

## **Jim Drummond – Secretary’s Report for 2016//2017**

### **Members who passed away during 2016/17**

John Payne who joined the Society in 1992 passed away in August 2016 aged 84. He was a very popular and respected member who could perhaps be summed up as “always well dressed, well spoken and well mannered”. John regularly bought large lots at auction, selected what he wanted for his own impressive collection and then arranged to sell the surplus, mainly through our exchange packets and auctions. He was our most successful vendor and we greatly miss him.

Andrew Ruxton joined the Society in 2008 but was unable to attend meetings as he worked full time as a school teacher. However he purchased regularly from our exchange packets. Sadly he also died in August from cancer aged 62.

One of our Honorary Life Members Tony Lane died in June 2016. He joined the Society in 1969 and served in various committee posts including President from 1978 to 1980.

### **Membership**

Our membership as at 31 March 2017 was 98 (compared to 113 last year) plus 8 Honorary Life Members of whom two, Maurice Taylor and David Page are active. The reduction is largely due to decisions by some of our older members not to renew their subscriptions through to March 2018. We have welcomed 4 new members Sean Fallon, Stephen Newman, Ernest Selby and Peter van Gelder. Two weeks ago after a spell in Thailand we were happy to see Steve Hands rejoin as a member. Over the past 12 months the average attendance at our normal meetings has improved slightly from 20 to almost 22. The auctions continue to be very popular, with an average of 46 (compared to 40 last year) of whom 11 are non members. The best attendance for an auction was 54 in March this year, which is the highest for any meeting since October 2012 when 60 joined us for the MPF Quiz.

### **Auctions and Exchange Packets**

The auctions have again proved most successful during the year and provide our major source of income. Once again we must thank Les and Liz Gwilliam for organising the auctions in such a professional manner. Other members play key roles including Stuart Catchpole, Alan Williams, Chris Marsh, Derek Chandler, Roger Elliston and Ian Wallace.

Alan Williams has again run the exchange packets remarkably successfully for the tenth successive year.

## **Competitions**

The competitions attracted strong support with 26 entries from a total of 10 members. Four members share the trophies, Tim Harrison winning the New Chiltern Cup and the Ruby Trophy, with Brian Feakes, Michael Pitt-Payne and Tony Stanford sharing the other three. As a “novice” Tim was also awarded the Chubb Bowl.

## **Junior Collectors**

In common with most clubs the average age of our membership continues to increase every year and we do whatever we can to encourage younger collectors. If you hear of any local junior collectors we shall be happy to give them a starter kit, comprising a stockbook, tweezers, magnifying glass, some stamps and a packet of adhesive hinges. Very recently we gave such a kit plus an old catalogue from our library to a bright nine year old boy (who unusually for his generation) thanked us in writing.

From time to time we send surplus stamps to the Convenor of Youth Philately of the Association of British Philatelic Societies.

## **Website**

The website operated well for most of the year but in January/February this year minor problems began to occur. Messages to committee members via the website were not always received. David Page and his son in law Steve Griffiths are monitoring the situation and more recent messages are arriving correctly.

## **Committee**

The committee members all cooperate well with each other which is key to a successful Society. We hold only two meetings per year which end within two hours. Most of our decisions are made by consensus after communicating by telephone or E mail.

Tony Bridger and Martin Johnson are retiring from the committee after 16 years and 8 years service respectively. Both have made major contributions to ADPS for which we offer our sincere thanks.

I am pleased to advise that Dr Tim Harrison has agreed to seek election as a general committee member.

There is always work to be done at committee level and if any members would like to stand for election we shall always be pleased to hear from you.