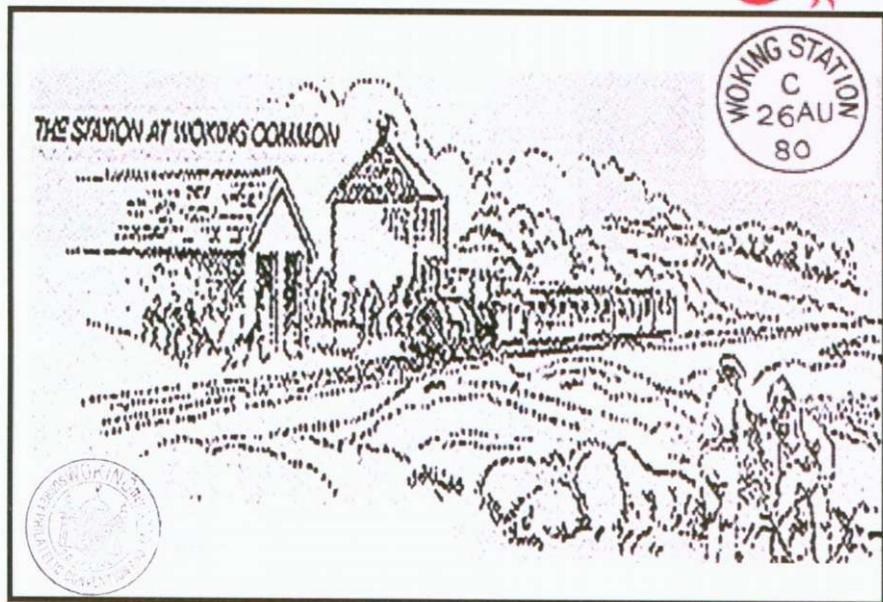


# *Penny Post*

*Merry  
Christmas*



Woking  
& District  
Philatelic  
Society

*December 2015*

## Committee Members 2015—2016:

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Committee Members:	N F Ledsome Mrs J Hawkins P Wheeler N Burnett
Curator Woking Postal History Collection:	M H Lockton FRPSL

## A Message from the President:

I greet you at the start of another year, 2016 and wish you all a happy and satisfactory year, especially in your philatelic hunting for those elusive items which so far have not come home to your album(s). We may be fewer in number but the recent Members evenings have shown that the society is very much alive. We need however, the support of everyone if the society is to continue to survive. In particular I would like to thank the members who have offered to become Fire Wardens so that we can continue to meet at Christ Church.

John Lea, President Woking Philatelic Society.

## A Message from the Editor:

Welcome to another issue of the Penny Post. Firstly I must apologise for the late issue of this edition due to work commitments and computer failures. As many of you know I have spent most of December in Gdansk, Poland; an area rich in modern history. This is reflected in the stamps it has issued as part of Germany, part of Prussia, as an independent state, Danzig and most recently as part of Poland I had the chance to look at examples of these stamps at one of the two stamp shops in Gdansk during my visit. Also of interest was the Solidarity Museum, the starting point of the abolishment of communism in Europe. I return again for the first part of January, but will make sure I will be back for the first Society meeting of the new year.

In this edition is an article on 70ft Concrete Arrows provided by David Stotter. If you enjoy reading this and you know of similar interesting items, then drop me a line and I will include your article, musings or findings in a future issue. Remember this is your Magazine and is only as good and as varied as the contributions you provide.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and have a very Happy New Year.

David Griffin, Editor Penny Post.  
Email: davidgprocesseng@yahoo.co.uk

## **News of Meetings Earlier in the Year:**

**Tuesday 16 June 2015**

**Gavin Fryer RDP FRPSL – Victorian Junk Mail**

Gavin came up from his new home in Dorset to show a rich selection of the kind of material that was being sent through the mail in Victorian times. His display not only included many unusual items, but it did not lack in quality with 200 sheets of material to tell the story. The first half concentrated on the carriage of newspapers with the London Gazette, the Observer and the Illustrated London News included.

He second half had endless examples of what was being carried in the mail. Book post was a major part with 1/2d book post forms being used. Elections featured, including a form 'Notice of Objection to a Voter' and 'Petitions to Parliament'. There were 'Court Summons', Jury Summons' and items relating to 'Prisons and Prisoners'. A selection on GB Undelivered Unpaid Letters was of interest.

