

clear. A small image is to be found on this page: <http://www.southamptondps.org.uk/librarylist.html> and if you click on that you'll see an enlarged image. If anyone has the original and would permit it to be scanned to replace the image I have then please get in touch.

**Julian H Jones...**

I have added a copy to the Society Archives ... Ref: File 49 - Number 3,902. (Steve Gerrard archivist)

### SOCIETY POTOGRAPHS...

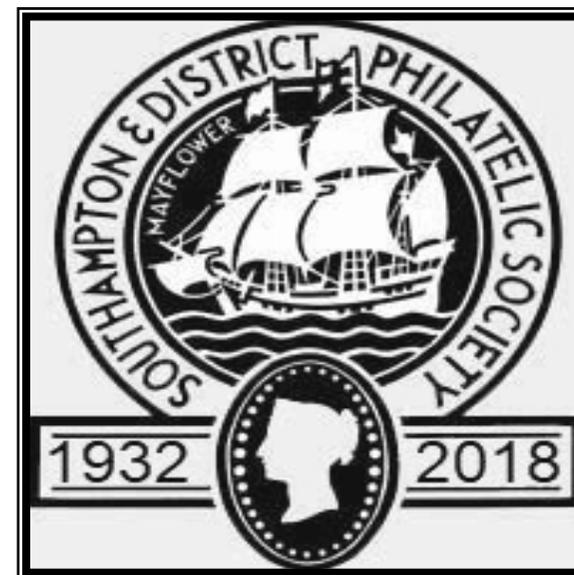


**Speaker: 5th March - Roger Crew - Postal History of Malta in World War 1.**



**Speaker: 7th May - Sue Burn - Smithy and his Bus.**

## POSTMARK



**Number 142**

**SUMMER 2019**



**Members enjoying another thought provoking speaker.**

## **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:**

### **July:**

**2nd** - Steam Conquers the World - Speaker: Colin Tabaert.

**11th** - Afternoon Meeting Chandler's Ford.

**16th** - Society Competitions, Bourse & Silent Auction.

### **Panda Fairs:**

**27th** - Petersfield Community Centre off Love Lane GU31 4BW.

### **August:**

**6th** - Another Bloody Railway (1) - Speaker: Peter Pugh.

**8th** - Afternoon Meeting Chandler's Ford.

**20th** - No Meeting.

### **Panda Fairs:**

**24th** - Southampton Methodist Hall St James Rd Shirley SO15 5HE.

### **September:**

**3rd** - Local Area Stamps & Post Office Labels - Speaker: Chris Wheeler.

**12th** - Afternoon Meeting Chandler's Ford.

**17th** - Postcard Evening - Member's Displays.

**28th** - Hampex 2019 - Wickham.

### **Panda Fairs:**

**21st** - Bournemouth Annunciation Hall Charminster Rd BH8 9RW.

### **October:**

**1st** - Solent Maritime Postal History - Speaker: Malcolm Montgomery.

**5th** - Grand Auction - Peartree Church Hall, Woolston.

**Roger Harris:** Lundy Island – **Judith Webb;** Christmas Post – **Sue Lambert;** Classical France – **John Cruttenden** and a variety of other subjects from many members including **Harold Barstow, Peter Bruce, David Lewis, Peter Parr, Paul Arnold, Alan Whittaker, John Berridge, Len Yandell** and so the list extends....

We have also welcomed **Abbie Ede**, an undergraduate from Portsmouth University, who has been making a study of the collecting activities of some of the members. I am not quite sure what philately has to do with her Graphics degree, however Abbie has been most welcome at a couple of meetings over the past 6 months.

**Mike Vokes (Membership Secretary)...**

## **PATRICK REEVES 31/08/1934 to 22/01/2019...**

Patrick (Pat) spent much of his early life in Pinner (Middlesex), having served in the R.A.F. he left and took up employment as an engineering draftsman, a job which he enjoyed, one which gave him the opportunity to pursue his aptitude to technical drawing. Following his retirement he moved to Hampshire initially to Fair Oak which allowed him to pursue his other interests which included philately, music and reading at which time he joined Southampton Philatelic Society. He then moved to Milford where he became an active member of the Milford on Sea Stamp Club for a number of years finishing as Secretary of the club. He was always willing to lend a hand to new members giving them help and advice, among his many secretarial duties he was responsible for organising and collating material for the annual auction. He retained membership of Southampton Philatelic Society for over 20 years.

**Jim Rankin...**

## **A STOCK TAKING RECORD OF ALL SOUTHAMPTON POSTMARKS FOR JANUARY**

I recently obtained a photocopy of a sheet of paper covered in Southampton postmarks - dated January 1862. Sadly it is probably a copy of a copy and I don't know where the original sheet is (and nor does John Dorrington). It is very interesting as a contemporary record of the marks in use (at Head Post Office) at that time. I have posted an image of the sheet on the Southampton society's website. Unfortunately that meant scanning the copy yet again, and even a bit of Photoshop can't make the image really

## SOUTHAMPTON and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

### Membership News – Summer 2019...

#### The late Laurence G Tuppen and Patrick Reeves

Very sadly we have lost both **Laurie Tuppen** and **Patrick Reeves** since the last *Postmark* edition. Obituaries appear elsewhere.

