

Postmark

Issue

169

September

2026



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EDITOR'S COLUMN

by Steve Gerrard (sdpseditor@hotmail.co.uk)

August 2026

Another issue in which I have had to reduce the pages down to 16 as I only received 1 article for inclusion. There is no ZOOM article in this issue so I am hoping that in the next issue we will be brought up to date from March to December. The last 3 or 4 months have seen me having big issues with my health and a number of visits to my doctor and specialists at hospital. There is a small chance that in 2027 I may have to stand back from everything and hand over the reins to someone else but this will leave 3 vacant positions to fill. We must not lose the Curator/Archivist roles otherwise we will be taking 10 steps back and 1 or 2 forwards. Getting old is not fun but you can only do what you can and what your body lets you do. I have cataracts in both eyes so on the waiting list and hopefully both will be done before January 2027. As HAMPEX is no more, the Society has decided to have a table at the Salisbury Stamp and Postcard Fair. The last I heard was that there were 4 people attending Friday to be behind the table but we have no-one to cover Saturday. The Society has 2 display stands and there will be material related to the Society Postal History. Luckily, scans of the display are required and not original material as this might be an insurance issue if they were stolen. The dates are as follows; Friday, September 25 and Saturday, September 26.

There are a number of things that committee members will be discussing at the next committee meeting which hopefully will be in place over the coming months. There is the question of Tuesday meetings being held in the afternoons, as apposed to evenings, which may attract more members than currently attend evening meetings and I hope it will be introduced ready for the new 2027 programme when produced.

My sincere thanks go to all the following who have contributed to this issue, in alphabetical order (by surname): Bailey/Nicholas Blundell/Stephen Bradshaw/Mel Chard/Kevin Gerrard/Steve Jones/Julian Montgomery/Malcolm Watts/Mike

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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

by Kevin Chard

August 2026

What a summer! Whether you believe it was man-made or just natural fluctuation, there is no denying that we have had a very hot and dry summer. I imagine that means less time spent with stamp collections as we enjoyed or hid from the sun and the heat.

Of course, by the time you read this, we will probably have switched our moaning from the heat to the constant rainfall! One thing that doesn't change is our ability to moan about the weather.

The summer heat gave rise to a different reason / excuse (delete as applicable!) for not attending Society meetings and Steve Blundell has been canvassing members and writes in Postmark on this issue. Our aim is to ensure we have the best meeting formats that allows as many members as possible to get involved in this aspect of the Society. We need to balance that against cost – there is no point incurring the cost of meetings if only a few members attend.

With the cooler weather, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the autumn / winter meetings, especially at our October Auction – the catalogue for which accompanies this edition of Postmark.

Happy stamp collecting!

Kevin puts some valid points regarding attendance, as something has to be done to improve it. Good idea to change Tuesday night meetings to daytime. People often do not come to meetings at night as driving in the dark can be very difficult but, during the day, members are very busy with their lives shopping, visiting people, doctors and just the daily chores we have all got to do. So would changing to a daytime meeting benefit the Society?

Steve Gerrard (Editor)

IMPORTANT NOTICE - PLEASE REMEMBER TO INFORM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY IF YOU MOVE OR CHANGE / CANCEL YOUR E MAIL ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER ETC.

STEVE BLUNDELL - MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Steve Blundell (Membership Secretary)

August 2026

I will concentrate this report on the responses I have received following the committee's request for ideas to increase attendance at our regular meetings.

So thank you to those members who have responded. There were quite a few! I will try and summarise. If there are any other ideas, they are always welcome.

Meeting timings: Most responders thought that earlier meetings in the winter could be beneficial. We will look at next year's calendar and possibly have some meetings at Bitterne in the afternoon. I doubt we can do anything before then because speakers have already been arranged. There were no suggestions for moving the timing of Chandler's Ford meetings.

Meeting content: The informal "show and tell" content at Chandler's Ford was generally well received. It would be good if more people would show. The idea is that it starts conversations rather than needing a formal presentation. Similar meetings at Bitterne could be trialled.

At Bitterne, there were comments about some recent excellent presentations given with more modern display technology. Perhaps that could be linked with zoom so people who cannot make the meeting can join in.

