



ABPS

The Association of British Philatelic Societies Ltd

“The Voice of British Philately”

EXECUTIVE BULLETIN

May 2024

Please circulate this bulletin to any philatelic friends to show what the ABPS is doing to promote philately across the UK. Also, please visit www.abps.org.uk

NEWS AND EVENTS

The ABPS website is being kept up-to-date with the latest news and events. Please take a regular look at www.abps.org.uk

URGENT HELP NEEDED BY ABPS ***IMPORTANT***

Everyone in philately is finding it more difficult to find individuals who are prepared to get involved in administering or organizing philatelic activities or events. This, of course, includes ABPS. If you are someone who is prepared to give even a few hours to help out, we would welcome a discussion to see how you can provide support.

Steve Harrison is standing down as Chairman at the AGM in July, having served for three years. We urgently need to find a replacement. This can be limited to a term of two/three years.

Other specific vacancies include a Communications Director as well as help with development of learning resources for the website but there are plenty of opportunities to help out in other ways.

We also need a new Chairman and Organising Secretary for Congress after the 2025 Congress.

Please contact Steven Harrison, Chairman of ABPS, by emailing him at sharrison500@btinternet.com or calling him on 0121 313 0671.

PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN



Congress 2024 will be in Southampton from 11th to 14th July. It will be based at the Leonardo Grand Harbour Hotel, close to the harbour and city centre. Free parking is available for visitors. Local attractions include the Sea City Exhibition featuring the Titanic. There is also a Spitfire Museum. Other nearby hotels include the Holiday Inn, Premier Inn and Travelodge to suit all budgets.

The programme will feature discussion on **“Exploring new directions in Philately”** including “Context Philately”. We can share latest developments and best practices in philately. This is an event for everyone with displays by local collectors as well as leading overseas collectors.

The presentation ceremony for the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists will take place during Congress 2024, with John Davies, FRPSL, from the UK, being one of the recipients this year. Full biographies of this year’s winners can be found on the Awards section of the ABPS website.

The full programme for Congress and a booking form can be downloaded from the Congress section of the ABPS website.

For more information about Congress contact Steven Harrison, Chairman of ABPS, by emailing him at sharrison500@btinternet.com or calling him on 0121 313 0671.

Congress 2025 will take place during Europhilex as a one-day event only on Saturday 10th May.

STAMPEX INTERNATIONAL

The next Stampex International, organized by The Philatelic Traders’ Society, is being planned from 23rd to 26th October 2024 at the Business Design Centre, London.

Please note that the event has moved to a new location within the BDC in the Gallery Hall and Atrium on the right side of the venue. This can be accessed most easily by going up the escalator to the first floor and then turning right. There will also be some dealers in the first section of the gallery bays.

At the moment, the PTS has no plans to provide talks in an auditorium or to provide society meeting rooms (as was the case in recent years).

ABPS has decided to book Meeting Room C, to make it available to Societies for meeting on the Friday and Saturday only. This initiative has been supported by The Philatelic Fund.

If you are interested to hold a meeting at the event, please contact John Davies. davies1890@btinternet.com

Two sessions are currently available on the Friday, as detailed below: Places will be allocated on a first come-first served basis.

STAMPEX 2024 Society Meetings

Friday 25th October 2024

10.30 to 12.30pm

12.30 to 2.30pm

2.30 to 4.30pm Great Britain Overprints Society

Saturday 26th October 2024

10.30 to 12.30pm China Philatelic Society

12.30 to 2.30pm Egypt Study Circle

2.30 to 4.30pm Great Britain Philatelic Society

ABPS NEWS

The latest issue of ABPS News will be circulated shortly. Back issues can be downloaded from the News section of the ABPS website.

The closing date for the next issue is 15th July.

Please remember that affiliated societies can benefit from putting information into ABPS to publicise themselves. Here is a detailed reminder from our Editor:

Any affiliated society is eligible to send in

(i) an advertisement for any activity (meeting, AGM, weekend, fair) once a year. This should be sent as a jpeg or Word document and be suitable to fit into an A5 page (allowing a 2mm margin round the page.

