

Meeting report.

The second part of something beginning with Q or R was started off by John Pettit with The Royal National Lifeboat Institute, Started some 150 years ago by General William Hillary of the Isle of Man and some friends, it was then and still is now supported only by donations and flag days. Sir William was himself once Coxswain of the Ramsey life boat. Johns story was centred on two stations Cromer and Harwich ,his display used covers and photographs and included some of the early boats that were rowing manned by 16 men who could be out for up to 24 hours (all of which were volunteers). Some of the items shown were covered the life of Henry Blogs of Cromer once described as the bravest man alive who received three gold medals the lifeboat men's Victoria Cross. Johns visit to Harwich included photographs of the new class 7 boat numbered 445 the 44 being the length of the boat and 5 the number of boats made.

Dennis Sales used redirected mail as his theme for the evening using covers to explain the stories, one from Canada that took 22 days to go 33 miles due to charge of address an other sent wrongly to his sister in Ipswich with a different post code was returned to her twice after being reposted Dennis himself reposted it in Billericay and it still went back to his sister. one cover without name or address was surcharged 2d for non delivery an other letter from Canada in about 1860 had two one cent coins attached to make up the postage. Two other covers he showed one from America to Swansea was redirected from Belize the other letter from London to Canada went to Malaysia first.

Royalty was chosen by both Bill Leeds and

And Gary Green cane just a few days after the Queen Mothers death both showed stamp portraying her. Bill also included the centennial issue of great Britain from 1940 miniature sheets of the Queens 25th Coronation anniversary from France and Cook Islands and the recently issued £3 Jersey Golden Jubilee issue miniature sheet with a block of 4. Gary also showed a mini. Sheet from the Isle of Man issued for the Queens Golden Wedding.

Maggie Thompson (it was good to see Jim back after his recent illness) chose Rocket Mail for her part of the evening starting in 1928 when Fredrick Schmeil tried to start a rocket off using a balloon Maggie had a cover from this event, a two part rocket next was a cover from a two part rocket that the letters carried on one part cost more than the other part .A giant catapult was used in 1933 to set the rocket on its way. Imperf stamps were seen cut from sheet on covers from Great Britain and Italy from 1934, and from France, Belgium and Austria from 1935, and the United States in 1936 who tried to send five rockets to Mexico the first travelled some 100 yards the next hit a building and two got lost. After the war a number of European countries again tried with rockets and a number of covers from this time were shown.

Chris Cooksey completed the evening with commemorative issues of Rhodesia. Starting with the first issue after the unilateral declaration of independence by the Ian Smith government in 1965. Prior to this Harrison and co produced all Rhodesian stamps, the imposed embargo prevented then from continuing them from continuing. The stamps were produced by Marden Printers of Salisbury in lithography. Their inexperience in this field is seen in the early issues but Quickly improved. All the commemorative issues between 1966 and 1978 were shown. PS in the last issue I said that Chris

Had lived in Rhodesia this was not correct he has been a long time member of the Rhodesian study circle.

The Post Office will make these issues this year

16 July *The Commonwealth Games*
10 September *London Bridges.*
24 September *Astronomy*
8 October *Pillar Boxes*
5 November *Christmas.*

The Occupation of the Channel Islands part V.

In this final part I write about the work of the invaluable Red Cross, shortly after the fall of France a system of contacts were set up between the Red Cross and Germany where by a letter could be sent from the islands to Britain. They would go to an authorised office and have a message of 25 words written on a form, this form would be sent to France for censoring ten given to the Red Cross and taken to Switzerland, and from there to Lisbon.

It was then put on a ship calling at a south of England port. It was taken to London again for censoring from there to a message centre near to the addressee, a card was then sent to that person asking them to come to the office, there a reply could be written on the back of the form and it then go back to the islands on the reverse route sometimes taking a year to do the round journey.

After the deportation of British Nationals in 1942 the red cross again helped the detainees with regular visits and food parcels right up to liberation and in fact some prisoners sent cigarettes and chocolate back to the islands.

The second front from 6 June 1944 bypassed the islands and in the later months of that year supplies to the islands was cut off

And the population near to starving, again the Red Cross got an agreement with the Germans to supply food parcels to the people.

On the 27 December the steam ship "VIGA" arrived with 100,000 parcel mainly donated by Canada, the Viga made other trips up to liberation on 9 May 1945 and it could be said that to their credit that the Germans who were starving themselves never took any of these parcels.

