

Scotland Celebrating and Remembering



See p.3



See p.15

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





Create a piece of philatelic history



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



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

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



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

Is my collection suitable for an individual sale?

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

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

Who will promote the auction?

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When do I need to contact you?

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

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ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

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

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Volume 21, Number 2, Summer 2014(whole number 82)

Editor: Keith S Burton

(ISSN 1353 6869)

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Celebrating 90th Anniversary of Gleneagles
Remembering the Scottish Regiments of the BEF in 1914
Postcard produced in memory of Ian MacPherson*

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

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

Copy dates: please send your material as soon as ready; at present the copy deadlines are 31 December, 31 March, 31 July, 14 October. We cannot guarantee to include items in specific editions. Items may be edited for publication. Email copy is preferred (unformatted).

Send copy to the editor: Keith S Burton (see p.54)

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

Collectively Speaking

A view from the Chair



Firstly, I need to apologise for my statement in the last edition where I stated that I would enclose a form to be returned. This was sent out with your affiliation renewal fees

instead. I thank all who have sent theirs back. There is a copy on the website in case of loss. John Walden will follow up those yet to be returned. He needs the information for the next directory – the sooner the better. Also if you wish to be on the Speakers' List please notify John Walden (see p.54) as soon as possible. We extend to John our best wishes for his marriage to Alison in April this year.

It is always sad to receive notifications of deaths. There have been three recently: George Barker, an RDP and an editor for the London Philatelist and many other publications, Geoff Longbottom, who served on the ABPS Executive for a number of years and was responsible for the Directory and Speakers' Lists, and Ian MacPherson, a well-respected member of the Scottish philatelic community and the Federation representative for many years up to 2013. They were close philatelic friends and will be missed. Condolences have gone to their respective families.

In addition to the RDP ceremony at Ypres the congress committee have

arranged a shorter UK congress this year at Market Harborough (see p.6). It will include an EGM to assist in determining the future of the ABPS. The EGM will focus on the proposed constitution. All society and federation secretaries should have received a copy. I am willing to discuss the proposals with anybody prior to the EGM if required. Since the original constitution was written Company Law has changed, incorporated into the proposed document. When I took over as Chairman I recognised that ABPS needed updating. Colin Hoffman and I have produced a document which we expect will provide us all with opportunities. One area that I am looking to develop is the role of the federation. The Midlands Federation has been very active in producing a questionnaire to be discussed at their AGM at Worpex in May. Subject to my pending house move, I intend to represent ABPS there. The results will be analysed and recommendations considered. If I can identify a coordinator I would like to roll out that questionnaire to all societies so that we can find out what needs to be done to improve our service to members and to regain some of the societies who have left ABPS.

It appears that some societies and federations are experiencing difficulties from members dominating committees, not allowing the members to take an active part. We need to remember why we are part of this wonderful hobby and allow everyone to participate fully.

I hope that all goes well over the rest of the year.

John Baron

Editorial



I visited Spring Stampex, as I expect that many of you did. I was very pleased to have the chance to chat to a few people—most of whom were very kind in their comments about the

News. Thanks for your encouragement then and by email and letter.

I was both delighted and ashamed when I viewed the displays. My first visit was to the displays by young philatelists, where I was fascinated to see the depth of understanding and the excellent presentations. I spent far longer there than I intended. Then I went down to see the Thematic Displays and Competition Entries. I was completely blown over by many of these. I wanted to read some of them in detail and I am sure that there wasn't one in which I didn't see something that caught both my eye and my imagination. I particularly liked the very humorous one on our relationships with our neighbours— *1000 Years of Annoying the French* by **Janet Nelson**. That was one that I read and studied in its entirety. Shamefully acting like one of the paparazzi, I overheard one of the judges commenting that she wished that she had the time to read that in full too. Madam—it was worth the time and effort. It does show that building up a display can be fun—you just have to have the time, the material and the imagination. So where was the sense of being ashamed that I referred to earlier? That is my own personal

shame that I have not prepared my own collection and displays to the same standard. It is easy to claim that I don't have the time now—doing this job does take a bit of effort, but I could have got further in the past if only I hadn't put off doing the task. Perhaps that is the problem—I see it as a task rather than a delight. I must do better—those youngsters in particular will be my inspiration.

I hope that you have noticed that I have decided to include the names of societies that have closed (always regrettable) or have withdrawn from ABPS. I decided to include the first category so that other societies in their vicinity might be able to make welcoming contact with the former members. Perhaps two or three very small societies might be able to make one active and outgoing body. Sometimes we do not know why a society withdraws from ABPS—perhaps it is something that I have written! I hope that we can always find a way to discuss any problems and I live in hope that the leavers will return.

Linked to both of these possibly is the increasing age profile of stamp collectors. I now receive a number of notifications of the deaths of society members. I am sure that you realise that I cannot include all of these in an issue, but where it relates to the death of a founder member or a very active participant in Federation, National or International circles I will do my best. If a photograph can be included I am sure that readers might recognise the person by face if not by name.

Keith Burton

The U.K. PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

July 2014

In addition to the function to be held at YPRES in Belgium this year, the ABPS Congress Committee are pleased to announce that they will also be organizing a short Congress in England this year.

This Congress will be held at the Three Swans Hotel in Market Harborough, a delightful town situated in the countryside of South Leicestershire



The Three Swans Hotel



The Old Grammar School

This event will take place from Friday 25 July 2014 until Sunday 27 July 2014.

In addition to presentations by interesting speakers and the Kay Goodman lecture, there will be the presentation of the Congress Medal.

HOTEL COSTS per person.

These include dinner, bed & breakfast for two nights plus a buffet lunch on the Sunday:-

2 nights Double/Twin room	£398 per couple
2 nights Single Room	£259 per person
2 nights luxury Double/Twin room	£458 per couple
2 nights luxury Single room	£319 per person
Extra night (dinner B&B) – Thursday or Sunday	
Double/Twin room	£135 per person
Single room	£ 95 per person

The Programme:

- Friday — 2.00 Arrival
3.00 The History of Market Harborough – **Dr L Holden**
4.30 Astronomy – **Margaret Morris**
9.00 4 sheets to tell a story from all delegates
- Saturday — 9.30 The Postal History of Preston – **Paul Gaywood**
10.15 Czechoslovakia – **Yvonne Wheatley**
11.30 **Kay Goodman Lecture – John Davies**
The Future of Philately – Youth and Philately Today
12.30 ABPS AGM including Presentation of Congress Medal
- Sunday — 10.00 Airmails – **Brian Asquith**
11.15 Nyasaland – **Barry Horne**
1.00 Close and Buffet Lunch

On Friday and Saturday at 7pm there will be:
Sponsored Receptions by Stamp Insurance Services and Stanley Gibbons respectively, followed by Dinner at 7.30.

It is proposed to have a coach trip on Saturday afternoon.

For more details of the programme and an application form for this event please
contact PAUL GAYWOOD
Tel No. 01772 713 917 email – gaywood@hotmail.co.uk

Deadline - Please note that bookings cannot be guaranteed after **8 June** but there is still a good chance we will find you a room up to a few days prior to the event so check with Paul Gaywood!

Gerald Marriner

(Chairman, A.B.P.S. Congress Committee)



Supported by Stanley Gibbons

Your article?

We are always pleased to consider articles by our readers. Please send your item to the Editor who will let you know if it can be used. 350 words maximum please, and a picture relating to the subject matter is always a help (300dpi jpg or photograph). We do not pay for publication, and any items may be edited for length or content.

ABPS services to Societies

We are often asked “What does the ABPS do?” in return for the affiliation fee. The ABPS takes responsibility for the well-being of philately in the UK, and represents UK philately internationally. The services it provides to clubs and societies in the United Kingdom include:

Handbooks and Speakers Lists: These guides are invaluable aids to club organisers in putting together club programmes and advising members. They are updated and circulated to affiliated societies every few years. Much of the information is also regularly updated on the ABPS website.

Publications: The ABPS News is published four times a year, giving forthcoming events, hints & tips, and reports from affiliated societies. A range of leaflets on philately is issued, updated and extended every few years.

Regional and National Exhibitions: These events include the organisation of the national stamp competitions which take place around the country, bringing philately to a wider audience. ABPS is now totally responsible for the organisation of national competitions. Without ABPS they would cease and possibly undermine the future of Stampex.

International Competition: ABPS is responsible for the coordination of entries to international competitions, including membership of FIP.

Although a relatively small part of the hobby, the strength of competitive philately is a key driver in stimulating the hobby at all levels.

Workshops and Seminars: Another specific responsibility of the ABPS is the training and accreditation of judges for formal competitions.

Support for the Stamp Active Network: The financial and direct support from ABPS is one of the few sources of basic funding which enables SAN to continue to promote the hobby at Stampex (Kids Corner) and other events.

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain: Run by ABPS, this social event is held annually around the country. It is open to all collectors at any level.

Small Grants Scheme: Grants are available to societies with limited resources to need help for events or special projects.

Annual Awards: ABPS awards recognise and encourage the organisers of philately. ABPS promotes both the Award of Merit and Congress Medal.

Visits to Federations: Members of the Executive are willing to attend federation and other regional events to talk about the role of ABPS.

If you would like to know more about ABPS and its activities, please contact the PR Officer, John Davies on 01295 255831 or email pr@abps.org.uk

The website www.abps.org.uk adds much to the understanding and promotion of the hobby in the UK. The work of ABPS is run entirely on a voluntary basis. None of the Executive or Secretariat is paid any form of salary or fee, not even an honorarium. The affiliation fees only cover the relatively small amount of personal expenses for postage, stationery and telephone calls as well as the direct costs of publications etc.

Are you the proud owner of a large / valuable collection?

Are You Thinking of Selling?

Over the course of the last 40 years we've listened to your concerns - concerns that your collection may be cherry-picked for example. Almost without realising our business has adapted/evolved by creating integrated retail/auction selling

systems in order to address your collector selling issues.

Now we've crystallised those systems to create a new collector selling experience for you.

We've called it:

UPA Bespoke

Stamp Selling Solutions

When you contact UPA we'll listen to what you would like to happen – how you would like your collection to be handled.

Depending upon the type and

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

Sometimes we'll recognise that we may not be able to offer you the best solution and we'll suggest different ways that you may wish to consider selling – even through un-associated companies.

