postalmuseum.org/friends> or Friends of the Postal Museum, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL.

*Brian Livingstone* Trustee FTPM

More information, and on-line previews of exhibitions, on [postalheritage.org.uk](http://postalheritage.org.uk)

## Inverted Jenny Stamp Flies Back Home at New York 2016

NEW YORK CITY (June 2, 2016) — After more than 60 years, a missing stamp from the iconic Inverted Jenny sheet was returned today to the American Philatelic Research Library during a special ceremony at World Stamp Show–NY 2016 at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City.



The stamp is one of a block of four stamps stolen at a 1955 American Philatelic Society show in Norfolk, Virginia. **Keelin O'Neill** of Ireland, who inherited the stamp from his grandfather, brought the stamp to an auction house in New York City in April to sell. The stamp was taken to the Philatelic Foundation in New York City, where it was discovered that the stamp was Position 76 of the missing McCoy Block. From April to today, a whirlwind of events transpired to provide for the return of the stamp today.

“Every stamp tells a story and the story of the Inverted Jenny now has a new chapter,” said **Scott English**, Administrator of the APRL, “This is a great day for philately and the result of a great partnership in the stamp collecting community and hard work of federal law enforcement.”

The claim to the stolen block was assigned to the APRL in 1979 by owner **Ethel McCoy**, a New York stamp collector, who loaned the block to stamp collecting organizations for public display. Two of the four stamps were recovered in the 1970s and 80s, but provided no information to the whereabouts of the remaining two stamps. In 2014, **Donald Sundman**, President of the Mystic Stamp Company, offered a \$50,000 reward for each of the two missing stamps and the APRL offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of either of the missing stamps. The offer of the reward is set to expire at the end of the World Stamp Show–NY 2016 on June 4, 2016.

“We are indebted to Don for his generosity and helping us resurrect one of the greatest unsolved mysteries in the stamp world,” said **Roger Brody**, President of the APRL, “On behalf of the Board and our members, I would also like to thank the committed agents of the FBI and the U.S. Attorney’s office for their quick response and assistance. Finally, we extend our thanks to Keelin O’Neill, who worked with law enforcement and the APRL to quickly return this stamp home.”

*Jay Bigalke, Editor APS*



# 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. Full contact details for the societies are in the ABPS handbook and 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.

### Amersham & District

We ended our 2016/17 season in June with the most successful auction in our history, 50% of the 500 lots being purchased. It attracted 46 members and visitors. Three months earlier we ran another successful auction when 43 attended. Competitions' Evening, judged this year by those present, attracted 26 entries for 5 trophies, with **Michael Fletcher** grabbing two, followed by **Brian Feakes**, **Tony Stanford** and **Chris Marsh** with one each. Afterwards **Stuart Catchpole** presented *A Few Sheets from my Collection*. Starting with GB flaws, mainly colour omissions, he moved on to display material from 34 countries. At the AGM we were happy to welcome a new committee member, **David Lee**. **Keith Wright** gave us a very entertaining short show of *Bristol Postal History*. In May **Dane Garrod** gave us an outstanding power point presentation, with many covers and artefacts, entitled *British Royalty and Other Stories* from the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, starting with a

letter written by Amy Robsart the childless wife of Robert Dudley, the first Earl of Leicester who was a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I. Our members agreed this was one of our best ever presentations. Sadly Honorary Life Member **Tony Lane** died in early June aged 79. Tony was a committee member in the 1970s including two spells as President, but latterly he was unable to take any part in our activities due to failing eyesight. *Jim Drummond*

### Basildon

Shoeburyness represented by **Sue Stacey**, **Mandy Knight** and **Roger Sentence** gave us three very diverse displays in April. This was followed in May by our attempt to draw in more members by taking a stall at the Mayfest event in the Town Square. **Ian McElwain**, **Len Stanway**, **Anne Stanway** and **Vivien Holloway** were the stalwarts "manning" the stall on the day. Dartford PS took us back to normal three days later when **Steve Alpe** brought *Me and My Collections* – his personal history and love of beer followed by *The Story of the Battle of*

*Jutland* by **Cliff Avers**. In June besides the AGM we took part in the parish church Multimedia Festival with a static



*The Bishop of Bradwell checks on the display*

display of poetry illustrated by stamps. The Bishop of Bradwell took a keen interest in our display but **Len Stanway** failed to sign him up for membership. Competition Night was disappointing – in common with many other societies entries were low. **Ray How** gave advice on entering competitions and **Alan Taylor** took away the two new cups. *Len Stanway*

## **Bexley**

Our members had a treat in Freemantle Hall, Bexley in January when a team from Lewisham Philatelic Society entertained. **Lindy Bosworth** showed *Czechoslovakia*, **John Rawlings** *German Navy 1933 to 1945* and **Ray Houghton** displayed material

on *German literature and music*. In February, **Peter High**'s display of *Military maritime postal history* focused on hospital ships. **John Lea** presented *Disaster mail*, and said the field is popular "for people who like tatty covers." A former two-year resident, **Len Stanway** presented an interesting display on *Singapore*. **Cliff Ayres** kept the club up late in May recounting the run-up, the actions and the ending of the *Battle of Jutland*, fought in May-June 1916. His tale was told mostly in picture postcards of the major players



*Cliff Ayres at the Battle of Jutland*

(both ships and commanders) along with supplemental maps of the lines of engagement. A postcard sent by a sailor on the German ship *Pommen* to Nuremburg was a particular sad highlight; the ship was later torpedoed by the HMS *Onslaught*, with the loss of all hands. ➔ **Adrian Smith**, 01322 559 210, or [adethebeak@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:adethebeak@yahoo.co.uk)  
*Will Dalrymple*

**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.**

## Bolton

Our April meeting was the President's Evening. At the AGM in May, all the officers were re-elected. The June meeting was our second quarterly auction when over 400 lots were offered to members and visitors. For two events later in the year - our Annual Stamp Fair and North West Federation meeting and an all day auction in November, see the Diary on p53 for details. *Howard Anderson*

## Bromley & Beckenham

**John Cowlin** gave a marvellous display of *Boer War period Propaganda and Satirical picture postcards*, mainly produced in Europe, many of which were seriously critical of the British Army and its Generals, the Monarchy and the Politicians. John's collection was presented in alphabetical order by artist or publisher, commencing with two hand-painted cards, but including cards from many publishers. It was noticeable that the cards published by the continental publishers, especially the Dutch, were considerably more scathing than those produced in Britain. The themes of the *Stamperde of the ponies and loss of the guns*, *Disaster of Spion Kop*, *Queen Victoria being spanked*, *the British Army's need of Chocolate* and others were taken up by many different publishers and artists. John's collection was superbly presented with original text and translations into English, comments on the context etc being especially useful. A number of magazines produced cards, and John had copies of the original pages promoting these. There was also a copy of John's book which

illustrates page by page the collection and which had been reviewed for the Philatelic Exporter and Gibbons Stamp Monthly. → David on 020 8778 7001 or Chris on 020 8402 1263 or on [www.beckenham.net/leisure.asp](http://www.beckenham.net/leisure.asp)

*David Rennie*

## Cambridge

**Simon Kelly**, our immediate past president, delighted us in July with an excellent display of the different tax dies levied on paper used for the printing of newspapers, under the title of *An Evening with the Newspapers*. Additional tax levies were also a means of funding wars. Paper had to be sent to Somerset House for taxing, before going to printers for the printing. First up was a 1712 edition of The Spectator with a ½d red Newspaper Duty die. By 1815 the tax was 4d but discounts were available. In 1836 the Tax came down to 1d shown by an example on a complete page of The Times. In 1853 the first black dies appeared with The Times, the Illustrated London News and the Stamford Mercury. Illustrations from the ILN showed the handling of the papers by the Post Office, and stamped front pages showed the black stamps on issues reporting the progress of the Ethiopian Campaign. The second half concentrated on the Stamford Mercury which is believed to have started around 1710-1712. Several original examples of the whole paper were shown from around 1789 with different red and black die impressions. Many examples of newspaper wrappers were shown with postal stationery from Victoria to Elizabeth II; all were pre-cancelled with the Stamford Mercury

hooded dies. An example of the only known error of colour for a stationery die, the halfpenny blue as opposed to turquoise of 1971. →

[info@cambridgephilatelicociety.co.uk](mailto:info@cambridgephilatelicociety.co.uk)

