

# MIDLAND MAIL

## THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDLAND (GB) POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President: Alan Marshall

Chairman:  
Mel Matthews  
(0121 6898147)

Treasurer:  
Eric Lewis  
(0121 4291222)

Secretary:  
Mick Gill  
(01636 672868)

Programme Secretary: Richard Farman (01283 566515)

Number 173 January 2012

I begin this my third Midland Mail with an apology for the noticeable errors in the second. The first was a typing error when I attributed the article on Towcester markings to John Hime this of course should have been John Hine, Sorry John! The second error was a more blatant one in Alan Marshall's article The Ride Letter when one illustration was printed twice and one omitted. The correct illustration is shown on page 2 of this issue. I must obviously check that my proof reader does a better job. My sincere apologies to John Hine and Alan Marshall.

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

On 11<sup>th</sup> February we will pay what is becoming an annual visit to the Black Country Museum, Dudley. Please note it is a 1.30 p.m. start not 1 p.m. as printed in the programme. The display will be City of Nottingham and the Shire. by our President, Alan Marshall.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March we meet at the Collingwood Centre, Great Barr, again at 1.30 p.m. The subject of the meeting being Members One Board Displays Newspaper Wrappers and/or Postal Stationery. There will be a Committee Meeting at 11a.m. This meeting is held in conjunction with the Streetly Society Fair.

### A.G.M. AND ANNUAL AUCTION

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at St. Germain's Church Hall, Portland Road Birmingham B4 7SX beginning at 1 p.m. It will be followed by the Annual Auction at 1.30 p.m. Lots will be available for viewing from 11 a.m. Full details will be given in the auction catalogue.

### AUCTION LOTS

If you have not already submitted any lots you want included in the auction please see the notice in the last issued MM/172. Lots should be sent to Eric Lewis at 27 Rathbone Road, Smethwick, B67 5JG by 12<sup>th</sup> February.

Just one week after the A.G.M. is the meeting at Worcester in conjunction with Worpex at Olbury Park School, WR2 6AA beginning at 1.30 p.m. The subject of the meeting being Uniform Fourpenny Post and Uniform Penny Post. (Could be interesting to see what appears!)

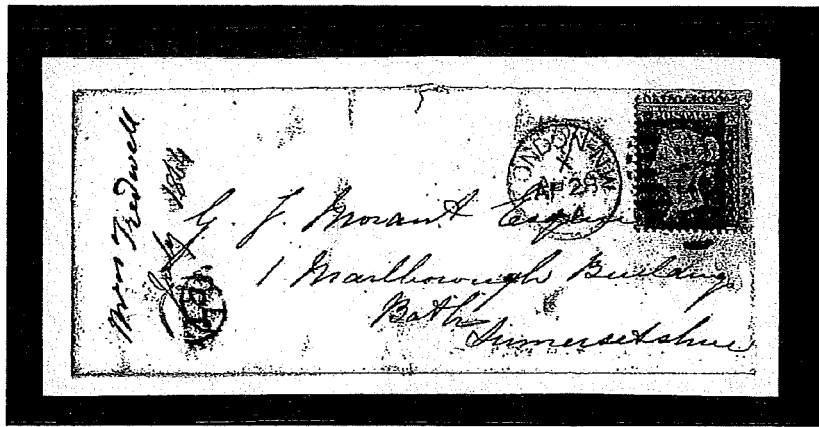
Editor

Sadie Cole

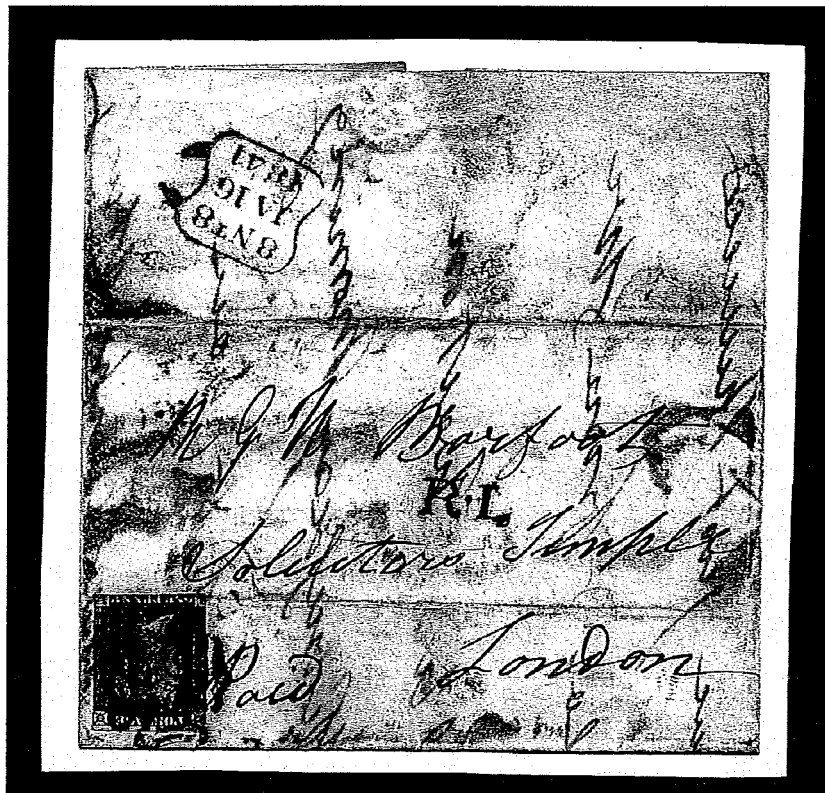
sadie.cole@virgin.net

Sincere apologies to John Hine for mistyping his name in MM172/10 and to Alan Marshall for making the monumental error of printing one illustration twice and missing one out completely. Sorry John and Alan!

The examples quoted by Alan in his article by "The Ride Letter" MM172/7 should have been . Page 172/8 as below - 172/9 is correct.



11mm circle encloses 4mm seriffed R.L. letters on an envelope from London to Bath dated 28th April 1864



6mm seriffed RL letters with a dot centrally between, but no encircling appear on a local London entire dated 16th Jan. 1841 on which the Penny Black was applied upside down in the bottom L.H. corner.