Michael Lockton proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of members. The display revealed how complicated the services provided by the Post Office had to be in those days. The evening had been fascinating indeed.

RLT

### **Mason Cup/Annual Competition July 2015**

The Woking Society entered the 2015 competition together with six other Surrey Federation societies. The entries were on display at MAGNAPEX 2015, the Stamp Fare and Exhibition hosted by Addlestone Society on 4 July. The event was part of the commemoration of the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta.

The Society entry was put together by Michael Lockton (GB Penny Pinks – Pink Seal Device), David Stotter (KGV Stationary postally used in Morocco Agencies) and Ron Trevelyan (Town Fairs and Expositions of France). The outcome was a third place for Woking. David Stotter was awarded the Federation Trophy for obtaining the highest marks in the Postal History Class.



David Stotter receiving the Federation Trophy

Despite its slightly lower position (after a succession of first and second places), Woking continued its unbroken support over many years for this Surrey Federation event.

Ron Trevelyan  
Competition Secretary

## **News of Recent Meetings:**

**Tuesday 1 September 2015**

**The letter 'P' – Members**

The new season began with some practicalities to deal with in connection with Christ Church and the hiring of the room. Those at the meeting accepted that the suggested way forward (following earlier WPS discussions) was the best in the circumstances, with David Griffin and David Cairns volunteering to become fire wardens during our meetings and several others as key holders to open up the meeting.

Eight members brought material relating to the theme for the evening which provided a plethora of philatelic possibilities.

Ron Trevelyan had brief items on famous pilots and famous Poles (eg Copernicus, Chopin and Madame Curie) before showing examples of Paquebot mail. Material on the Panama Canal followed with reference to the difficulties over construction experienced before its final opening in 1914.

Jane Hawkins had plenty of Woking Postcards with 'p' localities like Pyrford, Pirbright and Woking Park. Her Egyptian stamps illustrated the Pyramids and Port Said also featured.

David Griffin produced a collection of GB 1d reds as examples of plating and some containing the plate numbers within the design. He followed up by showing that plating could continue with GB KGV stamps with printer's marks on the 2d values. The 6d value of KGV stamp was used to demonstrate shades of its colour Purple. He then showed some provisional Waterlow and Harrison KGV printings of 1934 which can only be determined by the difference in perforation combs used.

Mick Coad showed examples of GB Post and Go stamps and added a French stamp with a view of Paris.

Malcolm Bentley brought examples from his GB used abroad collection to show stamps postmarked at post offices in various overseas towns beginning with the letter 'p'.

David Springett chose stamps showing famous paintings as his contribution to the theme. In particular the French series of stamps of paintings by notable artists was particularly attractive.

Paul Wheeler with his interest in Palestine found it easy to support the theme for the evening.

Finally John Lea brought colourful stamps of the French territory Oceanic Settlements which later became French Polynesia. The stamps which went back some way to show the historical life of the territory also excluded the tropical way of life in the region.

Our first meeting after the summer break was well supported with

much diversity on the theme and yet again showed how widespread Society interests are. John Lea thanked members for making the evening a success.

RLT

## **Tuesday 15 September 2015**

### **Visit from Surrey Federation**

Peter White and Keith Hanman from the Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies entertained us for the evening. In the first half Peter presented material showing Civil Censorship during World War II throughout the British Commonwealth. He explained that the Post Office were quick off the mark at the beginning of the war due to on-going censorship in Palestine. He described how censors in different locations within the Commonwealth used various code letters. A single letter was used for Dominions, e.g. A for Gibraltar, M for Cyprus and Y for Gilbert and Ellis Islands. Codes DA onwards was used for countries, e.g. DD for Malta and ZA onwards for Occupied Territories. He showed examples of these and others.

Peter continued by displaying examples of Imperial censorship of transit mail which used the same codes but was preceded by the letter I (for Intercept). Censorship for India (code letter H), who surprisingly followed the rules, gave preceding letters for the city in which the censor was based. From 1944 onwards they gave support to the 8<sup>th</sup> Army who were pushing into Bengal at that time.

