

The New Midlander



October 2019 Number 293

Editor: Dr Ken Flint e-mail: kenflint@btinternet.com

Midland Philatelic Federation Autumn Convention 2019

The Autumn Convention will be held in conjunction with Banbury's Festival of Stamps Exhibition on <u>Sunday November 10th 2019.</u> The event will feature the Midland Philatelic Federation Autumn Convention and 16-sheet competition, the Thames Valley Philatelic Federation annual competitions, and a stamp and postcard fair.

The Fair is being held from 10 am to 4 pm at

Blessed George Napier School, Springfield Avenue, Banbury, OX16 9DO

There will be around twenty stamp dealers taking part, refreshments will be available all day, and there will be ample free parking available to visitors.

Free Valuations of stamps and postal history will be available from Midlands' expert valuer, Tony Lester, for anyone thinking of selling all or part of their collection.

The Competition entry form is attached to this issue of the New Midlander.

Chairman's Update



The new season seems to be well underway now with societies' meetings in full swing again. Autumn Stampex has come and gone, and we will have to wait until autumn 2020 for the next one - because of LONDON 2020 in the spring. I was at this autumn's Stampex on the Thursday and I thought it seemed quieter than normal - was that just me or did others think the same?

On 10th November 2019, we have the MPF Convention being held jointly with the Thames Valley Philatelic Federation, hosted by the Banbury Stamp Society at the Blessed George Napier School in Banbury. We will be holding the individual members' 16 sheets competitions, with six classes to compete in: Traditional Stamps, Postal History, Aerophilately, Thematics, Postcards and Open (This class can be anything including ephemera etc. However, there must be a <u>minimum</u> of 50% Philatelic material).

We are trying a new way of receiving your entries this time. In the past we have asked members entering the competitions to send copies of their sheets with stiffeners and contained within protectors. This time all you will need to do to enter your material is to send in copies of your sheets. We will add the stiffeners and protectors on your behalf. We have introduced this innovation to hopefully encourage more people to enter - it being an easier and more straight forward way to enter. I'd be interested to hear any thoughts any members have about this innovation!

Turning to something about our hobby in general, I was interested, and concerned, recently to read in a report by the membership secretary of the ABPS, in an analysis of societies that affiliate to the organisation, that 17 local philatelic societies have 10 or less members and 80 local philatelic societies have 20 or less members. This does not bode well for the future. Do we have any ideas to help attract new members to societies?

As always I would be very pleased to hear from any society or individual collector who has any comments or thoughts on how we can go forward and develop our hobby even further! Email me at sharrison500@btinternet.com or send a letter to 56 Woodberry Drive, Sutton Coldfield B76 2RH. I really do want to hear from you!

Steve Harrison

CONTACT CHANGE

Please note that the contact for Evesham Philatelic Society will be Richard Ellis (phone 01386 421549 email rallies64@gmail.com. This is due to the illness to John Allison and we wish him a speedy recovery.

SOCIETY REPORTS

Banbury Stamp Society

At our last presentation before the summer break, the society welcomed Richard Flemming who presented material from Channel Islands. Richard started by explaining his connection with the Channel Islands: during World War II his father had served as a member of the Luftwaffe in the German Occupation of the islands, after which he became a prisoner of war in England and, as he came from a town in East Germany, ended up staying here.

Richard started with a 1716 cover from London to Guernsey and explained how forwarding agents would arrange for mail to be carried by private ships – on top of the postage rate, there was an additional 3d charge: 1d each for the forwarding and receiving agents and 1d for the ship's captain. In 1794, the Channel Islands became part of the British postal system and we saw a range of hand stamps on cover. Post could be sent for 3d on the twice-weekly packet, or 8d by private vessels – many Channel Islanders refused to pay the 8d rate and the Post Office introduced a £5 fine for mail sent privately, as well as reducing the rate to 6d in 1814. The first half finished with a couple of interesting letters including one from June 1815 with a first-hand description of the Battle of Waterloo.

The second half started with mail to France – which was often quicker via England! In 1843 it was agreed that St. Malo, Granville and Cherbourg could be used as receiving ports in France, giving mail with French postmarks on British stamps. We then had mail to the rest of the world which included a newspaper sent to New York for 1d when the letter rate was 1s.