NOVEMBER MEETING

At the meeting at Carr's Lane Church Centre, Birmingham, on 12th November, Guy Bridges presented a display of Shrewsbury Postal History.

He started with a list of the Shrewsbury Postmasters and a few early maps and prints. The earliest letter was dated 12th November 1660 to "The High Sherriff of ye County of Derby", about raising the money to pay off and disband the army. Followed by the first Shrewsbury postmark with 'H' and 'R' joined on a letter 9th January 1705/6, the manuscript 'Salop' on a letter dated 23 January 1707. and the only example of the 'Salop' postmark with capital 'S' and 'alop' in lower case letters on a letter dated 1st March 1706/7. A letter to 'Much Wenlock, Shropshire endorsed 'By ye Cross post Bridgenorth bagg', showed the rare 'SHREWSBURY X' Cross Post postmark. Later Cross Post letters were also shown.

There followed examples of all the different types of straight-line 'SALOP' and two line 'SHREWS/BURY' postmarks used from 1710 to 1797, and then the two different types of horseshoe postmarks used in the 1790's were shown, one on a letter of 1795 signed by "John Flint" who was the Postmaster at the time. Some letters to London Coffee Houses were seen dated 1725 and 1771, and a letter written at the 'London Coffee House, Shrewsbury' in 1845.

This was followed by all the many different mileage postmarks used at Shrewsbury, and it was explained that it was never issued with the first type mileage mark used at other towns in 1780's, the first one they used was the boxed type in 1801.

A number of unofficial local 1d post letters to and from villages were shown and a letter written in 1814 signed by Dr Robert Darwin the father of Charles Darwin was shown.

A Disinfected letter from 'Mannheim, Germany', dated 20 November 1831, sent to 'Shrewsbury, England', had the chisel cuts and vinegar stains. This was done during the height of the cholera epidemic in Germany.

The official Penny Post was established at Shrewsbury in 1833 and examples of the framed 'Shrewsbury/Penny Post' were shown, with a later use in 1840.

Some Uniform Fourpenny Post letters were shown including one from Shrewsbury posted on the first day, December 5th 1839, to Dublin, and a pre-paid 4d letter which are not often seen.

He then showed a letter with a 1d black posted at Shrewsbury on 13th May 1840 to Wem, an 1840 2d blue on a letter to Ludlow and 1d and 2d Mulready covers used from Shrewsbury.

Also shown was a 1840 1d black on a letter with the first 'Skeleton' postmark used at Shrewsbury for a couple of days in October 1840, followed by the Skeleton postmark used in December 1841 that was incorrectly spelt 'SHREWSBERY', and all the later Skeleton postmarks of the different types used at Shrewsbury in 1843, 1845, 1847 and 1849.

He explained that Shrewsbury kept it's mileage erased mark and brought it out for use in emergencies showing it used in 1838, 1844, 1845 and its very late use in August 1850

The latter showing the only recorded example of it struck in blue ink.

The early use of the Shrewsbury numeral cancel '708' was shown on a letter of 2nd May 1844, and later when green ink was incorrectly used to cancel the 1d stamp on letters.

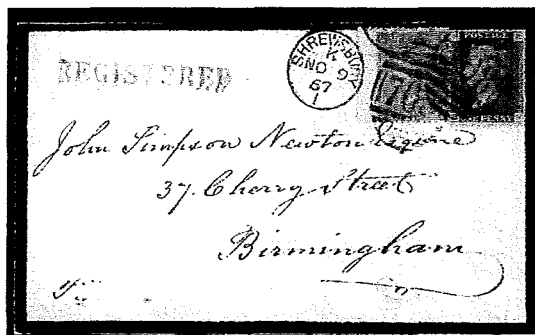
A selection of Overseas mail was shown, including a pair of letters to a missionary in 'Penang Straits on Malacca' in 1845, and others to Burma, India, France, Italy and Germany. Also an incoming letter from St. Petersburg, Russia.

Included in the display were number of Registered letters at different rates, and various Registered Letter receipts. Also an envelope franked with a 1d stamp that was compulsorily Registered because it contained a "Coin" and was charged 8d double the registration rate.

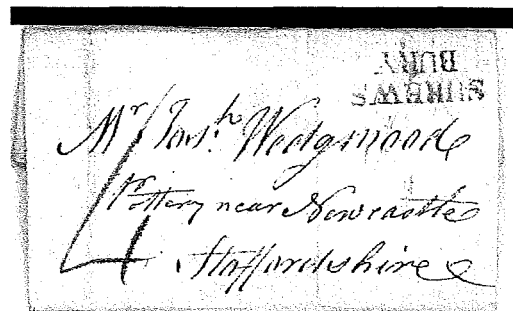
In 1854 Shrewsbury was issued with the first of the three different 'Spoon' type duplex cancels which were all shown including its rare use in green. Then a selection of the many different types of duplexes used at Shrewsbury were shown to 1870. Also shown was an envelope to 'Mr Saml Breese, Llanidloes' endorsed Not Known, and on the reverse 'opened by Samuel Breese not for him'. It was then sent to Shrewsbury where they struck on the reverse the only recorded example of the script type 'Received open and resealed/at the Shrewsbury P.O.'

He finished the display with a selection of Missent and Misdirected Mail from 1773 onwards. From 1809 the framed type MISSENT TO/SHEWSBURY was seen struck in black ink. He also showed the only recorded example of it struck in red ink in 1827 and blue ink in 1850. He also showed the only recorded examples of the two different sans serif type of 'MISSENT TO/SHREWSBURY' both issued in 1855, both struck in green ink in 1856. Also included was an envelope posted in London in 1889, addressed to 'Church Stoke, Shrewsbury' with 'MISDIRECTED TO' struck on it at Shrewsbury before being sent to Welshpool for delivery to Churchstoke.

Many thanks to Guy for this full account of his display.



Envelope Registered at Shrewsbury on 9th November 1867 with Red Handstruck 'REGISTERED'



Letter from Salop on 25th August, 1790 to 'Mr Josh Wedgwood, Pottery near Newcastle'

Just two of the covers shown in this extensive and comprehensive display. Many thanks Guy!

## DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting at the National Brewery Centre at Burton on Trent had as its theme 'Mail to and from Foreign Destinations' and was attended by 39 members, who with guests enjoyed an excellent lunch as well as a superb display of material from members and our guest Max Smith.

The morning saw standing displays from several members from a wide variety of destinations featuring several Midland counties.

The main display of the day was by Max Smith with a superb display of mail to and from India.

The first part of his display dealt with the early links with India which were purely for trade.

Original links were formed by the East India Company which set up a three cornered trade - Wool and Cotton Fabric to China - silk from China to India - spices from India to Britain. Three settlements became the focus of this trade - Calcutta, Madras and Bengal. The early postal history of India is basically the Company correspondence. In the comprehensive display of 18th and 19th century mail to and from India were several with unique hand stamps. Private mail was sometimes included in company mail.

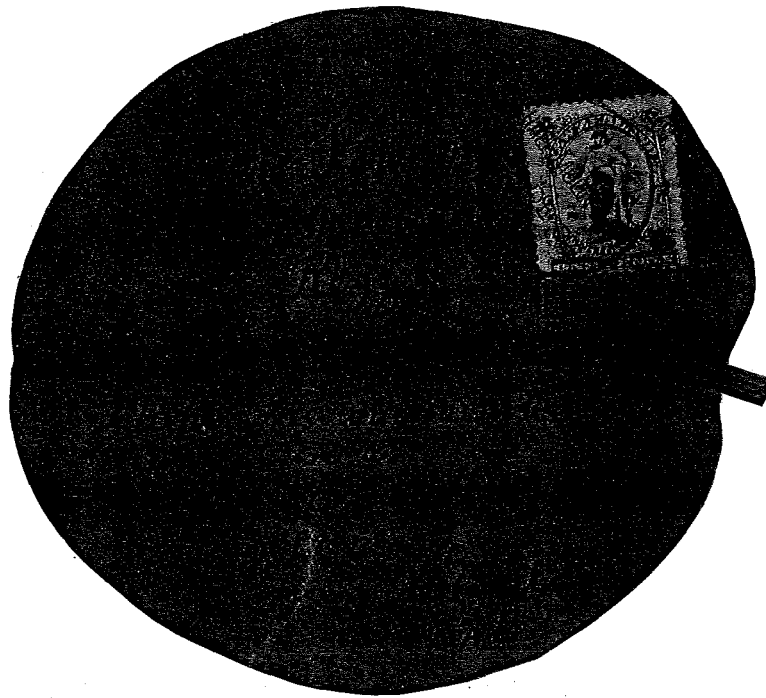
Several items were marked Kings Postage, Ship Letter and India Letter.

The second part of Max's display dealt with the later period and included Registered Mail, Redirected, Underpaid and Express Mail. It also dealt with the route changes including some of the difficulties encountered with the introduction of steam ships. Earlier ships being so underpowered that they were able to carry insufficient coal to allow them to complete their journey, also that the weather conditions allowed the use of steam ships only for part of the year. Changes in route and methods of transport led to the time taken for delivery to be reduced from 6 months to 6 weeks by 1880.

(I hope to include fuller details and illustrations of this magnificent display in a later Midland Mail.)

Displays by members included Mail through Belgium by John Soer, Gordon Hardy showed us mail from Austria, Judith Viney displayed items from Newfoundland, whilst Bob Viney brought 2 Ride Letters an interesting augmentation to Alan Marshall's article in November Midland Mail, Among other displays were items from Nottingham and Warwickshire. Eric Lewis brought an interesting item detailing "Philatelic Exports" as well as some items not only from foreign destinations but also from natural overseas materials as shown below.

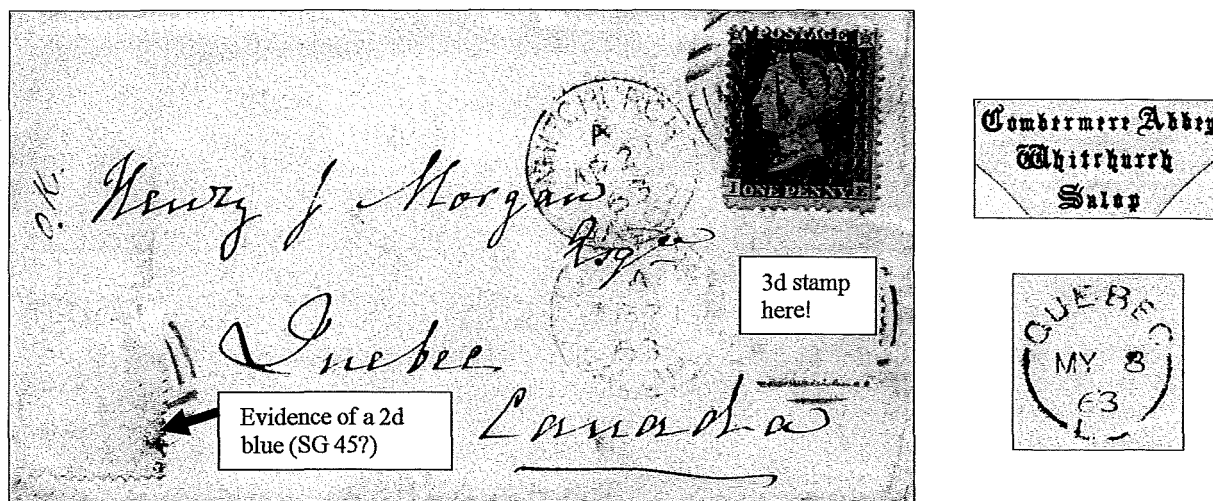
(The Editor welcomes the recent suggestion that on occasions when such a large number of members display such a wide variety of items that they let her have a short summary of their display, together with a possible illustration.)