More opportunities for buying, selling, swapping stamps at meetings might be attractive. Unsolds from the auctions are already on offer at potentially knock down prices.

There was an interesting suggestion from a member for an "accumulator" raffle. People attending a meeting could enter the accumulator and win a significant philatelic prize after an appropriate period.

Young memberships: Many responders pointed out that the general membership of all philatelic societies across the country were ageing. It is difficult to think of ways to counteract this - with communications being subsumed by on-line activities. Some responses suggested approaching other clubs, both philately UK & even overseas and also aligned interest

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Steve Blundell (Membership Secretary)

(Continued)

August 2026

groups, (history/geography) locally. Any members with school contacts or grandkids could make further welcome suggestions.

Alternative Collections: There is one meeting at Chandler's Ford during the year when members are invited to show other collections in addition to Philately. (I remember one showing metal detector finds - truly amazing). There is no interest in Pokeman cards (apart from my grandkids). AND they are at school in the afternoon and in bed in the evenings!

GERMANY & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY

by Steve Gerrard (Convenor)

August 2026

Are you Germany collector? Can you get to Chandler's Ford? We hold 4 meetings a year, Normally the first Saturday of the month in January, April, July and October. So our dates in 2027 are as follows:

Journal of the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society



2nd January 2027

3rd April 2027

3rd July 2027

2nd October 2027

Our meetings start at 1.30 and finish at 4.30 at St. Boniface Church, Hursley Road, Chandler's Ford. SO53 2FT. They are not formal just bring and show, similar to our Thursday afternoon meeting and free refreshments.

PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER

August 2026

September:

1st - Railways & Spitfire - Yvonne Wheatley FRPSL & Richard Wheatley FRPSL.

10th - Afternoon Meeting at Chandler's Ford.

15th - Members' evening and 16 sheets in 5 minutes.

29th - Video - Post Cards! Post Cards! Post Cards! - Graham Winters FRPSL.

October:

6th - The Postal History of Sark & Alderney - David Winnie FRPSL.

8th - Afternoon Meeting at Chandler's Ford.

20th - Auction.

27th - Video - Mail Along the Andes: Ecuador - Michael Gascoyne FRPSL.

November:

3rd - President's Evening: The Postal Stationary of the Orange Free State & the Orange River Colony - Mike Smith FRPSL.

12th - Afternoon Meeting at Chandler's Ford.

17th - Members' Letter 'H'.

24th - The Rise of the Flying Boats and the Empire Airmail Scheme - Sue Burn.

December:

1st - God's House - Len Yandell (S&DPS).

10th - Afternoon Meeting & Christmas Refreshments.

15th - No Meeting.

PAYING YOUR SUBS BY STANDING ORDER

by Mike Watts (Treasurer)

August 2026

The height of the summer is not usually the time when members will be thinking about paying their annual subs to the society (which are due on or by 1st January each year.)

Many members pay direct from their bank by standing order, although at the beginning of 2025 a number of these standing orders appeared to have been arbitrarily cancelled by the banks.

We tried to find out why but the society's bank said it was nothing to do with them and the members' banks which were contacted said it was nothing they had done!!

We now believe it is because of the banking system which automatically verifies recipients' bank account names against the sort code and account number. Previously this did not seem to apply to payments from existing standing orders but now it appears it does.

So, if you were affected and want to re-instate your standing order to the society (or set up a new one for the first time), the society bank details are as follows:-

ACCOUNT NAME: SOUTHAMPTON & DIST PHILATELIC SOCIETY

SORT CODE: 090152 ACCOUNT NUMBER: 25936801

The abbreviation of District to Dist is intentional as that is how it appears on the bank account.

(Please note this account should not be used for packet payments – a separate account is used for these, details of which are available from the Packet Manager or the Treasurer.)

To set up a standing order, just contact your bank using your usual preferred method.

If you wish, the Society can provide you with a form to complete and send to your bank.

PAYING YOUR SUBS BY STANDING ORDER

by Mike Watts (Treasurer) (Continued)

August 2026

Subscriptions for 2027 will remain unchanged at the following rates:-

Full membership - £25

(you will receive paper copies of Postmark, Auction Catalogues etc.)

Digital Membership - £15

(same benefits as full membership but you will receive digital copies of Postmark, Auction Catalogues etc.)

