



2026 A. G. M.

AGENDA

and

**SOCIETY OFFICERS
REPORTS**

for 2025

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
89TH A.G.M. – 7TH April 2026

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Notice of Any Other Business
4. Minutes of the 88TH A.G.M. April 2025
5. Matters Arising from 2025 Minutes
6. Chairman's Report
7. President's Report
8. Treasurer's Report
9. Secretary's Report
10. Auction Manager's Report
11. Packet Manager's Report
12. Membership Secretary's Report
13. Librarian's Report
14. Postmark Editor, Archivist & Curator's Report
15. Programme Secretary's Report
16. Zoom Coordinator's Report
17. Facebook Coordinator's Report
18. Amendments to Society's Rules
19. Officers in post as at 2026 A.G.M.
20. Election of Officers for 2026/2027
21. Appointment of Society Auditor
22. Any Other Business

Item 1. Chairman's Welcome

Item 2. Apologies

Item 3. Notice of Any Other Business

Item 4. Minutes of the 2025 A.G.M.

See Appendix

Item 5. Matters Arising from 2025 Minutes

Item 6. Chairman's Report – Kevin Chard

2025 was another year of change for the Society. We have changed the venue for Tuesday evening meetings to Holy Saviour Church in Bitterne and that is now settled as our venue. It has some storage that allows us to run our Auctions and there is plenty of car parking nearby.

Attendances are lower across all our meetings but I think we just have to accept that is a product of the ageing membership and that some are now unable to attend for health reasons. That said, I would encourage all that can to give the Tuesday meeting a go – meetings are far less formal than in the past and I think the set-up plays a part in that.

The 2025 AGM was a lively affair and we made decisions about membership fees. Steve will cover this in detail; I will just say that this has been a success that will secure our financial future and make us less reliant on auction and packet proceeds.

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to extend thanks to all those who contribute to all things that make the Society function – all the committee members and officers but also those that assist with meeting set up, raffles, etc. True team effort. As with all things in life, we focus on the struggles and don't always stand back to appreciate all the good things that are happening. There are a lot of aspects to our Society and it offers much to those interested in our hobby.

We do still have two challenges to overcome. We would appreciate more volunteers for the committee / officer roles in the Society; we do need to spread the workload and think about succession in some roles. If you are interested in any aspect of running the Society, please let me know.

The second challenge is storage – the issues are far less than in the recent past when we needed a garage or similar space. We need somewhere to house the Library, which will soon fit in just 1 cabinet. Again, let me know if you can help.

I have not separated my Auction Manager report as it is entwined with the broader aspects of the Chairman report. We now have an established programme – 3 evening auctions supported by 2 members only events. Costs will reduce with digital membership and I am confident proceeds will be stable / build slightly in 2026. The February Auction was a good start, April is full of new material and we already have some exciting material for June.

Enjoy 2026 as a member of the Society, there are a lot of good things happening.

Item 7. President's Report – Julian Jones

Once more I wish to praise the committee team for keeping the Society's show on the road. What may seem smooth and serene has required a great deal of unseen pedalling under the surface.

We have enjoyed a broad programme of speakers both in person and on Zoom together with face to face member meetings where we can share our collections with each other, sell items to each other and simply just chat over coffee. In addition, many members still partake in the packet and in our auctions.

But I ask you, how much longer can this go on without matching support from members to participate and take on some of the organisational roles? Please be prepared to step up.

Item 8. Treasurer's Report – Mike Watts

The Balance Sheet and Revenue Account for 2025 are included as part of this report.

For the year ending 31st December 2025 the Society incurred a financial deficit of £708 (compared with a deficit of £1139 in 2024.)

Income was down from £4975 to £4495.

Most income categories showed a fall, the most significant being auction income, and in 2024 income was inflated by the release of £172 from a suspense account which was set up to provide for unbilled room hire costs from 2023. Packet income bucked the trend and increased by £166.

Expenditure was down from £6114 to £5203.

