

## Mid Anglia Philatelic Federation

Newsletter

December 2025

### Welcome to the final newsletter of the year.

This year seems to have been relatively quiet philatelically speaking. Unfortunately, there were fewer entries for our competitions, attendances at some societies appear to have continued to decline and at our Display Day – most enjoyable as it was – had half of the attendees from just one society.

I know we are all getting older – I reached a significant ‘age’ recently, myself – but it is definitely the case that having an absorbing hobby that keeps the brain working, and the benefits that accrue.

### Collector v Philatelist

I’m often asked this question and I do think there is a distinction which we sometimes overlook. A **collector** accumulates his or her stamps, covers, booklets etc, and almost certainly mounts them and keep them safe.

A **philatelist** takes this further and does more – research takes place and the collection is developed with supporting information, often writing up the material and so making it worthy of display, but not necessarily so.

### Zoom displays

These offerings were a wonderful feature during the pandemic. They kept us connected, when isolated, and brought new displays to keep us learning about this passion of ours.

Most of those societies that started out down this route are still carrying on. Indeed 3 of ours are still holding monthly ‘meetings’, and their attendees often include philatelists from abroad, e.g. USA, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. The range of displays is wide and very interesting. If you are not partaking of these opportunities, you are missing out.

One of the great benefits is seeing the material being talked about being right in front of your eyes, rather than several metres away on a display board behind a speaker at a club night.

In fact, a growing feature of club meetings is the use of both a power point presentation alongside the actual material available to view after the presentation. Give it a try, it works really well!

### MAPF competitions and Philanglia

John Spencer will for the third year, running be launching our competitions in the new year. We’re hoping for more entries that this year, but as ever, the quality of those received in 2025 was high and they were well received by those who came to the Convention at Philanglia in late June.

Tony Hender has pencilled in the equivalent date for the 2026 version of this regional stamp fair, but is up against a local council, that is just looking to increase their income – e.g. they want to charge extra by the hour for lighting! – and their officials seem to change rather too regularly for there to be any continuity and competence.

This year the MAPF sponsored the event to the tune of £200. This was offered in the name of the recently defunct Fenland P S, which had donated its closing funds to the federation.

## Display Day & AGM 2026

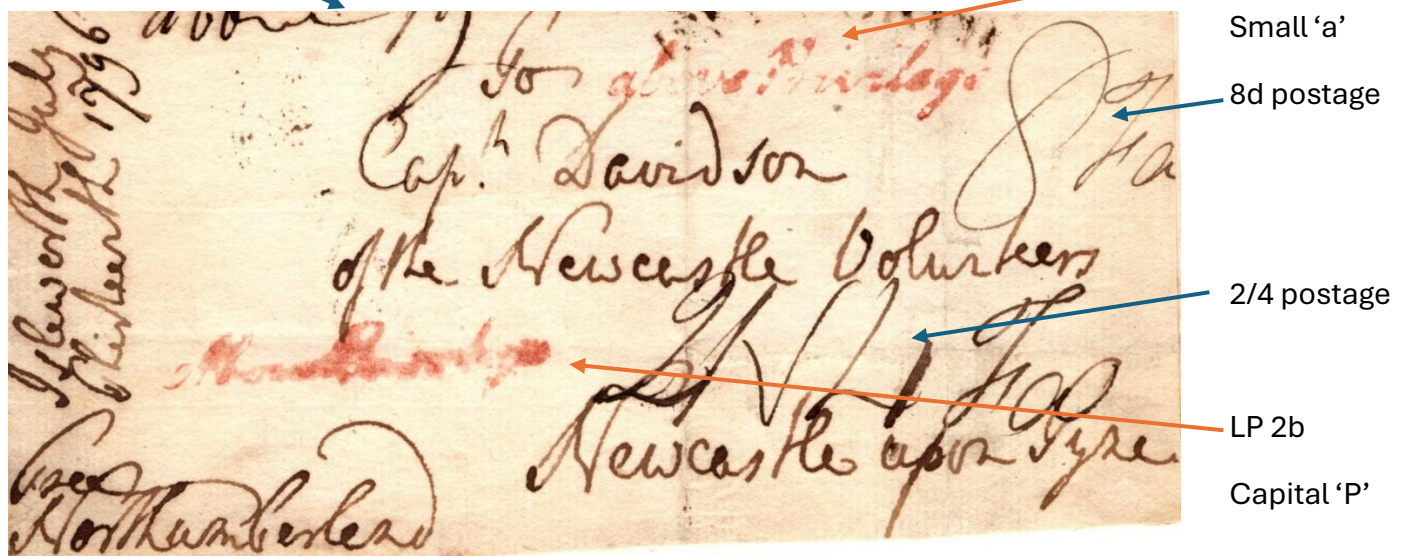
This will be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September at Warmington Village Hall. This pleasant venue is to be found just off the A605, a few miles west of Peterborough and the A1.

