

Images associated with article: MAIL CENTRES, IMPs and iLSMs....
On Pages 14 - 17...

POSTMARK



Number 141

SPRING 2019



MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD AT:

**1. St Joseph's Church Hall, Bugle Street, Southampton, SO14 2AH:
*evening meetings on the first and third Tuesday, 7.00 for 7.15pm.***

**2. Hanover Housing Association Community Room, on the corner
of Winchester Road and Hillside Close, Chandler's Ford, SO53
2GL: *afternoon meetings on the second Thursday, 1.45 for 2.00pm.***

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

March.

5th - Malta - Roger Crew.

14th - Afternoon Meeting at Chandlers Ford.

19th March - Auction.

Panda Fairs:

23rd March - Holy Trinity Church, West Street, PO16 0EL.

April.

2nd - Aspects of Finnish Postal History - Mike Elliott.

11th - Afternoon Meeting Chandlers Ford.

16th - AGM & Queries & Recent Acquisitions.

May.

7th - Smithy and his Bus - Sue Burn.

9th - Afternoon Meeting Chandlers Ford.

21st - Members 15 Sheets in 5 Minutes.

Panada Fairs:

25th - Southampton Methodist Hall, St James Rd, SO15 5HE.

June.

4th - SOKOL - Tony & Linda Bosworth.

13th - Afternoon Meeting Chandlers Ford.

18th - Auction.

Panada Fairs:

15th - Salisbury United Reform Church, Fisherton Street, SP2 7RG.

30th - Portsmouth Comm. Centre, Wootton Street, Cosham, PO6 3AP.

PRESS RELEASE

Royal members cross the Pacific...

The stamps and postal history of the smaller islands have always fascinated collectors, and hence the appeal of the multitude of islands spread out across the Pacific Ocean. It was therefore not surprising that nearly 130 came to the meeting of The Royal Philatelic Society London on 22 November at which members of the Pacific Islands Study Circle presented the displays.

The material on show was far-ranging: from the issues of the Samoa Express Post Office to the postal history of Pitcairn Island; from the many attractive stamps of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands to recent issues from Kiribati; from civil censorship in the Fiji to coastwatchers of the British Solomon Islands, both during the Second World War; from the Cook Islands and Norfolk Island to the tiny coral atoll that is Clipperton Island.

During his vote of thanks, Ben Palmer remarked how much of the material is difficult to collect, the islands having the attraction of the links with not only the British Commonwealth, but also France and Germany.

Dr Simon Heap, Chairman of the Study Circle, was presented with the plaquette of The Royal Philatelic Society London by its President, Patrick Maselis RDP FRPSL.



Dr Simon Heap (left) receives the plaquette of The Royal Philatelic Society London from Patrick Maselis RDP FRPSL.

(28 November 2018).



Royal Collection Trust
©Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2018
Photographer: Ian Jones



The Golden Colour Error
3 Skilling Banco Yellow



H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden
Photographer: Anna-Lena Ahlström, royalcourt.se

WELCOME TO STOCKHOLMIA 2019

The International Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of The Royal Philatelic Society London

- The Royal Philatelic Society London, the oldest philatelic society in the world, was established in 1869 as The Philatelic Society, London. In 1896 HRH The Duke of York, son of King Edward VII, became President of the Society, an office he continued to hold until his accession to the throne as HM King George V in 1910. Permission to use the prefix Royal was granted by His Majesty King Edward VII in 1906. Following his accession King George V acted as its Patron, and in 1924 granted the Society permission to use the Royal Arms on its stationery and publications. The Royal philatelic tradition has been maintained and today the Society is honoured by the Patronage of Her Majesty The Queen. At STOCKHOLMIA 2019, a selection from The Royal Philatelic Collection, will be presented as part of Court of Honour.
 - STOCKHOLMIA 2019 is an International Philatelic Exhibition with exhibits and displays from members of the Society from all over the world.
- With capacity of 2,100 frames, the exhibition is the largest Society exhibition ever held. In addition, more than 50 Trade Stand Holders, from 13 different countries are participating.
- His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden has graciously agreed to be Patron of STOCKHOLMIA 2019 when it takes place at Stockholm Waterfront Congress Centre, Nils Ericsons Plan 4, Stockholm.
 - One of the world's most famous postage stamps, The Golden Colour Error, 3 Skilling Banco Yellow, will be presented as part of the exhibition's Court of Honour.
 - Tickets and all other registrations and bookings, including accommodation offers, are here-with presented in this Destination Offer.
 - The exhibition opens for Early Birds with the Vernissage on 28 May at 3.00 pm., followed by five public days from 29 May until 2 June.

