

MIDLAND MAIL

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDLAND (GB) POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Number 158, January 2009

ELIZABETH LEWIS

A full appreciation of Elizabeth appears on the following page but I would like to pay a small tribute of my own. At the first meeting of the Society I attended in December 1981, Elizabeth greeted me warmly and, on finding that my main interest was Ashby-de-la-Zouch, produced a cover from c1900 which she gave to me. This was so typical of her generous spirit. As a Society, we owe her so much.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

On **14th February** we meet at the **Black Country Museum, Dudley**. Members are asked to bring one board displays on the topic of '*Official Mail*'. The meeting will begin at 1.30 pm.

Our meeting on **7th March** will be held in conjunction with the Annual Fair arranged by the Streetly Society at the **Collingwood Centre, Great Barr**. The meeting which begins at 1.30 pm will be devoted to members' one board displays on '*Penny Posts*'. There will be a committee meeting starting at 11.00 am.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at **1.00 pm** on **25th April** at the usual venue of St Germain's Church Hall. It will be followed by the Annual Auction at 1.30 pm.

THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL AUCTION

This will take place on Saturday 25th April at our usual venue - St Germain's Church Hall. So that it is possible to distribute catalogues in good time, particularly to our overseas members, it is necessary to let Eric have your auction lots by 14th February, but preferably at the meeting on 17th January especially for heavy or bulk lots that he will have to transport back to his house. Lots can, of course, be sent by post to Mr E Lewis at 27 Rathbone Road, Smethwick B67 5JG by 14th February at the latest, but preferably much earlier as compiling the catalogue with good descriptions to attract buyers is a very time-consuming process.

Please note that the minimum reserve for lots remains at **£3** with increments of: 50p up to £10; £1 above £10 up to £20; then £2 up to £50; then 35 up to £100; and £10 above £100.

As usual, a gift of any surplus material that you may care to give in aid of Society funds would be much appreciated. This raises a valuable amount of money so enabling subscriptions to be kept down. It also provides us with an opportunity to dispose of unwanted material or to acquire items for our collections.

ELIZABETH LEWIS - AN APPRECIATION

No one in the Society who had met Elizabeth Lewis could be other than deeply saddened by news of her death on 23rd November, for she was held in true affection. Elizabeth and Eric were founder members of the Midland (GB) Postal History Society in 1975 and for the past thirty-three years have provided the firm foundations on which it has built its reputation as one of the strongest postal history societies in the country, with a membership that has grown year-by-year to its present 100+ level. Elizabeth was our Chairman - not "Chairperson" at her own request - for almost ten years from 1979, Secretary from 1988 to 1993, President for three years from 1999 and Treasurer from 1995 until her death, a record of service to the Society unlikely to be matched by anyone except her husband. One always saw Elizabeth and Eric as an indivisible team, whether running the Society Auction from the time of its inception or as joint 'County Editors' for the Birmingham area. Elizabeth has left a gap that can never be filled, just covered.

Elizabeth and Eric first met on a church ramble and, although they didn't meet again for two years, were then inseparable and were married in October 1958, just fifty years ago. Busy with the Boys Brigade and the famous Billy Graham crusades of the 1960s and beyond, Eric allowed Elizabeth a few years grace before luring her into the postal history fold. Part of the famous Sidney Raine collection of Birmingham postal history was to be auctioned in London in 1970 and Elizabeth was despatched to the auction to bid for several lots on Eric's behalf. It could have been a truncated marriage as she was also told not to consider returning home if she hadn't bought the lots that she was sent to acquire. Happily she carried out her mission with complete success and was surprised how friendly the auctioneer (none other than Robson Lowe) had been, even stopping the auction at one point to have a chat with her. On the train, Elizabeth looked at her acquisitions and, from that moment, she was hooked.

Elizabeth and Eric set about building an unparallel collection of the postal history of Birmingham, spreading their wings to encompass surrounding counties and adding sideline collections of Victorian Christmas cards and Valentines. Nowadays, it is hard to think of anything that Elizabeth and Eric have not collected. Until ill health curtailed her mobility in recent years, Elizabeth gave talks and displays to philatelic societies, sometimes on her own or, more usually, with Eric. She helped Eric to edit and prepare "The Midlander", the bulletin of the Midland Philatelic Federation, for nine years, having the dual advantages of being able to type and, critically, an ability to decipher Eric's handwriting. In 1994, the Birmingham Philatelic Society awarded Elizabeth their award for philatelic research, an award only given three times in the last twenty-seven years. In 2003, Elizabeth was given the ABPS' prestigious Award of Merit, principally for her work in our society. No one has been more deserving of philatelic recognition. Elizabeth helped to organise and produce the catalogue for the Birmingham Society's annual charity auction for a number of years until Bob Shaw took over three years ago.

On a more personal level, we shall always remember Elizabeth's generosity. Buffet lunches and teas at her home were legendary and, at the Society's meetings, chocolate biscuits seemed to appear from thin air with no questions asked about who had paid for them.

At Elizabeth's funeral at West Bromwich on 9th December, the Midland (GB) Postal History Society was represented by Malcolm Allinson, John Calladine, Richard Farman, Alan Godfrey, Chris Jackson, David Shaw and Alan Spencer. Bob Shaw, David Venables and Arthur Wilson attended on behalf of the Birmingham Philatelic Society in addition to Richard Farman, David Shaw and Alan Spencer who are members of both societies. Other philatelic societies, with whom Elizabeth had links over many years, were represented by Tom Poynton and Paul Woodness. The Society extends its sincere condolences to Eric, Sharon and David and to the grandchildren who will miss Elizabeth so much. We know your connection with us and your contribution to the Society will remain undiminished and we count ourselves fortunate to have you as Elizabeth's living legacy.

WJC

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Although only twelve members and one guest attended this meeting for which there was no set topic, we were pleased to welcome Stuart Geddes, a new member who was on his way from Liverpool to Monmouth.

Guy Bridges started the meeting with a display on Halesowen and Oldbury, beginning with a map of Shropshire which showed the detached part of the county, but in the wrong place! The only known copy of the two line HALES/OWEN from February 1789 was followed by straight line and boxed mileage marks and then the 77 numeral. Material from Oldbury included the PP/UNPd 4d handstamp, the straight line handstamp used to cancel a stamp and then overstruck with the 75 numeral of Birmingham.

Roy Summers brought a display telling the story of Tattersalls, the sweepstake company, in Australia founded by George Adams in 1881 in New South Wales. Roy told the story of how Adams had to move to Queensland and eventually settled in Tasmania. He again suffered closure when the national government came in. To continue he used PO Boxes which were regularly closed down. The display included original hand sheets and many covers with all kinds of instructional markings including "*Unknown by Postmen in Adelaide*" and "*Not known by letter carriers...*".

Alan Godfrey showed the barred numeral 754 of Stratford upon Avon. The display included a 3HOS from 1844 and on a 2d blue to Warwick in Sept 1845 The 3 and 4 bar duplex handstamps were shown including a cover from Warwick to Stratford which had both towns 3VOD handstamps both showing time in code. An envelope and enclosure to USA with 3VOD in real time, a 3CD on a PPC to Ireland and a 3VOD on a cover to Bombay.

Derek Smeathers showed postcards of Northamptonshire Post Offices, taking us on a tour of the county which included Castle Ashby, Cottesbrook, and Earls Barton. Other material included a skeleton of Bulwick, a Field Post Office at Weedon and a parcel post label with 2 x 5d QV Jubilee stamps from Piddington

Alan Marshall brought a display on Lundy which included the first private stamps from November 1st 1929 where the value is equal to the number of Puffins shown on the face of each stamp. It included the second set of Puffin stamps and a commercially used cover from Dartford to Lundy Lighthouse with an appropriate red Puffin stamp.

Mick Gill brought a display of Southwell which included an entire to London in May 1803, the 129 mileage mark, the UDC on a letter from 1834 redirected from Bedford Row to Bedford Square. A Mulready from August 1840 was followed by an undated front of a Fores caricature No 7 with 1d black with red MX, so must be before February 1841.

Eric Lewis showed a host of material which relating to the introduction of two tier postage in September 1968. Eric started with a copy of the Notice to Households with details of the introduction and a whole series of envelopes which mocked it, including those produced by Jon Baker. The second type included a facsimile stamp which was against P.O. regulations and had to be withdrawn. Eric closed his display by playing a very amusing tape recording of the satirical radio programme '*I'm sorry I haven't a clue*' which was broadcast just prior to the introduction of two tier postage.

Green cancellations of Gloucestershire was the subject of Colin Fountain's display starting with 1847 Cheltenham 'traveller' from 29/1/48 with code '3' and a Blakeney UDC from 1850. Postage Due and Instructional marks followed with a 1966 instructional mark still using the 1844 numeral 757 in the handstamp and the 550 numeral of the station sorting office and green ALF marks.

Chris Jackson showed local tokens from Redditch, both business and local inns. Together with a collection of five mourning envelopes, all from the same correspondence, each with a slightly smaller border, used as the period of mourning passed.

Paul Bradshaw completed the first half with a display of Thrapston, starting with no less than a 2d blue on cover with a 'Thrapston Penny Post' on the front in blue, and a locally used Mulready cover from July 1841. Penny Posts from 1832, 34 & 36 followed in black, blue and red. This was followed by Trans-Atlantic mail to Canada and a 1/- adhesive cancelled 798 to Durban and a 1d lilac with 'I.R.' overprint commercially used to Northampton.

Chris Jackson started the second half with a selection of Worcestershire 1d blacks on cover with examples cancelled in black and in red from most towns. Chris highlighted two covers with marks on the front, one with a 'Studley' straight line, and the other with a 'London Road' udc. A cover from Worcester to Upton which had been redirected, and charged a further 1d, to Westhild Herefordshire was followed by one which had been sent to Worcester in late 1840, then turned and used again with a pair of blacks in 1841 so having both black and red cancellations on one cover.

Derek Smeathers showed photographs of Post Offices of Northamptonshire which had been taken by John Hine whilst on a cycling holiday in 1965. Derek had matched the photos with covers posted at the various offices. Offices included Cold Ashby, Crick, Haselbech, Wooton (with Velocette motorcycle outside) and Wilby with Agnes Holland in her Post Office uniform.

Alan Marshall then showed Zeppelin mail to a variety of destinations including Cairo, Transvaal and Zurich. The German airmail issues of 1926 and 1934 followed with covers to Bombay on the Graff Zeppelin.

Mick Gill then gave a display based on the suffix 'On Trent'. He showed Carlton on Trent (543) a sub office of Newark (541) with udc's in various colours. Sutton on Trent with sideways Newark, Sutton and Carlton udc's. A 1799 cover from Newton on Trent had a nice straight line handstamp on a free cover and one to Folkingham in 1844 had a Newton on Trent udc.

Eric Lewis closed the meeting with a display of cartoons. He started with a Xmas and New year card in the form of a booklet from 1908 (100 years old) issued by the Post Office Savings Bank, predicting the future – 1928 the P.O. would be entirely run by women! and in 1958 the P.O. would be entirely run by robots!! Vaccination was the subject of a Punch cartoon 'A visit to the Post Office'. The display covered Postal Rates and finished with a bill from the Angel Hotel Ludlow where the food for a horse costs 3/2d and for the man himself 2/-!!!

It was another great afternoon with a wide variety of material on view.

My thanks to Chris Jackson for providing this report on what was clearly a very varied and entertaining afternoon.

THE DECEMBER MEETING

This year's Christmas meeting was held at a new venue following the unfortunate closure of the Museum of Brewing at Burton on Trent, where we have held our December meeting since 1977. Sharpe's Pottery Museum at Swadlincote provided a delightful alternative, being easy to find and having the benefit of plenty of free parking close at hand. We had to content ourselves with a buffet lunch rather than our normal sit-down Christmas luncheon but what a buffet it was, quality, quantity and variety being beyond reproach. Perhaps it is unsurprising that only a dozen members attended this year but one hopes this assurance will encourage many more in 2009, for we shall surely return.

The display, given to an enthusiastic gathering of hardened postal historians, was by John Soer and its title, 'Crossroads of Europe', intrigued many of us. John began by explaining that, following a visit to Ghent to provide the children of his school with schoolmasterly supervision, he had developed a taste for Belgian Postal History as a 'sideline' collection. If we thought Belgium was a relatively modern creation and could have little postal history, we were soon given an education.

John began by explaining how the Tour and Tassis family came to run the posts in much of Europe including the Low Countries, and how the latter came under Spanish rule in the sixteenth century. The first covers he put up were sent from Antwerp to London in the period 1574 to 1595; three of these showed the charge marks of the 'Merchant Strangers Post'. In 1633 an agreement between the British Post Office and the Tour and Tassis administration came into operation. This was illustrated by two covers sent from Dover to Antwerp in 1637 and 1639 showing respectively T & T charges of two schillings and one schilling. These were followed by a letter, from the Civil War period, sent from London to Antwerp in January 1643/4 and showing a charge of one schilling. A further agreement of 1663 was illustrated by a letter sent from London to Liege in 1677. John then produced a number of covers sent between other countries and the Spanish Netherlands. Amongst these were Seville to Antwerp in 1688; Nuremberg to Antwerp (1681) endorsed 'franco p Colonia' - paid to Cologne; and Antwerp to Vienna (1691) endorsed 'franco p Augusta' - paid to Augsburg.

Although the Tour & Tassis administration had been granted a monopoly of the right to carry mail, it did in fact face competition from the 'Communal Messengers' who were employed by the municipal authorities to carry their official mail. They also carried private letters. Of particular note in the section were an express letter sent in 1636 from Brussels to Antwerp and one sent in 1691 from Antwerp to Ghent on which double postage was paid for delivery by a certain date. We also saw letters which showed an albino impression of initials - those of the messenger?

The next item was an example of an early town handstamp - the straight line 'TOURVANY' used in 1695.

John then explained that after the War of the Spanish Succession (1700-13) what is now Belgium came into the hands of the Austrians. Up to the 1740s the place of posting was usually denoted by a manuscript marking and we saw a few examples of these. Next, came a number of examples of the straight-line handstamps used in the 1740s and 1750s. Some towns used marks which consisted of unlinked letters on a black background. John showed examples of GAND (1744) and MONS (1747). In the 1770s some handstamps appeared as albino impressions; we saw examples from Battice, Courtrai and Menin. Then, in the period from 1760 to the mid-1780s about six towns used a handstamp showing the first letter of the name of the town in a circle e.g. A for Anvers, B for Battice and M for Menin. John ended this section on the postal history of the Austrian Netherlands with an example of the handstamp 'D'A/B' in a circle. This stands for 'D'Angleterre par Bruxelles'. Postal relations between England and France were suspended from 1779 to 1783 during the War of American Independence. To rectify this situation, an agreement was drawn up between the French postal authorities and those of T & T which allowed mail for France, Spain and Portugal from Great Britain to be forwarded from Brussels to Paris. It was stipulated such mail should carry the aforementioned mark.

From 1794 to 1814, the Low Countries were occupied by the French and the area that is now Belgium divided into nine departments. The French style of handstamp - consisting of the department number above the name of the town - was used in this period. We saw examples of these and those used on prepaid letters.

The Congress of Vienna (1815) united the Dutch Republic with the Austrian Netherlands to form a single kingdom - 'The United Kingdom of the Netherlands' - under the House of Orange. Postally, the whole country was administered as an entity. Many of the town names now appeared in Dutch instead of French so we saw examples such as 'ANTWERPEN', 'LUYK' (Liege), 'KORTRYK' (Courtrai) and 'DOORNIK' (Tournai). The last item in this section was a letter sent in 1822 from London to Brussels from where it was redirected to Paris, and which carried the very rare mark 'A.T.P.B.' (Angleterre Transit Pays Bas). As Richard pointed out, the ancestral home of the addressee, Sir Roger Gresley, was only a short distance away from our meeting place.

The year 1830 saw the revolution which led to the creation of an independent Belgium. The Dutch style handstamps were soon replaced by double circle handstamps of which John traced the development. An official rural post system was not established until 1836. We saw several examples of the postmarks which the postman had to apply to each letter found in the letter box of a particular village.

Postage stamps were first issued in Belgium in 1849 - 10c for distances up to 30 km and 20c for greater distances. With the introduction of adhesive stamps came the need for a means of cancellation and the method chosen by the Belgians was a handstamp with a number, allocated to a particular office, surrounded by bars, the number of bars depending on the type of office. (That sounds familiar. Perhaps someone should start a study with the title 'Comparative Postal History'.) However, as we saw, there were anomalies in this system, in particular Brussels had several handstamps, of which we saw three, each with a different number of bars. John then went on to show the different types of cancellation used through dotted lozenges, double circles and finally the different types of single circle.

Next, came a frame on the Travelling Post Offices. We saw examples of the types of cancellation applied in a TPO as well as the boxed marks which indicated the station at which the letter had been posted. Each of these covers was accompanied by a postcard of the station. No doubt many members in their younger days had a stamp collection in which there were a number of oblong Belgian stamps with the words 'Spoorwegen' and 'Chemins de Fer', and wondered what purpose they served. In 1879, the railways were made responsible for the carriage of parcels. The carriage was paid by means of adhesive stamps issued specially for this purpose and which were affixed to the waybill which accompanied the parcel. We saw examples of various issues of adhesives as well as different types of waybill.

The next three frames were devoted to material relating to the First World War. The topics covered included the censorship of civilian mail, censorship of mail from banks, cards used by conscripted civilian worker and the three issues of postage stamp used. After the fall of Antwerp in October 1914, the Belgian government moved to Le Havre in France, and, by permission of the French, established their ministries there in the suburb of Ste. Adresse which in effect became Belgian territory. John showed examples of the postmarks used as well as postcards showing the post offices. At the end of the war, so many handstamps had been lost that it was necessary to use temporary cancellations of which John showed several examples.

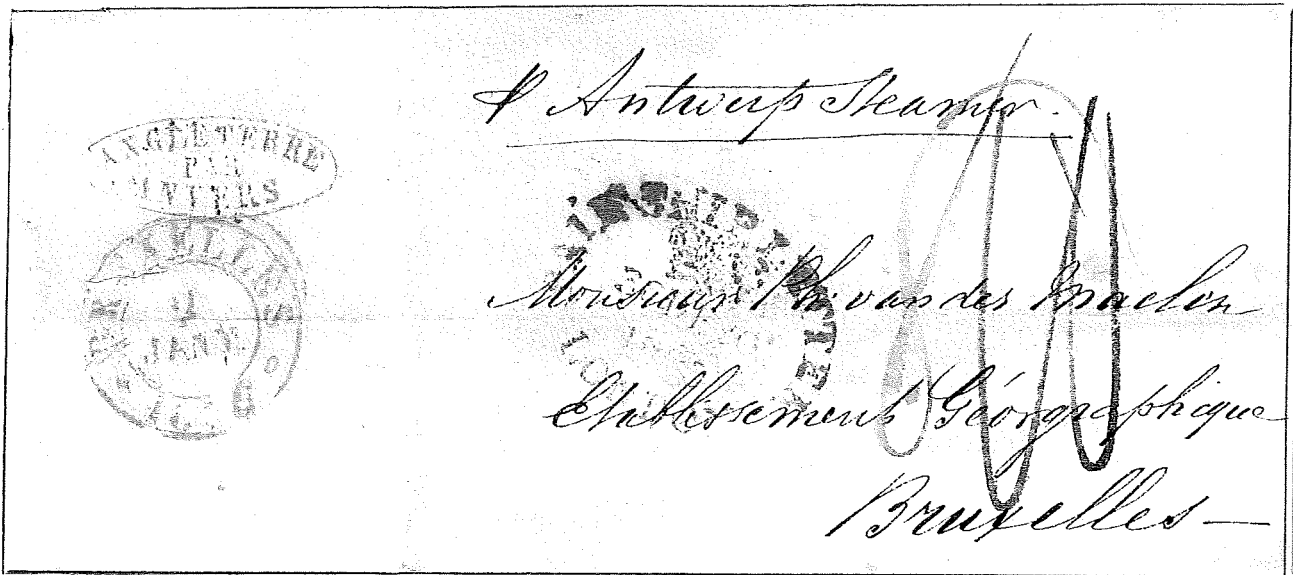
Mail passing between Belgium and Great Britain between 1834 and 1875 was the next topic displayed. This included the sorting marks to denote the route to be used, the various rates, London Ship Letter marks, postcards of the Ostend-Dover Packet Boats and the 'paquebot' cancellations of that service.

The final two frames contained mail from Great Britain to a variety of countries that had passed through Belgium by means of the railway from Ostend to Aachen between 1847 and 1875. This included letters to Prussia, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Sicily and Tunisia. Of particular note was a study of the various rates on mail to Russia.

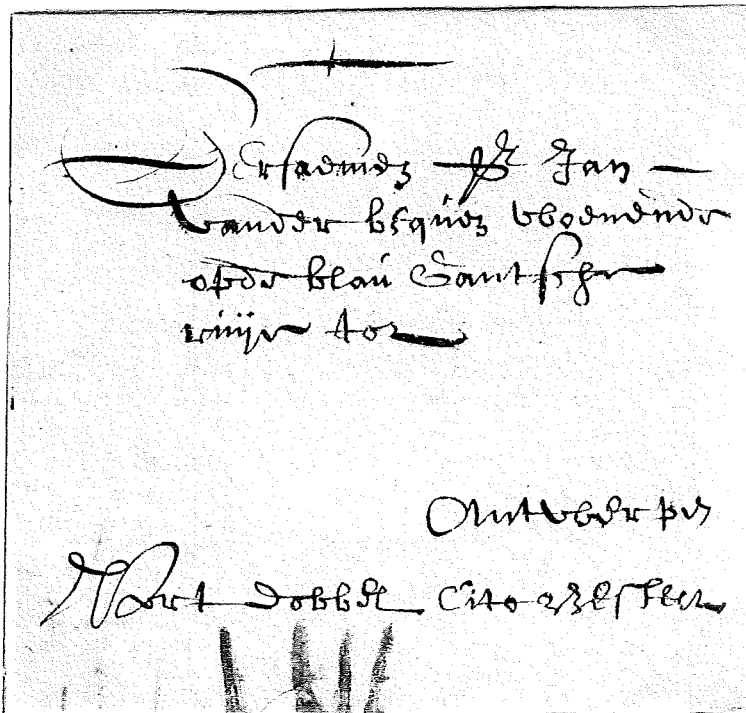
At each display to the Society, one hopes to pick up a few new facts. This was a display that, to your scribe at least, provided a total learning experience. Everything was novel and so much entirely new information was given that it left one dazed. In his vote of thanks, our acting Chairman, Chris Jackson, inevitably commented that this had been no 'sideline' but a comprehensive display of mail that passed to, from and through the area now called Belgium. He presented John with the Society's Certificate of Appreciation for what had been an outstanding afternoon. He also thanked Richard Farman, faced with the loss of our familiar haunt, for organizing a meeting at such an interesting venue.

Editor's Note: I would like to thank John Calladine for his help in compiling this report.

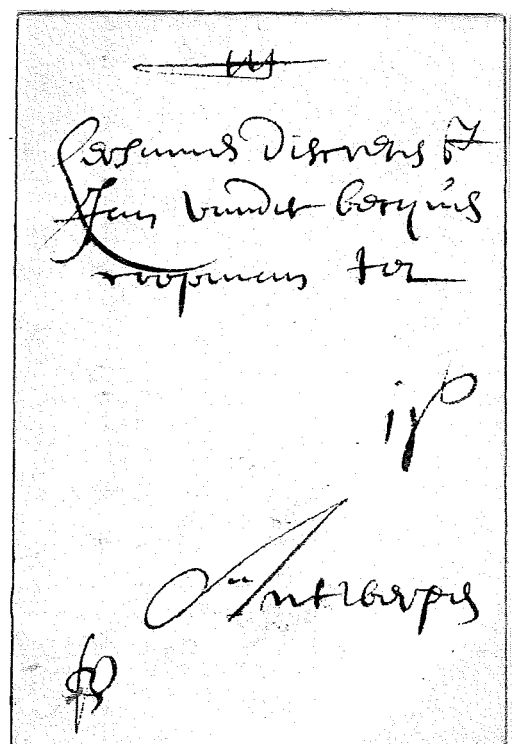
London to Brussels, 1836



Brussels to Antwerp, 1636



London to Antwerp, 1643/4



MIDLAND POST OFFICES OPENED OR CLOSED DURING 2008

by Ken Smith

BIRMINGHAM

Alcester Lane End B14 6EB	closed by 17/10/2008	
Arran Way	closed 13/8/2008	Lease expired. Extension refused.
Aston Manor B6 5RJ	closed by 17/10/2008	
Brighton Road B12 9BS	closed by 17/10/2008	
Bartley Green B32 3JL	closed 2/10/2008	
Church Vale B20 3RU	closed 27/10/2008	
Coopers Road B20 2JU	closed by 17/10/2008	
Court Oak Road B17 9AD	closed 26/9/2008	
Druids Heath B14 5SB	closed by 17/10/2008	
Greenholm Road B44 8JP	closed by 17/10/2008	
Hagley Road B16 8JS	closed 26/11/2008	
Hockley B18 5AA	closed by 17/10/2008	
Middlemore Road B31 3UP	closed 27/11/2008	
Perry Common B23 5JD	closed by 17/10/2008	
Robin Hood B28 9JA	closed ?/10/2008	At 1537, Stratford Rd
Sandwell Road B21 8PD	closed by 21/6/2008	
Selsey Road B17 8JR	changed to P.O. Essentials c. 11/2008	
Shaftmoor Lane B27 7RR	closed by 17/10/2008	
Short Heath B23 6LR	closed by 17/10/2008	
Small Heath Park B10 0LL	closed by 17/10/2008	
Sparkbrook B11 1AG	closed by 7/11/2008	
The Firs B36 8AP	closed by 17/10/2008	
Victoria Road B6 5BN	closed by 17/10/2008	
Witton Road B6 6JR	closed by 17/10/2008	

DERBYSHIRE

Apperknowle, Dronfield	closed 12/11/2008	
Birch Vale, High Peak	closed 29/8/2008	
Blackwell, Alfreton	closed 2/2/2008	
Bonsall, Matlock	closed 28/1/2008	
Breadsall, Derby	closed 22/1/2008	
Brimington Common, Chesterfield	closed 27/11/2008	
Carr Vale, Chesterfield	closed 22/1/2008	
Church Gresley, Swadlincote	closed 22/1/2008	
Dove Holes, Buxton	closed 25/9/2008	
Edensor, Bakewell	closed 23/1/2008	
Eggington, Derby	closed 25/1/2008	
Egston, Clay Cross, Chesterfield	closed 12/11/2008	
Elmfield, Worksop	closed 16/1/2008	
Elton, Matlock	closed 30/12/2008	Retirement
Fritchley, Belper	closed by 25/3/2008	
Heage, Belper	closed 24/1/2008	
Heath, Chesterfield	closed 11/11/2008	
Hepthorne Lane, Chesterfield	closed 11/11/2008	
Higham, Alfreton	closed 17/1/2008	
Hillstown, Chesterfield	closed 28/1/2008	
Hollingwood, Chesterfield	closed 13/11/2008	
Hodthorpe, Worksop	closed 16/1/2008	
Kirk Ireton, Ashbourne	closed 15/1/2008	
Leabrooks, Alfreton	closed 25/1/2008	
Langwith Junction, Mansfield	closed 21/1/2009	
Lowgates, Staveley, Chesterfield	closed 11/11/2008	
Marsh Lane, Sheffield	closed 10/2/2009	
Marston Montgomery, Ashbourne	closed	
Newton Solney, Burton-on-Trent	closed 17/1/2008	

Ockwood, Derby
 Openwoodgate, Belper
 Palterton, Chesterfield
 Peak Forest, Buxton
 Shuttlewood, Chesterfield
 South Wingfield, Alfreton
 Stanfree, Chesterfield
 Stanton-by-Dale
 Starkholmes, Matlock
 Tintwistle, Glossop
 Town End, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Stockport
 Walton-on-Trent, Swadlincote
 Westhouses, Alfreton
 Wingerworth, Chesterfield
 Mansfield Road (TSO), Alfreton
 Nottingham Road (TSO), Alfreton
 Market Place (TSO), Ashbourne
 Moorhall (TSO), Bakewell
 Hady (TSO), Chesterfield
 Newbold Road (TSO), Chesterfield
 New Brampton (TSO), Chesterfield
 Stonegravels (TSO), Chesterfield
 Abbey Street (TSO), Derby
 Ashbourne Road (TSO), Derby
 Chaddesden (TSO), Derby
 Mansfield Road (TSO), Derby
 Pear Tree (TSO), Derby
 Shelton Lock (TSO), Derby
 Wilmorton (TSO), Derby
 Mansfield Road (TSO), Heanor
 Roper Avenue (TSO), Heanor
 Park Road (TSO), Ilkeston
 Rotherham Road (TSO), Killamarsh
 Matlock Bank (TSO), Matlock
 Matlock Bath (TSO), Matlock
 Model Village (TSO), Shirebrook, Mansfield
 Heage Road (TSO), Ripley

reopened by 2/2008
 closed 17/1/2008
 closed 7/7/2008
 closed
 closed 28/1/2008
 closed 16/1/2008
 closed ?/3/2008
 closed by 17/7/2008
 closed 22/1/2008
 closed 25/9/2008
 closed 25/9/2008
 closed 27/8/2008
 closed 17/1/2008
 closed 11/11/2008
 closed 18/1/2008
 closed 15/1/2008
 closed 16/1/2008
 closed 23/1/2008
 closed 13/11/2008
 closed by 5/8/2008
 closed 11/11/2008
 closed 14/11/2008
 closed 15/1/2008
 closed 15/1/2008
 closed 8/5/2008
 closed 23/1/2008
 closed 21/1/2008
 closed 21/1/2008
 closed 21/1/2008
 closed 28/1/2008
 closed 22/1/2008
 closed 8/5/2008
 closed 13/11/2008
 closed 23/1/2008
 closed 4/6/2008
 closed 25/1/2008
 closed 25/1/2008

Temporary closure 14/2/2007

Retirement

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Aldsworth, Cheltenham
 Awre, Newnham
 Blockley, Moreton-in-Marsh
 Bromesberrow, Ledbury
 Colesbourne, Cheltenham
 Cranham, Gloucester
 Forest Green, Stroud
 Guiting Power, Cheltenham
 Horsley, Stroud
 Longborough, Moreton-in-Marsh
 Lydbrook
 Meyseyhampton, Cirencester
 Minchinhampton, Stroud
 Miserden, Stroud
 Old Sodbury, Bristol
 Redmarley, Gloucester
 Sharpness, Berkeley
 Sherborne, Cheltenham
 Sling, Coleford
 Stanway, Cheltenham

closed 16/10/2008.
 closed 11/6/2008
 closed 9/6/2008
 closed 10/6/2008
 closed 29/8/2008
 closed 25/11/2008
 closed 9/6/2008
 closed 6/10/2008
 closed 9/6/2008
 closed 1/10/2008
 closed 6/9/2008
 closed 10/6/2008
 closed 29/3/2008
 closed
 closed 4/9/2008
 closed by 9/2008
 closed 12/6/2008
 closed 6/10/2008
 closed 11/6/2008
 closed 11/11/2008

Outreach in Village Hall, Thurs 10 am - 12

Evesham Outreach in Community Shop 30/7/08

Replaced by Outreach in same premises.

Outreach in V.Hall from 2/12/2008, Tues to 9.30

Bourton/Water Outreach started 16/10/2008

Replaced by Bourton-on-the-Water Outreach
 Ill-health

Reopened 30/6/2008 (2, High St)

Replaced by Outreach (Mon/Thur)

Replaced by Bourton-on-the-Water Outreach

Replaced by Bourton-on-the-Water Outreach

Twigworth, Gloucester	closed 8/8/2008	
Twynning, Tewkesbury	closed 5/9/2008	Evesham Outreach - Twynning Stores, 3 dys/wk.
Tytherington, Wotton-under-Edge	closed -/7/2008	Community Shop staffed by volunteers for 10yr
Viney Hill, Lydney	closed 11/6/2008	
Weston-sub-Edge, Chipping Campden	closed 9/6/2008	
Whitminster, Gloucester	closed 31/7/2008	Temporary Closure
Witcombe, Gloucester	closed 5/6/2008	
Woodchester, Stroud	closed 6/6/2008	
Woodmancote, Cheltenham	closed 11/6/2008	
Cheltenham B.O.	replaced by High St. (CFPO) at WH Smith 24/4/2008	
Hewlett Road (TSO), Cheltenham	closed 11/6/2008	
Ruspidge (TSO), Cinderford	closed 9/6/2008	
Stratton (TSO), Cirencester	closed 10/6/2008	
The Beeches (TSO), Cirencester	closed 10/6/2008	
Highfields (TSO), Dursley	closed 9/6/2008	
Kingsholm (TSO), Gloucester	closed 5/6/2008	
Podsmead (TSO), Gloucester		Replaced by Partner Outreach in same premises.
Primrose Hill (TSO), Lydney	closed 13/8/2008	
Tutnalls (TSO), Lydney	closed 27/8/2008	
Ebley (TSO), Stroud	closed 9/6/2008	
Uplands (TSO), Stroud	closed 4/8/2008	Reopened 9/11/08 as 'Paganhill Outreach'
Mitton (TSO), Tewkesbury	closed 10/6/2008	
Station Road (TSO), Yate	closed 5/9/2008	

HEREFORDSHIRE

Almeley, Hereford		Mobile P.O. from c Jan 2009.
Bishopswood, Ross-on-Wye	closed 28/11/2008	
Bosbury, Ledbury	closed 2/6/2008	
Brampton Bryan, Bucknell	closed 25/11/2008	
Bringsty, Worcester	closed by 12/2008	
Brockhampton, Hereford	closed 26/11/2008	
Bromesberrow, Ledbury	closed 10/6/2008	
Colwall, Malvern	reopened 23/6/2008	Temporary Closure 20/6/07
Edwin Ralph, Bromyard	closed 25/11/2008	
Llangrove, Ross-on-Wye	closed 27/11/2008	
Lyonshall, Kington	closed 26/11/2008	
Rushall, Ledbury	closed 25/11/2008	
Sutton St Nicholas, Hereford	closed 25/11/2008	
Titely, Kington	removed from P.O. website by 12/2008	
Woolhope, Hereford	removed from P.O. website by 12/2008	
Redhill (TSO), Hereford	closed 25/11/2008	
Tudorville (TSO), Ross-on-Wye	changed to 'P.O. Essentials' 25/11/2008	

LEICESTERSHIRE

Arnesby, Leicester	closed 20/3/2008	
Bagworth, Leicester	closed 19/3/2008	
Barkby, Leicester	closed 20/3/2008	
Buckminster, Grantham	closed 5/4/2008	
Burton Overy, Leicester	closed 20/3/2008	
Cropston, Leicester	closed 18/3/2008	
Heather, Leicester	closed 28/3/2008	
Higham-on-the-Hill	closed by 28/3/2008	
Newton Burgoland, Coalville	removed from P.O. website by 12/2008	
Newtown Linford	closed 20/3/2008	
Old Dalby	closed 26/9/2008	Replaced by Outreach in V. Hall
Packington, Ashby-de-la-Zouch	closed 20/3/2008	
Sheepy, Atherstone	closed 22/11/2007	
Somerby, Melton Mowbray	closed 30/4/2008	
Stonesby, Melton Mowbray	closed 19/3/2008	

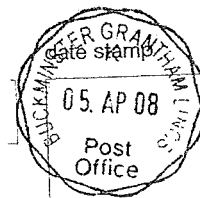
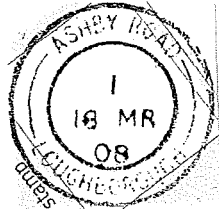
Thorpe Satchville, Melton Mowbray
 Tilton-on-the-Hill, Leicester
 Walton-on-the-Wolds, Loughborough
 Wymeswold, Loughborough
 Clifton Way (TSO), Hinckley
 Kingsgate (TSO), Birstall, Leicester
 Francis Street (TSO), Leicester
 Gipsy Lane (TSO), Leicester
 Glenfield (TSO), Leicester
 Guthridge Crescent (TSO), Leicester
 Henley Road (TSO), Leicester
 Walnut Street (TSO), Leicester
 Wigston Fields (TSO), Leicester
 Willow Brook Road (TSO), Leicester
 Ashby Road (TSO), Loughborough
 Ratcliffe Road (TSO), Loughborough

closed 20/7/2008
 closed 16/4/2008
 closed by 17/7/2008
 closed 6/5/2008
 temp closure 2007 - made permanent 7/2008
 closed 18/3/2008
 closed 18/3/2008
 closed 15/2008
 closed 8/10/2008
 closed 27/3/2008
 closed 19/3/2008
 closed 20/3/2008
 closed by 22/3/2008
 closed c30/4/2008
 closed 18/3/2008
 closed 1/5/2008

Outreach c/o Oakham

Now Outreach at Three Crowns Mon, Fri a.m.

Serious fire but should reopen.



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Badby, Daventry
 Chacombe, Banbury
 Church Stowe, Northampton
 Collyweston, Stamford
 Gayton, Northampton
 Grafton Underwood, Kettering
 Great Doddington, Wellingborough
 Hackleton, Northampton
 Harlestone, Northampton
 Little Harrowden, Wellingborough
 Milton Malsor, Northampton
 Newnham Daventry
 Old Stratford, Milton Keynes
 Stanion, Kettering
 Staverton, Daventry
 Stoke Albany, Market Harborough
 Weekley, Kettering
 Burghley Drive (TSO), Corby
 Occupation Road (TSO), Corby
 Hawthorn Road (TSO), Kettering
 Boothville (TSO), Northampton
 Broadmead Avenue (TSO), Northampton
 Lumbertubs, (TSO), Northampton
 Queens Park (TSO), Northampton
 Regent Square (TSO), Northampton
 Weston Favell High St (TSO), Northampton
 Alexandra Road (TSO), Wellingborough
 Little Irchester (TSO), Wellingborough
 Swinburne Road (TSO), Wellingborough

closed 20/3/2008
 closed 28/3/2008
 closed 27/3/2008
 closed 28/3/2008
 closed 2/4/2008
 closed by 22/3/2008
 closed 27/3/2008
 closed 7/7/2008
 closed 1/5/2008
 closed 19/3/2008
 closed 26/3/2008
 closed 20/3/2008
 closed by 27/3/2008
 closed 20/3/2008
 closed 1/5/2008
 closed 26/3/2008
 closed by 27/3/2008
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 closed by 22/3/2008
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 closed 1/5/2008
 closed 18/3/2008
 closed 27/3/2008
 closed 1/5/2008
 closed 27/3/2008
 closed 18/3/2008
 closed 19/3/2008
 closed 17/3/2008
 closed 17/3/2008

At the George & Dragon

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Bole, Retford	closed 30/1/2008	
Bunny, Nottingham	closed 15/1/2008	
Clayworth, Retford	closed 29/10/2008	Retirement. Temporary closure?
Colston Bassett, Nottingham	closed 16/1/2008	
Cuckney, Mansfield	closed 1/ 2/2008	
Epperstone, Nottingham	closed 16/1/2008	
Farndon, Newark	removed from P.O. website by 12/2008	
Harby, Newark	closed 12/5/2008	Outreach 12/5/2008 Tues/Thurs in Village Hall
Kinoulton, Nottingham	closed 4/6/2008	Outreach c/o Syston in Church Tu/Wd/Th 30/7/08
Laxton, Newark	closed 12/3/2008	
Normanton-on-Soar, Loughborough	closed 15/1/2008	
Nuthall, Nottingham	closed 23/1/2008	
Ollerton, Newark	closed 23/1/2008	
Rampton, Retford	closed 19/5/2008	Replaced by Tuxford Outreach Tues/Fri p.m.
Shelton, Newark	closed 26/3/2008	
Warsop Vale, Mansfield	closed 30/1/2008	
West Hill, Skegby, Sutton-in-Ashfield	removed from P.O. website by 12/2008	
Newgate Lane (TSO), Mansfield	closed 6/3/2008	
Newlands (TSO), Forest Town, Mansfield	closed 24/1/2008	
Nottingham Road (TSO), Mansfield	closed 24/1/2008	
Warsop Road (TSO), Mansfield Woodhouse	closed 24/1/2008	
Annesley Road (TSO), Hucknall, Nottingham	closed 23/1/2008	
Bramcote Hills (TSO), Nottingham	closed 22/1/2008	
Carlton Valley (TSO), Nottingham	closed 18/1/2008	
Carrington (TSO), Nottingham	closed 11/3/2008	
Cobden Street (TSO), Long Eaton, Nottingham	closed 21/1/2008	
Gedling (TSO), Nottingham	closed 18/1/2008	
Hill Top (TSO), Eastwood, Nottingham	closed 21/1/2008	
New Lenton (TSO), Nottingham	closed 7/3/2008	
Nottingham Rd (TSO), Long Eaton, Nottingham	closed 17/1/2008	
Red Hill (TSO), Nottingham	closed 18/1/2008	
Rylands (TSO), Beeston, Nottingham	closed 15/1/2008	
Sneinton Dale (TSO), Nottingham	closed 18/1/2008	
Western Valley (TSO), Nottingham	closed 18/1/2008	
Westville (TSO), Hucknall, Nottingham	closed 23/1/2008	
Wolds Drive (TSO), Keyworth, Nottingham	closed 15/1/2008	
Wollaton Avenue (TSO), Nottingham	closed 12/3/2008	
Woodland Grove (TSO), Nottingham	closed 18/1/2008	
The Harlequin (TSO), Radcliffe-on-Trent	closed 18/1/2008	
Montrose Court (TSO), Stapleford, Nottingham	closed 18/9/2008	Temporary Closure
Carnarvon Grove (TSO), Sutton-in-Ashfield	closed 15/1/2008	
Forest Side (TSO), Sutton-in-Ashfield	closed 23/1 2008	
West Hill (TSO), Skegby, Sutton-in-Ashfield	closed 7/6/2008	
Raines Avenue (TSO), Worksop	closed 4/2/2008	
Victoria Square (TSO), Worksop	closed /3/2008	Reopened at 1, Gateford Road by 12/2008

OXFORDSHIRE

Ardington, Wantage	closed 11/6/2008	
Begbroke, Kidlington, Oxford	closed 4/6/2008	
Benson, RAF, Wallingford	closed 30/7/2008	
Chadlington, Chipping Norton	closed by 12/2008	Replaced by Mobile PO
Childrey, Wantage	closed 11/6/2008	
Combe, Witney	closed 9/6/2008	
Cropredy, Banbury	closed 26/6/2008	Retirement of Mr & Mrs Rolfe after 37 years.
Crowmarsh, Wallingford	closed --/8/2008	
Dalton Barracks, Abingdon	closed 4/6/2008	Formerly Abingdon RAF Station
Farmoor, Oxford	closed 10/6/2008	
Fyfield, Abingdon	closed 4/6/2008	

Great Rollright, Chipping Norton	closed --/--/2008	Replaced by Mobile PO
Great Tew, Chipping Norton	closed 2/5/2008	Replaced by Mobile PO
Long Wittenham, Abingdon	closed --/8/2008	
North Leigh, Witney	closed 11/9/2008	
Sandleigh, Abingdon	closed 24/9/2008	
Stanton St John, Oxford	closed 10/6/2008	
Tackley, Kidlington, Oxford	closed c. 12/2008	Replaced by Mobile PO
Tetsworth, Oxford	removed from P.O. website by 12/2008	
Upton, Didcot	closed 9/6/2008	
Wolvercote, Oxford	closed 10/6/2008	
Wootton, Woodstock, Oxford	closed 10/6/2008	
Wytham, Oxford	closed 10/6/2008	
Wootton Road (TSO), Abingdon	closed --/10/2008	
Grimsbury (TSO), Banbury	closed 6/6/2008	
Orchard Way (TSO), Banbury	closed 3/6/2008	
Kings End (TSO), Bicester	closed 3/6/2008	
Stanmore Crescent (TSO), Carterton	closed c. 10/2008	
Grandpoint (TSO), Oxford	closed 10/6/2008	
Iffley (TSO), Oxford	closed 11/6/2008	
West End (TSO), Witney	closed 30/7/2008	

RUTLAND

Exton, Oakham	closed by 22/3/2008
North Luffenham, Oakham	closed 18/12/2008
South Luffenham, Oakham	closed 22/12/2008
Whissendine, Oakham	closed 20/3/2008
Wing, Oakham	closed 22/12/2008

SHROPSHIRE

Adderley, Market Drayton	closed by 25/3/2008	
All Stretton, Church Stretton	closed 13/8/2008	
Aston-on-Clun, Craven Arms	closed 18/8/2008	
Bicton Heath, Shrewsbury	reopened 20/5/2008	Temporary closure 22/6/2007
Coton, Whitchurch	closed 12/8/2008	In Service Station
Halfway House, Shrewsbury	closed by 12/2008	
Harmer Hill, Shrewsbury	closed 12/8/2008	
Hilton, Bridgnorth	closed 14/8/2008	
Knowbury, Ludlow	closed 14/8/2008	
Morda, Oswestry	closed 18/8/2008	
Norton, Shifnal	closed 28/4/2008	Replaced by Outreach from 5/6/2008
Quatt, Bridgnorth	closed by 12/2008	
Sambrook, Newport	closed by 31/10/2007	
Snailbeach, Shrewsbury	closed by 12/2008	
The Hobbins, Bridgnorth	closed 13/8/2008	
Wentnor, Bishops Castle	closed by 12/2008	
West Felton, Oswestry	closed 25/9/2008	Replaced by Outreach from 26/9/2008
Worthen Shrewsbury	closed by 12/2008	
Wroxeter, Shrewsbury	closed by 25/3/2008	
East Hamlet (TSO), Ludlow	closed 15/8/2008	Replaced by 'P.O. Essentials' in One Stop Store
Church Aston (TSO), Newport	closed 18/8/2008	
Castlefields (TSO), Shrewsbury	closed 4/9/2008	
Dithering ton (TSO), Shrewsbury	closed 18/8/2008	
Park Corner (TSO), Telford	closed 18/8/2008	
Randlay (TSO), Telford	closed --/11/2008	

STAFFORDSHIRE

Acton Trussell, Stafford	closed 24/7/2008	In Community Centre
Alsager Bank, Stoke-on-Trent	closed 12/8/2008	
Brindley Ford, Stoke-on-Trent	closed c10/8/2008	
Codsall Wood, Wolverhampton	closed 15/8/2008	
Cotes Heath, Stafford	closed 4/7/2008	
Foxt, Stoke-on-Trent	closed 13/8/2008	
Great Bridgeford, Stafford	closed by 31/10/2008	
Hopwas, Tamworth	closed 18/8/2008	
Kingsley Holt, Stoke-on-Trent	closed 13/8/2008	
Knypersley, Stoke-on-Trent	closed 18/8/2008	
Lichfield B.O.	replaced by CFPO (WH Smith) 7/2/2008	
Marchington, Uttoxeter	closed 14/8/2008	
Mayfield, Ashbourne	closed 12/8/2008	
Milford, Stafford	closed c10/8/2008	
Mow Cop, Stoke-on-Trent	closed c10/8/2008	
Seisdon, Wolverhampton	closed 13/8/2008	
Stonnall, Walsall	closed 14/8/2008	
Stowe-by-Charley, Stafford	closed 15/8/2008	
Uttoxeter Heath, Uttoxeter	closed 10/8/2008	
Walton, Stone	closed 13/8/2008	
Waterhouses, Stoke-on-Trent	closed 1/7/2008	
Whittington Barracks, Lichfield	closed 14/8/2008	
High Street (TSO), Burton-on-Trent	closed 15/8/2008	
St. Aidans (TSO), Cannock	closed 14/8/2008	
Ball Haye Green (TSO), Leek	closed 13/8/2008	
Mill Street (TSO), Leek	closed 13/8/2008	
Leafields (TSO), Lichfield	removed from P.O. website by 12/2008	
St John Street(TSO), Lichfield	closed 14/8/2008	
Abbotsway Corner (TSO), Newcastle-u-Lyne	closed c10/8/2008	
Higherland (TSO), Newcastle-under-Lyne	closed 18/8/2008	
Maybank (TSO), Newcastle-under-Lyne	closed 13/8/2008	
Pear Tree (TSO), Rugeley	closed c. 10/2008	
Marston Road (TSO), Stafford	closed 15/8/2008	
Wolverhampton Road (TSO), Stafford	closed 15/8/2008	
Draycott (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 15/8/2008	
Dresden (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 13/8/2008	
Fegg Hayes (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 14/8/2008	
Howard Place (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed c10/8/2008	
Trentham (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent	closed 13/8/2008	
Borough Park (TSO), Tamworth	closed --/10/2008	
Uttoxeter Heath (TSO), Uttoxeter	closed 10/8/2008	

WARWICKSHIRE

Broom Alcester	closed by 17/10/2008	
Clifton, Rugby	closed 3/10/2008	
Lighthorne Heath, Leamington Spa	closed 22/9/2008	At former RAF Gaydon
Piccadilly, Tamworth	closed by 17/10/2008	
Ridge Lane, Nuneaton	closed by 12/2008	
Ratcliffe Road (TSO), Atherstone	closed c. 1/10/2008	
Collycroft (TSO), Bedworth	closed by 7/11/2008	
Newtown Road (TSO), Bedworth	closed by 17/10/2008	
Albion Street (TSO), Kenilworth	closed by 17/10/2008	
Milverton (TSO), Leamington Spa	closed 1/10/2008	
Bramcote Road (TSO), Nuneaton	closed by 17/10/2008	
Manor Court Road (TSO), Nuneaton	closed by 17/10/2008	
Overslade Lane (TSO), Rugby	closed 30/9/2008	
Bridgetown (TSO), Stratford-on-Avon	closed 3/10/2008	
West Street (TSO), Warwick	closed 2/10/2008	

WORCESTERSHIRE

Church Lench, Evesham	closed 25/11/2008	
Cleeve Prior, Evesham	closed 26/11/2008	In Village Hall
Finstall, Bromsgrove	closed 26/11/2008	
Hanley Castle, Worcester	closed 27/11/2008	
Kempsey, Worcester	removed from P.O. website by 12/2008	
Pinvin, Pershore	closed 25/11/2008	
Rushwick, Worcester	closed 1/12/2008	
Stone, Kidderminster	closed 20/11/2008	
Wickhamford, Evesham	closed 1/12/2008	
Wolverley, Kidderminster	closed --/1/2008	Terminal illness
Rock Hill (TSO), Bromsgrove	closed 25/11/2008	
Comberton Hill (TSO), Kidderminster	closed 27/11/2008	
Poolbrook (TSO), Malvern	closed 25/11/2008	
Mount Pleasant (TSO), Redditch	closed 1/12/2008	
Woodrow (TSO), Redditch	closed 1/12/2008	
The Walshes (TSO), Stourport-on-Severn	closed 27/11/2008	
Worcester B.O.	replaced by CFPO (WH Smith) 22/5/2008	

WEST MIDLANDS

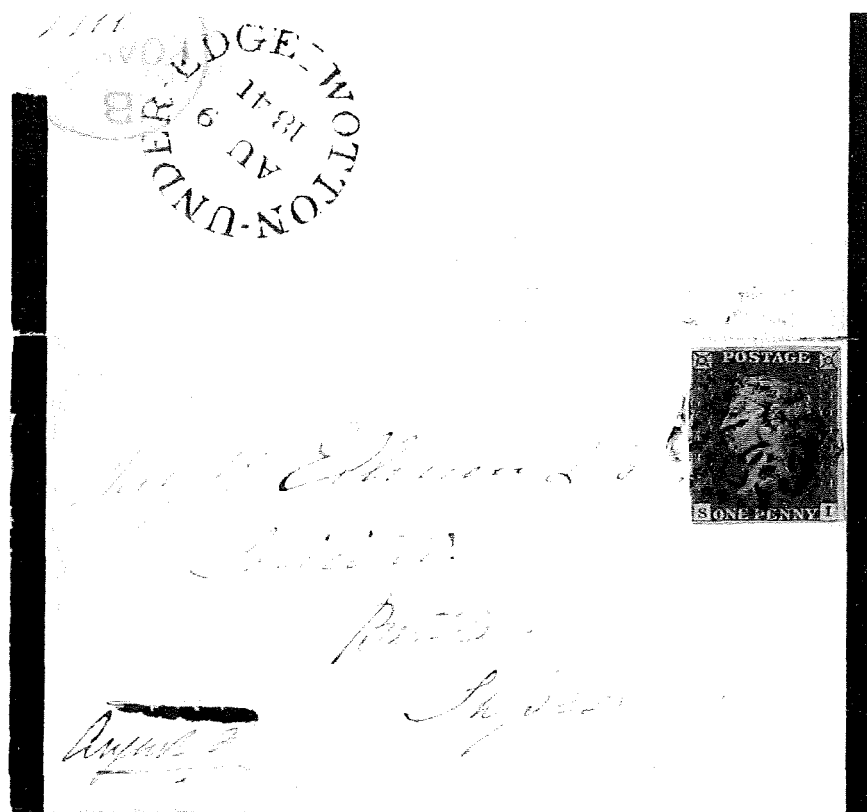
Arley, Coventry	closed by 17/10/2008	
Berkswell, Coventry	closed 25/11/2008	
Lea Marston, Sutton Coldfield	closed by 17/10/2008	
Pedmore, Stourbridge	closed 27/11/2008	
Shilton, Coventry	closed by 17/10/2008	
Silver End, Brierley Hill	closed 26/11/2008	
Villiers Avenue (TSO), Bilston	closed 26/11/2008	
Quarry Bank (TSO), Brierley Hill	closed 3/2/2009	
Chase Town (TSO), Burntwood	closed --/5/2008	
Coventry, Hertford Street B.O.	replaced by CFPO (WH Smith) 22/5/2008	
Fletchamstead (TSO), Coventry	closed c. 1/10/2008	
Foleshill Road (TSO), Coventry	closed c. 1/10/2008	
Holbrook Lane (TSO), Coventry	closed 29/9/2008	
Sherbourne (TSO), Coventry	closed c. 1/10/2008	
Long Lane (TSO), Halesowen	closed 6/2/2009	
Barnett Lane (TSO), Kingswinford	closed 1/12/2008	
Catherine de Barnes (TSO), Solihull	closed by 17/10/2008	
Haslucks Green Road (TSO), Solihull	closed by 17/10/2008	
Olton Hollow (TSO), Solihull	closed by 17/10/2008	
Old Swinford (TSO), Stourbridge	closed 1/12/2008	
Bakers Lane (TSO), Sutton Coldfield	closed c. 27/11/2008	
Maney (TSO), Sutton Coldfield	closed c. 1/10/2008	
Delves (TSO), Walsall	closed 1/12/2008	
Dudley Fields (TSO), Walsall	closed 26/11/2008	
Rushall (TSO), Walsall	closed 25/11/2008	
Stafford Street (TSO), Walsall	closed 27/11/200	
Rood End (TSO), Oldbury, Warley	closed 25/11/2008	
Rounds Green (TSO), Oldbury, Warley	closed 25/11/2008	Replaced by 'P.O. Essentials'
Stanley Road (TSO), Oldbury, Warley	closed 1/12/2008	
Victoria Park (TSO), Smethwick, Warley	closed 1/12/2008	
117, High Street (TSO), West Bromwich	closed 25/11/2008	
New Street (TSO), West Bromwich	closed 27/11/2008	
Portobello (TSO), Willenhall	closed 25/11/2008	
New Hampton Rd West (TSO), Wolverhampton	closed 28/11/2008	
Prestwood Road (TSO), Wolverhampton	closed 1/12/2008	
Upper Penn (TSO), Wolverhampton	closed 1/12/2008	

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ADDERBURY 5th CLAUSE POST TO BANBURY AND WOODSTOCK

1826 – 1840

The Adderbury 5th Clause post was unusual, even by the standards of 5th Clause Posts in general, and arose from unusual circumstances. Mail had been carried between Woodstock and Banbury through Adderbury, a village only three and a half miles from Banbury, on a stage coach since the mid 1790s. The coach had no Post Office guard and was said to be subject to no official controls except its timing, which would suggest there was no limit to the number of passengers it could carry. Nevertheless, the coach had enjoyed exemption from tolls and when, in 1812, there were general complaints about the cost to the turnpike trusts of the wear and tear created by coaches paying no tolls, the Treasury demanded that a number of the less-essential branch mailcoaches be terminated and that any stage coaches carrying mail must, in future, operate under normal Mail Coach Regulations. The coach contractor was neither willing to relinquish his contract nor to operate under Mail Coach Regulations so the surveyor set out to replace the coach with a ride. This proved to be expensive and, although the contractor went as far as offering to put his own armed guard on the coach and operate at the same cost as the ride, the authorities, under Treasury direction, were obliged to turn down his offer and replace the coach with an inferior “ride”, probably a mail cart, at greater cost.

For the next three years, the residents of Banbury and Deddington (a sub-office of Woodstock, also on the road between Woodstock and Banbury) petitioned for the mail to be sent on a stage coach, as before. Finally, at the end of 1816, Francis Freeling felt able to re-consider the request and, with the support of the postmaster at Woodstock, re-instated the coach but with some significant safeguards. It was to carry a maximum of four passengers inside and four outside. It would leave Woodstock at 6am and return from Banbury at 6.30pm, and it was initially allowed three hours to cover the 17 mile route. The bags were to be in a locked box beneath the driver's seat and he was to be armed with a brace of pistols. The coach was subsequently extended to Oxford, where the departure time was put back to 7am, and the total time allowed for the journey reduced to three hours and ten minutes from Oxford to Banbury.

In 1826, the coach contract was terminated and replaced by what the Post Office described as a “ride” between Oxford and Banbury. An entry in a local directory suggests that this, too, may have been a mail cart. The principal advantage it had over the coach was that it left Oxford at 4am, rather than 7am, and it left Banbury at 5.15pm rather than 4pm. Everyone was given more time to answer their letters the same day. In June and July of that year the surveyor considered how best to use the new ride to serve the places between Woodstock and Banbury. (A sketch map can be found on the third page.) It was decided to establish a penny post and full details of the arrangements made are covered in the subsequent description of the Woodstock Penny Post. In his original submission, the surveyor proposed to include Adderbury in the same penny post. Although much nearer Banbury than Woodstock, Adderbury was under Woodstock.

The surveyor explained that, while the coach had been running, the inhabitants of Adderbury had paid 2d for their local letters, both sent and received. The “guard” (which may mean the driver of the coach) was said to have charged 1d and the person distributing the letters another 1d. If a penny post to Adderbury were established, the surveyor pointed out that residents would be paying 1d less for all letters and newspapers received and 2d for all put into the post. The benefits would be widely felt in what he described as a “very considerable village” but the costs would be proportionately greater because the two extensive deliveries would occupy a letter carrier for many hours in the day. As well as the penny post bag from Woodstock, there would also be a penny post bag between Banbury and Adderbury, many letters for Adderbury being addressed to Banbury.

In a letter dated 11th June, the surveyor made it clear that Freeling had expressed unease about the proposals for Adderbury. The problem was that Deddington, a sub-office (rather than a receiving house) under Woodstock, lay between Woodstock and Adderbury. (Although there were precedents for penny posts running through sub-offices or even through post towns to receiving houses on the distant side, by 1826 it had been realised this was anomalous.) It would mean that the inhabitants of Adderbury would pay only 1d for a letter from Woodstock whereas those in Deddington, three and a half miles nearer to Woodstock, would pay 4d. Strictly, a penny post bag for Adderbury should have been made up at Deddington, not at Woodstock. However, the surveyor reported that the ride could

not wait at Deddington for this to be done. If the bag were to have been made up at Deddington, local letters from Woodstock would have been charged the 4d short letter rate from Woodstock to Deddington, a charge that had been levied for many years, plus the penny post charge from Deddington to Adderbury. However, if Adderbury were now effectively in the Woodstock Penny Post, with a penny post bag made up at Woodstock, he was doubtful that local letters from Woodstock and from the villages between Woodstock and Deddington could legally be subjected to a 5d (4d + 1d) charge.

When Francis Freeling wrote to the Postmaster General on 13th June, he confessed to feeling some difficulty as to the accommodation to be afforded to Adderbury by the proposed new arrangement. He said:

"There would be an inconsistency in including this place in the penny post after passing through Deddington, which is not. We must either charge the letters 4d as short letters or 1d as penny postage, we clearly cannot charge both. I have had some further consultation with Mr Rideout (the surveyor). Having stated my doubts, I believe the arrangement may fairly be left to the management of the surveyor, to act as he may consider most expedient on carrying it into effect."

Whether Freeling put the idea of a 5th Clause Post into the surveyor's head, we do not know, but he seemed pleased with the outcome. The surveyor proposed to the inhabitants of Adderbury that they should pay 4d for letters from Woodstock and 1d for the delivery of other letters and newspapers, for example from Banbury. *"To this arrangement I did not find one dissenting voice and, as a 5th Clause Post is, I assume, an arrangement between the office and the inhabitants of a certain district, then, if acceded to, will obviate at once the inconsistency which would appear from a penny post"*. For outgoing letters, there would be an open box *"the pence to be charged on the letters put in"*. The meaning of this phrase is far from clear. The purpose of an 'open box' was to allow inhabitants to hand letters in at a receiving house, or even to the messenger, without the need for pre-payment. Freeling was known to be unhappy about the existence of open boxes in 5th Clause Posts and prohibited any new open boxes at about this time. A 5th Clause Post was a local arrangement and it was clearly wrong to add a 5th Clause Post charge to the General Postage paid by the recipient of a letter who was not party to the original agreement. (The surveyor should have negotiated, say, a 2d charge for delivery, with outgoing letters sent free.)

Mr Rideout said the inhabitants were "particularly anxious for some official arrangement" and they surely must have been, for he had talked them into what was effectively a penny post from Banbury but with a General Post charge to and from Woodstock. He does not mention the charge on letters sent to addresses in Banbury that did not subsequently enter the General Post but evidence shows they were charged 2d, as in the penny posts before 1836. The surveyor asked Freeling to obtain approval for the expense of a letter carrier and a receiver. Freeling wrote to the Postmaster General in July, on an unknown date, and sought approval for the expenditure of 6/- a week (or £25-12-0 a year) for a letter carrier and £4 per annum salary for a receiver at Adderbury.

The Adderbury 5th Clause Post continued to 1840. An 'Adderbury 5th Cls: Post' handstamp is known used from 1831. It was, once again, unusual for a 5th Clause Post to bear the name of an office other than that of a post town and it is believed to be the only example in England. These posts generally served villages away from a main postal route but, in this case, the 5th Clause Post was on a postal route and running in both directions. It was probably logical to have a stamp bearing the name of the receiving house.

References:

Post 40/113/1813
 Post 40/239/1813
 Post 40/275/1816
 Post 40/305/1826
 Post 40/334/1826

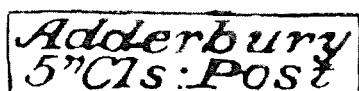
HANDSTAMPS OF THE ADDERBURY 5th CLAUSE POST

Post towns: Woodstock and Banbury

Sub post town: Deddington

Receiving house: Adderbury

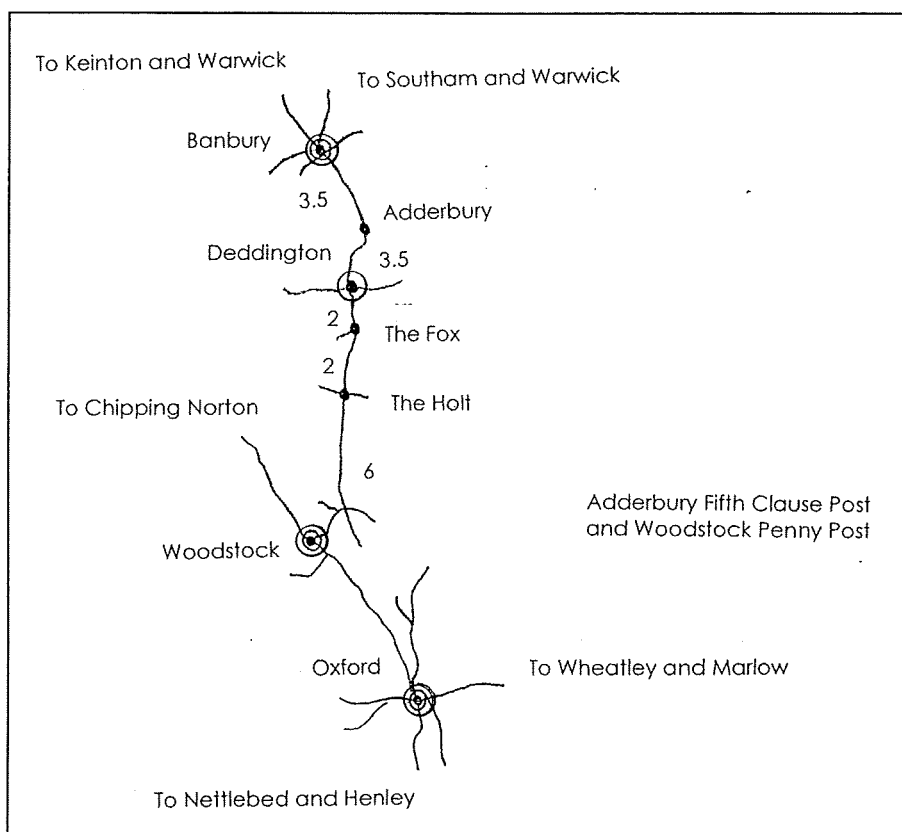
MLP1121



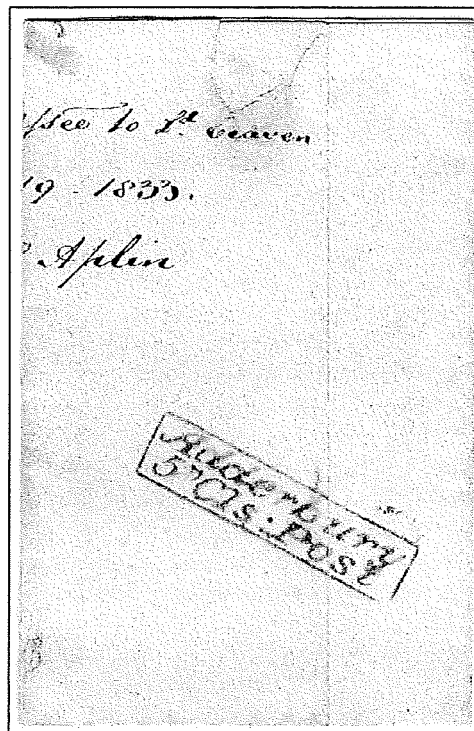
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10AUG31- 4JUL40

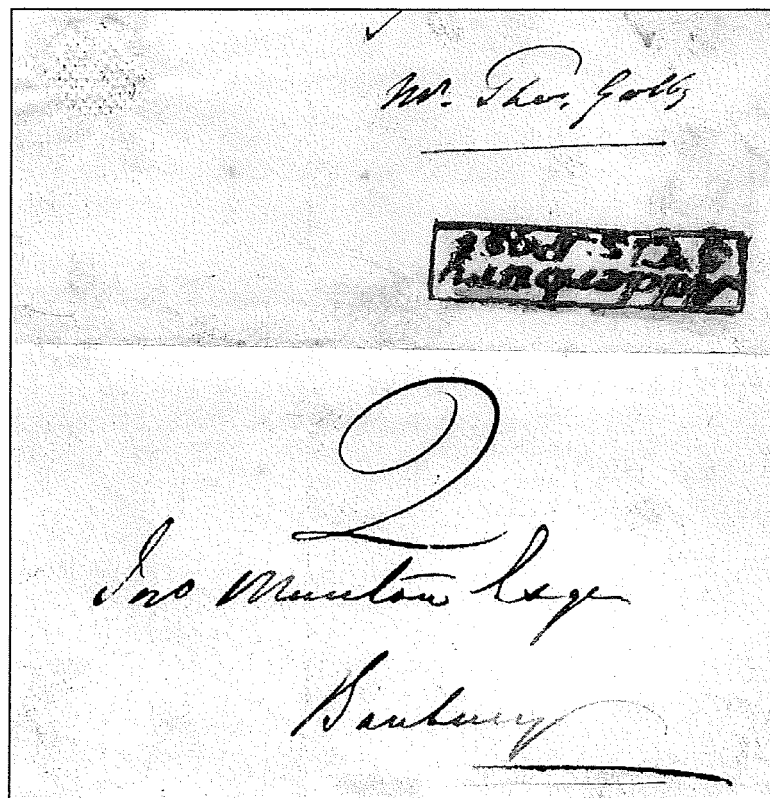
D/E



A sketch map showing the complete ride from Woodstock to Banbury. The Woodstock Penny Post operated between Woodstock and The Fox; the Adderbury 5th Clause Post between Adderbury and Banbury and between Adderbury and Woodstock (through the sub-office of Deddington).



Probably the finest recorded strike of the Adderbury 5th Clause Post handstamp on a letter from Mr Weston Aplin of Banbury dated 19th November 1833.



A letter sent from Adderbury to Banbury in the 5th Clause Post, date unknown. Note the 2d charge on a letter not entering the General Post at Banbury.

WOODSTOCK PENNY POST

1826 – 1840

The Woodstock Penny Post was established shortly after a new ride between Oxford and Banbury replaced a long-established branch mailcoach service in mid 1826. (The background is summarized in the preceding description of the Adderbury 5th Clause Post to Banbury and Woodstock and a sketch map of the route is included on the third page.) Although the letters and minutes in the Royal Mail Archive always describe it as a “ride”, Rusher’s Banbury directory of 1827 mentions the use of a mail cart and it is quite probable that this is what the contractor provided.

The new ride left Oxford at 4am, 15 minutes after the arrival in Oxford of a ride from Towcester. It was allowed one hour to cover the intervening eight miles to the post town of Woodstock. It left Woodstock at 5.15am, following a road to Banbury, through the sub-post town of Deddington. From Woodstock to Deddington was a hilly route and, with the ride stopping twice, an hour and 25 minutes was allowed for the 10 mile journey. This brought the ride into Deddington at 6.40am, at which place there was no time to stop but briefly. The road beyond Deddington was described as “very hilly” and part of the road was said to be in a poor state of repair. A time of one hour and five minutes was allowed for the remaining seven miles, bringing the ride into Banbury at 7.45am. On its return, the ride left Banbury at 5.15pm, reached Woodstock at 8pm and terminated at Oxford at 9pm.

On 5th June 1826, the surveyor (Mr Rideout) wrote to Francis Freeling, Secretary to the Post Office, to let him know he had visited Woodstock, Banbury and Deddington to ascertain what arrangements could be made to serve intermediate places on the new ride. He pointed out that the previous coach had left Oxford at 7am (3 hours later than the ride) and reached Banbury at 10.10am (2 hours and 25 minutes later than the ride). It had returned at 4pm (an hour and a quarter earlier than the ride) and had reached Oxford at 7.10pm. Not only would the ride give the inhabitants of all the towns and villages longer to answer their letters but would save an extra delivery at Woodstock and Banbury, the bags reaching the towns in time to be delivered with the London letters (which, one assumes, would have arrived on the Ludlow and Birmingham mailcoaches respectively). By the previous arrangement, the guard picked up letters for addresses between Woodstock and Deddington at Woodstock and dropped them at either The Holt or The Fox. Having obtained figures for the number of relevant letters and newspapers, he would recommend the establishment of a penny post.

He described The Holt as an inn situated six miles from Woodstock surrounded by many villages and he drew a plan (illustrated) to show their location. Six of the villages were a mile from The Holt, one was a mile and a half and another two miles. He proposed a penny post receiving house at The Holt with a salary of £8 per annum and the letters would be delivered (but not by the Post Office) to persons requesting them for an additional charge of one penny (i.e. 2d in all). Previously they had also been charged 2d, of which the guard took 1d. The Fox was similarly a solitary inn, two miles beyond The Holt and two mile short of Deddington. There were three villages in its delivery, one each at a mile, a mile and a half and two miles distant. At The Fox, the local inhabitants had been used to paying 3d for their letters because the guard charged 1d, the innkeeper charged another penny and the person delivering or collecting the letters yet another penny. They would now, under a penny post, also pay 1d only at the receiving house (and an extra unofficial penny if they required delivery). The surveyor proposed a yearly salary of £7 for a receiver at The Fox.

As neither The Holt nor The Fox had any houses close to them and the villages were at least a mile away, the surveyor contended that no one would qualify for free delivery. He had discovered that the persons who presently delivered the letters were not messengers employed by the inns but were found by the different villages. The inhabitants of those villages gave the persons concerned a penny for each letter or newspaper, sent or received, for their trouble. Hence, the inhabitants of villages near The Holt would be paying the same as they did before for letters delivered and, if they paid someone to carry outgoing letters to the receiving house, the surveyor claimed they would be paying 1d less than before. At The Fox, the gain would be 1d and 2d respectively. (The alleged saving on letters put in at each receiving house is puzzling because, if 1d were paid to the person carrying the letters to the receiving house, another 1d was surely paid for penny postage but Freeling repeated the assertion when writing to the Postmaster General.) The whole arrangement throws an interesting light on what might be considered a ‘penny post’ for we are used to the assumption that, for your penny, you would have your

letter delivered from the receiving house. It is clear here that the 1d was being paid for carriage of the letter between Woodstock and the receiving houses and no further. There was neither an official delivery nor an official collection and hence no salary for a messenger.

Freeling was obviously interested in the payment arrangements and, in writing to the Postmaster General on 13th June, said he had discussed the matter with the Solicitor and, notwithstanding the villagers having to make their own arrangements for procuring their letters from the receiving houses, it was legal to demand a penny post charge from them. He also explained that Deddington was a sub post town and that letters to Deddington had always been considered 'short letters' and charged 4d single (as in the General Post). This arrangement would not be changed.

Francis Freeling sought and obtained approval for the Woodstock Penny Post from the Postmaster General on 13th June 1826. Whether it was established before the arrangements for Adderbury were finalised the following month is uncertain. The Woodstock Penny Post operated through to the abolition of penny posts in 1840. A type 2 and a type 4 penny post handstamp were used at Woodstock. Numbered stamps were issued to the two receiving houses.

References:

Post 40/305/1826
Post 40/334/1826

HANDSTAMPS OF THE WOODSTOCK PENNY POST

Post town: Woodstock

Receiving houses: The Holt and The Fox

MLP1123

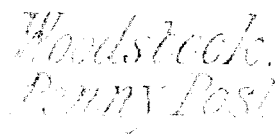


B

18JUL32-28SEP32

E

MLP1124



B

19MAY36- 6NOV39

D

MLP1125



B

28OCT27-11FEB41

D/E

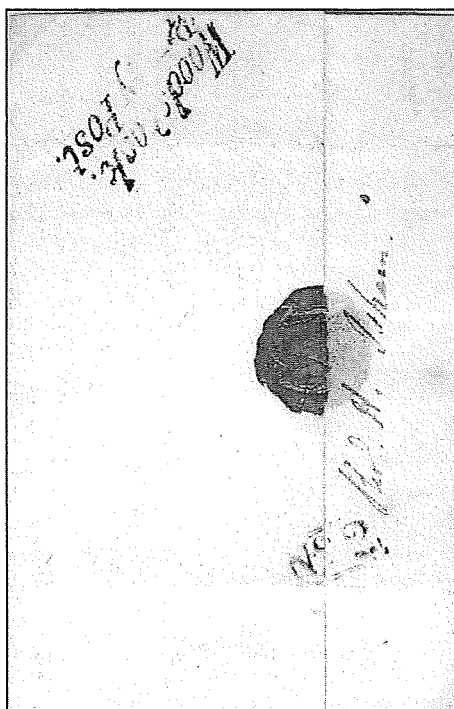
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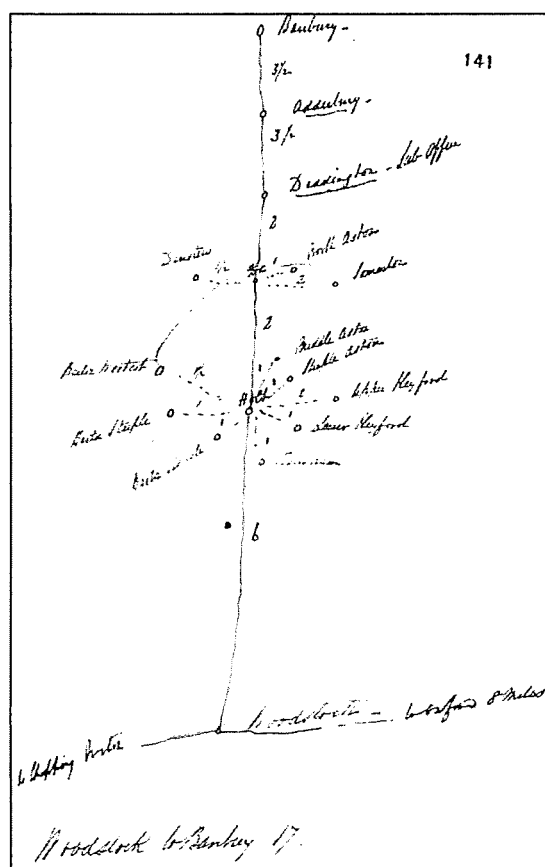
B

1837

E



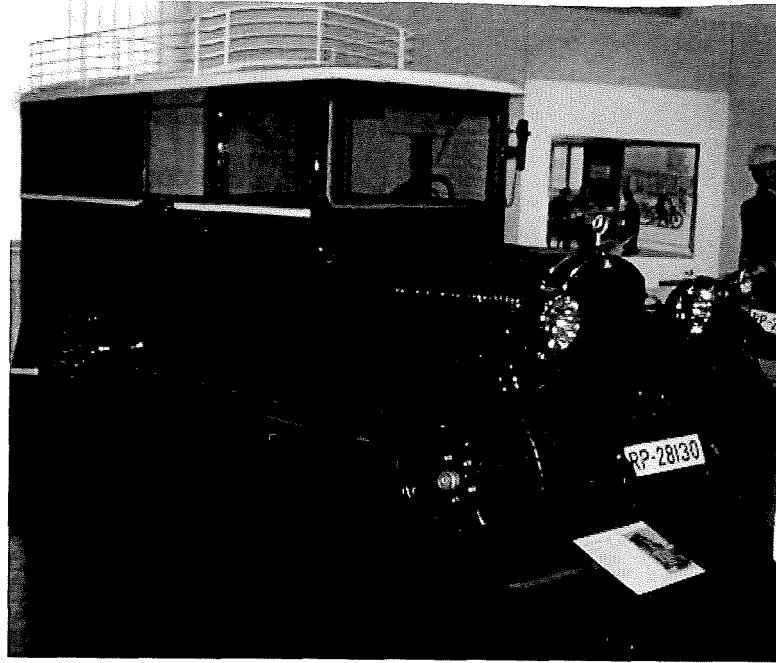
The only recorded strike of the 'No.2' handstamp of The Fox receiving house on a letter (reduced) of 1837, together with the Woodstock Penny Post stamp.



The surveyor's sketch map of the Woodstock Penny Post showing the villages served from the receiving houses at The Holt (No.1) and The Fox (No.2).

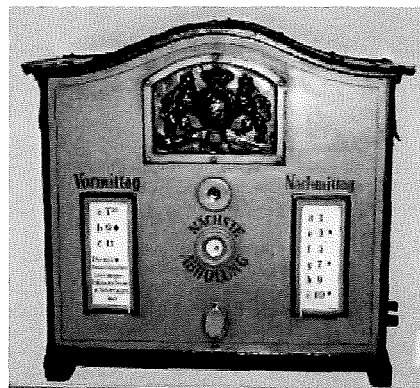
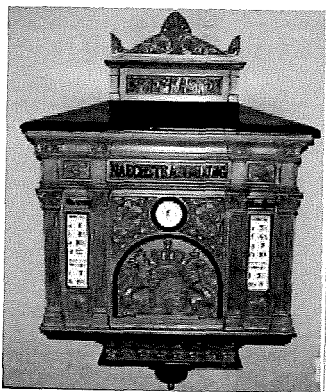
THE MUSEUM OF COMMUNICATION - NUREMBERG

This museum is housed in the same building as German Railway Museum so making for a very worthwhile visit by any postal historian with an interest in railways. (Do allow plenty of time for a visit.) The museum is located on the second floor and the first thing that a visitor sees is a post office counter from 1910 with separate sections for parcels and telegraphs. The development of the Thurn and Taxis postal system in Bavaria is described with the aid of documents such as way-bills etc. These are not immediately obvious for they are situated in drawers which slide out. The carriage of mail by coach, railway, automobile and aeroplane is traced by means of maps, models and full size exhibits.



A motor van for rural services built by Daimler-Benz in 1933

Letter box enthusiasts are catered for by a range covering the period from 1845 to the present day. Two examples are shown below



For the philatelists on display is most of German philately starting in 1849 with the one kreuzer black of Bavaria. Nearly all of the old German states are represented as well as the complete Reich period, the Weimar Republic, the Third Reich and post 1945 Germany. A section titled 'Briefkultur' (cultural history of the letter) is where a range of old letters and documents are on display along with a large display of postcards. However what caught my eye were a inkpot in the shape of a snail from c. 1880 and a number of quill pens.

This is more than a postal museum for there are areas showing the development of the telegraph, the telephone and the internet. However, time only permitted a cursory glance at these. The trains beckoned!

For those spouses who are not interested in postal history the Toy Museum in Nuremberg has a superb collection of dolls houses, and of course there are the shops!

ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY

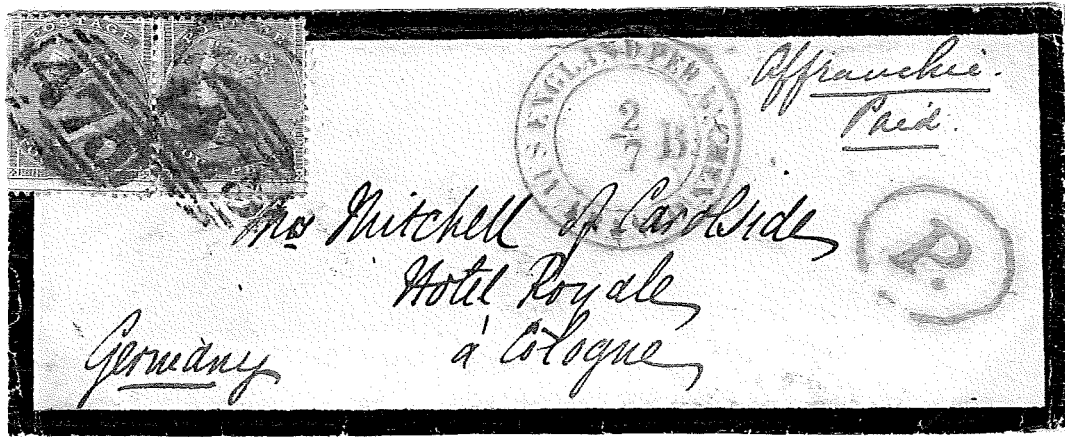
The following book has been added to the library - *'The Postal Markings of Shropshire - Part 1 - The Main Offices, Sub-offices and Penny Post Villages 1705 to 1910'*. This volume has been edited by our member in Canada Brian Atkins and published by the Shropshire Postal History Society. We look forward to seeing further volumes.

THE JON BAKER TROPHY

It is time for members to vote for what they consider to have been the best article produced in Midland Mail during 2008. A brief perusal of MM 153-157 shows that possible titles are: *'Pattishall P.O.W. Camp - an Epilogue'* (153/14); *'A New Northampton Handstamp'* (154/8); *'The Error Was Soon Corrected'* (154/15); *'The First 100 Years of the Postmarks of Nottingham'* (156/8); *'Prior Park - The Home of Ralph Allen'* (156/14); *'Farmer Takes Drastic Action At Hares field'* (157/17); *'The Rushden Letter Carrier in 1882'* (157/14). There may be others. Please let me have your nominations by the date of the March meeting.

TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

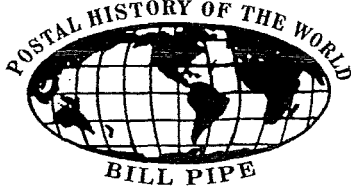
Two of my interests are shown in a mourning envelope sent from Loughborough to Cologne in June 1856. The 4d red adhesives are cancelled by the 475 barred numeral while it also shows the circular 'AUS ENGLAND PER AACHEN' mark, the letter having been sent via Belgium.



THE NEXT MIDLAND MAIL

This is scheduled to appear at the end of March/early April. It will contain the usual features. While I have two articles in hand, there is room for much more. So, please put pen to paper and write an article, long or short, which can then be sent to:

John Soer, 51d Barkham Road, Wokingham RG41 2RG.

 THE MAGPIE POSTAL AUCTIONS & LISTS POSTCARDS & EPHEMERA PAPER COLLECTABLES POSTAL HISTORY	W.T. PIPE 7 Richard Close Upton, Poole Dorset BH16 5PY Tel: 01202 623300 Fax: 01202 631149 Web: www.magpiebillpipe.com Email: magpiebillpipe@free.uk.com
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