(ii) notification of any meetings etc to be included in the Diary. This should be in Word and give date, title, times, address, contact details. Details can be sent at any time but must be received at least 3 months before the event to allow for the publication and distribution.

(iii) reports on their meetings and other activities, up to 250 words per issue. This will be edited to fit the space available. Photos are welcome (usually one per report is the maximum). As before, Word and jpeg or equivalent are the necessary means = I use Arial 10, single-spacing - no other format as I have to remove it before inserting.

Articles and enquiries relating to ABPS News can be submitted via the website or you can write direct by email at editor@abps.org.uk

STAMP ACTIVE YOUTH STAMP COMPETITIONS

The Stamp Active Network, the voluntary organisation that promotes stamp collecting for children in the UK, is organising the national youth stamp competitions to be held as part of the senior competitions to be displayed at York in July 2024. Full details of the competitions and entry forms can be found on the Competitions section of the Stamp Active website.

For further information, and advice on preparing an entry, go to www.stampactive.co.uk



ABPS NATIONAL STAMP COMPETITIONS

THE ABPS NORTHERN NATIONAL EXHIBITION 2024 (York) (19-20 July)

The 2024 Northern National Exhibition will be held at York on 19-20 July 2024.

Entry is through the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk and by following the Exhibitions menu to Register yourself or enter an exhibit in the Exhibiting section of the ABPS website. Entry is only possible by registering online.

Entries for the 2024 National Competition in York in July are still being accepted. You can enter from the ABPS Exhibiting Page on the website. The York event will also feature the Inter-federation Competitions.

Following the success of the recent competitions, held at the Royal Philatelic Society London, where around 400 people visited the exhibits, the exercise will be repeated in 2025 from 27th February to 1st March.

The event will be known as the “ABPS Spring National Exhibition”. Another competition will be held during the York Stamp Fair in July 2025, where the lead Society will be the German & Colonies Philatelic Society. Enquiries to: exhibiting@abps.org.uk.

ZOOM MEETINGS

Some Societies hold regular meetings on Zoom and welcome visitors. I am pleased to share details of those that have shared their information. Thankyou.

Details of speakers who are prepared to give displays via Zoom can be found on the ABPS website by doing a search of “Zoom” on the Speakers page.

INVITATIONS TO ZOOM MEETINGS

ABPS would also like to compile a list of Societies that have a ZOOM programme. If you do so, please email pr@abps.org.uk

We are pleased to share details of those Societies who invite wider attendance at their Zoom Meetings, are below:

This is to inform you that the **Sheffield Philatelic Society** hosts one meeting a month via Zoom. This is on the first Thursday of every month except for August. All are welcome to attend.

This Zoom meeting is in addition to two in-person meetings a month which are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, except for August and the meeting on the fourth Wednesday in December.

Details of programmes and dates may be found on the Society's website www.sheffielddps.org.uk. James H. Grayson, Secretary, Sheffield Philatelic Society

Southampton & District Philatelic Society has an established Zoom programme with meetings on the last Tuesday of the month.

Meetings for 2024 are included in the overall programme: <http://www.southamptondps.org.uk/meetings.html>

and video recordings of most past meetings are listed here: <http://www.southamptondps.org.uk/avideolibrary.html>

Dawlish Stamp Club has been holding monthly meetings on Zoom since the first Covid lockdown. They have a new programme, starting in May, in preparation. Zoom meetings are generally held at 19:00 GMT on the third Wednesday of each month

For more information, contact Robin Buchanan at rgybuchanan@btinternet.com

Harrogate Philatelic Society is continuing its Zoom meetings - usually the first or second Friday evening of each month (avoiding our physical meetings).

We open at 7pm and chat, then single or multiple displays on the chosen theme follow at 7.30. We end with more chat - very sociable.

