



MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Aubrey Bowles

ST PATRICK'S DAY

Saint Patrick's Day, or the Feast of Saint Patrick *Lá Fhéile Pádraig*, in Gaelic, literally means 'the Day of the Festival of Patrick'. It is a religious and cultural holiday held on 17 March, the traditional death date of Saint Patrick (c385 – c 461), the foremost patron saint of Ireland.

Saint Patrick's Day was made an official Christian feast day in the early 17th century and is observed by the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion and the Eastern Orthodox Church, as well as the Lutheran Church. The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, and, by extension, celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general.

Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, *ceilidh*, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks. Christians who belong to liturgical denominations also attend church services.

In recent times, restrictions on feasting and drinking alcohol were lifted for the day, which has encouraged the holiday's tradition of revelry.



Very old Irish Postal stamp



Legend holds that St. Patrick used the three-leaved plant to explain the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) to the Irish. It is an iconic symbol of Ireland, used globally for St. Patrick's Day.

If you are Irish or of Irish descent, we wish you a happy celebration of St Patrick on this special day

**TUESDAY
17 MARCH 2026**

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

On 01 March 1932 the 20-month-old son of aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh, was kidnapped from his home in Hopewell, New Jersey, USA. The Lindbergh's paid a ransom of US\$50 000 in vain. The boy's body was found dumped in some woods a few kilometres from the Lindbergh residence. Bruno Richard Hauptmann was arrested in September 1934 after a portion of the \$50,000 ransom money was found in his possession. A homemade ladder, believed to have been used in the kidnapping, was linked to his home. He was executed in 1936



Charles Lindbergh
Aviation pioneer

Before his 1927 transatlantic flight, Lindbergh spent the defining years of his early career as a contract airmail pilot, a job so dangerous it was known among aviators as the "suicide club"



Charles Lindbergh and "Lucky Lindy" his first aeroplane used for the postal service route which he flew on contract. The photograph is in the US National Postal Museum

NEW ISSUES



Left: Gt Britain 26 February 2026
 50th Anniversary Flight of the Concorde
 The "Queen of the Skies"
 Available on E-Bay at a cost of R573,00
 Below: France 1976 – Inaugural flight of
 the Concorde from Paris to Rio de Janeiro
 in 1976
 Available on E-Bay for R15,00



Bottom: Madagascar miniature sheet
 issued 2006 to commemorate 50th
 anniversary of Concorde which is also
 available on E-Bay for R64,00
 All of these issues will have tremendous
 appeal to anybody who collects aviation



Concorde was the first supersonic passenger-carrying commercial airplane, built jointly by aircraft manufacturers in Great Britain and France. The Concorde (Concorde in French) made its first transatlantic crossing on September 26, 1973, and it inaugurated the world's first scheduled supersonic passenger service on January 21, 1976—British Airways initially flying the aircraft from London to Bahrain and Air France flying it from Paris to Rio de Janeiro. Both airlines added regular service to Washington, D.C., in May 1976 and to New York City in November 1977. The aircraft's noise and operating expense limited its service. Financial losses led both airlines to cut routes, eventually leaving New York City as their only regular destination. Concorde operations were finally ceased by Air France in May 2003 and by British Airways in October 2003. Only 14 of the aircraft actually went into service.

CLUB EXHIBITS

At the Society meeting on Saturday, Pieter Swanepoel, who was awarded the Chairman's Cup for being the most consistent exhibitor at Club Level, showed "Lichtenstein" as his exhibit for the Alphabet Show. Pieter always goes to great lengths to research information about stamps and the country of issue. He recommends that more collectors should consider collecting Lichtenstein as they do issue some very nice stamps




LICHTENSTEIN

By

Pieter Swanepoel

Lichtenstein

A small independent municipality lying between Austria and Switzerland



Set of imperf stamps issued 1920

Founded in 1719 and achieved autonomy in 1806, became independent in 1866. It originally used Austrian stamps and began printing its own in 1912. Its area is just 160 square kilometres and a population of 37,000, and may be Europe's leading financial centres. Capital city is Vaduz . It has a largely rural economy depending on traditional occupations such as cheese-making. Lichtenstein is one of the richest countries in the world. The country's low tax rate, loose incorporation and corporate governance rules, and traditions of strict bank secrecy have contributed significantly to the ability of financial intermediaries in Lichtenstein to attract funds from outside the country's borders.