Continued overleaf

Our Guarantee:

We won't try to make your collection fit our selling systems. We'll offer you a bespoke stamp selling solution without charge or obligation.

Act Now, Please Contact:

UPA Bespoke

Stamp Selling Solutions

Andrew McGavin

01451 861111

UPAbespoke@upastampauctions.co.uk

www.UPAstampauctions.co.uk



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ABPS Handbook & Directory 2012

The first major update since 2007. A must for everyone who wants to find out more about ABPS-affiliated local and specialist societies, federations and a host of information about competitions, national bodies, exhibitions. With features on philatelic trusts and major libraries and archives.

Price: £9 which includes UK postage & packing

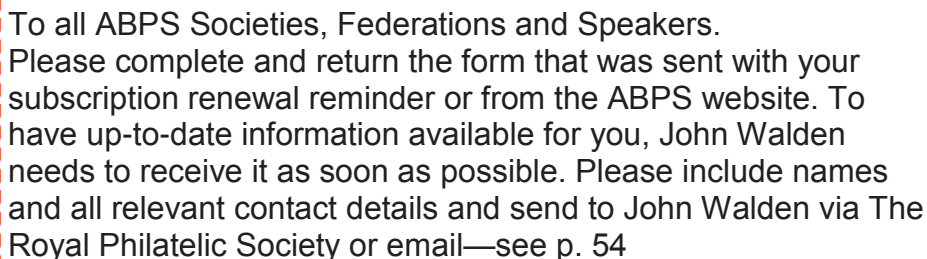
ABPS Philatelic Lecturers & Displays list 2011

A considerably updated version of the 2008 edition, this is an indispensable document for every local society, with details of 250 speakers who are willing to be approached to present displays at philatelic societies. Many of the speakers offer more than one display so there are literally hundreds of options for the programme secretaries in societies.

Price: £5 which includes UK postage & packing

One copy of each of the above is issued to every society that is affiliated to the ABPS, but any member of an affiliated society can have a further copy by contacting Chris Oliver on email communications@abps.org.uk or by post to him at Mr C Oliver, ABPS, c/o RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY.

Any major updates to both documents are reported periodically in the ABPS News.



To all ABPS Societies, Federations and Speakers.
Please complete and return the form that was sent with your subscription renewal reminder or from the ABPS website. To have up-to-date information available for you, John Walden needs to receive it as soon as possible. Please include names and all relevant contact details and send to John Walden via The Royal Philatelic Society or email—see p. 54

Three Notable and Active Philatelists – RIP

George E Barker (Bradford)

With great sadness I report George's death on Sunday 16th March. George was the Editor of *The London Philatelist* from 1983 to 2001. He was elected a Fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society London in 1983, was a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and an Associate member of the Academy of Philately, Paris and of the Belgium Academy of Philately. George was a founding member, indeed an Honorary Member, of the European Academy of Philately (AEP) and holder of its European Award for Philatelic Merit. His philatelic interests were France and its Colonies.

He was one of the great gentlemen of philately always pleased to help and encourage others. His care and dedication to the editing of *The London Philatelist* for The Royal Philatelic Society London was internationally recognised and respected. He had amassed a large philatelic library having purchased the house next door in which to keep it. George was one of the main organisers, with the late John D Hayhurst and the late John H Levett, of the 56th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain held in 1974 at Enghien-les-Bains, Paris, which is where I first met him. He was kind enough to introduce me to the European Academy of Philately and I remember with much pleasure a visit we made with John Levett to its annual meeting in Paris .

He will be much missed.

David Beech

Geoff Longbottom (Norfolk)

On behalf of the ABPS I wish to record the enormous contribution that Geoff has made to the local and national philatelic scene.

After retiring as an international marketing consultant in 1996 Geoff took on voluntary work in his hobby of philately and was the editor of the Norfolk & Norwich Society quarterly magazine as well as dealing with the twice yearly Stamp Fair publicity.

In 2001 he was given a prestigious ABPS Annual Award for involvement in local, regional and national philatelic work, having started work with ABPS in year 2000 as Publicity Officer and subsequently as Publicity and Publications Officer. Geoff retired from ABPS in July 2009 at which time he was made an ABPS Life Vice-President.

For the N&NPS, Geoff contributed an interesting historical perspective on Postage Stamp Security, featuring a short account of the various methods of stamp security using embossing, reverse printing in red and then perforating within the stamps with government and major commercial companies logos or identification patterns. These are called perfins – 'perforated initials'. The

article was a contribution for the Centenary book titled 'Norfolk Posts and Personalities' published to coincide with the society 1911-2011 year of celebrations.

'Thank You' Geoff, you were my friend and I respect you enormously and so do a great number of your philatelic friends locally and nationally.

Extracted from the funeral address by *The Reverend John Walden*

Ian A. MacPherson (Ayrshire) 1939-2014

Ian MacPherson died suddenly on 2nd March 2014. He was a very well known face in Scottish and British Philately being the president of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies in 2011 and was their delegate to ABPS for many years attending all recent ABPS AGMs. He and his wife Emslie were present at many PCGB meetings and London exhibitions as well as every Midpex since these were inaugurated where he represented the Alba Stamp Group and the Scottish Postal History Society.

Ian was treasurer to both the Glasgow 2000 and Perth 2012 National Exhibitions – both being a financial success. He was honoured (jointly with Roy Erskine) with the Rowland Hill award by Royal Mail for innovation in 2002 – Ian had arranged that Glasgow 2000 received a lottery grant. Ian was also awarded the McConnell Medal in 2008 for services to Scottish Philately.

Ian joined Lanarkshire PS in 1982 and was treasurer for 16 years and president in 1988-9. Ian and Emslie were founder members of the Strathclyde Postcard Club in 1984 and they attended the Dundee Philatelic Weekends from 1987 until 2011. He was president of Ayrshire PS in 2008-09 and exhibited at a members' evening a week before he died. He also visited Largs Stamp Club during that last week and, with Emslie, attended the Alba Stamp Group AGM on the day before his untimely death.

Ian is survived by his wife of 50 years Emslie, sons Malcolm and Sandy and granddaughters Iona, Ffyona and Mari. The family produced a postcard as a memoriam to Ian and this was presented to the large number of mourners who attended the funeral in Ayr. The mourners included more than ten past presidents of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies. *Willie King*

Your society information?

Please let the ABPS Secretary and editor of the Handbook & Directory know of any changes to your society details, including the information on the ABPS website about your society. Contact details are on p.54. Please tell your Federation Secretary too.

Ten years since the end of the Travelling Post Office

In January we commemorated the tenth anniversary of the final journey of the Royal Mail's Travelling Post Offices (TPO). An integral part of the process of sorting and delivering mail for over 160 years, they operated across the length and breadth of the country.

Introduced in 1838, the TPO revolutionised the transportation of mail, providing the means to move vast volumes of letters and packets across the country efficiently in an age before automobiles and aircraft. However, they also encountered various disasters over their long history. The most famous of these was the Great Train Robbery of 8 August 1963. On this date the TPO travelling from Glasgow to London was held up by a 15 strong gang who made away with over £2.6 million. The incident triggered a number of conspiracy theories that continue to this day.

In 2000, following the Hatfield rail disaster in Hertfordshire, the TPO service suffered considerable restriction including implementation of speed limits on some stretches of track and cancellation of a number of routes. With delays of up to six hours for some TPOs, efficiency was lost. Coupled with concerns over health and safety of those working on TPOs - conditions were cramped and basic and workers were continually being thrown into walls and counters - Royal Mail was forced to reconsider its dependence on the railway. Opting to transfer much of its transportation to air and road, the TPOs ran for the last time on 9 January 2004.

From 29 March the BPMA's exhibition commemorating the Great Train Robbery fifty years on, will be displayed at Grampian Transport Museum, Aberdeen. *The Great Train Robbery, the aftermath and the Investigations: A Story from the Archive* will run until 27 October.

Sarah Carr

In March Islington Borough Council approved the BPMA's planning application to develop a stretch of the old Post Office Underground Railway – Mail Rail – into a unique subterranean ride. This means that visitors to the newly created Postal Museum, due to open in central London in 2016, will be given the opportunity to explore the hidden world of this railway under Mount Pleasant through an engaging exhibition and interactive ride. In total, visitors will be taken through 1km of the original tunnels, following the same route that much of the nation's mail took for nearly 80 years from 1927-2003.

The Mail Rail ride is part of a much larger project that the BPMA is undertaking to reveal the extraordinary stories of British social, communications and design history through the universally iconic postal service. By opening up almost 400

years of records and objects from the reign of King Charles I to the present day. The Museum will reveal unusual and exciting episodes from British history: curious items including a first edition of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, original evidence from the Great Train Robbery trial, a Victoria Cross, and flintlock pistols used to defend Mail Coaches in the 19th Century.

Adrian Steel, Director of the BPMA, commented, "It is fantastic that Islington Borough Council has given us the green light to open up these unique tunnels to the public and reveal the captivating story of Mail Rail. Making this exciting project a reality still requires a further £0.5m, but this is a major boost to our plans and for Islington's, Camden's and London's heritage offer. We hope to launch a public appeal later this year, both in the local community and further afield, and look forward to welcoming our first visitors in 2016."

The BPMA is currently awaiting the outcome of an application for £4.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund. A decision is expected in May this year.

Harry Huskisson

How its 'Friends' are supporting the work of the BPMA

At the AGM the Friends handed over £1,000 towards the cost of a secure display cabinet at the new Postal Museum. A further £4000 is required and the Friends have agreed to match further donations until this goal is achieved.

Information is available on the BPMA's website www.postalheritage.org.uk

ABPS Leaflets

Many with colour illustrations

- . What is Stamp Collecting?
- . What is Postal History?
- . What is Postal Stationery?
- . What is Thematic Collecting?
- . What the ABPS does for you
- . Stamps Facts Sheet
- . The Visiting Speaker
- . ABPS Awards: Congress Medal and Award of Merit
- . A Model Constitution for Philatelic Societies

And the latest new leaflets

- . **ABPS—The Society/Federation Conference Weekend**
- . **What is Open Class Philately?** (Replacing What is Social Philately?)

Society Secretaries have some copies of each. To get more copies contact Chris Oliver (see p.54)

See ABPS webpage www.abps.org.uk on the "Books & Lists" tab then choose "Leaflets".

THE CONGRESS MEDAL 2014

The ABPS Awards Committee is delighted to announce the award to
Christopher E. Oliver



having been nominated by the South African Collectors Society.

