

The Chichester & District Philatelic Society Newsletter

  **November Edition 2025**  

News Editor: Martha Brown
Aided by Alan Green
& Heather Lawn

Russell Hill:- Butlins Holiday Camps & World War 2 **A most fascinating history!**

Member Russell Hill presented members with a good history of Butlins Holiday Camps during World War Two. There were five camps in total: Skegness, Clacton, Filey, Ayr and Pwllheli.

Billy Butlin had already completed Skegness and Clacton. By 1939 these two holiday camps were popular with visitors. However on 1st September 1939, the war was declared. The UK government required training camps for its raw recruits.

Billy Butlin made a lucrative deal with the government that he would construct a four holiday camps but after the war these must be returned to his company. The government agreed with his terms and conditions. Filey was already being constructed and with that completed it made up a third camp for the recruits.

Skegness was known as HMS Royal Arthur. Apparently the usage of 'HMS' was a ploy so the Germans would think the UK had a big ship in its fleet. They DID think this too, as history would prove! Skegness became a Royal Navy training 'ship' with tight security. There was a pool there already, so this, as well as the nearby sea, were used for boat training exercises.

Officers were housed at the nearby Butlins hotel called the Ingoldmells Hotel. Russell showed numerous postcards, with date cancels proving time, and photographs on each card. There was one card showing holiday-makers leaving the camp in an orderly fashion, while on the other side were the numerous men and women who were raw recruits. Maintenance was, it was agreed, carried out by Butlins tradesmen who kept things running smoothly.

Some 250,000 men and women were at Skegness during the war. A dedication memorial is on site that honours the personnel during the war period.

Clacton became a Prisoner Of War camp, or Internment Camp, for German civilians whom were living in Britain when war was declared.

Pwllheli, in Wales, became HMS Glendower, and Ayr, in Scotland HMS Scotia. Filey was only used three weeks as a training camp for Unarmed Combat Training.

Ration books, recruit lists, Records of Victualling, and numerous other records were part of his talk. All nearly 150 sheets entailed picture postcards, photographs, and newspaper cuttings about this most interesting history. Certainly, it is a part of British history that should not be lost to time.

Below:- Members Anthony Parker & Chris
display pages



Podger looking at the



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Heather Lawn Gives Display of Parrots to Bognor & District Stamp & Postcard Club

On 24 August Heather Lawn showed a display of philatelic material and pictures concerning parrots to Bognor Regis & District Stamp & Postcard Club. She also gave the display to East Grinstead Stamp & Postcard Club on the 9 December 2024.

Her display includes details of the parrot's evolution, distribution, habitat, morphology, behavior and their interaction with humans.

Heather started her collection when she noticed that some of the most attractive and colourful stamps featured parrots. They reminded her of Pedro, a yellow-crowned parrot (*Amazona ochrocephala*) that belonged to her parents a number of years ago.

The first postage stamp that featured parrots was the 1897 dark violet from Tonga. The image was a Maroon Shining -parrot (*Prosopeia tabuensis*), Tonga used the design in the 1923 and 1943 issues. The watermarks on these are the main way to distinguish between the two. The parrot was introduced to Tonga in prehistoric epochs.

The order of Parrots (*Psittaciformes*) is divided into here superfamilies: New Zealand Parrots (*Strigopoidea*), Cockatoos (*Cacatuoidea*) and True Parrots (*Psittacoidea*). True Parrots diversified about 40 million years ago to form the largest of the three superfamilies that include the African Grey, Amazons like Pedro, Macaws, Parakeets, Budgerigars, and Lovebirds

The main characteristics of parrots include their long bills that are very strong in relation to the bird's size. A Macaw's bite is stronger than that of a dog! They also have two claws in front and two behind. (Zygodactyl) to help them perch and climb. Parrots are highly intelligent and are able to mimic sounds and human speech. The range in size is from 80 mm (Pygmy Parrots) to 2 meters long (Hyacinth Macaws).