The most significant reductions in costs were as a result in producing only three editions of Postmark in 2025, and in 2024 expenditure was inflated by one off costs of £320 as a result of the Society's involvement in the ABPS Congress which was held in Southampton.

It is difficult to predict a financial result for 2026 as a significant part of the Society's income arises from auction and packet activity and this very much depends upon the quality and amount of material received. However with the increase in membership subscriptions it is anticipated the accounts should show a small surplus.

Bank Charges

In the autumn of 2025 Santander announced it would be introducing a service charge for Society and Unincorporated Association bank accounts of £4.99 a month from November 2025. We did think of shopping around other banks, but this would have been hassle to members having to change their standing orders if we did move. Also we know some other banks already have these charges and it probably won't be long before they all do. Santander generally does give us a good service.

HMRC/Corporation Tax

Any income the Society receives which does not come directly from its members does have a theoretical Corporation Tax liability. With the increase in bank deposit account interest we have had to register with HMRC. Failure to do so could have resulted in financial penalties far in excess of the very small amount of tax on this income source. HMRC has confirmed it is treating the Society as "dormant" because of the small amounts involved. This means they do not want to hear from us for the next five years unless our financial situation significantly changes.

**SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

	2024	2025
CURRENT ASSETS		
<i>Deposit Account:</i>		
General Account	12670	12837
<i>Cash at Bank and in hand:</i>		
General Account	6460	6014
Exchange Packet Account	6522	5488
Prepaid Expenses	72	72
Sub Total	25724	24411
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
<i>Creditors:</i>		
Subscriptions Received in Advance	160	405
Amounts owing to Auction Vendors	433	1103
Exchange Packet account	6522	5488
Sub Total	7115	6996
NET CURRENT ASSETS	18609	17415
NON-CASH ASSETS		
Library and Equipment, after depreciation	466	308
Postal History collection	1371	1371
Mint GB Stamps for Postage	1	645
Sub Total	1838	2324
TOTAL ASSETS	20447	19739
<i>Represented by:</i>		
ACCUMULATED GENERAL FUND B/Fwd	21586	20447
Deduct Deficit for 2024	-1139	
Deduct Deficit for 2025		-708
GENERAL FUND CARRIED FORWARD	20447	19739

I have examined the books, records and vouchers presented to me by the Society's Treasurer and the Packet Manager. I have carried out such tests and checks that I deemed necessary. I confirm the Balance Sheet, Revenue Account and Supporting Schedules agree with the records supplied.

P J Jones 5/3/26

Peter Jones FCMA

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

RECEIPTS	2024	2025
Annual Subscriptions	1457	1417
Raffle Proceeds	461	439
Auction Income	1779	1473
Packet Sales Income	446	612
Interest Received	188	167
Surplus from Refreshments	133	111
Donations	339	276
Income Released from Suspense Accounts	172	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	4975	4495
EXPENDITURE		
Venue Hire	2848	3000
Philatelic Subscriptions	304	256
Speakers' and Judges' Expenses	342	299
Postmark	1122	770
Insurance Premiums	194	142
Engraving	30	0
Copying/Printing and Stationery	318	128
Miscellaneous Postage	42	1
Sundry Expenditure	11	0
Social Events	392	375
Depreciation of Non Cash Assets	2	8
Bank Charges	0	10
Website and Zoom Costs	189	214
ABPS Congress Costs	320	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	6114	5203
2024 Deficit deducted from General Funds	1139	
2025 Deficit deducted from General Funds		708
	4975	4495
	4975	4495

Item 9. Secretary's Report – Cathy Bruce

Item 10. Auction Manager's Report – Kevin Chard

See Item 6

Item 11. Packet Manager's Report – Mel Bradshaw

As anticipated the packet results for 2025 were an improvement over 2024. Nineteen circuit boxes were audited and paid during 2025, compared with sixteen the previous year. Sales from these boxes amounted to £8,618.96, with commission payable to the society of £862.11. A further £59.22 was paid to the society through the Associate Membership Subscription levy and member donations from packet sales. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of the packet system-whether by submitting booklets or purchasing from booklets on the circuit. We are fortunate that compared with

many other societies the number of members receiving the packets is still well over 50, including those on the Isle of Wight.

