

London 2022 - A Job Very Well Done



*In honour of Frank
Walton
RDP FRPSL
1955 - 2022*



*The ABPS News is also available
online at www.abps.org.uk*



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ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

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Cover picture: *Frank Walton - with his characteristic smile; future philatelic competitors, perhaps, at London 2022; The Posthorn Gallop at the Guildhall.*

An electronic copy of the newsletter can be viewed on the ABPS webpage www.abps.org.uk soon after publication.

Contact details for ABPS are on the page by the inside rear cover.

Copy dates: please send your material as soon as ready; at present the copy deadlines are 15th January, 15th April, 15th July, 15th October. We cannot guarantee to include items in specific editions. Items may be edited for publication. Email copy is preferred (unformatted).

Send copy to the editor: Keith S Burton (see p 62)

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:



My last “*Message from the Chair*” in the Spring 2022 edition began with me looking forward to London 2022. Happily, the event did take place – and it was a great success! It was so good to see friends again after, in some cases, quite a long time. Despite the remnants of the pandemic and two storms that lashed the south of England philately triumphed. The vast array of competition entries was astounding. Particular congratulations should go to Howard Hughes who was the winner of the Grand Prix National award gaining a Large Gold with his exhibit entitled “*The Maltese Cross*”.

It was good to see in the exhibition handbook the acknowledgement: “*London 2022 International Stamp Exhibition has been organised by Stamp World Exhibitions Ltd on behalf of the Association of British Philatelic Societies*”.

The philatelic season seems to be progressing well as most societies and clubs are now meeting regularly again. When I look, via the ABPS website, at the society programmes available the variety of subjects and topics of displays that are being given never ceases to amaze me. I really do feel that it's the local society that forms the solid foundation for philately. Long live the local society!

It was very encouraging to hear recently about the formation of a new local society – The South East of England On-line Philatelic Society (SEEOPS), set up expressly to hold meetings online. (For further details contact Margaret Emerson at seeonlineps@gmail.com).

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain this year is being held in Birmingham at the Jurys Inn Hotel from the 8th to the 11th September. The theme of the Congress is going to be “*Organised Philately*” - how our hobby is organised in different ways. During Congress there will be input from local societies, specialist societies, national societies, international societies, the philatelic trade and international philatelic organisations demonstrating what each type of society or organisation brings to the hobby - and displaying what is collected!

I always like to stress the importance of communication. Without good communication who knows what's going on or what the current issues are in philately that need addressing? This is why I really want to hear from you; from federations, societies, clubs or individuals. What are your thoughts about where the hobby is and its future? What should we be doing? Please do let me know what you think. My email address is chair@abps.org.uk and my postal address is Steven Harrison, ABPS, c/o RPSL, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW. I really want to hear from you!

Steve Harrison FRPSL.

Editorial



I had thought that I might need to write about the events at London 2022 but I was persuaded to write a daily blog for that (another new experience) and I am sure that those who wanted to hear about what I was doing and seeing have already read all that and don't want to hear more. In any case in this issue are two excellent reports of how the exhibition affected two visitors - one an experienced Stampex etc visitor, the other new to it all. Thank you to them both for responding to my requests for other peoples' views.

I cannot continue without regretting the loss to British and International Philately by the death of Frank Walton. Again more has been written elsewhere but Frank was always so friendly and helpful to me - like so many others. I shall miss him. That is why this issue is dedicated to him and his family.

So what else can I write about. I had cause to look back and realise that I have been the editor of ABPS News for 38 issues (the first couple with the help of my predecessor, Dr John Gledhill). He told me that I would receive a few complaints and fewer expressions of praise. For most of the time he has been right but I am pleased to say that the complaints have fallen off and the thanks have increased. I must be doing something right - so you are stuck with me for a while longer - but I cannot go on forever, so someone else needs to start thinking "I could do that". The complaints are sometimes very interesting - rarely pointing out errors of fact, more often complaining that the same societies appear every issue, and occasionally that their society isn't included at all. The obvious answer apparently hasn't occurred to them - THEY HAVEN'T SENT ANYTHING TO ME! Thinking of this I looked back at my statistics - Yes, I keep a record of when each society and federation has sent something for publication. 2 out of 20 Federations, 18 out of 73 Specialist Societies and 53 out of 183 Local Societies have never sent anything in 38 issues. Does this mean that they are not doing anything or that they do not want us to know their brilliant ideas. Apart from having palpitations, what would I do if they all sent something for the next issue? The answer - My best to include as much as I possibly could. Congratulations to Kent Federation (24/38), Bromley & Beckenham (35/38) and the Royal (37/38 - and I think that I robbed them of a full house once when I was short of space!). It would help of course if the correspondents didn't make my job harder by including lots of formatting, long gaps between paragraphs and so on. Gold stars (not medals) to those who send under 250 words, in Arial 10, single line spacing and no paragraph gaps. Not hard to do before sending when you only have one to do, very time-consuming when I have about 50 - as in this issue. However I would rather have your reports, anniversary material and articles in any way that you want to send it than to have nothing at all.

Keith Burton FRPSL

Society anniversaries

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

Heartiest congratulations to all involved in these milestones:

Bromley and Beckenham Philatelic Society - 90 years



In January we marked our 90th anniversary with a celebratory dinner. 25 sat down to dine and raised a glass to the past and future of the society – before enjoying a piece of cake. Nine members met on 9th January 1932. We peaked at 264 members in 1971 but are now still around 100. The history of the society is now complete up to 2007 – 75 years recorded and printed (available from David Rennie). We look forward to the next 10 years to make the century.

David Rennie

Maidstone & Mid-Kent Philatelic Society – 100 years

The Society was founded in 1922 following an advertisement inserted in the Kent Messenger by **Mr B S H Grant**. The first meeting took place on 11th September 1922 under the chairmanship of **Mr William Court**. This resulted in the formation of the society with a membership of 34. **Mr F T Travers**, a well-known surgeon, was elected the first President, an office he retained until 1947, with Mr Grant as Hon Secretary and Treasurer. The annual subscription was 5/- (25p) although this was later increased to 7/6 (37p). The early meetings were held in the Church Institute (now Primark goods entrance in Union Street). The following year membership had increased to 63, with 25-28 attending meetings. In 1923 a junior section was formed - mainly boys from Maidstone Grammar School. This section was subsequently incorporated into the main society. We affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain and three members were fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society.

The Library, which had been started in 1922, increased in size and by 1926/27 had reached 200 volumes, with 400 borrowings. While we were in The Old Palace a number of books disappeared as a result of a break-in.

In 1931 Invicta, the White Horse of Kent, was adopted as our emblem.

In 1932 our 10th anniversary was celebrated with a dinner at The Old Palace and at our 100th meeting Bernard Grant showed 100 pages from 100 countries. The highlight of the 1936/37 year was a visit by **Sir John Wilson**, Curator of the Royal Collection, when 76 members and guests were present. We were

fortunate that this was repeated in October 2008 when **Michael Sefi** visited us and gave an up-dated display of the Queen's Collection.

The highest honour yet awarded to a member was given in 1940 to Mr B S H Grant when he signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the Bournemouth Congress. This was an honour he deserved not only for the work he did for us and other philatelic bodies but also for his outstanding study of the stamps of the Falkland Islands.



We celebrated our Golden Jubilee in 1972 with an Exhibition at Maidstone Technical High School for Girls (now Invicta Grammar School) and a dinner at the Orchard Room, Veglios Motel, demolished for the M20 widening.

During our 75th year we acted as host for the Kent Federation Autumn Rally which was preceded by a two-day exhibition in the Chequers Shopping Centre (now The Mall). Our annual dinner, in celebration, was held at the Tudor Park Hotel when 80 members and guests attended.

We still meet fortnightly from September to June in St Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone. Our membership is still strong with a total of approximately 75 and an average attendance of 25 at meetings, which consist of philatelic displays, competitions, auctions. Also, we hold two successful stamp fairs each year.

We started a monthly morning meeting at the Indoor Bowls Club Maidstone at the start of the 2011/12 season. This has proved extremely popular with members and speakers, attracting an average attendance of 20.

2022 - the society is now 100 years old, quite an achievement. We celebrated with an Anniversary Dinner on the 31st March at the Masonic Centre and will hold an Anniversary Stamp Fair on the 19th November at Aylesford Community Centre.

Brian Stonestreet

125th Anniversary - Salisbury and District Philatelic Society

“ The study of the fashionable science of philately is very popular in Salisbury and interest in it has largely been fostered by the existence of an excellent Philatelic Society. The Salisbury and District Philatelic Society was started on

22nd November 1895 with Mr W Brown as President and Mr Skipton as Vice President” as quoted in TJ Northy’s *The Popular History of Salisbury 1897*. **William Brown**, an artist of considerable skill, was a ‘Foreign Stamp Importer and Dealer’ in Salisbury. He also founded the ‘Philatelic Journal of Great Britain’. 127 years later we celebrated 125 years. How many other Societies can boast such a pedigree? There were 20 Members present at the first meeting in 1895. Over the 125 years, active membership seems to have averaged around 25. Initially there were clubs in most of the nearby villages. As interest in collecting declined they closed and members came to Salisbury which kept the numbers constant. But in 1963 with only five members at the AGM the Club folded until restarting in 1968. Today attendance at meetings averages 18, with members leaving, due to health or to be near children, and members joining from societies which have closed.



The Mayor and members before the cutting of the cakes

25 members and guests, including the Mayor of Salisbury **Caroline Corbin**, gathered to see a display of 12 frames, organised by **David Winnie** who with five current members put together an exceptional and wide-ranging display, encompassing all aspects of our fascinating hobby - each one with a Salisbury connection: **David Winnie** - *William Brown postcards, Salisbury Penny Post and Receiving Marks*; **Tony Howgrave-Graham** - *Salisbury 1668 -1810, Salisbury C19 Cancellations, and a potted history of his village, Downton*, using philatelic material; **Julian Frost** - *The three Salisbury Disasters: the 1906 railway accident, the 1908 snowstorm and the 1915 floods* and then a selection of *pre-WWI postcards of Salisbury streets*; **Jeremy Martin** - *Early Postage Stamps, Salisbury Slogans, and the covers and marks of villages from around Salisbury*; **Mike Carey** - *the local Scouts’ mail since 1994*; **Craig Patterson** - *the covers and history of the Camps used for training on Salisbury Plain over the centuries*. A much fuller description can be seen under rolling news on our website: salisburyphilately.org.com Mike Moody


If you think we’ve missed you out, please let the Editor know.

from / respond to: **Andrew McGavin**Are You **THINKING** of **SELLING?**

This is How The Stamp Trade Works

Philatelic Expert Lets You into his Selling Secrets so you can benefit from a totally different (and New) Selling Experience

1 If You want to learn how the stamp trade works, please read on... When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for the orders to roll in... I'm still waiting, 51 years later!...

Wrong Offer ~~X~~ **Wrong Price** ~~X~~ **Wrong Place** ~~X~~
(naïve seller)  **me but I was only 15 at the time!**



ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV

About The Author ▶ Andrew found his Father's stamps at the age of 10. A year later at Senior School he immediately joined the School Stamp Club. He 'scooped' (1) in British, but soon was interested in Queen Victoria which he could not afford. The 2nd to last boy wearing short trousers in his school year; he religiously bought Post Office New Issues on Tuesdays with his pocket money. He soon found that he enjoyed swapping / trading stamps as much as collecting them. Aged 19, eschewing University he quickly found a philatelic career in London, leading to creating his own companies in stamps. Andrew has authored many internationally published Stamp 'Tips' articles, appearing on Local Radio and National TV, promoting Philately with Alan Titchmarsh. Andrew's area of expertise is unusual – in so far as his grounding in collecting and wide philatelic knowledge has given him a deep understanding of Philately. He has studied Philately for the past 51 years, in combination with Commerce and Marketing Expertise, enabling him to create synergies in 'lifetime' interlinked Stamp Selling Systems, selling unit-priced stamps through to handling collections & Rarities up to £700,000 each. Today Andrew is fortunate to be co-owner with his Wife, of Universal Philatelic Auctions (aka UPA) – the Largest, No Buyer's Premium Reducing-Estimate System Stamp Auction in the World, creating records selling stamps to 2,261 different bidders from 54 different countries in his international auctions.

Andrew stopped collecting stamps aged 18 reasoning that his enjoyment of stamps would be in handling them and selling them... He loves working in stamps



2 Three years later, attending my first public stamp auctions I wondered how some bidders seemed to buy everything, paying the highest price? It didn't occur to me that they were probably Auction Bidding Agents, paid by absent (dealer) bidders to represent them. I wondered why two collectors sitting side by side muttered to each other "he's a dealer" as if that justified him paying the highest price...

...but did it really? What was the real reason? How could a Dealer pay a higher price than a Collector? It doesn't make sense, does it? Collectors are customers. Customers usually pay the highest price, unless... for a Collector, this was...

Wrong Presentation ~~X~~ **Wrong Place** ~~X~~
therefore **Wrong Price** ~~X~~

3 Fast-forward 48 years later to a British Empire collection, lot #1 in an International Stamp Auction – Estimated at £3,000, but we were the highest bidder at £21,000 – **YES** – some 7x higher. Including Buyer's Premium in the extraordinary sum of £4,788 we actually paid GBP£25,788= upon a £3,000 estimate... however, we broke it down into sets, singles, mini-collections etc. We made a profit. Some might say it found its price. Others may say:




Wrong Estimate ~~X~~ **Wrong Presentation** ~~X~~
Wrong Structure ~~X~~ **Wrong Protection of Price** ~~X~~

– **Lucky for the seller that 2 well-heeled bidders saw the potential value that day** or it could have been given away... the seller could easily have lost out couldn't he? or she?

So, by un-peeling the layers of obfuscation, hopefully we can all agree:

The Secret is Simple – it's ALL ABOUT: TIMING

Plus the 3 Philatelic 'P's –

Presentation  **Place**  **and Price** 

4 Understanding the problem... I always remember the car trade had their own little 'bible' – Glass's Guide. I've no idea, I've not even looked – in this internet-dominated world, it may even have disappeared. Well, there's an insider Stamp Trade publication for Stamp Dealers called "The Philatelic Exporter". There's nothing that special about it – and you won't learn much or find massively reduced prices by subscribing – **BUT** – it is a forum, a paper focal point, a last 'bastion' in this on-line transparent world that we inhabit... whereby dealers (and auctioneers) can try and communicate with each other. I publish my own articles there...

Recently I discussed the outcome of my 10 years' simple research, asking dealers and auctioneers 'what is your biggest problem?'

To a man, (why are we almost all men), they replied – "my biggest problem is stock, if I can get more of the right stock I can sell it easily"

Strange that, nobody ever asked me the same question back – because my answer would have been entirely different (and I don't treat it as a problem) – **I seek to satisfy more collector clients than any other stamp auction**

This is the reason why my company has such massive advertising. This is the reason why we spend up to 8% of turnover – up to £200,000 per annum in marketing costs. (Most dealers don't even sell £200K per annum).