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday | 28 May 2019 | 3.00 pm. – 7.00 pm. Vernissage | The exhibition concepts, programme and progress are continuously presented online at www.stockholmia2019.se. |
| Wednesday | 29 May 2019 | 10.00 am. – 6.00 pm. | |
| Thursday | 30 May 2019 | 10.00 am. – 6.00 pm. | |
| Friday | 31 May 2019 | 10.00 am. – 6.00 pm. | |
| Saturday | 1 June 2019 | 10.00 am. – 5.00 pm. | |
| Sunday | 2 June 2019 | 10.00 am. – 3.00 pm. | |

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY...

President: Julian Jones.

Chairman: Mel Bradshaw (80785785)

Secretary: **Vacant Position as of 2018 AGM.**

Packet Manager: Jack Hindson (80266431)

Treasurer: Mike Watts (02380 454131)

PRO: **Vacant Position as of 2018 AGM.**

Auctioneer: Mel Bradshaw (80785785)

Membership: Mike Vokes (80262551)

Competitions: Kevin Chard (01489 574834)

Programme Secretary : Kevin Chard (01489 574834)

Postmark Editor: Steve Gerrard (stevesstamps@hotmail.co.uk)

Websites: **Southampton & District P S** – www.southamptondps.org.uk/

Hampshire Philatelic Federation – www.hantsfederation.org.uk

EDITORS BIT...

In October I lost my mum, in December we had to put our 16yr old dog Olli to sleep and then on the 15th December my wife lost her mother. This has made the past few months very hard as we are still dealing with solicitors and trying to sell a house. I WAS going to stand down at the AGM as Postmark Editor, but my wife talked me out of it because she thought it was a knee-jerk reaction and now having time to reflect, I think she was right. Also, this AGM will see changes within the society with regards to rolls within the society. Almost 12 months on from the last AGM and we are still in need of a secretary and A Public Relations Officer and I feel things are not going to get any better. So I will continue for the next 12 months and I will see what state the society is in as to whether I continue as magazine editor in 2020.

Steve Gerrard...

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES MARCH 2019...

Greetings to all members, a belated Happy New Year, which I hope proves to be an enjoyable, successful and healthy one. These notes will be shorter than usual owing to, as many of you know, my own health scare a few weeks ago. I am delighted to tell you that, so far, I seem to be fully recovered from my minor stroke with full use back of my left arm, which for a short while found it very difficult to hold any objects.

The other day I heard part of an episode of 'The Archers' on the radio. Dorsetshire Philatelists were meeting in The Bull in Ambridge. It did not seem there were too many of them, but at least they had managed to organise a meeting in the pub. Our Society is fortunate in still having a large and thriving membership, with a trickle of new members throughout the year. Unfortunately, as with many societies, the number of young members is low. A pattern certainly seems to have developed that new members tend to be 'childhood' collectors returning to the hobby as they approach late middle age and retirement. In the near future your committee will be planning the AGM (scheduled for Tuesday, April 16th), and a key item for discussion will be how our Society adapts to the future. Having a high membership, with many attending meetings on two Tuesdays and/or one Thursday each month, is a credit to all involved. However, we have fewer active members who take on committee and organisational roles, and without these we have to plan how we meet members' needs with a decrease in members who are able to be fully active. There are likely to be a number of vacancies at the AGM and experience has shown that these are increasingly difficult to fill. A number of roles have been combined, but this cannot be the long-term solution - asking fewer people to do a lot more work is not going to work for ever, something has to give and it must not be the health of committee members and other helpers. We ask therefore for your contributions - by suggesting how the Society's activities can be trimmed, if necessary, but still remain vital to members' needs and possibly helping out with a role within the Society. If you are interested and able to assist in some way please talk to me or any other committee member.

There are a large number of GB mint stamps available for sale for use as second or first class postage. These come from a number of vendors' collections but they have limited appeal currently, except for postage use. Lots of 100 second class or first class equivalents are available at a cost of £40 or £45 respectively. Please email your requirements to me

ABPS NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE...

We are delighted to inform you that the first Newsletter of 2019 has been posted on the ABPS website. It is brimming with up to date news and information about forthcoming national and international exhibitions and can be viewed by clicking the link below and selecting the Exhibitions Newsletter for January 2019 (in pdf format):

<http://www.abps.org.uk/Exhibiting/index.xalter/>

With best wishes...

Bill Hedley (Chairman, ABPS Exhibitions and International Committee)...

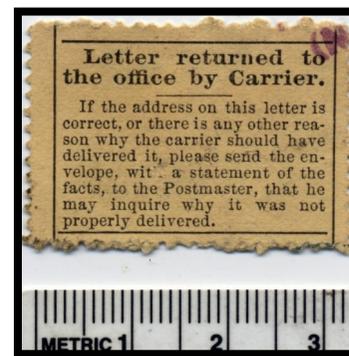
SOCIETY SUNDAY LUNCH - MAY 19th...

