ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Members will be pleased to learn that Ian Kennaway has volunteered to fill the Society's vacant office of Secretary and as will be evident from the enclosed syllabus, he has been very active in drawing up a programme of meetings for the forthcoming season, including the usual mix of visitors and local talent. At a committee meeting last May, it was decided that some of the secretarial functions should be devolved, in order to reduce the Secretary's work load. Members will be asked to volunteer for the pleasant task of meeting and greeting visiting speakers, especially if they are a friend or acquaintance, ensuring that appropriate hospitality is provided. The maintenance of an archival record of Society meetings will be looked into, to see if it can be combined with the web-site reports.

At the last meeting of the committee, attention was drawn to the fact that the Society's financial position is currently very sound, thanks to generous legacies and fund-raising in connection with the centenary celebrations. There are constraints on the way that some of the gifted funds may be expended in accordance with the wishes of the donors and the committee has already committed funds to the purchase of new light-weight display frames. However, the committee contemplated several possible items of one-off expenditure to the benefit of members without coming to any firm decisions, for example, the purchase of SG specialised or world catalogues on a rolling basis; the acquisition of some form of induction loop or audio system to be used by speakers when presenting displays. Members are invited to comment on these or any other items of capital expenditure which they may care to suggest, e.g. a power point projector. Please let your views be known to any member of the committee.

The committee endorsed the decision of the last AGM to institute presidential insignia utilising the Wyon medal donated by David Kindley and with the professional assistance of Kirkwoods of Edinburgh.

The Societys **postal auction** will be held on 14th October 2011. The date for entry of lots is 2nd September and members wishing to enter lots should get them to Mike Longhurst by this date please. Mike can be contacted at 20 Abbotshall Crescent, Aberdeen AB15 9JP, tel: 01224 861629, email aberdeenpsauction@btinternet.com.

There will be a **North-East Postcard, Stamp and Collectors Fair** at Queen's Cross Parish Church Halls, Albyn Place on Saturday 10 September 2011, 10.30 – 3pm. These events are organised by Chad Neighbor, one of our own members who will be displaying to the Society later this year. Your support will be greatly appreciated, if we are to retain fairs in Aberdeen. This will be the only stamp fair in Aberdeen before the new year, although SCOTEX will be held at the Dewars Centre in Perth on 14 and 15 October 2011.

Karl Brown. We regret to announce the death of Karl A L Brown of Cove, Aberdeen, who died peacefully at ARI recently. He was in his 80's and had health problems for some time.

The Society webmaster writes: the website has been re-launched, and hopes that members like the changes. He welcomes any comments and ideas for further improvements, and the contact form, on the site, can be used for that. He also has an email list you can subscribe to, which will allow him to send you an email whenever there is a significant update to the site. Details of this are on the web site. The URL is, as always, www. aberdeenphilatelic.org.uk.

This season, it is our turn to make **two visits**, to Dundee and District PS (on 10 November 2011) and Arbroath PS (on 20 March 2012). Volunteers are sought to represent us and to provide part of an evening's display, perhaps two or three members to each society.

"Taking a Stand for Philately". The National Philatelic Society has circulated UK societies announcing that they will seek to promote the hobby among people who are not currently collectors, by taking a stand at the Ideal Homes Christmas Show at Earls Court, London, in November. The theme of the stand is "Discover Stamps – every stamp tells a story". They seek sponsorship in several forms including a supply of sponsored postcards which will be given away on the stand. Each postcard will have an image of a stamp of our choice on the front and on the reverse will be a brief story about the stamp and the details of our Society or Federation. Further details are on the NPS website. Is this an initiative to be applauded? Should we assist financially (£60 for a supply of 500 postcards)? Is London too far away to be of any relevance to us, or is promotion of the hobby anywhere in the UK mutually beneficial? Your views please to committee members.

Airmail Labels of South Africa, pp.18, colour illustrations, 2010. A new publication by David Macdonald, published by the South Africa Collectors' Society, will be of interest to airmail enthusiasts and collectors of South Africa. Further enquiries to our Treasurer.

Hindsight on **ASPS** Congress in Perth last April. There are now 44 societies in Scotland affiliated to ASPS. There is an upward trend with new societies holding daytime meetings. There were 31 dealers at Congress. The 200th anniversary of the Bell Rock lighthouse was the theme of the postmark and souvenir postcard. The national competition attracted 14 entries (2 golds), with a further 9 in the open competition and 3 in the postcard competition.

This Newsletter, syllabus and any other accompanying documents could be circulated as electronic mail to members with an email address, in the same way that *Scottish Philately* is currently circulated to some 45 members. Would any member who would prefer to receive the Newsletter, etc., as email attachments please indicate on the reverse of their subscription form. There are, of course, cost advantages in maximising the use of electronic mail, although some may feel that we should not try to cut down on the use of postage stamps!

Members **Subscriptions** to the Society are due in September for the season 2011-12. The Treasurer will receive subscriptions at the opening night, in cash or by cheque, and it would be helpful if the enclosed form could also accompany your payment. The form is also seeking your address if you have moved house in the last year; and your e-mail address, if you have one, or if it has altered in the last year.

The subscriptions for the coming year are: Town Members £12.00, Country Members £6.00.

Aberdeen Philatelic Society

I enclose my subscription of - Town Member £12.00.

Country Member £6.00

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