5 Why is that? Because, as the world revolved the Stamp Market, imperceptibly Changed, and incrementally – **Massively**

So, although few will tell you this, it's clearly evident that the problem for most Sellers of Stamps today is no longer absent stock – but **absent collectors in**

the place they choose to sell their stamps in. Simply put, other Dealers, Auctions, Stamp Fairs have not invested in marketing to have a strong Customer-core. To be fair, this is not true of all – but it is true of most – so that our former competitor 'Apex' had 800 bidders in a recent auction. In my most recent 20,000+ lot UPA 77th Auction we had 1,793 different bidders from 49 different countries, 95% of whom were Collectors. Some other well-advertised auctions only have 200 bidders (a high percentage of whom are dealers – so that, essentially they are Dealer-dominated auctions) – so that when you sell through them – you're paying up to 18% (including VAT) seller's commission and the buyer is paying up to 25% and more in Buyer's Premium, credit card fees, on-line bidding fee, delivery and insurance etc... **AND all of that so that your stamps may be sold, wait for it – TO DEALERS (and some collectors),** but Dealers, that naturally must make a profit to survive...

6 Now, let's examine the cost implications – Example: Your stamp collection sells in public auction for £800. Upon a 25% buyer's premium, the dealer pays £1,000 and it could be more. He breaks it into £2,000+ selling price (much lower and he'll go out of business). The auction charges you a seller's commission of up to 18% (VAT included) upon the £800 sale price. This is GBP£144. Therefore you receive approaching £656 – which is approximately 33% of the dealer's £2,000+/- retail selling price - **BUT...** now that we have identified the problem...

Isn't the Solution Staring us Right in The Face?

7 Why Pay an Auction to Sell to Dealers: Sell to Collectors instead? In our example with buyer's premium, sellers commission, lotting fees, extra credit card charges, VAT and even insurance – you're already being charged in different ways up to 40% of the selling price to sell, possibly or probably, **to the wrong person.**

Why not direct that 40% cost you're paying to sell to Collectors instead? Sounds good, so why hasn't this been done before?

8 Truth is, it Has been done before... Sometimes the 'old' ways are the best ways aren't they? But in today's enthusiasm to obscure the



Contact UPA: 01451 861 111

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:

Dear Folk at UPA,

I've dealt with the public for 37+ years, and as both a consumer, and a businessman, I have created huge numbers of orders from all over the world from a complete range of suppliers from all aspects of our daily lives.

But I don't believe I have ever encountered such sensitivity, such kind thought, such understanding as I have with you in our initial meeting, our subsequent successful transaction, and now this.

I recall well the item you highlight, and realise that this one item has such colossal personal value, I could never part with it.

It has been an absolute pleasure dealing with yourself, and I am more than willing for you to use this e-mail as commendation to others who may be thinking of disposing of their collection.

Many, many thanks for a memorable experience, and I will try to emulate your thought and care in my own business sphere.

Yours sincerely

D. E. B. Bath, UK

obvious so that money may be taken, almost surreptitiously, in numerous different ways, (without us apparently noticing until we see the cheque in our pocket) – the transparent 'seller pays' has been deliberately 'obscured' – so much so that, **amazingly**, the latest 2017 European Auction Selling Legislation just introduced – now requires auctions that charge 'buyer's premiums' **to warn the buyer in advance.** Just imagine going into the petrol station, and being warned that the price you're paying to put fuel in your tank is not the real price, you have to pay a premium! Obviously, there would be an uproar...

9 How can you cut out the middleman and sell to Collectors instead? Well, I can think of two ways. 1). **DIY** – Do It Yourself selling on eBay. That may be fine for lower grade material – but, would you risk auctioning relatively unprotected rare material on eBay? We don't and we're professionals, so we should know what we're doing. Or 2). Cut out the extra middle-man. **Use my company UPA, which reaches collectors instead.** Here's how it works: Continuing from our previous Example:

The auction sold your stamps to a dealer for £1,000 – but You received circa £656

UPA sells them to collectors for you for up to £2,000 – even after 40% commission you receive up to £1,200. Up to £544 more. Now that's amazing, isn't it?

10 Sounds Good Andrew, but Can You 'Deliver'? Obviously, nothing is as simple as that, and as we auction stamps to collectors some collections may 'break' to the example £2,000+/- but the stamps may be sold for more or less – especially as we reserve all lots at 20% below, (Estimate £2,000 = £1,600 reserve) and not everything sells first or even 2nd time so prices may come down... Naturally, it's not that straightforward for a dealer either – he may sell at a discount to 'move' stock **OR**, like many dealers he may be sitting on the same unsold stamps, that you see time and time again, in dealer's stocks years later and still at the same unattractive prices... So, I think it is more reasonable for you to expect up to 36% to 50% more, indirectly or directly via my **Collector's Secret Weapon: Universal Philatelic Auctions**, which moves material more quickly, by incrementally reducing estimate (and reserve) price in a structured selling system...

Request Your Next FREE Catalogue NOW



UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS ABPS

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Tel: 01451 861111 • Fax: 01451 861297



11 Q: What is the Collector's 'Secret Weapon'?

A: It's called the Unique UPA Reducing Estimate System... ★★

This is a rather long explanation, I don't want to bore you, but 20 years ago, when my wife and I set up Universal Philatelic Auctions I detected that the stamp trade's biggest problem then was not what sold – *but what didn't sell...* So, because I didn't want to try to keep on offering the same either unsaleable or overpriced stock I created the unique UPA Reducing Estimate (and reserve) Selling System. Simply put, if a lot doesn't sell in the 1st auction we reduce the estimate (and reserve) by 11% and unlike other dealers and auctions **WE TELL YOU** – 'US' = once unsold. If unsold after the following auction we **reduce by a further 12%** and **WE TELL YOU 'US2'**, if unsold after a 3rd UPA auction we reduce by a further 13% and **WE TELL YOU 'US3'** and so on till the lot finds its price, is sold or virtually given away...

12 Any Scientist will tell you that combinations of ingredients can produce powerful results. So we created the unique combination of my UPA Reducing Estimate System, married (in stone), with UPA's fair 'NO BUYER'S Premium' policy, PLUS each lot carries my total 'no quibble' guarantee – this formula is the reason why within the span of 4 auctions (one year)... 90%-95% of lots broken from a collection have sold. This Unique Philatelic Selling System **Formula** is the reason why we are the largest stamp auction in the UK today with more than 2,250 different regular bidders.

In Hindsight Dealers warned me 20 years ago that my idea wouldn't work. 20 years later I think I've proven that it does. (Reader: Please Request a complimentary UPA catalogue – using the contact details further below)

13 OK, Cut to the Chase Andrew, what's the offer? All of my Selling Systems are based upon **selling to Collectors Globally**, so that 95% of stamps sold by UPA are sold directly to Collectors. If you wish to benefit by up to 50% or more, depending upon

your circumstance and type of material, by cutting out the middleman – then this offer may be for you. Generally 'time' is the enemy in our lives, and for most dealers not being able to sell stock. Now is the time to let 'time' do the 'heavy-lifting' and consider making 'time' work for you, so that at UPA you can make time your friend. 📞

14 AND the SMALL PRINT? Some lots are too small in value for us to offer this system. Other lots may not be suited to selling in this manner (e.g. surplus mint British decimal stamps best used for postage) – especially if the market is heavily compromised by stock overhang in specific areas. Some Collectors will not wish to use time and systems to leverage price, others will want to agree a specific price and know that they are paid precisely this amount. No client is treated like a number and no client is forced like a square peg into a round hole. 📞

15 OK, What Do I Do Next?

- You contact UPA to discuss with Andrew or a highly-qualified Auction Valuer/Describer what you have to dispose of and your options bearing in mind your specific interests / requirements
- If you wish, get a 2nd opinion, but investigate what type of auction / dealer you are dealing with. Is it a Dealer's auction with relatively few collectors? Can you see where / how the Dealer sells? If you can't easily see any pricelists or high quality selling catalogues – that Dealer may sell your stamps to other dealers...
- Finally you ask U P A to collect your stamps, insure in transit for an estimated replacement retail value... 📞

16 What Happens then? A member of my Team telephones/e-mails you to confirm safe receipt. 'Overnight' valuations, unless simple, are rare. Valuing stamp collections that have taken tens of years to create takes time. Depending upon your priorities / timescale I, or an experienced member of my Team will contact you to discuss your requirements and the options available to you for the sale of your collection. Provided only that you feel well-informed and comfortable do we agree strategy. 📞

17 How Strong is the Stamp and Cover Market?

Everybody knows that the strongest areas are GB and British Empire. Post-independence / QEII material sells but if hinged at considerable discount. Mint hinged material pre 1952 is regarded as the industry 'norm' and therefore desirable – but genuine never-hinged commands a premium. Europe sells but at reduced levels, Americas is good, as generally is Asia but the 'heat' has come off China which is still good – and Russia which can still be good. East Europe is weaker. Overall, Rarities throughout can command their own price levels and real Postal History has good demand.

18 What Should I Do Next?

Discuss your collection with U P A. Contact Andrew or an experienced member of his Team now... 📞

19 Guarantee: I want You to be absolutely Sure So

If You're not sure we'll transport and return your stamps for FREE up to £200 in actual shipping cost at our expense. It sounds generous (and it is), but it's far less than the cost of driving 100+ miles each way and 3 to 6 hours in your home valuing your stamps 😊

20 My Double Cast Iron Guarantee:

We can do a better job valuing your stamps in our office than in your home. If you don't agree I'll pay you an extra £50 for you to pay somebody trusted to open the boxes and put your albums back, in the same place, on the shelf they came from. 😊

21 Act NOW: Contact Andrew

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Andrew McGavin, Philatelic Expert,
Author: Managing Director
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All proved very worthwhile

The international stamp exhibition, London 2022, opened its doors as planned from 19th to 26th February at London's Business Design Centre in Islington. Having been hit by the Coronavirus pandemic, causing a postponement of the originally planned London 2020 exhibition, fate still had the last word. Hurricanes swept across the United Kingdom on the day before opening, disrupting travel into the first weekend.

All the obstacles were overcome, and collectors and dealers from across the world were able to meet in person once again, many for the first time in two years. As **Frank Walton**, Chair of the Organising Committee, commented: 'It all proved very worthwhile, and the vast majority of the dealers were very satisfied.'

It was not only the dealers who were happy; the visitors and exhibitors were delighted with the outcome. The standard of the material on display was extremely high, with exhibits of interest for everyone.

On the Friday evening, at Guildhall, the top awards were presented. Winner of the Grand Prix National (for an outstanding exhibit of Great Britain) was **Howard Hughes** (UK) with *The Maltese Cross*. The Grand Prix International went to **Vittorio Morani** (Italy) with *Tuscany 1836 to UPU: Letter mail in, from and to Tuscany: Routes, rates and charges*. The winner of the World Stamp Championship was **James Peter Gough** (USA) for his display of *UPU and its Impact on Global Postal Services*.

99 UK Competition entries succeeded in gaining the following medals: 20 Large Gold, 26 Gold, 28 Large Vermeil, 15 Vermeil, 6 Large Silver and 2 Silver.

The full list of results can be found by visiting <https://www.london2022.co/exhibits/>

John Davies FRPSL



1. Howard Hughes with Chris Harman
2. Vittorio Morani with Peter Cockburn
3. Bernard Beston (FIP President) and James Peter Gough.
4. The Future competition winners (?) at the Stamp Active stand.



After-show blues

...and how to banish them!

(Islington, late Saturday)

London 2022 was amazing.

After the enforced two-year wait, people came from over seventy countries to display some stunning exhibits, share knowledge and celebrate our great hobby. With residual Covid restriction still affecting travel, just getting to London was a major achievement for some attending. It was also sheer bad luck that storm Eunice chose the hand-in days to shut down chunks of the rail network and make landing a nightmare at some airports. Tales were told of multiple attempts at landing and diversions to places as far afield as Newcastle. Setting up ran late as exhibits failed to arrive (we never heard the end of the rumour about exhibits locked in an Embassy safe with keys flying home in someone's pocket...) but in the end it all came together and people began to relax.

The dealers came too, tempting us all to expand our collections, causing us severe financial pain well before Saturday - but one can't visit a show and buy nothing. Note to self: I must not start another 'side-line' collection.

As one would expect of an International, the exhibits ranged from the merely very good to the truly spectacular, often prompting the question 'How have these items even survived, let alone in such amazingly good condition?'

Exhibiting internationally was a new experience. I'm happy with my result and positive feedback – thank you judges, I'll be back with more frames!

The best bits?

Seeing overseas friends after a long break, seeing nearer friends live instead of on screen, and socialising over good food and wine each evening.

Helping with the logistics of the exhibition – there's so much unseen work involved in making things run smoothly – more new friends.

Attending the President's Dinner in the spectacular Guildhall. More good food and wines (philatelists like that!) and the Post Horn Gallop. Brilliant.

Attending study-group meetings with specialist displays.

Sharing delight in new acquisitions over a cup of tea – resting tired feet.

Just being part of a big, like-minded clan.

So then, what blues?

Sharing after-show drinks with a dealer friend I was amazed when he voiced my feelings exactly: that flat hollowness after everyone dispersed at the end of a great week. Where did the time go? I want to do it all again.

...and there's the cure.

Look forward! Research the new material, write it up, show it. Plan a new exhibit, share your enthusiasm. See you next Stampex? *Daphne McMillan FRPSL*

My First International Stamp Exhibition

I am relatively new to the world of Philately, and before London 2022, I had never been to an international stamp exhibition, not even Stampex. The closest event I had been to before was Midpex or the York stamp fair, but these did not contain exhibitions. As a northerner, travelling to London and having to stay in a hotel was a major inconvenience for me.

In 2021 I was asked if I could help set up a social media presence for London 2022 which led me to joining the Organising Committee. Through the Facebook and Twitter accounts I promoted the exhibition, answered questions from the public and shared press releases and other relevant information.

I was invited to attend the exhibition, and chose to take part from Tuesday to Friday, to report live from the events and to volunteer wherever else I was needed. Since I only travelled down on the Tuesday, I missed the travel havoc caused by storm Eunice and the knock-on effect that it had on the preparation for the opening of the exhibition. I travelled down by train to London and got a tube to Angel station which was a short walk to the Business Design Centre. On first impression the event was much bigger than I was expecting. Since I arrived early, I managed to have a look at some of the exhibitions I was interested in before they were taken down for the changeover. At midday, the exhibition area was closed off and I joined the many volunteers to help take down the first set of exhibits and mount the second set. This was hard work and after seven hours working on my feet, I was exhausted, and we still hadn't finished. I returned early next morning to help finish the mounting before the exhibition re-opened. I think of myself as generally fit and relatively younger than most of the other volunteers, yet I found it hard work, so I have much admiration for all the volunteers that helped.

On Wednesday after the exhibition re-opened, I had some free time to view the displays. There were two displays on Bahawalpur which I was particularly interested in seeing, and they did not disappoint. Some of the material on display was unique so that I would only have been able to view it in person at such exhibitions. I then spent the rest of the day visiting the trade stands and talking to the traders. I picked up a few covers and stamps but there wasn't a lot of material around my collecting interests. I did however discover and join the Revenue Society as they had a lot of Pakistani Revenue stamps, which I hope I can have access to later. Talking to the traders, they did say it was quieter than previous events due to a lot of overseas visitors not attending because of Covid, but they were generally happy with the trade.

The exhibition also provided meeting rooms and tables for specialist societies to get together. I helped organise the meeting of the Pakistan Study Circle on Thursday and it was great to see fellow collectors in person for the first time since Covid. We were even honoured to have FIP President Bernard Beston drop in to show his support.

Shahzad Zia

FRANK WALTON (1955 - 2022)



It is with great sadness that I report the death of Frank Walton on 1st April 2022. He was suffering from stomach cancer. Frank will be sorely missed by many, many people. I send sincere condolences to his family.

So many of us went to London 2022 at the end of February – and it was a very successful event. Frank, as Chairman of the organising committee, had been working on the event for 7 years. He and his team overcame the enormous problems when the event had to be cancelled in 2020 and moved to another date. London 2022 will last as a tribute to Frank.