#### New members

We welcome back into the club, **Ian Greig** from Chandlers Ford, whose collecting interest is especially Australia. Ian has been an Assistant to the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection. **Simon Fidler, Damian Bell, Nigel Gray** and **John Caldwell** are local vendors who have been 'recruited' by Mel. **Richard Langrishe, David Rae** and **John Rossiter** are all collectors from the Andover area, recruited as a result of the pending closure of the Worthy Down Stamp Club.

#### 2019 Membership renewals

I am very pleased to report that only two members, Messrs **Lutman** and **Preuveneers** failed to renew for 2019, as a result the current membership stands at 170 including 7 honorary life members. **Jeremy Lea**, a member for very many years resigned in May 2019. He is going to France to sell a property there and then move back to the UK and live in Stockbridge.

#### Thursday afternoons in Chandlers Ford

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE re: the afternoon tea party on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Please note that this party will be held at the normal **Hannover Housing room** and **NOT** in the Methodist Dovetail Centre, which is now unavailable to us. If the weather is good, some members might like to bring their garden chairs and take their delicious tea provided by **Debbie Hindson** ( and friends ) in the patio area. It is proposed to make the event a Prosecco or fruit juice party, as the facilities for cleaning up large quantities of tea cups etc. at the room are very basic.

#### Routine meetings

During the spring I am very pleased to report that attendance at the meetings has remained constant with an average of over 20 members attending at the Hannover Housing meeting room. A large proportion of these attendees have brought along items to display and subjects have ranged from Victorian GB material, postal history to intellectual thematic collections:- Wagner - **Cathie Bruce** ; New Zealand Airmails – **John Dorrington**; Postal History material from the Test Valley –

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

**President:** Julian Jones.

**Vice President:** Brian Hague.

**Chairman:** Mel Bradshaw (80785785)

**Secretary:** Eddy Mays. (80 402194)

**Packet Manager:** Jack Hindson (80266431)

**Treasurer:** Mike Watts (02380 454131)

**PRO:** Eddy Mays (80 402194)

**Auctioneer:** Kevin Chard (01489 574834)

**Membership:** Mike Vokes (80262551)

**Competitions:** Kevin Chard (01489 574834)

**Programme Secretary :** Kevin Chard (01489 574834)

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

**Hampshire Philatelic Federation Rep:** Steve Gerrard. (02380 433820)

**Websites: Southampton & District P S –** [www.southamptondps.org.uk/](http://www.southamptondps.org.uk/)

**Hampshire Philatelic Federation –** [www.hantsfederation.org.uk](http://www.hantsfederation.org.uk)

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES JUNE 2019...

As you will know, the AGM took place in mid-April. Below is my report, given verbally to the meeting. Enclosed with this quarter's mailing is a copy of the written reports presented to the AGM.

My thanks and those of the committee go to all who contributed in some way to another interesting and enjoyable year. The Society continues to benefit from the help given by many individuals, including those who are not committee members. Brian Pantaleev has often assisted with some of the heavy work, especially setting up tables, moving chairs and carrying auction material. He has been well supported by many other pairs of eager hands. Pauline Gittos, supported by Lorraine Simms, has regularly sold raffle tickets, a process that helps to bring in important income in a fun way. After many years of doing this, Pauline has stepped down from this task.

Our thanks go to Pauline and for her continued support of the Society. The pairs of individuals who serve tea and coffee deserve our grateful thanks, but the number has dwindled, putting a greater burden on those who remain. Although we have been without a secretary since the last AGM, many individuals have helped with taking minutes at meetings, and Mike Vokes has stepped in as 'Minute Secretary' for the committee. Jim Rankin organised an enjoyable Sunday lunch at Dibden Golf Club. Debbie Hindson was again busy organising the catering for our social occasions. It was fitting that John Berridge received his Life Membership award at the Chandler's Ford social afternoon.

2018 was another busy year, but less demanding than 2017. Your committee members work hard over the year to ensure everything runs smoothly and that we are well prepared for the future. I thank all committee members for their support and hard work. Steve Gerrard continues to combine the roles of Archivist, Curator of the Society's Collection and Editor of Postmark, for which we are very grateful. My thanks also go to Kevin for his support as Vice Chairman, ably taking over the role of Chairman when necessary, and continuing in the role of Programme and Competitions Secretary. Mike Vokes, as well as acting as Convener for Chandler's Ford, has maintained our membership records efficiently and it is pleasing to see that the level membership has been maintained. Patrick Goethals has continued to expand and promote the library. In addition to managing the Society's web-site, Julian Jones has been an extremely supportive and helpful President. Special thanks must also go to Julian and Kevin for organising the Competitions Workshop in April, which has inspired a number of members to exhibit. The AGM is the opportunity to help refresh the committee with new (or returning) blood. Each year I emphasise that the committee requires renewal and new ideas.

