

Newport Philatelic Society

Newsletter Spring Eighth Release: Number 68 May 2020

Introduction:

Dear members, thank you to the contributors who enable me to publish these newsletters. This is our eight release during these difficult times so I am particular grateful. Many articles are from repeat contributors so there is room for a few "first timers" so please consider a few words, do not worry about style and format, I can help with this, so please just send a few words in and you will be making a real difference to enable a future release. As before, I have put all previous issues on our website.

<https://newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com/>

Please do not forget my single page challenge, I have received the first four sheets so far, therefore, I expecting big things this week to make the next release possible. If anyone has any questions or would like to be reminded, I am looking for a single page based on a favourite, famous or just there physical location, please put a picture or photo of the location and any stamp related material, a single page no need for lots of text other than to help our members identify the place.

In this edition we have some advice from Warwick and Warwick on soaking stamps off and drying stamps, an insight into what a Perfin Mailing Officer (Margaret our treasurer) gets up and she is definitely busy, and the first four single page submissions from Lynne, Neil, Alistair and Roy.

Soaking and drying your stamps:



Tips by Warwick and Warwick, Auctioneers of Collectables.

Don't attempt to remove a stamp from an envelope or its paper backing by pulling it as this will cause irreparable damage. Use a pair of sharp scissors to trim the paper (about 2cms around it) ready to be soaked.

It's much easier to handle stamps when they're attached to an envelope and it makes more sense to sort them before you soak them, which will make them delicate.

Because soaking stamps is quite time consuming, sorting at this stage will ensure you don't waste time on stamps you don't want or need.

How to soak stamps:

1. Pour some clean warm water into a bowl and float each stamp (with the design facing upwards) on the surface.
2. Float as many stamps as you can accommodate at any one time.
3. Leave for 10 to 15 minutes so the water can impregnate the gum which is making it stick to the paper.
4. Use your fingers to gently peel the stamp away from the paper. If it does not come away easily, leave to soak for another five minutes before trying again.

Proceed with caution!

Immersing some stamps in water will increase the chances of the ink running so proceed with caution.

Colours can also run from the envelopes or paper to which the stamps are affixed. Soak items like this separately so you do not run the risk of discolouring other items.

If you do see the ink running from a stamp or its backing paper during the soaking process, remove the item from the water immediately and replace the water to reduce the risk of staining other stamps.

When you begin stamp collecting, it's important to stay with your items when soaking them so that you can react if necessary. As you gain in experience, you'll learn exactly how long each stamp needs to be soaked.

Stamps damage easily when they are wet or damp. Do not use tweezers or stamp tongs at this stage or you could ruin them. If you peel a stamp away from its backing paper and there is still some gum on the back, try to remove it using a soft wet brush.

Soaking water can quickly become sticky or clouded with gum adhesive and it's a good idea to change it for every batch of stamps.

How to dry stamps:

1. After their final soaking, use your fingers to carefully lay them flat (with the design face up) on a clean and dry piece of kitchen paper. Make sure the stamps are not touching each other.
2. Use another piece of kitchen paper to cover the wet stamps and gently press on them to blot away any excess water. Don't use old newspapers to dry wet stamps as the ink can transfer onto the front or back of the stamp and ruin it.
3. Once all your stamps are laid out, cover with a normal piece of paper and sandwich in between some heavy books to flatten them as they dry.
4. Leave for between half an hour to an hour, carefully remove them and leave to 'air' until completely dry, usually for 3 to 4 hours. They are now ready to mount in an album.
5. Never attempt to speed up the drying by placing stamps on a hot radiator or in sunlight because they'll curl and become damaged.

A busy Perfin Collector: (an article by Margaret)



Author's photograph shows Margaret at a recent Bristol Philately Society meeting, as part of a visiting group from Newport Society showing Bristol members some of her Perfin collection.

As our members know I collect Perfins and at the moment it is hard work and keeping me busy! I have been a member of the Perfin Society for many years and since the early '80's. For the last ten years I have been the mailing officer for the society and I am responsible for the distribution of our bulletin which is

issued 6 times every year. The bulletin consists of 32 pages of articles with up to 12 hand sheets from members, information to inform other collectors, and a 12 page Auction Booklet for members to buy and sell from.

