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 **The Association of British Philatelic Societies Ltd**

 **EXECUTIVE BULLETIN July 2021**

Please circulate this bulletin to any philatelic friends to show what the ABPS is doing to promote philately across the UK. Also please visit [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk)

**MIDPEX 2021 IS NEARLY HERE**



**MIDPEX 2021**

**Warwickshire Event Centre, Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN**

**3rd July 2021 10:00am – 4:30pm**

Don’t miss this national event as it is the first physical exhibition in the UK for over a year.

MIDPEX is the biennial exhibition first held in 1995 and attended by stamp collectors from across the UK. It brings together Specialist Societies with local, national and international dealers covering all aspects of Philately. The venue is the same. It provides an opportunity for Specialist Societies to show off their sphere of interest to other collectors, to recruit members and identify common ground with members of other Societies. Societies will also promote their publications and research projects and meet members informally. The event will have approx. 50 dealers and 40 Specialist Societies. The show will be fully compliant will Covid precautions.

Additional details of the venue with views of the hall and site location including parking, can be accessed on <https://www.warwickshireeventcentre.co.uk>

**PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN**

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The 2021 Congress will be held in Harrogate to recognise 100 Years since the first signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists formation there. This will take place from 23rd September to 26th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The Kay Goodman Lecture will be delivered by Richard Smith on the theme of “Technology and Stamp Collecting.”

For more information, the programme and booking forms, see the ABPS website or contact sharrison500@btinternet.com

**ABPS AGM**

Our AGM will take place during Congress at 12 noon on Friday 24th September.

At the meeting, Graham Winters will be standing down as Chairman and Steve Harrison will be proposed as the new Chairman.

We thank Graham for all his years of service to our hobby.

**THE FIRST 150 YEARS OF ORGANISED PHILATELY**

Chris King RDP Hon. FRPSL is giving an on line presentation on this subject on 28th September. He is building a database of the history of all Societies and is interested to receive relevant ephemera such as programme cards, auctions, badges, minute book etc for the Spear Museum of Philatelic History at the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Chris can be contacted by email at kingc@rpsl.org.uk

**AUTUMN STAMPEX 2021**

Autumn Stampex is looking very positive with the national exhibition to take place at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London, from Wednesday 29th September to 2nd October. The lead Society will be the British Thematic Association with over 150 frames of displays.

There are expected to be a number of new attractions at Stampex including a Collectors Lounge, Spink Auditorium and “Stamps in the Attic”.

More information can be found on the Stampex International website.

[www.stampexinternational.co.uk](http://www.stampexinternational.co.uk)

**THE PHILATELIC FUND**

The new Chairman of the Philatelic Fund is Nigel Gooch, replacing Christine Earle, who sadly passed away.

**INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS**

Full details of opportunities to take part in international stamp exhibitions can be found in the Exhibiting section of the ABPS website. They are not detailed here as the situation remains very volatile in the light of the current crisis.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Christine Earle who was a popular exhibitor and judge. We send our condolences to her daughter, Sam, and partner, Pat.

**NATIONAL STAMP DAY**

This was one of Graham’s initiatives during his time as Chairman and he hopes it will continue. Don’t forget the anniversary of the stamp on 6th May each year. Could your Society or yourself plan something special to promote philately?

**ABPS AWARDS**

**** Congress Medal

The Awards Committee has completed its deliberations and recently announced the 2021 Awards:

**Awards of Merit**

Michael Dobbs                            Proposed by The Forces Postal History Society

Eddie Mays                                  Proposed by Southampton & District Philatelic Society

Richard Smith                             Proposed by Leeds Philatelic Society

**Congress Medal**

Barry Burns and Bernard Mabbett Jointly, Proposed by Middlesbrough and District Philatelic Society and West Africa Study Circle

This is mainly for their work is saving a philatelic archive from being destroyed and the complimentary stamp collection from deteriorating beyond rescue.

Next year the RDP and Congress Medal Ceremony will be held as part of the London22 International Exhibition on 21 February 2022.  The closing date for nominations for the Congress Medal will be brought forward to 30 November 2021.  The nominations for Awards of Merit remains 1 March 2022.

Nominations for the ABPS Award of Merit and Congress Medal are always welcome. Full details and nomination forms can be found on the ABPS website.

**ABPS NEWS**

 The closing date for copy for the next issue is 15th July, followed by 15th October.

 Articles and enquiries relating the ABPS News can be submitted via the website

 or you can write direct by email at editor@abps.org.uk

 This is an opportunity for you to promote your Society.

**STAMP ACTIVE NETWORK**

Stamp Active will be at Autumn Stampex with free goodie bags for children and a range of free activities including the popular Saturday auction.

50 youngsters will receive a £20 in vouchers to spend with dealers at the Show.

 £20 in Vouchers for youngsters

Latest information about all Stamp Active activities can be found on their award-winning website at [www.stampactive.co.uk](http://www.stampactive.co.uk) Email: stampactive@btinternet.com

**ABPS SMALL GRANTS SCHEME**

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

CALLING ALL STAMP EVENT ORGANISERS

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

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

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

**CALLING ALL SPEAKERS**

If you are prepared to give displays to Societies, either in person or by Zoom, please pass your details to the Secretary of ABPS or input your information on to ABPS website. We will be updating the site with additional information about speakers relating to Powerpoint presentations as this has become a popular development resulting from the pandemic.

**MAKE SURE YOUR SOCIETY LOOKS GOOD ON THE NEW ABPS WEBSITE**

Our new website has received some very positive feedback so far but we know there is more that can be done. It is the same address [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk)

It is on a new platform and includes all the usual information about ABPS news and activities.

**It now also includes a searchable list of speakers, judges and an events calendar.**

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

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

If you have any images of your local Society, events or seminars etc. that you think might enhance the website please send them to the Communications Director, Alan Godfrey at communications@abps.org.uk

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO GIVE YOUR COMMENTS**,

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

Any feedback or ideas, or if you would like to help, please contact our Chairman, Graham Winters, by email: j.g.winters@hotmail.co.uk

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