Peter Morton

## Chelmsford

In April **Peter Denly** showed us a wide ranging display of *The Development of Boats and Ships*. Starting with primitive craft still used in parts of the world today, he led us through the development of sail and the introduction of power-driven vessels. In May, **Eric Lienhard** showed us postcards from his native Switzerland. He started with the many postal stationery cards issued by the Swiss post office from 1870 onwards. Later we saw a wide ranging selection of picture cards including hand painted ones, lace and embroidery, illustrations of stamps on cards and the language of stamps, whereby the position of the stamp on a letter conveyed a hidden meaning, (very popular with young lovers). In June **Maggie Thompson** gave us a comprehensive display of the philatelic changes in the *Saar region of Germany from 1935 to 1948*. After the WWI the Saar, with its coal mines, was under French control, so using French currency. In 1935, under the terms of the Versailles Treaty, a plebiscite was held returning it to Germany. After WWII, the Saar was part of the French Zone of Occupation and issued stamps in German currency for the whole zone. Then we saw a detailed display of the stamps of the 1948 Rebuilding set. There were artists' designs, proofs on presentation cards, blocks of the stamps showing

the different printing dates and indicators of the plate numbers, together with examples on covers. → 01245420196 or [john@jr226.plus.com](mailto:john@jr226.plus.com)  
John Rawlins

## Croydon

This has been a busy season with many interesting evenings. Displays have been given by visitors and our own members. We saw *German Winter Relief* from **Rex Dixon**, *The Gilbert and Ellice Islands* with **John Schofield**, followed by **Frank Simpson** taking us to *Goslar* – a small city south of Hannover. Our next journeys were to *British West Indies* with **Simon Richards** and then *The Cayman Islands* with **Graham Booth**. *Music Illustrated* given by **Ian Reid** was very different but equally fascinating. Two speakers from Twickenham – **Roger Morell** and **Michael Goodman** – brought us *The Austrian Navy* and *The United States* and **Ron Burns** took us to *Tristan da Cunha*. We also had competitions, **Paul Elliot's** Presidential Evening and the AGM, of course. However the strangest meeting was when the BBC came to interview and televise our meeting when ten members showed from their collections. We hope to see **Chris Hitchen** – *Early Paris Posts*, **Frank**



Pauline MacBroom being interviewed by the BBC Team



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**Simpson** – *The King's German Legion Chelsea Pensioners and Stamps of the Kingdom of Hannover*, **Graham Harker** – *Brunel's Thames Tunnel*, **Pauline MacBroom** – *Cats*, **David Rennie** – *Newfoundland Airmails*, **Malcolm Domingo** – *Early Zanzibar*, **Terry Page** – *Early Zemstvos*, **John Schofield** – *Gilbert & Ellice Islands*, **Paul Elliot** – *French Equatorial Africa* and **Lorraine Fitzwater**– *Australian KGV Coil Stamps* again on BBC4 later in the year. *Graham Harker*

## Dundee

The later months of the session saw visits in February from the Caledonian PS and the Aberdeen PS. Members of the former were **Lyn Robinson** - *American Civil War*, **Richard Beith** - *Czechoslovakian censor covers* and **Colin Caskie** - *Canadian Pacific Rail View Cards*, and from the latter **Joe Richie** - *Jammu and Kashmir* and **Bruce Walker** - *Aden and Zanzibar*. In March **David Michie** from Scottish PS displayed *Malaya – Four Unfederated States* and **Harry Jackson** entertained his fellow members with *India & States from the East India Company*. The session ended in April with Philatelic Miscellany – an instructive insight by three members into *Luminescence* by **David Millar**, *Stamp Paper* by **Harry**



*Doug Howkins, David Millar and Harry Jackson on display*

**Jackson** and a look at *Various ways of displaying material* by **Doug Howkins**. At the AGM after the usual elections and business, the evening ended with customary refreshments and cakes.

*Colin Campbell*

## Ferndown and West Moors

Our two June meetings were very different. *Cinderellas, Back of the Book and Postal Stationery* were the subjects for our members. The responses were from **Chris Wheeler** - *Velopost*, **Derek Baker** - *New Zealand mini-sheet collection...* all 'Cinderellas', **Peter Leevers** - *Travancore Postal Stationery*, **David Sadler** - *Airport Labels*, **Geoff Hood** - *Postal Stationery*, **John Duckworth** - *Forces Registered... items from WWI period*, **Rod Greer** - *Irish Postal Due Label, 1940-69*, **Albert Jackson** - *Ghetto Mail - German Occupied Poland*, **Hugh Jefferies** - *Postage Dues*, **John Garrett** - *Embossed Stamps of Advertising Rings-Official Issues*, **Mike Trickett** - *Eiffel Tower*, **Don Seaby** - *The Aylesbury & Buckingham Railway* – what a great diversity. For the next meeting **Gavin Fryer RDP FRPSL**



*Gavin Fryer and Bob Small*

had been *Collecting Holes*, including, in the case of perforations, what once filled the holes. This was a quite extraordinary 180 sheet display, that any other philatelist could only dream about. Two examples of letters sent to sailors on service, who clearly would not have had any cash on them, were displayed. These letters had holes where the coins for a reply had been sewn into the letter. The first half ended with an array of rare examples – misalignments, piercings, threading, insertions, odd perforations, and the introduction of Braille. The second half continued with a myriad of new types of holes including rivet holes and holes from termites, slugs and snails.

Chris Wheeler

## Halifax

At the AGM in May our new President **Robert Dearnley** took up office. Secretary **Adrian Lee** and Treasurer **Brian Wilkinson** remain in post.

Adrian Lee

## Harrogate

After **Alan Godfrey** took us to the *Ends of the Earth* with his polar thematic display in April, our next two speakers' evenings were in fact double-speaker sessions. For the President's Evening, he called in **Chris King RDP FRPSL** to show us *The City of Lübeck before 1868* followed by **Birthe King FRPSL** with her display of *Refugee Camps in Denmark 1945-1949*. Both these fascinating topics were introduced by PowerPoint presentations which gave us so much information that the subsequent viewing was even more enthralling and gave us much to discuss and pore over. With covers

illustrating City Posts and others with unheard of postmarks and interesting histories there was plenty to catch our imaginations. A fortnight later, **Chris Oliver** brought us *The Mobile Posts of South Africa*. The material on display gave us an excellent view of the system in use in some of the sprawling cities, bringing the post office to the people rather than the other way round. This was followed by **Susan Oliver's** *The British Occupation of the Faroe Islands*. Again many were unaware of the history behind this display so our modern history knowledge was increased in a very entertaining way.

Keith Burton

## Hullbridge

Our April meeting was our 48th AGM. Despite pleas to the contrary, the current officers were returned; **Brian Morriss** (founder member) as Secretary and Treasurer and **Bill Trower** as Chairman and Programme organiser. Our May meeting was members' displays - *My side line collection*. For our June meeting, we were treated to a visit from Shoeburyness Society. We were excellently entertained by **Sue Stacey** with thematic 48-sheet displays of *Cave Art* and *The Vikings*. Then **Mark Routh** gave a display of *Dornier DO-X*. It was interesting to note that the displays were from very different ends of the expense spectrum. *Bill Trower*

## Huntingdonshire

In May members were asked to display any new acquisitions. Things shown included *Covers and photographs relating to flights between England and Australia*, *Stamps and Covers from*



# I Spy...

A selection of images sent from clubs and societies. No prizes for spotting yourself ...







*Barbuda, WWII censored mail from Sierra Leone, Miniature sheets from Iceland and Russia* and items of *local Huntingdonshire mail from 1787 up to 2016*, including many from the pre-stamp period. In June **David Tett** was our speaker when he displayed *Thai to Malaya POW Railway*. Cards sent to prisoners were mainly from Great Britain, Holland, Australia with a few from America. These had to be written in English, Javanese and Japanese. In order to get the railway from Malaya to Thailand finished on time they needed more labour. So they used local natives. We were shown mail sent back to their families When the war ended Camp no 6 was turned over to Officer Prisoners of War. Along with mail sent during the repatriation period we were shown post cards of the ships that took the prisoners back home. It gave an

insight to what life was like in the prison camps and it was surprising how much mail has survived. ➔ D Birkert 01480 468037  
David Birkert

## Kendal & District

In April **Peter Aveyard** from Morecambe showed part of his award winning and enthralling *Die II Alphabet III Penny Red* exhibit. Our May meeting was an inter-Society gathering in which visitors from Bolton le Sands and Morecambe & District Societies celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with us. The theme was *Philatelic and/or non-philatelic materials from 1966*. Two non-philatelic items shown were a 1966 World Cup admission ticket and a photograph which was taken on the 1966 wedding day of two of the Morecambe members. **John Owen** from Bolton le

### Captions for pages 30 and 31

1. A Busman's Holiday - Pauline MacBroom (ex Stanley Gibbons) Frank Simpson and David Rennie, founder of Black Swan Postal Sales, former Proprietor of Thames Stamp Auctions running the Croydon Auction in May.
2. John Parkin at Lostock showing Canada
3. Sue Stacey, Mandy Knight and Roger Sentence display at Basildon.
4. Robert Prentice shows Newfoundland at Kingston
5. Len Stanway of Basildon at Bexley
6. Viewing YPA entries at Redcar
7. Paul Barry receives his trophy at Ringwood
8. Lesley Marley had a Whale of a time with her New York Large Gold medal at Launceston
9. Roger Marsh and Mike Houchen at Poole
10. Thomas Plant at Thatcham's 50th
11. Faroes & Scandinavia at Salisbury
12. Philately Italy & Colonies' style
13. Bernard Paull / Brian Hunt - Yeovil
14. The Royal Officers celebrate after the AGM
15. AGM - Dundee style
16. Gordon Eubanks at the Royal
17. Bromley & Beckenham members view John Cowlin's Boer War display.
18. Graham Booth shows the Cayman Islands at Croydon

Sands visited us again in June showing further materials from his *Ireland* collection. Much displayed in the first half were definitive stamps, the earliest examples relating to covers mailed in the 1840s with British stamps on them. In the second half, the focus was on postage dues, including some on cover. John mentioned that the current edition of a specialist catalogue said 'no known examples of these labels exist on cover'. Well, we saw some, and John will be meeting the catalogue's editor at July's York Stamp & Coin Fair. Hopefully when the next edition of this catalogue is produced, it will have been modified accordingly.