Christopher has held many offices in local societies, but his major contributions have been in four fields: the National Philatelic Society, Middlesex Philatelic Federation, ABPS, and the South African Collectors Society.

He is Vice President and publicity officer for the Kingston & District PS and secretary of the West London PS – recently formed by the amalgamation of two Societies, having served as Secretary, Treasurer and President of one of them.

Christopher served as President of the National Philatelic Society from 2007-13, and has organised periodic seminars, workshops and displays. He joined the council in 2004 and now represents the NPS on the ABPS Committee.

Christopher first served as chairman of the Middlesex Philatelic Federation in 1999 and he chaired their Diamond Jubilee stamp day at Amersham in September 2010. Another Stamp Day is to be held in October 2014 and Christopher has been co-opted to help with the organisation of this event.

In 2010 Christopher became the ABPS UK communications coordinator and has instigated the publication of nine leaflets on various aspects of our hobby.

It is through his work as Membership Secretary and General Secretary of the South African Collectors Society that we know Christopher best. He took over the former in 2002, and the latter in 2003 – offices he still holds. He was also a key player in our 2010 Spring Stampex centenary display when the society provided over 100 frames of exhibits.

Since 2011 Christopher has contributed a regular column on society activities in the Stamp and Coin Mart magazine, as well as SACS meeting reports for the ABPS journal. He also helps at the Children's Corner at Stampex when that group is short staffed. He stands out as an exemplar of selfless and top quality service to our hobby and is thoroughly deserving of this award.

ABPS AWARD OF MERIT

The 2014 ABPS Awards of Merit go to

Peter Aveyard	North Western Philatelic Federation
Alan Green	Harrogate Philatelic Society
Neil Sargent	Postal Stationery Society

We congratulate the above collectors and thank them for all the work they have carried out for their Clubs, Societies and Federations over the years.

Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society—50 Years Old

The **Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society** was formed in 1964 by the merger of two like-minded groups dedicated to the study of the stamps and postal history of Germany. Since then the Society has flourished, being today one of the largest single-country societies with a current worldwide membership of about 500 with UK regional and study groups.



The Society is celebrating in a number of ways. A professional anniversary logo has been created by one of its members to appear on the website, on all publicity, and on the cover of the 72-page quarterly journal *Germania*.

The Society has been invited by ABPS to participate in **AUTUMN STAMPEX** where G&CPS will be holding its 18th *Germania Posta* exhibition of both competitive and non-competitive exhibits comprising at least 150 frames. Society members will also be having a celebratory dinner in London on the evening of Friday 19 September convenient for those of them visiting Stampex.

G&CPS welcomes collectors from the novice to the expert and offers excellent facilities to help members extract maximum pleasure and satisfaction from their hobby. → Secretary, **Adrian Roper**, 30 Nicholson Crescent, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 1RN or see: www.germanphilately.org

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Essex Celebrates 70 Years of Organised Philately.

On 3 June 2014, the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies will have been serving collectors and societies for seventy years. In 1944, World War Two was still in full swing, but official circles were already looking to post-war development. Reflecting this new optimism, the representatives of the Essex societies that had survived the war, Colchester, Forest, Ilford, Leytonstone and Southend, met at Leytonstone to form an Association that would promote the advance of philately within the county by:

- Holding a philatelic event at least annually
- Encouraging the exchange of visits and displays between societies
- Providing and maintaining a register of philatelists willing to display or judge within the county
- Assisting in the formation of new societies within the county
- Promoting annual competition between member societies

- Doing such other things as may benefit member societies and other philatelists within the County

These remain the objectives of the Association, which has grown over the ensuing years to encompass twenty-four societies in Essex and the surrounding areas of London, Hertfordshire and Suffolk. Many of the Executive committee are long-serving, but new blood is always being sought to spread the load and ensure new ideas are brought to bear. An annual educational Seminar is held in January; this year's theme was Traditional Collecting and Displaying, with excellent tuition being given by **Chris Harman**. Having been an early user of the World Wide Web, it is hoped to launch a completely new website this year.

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Stratford upon Avon Philatelic Society 25th anniversary

The Stratford upon Avon PS was launched in 1988, by means of an advert, placed by Kurt Mannaberg in the Stratford Herald on 23 March, inviting expressions of interest. There was sufficient response to get the club going in a very active way, not least in persuading the GPO to open a philatelic counter at Stratford post office. For quite a while it also produced its own newsletter "Avon Mail", edited by Alan Godfrey. Our initial setting up was supported and assisted by Ken Trehwella and other members of the established Coventry PS.

On the evening of 11 December 2013 we therefore celebrated our 25th anniversary. **Graham Jervis** presented a nostalgic display of contemporary press cuttings about the birth of the Society, early photographs, membership forms, Society-run stamp fair programmes, and copies of the newsletter. As a mark of the year of the Society's creation he also displayed all the GB commemorative issues which came out in 1988.



Four of the five founder members: John Hill, Clive Golding, John Holland and Graham Jervis

For the second half of the celebration

John Holland recounted many anecdotes and stories of the early years, and about Kurt Mannaberg himself, after whom one of the Society's annual trophies is still named.

We are a very active and friendly society, with a regular attendance of about 20 from a total membership of about 30. As well as guest speakers we have a fair sprinkling of members' evenings, auctions, competitions, quizzes and the Christmas social. We are fortunate in having members' competitions in which almost all members participate, regardless of their expertise or specialisation, with an enthusiasm not dampened by any strict internal or external rules or

restrictions, other than that the previous year's winner cannot compete in the same category the following year; the latter rule was introduced to stop those with the "best" collections winning the trophies each year, which can be very dispiriting for other collectors. Our way of deciding the winner in each category is commendably simple - each person present votes for what he/she considers first, second or third (using whatever criteria they choose) in each category (stamps, postal history etc.), and the votes are simply added up; the nice thing about this method is that it never produces contentious results!

ABPS Handbook & Directory: updates

These notes only show changes most useful for contacting the society, it is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all society changes.

We are sorry to report that Norman Higson, the Secretary of Cheltenham PS, has died. The Acting Secretary is David M Williams 46 Collum End Rise, Cheltenham GL53 0PB Tel: 01242241018

Gibraltar Study: Change of Address for General Secretary: Professor David R Stirrups 152 The Rowans, Milton, Cambridge CB24 6YX.

With great regret I have to tell you that the following have resigned from ABPS. We are sorry to see them go and hope that they might see the advantages of returning some time soon: Burnham & Highbridge PS, Littlehampton & Rustington PS, Radcliffe on Trent & District PS, The Hale PS

ABPS Lecturers & Displays: updates

Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins c/o The Bookmark, 15c Rainham Shopping Centre, Rainham, Kent ME8 7HW mobile telephone is 07804 294270
email: marcus.sherwoodjenkins@googlemail.com

Richard Wheatley – new email: arewhyuu@outlook.com

If you see anything else that needs updating in the Handbook & Directory, or in the Philatelic Lecturers & Displays List, please inform Rev John Walden at handbook@abps.org.uk

An idea from Bromley and Beckenham to boost membership.

We offer:

1. half subscriptions to anyone joining after 31st December and before the AGM, (usually held in May).
2. FREE subscriptions for the balance of the year to end August if joining at or after the AGM.
3. We also have a Family membership rate of 1½ times the basic subscription, for partners, plus any children/grandchildren still at school.

On the Club circuit

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

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

Amersham & District PS

Our four man team (**Nigel Perrins**, **Michael Consden**, **David Page** and **Maurice Taylor**) did well in the MPF Inter Society Quiz at Barnet on 31 October by finishing second and we congratulate the winners West London PS. Our pre-Christmas Auction was successful, there being 51 winning bidders. Star item was a KGVI Crown album lowly reserved at £1 fought over intensely before being knocked down at £47. To complete 2013 we hosted a visit by Aylesbury and District PS when we were entertained by four lively presentations from **Cyril Parsons**, **Giles du Boulay**, **Graham Aylett** and **Michael Pitt-Payne**. After the festive season we resumed with a members' meeting 'Did You Know?' Thirteen members displayed between one sheet and two frames on a wide variety of subjects. Watford PS paid us a visit

late in January with four of their members. **Brian Thurlow** began with 'Nothing serious about Spain' – another example of collecting drift. He bought a collection and is now filling in the gaps. **Graham Walker** followed with a delightful discourse showing stamps, covers and cancels on US Indian place names including Des Moines (Iowa) which might be thought to be French but is actually from a rather rude Indian epithet. **Wayne Cox** then showed us 'The Other Side of the Stamp' – the bit we lick – a cornucopia of items from around the world, and **Brian Coates** rounded off a super evening with 'GB QV Extra Large covers'. **Lindy Bosworth** was our next guest with a display of 'WWI Austro-Hungarian Navy Mail'. A comprehensive treatise including the naval history of a certain Captain von Trapp.

From MPF Bulletin

No report of your society? Why not send one to the editor? It could get you new members, and also give hints to other societies on good speakers.

Barnet

We thank the various sources for their kind words and emails regarding our hosting of the MPF Quiz evening. Following that occasion we held one successful auction and prepared for another. We have had many interesting displays including a visit from Rickmansworth, for which we are very grateful. We made a return visit to Leighton Buzzard. Our President started the beginning of the year with another of his usual immaculate displays and this was followed by **Rufus Barnes** with a comprehensive display of Easter Island and Tokelau.

Birmingham PS

Auction report - The trend in collectors looking for the more unusual items was aptly demonstrated with some keen bids being received for 3 different Suffragette cards (£65) and an original letter from the Post Office Public Relations Department (£65). A 1916 Official envelope with a straight line h/s 'By Kings Messenger' fetched £30 and a range of scarce Canadian Semi-official flights covers were sold for up to £42 each. Gibbons listed stamps performed generally poorly despite being offered at 10% catalogue and being in good condition – confirming the trend away from stamps and more towards postal history items, especially those with a social theme.