Some time after the liberation the islands collect and sent to the Red Cross several hundred thousand pounds in thanks for their help during the war time.

This is the final instalment of this story that I put together while I was collecting for my Occupation collection. I hope you have enjoyed reading it and would like to ask that if you have a story I could use please let me have it for future Newsletters.

Meeting report. Visit from Chelmsford and district PS.

The British Empire Exhibition 1924/5 was Ray Goddey's start to the evening with an aerial photograph of the site used for it.

This was followed with a number of covers with cachet slogans advertising the event not only from the UK but also from Australia and India, after came stamps from 1924 in singles and blocks one of which was of 15 stamps there was also a pair overprinted cancelled together with a block with the N flaw. Post and letter cards from the exhibition followed both used and unused with a number of promotional labels by Waterlows next was an express registered cover and last day covers. The display of the 1925 exhibition was similar to the 1924 but included a number of mementos that included an engraved mug, a medal, a brooch and a salt and pepper set all carrying emblems of the events.



Dave and Jenny Perry with members at a recent open evening



Members with Denis Livermore at the same meeting with my thumb.



Ray Goddey with his British Empire 1924/5 display.

Pat Adams was next with a study of Norway with a mainly used collection of early coats of arms issues mainly collected for there postmarks from the numerous post office in Norway and the surrounding islands. The first issue of the post horn stamps from 1873 was next shown this is the world longest running definitive and is still running. Next up was a great number of photographs. A British Channel fleet visited in 1909 and some covers and cards that were sent home by the sailors were on show, a visit from an English flotilla became regular and covers from later dates followed on. Pat continued with a number of T P O covers from trains and ships.

The railway across the country was built in bits and pieces and Pat said that she has travelled on it and displayed a number of photographs taken both during and after construction. She completed her display with covers franked at stations along the

The last to display was Dennis Healy who has unfortunately passed away still his evening with us and so this will as an Obituary to him. Dennis was a long time collector and dealer at fairs also a member of Chelmsford and other clubs he will be missed.

His display was of the stamps of Australia up to 1980 opening with a fine array of the Kangaroo and map issue with some of the higher values up to the £2 overprinted specimen. A large display of king George V heads followed they were one of Dennis's special collecting themes.

All the other early issues were shown including two copies of the 5/- Sidney harbour Bridge he said that the display was taken straight out of his album and included the elusive Australian Women set and both mint and used sets of the Explorers in imperial and decimal currencies.



Would you have items you would like to sell, swap, or need then why not use this Newsletter, if there is something you would like to find out about again this could be done there is no charge and an other member may be able to help, please let me know and I will put your telephone number on a page of the next news letter.

Guernsey issues to come this year.

30 July *Sark Holidays*
Brig Le Patourel VC
Le Casquets (Alderney)

17 October *Christmas 2002*
Community Services Part 2 (Ald.)

Jersey Issues this Year

8 August *Centenary of the Battle of Flowers*

12 October *Jersey Cats 11*

23 November *Postal History (post boxes)*

Isle of Man issues this Year.

1 July *Paul McCartney*
30 August *Photographs (island rate)*
? " *(UK rate)*
Christmas

Society Meetings

1 July *Arthur Hobbs returns with*
Canada?

16 July *The committee entertains*

5 August *Barry Lobel entertains*

20 August *One page competition*

2 September *informal night with deal-*
ers

17 September *Ladies night.*

7 October ***AUCTION NIGHT.***

Please note

Lotting sheets for the Auction must be
received by 5 August and lots by 17
September.

AGM NEWS

Paul Hayden has been appointed as Treasurer
His address for your subs is
24 Somerset Gardens
Pitsea
Basildon
Essex SS13 3JJ.

When paying your subs to him please enclose
a second class stamp for him to send you your
meetings card.

Subscriptions remain the same at £2 up to 18
years old, £8 00 for members between 18 and
60 and £5 for over 60's and are now due.
They may be paid at meetings, with your
packet returns or direct to Paul.

ABPS Membership Cards are being sent with
this letter there are some benefits please see
Alan who has the details.

OTHER AGM SNIPPETS

Alec McGrattan stood down from the
Committee as an Ordinary Member,
David Church will take his place.

Steve Alpe was elected to the Committee
as Assistant Secretary

David Church was voted to a Honourary
Life Member

Society Personality of the Year was
Pat Harris

The Date of the Next AGM will be
17th June 2003