Frank Walton RDP FRPSL was a specialist in Sierra Leone philately, but had many other philatelic interests far and wide. His philatelic knowledge was immense, and he shared that knowledge with many people. He was a past President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, a former editor of the London Philatelist (2001-2014), a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (2015), an international juror and a prolific author. In 2014 he was awarded the FEPA Medal for Exceptional Study and Research for his six-volume study “The De La Rue Collection”.

Frank was a kind and generous person, willing to share his knowledge with anyone. His enthusiasm inspired many to undertake projects they would never have thought of doing.

On a personal basis, he was a friend and I will miss him. *Steven Harrison*

Bill Shepherd

I regret to inform you of the death on 2nd February of Bill Shepherd, President and a Founder Member of the Hinckley & District Philatelic Society. He was one of the three people who founded the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society in 1864. It came about when Bill, then a member of Stockton on Tees PS, visited Hartlepool to give a display. Several people there were very interested in German philately. Bill became the first secretary and was the driving force behind the organization of the first annual convention “Germania Posta” in Stockton on 5th September 1964.

For his work in promoting Anglo-German cooperation through philately, he was awarded the European Cross in 1990. In 1992, he received an *Urkunde** in Herford, Germany for “promoting better understanding through philately”. In 1999 Bill was awarded a commendation from the German Ambassador “for enhancing mutual understanding between our countries”. In 2007 he was presented with a golden pin marking over 40 years with G&C PS. In the same year he was awarded a silver badge by the *Deutsche Philatelisten-Jugend eV* for his work with young philatelists in Germany.

Peter Thomas

** = Certificate*

Over 100 Years of Service

Frank Dickens and **John Poulson** have, between them, given over 100 years of service to Matlock Philatelic Society. Their society nominated them for ABPS Awards of Merit which will be presented later in the year.

John was a founder member of the Society in 1971. He was appointed treasurer that year and still holds that office.

Frank joined the following year combining the offices of secretary and programme secretary for 18 years before becoming vice-chairman from 1999 to 2019. He still manages to attend meetings and do what he can to support the Society.

Yvonne Wheatley
Chairman ABPS Awards Committee

ABPS updates

The details below are those which could affect your contacting a society or speaker. Pass them on and/or use them as necessary.

Specialist Societies

Indian Ocean Study Circle: from 11th June - new secretary is Julian Luke,
julian.luke@btconnect.com

Local Societies

Aberdeen Philatelic Society: New Secretary is Michael Hart,
pmi.hart4@gmail.com

Croydon Philatelic Society: New venue is Shirley Methodist Church, Eldon Ave, **Croydon** CR0 8SD

Ferdown & West Moors Philatelic and Postcard Club new venue is:
Hamworthy Club, Magna Road, **Canford Magna** (South of Wimborne)
Dorset BH21 3AP → www.philatellyinbournemouth.co.uk or Paul Barry
Mobile 07958 393152

Frinton & District Philatelic Society: We are delighted to welcome the society as new affiliates.

ABPS contact is Mick Carter michael.carter@coppicegreen.com

Lothian Philatelic Group: We are delighted to welcome this amalgamation of two societies.

The contact is William Torrance billtorrance@yahoo.co.uk

North-West Kent PS: We are delighted to welcome a new society:

Contact is John Lee johnrlee5@outlook.com

Petersfield & District PS: new secretary is John Snowden 02392 591413
djsnowden@hotmail.co.uk

Port Talbot PS: New venue is The Twelve Knights Hotel, Margam Road, **Port Talbot** SA13 2DB. Meetings begin at 3pm on alternate Tuesdays (3rd Tuesday June to August). → Neil Prior 01656 740520

London 1950

A chance purchase at London 2022 provides a timely link to a much earlier exhibition, that of 1950. Had London 2020 happened as originally planned, it would have marked the 70th anniversary of the London International Stamp Exhibition, held in the Great Room at Grosvenor House, Park Lane from 6th to 13th May 1950. The Chairman of the exhibition was **Sir John Wilson**, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection.

The item in question is a letter, with cover, dated 27th February 1950, from Sir John to the secretary of the Windsor Philatelic Society. Pre-show stress is taking its toll. He writes:

Dear Sir,

I owe you a very sincere apology for not having replied sooner to your kind invitation to judge the competition of the Windsor Philatelic Society.

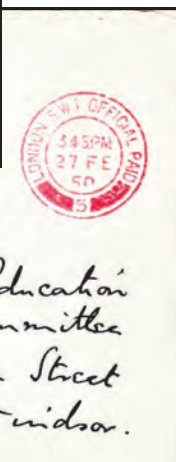
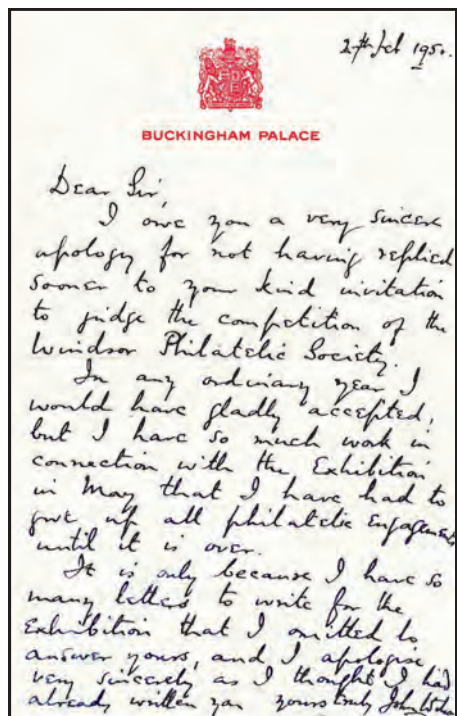
In any ordinary year I would have gladly accepted, but I have so much work in connection with the Exhibition in May that I have had to give up all philatelic engagements until it is over.

It is only because I have so many letters to write for the exhibition that I omitted to answer yours, and I apologise very sincerely as I thought I had already written you. Yours truly John Wilson

I'm sure that some of the organisers of the now much larger and more complex London 2022 could relate to that pressure!

Delving into the Palmares listing for the exhibition, we find some of the eminent collectors of the day, including:

Grand Prix winner: **Herbert C Adams**, who signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1946, was awarded the Tilleard Medal in 1947 and was Vice President of the Royal



W. Lilly Esq
Berkshire Education
Committee
Victoria Street
Windsor.



Philatelic Society (but never became President, dying as a result of a road accident in 1955).

Gold Awards of Honour: **Harry Osborne**, signed the RDP in 1954, and was a Crawford Medal recipient. **Gerald Wellburn**, signed the RDP in 1951.

Lionel E Dawson, awarded the Crawford Medal in 1950, the Tilleard Medal in 1955 and signed the RDP in 1961.

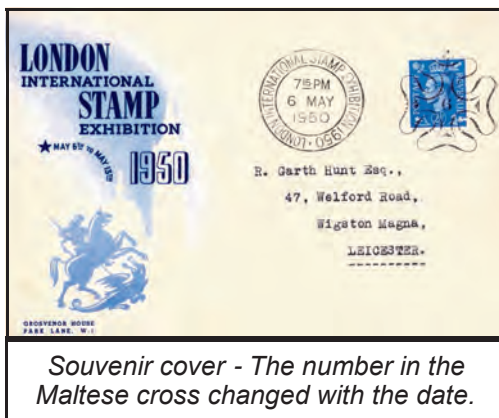
Eduardo Cohen, signed the RDP 1959.

Dr Frances E Wood, awarded the Crawford Medal in 1949.

Donald C Gray OBE, awarded the Tilleard Medal in 1937, Vice President of RPSL. (Sadly, Donald also never became President. He died whilst bringing covers to the Royal for display during the severe weather of January 1962. The RPSL holds his Netherlands and colonies collection.)

Wouldn't it be interesting to view their exhibits 70 years on and compare presentation styles? What would today's judges make of them?

Daphne McMillan FRPSL



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Forces Mail from Cocos Keeling Islands

1945 - 1946

Some years ago with the help of the late **Stuart Henderson** (greatly missed by his many friends) I was able to purchase **Bill Dawson's** collection of Cocos Keeling Islands material. Bill's interest stemmed from his military service when he was with the RAF Airfield Construction Unit building the two airstrips on West Island for the RAF Operations against the Japanese. Three bomber squadrons were moved to the islands to conduct raids against targets in South East Asia and to provide support during the planned re-invasion of Malaya and re-conquest of Singapore. However the first aircraft to arrive were Supermarine Spitfire Mk VIII's of No 136 Squadron RAF.



Mail from the Islands at this time is relatively scarce and the quality of the RAF PO No 301 postmarks is generally

poor/average.

As Bill commented on one of his Display Sheets



"Good clear strikes of this RAF Post are most uncommon –It's not easy working in a tent with makeshift equipment". (1)

One of the scarcest items of mail from the Islands is the RAFPOST South East Asia



Christmas Air Letter, one of which I have in my collection which bears Bill's drawing of the Islands. (2)



The RAF Post Office No 301 operated from the 3rd April 1945 until 31st March 1946 (Garrad dates) when it returned to Ceylon.

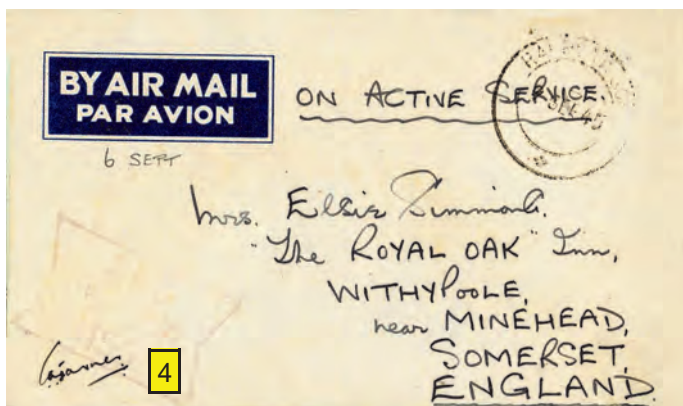
Bill finally returned to Blighty in April 1946 via Ceylon and Bombay with a flight in an RAF Liberator Bomber (his first) then home in a Troopship.

There was also a contingent of Royal Engineers, Indian Artillery and Royal Indian Army Service Corps on the Islands for their defence which used IFPO 46



on their outgoing mail from the 13th April 1945 to the 10th January 1946 and the very rare IFPO 150 from 11th January 1946 to the 4th March 1946 (Proud dates). It is interesting that Brigadier DS Virk in the FPHS 1973 Publication gives May 1945 for opening of IFPO 46 and September 1946 for closing of IFPO 150. (3)

At the time of my purchase of Bill Dawson's collection there was another Cocos mail collection on the market, that being mail from LAC 1 Harold R Simmons, Intelligence 175 Wing RAF Ceylon Air Force who was stationed at the Airbase on West Island in 1945-46. His letters to home were prolific and described the people, nature and history of the Islands and gave a vivid insight into wartime life. (4)



There must be more examples of mail from this theatre of war out there waiting to be discovered.

Keith Lillywhite

Have you had some changes in the last few years?

Please let us know - particularly of change of secretary, treasurer, ABPS contact, meeting arrangements or venue.

Send the information to editor@abps.org.uk or membership@abps.org.uk or secretary@abps.org.uk or all of them.

We will do the rest on the website

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain 2022



This year's Congress is being held at the Jurys Inn Hotel
245 Broad Street, Birmingham (centre of the city)
from Thursday 8th September to Sunday 11th September

The theme of the Congress will be

"Organised Philately" - how our hobby is organised in different ways.

During Congress there will be input from local societies, specialist societies, national societies, international societies, the philatelic trade and international philatelic organisations demonstrating what each type of society or organisation brings to the hobby - and displaying what is collected!

The first Philatelic Congress of Great Britain was held in Manchester in 1909. Barring interruptions due to war and pandemics, they have been held annually ever since. The last visit to Birmingham was 75 years ago.

Congress is the opportunity to meet with fellow collectors for a relaxing few days in pleasant surroundings. The events include discussions, displays and visits, plus the ever-enjoyable Congress Banquet.

The highlight for many is the occasion at which the Congress Medal is presented. It is hoped that the recipients of ABPS Awards of Merit will also be able to attend.

Other organisations, particularly the major stamp auction houses, also often host special events during the Congress.

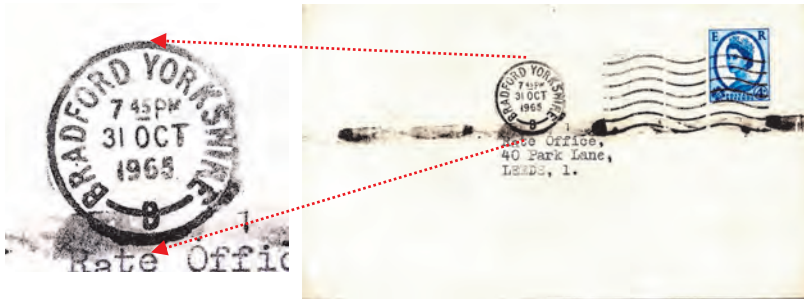
Congress provides an ideal way of enjoying oneself in the company of fellow collectors.

For those with a special interest in the history and the collection of memorabilia connected with the PCGB, there is a Study Group that you can join to find out much more about the events. Follow the "*Philatelic Congress of GB Study Group*" on Facebook.

See the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk/philatelic-congress/ for further details and booking procedures.

Right Place – Right Time

In November 1965, **Bert Clarkson** searched the financial departments of Leeds City Council, where he worked. He searched for an envelope received from Bradford before November 4th. Eventually he found one.



Look carefully at the cancellation; everything seems normal. Why was he looking? Because, on November 4th he found an unusual cancellation.



He then collected envelopes every day for 2 weeks and for some time afterwards. After being “corrected” in November 1965, the “B” re-appeared intermittently over the following three years.

Bert brought the envelopes together, mounted them and told the story of **THE YORKSHIRE “B”** in a 30-page collection. The collection also includes letters from the GPO and a cutting of Bert’s article in The Yorkshire Evening Post in 1966. A scan of Bert’s introduction to the collection is shown below.

B F A D F C R D

Yorkshire

or

Yorkshibe

The Tale of a "B"

The new Die code "B" with the error of spelling in the county name Yorkshibe instead of Yorkshire.

How this has come to be has never been really explained this is the first day seen of the error, leaving some four days between the latest seen October Die and this new one.

4_15pm 4th November

Bert found himself in the "right place at the right time" to put together a fascinating small collection that tells a story. Could that happen today – almost 60 years later? What do you think?

Richard Smith

(PS. – Bert Clarkson was a member of Leeds Philatelic Society at that time. The collection was bought by Richard Wheatley (from another member of the society) in 2011 and Richard donated the collection to LPS in 2019 to join the society's other collections – all have now been scanned and catalogued.

The RPSL received over thirty nominations for the Crawford Medal for books published during the years 2020 and 2021. Below is the short list of eight. The winner will be announced at the end of the Crawford Festival on 29th June 2022.

The books are: **Slovensko 1938-1945 - Miroslav Bachraty**

Analysis of worldwide postal wrappers - John K Courtis

Postal stationery of Denmark - Lars Engelbrecht

The 19th century issues of El Salvador 1867-1900 - Guillermo

F Gallegos and Joseph D Hahn

Ceylon: The Pence Issues - Kurt Kimmel & Patrick Pearson

La storia postale della Toscana 1851-1862 - Mario Mentaschi & Vittorio Morani

Os Correios Portugueses 1853-1900 - Pedro Vaz Pereira

The Inks of De La Rue & Co - Peter Young.

