# MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Established 1924

*Affiliated to the Philatelic Federation of South Africa*

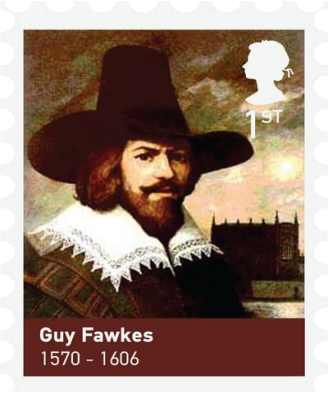
# NEWSLETTER

**Issue No.47 Volume 4** **November 2026** **Editor: Aubrey Bowles**


## 05 NOVEMBER – GUY FAWKES

Though mostly still celebrated in England, there was a time when the 5th of November was also an important occasion throughout the British Empire and, still today, in many Commonwealth countries. In South Africa we tend to let off "bangers" at Christmas and New Year and Guy Fawkes is but a fading memory.

***Remember, remember, the 5th of November,***
***Gunpowder, treason and plot.***
***I see no reason***
***Why gunpowder treason***
***Should ever be forgot.***
***Guy Fawkes, Guy Fawkes, 'twas his intent***
***To blow up the King and the Parliament.***
***Three score barrels of powder below***
***Poor old England to overthrow;***
***By God's providence he was catch'd***
***With a dark lantern and burning match.***
***Holler boys, holler boys, let the bells ring***




**In 2024 Gt Britain issued a set of stamps commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the Tower of London featuring some of its famous prisoners including Guy Fawkes who was hung, drawn and quartered in the City of London on the 31st January 1606**

## DATES TO REMEMBER!

**21 November** MPS Meeting 09h00
Hiton Scouts & Lions Community Hall
**Anything Goes *Items of Interest *Show & Tell*

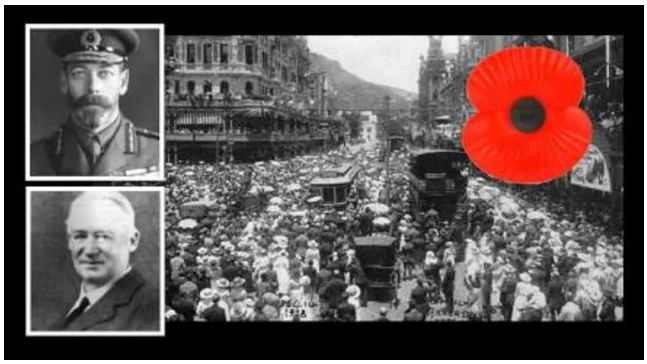
**12 December** Annual Christmas Braai Meeting at 09h00
**Anything Goes *Stamps with a Christmas Theme *Show and Tell*

**NOTE:** The meeting is earlier than usual due to the holiday season

***plus, James Grinyer will be presenting EGYPTOLOGY which is not to be missed!***

## LEAST WE FORGET

Armistice Day is observed annually in South Africa on 11 November to commemorate the sacrifice of veterans and civilians in World War I. The day is observed world-wide, though under various names. In Malta it is also called Poppy Day. In Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom it is called Remembrance Day, in the United States Veterans Day, while France, New Zealand, and many other Commonwealth countries call it Armistice Day, which was the original name of the day internationally. WWI ended on 11 November 1918 with the guns stopped on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. This is why 11 November was chosen in 1919 as the day to remember war casualties.



The picture shows a two-minute observance in Cape Town in 1918

**The Origin (1918):** In Cape Town, a daily midday pause initiated by Sir Harry Hands (then Mayor of Cape Town) brought the city to a standstill to remember those fighting on the Western Front.

**The Global Adoption (1919):** Author Sir Percy Fitzpatrick (*Jock of the Bushveld*) suggested this practice to King George V. The King officially adopted it across the British Empire in 1919, creating the international standard of the 11:00 AM two-minute silence.

## S A LAUNCHES NEW STAMP!

Created by illustrator **Rachel-Mari Ackermann**, the cartoon-style design features two distinct types of South African post-boxes: a modern lamp box and a historic pillar post-box (such as the one in Makhanda

The issue will be released on **9 September 2026** during the National Stamp Show, and consists of a self-adhesive stamp booklet containing 10 Standard Postage stamps, along with a Commemorative Display Card (CDC). The artwork for this charming issue was created by Rachel-Mari Ackermann, whose conceptual design captures the spirit of the post-box in a fun and heartwarming cartoon style. Her illustrations portray the post-box in a positive and nostalgic light, appealing to both children and adults who remember the simple yet meaningful act of posting a letter – perhaps even one sealed with a kiss to someone far away. **World Post Day** itself is celebrated annually on **9 October** to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874. The day highlights the importance of postal services in connecting people and communities across the globe, promoting communication, inclusion, and economic development. Each year carries a theme that reflects contemporary challenges and opportunities within the postal sector; in 2026, the theme focuses on the enduring relevance of postal networks in a digitally connected world, emphasising trust, accessibility, and human connection. Among the stamps featured in this issue, the first stamp honours the *"Oldest pillar post-box in use"* in Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown). Pillar post-boxes, typically cylindrical in shape and made of cast iron, date back to the 19th century and were designed for durability and visibility. Painted in bright red to ensure they could easily be spotted; these post-boxes became landmarks in towns and cities.