*Phil Gerrard*

## Kingston and District

We are still busy preparing for the Stamp Day at Claygate Village Hall, Surrey KT10 0JP which we are hosting for the Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> October, less than two months away. This show follows the usual format with competitions, good dealers and catering par excellence, as visitors to previous Stamp Days at Claygate will be aware. In April, **Robert Prentice** brought *Newfoundland*. This is an interesting country in which the stamps cover a finite period and are rarely shown. The display was well presented and informative and was well received by the members



*Barbara Priddy  
flying to West Africa*

present. In May, **Barbara Priddy** visited and regaled us with *West African Airmails*. → Brian Sole, FRPSL on 01932 220677 or [brian.sole@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.sole@btinternet.com)

## Launceston

We held our Spring Auction in April, conducted by the Auctioneer for the evening, **Rex Eccott**, ably assisted by **John Harrison** and **Mike Tooley** showing and distributing the lots, with **Des Kent** and **Viv Sandercock** recording the sales. The auction closed at 8.30pm with 139 lots sold for a total of £476.45 realising £47.34 + £3 for one lot sold for Club funds. Our May display from **John Ellacott** was a selection from his regional and local postcards, including many from the Launceston area, which were well received. **Gary Green** came from Kingsteignton in June to show his material associated with the *Leipzig Trade Fair*. After a historical introduction, we saw philatelic material from the 19<sup>th</sup> century through to WWII, DDR and the unified Germany. Gary ended his presentation with the assistance of the Treasurer, **Des Kent**,



*Des Kent and Gary Green on show*

by displaying a large souvenir fair exhibition banner. In July **Lesley Marley** presented her award winning exhibit *A Whale's Tale*. At the recent 2016 World Stamp Show in New York

she was awarded a Large Gold Medal in the Thematic Class for this magnificent display, which was very well received.

→ Evelyn Sandercock 01566 772846

Howard Hamblin

## Leamington & Warwick

At the end of March we received a visit from Hinckley PS: as always they brought some marvellous displays. The next meeting was an alphabet evening with XYZ, at which members showed their usual ingenuity. Our penultimate meeting for the season comprised **Toby Mottram** *entertains*. His first half was a specialised display of the early British issues, explaining why the changes in colour and perforation took place, with some very rare items, from examples of all the 1d black plates right through to the end of the “stars” issues. Toby followed this with an extensive display of postal history from Royal Leamington Spa, which included a very rare “skeleton” datestamp made up for temporary use. Leamington started out as a “Penny Post” subsidiary to Warwick, but as the town grew it became a post town in its own right.

→ Nick Bridgwater 01926-423685 or [sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps](https://sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps)

John Gledhill

## Leeds

Founded in 1890, we finished 15-16 season with a feeling of exhilaration. We have a new informative website [www.leedsp.s.org.uk](http://www.leedsp.s.org.uk), many reforms made in Council, and a new venue - Oxford Place Centre, Oxford Place, Leeds LS1 3AX where the next session starts again on 13<sup>th</sup> September at 6.45pm, meetings being every 2

weeks. The last session has been varied, reflecting members’ interests but with some novel aspects. Star turns have been *1936 Olympics* – **Mr Bosworth**, *Early Mail on the Liverpool-Manchester Railway* – **Mr Jennion**, *British East Africa* – **John Wilks**, *Spanish colonies and Majorca* - **Edith & Rodney Knight**, *Gambia* - **Mr Roberts**, *Gujarat fiscals* - **Max Smith** and *pre-stamp posts Wigtownshire and WWII* – **Janet Bygate**, as well as members’ evenings and an annual competition. There was a new venture by members – postcards with an enormous range of interests, none duplicated. We also have one of the best philatelic libraries outside London.

Michael Waugh FRPSL

## Maidstone & Mid Kent.

March finished off with a remarkable display by **Jim Etherington** on the *1957 World Scout Jamboree* which was held in Sutton Coldfield with 38 000 scouts attending. Although the display sounds Thematic it is not. There were covers, stamps, meter marks, flaws, post cards and some rare perfins which were only discovered in 1995. April saw our bi-annual club auction and a visit from Chelmsford Philatelic Society, where two members showed us *Bits and Pieces of Greece* and *The early issues of Norway* including Postal History and Ship Mail. In May we held our club competitions and had a very interesting display by **Bill Trower** on the *Battle for The Pacific*, which covered the period when America was under attack from Japan and included mail from ships and submarines. Also displayed were postcards, maps and newspaper

cuttings. For our morning meetings, which are very well attended, we saw **Frank Parsons** in March with his display of *Postal History of Brighton*. This was followed in April by our own member, **Lewis Giles**, displaying *New Zealand Airmails*. In May we had members bring along a selection of what they considered their *Best and Worst Buys*. This was very interesting with only one item being put up as their worst buy, which was the GB set on the Animal. **Brian Stonestreet FRPSL**

## Mid Sussex

2016 saw us continuing with our successful afternoon and evening meeting format, the former attracting a number of new members. All were entertained by a varied programme with five visiting speakers, three members' evenings, our annual competitions and our final meeting in May, the AGM and auction. February brought **Nigel Gooch** showing a comprehensive display of *Persia* followed by **Tony Bosworth** placing philately in its social and political context with his display *Anti-Communism in Europe 1919-1945*. In March **Nick Kerridge** presented us with a very interesting postal history display of the *Treaty Port of Wei Hai Wei* from which we learnt a lot about a little known location in the world. **Bill Hedley** and **Wendy Buckle** visited us during April. Bill's display of *The postal history of Hungary* covered the period from the 16<sup>th</sup> through to the 20<sup>th</sup> century while Wendy's thematic display entitled *The White Stuff* traced the development of paper making and printing. → 01273 471897  
[jespeth@hotmail.com](mailto:jespeth@hotmail.com) **Jim Etherington**

## Oxford

After an exciting Club Auction in March, an evening was devoted to members showing their 9 page competition entries which had been judged earlier in the year. With topics ranging from *GB's First Commemorative Booklets*, *Japan's overseas mail*, *early mail from GB to Japan*, to *British Postal Agency in Panama*, *Rowland Hill*, *Abbazia/Opatija*, *Ethiopia* and the *Battle for Guadalcanal* in the Solomon Islands, the wide variety of members' interests was shown. In May, the President's Evening involved something rather different with a lecture by **Jack Shamash** on *George V's obsession with stamp collecting* and the wider philosophical and practical question: why do humans collect stamps? In June, **Frank Simpson** of Croydon displayed the *History of Hannover*, and its connections with Britain, with some fascinating material like a frame of the correspondence relating to the Hanoverian Chelsea Pensioners. In mid-July, the inaugural summer social event took place at the Victoria Arms in Old Marston beside the banks of the River Cherwell, and as punts glided by and the summer sun set, members found plenty of non-philatelic topics to discuss before heading indoors for a delightful meal. A few days later, on the hottest day of the year, the society held its AGM, where officers reported on the year, elections were held and the programme for the coming year put in place. **Simon Heap**

## Petersfield & District

The first six months of this year have been very significant for our members.





