

The Chichester and District Philatelic Society Newsletter

*April, May, June, July 2020
Second Newsletter During the Pandemic*

COVID-19 FORCES FURTHER MAJOR DECISIONS

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Use "Stamp club" header please.

MEETINGS CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

For the first time ever in our society's history we have had to cancel months of meetings due to the coronavirus Covid-19. This decision wasn't made lightly, and it was made by following government guidelines and rules.

President Brown would like to personally thank each and every member who supports her decisions.

As we watch the news, read media, and talk to family and friends about this dreadful virus we can be heartened to know that everyone is pulling together in a positive way. In moments of history when life is difficult it's this positive and bright outlook that will pull us all through.

Now, with time on our hands we can at least enjoy the quiet moments with philately. So, get those stamps and covers out, prepare your competition sheets, and look forward to those meetings again. Above all, embrace the study of our stamps and look forward to sharing new finds and new ideas with other members in the future. 🇬🇧🇬🇧

CHICHESTER OBSERVER NEWSPAPER

Thank you everyone who has sent along articles and illustrations for the Chichester Observer Society Page. This section has, for us, been turned into "Stamp Corner"!

It'd be great if we could keep it so! It's a terrific way to educate the public about Philately.

Through my online teaching I have three children sorting through the bags of stamps I've given their parents (materials placed in bags on the doorstep and left for them to fetch!). I've given them small stock books, Stamp album paper to write on, and other materials. Parents report moments of quietness now!

I also read in the national press about an upsurge in stamp collecting due to lockdown. Many people are digging out old family stamp albums and starting up again. It's so easy to find materials online too.

So, Stamp Corner will remain, I hope, and we will continue contributing to it.

Please send your articles to me, or to Frank. Between the two of us we'll see they get to the journalist who deals with the Stamp Corner! Thank you.

Christopher Dudeney: - Royal Air Force Postal Service

Chris writes: -

Recently I purchased two covers which had been through the RAF postal service. They were separate lots in a listing and because they were different RAF stations there was no indication that they were connected, so I was very pleased to find that they were addressed to the same airman. I, therefore, decided to see if they (would) give me any more information.

Firstly, the airman's number began with a '2', and to the best of my knowledge, this indicated that he was a National Serviceman, (because) regular numbers began with a '4'. I deduced that he was probably called up in February or March 1955 and was posted (to) RAF Compton Bassett in Wiltshire to do his twelve weeks of initial training to turn him from a scraggy teenager into a smart, well-turned-out, and well-drilled airman!

The first cover is addressed from Llandudno, Caernarfonshire, to RAF Compton Bassett. (This is addressed to) AC2, Aircraftsman Second Class. The letter is dated 5th August 1955 and (was) dated in the RAF Post Room for 11th August. It is addressed to Signals Traffic, RAF, Odiham, Basingstoke, Hants. The reason for the re-direction is shown that he had been posted (to Service) on 12th July 1955. (The reverse of the cover) shows a machine postmark for the local General Post Office, Calle, Wilts' Dated 12th August.

This is all I can discover from the first cover but it raises the question 'Why was he still at Compton Bassett a month after he should have finished his initial training?' Since he (was) still an AC2, it shows that he had not completed his trade training, or alternatively done six months service.

The section cover is unreadable but is addressed to a private address in Harrow by the RAF Post Office in Odiham on 14 March 1957 with the explanation that he had been released (demobbed) from National Service.

It is interesting to note that Odiham has a full RAF Post Office while Compton Bassett has only a Post room. In other words, it doesn't offer the same services. Secondly, I have assumed he began his National Service in February or March 1955 because he was released before 14 March 1957. Also, his rank is shown as SAC: - Senior Air-craftsman. The RAF did not have Lance-Corporals, but had introduced a system of technical ranks to give staff promotion prospects outside the disciplinary ladder.

From this I assume he did his trade training, perhaps in the signals section, at Odiham. (To be promoted to AC1 he would've had to pass a basic exam). He may have been promoted to SAC later in his trade but it is more likely he was promoted after completing 18 months service, and would've received regular pay then too.

This chap must've been in the RAF close to the end of National Service, and it shows the fun to be had in (examination of) two apparently, unconnected items. Of course, as this is five years after I did my National Service, all my deductions could be incorrect!



Christopher Dudeney.

Thank you, Chris, for this article!👍

BARGAIN BASEMENT: - PANDEMIC SALES!

The Society takes no responsibility for any sales, exchanges, monies, or damages in transit, or anything else.

Sales are entirely between seller/ buyer.

Payments must either be posted using cash notes, or sent through the bank system online.

Sale lots must be POSTED.

All payments to be in £5,10,20 notes.
Or payment through the online banking system.

SALES:

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GB "Greetings" Booklet. Includes stamps and labels, MINT in Excellent condition. Ten stamp booklets. Will accept offers over £5.00

GB 2011 Christmas Booklet 12x 2nd Class. MINT in Excellent condition. Will accept offers over £6.00

GB 2015 Penny Black Commemoration Booklet, 6x 1st class Stamps, MINT, Excellent condition. Will accept offers over £6.00

GB (year Unk), 10 x 1st class DOGS Booklet, MINT, VERY GOOD CONDITION. Will accept offers over £5.00

BHUTAN 7 ch. Hologram Astronauts in Space, Mint round Stamp in Excellent condition. Offers?

TONGA red/gold 1d. Commemorative of the first gold coinage of Polynesia. Mint, Very good condition. Offers?

GUERNSEY mini sheet, Florida Everglades Endangered Species. Two stamps are featured on this mini sheet. MINT, Excellent condition. Offers over £4.00

FRANCE. Nine stock-sheets of a used/some mint mixture of years of French stamps all in varying conditions. Would make a great start at collecting France!
Offers over £3.00

✓(10% of any sales of mine will go to the Society funds. Martha Brown) ✓

Committee Members: - be advised, the first opportunity we get to legally gather, we will hold a committee meeting! We require emergency, contingency articles in our constitution (rules) that will cover the demise of any officers. In other words, if something happens we need someone to fill their boots!

Secondly, for the first time ever a pandemic has created absolute havoc! So perhaps something could be written into things about (a) how to carry out a committee meeting so everyone has a say (because some of today's committee members aren't on any form of technology and we need to be FAIR to all, and (b) we also need to know WHO makes such major decisions as Frank and I have in these last weeks.

If committee members have any other items for the agenda, or any thoughts on additions to the society constitution/rule book please write to me at 34 Somerstown, Chichester PO19 6AG or please E mail me. Please don't ring me. My telephone is not the best and isn't working right and I can't get BT to fix it these days!

I also thank those members who have written to me and thanked me (and Frank) for making such monumental, stressful decisions of late. I thank those who have rung me (on my bad phone!). And also, everyone who has taken the time to say they agreed with said decisions and understand WHY the decisions were made.

All I can say is this: -

What a way to carry out my final year duties as your President! Historic!

Which brings me to a good point: - please consider whom you'd nominate for president in the 2021 year. The AGM in November will require a nominee.

The Packet: - will resume once the government eases things. Be aware that this nasty virus is still going to be around for a while so we must be careful. It can stay on cardboard for up to 72 hours. It can transfer and be breathed in, too, from the very booklets you'd handle. You can't see it unless you're using an electron microscope! I wouldn't try to see it using your Philatelic magnifiers! So, you understand why the Packet was cancelled for now. Watch this space.

NEXT MEETING DATES: to be advised.

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