On the Club circuit

A roundup of events and speakers at local and national societies

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

Federations

Hampshire

It is always sad to lose a society. The Hampshire Postal History Society has closed its doors for the final time so the Hampshire Federation now has sixteen active club/society members with over 600 members. In 2021, we organised HAMPEX. 22 dealers attended from around the country and we had 100 people through the door. We did not hold competitions but HAMPEX 2022 (24th September 2022) will be back to 'normal' (If there is such a thing) with our annual competitions. Federation members are very busy in their own ways with meetings, auctions and other activities to keep members informed and in contact with each other. It has been a difficult few months for clubs and societies to get back up and running but they have achieved this and hopefully look forward to a brighter future.

Steve Gerrard

Wessex

The Federation committee met for the first time after Covid in March, when it was agreed that future committee meetings would be by Zoom, although the AGM would remain face-to-face. It was also agreed that the Federation should now take the responsibility of organising a full annual programme of Zoom meetings that can be attended by anyone. This will supplement the number of meetings available to club members, adding more meetings to each club's own programme of physical meetings. It would also mean that the well-received and much-envied Wessex Roadshow can be delivered even more frequently, more widely, and more effectively, enabling a much more cohesive network of philatelic contacts to be established. It was acknowledged that not everyone was "Zoom-capable", but consensus was reached that progress needed to be made now, and couldn't be held back because not everyone had bought into the technology yet. Electronic communication is very much a part of modern life, and, rather than ignore it, it should be embraced and used to best advantage.

Watch this space for publication of a programme, and check the website at the address below. Arrangements for the Federation Fair in conjunction with Taw & Torridge Stamp Club are maturing nicely. It will be held at St John's Community Centre, Barnstaple, EX32 8PG on 2nd October 2022. Details of the event will be available shortly, via the federation website at [index \(wessexpf.org.uk\)](http://index.wessexpf.org.uk)

Dave Cleaver

Local Societies

Aberdeen

We have been active again for much of the season but masked and socially distanced. We were entertained in March by some wonderful early Newfoundland and other Canadian provinces by **Alan**



Blakely of the Caledonian Philatelic Society. At the April AGM, secretary **Chris Jefferies** announced her retirement after six years in post. We wished her well with thanks for her service. **Mike Hart** stepped up to the post as our new secretary. Auctioneer **Mike Longhurst** was awarded the Jupp trophy for his sterling work with our annual auctions which each March have contributed £600 in commissions to club funds. A smaller room auction for members followed the AGM. We have a small 6-frame exhibit scheduled round the Jubilee in June to go on show in the City Central Library. It has stamps, cards and covers depicting Her Majesty, HMS Britannia on tour, Balmoral and other Royal residences.

Alex Walker

Amersham and District

We hold meetings once a fortnight which are always very well attended. At the last meeting in 2021 we held a new Three Sheet Competition in memory of **Derek Chandler**, a long standing member who died suddenly in 2020. A new trophy, The Ruby Trophy, awarded for this competition went to **Jim Drummond** for his winning entry on *Nyasaland, the early stamp designs*. To start the new year, in January the society held a quiz evening, then in February we enjoyed excellent presentations by some of our members: **Jim**

Drummond on *Rhodesia*; **Peter Coe** showing *Chicago Exhibition of 1893*. On 3rd March **Tony Stratford** gave an excellent display on *British Levant* and a fortnight later we welcomed **Philip Cant** who took us on *Titanic*. On 14th April we held our annual competition. The society recently joined the Thames Valley & District Philatelic Federation and is looking forward to joining in their events in the future.

Brian Feakes



Ayrshire

Ian Smith organised our January meeting on the theme of *Ayrshire Railway Heritage*, with a computer-based presentation by **Archibald Thom** of the local Railway Preservation Society, who set the scene with a brief talk on railway history from long before the arrival of steam engines. Then we saw a video display of the functioning of the RPS operation at Dunaskin in the Doone Valley. In February we had two meetings. Our traditional Alphabet Night was based on the President's initial - this time D and C. We finally got round to our President's Display evening. **David Connelly** has family connections to British Honduras aka Belize going back to the 18th century. David took us back to his early years as a schoolboy trying to increase his collection economically, which included family correspondence from British Honduras with the stamps cut off to go in his album. David used the stamps of both British Honduras and Belize to show the economic aspects of the country, its flora and fauna, and fiscal use on documents. Our next meeting was a welcome return to guest speakers, with **Derek Wiltshire** displaying a selection of his outstanding collection of *Zanzibar*. Derek is one of the leading collectors of this African archipelago. His display was wide-ranging from earliest times when Indian stamps were in use right through to modern issues. We were treated to varieties, errors, proofs and vignette proofs, the 1964 issues for the republic, as well as airmails, commercial covers and postcards.

David Rossall

Banbury

We will host a major event for stamp collectors in the Autumn. Banbury's event will feature the Midland Philatelic Federation Autumn Convention and Thames Valley Federation annual competitions and a Stamp & Postcard Fair. It will take place on Sunday 23rd October 2022 at Blessed George Napier School, Springfield Avenue, BANBURY, OX16 9JD from 10.00am to 4.00pm. There will be approximately 20 stamp dealers taking part and refreshments will be available all day for when you are checking your purchases. Ample free parking is available to visitors. There is also a railway station at Banbury on the Chiltern Line (Marylebone – Birmingham) for train travellers. Commenting on plans for the Festival, Chairman **Malcolm Moodie** said "It will be an event not to be missed for all new and experienced philatelists. There will be some displays by some of the leading collectors in the Midlands and Thames Valley. It will be a great opportunity to meet fellow collectors, buy some new items for your collections and learn more about the hobby." ➔ John Davies on davies1890@btinternet.com or 01295 255831.

John Davies

Basildon

In January we held a very varied members' displays evening. **Claude Crowder** showed *Rhodesia and Nyasaland*; **Garry Greene** followed with *Alderney miniature sheets*; **Ian McElwain** brought his *Malta* and **Alf Potter** completed proceedings with *Postcard Oddments*. **Chris Cooksey** gave a fine display of

Southern Rhodesia covering the period from 1937 up to the Queen's coronation. He had a wide variety of material including items from the Waterlow archives, revenue usages, air mails and the royal train being a few of the highlights. In February **Ray How** showed *Anglo-Irish Mail over the Waterford Route* and also took us on



Ray How

a *Postal History Tour of Essex Locations* where he served as a police officer. A fortnight later **John Copeland**

continued from where Ray left off with a fine tour of the county's *early postal history*. In March the scheduled speaker was unable to attend because of illness, so **Charlie Mead** started proceedings with a display of *King George VI Period Official Franked Mail*. He followed on with *Halfpenny Watermarks*. After the break, **Ian McElwain** displayed a very recently purchased collection of *Postal History from Essex Offices*. From "*Fly on the Wall*"



Chris Cooksey

Bookham

Our guest speaker in February was **Brian Sole** who showed *Guernsey – Occupation to the Present* to some 35 members and guests. Brian presented a variety of material from postcards/covers/maxicards/newspapers/stamps and even the change of road signs under the German occupation! The first postage stamps printed for use in Guernsey were issued during the German occupation of the island in WWII. We saw several printings of the first Guernsey stamp issued on 18th February 1941. All

communications to the island were through the Red Cross and several of these interesting items were also displayed. Later, in the 1950s, Guernsey used British regional stamps marked specifically for use in Guernsey but valid for postage throughout the United Kingdom. Guernsey then issued its own stamps with the creation of Guernsey Post on 1st October 1969. The Bailiwick of Guernsey incorporates Alderney, Herm and Sark which all used the Guernsey issues from 1969. From 1983 Guernsey issued Alderney stamps for use on that island but also valid throughout the Bailiwick of Guernsey. On display were some cycle tax discs from Sark. Cycles, including electric cycles, are permitted to be used on Sark roads and are taxed annually, though tractors are the principal motor vehicle on the island. Altogether an interesting and excellent presentation much enjoyed by the membership.

David Bravery



Brian mid-display

Bristol

Global Philatelic Activity in Bristol

Newcomers flocked in for an untelevised episode of Question Time. Well, five to be precise. The global panel consisted of **Phil Shipp**, representing all points east of BPS, **Bev Davies** covering all points west, **Carlton Jones** the north and **Neil Jones** everywhere else. I thought the chair, **Fiona Bruce**, trying to keep order, did look a little like me. With aplomb Bev tackled the unanswerable question about drawing young people into the society. Carlton was on hand to address the reasons why we should become philatelic judges. They all explained why their favourite stamp was the best. If you wanted to know their verdict then you should have been in the studio. This event was followed up by the tremendously enthusiastic **James Hooper**, smiling away in the photo and from the south, as he thrust his tragic yet fascinating *Bohemia and Moravia Era* collection upon us. Although the piano (in the background) was on hand, James elected not to sing or play it on this occasion. All good times. *Ron Gillard*



James and piano - display too

Bromley and Beckenham

In January there were nine entries for the Nugent Cup based on “*The Letter H*”. **Nick Hervey** was judged the winner for his entry entitled *Harvesting Fish, Herrings and Harry Ramsden*. Members’ displays of *King George V* followed in February. The displays were: *Northern and Southern Nigeria and unified Nigeria issues and the 1936 pictorials* (**Peter Newman**); *Turks and Caicos Islands* (**David Milsted**); *Ascension and various Saint Helena issues* (**Ian Reed**); *Straits Settlements, Red Cross and Malaya-Borneo Exhibition overprints* (**Nick Hervey**); *Tristan da Cunha* (**Ron Burn**); “black-border” covers including death notifications and personal correspondence (**Grahame Boutle**); *GV design stamps issued after his death* (**David Rennie**); *Saint Vincent* (**Andrew Harris**); For our competitions there were 17 entries. The winners were **Graeme Ashdown**, **Ron Burn** and **Nick Hervey** (3 including *best overall*). In March **Professor Adrian Thomas** presented his display about *Wilhelm Roentgen*



Nick Hervey, Ron Burn and Grahame Ashdown with their trophies

and X-Rays, including his life history, the benefits of X-Rays in modern medicine and other fields and the various stamps commemorating his life and achievements. He showed a wide range of material including stamps, covers, cards, books, pictures, documents, letters, cigar bands, tickets and page pulls. Other items included vacuum tubes, black board reactions, invisible light, luminosity, 3-D viewer etc. The Secretary advised members Part 3 of the Society's History was now published and he handed out complimentary copies to the members present; printing being subsidised from the bequest of the late **Ian Crane**.
David Rennie

Cambridge

We continue with the format of monthly face-to-face and Zoom meetings. The New Year opened with a members' presentation in Cambridge and as is usual on these evenings a wide range and mixture of interesting material was displayed. In early February **Alan Hall** from Ely visited Cambridge and displayed *Australia Philatelic Exhibitions; 1947 to 1963* which covered a large range of items with several varieties. In March **Graham Wylde** presented a Zoom display entitled *Items from His GB Collection* with a few of his favourite King George V stamps but with his main concentration on Victoria 1d reds and a few of the many varieties. ➔ info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk Peter Morton

Chelmsford and District

Our first 2022 meeting was members presenting on the letters *N and O*. **Paul Green, John Came, Norman Sharpe, Chris Norton, Eric Lienhard, John Rawlins, Tor Torkildson, John Copeland** and **Pat Adams** responded with a wide range of subjects. In February **David Everard** took us to *The Olympics*. David was heavily involved in the 2012 Olympic preparations, physically rather than athletically, so his display covered that as well as the 39 Gold Medal Winners stamps and other material produced. Members were invited to present displays on *Dead Countries*. It made a very entertaining evening as we went to Aden, Hong Kong, Yugoslavia and Zanzibar, courtesy of **John Came, Paul Green, Eric Lienhard, Chris Norton** and **John Rawlins**. **Ray How** visited with *Irish Ship Letter Mail*. He displayed numerous examples of envelopes, some pre-dating postage stamps, primarily for mail between Waterford and Milford Haven for onward journeys to mainland Europe and beyond. The second half of Ray's display included ship mail from other destinations in Ireland to other ports in the UK, as well as railway letters and parcels. He also showed examples of mail on pioneering Asian routes. At short notice **Pat Adams** supplied a true *Miscellany*. **John Copeland** showed *Bell's Photographic Company Limited's History* from their founding in 1903 in North London to their eventual demise. He displayed a wide variety of postcards including village/town scenes, ships, greetings cards, early funnies and scenes from Hobart (Tasmania).

➔ Dave Everard on 01245 465506 or daveeverard@live.com Dave Everard

Croydon

Our first session was a members' meeting. **Brian Asquith** brought a double presentation of *Trieste*, the major port of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and *Alphonse Mucha* from Prague who designed stamps and bank notes in Czechoslovakia in the 20th century. Then **Dave Meaney** showed *Philatelic Congress of Great Britain covers from 1938-1970* from various UK locations. **Richard West** had *Stamps of the Islands of Tristan da Cunha*. Richard had stayed in the islands and experienced the way of life of the inhabitants, whose main source of income was crayfish. Finally **David Milsted** showed *The Siege of Mafeking* during the Boer War from 13th October 1899 to 17th May 1900, a total of 217 days. In February members again showed material. As usual the variety



Andy with his certificate

was great including **Graham Harker** - *The new GB definitive issued 1st February 2022*; **Peter Collier** - *Chris-Patten-signed FDCs of Hong Kong*; **Lorraine Fitzwater** - *Modern Australian Trains stamps*; **Dave Meaney** - *British stamps used in Dublin and Ireland from 1832*; **David Milsted** - *A variety of Commercial Overprints*; **Chris Board** - *Union of South Africa Pictorial Postcards*; **Chris Hitchen** - *Letters from Paris during the French Revolution*. At our final meeting at the United Reformed Church, East Croydon in March **Andy Harris** showed *Aspects of Italy*, including the States, Italian definitives and postage rates. It was a comprehensive display, full of interest.