We finished with some POW and Concentration camp mail followed by German forces occupation mail. The latter included a letter from Richard's father's posting in the 4th anti-aircraft battery on Alderney.

We started the new season by welcoming Terry Hare-Walker who presented his material on South African Airmails. He started with some covers from the 1911 Coronation Flight here in England, but explained the South African connection as follows: the covers were addressed to South Africa, and one of the pilots, Evelyn Driver, was a South African who returned home to make the first flights there in December 1911. Terry had commemorative postcards from these flights to various destinations.

In 1918 a series of flights were made to raise funds in the aftermath of the Great War. Commemorative postcards were sold at 6d each, with twelve different flights being made. Then we saw a more unusual piece of air mail: in 1919, in celebration of peace, you could send a message by carrier pigeon which was then forwarded to its destination in the regular post. Terry had an example of such a letter, including the rubber band that had attached it to the pigeon.

We then moved on to the experimental flights that set out the routes within South Africa as well as beyond to the rest of the Empire. One example was a flight from Cape Town

to Durban to carry the mail from the Union Castle steamers and reduce the delivery time. In 1925, Alan Cobham flew from the UK to South Africa, and was challenged to a race on the way back by a ship of the Union Castle line. The plane won, but we didn't hear by how much. By 1929, Union Airways had started and was running regular air mail services within South Africa while Imperial Airways was connecting South Africa to the rest of the empire. We saw first flight covers from a number of these routes, including South Africa to Australia in 1934.

One of Terry's scarcer covers was from 1936 when Amy Mollison (Amy Johnson) flew to South Africa. We then moved on to the 1938 Schlesinger Air Race and heard how 14 crews set off to race from Portsmouth to Johannesburg but only one arrived. As well as mail from these various flights, Terry also had contemporary newspaper articles which tracked the race. We finished up with a BOAC cover which led us up to the Second Word War and the end of the empire.

Gareth Williams

Dudley Philatelic Society

Dudley Philatelic Society unanimously passed a resolution at this year's Annual General Meeting to confer Honorary Life Membership on two of its most revered and respected members, Harry Newton and Harry Easom – "The Two Harry's".

Harry Newton attended his first meeting of the society at Dudley Art Gallery on 14th December 1965, when he was personally welcomed by the then chairman, Arthur Hillman. He chose the evening of a display by Mr Tillen of Birmingham P.S. for his first meeting – reported as being one of the best displays seen by the members – and obviously enjoyed the company so much that he was the only member to have attended all of the eleven meetings that season. In the subsequent 54 years, Harry has failed to attend society meetings on just a handful of occasions despite inclement winter weather and several changes of venue. Harry served as a committee member for many years and was involved in the planning and preparation of several M.P.F. conventions hosted by Dudley P.S. On occasions, he has served as quizmaster and has been the society's competition judge for the past 30 years or more. As a collector of Commonwealth issues, specialising in St. Helena, he has spread his philatelic and general knowledge far and wide.

Harry Easom is a relative newcomer by comparison, having joined the society in September 1988, attending for a display of "The Offshore Islands of South America" by Mr A.L. Wilkinson – a display that was reprised earlier this year. In the 30 years of his membership, he has been a stalwart of the society's continuity and development having provided many displays – often at short notice when speakers have been unable to attend – served as minute secretary, quizmaster, auction secretary and competitions organiser. He has often "stood in" for the chair and secretary in their absence. Harry's collecting interests are diverse, but his passion for postmarks and little known far away places underlie his former life as a geography teacher.

Both members were awarded testimonials of the occasion and received warm praise and appreciation from all members of the society Dudley Philatelic Society has re-launched its website (www.dudleyps.co.uk) over the summer months, and to promote the event have produced a publicity postcard. Whilst it is still in its infancy, it is the society's objective during the next year, to develop the site into a hub for communicating with members and other local collectors as well as to educate the wider public on the postal history of Dudley and the surrounding areas. The society would welcome any constructive comments that will help the development of the website, which can be forwarded from the home page or contact section.



Peter Barnett



South Midlands Stamp Club

The topic for our meeting in July 2019 was "Clothes and Materials", which of course also included metals, uniforms, vintage sewing machines, US Confederate flags, and "fashion models", all of these pictured on stamps. Bob Harper showed early aeroplanes on stamps, whose bodywork was often made from "doped" cloth. The climax of the meeting was Alan Godfrey wearing a postman's hat (2 sizes too small) to show the development of postal uniforms.

