



Halcyon

The Newsletter of the Redditch Philatelic Society – No. 35: Summer 2022.

From the President



It is something of an achievement for a society to get to its 50th Anniversary. We were no different to other societies, as the time approached arrangements were made for a suitable programme and for a celebration. Then came the Covid pandemic and everything was put on hold. However, we did manage to have a very successful year albeit slightly shorter, as we could not

commence meetings until late September. This was mainly due to Alan managing to re arrange things many times as each false dawn of being able to reopen came and went.

The year has seen our usual mixture of speakers and members displays interspersed with our auction and dinner. The auction which was originally planned for March 2020 finally took place in October 2021 and our next one will be back at the usual March date in 2023. The 50th Anniversary Dinner was held in March 2022 with Steve Harrison as our guest; the college providing the usual high standard of culinary expertise and the evening proved a great success.

Of the guest speakers, Tom George's Indian States, Clive Jones Travelling Post Offices and Alan Squires Tristan da Cunha were all excellent, informative with first rate material. I always look at the subjects speakers are bringing and if it is an area I have no knowledge of (and may be little interest) I am nearly always surprised at how interesting the evening is. Please don't let a subject put you off coming, you will more than likely be surprised at how good it is.

Members displays and competitions are the backbone of any philatelic society, and I would encourage everyone to please bring something to show on these evenings. There are the regulars who always find something but even they will run out of material eventually.

Finding new material has become an 'all or nothing' situation for me. I have struggled to add much to my Postal History of Worcestershire for the last few years and then in the last few months two large collections of adjacent counties have come on the market and there has been plenty to acquire from overlapping postal areas.

I look forward to seeing you all in September and would remind you to put items on one side for our Auction (if you haven't already); as always, the vendor sheets will be available to members first.

Chris Jackson

From the Chairman



Dear All.

With the threat of any serious effects from Covid-19 receding (providing we have all had our vaccines and are sensible about cleanliness), it is possible to look forward with a little more certainty and optimism for the Society. Certainly meetings "in the flesh" will be the norm, and if

like me you prefer that type of social interaction we should have some very enjoyable evenings. I am up-beat about the future, particularly when everyone takes part in as many of our activities as possible. It is what makes the Society tick - along with everything being done behind the scenes by your Committee. Not always seen from the front, we only notice when things don't happen, so I must thank all of the Committee for all of their efforts keeping things on track.

This edition of *Halcyon* brings us up to date with reports on the Society's recent activities and shows us the early part of the programme for our next season – still our regular first and third Thursdays. These meetings will give us all a very good opportunity to show material from our own collections, clearly a popular theme judging from similar meetings last year, together with being able to just sit back and take in displays from some very accomplished guest speakers - not something any collector is able to do easily if not a member of a Society.

On the collecting front I have been slowly adding to my various subjects over recent months and have almost completed one subject I began decades ago. Sadly, I have yet to make any in-roads into writing-up all of this acquired material. I am told this is a common failing for a collector and can only be "cured" by hours of solitude in "the stamp room". However, stamp fairs just keep on turning up all over the place, and as has been noted in this newsletter many times, "stamp fairs must be supported, or they will disappear". What a dilemma.

Finally, I would like to think that our next season will hold as much entertainment for us all as before, and I do hope to see you all at our meetings when they start again in September. Over to you all.

Malcolm Allinson

EDITORIAL



A whole season's worth of Newsletter this time, and what a season? Our Jubilee year has seen a wonderful array of guest Speakers and some superb displays from you, our members. I had planned on a bumper 50-page edition to celebrate our 50th Anniversary but it appears to have been a page (or 25) too far. However, still not a bad effort I think.

It is hard work keeping a record of all of our meetings and as you can see it is left to just a few members to pick up the job each meeting. More volunteers would be of immense help please. If as well, members could write articles for *Halcyon*, that would be even better. The result would be more frequent editions of your Newsletter.

Finally, my gratitude to **Chris Jackson** and **Paul Veal** for their contributions to this edition.

Malcolm Allinson

2022-23 Programme

We recommence meetings on Thursday 1st September with our usual curtain raiser "New Acquisitions". The dates for the rest of this calendar year are:-

- 15th September - GB Revenues: Gordon Hardy
- 6th October – Members Displays "The 60's"
- 20th October – *Guest speaker to be confirmed*
- 25th October – Members visit to Royal Sutton Coldfield
- 3rd November – Visit from Leamington & Warwick PS
- 17th November – Members Single sheet Competition
- 1st December – *Guest Speaker to be confirmed*
- 15th December – The Committee Entertains

ROYAL MAIL special issues

It seems that Royal Mail have got a bit of the message from the philatelic community, and we are starting to know in advance the subjects of their forthcoming Special Issues. So, congratulations to Royal Mail.

- 1 September Transformers
- 29 September Royal Marines
- 19 October TBA (!!!!!)
- 3 November Christmas 2022
- 24 November Tutankhamun

HOWEVER, there is no more advance information than the above at present, so I do not know if the next issue on 1st September is something to do with the 270th Anniversary of the "invention" of electricity by Benjamin Franklin in 1752, or children's toys!

Ira O'Mally

SOCIETY MEETING REPORTS

Thursday 6th May 2021

Zoom Meeting with Guest Speakers Janet and Nick Nelson: Puerto Rica

In all 19 members and guests joined our Zoom meeting to see and hear Janet and Nick give a display of Puerto Rica.

Nick started the talk by explaining that his interest in Puerto Rico came from a time when he was staying there over a weekend when on business. On the Sunday he went to look for a stamp shop (as all good stamp collectors do!) but when he found one it was closed. However, next door was a plaque for the Sociedad Filatélica de Puerto Rico (the National Philatelic Society of Puerto Rico) and as there was a meeting in progress, he joined it.



Nick showed a map of the location of Puerto Rico at the eastern end of the Caribbean (above). He then displayed the complete collection of commemoratives from the island - one stamp! (left). It shows Christopher Columbus arriving in a canoe and was valid for just 1 day - 19 November 1993 - and then for internal postage only.



Puerto Rico was a colony of Spain and the first definitives showed Queen Isabella II of Spain. They were valid in Cuba as well as Puerto Rico.

Nick related the history of the monarchy, when Queen Isabella married a gay man and on her wedding day commented that 'he had more lace the she did'. However, she had four children reputedly by different members of the Royal Guard. Official stamps of Spain followed, these were valid and denoted in weight rather than value.

In 1866 a new issue in cents and escudos had the year date on the stamp and were reprinted each year with the year date. Stamps for 1866/7 and 1868 were shown. In 1868 stamps were valid for paying the slave tax. After the Glorious Revolution in 1868 Isabella was sent into exile and moved to Paris. Marshall Cyrano was appointed Regent and stamps now showed a symbol of the country, one of which was very like Britannia. At the same time the currency was changed to Pesetas.

In 1873 Cuban and Puerto Rico currencies diverged in value so a monogram was overprinted on the stamps to prevent them being used in Cuba. A selection of these were shown.

In 1877 the name 'Puerto Rico' was printed on stamps for the first time and various examples were shown. The Spanish American War ended with the USA formally purchasing the Spanish Colonies for \$25million. Although the Philippines and Cuba gained their independence in 1933 and 1902 respectively, Puerto Rico remained a colony, but called a Commonwealth as the USA did not have colonies. They were also disenfranchised so do not pay USA Federal Income Tax.

Overprinted USA stamps were shown with the name of the country spelt 'Porto Rico' as were items of Postal Stationery. An interesting cover to Liverpool had been flown on the short-lived USA Virgin Isles to Puerto Rico airmail service with both airline stamps and USA airmail stamps affixed.

The Island was serviced by a private packet company, the Hamburg American Packet Co and a cover was shown with their stamps. The Royal Mail Steam Packet also serviced the island but did not have an office, only an agent. Nick showed stamps from various countries which referred to Puerto Rico.

Finally, he showed a map showing the 6 British Post Offices on the island and a cover with a superb Crowned Circle 'PAID AT/ SAN JUAN', similar to below.



Entire letter from Puerto Rico to Palma de Mallorca (Spain), with "PAID AT/SAN JUAN PORTO RICO" crown circle, rated "2/2" with red crayon, French and red British "PP" and "Paid" cds on front.

An excellent evening with the philatelic aspect alongside the history behind it.

Chris Jackson

For further reading see: *The Postal History of Puerto Rico* by R.B. Preston and M.H. Sanborn. Publ. by the American Philatelic Society Inc. October 1950

**Thursday 20th May 2021
Zoom Meeting: Members' Displays
Letters E and F.**

Our first guest **Terry Harrison** showed us some of his collection of forgeries of early St. Vincent stamps. In order to identify a forgery, it is necessary to know what the original looks like so we began with a plate proof pair of the 1d value. Early stamps of St. Vincent were produced in four values 1d, 4d, 6d and 1s.



Genuine 1861 Plate Proof Typographed forgery

To the right (*above*) is a scarce forgery of the 1d value apparently typographed on thick hard wove paper, perforation 11½. So far this forgers work has only been seen on the 1d value and in dark green. The stamp is too short, and the portrait is quite unlike the original. This can possibly be attributed to the Spanish forger Plácido Ramón de Torres (1847–1910), who used the alias Rosendo Fernandez.



Lithographed forgeries on buff wove paper

Above are crude lithographed forgeries on buff wove paper of all four values, found both imperforate and with pin perforations. The portrait is poor, lattice work the wrong shape and the shading practically solid. Values noted were 1d rose-red, 4d yellow, 4d orange, 4d deep blue, 6d green, 1s grey black.



Spiro Brothers forgeries

The four forgeries above were made by Spiro Brothers of Hamburg between 1870 and 1880. They were crudely lithographed on white or yellowish paper in sheets of 25, usually roughly perforated 13 and cancelled with an oval of bars with the centre blank. The portrait is unlike the original, the word 'St. Vincent' is too tall and crudely drawn and the shading behind the lattice work is solid. We saw a number of other impressive forgeries by eminent forgers including Erasmus Ongelia (*below*).



The Ongelia engraved forgeries

These six stamps (*above*) were produced in various papers and perforations with an impressed watermark of a five pointed star instead of six. The forgeries are more heavily engraved than the original, the dot below 'T' of 'St.' is a flat oblong instead of round and the ornaments in the corner squares are too thick and lack the bulbous ends.

Terry mentioned that his display has only scratched the surface of this topic and hoped it had been of interest. This writer certainly thought so.

Dahlia Harrison showed us a colourful display entitled "Flowers and their Symbolism". Specific flowers have a symbolic meaning in art and literature. The **rose** has long been the most popular flower, represented by New Zealand white rose = innocent love (*below left*);



pink rose = first love (*above centre*); and deep crimson (representing red) = true love (*above right*).

