

MIDLAND MAIL

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDLAND (G.B.) POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President: Richard Farman

Chairman
Derek Smeathers

Treasurer:
Elizabeth Lewis

Secretary
Mel Matthews

Number 133, January 2004

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to Barry Faulkner of Leominster who collects United Kingdom Postal History and to Jim Hammond whose interests include Bridgnorth and Isle of Man

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

On 10th January 2004, we meet at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham when the meeting, beginning at 1.30 p.m., will consist of members' one board displays on "*Undated Circles*". There will be a committee meeting beginning at 11 a.m.

We pay our second visit to the Collingwood Centre, Great Barr on 7th February when, beginning at 1.30 p.m., Mike Foulger will display "*P.P.Is*" and Peter Barrell will show "*Swift Air*". This meeting is held in conjunction with the annual fair organised by the Streetly Society which opens at 10 a.m.

On 13th March we return to St Germain's Scout Hut for displays of "*Pembrokeshire*" and "*Montgomeryshire*" given by Gerald Marriner and Guy Bridges respectively. The meeting begins at 1.30 p.m.

THE ANNUAL AUCTION

This is to remind members that auction lots should be handed to Eric at either the meeting on 10th January or that on 7th February. Alternatively, they may be sent to Mrs E Lewis at 27 Rathbone Road, Smethwick B67 5JG by 14th February.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 17th April at St Germain's Church Hall, Portland Road, Birmingham beginning at 12.45 p.m. It will be preceded at 10.30 a.m. by a committee meeting. The Annual Auction will start promptly at 1.45 p.m.

NEW CHAIRMAN

Derek Smeather's term of office of three years ends at the AGM. Consequently, nominations are sought for a new Chairman. These should be sent to our Secretary, Mel Matthews, preferably in advance of the AGM.

HERITAGE ARCHIVES

Heritage Royal Mail has informed me that the search room will be closed for refurbishment from 23rd January and will reopen in early April. A limited service will be available during this period. For further information and to make an appointment, please ring 02072392570.

THE JON BAKER TROPHY

Nominations are required for the above trophy which is awarded to the author of the best article appearing in Midland Mail during 2002. So, please look back over the previous five editions and let the Editor have your vote, preferably by the date of the March meeting.

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

The Society's meetings at Warwick rarely attract a large attendance. (This is something of a puzzle because it is a central venue and blessed with ample car parking.) There was some trepidation when only nine members were at hand for the meeting on 15th November to display 'Oversize and 3-D Material' but it turned out to be a full and entertaining afternoon. Once again, Messrs Warwick & Warwick proved generous hosts and we made full use of the excellent display space, not to mention the refreshments, they provided for us.

Using the excuse that the late Chris Beaver always contrived to turn the nominated display topic to his own advantage, MALCOLM ALLINSON said he had interpreted '3-D' as '3d' and his material was definitely two-dimensional. He therefore managed to confine himself to Bishop Marks and the charges found on letters bearing them. We saw a number of early letters with a 3d charge, another with 3d amended to 4d, a double postage charge of 6d (i.e. 2x3d) and, finally, the ultimate abuse of the day's theme - a 9d charge (3x3d), for a letter with two enclosures.

JOHN BRADNOCK picked on the word "oversized". There were two very large indentures with appropriate seals, a birth certificate and an 1811 Will, sent as a postal item, that informed us of the equal inheritance of eleven brothers and sisters. However, the members particularly enjoyed the Marriage Certificate of 1892 which John was sure had referred to the marriage of a sprinter, only to satisfy himself later that, in reality, the lady was a spinster.

ERIC LEWIS produced a miscellany of appropriate items that one can only believe come from the bottomless depths of a magic hat. Among the delights was a Post Office notice of 1810 about betting and gambling in the Post Office and pointing out that "football competitions" based on the results of games, i.e. football pools, were included in their prohibition. There was an 1830 resolution to prevent the payment of Wages in Truck and two large discounted letter sheets, with advertisements, one sold for ½d and the other for a mere ¼ d. There was a scarce (unique?) National Telephone Company 'call sheet', with payment stamps, and a stunning large coloured proof of a Mulready caricature. Finally, there were three large sheets, each weighing just under one ounce, which amounted to mis-use of the free franking privilege since they were effectively one item and the weight limit for a free letter was, of course, one ounce.

Pursuing the 'oversize' theme, PAUL BRADSHAW showed us some very attractive large envelopes with Australian stamps, including a miniature sheet. There was also a large item franked, rather unusually, with two British bantam Victorian ½d stamps and annotated 'Book Post'.