During the year additional boxes were circulated on the Isle of Wight and, owing to the strong sales on the island, all boxes now complete all three circuits based on Southampton and the island. This of course means that the boxes take longer between their initial production and final audit for payment. We were fortunate to receive a supply of new, slightly smaller boxes and this has allowed for more boxes to be in circulation.

It is anticipated that results for 2026 will improve again, even allowing for the extra time owing to the island circulation. Members from the island now contribute occasional boxes for circulation around our Southampton circuits. One has recently been audited with sales exceeding £400. A total of three boxes has been audited and paid, with sales of £1387.61 with commission of £138.78, non-member levy of £5.53. Four boxes are due for audit and payment shortly, with sales in these boxes exceeding £1445.

Thank you everyone for your support.

Item 12. Membership Secretary's Report – Steve Blundell

Congratulations are due to the membership for a very positive response to the changes to subscriptions for 2026. Most members have reacted to these changes with their correct subscription moneys. We now have 74 members who have requested digital membership and 57 members who have requested postal membership. As a reminder, the only difference in membership type lies in the reception of Postmark and auction lists, digital members will view on-line, postal members will receive printed items in the post as before.

A small number of members have regretfully declined to renew. I have talked with many who have cited ill-health. The message is always that we are sorry to see them go, that they remain welcome to rejoin if their health improves and if they wish to come along to any future meeting (including Zoom) they are very welcome and if they need assistance, we will try to provide.

Following the successful Christmas Lunch at Southampton College, we will hopefully set up a repeat event, this time in better weather. Please watch out for the email invitations.

Congratulations again.

Item 13. Librarian's Report – Reg Sheppard

Item 14. Postmark Editor, Archivist & Curator's Report – Steven Gerrard

I have no updates for the archives and postal history as nothing has happened over past year and the archives are updated after committee meetings.

As for Postmark is going OK but I am getting very little input from the 130 members and it is getting harder to keep postmark content interesting which will lead to reduced pages and quality.

Item 15. Programme Secretary's Report - Patrick Austin

Item 16. Zoom Coordinator's Report - Malcolm Coe

With regret I can only echo last year's report – that attendance at the Zoom meetings has been poor by SDPS members – typically just 5-6 when we have, I believe 130 members. Attendance at these meetings by non-SDPS members remains steady at 12-15.

I do find it increasingly embarrassing that I have invited top philatelists to give up their time when there seems to be so little interest amongst our members. I don't know why numbers are now so low – I get no feedback from any members despite repeated requests in both Postmark and via email. I have explored a wide range of topics over the last couple of years – stamps, postal history, themes etc but attendance has pretty much always remained the same. Even the January members-only zoom barely crept into double figures.

I have now reached the point that I wish to step down from running Zoom meetings. I have been doing it for over 4 years and hosted 40+ meetings. So the SDPS either needs to find someone else to pick up this baton, or quietly end this component of our activity. Nationally there are other societies that offer zoom meetings to all, the focus through SEEOPS is particularly good at distributing talk announcements. So SDPS members can, if they wish, continue to find zoom meetings of interest though these channels.

The next financial payment (~£156) is due in early July so a decision should be made as to whether the subscription is renewed. Technically we have speakers booked for July, Sept, Oct & Nov that I would have to contact if we are to end this activity at that time.
If nothing else, I personally have enjoyed many talks by excellent speakers and we have built up an excellent video library that all SDPS members can enjoy into the future.