He ended with Censorship for Australia material which was divided into seven districts, e.g. 12 for Queensland followed by the substation, e.g. 2 for Cairns. All these codes seemed bewildering but Peter assured those present that all were contained within a number of books issued by the Civil Censorship Study Group whose website internet address is <http://www.c-c-s-g.org/>

In the second half of the evening, Keith Harman presented his PhilaKorea 2014 gold medal winning display of Bahamas Postal Stationary. Keith showed examples of postal cards, reply paid cards, registered mail, air mail letters and examples

of overprints not previously known. He also showed artist drawings, die proofs and specimen prints, some of which had been purchased from the De La Rue archives. This must be the most complete accumulation of material of this specialised subject in existence and it was a privilege to view such rare and unique material. Even John Lea had not seen much of the material on show.

David Griffin gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the society and wished Keith well with the upcoming issue of his book on Bahamas Postal Stationary.

DG

### **Autumn STAMPEX, 16 – 19 September 2015**

Congratulations to our immediate past president David Stotter who was awarded a large Vermeil medal in the Postal History Class of the Autumn 2015 STAMPEX National Competition for his exhibit on KGV Postal Stationary used in Morocco Agencies and a Vermeil medal in the Aerophilately class for Airmails from the British Post Office in Tangier.

DG

### **Tuesday 6 October 2015 Dr Rodger Evans – Malta at War.**

Rodger Evans is a member of Woking PS and had a good turnout of fellow members for his display of Maltese mail spanning four wars. He started by showing two Napoleonic period letters from 1800. These are two of only five known British covers from Malta from the Period.

Although no battles were fought in Malta during the First World War, it was still a British strategic location used for rest & relaxation, for wounded soldiers and for prisoners of war. Rodger showed various letters with censor marks, postcards of the fleet, covers with active service marks from hospitals, postage due marks, both French and Japanese patriotic postcards and prisoner-of-war correspondence and postcards. Some of these had been designed and possibly printed by the prisoners.

The history of Malta during the Second World War is fairly well

known, with the people of the Island receiving the George Cross from King George VI. Internal mail from the period is very scarce, however Rodger displayed some mail coming into Malta and some leaving. He showed various censor marks and labels, many of which had been applied by local boy scouts 'doing their bit for the war effort'. He showed navel and forces mail. Mail to/from the island was particularly slow. Rodger described and showed examples of the 'Green Cross Cover' scheme which was used to speed up the mail which helped to keep morale high. He showed air mail letter cards which had been prepared but ran out quickly and the lettercards which were substituted when this happened, examples of salvaged mail and postcards from both German and Italian sides.

Rodger ended with letter examples from troops who had stopped over in Malta during the 1956 Suez crisis.

Rodger has co-written three books on the subject, World War I Postal History, World War I Photographic Postcards and Postal History of Malta, 1939 – 45. All three books were on display for members to browse and are published by the Malta Study Circle.

David Stotter gave a vote of thanks and noted that Rodger was able to provide a story behind just about every item on show, demonstrating that postal history often overlaps with social history.

DG

## **Tuesday 20 October 2015**

### **King George VI: GB and Commonwealth – Members**

The reign of King George VI may have been a relatively short one, but 8 Working members managed to produce an interesting mixture of material which necessitated an extra display board. The GB contributions dwelt mainly on the postal use of the stamps, whilst the Commonwealth input showed off the beautiful pictorial issues which were in use at that time.

John Lea concentrated on the airmail covers which were sent out of the UK and led in some cases to high value usage and examples of crash and damaged mail.

Michael Lockton picked the 1940 GB issue which celebrated the

centenary of the first adhesive postage stamp, showing the postal use of the various values including a 1st day of issue cover. The 1/2d was used as a make up value or for printed paper rate, whilst the 3d value came into use for registered items. One cover showed a bisect stamp received from Guernsey and another that had been delayed by the Germans for 5 years!

Malcolm Bentley had some high value definitive stamps from the Leeward Islands, as well as commemoratives such as the 1937 Coronation issue and the 1948 Silver Wedding.

Jane Hawkins chose Woking postcards from her collection which were posted during the period of the Second World War.

David Springett brought a wide selection of GB stamps, definitive and commemorative stamps, many of which were FDCs or used on cover.

David Griffin included a cover of the GB 1940 commemorative issue.

Paul Wheeler reverted back to the Commonwealth with pictorial issues of the countries he collects, noting how the various designs used at the time made an interesting study.

Ron Trevelyan pulled out relevant sheets from his collection of Commonwealth commemoratives, which covered some 22 different territories. He admired the quality of the printing and bright colours used in those days.

