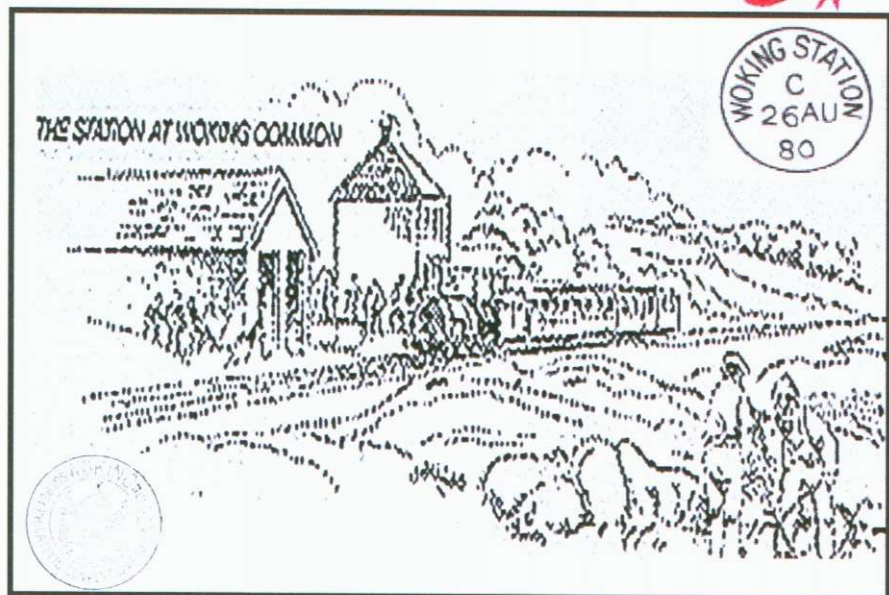


Penny Post

*Merry
Christmas*



Woking
& District
Philatelic
Society

December 2016

Committee Members 2016—2017:

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Vice President:	Vacant
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Editor 'Penny Post':	D Griffin
Competition Sec:	R L Trevelyan
Accounts Examiner:	Vacant
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:

During the last year we have seen many changes both in the Society and in the world outside. I shall personally miss a great friend, a respected philatelist and my predecessor as President of the Society, David Stotter who passed away in September this year. We have voted to leave Europe and the Americans have voted a businessman rather than a politician as the next President. 2017 promises to be an interesting year.

I would like to draw your attention particularly to a change to meeting times. From September we will be Meeting on a Monday night and not Tuesday. This is likely to be on the second and forth Monday of each month. Further details will follow with our new programme for the 2017/18 season. Although this might not be convenient to all members, it might be more suitable for others and I would encourage as many as possible to attend meetings, particularly for visiting speakers.

Fortunately we are still able to attract top class speakers and for this to continue we need to have the support of everyone if the society is to continue to survive. We may be fewer in number but the recent Members evenings have shown that the society is very much alive.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2017.
John Lea, President Woking Philatelic Society.

A Message from the Editor:

I welcome you to another edition of the Penny Post. This is your magazine and it is made much more interesting for other like minded collectors if information is submitted from you, the members. If you have anything to say, something that others may want to hear about or even interesting things you have done or seen on your travels around Woking or further afield, then let me know and I will include it in a later edition of the Penny Post.

Unfortunately I have not been able to attend as many meetings as I would have liked this last term but it has meant that I have been able to attend meetings at other locations – more on this towards the end of this issue.

David Griffin, Editor - Penny Post
(email:davidgprocesseng@yahoo.co.uk)

News of Meetings Earlier in the Year:

Tuesday 3 May 2016

The President Entertains: John Lea FRPSL

Members knew that they could expect something special from John, knowing how extensive his philatelic collecting and knowledge is in many fields.

John devoted the first half of his display to a specialised study of the British Forces in Egypt between 1932 and 1935 when the mail sent by them received a special subsidy. In 1932 the Egyptian Government increased postal rates on all foreign mail and in the November of that year the British introduced NAAFI seals to offset this. The seals, which could be purchased from the NAAFI in British camps, could be used on one side of an envelope with an Egyptian Post Office cancellation on the other. Mail could be posted from mail boxes in the camps.

On show there were many examples of seals and their usages. Each year there was a special Christmas issue with a different design of a camel and a palm tree with a colour change every year. John had a special selection of the Christmas seals which filled a display board. In 1935 the regular seals were overprinted to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George V.

In 1936 the NAAFI seals ceased to have validity and the Egyptian Post Office issued stamps marked 'Army Post'. John had some Egyptian stamps which were originally in the collection of King Farouk, who was notorious for having special varieties prepared for his collection alone. After his abdication in 1952 his collection was sold.

In the second half John chose to demonstrate just how wide his interests are. A whole display board was given over to the year 1912 when Pro-Juventute charity stamps in Switzerland were only semi-official. These were shown on cover and represented high value material. Another region of interest was Uganda with examples of the early crude 'typewriter' stamps on display. Inevitably there were forgeries. To follow there were glimpses of Norway, the Off-shore islands like Ascension and material linked with the House of Commons. John delighted in showing a cover which he sent to the Seychelles in 1959 seeking postal

instructions for an under-stamped item. On its return it was forgotten and possibly sold on. In 2015 he recognised the cover from his handwriting on sale by a dealer and it was quickly purchased and returned to its original home.

David Stotter proposed a Vote of Thanks on behalf of members. He praised John's willingness to share his knowledge over a wide field. The research into the Egyptian display and the explanations given were world class. John was a postal historian who also had due regard for the role of stamps in collections and he could only be described as a philatelic institution.

RLT

News of Recent Meetings:

Tuesday 6 September 2016

The letters 'Q' and 'R' : Members

There was an excellent attendance for the first meeting of the new season with six members supporting the themes for the evening. Jane Hawkins started with a mixture of postcards and philatelic items. The postcards covered Woking landmarks with the initial letter R and she continued with the Queen, Royal Mail and a Red envelope. Her Egyptian stamps covered the royalty of that country.

Ron Trevelyan dealt with the letter 'Q' through a small miscellany of stamps showing quill pens and a district called Quelimane in Portuguese East Africa. His 'R's centred on Rhodesia. Cecil Rhodes was on postcards and there was early Rhodesian postal stationery and royal visits by the Queen Mother to the territories. A Singapore stamp honoured Raffles Hotel.

Paul Wheeler took us to Quebec whilst David Springett included stamps from Russia.

Michael Lockton brought an extensive display on GB Recorded Delivery which began in 1961 with an extra 6d to pay on postage. He included examples of mail to show how the system evolved over many years.

John Lea briefly showed examples of returned letter stamps and the re-use of envelopes, but his main contribution was a display he gave on Latin America which was included in a Fellows' evening given at the Royal on 28 July.

RLT

Tuesday 20 September 2016
Visit of Petersfield and District Philatelic Society

Petersfield sent two representatives with widely differing subjects for their displays. They had been warned that Woking PS was in sombre mood following the untimely death of David Stotter at the weekend. Members stood in remembrance of David at the start of the meeting.

David Whitehouse brought a display on Ascension Island which had information about early settlers there. The first of these landed on Ascension Day which gave the island its name. There were Dutch East Indies visitors in 1725 and David said he had a copy of their diary. In 1815 the Royal Navy used the island as a naval base and there was incoming mail. In 1867 a mail office was established which used British stamps (1d, 6d and 1/-). Stamps were sent to the island to obtain postmarks. Some of the outgoing mail was generated by orders placed with companies in the UK and David had an example.

In 1922 stamps of St. Helena were used overprinted Ascension Island and from 1924 the island had its own stamps. There were Madam Joseph forgeries of the postmarks. The Royal Navy left the island. David showed a set of the 1934 KGV series in specimen form and explained that the 1937 Coronation covers arrived late and were dated 19 May 1937 which was not a first day of issue date. The island was subsequently on lease to the USA as a naval base and tracking station and some 1940s US censored covers were on display. Quite a history for such a small island.

Robin Frazer chose as his display the way in which Germany coped with the severe reparations imposed after WWI by setting up German Exchange Control from 1918 to 1925. This involved, among other measures, transition from wartime censorship and imports of postage stamps. Import and Export Licences were imposed and parcels inspected by Exchange Control. Robin had a very comprehensive display illustrating the various measures taken by the Germans.

John Lea thanked the speakers on behalf of members. He complimented David Whitehouse on his good presentation.

Ascension Island, like all small islands suffered from a wealth of philatelic material. The German Exchange Control talk showed what a vast organisation was established all over the country. He realised just how difficult it must have been for Robin to collect this material and how a knowledge of German must have been essential.

RLT

Tuesday 4 October 2016

Brian Sedgley: Egypt

Brian took us to the land of the pharaohs with a comprehensive display dating back to 1642 when a consignment of candles was made from Alexandria to Syria. Egypt formed part of the Ottoman Empire until 1914 when it became a British Protectorate. He had many examples of early postal services in the mid 1800s with various cancellations. There was a tramway service which carried mail in Alexandria. The first pictorial stamps were issued between 1867 and 1870. There were British, French and Russian Post Offices, among others, which were opened in Alexandria. Egypt too had Post Offices abroad. Special stamps were issued by the Suez Canal Company for a short period in 1868 for mail carried until the charge was discontinued. Forgeries of these stamps abounded.

Brian's second part was initially rich in postmarks and postcards. This was followed by a full display of stamps showing Kings Fuad I and Farouk and commemorative issues for exhibitions and treaties like the Anglo-Egyptian one in 1936. Britain's then Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden took part and Brian had his signature. A Special Delivery stamp also featured. Extra payments were charged on airmail services to Athens and Rome in 1946.

Gavin Fryer proposed a Vote of Thanks on behalf of members, noting particularly the display of early postal services between 1830 and 1870. Of interest too was the airmail service and the presence of the Russian Post Office in Alexandria. There was a good selection of middle range stamps of the territory.

RLT

Tuesday 18 October 2016
Fauna of the World: Members

Apologies were plentiful on this occasion, but six members out of the nine attending managed to bring a wide selection of the material to fit the theme for the evening.

Jane Hawkins found camels on Egyptian stamps and ranged from the wild animals of Africa to donkeys and horses and carts plus the Peacock Centre on Woking postcards.

John Lea found a detailed study of the Ovine Family which studied every aspect of the sheep family. He also found tigers in abundance on stamps of Malaya and elephants which were used by the teak industry in Burma and Hannibal in the Alps.

Ron Trevelyan began in Belgium with the lion which features on the country's coat of arms, as well as on several of the early definitive stamp issues. Thereafter it was Africa all the way with plentiful stamp issues showing the native wild life. Giraffes, leopards and lions had a good showing.

Michael Lockton found it difficult as a postal historian to find suitable material, but he was able to show GB seahorse stamps used on airmail letters. He then realised that Mulready's showed animals and displayed these. Even a caricature Mulready prominently showed a lion with letters tied to its tail.

David Cairns added some missing species not shown so far like the buffalo, kangaroos and a moose, as well as butterflies and birds.

David Springett showed more kangaroos and demonstrated how large a stamp should be to accommodate the whole body of a whale.

John Lea, President, was pleased to note that, despite the modest turnout, members had provided entertainment for the whole evening and he thanked those who did so.

RLT

Mason Cup/Annual Competition November 2016

Woking Society participated in the 2016 competition and was one of five Surrey Federation societies to do so in the Mason Cup. The entries were on display at the Surrey Federation Stamp Fair and Exhibition which was hosted by Kingston Philatelic Society at Claygate on 29 October 2016.