Graham Harker



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Dundee

R Night had eight members displaying a total of 113 sheets. The topics were varied including 1950s food ration books and a National Identity Card, provoking discussion and nostalgia. A visit from Perth PS brought **Alastair Ferguson**



Michael Bracket, Colin Caskie and Alistair Ferguson

displaying *Prisoner of War Mail from Malta during WWI*, **Michael Bracket** showing *Women's Fashion* including stamps showing the wrong fashion for the period, **Colin Caskie** with covers relating to *The Royal Highland Show* and then *The Social*

Impact of Railways including Wartime. **Ron Goodfellow** gave his fourth display on *Commerce in the Post*. He included a sheet of Pink Stamps (Stir any memories?) and Readers Digest strips of stamps. He finished with *Hotels across the Globe*. Our competition winners were: **Sandy Forbes** (Thematic – *Oak Trees* and National & General – *South Australian Perkins Bacon plates*); **Brian McQueen** (Social – *On Your Bike*) and **Norman Kelso** (Postal History – *Covers from Saskatchewan Post Office*). Our monthly Zoom meetings included *An Evening in Brazil* with **Janet** and **Nick Nelson**. Brazil's philatelic claim to fame is being the second postage stamp-issuing country in the world. Then **Keith Burton** took us on *The 1972 Olympic Torch Run* with covers, photographs and maps. **Michael Ellison** followed with *The Canal Zone of Panama* showing stamps and covers from the start of building in 1904 to the last issue in 1978. An interesting stamp was shown that had a map that was a mirror image of the correct version.
Colin Campbell

Epping Forest & District

During Lockdown our members were sent a monthly newsletter called *Keeping in Touch* produced by the chairman **Keith Lillywhite** and members of the committee. It consisted of members' articles and sheets from their collections, cartoons/jokes and a sprinkling of old philatelic articles. This monthly lifeline helped with the attendances on the resumption of meetings after such a long lay-off. Our first meeting was a *Recent Acquisitions* evening at which eight members showed. This was followed a month later by an interesting evening's display of *Mauritius* by **Eric Hutton**. For the November meeting we had an in-depth display of *GB Revenue Stamps* by **Dennis Noe**, visiting from Banstead. Much of the material was new to many members. A successful Christmas Party with no "Secret Santa" was followed by the first of our two auctions which was



Rod Crump in action

well attended and produced a profit for Club funds. The February meeting was a Postcards & Covers Evening in which **Nick Kkama** (*Romantic WWI Postcards*), **Rod Crump** (*Japanese Forgeries & Postcards*), **Colin Stuart** (*China & Miscellaneous Postcards*), **Phil Stevens** (*Tonga Tin Can Mail*) and the chairman (*WWII Humour & Arctic Material*) gave displays. Finally, coming up-to-date, at the March meeting **Colin Stuart** showed items from his *Norway* collection and the chairman showed *Shipping-related Material* much of which was written up during lockdown. *Keith Lillywhite*

Frinton and District

On the 7th March **Alan Moorcroft** displayed *Stamps and Postal History of The German Occupation of the Channel Islands*. The display included various notices just prior to the German Occupation and one of these, a tourist poster, unbelievably said it was perfectly safe to holiday in the Channel Islands. This was in the Spring of 1940 prior to the Dunkirk Evacuation in June 1940. After Dunkirk came the evacuation of many islanders to the UK and the compulsory evacuation of children to the mainland. The children ended up in homes in the North of England and Glasgow. Alan then displayed a large number of Red Cross letters written by the children to their parents and vice versa. The letters were sent via Switzerland to the Channel Islands and the contents were very poignant. We then saw the various stamps that were printed for Jersey and Guernsey (Arms Design) and later a pictorial set was issued by Jersey. A number of forgeries were also printed. There was the lovely account of a couple who were honeymooning in Guernsey, when the Germans arrived. Subsequently they were both deported to work camps in Europe and on their release went to England but returned to Guernsey where they spent the rest of their lives. Alan gave a superb display of stamps, postal history and memorabilia and was able to speak throughout the course of the 2-hour displays without looking at any notes. We agreed it was a brilliant display. *Mick Carter*

Halifax

The Zoom meetings continue with guests from other societies and countries and our members have attended some other society meetings with welcome exchange of access details between societies allowing these exchanges to happen. **David Wilson** showed *½d stamps 1870-1974*. David explained that after the Education Act 1870 encouraged reading more printed matter was posted, leading to the use of this value. We saw various GB ½d stamps both on and off cover, Victorian postal stationery items, underprinted named users to prevent company fraud, advertising designs, booklets containing ½d stamps, Official uses, the Wilding issues, Machins, changes imposed by Decimalisation and the eventual demise of the ½p. **Max Smith** introduced guest speaker **Jamie Smith** who showed *British Civil Defence - Home and Abroad 1950s 1960s*. We

saw information about the threat of USSR invasion of the UK (post-WWII cold war period), civil defence and emergency services responses to local disasters. The display comprised items of mail, period photographs, historic information from the armed services and similar items from civil services. Military displayed items included mail into and from British BFPO and FPOs, Bahrain and Sharjah, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Gibraltar, Lebanon, Egypt, Malta, Turkey, Transjordan and Trieste. In many cases the postal rates of the items were explained. There were also items from sites around the UK particularly rocket and radar sites on some of the Scottish Islands. Civil displayed items included Prestwick and Stockport air disaster showing salvaged mail and material relating to the Canvey Island floods of 1953.

Adrian Lee

Harrogate

Members and guests were delighted to see **Peter Chadwick's** wonderful collection of *Mulready Caricatures*, many hand-coloured by children at a miserable rate of pay. How cruelly they treated their politicians 150 years ago. Thank goodness we treat them with the respect they deserve today! His introduction drew our attention to the detail in many of these, and he had enlarged the vignettes which made it much easier to read. The A3 lay-out again helped to display the items more clearly and his hand-out was also a very welcome supplement for the audience. The rarity could be assessed by the precise numbers still in existence which was recorded. Everyone was delighted with the final item which was a modern Covid caricature of a Mulready (if that makes sense). **James Podger** visits us most seasons so we were delighted to welcome him back with *Africa and Islands*. His displays have super material and I particularly like the short sentences on each sheet pointing out exactly why the item has been selected and what is of particular interest. We enjoyed a very interesting display titled *Australia Disasters* from **Brian Peace** complete with a host of fabulous stories. Perhaps the best of his anecdotes were the ones about the Australian Bushwhackers who ambushed the mail. His display covered South West Australia from its earliest times and many of his items were unique. He had managed to obtain items from so many disasters as well as ones from the Bushwhackers' robberies!

Bill Tait

Hereford & Mid Wales

Philatelic life has not returned to normal this spring. Our January meeting was held on Zoom as most of our members preferred not to meet in person at the height of the Covid Omicron outbreak. Since we were hosting a visit from Cheltenham PS **Andrew Millington** and **Barry Stagg** were pleased to be able to visit us on Zoom instead of driving to Hereford, and we were joined by many friends from our Zoom meetings last year to enjoy presentations on *Copper Mining* and *Ladies Parachuting*. By February members were sufficiently confident to come out for our annual auction, but due to a fire at our usual venue only two days earlier a new venue had to be located immediately. Thankfully the fire had no casualties and the auction raised £110 for the local hospice. In March, member **Peter Hellberg** presented *Nigeria*, and afterwards two other



John Gledhill with a special item

members showed their latest acquisitions, including recent mail received from Ukraine and Donetsk. In April, visiting speaker **John Gledhill** successfully found his way from Stratford upon Avon to our temporary venue of Breinton Village Hall to show us *GB overprints A-Z*. Whilst being principally a subject of interest to Commonwealth collectors, his enthusiastic explanations of printing, distribution and usage proved educational and entertaining for all present.

Janet Nelson

Huddersfield

The 2021-2022 season continues with meetings being held during the afternoon commencing at 13:30. At the February meeting member **Rod Unwin** introduced

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us to *GB - High value Castles and Machines*. His display contained a number of commercial covers which used High Value Castle and Machin Head definitive stamps. He outlined the uses and rates for Registration and Recording and other Special services of mail requiring high value payment. Rod explained that these types of complete commercial covers were difficult to obtain as they were often the source of used stamps obtained by collectors. He outlined how the Castle stamp design was achieved from photographs taken by Prince Andrew.

Adrian Lee carried on the theme with *GB - Wilding and High Value Machin Definitives*. The display of used postage stamps covered from late 1952 to the demise of the Dorothy Wilding QEII head with examples of changes of watermarks, the use of graphite lines on the back of the stamps and the adding of phosphor band to the front of stamps to assist with increasing the efficiency of sorting mail. He showed examples of the first series of sterling Machin Head stamps, the second series pre-security perforation decimal stamps including high values. He explained the various printing techniques for the stamps with the changes made by Royal Mail to reduce their costs. He also had examples of Express post and the banks' use of High Value Packets. Adrian Lee

Hull Stamp & Postcard Club

Our new year got off to a flying start with January's display *A South Atlantic Miscellany* by **Bill Thorpe**. We were treated to material (including postcards) from St Helena, Tristan and Ascension Island as well as some 1933 Centenary stamps from the Falkland Islands. **Barry Clark's** *Austria* display in February also reflected our club's new name, and was a fine example of how Postal Stationery, Postal History, postcards and maps can be combined to produce a presentation of interest to many different categories of collectors. Because of the indisposition of the proposed speaker, the March meeting was covered by **Robert** and **Daphne McMillan**, showing material recently displayed at London 2022. Respectively they showed *The Postal History of Kingston upon Hull, from 1668 to 1903*, including ship letters, and *The Family, Life and Reign of King George VI*, an Open Philately display including postcards, letters and ephemera. Visitors and potential new members are always welcome. ➔ Robert McMillan, robertfmcmillan@gmail.com or www.hullphilatelicsociety.com

Daphne McMillan

Huntingdonshire

So far this year we have seen displays by our own members which has gone down well and shown what variety our members have. We have welcomed a lady who has joined us - it is a long time since we had a lady member. January's subject was *Indian States Court Fees and Associated Documents* from our own president **John George**. We were shown items from Alwar, Banswara, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Jaipur, Jhalawar and Jhairsapatan, including Revenue and Receipt stamps, blocks of Service and Share Transfer Stamps and a part sheet of imperforate colour trial stamps of Jaipur. We saw some of the 1877 stamp issue for Alwar which were printed in lithography in shades of blue and green. Mail sent from Jhairsapatan to Bombay ended the display. Our meeting in

February was a tribute to one of our members, the late **Bill Gibb** who was to have shown *Leeward Islands*. Members were asked to show philatelic material connected to *Islands*. Their responses included *Barbados, Bahamas and Antigua, Christmas Island, Turks and Caicos Islands, Falkland Islands* including the 1978 issue of Mail boats, first flight covers and RAF Stanley luggage labels, *Japan and Prefecture (Local Issue) stamps, Jersey regional definitive issues, commemorative covers from Iceland, Shetland Isles* and finally *The Isle of Wight* with 1971 Last day of Postal Strike Cover, Post Bus tickets and a Railway stamp of Ryde Pier.

David Birkert

King's Lynn

From January to mid-April members enjoyed Zoom presentations on *Roland Hill, Genius and Benefactor, The Rise of the Flying Boats, British Levant – Victorian Period, Cricket* – focus on early material, and *Cyprus 1878-1960*. **Graham**

Wylde stepped in at short notice to replace the publicised speaker for the first monthly meeting. He gave members a marvellous display on *GB Surface Printed Covers*. This was followed at the end of the month by **Jon Higgins** with *Classic Labuan*.

Members then gave a variety of individual postcard displays - an excellent evening thoroughly enjoyed by all members. **Mike Brindle**

stepped in at short notice to entertain members with his display on *Registered Mail*. Then **Andrew**

Mortlock gave his display on

Queensland – a spectacular amount of clean material which was a pleasure to view. Entries for the competition night exceeded expectations, giving **John Jackson** a huge task, successfully completed, with the winners entered in the Inter-Society competition at St Ives. Three members entertained, starting with **Terry Wagg** who gave a PowerPoint entitled: *The Art of Engraving*. Starting with the various stages of engraving and printing a stamp, Terry introduced Czeslaw Slania, a name synonymous with beautifully engraved stamps from countries around the world. **Pat Jackson** displayed five frames of *Syndicato Condor: the Brazilian Airline from 1927-1942*. A fascinating collection of superb covers were on show. The evening finished with a display by **Dahlia Harrison** on *Tobacco Advertising* – with material from international exhibitions, tobacco companies, smokes for WWI troops, and the anti-smoking agenda.

Dahlia Harrison



Graham Wylde receives his certificate

Kingston & District

In 2022 we have held several meetings although some have had to be cancelled due to limited attendance and clashes with public holidays. In January the meeting was themed on *Cinderella* and *Airmail Philately* when five members

displayed. Postcards displayed on 3rd February were interesting, especially **Ian Amy**'s display of *Picture Postcards circa 1900* of local areas including Surbiton, Claygate, Thames Ditton and surrounding area. At the AGM **Russell Hill** and **Bob Holmes** were elected to the committee and the society competition entries were judged. This resulted in success for **Roger Niven**. We held a successful joint auction with other local societies. The President, **Susan Oliver**, gave her display of the *Faeroe Islands Postal History* on 7th April, which was as good as ever. Our next meeting will be on 5th May when the theme is *Modern Issues from 1990 onward*.

➔ Brian Sole, FRPSL on 01932 220677 or brian.sole@btinternet.com or www.kingstonphilatelicsociety.com
Chris Oliver

Largs

After a short Covid-related break, we resumed our meetings in January with a combined Christmas and Burns evening. The first half was mainly *Christmas* by

Caroline Watt, Ian Smith, Willie King, Martin McBurnie and **David Rossall**.

Then came *Robert Burns* from **Robert Watt, Duncan Turner** and **Ricky Boyd**.

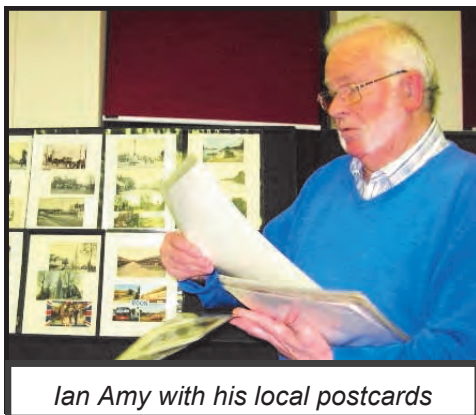
Next we had a break from our normal displays of stamps or postcards, and asked members to display their "alternative collections". This brought

out a wide variety of items including **Bill Clark**'s cards of *Jet Aircraft of the World* and *Art of Football*. **Dennis Gray** had


Pin Badges and **Peter Smith** brought *Tasmanian Apple Box labels* which he

had been involved with as a young boy. Our February meeting was on

Transportation - by sea, rail, air - or any other means, and drew participation from eleven of the eighteen members present. As usual the presentations were wide-ranging, from Swiss alpine



Ian Amy with his local postcards

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railways to transport in Antarctica. Our March meetings were the Competition Night and the club auction. The Competition Night was very successful with a gratifying total of 17 entries for the four trophies. **Ricky Boyd** won both the General and Thematic sections, **David Rossall** took the 3 Sheet competition. The recently introduced Postcard class was won by **Ian Smith's** entry on *Clyde Pleasure Steamers*. The club auction was a very successful evening thanks to Robert Watt and his team. In April **Margaret Morris** brought her Gold Medal-winning display from London 2022 entitled *Astronomical Communication*.

→ davidrossall@sky.com

David Rossall

Leeds

We have got more or less over the pandemic and the programme for late winter – early spring shows it; great thanks to **Colin Marshall** who organised the programme. In January **David Druett** led us with much aplomb through *World Postal stationery covers 1869 to 1960* and **Keith Burton**, your editor and a great friend of LPS, gave his Presidential display of the Yorkshire Philatelic Society. In February **Tony Walker** gave a remarkable display of the postage stamps and postal history, some very scarce, of *Turks and Caicos Islands* now best known for tourism and offshore finance. Later that month we had our competition evening which has developed remarkably since we renewed the competition under Covid lockdown. This time **Roger Dedman** was the winner on the theme *Ireland to India – Delhi 1929*, the story well-told and beautifully illustrated of an air cover sent from Ireland by a dealer from Gosport. In March we had another classical display of 1879/80 *Tenders of GB Surface Postal Stamps* by an expert, **Dr Simon Kelly**. This was an erudite display telling us how designs for the

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competitive introduction of the subsequent issue were made, and also the intrigues that went on between the various designers and printing firms before, as might be expected, De La Rue was triumphant. We held our auction recently. It was a rumbustious affair which helped our funds. It's like praising one's own party but it went very well indeed.