John Lea thanked members for their contributions which had resulted in plenty to observe and comment on.

RLT

### **31 October 2015. Society Table at the West Surrey Family History Fair at Woking Leisure Centre.**

The Society have taken a table at this event for a number of years and to my knowledge may only have missed one year in the last ten through a clash of events.

The display on the 2015 table consisted of a selection from the Woking Postal History Collection provided by curator Michael

Lockton as well as early Woking postcards produced by Neil Burnett and Jane Hawkins. Further sheets of GB, foreign and Commonwealth stamps made up the backdrop to the table.

Ron Trevelyan, Neil Burnett and Jane Hawkins answered questions and provided information throughout the day and were rewarded with plenty of interest from visitors. These were left in no doubt that the Society was still functioning and provided a contrast with all the local history and family history interests surrounding our table.

RLT

### **Tuesday 3 November 2015 Single Sheet Competition**

The evening kicked off with the voting for the eight entries in the annual competition for the R&H Trophy. Members who attended the evening were asked to vote for the entry which, in their view, come first, second and third. They had a good variety of subjects to choose from and their final choices were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Michael Lockton. Mulready Caricature  
(winner of the R&H Trophy)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Neville Ledsome. Danish Royal Family
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mick Coad. A Holey Mess

Ron Trevelyan  
Competition Secretary

### **Members: The Olympic Games (summer and winter)**

The second part of the evening meeting focused on the subject of Olympic Games. Michael Lockton started off by producing a cover addressed to himself and stamps from the 1948 London Olympics which demonstrated just how long he has been collecting!

John Lea then produced his usual assortment with part sets from Greece of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> modern Olympics, including a first day of issue cover. He also presented stamps from various countries celebrating the Olympics.

Malcolm Bentley then presented stamps of the games from a couple of dozen diverse countries including Burundi, Chad, Kampuchea, Laos, Moldavia, Nepal, Rwanda, San Dominica and Senegal.

David Springett showed stamps and covers celebrating the Melbourne, Los Angeles, London (2012) and the Berlin winter Olympics.

Mick Coad displayed some stamps from the American Banknote Company for the proposed (but never held) 1940 Japan Olympic Games. He also showed us a full set of the Royal Mail set for the London 2012 Paralympics Games.

Jane Hawkins showed stamps from Egypt and United Arab Republic celebrating the Rome, Tokyo, Mexico, and Munich summer Olympics.

Ron Trevelyan completed the evening with stamps from the 1896 Greek Games, French issues from 1924, Rome 1960, Munich 1972, Mexico 1968, Tokyo 1964, Montreal 1980 and Sapporo winter Olympic Games. He followed up with Australian, Kenyan and Nigerian stamps celebrating the Games plus several books on the subject.

It was expected that we would struggle to produce sufficient material to fill the evening, however another good turn-out and with many members contributing not only made it a full evening, but an entertaining one also.

DG

## **Tuesday 17 November 2015**

### **Ted Kemp: Turkey**

Ted came to Woking with a formidable display of the Turkish (Ottoman) Empire and the subsequent Turkish Republic. The display was comprehensively written up to represent the historical and philatelic aspects of Turkey. Various maps were included which helped to clarify Ted's narrative.

The first half display was devoted to the Ottoman Empire and

covered the period up to the outbreak of WWI in 1914. A significant feature which started prior to 1840 was that trade was carried out by foreign post offices and Britain was one of a number of European countries which established this practice. This lasted until 1914 when foreign post offices were closed down. There was a surcharge for deliveries in the Constantinople area. Of note on display was an early letter from Malta to Constantinople in 1843. The first Turkish stamps were issued in 1863 and Ted had many sets from this period. One set issued in 1886 consisted of bisected stamps and another in 1897 had a Turkish army theme.

The second part of the evening was given over to the follow up Turkish Republic from 1923 onwards. The Ottoman Empire had gradually decreased in size over the centuries and the period of WWI was a disastrous one for the Turks who had sided with Germany. Ted continued with many stamp issues some of which featured Kemal Ataturk, a military leader who helped to revive the fortunes of the country. There were charity stamps in 1923 and later issues of the Child Protection Society. In the 1950s country towns were featured.

John Lea (President) proposed a Vote of Thanks on behalf of the members. He could not recall in his long experience with the Society that there had been an earlier whole evening display devoted to Turkey. He found the far ranging mixture of stamps and postal history fascinating and the illustrated talk showed just how vast the Turkish (Ottoman) Empire land mass had been prior to WW1.

