



Redhill Philatelic Society

∞ 75th Anniversary Year ∞

Newsletter August 2012

Volume 15 No. 3



Forthcoming meetings:

Tuesday Evenings:

4th Sept - 6 sheets - All Members
The Eric Bird Trophy

18th Sept - The 1971 Postal Strike -
Mr John Armstone

2nd Oct - Letter "I" - All Members

16th Oct - Abraham Lincoln -
Mr Angus Lincoln

6th Nov - Visit from Orpington

20th Nov - Dealers Evening

Friday Afternoons:

28th Sept - Letter "A" - All Members

26th Oct - Display - Mr M Bament

30th Nov - Africa - All Members

Editorial:

As I write this editorial the Olympic Games are in full flow. The competitions are already the most successful ever for British sports men and women. Reports are indicating that the organisation and atmosphere at events continue or better the very high standards set in the Sydney and Beijing games.

On the Philatelic front *Olympex 2012* remains on at the British Library until the 9 September, and while the success in Team GB winning Gold medals has produced a rash of new issues it has been easy to become caught up with the positive mood the games have generated.

The Redhill Philatelic Society too has continued an excellent run of form. The quality of the displays over the 2011/12 season has been wonderful, helping to draw a high proportion of the membership to our meetings. Our Secretary Derek White continues to put in a Gold Medal performance in scheduling an interesting programme. Elsewhere the Gold standard was continued by Robert Prentice in organising the very successful fair in April and Les Jobbins for co-ordinating and producing the revised reference book on the Postal History of Redhill & Reigate. I have just picked three but as with the Olympics there have been many other contributions to a very successful year, many behind the scenes and the whole membership can be proud of the parts they have played.

As with any performance there are areas where things can be improved and it we participate in the Society competitions. The focus on your collection that preparir helpful both in appreciating what you have and ways that your collection can be enh new seasons six sheet display (for the Eric Bird trophy) is a great opportunity to try o further before *Competitions Evening* on 19th March 2013. Go on give it a go!!

A copy of the programme for 2012/13 is enclosed with this newsletter, please le additional copies to publicise the Society to potential new members.

Subscription Reminder:

Your subscription for the 2012/2013 season becomes payable from 1st September. The rate remains at £15-00. Paying promptly helps the Society by removing the cost of chasing late payers, and allows the Treasurer to accurately budget for the coming year. Please send your subscription cheque made payable to "Redhill Philatelic Society" to:

Mr Tony Sanson
43 Nutfield Road
Merstham
Surrey RH1 3EN

Alternately Tony usually attends the Tuesday evening meetings and will be pleased to accept payment in person by cash or cheque.

The Exchange Packet

After many years running the exchange packet Mr Brian Cutler decided to stand down from the role as Packet Secretary at the AGM. The Society owes Brian a great debt of gratitude for facilitating this popular service, not only for allowing participants to purchase material at a reasonable cost but also generating income toward the running of the Society. David Ainsley kindly assisted in closing down the existing boxes in circulation.

The Society has been fortunate in Mr David Hall stepping forward to take over running the Packet. David brings a wealth of experience of having run a successful packet for the Purley, Kenley and Caterham Society prior to the PK&C closing.

Please show David your support by providing items for the Packet and making sure (in the case of those who receive the boxes) that the material is forwarded promptly to the next listed participant.

The Newsletter

Would you prefer to receive your Newsletter by e-mail?

Like any other organisation the Redhill Philatelic Society is not immune to the rising cost of postage and printing. To date the newsletter has been printed and posted to members, with back numbers being gradually added to the Society website. It is the Committee's intention that the Newsletter continues to be posted to those who wish to receive it in paper form, but to help contain costs an e-mail data base is to be created for those who would prefer to receive the Newsletter via the internet.

If you would like to receive the Newsletter electronically please provide your e-mail address (clearly printed) to:

Derek White
19 Kingsley Grove
Reigate RH2 8DU

Or pass a note of your current email address to Derek at one of the forthcoming meetings.