We also saw stamps illustrating **pansies** – the floral symbol for remembrance and meditation; and **daffodils** - attributed of David, Patron Saint of Wales, and associated with the leek as the Welsh for daffodil is Cenhinden Bedr (translated as "Peter's Leek"). The **Hyacinth** is the floral symbol for prudence, peace of mind and desire for heaven, and finally the **Daisy** is the floral symbol for simplicity and innocence.



Above: Pansy (USA), daffodil (Luxembourg), hyacinth (Iran) and daisy (New Zealand)

Bill Belford showed "Letter E for Errors". Firstly, a super 1852 cover posted in Leith for local delivery. It proved to be a fine example of how lack of information when addressing an envelope can create much work for the postmen whilst attempting to comply with the delivery, as there were 4 maybe 5 failed attempts to deliver the letter (*below*).



Bill's second "E", was an Error of Delivery by the postal authorities; a letter missent to Tarbert, Scotland instead of Tarbert Ireland. Addressed to *Dr Graham, HMS Madagascar, Tarbert, Ireland*, the "Missent instructional" is in script, due to the office in Tarbert in Scotland being very small and not issued with an individual "Missent To" hand stamp. (*above right*).

On the rear were numerous date stamps plotting the letters travel. The journey commenced MY 17 and



reached Tarbert (Ireland) on MY 22 but could not be finally delivered until JN 17 as the ship was at sea.



Bill's third slide showed us The Electric Brae in Ayrshire - Croy Brae to the locals (*above*). Known as a "Gravity Hill" with a 1 in 86 gradient, it is an optical illusion that gives what appears to be an "UP" slope, when it is in fact a "DOWN" slope. Visitors such as cyclist and motorists are often seen freewheeling from the seemingly bottom or rolling backwards if coming the other way "UP" the slope, all be it very slowly.

Paul Veal chose 'E for Ephemera' starting with a snapshot of the R101 airship at Cardington and a 'mystery' picture (*right*) of Manchester town hall with a dramatic rescue operation in progress, perhaps faked. Note the length of the ladder! However, the clock tower is 280 feet tall, so it is probably a staged shot using perspective. If not, it's a very brave (or stupid) man to go up it!



Further items from Paul comprised two old receipts, evidence of staggering inflation, an army letter in 1918 notifying a case of poison gas in France and a form recording the issue of letters of administration to a widow in 1906. These last two being family items.

Brian Atkins was another guest, "visiting" from Whitchurch in Shropshire. He chose some postal history of nearby Ellesmere for his "Letter 'E'". We saw the earliest known Ellesmere postmark – a straight line 179 ELLES/MERE mileage mark on a 26th November 1785 letter to Merioneth (*next page top*). Only six examples of this mark are known so it can be safely classed as rare.



This was followed by the earliest straight-line mark of Ellesmere (below), this time only five examples are known!



Finally from Brian, we saw a selection of Ellesmere mileage marks both straight line and circular, all used between 1804 and 1828.

Chris Jackson chose the letter 'F' for his title - "Feckenham" and showed us a number of different postmarks from a very small village. He explained this disparity was due to the number of needle-making businesses in and around the area.



An 1850 cover (below left) from Feckenham to Stratford on Avon clearly showing the route taken. A Feckenham UDC is followed by circular marks in black ink for REDDITCH (where a 140 duplex cancelled the postage stamp) and BROMSGROVE (both 17th November) and for STRATFORD ON AVON (18th November) in blue. (Below) is a cover from Worcester to Pershore re-directed to Feckenham on 23rd Aug 1859.



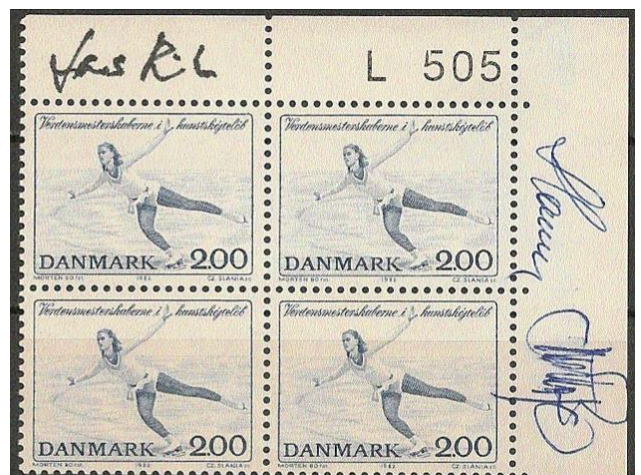
Colin Searle from Wellesbourne was another guest and he showed us some of the work of world-renowned stamp engraver, Czeslaw Slania, (left) who produced more than 1,000 stamp engravings for many countries.



We saw many examples of Slania's work including the 1992 1 Krone stamp of Estonia featuring the Black-tailed Godwit (below left) from the Baltic Birds series, and (below right) the 1999 GB Large format Machin definitive.

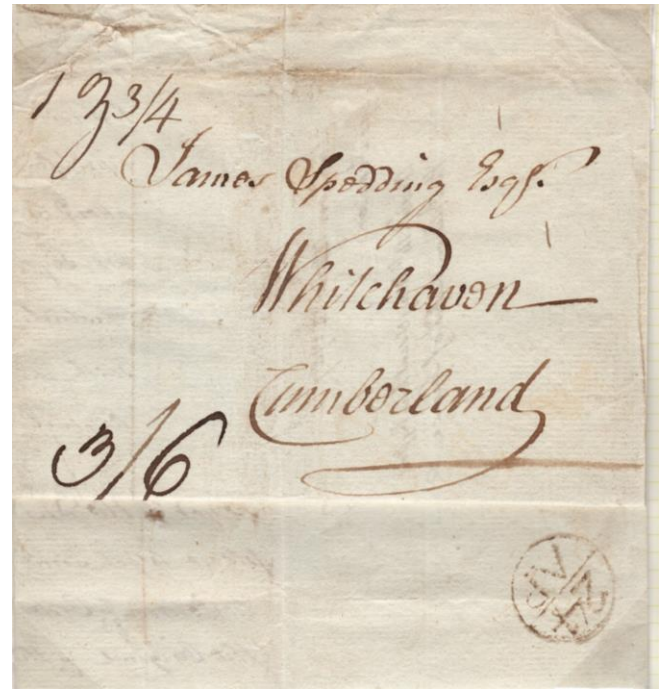


This writer particularly liked the block of four Danish 200 øre stamps (below) celebrating the 1982 World figure staking championship (SG 741), which were signed by the photographer, the designer, and the engraver.



Alan Godfrey followed with *ERINNOPHILIA* and *THE EVESHAM JOURNAL*. Alan explained that Erinnophilia is the study of objects that look like stamps, but are not postal stamps. Examples include Easter seals, Christmas seals, propaganda labels, locals and railway and bus carriage labels - a group often called "Cinderellas" by philatelists. We saw a number of covers all commercially delivered to the Evesham Journal, but not by Royal Mail. Newspaper publishers have relied on trains, buses and trams for many years to distribute newspapers to retail outlets, but they also sent express letters containing editorial copy and photographs by these means too. We saw a news envelope (below) sent from Tewkesbury by the Bristol Omnibus Company at a cost of 2/-; a cover sent

material acquired at great cost, but a reference to the high cost of postage in the 18th and 19th centuries.



from The Evesham Journal office in Moreton in Marsh by British railways in 1976 (below) which was charged 29p including overprinted pre-decimal 3d stamps to 1p

We saw a letter (above) sent from London to Whitehaven dated 24th April 1787, charged 3/6 which today would be approximately £13.43

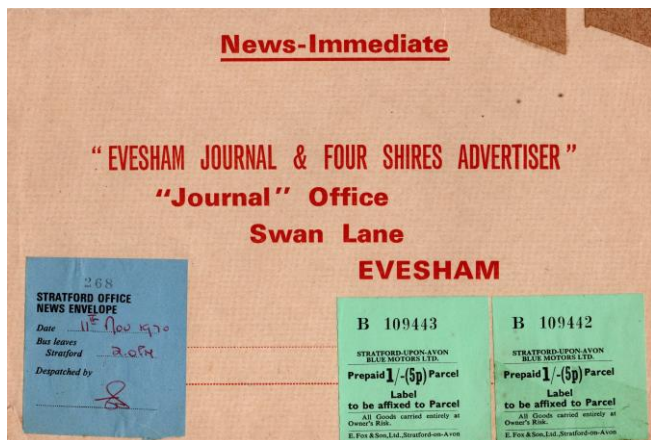


This was followed (below) by a letter from Carlisle to Edinburgh charge 3/- as it was above 1oz. in weight.



The final cover (below) was carried from Stratford upon Avon to Evesham by Stratford Blue Motors in 1970 and charged at 2/- (10p), paid by 2 x 1/- labels.

Malcolm calculated this to be the equivalent of two days wages for a farm labourer which, based on the current minimum wage, would work out at nearly £180 today. How fortunate the sender didn't have to pay the postage!!

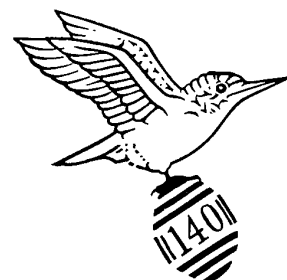


A very nice evening made all the better by being able to host a number of guests.

Malcolm Allinson

Stratford Blue Motors was a subsidiary of Birmingham & Midland Motor Omnibus Company since 1935, until it was nationalised and became part of the National Bus Company (along with Midland Red) in 1969.

Malcolm Allinson completed our evening, showing "E for Expensive"; not, as many members thought,



Thursday 3rd June 2021
Zoom Meeting with guest speaker Keith Burton: "The Fackellauf (Torch Run) of the 1972 Olympic Games – from Greece to Germany".

For quadrennial Olympics Games there is a tradition, began at the Summer Olympics in 1936, of lighting a torch from the sun's rays at Olympia in Greece and carrying it to the host venue, where it in turn lights the Olympic cauldron to burn throughout the whole period of those Games.

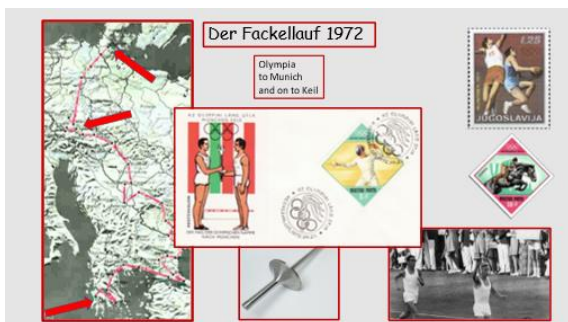
Keith focussed on the specific Torch Run (Der Fackellauf) for the 1972 Munich Games and showed philatelic covers from many of the places the torch passed through between Greece and Munich. The torch began its travels on 28 July covering 3450 miles through eight countries and reached Munich on 26 August. 6200 torch bearers took part.