Item 17. Facebook Coordinator's Report -Symon Borys

Item 18. Amendments to the Society's Rules

Item 19. Officers in post as at 2026 A.G.M

President	Julian Jones
Vice President	Mel Bradshaw
Chairman	Kevin Chard
Vice Chairman	Mike Watts
Hon Treasurer	Mike Watts
Auction Manager	Kevin Chard
Membership Secretary	Steve Blundell
Secretary	Cathy Bruce
Chandler's Ford Convenor	Peter Bruce
Packet Manager	Mel Bradshaw
Hon Asst Treasurer	Debbie Hindson
Programme Secretary	Patrick Austin
Society Archivist	Steve Gerrard
Curator of Society Collection	Steve Gerrard
Librarian	Reg Sheppard
Hampshire Federation Rep	Steve Gerrard
Postmark Editor	Steve Gerrard
Zoom Coordinator	Malcolm Coe
Facebook Coordinator	Szymon Borys

Item 20 Election of Officers for 2026/2027

Item 21. Appointment of Society Auditor

Item 22. Any Other Business

Interval: Coffee and Tea,

Followed by Members' Queries and Recent Acquisitions

APPENDIX

**SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT
PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Minutes of the 88th Annual General Meeting
15th April 2025**

Attending: Kevin Chard (Chairman) plus 17 Members.

Item 1. Chairman's Welcome

Kevin announced the sad death of member Gerry McGuire. He thanked the attendees for coming and forming a quorum, also thanking the committee, officers and helpers. Steve Blundell informed us that member Anne Roberts is seriously ill in hospital.

Item 2. Apologies

Five apologies received.

Item 3. Notice of Any Other Business

None

Item 4. Minutes of the 2024 A.G.M.

Booklets distributed, minutes accepted and signed.

Item 5. Matters Arising from 2024 Minutes

Volunteers did come forward to attend the APBS conference in Southampton.

Alan Blakey thanked the committee for their good work, Kevin appreciated this.

Item 6. Chairman's Report – Kevin Chard

As I write my summary for 2024 my mind turns first to Tuesday evening venue, changes to that venue and the challenges faced – no change then to 2023!

Tuesday evening meeting venue changed to Bursledon in 2024 but we were unable to secure any storage space at the venue and attendance figures were low. The venue itself was good, but we have decided to move to Holy Saviour Church in Bitterne for (hopefully) ease of location and because we now have some storage space. The venue facilities are good but we need longer to assess how the change will affect attendee numbers.

The Society is far more than Tuesday evening meetings – our Thursday Chandler's Ford and Zoom meeting programmes continue to flourish and have been far less traumatic. My thanks to Pete Bruce and Malcolm Coe for all their efforts.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend those thanks to all those who contribute to all things that make the Society function – all the committee members and officers but also those that assist with meeting set up, raffles, etc. True team effort. As with all things in life, we focus on the struggles and don't always stand back to appreciate all the good things that are happening. There are a lot of aspects to our Society and it offers much to those interested in our hobby.

That said, we could do with more volunteers for the committee / officer roles in the Society. If you are interested in any aspect of running the Society, please let me know – we could do with more flexibility to cope with what life can throw at us. Steve Gerrard will touch on some immediate issues in his report.

In 2024 we suffered from reduced Auction and Packet revenues – one through dealing with storage issues / clearing a backlog of material, the other from ill health. These concerns are now behind us, although we have reduced the number of evening auctions to 3 to ease the time burden.

We rely on these revenues financially and ran with a deficit in 2024 because of these issues. This is not sustainable. We intend to make changes to the membership fee from 2026. The aim is that the membership fee will cover our running costs.

We can then use any profits made from the Auction / Packet to pay for more exciting aspects – social events, trips, raffle prizes, conferences, etc. The financial proposals will be covered in the Treasurer report.

I have not separated my Auction Manager report as it is entwined with the broader aspects of the Chairman report. I am optimistic for 2025 – our first Tuesday Auction at Bitterne was a success and the room attendance and bidding was good and great fun. Don't miss out on attending in June. We also had a successful Saturday Auction at Chandler's Ford – my thanks to Pete Bruce for organizing another great event.