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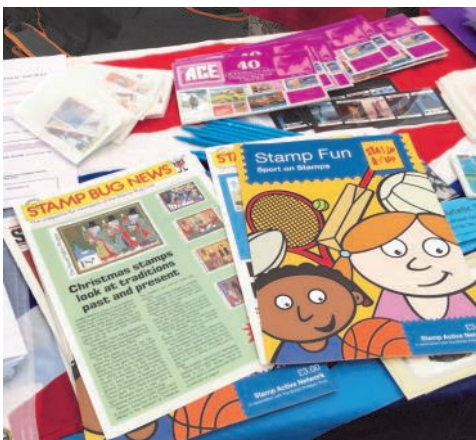
We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the forming of the club in March, 1966, with a specially made cake which was cut at the annual meeting. The Association of British Philatelic Societies confirmed that our application for an Award of Merit had been granted to our secretary of 20 years, **Tony Shaw** and a certificate was presented to him by the club president **David Allen**. Thirty members and guests attended a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, at the modern hall of the United Reformed Church in College Street, Petersfield. In May our newsletter editor, **Tony New**, gave us a review of *Stamps of the World issued in 1966*, the year of our formation. The next month we had a return visit from **Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye** with a display of *Postal History and stamps from Memel*.

David Allen

## Plymouth

### furthering stamp active network:

During armed forces weekend in June we put on a stamp display focusing on Military philately, Kids Stamps and 500 years of Royal Mail, in the veterans



ABPS news, Autumn 2016

marquee on Plymouth Hoe. The team gave out to young children, during the course of the two days, 150 stamp starter packs consisting of albums, magnifiers, stock books, PHQs, stamp packs, etc. Items were donated by Stamp Active Network, stamp club members and others and these donations were greatly appreciated. Great interest was generated by the stand and the three large display boards. The first board was a history of stamps: Post Houses through Sir Rowland Hill's postal reforms, the UPU and examples of GB stamps from penny black to modern Machins. One panel included a world map and stamps of various countries. Board two commemorated 500 years of Royal Mail in stamps, postcards and adverts, while the final board was dedicated to the military through various philatelic media. Interest was far reaching, not only by ex-military and postal workers but by the huge number of the general public who passed through the marquee. By Sunday afternoon we had exhausted our large stock of "give aways" to the young and consider that our objective of bringing stamps to the notice of the general public and enthusing youngsters in stamp collecting had been successfully achieved.

Martin Ellam

## Poole & District

We enjoyed the relaxed presentation and the treatment of Titanic's amazing story. The full title of Philip Cant's display was *"Diary of Disaster – Titanic – From Cradle to Grave and Beyond....."* and this is exactly how the display was treated, starting with the commission for the ship, design plans,

press announcements, the keel laying and Benin's sheet showing the launch on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1911. Illustrations of the events which followed: - the rescue, the personalities involved, the musicians, the artefacts on board, memorials, funeral services, and eventually the location and filming of the ship on the seabed in 1985 were all displayed. The talk concluded with two frames of material on the books and films relating to Titanic, the Titanic Road Shows,



*Philip Cant in Titanic style*

Titanic Museums, stationery, covers, miniature sheets, and of course "Titanic Ted". **Roger Marsh** started his extraordinary display of *GB Line Engraved* with a few words about Rowland Hill, the Postal Reforms and the Treasury Competition of 1839. As no designs were accepted, he did one himself. Next Roger put up examples of all the plates used for the production of the 1d black, 2d blue and the 1d red, explaining the features of each, with printed examples. Then there was the introduction of cancellations, replacing the Maltese Cross. Not satisfied with this amazing array, Roger displayed examples of designs for the Mulready

envelope and caricatures, Propaganda and Advertising envelopes, including one from Poole Slate Merchant, John Blanchard, to a supplier in North Wales. *Chris Wheeler*

## Redcar & Cleveland

Our very satisfactory 2015-16 season has ended with some excellent results. In April at the North East Philatelic Association's (NEPA) meeting, two of



*David Turner signs the Roll*

our members secured 4 of the 11 Competition Trophies awarded to the inter-society finalists. **Phil Harriman** won the Great Britain and Postal History categories. **David D. Turner** won the Social

Philately category, also judged 'Best in Show' and was invited to sign NEPA's Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, in recognition of his contribution to philately nationally and internationally through his award winning book *Ocean Penny Post 1840-1918*, published postal history articles, and numerous display-talks to regional and national societies. His multi-frame displays at National level (Stampex) received 5 Gold/Large Gold medals. David's other NEPA past roles include Newsletter Editor, PRO and President as well as three Society presidencies. On 4<sup>th</sup> June we hosted the annual YPA Convention (Yorkshire Philatelic Association) at Rye Hills School, Redcar. Despite the

inclement weather over 100 people turned up to swamp the 13 dealers who had travelled from around the country. Competition display boards provided keen interest and **David D. Turner's** entry *Social Philately* was judged again as 'Best in Show'.

Martin Snowdon

## Ringwood

We have had a great variety in our 2016 programme starting with *Buying and Selling Philatelic Material On-Line*.

**Chris Wheeler** provided much information on *Buying* covering essential aspects and **Wendy Buckle** emphasised a scanner for sound accurate images in selling. Members were encouraged to consult the useful handouts and 'have a go'. Four members put up displays during our visit to Bridport: **John Davis** - *Tin Can Mail of Niuafo'ou Island, Tonga*, **Chris Wheeler** - *World of FRAMA labels from 43 countries*, **Colin Mount** - *Ringwood Post and Medieval Illustrated Manuscripts*, from **Wendy Buckle**. At our Annual Competition Night in Judge **John Campbell's** words there was 'a good standard of entry'. Bridport returned the visit with **Brian Hunt** presenting *Falkland Islands* and **Bernard Paull** *Alfa Romeo – Rhapsody in Red – the First 100 Years*. After our one-page competition, won by **Paul Barry** with *New Acquisitions - GB Queen Victoria 1887 Jubilee Issue*, we were entertained by **Bill Pipe** with his *Dorset Postal History*. Bill referred to 'a fairly illiterate county of sea farers and labourers'. Trade was centred mainly on Poole and Weymouth, with Bridport, Lyme, Blandford, Shaftesbury and Sherborne playing smaller roles. A



From Dorchester to Hong Kong in 1881

lovely orange Maltese cross cancel (Corfe Castle) on a penny black was enjoyed, together with a cover to London bearing a superb strip of 4 penny blacks – plate 4 AI to AL – the entire having 4 red Maltese cross obliterations, dated 16-10-40, Poole. This was an 'Aladdin's cave with rich variety and rarity'. *Chris Wheeler*

## Scarborough

At the AGM after presenting the overall winner, **Ted Lunn**, with his trophy we held a discussion on the 2018 YPA Convention to celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup>. Business out of the way we then asked members to display one sheet of new acquisitions in the one page contest. This was won by **Barry Hilton**, who was awarded a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mug and a certificate. Barry showed us two Victorian letters, **Chris Phillips** - a



Scarborough competition winners

page of *Stamp printers samples*, **Peter Arnett** - the *Wartime stamps issued by the Island of Guernsey*, **Ted Lunn** - his collection of *Orange Free State stamps postmarked with all 11 towns* and **Robin Stenhouse** produced the *OHMS envelope used for school returns from a village in New South Wales in 1894*.  
Chris Phillips

## Sheffield

**Barry Stagg** presented his display *An Unfortunate Collection* on May 12th. All types of arrow were shown, arrows



*Barry Stagg makes a point*

used in war, directional arrows, arrows on covers, arrows in cancellations. We were a little disappointed that the Sheffield coat of arms was missing from the display. At the June First Wednesday meeting titled *Latest Acquisition*, members brought in stamps, covers and a couple of items which were the beginnings of displays. **Steve Cook** brought some pump clips (badges on beer pump handles) acquired the previous day, and a 1942 Gibbons Simplified Catalogue. His explanation for the pump clips was "No one said anything about being philatelic". **Ian Potter** with *Something completely different* was the speaker for the July meeting. Famed for his

Caribbean and George VI collections he showed the *Departments of France*. A collection which had taken 2 years to compile showed stamps issued showing anything to do with the Departments, whether it be buildings, people or events.  
Steve Cook

## Shropshire

Here is our newest member – ten year old **Ben Lockley**, with his mother

**Alison**. Ben joined the society at the start of last season and is an ardent collector of animals and birds on stamps. He has received



*Ben and mum, Alison*

encouragement from a number of the older club members and at the recent society's competition night won the prize for the thematic class. Here is hoping that he goes on to be a future competition winner at National level!