A real leaf used as a postcard posted in New Zealand to London

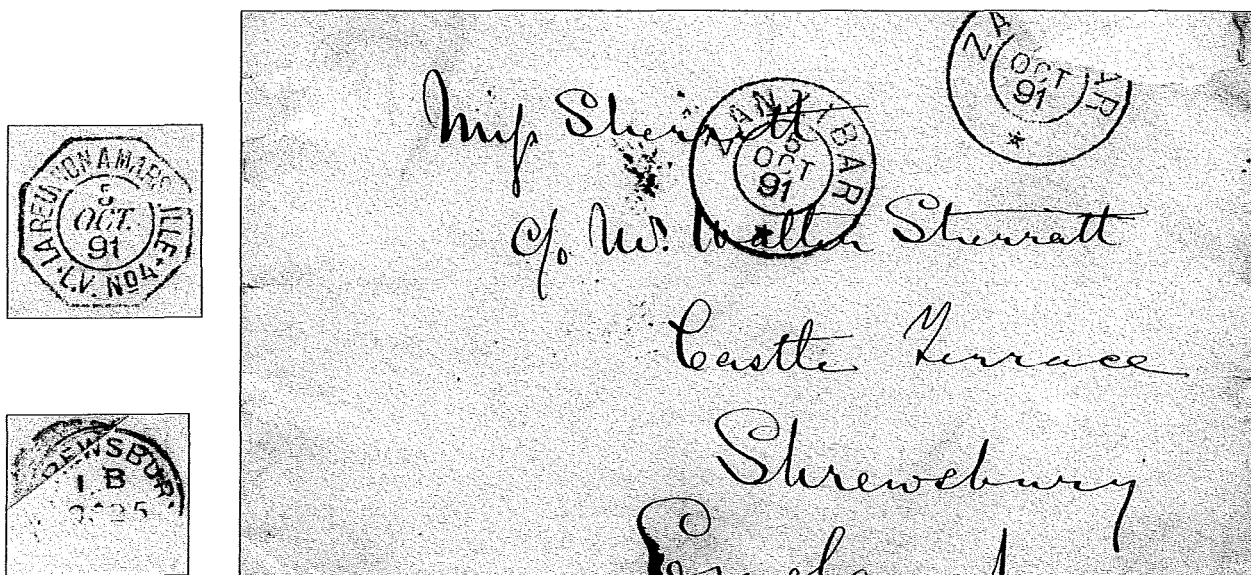
## NOT ONE BUT TWO TRAGIC MUTILATIONS OF SHROPSHIRE COVERS IN 1863 AND 1891

by Brian Atkins



1863 cover possibly written by Sir Stapleton Cotton, 1st Viscount Combermere, who died in 1865 at the age of 92, the hand looks a little shaky! The facts are that the cover was carried on the Canadian packet, the Allan Line *Norwegian*, which left Liverpool on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and Morville (Londonderry) the next day, arriving at Quebec on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1863 as per the date stamps. Letters to Canada were charged 6d from March 1854 but as you can see, the cover has been mutilated with two stamps removed, a 2d blue and a 3d rose to make up the 6d rate. The only 3d stamp available was the 3d rose, plate 2, state 2 (SG 75-77) issued on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1862, a scarce stamp.

The other 'mutilation' concerns an 1891 cover from no less a place than Zanzibar to Shrewsbury, a cover I found at the bottom of a dealer's box.



The cover was picked up in Zanzibar by the *Rio-Grande*, a French Messageries Maritimes mail ship on the Réunion to Marseilles route, on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. The *Rio Grande* had left Réunion on 26<sup>th</sup> September and arrived at Marseilles on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1891. The cover reached Shrewsbury on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct.

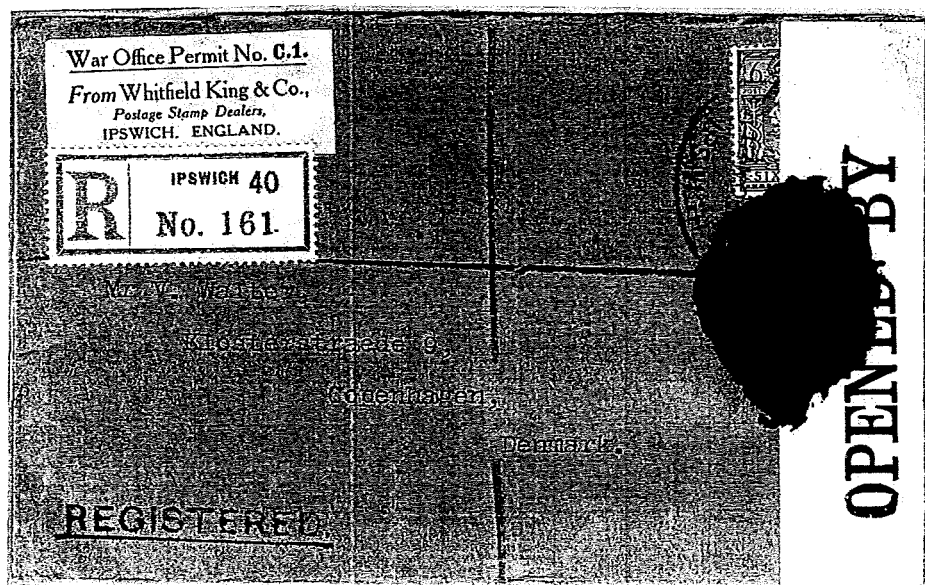
# TRAGIC MUTILATIONS OF SHROPSHIRE COVERS

Continued from previous page

The stamp has clearly been removed, although it doesn't appear so at first. By extrapolating the V-shaped sides of the stuck down back flap. I estimate the cover has been cut down by nearly three-quarters of an inch, which, I think, is enough space to accommodate a French stamp. Stamps of India were used in Zanzibar for 20 years from 1875 to 1895. There was also a French post office in Zanzibar from 1889 to 1894 and I am inclined to think that the cover had carried a French stamp as a little research has indicated that the double circle ZANZIBAR can be seen on French stamps but not on Indian ones. the dealer stated he had had "3 or 4 of these covers, all with stamps removed"! Grrrrrr!

## ISSUE OF STAMP EXPORT PERMITS IN WW.I

All firms authorised to export valuables were issued with a War Office permit number, which in the case of stamp dealers, was invariably preceded by a letter 'C'. Notwithstanding the holding of a permit, all correspondence was opened by a civilian censor.



An item from Eric Lewis's display at Burton-on-Trent, Mail to and from Foreign Destinations showing a Registered package to Denmark posted by Whitfield King & Co of Ipswich, who held permit No. C1. The contents were examined by censor No. 428 who was situated in London. An arrival handstamp on reverse indicated eight days in transit.

## MIDLAND POST OFFICES OPENED OR CLOSED IN 2011

Compiled by Ken Smith

**BIRMINGHAM**

Lickey, B45 8ES

closed July 2011.

**DERBYSHIRE**

Hartshorne, Swadlincote

closed c.23-6-2011. Re-open c.6-9-2011 (Tues.1.30 to 3.30 pm)

Mappleton, Ashbourne

closed 24-2-2011

New Houghton, Mansfield

closed 26-5-2011. Re-open/relocated 4-11-2011 (PO Local)

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

Acton Turville, Badminton

closed 23-3-2011. Re-open by 6-9-2011.

Avening, Tetbury

re-open by 19-8-2011 (PO Local) (had closed 12-2-2010).

Eastleach Turville, Cirencester

closed 4-1-2011 (Hosted Outreach, Village Hall, c/o Filkins)

Kempsford, Fairford

(closed 22-7-2010, c/o Castle Eaton). Re-open 4-8-2011 (c/o Highworth)

Stratton, Cirencester

re-open 4-5-2011 (PO Local) (had closed 10-6-2008).

Poulton, Cirencester

closed July 2011. To re-open 9-2-2012 (PO Local)

Quedgeley, Gloucester

re-open/relocated 15-4-2011 (had closed 20-7-2010).

Whitecroft, Lydney

closed June 2011.

Willersey, Broadway

closed 27-5-2011.

**HEREFORDSHIRE**

Chilton Square, Hereford

re-open 7-2-2011 (PO Local) (had closed 21-4-2010)

Whitchurch, Ross-on-Wye

changed to PO Local 30-8-2011.

**LEICESTERSHIRE**

Barlestone, Nuneaton

closed 24-9-2011. To re-open as PO Local.

Caldecot, Market Harborough

closed c.31-3-2011 (in Rutland).

Edmondthorpe, Melton Mowbray

closed by Sept.2011.

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Brigstock, Kettering

closed 18-4-2011

Upper Boddington, Daventry

closed 4-6-2011.

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Dunham-on-Trent, Newark

closed by Oct.2011. To re-open / relocate.

Elkesley, Retford

closed 12-11-2011

Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottingham

closed 7-5-2011 (Co-op closed). Re-open c.15-7-2011 (portacabin)

Langold, Worksop

changed to PO Local 20-10-2011

New Houghton, Mansfield

closed 26-5-2011. Re-open/relocated 4-11-2011 (PO Local) (in Dys)

Sutton-on-Trent, Newark

re-open 9-5-2011 (PO Local, Marshalls Coaches) (had closed 25-9-2010)

Temple, Nuthall, Nottingham

closed 31-1-2011 (death)

**OXFORDSHIRE**

Ashbury, Swindon

closed 21-10-2011 (Hosted Outreach planned)

Horspath, Oxford

closed 20-9-2011

Sutton Courtney, Abingdon

closed 23-7-2011

Underhill Circus (TSO), Oxford

closed 18-2-2011

**SHROPSHIRE**

Castlefields (TSO), Shrewsbury

re-open 29-8-2011 (PO Local) (had closed 4-9-2008)

St.Martins, Oswestry

closed 4-1-2011. Re-open 18-4-2011 (PO Local)

**STAFFORDSHIRE**

Biddulph, Stoke-on-Trent closed 9-6-2011 (UGO Store closed). Re-open 27-10-2011 (portacabin)  
 Dordon, Tamworth closed 2-6-2011 (in Wks) (PO Local planned)  
 Wetley Rocks, Stoke-on-Trent closed c.31-10-2011

**WARWICKSHIRE**

Barlestone, Nuneaton closed 24-9-2011 (in Leics) (PO Local planned)  
 Dordon, Tamworth closed 2-6-2011 (PO Local planned)  
 Princethorpe, Rugby Ryton-on-Dunsmore Outreach ceased March 2011.

**WEST MIDLANDS**

Fillongley, Coventry re-open (by) 11-4-2011 (had closed 2-10-2010)  
 Darlington St (TSO), Wolverhampton: closed at No.75, 11-10-2011. Re-open at No.16, 20-10-2011.

**WORCESTERSHIRE**

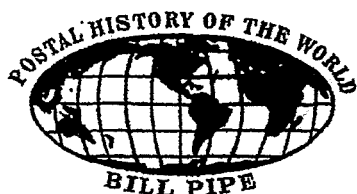
Alfrick, Worcester closed 16-7-2011  
 Bishampton, Pershore re-open 16-2-2011 (PO Local) (had closed 27-5-2010)  
 Lower Moor, Pershore re-open/relocated 19-8-2011 (PO Local) (had closed 8-9-2010)  
 Willersey, Broadway (in Glos) closed 27-5-2011.

Thanks to members of the Midland (GB) Postal History Society for information on changes in their area. The introduction of Post Office Locals (originally known as Post Office Essentials) is gathering pace. An advantage is the longer hours, including Sunday opening in most cases, although there are some PO services which are not available at the Locals. Please send information to Ken Smith, 3, St. Agatha's Close, Pershore, WR10 1DQ or by e-mail to: kensmith1@hotmail.co.uk

---

A message on a postcard in the Editor's collection

"May the New Year bring to your home health, to your business prosperity and to your soul the sunshine of God's favour."

**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](http://www.magpiebillpipe.com)  
 Email: [magpiebillpipe@free.uk.com](mailto:magpiebillpipe@free.uk.com)

# A NEW FIND FROM THE 'SINGLE HOUSE' POST TOWN by Colin Fountain

Prior to the introduction of mailcoaches to Gloucester, the horse post from London travelled via Faringdon and Cirencester and down the very steep Birdlip Hill. When the mailcoaches were introduced on 22nd August 1785, the mail route was changed to go via Oxford and Burford and on past the Frogmill Inn situated in a sparsely populated part of the Gloucestershire Cotswolds near Andoversford. The Inn became a stage on the new mail route and provided a postal service until 19th May 1826 when the coach route was changed again to go via Andoversford where a post office was established replacing the now bypassed Frogmill Inn. Earlier in 1826 Francis Freeling had written 'Frogmill although but a single house is considered a Post Town'.

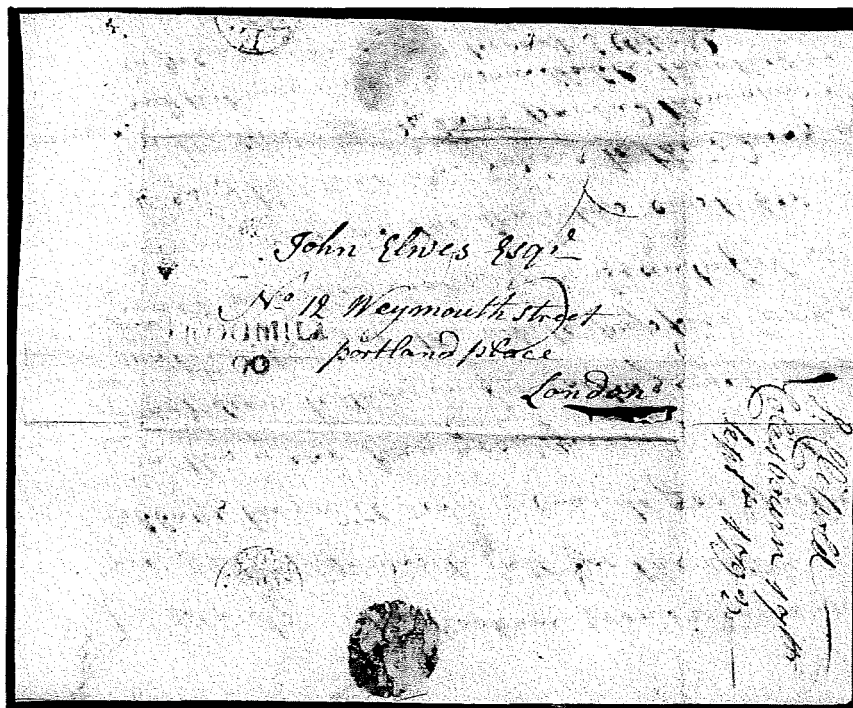
Two handstamps have been recorded in use at Frogmill, the first on a single entire dated 7th August 1791 with indistinct mileage which was recorded in 1966 (GL340, MMM2082) and another with mileage 95 used on two entires of 26th October 1815 and 12 January 1816 (GL343, MMM2084). These three items were the only examples seen from Frogmill until now when I have been fortunate to purchase an entire of the first mileage mark which shows the mileage to have been 90. In the Midland Counties Mileage Marks book, four possible mileage calculations were suggested and 90 is shown as the 'correct' distance from London via Burford ('74' + 16 miles).

The new entire was written 17th September 1793 by S.Clissold of Colesbourne, which is a small village about 4 miles from the Frogmill Inn, to Jon Elwes Esq., 12 Weymouth Street, Portland Place, London. On the back is London arrival datestamp of 18th September 1793. The sender and addressee are the same as on the 1791 entire. The letter is a report of what is happening on the farms around Colesbourne. According to the Colesbourne Gardens website, John Elwes purchased the 1600 acre Colesbourne Park estate in 1789 and over the next few years more land was added to make a total of 6000 acres. So it would appear that the letter is to the landowner from his steward or one of his tenants. A few extracts below give a flavour of the contents which make a welcome change from the legal matters in so many of the surviving entires from other places, but undoubtedly the absence of solicitors' offices in this part of the Cotswolds accounts for the scarcity of Frogmill material.

"Bartley has got a certificate and he is going this day to fetch his old gun home. The Birds I believe remains in safety".

"Cooks cattle hath not trespassed at all the reason was they could not come in the lane without being in his barley. Curtis nor cook have cut but very little of their barley yet mine and Kapsgate is all cut and almost Harvested."

"One of the sows has cast her pigs. I think it was owing to their disagreeing in the Sty. We have parted them now and put one in the Parsons Stable."



1793 letter from Frogmill to London showing the mileage as 90

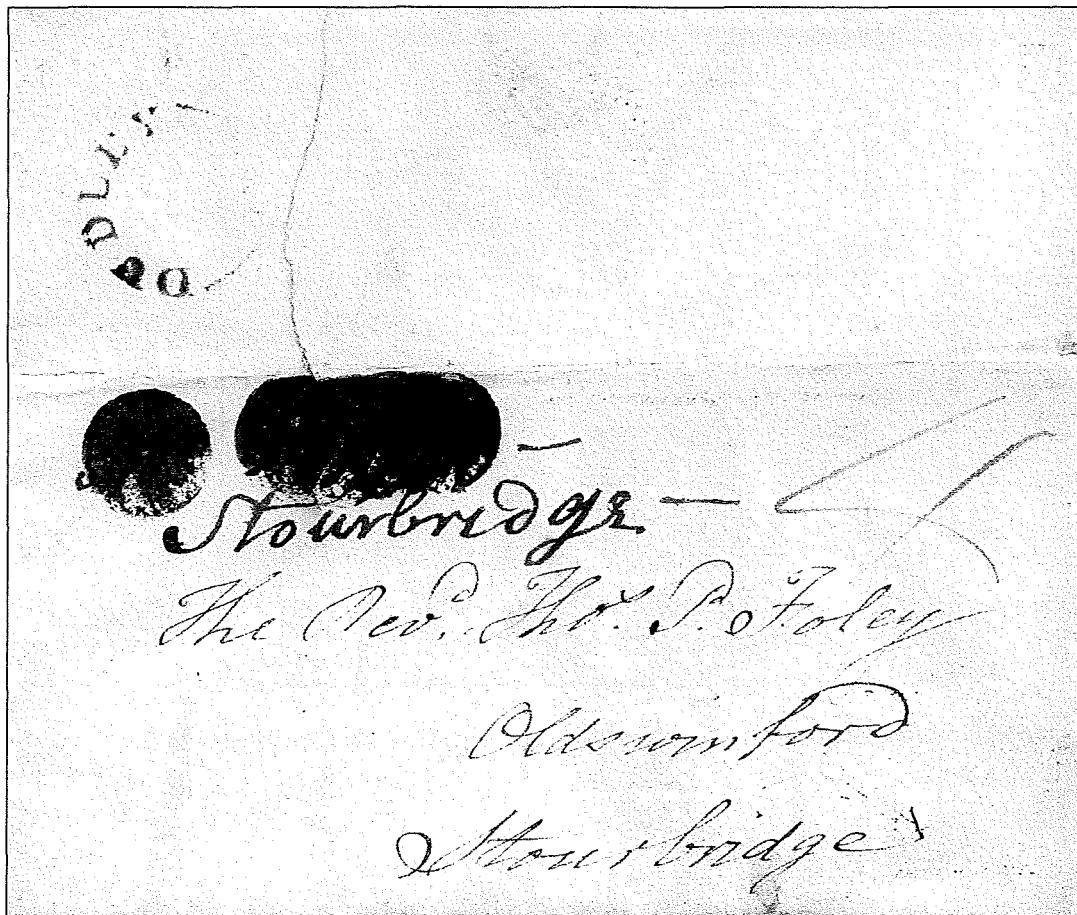
## SWIFT ACTION – FRUSTRATED?

by John Calladine

The illustrated item is not pretty. However, it is not without interest. On 24<sup>th</sup> March 1827, Joseph Aston wrote from Wombourne to the eccentric Reverend Thomas P. Foley, vicar of Oldswinford, Stourbridge, to tell him that one of Mr Foley's tenants, a Daniel Deanes, had left "Richard Corns' house", taking all his goods with him but also "nearly every tree in the garden"! This was something requiring swift action.

What precisely happened to the letter is puzzling. It bears a Dudley circular mileage mark of a type issued on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1826. It should surely have been taken from Wombourne to Wolverhampton, some five miles distant, not to Dudley. However, there is no indication that it passed through Wolverhampton and one might hazard a guess that it was hand-carried to Dudley, six miles distant, by someone with business in Dudley and posted there. However, the Dudley stamp is on the reverse and someone at Dudley, presumably at the post office, wrote on the front in a heavy manuscript, in intense black ink, "Not Dudley – Stourbridge". Did they then realise that the letter had been posted at Dudley, not mis-sent there, and decided they should obliterate the words "Not Dudley"? Whatever the reason for the obliteration, it was carried out with great thoroughness using something precisely circular, five eighths of an inch in diameter. Would the cork of an ink bottle do the trick?

We cannot be sure the letter was delayed as we cannot be certain it was posted on the day it was written but, come what may, it did not reach the Reverend Foley until the afternoon of 26<sup>th</sup>, two days later. Using the same sheet of paper, he drafted a note to his agent in Stourbridge, the land agent Mr John Davies, telling him he had received the letter at "Near 4 o'clock" (on 26<sup>th</sup>) and asking him to make enquiries and act accordingly. As an afterthought he added a further manuscript note requesting Mr Davies to thank Aston for writing. Whether this draft was transcribed onto a new piece of paper, we cannot know but, as it has survived, it may have been hand-carried, "as is" and as a matter of urgency to Mr Davies, much of whose business correspondence is in collectors' hands. Sadly, we shall also never know if The Reverend Foley recovered his trees!



FROM THE RUBBISH BIN  
by Sadie Cole

This rather 'tatty' entire is one of the prize items in one of my collections, yet it cost me less than £5. Who in their right mind would pay even £5 for such an item? Yet this letter dated June 11th, 1837 from Kington in Herefordshire, contains a story of postal history in the making. It was when I read the contents I could not believe I had found such a gem. It had indeed been in a dealers 'rubbish box' at a stamp fair in North Wales. Casually I showed him the folded letter and asked the price, handing over the cash I left the stand in case he changed his mind.

This is what I had read -

Dear Sir,

It gives me great pleasure to announce to you that arrangements are now completed for (sic) render our Mail (I trust) permanent. On Thursday last Mr Hall (our Secretary) and myself left Kington for London with the intention of making such arrangements final. Upon our reaching Hereford I prevailed upon Mr Bosley to accompany Mr Hall, and they arrived in London on Friday, proceeded to the post Office and settled the matter on terms highly satisfactory having in addition to extra mileage the grant of liberty to carry five outsides.

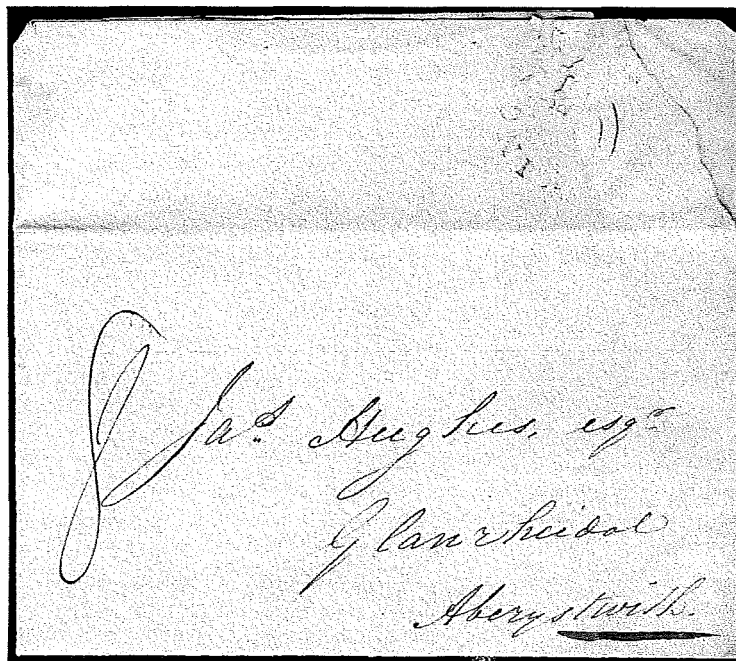
Wishing prosperity to the cause.

I subscribe myself in haste.

Your obedient humble serv.

Jn. Wilson

To. Jas. Hughes Esq.  
Glanrheidol  
Aberystwith



1837 entire from Kington, Herefordshire, to Aberystwith, Ceredigion (Cardiganshire)

## ROYAL MALE

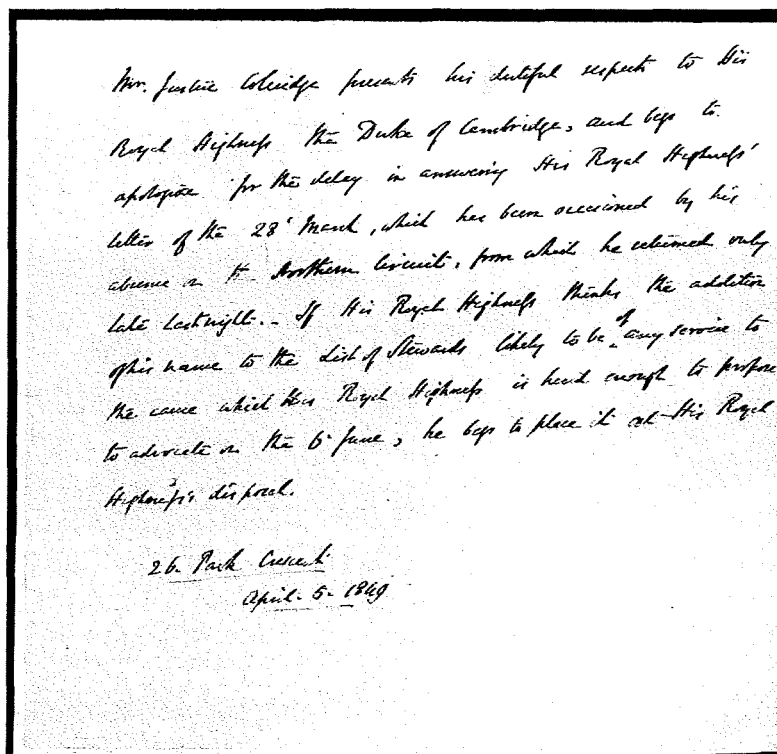
A topical contribution sent by Alan Marshall, detailing a letter he has in his collection.

Now that we again have a Duke of Cambridge he suggests that the letter to H.R.H. Adolphus, the First Duke of Cambridge, may be of some interest. The writer was John Dulce Coleridge, a man of some standing with a family background. He was later Lord Coleridge, Lord Chief Justice of England and President of the Queen's Bench Division, he informs His Royal Highness that he is sorry for a little delay in reply to his letter of the 28th March. He writes from his home at 26 Park Crescent, relating that he has been on Assizes on the Northern Circuit but that he will be pleased to go on the list of Stewards for the Charity Dinner in aid of the funds of St Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

Lord Coleridge was the eldest son of Judge Sir John Taylor Coleridge, who was the nephew of the famous poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge. In 1891 he acted in the Tranby Croft Case, the Gambling Case in which Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII had to give evidence, and was treated very badly by the Solicitor General, Sir Edward Clark, who acted for the swindler Cumming, who was dismissed from the Army, expelled from all his clubs and socially ostracised.

Lord Coleridge lived quietly until 1930, collecting Post Marks!

Letter referred to by Alan Marshall to Adolphus, First Duke of Cambridge and downloaded portrait of the Duke



**Bircotes Post Office - 115 Scrooby Road****1925 -1944**

A Post Office opened in the expanding colliery village of Bircotes in 1925, under the control of Doncaster, in premises at 115 Scrooby Road. The first Sub Postmaster was E S Gilbert. The Post Office moved to 65 Scrooby Road, most probably on the appointment of Lois A Knight in 1945. She was followed by Peter Fred Lane in 1949 and he by Fred Laurence in 1977. During Fred Laurence's tenure the Post Office moved to 121 Scrooby Road. He was followed by Trevor R Brown in 1981 and he by Robert Flannery in 1994. The Post Office continues to serve the village from 121 Scrooby Road.

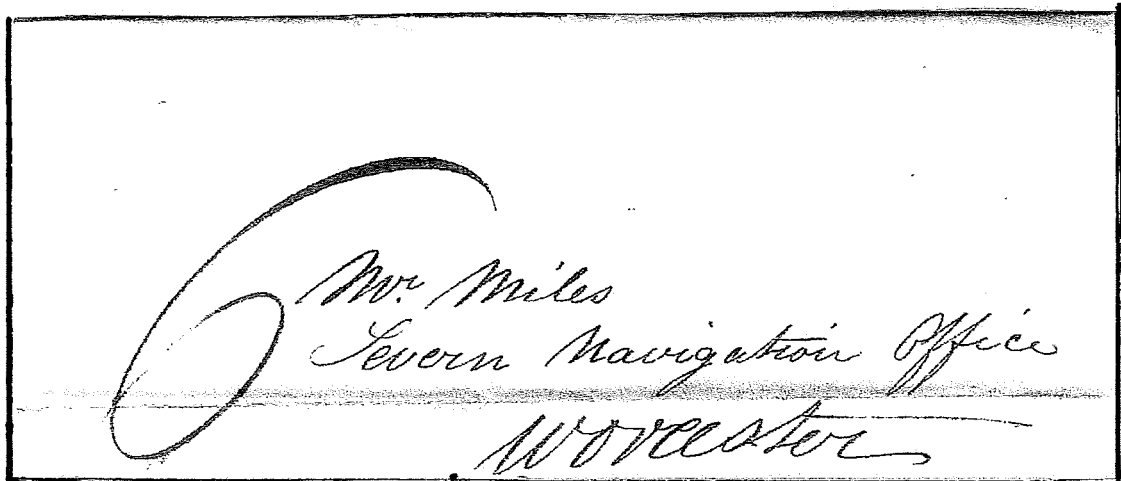
Unused 1920s postcard showing Bircotes Post Office at 115 Scrooby Road shortly after opening with E S Gilbert's name above the door.

ISSN 0132-2518/79/0011-0002\$02.50/0

## TWO ITEMS FROM THE 2011 ANNUAL AUCTION

Just an indication of what may be found among other members discards!  
Please sort out your unwanted material and send it to Eric.

PPC of Gravelly Hill Station, Birmingham. Posted in Erdington, Birmingham at 7.30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, 1904 to Oxford Rd, Mosely, Birmingham. Did the Christmas wishes get there in time?



An entire addressed to Severn Navigation Office, Worcester, from the Canal Office, Ledbury, 8th November, 1837. Ledbury was on the route of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal begun in 1793. It was never a commercial success and was quickly superseded by the railway.