

## **Newport Philatelic Society**

### **Newsletter Summer Fifteenth Release: Number 75 July 2020**

#### **Introduction:**

Dear members, here we have issue fifteen of the 2020 special newsletter. Thanks to a couple of great member contributions from Lynne and Roy I am able to release this issue ahead of schedule. Two subjects covered in this release, firstly following an article found by Lynne on the unfranked stamp and the various permutations used to “obliterate” the stamp and secondly our Chairman Roy has been using some of the lockdown time to move his stamps from handwritten pages onto newly computer designed pages and he has kindly shown us the result.

The committee is working on the draft programme for next season as we hopefully start moving towards our more standard club meetings. (socially distanced of course!) I will try to include a copy of the draft programme in the next issue.

Do not forget if you have news to share please pass it on so that I can share it with the wider membership. We can also use our website for useful links and articles.

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

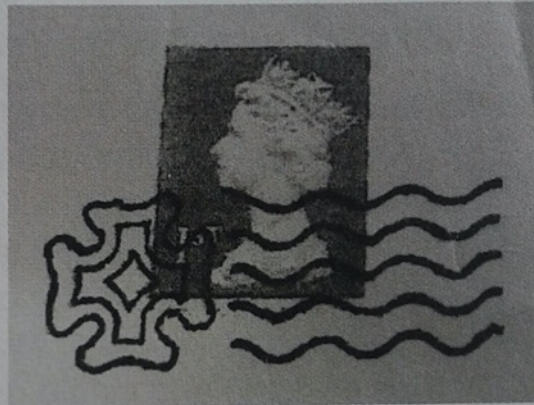
### Revenue protection by Royal Mail:

Lynne sent in the following article from a stamp magazine regarding “obliteration” of unfranked stamps later on the journey to final delivery.

## POSTMARKS

# *The end of the curse of the ballpoint pen?*

In the January 2016 issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart* I made mention of a small wavy-line cancel that had begun to appear on mail during 2015, writes David Gwynn. It was used to cancel stamps on items of mail where the stamps had missed



cancellation during the sorting process. These were mostly ‘flats’, that is, those larger items of mail that required special sorting and handling. There will be those amongst you who will have received, in the past, catalogues from auction houses where the stamps were uncanceled. This must have been common enough for Royal Mail to realise that revenue was being lost when these stamps were re-used. In July 2014 a new Revenue Integrity Transformation Team was formed to address the problem of uncanceled stamps.

This team did not recommend a wholesale increase in the use of ballpoint pens to deface these uncanceled stamps. Instead trials were held at Banbury of new hand-stamp tools that would

e of ballpoint pens to deface these uncanceled stamps. Instead trials were held at Banbury of new hand-stamp tools that would be used to cancel the stamps. Three types of trial 'tools' have been identified. One incorporates a 12mm high Maltese Cross with five 23mm long wavy lines alongside. This cancellation is illustrated here, enhanced a little to make it clearer to see. A second trial was identical in design but had a 10mm high Maltese Cross and wavy lines 19mm long. The third trial seems to be the one that was adopted and comprises five wavy lines. In the trial the wavy lines were 10mm in length, but the adopted cancellation has the lines at 18mm long. There is some evidence to suggest that three other designs were trialled at Banbury at the same time, but examples of these have not been seen. It is possible that the trial was concluded before these others were brought into use.

The trial at Banbury was considered a success and the chosen canceller was brought into use at other offices from

May 2015. However, the rolling out programme does not seem to have been comprehensive, and some offices do not yet seem to have them in use. It is known that Dartford in Kent received their 'tools' in early July, and if anyone can confirm other early dates of use from other offices, that would be very helpful.

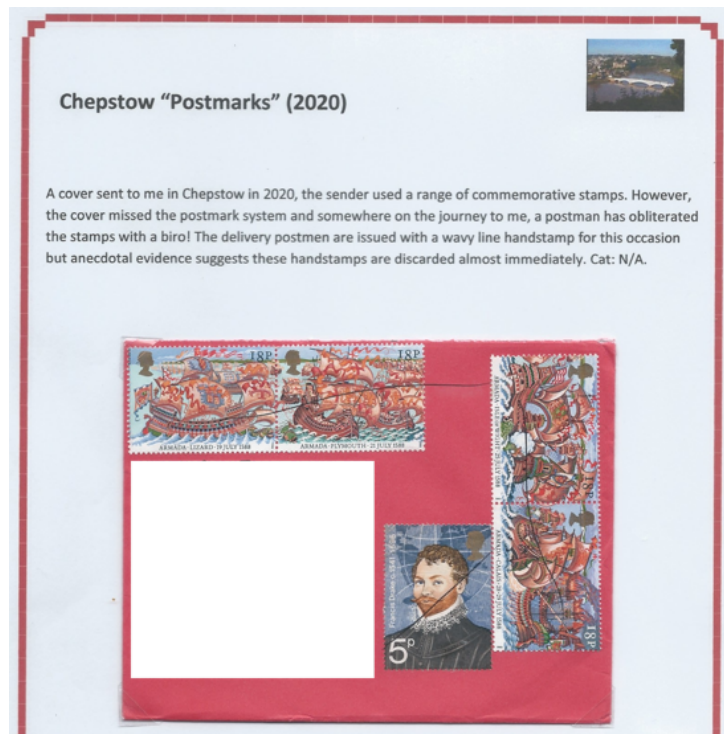
For the technically minded, the little 'tool' is a Trodat Printy 4922 and the base has a cover that can be fitted to enable it to be carried in a pocket without smearing ink everywhere.



*Thanks to the wonderful British Postmark Society Journal for help with this article.*

Not all postal staff seem to have or know about the handstamp, here are some alternative solutions recently received in my mail to Chepstow.





Here are two “blog” entries which discusses the release of the new handstamp with extracts from some Royal Mail instructions to their delivery staff and some more examples of wanton obliteration!

<https://blog.norphil.co.uk/2015/04/revenue-protection-royal-mail-phasing.html>

<https://blog.norphil.co.uk/2018/03/campaign-against-pen-cancels-if-you.html>

I am lucky enough to receive mail from many different countries and many use “real” stamps because they know I am interested in them, two countries stand out for me, you may have others, in the execution of franking with precision and care, Japan and Norway. Even with stamps placed all over the cover, sometimes on both sides, the postmark is elegantly and precisely placed. Here are two typical examples.  
From Norway:



From Japan: Front cover



Back Cover



Just to prove it can be done correctly here is an example of the handstamp in use.



## Writing up your collection:

Now that many of us have access to computers for work or home then more and more collectors are using them to layout their stamp collections. Here we have an example from Roy who has taken an old hand written layout and designed a new page. I use Word as my word processor of choice but others use different packages and there are also many good “open source” solutions such as “Open Office”. I recently bought pre-designed computer pages for a DDR stamp collection. If you are interested in considering doing this approach Roy at the next society meeting and he can perhaps suggest a member to talk to or some different ideas to use the computer to organise your collection. Here is a before and after from Roy:



### **Final Notes:**

Dear members, please look after yourselves and continue to keep safe and well.

Keep reaching out and making contact with your fellow society members, it is good to talk. Alistair is still looking for our box so if you have it please let Alistair know or pass it on as quickly as you can.

Please help me write another newsletter by sending me an image of your last stamp related acquisition.

If anyone else wants to ask the rest of the societies help with identification or information about a stamp item then please let me know and I will include it in a future newsletter for the outstanding collective wisdom of the society.

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