Alan Spencer

Bradford PS

In January we had a members' evening with interesting short displays and a visit from Halifax Philatelic Society. Visits always give an

enjoyable evening. **Rick Rickwood** gave us a '*Pot Pourri*' in February, from volcanoes and Brazil to Machins. Our Competition results were also announced: **Richard Wheatley**, **John Pitt** and **Judith Holder**. For March, we went on '*Allenby's Palestine Campaign*' with **Rod Unwin**, who showed great knowledge of the subject and wonderful material. Sadly we have lost two long standing members **Helen Jagielski**, a lady of great courage, and **George Barker** who was a very noted French collector in GB. Both will be sadly missed by all. *Tony Hammond.*

Bromley & Beckenham PS

Members' evenings are always popular at societies and in January we had one entitled '*India and Its Ocean*'. Ten members responded with much variety from Zanzibar to Indian Money Orders, RAF Gan to Ceylon War Tax Stamps. In February, despite horrible weather, we had good attendance for **Bill Pain's** selection of '*Malaya and Malaysia*'. Bill gave us a short history of British interest in the area and then showed us the use of Indian stamps there. We went through the native states, chased the Federated Malay States Tiger through various identifiable postmarks, failed to find stamps on covers immediately after the Japanese surrender and came to the modern stamps of Malaysia. Later that month **Chris Sands** took us to '*Three Scandinavian Countries – Denmark, Finland & Norway*'. **Derek Mauri** returned in March with '*American Civil War of 1861-65*' followed by '*Railways in the USA*'. In both parts we learnt lots of history from covers and their



Derek Mauri and Ron Burn

markings. One fascinating group related to the rivalry of 20th Century Limited and Broadway Limited expresses between New York and Chicago – resulting in races on parallel tracks. →David on 020 8778 7009 or Chris on 020 8402 1263 or www.beckenham.net/leisure.asp

David Rennie

Burnley & District PS

We celebrated our 70th anniversary at a meeting on Thursday 20th March 2014, at the Central Methodist Church in Burnley where we had been meeting regularly since 1986. A birthday cake had been made for the occasion which was enjoyed by all on the night, and talks were given by several members. The secretary outlined the history of

the Society from 1944 to 2014 with many newspaper cuttings and exhibition programmes, first day covers from the silver jubilee in 1969, and the book on the Postal History of Burnley which had been published in 1994 for the golden jubilee. This was followed by talks on 'Internee mail and the Red Cross in France during WWII' by **Klaus Lamle**, 'Football club stamp labels and Burnley FC post war season' from **Peter Hirst**, 'British Empire Exhibition 1925' by **Vincent Harris** and 'Charles Whiting and security printing in the 1800s' from **Stuart Calderbank**, our President. We intend to hold an



Burnley's Birthday Cake

An idea from Bromley and Beckenham to boost membership.

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3. We also have a Family membership rate of 1½ times the basic subscription, so husbands can bring wives (or vice-versa), plus any children/grandchildren still at school.

exhibition in Burnley Central Library during August.

Barry W Evans

Chelmsford PS

For our January meeting members were asked to bring material from their collection relating to the letter 'F', and, among others, we saw cards from the Festival of Vaudois 1903, forgeries and fiscals of Hong Kong, French Air service to South America, famous explorers, postmarks of Felsted and proofs of the King Fouad stamps of Egypt, Flown RAF covers, forged postmarks of Perlis, French fiscals, Fiume and foreign mail in and out of Norway. For our next meeting **Allen Wood** showed us his comprehensive collection of the stamps, postal stationery and postal history and fiscal stamps of the former Italian colony of Eritrea. Italian stamps were used from 1890 to 1893, when Italian stamps overprinted *Colonia Eritrea* were issued, together with numerous postal stationery items. From 1932 to 1934 general issues for the Italian colonies were also used in Eritrea. British forces occupied the Italian colonies in 1941 and overprinted British stamps were used – the high values mostly on telegram forms. Many Italian era fiscal stamps were overprinted for the British administration. In 1952 the country was federated with Ethiopia causing considerable unrest and civil war, until Eritrea became independent again in 1993. → John Rawlins on 01245 420196 or john@jr226.plus.com

John Rawlins

Croydon PS

Thirteen members began the New Year with presentations on 'Letter E'. They

showed 'Errors', 'Ethiopian animals and airmail', various 'Envelopes', 'Egypt', 'Essays on Fiji', 'Eating', 'Exhibitions and Expeditions', 'Exprès mail in France' and 'Elephants' – oh and an 'Extra dagger'. Later in January **Brian Dowler** showed us 'Gilbert & Ellice Islands'. He started from an 1895 cover to Meissen and went up to the end of World War 2, including Japanese occupation. It was excellent and fascinating material. Our two meetings in February were by **Fred Hoadley** and **Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins**. Fred's favourite stamps are those of 'Switzerland'. He showed us the Tell



Fred Hoadley on Switzerland

Boy and Helvetia stamps and then followed on with Pro Juventute stamps and cards. These are for Youth charities and have existed since 1915. Fred finished with post-1912 postcards. Marcus focussed on 'Russia in the First World War'. His material included letters from soldiers to home with envelopes being re-used as there was

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Warwick & Warwick

a shortage of paper, pictures of orphan boys who served with the army, and censor marks. It was an extremely interesting variety of items.

Graham Harker

Ferndown & West Moors P & PC

:What the Victorians did for Us

This evening proved again that we can always provide top quality interest with eloquent speakers and wonderful postcard/philatelic material. **Don Seaby** set the bar high with his superb display of early GB – postcards and covers, making good mention of our ancestors' gift of 'the postage stamp', with the introduction of the 'Penny Black' on 6th May, 1840. With **Peter Leevers'** display, we moved overseas to examine the height of Empire in India with the '*Indian Stamp Act of 1860*'. '*Victorian People*' was an essential ingredient for our theme. **Paul Lear** had written this up well, highlighting key personalities, including Brunel, Eiffel, Mendeleev, Wallace and Darwin, Edward Lear and Van Gogh. **John Garrett** excelled again ...this time with '*A Brief History of Christmas Cards*' followed by '*Postcards of Bournemouth*' including the pier.

Following this 'sea' theme came **Brian Cropp's** '*Transatlantic Mail*' and the world of steamships and postal rates – reducing from 1/- to 3d! By 1875 it was reduced by a further half-penny...as Brian observed "the Victorians brought prices down...not like the Elizabethans!!!" **Hugh Jefferies** presented a fascinating study of British Guiana. The '*Penny Postage Jubilee of 1890 – Exhibition Covers*' (of South

Kensington)...was covered by **John Duckworth**. '*Charles Dickens*' was **Chris Wheeler's** fascinating contribution and finally **Bob Small** rounded off the evening's entertainment. He stated that this period of history.. "gave us Queen Victoria!!" Paul Barry

Grimsby & District PS

Has Done It Again! For the twelfth successive year we have held a Christmas Charity Stamp Auction in aid of St Andrew's Hospice – a cause which is close to all the members' hearts. This year we raised £3800. representing a team effort led by **Dave McMann** and **John Mileman**. They have already started the planning of next year's auction (see the Diary for details and catalogue contacts). The Charity Auction goes back to 2002



Bernard Hall, John Mileman, Raoul Feld and Marden Ward presenting the cheque to Blaise Harding

when a small club auction raised a total of £310. Since then it has expanded annually with 600 catalogues sent out, covering much of the British Isles with even the odd copy going overseas. The 12 Auctions have raised a grand total

I Spy...

A selection of images sent from clubs and societies. No prizes for spotting yourself ... Identifications where known are on page 31.





of £23 170 and another £5000 from supplemental activities such as club raffles, refreshments and miscellaneous lots being placed in other auctions. We have been supported by sponsorship from Royal Mail, Stanley Gibbons, Apex Stamp Auctions and the De Montford Stamp Company.

Michael Webb

Harrogate Philatelic Society

Alan Green started 2014 for us by taking us to 'Switzerland in World Wars'. Switzerland was neutral in both, but had a prepared army, who were poorly paid. The troops produced stamps to sell in order to support their families. Alan showed many of these – strange, evocative and beautiful. Alan also covered the role of the Red Cross and the help given to Prisoners of War. Naturally he included items relating to Adelboden – his Swiss home from home. Our second meeting in January was a members' evening with the theme of 'Flying through the air'. Subjects covered included Postal Etiquettes, air mail covers, Swiss, Swedish and Polish airmails, Afghanistan, and the history of flight. There were moths, butterflies, birds, balloons, Zeppelins, aircraft, flying boats, helicopters, rockets, gliders, and pigeon post – a near record turnout with superb material.

Geoff Lumley

In February **Geoffrey Raspin** made a commendable attempt not to show any of his main collecting interest of Afghanistan when he gave his Presidential Display. We saw Diplomatic Mail, addressed to embassies, consulates and legations either to or from Afghanistan. To prove that he had other interests he finished

the round with cinderellas and forgeries from India, Turkey and Pakistan.

Amazingly Geoff revealed that he had managed to bring together this display in less than a year especially for the evening. For the second round Geoff brought in sheets from his new interest in Czechoslovakia. Stamps ranged from 1918 to 1960 and included early miniature sheets

Maria Gibson

Kingston & District PS

A new year at Surbiton Library New Hall saw a Presidential display, from **Susan Oliver**, from her renowned collection of the Faeroe Islands. This display included mail sent from Denmark to the islands in the early days, mail coming from Thorshavn, the chief town, back to Denmark on mail steamers, the 1919 Provisional issues, early cancellations from the various villages, the 1940-41 British Occupation issues, unusual postmarks, wartime covers, overseas mail to various destinations, Charity stamps, Red Cross Mail, Christmas stamps and booklets. Then in February, **Rex Dixon**



Alan Tyler receives the Harmer Bowl for Israel Interim Period in the Annual Competition

FRPSL explained the various changes to borders of Czechoslovakia just prior to and during World War II. The country had almost a third of its land mass nibbled away by its neighbours, from the time of its establishment as an independent state until the 1950s. Rex combined good postal history with the social aspects of the period under review. At the AGM of the Society a new team was elected, much as before, but with yours truly as President from September taking over from Susan and, thus, keeping it in the family. → Brian Sole FRPSL on 01932 220677 or on brian.sole@btinternet.com *Chris Oliver*

Launceston SC

In January ten members showed the diversity of interest that arises from collecting postage stamps:

Terry Mounce with fiscal items including early income tax demands based on the number of domestic

servants employed and the use of armorial decorations on your carriage, **Viv Sandercock** with a collection of artist's proofs for the 1973/4 Gilbert & Ellice Islands pictorial issue kindly on loan from past member **Fred Libby's** wife Margaret, **John Henderson** showing blocks of the Dickens and Wordsworth issues including the 2012 issue, **John Harrison** on the 2001 RN Submarine Service commemoratives including booklet extracts, **Joe Allen** displaying stamps from European