## GT BRITAIN

The "new Armistice Day issues" refer to Royal Mail's brand-new set of commemorative stamps set for release on Armistice Day, 11 November 2026. The special collection marks exactly 110 years since the start of the Battle of the Somme (which began on 1 July 1916), one of the most defining and costly conflicts of the First World War. Inspired by the colour of the poppy

Saluting the Battle of Britain Heroes

The Royal Mail Remembrance Six Special Stamp Issue is released on 11 November 2026 to mark Armistice Day and the 110th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

## SEEN AT THE MEETING

**Photographs courtesy of James Grinyer**

The meeting on Saturday 17 October was attended by 20 members with apologies from the Chairman, John Handman, who was not able to attend. The meeting was conducted by Aubrey Bowles and Dick Schuurman. There was an impressive display of ten exhibits and a "show & tell" entry by Roger Porter. Our meetings continue to be interesting and we look forward to an even bigger turn-out with more exhibits under "Anything Goes" and items for "Show and Tell". It was also confirmed that the Christmas Meeting will be held on Saturday 12 December which is a week earlier than usual due to the Seasonal Holidays.

***Some of the enthusiastic audience***

James Grinyer showed Polar Expeditions and the special King Edward V11 that he had managed to procure with considerable difficulty and expense!

***James Grinyer proudly discussing the King Edward V11 Island stamps which are quite rare***

James also displayed *HMS Protector* a British Royal Navy vessel built in Glasgow in 1936 as a "fast net layer" designed to carry out dangerous work of protecting harbours; anchorages and individual ships from enemy submarines and torpedo strikes.

. HMS Protector went on to have a long, diverse career spanning over three decades, most famously transitioning from a wartime auxiliary vessel into Britain's primary Antarctic ice patrol ship.

***The original HMS Protector that was built in 1936***

HMS Protector A146 was scrapped in 1970. Its successor is HMS Protector A173 and was brough into service in 2011 serving as a modern ice-breaker.

***HMS Protector A173***

The "new" HMS Protector services research stations in the Antarctic and checks that the Atlantic Treaty is complied with.

(The full story about the ship was written by James Grinyer and appears in issue #72 of the Ambers Magazine)

## QUICK QUIZ

Pieter Swanepoel posed an interesting question when he asked if anybody knew or recognised the name: CLIVE EDWARD PETER

What was this person's claim to fame?

Do you know the answer?

**Dick Schuurman and Latvia**

**Below: Red Cross Stamps circa 1920**

Left: Joyce Hulse showed a post-card that came from Howick in New Zealand. As Joyce lives in Howick, KZN, she was pleasantly surprised to receive a post-card from a town with the same name more than 11 000 kilometres away!

The towns of Howick is named after Henry George Grey, the 3rd Earl Grey (also known as Viscount Howick or Lord Howick), who served as the British Secretary of State for the Colonies in London during the mid-19th century. There is also a town named Howick in Canada

**LATVIAN RED CROSS STAMPS**

Latvia is a country on the Baltic Sea between Lithuania and Estonia. Its capital is Riga and its population around 2 million and a member of the European Union.

After centuries of Teutonic, Swedish, Polish-Lithuanian and Russian rule, the independent Republic of Latvia was established on 18 November 1918 after breaking away from the Russian Empire In 1920 a set of charity stamps was issued but, due to the shortage of good quality paper during early 1920, the Red Cross issue was printed on the reverse side of unused banknotes that had been created by the Western Russian Volunteer Army.

Left: Gordon Gove and his presentation of The Irish Leaders.