The 2018 programme was varied and fascinating, with something for everyone. We started off the new year with a look at items from The Society Collection. The January auction was a special event, with the sale of much of John Dorrington's Southampton Postal History collection. Our thanks go to John for the donation of a number of unsold items to the Society. February saw the first of two entertaining visits from other Societies. Waterlooville PS was followed by Vectis PS in May. March saw an introduction to Buying and Selling Electronically led by Wendy Buckle and Chris Wheeler, and in April Tony Hickey returned with his Austria & Anschluss (Part 2) display. Chris Harman entertained us in June with a display of GB Revenues,

## AUCTION NEWS JUNE 2019...

The society conducted 2 successful auctions this year and a summary of the outcomes of is shown below.

MONTH	LOTS	LOTS SOLD	% SOLD	TOTAL SALES
January	487	237	48.7	£4461.50
March	471	267	56.7	£3833.40

These figures represent an excellent start to the year. Enclosed with this mailing is the catalogue for the June auction, the last one I will be responsible for compiling. Kevin will take over the gavel for the actual auction and I wish him every success as he takes over. I will of course support Kevin in this work, as he has assisted me over the last year. My thanks to everyone who has supported the auctions since I took over about 10 years ago. You have contributed to a period of excellent growth.

**Mel Bradshaw** (former Auction Manager)...

Plans are well underway for the Grand Auction on October 5<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> August to ensure that the catalogue can be completed and distributed in early September. The lots themselves are not actually required until mid-September.

Please send your lot details for the October auction to my email address [k.chard@ntlworld.com](mailto:k.chard@ntlworld.com) or by post to 27 Battle Close, Sarisbury Green, Southampton, SO31 7ZF. For those submitting electronically, a spreadsheet is available which will enable direct transfer to the catalogue – please request via my email address.

Two 'Silent Auction' are planned for the evenings of Tuesday July 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. For these auctions 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.

**Kevin Chard** (Auction Manager)...

## THE (NEW) SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLINGS...

First of all I would like to pay tribute to all the hard work that our previous secretary, Paul Arnold, has done over the past few years. From previous experience I know that, like a swan's outward serenity it covers furious paddling behind the scenes, the role is not an easy one. I just hope that I can do as good a job for the Society.

My 'election' to the post rather reminds me of the very old anecdote of the Sgt Major addressing a squad of soldiers looking for a volunteer. "All volunteers one step forward". Joe Bloggs, who was half asleep, failed to notice everyone else had taken one step back and so he 'volunteered'.

As I only attend the Tuesday evening meetings in Bugle Street I am probably unknown to the majority of the members so I will take this opportunity to introduce myself to you now. I have been a member of the society for a few years now but I need to admit that I have very little knowledge about stamps. My rather dubious claim to fame is that I collect British First Day Covers and I only started collecting those because my late wife and I went to a general auction looking for a canteen of cutlery only to come away with a large box of Royal Mail FDCs, my choice not hers! Hobbies can start in all sorts of ways.

If there is anything I can do to help, as far as the administrative side of the Society is concerned, I can be contacted in several ways; by phone on 02380 402194, by email at sec.sdps@gmail.com or by "snail mail" to Eddie Mays, Sheridan, Rutland Gardens, Bursledon, Southampton SO31 8FZ

### Eddie Mays April 2019...

"Among other things good and bad that modern civilisation had produced, surely the postal system which covers the whole world, is one of its most beneficial activities. It affects every individual wherever he may be in the wide world connecting him with millions of others. That connecting link is the postal system which has grown from age to age, till it is what we see today"

- Jawaharlal Nehru as a foreword to Mulk Raj Anand's book Story of the Post Office.

and the intriguingly entitled 'Lady Boyle's Scrapbook' by Mike Hill was an unusual July evening. In August, Jeremy Gaskell entertained us with Two Women (Edith Cavell and Queen Astrid) and Me, which turned out to be Jeremie, Haiti. Brian Hague stepped in when the booked speaker was not available. He substituted Faroe Islands for Malta, but retained the theme the Engraver Czeslaw Slania. October saw Barry Stagg display philatelic items and postcards on the theme of 'The Ups and Downs of Parachutes'. Julian's first President's Evening in November featured a display of GB Travelling Post Offices by Clive Jones. The year ended with our own Miller McGrath's 'Scotland-a Wry Look' which showed that Scotland punches above its weight!

Members have supported the many activities that feature on the third Tuesday meetings. Nine members entered material for the Members' Competition Evening in February, congratulations to Len Yandell for winning with his entry 'Pilgrimage to Santiago'. Len made it a double success, winning May's 'Single Sheet Competition at the Social Evening with his entry 'Maiden Voyage of the SS Normandie'. In July the double event featured the Competition Evening (winners of various trophies were John Dorrington, Peter Parr, Julian Jones, Steven Gerrard and John Berridge) and members' displays 'Letter R'. In September the Postcard Club were our guests, and we were again entertained with a wide range of topics. The 15 sheets in 5 minutes evening in October featured nine varied displays and the November meeting featured an outstanding selection of 18 entries of the Letter S theme. The bourses, silent auction, auctions and social events added to the wide range of experiences during the year.