Up Coming Events:

25 July – 9 September 2012 **Olympex 2012** - The British Library, 96 Euston Road London NW1 2DB

27 August 2012 **Tolworth Postcard & Ephemera Fair** (Bank Holiday Monday 09:00 – 16:00)
Tolworth Recreation Centre, Fullers Way, Tolworth KT6 7LQ

2 September 2012 **Sevenoaks Stamp Fair** (Sunday 10:00 – 16:00)
Knowl Academy, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3LE

21-22 September 2012 **Autumn South of England Postcard Fair** (Friday & Saturday)
Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 9BA

26-29 September 2012 **Stampex (autumn)**
Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH

13 October 2012 **South of England Stamp Fair and Sussex Convention** (Saturday 10:00 – 16:00)
The South of England Show Ground, Ardingley, West Sussex RH17 6TL

20 October 2012 **Hampex 2012** (Hampshire Federation Convention & Fair, Saturday 10:00 – 16:30)
Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, Near Fareham PO17 5AL

Reports of Society Meetings:

17 January 2012 – Postcards - Mr B Cutler & Mr R Cooper

For the first part of the evening's entertainment Mr Brian Cutler provided a glimpse of the characters that contributed to the legend of the Wild West of the United States of America. Brian explained that in the 1980's and 90's he took a number of holidays in America during which he discovered postcards and postcard sized photographs showing Native Americans, famous people, and scenes from the frontier era on sale very cheaply. Brian enjoyed the challenge of finding as many of these cards as possible. Members were treated to the fruit of his search, images of General Custer and his men, as well as portraits of Custer's adversaries at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in June 1876, together with a map showing the historic lands of Native Americans. Alongside these were images of the life of early settlers, the coming of the railroads and river boats, stage coaches and early motor vehicles, as well as copies of photographs showing the famous and infamous Calamity Jane, Annie Oakley, Doc Holiday, Billy the Kid and Jessie James.

Returning much closer to home Mr Richard Cooper used postcards, photographs and commercial headed stationery to highlight many places of interest in and around Horley. Many of these properties have now disappeared, such as the Cottage Hospital that closed in 1987 that is now the site of a block of flats. The display took in road and rail transport around Salford, Horley and Gatwick, and buildings from private dwellings to shops, windmills churches and public houses, providing a fascinating study of the development of the area.

In giving the vote of thanks Robert Hurst praised the amount of research and care put into both exhibits, each of which in their own way illustrated how much change can occur in relatively short periods of time.

21 February 2012 - The Chairman's Evening

Hopefully there is something for everyone in this evening's display announced Robert Hurst at the start of his Chairman's Evening. The first session started with Isle of Man stamps from Regionals to 1978, then returning to the regional issues examples of the stamps used on cover and card from the first issued in 1958 to the decimal values issued in 1971. From the Isle of Man the material moved to the other end of the world with the first British Antarctic Territory stamps issued in 1963 starting with copies of the artist's proofs to the actual stamps and their use from the scientific bases. The session closed with a display of London Transport Museum Postcards relating to Reigate and the surrounding areas as listed in earlier editions of the newsletter.

For the second half of the evening an aviation flavour came to the fore, with a display relating to the Royal Mail *Swiftair* Service encompassing, publicity (including leaflets, competitions, and sponsorship), the labels employed to acknowledge the class of mail, tariff rates and examples of mail. Next came three frames concerning airmail between Great Britain and Iraq from the Royal Air Force service between Cairo and Baghdad 1920's, Imperial Airways and KLM, through military mail and the disruption caused by the World War II, to the return to direct flights post war.

The vote of thanks was given by Derek White

6 March 2012 - Displays by Purley Members

The evening's displays were all given by former members of the Purley, Kenley and Caterham Society who had joined Redhill. First to present was Mr David Wiskin, who showed two thematic displays. The first 64 sheets were of the Polar Explorer Ernest Shackleton and formed the basis of an exhibit put into national thematic competition. It proved interesting to compare the treatment of the subject with the Social Philately approach adopted by Trevor Cornford in his display presented in December 2011. David shared a few comments and observations concerning competitive thematic displays, before moving on to another of his interests: Christopher Columbus. No portraits of Columbus are known to have been painted of him during his lifetime and a number of sheets were devoted to illustrating interpretations of how the explorer looked before moving on to looking at his voyages, including supplies, the type of vessels used and landfalls along his route.

A display of modern Chinese (People Republic) followed that had resulted from Mr David Hall's wife having brought back some new issues for him from a holiday in the 1980's. Most of the stamps were low value commemoratives, as they do not seem to issue definitive commented David. The stamps covered a wide

variety of subjects, but also illustrated how the political regime wished to be seen both by its own people and the wider world community.