Upon reaching Munich, a second torch was lit and again carried in relay to Keil where the sailing competitions were taking place. A third torch, also lit from the original when it arrived in Munich, was relayed to Augsburg for the canoeing races.



*The torch for the 1972 Munich Olympics
 Inscribed 'Spiele der XX. Olympiade. München 1972'*

We saw almost forty covers produced to commemorate the many places on the route. Each was well presented with information about the location and also using many stamps by the various postal services to celebrate the event and postmarked to coincide with the date the torch passed through. Below are some examples of the colourful presentation we witnessed



Keith's introduction slide (above) showing the full route from Greece to Munich; an official cover; stamps and illustrations of the final torch bearer - Günther Zahn, and the torch.



Above: showing the torch route from Arachova to Mount Olympus. Covers were produced for each venue and showed local scenes and picture relating to the area. In many countries on the route stamps were also issued to commemorate the Olympics, and many were used on these 'Torch Route' covers.

Malcolm Allinson

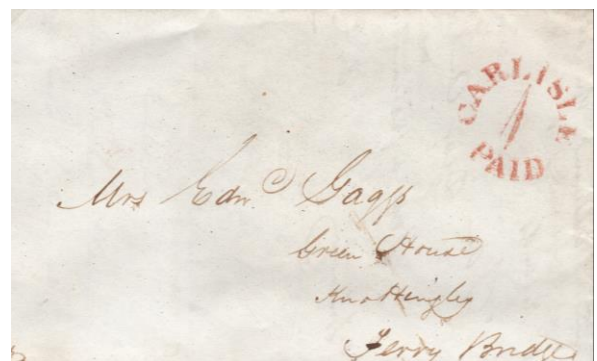
Thursday 17th June 2021
Chairman's Evening - Malcolm Allinson: The First Postage Stamps (via Zoom)

Tonight, our Chairman displayed to us a selection of his ever growing collection of early GB Line Engraved material – or as we know it, 1d Blacks and 2d Blues.

We began in 1839 with an original copy of the Act of Parliament (*The Postage Duties Regulation Act 1839 (2° & 3° Victoria Cap 52)*) allowing for the reduction in postage and the introduction of postage stamps as we know them.

The goal was a uniform postage rate of 1d throughout the country. However, as with most things Governmental, this did not happen overnight and eventually reductions in postage were phased, firstly to a flat rate of fourpence and we saw a very nice entire letter showing a rare handstruck '4' mark of Worcester.

Reduction of postage rates to a uniform 1d took place on 10th January 1840. However postage stamps were not yet available, so we saw a number of handstruck '1' marks which were used .



Handstruck CARLISLE PAID '1' in red used 8th April 1840

Postage stamps, or labels as they were first known, were eventually introduced on 6th May 1840. This enabled users to pre-purchase a number of these labels and affix them to a letter whenever they wanted,

rather than having to go to a Post Office each time and hand the letter over with payment.



Malcolm then illustrated to us the development of the stamp design using the PowerPoint graphics to show how the stamp is built up from three main parts; the head, the top 'POSTAGE' panel and the bottom 'value' panel. (Left: 1d Black Plate 1a, lettered MA)

Due to the manual nature of the construction of each printing plate we were able to see in suitable magnification many of the minute differences in the stamps – even though they are all from the same master engraving.

Malcolm then showed us a selection of 1d Black stamps including a complete row of stamps (MA-ML) from Plate 5, and also the same from Plate 6.

We then moved on to the 2d Blue stamp where we saw examples of the first issues – from Plates 1 and 2. (below)



2d blue Plate 1 'MA'



2d blue Plate 2 'MA'

An impressive almost fully reconstructed sheet of Plate 3 2d blues followed, and then a number of examples of usage of these stamps to pay postage.



1d black stamp Plate 6 lettered MA paying the single rate postage for a letter. Cancelled with a crisp red Maltese Cross on a letter from Strathaven to Hamilton Palace, both in Lanarkshire.

A very nice display to finish our season, made all the more interesting and informative through the use of PowerPoint slides.

Malcolm Allinson

Although our programme of meetings ended in June, it was decided to continue holding Zoom meetings for July and August, to see us through to when we could meet again in person in September.

Thursday 15th July 2021
Zoom meeting. Members Displays:
'Written Up during Lockdown.'

Alan Godfrey displayed 'Wye Valley Motors Ltd Parcel Service'. The enterprise was started in 1948 in Pontrilas as a service between Abergavenny and Hereford. The business later moved to Hereford and offered a local service in the county comprising a bus service and a parcels service. Alan displayed pictures of coaches and tickets both pre-decimal and decimal. Tickets also doubled up as parcel and cycle tickets. The service was merged with the National Bus Service in 1970's.

Bill Belford showed 'Scottish Local Marks' including a cds of Dunscore in blue. Dunscore was a receiving house for Dumfries from 1849 to 1854. A green cancellation of 'Lochwinnoch' followed, which was a receiving house for Paisley/Glasgow. The mark was later replaced with a correctly spelt 'Lochwinnoch'. Closeburn and Dunisdeer followed, sub offices of Thornhill. Edinburgh receiving houses Kirkconnel, Duke Street and Pitt Street were shown as was a straight line Dunure on a stamp. Bill's final item was an oval framed *Georgemas/station/H'land Ry* on a pair of QV Jubilee 1/- greens which Bill was intending to research. Bill also pointed out that Kirkconnel was a single street and famous for having 14 league football players coming from the village.

Chris Jackson showed additions to his Needlemakers collection. A letter from London to John English at Feckenham in 1825 had a 2nd type 'Stratf'd on Avon/P.Y. Post' handstamp. T Hessin & Co were a very small company on the corner of Bridge Street and Bromsgrove Road and Chris showed an advertising envelope sent to Australia in 1952 with 1/6d in KGVI stamps. Chris's final item was two envelopes from the same correspondence to James Smith & Sons of Astwood Bank in June 1840 and October 1841 with 1d black and 1d red stamps.

Bill Pile continued with additions to his 'Notopfer' collection, this time with offsets. Bill explained the difference of sheet impressions and machine impressions which created reverse impressions on the back of the stamp. Imperforate and perforate examples were shown including early issues with missing perforation pins.

Brian Atkins showed a letter with 2 UDC's from adjacent villages, a letter which travelled from Shrewsbury to Bolougne in 1 day, the 4d stamp cancelled with a Shrewsbury spoon. A 1½d postcard from Ludlow to Bavaria was the only penny farthing postcard found from Shropshire. South Yarra, Australia to Shrewsbury via Brindisi was at the 6d rate but with an additional 2d stamp. Brian had not been able to tie down which ship carried the item, either P&O or Orient line.

Colin Searle had sent a display of Gibraltar flight covers but was unable to attend the meeting so without his guidance a considerable amount of

discussion ensued. There were covers from Ohio to Germany via the Atlantic Clipper to Lisbon, and from the Dominican Republic to Milan which had been censored in Gibraltar as it was intercepted by the navy. A similar item was from Argentina to Switzerland. Several others followed and the consensus was that at another meeting it would be good to have Colin explain the items.

Alan closed the meeting with a second display on 'Co-operation between Philatelic Bureaux. The common theme was the Falkland Islands. A miniature sheet by the Shallow Marine Survey Group included Ascension Is, Falkland Is and South Georgia. The stamps on the min sheet differed from the normal issue as they did not have a white border. A sheetlet for 'QEII Britain's Longest Reigning Monarch' had stamps from 27 counties on a sheet which was nearly A4 in size and was produced by the Commonwealth Secretariat. The final item was '95th Birthday of H M Queen Elizabeth II', this had 11 different Commonwealth countries stamps on a limited-edition miniature sheet.

Chris Jackson

**Thursday 19th August 2021
Zoom meeting. Members Displays:
'Not My Main Collection'**

No less than 21 members and guests logged in to our second summer Zoom meeting, a truly marvellous attendance especially as the summer is traditionally the "closed season" for stamp collectors.

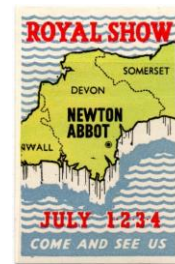
After the Chairman's introduction and a few notices about future meetings **Roger Wood** started the evening off with a display of 'Items he had collected by accident'. These included a £1 Seahorse perfin-ed 'DB' for Deutsche Bank which the perfin society listed as unknown in 2006; an Alphabet III penny red used before the date of issue and a plate 9 2d blue which was imperforate. The final item was a pair of 1d reds on cover with impossible lettering.

Alan Godfrey's presentation included cards and ephemera from The Royal Show as it moved around the country from 1906 to 1962. The first show was in Derby in 1906 and we saw a token (right) minted for the event held at Osmaston Park in Derby to commemorate the visit of King Edward VII, and a Boot's Chemists advertisement card for the 1907 Show at Lincoln, where publicity labels were also used for the first time.



1931 saw the Show held in Castle Park,

Warwick, the year coinciding with the centenary celebrations of the Warwickshire Agricultural Society. (Registered envelope above right)



The publicity label for the 1934 Show at Newton Abbott (left) was particularly colourful, and we saw many more items relating to Shows right up to 1962 (except for the war years), when the RASE took over a permanent site at Stoneleigh near Kenilworth, where the shows were held until closure in 2009.

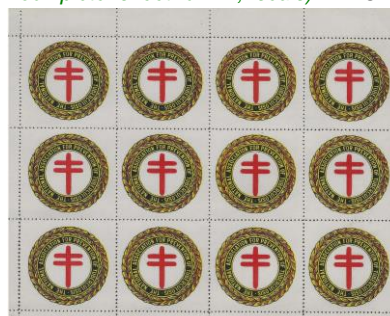
Bill Pile followed with an A-Z of Xmas Seals. Bill explained that Xmas seals had been introduced in Denmark & Sweden in 1904 when a Danish postal worker called Einar Holbøll came up with the idea to sell the penny seals to raise money for children with tuberculosis.

In the USA Christmas Seals were introduced in 1907 (right) by a Red Cross volunteer called Emily Bissell, who adopted the idea to help raise money for a tuberculosis sanatorium in Delaware that was under the threat of closure if a sum of \$300 was not raised. Ten times that amount was raised!



USA postcard 25th January 1908, showing Christmas Seal together with 1c 'George Washington' postage.

Great Britain first issued Seals in 1926 for the National Association for Prevention of Tuberculosis (below left, complete sheet of 12, seals).



The symbol of the double-barred cross is known as the 'Cross of Lorraine', which was adopted as the symbol of the fight against tuberculosis at the International Conference held in Berlin, 1902.