Members are reminded to ensure that their names are on the list (held by Jim Rankin) if they intend to attend this function, they are also reminded that the deposit of £10.00 per person is required in March.

A lunch choices selection sheet will be made available for those attending and will need to be returned at the earliest opportunity. The balance of the cost (i.e. £15. per person) should be paid on or before the first meeting in April.

Jim Rankin...

A CURIOSITY...



I wonder if the attached photograph might fit into the 'Postmark' some time. I bought it with a few other odds and ends, but I have never been able to understand quite what it was for, and where and how it was used. There is just a trace of a purple ink handstamp in the top RH corner. Hopefully someone will have seen an example before and be able to explain everything. Best wishes, Roger Harris. rogerharris@pumpcottage.me.uk

If anyone can help Roger I am sure he will be grateful.

Boston for the next Cunard departure. The 5¢ domestic postage covered the ½oz. charge for the carriage to Boston. At this time there was no Treaty with the UK to cover prepayment from sender to receiver.

Cunard's 'Cambria' departed Boston 1st July and arrived Liverpool 13th July where a black '1/-' handstamp for the 1 shilling packet postage due was applied along with 'AMERICA/LIVERPOOL JY 13 1847' packet mark on the rear panel. The rear also bears a blue 'CARLISLE JY13 1847' transit mark and a part Castle Douglas arrival mark in blue.

The Postmaster's Provisionals survived until superseded by the federal government's 5¢ and 10¢ issues of 1st July 1847.

For more examples of the postmaster's signatures on this stamp refer to an article by John F Dunn in Stamp News Online at http://www.stampnewsonline.net/StampNewsOnline-PW/StampID/SID%202011/SID_1011_9X1.pdf More detail about the printing may be found at <https://www.collectorsweekly.com/articles/the-new-york-postmasters-stamp-of-1845/> in a 2009 article by James B Hatcher.

Julian Jones...

THE 1848 ANGLO-AMERICAN POSTAL TREATY...

Whist at the SDPS meeting on the 8th January, I perused the magazines that members no longer required and for no reason I picked up the November 2018 edition of Stanley Gibbons Stamp Monthly. When I got home, with a cup of coffee sat down to read through and on page 94 I saw the above article written by the HPF Chairman Julian Jones. On the 8th Julian displayed the letter 'T' at the SDPS meeting and this made up part of the display. This 5 page article is a pure gem of material that showed the postal rates and system between Great Britain & America. It is not surprising that with such material high quality and somewhat rare material Julian often wins prizes at Hampex and the competitions.

As the article starts - 'Julian Jones gives an introduction to the postal treaty and the accouny marks that were employed by the British and US Post Offices'.

The article is a very good insight to the system and was well received at the SDPS meeting with some astonishing covers that to some people would be something that you would only dream about owning but good quality and rare material makes a great display and a very interesting article.

Steve Gerrard (Editor)...

whenever you wish.

Meanwhile I hope your collecting interests blossom and that you continue to find the hobby rewarding, and the Society a source of support and enjoyment.

Mel Bradshaw (Chairman)...

AUCTION NEWS...

The January 2019 auction result was excellent. Although not finalised it is clear that total sales were over £4,200, well above the normal evening auction total. About half the lots were sold.

The third auction of the year takes place on June 18th. In compiling the catalogue at the same time as a probable transfer of responsibility to a new auction manager it would help if auction lot details are with me by Tuesday, May 7th. I will compile the catalogue but then hand over the organisation. The lots themselves need to be with the auction manager at the club venue by June 4th.

Plans are well underway for the Grand Auction on October 5th using the Peartree Church Village Hall again, which continues to be a very successful venue. Please start looking for good material to include in this auction to help maintain the quality of the past few years. Lot details will be required by mid-August if at all possible to ensure that the catalogue can be completed and distributed by early September. The lots themselves are not actually required until mid-September. Further details will be provided by my successor in the next mailing.

Send your lot details for the May auction to my email address melbradshaw44@gmail.com or by post to 185 Wilton Road, Upper Shirley, Southampton, SO15 5HY.

A 'Silent Auction' is planned for the evening of Tuesday November 19th. For this auction lots are submitted on the evening of the auction, with descriptions and reserves clearly shown. Lots should consist of single stamps, covers, sets or pages of stamps to ensure easy display. Thank you again for all your support as vendors and bidders.

Mel Bradshaw (Auction Manager)...

SOUTHAMPTON and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY...

Membership News – Winter 2019

Very sadly, it is my duty to record the death on 11th February 2019 of one of our best known members in the Chandlers Ford area **Mr Laurence Tuppen**. A full obituary will appear in the next edition of Postmark.