I really enjoy this activity but it does keep me busy. On the subject of my mailing officer collection of back editions, I started a recent week by checking what old stock of bulletins and other society paperwork I needed to recycle. I had previously always kept 5 complete bulletin sets in a large box currently for years 2012 to 2020. That is a total of 300 bulletins plus sheets and plus auction details! I have decided to whittle this down to 3 complete sets, this filled my recycling bin, made space, pleased with this, a job well done!

Then following an email from the society's secretary, informing me that I only needed to keep bulletins from 2018 onwards. So off I started on another big sort out, another recycling bag filled, a job very well done!!

Since the weekend I just received the postage labels to be able to complete the June 2020 issue. The bulletin has gone to the printers but I've delayed receipt for 2 weeks to ensure all items are clean and safe during these troubled times. I will have to get the postage stamps for approximately 250 letters. So the regular mailing process starts again with envelopes, stamps, fillings, sealing and then boxed ready for the Royal Mail, who now do a special handstamp

cancellation, not for the society mail to go into the machine sorting system in Cardiff! These letters go around the world. End result a lot of happy Perfin collectors get the new issue in the first 2 weeks of June.



I really enjoy collecting Perfins but as you can see, it keeps me busy!



VICTORIA B.C.



Victoria is the capital city of British Columbia in the late 1700's it was known as Camusan. It became Fort Camusan in 1843, later Fort albert and Fort Victoria being "VICTORIA", a city in 1862. I have visited Victoria twice, firstly in 1993 as a Welsh Gymnastic Representative for a test competition and in 1994 for the Commonwealth Games in 1994. Here is the Empress hotel at the harbour. It is a wonderful city to visit.



PRISONERS OF WAR: 1914 - 1919.

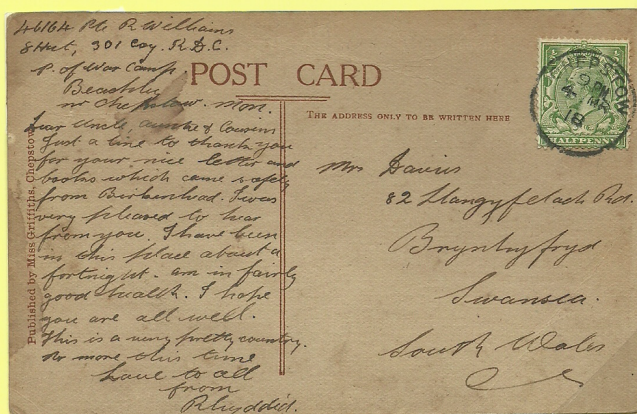
Beachley, Chepstow, Monmouthshire



Photocard of German Prisoners. The board in front states *Ein Erinnerung der Lustigen Acht, PoW 1918*, "a memory of the jolly eight". It was sent, undated, by Franz Richwein, PoW No 1000, Beachley, to Frau Marie Richwein, at Bückeberg (near Minden). The photographer was H Palmer, of Ross-on-Wye.

PRISONERS OF WAR 1914 - 1919

Beachley Camp, Chepstow, Monmouthshire.



Postcard of Chepstow, from a Private in Hut 8, 301 Coy, Royal Defence Corps, PoW Camp, Beachley, addressed to Swansea. Postmarked Chepstow 4 March 1918.

The Royal Defence Corps was made up of Reservists and Garrison men reconstituted as a force for home guard duties including guarding PoW Camps.

Victoria Falls hotel 1993



Opening of Victoria Falls Bridge 1905



POSTS & TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
First Day Cover
2 APRIL 1973