Brian Atkins, our regular Zoom visitor from Shropshire, showed us 'Mail between UK and India via Brindisi'. This route began on 6th October 1869 but at a cost of 1/4 for each ½oz. The rate was reduced to 1/- in December 1870, and lasted until India joined the General Postal Union in July 1876 when the rate reduced further to 8d per ½oz. We saw four covers to and from India between 1874 and 1879, where Brian annotated each with background information relating to the postage rates and the ships that carried the mail, including departure and arrival dates



Letter from Erode (about 250 miles southwest of Madras) to Eastbourne Sussex. Carried on P&O Venetia, Bombay 7 July, Aden 18 July, Suez 23 July, then on P&O Ceylon, Alexandria 25 July, Brindisi 29 July 1876. The UPU rate from India was 6annas, paid by 4a bluish-green and 2a orange

Toby Mottram from Leamington Spa showed us some re-addressed/ returned to sender covers franked with QEII 2½d Wilding stamps. We saw a cover sent from UK to Belgium but only stamped for UK Inland Postage and so had a Belgian Postage Due, and a window envelope sent from Yeovil with the date slugs replaced with the letters 'D.P.' for Delayed Post.

One super item (below) showed just how much can be derived from a seemingly tatty and innocuous item of



postal history. With letter rate of 2½d, the letter to Miss du Rue (USA Navy) was posted in London on 5 March 1954 addressed to a staff box at the United States Naval Building, London W.1. Because she was no longer in England, her letter was forwarded on to the USA. There it received many postal and instructional marks in Washington DC & Charleston and 30 March reached the DEAD LETTER DT unclaimed.

Colin Searle showed KGVI & Early QEII definitive full sets on cover. He began with an Eritrea FDC posted on the day he was born, followed by the Southern Rhodesia QEII set to £1 on FDC, and the St Vincent 1949 KGVI full set to \$4.80 on Airmail cover to Gibraltar (above right). Next came Singapore (Malaya) 1955 set was on FDC and New Zealand 1st issue of QEII was on registered cover but not an FDC. Finally we saw the 1963 Pitcairn QEII and KGVI mixed values to 2/6d with both 4d values, and finished with a Gibraltar full set of 1953 QEII definitives,



Dahlia Harrison displayed items related to 'Stained Glass in Philately'. Stained glass was originally produced to tell stories from the bible. Dahlia explained the use of colour was most influential in depicting messages and characters in stories. The display covered a whole range of stained-glass windows on stamps.



Chris Jackson showed some of his collection of postcards of local public houses. The Red Lion at Hunt End had an annual sheep/ox roast and cards from 1908 and 1909 were shown (below). Internal cards of



public houses are even harder to find than inside views of railway stations and Chris showed the inside of the Fox and Goose at Foxlydiate and an undated card of a snooker match in the Royal Hotel in Market Place.

Finally, our Chairman **Malcolm Allinson** displayed some of his collection of Uniform 4d handstamps. Handstruck 4's of Haddington, Belfast and Galashiels were all the first recorded dates of use. Kington & Blackburn were both one of only two recorded copies and Galway, Chester, Nottingham (right) and Carlisle were all unrecorded dates of use.

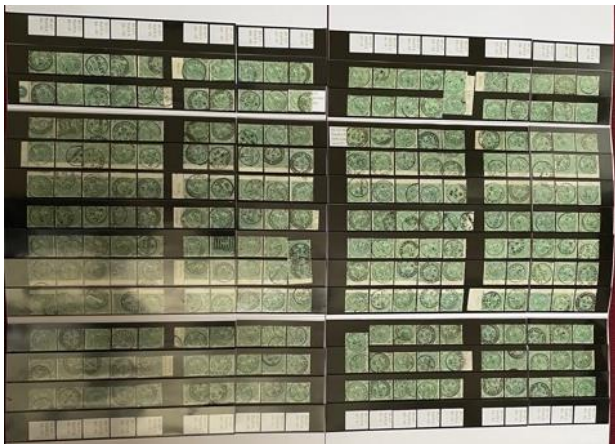


Chris Jackson

Thursday 2nd September 2021
Zoom meeting. Members Displays:
Red, White and Blue

Tonight's meeting should have been our first physical meeting following the lifting of Covid restrictions. However, our meeting venue was not yet ready to receive us, so we hurriedly convened a Zoom meeting which hosted 14 members and guests.

Roger Wood started the evening off with more of his plate reconstructions. Red on Blue Paper and others on white paper fitting to the title for the evening. There was a 1d red plate reconstruction on blue paper, and the halfpenny bantam with mixed plates. Plate 6 of the 1/- green embossed on white paper (*below*) had the



majority of date cancels in 1872. Roger had also sent a 2d blue reconstruction but the slide had disappeared into the ether in transmission to the Chairman.

Brian Atkins displayed Shropshire postal history starting with a 3rd day Mulready to Gloucester with a red Maltese cross. A 1d red with Church Stretton 709 3VOS handstamp and a duplex from the same town with a rare 709 duplex on 7.3.1876. Market Drayton 509 was in blue on an 1851 cover together with a Cheswardine UDC. A Liverpool to Ludlow cover which was marked on the back 'White' completed the theme for the evening.



Doug Netherclef displayed Faeroe Islands, Norway and Iceland because their respective flags are red white and blue (*above*) and of very similar design. Doug displayed tourism issues from 1991, 1993 & 1995 from all three places.



Colin Searle displayed covers from the 1934 Imperial Airways First Flight to Australia using a flying boat. The airline had a red, white and blue logo fitting the

nights subject. The journey to Australia took 11 days with the flight stopping at numerous points on the journey. Colin showed a Tangier, Marseille to Sydney cover which joined the route at Marseille, a London to New Caledonia cover was dropped off before Australia. Dublin to East Indies, Croydon to Brisbane and a registered cover London to Sydney were among the covers shown.

Our Chairman presented the final display. Red was covered by Bishop Marks from Edinburgh which were always in red but did not signify prepayment. A Carlisle to Ferrybridge entire from 8th April 1840 had a Carlisle '1D PAID' circular handstamp in red. A Northampton to Jamaica had a circular Post Paid in red together with a red Bishop Mark which was most unusual not being in black ink. White was covered by an Albino 2 line WIND/SOR handstamp on a cover to Sevenoaks by the Bodmin Bag. A Leith handstruck '4' in blue completed the challenge for the evening. It was normal for Leith to use blue ink and the entire was on an unrecorded day of use. Blue was also seen on a 2d blue cover with a blue Dudley cds, and also on a Mulready with a Penrith cds. (*right*)



Chris Jackson

Thursday 16th September 2021
Guest Speaker: Richard Capon
Money and Stamps

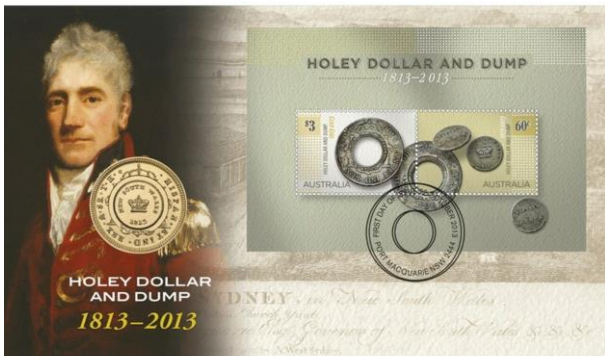
Tonight's meeting started as a real welcome back to members and guests as it was our first physical meeting since 5th March last year - over 18 months ago. It was most pleasing to see so many members participate tonight, and also gratifying to know that in those 18 months we have gained two new members. Our guest for the evening was Richard Capon from Nottingham who brought us a magnificent display entitled 'Money and Stamps'. In advance of the meeting this writer thought long and hard about what would be displayed but was still enthralled with how the subject was tackled. Richard first went through the history of providing currency in various parts of the world such as shells, horn, even cowhide as well as the more familiar flat metal coinage. All these practicalities were illustrated on stamps.

Some countries used coinage to show their history as shown below with this set of Cyprus stamps from 1972.



Early Egyptian coins on stamps from numerous countries represented their early history as part of early Empires and early Greek coins depicted local town marks from where the coinage originated.

We saw Bits and Holey Dollars - which came about due to a shortage of coin in New South Wales.



2013 centenary miniature sheet celebrating the Holey Dollar

The Governor acquired 40,000 Spanish reales and employed a convicted forger to cut out the centres of each coin in order to double the number of coin available.

We moved on to the use of stamps as coinage. Easier and faster to produce, these were effectively paper money. Following the Russian Revolution, the country was hit by massive inflation so much so that the value of stamps became worthless as they were being printed. Postage rates increased daily and so letters sent at the then correct rate were taxed before they were delivered, even the next day!

The second half of the display concentrated on the 'cinderella' aspect of the subject. We saw War Bond slogans on stamps to raise funds; places named after money, for example places called 'Dollar' in Scotland, 'Farthing' in Wyoming and 'Coin' in Arkansas. Members struggled to think of others.

Richard completed the display with the more familiar (to this writer) coin stamps of Tonga and Sierra Leone.

A totally worthwhile evening's entertainment, well-constructed and well delivered to a very appreciative audience.

Malcolm Allinson

Thursday 7th October 2021 Member's Displays: The 50's

After a short Extraordinary General Meeting to deal with outstanding matters relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, members got down to the business of the evening.

Pete Elms showed a Christmas card from 1855 with skeleton postmark. He also talked about the Victoria Cross, introduced in 1856 to recognise gallantry in the Crimean War, and we saw an 1853 cover of that time. The 1950's were represented by graphite line definitives examples and roller cancellations.

John Coombes showed 46 cards depicting uniforms of regiments formed or amalgamated in the 'fifties' decades of several centuries. The cards were designed by artist Charles Stadden.

Roger Wood showed 'Bishop' postmarks for the 1750s, the Madeline Smith Glasgow experimental postmark on penny reds and 'spoon' postmarks for the 1850s, and for the 1950's, covers sent to the Russian zone in Berlin in 1953, and a 1955 postcard telling of broken legs on a skiing trip.

Paul Veal showed a selection of 'Nostalgia Postcards' alluding to events, celebs, fashion and everyday life from the 1950's decade.

Chris Jackson began with covers from the 1650's and 1750's.; followed up with a Stourbridge much cancelled cover; an item from Montego Bay to Pebworth, Warks; a carpet invoice to the USA, some skeleton postmarks and 1950's registered mail.

Bob Harper chose 1950's aircraft and illustrated his display with pictures of the Bristol Brabazon and the Hawker Hunter, both at the forefront of Britain's Aviation Industry.

Bob Allard gave us 1950's West German humanitarian relief stamps/youth relief stamps in alternate years. These were issued in alternate years for each cause.

Alan Godfrey showed covers from Warwickshire in the 1850's; displayed in sections for hand stamps for smaller post offices (under £1,000 business p.a.), and undated circles where if the office name had eight or more letters it went around the edge; if less, the name went straight across the handstamp.