### Cover of the quarter

In 1795 new regulations were introduced which limited the weight of FREE letters to 1 ounce, previously 2oz., and to MPs sending a maximum of 10 letters per day and receiving up to 15.

Alongside that came the appropriate hand stamps: 'Above Privilege' and 'Above Number', the former relating to letters weighing in at more than 1 ounce.

(above 1 oz)



The FREE front, above, sent in July 1795 was found to be overweight and was wrongly charged 8d, with the abuse confirmed with a strike of LP 4. However, on this being checked by, perhaps, a more senior clerk in London, it was realised that the letter should have been charged a quadruple rate and that the single rate for the distance involved should have been 7d. Hence, the uprated postage of  $4 \times 7d = 2/4$ . Again this was confirmed with an 'Abuse of Privilege' mark, but this time LP 2b.

In both cases the postal charges were confirmed by the clerks' initials.

There are only 2 examples of each of these hand stamps recorded, and here they are combined on one letter!

**Below are the programmes** for most of our societies, but there are still a few who perhaps want to keep their activities private!!

These lists are compiled not just for information, but so that those who have taken on the role of finding speakers for their societies, can see what displays are currently doing the rounds, but also so that they can then contact other secretaries for information about the speakers and how to contact them, but to ask about the displays themselves.

## King Charles' 'Machin' style definitive stamps with Peter Morton

The last quarter has been very quiet. A new £3.40 definitive stamp was issued on 30<sup>th</sup> September, to cover the international tariff, coding is M25L and MAIL.

The latter £3.40 stamp also appeared with both 1p and 2p values in the new Queen Victoria prestige booklet released on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Coding on the three stamps is M25L and MPIL.

This definitely one of the best issues of recent years – which probably isn't saying much – and there is the excellent, but expensive prestige booklet that contains this pane.



New definitive value introduced on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025.



## Society Programmes

### December

3	Grantham	Annual competitions; Hilliard Cup & Christmas social	
3	Spalding & District	Egg Cup competition; Christmas stamps & social	
3	Cambridge	Members informal meeting with Christmas flavour	
4	Huntingdonshire	Christmas get together & members displays	
5	King's Lynn	Zoom – Elections and the Post	Maurice Buxton
5	Luton & District	Society winter auction	
9	Hinckley & District	Christmas meeting and competitions	
9	Isle of Ely	Members' displays and buffet	
10	Leiston & District	Quiz & social with Christmas nibbles	
12	King's Lynn	Christmas in Austria	Joyce Boyer
12	North Herts.	Members' choice of display; Christmas festive food	
19	Cambridge	Zoom – members' acquisitions in 2025	

### January

2	King's Lynn	Zoom – Hungary Hyperinflation, Part 1	Andy Soutar
7	Grantham	Club Quiz Night	
7	Cambridge	Members evening, letters J, K & L	
8	Isle of Ely	Aspects of France	Dahlia Harrison
9	King's Lynn	9 sheet competitions	
9	Luton & District	World War II in East Africa	Nick Guy
15	Peterborough & District	President's afternoon	
21	Grantham	'Spitfire'	Richard Wheatley
23	King's Lynn	Five frames by 4 members	
28	Leiston & District	Members' displays	
30	North Herts.	An evening with Reg Hounsell	

