

THE ASSOCIATION OF SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Founded 1947 Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies

ASPS NEWS

April 2026

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EDITORIAL COMMENT *Whilst the first issue appears to have been received favourably, any comments came largely from those already more closely associated with ASPS. I do want to hear from individual societies as well, to ensure I can maintain a content reflecting local activities.*

CONGRATULATIONS To prove the value of (some) modern technology, I am able to include the following news received from the ASPS Secretary this week:

Mike Slamo is to receive the *Award of Merit* from the Association of British Philatelic Societies. Nominated by ASPS and his own Adur Stamp Club, Mike, a former President of ASPS, has been treasurer of the Association for many years, and has performed a similar role for his own club. Over a long period of time Mike has also given displays to numerous clubs in Sussex and beyond.

2026 ASPS SYMPOSIUM: Wednesday 10 June 2026 10.30 -16.30. Birch Hotel, Haywards Heath, RH17 7SF. Previously announced to clubs at the AGM in October, and referred to in January *NEWS*, this event is just two months away. The programme has been finalised, and the details and booking arrangements have been sent out to affiliated societies. Jim Etherington, the main organiser of the event, and ASPS secretary has written the following about the the event.

When your ASPS committee first discussed arranging an all day event it was agreed we wanted to make it special and more than just a club meeting. To achieve this we decided to invite three specialists who are internationally acknowledged in their respective fields. Chris King RDP FR SPL, his wife Birthe King RDP FRPSL, and David Beech MBE FRPSL. They all accepted our invitation.

***Chris King** is a specialist in the philately of Scandinavia and has been the British delegate to the FIP (International Federation of Philately) commission on postal history. **Birthe King** is a leading exponent of Open Philately and has promoted the FEPA (Federation of European Philatelic Associations) Regulations for Picture Postcards. Both Chris and Birthe have achieved large gold awards at international exhibitions and been elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. **David Beech** was the curator of the British Library Philatelic Collections from 1983–2013. In 2012 he was awarded the MBE for services to philately and in 2013 the Smithsonian Institution Philatelic Achievement Award "for outstanding lifetime accomplishments in the field of philately". More recently David has opened discussions on what he terms "Context philately".*

We then had to decide what to call the day. "ASPS Spring Event" or "ASPS Spring Meeting" didn't seem to give the event that special feel we wanted to achieve. We eventually opted for "Symposium", a definition of which being "a day long meeting of people who share a common interest

and features a number speakers and discussions, allowing for a broader range of perspectives and topics to be covered”.

The venue was chosen because it was centrally located within Sussex, with excellent facilities, and other national philatelic societies had held successful meetings there. Costings were discussed and it was agreed that ASPS would subsidise the event. To assist in this we applied for, and have received support from the Association of British Philatelic Societies through its small grants scheme.

The cost is £20 which includes tea/coffee on arrival and towards the end of the day, and a buffet lunch. Numbers are limited to 40 members from affiliated societies.

By the time you read this your club secretary will have received invitations to register for the symposium, both electronically and hard copies.

There will be two displays; *Social & Historical Aspects in Open Philately* (Birthe King), *Some Postal History in Relation to Denmark* (Chris King), and Guest Speaker David Beech will give a talk entitled *Context Philately*.

It does not need any further comment from me, other than to commend the event to all members of ASPS affiliated societies. In practical terms an all day meeting makes sense for a county wide event, with time to discuss the presentations both formerly and over the refreshment breaks, and engage with members from other clubs.

You may have heard of *Open Philately* and *Context Philately*: The meeting will enable members to learn more from the leading proponents of these concepts. You can read more on these topics in advance if you wish. and David Beech in particular has given reference to his own paper, which appears on the RSPL website.

www.rpsl.org.uk/Portals/0/RPSL/Beech_David_Context_Philately.pdf

ASPS DIRECTORY 2026 Recently distributed to affiliated societies, this gives contact details for all affiliated societies, together with times and location of meetings, and provides a list of speakers who are willing to give displays.

Please send details of any amendments to the Secretary as soon as they occur, to keep the information up to date. If appropriate amendments can be included in a subsequent *NEWS*

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES: It seems that winter has hardly ended, but the next issue will be at the beginning of July, by which time many societies will have had their AGM and be preparing for the year ahead. Perhaps items for *ASPS NEWS* could be on the agenda, and a correspondent nominated. No formal writing required, just information to share with other societies, although longer items will be welcomed.