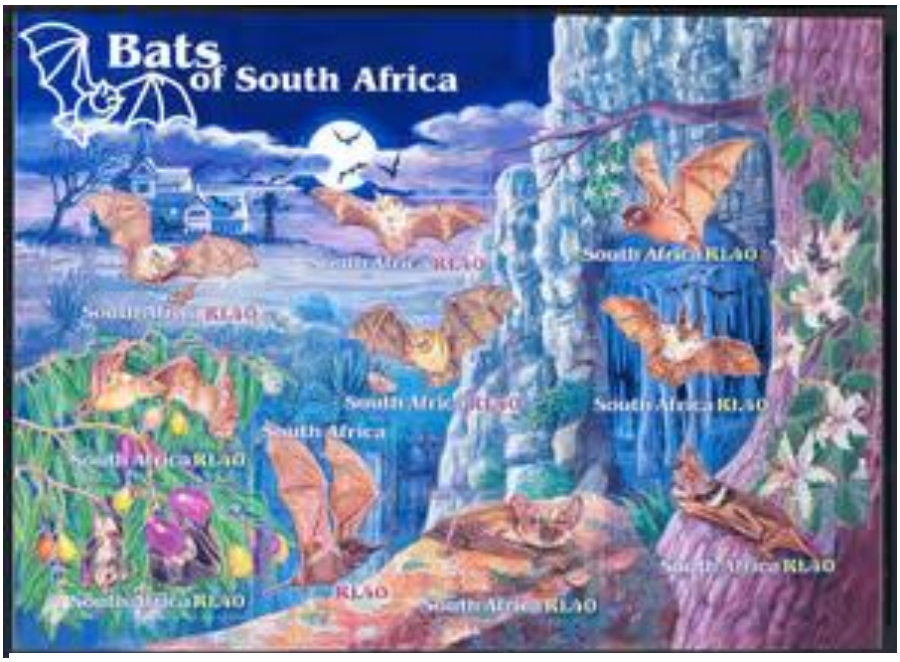
Theobold Wolfe Tone (1763-1798) was one of the important figures in the Irish Revolutionary Movement.

He helped to establish the Society of United and enlisted the aid of France to help overturn British Rule. Unfortunately, two attempted landings failed and he was captured by the British in 1798

Tried by court martial, Tone was sentenced to death and died in prison on 17 November 1798 aged 35

**Aubrey Bowles (recovering from an operation) presenting Olympia by Eduard Manet**

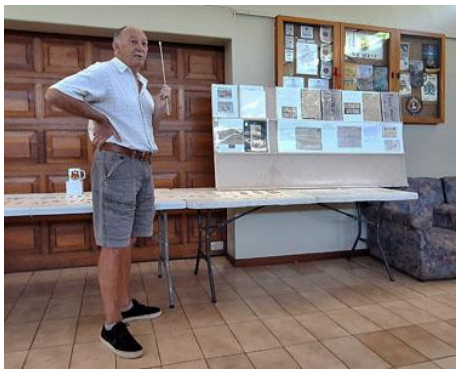
*Olympia* is a famous nude painting by Eduard Manet in 1863. While *Olympia* is uniquely the work of Manet several other notable artists are historically tied to the painting and Manet freely admits that his *Olympia* was inspired by Titians *Venus of Urbino* which was painted by the Renaissance master in 1538. The *Naked Maja* painted by Goya in 1797-1800 also served as an inspiration. The painting was gifted to France by Claude Monet (the famous Impressionist leader) in 1890 and is a prized masterpiece in the Musee d'Orsay in Paris.




**Sheetlet; Bats of South Africa**

Pat Izaaks showed an interesting collection of South African bats of which five species occur in KZN and nine in Gauteng. His presentation led to a very interesting discussion led by Roger Porter RDPSA who told members about the location and distribution of bats; the size of bats with some being only the size of a thumb; bats hunting with babies clinging to their mother and the fact that more bats occur in South Africa than anywhere else in the World

Above: An enthusiastic Pat Izaaks showing his "Bats" as well as a large collection of "The Peace Issue" stamps from 164 countries celebrating the end of World War 11 and victory. Pat is one of our regular contributors and we appreciate his support



**Pieter Swanepoel presenting Pope John Paul's visit to Kenya in 1988**

Who was Clive Edward Porter? Well, the answer is that he is the sailor representing the S A Navy on a postage stamp!

He was a leading signal-man in the S a Seaward Defence Force and Navy. He was drawn by S A War Artist Neville Lewis the portrait shows him in a naval cap with the ribbon reading "Afrikander"

HMS Afrikander (later HMSAS Afrikander) has a history as both a naval vessel and a land-based shore establishment in South Africa: [It originally started as HMS Tickler, a Gadfly-class flat-iron gunboat launched in 1879 by Pembroke Dock in Wales, measuring 254 tons and 85 feet long.

It was home-ported in Simon's Town in 1885 and later converted into a steam lighter in 1902.