Before Christmas we also lost **Mr Tony (aka Jack) Elms** from Kings Worthy. Tony had only a member recently for a short time, but was very well known in the Winchester area, particularly as an expert on New Zealand Penny Universals. He spoke about and showed the many and various examples of these stamps at local meetings, including our Chandlers Ford afternoon meetings. He will be remembered for his quiet most pleasant manner.

Mr Patrick Reeves, the secretary of the Milford on Sea Stamp Club died in January. Patrick was also a long standing member of our Society. Jim Rankin attended the funeral and has prepared a separate obituary.

At the end of the year we welcomed **Mr Jonathan Newell** from Sholing as a new member. Since the start of the New Year we have welcomed **Mr Jim Chapman** from West End, who collects stamps from Russia; **Malcolm Coe** from Nursling and **Jim Lynott** from the Isle of Wight, who collects GB, USA Canada & Australia.

Thursday afternoons in Chandlers Ford

At the Christmas meeting Debbie very kindly arranged for some seasonal nibbles to augment the normal biscuit ration, taken with a cup of tea or coffee. The January meeting attracted a lower than normal attendance, but nevertheless an interesting afternoon ensued with the normal practice of members displaying a whole variety of items from their collections.

Membership subscriptions

Please may I draw the attention of all members who do not pay their annual subscription by Banker's Standing Order that subscriptions should be normally paid to the Treasurer or to myself. It is of great assistance to us both if members do pay by standing order and the appropriate form, ready for next year, is available from me on request.

Mike Vokes (Membership Secretary)...

THE NEW YORK POSTMASTER'S PROVISIONAL ISSUE...

On 1st July 1845 the US Post Office rationalised its postal rates to become 5¢ per ½oz. for distances up to 300 miles and 10¢ for those over (with a rate of 40¢ to the Pacific coast). However, it was not until an Act of Congress of 3rd March 1847 that the postmaster general was authorised to issue postage stamps. During the interim postmasters in various cities issued provisional stamps of value 5 cents.



Examples of most of these city provisional stamps are hard to come by and catalogue at four and five digit dollar sums in my 2001 Scott Specialised! However, the stamps issued by the New York postmaster, Robert Morris, between July 1845 and 1847 are a bit more affordable. To find one on a transatlantic cover, as shown below is thus a major bonus. They have Scott catalogue numbers 9X1, 9X2 and 9X3, the differences being, respectively, bluish, blue or grey wove paper. All were unperforated, and printed in sheets of nine (3 x 3) in black by Rawdon, Wright & Hatch from a die of Washington's head used on the bank notes of the day. Most were initialled "ACM" (Alonzo Castle Monson) by the assistant

postmaster A C Monson in magenta ink as a control mechanism, although there are up to five variations of control signature.

Illustrated is a part entire (front and rear panels) sent from New York via Boston and Liverpool to Castel Douglas, Scotland on board Cunard Line's 'Cambria' in July 1847. The 5¢ New York Postmaster's Provisional is initialled "ACM" and cancelled by red 'NEW-YORK 29 JUN 5 Cts' cds. There is also a curved red 'PAID' mark applied by the New York Exchange Office when bagging the letter for England. The bag was then forwarded to

as they were cheap and purchased Douglas Walkers book on NZ External airmails that contained many of the flights of Kingsford Smith.

Over the years my collection built up to the level that I can do a display on his life and times. Whilst that is the theme my talk starts in 1919 with the first flight to Australia and concentrates on the development of civil aviation from then until the mid 1930's and the politics behind it. I love ephemera so there will be a lot of photo's, postcards, flight tickets and hopefully plenty of interest for everyone. Smithy and his plane the Southern Cross were the first to fly around the world and he was the first to cross the Pacific and Tasman Sea so there is plenty to cover.

I do hope that you will be able to come and share my enjoyment of this man and his life and times. I do receive a lot of good feedback on the display from general collectors as well of those with an interest in aviation.

21st May – Members 15 Sheets in 5 minutes. Always a good evening, with plenty of variety.

June 4th June – Tony & Linda Bosworth – SOKOL.

Tony has spoken at the Society three times in the past and is usually accompanied by Linda. This time it will be a joint presentation.

Sokol (Slav word for Falcon) is a Czech gymnastic organisation founded in 1862 by Miroslav Tyrš.

Apart from physical and mental fitness, there was a very strong nationalistic aim to promote Czech

Language and culture. Sokol also spread to many other countries. The display covers from its foundation to the present day.

The display is mainly postcards, with stamps and postal history, given by Lindy Bosworth FRPSL and Tony Bosworth FRPSL.

18th June – Auction, no further comment required!