Kevin also mentioned that the Bitterne church will have its own car park later this year.

Item 7. President's Report – Julian Jones

Once more I am delighted to write in support of the excellent work of your committee through another challenging year. Firstly Mike Watts and Kevin Chard have worked hard to find a suitable venue that can be reached by more Southampton members who need to use public transport to attend the Tuesday evening meetings. The new venue at Bitterne seems to tick all the boxes. Along with this, Patrick Austin has put together another excellent programme of varied speakers of high calibre. And, for those who don't wish to travel at all, Malcolm Coe has an equally interesting programme of good speakers available live on Zoom and then via YouTube. I urge members to support all of these events as regularly as they can to ensure that we can continue to attract good speakers. Peter and Cathy Bruce, meanwhile, maintain a stimulating Thursday afternoon meeting at Chandler's Ford for those who particularly prefer to drive in daylight. This supports a good audience and plenty of 'show and tell' by the attendees.

So, something, I believe for everyone, including the members who just support the auctions, run by Kevin with member help on the day, and the Raffle run by Mel Bradshaw all on his own. It is a truly team effort. Thanks to everyone

Amendment to final sentence: "Silent auction run by Mel Bradshaw and raffle run by Dave Lewis.

Item 8. Treasurer's Report – Mike Watts

The balance sheet and revenue accounts are included as part of this report showing the Society's financial position for 2024.

The difference between the 2023 and 2024 venue hire costs needs explanation. We were not invoiced for Bugle Street 2023 room hire until 2024 (despite chasing on our part.) A provision of £1,500 was made in the 2023 accounts for this. Storage costs were higher in 2024 as the logistics of moving material to different sites resulted in the society having more than one site for part of the year, one of which was liable to VAT which added a further £120.00 to the cost.

The other figures should be self-explanatory but I would be glad to answer any questions from members either before, or at the meeting.

Due to printing deadlines the balance sheet does not bear a copy of our auditor's signature however our auditor has agreed the figures and a signed copy of the accounts will be available for inspection at the AGM.

Increase in Annual Subscription Rate

It has been 19 years since the last increase in our subscription rate. The cumulative rate of inflation from 2006 to 2025 is over 66%.

However circumstances are now such that the committee feels it is right to propose an increase.

Our costs are ever rising. Printing, postage, venue hire, insurance, speaker expenses, philatelic subscriptions, website hosting and more, have all increased considerably over this period. Added to this, new activities such as our on line Zoom meetings have been introduced. The purchase of a large stock of mint GB stamps at a discount has cushioned us from the recent and regular Royal Mail price increases. This stock has now been exhausted so unless we find another, we will be incurring the full cost of postage.

Our income has been significantly bolstered by our auction and circulation packet activities. We have benefitted from receiving some very good quality material over the last few years but this cannot always be guaranteed. Reliance on income from these sources to break even or produce a surplus puts pressure on those in the roles of auction and packet manager (which are very time consuming jobs).

The committee is therefore recommending that the new subscription rate proposed will be put at a level to cover our basic operating costs. Any income generated from auction and packet activities will be used to increase member benefits such as:-

- Subsidised or completely funded travel to philatelic events (e.g Stampex, Europhillex etc)
- Better quality social events.
- Possibly "star prizes" at our meeting raffles.
- Free refreshments at our meetings.

The committee is asking the AGM to approve the following:-

Full Membership - Includes mailing of hard copy communications such as Postmark, Auction Catalogues etc. £25 per annum

Digital Membership - All communications sent by e-mail. £15 per annum

Associate Membership - For members who only wish to sell through our auctions or packets. £10 per annum

It goes without saying that the committee appreciates members are facing increased day costs in many areas and it is not without much careful consideration that these new subscription rates are being proposed.

**SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

	2023	2024
CURRENT ASSETS		
Deposit Account – General Account	12482	12670
Cash at Bank and in hand:-		
General Account	8851	6460
Exchange Packet Account	4865	6522
Prepaid Expenses	79	72
Debtors	0	0
Sub Total	26277	25724
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors:-		
2023 St Joseph’s Room Hire Provision	1500	0
Subscriptions Received in Advance	260	160
Amounts owing to Auction Vendors	239	433
Sundry Creditors	97	0
Exchange Packet Account	4865	6522
Sub Total	6961	7115
NET CURRENT ASSETS	19316	18609
NON-CASH ASSETS		
Library and Equipment after depreciation	468	466
Postal History Collection	1371	1371
Mint GB Stamps for Postage	431	1
Sub Total	2270	1838
TOTAL ASSETS	21586	20447
REPRESENTED BY:-		
ACCUMULATED GENERAL FUND B/Fwd	20069	21586
Add Surplus for 2023	1517	
Deduct Deficit for 2024		1139
GENERAL FUND CARRIED FORWARD	21586	20447

I have examined the books, records and vouchers presented to me by the Society's

Treasurer and the Packet Manager. I have carried out such tests and checks that I deemed necessary. I confirm the Balance Sheet, Revenue Account and Supporting Schedules agree with the records supplied.
Peter Jones – FCMA

**SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 2024**

RECEIPTS	2023	2024
Annual Subscriptions	1574	1457
Raffle Proceeds	588	461
Auction Income	3259	1779
Packet Sales Income	845	446
Interest Received	118	188
Surplus from Refreshments	171	133
Donations	411	339
Income Released from Suspense Accounts	350	172
TOTAL RECEIPTS	7316	4975
EXPENDITURE		
Venue Hire	848	2848
Transfer to provision for St Joseph’s Room Hire	1500	0
Philatelic Subscriptions	290	304
Speakers’ and Judges’ Expenses	605	342
Postmark	1253	1122
Insurance Premiums	181	194
Engraving	90	30
Copying/Printing and Stationery	227	318
Miscellaneous Postage	25	42
Sundry Expenditure	10	11
Social Events	387	392
Depreciation of Non Cash Assets	6	2
Postal History, Library and Archive Costs	150	0
Website and Zoom Costs	227	189
ABPS Congress Costs	0	320
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5799	6114
2023 Surplus added to General Funds	1517	
2024 Deficit deducted from General Funds		1139
	7316	4975

- a. The accounts were signed by Peter Jones, his title should be independent examiner rather than auditor.
- b. Mike proposed a further category of membership, that additional members of the same family should only pay £5. Subscription increases generated a lot of discussion. Reg Shepherd

wished it to be Minuted that he had warned Kevin that the fees should be increased some time ago and held him responsible for the delay. Kevin pointed out that the whole committee had voted against this. The increase must be put carefully to the non-active members to justify and explain it, Kevin will write an article for Postmark.

- c. Increase and changes to the subscription rate proposed by Mike Watts and seconded by Kevin Chard, members voted for with one abstention.

Item 9. Secretary's Report – Cathy Bruce

The APBS had not updated their website with SDPS changes, to request again and withhold payment due soon until updates are made.

Thanks go to Pete for his help and support.

Item 10. Auction Manager's Report – Kevin Chard

See Item 6

Item 11. Competition Secretary – Alan Whittaker

No report. No formal competitions will be held due to lack of interest. It was pointed out that as Hampex has also dropped the competition no member can present at National level. Other Federations such as Dorset might accept entries. Discussion was generated on why members did not support the formal competition or respond to Julian's offer of a workshop, conclusion was it was too much effort, or starting a new collection was not wanted.

The informal competitions will continue.

Item 12. Packet Manager – Mel Bradshaw

The Packet Circuit did not have such a good year as 2023. Only 16 circuit boxes were audited and paid during 2024, compared with 24 the previous year. Sales from these boxes amounted to £6,953.55, with commission payable to the society of £695.57. A further £26.88 was paid to the society as the additional levy paid by non-members who submit booklets. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of the packet system, whether by submitting booklets or purchasing from booklets on the circuit. We are fortunate that compared with many other societies the number of members receiving the packets is still around 50, excluding those on the Isle of Wight.