Contact harrogateps@gmail.com for the link and see the Harrogate PS website (via ABPS or YPA) for the programme and other details.

CALLING ALL SOCIETY SPEAKERS

If you are a Society Speaker and would like to add your details to the ABPS website, you can do so by going directly to the Speakers section of the ABPS website and complete the form by clicking on "Add your details to our Speakers database here". There is generally a shortage of speakers for Societies and you will be greatly assisting Programme Secretaries by adding your personal details to the website.

FEDERATION LIAISON OFFICER

DAPHNE McMILLAN has now taken on this role.

Daphne is particularly interested in how the ABPS may support Federations to develop and get more out of their websites. Email: mcmillandaphne@yahoo.co.uk

EXHIBITING

Full details of all opportunities to take part in both national and international stamp exhibitions can be found in the Exhibiting section of the ABPS website.

EUROPHILEX 2025



A full European International Exhibition, under the auspices of FEPA with FIP Patronage, will take place at the NEC, Birmingham, from 7th to 11th May 2025.

<https://europhilex2025.co.uk>

The Chairman of the organizing Committee is Jon Aitchison.

Individuals and trade organisations can support the event as Sponsors.

You can also become a Supporter or Patron with a range of exclusive benefits. Full details can be found on the website.

ABPS AWARDS



Congress Medal



The Congress Medal 2024 has been awarded to E W L (Bill) Hedley, FRPSL. Many congratulations on an outstanding record.

Full details can be found in the Awards section of the ABPS website.

The Awards Committee invites nominations for both the Awards of Merit and the Congress Medal for 2025 by 31st March 2025.

See the website for nomination forms and full details of the Award of Merit and Congress Medal.

SUPPORT ABPS BY BECOMING A FRIEND OR PATRON

If you are active in the world of philately and want to play a direct part in supporting the hobby today and in the future, please think about becoming a Patron or Friend of ABPS. You will receive personal copies of ABPS News, an ABPS badge, be featured on the website. Most importantly, you will be contributing to the growth of the hobby in the UK.

For more information, go to the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk

ABPS SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

The ABPS is always there to help! If you are planning a local event to promote philately and may need financial assistance, please have a look at this scheme on our website as you may be eligible for a grant.

In particular, there may be some small societies of less than ten members who made need financial help to keep going. ABPS is very willing to consider financial support.

Recent grants have included support for AV equipment and lighting for society frames. The maximum grant is £250.

CALLING ALL STAMP EVENT ORGANISERS

The new website of the ABPS provides the opportunity for organisers of philatelic events such as Stamp Fairs, Philatelic Exhibitions, Society Weekends and Regional Society Meetings, to promote their events free of charge. It is also a chance, if you are planning an event, to check that it does not clash with anything else.

You can request an event to be added to the ABPS Events Calendar directly on the website. Entries will then be checked by the administrator and approved.

Go to <https://www.abps.org.uk/request-event-addition/>

MAKE SURE YOUR SOCIETY LOOKS GOOD ON THE NEW ABPS WEBSITE

Our website has received some very positive feedback so far but we know there is more that can be done. It is the same address www.abps.org.uk

It is on a new platform and includes all the usual information about ABPS news and activities. **It now also includes a searchable list of speakers, judges and an events calendar.**

If you are a speaker or judge or an event organizer, please check the information on the website and advise us of any corrections, updates or additions.

If you are a Society or Speaker, you can add some pictures of your meetings or displays to create attractive content.

If you have any images of your local Society, events or seminars etc. that you think might enhance the website please send them to the PR Manager at pr@abps.org.uk

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO GIVE YOUR COMMENTS,

Please contact those mentioned above, or E-mail: secretary@abps.org.uk

Any feedback or ideas, or if you would like to help, please contact our Chairman, Steve Harrison, ABPS, by emailing him at sharrison500@btinternet.com or by calling him on 0121 313 0671.

The postal address for all ABPS correspondence is: ABPS, 15 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 7BW