Plenty to look forward as we head into the Summer!

Kevin Chard (Programme Secretary)...

MEMBER NEWS UPDATE...

It is with sadness to report the passing of long serving member Sylvia Bailey. Sylvia was seen at both the Southampton & Chandlers Ford meetings along with her husband Colin. She supported the club with tea making and presenting her postcard collection to the Society and was a member of the Southampton Postcard Club. Our sympathy goes out to Colin, his family and all the families of those that have recently passed.

'SUCH A VERY ENGLISH POSTCARD'...

A picture postcard with a sepia view of Lulworth Cove in Dorset, and with the message ' May 15th., Dear A, Thought you'd like a glimpse of the "home country". Stephen and I spent the week-end cycling. Stayed at the Organford Y.H. which is very pleasant, do you know it? Went to Lulworth, Corfe, Studland & Sandbanks. The country is fine now. How are you? Do write soon. Yours B.'



All in all it is such a very English postcard, with a lovely view of the Dorset coast and a description of a cycling tour around South Dorset in May, including a mention of Organford Youth Hostel. Organford is a small hamlet situated between Lytchett Minster and Splepe, it had a youth hostel with a fairly short life, opening in 1937 and closing in 1939.

The card is franked with four halfpenny green stamps cancelled with a 'SOUTHAMPTON / 16 MAY 39 / 9.30 AM / 4' parcel mark, which paid the postage to an address in Germany, and it is the address which changes this 'very English postcard' into something much more interesting. The card is addressed to 'Alec Jeanes Esq., N.P.E.A., Stuhm, Prussia, Germany. Stuhm, or Sztum to give it its modern name, is a small town of just over 10,000 souls in what is now northern Poland. The town was taken into the newly created German Empire in 1871, and remained so until after the end of the First World War. In 1920 the East Prussian plebiscite gave the townspeople the choice of remaining in Germany, or becoming part of the Second Polish Republic; the vote was 5:1 in favour of remaining in Germany.

From 1875 until 1905 the population was relatively stable at just over 2,000, but in 1933 the population swelled to just over 6,000, and

increased to more than 7,000 by 1939. Some of this increase can perhaps be accounted for by the large German army barracks built in 1933. In 1934 however, the barracks closed and the building became home to the Nationalpolitische Erziehungsanstalten, which was officially abbreviated to NPEA, the address on the postcard.

Between 1933 and 1944 there were 37 NPEA's established in Germany. These were elite schools, modelled to some extent on English Public Schools, and were designed to educate the children of highly intelligent and racially pure Germans to become the future leaders of German Politics, Administration and the Military. Only the brightest and fittest students were accepted, and to maintain standards the schools hadun limited Government funds at their disposal; however, life for the lucky few accepted was hard and at times brutal, in order to weed out the weaker students. In 1936 the NPEA schools came under the direct control of the SS, and senior students wore the uniform of the Hitler Youth.

All of this poses the question of who exactly was Alec Jeanes, and what was he doing in an elite German school, run by the German SS. Was he a student, or perhaps a teacher? And who was his Friend 'B' who sent him the card?, could 'B' have been a spy?. The answer may never be known, but what is certain is that this card is not simply a very English postcard after all.

Roger Harris (Member)...

POUR ENCOURAGER LES AUTRES...

Member Jack Preuveneers won a Large Silver Medal in the British Youth Stamp Championships Class A. His exhibit *Sweden: From Oscar to Oscar* was best exhibit in Class A (19 - 21). The British Youth Championships with judging hosted by RPSL and the results displayed at Autumn STAMPEX 2018.

From the Winter 2018 edition of ABPS News...

Julian Jones (President)...

What did the Stamp say to the Christmas card? Stick with me and we'll go places.

Dave Edwards (Members)...

wavy lines. Most centres have either IMPs or iLSMs but a few have some of each.

Finally, for those who prefer stamps to postal history, Figure 5 shows one of the stamps issued in 2016 as part of the set celebrating "500 years of Royal Mail". It depicts iLSMs in the Medway Mail Centre.

Acknowledgements....

Some information above comes from Wikipedia and references therein, but much comes from various issues of the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle (<http://www.postalmech.org.uk/>) *Newsletter*. My scanner is currently not easily accessible to me, so I am grateful to Branimir Panteleev for some of the scans.

For images associated with this article please turn to page 24... **(Editor)...**

SECOND QUARTER PROGRAMME...

April

2nd April – Mike Elliott – Aspects of Finnish Postal History.

Mike returns to the Society having giving a talk in 2017 on Finland at Warh essays:

‘Although I’ve had friends in Finland for many years I only started getting involved in the country’s postal history in the ‘90s. My collection got a huge boost by being able to buy the Brian McCloy collection which majors on TPOs.