Michael Waugh FRPSL

Lostock

Alan Butterworth spent Covid lockdown creating a talk for us. He felt inspired after we managed to re-open last September. Alan entertained us with a two-part talk about his *New Zealand Collection of Postal Health stamps* involving colour and value changes especially over the war years. Our second speaker was our Chairman **Adrian Jones**. He entertained us with detailed guidance on how to expand the focus of philatelic collections. Then he told the story of his time as a senior police officer in South Africa including about a leopard (he actually brought along the leopard skin). One of his young trainee policemen went absent for several days after a leopard entered the local village, sadly killing the young man's little daughter. Some days later he returned with the skin of the leopard. You can still see the hole of the death blow of the spear. **Harold Howard** who has family in New Zealand took us on *A Journey down State Highway 1 South*. A map was provided to explain the areas covered. He included a special envelope postmark 19th May 1965 encouraging new industries to the town of Huntly. Huntly Post Office had opened in July 1879. Stamps depicted the Northern Royal Albatross, estimated to be around 6500 pairs, and amazing pictures of the spherical Stones on KoeKohe Beach. Finally Harold shared a bottle of New Zealand Split Rock Bay Sauvignon Wine giving each member a generous cup.

David Morley

Maidstone & Mid Kent

Apart from meetings covering *Royalty*, *British Empire Exhibition*, *British Levant*, *Germany - Two Fateful Years 1938/39*, *The Letter H*, *Things I Like* and a visit from Tunbridge Wells Philatelic Society, the main item this quarter must be our 100th Anniversary Dinner held at The Cornwallis Suite, Masonic Centre, Maidstone on the 31st March in the presence of forty-three members and guests. Our special guests were The President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, **Peter Cockburn** and his wife Judy. An enjoyable evening was had by all with fine food, drink, a well-supported raffle and a good speech by Peter Cockburn congratulating the society on attaining such a good age. *Brian Stonestreet*

Oxford

The year started with a session on recent acquisitions of members, which showed our philatelic width and depth, as well as buying power. At the next meeting, I displayed my long-postponed *Postal History of the Nigerian city of Port Harcourt*, starting off with controversial naming of the fresh site after a soon-to-be-discredited British Colonial Secretary, Lewis Harcourt, who lived and is buried just south of Oxford! We discussed many of the wider contexts from the rapidly increasing population to the landing strip for the American space shuttle.

At the end of January, members displayed single frames on the *Environment and Climate Change*, a philatelic topic stretching back many years and illustrated by the air pollution, acid rain, depleted ozone layer, greenhouse gases, and soil and water conservation topics of the late twentieth century. In February, the annual Philatelic Quiz had teams tackle rounds on such diverse and tricky subjects as postcodes of the world and trying to list all the 50+ countries and territories beginning with “M”. At the same time, members’ competition entries were judged by **Malcolm Gascoyne**, and a future meeting will display and discuss the entries in detail. A fascinating evening on *The 1920s* drew displays on the *Malaya-Borneo Exhibition*, *British Levant*, *German inflation*, *Jersey*, *Scandinavia*, *New Zealand* and *Nigeria*. Nearly 300 lots ably auctioned by **Dave Armit** drew a large and friendly competitive audience, with extra funds raised for the society.

Dr Simon Heap

Port Talbot

We have re-convened after a two-year Covid break, but at a new venue and time. We are now meeting at 3pm on alternate Tuesdays at The Twelve Knights Hotel on Margam Road, Port Talbot SA13 2DB. ➔ 01656 740520. *Neil Prior*

Ringwood

Cause, Cure and History of the Plague Pandemics: This top-quality competitive



Chris holding his certificate

presentation was sourced and superbly written-up by **Chris Wheeler** within 10 months!! In **Wendy Buckle**’s vote of thanks, she very accurately voiced the opinion of members present...’a major achievement – immensely impressive’. Chris made significant reference to historical sources, well supported by quality early correspondence and excellent historical detail. Philatelic material included excellent examples of notable stamp issues from GB, France, Switzerland, Russia and China. Superbly researched, it revealed great endeavour and insight. Commencing with a human biological analysis, the study moved on through bacterial invasion, detection and

remedy. A major consideration was given to the study of the history of the

We hope to hear from every society and federation occasionally - no need to send a report each meeting or even quarter. By sending one you might help another society have ideas for their programme.

Remember - it’s a maximum of 250 words per society.

Plague, and its huge and important changes - social, economic, climatic and cultural. Interesting research into the Doomsday Book and the Feudal System and its fall provide just a flavour of content. The Black Death, the 2nd Global pandemic, was also fully considered, as was the work of The Pasteur Institute. This presentation was a truly memorable contribution to our programme.

Paul Barry

Royal Sutton Coldfield

Recently **Peter Barnett** presented *Stamps and Postal History of Yugoslavia between 1918 and 1945*, beginning with Austro-Hungarian stamps, overprinted for use in Bosnia Herzegovina and Croatia. Stamps of the unified country, issued in 1921, depicted King Peter I and Regent Alexander, printed in two currencies, the krone and dinar. These, together with postal covers were shown, including an example of one with Yugoslavian stamps but with a Hungarian registration label. Further elements included commemorative stamps, labels, charity issues and postage dues. In 1923, King Peter was succeeded by



Peter Barnett with part of his display

Alexander and new issues depicted portrait changes. In 1929, the state became Yugoslavia and stamps inscribed "Yugoslavia" were presented with old issues overprinted with the new name. After Alexander's assassination, stamps were shown, re-issued with black borders, followed by a definitive set depicting young King Peter II. We saw stamps and covers of ship mail, TPO and air mails. Covers were franked with a standard postage stamp plus an air mail stamp; from 1934, official airmail stamps were issued, an example showing a full set on cover. A new definitive series of 1939 showed an older Peter II, this the last series issued by the kingdom prior to World War II. Material covering the invasion of Yugoslavia by Germany and its allies in April 1941 was presented, including various occupation stamps. Other material depicted stamps and covers from prisoner of war and forced labour correspondence, the bombing of Nis and Administrative Council issues.

Malcolm Hughes

Rugby

We finished our program of displays on March 21st, with only the AGM and competition evening before we break for the summer. At the end of the season it is time for reflection on a season that could have been a nightmare, but was one to remember for all the right reasons. To the seven visiting speakers, all of whom enlightened and entertained us, on behalf of our members once again,

thank you. Your collections were diverse. The standard was high and a credit to you all. To Hinkley society, thank you for your visit. We look forward to returning the compliment soon. Last but not least we need to mention our own members, who displayed at six of our meetings - sometimes planned, sometimes at short notice. Also thanks to those who filled the unsung roles and made it all happen. Our program secretary tells me that next season is looking promising, September is only six months away!!

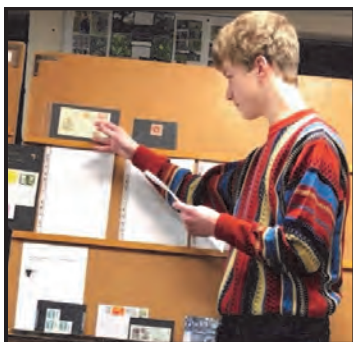
Steve Williams

Salisbury and District

2022 has been a year of celebrations in addition to our normal activities, which recommenced last September with a full programme. First, we celebrated **Jeremy Martin's** 70 years as a member. He joined as a schoolboy of 8 on the 15th of December 1951. In the 1960s the society closed for a short period and Jeremy was a founder member of the new one. Not only has he been a very active member; he has also had a distinguished career in the philatelic world. He is a FRPSL and co-author of several books on West Africa, and on Wiltshire and its postal history. All this without a computer! He was presented by the chairman with Dauwalders' vouchers to match his time as a member. Then he gave us a 90-sheet presentation on two early sets of *The Gambia*.



Jeremy receives his vouchers



Jonty showing his skills

Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Another celebration and certainly a first for us. **Jonty Ives-Mash** received the paperwork necessary for the Skills Section of his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, gained by attending our meetings and discussions with members. We agreed a set of 'goals' for Jonty and an action plan on how to attain the goals. The DofE require three months' involvement with the chosen skill. Jonty joined the society, in fact spent five months with us and completed his skills section by giving our club an excellent and very humorous presentation on his new-found knowledge. Is this an avenue for other clubs to attract young members?

Mike Moody

Solihull

The highlight of our 50th Year Anniversary programme was in March when **Ian Shapiro** presented his display of *GB Royalty*. Ian's 16 frames of stunning material took us through a large quantity of personal correspondence of the monarchs and other royalty from QE I to QE II. Emphasis from the reign of



Queen Victoria was on letters, postcards, telegrams, registered items and parcels addressed by royalty and bearing their signatures, initials or ciphers on the front as appropriate.

Many had special postmarks for the palace or other residence concerned whilst others carried interesting variations of TPO cancellations and the illusive London 'VR' postmark. Each item had its own story illustrating events in the daily lives of the monarch. For example a letter from Princess Elizabeth to her friend telling her what uniform to bring to the next Guide meeting, signed 'Lilibet'. Another from Princess Margaret from Buckingham Palace at the time following her father's death explaining that correspondence to her mother (the late 'Queen') should now be addressed to 'The Queen Mother' to avoid confusion as the whole family was in residence at Buckingham Palace prior to Clarence House being prepared for the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret. Some of the items may be seen on "Collecting Royalty presented by Ian Shapiro, Spink" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQZ8MVRld5s> → www.solihullphilatelicsociety.org.uk or Paul Woodness 01564 776 879

John Barker

Southampton & District

We celebrate our 90th birthday in 2022 and things are looking bright. Hopefully after our April AGM we will be striding forward towards our 100th birthday in 2032. Like all clubs and societies memberships ebb and flow but we are numerous enough to be holding two birthday celebrations (Tuesday evening and our Thursday afternoon). Our program is packed with speakers and our Zoom Meetings are going strong with between 30 and 40 participants. In May our speaker is **Michael Sefi** with *The GB George V definitive Penny* and on the 17th May we hold our birthday party. Our membership stands at 161 which shows we must be doing something right. Our members enjoy two physical meetings a month and one Zoom meeting. Our publication Postmark is the society flagship. Also we have our auctions and our Grand Auction in October, a large library of books and magazines that members can access and borrow and an archive of scanned pdfs recording the society history. Also we have a Southampton Postal History collection from the 1700s to present day. We look forward to the next 10 years and our 100th birthday.

Steve Gerrard

Taw and Torridge

Fifty-one years after its inaugural meeting in May 1971, at the Imperial Hotel, Barnstaple, eighteen members of the club gathered together at the William's Arms Pub, Branton to celebrate another year of stamp collecting, sharing of philatelic interest and the exchange of knowledge. Chairman **Ian Knight** gave a short welcoming speech which also enabled us to remember some dear friends who are, sadly, no longer with us. After a very pleasant dinner members **Jonathan Edmunds** gave a fascinating talk covering the period from *the Early 16th Century concerning the events leading up to Rowland Hill's pamphlet 'Post Office Reform'*, culminating in the launch of the first pre-paid postage stamp in May 1840. We are still blessed with over 50 members including **Ray Shapland** who was our first Chairman back in 1971. Notwithstanding the difficulties of the last couple of years, between a dozen and twenty members meet every two weeks between early September and early June each season. We are provided with an entertaining schedule of presentations from a range of guest speakers. Other activities include mini auctions; competitions and visiting dealers. As an affiliate of the Wessex Federation we are also planning to hold a stamp fair this autumn which will be the first held in the North Devon area for very many years. We hope the fair will help to promote our passion to the wider public, perhaps even resulting in some new members.

Helen Soby

Thatcham

We have held six meetings since New Year, five being the members' meetings with themes *Navy, Postcards, Overprints, Extinct Countries* and *Thematics*. Each time there was an average of eight members willing to show. Of course that means that there was a superb diversity of topics for us to consider and enjoy. In February **Malcolm Hoskins** introduced us to *The Cartoonist Bruce Bairnsfather* who was a soldier in WWI and a fantastic cartoonist - "The soldier



who made the empire laugh" by creating WWI humour at its best. He was born in 1887 in India and died in 1957 at Worcester. He served with the Cheshire and Worcestershire Regiments and saw action in the war and called life in the trenches as "Good, bad, funny and sad". He suffered shellshock in 1915. All the cartoons were posted back to the UK with extensive publication in "Fragments from all the Fronts" and also in "Fragments from France" which was an American magazine. His cartoons were all accompanied by very topical and funny captions. His most famous cartoon was titled "If you knows a better 'ole, go to it!". In the second part Malcolm showed a lovely selection of the *Postcards and Sketches of Trench Life and Tommy's life by Fergus Machain* which included the 'Hi Boys' card and sets of cards 'At

If you knows a better 'ole go to it!

the front` and many more from 1914-18. What a fabulous collection, so informative and all very colourful. Thank you Malcolm. *From Thatcham Postmark*

Torquay and Teignbridge

As we approach the end of the first year of being open again after Covid, it is time to start planning for the next year. The committee's plan is to arrange a full traditional programme of one meeting per month to be held at our usual venue in Kingsteignton (see website). Based on the success of our Zoom programme over the last 18 months or so, we plan to hold monthly Zoom meetings to supplement our physical meeting programme, meaning that there will be a total of 24 meetings a year, catering to the needs of all our members. (We hope to be able to achieve this by linking with the proposed Wessex Federation Zoom programme, thereby killing two birds, so to speak. See the Wessex Federation update for how this will be done.) To join any of our actual meetings, please see the website for programme and contact details. Update programme details will be published on the Home Page of torquayandteignbridgestampclub.org shortly. We plan to continue having a table at the Torquay Stamp Fairs this year. The fairs are organised commercially, rather than by our club, but it's important we continue to support this initiative. Fairs will be at Torquay Boys' Grammar School TQ2 7EL on 10th August and 26th October. Come along and visit us, and see what we do.

Dave Cleaver

Wakefield

On 19th January we held a members' evening with various displays concerning the letter "A" and five days later enjoyed a Zoom meeting when **Richard Hindle** gave a display entitled *The Amundsen-Maud Expedition 1918 – 25*. In February **John Sussex RDP FRPSL** came to our afternoon meeting and gave a display entitled *Modern British Postal History*. Later that month **David Druett** visited us with his *Trinidad* collection. March began with a members' competition night and continued with a visit from **Mike Roberts (Ilkley) FRPSL** who gave a display of *Castles 1955 – 1970* and at the end of March **Daphne McMillan FRPSL** gave us a Zoom display of *Illustrated Airgraphs and King George VI Great Britain Commemorative Stamp Values*. A scan of the Airgraph is shown. This was received for processing on 6th November 1942 and was received in Hull on the morning of the 15th December 1942. It would have been processed in Cairo. **Paul Wregglesworth FRPSL** paid us a visit on 6th April with his display entitled *Two sides of New Zealand*.