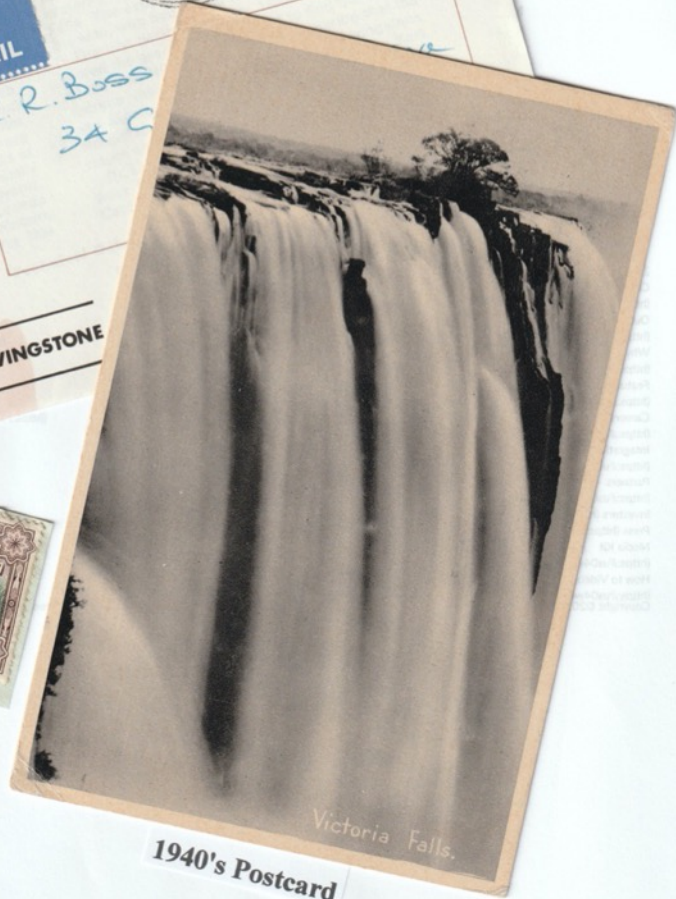


K.R. BOSS
34 C

No 7 In the Famous Figures Series
Dr. DAVID LIVINGSTONE



K G IV Coronation



1940's Postcard

Victoria Falls.

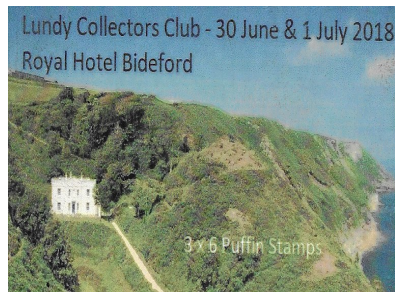
Lundy Island

30th June 2018

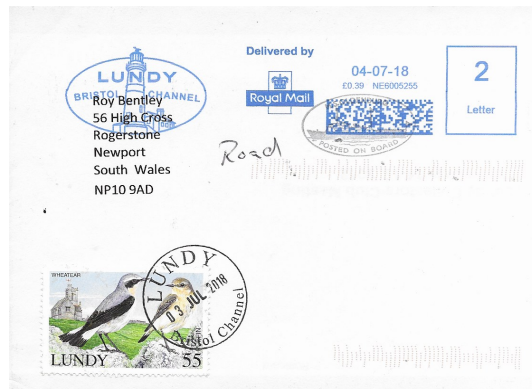


On 30th June 2018 the Bishop of Exeter held a dedication service on Lundy to bless the re - hanging of the church bells and the restoration of the church roof.

This event coincided with the summer visit to Lundy of the Lundy Collectors Club to the island. it was also Janice and my 45th wedding anniversary, the Bishop found out about our anniversary and asked if could bless our union at the service.



The item above was a booklet I prepared for Lundy Collectors club, it was given out at the Sunday meeting in Bideford to members.



Mail did not leave the island on the weekend so it would be cancelled on day of the sailing of the Oldenburg from Lundy..

These birds stamps are from 2017 issue Birds of Lundy designed by Bideford artist Sharron Read ,

Lundy Island is administered by the Landmark Trust. To visit for the day or to stay on the Island, contact:
Bookings and Information 01271 863636 Website www.lundyisland.co.uk www.landmarktrust.co.uk Photograph by Michael Orme

Final Notes:

Dear members, my simple message is to everyone, to please continue to keep safe and well. My thanks as always to all of the contributors, Margaret, Roy, Neil, Lynne, and Alistair who made this issue possible and remember this and any future newsletter depends on you so please get writing or this will be the last issue. Our members have enjoyed the “how I started” articles so if you have not done one yet please share your “story” with others.

So in order to release another issue I am expecting a single page entry from everyone. Remember your social distancing but “reach” out to your fellow members if you can and make contact and say hello. Any mistakes and errors are all down to me, so as before, my genuine apologies for every one of them!

If anyone is receiving the newsletter in error or no longer wishes to receive it please let me know and I will remove you from the circulation list.

Les Ashton-Smith