Members showed their appreciation for what had been a very interesting evening.

RLT

## **Tuesday 1 December 2015**

### **Members: Oceans or Seas of the World.**

Members had the world at their feet for their choice of material to support the theme for the evening. The six members who contributed to the displays each had their own approach, but took full advantage to roam the waters of the globe.

Paul Wheeler chose Fiji to include the Pacific Ocean and Malta to take in the Mediterranean. The Atlantic was illustrated by stamps from Newfoundland, the USA, Iceland and Tristan da Cunha. The Baltic Sea was also visited.

Jane Hawkins went east to Singapore before returning to the Isle of Man for the Irish Sea. Her main strength was in Egypt with the Mediterranean Sea ports of Alexandria and Port Said, as well as the Suez Canal. South Korea was also included.

John Lea showed wreck covers which were often associated with horrendous stories of loss of life. In the 1914-18 war cachets on salvaged mail were not allowed to mention the names of ships lost to enemy action, but there were exceptions. A sad example was a ferry torpedoed en-route to Ireland when 25 workers sorting mail out below deck were lost.

Malcolm Bentley made tracks for the Pacific with stamps of French Polynesia and the New Hebrides, but then returned to the Indian Ocean with the stamps of Zanzibar.

Michael Lockton produced a cover which had been damaged by sea water. This may have happened when a mail sack fell into a London dock. Otherwise he showed GB covers which were destined for numerous overseas destinations such as Paris, India (pre Suez Canal), Sardinia, Russia, Italy, the USA, Canada and the West Indies.

Ron Trevelyan started with a ship letter sent in 1798 from a Bristol wine merchant to Madeira ordering wine to be sent to plantation customers in the West Indies. Other items included the Panama Canal (linking the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans), picture postcards of Cunard liners ploughing the Atlantic and a seemingly dubious proposal by an American in 1840 to establish an Ocean Penny Post. A member confirmed that it was in fact established which shows that displaying can be an education! Vasco da Gama stamps

introduced exploration to India via the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Finally, some nostalgic Trevelyan memorabilia was put up connected with a Union Castle voyage from Cape Town to London via the East Coast of Africa in 1958.

John Lea, President, thanked all the contributors for helping to make the evening an interesting one. He was pleased to introduce a new member, Melvin Wallis, to the Society.

RLT

### **Tuesday 8 December 2015 Christmas Social**

Ten members and five family visitors came along to enjoy the seasonal fare of a glass of wine and some tasty snacks. The latter were kindly provided by members/family as is the custom on these occasions. A quiz was organised jointly by Malcolm Bentley and Ron Trevelyan which caused silence or earnest discussion in good measure. The three scratch teams were so equal that only a mark separated them. Tony Grove and Jane Hawkins ran a very successful raffle of donated prizes which produced £53 for Society funds.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the evening an enjoyable one.

RLT

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations are due to our life members in Scotland, Alfred and Edith Thorp, who have been honoured by the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies with an award for their services to Scottish Philately. They are clearly carrying on with the good work they provided for the Woking Society when they lived locally.

RLT

## Is this the Future.....Or is this?



Letters and parcels could soon be moved around the country by driverless vans or delivered to your door by drone, according to Royal Mail's chief executive Moya Greene.

Jumping enthusiastically onto the airborne bandwagon, Moya Greene told the CBI's annual conference in November that she'd "love to see" Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) taking on rural delivery services to "more remote places where you don't have to deliver too much". Greene also suggested autonomous ground vehicles might up efficiency. She said: "I'd love to see a day when we're going to have driverless trucks, and very, very well-constructed ways on the highway system."

The Canadian - who's the former CEO of Canada Post and took the helm of Royal Mail in 2010 - noted: "I'm old enough to remember when we started talking in Canada about driverless trains. Within five years of the department of transportation doing research into driverless trains it became the norm at airports, and we would never build a train at an airport today that had a driver on it.

Drone delivery projects are very much the flavour of the season, although it remains to be seen if they're a practical proposition. Amazon and Walmart are among the US companies battling for control of the skies, while Swiss Post

and Singapore Post have already got the jump on Royal Mail in getting aloft.

Back on the ground, the founders of Skype recently announced a wheeled robodelivery fleet, due to enter pilot service in 2016.

