

Election of the members of Council at the Royal Philatelic Society London

Each of the twelve individuals nominated for Council for 2022-2023 have been asked to provide a short summary of themselves:

Jon Aitchison

Jon joined the Society in 2010 and has been Hon. Secretary from 2019 until 2022. Previously he was a Council member from 2013 until 2016, serving on the M.A.R.C. and Museum committees. He has been the main organiser of four 1pm group displays and presented his own display earlier this year as well as two Zoom presentations. He curated several museum displays including one of his own material and has presented a standing display.

Jon is the Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, a signatory to the Roll of Notable Cinderella Philatelists and a director of Stamp World Exhibitions, the parent company of British international exhibitions. He is a member of the A.B.P.S. Exhibitions and International Committee with portfolio for overseas exhibitions and commissioners. He has been the UK commissioner at six international exhibitions and won gold medals internationally.

Jon is Chairman of the Egypt Study Circle, Vice-Chairman of the Cinderella Stamp Club, a member of Le Club de Monte Carlo and the Collectors Club of New York, and holds committee posts in several other societies. He has published ten philatelic books including the standard catalogues for Lundy Island, Channel Island Locals and Isle of Man Locals.

Jon would bring considerable experience to the post of Council member.

Mark Bailey

Mark joined the Royal in 2010, and helped on the Society's IT Committee. He volunteered to help catalogue photographs in the Society's archive. He also volunteered to help on the Society's stand at Stampex events in London. In recognition of his voluntary services to the Society, he was elected a Fellow in 2014. When Steve Jarvis took on the role of the editor of The London Philatelist when the late Frank Walton became President, Mark replaced Steve as the Chairman of the IT Committee.

In 2015, Mark was elected as a member of Council, and has been re-elected as a member of Council each year since then. Mark had a major role in the redesign of the IT infrastructure and relocation of the IT and audio-visual equipment when the Society moved from 41 Devonshire Place via an office at Spink & Son Ltd to 15 Abchurch Lane. As part of that move, he selected Zoom as the video conferencing system, and he continues to have a central role in the Zoom video meetings since April 2020. Mark has also taken on the responsibility of managing the Society's exhibition stand at Stampex events for several years, and the London2022 event.

Dr D. Gwynne Harries

After a 40+ year career in education, I have become increasingly involved with my lifelong love and interest in philately. A member of several specialist philatelic societies I have helped in their running, organisation and representation in various capacities over the years. My eclectic range of collecting interests including, KGV GB, QV surface printed, meter mail, France, Sudan and Norway.

As a life-member and Fellow of the Society, I serve on the Museums and Collections Committee and I am one of the regional representatives for West Midlands. I regularly present at regional meetings and local societies. I organise, edit and contribute book reviews for The London Philatelist and am a recipient of the Society's London Medal for services to the library.

I am also a member of Burton on Trent PS (30+ years), the Scandinavia PS (30+ years), the Sudan Study Group (10 years), the current President of the Iran PS (6 years), the France & Colonies PS (5 years), the British Air Mail Society, the Italy & Colonies PS (5 years), the Cuban PS of America (3 years). I maintain the websites for the Burton PS, Scandinavia PS and Sudan Study Group

Pre-pandemic, I worked part-time for a provincial philatelic auction house and currently have similar work with a well-known London based company.

Mike Hoffman

I joined the Society in 2019 and attended Stockholmia that year where I assisted on the Society's stand. I joined the IT committee in 2020, where I assisted Mark Bailey with the Zoom meetings during Covid and technical developments, as Zoom became an integral part of life at the Society. I was also invited to join the Collections Committee where I provided technical assistance for the online summer seminar series last year.

I have worked in digital design and technology since 1988, and the web since its early days. I run an IT consultancy company which advises small businesses and charities, and I have a good understanding of the digital world that the Society inhabits. For the last twenty years I have been webmaster for the Rhodesian Study Circle. I have been involved in the staging of their virtual conference and their in-person conferences for several years. I am also on the organising committee of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, running Zoom and PowerPoint for the event.