The decrease in income was associated partly with my illness, which slowed down my ability to audit and pass on boxes to the next circuit. The decision was also made to increase the number of boxes which are taken to the Isle of Wight Stamp Club, owing to the good sales generated on the island. This of course means that these boxes take longer between their initial production and final audit for payment.

It is anticipated that results for 2025 will be much improved compared with 2024. Already 6 boxes have been audited and paid, with sales of £2996.22, with commission of £299.69, non-member levy of £15.37 and a donation of £22.34.

Thank you everyone for your support.

Mel was thanked for his contribution.

Item 13. Membership Secretary – Steve Blundell

There are currently 141 members. This is slightly reduced since the last AGM. There have been two new members. A few members have yet to pay their subscription for this year and we have, as yet, not been able to contact them. It specifically excludes some whose contact details are no longer valid. Sadly a very few members have passed and we have sent condolences from the society to their families.

Obtaining subscriptions has been particularly difficult this year, partly because of the more stringent bank security regimes. It would be particularly helpful if members could review their bank standing order instructions particularly if there is a change in the subscription for following years.

Kevin will write an article in Postmark to inform members of the subscription rise and request payment by Standing Order.

Item 14. Librarian – Reg Sheppard

Reg felt he had no role in the society as the library remained in Mike's garage. One cabinet may be allowed at the church for Southampton philately and postal history, the other items to be offered to the members, or to the central library or The Royal. Up to date catalogues are most frequently requested.

Item 15. Postmark, P.R.O., Archivist & Curator – Steven Gerrard

Postmark

A big change regarding Postmark is that there will only be 3 issues per year. April, August and December. I was intending standing down, but I have decided to carry on for 2 years and see how my health is going. So, to take some of the strain from me, Debbie Hindson has agreed to proof read Postmark and make changes where she sees fit. She will send a PDF copy to me and also to Mel to send it on to the printers.

PRO.

I am standing down as PRO at this AGM . I have carried this role out for 2 years and I have done what I could by sending out emails, letters etc but get very little or zero responses. Hopefully we will get a new PRO with more ideas.

Archivist

The Archives are up to date until end of 2024. We have a total of (3,800) scanned PDF files. The database is also up to date as of December 2024. Copies of the database will hopefully be available on the website and available direct by email from me.

I am currently continuing work previously carried out by Bryan Hunt. I have created an updated catalogue of Southampton Postal History from 1994 to 2025. Hopefully this will be available by the end of 2025.

Curator

Postal History Collection stored at Debbie's.

Updated spreadsheet to the end of 2024. Due to access issues to the collection, those items received have been added to the database and are stored at my home address. I receive very little material for the collection. Copies of the database will hopefully be available on the Website and available directly from me.

Members can give Steve a USB to have a list of postal history items available, return postage will be covered by the club. Data protection must be covered carefully when giving details of the archive. Thanks expressed to Steve from Kevin and attendees.

Item 16. Programme Manager - Patrick Austin

My aim has been to provide a varied programme with a range of topics and countries represented and to have a fair representation of lady speakers. Unfortunately, with regards to the latter, 2024 was not a success, however, 2025 will be different. The difficulty, as always, is that there is a limited pool of willing speakers within an evening's drive of Southampton. Juliet and I host where required, to allow a speaker to travel in daylight the following morning.

I would ask that if there are any topics that SDPS would wish to see presented, then please let me know and I will do my best to accommodate. I had no feedback in 2024, so I would be grateful if an email round robin could be put out to members asking for any suggestions.

I understand that the most interesting evening was "And I Still Don't Know What to Collect!" from Paul Latham-Warde in October. It is a pity that I was not able to attend.

The "thank you" email that is sent out after each speaker meeting is well received and this reflects positively on SDPS in the recruitment of new speakers.

Thank you, Mike, for sorting out expenses.