After the break, **Pete Elms** showed us some errors in stamps from the 1950's; **Bob Allard** returned to West Germany, but it was noticed that he crept slightly into the 1960's; **Chris Jackson** showed local undated circle handstamps of a type withdrawn 1859/60. Finally **Alan Godfrey** showed more undated circles, plus daring to show a rare Finstall postmark and a unique Redditch duplex on a 1956 cover. Worcestershire PH collectors were not amused.

Paul Veal

Thursday 21st October 2021 Members Displays: New Acquisitions

We began with **Roger Wood** and a splendid display of Victorian London postmarks including trials and squared circles introduced in 1879. **John Coombes** showed a set of stamps and a large number of illustrative cards commemorating the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the British Antarctic Territory in 1962. The cards featured the four bases involved.

Mike Hayfield showed some 1892 USA customs stamps, an aerophilic cover, a postcard of The Park, Abertillery, a 'pre-post and go item', and three Italian stamps. Next we saw **Roni Dhaliwal** who displayed covers and postcards.

Chris Jackson followed with Post Offices outside the (Worcestershire) county border; postcards showing some of these and a selection of covers relating to small places in Herefordshire near Malvern, Bishop's Frome, Bredenbury etc.

Paul Veal showed small selections of postal strike mail covers, warship postcards and 'odd' covers, whilst **Bob Allard** showed more of his extensive collection of Czech covers. To complete the first half **Alan Godfrey** brought us a miscellany: the Antarctic Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1955-66, an illustrated cover (coach and horses) of 1893, two bar-coded Machins issued this year but not on general sale, undated circles, a cover from New York to Rugby, 1802, item re post office at RAF Snitterfield, 1943-46, postage due, 1976 – on a letter from Belgium, 12p charged, Jasper Carrot, stamp and post card, 1843 cover – Kobe to Alcester and some parcel post labels.

After the break **Malcolm Allinson** showed us single ring cancels on Cumberland covers and **Chris Jackson** put up some more old covers from the Malvern area, an undated circle of 1859, a selection of covers and labels for those Worcestershire offices within Herfordshire.

Malcolm Allinson completed the evening with some Cumberland postcards of post offices and lakes, plus transatlantic mail, registered letters and old maps.

Paul Veal

Thursday 4th November 2021
Guest Speaker - Tom George:
Indian States

Tom explained that he had collected Indian States since childhood bit by bit and that many philatelists had a presumption that many of the Indian States stamps were forgeries, which is not the case.

Tom started with Bhopal, the first state to issue stamps in 1872. The first stamps were locally printed by lithography and were square with an octagonal frame containing an embossed central panel. There were many errors in the printing of the frame. The stamps were only valid for postage within the state.



The first issues of Indian Feudal State Bhopal SG 2 & 4

Early stamps had the base tablet in two parts while later printings have just one tablet at the base. Stamps were produced both perforate and imperforate to satisfy collectors' preferences. Tom showed examples of the early issues, both single stamps and part sheets. A second issue came out in 1902 printed by Perkins Bacon and from 1908 the Imperial Service was brought in with 'SERVICE' as an overprint which was changed later by including the word 'Service' within the design.

Cochin was the next state to issue stamps and Tom filled no less than 7 frames from this state. The first issue was in 1892 which was soon followed by the second issue which depicted the heads of the 5 Rajahs. This later set was overprinted 'Government Service' and can be found with different perforations and overprints. Tom's display included stamps, postcards, and envelopes; the majority of which were sent by government departments or the courts.

After Independence in 1947 Travancore and Cochin combined their postal systems so that the stamps could be used in either state. Tom showed several examples of cross border mail using the stamps of the state of posting but being delivered in the other state. In 1951 stamps for individual states were superseded by the national issues.

In the second half Tom showed the stamps of Barwani where the first issue in 1921 was printed in blocks of four and sold in booklets so can be found with perforations on 2,3 or 4 sides. (Right: Barwani ¼ anna blue with just two sides perforated) The perforations are very crude, and Tom suggested that they may have been done with a sewing machine. The stamps can be found inverted tete-beche within the same sheet.



Next came Gwalior, a convention state which used the Imperial stamps overprinted with the state name, as was the postal stationery. Tom said that he took a decision to collect postal stationery rather than stamps for this state. The overprints were in Hindi and English with a crest below showing a Cobra's facing outwards. An example of the first envelope from 1885 was shown postally used. The display covered various values and overprints, when the KGVI issue was printed the Cobras on the crest were now facing inwards. The display included many registered envelopes, the later ones with the overprint in silver.

Tom finished his display with the Feudatory States stamps of Kishangharh, Rajasthan, Alwar, Bamra, Bhor, Bijwar and Bundi - all on very thin paper.

An excellent evening on a subject few members had seen previously, delivered with the confidence of a speaker whose detailed knowledge of a very complicated area of philately was clear for all to see.

Chris Jackson



Tom George with his display of Indian Feudal States

Thursday 2nd Dec 2021
Guest Speaker - Clive Jones:
English Travelling Post Offices

Those of us who know Clive will have already been aware of what we were about to see tonight. Nevertheless, Clive still managed to delight us all with his display; part of a TPO collection that seems to grow each time it appears. Tonight, he confined matters to just English TPO's. Even so there was much to see and learn about.

Carriage of mail by rail was a feature of early railways – the Liverpool & Manchester Railway carried mail bags within two months of it's opening in September 1830. This was extended as new lines were built. The Grand Junction from Warrington to Birmingham, and subsequently the London and Birmingham Railway provided a fast route for mail from the capital to the north. By 1847 there was a through route to Carlisle and this speeded up the mail as there was now the facility to sort letters on board the train – the first true TPO, or RPO (Railway Post Office) as it was known then .



Letter to Sanquhar Dumfriesshire November 1858 – just one days travelling from London. A late fee of 1d has been paid in London. The L.C.R. circular mark is that of the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway. This is the earliest known example of this mark.

Clive related how on the 15th October 1907, the Bristol, Shrewsbury & York TPO failed to observe the 10mph speed limit on the sharp curves approaching Shrewsbury station. The train ran for 75 yards off the rails before turning over. 18 people lost their lives including 3 mail sorters and 2 of the 3 mail carriages were also wrecked.



Postcard of the inside of one of the mail sorting vans after the crash.

Over very few years the TPO system developed into an integrated country-wide network. The main route was that from London to Scotland via the west coast (LNWR/LMS). Mail for north-eastern destinations (Edinburgh, Leeds Newcastle etc.) was unloaded at Tamworth which became the sort of national hub for both north-east and south-west mail not destined for London.

This writer resorted to the TPO bible⁽¹⁾ to find out the extent of the system and found no less than 190 different TPO's running in England alone, which is a fair indicator of how reliant the postal service was upon railways to move the mail speedily for quick delivery. It was also evident that there were a surprising number of very short routes that you would not think required a TPO such as the Truro to Falmouth Sorting Tender which was allowed 25 minutes for the journey each way!

After 1968, only 1st Class mail was allowed on TPO's, and with the full electrification of the West Coast Main Line in 1974 all lineside mail exchanges were stopped, due to the high speed of the trains. Sadly, all TPO's ceased in 2004. Mail is now transported mostly by air for long distances or lorry via the motorway network.

We saw tonight an abundance of scarce postmarks including several unique marks. We also saw lots of diverse material and very rare items. Clive's knowledge is immense for what is a truly comprehensive collection.

Malcolm Allinson



Clive Jones showing his superb collection of TPO Mail.

Thursday 16th December 2021
The Committee Entertains.

Our traditional Christmas meeting brought the Committee out in force this year – no less than six members providing entertaining displays. Sadly we denied ourselves any nibbles this year so as to eliminate any Covid contamination amongst members

Bob Harper brought along a selection of his vast Machin collection and concentrated on the Northern Ireland definitives.

(1) The Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain & Ireland: Their History and Postmarks by Harold S Wilson. Publ. The Railway Philatelic Group 1996 ISBN: 0 901667 23 4

Pete Elms showed us some High Value postage wrappers. We saw a mixture of cancels, some properly cancelled, some scribbled through (with either biro or felt pen to add to the variety) and some not cancelled at all.

Chris Jackson chose Upton on Severn saying that the display covered the whole subject of postal history in just one town. We saw skeletons, rubbers, parcel post labels and railway letter stamps amongst many other items.

Alan Godfrey came up with yet another esoteric subject, that of the Midland Red Parcels Service. There was certainly plenty of variety with different stamp rates for parcels, newspaper stamps and Pools coupons which used the bus network to send in to the Warwickshire Pools every week.

Bill Belford brought along some very interesting Cinderella stamps for the Church of Scotland between 1890 and 1910. The skilled engraving stood out beautifully in the stamps. Eleven ecclesiastical subjects were depicted.

Paul Veal shone his spotlight first on Singapore, then moved on to his burgeoning collection of postal slogans, showing us those acquired in 2021; and finished with a letter from Staveley to Keighley containing an invoice for bobbins. Bobbin making was a thriving industry in Cumberland and Westmoreland, where there were plenty of birch trees and coppicing was a thriving industry.



A selection of bobbins and other wood turned products from the Staveley bobbin mills (Westmoreland)

For the second half, **Bob Harper** displayed yet more Machin's, this time modern regional issues – "pictorials". **Pete Elms** delighted us with Multiview pictorial postcards of various scenes in and around Birmingham postcards and **Alan Godfrey** continued with more Midland Red Parcels labels and stamps. We completed the evening with **Bill Belford** and a super thematic display of Hedgehogs from around the world. This writer would love to have hedgehogs in his garden but alas they seem to keep away!

Overall, a tour-de-force of what our committee collects, and an evening which I am sure can be included next year without repetition of content!

Malcolm Allinson

Thursday 6th January 2022 Annual Society Competitions

This year's Annual Competitions saw a distinct and very pleasing upturn in the number of entries from members. Judging was "in-house" with Malcolm Allinson, Chris Jackson, Pete Elms and Alan Godfrey sharing out the task so as not to be judging their own entries, yet still having two judges for each category.

The Thematic Class was won by **Alan Godfrey** with an entry on *Phytoplankton* (or microscopic seaweed)

The Postcard Class was contested by three entries. **John Coombes** displayed The National Trust. **Paul Veal** displayed 'The Colourful World of John Hinde'. John Hinde is now famous for his revolutionary postcard style developed in the 1950s and 60s. These were crystal clear, bright, and colourful and carefully managed before and after the shots were taken! The entry featured a selection of mostly earlier cards taken by JH and some of his co-photographers.