I see the Society making great strides as philately embraces the digital world and it is an exciting time to be able to contribute to that journey. My collecting interests are Rhodesia, Philatelic Congress of GB and Scottish Postal History.

Daphne E. McMillan

Daphne is a retired woodwind teacher from Cottingham, East Yorkshire. She joined Hull PS in 1976 and has been president four times. She joined the Royal in 2010 participating in the Yorkshire area display in 2019 and several regional meetings. She is a member of the King George VI Society, the Forces Postal History Society, the GB Philatelic Society, the Postal History Society and the Polar Postal History Society and is also an ABPS Friend.

Since retirement, attending full philatelic shows has meant she can spend more time volunteering on the Royal's stand. She has assisted with mounting both at the BDC and at the Northern National in York. She became Secretary of Yorkshire Philatelic Association in Autumn 2017.

She collects several aspects of GB KGVI and has shown to most of the Yorkshire societies and some adjacent counties as well as church and historical groups, latterly giving Zoom displays in other areas, including to the British Thematic Association.

An Open class exhibit on *The Family, Life and Reign of KGVI* achieved national Large Gold (2020) and International Large Vermeil at London 2022. Other collections include WWII, (especially RAF material and Airgraphs), French Antarctic and Royalty postcards.

Simon Martin-Redman

Philatelic memberships include: member and Past President of the Sarawak Specialist Society, (now its archivist and librarian), Club de Monte Carlo, Society of Postal Historians and GB Philatelic Society.

His first career was serving in the Royal Navy from which he retired as a Commander at the age of 37. He then went into the City with Deloitte and Touche. After leaving Deloitte, he became the Managing Director of a political lobbying company before joining a management consultancy company. As Managing Director, he led a management buyout and then grew the consultancy company to a staff of 150. The company had a very strong presence in Government but Simon also specialised in working with Boards and senior management in all industries and helping them grow and develop their businesses.

He has been a visiting lecturer to Henley Management College and is an alumni of the Windsor Leadership Trust. Since selling his company, he has been Chairman of two constituency associations, Non-Executive Chairman of four companies and the Captain and Director of Frinton Golf Club.

Now, with no other responsibilities, if elected, he would like to bring his experience and undoubted energy to the Council of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Claire Scott

I started collecting aged eight, exhibiting as a teenager, and philately was part of my Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. I joined the Royal in 1983 and am a Wessex Regional Representative, also the Postal History Society's Editor, as well as being a Past President.

As Chairman of the Salisbury Philatelic Society, we recently supported a 16-year-old with the philatelic element of his Duke of Edinburgh Award and the Royal's regional representatives are in a position to foster such links to encourage a new generation of collectors.

When I gave the first ever presentation of Brunei to the Royal in 2020, 38 guests attended, including 13 staff from the High Commission, one of whom has become an enthusiastic collector. All our displays are capable of being more widely marketed outside philatelic circles to raise the profile of the Society.

As a charity with a worldwide membership outreach should be a fundamental part of our rationale and I would promote links with institutions such as the Stationers' Company, of which I am a Liveryman.

I believe that the Council of the Royal should be representative of the membership, accessible and transparent.

John Scott

My professional career has been spent within ten minutes' walk of Abchurch Lane, as a Director of Morgan Grenfell and as a Managing Director of Deutsche Bank. I have served for over twenty years as an elected councillor in the City, being Chief Commoner in 2018-19, and as a Chairman of the Central London Bench.

I started collecting stamps at the age of six, joining the Royal in 1971, serving as Museum Curator and currently as a member of the Collections Committee. I joined the Postal History Society in 1968, serving two terms as President and presently as Librarian. I delivered the Christmas lecture last year to the Royal and have the honour of being the Immediate Past Keeper of The Royal Philatelic Collection.