Julie Hitchcock



West London

The first meeting in 2022 was a display by the President **Chris Oliver**. He displayed *South African stamps and postal stationery relating to the Silver Jubilee of King George V* and material on *The 1947 Royal Visit* to that country. In the second half, Chris showed some *Postal History of Corfe Castle, Dorset*. This was followed, in February, by a meeting entitled *What I should have done, philatelically, during lockdown* when members displayed part of their collections which they had hoped to write-up during Lockdown and either failed to do so or had completed since. On 5th April our first visiting speaker since 2019, **Huw Williams**, gave an excellent and enthusiastically presented display of *Australian postal history* and *New Zealand postal stationery*, for which he was applauded. → Chris Oliver on 020 8940 9833 or olivers.of_ham@virgin.net

Chris Oliver



Huw Williams with his material

West Riding Stamp Club

Our 2022 season of informal meetings started with January's meeting having two displays - **Brian Hitchcock** with a *Study of the 1/2d Jubilee Issue* and **Adrian Lee** with a display on *The first GB Postage Due Label Designer George Eve*. February meeting was eagerly awaited as hopefully a permanent emergence from Covid lockdowns. It comprised a reverse treasure hunt quiz which saw a close contest for first place, taken by **Brian Hitchcock** with 16 points from a possible 20 achieving a bonus point after a tie placing **Ken Moody** second with 15 points. We welcomed new members and past members not seen for the last two years. March meeting brought a series of members' displays, **Mike Pennington** showing *Alderney Instructional Markings*, **Jonathan Taylor** with *KGV Downey Heads*, **Ken Moody** *Post and Go 2011 to 2019*, **Mike Roberts** *Canada Internal Mail pre-1859* and **Adrian Lee** *Indian Postal Agencies*. We are looking forward to a visit from Cockermouth Stamp Club in July and a WRSC auction in August with **Mike Roberts** as auctioneer. The meetings commence at 11am at Lindley Liberal Club Huddersfield HD3 3EQ, refreshments being available at about 12.20 pm.

Adrian Lee

Your society information?

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

MIDLAND and THAMES VALLEY PHILATELIC FEDERATIONS AUTUMN CONVENTIONS & BANBURY STAMP SOCIETY

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Watch out for STAMP FAIR yellow signs

Specialist Societies

Austrian PS

Northern Group Meeting, Otley, March.

Six members based in the north of England gathered round **Derek Baron's** dining-table on 30th March for a day of displays, lunch and conviviality. **Andrew Brooks** kicked off with a fascinating display of mail from soldiers involved in *The Two Sieges and Capture of Przemyśl in 1914/15*. Moving on a hundred years, **Andy Taylor** showed us a selection of *Austria's personalised stamps (Meine Marke)*. He demonstrated how these had developed from simple stamps to more sophisticated products such as personalised souvenir booklets. **John Pitts** continued with his very comprehensive collection of mail carried by *The World's First International Airmail Service from Vienna to Krakow to Lemberg*, and its extension from Vienna to Budapest. **Keith Brandon** presented *Mail carried by Austrian and Italian steamers on Lake Garda* in the nineteenth century. After an excellent lunch, Derek showed us a scarce example of a postcard mailed at one ariage (postal agency) and delivered by another, near Olomouc, now in the Czech Republic. **Ian Bergl** then treated us to his developing collection of *Austrian Occupied Territories*, followed by *Postal History of Kronstadt (Brasov)* where he has family connections. **Andy Taylor** returned with a comprehensive display of *Mail from Hall in Tirol, near Innsbruck*. **Keith Brandon** described a sadly topical selection of 19th century *Mail to Austria from Mariupol, Odessa and other Ports of the northern Black Sea*. **Derek Baron** wrapped things up with a selection of *WWI Fieldpost and POW cards from Olomouc soldiers*.

David Bravery

Austrian & Czechoslovak Societies

For well-known reasons, the January York Stamp Fair was quieter than usual, with fewer dealers and fewer visitors willing and able to attend. Nevertheless the Austrian and Czechoslovak Philatelic Societies of Great Britain went ahead with their annual joint meeting and, despite the challenges of obtaining a Covid Pass, a surprisingly good number of members from both societies attended to view a wide range of fascinating displays. These ranged from the *Curved Postmarks of Galicia* to *Austrian Trams*, and from *Special Post Offices at Exhibitions in Bohemia and Moravia* to the *Disputed Area of East Silesia*. Other interesting displays included the *Austrian Telephone Service* and *Railway Postcards and TPOs from Bohemia and Moravia*. Both societies hold regular meetings around the country → austrianphilately.com and cpsgb.org.uk

David Bravery

British Thematic Association

International One-Page Competition Winners

Our 2nd Virtual One-Page Competition results were announced at the end of March. The competition attracted 108 entries this year from collectors as far afield as Canada, New Zealand, India and Peru. There were two overall champions: **Wayne Cox** (UK) for *Anthony Trollope - Pillar Box Pioneer!* - the

best exhibit by a BTA member and winner of the Thematic (Technology) class. Canadian **Yme Woensdragt** was the other overall champion (best exhibit by a non-BTA member) for *Down the Liberty Rabbit Hole*, which won the Thematic (Culture) class. Other class winners were **Tushar Desphande** (India) *The Unending Saga of the Exploitation of Elephants* (Thematic, Nature); **Mark Humfrey** (UK) *William Dampier: British Explorer and Scientific Observer* (Thematic, Culture); **Kannappan Shanmugam** (India) *MK Gandhi stamp varieties* (Topical) and **Alasdair Watson** (New Zealand) *The Blue Whale* (Open). The Youth class winners, who were all Indian, were **Vivan Deshpande** *Red Panda – The Vanishing Firefox*; **Vivaan Singh** *Scoring a Football Goal* and **Bahrataraj Srinivas** *Harmony and Peace for Humanity*. All eleven Youth class exhibitors were given a subscription to Themescene. Look at the work of these global collectors at www.britishthematic.org.uk Andrew Millington

Channel Islands Specialists' Society

Our members' displays in London commenced with **Alan Moorcroft** showing items relating to the *Liberation of the Channel Islands on 9th May 1945*, *POW Camp No 802 on Jersey and POW Camp No 801 on Guernsey*. **Alan Whittaker** detailed his continuing work on the *Lisbon-based British Red Cross Society*, showing examples of cachets used and personnel stories, thanks to information from Red Cross Headquarters in Geneva. **Roger Harris** opened with *German propaganda photographs* – that were original wire photos – which reached America in 1940-1941 before it joined the war. He also showed an example of a rare Radio Message reply card. **David Winnie** showed a range of *Jersey and Guernsey PAID marks* used on mail, when there were stamp shortages, during the German Occupation and for a brief period after the Occupation. **Gerald Marriner** and **Nick Stuart** showed their competition entries entitled *Jersey Surcharge Mail and Letter Forwarding Agents to and from the Channel Islands* respectively. Finally, **Richard Flemming** showed an item of civilian mail that passed through the German Feldpost system. A 1941 registered letter sent from Paris to Jersey which routed via Cologne, the US, London, Lisbon and back to Paris: there it entered the German Feldpost system, receiving the rare Jersey FELDPOST/a/405 registered mail handstamp for 04.10.41, a journey of almost five months. We



have recruited our first Junior member for many years. He is

Hayden Moorcroft, the grandson of **Alan Moorcroft**, a long-standing member and past President of the Royal. Steve Wells



Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group

In mid-March over thirty people including some from Europe gathered near Swindon for the Study Group weekend, once again ably arranged by **Morva White**. As always, our very knowledgeable members entertained with interesting and often scarce material. **John Shaw** showed a comprehensive display of *Material from Five Reigns*, some of which has featured in his series of articles in The Upland Goose. **Roger Mazillius** gave a detailed display of *Falkland Islands stamps from 1953 onwards*, regarded by some as 'modern' but a starting date as remote from today as Queen Victoria was to people collecting in 1970. A study session led by **Stefan Heijtz** allowed people to compare material with his reference collection, verifying shades and printings. **Kim Stuckey** and **Wilf**

Vevers showed material relating to the 40th

anniversary of the Falklands War, following up with another joint display including registered, maritime, mis-sent and re-directed mail. Subjects shown in the members' sessions included *Damaged Mail*, *Sea Creatures*, *Printing Errors*, *Aircraft*,



Wilf Vevers showing a cover mis-sent from Tonsberg, Norway, to Port Stanley in Canada instead of the Falklands.

Registered Mail, *FIGAS Labels*, *Re-directed Mail*, *Items which Missed the Boat*, and *the Whale and Penguin set*. **James Grist** discussed being in the right place at the right time and introduced us to the Gentleman's Magazine whilst transforming into Che Guevara. **Bill Tilbury** gave a stirring account of the *Historic Re-discovery of HMS Endurance*, parts of which appear amazingly well-preserved. → www.fipsq.org.uk
Daphne McMillan

Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society

We are welcoming all collectors of German philately to the society who wish to benefit from membership, including the society's journal 'Germania' (the current issue includes articles on German-occupied Poland, Germania inflation booklets, and naval Zeppelin L-34), an Exchange Packet, lending library and publications. Also G&CPS is pleased to report that most of the regional groups have now restarted their programmes following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. However, these restrictions have also allowed us to expand the use of Zoom,

Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to communicate our message to a wider audience. Zoom meetings are now held on a regular basis with updates posted on the Members' Message Board), the Twitter account now has over 525 followers, and the new Facebook group enjoys a membership of over 180, with participants actively exchanging their knowledge. Both of these social media accounts can be found by searching for 'Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society'. We welcome all to join and participate. After much disruption over the past two years we are pleased that our AGM will be held in Newport from 30th September to 2nd October. We are looking forward to greeting old friends and new members at a gala dinner, as well as displays and a members-only bourse. Further details can be obtained via the society's website. → www.germanphilately.org

Carl Buck

Gibraltar Study Circle

We enjoyed another successful weekend at the Red Lion Hotel in Basingstoke at the end of March. Due to the competition having had to be cancelled at Northallerton in September 2021 this latest weekend was again a combined competition and AGM weekend. After the viewing of the competition entries, judge **Colin Mount FRPSL MBSAP** gave very detailed critique pointing out where entrants could make improvements to their various exhibits. The Saturday afternoon displays were given by **Bert Burton** with *Maritime Mail* and **Eric Holmes** with *Gibraltar Silk Postcards*. At the AGM **Paul Mercer** was elected Chairman, **Stan Lawrence** Vice-Chairman, **Barry Crick** Treasurer. All other officers were re-elected en bloc. In the evening members and partners were welcomed into the Wellington Suite for the presentation of the awards by the Chairman and to enjoy a complimentary drink. Winners were: Premier, Miscellaneous, Adhesives, Postal History GB Used in Gibraltar classes - **Eric Holmes**; Open class - **Colin Searle**; Novice class and Philatelic Trophy - **Michael Celecia**. It was pleasing that Michael was a winner as he is one of our Gibraltar-based members who had submitted a postal entry and is only the second overseas member to have been awarded a winning entry. He was awarded the Philatelic Trophy for the best article submitted with a very detailed article on the *1982 Aircraft definitive 4p Vickers Viscount varieties*. Our next



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meeting will be held again at the Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke from 23rd to 25th September.

Bert Burton

Malaya Study Group

Our January meeting was on *Negri Sembilan* with members giving displays. **Michael Waugh** started with a comprehensive one of *Sungei Ujong and Negri Sembilan* from the Tiger head issue of 1895 with the gap till 1935 when definitive issues were again produced. **Dominic Morris** followed with *Negri Survey Department* essays and *6c no stop issues in scarlet and grey and various blocks of 1c Japanese Occupation issues*. This theme was expanded by **Susan McEwen** with a display of *Japanese Occupation postmarks and cancellations* and two postcards from Fuji-Go, the disastrous farm colony failure. **Peter Cockburn** brought *BMA covers used in Negri Sembilan*. **Andrew Norris** showed *Seremban Registration labels and Sungei Ujong overprints with misprints*. **Martin Roper** showed *specimen and shades of early Negri Sembilan*. **Nick Hervey** brought all the classics but ventured into a remarkable display of *1986 Agricultural Products issue*. In February we enjoyed a Zoom meeting given by **Lin Yangchen** from Singapore on *Fantasies and Forgeries of the Universal Coconut Duty Plate*. He started with the use of coconuts in design from former territories of the British Empire. He followed with genuine compared with forgeries of the Okugawa and Itchiburi chops, and later proceeding to forgeries of KGVI \$5 and BMA stamps. The coconut motive was also seen on Malayan Student Savings scheme card and on some stamps of Singapore.

Michael Waugh FRPSL

National

We have held successful virtual meetings this year, which included an erudite presentation by **Brian Livingstone FRPSL** of the *1937 King George VI Coronation Omnibus issue*, which was produced rather hastily, when George VI replaced Edward VIII. He pointed out the “neck badge” error and included some original research. There were also two shorter presentations by **David Sigee** of *Oxford College issues*, and **John Biddlecombe** of *New Zealand International exhibitions*. In February **Tony Wilson** showed *The Usage of GB Postage Due stamps* and how the amount due was calculated. He included incoming stamps of Southern Rhodesia, regarded as invalid after UDI, underpaid Datapost items, and the use of multiple high denominations for customs and VAT collection. Another presentation was *Fanning Island* from **Keith Johnson**, including some Christmas Island locals. At the first London physical meeting in March **Michael L Goodman FRPSL** brought a display of mainly *19th century USA*, including Revenues, Newspaper Stamps (mainly facsimiles), and redirected and underpaid international USA mail. There was also an auction conducted by **John Casanova**. Postal auctions have resumed with a 600-lot catalogue enclosed



Michael Goodman

with the April issue of Stamp Lover. We plan to alternate virtual with London meetings for the remainder of the season with bring and buy auctions at each London meeting. We also run thriving exchange packets of mainly GB and Commonwealth material. We hope to be at the York Racecourse Stamp and Coin Fair in July to attract new members. → Peter Mellor 01582 762284

npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk

Michael Goodman

Pakistan Study Circle



London 2022 provided our international society with an opportunity to meet up after the long hibernation due to Covid. Consequently a room was booked at the Business Design Centre during the stamp exhibition and a lively two-hour meeting ensued on Thursday 24th February. Members gave displays to a worldwide gathering including such luminaries as the Pakistan Commissioner (**Mohammad Aslam Zahid**), FIP Jury Honorary President (**Bernie Beston**) and several medal winning exhibitors. In addition Gibbons Stamp Monthly editor **Dean Shepherd** kindly agreed to address the audience about his role and what the future might hold for philatelists. Although we are a relatively small society it was encouraging to see such wide interest in our activities after being formed only 20 years ago. In that time we have come from producing simple photocopied newsletters to a bulging full colour journal which is distributed globally. We also embarked on holding Zoom meetings during lockdown and have our fingers crossed that we will be able to resume our regular meetings again this year at our usual Midlands venue. Covid may be with us for a long time yet but philately will not be held back.

George Rab

Royal

President Peter Cockburn displayed *Foreign Bill and Telegraph Stamps of Ceylon*. The material is scarce unused but equally rare used with often just a single example known. Foreign Bills were often sent in twos or threes

despatched overseas by different mails and ships, on the basis that at least one would be delivered. Consequently the stamps were produced in strips of three, inscribed respectively 'Third of Exchange', 'Second of Exchange' and 'First of Exchange'. At the end of January **Jon Aitchison** showed *Unusual Aspects of Channel Islands' Philately*. Far-ranging in its appeal, he covered such diverse



Maggie Thompson, Peter Cockburn, Mike Jackson and Henry Ong by the displays

areas as money paid to spies in the 18th century, Ballon Monté to and from the Channel Islands, mail carried by rail and air, revenues and perfins. In February **Mike Jackson, Henry Ong and Maggie Thompson** celebrated *The Centenary of Meter Marks* with displays of various meter markings from Great Britain, Malaya and The Saar region of Germany 1926-88. Meter marks were seen as the death of the stamp. Over 300 came to the Royal to see the displays from 40 of the society's overseas

members, representing eighteen different countries. The displays warranted the record number of viewers. *The Complex Question of Colour* was the subject for the April display by **Peter Young**. It started as an article for The London Philatelist but developed to be a book *The Inks of De La Rue* and then to be given as the Sir Daniel Cooper Lecture.