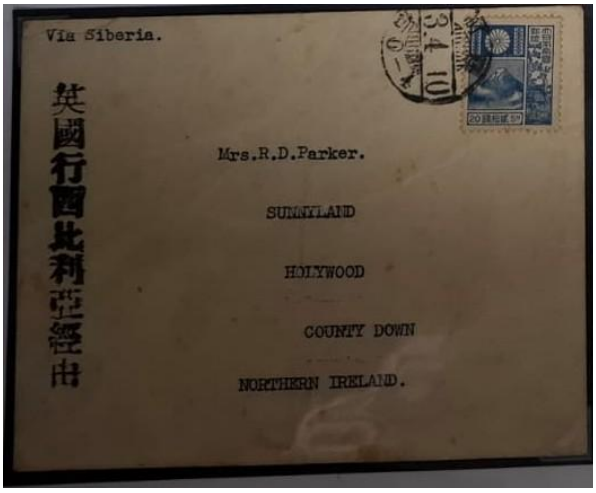
It was renamed HMS Afrikander in 1919.

In 1923, it was transferred to the South African Seaward Defence Force as HMSAS Afrikander.

**Kim Breytenbach presenting her "prize-winning" exhibits**

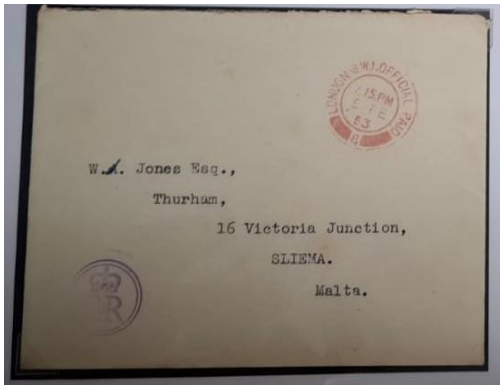
Kim showed an interesting envelope (described as a high-luxury cover) which was mailed directly from inside the heavily fortified British Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, to Northern Ireland via Siberia in 1928!

The "high-stakes route" during April 1928 was standard sea mail from Japan to Europe which could take up to 40 exhausting days via the Suez Canal. To bypass the ocean drag, this letter was placed on a steamship across the Sea of Japan to Vladivostok, Russia, where it began the lengthy Trans-Siberian Railway journey across the frozen wilderness of Siberia, through Moscow, across Europe and landed in Ireland in a mere 14 to 16 days!




**The envelope that raced across Siberia!**

Kim also displayed an Official British Crown Malil envelope that was posted to Malta during 1953 which was rather special because it showed a beautiful purple circular stap bearing the brandnew Queen's official monogram **E11R** (Elizabeth 11 Regina)




**Envelope posted to the "Island of Memories"**

Bespite its exceptional official lneage, Malta had an incredibly deep, romantic, significance for the new Queen as, just two years prior, between 1949 and 1953, Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip lived on the island at Villa Guardamangia while the prince was stationed there with the Royal Navy. It was famously the only place outside the UK where she had ever lived as an ordinary civilian.

**Petrol ration coupons**

Kim also showed an item "From the Home Front to the Front Line" concerning South Africa at war in 1943 and Ration Coupons which were applicable at that time

**Left: Kim won the coveted "Mug of the Month" for her very interesting exhibits which was presented to her by Dick Schuurman (Voting is always by the members present who decide the winning exhibit)**

**Roger Porter RDPSA and a captivated audience**

## QUEEN VICTORIA' S GIFT

**By**

**Roger Porter RDPSA**

It was Queen Victoria's gift of chocolate to each soldier (her personal contribution to the appeal) which most amused continental publishers.
Unlike the British, most Europeans think of chocolate as a beverage, not a bar. To the French, it seemed a very inappropriate surprise, particularly when the soldiers' needed shells, not cups and saucers! More open-mindedly they thought that perhaps it was an infallible medicine for healing

**Queen Victoria's chocolate box**

In late 1899, Queen Victoria commissioned ~100,000 embossed metal tins containing half a pound of vanilla chocolate to boost troop morale in South Africa for New Year 1900. [
The chocolate was produced by British Quaker-owned firms like Cadbury, J. & J. Fry & Sons, and Rowntree's. Because these owners were pacifists who opposed the war, they initially refused to put their brand names on the tins.

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**ROGER PORTER RDPSA AN ACCLAIMED JUDGE, EXHIBITOR AND AUTHOR OF MANY STAMP STORIES AND ARTICLES WAS MOST IMPRESSED BY THE LARGE LAYOUT OF VICTORY STAMPS BY PAT ISAAKS AND THE OVERALL IMPRESSIVE QUALITY OF THE ITEMS ON DISPLAY! WELL DONE, EVERYBODY!**

**A French cartoon published on a post-card**

The Dutch, under the guise of a greetings card from Pietermaritzburg were more pointed. "How on earth could powdered cocoa help the British Tommy against the gunpowder in Piet's rifle?

A big **THANK YOU** to all of those who exhibited at our meeting – it makes writing a (hopefully) meaningful Newsletter easier. Please make a continued effort to support the MPS.