

Jim Drummond – Secretary’s Report for 2013//2014

(SecReport14)

Ian Donnelly and Don Farmborough

In my report last year I mentioned that Ian Donnelly had moved to Cheshire to be near his son and family. Unfortunately after a few weeks in sheltered accommodation Ian passed away aged 82. Ian served three spells on the committee spread over 8 years. He was a popular and most loyal member, always willing to help in any way he could.

During early April we heard of the death of Don Farmborough who lived in Didcot. Don had been a member of ADPS since June 1993 and although he was never able to attend any meetings he submitted a steady supply of good quality booklets into our Exchange Packets.

John Harley

Due to illness we have lost the services of John Harley who has been a very successful Publicity Officer and Librarian over the past 5 years. Unfortunately since he has not been able to walk for several months, John has been moved into a nursing home in Stoke Poges. We sincerely hope he will recover the power of his leg muscles and in time be able to rejoin us.

Membership

Our membership during the year ended 31 March 2014 has increased slightly from 105 to 109 plus 10 Honorary Life Members, of whom 2 are still active. Our member Ian Hawkins introduced four new names from U3A in Chesham Vale, namely Dr Tom Forster, Pauline Hohenberg, Dr Harry Howlett and John Small.

Over the past 12 months attendances at our normal meetings of 21 have been the same as last year, but the auctions continue to be popular, with an average of 42 (compared to 47 last year and 38 in 2011/12) of whom 11 are non members. The highest attendance for an auction was 51 in November last year. It is noticeable the lowest attendances occur during January and February, no doubt because of the seasonal weather.

Auctions and Exchange Packets

The finances and indeed most of the activities of the Society are underpinned by the commission earned from the auctions and packets each year. Both services create a heavy workload and we owe a massive debt of gratitude to Les and Liz Gwilliam for running the auctions so efficiently and to Alan Williams for organising such successful circulating packets.

Competitions

During the past year we revised the rules and on 20 March the Competitions Evening was well supported with a total of 24 entries. Five members each won one competition.

Junior Collectors

In common with most clubs the average age of our membership appears to increase every year and we are happy to do whatever we can to encourage younger collectors.

With that background we support Maureen Cory who runs Kidstamps with occasional mailings of the thematic stamps she offers to children who are starting to collect. The total number who have joined Kidstamps has now passed the 1,500 mark.

Middlesex Philatelic Federation Inter Society Quiz 2013

The above quiz was hosted by Barnet and District PS on 30 October 2013 and we are pleased to report our four man team (Nigel Perrins as captain, Mike Consden, David Page and Maurice Taylor) came second to Pinner.

Programmes

Once again we have enjoyed another year when we have been entertained by some outstanding speakers presenting high quality displays. Our Programme Secretary Tony Bridger is standing down after 6 years in that post and we thank him very much for all his good work over that period, especially bearing in mind he lives some distance away in Tring.

Website

David Page and his son in law Steve Griffiths have again managed the website extremely well over the past twelve months. The website is particularly useful to display our auction catalogues and prices realised, but it also includes a lot of other information about the Society including the dedicated section for members.

Committee

Since the last AGM we have held two committee meetings which have been very constructive occasions. David Peace was co-opted to the committee on 30 May 2013 and he has proved a most useful addition to our number.

There are vacancies on the committee and if any members would like to take an active part in running the Society please contact any one of us.