Pete Elms entry showed postcards of the A38 Bristol Road in Birmingham from Rose Hill, looking down the old Bristol Road from the Lickey Hills and ending at Bournbrook, near Selly Oak. We saw an omnibus at the terminus rather than a tram, clearly a sign of the times, then moved to the Austin Motor Company in Longbridge, followed by the King George V public house, which is still there, but is now a restaurant. Other notable features included the old Toll House, the Black Horse public house, which is still there, and the Methodist Church, quite an imposing building, which was later demolished and replaced by a tyre company. An outstanding entry full of many features to bring back memories, and worthy of being placed first in Class.

The Postal History Class was won by **Chris Jackson** with a superb entry on Malvern UDC's, followed by **Tony Grieves** with a Transatlantic Mail entry and **Malcolm Allinson** showing two entries - "The Bishop Mark" and "The Scottish Bishop Mark": seemingly similar but treating the subject in completely different ways. Tony's entry showed how mail was carried before steam and the subsequent changes after the introduction of more reliable (in terms of timings) steamships. Before steam, mail was sent across the Atlantic from Falmouth and took between 20-40 days to make the voyage. Afterwards, Liverpool became the entry and exit port, with Cunard taking the Mail contract from 1840-1876 and operating a regular steam passage of 13 days, gradually reducing to 10.

The Open Class had two entries, again won by **Chris Jackson** with "Made in Redditch", followed by **Mike Hayfield** with "Preston on Stour". Mike told us he was evacuated to Preston, a small village south of Stratford on Avon, during the war which gave him the inspiration to produce his entry.

The Traditional Class this year had no fewer than seven entries which is very encouraging indeed.

Roger Wood showed two entries- "Penny Reds Plates 71 to 225" and "KGV Seahorses"; **Pete Elms** showed "Errors and Varieties"; and **John Coombes** put up "American Commemoratives"; **Bob Allard** also provided two entries - "Overprinted Specimen Stamps of the First Czech issue" and "Hradcany Issues of Czechoslovakia 1918-1920". Finally, **Malcolm Allinson** showed "1d and 2d Imperforate" – the story of the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue, which the judges decided as the winner.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening and hopefully a significant encouragement to members to submit even more entries next time.

Malcolm Allinson

Thursday 20th January 2022 Visit from Royal Sutton Coldfield Society

Our second January meeting was a visit by Royal Sutton Coldfield P.S. Three members came along and provided us with a great evening's entertainment with three very different displays.

Michael Chaplin started the proceedings off with a superb comprehensive display of Sport on Stamps, he deliberately did not bring mainstream sports such as football and cricket but kept his display to the peripheral ones. He explained that all the sports had National and World Championships but were not necessarily in the Olympics.

The display covered Archery, Badminton, Bowls, Bridge, Gliding, Hurling Netball, Parachuting, Polo, Softball, Powerboat Racing, Steeplechasing (no horses) Surfing Trotting, Walking, Water Polo (still no horses!), Water skiing, Greyhound Racing, 10 Pin Bowling and finally Billiards and Snooker. It was noted that whilst standing at the back of the room, the whole display made you want to go in closer for a better look, which sums up how a display should attract a viewer. The final subject was kept until last so that Michael could make comment of a postcard showing snooker that he had seen on one of our zoom meetings and which he felt ought to be in his collection.

Steve Harrison brought a small selection from his collection of Philatelic Congress material; an appropriate choice, as Steve is currently Chair of the Organizing Committee for the forthcoming 103rd Congress in Birmingham later this year. He began by recounting his early collecting, his membership of the Birmingham P.S. and the first time he was asked to do a display.

The 1st Philatelic Congress was held in Manchester, and Birmingham has held the convention twice before in 1911 and 1947. Steve informed the meeting that the 2022 Congress would again be in Birmingham and extended an invite to our members to attend on at least one of the days, the theme of which is "Organised Philately".

In the first half, Steve displayed various material produced for the 20th Congress held in London in 1933 which was hosted by the British Philatelic Association (now ABPS) with examples of all 7 Souvenir labels

printed by De La Rue including original unique pencil sketches and hand painted essays, die proofs of the frame and centres of the labels were included in the display.



Left: Proof sheet of 12 labels produced for 1933 Congress. The design is based upon the sheet music cover for a popular Victorian song "The Postman's Knock".

After the break Steve continued with the 1911 Congress which was held in the Grand Hotel in Birmingham. A photo

of the opening session was followed by examples of the souvenir labels printed by the Artistic Engraving & Printing Company. Many variations of the labels were produced to satisfy the philatelic needs, different perfs, colours and even centres inverted. The organizing committee had postcards produced of themselves and Steve included these in his display. A postcard of the Countess of Warwick, who invited the congress to visit her house, Warwick Castle, started a section covering the visit. A wonderful display which was a pleasure to see.

John Walker provided the third talk with a comprehensive display of the Korean War from 1950 to 1953. The war started when North Korea invaded South Korea in June 1950. The North was supported by both Russia and China, and the South by the United Nations, which meant most of the materiel and fighting personnel came from the United States. With UN participation a total of 23 other countries became involved. Britain contributed a total of 100,000 troops.

John's knowledge of the subject was immediately apparent, and the display was nothing short of amazing. The lengths to which he had gone to obtain the material and the depth of research required for each item was amazing. John showed mail from the first Battle, propaganda postcards including stamps issued by North Korea with their flag on the South Korean parliament showing how confident of victory the North was. Mail included letters from naval vessels. Correspondence from 2 American Pilot Aces (to qualify was a minimum of 5 planes shot down) from WWII and Korean War included envelopes letter and photos. Examples of the 'Safe Conduct' passes dropped by the Americans were in several languages.



Korean War Airmail Cover. Taegu, South Korea to Cortesville (i.e. Coatesville) Pennsylvania

The fact that the Chinese did not forward P.O.W mail led to at least one mother having a letter to her son returned 'missing in action' only to find some time later that her son was in fact a P.O.W. The death of one of the 'Aces' in an air crash revealed that he was running drugs in peacetime. Whilst an Armistice was signed in July 1953, both North and South are technically still at war, even though the rest of the world now consider it a forgotten war.

Visits from other clubs are always interesting and one never knows what the evening will bring. Suffice to say that tonight was at the very top of any club visit.

Chris Jackson

Thursday 3rd February 2022 Annual General Meeting and Members Displays

Following our 2022 Annual General Meeting, members put up some short displays.

Bob Harper brought along some 'barcoded' Machin stamps; designed to alleviate forgery and (more likely) re-use. These stamps (right) are not easy on the eye and may take quite a while to get used to. (Member's comments to the Editor please.)



Bill Belford showed us three very interesting sheets of New Zealand indigenous reptiles. We were shown wonderfully named creatures such as the Harlequin Gheko and Otago Skink (left), and the endangered Tuatara.



Pete Elms showed a cover sent from Birmingham to the Cape of Good Hope, and **John Coombes** brought along banknote and coin covers commemorating the 50th Anniversary of D Day. **Alan Godfrey** displayed some home made covers to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of no less than 5 Victoria Cross winners from the first World War, all from Warwickshire. **Bob Allard** showed us some of his Czechoslovakia stamps, whilst **Mike Hayfield** displayed some modern GB stamps. **Paul Veal** brought along some Newspaper Tax stamps and a few items of ephemera, and **Chris Jackson** showed some Redditch First Day covers, most of them with Mount Pleasant postmarks.



Members gathered at our AGM for a photo to commemorate our 50th Anniversary Season

Thursday 17th February 2022 Members Single Sheet Display

Tonight, we saw a wide and varied selection of members material ably displayed in the confined discipline of a single sheet.

Bob Harper showed a Post Office Mauritius reprint, and some beautiful Norfolk Island "pines" stamps (below).



First stamp issue of Norfolk Island. Definitive set 1947-59: SG 1 -12)

Roger Wood displayed the Stock Exchange forgery, showing examples of the forgery (with impossible lettering) and a genuine example of the Queen Victoria 1s. green



Above left: 'Stock Exchange Forgery' with impossible lettering 'EM'. Above right: Genuine QV 1 shilling green (SG 117)

Pete Elms showed some undeliverable mail sent to a Mr Hunt in Aston Birmingham. Remarkably the letter was opened by another Mr Hunt but returned to the Post Office. His second sheet displayed "Errors and Varieties", concentrating on the GB 1973 Paintings issue. We saw perforation and colour shifts, and colours partially and wholly missing.

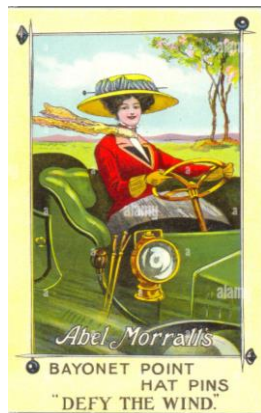
Tony Grieves showed us an item of 'Dockwra' mail for 1680. At the time there was no official postal system for mail delivery within the city of London. Dockwra's London Penny Post (examples of marks left) was a mail delivery system that fulfilled this need. However, his system worked so well that it compromised the interests of private couriers and porters, and royal officials. He was eventually "paid off" with a pension of £2000 for relinquishing the service. Tony also showed us a letter sent from London to Corfu during the Crimean War, which was forwarded to Cephalonia.



John Coombes' contribution was some very colourful silk First Day Covers of Famous Trains; followed by a stamp – "The Last Supper" – from the Cyprus issue of 1981 commemorating the 500th Anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's visit to the island.

Alan Godfrey showed three totally different sheets:- an 18th century cover from London to Alcester, inscribed "to be left at ye posthouse at Alcester"; some Parcels stamps used on buses – these from Wye Valley Motors; and a thematic sheet of Liverworts. Liverworts we were told were used in ancient cultures as a cure for human liver complaints.

Chris Jackson displayed an advertising postcard for the needle makers Abel Morrall. It advertised 'Bayonet Point' hat pins, by showing one running impossibly straight through a lady's hat (and head!) (Right) This was followed by a superb example of a 1929 PUC £1 stamp used locally in Worcester. Finally we saw an extremely rare Express Letter for Sunday delivery. The standard reference work⁽²⁾ for these items of mail admits to their existence, but is unable to record a provincial example.



Paul Veal displayed some colourful postcards including an advert for Breakspear Beer in 2004; some maps of American States and some Cumbrian lakes for us to identify – thankfully your scribe did not embarrass himself at this last task.

Bob Allard brought us some Czechoslovakia stamps and showed us the 1920 Airmail stamp overprint trials.

Once again we have witnessed another popular "homegrown" evening with members surprising yet again with the variety and scope of material displayed.