I have been a Governor of the Museum of London since 2012, acting as Chairman of their Audit and Risk Committee, a Council Member of Gresham College and a Board Member of the Thames Festival Trust. As an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society, I am an enthusiast for outreach and believe that we should be making much more use of our magnificent building to promote philately to a wider audience among the City community.

John Stimson

I was first elected to Council in 2021 and have served on the IT Committee. I have also recently undertaken a special acquisition and fund-raising project for the Spear Museum. Before that I served on the *Tomorrow's Royal* fund-raising committee.

Whilst being elected as a Council member of the Royal has been a privilege and an honour, I would have volunteered for these activities anyway. In the year I have been part of the Council I have certainly learnt a lot about the responsibilities of being a Director of the Royal and understand the inner workings of the organisation a lot better than before.

If elected in 2022 I commit to work hard to ensure the success of the Society, to hopefully make the Society even more welcoming to new members, whilst preserving the traditions we all value so highly.

For those who don't know me, I have been Chairman of the New Zealand Society of GB for 10 years; I joined the Royal in 2012 and became a Fellow in 2020.

Kim Stuckey

I have been a member of Council since 2019. As Honorary Assistant Secretary, my main responsibility has been the ongoing maintenance of Abchurch Lane, building on the superb work of Chris King and others in overseeing the restoration project. I identified and negotiated the contract with our main building maintenance company plus ancillary contracts for lift and alarm maintenance. These suppliers have worked well, overseen by our Steward, David Taylor.

I have just revived the Society's marketing team; our main focus is to support the other committees to seek additional funds for the Society. Supporting this is work with John Stimson and Mark Bailey in developing our Royal website.

Elsewhere in philately I was UK Commissioner and Executive Committee member for London 2022. I am also Chairman of the Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group, member of various other societies and attend the Wessex Region meetings of the Royal. I live in Wiltshire and other hobbies include sport in general, especially playing tennis.

I would like to continue my work for the Royal. There is still a lot of opportunity to develop the Society and build on a sound financial platform and I ask for your support to help me do this.

Lillian Swift

I joined the Society in 2013. For several years I have been a member of the Membership and Representatives Committee (MARC) working with members in this country and around the world. MARC also ensures that new members can join the Society in an easy and welcoming way.

I have been engaged with stamps as long as I can remember (since 4 years of age) when my father sent to me my first cover with the "British Empire and Commonwealth Games" stamps on. My main collecting interest now is Scandinavia.

I am a qualified nurse and midwife and I have worked in Norway. I also spent 20 years working for a Hi-Fi company, based in Cambridgeshire. The company designed, manufactured and marketed a range of high-quality audio electronics. Over the years the business grew to be successful in the UK and Overseas. I worked in most areas of the company and later managed and co-ordinated customer service and the rapidly developing international customer base. I am now retired.

As a member of Council, I would like to contribute to the expansion of the Society in its pursuit of excellence and goodwill, whilst maintaining its very important profile in the philatelic world.

Jack Zhang

I joined the Society in 2015 and have been a member of Council since 2020. I am also a member of ACPF, a member of several Chinese philately societies, the APS and the GBPS. I was the founder of www.philatelymuseum.com. I published *The Origin of the Penny Black* in 2015 which won several Vermeils at world stamp exhibitions and my exhibit *Sir Rowland Hill's Postal Reform and the Penny Black* won two Golds at the Northern National and Stampex.

For the last several years I have supported the Royal in many ways: proposing over 20 collectors to join the Society, serving on the Society's stand at Stampex, donating materials and funds to *Tomorrow's Royal*, writing articles for LP and acting as photographer for the Society on many occasions.

I have produced many presentations promoting the Society, together with using my website/social media posting news, information and articles about the society.

I have also helped organize the Society's annual China meetings, coordinated and helped the Society obtain the funds for its new Exhibition Medal, organized a Chinese philatelic delegation to visit the Society in 2018 and the Society's delegation to visit China 2019 World Stamp Exhibition. I like to serve the Society as fully as I can.