John Gledhill

PROGRAMME FOR MIDLAND (GB) POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

October 26th Mail by Coach, Rail, River, or Canal Venue Friends Meeting House, Cotteridge B30 1JB (1.30 pm)

November 9th Postal History of Derbyshire (Gordon Hardy) Venue Warwick and Warwick, Scarbank, Warwick CV34 5DB (1.30 pm)

December 7th Overseas Covers (Members)
Around the World in 180 Covers (Chris Rainey)
Venue National Brewery Centre, Burton on Trent DE14 1NG (10.30 am)

January 11th Picture Postcards of Post Offices Venue Friends Meeting House, Cotteridge B30 1JB (1.30 pm)

February 8th Skeletons Venue Friends Meeting House, Cotteridge B30 1JB (1.30 pm)

March 14th Members' Displays Venue Friends Meeting House, Cotteridge B30 1JB (1.30 pm)

April 11th 1840 – 1860 Covers Venue The Ladybird Inn, Bromsgrove B60 2DZ (1.30 pm)

May 23rd Auction and Annual General Meeting Venue Friends Meeting House, Cotteridge B30 1JB (11 am)

The <u>Telford Stamp, Card and Coin Fairs</u> are held quarterly on the second Saturday of January, April, July and October each year and are held in the Belmont Community Hall, adjacent to the Tan Bank Car Park in Wellington Centre, Telford, TF1 1LU.

The fairs are organised by Telford Stamp and Postcard Club. Entry is free and the fairs are open from 10 am to 3 pm. Free parking is available adjacent to the hall. Both train and bus stations are nearby for those who cannot travel by car.

If there are any dealers out there who wish to have a table at this well-attended fair, contact Bob Pilkington, Tel: 01299-211737. Email: sbpilkington02@outlook.com.

Next Fairs
2019 – October 12th.
2020 – January 11th, April 11th, July 11th, October 10th

Warwick Royal Show 1931

The Royal Agricultural Society of England's annual show, known as the 'Royal Show', was first held in 1839 and was held at a different location each year until it found a permanent home at the National Agricultural Centre at Stoneleigh, near Kenilworth from 1963 to 2009. During the nineteenth century, Warwickshire had hosted the Royal Show on four occasions: 1859 at Warwick Racecourse, 1876 at Aston Park, next to Aston Hall, 1892 at Castle Park in Warwick and in 1898 at Four Oaks Park Sutton Coldfield.

The next occasion, the ninetieth Royal Show, was from 7th to 11th July 1931 again situated on a 90 acre site in Castle Park, Warwick. This event was to coincide with the centenary celebrations of the Warwickshire Agricultural Society. At first there were concerns that show might have to be cancelled as there had been an outbreak of foot and mouth disease, but fortunately the animal movement order to and from the show was lifted on Tuesday 30th June, allowing the show to go ahead.

Visitors included the Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VIII), who flew in and landed at Warwick Racecourse. The Warwick Advertiser of 11th July reported that the cheers from the public were "at times almost deafening" and the Prince's mode of transport had "just that touch of adventure about it that appeals to everyone". As a result of popular demand, the Prince's route to the showground was changed to go through the town centre so that more people could catch a glimpse of the Prince. As well as visiting the show, he took tea at the castle and planted a tree in the grounds.

The general depression in the country meant that the number of implement exhibitors was lower (only 388 stands) and the visitor attendance was also lower: just 1,867 on the first day (despite fine weather), 11,273 on the second day and 24,198 on the third day. However, 3061 animals were exhibited. Admission cost the public 10/- (50p), which was seen by some as excessive in the prevailing economic climate.

Most of the animals and equipment for the show were carried by rail to the Great Western Railway's Cape Yard in Warwick (including those brought to the town by the LMS). Specially constructed platforms (700 feet long by 35 feet wide) and a siding (for 22 vehicles on each side) were made available to allow two trains to be unloaded at once, and a 6 ton crane was provided for lifting heavy items. About 590 vehicles of livestock in 32 special trains were received between 3.00pm on Friday 3rd July and 3.00pm on Monday 6th July. To meet the requirements for returning the animals after the show special trains were scheduled at hourly intervals from 7.00pm on Saturday 11th July to 9.00am on Monday 13th July. In addition, transport between Cape Yard and the showground was also supplied by the GWR, in its own fleet of lorries.