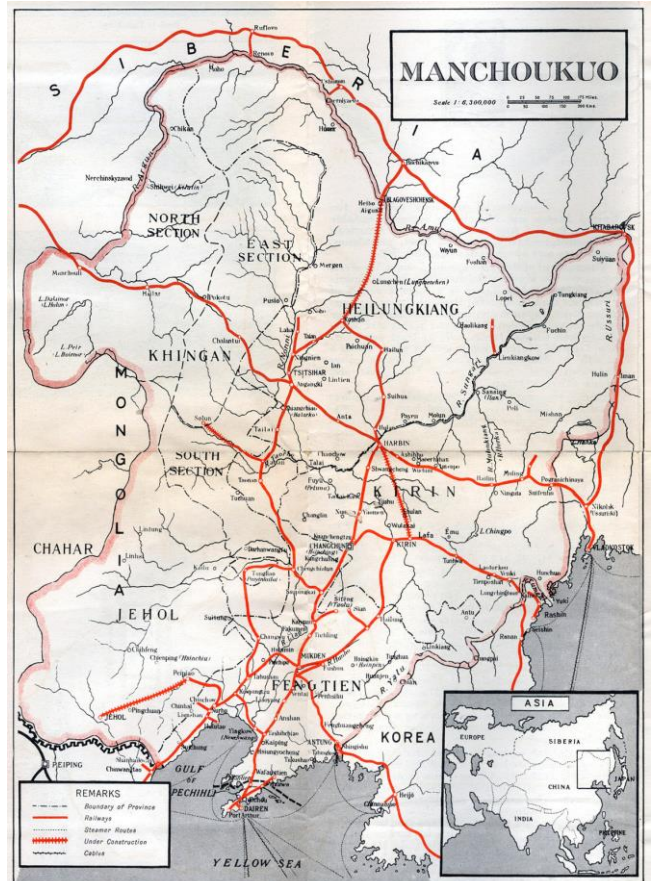
Malcolm Allinson

Thursday 3rd March 2022
Guest Speaker: Peter Pugh
Another Bloody Railway (Part 2)

Peter has visited our Society on a number of occasions each time with different material and super displays. Tonight was no exception. The title of the display is not one of exasperation or profanity. Its roots lie in the story of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904/05 formally ended by the Treaty of Portsmouth on September 5th 1905; together with the Japanese/Chinese War, and its aftermath, and how overall, British Mail reached and returned from British Treaty Ports in China.

The quickest route for Far Eastern Mail from Britain travelled overland via the Trans-Siberian Railway. With both Russia and China involved in protracted military conflict it was inevitable that the carriage of mail suffered many times.

We were given a running commentary on contemporary events across eastern Asia, linked to dates coincident with the individual items shown.



The railway network of Manchoukuo (Manchuria)

The railways were often built piecemeal without any consideration of expansion, either within a country or joining with neighbouring systems, so often the gauge of the rails differed. This caused numerous problems with through traffic, especially mail - having to be transferred from one train to another.

We enjoyed much information regarding the rail systems and shipping routes; far far too much to do any justice in this review. The cover below is an example, together with the detail of its journey.



*A registered cover from Hong Kong to Truro carried at the 14c (10c + 10c registration fee) rate. It is inscribed **Via Siberia / REGISTERED** This indicates it left Shanghai on 24th February by the SS Kobe Maru for Dalny. Records show that all passengers and mail were fumigated here to plague. The letter was then carried onward via Mukden to Harbin, where it was put on the Trans-Siberian Express to Moscow. From Moscow the letter travelled again by rail via Warsaw, Berlin, Brussels, Ostend Ferry to Dover and the SE&CR to London. The final leg took the letter via the GWR via Plymouth to Truro.*

⁽²⁾ *Express Services, 1891-1971: Hilary A Wellsted. Publ. The Postal History Society 1986 ISBN: 978-0853770176*

Peter talked knowledgeably on the many railways of the area such as the Chinese Eastern Railway; South Manchuria Railway; the Canton to Hankow Railway and many others. With Britain at the time being at the forefront of heavy industry, a lot of the engines were built here and shipped to the area. Companies such as Beyer-Peacock (Openshaw, Manchester), North British Locomotive (Springburn and Polmadie, Glasgow) and Kerr Stewart (Stoke on Trent).

We enjoyed a well-presented display from Peter which was consistent in its layout, with lots of background information beyond just that about the mail and mail routes.

Malcolm Allinson

**Thursday 17th March 2022
Members Displays "Islands"**

Malcolm Allinson showed a selection from his collection of £1 stamps starting with early Australian States (pre 1901 Commonwealth), moving right through to decimalisation in February 1966. These were followed by many examples from around the world. We saw a very nice set of miniature sheets from Jersey celebrating the Chinese New Year. These sheets were issued over a period of 12 years from 1996 to 2007 and together form a pleasing symmetrical design for the whole issue.

Paul Veal put up a display on the history of Hayling Island based round six postcards from the 1900s: the Royal Hotel tennis court; the 1930's railway carriage homes on Southwood Road, Eastoke); a 1970s card of Salterns Quay, Mengham and a birds' eye view of Hayling Island Sailing Club (*below*)



Supporting material included a timeline from visits by ancient Greek traders to the closure of the island's oyster beds, a map of Chichester Harbour and a greeting card featuring a nostalgic painting of the Downs on regatta day, c. 1950.

Chris Jackson surprised everyone by displaying stamps. (*At this point the meeting paused while members regained their composure. Ed.*) Chris explained that he had gone back to one of his old albums, an S.G. Nubian, which still had the price on the box, 47/6d (£2.35p in new money!). He said he only collected used stamps and had brought his favourite issues, the last KGVI or the first QEII, which were pictorials of some of the Commonwealth islands. Various Islands were displayed including Bahamas, Bermuda, Dominica, Falklands and Pitcairn.



A selection of the first QEII stamps from the Bahamas

In the second half Chris showed postal history items to or from Islands. The first two sheets were from Jamaica to Pebworth and Tristan da Cunha to Malvern and Tenbury Wells. The remainder were outgoing mails from Worcestershire. An Oldbury to New Zealand in 1869 was followed by a Kidderminster to Malta in 1876. A 2/6 KGVI on a letter to Tasmania and a parcel label from Stourbridge to NZ with 4 x 2/6 + 1 x 5/- were examples of the high costs. Various first flight covers concluded the display.

Bob Harper showed us stamps from a number of Scottish and Welsh islands, in keeping with his interest in the posts of the island of Lundy. We saw numerous stamps issued for tourist purposes from places including Orkney, the Hebrides and Bardsey.

Tony Grieves brought along Red Cross stamps from various Islands celebrating the International Red Cross Centenary in 1963. We saw stamps from Tonga, Tristan da Cunha, Turks and Caicos, BVI, Malta and Vanuatu.

Pete Elms showed us a cover from Malta to Birmingham sent 12 days after the end of the First World War. Martial law was still in place, having been introduced in August 1916 (*see The Malta Defence Regulations - which included press and postal censorship, as published in the island's official newspaper The Malta Government Gazette*) so the letter was opened by and resealed with official censor tape before sending.

John Coombes brought along a selection of stamps from his World Wildlife Fund Endangered Species collection showing the Sumatran Orangutan. This animal has declined by about 80% in the last 75 years and now, numbering around 7500, is classed as Critically Endangered. The primary reason for population decline is habitat loss as a result of the unsustainable practice of timber extraction for the production of palm oil – a product in worldwide use, yet it has serious harmful effects to the human digestive system.

*(For those interested in our nearest anthropological cousins I can recommend **The Great Apes – Our Face in Nature's Mirror** by Michael Leach. ISBN 0-7137-2488-9. Ed.)*



In the second half, continuing the WWF theme, John showed us stamps depicting the Papua New Guinea Queen Alexandra Birdwing Butterfly (right), listed as endangered, and having the largest wingspan (about 11" as you can see) species of butterfly in the world, followed by the St. Lucia Amazon parrot from the 1976 definitive series of local birds - now around 300 birds in the wild.



Mike Hayfield took us to the Tokelau Islands a dependent territory of New Zealand, highlighting the declining population and their rising sea levels, followed by a stop over in Hong Kong with a lovely block of used well postmarked stamp issues, calling in on the Channel Islands showing a selection of Jersey and Guernsey stamps and finally completing a whistle stop world tour in Antigua with the 1970/72 Military Uniforms sets of stamps (below: the Antigua Military Uniform sets of 1971 and 1972)



Alan Godfrey showed us material from his Thematic collection of non-flowering plants from islands around the world. Non-flowering plants can be divided into two groups. Gymnosperms reproduce from the seeds, which are open to the air without any covering and are generally distributed by wind or avian action. Examples are all types of conifer trees. The other group of the non-flowering plants don't produce seeds. Instead, they use their spores for their reproduction. Spores are very small organisms consisting of single or multiple cells, housed in a hard coating. When the spores reach a moist place, they germinate and start to grow. Examples of the plants that produce spores are seaweeds, Worts, algae, lichen, mosses, and ferns.

In the second half Alan showed us Ferns from around the world, including examples on stamps from the Falkland Islands (below)



Malcolm Allinson

Thursday 7th April 2022 Guest Speaker: Paul Woodness Postal History of Rhodes

This evening we were due to have a visit from Gordon Hardy to give a display on G.B. Revenues. However, the dreaded Covid-19 struck Gordon and his wife down and he had to cancel his visit. Alan did a sterling job in finding a replacement speaker at short notice who was Paul Woodness who gave us a display of the Postal History of Rhodes.



Map of Rhodes island in the Aegean Sea

Paul explained that various countries had Post Offices on the island at times. He started with a map showing the position of Rhodes and an 1852 script *Rhodes* on a letter posted at the Austrian Post Office. Paul explained the history and changes of government and the number of different shipping companies that had offices on the island. After Austria the Turks ran the post office until the Italians took over when both Austrian and French post offices were open at the same time.

In 1911 the Balkan wars started and on 4th May 1912 Italy invaded Rhodes and any Italian stamps could be used regardless of origin until the end of the war in 1921. Paul showed a comprehensive display of the marks used in the period. Some village marks were shown but as Paul explained they are particularly scarce due to very poor collection and distribution arrangements, consequently any urgent mail was usually taken to the main post office in Rhodes.

In the second half Paul started with Military Mail including a postcard from the Fascist Party requesting peoples views and censored mail. A cover from the Cameroons to Rhodes on 3rd March 1940 was followed by a LATI airways flight cover from Argentina. Research on a letter from Rhodes to a POW camp in England showed it was sent to Maxstoke Castle at Coleshill!

A philatelic cover to South Africa had a set of MEF o/prints in 1945 and censor tape used by the British showed 'ZD' marks nos 1 to 7, Paul showed examples but is still looking for ZD3 & ZD4. The code ZD1 was used on a cover to the chief censor in Washington D.C., and is the only ZD1 mark found to date. This was followed by MEF cancels to a variety of destination, a gold mine in Tanganyika, Jerusalem and a windmill manufacturer in Worcester.

In 1947 the Islands were ceded back to Greece and Paul showed examples of Greek stamps o/p SDD as they were issued prior to the enactment date. In 1948 independence was granted and Paul showed the handstamp used for one day only to record the transfer of the Post Office from military to civilian control.