We were well represented at Hampex, and although the Society did not win the Howard White Trophy, congratulations go to Julian Jones, who was awarded the Jan Kaluski Trophy (best 32 sheet exhibit in the show) and the Postal History Salver, to Brian Hague, who received the Hampshire Sixteen Cup and to John Berridge, who was awarded the Hampshire Hog President's Trophy.

Income generation is critical for the continued success of the Society and to enable it to subsidise social events and maintain the £10 annual fee. Our income from membership fees has to be supplemented significantly: most coming from the Packet (over £550), managed so successfully by Jack Hindson, the Auctions (over £1550) and the Raffle (£375). The accounts presented by our treasurer show clearly how much each of these generated. Our thanks go to all those who contribute in some way to raising funds, in whatever capacity, and our thanks to Treasurer, Mike Watts, for his keeping

our finances in good order so effectively.

Although I previously indicated that I would step down from the role as Chairman, having completed 5 years, following discussions with Kevin, I have agreed to start a second term (which is a maximum of 3 years) if Society members so wish. I hope this will help to contribute to continuity and to avoid to greater role on individuals.

Following the AGM, I am pleased to confirm that Brian Hague is now our Vice President, Eddie Mays will combine his PRO role with that of Secretary, and Kevin Chard has taken over as Auction Manager/Auctioneer. It was pleasing that already a number of members have volunteered to support various officers, especially Kevin, in their Society committee roles. A useful discussion took place about how the Society may need to change to meet the challenges of a aging, and probably decreasing, membership in the years to come. These will be discussed at our next committee meeting in June, but if you have any of your own ideas, please let me have them to add to our conversation.

I would like to remind everyone that the Society's Data Protection Policy is published on the Society's website. If you have any queries, please contact me.

**Dr Mel Bradshaw (Chairman)...**

### **VISITS TO EXHIBITIONS & FARES...**

Over the past year, the committee has been discussing how the society adapts to the future with fewer active volunteers and an increasingly elderly membership. One successful area in the past has been arranging for transport to Exhibitions and Fares, such as Midpex and Swinpex. It seems, however, that coach trips are no longer viable for such events owing to the high cost of hiring a coach and the relatively small number of members wishing to travel. We will look at this again, especially for London based activities, so that partners may be encouraged to travel and spend time in the capital. Meanwhile, we will continue to advertise Exhibitions and Fares and encourage members who intend to travel by car to an event to advertise this through Postmark so a possible car-sharing could take place.

**Dr Mel Bradshaw (Chairman)...**

### **THE LATE LAURENCE G TUPPEN...**

Laurie, to all his friends, philatelic or otherwise, was born in 1930 in North London, but his family moved to Eastbourne when he was very young. He was educated during the war in Eastbourne, being one of only a very few children left in the area, as his father had a grocery business and was unable to be evacuated from such a dangerous area. Laurie even survived a nearby 'doodlebug' attack. He was conscripted to the RAF after the war, but was discharged on compassionate grounds to help run the family grocery business, due to his father's poor health. Laurie's parents were close friends of another businessman in Eastbourne whose young daughter, about the same age, was called Beryl. A picture of Laurie and Beryl as small children was displayed on the service sheet for Laurie's funeral service held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at St Martin in the Wood church, Chandlers Ford. This was a lifelong association which resulted in 65 years of marriage, 4 children , 8 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Laurie and Beryl moved to Chandlers Ford in 1962, where they were never happier together in later life tending to their large garden or resting after their labours. Laurie worked for NCR, owned a toyshop in Shirley, but finally ran his own business for many years selling and servicing cash registers.

Laurie was almost a lifelong philatelist, collecting, latterly Machin cylinder blocks . He was a long standing member of the Southampton Philatelic Society and up until recently a very regular and much respected attendee at the Chandlers Ford meetings.

Laurie possessed a strong Christian faith and was a lay pastor in the Chandlers Ford Anglican parish. For many years he was the head altar server at St Martins and trained others in the duties. A very large number of the congregation of the church attended the funeral service, indicative of the great respect with which Laurie was held. The Society was represented by Debbie & Jack Hindson, Brian Docking, Mike Sleeman, Harry Vincombe and myself.

**Mike Vokes (Membership Secretary)...**

"The postage stamp is a flimsy thing No thicker than a beetle's wing And yet it will roam the world for you Exactly where you tell it to"

- EV Lucas...

## SOCIETY CONSOLIDATION...

Sadly we have learned of two societies closing this year, following on from closures last year. It is a fact that a society needs to remain large enough that its members' subscriptions cover room rental and the expenses of speakers from out of area. As membership dwindles then viability suffers.

I am pleased to note that in the two latest examples the members of the closing societies have been welcomed by neighbouring local societies so helping them maintain a critical mass sufficient to offer meetings and the packet circuit which draws many stamp collectors into organised philately.