Additional Members living at the same household as Full or Digital members - £5 each

(Only one copy of each Postmark, Auction Catalogue etc. will be sent to each household.)

If you have any questions relating to any of the above, do contact me.

(023 80454131) mikewatts632@btinternet.com

BALLOON POST FLOWN 1991 & SIGNED
by Steve Gerrard (Editor)

August 2026



I have a number of collecting areas and police forces of the world is my side collection after Germany. This balloon flight cover for 1991 has everything I like. The Police connection, Mail carried in a balloon, Welver Stamp collecting club and signed by the pilots.

PACKET MANAGER'S REPORT

by Dr Mel Bradshaw

August 2026

Thirteen boxes have been audited and paid to date. Total sales in these boxes amounted to £5,853, with the Society receiving £608 in commission and non-member levy. Currently, twenty-seven boxes are either due to be audited and paid, or in circulation or prepared for circulation, including three boxes supplied by the Isle of Wight Society.

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, two based on Southampton and one on 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. Gradually the number of boxes in circulation has been increased and I have had a good response to the request for more booklets to be submitted. However, I still welcome further completed booklets.

It is vital that sales in booklets are clearly shown and the details transferred from booklets to payment slips and the master payment sheet in each box. Recently there have been errors in individual booklets where items signed for have not been entered on the front, errors in transfer from booklet to payment slip and errors in addition! Please do all you can to reduce the amount of work I have to do, and the amount of chasing up!

The payment slips are a vital record, and I continue to ask for these to be posted to me promptly. I hope you do not consider a second-class stamp roughly once a month is too onerous. I would rather not receive scans of slips as experience shows that these are not always clear (or never sent,) but if you do send a scan, please still let me have the original slip as well. If it helps, from the beginning of 2027, I will include an envelope for completed slips, in addition to the envelope for 'no purchase slips'.

Payment can always be made by bank transfer. If you wish to use this route let me know and I will supply the bank details for the Barclays packet account. Please note this account is not the same as the main club account, which is with Santander.

Thank you everyone for your support.

SOCIETY MEETINGS MAY TO AUGUST 2026

By Julian Jones (FRPSL)

August 2026

The May programme ended with a Zoom presentation “Short-lived airmail services in Southern England in the 1930s” by Malcolm Coe which drew a good audience of airmail focussed collectors and was enjoyed by all.

The first meeting in May saw members of the Isle of Wight Society cross the Solent to give four excellent and varied displays: Steve Print, The Jennifer Toombs Story; Simon Gardner, The Restoration of Haille Selassie; Roger Crew, The Story of Osborne House in postcards; Neville Carr, War Time Channel Islands.

Six Southampton members crossed to the IoW a week later. Displays were given by: Dave Lewis, Caribbean Stamps and Flaws ; Stephen Betteridge, Edward VIII; Julian Jones, USA West Coast Mail to GB 1849-1870 and Patrick Austin, Merchants' Correspondence. Reg Sheppard and Mike Robinson came to provide speaker support. The topics on display were enjoyed by a good turnout of appreciative IoW members.



SOCIETY MEETINGS MAY TO AUGUST 2026

By Julian Jones (FRPSL) (Continued)

August 2026

The first half of our 2026 programme finished with a zoom presentation on Isambard Kingdom Brunel and a face to face meeting display of Falkland Islands and South Georgia.

Barbara Booter gave us an energetic and detailed history of the life and achievements of IK Brunel covering not only his railway tunnels and bridges in UK but much lesser known activities in Europe and India as well as his ocean going steam ships. The talk was well illustrated with stamps, covers and ephemera.

Hugh Osborne, FRPSL, gave a superb display of covers illustrating the history of South Georgia and the South Shetland Islands with a rounding off of airmail covers to and from the Falkland Islands. Hugh showed a wide range of material and gave us an insight into whaling activities and how mail was carried to these remote islands.

NEW ITEM RECENTLY PURCHASED

By Steve Gerrard (Curator)

August 2026



I recently came across this while wandering around a charity shop and it was part of 20 FDCs costing £5.00. Very satisfying to find something in a charity shop that does not cost an arm and a leg and with a cancel for Eastleigh.