Woking entries were in three classes:

David Griffin: Traditional - GB KGV. Issued stamps of the 2d Profile Head.

John Lea: Aerophilatelic - Flights which ended in disaster 1950 - 1970

Michael Lockton: Postal History - Aberayron, Cardiganshire.

The outcome was a third place for Woking.

David Griffin's entry earned him a medal with 88 marks. This maintained the high level his entry on a similar subject attained 2 years ago.

Ron Trevelyan
Competition Secretary

Tuesday 1 November 2016 **12 Sheets of your choice: Members**

Nine Members attended the evening which had the double intention of having displays, in conjunction with the Single Sheet Competition (details below)

Ron Trevelyan showed the Empire Exhibition which took place in Johannesburg in 1936. It celebrated the Golden Anniversary of the discovery of gold there in 1886. There were special postcards which could be posted airmail worldwide for 1/2d. There was much focus on airmail services. An unfortunate Australian prospector sold his site for £10 in the early days without knowing that 38,000 tons of pure gold would eventually be mined. A philatelic exhibition was included in the main event.

Jane Hawkins brought a collection of Egyptian (UAR) stamps which were issued between 1958 and 1962.

David Cairns put up an impressive display of GB Penny Reds with many interesting postmarks.

Neil Burnett had an extensive collection of early Woking postcards, some of which were due to be shown at the Woking Society table on the Leisure Centre on 5 November.

Michael Lockton showed early examples of Welsh postal history relating to Aberayon with some unusual postmarks.

Michael Lockton, acting as President in John Lea's absence, thanked those who participated in the displays and the competition.

RLT

Single Sheet Competition 2016

Seven entries were received on a wide variety of topics and provided members, who were acting as the judges, with plenty to consider.

In the end the clear winner of the R&H Pillar Box trophy was Neville Ledsome. His attractive entry was 'Short Brothers: Empire and Class Flying Boats.'

The runners up were:

2nd Ron Trevelyan: 'British Trade Exhibitions'

3rd A tie between David Cairns: 'Great Britain' and Malcolm Bentley: 'GB used abroad on the Queen Victoria 5/- stamp'.

Ron Trevelyan
Competition Secretary

Society table at the Family History Open Day

The Society hired a table at the Family History Fair at the Woking Leisure Centre on Saturday 5 November 2016. We have been manning a table on these occasions since 2003 with very few exceptions.

Our table had postal history from the Woking Postal History Collection (Curator Michael Lockton) and early Woking postcards from the collections of Neil Burnett and Jane Hawkins. We were positioned in a spot in one of the main 'thoroughfares' and Jane

Hawkins and I found ourselves the centre of attention virtually all day. The main interest was focussed on the exhibits, but we did get other enquiries like 'How do I dispose of my stamps?' There are some follow ups on these.

No new members emerged but it was satisfying to inform the public that the Society was still in existence. My thanks to the suppliers of our displays and to Jane Hawkins who helped to man the table throughout the day. Neil Burnett was there in spirit but was actually in Stockport to cheer Woking football team on to a splendid win.

RLT

Tuesday 15 November 2016

Small Islands of the World: Members

It became obvious that members had diligently searched their collections for material on small islands when displays were shown.

Two small islands within the British isles began the journey. Jane Hawkins went to the Isle of Man and included several small scale models of IOM postal vans.

Ron Trevelyan ventured to the Bristol Channel and told the story of the island of Lundy which goes back to Neolithic times. The Puffin stamps, which have long been popular with collectors, pay for the postage between the island and Bideford post office.

Paul Wheeler put up a collection of stamps from his main interest country Cyprus, but added for good measure other issues from St Kilda, the Isle of Man, Tasmania, the Seychelles, Mauritius, Pitcairn and Malta. He included some early postal history.