Viewing at Launceston

Captions for Pages 28 and 29

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. At Stampex listening to Chris King on Saturday afternoon | 10. Colin Mount and John Davis |
| 2. Running Birmingham's Auction | 11. Viewing at Birmingham Auction |
| 3. Chris King in full explanation at Spring Stampex | 12. Bill Pain and Ron Burn |
| 4. Roger Morrell at West London | 13. Dai Pring with Perfins in Czech lands |
| 5. Bromley & Beckenham dining out | 14. Viewing the display |
| 6. Ruth Rennie | 15. Rex Dixon |
| 7. Bob Larg at Croydon | 16. Jochen Heddergott at the Royal |
| 8. Derek Walker, Tony Moseley, Dai Pring and Peter Williams with their display certificates at the Czechoslovakia PS | 17. John Perry |
| 9. Susan Oliver at West London | 18. Ian Harvey with GB Booklets |
| | 19. The Mayor of Bromley Cllr Ernest Noad views the Dawes Cup entries at Kent Federation Spring Rally, Beckenham |

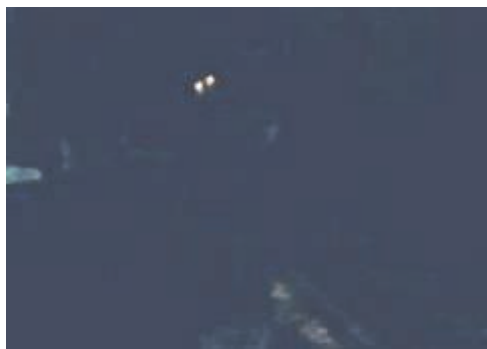
countries which no longer exist, **Dave Richards** with the 1885 Barbados Britannia issue and others, **Mike Tooley** with GB designs by Jennifer Toombs, **Jim Sowden** showing stamps issued by the East India Company from 1854 to 1880, **Kevin Webb** with Cornish cancels on early GB stamps and covers, and **Des Kent** bringing a display of Caribbean stamps collected at each port of call from the Post Office - located using Yellow Pages, which worked very well, except when the POs closed at the weekend! → Evelyn Sandercock (01566 772846)

Howard Hamblin

Leamington & Warwick PS

out of the darkness into the train

For a change at the end of January 2014 we had a film show, and enjoyed the delights of films kindly supplied by the GPO Film Unit. We watched three of the four on the disk, the main showing being the best known, "Night Mail" featuring the popular poem "This is the night mail crossing the border" by WH Auden. We finished up with the 1963 colour film "30 Million Letters"



Leamington & Warwick in the dark – waiting for the film show

made by British Transport Films, which took us into the main London sorting office, and along the Post Office's private London underground railway line and stations: very topical in the week in which Royal Mail announced its possible reopening as a tourist attraction.

p-p-periodic perfin

A joint display in February from **Maggie** and **Steve Bence** covered first penguins on stamps. Steve then announced his display of "puffins" to go with the penguins only for us to discover that he was actually showing



Warwick & Warwick

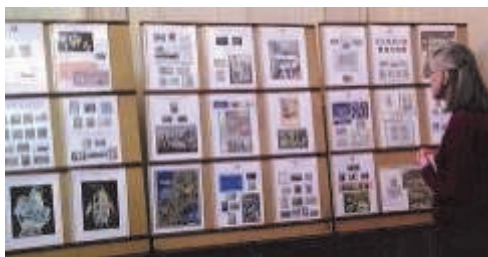
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perfins; this display included a valiant attempt to get perfins for every chemical symbol in the periodic table. In March **Ros Ragg** took us through some unusual Swiss stamps, from the first airmail overprints, souvenir covers and Zeppelin flights. She ended up with an outstanding display of the Swiss Soldier Stamps, which are charity etiquettes for military mail. Earlier in March we had visited the neighbouring society in Coventry. Taking us to the other side of the world, **Frank Storr** showed us his collection of stamps from Trinidad & Tobago, accompanied unusually by some Trinidad music and cakes. Extremely entertaining!



Maggie Bence picks up some penguins at Leamington & Warwick

➔Nick Bridgwater 01926-423685 or sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps
John Gledhill

Oxford PS

A very interesting evening of members' displays on indigenous art led to a vast range of stamps being shown: from Australian aboriginal art to Thai basket-making, from musical instruments to rugs, and from hairstyles to masks. Morning meetings in February and March saw significant displays from members of the society: **Cliff Fagg** on the German occupation of the Channel Isles, **Stephen Marks** on Malaya and **David Potts** on Russia. While the 9-page competition entries were being judged, quizmaster **Tristan Brittain** led the always competitive but enjoyable Philatelic Quiz, and then the evening ended with the judges' sober assessment of the displays. Aably run by **Alan Cowie** and his team, the club auction brought many regular, not-so-familiar and new members out to bid for items. ➔www.communicate.co.uk/oxford/oxfordphilatelicsociety or effaheap@aol.com *Dr Simon Heap*

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Redcar & Cleveland PS

have done well for trophies last year, winning the Social Philately and Tennants Auctioneers Trophy at NEPA in April and the Postal History Trophy at YPA in June. At Autumn Stampex

David Turner received a Gold Medal on debut (for a single frame of *Ocean Penny Postage*). In February when extended to five frames, it received a Large Gold. David (75), says you are never too old to take on new challenges!

Martin Snowdon

Redditch PS

Our December speaker was **Terry Hare-Walker** of Solihull. His talk was entitled 'African Airmails', which followed the early development of the air flights to South Africa and the air flights from Britain to Cairo, en route to India. In particular Terry showed the society many rare items of mail which were carried on these pioneer flights. The first flight took place in 1920 when two South African pilots, Ryneveld and Brand, reached Cape Town, although they had to replace their aircraft en route, and 'borrow' an aircraft from the South African Air Force for the final leg. Terry's display also included mail carried by Amy Mollison (née Johnson) on her record breaking flight in 1932.

→ www.redditch-philatelic.org.uk

Ringwood PS

started the year with a members' evening in which **Chris Wheeler**, **Wendy Buckle**, **Gordon Masson** and **Colin Mount** gave five displays. **John Davis** visited us in February with the A to Z of 'Delivery of the Mail'. We saw Mail of many varieties: Arrow, Balloon,



*Chairman Colin Mount presenting
'Ringwood Post 1842-1911'*

Cannon Ball through to Wells Fargo, but Stilt Mail was a plum area – coming from an early postal service in the poorly drained heath and moorland of the Landes region in France, so the postman used stilts. Many of these were illustrated by fine sepia photo postcards. In March, after an introduction to an amazing "talking" defibrillator which we had supported, we were entertained by members' competition entries. **Wendy Buckle** showed 'Postmarks of Riga' which won the Postal History section. Best General was won by **Geoff Hood's**



*The display of 'Pneumatic Mail, Paris'
by Geoff Hood*

'Paris Pneumatic Post' and **Chris Wheeler** took the trophy for Novice – First Time Entry showing '150 Years of London Underground'. There were lots of other good entries so **Julian Jones** (Chairman of Hampshire PF) had a difficult but enjoyable task. *Paul Barry*

Salisbury and District PS

In late March we were entertained by a fascinating display of Astrology, given



Margaret Morris—a star traveller

by **Margaret Morris** who had travelled that day from Glasgow. The two part display included early letters from astronomers, proofs, covers, photographs and ephemeral material. We all enjoyed the way in which Margaret made this interesting subject easily understood, pointing out many rare or unique items and highlighting points of historical interest. For her star performance, Margaret received a Salisbury Mug. *Brian Cartwright*

Sheffield PS

Our members' night topic in February was 'Countries beginning with H, P or

Y'. Interpretation took the usual range from 'strict to the letter' to 'the thinnest of threads' or nothing obvious! **Alan Goode** started with a display from Port Said, 1867 - 1931. **Neil Ritchie** showed a collection of Netherlands 1852 - 1923. A competition winning display of mail from Mozambique (Portuguese East Africa) was given by **John Hunter**. **James Grayson** had two displays: architecture and buildings in Palestine, and a solitary stamp from the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. **Ian Potter** produced Hong Kong's omnibus issues from 1937-1949. **Barrie Knowles** followed with Haiti 1881-1931. **Dennis Rolfe** went outside the box based on Postage, Postmarks, Penny Post and Postage Dues being equivalent to a country. Most of the display was of GB penny reds showing a range of alphabets and a set of 12 penny reds with numbered Maltese cross cancels. Foot note. At a previous members' night titled 'Perforations', **Steve Cook** showed various shaped tea bags and kitchen implements, all of which had P*R*O*A*I**S. *Steve Cook*

Solihull PS

At the first meeting of 2014 our President, **Peter Williams**, gave a display entitled 'Around My Collection in 16 Frames'. Many of us were aware of Peter's passion for all aspects of philately relating to Eastern Europe, but none of us quite expected to see the great range and diversity of philatelic material that we were treated to on this occasion bearing in mind that each frame was merely a window onto a part of his collection. Topics ranged from meter marks of Poland between the

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Peter Williams in Eastern Europe and West Midlands

two world wars, Frama labels from the Czech Republic, Albanian Postal Stationery and even extended to areas outside Peter's main area of interest like Village postmarks of Greenland! This excellent introduction to 2014 was well attended and a great start to the New Year. →Paul Woodness 01564 776 879.