### February

4	Grantham	Club auction	
4	Spalding & District	The Third Reich	Derek Pollard
4	Cambridge	Competition evening	
5	Isle of Ely	Conquest of South West Africa	Steve Hannah
5	Peterborough & District	Members' afternoon: 'Off the beaten track'	
6	King's Lynn	Zoom – Hungary Hyperinflation, Part 2	Andy Soutar
6	Luton & District	Richard Hart (Bedford P S) entertains	
13	King's Lynn	Members' evening – 1 frame or more	
18	Grantham	Airmails within and from British Borneo	Jon Higgins
19	Peterborough & District	Bring and buy	
25	Leiston & District	Competition – up to 10 sheets – any subject	
27	King's Lynn	St Vincent	Terry Harrison
27	North Herts.	Cannon & Sax competitions	

### Society contacts

Bedford	Richard Hart	01234 301 327
Cambridge	Peter Morton	01223 263 946
East Anglia P H S	John Copeland	01277 218 128
Grantham	Fina Martinez-Perez	<a href="mailto:fina.martinez@gmail.com">fina.martinez@gmail.com</a>
Grimsby & District	Mike Webb	07434 285 888
Hinckley & District	Peter Thomas	01455 448 638
Huntingdonshire	Mick Twinn	01480 383103
Isle of Ely	John George	<a href="mailto:jvgluntisham@gmail.com">jvgluntisham@gmail.com</a>
Kettering	Gordon Tregidgo	01536 746 800
King's Lynn	Dahlia Harrison	01775 423 087
Leighton Buzard	John Spencer	01525 370 745
Leiston & District	Andy Soutar	01394 460 901
Loughborough	Christine Harris	01509 230 848
Luton & District	Fin O'Donoghue	07909 937 366
North Herts	David Belton	01438 315 040
Peterborough & District	Alan Berrisford	01773 567 527
Rushden & District	Malcolm Whitehead	01933 350 646
Sheringham & District	Jim Farrell	01263 721 043
Sleaford U3A	Lew Patterson	01529 307 220
Spalding	Dahlia Harrison	01775 423 087

### **Federation Officers and Committee**

President	Peter Morton	Cambridge
Vice President	David Belton	North Herts
Secretary	Peter Morton	
Treasurer	Richard Husband	Grantham
Competition Secretary	John Spencer	Leighton Buzzard
Webmaster	Martin Lovegrove	King's Lynn

### **Committee Members**

Terry Wagg, Jon Higgins and Mike Kentzer – all King's Lynn

**B** **BILL BARRELL Ltd** **B**  
 SPECIALISTS IN THE POSTAL HISTORY AND  
 POSTAGE STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

**LIST 174 GREAT BRITAIN.**

1. 1844 1D PINK ENVELOPE  
 KILMARNOCK TO LONDON  
 WITH EXCEPTIONAL STRIKE  
 DISTINCTIVE MALTESE CROSS  
 OF KILMARNOCK. Fine 1d pink  
 envelope from Kilmarnock to 'Mrs  
 Macleod of Macleod, 19 Gt.  
 Cumberland Street, Hyde Park,  
 London' cancelled EXCEPTIONAL  
 STRIKE OF THE DISTINCTIVE  
 MALTESE CROSS OF  
 KILMARNOCK, on reverse  
 'KILMARNOCK' date stamp FE 28  
 1844. A very rare and beautiful usage  
 with this cross seldom seen struck so  
 fine. Mike Jackson lists two such usages on the penny pink, both to Dublin in May and June 1844 but does  
 not record this usage. Exhibition quality. (Ref 138283). £3750.00



2. 1941 1D PALE SCARLET (SG486)  
 SUPERB DRY PRINT STRIP OF SIX.  
 A very fine o.g. right marginal  
 horizontal strip of six 1941 1d pale  
 scarlet (SG486) with MAJOR DRY  
 PRINT AFFECTING ALL STAMPS



WITH THREE STAMPS TOTALLY BLANK, one with 95% stamp missing and others less so. Five stamps  
 unmounted o.g., one fine o.g. although one with small mark on front. A superb error. (Ref 138244). £575.00

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As ever, our thanks to Bill Barrell  
 for his support of the federation

Remember to go to our excellent  
 website [www.mapf.co.uk](http://www.mapf.co.uk)

For news, past editions of the  
 newsletter and some fine displays.

**Best wishes for Christmas and the New  
 Year to all our societies and your members.**