Tony Grove found an extra island on an Egyptian airmail stamp which only the sharp-eyed could have detected.

Michael Lockton showed postal stationery from the wartime post of Jersey and Guernsey.

John Lea also found some wartime postal history for the Channel Islands and included items from the Isle of Man, St. Helena and Orkney as well.

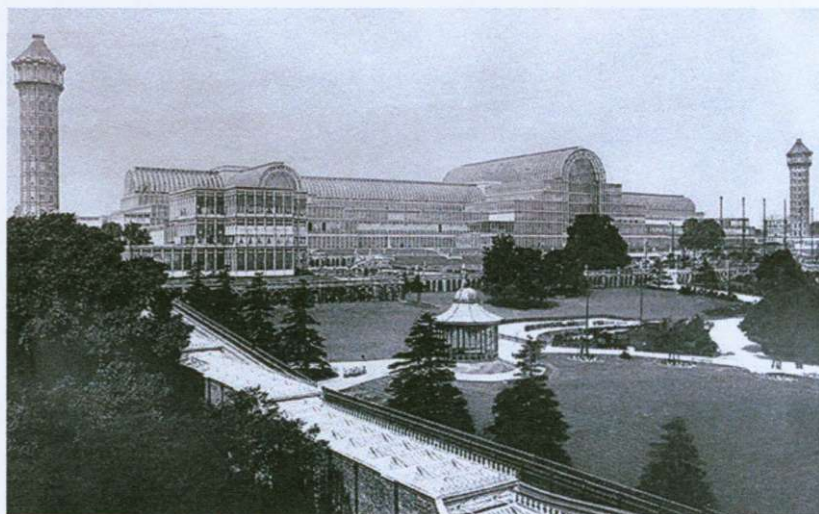
Rodger Evans had the opportunity to expand his interest in Malta by taking up the second half of the evening. His so called 'Miscellany of Malta' included a large section on WWII, which reflected the fact that one of his published books covers this period. He was able to break up his display into sections like Aviation, Maritime, Military, Instructional Marks and Censor Marks which made it more interesting to follow.

President John Lea thanked those in attendance for displaying or supporting the meeting.

RLT

Tuesday 15 November 2016
The Crystal Palace - Ron Trevelyan

Ron devoted the whole evening to a history of the Crystal Palace from its construction in Hyde Park to house the Great Exhibition of 1851 to its re-incarnation in South London beginning in 1854. There was much to consider during its lifetime of five and half months as an exhibition to the follow up 82 years it existed until the disastrous fire which destroyed it in November 1936.



The Crystal Palace in all its glory.

Society News

Dr. David Stotter

12th September 1949 to 18th September 2016

It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of our immediate past president and much respected member, Dr. David Stotter. David's funeral was well attended by his philatelic friends who were numerous and from all sections of the hobby. The overall attendance was around seventy which included fourteen from Woking Society and representatives from seven other Surrey societies, the Royal and specialist societies in which he played a major role.

John Lea and Malcolm Bentley both paid tribute to David at the funeral. The following is a transcript of John's eulogy:

"David joined the Woking and district Philatelic Society in 1980 and first became President in 2003/4; an office he held on four occasions, often for a 2 year stint – he was my Vice-President when he passed away. He was President of the Surrey Federation of Philatelic Societies in 2011.

On the occasions he gave the Presidential Display, the Society was treated to a detail and well studied material from Tangiers and Morocco. This included many post cards of the area including the Foreign Post Offices then open in the country.

David is also well noted as having published a book on the British Post Office under the title "British P.O. Service in Morocco 1907-1957" which was a sell-out. His research for this book took him to Tangiers and to other resources for information. One of his successes in getting material for his book was making a visit to the long-retired wife of the last British Post Master in Tangiers, then living in South Wales – this office having been open for 100 years – the good lady enabled David to glean facts which otherwise would never have been published. This just illustrated the depth of research he undertook. He was instrumental in getting a second book published – his third book on the Spanish Post Offices in Morocco lies in script form which Felisa, David's wife, is hoping to see through the press in the coming months.