A large society can also cater to the disparate needs of the philatelic membership: a packet circuit for some; speakers for others and competitions for those who wish to follow that path. Some societies also broaden their approach to some social events during the year. More importantly, some will also add daytime meetings to cater for those no longer willing to drive at night.

As the larger societies take in members from neighbouring areas they may need to consider having some meetings away from their normal base. This can be seen as an additional administrative burden for the existing committee members. Can I suggest that it is up to members who want to partake in special meetings to organise them for themselves under the overview of their new society. Don't expect a small committee to be able to do everything. Step up and help.

Good luck and happy collecting to all those moving from one society to another. Many thanks to those making them welcome in their new homes.

**Julian Jones HPF Chair...**

## ARCHIVES & SOCIETY POSTAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS UPDATE.

**Postal History Collection:** The number of items currently recorded stands at 3,684 items from 1726 to 2019.

**Society Archives:** The number of items currently recorded stands at 3,869 items from 1485 (Transcript) to 2019.

**Steven Gerrard...**

## SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEMBER'S COMPETITION EVENING, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019...

There was a good turnout of members with four of them bringing exhibits to display for members to vote on. The competition entries were:

16 sheets by John Dorrington on New Zealand Airmails, 1934; 16 sheets by Patrick Austin of 1500's Italian Merchants' letters; 16 sheets by Len Yandell on Early Le Havre TPO postal markings; and 12 sheets by Malcolm Coe of Sudan 1<sup>st</sup> provisional overprints.

Each exhibitor spoke briefly about their display and then members completed their ballot slips to list their top three exhibits. After the break the results were announced with top billing going to Malcolm Coe's Sudan with NZ Airmails and Merchants' Letters tied for second place. Malcolm was awarded the Competition Trophy by Julian Jones.

After coffee there was an animated Q&A session about 'what should one have been looking for in judging the entries?' Julian fielded the questions assisted by



**Malcolm Coe receives the competition  
Trophy from Julian Jones...**

Brian Hague. All four exhibits offered talking points about how to show the story line, what was considered rare, personal research, presentation and importance. Julian noted that he had never seen 16 Corsini letters all in one go. A unique airmail cover signed by the pilot, who soon after lost his life on another flight, was exactly that: rare. French TPOs is an important subject and Sudan overprints had not been seen locally at all. All exhibitors were encouraged to re-enter their exhibits for the July competition, to be judged against HAMPEX-like criteria, and indeed to consider entering the HAMPEX competition.

### HAMPSHIRE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY...

I will be publishing a Hampshire Journal in June. If you are willing to send something for this issue and any future ones I will be extremely grateful.

If any Southampton Members would like to join us they will be most welcome, especially if they can write good articles to enhance the scans. Subs are £10.00 per annum, due in September! Free until then. Go to the HPHS website: <http://hantsfederation.org.uk/whphshome.html> To download an application form.

Peter Mills...

### KEEPING THE FAROE ISLANDS POSTED DURING WORLD WAR II By Brian Hague...

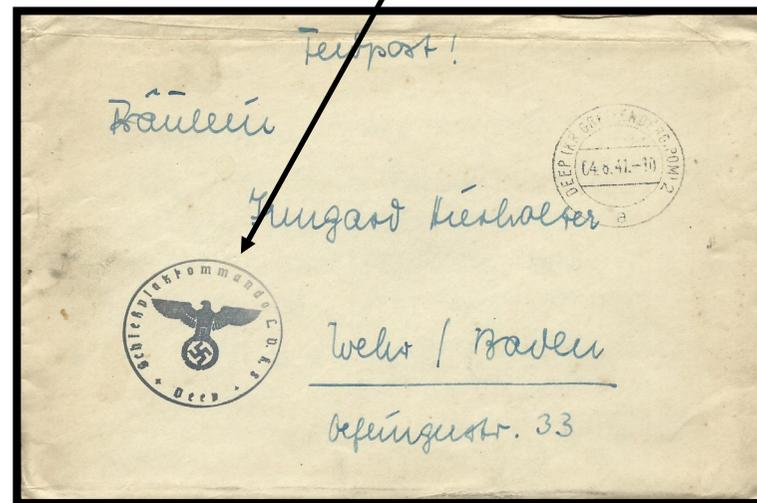
What annoys an editor as well as the Archivist (Me), is when I see articles written by members that I have no knowledge of until they appear in the philatelic magazines on the open shelf or other societies publications. This article appeared in Stanley Gibbons Magazine - March 2019... and tells the story of the Denmark's occupation by German forces, while the Faroe's whose postal service was integrated with the Danish Post Office, found itself under control of the British. This is an in-depth article over 6 pages. I would appreciate that if anyone in the society writes an article that appears in print anywhere that the editor is advised and a copy made available so that it can be added to the societies Archives. Archives: Number 3,900 - File 49.

sites or books/publications I would appreciate being pointed in the right direction. See below for an example... I am working on a display of Feldpost covers that I hope to show at a later meeting. Steve Gerrard....

### FELDPOST NUMBER... L38280.



### ORIGINATOR HAND-STAMP...



timetables. The display gives details of events taking place at the time mail was sent as well as information about rates and routes. The collection was originally one display covering 1899 - 1941 however due to expansion the complete story of this mail route is split into 3 separate displays.'

### September

3<sup>rd</sup> September – Chris Wheeler - Local area stamps / Post Office labels...

Chris says: 'I have been a returned collector for the last eight years and am a member of three local Clubs, one being the Bournemouth and Poole of which I am the Chairman. My interests are very wide, and thus I am not a specialist in anything. I try to put up a display every time there is a Club night which means I collect something new nearly every month, then develop some of the topics into Thematic or Open competitions or into Inter-Club Displays such as this one. I run the website for several clubs and for the Somerset & Dorset Federation.

This evening I will cover two topics, the first being a collection of stamps featuring people, places and events in Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire; and the second covering a mixed area of stamps and labels including Frama, Horizon and Post & Go from around the world. I do hope you will find the content and explanation of interest. I know I shall enjoy talking to you!

17<sup>th</sup> September – Postcard evening. A change in format for this annual event in that **all** members are invited to bring along displays where postcards are the main / entire part of the display.

Plenty to look forward over the Summer!

**Kevin Chard** (Programme Secretary)...

### A PLEA FOR HELP...

I have just purchased a collection of German Feldpost (Military covers sent by soldiers in the field) covers totalling nearly 500 sent by the same family from 1939 to 1945 including prisoner of war letters. I have searched the internet for the Feldpost such as L38280 or 46703 BUT I am unable to come up with a FULL list and also the dates that the letters are dated do not fit in with the units that I have found that used the numbers. Also on the front of the covers it is always hand-stamp with for example 'from the Staff of the Commissioner of the Wehrmacht in Prague'. So can anyone help with how I can find a FULL list of the German Feldpost unit numbers used between 1939 and 1945 and the Hand-stamps used on the front of the cover. If anyone knows of any web

## ANGLO-FRENCH MOVEBLE BOX: SOUTHAMPTON MB...

Mike Batty was helping me with a question about use of the Moveable Box on the cross channel ferries. As part of that he turned up this letter showing the Southampton Moveable box mark.



2 September 1937, posted on board a vessel with a Moveable Box, addressed to Lee-on-Solent, the **SOUTHAMPTON MB** cds cancelling GB 1936 ½d, 1d, 1½d and 2½d. A philatelic item overpaying with a meaning-less rate.

(Courtesy of the Doug McGill Collection)...

The single ring 'SOUTHAMPTON FRANCE MB' mark is listed by Hunt as being used from 1893 to 1914. He quite simply states "Struck in Southampton on mail posted in the mobile boxes on board cross-channel vessels". Hunt[1] illustrates a version with the time shown below the 'MB' as type MB 3A. Tabcart[2] lists two Southampton types MB3 and MB3a with different time formats and types MB3b and MB3c without time indication, but two date formats! The type shown above is MB3b known used between 1921 and 1937. The MB marks were initially issued for Brighton, Dover, Folkestone, London and Southampton with the circular type issued for Southampton and London in 1893 and remaining in use for London until 1935 and for Southampton, 1940. Prior to the single ring type, the MB marks were rectangular with chamfered corners. These marks are certainly hard to find for Southampton, and Mike notes that the KE8 letter may be the only known example with Southampton MB. My thanks to Mike for permission to share this cover.

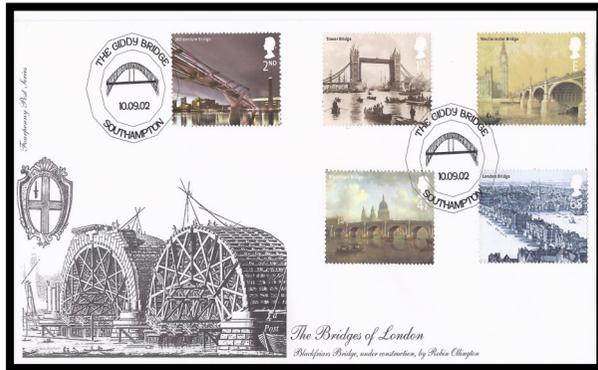
**Julian Jones...**

[1] Hunt, B: Postmarks and Postal Markings of Southampton 1700-1914, the Author, March 1986, p45

[2] Tabcart, C: Robertson Revisited, James Bendon, Ltd., Limassol, 1997, & Second Supplement 2016, TPO & Seapost Society, 2016, type MB4.

## COVER CORNER...

As I slowly improve my collection of first-day covers it seems to be that my pockets get shallower. I find it increasingly difficult to find good covers at reasonable prices, certainly on eBay. However, Bob Betts latest auction did throw up a couple of lots that were interesting, at a price! In particular one lot included a 1981 Christmas set on an official Dawn FDC for the England versus Hungary World Cup and a 1982 textiles FDC on an official Staffordshire Council cover with the Leek-centre cancellation.



Having denigrated the FDCs for sale on eBay I have recently picked up one interesting cover. It is from the 2002 Bridges of London issue but with the cancellation of "The Giddy Bridge Southampton". Although I have lived in the area for over 50 years I didn't

recognise the name of the bridge. Looking on the Internet it would appear that currently "The Giddy Bridge" is a pub located at the top of London Road owned by J D Wetherspoon. Initial research into its history seems rather confused. There is certainly no indication that there was a stream or river in the area but an alternative seems to have come from the old-fashioned word "Gide" for a post marking a boundary between two estates. From my initial research it would seem that the visit to the establishment is almost mandatorily, purely in the interests of research you understand!

Although my collection of FDC's finishes in 2012 I thought I should try and update members on upcoming new issues for the rest of this year. I am sure that it is my inability to use the Royal Mail website correctly but I have found it very difficult to actually determine what new issues are planned for the rest of this year. Any member reading this that can enlighten me to the actual link that I should use, I would be very grateful if they could contact me by email, at prsoton@gmail.com.

On a totally non-philatelic matter I have a number of videos that I

to recognise the possibilities of the new technology, beginning with the short haul packet services across the Irish Sea and the Dover-Calais service. By 1824 the technology had developed sufficiently to allow a service across the North Sea, and in 1830 the first steam packet service to the Mediterranean commenced, being extended to Alexandria in 1835, extending by stages to Ceylon, Calcutta, Singapore and Hong Kong. The major challenge of being able to carry sufficient coal to cross the Atlantic was cracked in 1838, followed soon after by the famous Cunard service in 1840. A UK-West Indies steam service commenced in 1842 and in 1846 the Pacific Steam Navigation Company opened a steam service from Valparaiso to Panama, to connect across the Isthmus with the West Indies service.

In the second half Colin will tell the story of how the steam service extended to Rio de Janeiro in 1851, and how the final frontier, to Australia, began to be tackled in 1852, albeit with significant hiccups. He will then concentrate on the services between Australasia and the UK, including the colonial services across the Pacific to connect with established transatlantic services, initially via Panama from 1866-68, then via San Francisco and the newly opened railroad from 1870, not forgetting the French and German newcomers to the Australian mail carrying scene from 1882 onwards.

The 16<sup>th</sup> July meeting is our Competition evening. We will be repeating the format of 2018 and the evening will also include a Bourse and silent auction.

### August

6<sup>th</sup> August – Peter Pugh – Another Bloody Railway...

Peter writes: 'After joining the philatelic society in Rugby in 1975 I began to specialise in the stamps of Hong Kong and to further this I joined the Hong Kong Study Circle in 1976 and am now one of the longest serving members left in the UK. I began giving local displays in the 1980s and have broadened my speaking engagements to include societies further away from home. Originally, I displayed a general Hong Kong stamp collection but have expanded my displays to include the Treaty Ports, Security marks and perfins and more recently I have brought together my love of railways and stamps.

"Another Bloody Railway part 1 1899 -1912" is the story of the construction and development of the Trans-Siberian Railway and the passage of British mail from Hong Kong and the Treaty ports back to Europe and beyond. This is shown in photographs, postcards and postal history. Along with the mail I also show ephemera such as maps and

becoming a Fellow. An office holder in many of these Societies he has served as Chairman of several, as well as Secretary, Treasurer, membership secretary and librarian.

With a move of home to Hampshire in 2004, Miller soon joined Fareham, Portsmouth and of course Southampton Philatelic Society. Nationally he is a member of the Postal History Society, the Scottish Postal History Society as well as the Belgium Philatelic Study Group. He also became a serious exhibitor for a time with displays at Stampex and at international exhibitions – his last at Budapest in 2008. His highest award was a large Vermeil at Beijing in 1999.

Miller, we look forward to seeing more of your collections in the future and trust that you enjoy your continued participation in the activities of the Southampton and District Philatelic Society.

**John Berridge...**

### **THIRD QUARTER PROGRAMME...**

#### **July**

2<sup>nd</sup> July – Colin Tabcart – Steam conquers the World...

Colin began collecting maritime postal history in 1969, with a tiny selection of Liverpool Ship Letters. He became interested in postage rates, which at the time were badly researched and almost universally misunderstood. He published his first modest attempt to clarify UK Letter Rates in 1989, followed by a major update in 2003, still regarded as a classic. Seven further major works were researched and published up to 2015, and he is currently working on the packet boats during the Wars of 1793-1815. He was the first Brit to be awarded the Research Medal of the Australian Philatelic Association. He is a Fellow and Past President of the Society of Postal Historians and was elected RDP in 2017.

Colin will show postal history covers on the theme "Steam Conquers the World". In fact, it should probably be titled "British Steam Conquers the World" because every route was pioneered and initiated by British companies in British built ships. Modern collectors find it very difficult to appreciate the problems of the pre-steam era, with ships totally reliant on the wind speed and direction; the mails could easily be delayed for many days, sometimes weeks, awaiting a fair wind to clear the relevant port. On one particularly bad occasion the mails were held up at Falmouth for ten weeks by adverse winds, with local inns crammed to bursting with would-be passengers, (imagine the smell); important Government business unable to proceed, etc. The Post Office was quick

would like to transfer onto DVDs. If there is any member within the society that has equipment that will read videos and record them onto DVD that they would be willing to either lend or hire (not steal) me I would be most grateful if they could contact me, again by email using my own email address [esmay.1942@gmail.com](mailto:esmay.1942@gmail.com).

Finally, I am writing this column before the AGM. It will be interesting to see how the shape and organisation of the society may be altered by the members attending the AGM. When I look around at the number of Philatelic Societies that are unfortunately unable to remain as viable clubs I think we should all be grateful that, at present, our society has a sufficiently large membership and sufficient funds to keep going in the manner we have become accustomed to. There are already members on the committee that are undertaking more than one function. The old expression "one volunteer is worth 100 pressed men" does spring to mind. I have seen a couple of clubs where decreasing numbers on committees has led to a real deterioration in the standard of the club. We are fortunate that our membership does include a number of new members. It would be nice to think that perhaps one or two of them might consider helping with the organisation and running of the society. I will now get off my soap box!

**Eddie Mays...**

### **DATA PROTECTION ACT...**

This is a reminder to ALL members that the Southampton & District Philatelic Society Data Protection policy is on the website. If you can, please take a few minutes to take a look and read through the policy as you don't want to be caught out.

**Mel Bradshaw (Chairman)...**

### **POOLE & BOURNEMOUTH STAMP & POSTCARD CLUB - 2019 ANNUAL FAIR...**

Saturday 7 September 2019 -

Upton Community Centre, Poole Road, Poole BH16 5JA...

Times: 10am to 4pm...

## POSTMARK PROFILES – No. 26 - Miller McGrath...



Photo: Steve Gerrard...

No one who was present last December at Miller's display *Scotland – A Wry Look*, could fail to have been impressed by, not only the quality of the material but also Miller's excellent style of presentation. Previously at various times we have been treated to extracts from his main collecting interest *Glasgow Postal History* and his thematic display of *Black Gold*, the story of the oil industry, both fascinating displays.

Miller was born in Glasgow and educated at the High School of Glasgow. This was followed by a degree in Applied Chemistry at the University of Glasgow and post-graduate studies in Chemical Engineering at the Royal College of Science and Technology, now the University of Strathclyde. The range of salaries offered by chemical, nuclear and food industries was from £600 to £850 per year!!! In 1960 Miller joined British Hydrocarbon Chemicals (BHC) at Grangemouth at a time when production was expanding rapidly. After a couple of years he became the Works General Manager's Technical Assistant. This proved to be a fascinating and varied job which gave him experience in most areas of the business, from entertaining visiting dignitaries to dealing with all important Health and Safety issues. Miller's career saw him promoted to a variety of posts ending his time

at Grangemouth as Petrochemicals Group Manager.

There followed a move to Head Office of what became BP Chemicals in London. There was then a move to Tees-side where BP and ICI set up a joint venture to operate the largest Ethylene production unit in the country, where he was the BP Liaison Manager. After three and a half enjoyable years there, he was moved back to London and then in 1979 to Paris on a joint BP and Rhone-Poulenc project with regular trips to Marseilles. However, Miller and the French were not a great mix and he developed an aversion to most things French.

Upon his return to London he established a new cross-function department and his career continued to progress. His final job was to reduce by 20% the Head Office and Sales Office staff in the UK. This task took eighteen months and at the end Miller decided that the terms being offered to take voluntary early retirement were too good to miss. So in 1993 he retired and 'has not done a day's paid work since'.

Married to Caroline in 1965 they had a son, Euan, in 1969. Euan, his wife and two children live in Warsash. Caroline and Miller settled in Titchfield so they are close by.

When Miller started collecting stamps again in 1969 he dug out his school-boy collection and joined the Stirling & District Philatelic Society. There, Jim Merrylees, a traditional 'world collector' gave Miller help and guidance in all things philatelic. A mere nine months after joining Stirling he was appointed Secretary of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies, a post he held for six years.

While in Scotland Miller's collecting interests included Poland, France, and South Africa together with Scottish postal history. He also joined other philatelic Societies such as the prestigious Caledonian PS. Following his move to Teeside he joined the Middlesborough PS and other Societies in the area. In one, they met in a pub and sat around a table with their pints, passing material down the line which you received some while after the speaker had described it.

Philately took a back seat following Miller's move to London and then Paris for two years, particularly when a lot posted to him from a GB auction house was intercepted by the French customs and he was charged duty. This and other issues did not make him a Francophile. Some while after returning to UK he joined several local societies in Surrey and was a founder member of Bookham Stamp Club. Soon he was elected Secretary of the Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies, a post he held for 12 years. He also joined the Royal Philatelic Society London, serving on Council and