The display ‘Aspects of Finnish Postal’ contains pretty much what it says on the tin. It includes mail from the pre-stamp period, mail coming into Finland, and mail going out. There’s a section on TPSs and I’ll be trying also to get ready a new section which I’ll tell you about on the day!’

The **16th April** meeting is the AGM, plus members can also display on the theme of queries and recent acquisitions.

May

7th May – Sue Burn – Smithy and his Bus.

Sue writes: ‘I have been a collector for over 50 years, starting as many people do with new issues and FDC’s of GB with the help of my father who collected stamps, mainly foreign. My interest in aviation came from my father’s work at Rolls Royce Aero Engine division at Filton and one of my strongest memories growing up of watching Concorde take off for the first time. I did not have a lot of disposable income and started with NZ airmails

has eight digits, the first digit is the local identity number but where it is ten digits, the first three digits are the national identity number. The Southampton IMPs with local numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 appear to have (in some order) national numbers 196, 200, 201, 202 and the postmark in Figure 1 is from machine 4. (A few mail centres have ten IMPs; in those cases the eight digit numbers begin with 0 for the tenth machine.)

Most envelopes are non-square rectangles and addresses are normally applied with the lines parallel to the longer edges of the envelopes and the stamp in the top righthand corner. There are, however, some greetings cards which come in square envelopes and they sometimes pass through IMPs rotated 90% anticlockwise. As a result, the stamp appears to be in the top lefthand corner. In such a case, the IMP reverses the order of the four parts of the postmark. An example from Birmingham IMP 6 appears in Figure 2. At least four of the Southampton IMPs produced similar postmarks in December 2018. Figure 3 depicts an example from IMP 201, but instead of the expected "Southampton Portsmouth & IOW" in the information block, the machine has reverted to the old "Southampton Mail Centre". Furthermore, the slogan and information block overlap. Figure 4 shows a postmark from IMP 202 which also has "Southampton Mail Centre" and overlap but with a different slogan. I also have a similar example from IMP 196 with the "Stay well this Winter ..." slogan with greater overlap and with the slogan positioned higher relative to the information block compared with Figure 4. I also have an example from IMP 200 in which there is no overlap, but again with "Southampton Mail Centre". Examples of postmarks (normal or reversed) from Southampton IMP 203 are not common. It is understood that this machine only sorts stamped mail at busy times. Normally it is used to process mail which does not bear adhesive postage stamps; such mail needs to be sorted but not postmarked.

The intelligent Letter Sorting Machines are numbered 400 to 468 inclusive and postmarks from them are easily distinguished from those of IMPs. They do not print "Delivered by Royal Mail" and the slogan is to the left of the information block. The time does not appear in the postmark, but there is an indication of a time interval in the orange barcode. Also, they print either nine or eleven (not seven) wavy lines. The nine wavy lines appear in cancels on DL size (110 x 220 mm) envelopes, but a larger font size is used for postmarks on C5 size (162 x 229 mm) envelopes and in this case the iLSM machine prints eleven

Come!
All are invited

STOCKHOLMIA2019
29 MAY - 2 JUNE

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COVER CORNER...

I have just been looking on E-bay to see if there are interesting FDCs being offered for sale and the sad fact is that there are not. In fact the trend over the past few months is for prices of FDCs and Commemorative covers to increase at astonishing rates. Do they know something I don't? I am not sure how many are actually being sold. I have done a random sample and it would seem that according to my very unscientific survey not many. I have just seen two FDCs offered by a dealer each from the Churchill 1965 issue. The ordinary Oxford CDS is offered at £100, catalogued in both the latest Bradbury & Booth books at £90 - £95. The phosphor stamps, again with an Oxford CDS offered at £90, catalogued at £100 - £110. It would appear neither sold

However in today's selection it was quite interesting as some-one is obviously selling off their collection of RAF covers. One was advertised as being signed by Bill Randle and that reminded me of a old occasion that occurred in back in 1976. At that time I was heavily involved in Hamble River Sailing Club and at one of the events we held that year ex-PM Ted Heath came and gave away the prizes. During the afternoon he was asked to sign some copies of his latest book. "You do know that there are more signed copies than unsigned copies", he told one young lady. In fact thinking back to the day I seem to remember that Mr Heath spent a lot of time talking to the ladies. Just saying!

Now back to the main gist of this piece. Although my collection stops after the 2012 Olympics I still keep an eye out on what is now being offered and I find it increasingly disappointing. In my opinion (and I know the editor will disclaim the views held by the contributors) I think the quality of both new stamp design and the decreasing number of cover designers is making the effort of collecting FDCs less attractive. I suppose I shouldn't be surprised as the rate that new stamps are being produced seems to be accelerating and must place an ever increasing strain on the team of designers.