*Judith Viney*

## Southampton & District

Our members have enjoyed a really good mix of events during the late spring and early summer. Tuesday evenings have including presentations on subjects as diverse as *British Borneo* - **Jeremy Gaskell**, *The German Occupation of Austria in 1938*



- **Tony Hickey**, and **Joseph Cottrill**'s fascinating *View from the Rostrum* (Warwick & Warwick). Interspersed with the more formal evenings there has been everything from the AGM to a club auction and a single sheet competition. Thursday afternoons at Chandlers Ford are proving as popular as ever. Normally there is a slight decrease in numbers as the holiday season approaches but so far this year numbers are holding steady, perhaps because summer hasn't arrived in Hampshire yet. Recently the Society website has been overhauled. Have a look at [www.southamptondps.org.uk](http://www.southamptondps.org.uk) You will find full details of the programme and venues for the rest of 2016 together with a list of contacts. If you are not sure who you need to contact then please use the PRO as your first approach. *Eddie Mays*

## St Albans, Harpenden & District

After Members' Showing Evening in February, bringing everything from *Gurkhas* to *Hydronics*, our March meeting welcomed **Tony Hall**, with *GB Revenues*. This was a revelation of the many types of British National Insurance Stamps and Court Fee Stamps, both national and local. It ended with a wide range of tax stamps that showed the many ways in which governments have tried to relieve us of our money, including the Match Tax of 1871 which provoked riots and had to be abandoned. **Peter Morton** came to present over 200 sheets from the *Cambridge Philatelic Society Forgeries Collection* on 13<sup>th</sup> April. This ranged far and wide including, for example, the

"Stock Exchange Forgery" of 1872 as well as the 24p Machin forgery of 1993 and much less well-known material. The overseas items included forgeries of stamps that had never actually been issued and cases where the forger had made pretty obvious mistakes. The sheets were comprehensively written up, making the evening a delight for all. After our AGM in May **John Swade** showed *American Expositions – Columbian (1893 - one year late), Buffalo (1901) and the planned Hudson –Fulton Exposition of 1909*. All aspects were covered from the pre-planning stage through postage stamps, "pioneer postcards", maps and souvenirs. A particularly striking item was a large colour souvenir cover for the Hudson-Fulton Exposition that in fact never took place due to lack of finance. → Peter Mellor 01582 762284 or [p.mellor@btinternet.com](mailto:p.mellor@btinternet.com)

*Peter Mellor*

## Stratford upon Avon

### The Mayor goes to Congress:

At our last full meeting of the season we were privileged to welcome our Patron, the Mayor of Stratford upon Avon, **Tessa Bates**. The presentation



*Mayor Tessa Bates sees a unique Philatelic Congress cover*



for the meeting was **Colin Searle's** magnificent array of *Material relating to the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain*, the annual event arranged by ABPS. One of the most important pieces was a unique souvenir photograph album presented to the Countess of Warwick (then owner of Warwick Castle) when the Congress visited Birmingham in 1911. The display was a feast of programmes, menus, cancellations, Congress stamps and much more. At the end of the display Colin presented The Mayor with a Congress miniature sheet showing Shakespeare publicity stamps, created when Congress came to Stratford upon Avon in 2008. Readers interested in the history and study of Congress material can see a wealth of material and information online by searching for "PCGB Congress" for the PCGB Study Group.  
 → Colin Fountain on 01789 841 606  
*John Gledhill*

## Streetly

A new society name will be seen in September. We will change to the



## Royal Sutton Coldfield Philatelic Society

Principally this is to reflect more accurately where the society draws its members from - the Royal town of Sutton Coldfield. → [sites.google.com/site/midlandphilatelifederation/home/societies/sutton-coldfield](https://sites.google.com/site/midlandphilatelifederation/home/societies/sutton-coldfield) or [sharrison500@btinternet.com](mailto:sharrison500@btinternet.com)

*Steven Harrison*

## Thatcham

May and the theme was `Art and Artists`. **Malcolm Hoskins, Tony Jordan, Ian and Juliet Keel, Mike Smith, Tony Hillier, Neil Hatton, Dave Tanner, Bob Paterson, Mike and Martin Farr** responded with very varied displays. At the next meeting **Robin Cassell** showed *Illustrated Envelopes*. There were lots of beautiful Mulready covers by Royal Academy artists, John Leech designs and a lovely Lion design cover from May 1840. Then Robin showed the first Christmas card as an envelope and many more of the same style by other artists especially Fores and also Ackerman who had his own studio. What a wonderful evening we had with such a wealth of fabulous material. In June six members showed a variety of *Queen Elizabeth* material on a hot afternoon. Later in June 11 members out of the 16 present displayed 6 sheets instead of paying a 50p fine. These ranged from *Red Cross Cards* to *Iranian sheets from the 1979 revolution* and from *Australian postage dues, O.S. cancellations of the Kangaroo issues* to *old postcards made out of various materials such as leather, cork, wood,*



*50 Years old and happy*

copper and plastic with a nice one from silver birch bark!

Martin Farr

## Wakefield

In June the President invited members to bring along material of their own choice for display. These displays included stamps, postcards and postal history of *American Patriots*, *Channel Islands*, *Suffolk Postmarks* and a set of *Postcards relating to an early mining disaster*. In June we were entertained by a collection of stamps and postal history relating to *The German Occupation in Europe during WWI*.

There were many very interesting items on show. Next we held a members' evening when we saw *Birds on Japanese stamps*, *South African post-Apartheid covers* and *Postcards that, for various reasons, could not be delivered* - many of the last were used at the Sheffield Training Centre, *Stamps to be used by the British during the Second World War in former Italian Colonies* and some *Early maps of Ceylon* - a great assortment of very varied and interesting displays.

→ Brian Hitchcock on 01924 271218.

Julie Hitchcock

## Watford & District

We held our AGM in May. There were two changes of note: **Alan Vincent** was elected as President for the usual two year term; and **Victor Punter** was made an honorary life member, reflecting his many years' hard work as the club's newsletter editor and public relations officer. Then we held our annual six-page and one-page competitions. This year entries were (loosely) themed around the letters S, T and U. The winner of both

competitions was **Steve Birch**, with *Steam: Stephenson* in the six-page, and *Surface, Three-dimensional, Ultraviolet* in the one-page. In June, we welcomed back **Richard Page** for more of his thematic collection of *Birds of prey*. The talk included a most interesting slide show, showing David out in the field viewing the real thing! Finally we held our annual dinner at The Swan in Abbots Langley. 13 people attended and a good time was had by all! → Brian Thurlow 01923 243243 or [wec\\_@live.co.uk](mailto:wec_@live.co.uk)

Wayne Cox

## West London

**Denis Vandervelde**, our visiting speaker in April, displayed from his extensive collection of *Quarantined & Disinfected Mail in the Age of Plague*. This was eruditely and entertainingly



Denis Vandervelde

described by Denis who included some appropriate anecdotes. At our May meeting we were entertained by visitors from Kingston & District PS, **Geoff Chivers** and **Peter Wood** who displayed *Aspects of Southern Africa* and *Some Irish Postal History* respectively, which all of our members enjoyed. → Christopher Oliver, Hon. Secretary on 020 8940 9833 or [olivers.of\\_ham@virgin.net](mailto:olivers.of_ham@virgin.net) Chris Oliver

## Yeovil & District

We have had a very good year with interesting subjects and displays. In October **Graham Longdon** showed us

*British India Court Fee Stamps*. Two committee members **Roger Marsh** and **James Hooper** took us through *A-Z of Stamp Collecting* in November. In our February competitions **Roger Marsh** won *Postal History - Ocean 1p post* and *Thematic Isambard Kingdom Brunel*. General was won by **Dr Claude Leonard** with *Two Pence Blues 1840*. The Novice winner was **Fred Evans** with *Falkland Islands*. In April **Bernard Paul** and **Brian Hunt** of Bridport visited us to show *Poland* and *Falkland Islands* respectively. After our AGM we had a *Postcard Evening*. *David Bryant*

## Federations

### Essex (AEPS)

We have a full house of seventeen stamp, postal history and postcard dealers for Autumn StampEssex (see the Diary on p 56 for details). Admission and parking is free for visitors to the event. Refreshments will be available at the venue. There will be a display of the annual autumn competitions, featuring Thematic collecting, Modern Material (post-1986 issues), Cinderella issues (those not in

the catalogues), Philatelic Literature and the new Open Class. One dealer's table will be put at the disposal of a local charity. Our Vice President, **Len Stanway**, says "Philately remains accessible and enjoyable by those with the smallest pockets, of all ages and cultures. Not only can it be immensely enjoyable and rewarding in its own right, but it has immense value as an educational tool. For example, a person who enjoys chess could learn about the great masters and tournaments of the past and the different styles of chess piece used in different countries, whilst a bird-watcher could amass his own collection of the world's most magnificent specimens without a feather being harmed in the process. We hope that this event will encourage lone collectors to come and see what our member societies have to offer. Whichever society you choose to visit, you can be sure of a warm welcome!"

*Len Stanway*

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## Mid Anglia

### Judging and Exhibiting Seminar— Sponsored by Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions

The seminar will take place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

This will be a good opportunity to update knowledge on exhibiting or displaying your collection. Potential and existing exhibitors will be able to see the “other side” and gain greater insight into the exhibiting process to use in their displays.

Also if you want to, there will be an opportunity to lead to qualifying as ABPS accredited Federation level judges for successful participants. This is the first step towards National accreditation in judging.

Judges who have qualified some time ago may like to update their knowledge to the latest thinking and requirements.