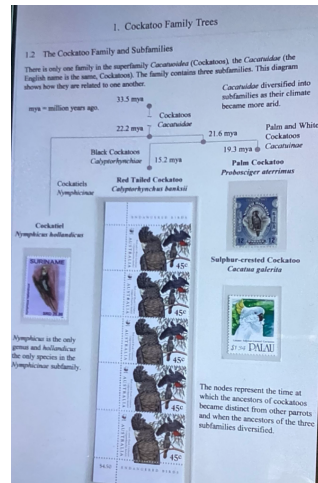
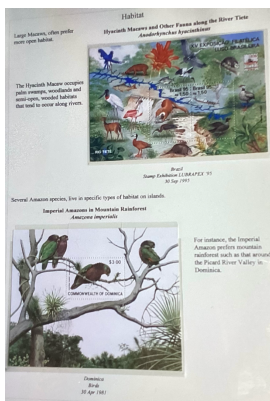
Parrots are indigenous to countries across the Southern Hemisphere. This wasn't always the case however. The extinct Carolina Parakeet lived in North America until the late 19th Century.

Feral populations in the Northern Hemisphere live in Surrey (Ring-necked Parakeet) and in Spain (Monk Parakeet).

Although they make excellent pets with the right time and respect, their habitat is under threat in the

wild and there are many projects that serve help conserve and protect surviving species.

Article by & photographs by Heather Lawn, Edited by the Editor.



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Competition night part 2: September 2025

Competition evening part two is another great success in September 2025. There was a wide variety of display materials from members. It is always such a pleasure to see what people bring in. The winners of the 3 cups are highlighted below. Huge thanks to all members who showed something on the night.

The P. Allam Postal History Plate

1st Place: Frank Griffiths Private Ship Letter Stamps and the Caribbean

2nd Place : Russell Hill Great Britain Free Frank Postmarks Signed By The Official Sender

3rd Place :Christopher Podger Cyprus Incoming Postal Stationery

S.T. Birkin Modern Stamp Trophy : modern philately and postal history in the last fifty years

1st Place: Heather Lawn Pre-decimal Machin Stamps

2nd Place: John Armstone Australian Stamp Show

3rd Place : Frank Griffiths Pre-decimal and Decimal Currency (Machins)

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The A.S.W. Peal Cup: for any subject in an eight page display



1st Place: Neil Smith : Albert Marius Hypolyte-Decaris (1901-1987) Designed of French Stamps and it's Territories

2nd Place: Heather Lawn: Distribution and Habitat of Parrots

3rd Place: Michael Asteris: King Edward VIII Airmail First Flights

All competitions are marked and assessed by non-competing members on the rarity, condition, presentation, general appeal and overall display appearance.

Photos by Alan Green with the editor's enormous thanks.



Article Written by Martha Brown, Editor with the most grateful thanks to Heather Lawn for the careful notes taken on the evening.

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Indian Court Fee Stamps **A PowerPoint Explanation & Wonderful Display**

Howard Morgan gave a splendid display of a three year study using numerous stamps gifted to him by late CDPS member and friend David Springbett. I can't think of a better gift to a friend!

Howard used PowerPoint in his discussion on Indian Court Fee stamps. He also encouraged questions which he answered thus making it a full learning experience for us all.

His stamp displays showed the numerous states, of which there are about 300 that used Court Fee stamps, and which were ruled by Maharajas (Raja(h) in Hindi). There were some 535 postal dependents in India and were in charge of their own business affairs.

Court Fee stamps were used on business, agricultural, deeds, house deeds, land deeds, and more. Many had Hindi signatures across the stamp face. Others used punch holes in diamond and circular shapes. When asked if it was an insult to the Maharaja to have a hole punched in the face (sic) Howard replied that "there was no etiquette involved".

As the stamps were used in great numbers during the British Raj period, once the handover began in 1947 stamps were still used well into the 1950s until they were used up. A good example of 'waste not, want not!'. Also a good example of not wasting paper and ink!

There are, apparently, over 500 languages and dialects spoken in much of the Indian subcontinent. Among the front leaders are Hindi, Gujarati, Oriya (spoken in the East), and Kutch (a more minor language).