A fitting tribute indeed, to a serious author. One who always worked to the highest degree of factual accuracy, visiting official archives to gather information.

David's Presidential displays to the local Philatelic Society were always of the highest standard and much enjoyed by his listeners. He brought to his viewers his knowledge of the subject whether it be in the form of stamps, postal history or post cards of which he had a vast selection.

The hotels of Tangiers for example numbered 10 in the early 20th century and he was able to display cards of them all although the card of the 10th hardly looked like a place to stay at! Viewers of any display being given by David knew that it would be complete and full of factual knowledge – both of the high-ways and bye-ways as David left no stone unturned when seeking knowledge when writing up a 16 page frame or a book.

David's support of the Woking Philatelic Society over some 36 years was complete and occupied many offices during his time including the Woking Penny Post. Moving away from Woking, David joined the Royal Philatelic Society in 2003 and was honoured by being made a Fellow in 2011. He was awarded the Crawford medal of the Society after publication of his first book on the British Post Offices in Morocco. His next publication "A Postcard from Tangier – a Postal and Social History of Tangier 1880 – 1958" was awarded a Large Vermeil medal at the Europhilex Exhibition in May 2015 in the Literature Class.

Among many Societies that David joined were: The Great Britain Overprint Society, The Great Britain Philatelic Society, The Postal History Society; and there are others that are not known to me – apologies. Members from many of the above Societies are here today to pay tribute and say goodbye to a fellow philatelist of great stature and a friend to us all.

In closing, I must not forget David's membership of W4 – a small group of Surrey and London Philatelists who meet occasionally to discuss aspects of philately outside the normal run of topics. Something David enjoyed and we will miss him at the scheduled meeting tomorrow. We will also miss him when the Woking Society meets tonight. "

Meeting Night

Following a request from Christ Church to change our Tuesday twice monthly meeting night, the Society consulted members who were regular attendees at meetings. The conclusion was that Monday evenings would be suitable and this is likely to be the second and fourth Monday of the month. The Church has agreed to defer this change until the beginning of our new season in September 2017. Further details will follow with our new programme for the 2017/18 season when it is issued.

A Visit to Aberdeen Philatelic Society

As many of you may know I have been working during the week for the past couple of months in Aberdeen. Although it has meant that I have missed many of the Woking meeting it has allowed me to attend as a visitor the Aberdeen Philatelic Society meetings. They are run on a similar basis to ours with members evenings, visiting speakers, displays by visiting societies and auction nights. The Society has about 60 members in total with over 30 turning up to each meeting. They have a larger catchment area than us with the nearest societies in Dundee, Perth and Inverness but with a similar population to the Woking area. I have seen displays on 'Aviation', 'Ascension Islands' and 'Commerce in the Post' with the member giving the display even wearing a kilt!. Although it is flourishing, one of the downsides to having so many members at each meeting means that there is a queue to see the displays - a nice problem to have! If ever you are in Aberdeen on the first or third Thursday of the month, you will always find a warm and friendly welcome at one of their meetings. DG



Programme for Year 2017

January 17

Non-Philatelic Interests - Members

February 7

Transport (by whatever means!) - Members

February 15 - 18

Spring STAMPEX, Islington, London

February 21

The Colour is Green - Members

March 7

Society Annual Lunch (details to be announced)

March 21

Gavin Fryer RDP, FRPSL

GB KGVI High Values on Mail: 1941 - 1943

April 4

Postcards (Pictures or Postmarks) - Members

April 18

Chris Oliver - History of America seen through its philately

May 2

The President's Evening

May 16

AGM

June 6

Visit of Camberley and District Stamp Club

June 20

The letter 'A' - Members

No further meetings until September 2017.

Visitors are always welcome!