Concluding the evening Miss J Walmsley provided four mini displays. First a working collection of Queensland focused on the beautiful Chalon Head design. The display then turned to Hong Kong incorporating cancellations on Queen Victoria stamps (including Treaty Ports), before returning to Australia, with a study of the printings of Western Australian stamps by De La Rue. The final section explored the travelling post offices of Tanganyika.

"Once again we have been spoilt this evening with the quality of the displays" commented our chairman in providing the vote of thanks

20 March 2012 - Society Competitions

Congratulations to the winners:

The Wright Cup

D Wiskin

The Mrs Gilbert Thematic Cup

D Wiskin

The Judith Faulkner Shield - Joint Winners

A Denman

D Hall

The Mrs Knight Rose Bowl

E Wakefield

3 April 2012 - A Walk around South America - Miss J Walmsley

Setting aside her love of Mexican philately for the evening, Miss Walmsley ventured even further south of the border to lead an exploration of the railways, stage coaches and traveling Post Offices of Latin America - Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay. Each country was taken in turn.

A common theme soon emerged of how the physical geography of the continent played a major role in how services developed. This ranged from the Andes and Lake Titicaca in Peru, land slips and earthquakes in Bolivia, services developed around railway lines built to export the mineral deposits in Chile, and the large navigable Colorado and Parana Rivers of Argentina. Examples of mail and postmarks were shown together with maps and picture postcards to illustrate routes and locations. Some of the most interesting of these showed the alternative ways mail could take when traveling from one side of the Andes to the other.

"Africa has often been referred to as the Dark Continent" commented Robert Hurst in providing the vote of thanks "but to many collectors South America is an unknown quantity. Jay must be congratulated on the evenings display in shedding light on a fascinating subject. Many of the markings seen are rare and it must be remembered that there are relatively few reference books on this material, making the job of writing up the items more difficult. Those members unable to attend this evening have missed a treat".

17 April 2012 - Austria - Mr G Richardson

GB Queen Victoria Overseas Postal Rates – Mr E Walker

In the years following World War II Austria issued a series of postcards aimed at promoting the regions and encouraging tourism within the country. The format was of a pre-printed stamp in the top right hand corner, with the left hand side of the address side given over to a mono-colour illustration of a tourist destination in Austria. The cards were sold at locations outside the province shown on the picture. Both used and unused cards were displayed and Mr Richardson provided a map of each province indicating the location of each postcard illustration. Explanations were provided concerning the colours in which cards were printed and the postage rates that applied.

Mr Walker's display concerned the period of Queen Victoria's reign between 1840 and 1875 (the introduction of the first postage stamp to the entry of the United Kingdom into the General Postal Union (*now known as the Universal Postal Union*)). Prior to 1875 the cost of sending mail overseas depended not only on the weight of the item, but because individual postal treaties had to be negotiated, also the route the sender requested. Examples were provided of mail to a range of international destinations both within Europe (some to countries which were subsequently absorbed into other nations such as the Ionian Islands and Italian States) and further afield (including Mexico, Hong Kong, Japan and Ceylon). Covers were written up with breakdowns of the rates used and Edward provided tips based on his years of experience of collecting the field of postal rates (for instance, examples of mail to Belgium between 1840 and 1875 are not easy to find).

"What a wonderful pair of displays to conclude my term as Chairman of the Redhill Philatelic Society" commented Robert Hurst in giving the vote of thanks.

The full minutes of the AGM have been recorded by the Society's Hon. Secretary Mr Derek White and it is not proposed to reproduce them in full here, however there are a few points that it is appropriate to highlight:

1. Following his successful organisation of Society's 75th Anniversary fair held in April Mr Robert Prentice decided to stand down from the Committee.
2. Mr Brian Cutler has stood down as Packet Secretary and Mr David Hall has volunteered to take over the position (see notice above)
3. Mr Tony Sanson was elected Chairman in succession to Mr Robert Hurst, and Mr David Ainsley was elected as Vice-Chairman
4. The Committee expressed their appreciation for the work undertaken by Robert Prentice, and Brian Cutler, as well as Les Jobbins (for his work in publishing the book on the Postal History of Reigate, Redhill & District to 1937), members who donate raffle prizes and those who came along to assist on the day of the Fair. These sentiments were fully endorsed by the membership present.
5. The recommendation of the committee that the Annual Subscription for membership of Redhill Philatelic Society remains at £15-00 for the 2012/13 Season was agreed by the meeting.
6. Mr Derek White who has been Secretary to the Society for the last 26 years indicated that he wished to stand down from the role with effect from the AGM in May 2013. Derek has stated that he will be happy to assist the new Secretary with the programme and distribution of the Newsletter, but felt that time had come to hand the Baton of Office on to someone new.