The 2024 Programme had a few problems with speakers being unwell and not being able to deliver their talk. Thank you to the club for rearranging topics at the last moment. One speaker did not turn up, or even apologise, which led to a cancelled evening. In contrast, the 2025 Programme is running smoothly with no problems to date.

I attended various other Philatelic Society meetings, hearing some good speakers who have displayed topics that I think would be of interest to SDPS. This is where the majority of the 2024 and 2025 speakers were found. This will continue in 2025, ready for 2026.

SDPS had one exchange visit from another club in 2024, being IoW Stamp Club. No visits have been arranged for 2025 as the interest for such appears to be low. I have in mind something different for 2026 that will still involve an exchange visit.

Approximately 20 members come to the Tuesday evening speaker meetings, so my view is that we are able to continue with the full speaker programme that we have had over the past years. If finding speakers becomes more challenging, in view of the increasing age of “stamp collectors”, and exchange visits are not able to fill the gaps, then I shall review.

Item 17. Zoom Coordinator - Malcolm Coe

We have zoom speakers booked for the whole of 2025, but I am very concerned about poor SDPS members attendance. At our last meeting (25 Feb) we only had 10 attendees in total – and only 5-6 were SDPS members, the others were guests. This has been typical over the last few meetings. I find it increasingly embarrassing that I have invited top philatelists to give up their time when there seems to be so little interest amongst our members. A year ago we were having 20-25 attendees on a regular basis.

I don't know why numbers are now so low – I get no feedback from any members despite repeated requests in both Postmark and via email. Maybe the choice of speakers/topics is unattractive, or maybe the time of day no longer appeals (I know several PSs run their zoom talks in the afternoons)? Or are people simply fed up using zoom?

So I have a proposal for going forward. The next financial payment (~£150) is due in June so we should decide by the end of May if we wish to continue. I propose we shut it down if numbers are not back up to 20+ on a regular basis between now and then (we have 3 talks booked in that interval). If this is agreed at the AGM then I will try once more to get feedback from members on topics/times, but based upon previous such attempts I am not optimistic.

I will have done this job for 3.5 years and enjoyed it very much. I have endeavoured to invite a vast range of speakers and, I believe, we have had some great talks. So, if nothing else, if we end this activity we will have built up an excellent video library that all SDPS members can enjoy into the future. Discussion generated why numbers were dropping and members present promised to watch the Zoom meeting and give their feedback.

Item 18. Facebook Manager -Symon Borys

No report, The website is not accessed much.

Item 19. Amendments to Society Rules

None proposed.

Item 20. Officers in post as at 2025 A.G.M

The President	Julian Jones
Vice President	Mel Bradshaw
Chairman	Kevin Chard
Vice-Chairman	Mike Watts
Hon Treasurer	Mike Watts
Auction Manager and Auctioneer	Kevin Chard
Hon Membership Secretary	Steve Blundell
Minutes Secretary	Cathy Bruce
Chandler's Ford Convener	Peter Bruce
Packet Manager	Mel Bradshaw
Hon Asst Treasurer	Debbie Hindson
Programme Secretary	Patrick Austin
Competition Secretary	Alan Whittaker
Society Archivist	Steve Gerrard
Curator of Society Collection	Steve Gerrard
Hampshire Federation Rep	Steve Gerrard
Postmark Editor	Steve Gerrard
Zoom Meeting Convener	Malcolm Coe

Item 21 Election of Officers for 2025/2026

The post of Public Relations Officer remains unfilled. The members were all happy with the current committee.

Item 22. Appointment of Society Auditor

Peter Jones will check the accounts again and Debbie Hindson will change his title to independent examiner.

Item 23. Any Other Business

- i. Promotion of the club through photographs displayed prominently was suggested.
- ii. A Christmas meal at the City College was requested, Kevin will ask Jim Rankin to reinstate this and asked Alan Blakey to get a date.

The meeting closed at 21.15 with Kevin thanking everyone for their contributions.

Signed By:

Position:

Date: