

## ***ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY***

*NEWSLETTER September 2023*

**A Message from the President, Charles Oppenheim:** A warm welcome to all members as another season of philatelic treasures await us. The new programme includes a wide variety of presenters and subjects. I look forward to meeting everyone again when we resume meetings with the usual informal opening night on 7 September. Our Alphabet Night on 11 January 2024 is the letter L, so get those Loch Lomond, Liechtenstein, Latvia, Lithuania and Luxembourg favourites ready! One highlight of the season will be The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies 93rd annual congress at the Dewars Centre, Perth on 12 and 13 April 2024. This is a highlight because we are the host society! I encourage all members to consider putting in one, or maybe two sets of sheets to be displayed at this event, and to this end we have put aside two evenings of our programme in November for members to show their planned exhibits.

**The first meeting of the season** on Thursday 7th September at the Rubislaw Church Centre will take the usual form of an informal gathering when members are invited to bring items for sale or exchange. Some sheets from the Society's forgery collection will be on display on the boards. There are usually plenty of boxes and stock books to browse so bring along some small change and you may make some acquisitions. If you have items to dispose of which may not be suitable for the auction in December, e.g. stock books of duplicates, then this is an opportunity.

**ASPS Congress 2023.** The annual Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies continued its post-covid revival last April at the Dewar's Centre, Perth. Numbers attending was thought to be slightly down on last year with Friday being the busiest of the two days, as usual. Number of dealers attending was also slightly down with two dealers pulling out at last moment but the 24 dealers present were apparently happy with the support which they received. The number of competitive exhibits was slightly fewer than last year but there was still an excellent display of 21 entries in almost all classes including the literature class. There were no members of Aberdeen PS amongst the exhibitors this year, something that perhaps ought to be rectified in the 2024 Congress. You might win one of the 12 handsome trophies to display on your mantel shelf for a few months! Competitive exhibits in the so-called national competition are, of course, quite apart from the host society's display which most of us will be involved in. Then, of course, there is the Alan Watson Memorial competition with one frame entries of any subject and arranged in any way you like.

Prior to the AGM of ASPS in 2022, Bruce Walker was elected as Aberdeen PS Delegate to ASPS but subsequently felt obliged to resign for family reasons. He was replaced prior to the ASPS AGM in 2023 by Alex Walker who was therefore elected President of ASPS last April.

There is currently a shortage of qualified judges in Scotland and a training seminar will be arranged if sufficient numbers would like to participate. If interested, contact Alan Blakeley, the National Exhibition Officer (see the ASPS website).

**Aberdeen PS Delegate and currently President of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies, Alex Walker, reports:** This is the first bulletin I have had to prepare as Congress Delegate, and it is an exhortation for all of you as members to rally round in whatever way you can to assist with our hosting of the ASPS Congress in April.

You are aware that Sheila Den is gathering promises from you for 16 page, 1 frame displays and you will be invited to have them ready for two evening meetings this session. We have to fill 60 frames, so many of you will need to be able to fill two frames, either as 2 separate items or as one double.

We need to have volunteers available on the Thursday 11th April before Congress to help set up the hall in Perth, and to be available on the Saturday afternoon to dismantle the event. This will mean you looking ahead to book hotel accommodation for one or two nights.

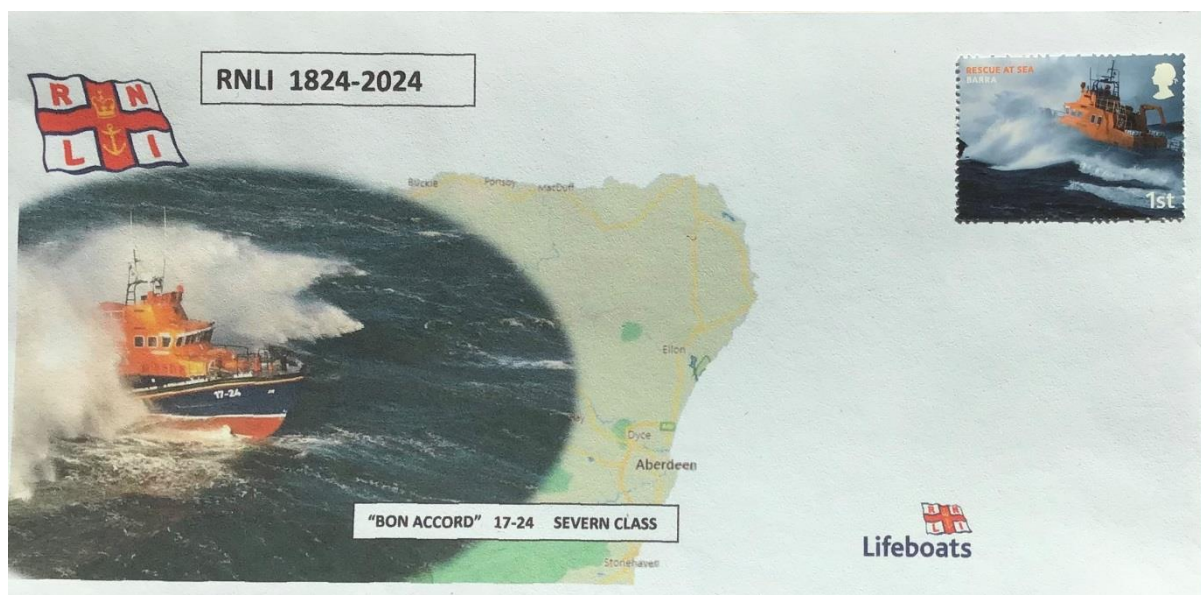
As Aberdeen Delegate I am on duty all weekend until I can hand over the Presidential chain to my successor for 2025 on the Saturday afternoon.

The Congress opens on the morning of Friday 12th with the main events being the Tom Reilly Memorial lecture in the evening, given by Graham Searle, followed by a short reception by the Perth City Council and dinner, with Robert Murray being our guest speaker, and presentation of various trophies. It would be great if as many of you could support me by attending that evening. (I promise my introductory speech will be as brief as I can possibly get away with.)

For many of you Congress is just a half day stamp fair with a chance to buy for your collection but it really is so much more, behind the scenes and up front with the exhibition. Until I was persuaded to take on the role, I was blissfully unaware and unconcerned at the huge amount of work done by the other delegates and the Committee which has ensured these Congresses happen and run smoothly.

I must pay tribute to the late Alan Watson and Willie King who organised things for many years and now to Norrie Kelso, George Henshilwood, Alan Blakely and many others who have picked up the baton since Alan's untimely death.

Here's what the Congress cover will probably look like:



**SCOTEX. Chad Neighbor reports:** Finding a Scotex venue has proved to be difficult but is now confirmed for Saturday 21 October at the Canmore Suite, The Carnegie Conference Centre, Fife College, Dunfermline KY11 8DY, open from 10am to 4.30pm.

**Grampian Stamp & Postcard Fair** will take place at Queens Cross Church, Albyn Place, Aberdeen on Saturday 30 September 2023, 10.30-15.30 with free valuations and stamp and postcard dealers buying and selling.