A really good evening, material which almost everyone had never seen before and a presentation which explained the material in a way we could all understand.

Chris Jackson

(We are also pleased that Gordon and Wendy have recovered Ed.)

Thursday 5th May 2022
Guest Speaker: Alan Squires
Tristan da Cunha

Tristan da Cunha is a British overseas territory. Our speaker Alan Squires has collected its stamps for forty years; also the stamps of St Helena and Ascension Island. These three territories are all now linked administratively.

Alan opened with a fascinating trip through the island's geography and history. It is little more than a volcano on the South Atlantic ridge, over 1,700 miles west of Cape Town, about 2,500 miles east of the Falklands and about 1,500 miles south of St Helena, and is the world's most remote inhabited archipelago. Its nearest human neighbours are the crew of the International Space Station when it passes by, some 60 miles up in space. The island is very small, less than seven miles across, dominated by the 2000-metre-high volcano Queen Mary's Peak. The only 'settlement' is called Edinburgh of the Seven Seas in the north western corner of the island, named after the first Duke of Edinburgh who visited the island in 1867. The current population is given as 275, entirely descended from seven early families.

The island was named in 1506 by its discoverer, a Portuguese explorer on his way to India although he was unable to land on it. The Dutch landed in 1643 (the first undisputed landing) and the French surveyed it in 1767. In 1810 an American settled there with three others who died in 1812. In 1816 the British annexed the island as a dependency of Cape Colony whilst considering installing a barracks there to keep an eye on Napoleon in captivity on St Helena. In 1816-17 a garrison was manned. On its close, a Corporal William Glass and some others asked to stay on the island. In 1824 a travelling artist Augustus Earle visiting the island, missed a departing boat and was marooned for eight months. Some of his gloomy

scenes appear on a set of commemoratives. In 1885 fifteen men were lost at sea attempting to engage and trade with a passing ship. In WWII the island was declared a stone frigate and the navy improved the infrastructure of the island. Industries mainly comprise the growing of potatoes and fishing, and of course latterly the sale of stamps and coins to collectors!

Due to its miniscule size and remoteness the issue of stamps was a long time coming, 1952 in fact. The first were St. Helena overprints (*below: SG1-12*). Cachets were



used from 1908 to 1948 (12 listed). Early mail was mostly for overseas mainly generated by volunteer clergy and other non-natives. Local mail is very scarce. Due to its scarcity, a British fraudster created more, using three names and London addresses, paying the postmaster on Tristan to send them to these. One crazy example on show was a caricature Mulready envelope. From the sixties the output of issues has increased, sometimes several in one year.

Tristan has three main satellite islands, Gough Island, Inaccessible Island and Nightingale Island, none are inhabited although there is a weather station on Gough Island. Invincible Island was mapped by a party of schoolboys in 1982. In 1961 the volcano erupted again, and the inhabitants were shipped to the UK settling in Calshott in Hampshire where they stayed for two years then voting to return.

Alan ably displayed the postal history of the island with numerous covers, some of these reflecting visits to the island, also letters, sets of stamps and relevant photos. This was a memorable evening, and few will forget 'Tristan da Cunha'!

Paul Veal



Alan Squires evidently enjoying his display.

Thursday 19th May 2022
Three Sheet Competition: Letters G and H
for the Ian Crickmer Trophy

For this evening we saw seven entries which were judged by Len Bruton and Bill Belford.

The results were:

1st Alan Godfrey with a display of four Hand Painted covers and fronts.

2nd Chris Jackson with a display of covers addressed to Richard Hemming & Sons, Redditch needle makers.

3rd Pete Elms with some George VI commemorative errors.

4th Paul Veal with a display of Greeting stamps.

5th John Coombes with a display of commemorative covers and fact sheets relating to King Henry II, King Henry V and King Henry VII.

Paul Veal

Thursday 2nd June 2022

With the change of the May Bank Holiday because of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee it was decided that tonight's meeting would be cancelled. Not as easy decision to make, as we know that The Queen is also an avid philatelist and would have happily visited us on such an occasion had she not been very busy tonight.



Instead, the above is a reminder of the Royal Mail set of "special" stamps issued to commemorate the occasion.

Thursday 16th June 2022
President's Evening

Tonight's meeting marked the finale of our Jubilee season, and it was only fitting that our President should be the person to give us a display the likes of which we see rarely. Chris' first display consisted of no less than 103 picture postcards of Redditch which were displayed via a PowerPoint presentation. The title was "**Granny Lock's to the Royal Oak**" which this writer has seen before but never in this "wide screen" format; nor had I seen quite a number of the cards before. We were taken on a journey on the old main road through the town (the A441 if you have a pre 1960 Ordnance Survey map), starting at Bordesley to the north and finishing in Crabbs Cross to the south.

Chris provided a succinct narrative throughout the display proving his in-depth knowledge of his subject. Of course, living in the town since birth helps too.

For those members familiar with "old Redditch" the map below shows us the extent of our journey (taken from the *One inch OS of England and Wales 1898. Sheet 183. Courtesy of National Library of Scotland.*)



We saw what can only be described as part of the definitive collection of Redditch postcards some of which are reproduced below.



Above: Looking south along Evesham Street. The first few shop buildings on the left are still extant, one of which is a Polish bakery



Above: Evesham Street looking north from the junction of George Street (right). All of these buildings were demolished in the 1970's to make way for the southern part of the Kingfisher Centre. The garage on the left is approximately where Primark is situated.



Almost at the end of our journey, The Fleece Inn at Crabbs Cross (*above*). Only recently closed as a public house and is now a mini supermarket. The Royal Oak referred to in the title of the display is just behind where the photographer of this view is standing.

The second half of tonight's display extended further afield into Worcestershire, and we saw material from another of Chris' major collections, that of Worcestershire Postal history. Such is the extent of the collection we saw only material up to 1800, but that did include a Treasury Warrant of 1567 for payment of expenses whilst delivering post to the county and beyond. A letter of 1617 – before there was a public postal service; a 1665 "Plague year" letter (which this writer covets for other reasons) and the earliest known postmark of Evesham from 1705 were all shown on the first board!

Chris was heard to say about all of this material that there was on show "*nothing of note*", a comment which we all disagreed with.

Truly an excellent ending to our Jubilee season. Perhaps we should engineer it so that Chris remains as our President so we can see more of his collections in two years time.

Malcolm Allinson

POSTCARDS AS HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

Very often the only accessible record of what a place looked like in decades gone is a postcard. I have selected six examples of this from Hayling Island, a small place next to Portsmouth that this writer has mentioned before!



This first card is probably from the 60s and shows the Regal cinema opposite an old barn adjacent to the Rose in June pub, all gone. The cinema was demolished in 1967 to make way for a car park – the main shopping street of Mengham in the mid-south of the island is yards to the left of this picture. 'The Rose', the village pub since 1848, closed in 2005 giving way to a row of new houses and a branch of the Co-op. Nothing has taken on its former role in the village - scandalous!



This is a much older scene looking east from 'Beachlands', the island's seaside fun hub. The Royal Hotel tennis courts have long-disappeared as has, much later, the stately residence top left, Westfield House - see next picture for more on this. The seafront road looks deserted, now it's closely lined with houses on the inland side. The building with the cone-like roof on the right, 'the Bungalow' may have been an offshoot of Westfield House when it had become the Grand Hotel.



According to guide books this splendid pre-Victorian house, initially known as Westfield House was first

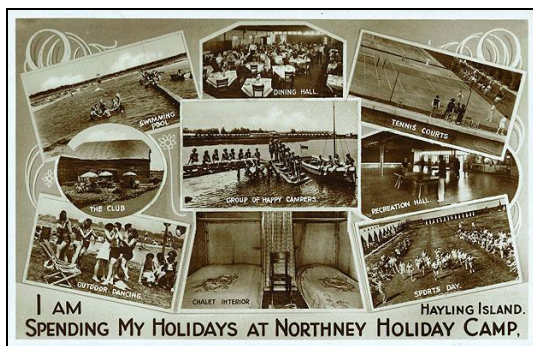
occupied by a Mr Sandeman (think port and sherry). It later became the Grand Hotel then three schools in turn before demolition in 1993. Yes, it's houses there now.



Before the war this man-made boating lake at 'Beachlands' housed a monkey colony - apparently the monkeys didn't take to the water. The boating lake itself survived the war years.



The south-eastern corner of the island is a fenced off nature reserve, formerly known as Eastoke Common. The hospital pictured here in the 1930s was opened in 1919 as a branch of its parent hospital in Alton with 50 patients, these being mainly children with TB and polio, for treatment or to convalesce. It was still operating into the 1980s when it closed and was demolished in 1988 to be replaced by a lifeboat station. The house at the top of the picture is the first of many to line this road in the 50s and the drive to the hospital is also now lined on both sides with 'executive homes'.



Hi di HI! Northney Holiday Camp was situated in the north-east corner of the island, the first ever Warners camp, opened in 1931. A section of sea was fenced off to create the swimming pool. It was used throughout the war as HMS Northney and was extensively rebuilt and enlarged during the mid-1960s to accommodate 850 guests. It closed in 1981 and was later demolished. There are still two 'holiday villages' on the island and a Warners hotel.

Paul Veal

.... AND FINALLY

At the recent London 2022 International Stamp Fair, your Editor came across a handout in the form of a little diversion to work out a series of philatelic anagrams. Unfortunately, it was anonymous so any appropriate credit cannot be shown. Perhaps in an idle moment over the summer break, have a go and decipher all the answers. Please **do not** send your answers in, bring them to the first meeting of the new season in September. The answers are countries or philatelic terms. In addition to the straightforward anagram, each one has a simple clue too. 10 more next time.

1. GIANT HAS FAN _____
Troubled foreign country.
2. MAPLE STAGE _____
Many countries have one.
3. ANN WOULD FEND _____
Once a Dominion.
4. AGAIN A CUR _____
From the Atlantic to the Pacific.
5. ROOF PAINTERS _____
Not all stamps have them.
6. GLIB EMU _____
Think Sprouts.
7. CANONISES _____
Atlantic Stop Off.
8. CRAM SOME MOTIVE _____
Are there too many?
9. DEAR NAG _____
Island Song.
10. A MUCK HEAP _____
Was French.



Halcyon is produced for members of the Redditch Philatelic Society and anyone else with an interest in stamp collecting. If you are not a member of the Society and are interested in joining, please come along to one of our meetings, on the first and third Thursday of the month (September to June) at St. Luke's Memorial Hall, Headless Cross, Redditch B97 4JX. Visitors are also welcome to any of our meetings.

You are welcome to visit our website www.redditch-philatelic.org.uk for our programme, news, and other Society activities. Articles and statements made in this Newsletter are by individuals and are not necessarily the views or policies of the Society.