John Barker

South Midlands SC

The world, wars, and everything

Our December theme was Christmas, and included a selection of early Victorian Christmas cards, Christmas flights to South America and Swiss servicemen's cards home. In January



John Smith at South Midlands Stamp Club flies to South America

we explored South America, ranging from Venezuela down to Tierra del Fuego. February covered a wide variety of stamps around the theme "War and Peace", post-WW1 plebiscites, Zeppelin crew mail, German occupation issues and "honour envelopes", with more modern conflicts represented by stamps for 50 years of UNFICYP peace-keeping forces in Cyprus. In March we returned to the alphabet with letters "G,H,I" for which members were as innovative as usual. →John Gledhill 01789 842112.

sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps

Southampton & District PS

began the season with a visit from 3 members from Petersfield. **Heu Grunland** showed King George VI 'Arms' high value stamps. He was followed by **David Whitehouse** with 'Ascension' and **John Gannon** displaying 'Markophily' – any form of postal mark on a stamp or cover. Later in September, we had a visit from the Postcard Club with displays from **Steven Gerrard, David Edwards, Colin Bayley, Tony Hyde, Sylvia Bayley, Alan Leonard, Jeffery Pain** and **Brian Hague** ranging from 'Transporter Bridges' to 'Early 20th Century Cod Drying in the Faroes', 'Kensitas Silk Flowers' to 'Floating Across the River'. In October **Gregg Todd** took us off to 'Egypt' followed by two sideshows of 'GB 2½d Blue covers' and 'Chinese Issues for Sven Hedin Exploration' – quite a range. In November we were entertained to 'Mail Between Great Britain and India' by the President, **Geoff Eibl-Kaye**. This was a fascinating display illustrating the many and varied routes used. **Pat**

Campbell brought us 'Posted in Advance of Christmas' and then 'Postal Dues'. The former showed various methods of trying to deal with or avoid the glut of mail just before Christmas in the 1900s, the latter involved mail from many countries to Great Britain. In January we were taken to 'Barbados' by **Richard Stupples**. He showed knowledge and passion, stating "If you enjoy stamps then the stamps of Barbados have everything". 'The Coronation of King George VI' was the subject for **Richard Berry** in February. The total cost was £354 000, according to the Ministry of Works, but they made a profit on the sale of used Coronation carpets!

From *Postmark*

St Albans & Harpenden PS

Our season in November continued with 'Sudan' given by **Colin Narbeth** FRPSL. A superb array of material accompanied by letters, postcards, and photographs gave us all a wonderful insight into the philately and history of this large but often troubled country from the death of General Gordon onwards, with both sides of the nineteenth century conflicts represented. The period of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan then followed with proofs and varieties much in evidence. With a display of this quality, Colin clearly demonstrated that there is far more to the Sudan than the famous 'camel postman' – wonderful stamp though that is. The December meeting featured the Christmas social. The 'silent displays' again proved both interesting and revealing – material on display revealed that we have a member who has walked the Great

Wall of China and another who worked in Jamaica as a government architect. The Secretary had delved into the archives and brought along material, including photographs and press cuttings, from the formation of the Society in 1933 through to our Silver Jubilee exhibition in Harpenden in 1958. Then followed a distinctly testing but enjoyable quiz and a tasty buffet, after which an entertaining raffle and plenty of social chat brought the evening to a successful close. On 15 January, **Neil Russell** FRSPSL took us to World War II Civil Censorship in the Pacific and South-East Asia, mainly under the auspices of the Imperial Censorship Scheme. Neil took us through the area, country by country including some with very low populations such as Pitcairn, Norfolk Island and Nauru and other 'difficult' countries such as Brunei. Covers from American Samoa and Free French colonies in the Pacific were also shown, as was material from Australia which had its own Censorship Scheme inherited from World War I. Australia also had Press Censorship Offices in its major cities and material from them was also well represented. As was said in the vote of thanks, we were indeed privileged to be given such a fine display of rare covers and markings.

From *Middlesex PF Bulletin*

Stratford upon Avon PS

Accessories to success, with cake

We started 2014 with the letter "G" which brought just about everything you could imagine: Germany, King George V, Greenland, Guernsey, Gold

Coast, Grenada, not forgetting Guildford, gems and giraffes. A very different presentation kept us enthralled in February, when member and local stamp-shop owner **Phil Carlington** demonstrated a surprising array of philatelic accessories, with many hints and tips on how to get the best out of them, and which are a waste of money.

At the start of March we were treated to the world-class collection of Latin America by **Brian Moorhouse**, in particular Haiti's first stamps, the Chaco wars, early Guatemala official stamps, and above all what must be the best collection in the world of covers, essays, proofs etc. of the Tierra del Fuego stamp, the most fascinating "one-stamp-country" ever. Taking us to the northern coast of South America later in the month, **Frank Storr** took us on a tour of the stamps, history and customs of Trinidad & Tobago -



Frank Storr with Trinidadian stamps and Angostura Bitters

accompanied by calypso music and Trinidad cooking. Very tasty!

We work in close cooperation with the nearby Leamington and Warwick PS, in that we both meet on the alternate Wednesdays, which provides a weekly stamp opportunity for several people who are members of both societies – a very fruitful collaboration.

→ Colin Fountain on 01789 841 606 or sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps

John Gledhill

Thatcham & District PS

October started with Questions & Answers followed by 'Junk Mails', courtesy of **Tony Hillier, Tony Jordan, Jim Mowat, Mike Smith, Malcolm Hoskins, Ian Keel** and **Sue Hopson**.

This gave us a fascinating range of topics. At the next meeting, **Emily Woodhams** spoke on 'St Petersburg with Love'. This display was based on the collection of cards, letters and other items that she found under her grandmother's bed. They related to the life of her great-grandmother Clara whose family were in St Petersburg up to 1905 and then travelled in the United States. This was a wonderful show – well worth looking under the bed. In November **John Shambrook, Malcolm Hoskins, Mike Gurr, Mike Smith, Graeme Stewart, Martin Farr, Ian Keel** and **Dave Tanner** produced 'My Favourite Philatelic Items'. As would be expected there was a wide-ranging variety. Later that month we had the Annual Auction, before December came with Christmas themes and activities. The usual members produced displays, aided by **Anne Tanner, Bob Patterson, Juliet Keel, Tony Hillier, David Beddoes**

and **David**. Finally we had the Christmas Quiz – hard fought and won by **John Findlater**.

From *Thatcham Postmark*

Watford & District PS

At the end of 2013 we had three excellent meetings: a very interesting evening on New Zealand Railways given to us by **Lorraine Maguire**, our President **Steve Birch** continuing his varied display of Spain, together with a range of Postal History, and two members of Amersham PS with two interesting displays. For our January meeting **Don Knight** entertained with a display entitled '100th Anniversary of World War I'. This display of postcards was part of a large collection acquired over many years and seldom seeing the light of day. It displayed cards that had been sent home with many of the special military unit cancellations. There were also silk cards and postcards showing towns and villages before and after the conflict.

From *MPF Bulletin*

West London PS

In January **Melvyn Green** gave his presidential display on aspects of the postal history of West London which included, as usual, some perfin. Our February meeting featured recent acquisitions or favourite items from members' collections. We had a good attendance and everyone present displayed. Another meeting which was well attended was in March when **Roger Morrell** gave us an interesting insight into the philately of Hungary during and following its inclusion into the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



Melvyn Green with his President's display

This Society welcomes new members and visitors. It meets in Acton on the 1st Tuesday of every month between September and July. Christopher Oliver 020 8940 9833 or on olivers.of_ham@virgin.net

Chris Oliver

Winchester & District SS

In March two members of Farnham & District PS gave displays to us. **Peter Harrod** gave a display of postal history from East Hampshire, including Hartford Bridge, Farnborough, Odi(h)am, Alton and Alresford. Then **James Podger** displayed Ascension Island and St. Helena from a period when he worked there and included a number of rather unofficial bisects.

John Woodson

Federations

Assoc of Essex PS

Instead of operating a raffle this year to raise funds for our activity to promote the hobby in Essex, we are launching a 100 club, open to any member of an

AEPS member society. All are cordially invited to participate.

Len Stanway



The Judges explain the finer points of marking to the Mayor

Kent Federation of PS

The Dawes Cup 2014 was hosted by the Kent Federation and judged at the Royal, London on 24th March 2014. The Judges were **Francis Kiddle** (Hampshire) and **Bill Hedley** (Kent). The Association of Essex PS was the winners with 349 points, beating Kent by 3 points.



Bill Trower of Essex receiving the Dawes Cup from John Shaw, President of Kent Federation of PS

Our Spring Rally, hosted by Bromley & Beckenham PS, was held at the Langley Boys School, Beckenham at the end of March 2014. The hosts won both Federation Competitions: the 8-page Grant Cup Thematics with 'Queen Victoria St Lucia', the 16-page Des Kill Cinderella Individual trophy Competition **Richard Solly** 'Sending Money by Post in France'. The Judges for both the competitions were **Brain Coates** and **Brian Thurlow** (Hertfordshire Federation).

Maurice Flack

Middlesex PF

The AGM will be at 8pm on Monday 9th June at Asda Community Life Centre, North Watford.

Assoc of Scottish PS

At Congress in April there will be two presentations: **Ron Harkess** (Perth PS) with the Alex McConnell Medal, **Paul McGowan** (Lanarkshire PS) with an ASPS Award of Merit. Ron is best known as chairman of Perth 2012. Congratulations to both of them.

From Scottish Philately

Wiltshire & District PF

The 9-page Federation Competitions were held at Bristol in March.

Bob Bradford

National and specialist societies

Austrian PS

Geoff Frost, the philatelist well known in Austrian collecting circles for his life-time study of the Vienna post offices,

gave a display to a well attended meeting of the Austrian Philatelic Society in London at the end of last year, entitled 'The Vienna Post Offices from 1850 to 1945'. His display centred on the outer suburbs of Greater Vienna, showing how the small offices in the various villages, once well outside the Vienna periphery during the 19th century, became little more than place names on the map as the City expanded. His comprehensive display was illustrated with mail from the outlying areas, not only local but also to foreign destinations.

Our appreciation was expressed by **Colin Tobitt**, and Geoff was presented with a cover that did not yet feature in his collection. The meeting ended appropriately with mince pies and a copious flow of red wine.

→Smithhans963@aol.com

Hans Smith

British Thematic Assoc

We were pleased to welcome **Jørgen Jørgensen** to our meeting at Spring Stampex where he gave us 'Focus on the Cheap Points' – or how to do better in competitions and exhibitions without spending a fortune. He was followed by **Margaret Morris, Ron Trevelyan, Grace Davies, David Hague, Mike Blackman, Brian Sole, Charles Oppenheim, Ernie Clayton, Peter Denly, Anne Stammers** and **John Hayward** – all with fascinating and very varied topics and themes.