The regular A B C Show is gaining in popularity with many more members participating. This is a good forum to show your interests and improve your exhibiting skills

Naturally, the Mug of the Month is also always "up for grabs" so why not give it a go? Our next theme covers the letters M N O so there is plenty of scope!

CLUB EVENTS

The 102nd Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 21 February 2026 and was well attended.

John Handman was unanimously re-elected as Club President with other appointments as follows:

Aubrey Bowles	Secretary
Heather Wyllie	Treasurer
Tony Koch	Membership Secretary & Publicity
Russell Bowton	Circuit Book Manager
Graham Bruce	Librarian
Val de Jager	Catering Officer

During the meeting it was proposed and agreed that Fred de Jager be co-opted as a member of the Committee in the capacity of Assistant Catering Officer



Aubrey Bowles congratulating John Handman on his re-election as John Handman who is proudly wearing the Chain of Office

During the AGM, the Club President awarded the Michael Dyer Cup to Aubrey Bowles for providing Service Excellence to the Club during the preceding year



Left: Club President John Handman awarding the Dyer Cup for service excellence to Aubrey Bowles
Aubrey will be exhibiting at the Nationals in Johannesburg in September this year.
Other members who will be participating will be John Handman, Dick Schuurman, Gordon Gove and Pieter Swanepoel so the MPS will be well represented!

The Chairman's Cup, which is awarded to the most consistent or improved exhibitor at Club Level was presented to Pieter Swanepoel.

We always appreciate the exhibits put up by Pieter, especially during the Alphabet Show, and the amount of research he puts into the exhibit.

Pieter will be exhibiting for the first time at National Level in September and we wish him much success



Left: Pieter Swanepoel receiving the Chairman's Cup for being the most improved exhibitor at Club Level

Well, done, Pieter We are proud of the fact that you are also now stepping up to exhibiting at National Level and we wish you a good result!

Dick Schuurman told the meeting that February 2026 was a rather special month because it was the only month that contained a lot of fours i.e. Four Sundays; Four Saturdays; and four of each day of the week. It appears that this phenomenon only occurs every 823 years! Naturally, February is also a Leap Year **every four years!**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21 March Alphabet Show

M N O

Mile O'Connor will be presenting "The Historic Buildings of Pietermaritzburg on Post-cards. Don't miss this very popular speaker and bring your family or a friend to listen to what should be a thoroughly entertaining and informative presentation

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We are thrilled to advise that, due to popular demand, the Maritzburg Circuit Books have been reinstated and will be managed by Russell Bowton. Please use this forum to sell your unwanted stamps as the results can be quite rewarding!
Contact Russell on 079 963 4453

THE ALPHABET SHOW

This was well supported and quite a few members participated under the letters J K L. Dick Schuurman showed the Kingdom of Italy under various kings with King Victor Emmanuel lasting until 1946 when Italy became a Republic



Dick Schuurman explaining his exhibit whilst an attentive Club President looks on!
He also told us about all the "fours" which occur in February this year

Pieter Swanepoel showed KUT (Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika) and Lichtenstein (see article on page 3)



Arbeidsgenot

The home of C J Langenhoven in Oudtshoorn

Aubrey Bowles showed an exhibit of Langenhoven which comprised 16 pages. Langenhoven was a proponent of the Afrikaans language and a popular poet and writer. He also wrote the words for the original national anthem "Die Stem van Suid-Afrika"



Left: Gordon Gove presenting Knights Hospitaller and the Order of St John

Gordon will be expanding this exhibit which will be entered for the Nationals in Johannesburg in September

Gordon explained that The Order of Knights of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, commonly known as the Knights Hospitaller is a Catholic military order that was Hospitalier founded in the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem in the 12th century and had its headquarters in Jerusalem and later Acre, until 1291, thereafter being based in Kolossi Castle in Cyprus (1302–1310), the island of Rhodes (1310–1522), Malta (1530–1798) and Saint Petersburg (1799–1801). It was also known as The Order of St John and Nelson Mandela was appointed a Knight of the Order of St John



Gordon Gove was awarded the Mug of the Month for his exhibit which was judged "best on show" by the members. The mug was presented by Club President John Handman
Well done, Gordon. We are very proud of you!



RSA

Miniature sheet – Nelson Mandela
The Order of St John

In conclusion, Pat Izaaks told the audience how he started stamp collecting and what he collects. His article will appear in one of the Federation publications soon

All photographs in this edition were kindly taken by Tony Koch