

# ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER January 2024

The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies annual Congress will take place on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th April 2024 at the Dewars Centre, Perth and our Society will be hosts this year. **Are you involved?** We do need helpers, what can you do? On **Thursday 11th April** the frames have to be assembled in Perth. I am aware that there are several who have already indicated their commitment to be there, can you also assist? There will be several drivers and shared transport may be possible. On **Friday 12th April**, the opening day, we need to man the Host Society table from 10.00-4.00 to show our presence, and to sell as many of our congress covers as we can. Perhaps you can spare an hour. You might be relieved to have a seat for an hour. We will invite you to join a rota. On the evening of 12th April, the Tom Reilly invited lecture will be given by Graham Searle, followed by the Congress Dinner. Thereafter, the guest speaker will be Bob Murray followed by the presentation of trophies, with all formalities usually completed by 10pm. On **Saturday 13th April** we need a team to dismantle the frames again after the show. This is usually completed by 5.30 or 6.00pm. Several members have already booked overnight accommodation for the 11th and 12th April. A number of those will be at the **Mercure Hotel** in Perth

The Congress Commemorative cover marks the 200th anniversary of the RNLI though the first Aberdeen lifeboat predates that by some 20 years. It was contemporary with the Post Office booth in the arches of the Mercat Cross, hence the link with our Society Logo.



The basic cover will be available for £1, (add your own stamp and post at Congress). Serviced & cancelled with a Lifeboat stamp @ £3. Signed by Coxswain Cal Reed (limited edition) £4.

Sheila Den writes with regard to the **Congress displays**:-Can I express my thanks to everyone who has offered display material for Congress host society frames. Members have been very generous in their commitment in supporting the event. Also some members for very justifiable reasons are supportive but feel unable to provide material. I am very close to the required total of 60 frames and confident we will make the goal. Displays should be with me by 21st March at the latest. I will be sending Insurance Waiver notes soon which will need to be signed and returned with the displays.

I will send out an e mail to all contributors early in the New Year with some details about the displays ie request to identify page numbers, envelope sizes required etc. The material offered is most interesting and varied and showcases the breadth of collecting interests within the Aberdeen Philatelic Society. Thank you all.

If you have ever considered an entry into the **ASPS national competition**, but never quite got round to it, this year when we are hosts would be an appropriate year to give it a go. All the details, including entry forms, are on the ASPS website. One possibility is the new Open Class which was introduced for the first time last year.

**Alphabet Night** with the letter 'L' is the subject of our first meeting in 2024. That will not be a problem for anyone who collects Labuan, Latvia, Liberia or the Leeward Islands but I guess not many of us are in that position. However, there is much more scope in subjects such as locals, line engraved, luftpost, line perforation, labels, lightly cancelled or lousy condition. I defy anyone to come up with Lady Macleod. Anything is acceptable on any number of sheets, from one to ten, as long as it has some, perhaps dubious, connection with letter 'L'.

**The Postal Auction Secretary reports:** Our postal auction, number 38 is scheduled for March 21st 2024. Last date for receipt of lots is 25th January please, to Mike Longhurst.

**The Packet Secretary reports:** I only have material for two more packets ie PK 5. and 6, after that nothing, that is unless I get more material. Sales have not been good. If we have poor sales the vendors then stop giving me material = no packet. The answer lies in your hands.

**The Friday Meetings,** Dick Robson sends a reminder to all who come to the Friday meetings. The one condition is that members who attend must purchase tea or coffee and maybe a cake, to help out the church. You may not be aware, but we DO NOT PAY for the use of the hall by the Friday group and that is why you must buy a drink or cake or both, so please remember to do so. We do not want to be moved from the hall.

**Stanley Gibbons** is reported as going into administration after making a loss of over £2,000,000 last year. A spokesman for the firm is reported as saying: 'We would like to reassure customers and wider stakeholders that we are continuing to operate and are exploring all options to seek a continuation of the business.' According to the Times, the firm fell into insolvency following the purchase of the British Guiana 1c black on magenta for £6.3 million in 2021, which it hoped to recoup by selling 80,000 shares in the stamp at £100 each. The first tranche of sales generated £1.14 million.