From Themescene

Channel Is SS

commenced its programme for 2014 with the Competitions Meeting, which was held at the Royal headquarters in

London in February. The judge for the day was **Ian Stephenson** (Essex Philatelic Societies and an ABPS judge) who gave an excellent debriefing regarding the exhibits in the various competition classes and spent time talking to individual members who wished to discuss their competition



1893 cover from Turks Island to Jersey

entry with him. The results of the competitions were:

Society Cup/Stamps, **Jon Aitchison** with 'A Study of Guernsey Impressed Revenue Stamps', John Sussex Cup/Postal History, **Richard Flemming** with 'Ship Letter Handstamps of English Ports Relating to C.I. Mail', Tom Green Cup/Occupation Postal History, **Ron Brown** with 'Occupation Internee Mail', Open Class, **Jon Aitchison** with 'Mont St. Michel – A Postal Icon'. Members present judged a separate group of competitions with the following results: Society Cup/Postcards, **Jon Aitchison** 'Tourist Excursion Cars in Jersey', Phillips Cup/General Entries, **Jon Aitchison** 'What Might Have Been - Proposed Stamp Designs in Guernsey', and **Nick Stuart** received the Stanley Newman Tankard for the best first-time entrant. Then **Mark**

Bailey, Robert Shaw, Ron Brown and Jon Aitchison gave small but fascinating displays followed by **Richard Flemming** with 'Handstamps between 1755 and 1843'.

Steve Wells

Czechoslovak PS of GB

Our January meeting was chairman's display time, and **Rex Dixon** FRPSL concentrated on only one year of the philatelic and political history of Czechoslovakia. 1938 was a period of unrest in Central Europe, and Rex gave us a display showing the many territorial claims as a result of Germany's demands on the Sudeten area. Poland and Hungary had demanded the return of areas lost to Czechoslovakia in 1918, resulting in many complex postal arrangements around the borders. Rex's in-depth display consisted of many stamps, covers and propaganda items illustrating this difficult period just before the start of WWII.

In March, four members gave us displays covering a variety of subjects.

Derek Walker showed part of his collection of First World War Russian POW camp mail, mainly sent to the Czech lands. Derek's 48 sheets covered many aspects of mail censorship from the various camps.

Tony Moseley's display of Sudetenland FPO and propaganda envelopes resulted in some interesting discussions between members. **Dai Pring** gave us an unusual selection of perfins from the Czech lands, a subject rarely seen. **Peter Williams** finished the afternoon off with his study of the architecture of Jablonec on stamps and postal stationery cards.



Peter Williams on the Architecture of Jablonec

The society meets in London several times a year and has at least one meeting outside London as well as regular philatelic 'family' weekends at various locations. → www.cpsgb.org.uk or contact Mrs D.Y. Gren, 146 Old Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 5TE.

Robert McLeod

The Gibraltar Study Circle

held our AGM weekend at the King Charles Hotel, Gillingham. Friday evening was devoted to the regular 'mini-auction' and displays by members, the subject being 'O'. Saturday afternoon displays were on 'Disinfected Mail' and 'Gibraltar Packet Ship Letters', followed by members' own 'Recent Acquisitions'. At the AGM it was proposed to look into the feasibility of a visit to Gibraltar in 2015 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the formation of the Study Circle. A firm decision will be announced later this year. At the election of Officers all incumbents were re-elected en bloc. We had another excellent weekend thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Bert Burton

GB Overprints Society and Postal Stationery Society

A joint meeting was held at the Royal Philatelic Society in March to celebrate the overlap of interests between our two societies. In the morning Dr **Alan Huggins** MBE RDP FRPSL gave an extensive display of his collection of postal stationery overprinted for use in British Levant. This included several unique items, affording those present the only chance they might get to see them: a special treat was the only known copy of an overprinted King George V 1d reply-paid postcard. As it has a registration copy in the BPMA it is clearly authentic, but was either withdrawn after issue with only a handful of survivors, or withdrawn before issue with this copy having "escaped". During World War I the British post offices were closed, but the Constantinople office opened shortly after. Alan was able to show scarce registration envelopes bearing the black imprinted stamp introduced for military rates, typically with extra adhesives to cover the postage. In the interval between viewing and the break for lunch members of the Postal Stationery Society put up items for their single-sheet competition. The scope of the entries was very broad! The winner was **George King** (a member of both societies). After lunch there was a display by members of both societies, primarily covering overprinted material. This included GB airletters overprinted for the Gulf, postal stationery overprinted for British Bechuanaland, Bechuanaland Protectorate, Gold

Coast, the Oil Rivers and Niger Coast Protectorates, Cyprus, Morocco Agencies, and registration envelopes overprinted for EAF / Somalia. The final displays showed covers posted in various theatres of war, and modern pictorial printed stationery from Ukraine, including provisional overprints to cope with inflation.

John Gledhill

The Great Britain PS

At the first meeting of 2014 we were privileged to see items from the Royal Philatelic Collection, displayed by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen and presented by **Michael Sefi**, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, assisted by **Rod Vousden** and **Ian Greig**.

First Michael chose a marvellous selection of items ranging from the very early preparation for the 1d black and 2d blue stamps, examples of embossed and specimen items and ending with a stunning range of preparatory work for the Seahorse issues.

Later a fascinating display of material from the Private Telegraph companies was shown with a time-line from the Electric Telegraph Company (1846) to the National Telephone Co Ltd (1881). Then, the Annual Competitions were held with **Alan Holyoake**, **David Lewthwaite**, **Max Melrose** and **Tony Stanford** receiving awards.

→ www.gbps.org.uk. or secretary Peter Tanner at 13 St.Hubert's Close, Gerrards Cross, Bucks. SL9 7EN or PetertannerHS13@talktalk.net

Janet Bygate

The National PS

held a successful country meeting at WestBex, Thatcham, on Saturday March 29th. It has become an annual occasion where NPS members display alongside members of the local Thatcham Society. The displays included a space thematic, local postal history, Japan, India and some contemporary GB Machins and Post and Go. We next meet on Saturday June 28 at Postal Pursuits, 9 The Arcade, Letchworth Garden City, Herts SG6 3ET starting at 1.30 pm. Non-members are welcome to view a wide variety of material and find out more about us. We offer monthly auctions, displays, a thriving exchange packet and a journal *The Stamp Lover*. → Mike Goodman, mgoo831975@aol.com, or www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

The Royal PS



*John Lea and
decanter*

John Lea has been a member for 70 years, so he celebrated by giving an afternoon display in December. He provided 52 frames telling 52 stories and revealed his secret for a good collection: "Start young, live long and be lucky". John was awarded a celebratory decanter in recognition. "What scholarship! What knowledge! What entertainment!" was the comment on the January display of '*Romania and its Foreign Post Offices 1811-1903*' by **Heinz Glättli** of Switzerland. He focussed on stamps,



Heinz Glättli with Chris King

post offices and shipping companies. At the end of the month members from Wales and Herefordshire provided the 18 displays ranging from Wales to Ifni via Lundy. In February we saw some incredible treasures from the British Library relating to the Royal correspondence between Britain and Asia. The letters dated from 1600 onwards and were mainly concerned with trade, especially of the East India Company. **Paul Skinner** and **Richard Scott Morel** were the presenters of this fabulous material. **Jochen Heddergott** began his display of '*Overland Covers to India*' with a letter from Madras to London that took from June 1785 to March 1786. To ensure success, identical letters were sometimes sent by two different routes e.g. from Guernsey to Madras, via the cape or Aleppo and Bagdad. '*Great Britain Stamp Booklets*' was the topic which **Ian Harvey** brought to us in March. We saw not only stamps but covers, advertisements, Cancelled and Specimen overprints, interleaves, trials and essays. This cannot have been

easy to assemble. → Admin Office 020 74861044

Sarawak Specialist Society

Recently we had a very good weekend meeting in Tiverton with record attendance. We started the Saturday afternoon with “New Acquisitions” where members are encouraged to have short displays as well as raising queries. This is where previously unknown and important pieces may be shown. This was followed by a comprehensive show of ‘*Early North Borneo*’ by **Carol Turner** and **Jon Higgins**. Later we viewed items, including many specialised ones, for auction on Sunday morning. Saturday night was an optional well-attended informal dinner. On Sunday, after the auction, we saw a medal winning display of ‘*Sarawak Lithographic Issues*’ by **Brian Marshall**, recently successful at Spring Stampex. Our next meeting will be in October in Bournemouth over three days including an AGM. our secretary, Richard Garbett, rdgarbett@gmail.com

FahOnn Liau

Scandinavia PS

We have had a good year with various meetings held around the UK. Members gave displays on almost



Scandinavia PS at Widnes

every Scandinavian country showing stamps, covers, postal history and local issues. We held our 36th weekend meeting in Widnes at the end of March. Members came from all over the UK and also Norway to meet fellow members and show pages from their collections. A Council meeting was held and the AGM, with **Peter Rooke** as Chairman and **Michael Elliott** in the dual role of President and Treasurer. There was a relaxed atmosphere with much discussion on topics of Scandinavian philately, and we all went home having enjoyed our visit to Widnes; already looking forward to next year’s weekend meeting in Banbury.

Susan Oliver

The South African Collectors’ Society

has a new website which went “live” at the end of January. This is masterminded by **Otto Peetoom** to whom we are very grateful. We

Specialist Societies

As most specialist societies do not have regular monthly meetings, ABPS welcomes an annual report of any major meeting of the society (eg the AGM), or an “article of the year” from their newsletter or journal. Obviously the ABPS newsletter does not have room for articles much over 1 side of A4 and cannot guarantee inclusion. Pictures always look attractive too and may well elicit enquiries from potential new members.

recently met at Letchworth. Dr. **Chris Board** explained his further researches into the first Union stamp, which **Rob** and **Lyn Lester** displayed on cover with a variety of WWI censor marks and labels. They were also attracted by the “Make your Sixpence Fly” cards and experimental airmails. **Bob Hill** displayed a number of items which were of interest to all. Paper trials of 1980s was the subject of **Chris Oliver**’s display. **Tony Johnson** showed an interesting selection of South African War Issues with full sheets of low value stamps and included a car licence issued monthly. **David Osborn** produced a fascinating variety of Slogan Postmarks 1913-48 for his display, including showing a flaw in the SPEND LESS – SAVE MORE



David Osborn at Letchworth

with the first two letters missing. On 31st May & 1st June we shall hold our AGM at the Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. There will be a number of displays and a live auction as well as a sociable gathering.
 → Christopher Oliver, Hon. Secretary, 020 8940 9833 or olivers.of_ham@virgin.net or the new www.southafricacollector.com/

West Africa SC

At our March meeting at the Royal, **Bernard Hughes** displayed Ascension stamps and postal history, ranging from 1850s ship letters through to modern FPO777 items. Dr. **Simon Heap**’s centenary display of Northern Nigeria –



Michael Wright, Simon Heap and Rob May in discussion

the territory became part of Nigeria from 1 January 1914 – included much material unearthed through his painstaking research in UK and Nigerian archives. Fourteen members then contributed a wide selection of West African items.