South African Collectors' Society

In June we hope to have our first social weekend meeting since 2019. Zoom meetings are still taking place. Some of our members will be displaying as part of Stampex, themed on Africa. Additional exhibitors, competitive or not, will be very welcome. → www.southafricancollector.com or Chris Oliver on olivers.of_ham@virgin.net or tel 020 8940 9833.

Chris Oliver

Sudan Study Group

After a long break due to our old "friend" Covid we managed to hold our conference at The Morley-Hayes Golf and Country Club near Derby. The facilities are great and make for a very comfortable philatelic weekend. We again combined with the Egypt Study Circle which has the advantage of doubling the number of attendees, so making for a vibrant atmosphere, especially as we share a common philatelic heritage. We had visitors from Egypt, Denmark and the USA. It was non-stop from the word go – meetings first: Committee Meeting and AGM, followed by a series of presentations covering the many aspects of Egyptian and Sudanese philately. On the first evening we held the annual Norton Collier Trophy Competition, which this year was won by **Mahmoud Ramadan** with his entry entitled *Egyptian Territorial Africa*. Many of the sessions went out



via Zoom to members in other parts of the world (over 40% of the SSG membership resides outside the UK). As this was the first time we'd attempted this, a number of useful lessons were learned. After the Conference dinner on the Saturday we were entertained by **Dr Jacke Phillips** with an illustrated talk about early post in the Sudan *How the Mail got*

through. We finished with our usual Auction and bourse, both very successful. Over 90% of the auction items were sold to participants in the room or postal bidders. We think we're all looking forward to next year already!

Andy Neal & Malcolm Coe

The West Africa Study Circle and King George Sixth Collectors' Society

We held a most enjoyable joint meeting at RPSL on 5th March. Keynote displays were given by **Brian Livingstone** (*Origin and Development of KGV Head Designs*) and **Barbara Priddy** (*West African Airmails, 1945-52*). Other contributions came from **John Powell** (*Gold Coast 1st KGV definitives*), **Ray Harris** (*Nigerian aerogrammes*), **Rod Vousden** (*Tristan da Cunha*), **Brian Pugsley** (*Ascension varieties*), **Tony Plumbe** (*Nigerian KGV stamps*), **John Spencer** (*Ascension*), **John Hossack** (*Sierra Leone TPOs*), **Barry Cook** (*British PO's in Morocco*), **Gerald Marriner** (*Channel Islands*), **Barry Burns** (*St Helena*), **John Mills** (*Gold Coast Spitfire Fund labels*), **Roger Harrison** (*KGV A-Z extracts*), **Rob May** (*Nigeria KGV definitives*) and **Philip Quirk** (*Late use of KGV stamps in Ghana*).

Philip Quirk

Calling All Collectors of Africa Philately

Stampex in September/October has Africa as its theme.

There are still frames available for you to enter your material for a display or as a competitive exhibit.

There is nothing worse than empty frames or spaces.

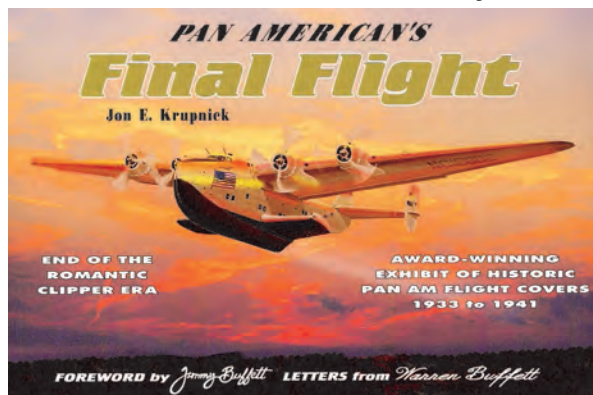
Enter using the form on exhibitions.abps.org.uk/users/sign_in

For more information please contact Nick Martin

on exhibiting@abps.org.uk

PAN AMERICAN'S FINAL FLIGHT, by Jon E Krupnick

Reviewed by Ken Sanford



Soft cover, spiral bound, 117 pages. Available in 2 sizes, 11 x 17 inch – US\$125.00 plus \$8.00 shipping with the USA, and 7 ¼ x 11 inch – US\$75.00 plus \$8.00 shipping within the USA. Shipping will be higher to non-US countries.

Published by Minuteman Press Toledo, Maumee, Ohio, USA, 2021. Available at: <https://www.ebay.com> under Books.

This book shows Jon Krupnick's award-winning exhibit of historic Pan Am flight covers – 1933 to 1941. There are introductions by Jimmy Buffet and Warren Buffet. Chapter 1: Pan Am Clippers Conquer the Pacific, shows the aircraft used by Pan Am for development of its airmail routes from August 1933 to December 1941 as well as a route map. Many rare survey flight covers are shown, including a unique cover addressed to President Franklin Roosevelt from the 1st survey flight from San Francisco to Honolulu in April 1935. This is followed by survey flight covers to Midway Island, Wake Island, Guam & Manila, the 1st press flight and then the 1st passenger flight in October 1936.

The next section shows rare covers from the first survey flight to Kingman Reef and Auckland, New Zealand as well as covers flown on the extension flight to Macau and Hong Kong, and the highest franking recorded on covers to China. Covers are shown from the 2nd and 3rd South Pacific survey flights and covers intended for the ill-fated survey flight from Pago Pago, American Samoa in which Edwin Musick was killed. Many different covers are shown from both routes – FAM-14 & FAM-19 through to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7th December, 1941.

There are covers shown which were carried between Asia and the UK and the USA on the "Horseshoe Route" after the 2nd World War closed the Mediterranean air routes. Many covers are shown from FAM-19, the South Pacific route from July 1940 to December 1941, as well as many covers carried on the FAM-14 route through December 1941.

The final chapter shows Whipple S Hall flight covers from the 1st to the 29th flight. Mr Hall, who had a paper and stationery business in Manila, created a series of unique covers that included crew signatures and flight details found nowhere else. This is the first time many of these covers have been shown in print. The book ends with a bibliography and an index. The book shows this fantastic collection in color and will be essential to collectors of Pan American World Airways covers.

The History of Airmail in Poland and Its Contribution to Airmail Services of Europe (1914-1939), by Dr Jerzy W Kupiec-Weglinski

Review by Ken Sanford



Published by the Collectors Club of Chicago, 2021. This English edition is accompanied by Synopsis and Table of Contents in Polish and German.

The monograph, prefaced by Oxford-based Nobel Prize nominated historian Norman Davies, focuses on the development and operations of airmail services on the Polish territories throughout 25 years of turbulent European history during the 20th

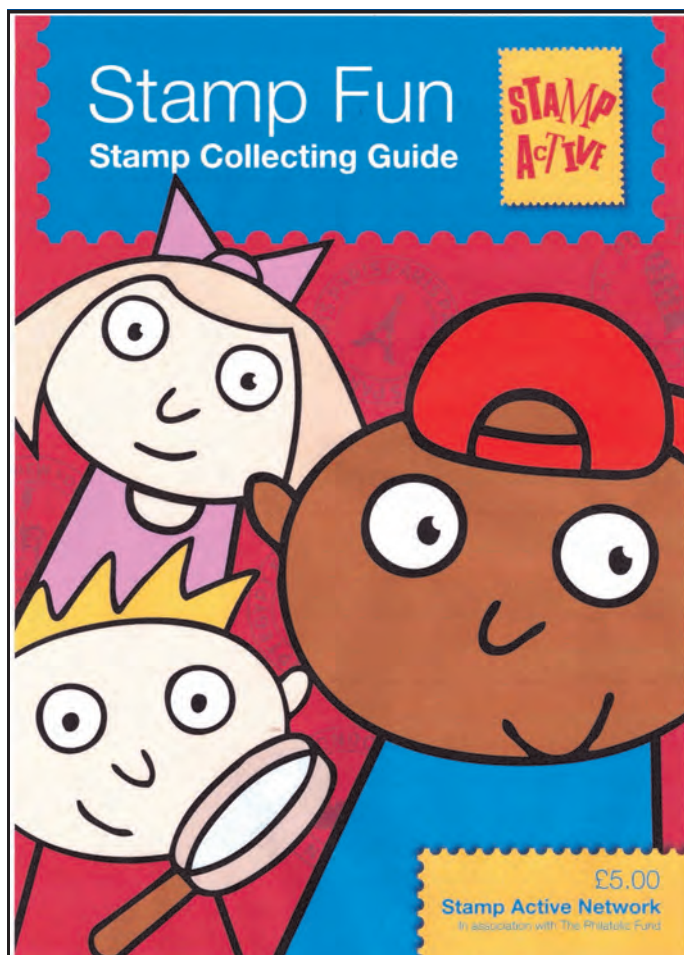
century. It begins with events originating in WWI in a remote area of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire's Galicia Province. It concludes with the German invasion of Poland in September 1939 and the outbreak of WWII. It is an in-depth encyclopedic history of the development of air post services not only in Poland but also in all of Europe and beyond.

The substantive material is presented in twelve chapters. The first chapter highlights the 1914-1915 airmail effort by Austrian Army from the city of Przemyśl, besieged by Russian forces. The following chapter includes comprehensive descriptions and illustrations of the airmail postal route in 1918 from Vienna to Kyiv via Krakow and Lviv. Further chapters detail the development of domestic airmail operations, as well as joint services by Polish and foreign carriers to other countries and continents, air rallies, crash (interrupted) mail, and the Zeppelin mail from mainland Poland and the Free City of Danzig to the Americas. There are many tables and appendices which provide useful information about cancellations, cachets, miscellaneous postal marking, quantities of airmail carried between various cities, airmail labels used on the covers, a survey of Graf Zeppelin dispatches from Poland to South America, and much more.

The book is well researched and contains a wealth of information about early Polish & European airmail and will be essential for aerophilatelists interested in that area of aerophilately.

The handbook is hardbound in an 8½"x11" format (21.5 x 28 cm) and includes 385 pages containing over 700 color illustrations. The book is available in Europe for €65 plus s/h, with PayPal accepted for payment, to:

jkupiec@mednet.ucla.edu It is available for \$70.50 plus the following postage: \$8.00 within the USA, Europe \$15.00 (shipping from Poland) & to Canada \$28.50 priority mail. Inquire about shipping cost to other countries. See the Collector's Club of Chicago website for details. collectorsclubchicago.org/product/the-history-of-airmail-in-poland/.



Let's get
**STAMP
Active**

Stamp Active launched a new "STAMP COLLECTING GUIDE" at the London 2022 International Stamp Exhibition. The Guide has been partly sponsored by the Philatelic Fund and the Spear Charitable Trust.

It contains a range of information including how to get started, various aspects of collecting, mounting and writing up a collection, understanding philatelic terms and much more.

The new Guide was given to youngsters free of charge. Adults can purchase a copy for £5 (Post Free) from Stamp Active Network, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury OX16 9LB.

The Stamp Active Network is a voluntary group that promotes stamp collecting for children. Amongst its other initiatives, it runs a free postal club for children, KIDSTAMPS, the national youth stamp competitions, the Youth Zone at Stampex and has published a range of free activity books for youngsters.

For more information, go to www.stampactive.co.uk

John Davies FRPSL

Diary

Local and regional events by ABPS members

2022

June

- 11 SWINPEX 2022: St. Joseph's Academy, Ocotal Way, **Swindon** SN3 3LR

July

- 9 YPA 2022 Convention and Fair: 10 - 4.30, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, 154 Northgate, **Wakefield** WF1 3QX → williamsmithrunehouse@gmail.com or 01226 385874
- 9 Telford Stamp, Card & Coin Fair: 10 - 2, Belmont Hall, Wellington, **Telford** TF1 1HJ → Richard Camp, 01952 405458
- 20 Grimsby Club Auction: → Chris Dodsworth 01652 654928

August

- 6 Newquex Stamp Fair, 10 - 4, Trevisker St Eval Community Centre, Orion Drive, **St. Eval, Near Wadebridge** PL27 7TU → 01288 355918

September

- 24 HAMPEX 2022: 10 - 4, Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, **Fareham** PO17 5AL → www.hantsfederation.org.uk/hpfhpx.htm

October

- 2 Wessex Federation and Taw & Torridge Stamp Fair: St John's Community Centre, **Barnstaple**, EX32 8PG
- 8 Telford Stamp, Card & Coin Fair: 10 - 2, Belmont Hall, Wellington, **Telford** TF1 1HJ → Richard Camp, 01952 405458
- 22 Yeovil & District Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, Digby Memorial Hall, Digby Road, **Sherborne**, Dorset DT9 3NL → 01460 74422
- 23 Festival of Stamps: 10 - 4, Blessed George Napier School, Springfield Avenue, **Banbury** OX16 9JD → davies1890@btinternet.com 01295 255831

November

- 5 Taunton Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, St James Church Hall, St James Street, **Taunton** TA1 1JS → 01823 666371
- 19 Maidstone & Mid Kent PS - 100th Anniversary Stamp Fair: 10 - 3, Aylesford Community Centre, **Aylesford**, Kent ME20 7AU
→ Brian Stonestreet 01622 675784

December

- 7 Grimsby Charity Auction: → Dave McMann 01472 887523

National Exhibitions 2022-23

- Stampex, BDC 52 Upper Street, Islington, **London** N1 0QH 28th September – 1st October 2022 Theme – Africa Competitive exhibition Entry deadline: 31st July 2022

- York Stamp Fair York Racecourse July 2023 Competitive Exhibition - Norwegian Federation judges have been invited. Entry deadline: tba
- Stampex, BDC 52 Upper Street, Islington, **London** N1 0QH 27th – 30th September 2023 Theme tbc Competitive exhibition Entry deadline: 31st July 2023

International Exhibitions 2022-2023

- **CAPEX 2022:** Toronto, Canada 9th – 12th June 2022 World One Frame Stamp Championship UK Commissioner: Simon Moorcroft (simon.moorcroft@btinternet.com) Information is at: www.capex2022.org Entry deadline: Closed to new entries
- **SAVPEX 2022: South Africa** 30th June 2022 Virtual one-frame show Information is at www.stampssa.africa Entry deadline: Closed
- **INDONESIA 2022:** Jakarta 4th - 9th August 2022 FIP World Stamp Exhibition and FIP Congress UK Commissioner: none appointed, contact Jon Aitchison
- **LIBEREC 2022:** Liberec, Czech Republic 13th – 16th October 2022 FEPA patronage with FIP recognition UK Commissioner: Steve Harrison (sharrison500@btinternet.com) Classes invited include Traditional, Postal History, Thematic and Picture Postcard Information is at www.liberec2022.eu Entry deadline: Closed
- **SOUTH AFRICA 2022:** Cape Town, South Africa 8th – 12th November 2022 FIP patronage UK Commissioner: Jon Aitchison (britishlocals@aol.com) Further information on classes, dates and IREX is at www.capetown2021.org Entry deadline: 15th May 2022
- **IBRA2023:** Essen, Germany 25th – 28th May 2023 FIP specialised international exhibition with FEPA recognition UK Commissioner: Graham Winters (j.g.winters@hotmail.co.uk) Classes invited include Traditional, Postal History, Thematic and Picture Postcard. Further information at www.ibra2021.de Entry deadline: 8th October 2022

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

Further information can be found on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk on the "Exhibiting" tab.

Simon Richards, Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee
Simon@sidebell.co.uk

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Membership (if not emailed):

ABPS Membership, 1 Naunton Way, Cheltenham GL53 7BQ

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 21 The Bridle, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4TH

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

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

GROSVENOR

Wednesday 15 June 2022



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June 2022: Worldwide Stamps & Postal History Auction

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July 2022

The David Brown Collection of Great Britain Stamps & Covers



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