GORING STAMP & POSTCARD CLUB: The club secretary has sent the following about the club

To ensure our programme remains varied and enjoyable, we offer a balanced mix of meeting formats over the year. Our calendar includes one or two auctions which often attract members from other clubs. We also hold members evenings, based around ten sheet displays and group displays which allow four members to display forty sheets each. In addition we invite guest speakers regularly. This blend of activities provides plenty of opportunity for members to share their collections, learn from one another, and enjoy a sociable evening together.

Looking at other club programmes, the presentation on **Communication in the Republic of Venice to 1797** by Bill Hedley to be given to the **MID SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY on 29**

April is just around the corner, and the **EAST GRINSTEAD STAMP & POSTCARD CLUB** have their first auction of the year on 28 April.

THE SUSSEX POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY meets bi-monthly. Their annual joint meeting with Kent Postal History Group has just gone (28 March). The next meetings are on 13 May (AGM & member displays), and 8 July. Fuller information on this society can be found on their website sussexpostalhistory.wixsite.com

Fuller details for times and meeting places of all affiliated societies are on the ASPS website and in the Directory.

Some members of the Sussex clubs may belong to more specialised societies, which may hold meetings in our area from time to time. Let me know and I will pass on the details.

Whilst I am sure all societies will welcome visitors, it would be courteous to contact the host club if you are thinking of attending a meeting.

STAMP FAIRS Although there have been national and regional exhibitions and fairs down the years, the local stamp fair circuit blossomed over fifty years ago, and has been a mainstay of the hobby especially as stamp shops disappeared. In more recent times, the internet has provided an on line market place for dealers and individuals, not least on Ebay. Undoubtedly this benefits searching a wider market place, and all from the comfort of your own home. However there is still something to be gained from the camaraderie of visiting a local stamp fair. A limited range of dealers and stock may preclude a search for that more elusive item, but the serendipity factor of searching through dealers boxes can be beneficial and often at small cost ... a fact often quoted by visiting speakers when they show a particular find.

I am not going to publicise the dealer run fairs per se, but I do encourage you to visit and support fairs that are local to you. For a long time there has been a *Stamp Fair & Auction Diary* published by Stephen Reeves. Printed copies can usually be picked up from the dealers at fairs, but it is also available on line at stampfairsdiary@outlook.com especially useful if you are going to be visiting another part of the country.

THE BRIGHTON FORGER An enquiry about this resulted in a follow up in the then printed ASPS NEWS. [*I do not have the date- ed.*]

The man in question was Harold Treherne, who around the turn of the twentieth century embarked on a criminal career. Born in 1884, and living and working in the Brighton area his activities came to the attention of the philatelic world in 1903. An item in *Gibbons Monthly Journal* referred to the existence of forged stamps of Kashmir, and the following year a reference to a number of forgeries appearing for sale in the Brighton area appeared in *The Stamp Collectors Annual*. He appears to have used several aliases.

Initially Treherne produced fake overprints, as this only required simple printing techniques, but orders for a large volume of cheap stamps came to the notice of the then Stamp Trade Protection Association. Treherne was arrested and found to have dies and plates in his possession. He was fined £15 plus costs. The case was re-opened in January 1908, when he was sentenced to four months hard labour plus an additional month for failure to pay the fine.

An article appeared in *The London Philatelist* in the Jan/Feb issue of 2011, concerned with forgeries of West Australia stamps. A further article appeared in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in

June 2019: *The shady world of a stamp forger at the beginning of the 20th century: the nefarious work of Brighton based criminal Harold Treherne.*

There is quite a full write up on *Wikipedia.*, and a similar, in fact more extensive article, appears on *Grokopedia*, a rival online 'encyclopaedia' from the Elon Musk stable.

Both these articles give citations and links to sources of information.

Although caution is always advised when using these sources, they look reasonable, and I suspect were prepared by a philatelist.

AND FINALLY:

The drawing reproduced below was taken from a past issue of the printed ASPS News.

I do not know the source (original artist), and will gladly acknowledge this if someone can let me know.



Items included in ASPS NEWS are written from information gleaned from many sources and may not reflect the views of the ASPS Committee.

The next issue will be July 2026. Information and items for inclusion may be sent to me at any time, and as with this issue the deadline will only be the last few days of the month before issue.