DG

### **Some More Interesting Stamp Websites**

In this issue of Penny Post I list a number of useful Commonwealth and Island philatelic website addresses:

**<http://www.nzsgb.org.uk/>**

New Zealand Society of Great Britain

**<http://www.bsap.org.uk/>**

The British Society of Australian Philately

**<http://www.stampdomain.com/country/australia/>**

**<http://www.tps.org.au/>** The Tasmanian Philatelic Society

**<http://www.indiastudycircle.org/>** The India Study Circle

**<http://www.canadianpsgb.org.uk/>**

Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain

**<http://www.philatelicspecialistsociety.com/>**

Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada

**<http://www.ciss1950.org.uk/>** Channel Islands Society

**<http://www.ascension-island.gov.ac/post-office-shop/>**

**<http://www.postoffice.gov.sh/>** St Helena Post Office

**<http://stamps.org/SPM>** St. Pierre & Miquelon P.S.

**<http://www.bcpsg.com/>** British Caribbean Study Group

**<http://www.bwisc.org/>** British West Indies Study Circle

**<http://www.tuvaluislands.com/stamps/KTPS.htm>**

Kiribati and Tuvalu Philatelic Society

**<http://www.pisc.org.uk/>** The Pacific Islands Study Circle

**<http://www.stampdomain.com/country/madagascar/index.shtml>**

## 70ft Cement Arrows

All over the USA, 70 foot concrete arrows can be found in remote locations. Follow them, and they will point you out of the desert.



They come courtesy of the US Postal Service's Air Force and will point you all the way across the continental United States.





They were constructed in 1924 to guide postal planes in the right direction as they carried mail from coast to coast.



These old planes couldn't rely on radio as much at the time, so they used these arrows, along with beacon towers, to navigate.





The towers were 50 feet tall and fixed with gas lights that could be seen from 10 miles away, in order to help lost pilots find their way. This is a model of the arrows and towers in their heyday.



World War II brought new advances in radio technology that effectively made the towers and arrows system obsolete. The towers were mostly dismantled.



There has been an effort to restore and preserve some of them, however. Like this one in New Mexico complete with its generator shack.



This is a very interesting piece of postal history, even if it was short lived. Its amazing in todays world to think that pilots used these arrows to navigate thousands of miles. DS

## **Francis Kiddle, RDP FRPSL**

Many may have already seen in Philatelic publications that Francis Kiddle passed away recently. He was one of philately's most distinguished collector, exhibitor, juror, expert, administrator and author. He was ever present on the world stage as one of the leading experts on Cinderellas, ex-President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, signatory of the roll of Distinguished Philatelist in 1993, awarded the Lichtenstein Medal for services to philately in 2012, served on more than 30 judging juries and was president of the jury at the London 2010 exhibition and London 2015 Europhilex.



He also had time for the grass routes of philately. He was President or Chairman of many local and specialist societies, including the Fleet Philatelic Society, the Hampshire Philatelic Federation, Cinderella Stamp Club and the GB Overprints Society. Only last year he came to Woking PS to give a display on Postage Dues of the World on Cover.

## **Leslie Wilkinson, FRPSL**



*Leslie Wilkinson has also died recently.* Les was a stalwart of the Great Britain Philatelic for over 40 years ago and became President in 1986–88. His main area of study was GB KGV for which he was the societies expert consultant and in 1998 was made an Honorary Life Member for his services to the Society. I for one will miss him as we shared the same area of philatelic interests.

Woking PS were well represented at the funerals of both Francis and Leslie.

## Programme for Year 2016

### January 19

The Colour is Blue—Members

### February 2

Postcards (Pictures or Postmarks) - Members

### February 16

Recent Acquisitions—Members

### ~~February 17~~

~~Chris Board FRPSL—South Africa~~

### February 17 - 20

Spring STAMPEX, Islington, London

### March 1

Society Annual Lunch (details to be announced)

### March 15

Gavin Fryer RDP, FRPSL

GB KGVI High Values on Mail: 1937—1940

### April 5

Cinderellas/Revenues (Back of Book)—Members

### April 19

Brian Sole FRPSL—Go by Cycle

### May 3

The President's Evening

### May 17

AGM

### June 7

The European Union and its Stamps—Members

### June 21

Visit of Henley PS.

No further meetings until 6 September 2016.

**Visitors are always welcome!**