Display following the AGM -

Netherlands - Postal Arrangements during the German Occupation 1940-45 – Mr L Jobbins

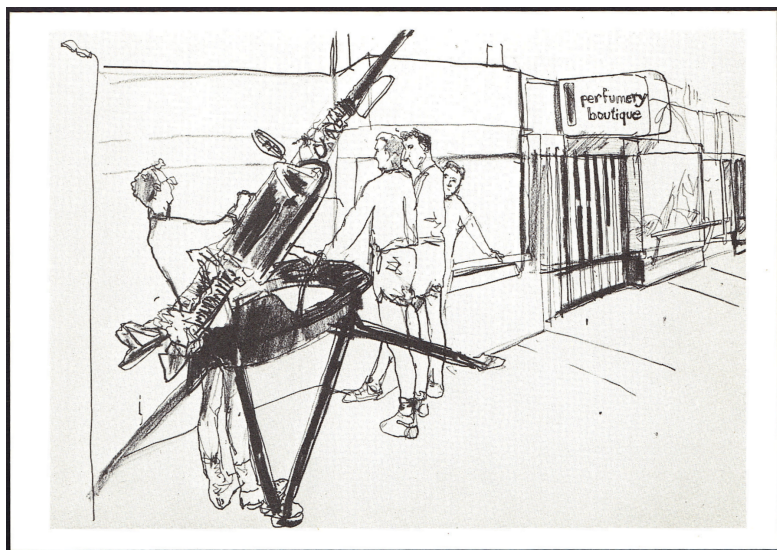
Mr Jobbins took for the subject of his display the Deutsche Dienstpost Niederlande. The Dienstpost Systems were established in most Nazi occupied countries because of possible sabotage and espionage activities in the local post offices. On 5 June 1940, the "Deutsche Dienstpost Niederlande (DDPN)" (German Official Postal Service in the Netherlands) was set up. Its purpose was to provide postal services to and from Germany for civil service and military personnel. Mail could be posted by Dutch citizens to German and Dutch military personnel through the Dienstpost system free of charge. However mail sent via this route by German civilians and commercial businesses required German postage, unless it was dealt with military matters. A 15Rpf fee was charged for mail weighing 100 to 250gms and for packages up to 1000gms a 20Rpf fee was charged.

The types of postal marking used from each of the DDPN offices on personal, commercial and military mail were displayed. As ever Les proved a knowledgeable guide through this fascinating period of Dutch (postal) history

The vote of thanks was given by Mr Tony Sanson

Anniversaries in 2012 (Part 2)

The Falklands Conflict



2012 marks the 30th Anniversary of the Falklands Conflict. There have been a substantial number of postcards issued over the years illustrating different aspects of the hostilities.

Left: A postcard issued by the Imperial War Museum of a sketch by official war Artist Linda Kitson of an anti-aircraft gun in the Liner QE2's shopping arcade.

Quote from *The Falklands War - A Visual Diary* by Linda Kitson: It was hard not to laugh at the sight of artillery mounted among the rather feminine trappings of the shopping arcade. When much later, I reminded Lt Col. Holt (C.O. - 4th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery) of his headquarters in the Perfumery Boutique, he primly corrected me, "Not at all, we were in Cosmetics and Jewellery".

The Royal Mail Swiftair Service 1980-2003 (Part 2)

The first part of this series of articles was printed in newsletter Vol.14 No 2 (April 2011).

The Self-adhesive Labels (without bar code)



Fig. 1

In the early 1990's the Royal Mail moved from gummed to self-adhesive labels. The Post Office took advantage of the change to redesign the Swiftair labels to a larger, more eye catching design with *Express* written in five languages (Fig.1). These labels have been seen used from 1992 onward

A second style of self-adhesive label soon followed Fig 1.

The label was produced in a similar sheet lay out, however the design was larger and incorporated a blue airmail notation over a globe design, which was to become a common theme on stationery produced by postal authorities for international express mail (Fig.2). The label has been noted used from 1993.

To be continued.



Fig.2