The displays showed numerous Court Fee stamps with their special cancellation markings (hand signatures or punch holes). There a widely diverse selection of different types of documents as discussed above.

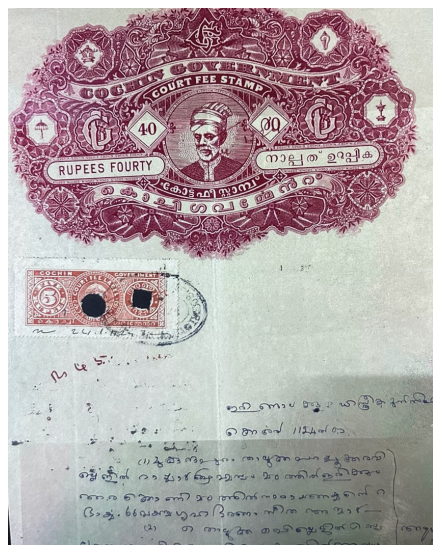
All stamps are perforated and are printed in A4 format. They are large stamps. (sorry: editor didn't bring a ruler!). They are also colourful. And no doubt, Howard could do a colour study of these too!

This is a display inspired by the gift of a friend, which has grown in size, and is an absolute sterling example of gold medal philatelic study.

Howard wishes to study some of the Hindi language and perhaps discover some of the language to aid him in further research. We certainly wish him luck in his future endeavors and we look forward to Part Two!

Article Martha Brown, Editor. Photos: Alan Price and Martha Brown

An example of diamond and circular punch holes as cancellation, but one is over the Maharajah's face!



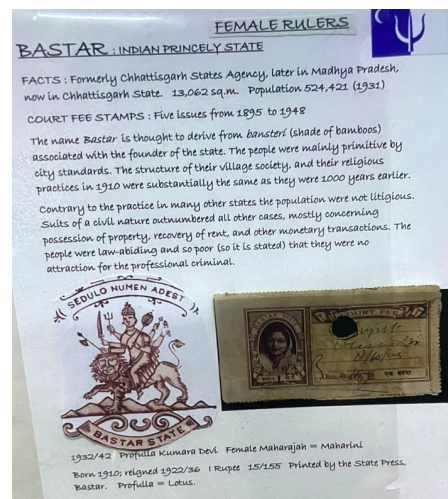
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New member:

We'd like to welcome new member Mr John Palfreman. John is also a member of the Bognor & District Philatelic Society. He is a collector of world definitives and is also exploring the possibility of thematic collecting too. Welcome to our society!

PACKET:

One would like to encourage members to join our packet run by Alan Price. Alan works terribly hard on these little books and boxes! As a newly enlisted



packet member I am learning the system. But, I have also added much to various aspects of collecting that I do. It is very worthwhile ,and affordable too.
I hand my packet at main meetings or at the bi-weekly coffee group. This makes for easy hand overs. So no worry then, you see? You just have to let Alan Price know and he'll arrange a hand over of packet(s)!
Email me and I'll give you contact details. Okay?
mommybadger@aol.com

NEW YEAR COFFEE MEETING DATES:2026

We meet at 10:30 am at the Chichester Festival Theatre Cafe. Car parking is nearby at Northgate Car Park. Do not park in front of the theatre!

January. 5 & 19

February 2 &16

March 16 & 30

April 13 and the following week on the 20 th

Because of Easter activities and fixtures!

As always members are welcome to tell me of national holiday fixtures that I haven't seen.

Making date fixtures is a tricky business! Im off to get a 🍰!

First Society Meeting of 2026:-

Our first meeting in January is on the 26 th at 7 pm.

Be aware:- to get to the hall you will need to follow the road diversions. Either through Apuldram through to Dell Quay , turn left and then again turn left to the hall. Or through Hunston too. Details are online on West Sussex Highways.

The reason ? They are replacing gas lines.

The best thing is to go online and see it for yourself.

With this I would like to wish you all a very **HAPPY CHRISTMAS 🎅 🌲 and a Very Happy New Year 🎆**

Best wishes
The Editor
Martha Brown