REQUEST FROM A MEMBER

by Steve Gerrard (Curator of our Postal History)

August 2026

One of our longer serving members, Beverly King, has asked if I can include Southampton Slogan Marks. So, as I have the Society Postal History Collection scanned on my laptop, I will have a look and then I can list a number each issue that some of you may well recognise?

I wanted to start the ball rolling as I have just come across the FDC for 'Moths'. There are some very nice images on the 5 x 2nd & 5 x 1st class stamps. It has a cancellation for 'Hedge End'. You do not find that many covers with the smaller post offices cancelled on FDC.



NEW MEMBER

By Nicholas Bailey (New Member)

August 2026

I've been a collector since before I knew it. (My grandfather sent my mother stamps from Germany for me as an investment until I was 16.) When I was old enough to join cub scouts, I collected match boxes (phillumenist) for my collectors badge. At 15 I started collecting aircraft registrations because our house in Southampton lay directly under 'Red one' flight path. When I married at 17.5 all collecting ceased, and the stamp collection went to pay for a new sofa. When I divorced at 22, I bought a camera and headed straight for Heathrow. Plane spotting became my primary hobby and business gave me plenty of travel opportunities to visit airports all over Europe, Scandinavia and USA. When I started planning my retirement, I decided to start collecting again, with QE2 First Day Covers being my initial investment. Covid turned the country on its head and made us all prisoners in our homes so I had to branch out into other stamps. Now I collect Europa (used), aircraft themed (used), German Bundespost, Commonwealth, QE2 (used) and Birds (used) for my long suffering wife. I believe we have skipped several generations of collectors that could benefit from our society, as well as a few 'closet' collectors that probably are unaware of our existence.

I'm looking forward to a long association with the SDPS.

SLOGAN CANCELLATION ~ 1946

By Steve Gerrard (Curator)

August 2026



SOUTHAMPTON - CENTRE OF THE WORLD

By Malcolm Montgomery MBE

August 2026

For some years I have been 'putting aside' covers than have been printed with directions, such as 'VIA SOUTHAMPTON'; not quite a collection, more a protest to collectors who presume that Liverpool had some claim to that title ... below are two examples. The covers I have accumulated appear both from the United Kingdom and from around the world, mainly in the second half of the 19th century and usually as a guide to which of a variety of routes the writer intended should be used, when prepayments might vary.

I have chosen covers of two letters as illustrations ... The first is a Greenock letter to Delhi, via



Southampton, 9th May 1860, paid with a sixpence stamp, and carried by 'Indus' and 'Bombay' to India, to the 4th Sikh Irregular Cavalry. The direction distinguishes the intended route from an alternative option, the slightly more expensive, but quicker, route via Marseilles. The letter arrived in Bombay on 10th June 1860.



SOUTHAMPTON - CENTRE OF THE WORLD

By Malcolm Montgomery MBE (Continued) August 2026

Because space is limited, and there are many examples of these covers and handstamps, I have suggested to the editor that I assemble a table of the examples I have (some are handstamps) and send a copy (either by paper or, preferably, by e-mail) to any reader interested – as I live in North Wales a visit here, although welcome, might be difficult but coffee would be provided.

Some examples:



OFFICERS OF THE SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Archivist	Steve Gerrard
Assistant Treasurer	Debbie Hindson
Auction Manager	Kevin Chard (01489 574834)
Chairman	Kevin Chard
Chandler's Ford Convenor	Peter Bruce
Facebook Co-ordinator	Szymon Borys
Librarian	Reg Sheppard
Membership Secretary	Steve Blundell
Packet Manager	Dr Mel Bradshaw (07973 696291)
Postmark Editor	Steve Gerrard
President	Julian Jones FRPSL
Programme Secretary	Patrick Austin
Public Relations Officer	VACANT
Secretary	Cathy Bruce
Society Postal History Keeper	Debbie Hindson
Treasurer	Mike Watts (02380 454131)
Vice Chairman	Mike Watts
Vice President	Dr Mel Bradshaw
ZOOM Co-ordinator	Malcolm Coe
S. & D. P. S.	www.southamptondps.org.uk

SUBMISSION DATES FOR POSTMARK 2027

January 2027	15th December 2026
May 2027	15th April 2027
September 2027	15th August 2027

Submissions to be received by the Editor by midnight on each date.