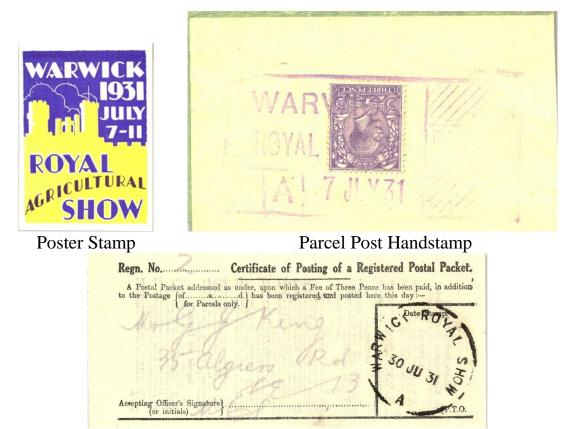
Post Office services were also provided for the use of visitors and exhibitors. Mail was cancelled by a special hand stamp showing the place of posting as "WARWICK ROYAL SHOW". Initially two cancellers with identification 'A' were used at the main entrance between 30th June and 13th June, one was a circular stamp for cancelling registered letters and dating receipts and a rectangular one was for cancelling parcels (in violet ink). Three additional hand stamps with identification 'B' were in use from 6th July to 11th July. One (28.5mm diameter) showed the date in one line, another 30mm diameter showed the date in two lines, the third was a rectangular hand stamp for use on parcels. The circular hand stamps were 'skeleton' stamps made up of loose type; this style was frequently used in temporary post offices. Small coloured stickers (sometimes known as poster stamps) were also made available to visitors to use on mail and, so, publicise the show.

Although the Warwick Royal Show did not receive as many visitors as the previous Royal Show in Manchester had achieved, probably because of the poor weather during the show and the economic situation in England, it was still judged a success by RASE.

Mr Geo. J. King,
35, Algiers Road,
London, S.E. 13.

Registered cover with two-line handstamp code 'B' on First Day of Use

No. 48



Registered Letter Receipt_cancelled with handstamp 'A' on First Day of Use

REDDITCH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

STAMP & POSTCARD MARKET



A WIDE RANGE OF MATERIAL WILL BE ON SALE: STAMPS, POSTCARDS, POSTAL HISTORY, EPHEMERA

FREE REFRESHMENTS * FREE ENTRY

at
The Bridge Church Community
Hall

Evesham Road, Headless Cross, REDDITCH B97 4JX

THURSDAY
3rd OCTOBER 2019

7.30PM TO 9.30PM

www.redditch-philatelic.org.uk

SOCIETY DIARY

Oct 1st	The Letter "U"	Members	Hinckley	
Oct 1st	North Macedonia / Belgian Congo	Rugby Members		
Oct 1st	Persia / Iran	Nigel Gouch	Burton on Trent	
Oct 1 st	In the Torturer's Chair	S. Geddes	Solihull	
Oct 1 st	Annual General Meeting	Members	South	
	5 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Birmingham	
Oct 1st	The British Industries Fair	Steven Harrison	Sutton Coldfield	
Oct 2 nd	1940: Desperate Time	Jim Etherington	Hereford	
Oct 2 nd	Quite a Lot About Not Very Much	David Wilson	Stratford	
	(The Story Behind the G.B. ½d Value)			
Oct 3 rd	Stamp and Postcard Market Evening	Members	Redditch	
Oct 3 rd	Jeffery Beasley and Tristan Brittain Entertain		Northampton	
Oct 3 rd	A Desperate Year for Britain - 1940	Jim Etherington	Worcester	
Oct 3 rd	Taxing the Egyptians	Martyn Parker	Stroud	
Oct 3 rd	New Zealand	Terry Hancox	Wombourne	
Oct 7 th	President's Evening	Keith Barnett	Evesham	
Oct 8 th	German Colonies / Mauritius	Malcolm Hughes	Coventry	
Oct 8 th	Great Britain Wildings & Postal Stationery	Frank Walton	Solihull	
Oct 8 th	Gibraltar / Film Night	Colin Searle	Dudley	
Oct 8 th	Auction	Members	South	
			Birmingham	
Oct 8 th	To the Ends of the Earth - Polar Exploration	Alan Godfrey	Sutton Coldfield	
Oct 9 th	Fungi	Les Pearcy	Nottingham Co-op	
Oct 9 th	British Empire Exhibition to Silver Jubilee	David Poynton	Shropshire	
	Commemoratives			
Oct 9 th	Another Bloody Railway	Peter Pugh	Leamington	
Oct 9 th	Show & Tell	Members	Matlock	
Oct 10 th	Letter 'K'	Members	Derby	
Oct 10 th	Still Topical?	Chas Ford	Loughborough	
Oct 10 th	Letters 'J', 'K' and 'L' / Bourse	Members	Birmingham	
41			(afternoon)	
Oct 10 th	Air Wind & Water	Members	Solihull	
O toth			(morning)	
Oct 10 th	Joint Afternoon Meeting with Cheltenham and		Stroud	
O . 1 4th	Gloucester Societies		(afternoon)	
Oct 14 th	Visit by Wombourne PS	T	Telford	
Oct 14 th	Postage Stamps of India	Terry Hare-Walker	Rugby	
Oct 15 th	Centenary of Penny Black 1940	Mark Bailey	Banbury	
Oct 15 th	Chairman's Choice: Australia	Bill Whitaker	Hinckley	
Oct 15 th	Member's Displays	Members	Stafford	
Oct 15 th	Dominica Di la Pila Para	S. Richards	Solihull	
Oct 15 th	Another Bloody Railway Part 2	Peter Pugh	South	
Oct 15th	My Favoreita Country	Manahana	Birmingham	
Oct 15 th	My Favourite Country	Members	Sutton Coldfield	
Oct 16 th	Aspects of Netherlands East Indies	John Jackson	Stratford	
Oct 17 th	Members Latest Acquistions / Favourite Items	Members	Coleshill	
Oct 17 th	Great Britain Express Mail	Julian Tweed	Redditch	
Oct 17 th	Indian States	Tom George	Worcester	

Stroud Wombourne	
nam	
Iidlands	
on)	
n	
y	
ham	
ire	
gton	
orough	
ham on)	
ls PH on)	
Rugby Hinckley	
ham	
Coldfield	
7	
d	
urne	
nam	
n	
y	
on Trent	
ham	
Coldfield g)	
gton	
1	
npton	
ls PH on)	
7	

Nov 12 th	Seahorses	Mike Kentzer	Hinckley
	Czelaw Slania	Terry Wagg	
Nov 12 th	Great War - Revolution & Beyond 1915-1921	Neil Ritchie	Solihull
Nov 12 th	Malta	Colin Searle	South
			Birmingham
Nov 12 th	Marian Baxter Entertains	Marian Baxter	Sutton Coldfield
Nov 13 th	Canada Air Mails	Doug Stubbings	Nottingham Co-op
Nov 13 th	Victoria to Elizabeth	Members	Shropshire
Nov 13 th	Letter 'F'	Members	Matlock
Nov 13 th	The Stamps of Kiribati	Hugh Bennett	Stratford
Nov 14 th	Luxembourg	Nick Martin	Radcliffe on Trent
Nov 14 th	Questions and Answers	Members	Derby
Nov 14 th	Dodecanese	Paul Woodness	Loughborough
Nov 14 th	Letter "J" or "K"	Members	Solihull (morning)
Nov 14 th	History of Sunday Schools	John Cumbers	Wombourne
Nov 15 th	Competition Evening	Members	Nottingham
Nov 18 th	Collecting Postal Stationery	John Barker	Evesham
Nov 18 th	From Tonga to Togo	Dave Hutchins	South Midlands
			(afternoon)
Nov 19 th	British Antarctic Territory	Alan Squires	Coventry
Nov 19 th	Another Bloody Railway	Peter Pugh	Stafford
Nov 19 th	Ceylon the Caveman Collection	G. Winters	Solihull
Nov 19 th	Four Legged Friends	Members	South
			Birmingham
Nov 20 th	Postal History of the Confederate States of America	John Walker	Leamington
Nov 21 st	Two Members' Displays	Bob Allard	Redditch
		Peter Elms	
Nov 21st	Member's Displays	Members	Coleshill
Nov 21 st	Chairman Entertains	Austin Meares	Stroud
Nov 25 th	Visit from Hinckley and District P. S.		Rugby
Nov 26 th	The Treaty Ports of Hong Kong and China	Peter Pugh	Dudley
Nov 26 th	One to Eighteen Sheets of Thematics	Members	Hinckley
Nov 26 th	Silk Postcards	B. Wilson	Solihull
Nov 26 th	Belgian Congo 1886-1991	Michael Siverns	South
			Birmingham
Nov 26 th	Birds	Richard Pearson	Sutton Coldfield
	Regency Commemoratives Interlude of	Chris Thorburn	
	Hungary		
Nov 27 th	First Arms Issue of George VI	Graham MacPherson	Shropshire
Nov 27 th	Falkland Islands – the 1982 Conflict	Gerald Marriner	Banbury
Nov 27 th	Fiji WW2	Bryan Jones	Stratford
N. Ooth	Madagascar (Operation Ironclad)		D 1 1100 -
Nov 28 th	Hungary 1948 - 1990	George Kirkham	Radcliffe on Trent
Nov 28 th	Cyprus	Mike Fulford	Loughborough
Nov 28 th	Sarawak	Richard Garbett	Wombourne
Dec 2 nd	50 th Anniversary Celebrations	Members	Evesham
Dec 3 rd	Postcards Both Sides	Members	Coventry
Dec 3 rd	Christmas Fayre and Letter 'D'	Members	Burton on Trent

Dec 3 rd	The Committee Entertains		Solihull
Dec 3 rd	Chairman's Evening	Members	South
			Birmingham
Dec 3 rd	Mail with Australasia	Clive Jones	Sutton Coldfield
			(morning)
Dec 4 th	Winter	Members	Leamington
Dec 5 th	Egyptian Hotel Posts	John Davis	Redditch
Dec 5 th	Warren Trophy – "Post Cards"	Members	Northampton
Dec 5 th	Mini Auction and Swaps Evening	Members	Stroud

SHROPSHIRE ANNUAL STAMP AND POSTCARD FAIR

Shropshire Philatelic Society will be holding their annual fair on

October 5th 2019 from 10 am to 4 pm

At Barnabas Church Centre, Longden Coleham, Shrewsbury SY3 7DN.

At least 17 dealers will be present. For further details contact.

Tony Marsland 01743 860910

Hinckley and District Philatelic Society Autumn Fair

Hinckley and District Philatelic Society is pleased to announce that it has moved its Autumn Stamp Fair back to the Hinckley Academy and John Cleveland 6th Form College, Hinckley.

The Fair will be held on Sunday, 13th October 2019 starting at 10.00 am and finishing at 3.00 pm. Several regional and local dealers will be in attendance. Entry is free and there is ample free parking at the College. Refreshment will be available throughout the day. Whether you are a new or seasoned collector we are sure that there will be something for you.

The Academy is located at Butt Lane, Hinckley, LE10 1LE

For further details contact: Richard Flemming on 01455613826

REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

If you want to see your favourite items shown in the New Midlander then please send me a short article which I can include. It doesn't take long to write a few words and to send a scan of the item(s).

MPF 16-sheet — Individual Competitions Banbury — Sunday November 10th 2019

We are continuing the "Open Frames" competition concept which has worked so successfully at recent MPF Competitions. This has the advantage that you do not need to send your expensive items in the post. They will be pre-judged so the results will be available from the start of the Exhibition.

Please post photocopies or printed scans of your entries to:-

Roger Williams, 12 Freshwater Drive, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 3TP Email roggwen@blueyonder.co.uk

All are 16-sheet entries	:- There will	be six comp	etitions with	sections	as below:-
Traditional Stamps		Postal His	story		
Thematic		Aerophila	itely		
Open Class		Postcards	:		
The Open Class section is may include postcards, philatelic material.	•	_			
Title of Entry					_
Name					
Address					
Post Code					
Telephone No. Home			Mobile _		
e-mail					
Signature		_			
Society					

All entries will be acknowledged by email.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES Sunday, 20th October 2019.