Location: The Sun Hotel, Sun Street, Hitchin, Herts. SG5 1AF.

[www.oldenglishinns.co.uk/our-locations/the-sun-hotel-hitchin](http://www.oldenglishinns.co.uk/our-locations/the-sun-hotel-hitchin) The cost of the two days is being generously subsidised by Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions. Accommodation is extra. →

[seminar@mapf.co.uk](mailto:seminar@mapf.co.uk) 01462 648727 or David Alford, 10 Ninesprings Way, Hitchin, Herts. SG4 9NQ. *David Alford*

## Sussex Philatelic Societies

We ran our second successful Stamp & Postcard Day in Eastbourne on 2<sup>nd</sup>

April with a good attendance. Ten dealers were there throughout the day and our guest speaker, **Brian Sole**, gave two very well received displays. In the morning he presented his award winning thematic display *Go by Cycle* and in the afternoon a beautiful and colourful collection of *British Greetings Telegrams*. This event is becoming a regular feature of the Sussex calendar and next year's event is already booked for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

Preparations for the ASPS ‘big one’, The South of England Stamp and Postcard Fair to be held at the South of England Centre at Ardingly, are well in hand. The date for your diary is 8<sup>th</sup> October. Forty two dealers are booked to attend, the ASPS and British Thematic Associations competitions will be on display and for the first time the British Airmail Society will be holding a meeting and providing a



Warwick & Warwick

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static display. The ASPS auction lots will also be available for viewing. Full details of the event are on our website [sussexphilately@live.co.uk](mailto:sussexphilately@live.co.uk)

→ Jim Etherington 01273 471897 or [jespeth@hotmail.com](mailto:jespeth@hotmail.com) Jim Etherington

## Wiltshire and District

We held our Annual Convention and 9-Sheet Competitions at Swinpex in June. This was our second year of using 'best quality photocopies' that were pre-judged by **John Campbell** of Hampshire. This meant that all entries could be viewed at the start of the show. Winners were **Rosemary Atkins, Stephen Page, David Ashby, Paul Latham-Warde, Barbara Borlase-Hendry** and **Claire Scott** who also won the 'Best in Show' with her *Brunei* entry. We also took the opportunity of asking **Reg Gleave** of



*Reg Gleave signs at Swindon*

Warminster to sign the Roll of Distinguished Wiltshire and District Philatelists. The Federation Medal, known as the Victor Hutchinson Memorial Award, was awarded to **Norman Elston** also of Warminster. → [www.wiltsfed.org.uk](http://www.wiltsfed.org.uk)

*Paul Latham-Warde*

## National and specialist societies

### Austrian

Our meeting at the York Coin and Stamp Fair attracted 12 Members and two guests. Four displays explored the nooks and crannies of the Austrian Empire. **Ernst Oberthaler** showed material from *Kufstein and the Kaiser Valley* where he grew up. A recent tunnel has opened up the valley, previously only accessible on foot.

**Alan Berrisford** displayed a section of his extensive collection of *pre-stamp covers from the Austrian province of Galicia*. As usual for Alan's material, the quality of the postmark-strikes was exceptional and much-admired. **Keith Brandon** then presented an *all-periods display of registered mail*, none of which used a conventional registration-label. Instead the labels were improvised, provisional and generic types. Finally, **Andy Taylor**, fleet of foot, entered breathlessly to show his medal-winning display of *Austrian newspaper-stamps*, just taken down from the national competition at the York Fair that day. The next meeting of the Austrian Philatelic Society will take place at the Peterborough weekend between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October. There will be an auction and members will present a wide range of material. There will also be a keynote presentation on *The Austrian Navy*. → [membership@austrianphilately.com](mailto:membership@austrianphilately.com)

*David Bravery*



## British Thematic Assoc.

We held our AGM at Swinpex on June 11<sup>th</sup> at which **Barry Stagg** and **Anne Stammers** were re-elected President and Secretary respectively. After the meeting members were entertained with a presentation by **Jim Etherington**. Entitled *The BEF in France 1939-1940* the display told the story of the BEF from its arrival in France in September 1939 until its evacuation during May and June 1940. Reflecting our broadening outlook to themed collecting it included a range of philatelic items, postcards, letters and other paper ephemera.

We are pleased that our new website [www.britishthematic.org.uk](http://www.britishthematic.org.uk) is now up and running, thanks to the hard work of developer Doive Designs, webmaster **Jon Mathias** and committee members **Charles Oppenheim** and **Jim Etherington** plus a grant from the ABPS Small Grants Committee and generous donations from BTA members. It is designed to appeal to all thematic collectors and reflects the trend towards the inclusion of postcards and related ephemera in themed collections. In addition to how to join and our programme, the site includes useful advice on how to start and develop a themed collection, advice on ways of displaying a collection and, for those wishing to enter competitions, links to appropriate websites. There is also a members' only section where there is access to E-Issues of Themescene, the BTA's journal. It is well worth a visit if you want to see what Thematic collecting is about and what is going on.

*Jim Etherington and Themescene*

## Channel Island Specialists'

Sixty-two members and guests attended our Weekend Meeting in Bournemouth in April. After a static postcard display by **Dave Edwards** and dinner, all were invited to take part in voting for the winner of the *Three Sheets to Tell a Story* competition. The society's President, **Alan Moorcroft** FRPSL, was the clear winner with his story about two evacuees. Saturday morning's Bourse was followed by a 660-lot room and postal bid auction orchestrated by **Nick Stuart** and his support staff, which saw the final lot coming under the hammer some two hours later with a total take of £12 560. After lunch, 33 members attended **Ron Brown's** 18-frame display of *Occupation material*. Ron provided a 26-page monograph of the material based on six themes: Alderney, Organisation Todt, Civilian mail, The 'Fortress' period, S.S. *Vega* and German Prisoners of War. There was a unique example of the Montmartin-sur-Mer datestamp on a 1940 envelope from Jersey to France and a letter from New Jersey, U.S.A. to Guernsey that was actually delivered to the island, probably because it was addressed to Dr. and Mrs Wilson, Guernsey c/o Herr Hitler, Berlin. In the evening at the annual dinner **Alan Moorcroft** presented Annual Competition winner's certificates to **Jon Aitchison**, **Ron Brown**, **Robert Corden**, **Dave Edwards** and **Richard Flemming**. On Sunday **Jon Aitchison**, **Ron Brown**, **Leo Mayer**, **Robert Corden**, **Ron Osborne**, **Brian Chilton**, **Mark Bailey** and **Gerald Marriner** displayed and

**Richard Flemming** rounded off with *Mail to France 1776 – 1850*.

Steve Wells

## Faroe Islands Study Circle & Scandinavia

A joint meeting of these two societies was held in Salisbury on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Members of one or both of the societies met to celebrate the Study Circle's Silver Jubilee year and also the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independent postal service in the Faroe Islands. Fourteen friends gathered, from as far afield as Merseyside, London and South Wales. The standing display, provided by the Study Circle Secretary, **Norman Hudson**, consisted of *Photographic enlargements of Faroese stamps and items of postal history*. He also gave the opening display, showing the series of *Picture postcards published by the Study Circle*, with a 'mint' and a postally used copy of each card. **Roger Tozer**, on just his fourth day as Chairman, showed *Postmarks from many of the Faroes' post offices*. Most members in attendance provided one or more short displays, many with a Faroes theme. The subjects demonstrated that although the Faroes are a small group of islands, their interest to the philatelist is surprisingly wide. Subjects including *Lighthouses, Freight labels and the 1954 'Drift Cards' experiment of the National Institute of Oceanography* were some of the many Faroese subjects covered. Members then moved on to other Scandinavian subjects, including *Exhibitions, Finnish definitives and Rare maritime markings*.

Norman Hudson

## Forces Postal History

This has been a tremendously successful year in terms of the scope and nature of our meetings. In January **Andrew Brooks** displayed *Internment and POW Mail in WWI* covering not only internment in Great Britain, but also the internment of RN personnel in neutral Holland and internment in Germany and Switzerland as well as POW mail from Germany and German POWs held in Great Britain. In February **John Cowlin** spent an afternoon showing an excellent display of *Postcards from a variety of conflicts from around the world dating from about 1899 to 1945*, with many being of a political and/or satirical nature. March featured our annual 15-sheet 'John Daynes Plate' competition which this year was won by **Tony Walker** with an entry entitled *The Dover Patrol in WWI*. After our AGM in April, in May we were entertained by **Frank Simpson** showing us the *Kingdom of Hannover: 1714-1870* including Napoleonic Wars and the King's German Legion. *Rule Britannia: The Royal Navy* followed in June with a plethora of WWI and WWII material as well as earlier and later Royal Navy items. This was an opportunity for members to show what they had in their collections. Other meetings scheduled for the remainder of the year include members' displays on *Something unusual from the collection* in September and what has now become an annual fixture: our joint meeting with The Postal History Society in December. ➔

[www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk)  
or Martin Hopkinson, Trewinney

Barton, Mevagissey, St Austell,  
Cornwall PL26 6TD *Michael Dobbs*

## Gibraltar Study Circle

We will be holding our annual competition weekend 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at the Travel Lodge Hotel, Newmarket Road, Cambridge. The main display of the weekend will be on Saturday afternoon 24<sup>th</sup> to be given by **Eric Holmes** with *GB Used in Gibraltar*. Our AGM weekend will be the 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at the Golden Lion Hotel, High Street, Northallerton, Yorkshire. →

[ericholmes@talktalk.net](mailto:ericholmes@talktalk.net) *Bert Burton*

## The Great Britain

A recent meeting attracted a sizeable audience of members and guests when president **Bob Galland FRPSL**

showed *The First Low Value Surface Printed stamps* followed by **Clive Jones** with *Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain*. Bob's comprehensive descriptive talk, with examples, of the preparation and issue of the stamps was described by members of the audience as "Fantastic". Clive focussed mainly on the period before WWI. However, his material included items up to 1938 displaying some interesting usages and covering smaller branch lines in addition to the main railway routes. Every item was commercially used. In June the President's Guest, **Peter Shaw**, displayed *The Castle Issues of Great Britain*. His knowledgeable presentation with many unique items created great interest within the audience. The afternoon session began with the AGM during which outgoing president, **Bob Galland**, presented the chain of office



*Bob Galland and New President  
Howard Hughes*

incoming president, **Howard Hughes**. Following the AGM nine members presented short displays. → [www.gbps.org.uk](http://www.gbps.org.uk) or [membership@gbps.org.uk](mailto:membership@gbps.org.uk).

*Janet Bygate*

## Italy & Colonies

In April, 21 of our members and their partners set off for our trip to Turin & Genoa. In Turin we were invited to see Alberto Bolaffi's auction house and his private archive of Philography and Communication, which contained so many unique items it is impossible to mention them all, but included objects showing Mesopotamian & Roman scripts, letters signed by King Henry VIII, Oliver Cromwell and Queen Elizabeth I.

There was a showcase dedicated to the birth of the Penny Black showing an adhesive label created by Chalmers in 1838, which although unissued is considered the first prototype postage stamp in history. We also saw the original sketch of the Penny Black by Sir Rowland Hill and a full reconstructed sheet of the Penny



*Denis Vandervelde, Susan Chislett and Mr. Bolaffi*

---

Black. Many other early and important philatelic covers kept our members enthralled. Mr. Bolaffi is attempting to show the first example of each type of the many aspects of communication.

We saw the first type-written letter, many posters both philatelic and advertising and an auction catalogue of 1690 showing the Christian slaves who were sold in Algiers. This was an archive with something interesting for everyone. After nearly two hours, Mr. Bolaffi provided a sumptuous buffet lunch. It was a day that we shall never forget. Later in Genoa we visited the Genova Stamp Fair. Members made some very astute purchases including a L.A.T.I. cover from Spanish Sahara, thought to be unique. → Richard Harlow 0208 977 8737 or [www.icsc-uk.com](http://www.icsc-uk.com) Paul Woodness

## **King George VI Collectors**

We normally meet three times a year in London, being two display meetings and a combined AGM & Auction. This year the early meeting was a joint meeting with the Pacific Islands Study Circle at the Royal on 27<sup>th</sup> February

when 33 members of either or both societies turned up to see eleven displays. Members brought material of interest to both societies. We saw material from various countries including *Gilbert & Ellice Islands, Fiji, Tokelau, Pitcairn Islands, New Zealand including the Arms Postal Fiscals overprinted for use in Samoa and North Borneo War Tax item*. In addition there were displays relating to the *Empire Airmail Scheme; various trans-Pacific flights developed by Pan Am, by government sponsored flyers and the British Commonwealth Pacific Airline; Air letters; Crash mail; Coronation Presentation albums created by John Ash for Nauru, New Guinea and Papua; other Coronation material and a potpourri including Miss Post Office 1940, the Australian High Values on a genuine commercial cover and the full BCOF set on cover*. Much on display was new to many attending including EVIII material for Fiji; GVI definitive design developments for Fiji and tabulated varieties; Pitcairn Islands Bradbury Wilkinson Essays; also a ½d “missing oranges,” and US and NZ forces mail. We will have a table at Swinpex and are also the lead Society at Autumn Stampex. Many frames will display material submitted by members



*Oranges without orange*



from all over the world especially for this event. → Brian Livingstone [livingstone484@btinternet.com](mailto:livingstone484@btinternet.com) or [www.kg6.info](http://www.kg6.info) David Rennie

## The Royal

As usual the depth and breadth of the displays has been awe-inspiring. From **Gordon Eubanks' United States Imperforate Issues of 1851-1856**, including superb examples of the five stamps – 1 cent, 3 cents, 5 cents, 10 cents and 12 cents – with varieties, and fine examples of usage on covers, and **David Pitts' Bermuda in April to Arnim Knapp's** May display of *The 'Franco'*



*David Pitts illustrates a point*

*envelopes of the Royal postal service of Saxony from 1859 to 1865* we have been informed, educated and entertained. Arnim explained that much of the inspiration came from the postal stationery issued by Great Britain on 10 February 1841. Interestingly, the colours chosen for the two lowest values, 1ngr and 2ngr, were the same as British 1d and 2d values. Later in May the President, **Frank Walton**, showed a formidable array from *Sierra Leone* including early foreign mail services. **Paul Davey** entertained us in June with his wide-ranging collection of

*China*. He started from I-Chan, the official government courier service begun around 1000BCE, and reached the communist era. After the AGM the Society's medals for the year were presented: **Per Gustafson**, Tapling Medal for the best paper in *The London Philatelist*, *Divided postcards with Postage Due 1902-1907*, **Peter Kelly**, Tilleard Medal for the best afternoon display *France – L'émission au type Sage*, **Mike Roberts**, Lee Medal for the best paper *Falkland Islands*, **Maurice Flack** and **Eric Keefe**, both awarded **The Royal Philatelic Society London Medal** for outstanding service and commitment. Richard West

## Scandinavia

We met in Salisbury jointly with the Faroe Islands Study Circle (FISC) on 4<sup>th</sup> June. It was also a special occasion for our society members with **Susan Oliver** presenting **Eric Keefe** with his ABPS Award of Merit. The SPS President, **John Perry**, had also received the ABPS award through his



*John Perry & Eric Keefe*



local club, the Newport and Gwent Philatelic Society, and the day provided a photo opportunity for John and Eric.

**Rosemary Atkins**, another SPS member, had also received the ABPS award through her Bristol society but was unable to be present for a photo of all three members. → [candps.org.uk/](http://candps.org.uk/)  
*John Perry*

### South African Collectors'

We met in Carlisle on 19<sup>th</sup> March - eight members attending and six providing interesting displays on a variety of South African subjects. In London, we had a meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April with the theme *Aerograms, Airgraphs*



*Roy Ross shows phosphor*

*and Air Letters*. Though poorly attended it was enjoyable with much interesting material displayed. →

Christopher Oliver, Hon. Secretary 020 8940 9833 [olivers.of\\_ham@virgin.net](mailto:olivers.of_ham@virgin.net) or [www.southafricacollector.com/](http://www.southafricacollector.com/)

*Chris Oliver*

### Sudan Study Group

The Spring meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April began with a short AGM, followed by a 100 lot auction which saw strong competition from members present and bids 'on the book'. Telegraphs and unusual items were particularly popular. For the afternoon **Richard Stock** presented *Material from the De la Rue archives*. He started with the letter written by Kitchener to De La Rue & Co., asking for designs for the famous camel postman stamps. Then came proofs, essays and colour trials for each issue. Similar material for the Gordon statue, the General Gordon commemorative issues, the 1941 'Palms' issue and the Gunboat postage due stamps followed. Members' contributions included two 'Appendix' sheets of the 1898 Telegraph colour trials, designs etched on glass for the 1962 definitive issue. → [grigg240@btinternet.com](mailto:grigg240@btinternet.com) or [www.sudanstamps.org.uk](http://www.sudanstamps.org.uk)

*Richard Stock*

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By sheer carelessness I missed the report from Michael Dobbs on the activities of the Kent Federation. With my profound apologies to all concerned here it is:

## Kent

Our Autumn Rally, the last of three in 2016, is on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September at the Mick Jagger Centre, Shepherds Lane, Dartford, Kent DA1 2JZ. Like many others we suffer from a lack of “younger” members (meaning anyone below retirement age!). We need volunteers to fill posts or to be helpers generally. Ideally those involved in organising should have access to the internet and email - though we in Kent are grateful to have a volunteer as Secretary (**Grahame Boutle**) without such access. We also lost our Bulletin Editor (**Peter O’Keeffe**) after 25 years and the 200<sup>th</sup> issue this spring (an appreciation of Peter was written by **David Rennie** of Bromley & Beckenham and published in ABPS News) - by the way, we are still looking for a Bulletin Editor. I regret that Swale PS resigned from ABPS (Handbook amendments last issue) but we are not immune - Kent Postal History Group decided not to renew its Federation affiliation. Happily we are pleased to record our win in the Inter-Federation “Dawes Cup” competition, but sadly only two federations entered. Another positive - at our AGM in April **Lewis Giles** of Maidstone & Mid-Kent PS was awarded the Lingley Shield (presented to the Federation by Sidcup in 1986 in memory of **William (Bill) Lingley**). It can be awarded annually by the Executive Committee to a member of a Kent society who has contributed significantly over time to that society, to philately in general or the Federation in particular.