And on the depressing note I will bid you all a very happy New Year. My New Year's resolution is to join the mainstream of the society and start sorting out the British stamp collection that I have garnered over the past few years as part of lots at general auction sales.

Eddie Mays...

the Manchester Mail Centre, explicitly indicate where they are located. Others give a rough idea of the location: the North West Midlands Mail Centre is in Wolverhampton, the Dorset and S.W. Hants Mail Centre is in Poole and the Cumbria Dumfries & Galloway Mail Centre is in Carlisle. The cryptic BA, BS, GL, TA Mail Centre is in Bristol and it also deals with mail from Bath, Gloucester and Taunton. The brand new Jubilee Mail Centre opened in 2012, the year of HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, but the name offers no clue as to its location in Hounslow. Some readers may guess that the Mount Pleasant Mail Centre is in Central London, but the average person in the street will probably not realise this.

Over the years, several types of mechanised processors have been used. Currently two main types are in use at mail centres: the "Integrated Mail Processor" (IMP and a variant known as the IMPEX) and the "intelligent Letter Sorting Machine" (iLSM). The first IMPs date from around the turn of the Century and there have been a number of changes to them in the meantime. For example, the original dot-matrix printers have been replaced by ink-jet printers.

Southampton Mail Centre has five IMPS and Figure 1 shows a typical 2015 postmark from one of them. The postmark is divided into four parts which, from left to right, are: "Delivered by" and the Royal Mail cruciform; a 6-line information block; a slogan; seven wavy lines. The top line of the information block is always "Royal Mail". Centres with short names have the name on line 2 with "Mail Centre" on line 3, but centres with longer names occupy both lines and Mail Centre is omitted. The fourth and fifth lines give the date and time which, in Figure 1, are in the form DD.MM.YY and HH:MM am/pm. The bottom line is an item number which was, initially, an eight-digit number. In recent years, however, many machines have undergone an Extension of Life upgrade and these show the date in the form DD/MM/YY, the time in the 24-hour clock HH:MM:SS and they print a ten digit item number.

Each IMP has both a local single-digit identity number and also a three-digit national identity number; the latter numbers known to me are between 101 and 249. Sometimes an IMP is moved between mail centres and then its local identity number may need to be changed so that it does not clash with an existing number. But there have been a few instances of puzzling renumberings, for example, when the four Southampton IMPs were joined by a fifth, the new machine was initially numbered 6 and later renumbered 5 and, at the same time, its national number was changed from 204 to 203. Where the item number at the bottom of the information block

at least two quizzes a year for the past 10 years at socials at both our venues.

She has always collected stamps that appeal to her and whenever there is an opportunity of showing stamps, you can be sure that Lorraine will be able to display relevant items of interest from her collection whether it be Badges of the Armed Forces or owls.

The Society thanks Lorraine for her many contributions to the good health of the Society and looks forward to her continued support in the years to come.

John Berridge...

MAIL CENTRES, IMPs and iLSMs....

by E. Keith Lloyd...

For many years, letters were sorted by hand at a great many sorting offices, but in the last half-century or so, more and more mail has been sorted mechanically. Much of this takes place in a comparatively small number of Mail Centres and also in a much larger number of Delivery Offices. Wikipedia lists 38 operational mail centres at June 2016 and gives (presumably at the same date) the number of delivery offices as 1,356.

With ever-increasing use of electronic mail, there has been a steady decrease in the number of letters posted in recent years. Consequently, there has also been a steady decrease in the number of mail centres both before and after Royal Mail was privatised. In some cases, a mail centre has been closed and its work transferred to a nearby mail centre, which may have needed some reconfiguration and extension to accommodate the additional work. Such was the case at Southampton which took on the work formerly undertaken at the mail centre in Portsmouth. In other cases, an entirely new mail centre has been built, for example, the Medway Mail Centre opened in 2012 and replaced the former mail centres at Canterbury, Dartford, Maidstone and Tonbridge. When Shrewsbury Mail Centre was closed, its work was split between Cardiff, Chester and Wolverhampton.

A year ago, Inverness Mail Centre was the only one still carrying out all sorting by hand. Since then, a new centre has been built there and this should be fully operational with mechanised sorting during 2019.

The names given to the various mail centres (as printed in postmarks) are a curious mixture. Some, such as the Birmingham Mail Centre and

MEMBERS LECTURES AT PETERSFIELD IN...

OCTOBER....

A Trio of Society members Mike Batty, Len Yandell & Jim Rankin gave a talk to the Petersfield & District Philatelic Society. Mike spoke about 19th Century material from Bishops Waltham and then Jim Rankin presented the Postal Strike of 1971 that lasted from January 20th to March 4th. This was followed by Len followed with a talk on the Postal History of Le Harve on the Normandy Coast.

NOVEMBER...

In November, it was the turn of Portsmouth & Philatelic Society, but 2 of our members, Mike Batty presented the Gunner Family & Miller McGrath a presentation on Scotland. Both Mike & Miller are also members of the Portsmouth & Philatelic Society .

WINCHESTER POSTAL HISTORY REFERENCE COLLECTION – NOW ONLINE...

The collection's introductory page may be accessed via this web address:
<http://www.hantsfederation.org.uk/winhtml/win00.html> .

The collection consists of some 256 items mounted on numbered sheets which may be browsed in order. The collection has also been arranged in sections. These may be accessed by the links provided in the introductory page.

To arrange access to the reference collection please contact:

Hampshire Record Office

Sussex Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8TH
tel 01962 846154, fax 01962 878681

**Julian H Jones FRPSL,
Chair & webmaster, Hampshire Philatelic Federation.**

POSTMARK PROFILES – No. 25: LORRAINE SIMMS...



Lorraine Simms is the subject of our 25th Postmark Profile.

Providing high quality (i.e. very difficult) quizzes at our socials has been amongst the many contributions to the Southampton Philatelic Society that Lorraine has made over the past 10 years or more. So it's not surprising that she has been on the winning team in the championships of the Hampshire Women's Institute monthly quiz competitions for two out of the past three years and came second in the other year. There are 32 teams competing and Lorraine is one of the

five ladies of the North Baddesley WI's winning team. She is also a member of the Mayflower and Shirley WIs. She had a good grounding in general knowledge to become a champion 'quizzer' because collecting stamps as a youngster gives you a great deal of general information of everything and anything around the world. In addition after she passed her 11 Plus Exam she went to the Ecclesfield Grammar School and left with GCEs in English, General Science, History and Geography, all of which gave her a good grounding as a quizzer.

Born and bred in Sheffield in the West Riding of Yorkshire, she spent her formative years and the first part of her married life there and still thinks of Sheffield as home, despite having lived in Southampton since 1986. Still a keen supporter of Sheffield Wednesday F.C. she first went to see them play when she was a Brownie. After leaving school she worked in the personnel department of one of the big Sheffield foundries. However, when declared redundant she decided to join the Army and see the world which, up until then had been confined to her stamp collection.

After basic training at Guildford she was posted to Aldershot with the Royal Signals Corps. In 1970 she was posted to Hong Kong and like many service personnel, this was the best posting in her career for many reasons. She fell in love with the place and the people but best of

all she met Dave on the very first day she arrived there. Soon afterwards they were married but as the army would not guarantee that married couples would be posted to the same locations, she left the Army and became a soldier's wife and a mother. Dave was a career soldier and three years at Lippstadt in Germany was another of his postings that they enjoyed. Being centrally placed in Germany, Lippstadt was a good base from which to explore and get to know that part of the world.

Daughters Diana and Alison were born and after his army service, Dave joined British Gas in Southampton where their third daughter, Lauren, made a late appearance - was it the Southampton water? Lorraine and Dave have lived at Plover Close in Lordswood since they came to Southampton.

Lorraine has been associated with Oakwood Primary School for many years helping in the reception classes and is a member of the Voluntary Parent's Committee. Three of her four grand children (three boys and a girl) have passed through the school and she continues to do voluntary work there every Friday. She ran a stamp club at the school for some years before having to give it up for lack of members. As far as stamp collecting is concerned,

Lorraine was encouraged from an early age when she was given her first stamp album. As a youngster she spent her pocket money on stamps until she was a wage earner and then the stamp stall in Sheffield Market was one of her favourite haunts. Her interest in stamps was revived in Southampton and she often visits local stamp fairs. She was a regular customer at *Splendid Stamps* stand and thanks to Jim and Jill Paterson, Lorraine was introduced to Stuart Gaiger, Membership Officer of the Southampton Philatelic Society and became a member. Since then she has been a very active member of the Society and soon joined the committee. Her first role was as 'Youth Development Officer' in view of her experience in running the stamp club at Oakwood School and currently she is a Chandler's Ford Meetings representative. She also helps at the *Club Active* stand for youngsters at Stampex in London as well as at the Annual Junior Workshop at Hampex. She has supported Society coach trips to York, Swindon (twice) and Leamington Spa.

Lorraine attends most of our meetings and is one of the 'behind the scenes' members who helps to make the Society so successful. She has been on the tea and coffee break rota for meetings at St Joseph's hall for many years as well as helping at Chandlers Ford. In addition she helps with the raffle at both our venues and currently provides philatelic material and stamps for sale at the monthly Chandler's Ford meetings. She has provided