→ Peter Duggan, 75 Alexandra Road, Reading, RG1 5PS www.wasc.org.uk

West of England Them Soc

At our AGM we welcomed **Sally Elam** as our new secretary, succeeding **Gillian Gray** after her long service. The WETS Roadshow this year is ‘*Aspiration & Achievement*’ to show how thematic collectors begin with a plan and then develop interesting collections, which might lead to competitions at various levels. The show will be visiting most if not all of Wessex Federation clubs. → www.wessexpf.org.uk/WETS

from WETS Newsletter 52



These covers/entires were shown with many others at the Channels Islands Study Circle. I suspect that they are from the prize-winning entry for the John Sussex Cup for Postal History from **Richard Flemming** entitled 'Ship Letter Handstamps of English Ports

Relating to C.I. Mail'. I don't know about you, but I wouldn't mind giving them a home. *The editor*



ABPS accredited judges

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

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Diary for the next few months

Local and regional events by ABPS members

May

- 5 Royal Tunbridge Wells PS—Crowborough Stamp & Postcard Fair, 10-4, All Saints Church Hall, Chapel Green, **Crowborough**, East Sussex TN6 1ED → Lis Clare 01892 527587 or www.rtwphilsoc.co.uk
- 10 70th Anniversary Stamp Essex 2014, 10-4, Marconi Social Club, Beehive Lane, **Chelmsford** CM2 9FH
- 10 Worpex 2014, Tudor Grange Academy, Bilford Road, **Worcester** WR3 8HN → www.worpex.com
- 17 Bexley 50th Anniversary Stamp Fair, 10-4, Freemantle Hall, High Street, **Bexley**, Kent, DA5 1AA

June

- 5 Joint Surrey Auction, 7.30pm start, St John Ambulance Hall, Park Rd, **Teddington** Middlesex TW11 0AB → 020 8568 2433
- 14 Swinpex 2014, 10-4.30, St. Joseph's College, **Swindon** SN3 3LR → David Gibbon 01793 813484, gibbon35@gmail.com
- 28 Kent Federation Day and AGM, 10-4, Ashford School, East Hill, Hythe Road, **Ashford** TN24 8PB

July

- 5 YPA AGM & Annual Convention, 10-5, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, 154 Northgate, **Wakefield** WF1 3QX
- 19 Kent Federation Seminar, "Why Collect Asia" by John Lea, £12 including lunch, 10-4, Wainscott Memorial Hall, Holly Road, Wainscott, **Rochester** ME2 4LG → 01634 714584 or mauriceflack@hotmail.co.uk

September

- 13 Poole & District Philatelic & Postcard Club. Annual Fair & Somerset & Dorset Philatelic Federation competitions, 10-4, Community Centre, Poole Road, **Upton** BH16 5JA → 01929 555052 philathome40@hotmail.com
- 27 Bookham PS Fair & Federation of Surrey PS AGM & Competitions, Old Barn Hall, Church Road, **Bookham** KT23 3PQ. Contact: → Barry Feltham, barryfeltham@hotmail.com

British Library Philatelic Exhibition

Don't forget that you can go at any time to see the British Library's permanent exhibition of stamps, next to their coffee bar; you don't need to have a British Library ticket. Not far from Euston, St Pancras or King's Cross stations.

If you want to see their enormous collection not on permanent display contact Paul Skinner at the British Library.

Editor

October

- 3-5 British Thematic Association, Fun with Philately Weekend, Oxford Spire Four Pillars Hotel, Abingdon Road, **Oxford**, OX1 4PS
- 4 Kent Federation Autumn Rally, 10-4, Dartford Grammar School for Boys, West Hill, **Dartford** DA1 2HW
- 11 South of England Stamp Fair & Sussex Convention, Norfolk Pavilion, South of England Centre, Ardingly Showground, **Ardingly** RH17 6TL →Colin Lewis lindandcolin@btinternet.com
- 18 HAMPEX 2014 Hampshire Federation, 10-4, Wickham Centre, Mill Lane, **Wickham** PO17 5AL →01794 514902 www.hpf.hampshire.org.uk/hpfpfx.htm
- 18 Solihull PS & Midland PF Autumn Assembly, 10-4, Arden School, Station Rd, Knowle, **Solihull** B93 0PT→Paul Woodness 01564 776879
- 25 Middlesex Philatelic Federation, Stamp Day, 10-4, ASDA Community Life Centre, **Watford**

November

- 14 Leeds PS Annual Stamp Fair, 10.30-5.30 &
- 15 Leeds PS Annual Stamp Fair, 10-4, Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner, **Pudsey** LS28 5TA→01943 465236

December

- 3 Grimsby PS Annual Charity Auction, from 18.00, Central Hall, Duncombe St, **Grimsby** DN32 7EG→Dave McMann 01472 887523 or John Mileman 01472 827396

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

National and international events

National Exhibitions 2014-2016

- 17-20 September 2014, Autumn Stampex 2014 Full National Exhibition: Germany and Colonies 50th Anniversary and Centenary of the outbreak of World War One. Possible formal invitation to Bund Deutscher Philatelisten (BDPh) eV
- February Spring Stampex 2015, GBPS Limited exhibition 200 Frames Diamond Jubilee of the Great Britain Philatelic Society
- 13-16 May 2015, London 2015 FIP and FEPA Exhibition

Residential recommendations

If your society has had a good experience at a residential "philatelic weekend" please let us know. If you want a list of such good experiences ask the Editor.

- Autumn Stampex 2015: Full National Exhibition: With all classes - Key Participant: GB Overprints Society 45 Years
- Spring Stampex 2106: Pictorial Classes: Pictorial Classes Thematic, Open and Postcards
- Autumn Stampex 2016: Full National Exhibition: Key Participant: King George VI Collectors Society. www.kg6.info

International Exhibitions 2014-2016

- 14-22 June 2014: Paris, “Planète Timbres” exhibition, Salon du Timbre, Parc Floral de Paris. This is an FEPA (Federation of European Philatelic Associations) exhibition, recognised by FIP. 4 classes—Aerophilately, Postal History, Thematic Philately & Open Philately.
- 11-14 July 2014: Ypres, Belgium, Joint meeting of RPSL and l'Académie de philatélie de Belgique. Display plus RDP ceremony. Venue for British Philatelic Congress
- 7-12 August 2014: PhilaKorea, Convention and Exhibition Center, Seoul
- 1-6 December 2014: International Stamp Exhibition, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Mainly for Youth Philately but also includes Thematic and Modern Philately.
- 11-16 August 2015: Singapore World Stamp Exhibition—50 years of Independence
- 28 May-4 June 2016: World Stamp Show. NY 2016 Javits Convention Center New York City

Web information

Further information about exhibiting and forthcoming exhibitions can be found on the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk on the “Exhibiting” tab.

Francis Kiddle, Chairman International & Exhibitions Committee

THE FEPA MEDALS 2013

At its meeting in Vienna in February 2014 the FEPA Board considered the proposals put forward by member Federations.

The recipients of the FEPA awards are:

for exceptional service to organised philately: **Gunnar Dahlvig** (Sweden)

for exceptional philatelic study and research: **Stephano Calliga** (Greece) for "The Stamps of the Large Hermes Heads 1861-1886"

Congratulations to:

Richard Wheeler (of British Thematic Association) who won a Gold Medal for 'Evolution of Puppetry' at *Brasiliana* in Rio de Janeiro in November

From Themescene

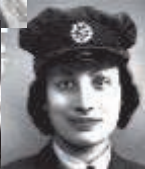
British Stamp news



There has been another significant outpouring of stamps from Royal Mail between January and March. One



was the Remarkable Lives – so you can have another go at the “Who Were They? Quiz” — following on from the first one last year. I did better this time; only two people were completely unknown to me and I even recognised some of them. But why do they all have to be first class stamps? I particularly approved of the Buckingham Palace set. I look forward to receiving those, preferably with



nice cancellations. I like to see the way that buildings have

developed, though not usually ones of the Palace’s stature. Never having been inside, I now have a better impression from the miniature sheet and stamps. I have enjoyed seeing the Working Horses that came out in March. They seem to reflect the power and versatility of these wonderful animals. We must remember also the First World War Centenary first Issue — a very evocative first class set.



The Editor’s views are not necessarily those of the ABPS



Stamp Active Network

Stamp Active competition 2014

Many new names were among those who entered the Stamp Active competitions for 2014, and the judges were particularly impressed with the originality shown by many of the entrants. As a result, the judges were able to award no fewer than five Golds.

The entries were on display at Spring Stampex. The competition, organised by the Stamp Active Network, is kindly sponsored by The Great Britain Philatelic Society and Stanley Gibbons Ltd. The judging was undertaken by **Brian Asquith, John Davies and Richard West**. The Royal Philatelic Society London kindly provided the facilities for the judging.



The main awards were:

The Kidstamps Cup and Best in Class B: **Lucy Hobbs** - '*What is Great About Australia*': Gold

Best in Class C: **Robyn Archibald** - '*The Progress of Medical Science*': Gold

Best in Class D: **Rachel Moore** - '*The Ins and Outs of Energy*': Gold

Best Group: **Neyland Community School** - '*The Food We Eat*': Silver
Schools Trophy: **Doonfoot Primary School**

Anne Dummer Award – Young Collector of the Year 2014.

This year's award, sponsored by Midpex, goes to **Callum Wood** of Montgomery High School, Blackpool.

Callum was chosen by the committee for his work in getting a stamp club started in his own school. A recent newcomer to collecting, he was already attending a stamp club at his local library when he approached the Stamps in Schools organiser, **Erene Grieve**, for help. The school agreed to host a workshop which Callum persuaded nearly 20 other pupils to attend.

A school club has now been started, with one of the teachers acting as overseer, but, as the teacher admits, with Callum doing most of the preparation to keep the club running. Callum is still also involved with the library club where he helps and encourages the other members in their collecting and has brought along more members.

It is hoped that we can arrange for the presentation to Callum to take place at Autumn Stampex.

We wish Callum every success in his philatelic future.

David Rossall

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