*Michael Dobbs*

All the notified amendments have been removed as we do not have permission from the speakers and society officials to put their contact details on the website.

Perhaps you would like to take the opportunity of letting us know how you feel about this matter - as both suppliers and users.

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# Stamp Active Network

## Bernie Worsfold Wins Bill Hart Award

**Bernie Worsfold** from Lancashire has won the Bill Hart Award for outstanding service to Youth Philately in 2016. Bernie has run the School Stamp Club at Heyhouses Primary School in Lytham St Annes for over twenty years. He is now bringing philately to the grandchildren of the children he started stamp collecting at the beginning. He helps in many other ways besides running the stamp club with visits to places and he is often an extra hand around the school including Remembrance Day and talks to classes about his time in the RAF.

Head Teacher, **Elizabeth Hodgson**, said “Bernie is very popular with the children at the school. He was formerly our “Lollipop Man” and has run the club with great success for many years. He contributes a great deal to the school community. He is a lovely, kind person always willing to do that bit more. The staff and pupils think the world of him.”

The Bill Hart Award recognises just one person each year who has done a great deal to promote youth philately. Chairman of Stamp Active, **John Davies**, added, “Bernie is a great example of how an individual’s love of stamps can be shared with young people today. He is an outstanding role model.”

Information about the Stamp Active Network can be found on their website [www.stampactive.co.uk](http://www.stampactive.co.uk) Donations of stamps, particularly of animal stamps or other thematic subjects would be welcomed by the organisers to: Stamp Active Network, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, OX16 9LB *David Rossall*

Pictures from Spring Stampex: **Liam and Hayden Freaks** earning points for the Auction; The Auction in progress; **Wilfred Bazley** receives his 1d black cover. Why not come to take part in September or next February.



# Diary for the next few months

## Local and regional events by ABPS members

### September

- 10 POOLEPEX, Poole Club Annual Fair, 10-4, Upton Community Centre, **Poole** BH24 5JA
- 16-18 The World's First Cinderella Congress, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, **London** W1G 6JY → Jon Aitchison FRPSL, Old Tithe Hall, Start Hill, **Bishop's Stortford** CM22 7TF [britishlocals@aol.com](mailto:britishlocals@aol.com) (+44) 01279 870488
- 24 Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies Autumn Rally, Mick Jagger Centre, Shepherds Lane, **Dartford**, Kent DA1 2JZ
- 25 Warminster Stamp Fair, 10-4, Kingdown School, Woodcock Road, **Warminster**, Wiltshire. BA12 9DR → Martin Mantell [martinmantell@hotmail.com](mailto:martinmantell@hotmail.com) or 01225 760597

### October

- 1 South-West Scotland Philatelic Societies Annual Stamp and Postcard Festival: 10-4, Prestwick Community Centre, Caerlaverock Road, **Prestwick**, Ayrshire KA9 1HR → 01294 276990
- 8 Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies Stamp Fair & Convention South of England Showground, **Ardingly**, West Sussex RH17 6TL → Jim Etherington 01273 471897
- 8 Yeovil Stamp Fair, Digby Memorial Hall, **Sherborne**
- 9 Hinckley & District PS Annual Autumn Fair and Exhibition, 10-3, Hinckley Academy and John Cleveland 6<sup>th</sup> Form College, Butt Lane, **Hinckley**, LE10 1LE (Previously John Cleveland College). → Richard Flemming 01455 613826
- 15 HAMPEX, 10-4, Wickham Community Centre, **Southampton** PO17 5AL → [www.hantsfederation.org.uk/hpfpfx.htm](http://www.hantsfederation.org.uk/hpfpfx.htm)
- 22 CORNEX Liskeard Community College, Greenbank Road, Addington, **Liskeard** PL14 3EA → [www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/whats-on.php](http://www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/whats-on.php) 01288 355918
- 29 Autumn StampEssex2016, 10.30-4.00, Marconi Social Club, Tydemans, off Beehive Lane, **Chelmsford**, Essex CM2 9FH
- 29 Bolton Society Stamp Fair & North West Federation Annual Convention, 10-4, St Joseph's R C High School Chorley New Road Horwich, **Bolton** BL6 6HW. → 01942 813386
- 29 Solihull PS Stamp Fair, 10-4.30, Arden School, Station Road, Knowle, **Solihull** B93 0PT
- 29 Surrey Federation of PS Annual Event, hosted by Kingston & District PS, Claygate Village Hall, KT10 0JP → Brian Sole [brian.sole@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.sole@btinternet.com)

## November

- 12 Maidstone & Mid Kent PS Stamp Fair, 10-3, Grove Green Community Centre, Grove Green, **Maidstone** ME14 5BT 6LT → 01622 67874
- 19 Bolton Society Grand All Day Auction, Masonic Hall, Bury New Road, **Bolton** BL2 6QJ Over 1000 lots offered. → 01942 813386

*When sending the Editor details of events please give the postcode of your venues – it helps people with satnavs.*

## National Exhibitions 2016-2017

Held at Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH unless otherwise stated

- September 14-17 2016: Autumn Stampex 2016: A full national exhibition with all classes with the lead society being the King George VI Society → [www.kg6.info](http://www.kg6.info) There is also a three-day International Cinderella Congress taking place at the same time.
- February 15-18 2017: Spring Stampex 2017: A full national exhibition with all classes and countries, but focussing on the former Ottoman Empire (including North Africa, Egypt and the Balkan States, plus Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Trans-Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Gulf States). Other exhibits will be accepted including those of Iran.
- September 13-16 2017: Autumn Stampex 2017

## International Exhibitions 2016-2017

- 8-13 October 2016: PHILATAIPEI 2016 World Stamp Championship and Exhibition, Taipei World Trade Centre, Exhibition Hall 1. UK Commissioner: Chris King: contact [chris.king@postalhistory.net](mailto:chris.king@postalhistory.net) → [www.taipei2016.post.gov.tw/post/taipei2016](http://www.taipei2016.post.gov.tw/post/taipei2016)
- 24-28 May 2017: Finlandia 2017 – Tampere-Hall, Tampere, Finland. Open to exhibitors from all FEPA countries, the United States of America and Australia. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Finland. UK Commissioner: Bill Hedley: contact [ewlhedley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ewlhedley@yahoo.co.uk) → [www.finlandia2017.fi/](http://www.finlandia2017.fi/) or [info@finlandia2017.fi](mailto:info@finlandia2017.fi)
- 3-7 August 2017: Bandung 2017 World Stamp Exhibition (Indonesia) - Trans Studio Convention Center, Bandung, Indonesia: Classes: Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Thematic Philately, Youth Philately, Philatelic Literature, One-frame Exhibits, Modern Philately -Entry Deadline: 20th November 2016 → UK Commissioner: FRPSL, Old Tithe Hall, Start Hill, **Bishop's Stortford** CM22 7TF [britishlocals@aol.com](mailto:britishlocals@aol.com) (+44) 01279 870488

## Web information

Further information on exhibiting and forthcoming exhibitions can be found on the ABPS website [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk) on the "Exhibiting" tab. *Chris King, Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee*  
[chris.king@postalhistory.net](mailto:chris.king@postalhistory.net)



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*- Contact for further copies of ABPS leaflets, Handbook/Directory, Speakers List*

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## Postal addresses

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

**Membership Secretary:** *8 Gerard Road, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6QG*

**Society reports** (if not emailed to the editor) for the ABPS News:

*Editor ABPS, 6 Old Trough Way, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 3DE*

**Stamp Active Network:** please write to:

*SAN, c/o John Davies, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, Oxon OX16 9LB*

ABPS News is published by the Association of British Philatelic Societies.

Website [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk) This also holds further information on Committees.

# Great Britain

## at auction

Grosvenor holds regular specialised consignment auctions of **Great Britain** from postal history to modern varieties. Each auction is available to view, fully illustrated, on our website, [www.grosvenorauctions.com](http://www.grosvenorauctions.com), and complimentary copies of each printed catalogue are available on request.

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