In much the same vein, JOHN CALLADINE produced the front of a package posted from America with no fewer than 57 adhesive stamps. There were some flimsy Post Office Telegraph forms used inappropriately in World War I to notify the public of the latest Saturday War News, using equally inappropriate parcel post labels to fix them to a notice board. He also brought along the new, large, heavy (and expensive) photographic atlas of "England" for members to peruse at their leisure.

CHRIS JACKSON's contributions were very definitely three-dimensional. There was a tiny letter scale, several notice and name boards from Worcestershire post offices and some handsome photographs of the clerical staff at Evesham post office in 1883 and of the post office staff at Malvern in 1890 and 1912 (when the new building opened). He then used an association between frequently-found Redditch postal material and the local needle manufacturing industry as an excuse to show us samples of all manner of sharp objects, some having medical purposes for which a delicate reader may wish to remain unaware.

For once, the Chairman was not the last to be given the floor and DEREK SMEATHERS spent his time showing us grimy objects that one assumed came from his dustbin. In truth, they all related to the large fire in the Northampton sorting office on 7th September. Nothing much had emerged from the office until mid-October and we saw examples of delayed letters and of letters re-directed through offices such as Bath, Bristol and Leicester. One interesting effect of fire on letters is that the phosphor bands on adhesive stamps become much more obvious. (Do not attempt this at home to enhance your collection of definitives - leave it to Royal Mail to burn your correspondence.)

Eric then returned to give us the (regrettably absent) ELIZABETH LEWIS' special contribution. This was a quite amazing collection of Victorian and Edwardian music sheets, all with a postal theme. There was 'The Postman's Story', 'The Postman's Knock', 'The Postman's Holiday' - ragtime, no less - 'The Rat Tat or Postman's Galop' (sic), 'The Mail Coach Polka' and, of a somewhat more modern vintage, Gracie Fields' memorable 'I'm Sending a Letter to Santa Claus'. Where do they find them?

It was left to our new shiny-bright Secretary, MEL MATTHEWS, to complete the afternoon. He gave us a fine display of model pillar letter boxes, accompanied by an informative summary of their history. Mel told us that pillar boxes were first introduced in the Channel Islands in 1852 but none of the originals issued to Jersey survive. Happily two of the three provided to Guernsey in 1853 are still on the island. They were used on the mainland for the first time later in that year and Birmingham soon had them. We were told the contrasting tales of the three giant fluted prototypes that were 8½ feet (not 5ft) tall and the diminutive London boxes that were splattered with mud and which almost required one to kneel on the pavement to read the mass of information provided on them. We also learned there were 15 varieties of the Penfold box and that you could post your letters later than usual in the blue airmail boxes of the 1930s.

When we had all thought we would leave Warwick by mid-afternoon, we probably left rather later than usual. The Chairman rightly commented that it had proved a most successful day.

I would like to thank John Calladine for providing this report and that for the October meeting.

POSTINGS offering



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& other Counties**

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THE DECEMBER MEETING

By the time your Editor arrived in Burton-on-Trent at 10.30 a.m., courtesy of Virgin Trains, the torrential rain of the early morning had given way to bright sunshine. During the morning we were able to view a number of superb standing displays which demonstrated the wide range of interests of members of the Society. There was something there for all.

The afternoon was devoted to a display of *Johore* by Frank Laycock. First of all, Frank corrected a number of misconceptions - Johore is neither an Indian State nor is it a small city. In fact, Johore was a fully independent state, which in the mid-nineteenth century was largely jungle, about the area of Wales on the Malayan peninsula.

The first attempt to set up a postal service was in 1874, with just one post office. The stamp used was the Straits Settlements 2c overprinted with a star and crescent. This first postal service was not a success, the only person who appears to have used it was the Sultan himself, and it was withdrawn.

In 1884, a more successful attempt was made to introduce a postal service. Until the 2c stamps showing the head of the Sultan, Abu Bakar, had been produced, 2c stamps from Singapore were used overprinted either Johor or Johore. The stamps of Johore could only be used to pay the postage to Singapore and not that for overseas. Among the early covers we saw were one of 1887 sent to Gloucestershire with the 2c for carriage to Singapore plus 10c from Singapore; the 2c stamp on an 1890 cover to Singapore; and a cover of 1891 with the 2c Johore stamp plus five 2c stamps to pay the overseas rate from Singapore. On all these covers the Johore stamp was cancelled with the attractive double circle 'JOHORE/BAHRU' with a star and crescent in the middle.

By 1894, the rate to Singapore had risen to 3c and Frank showed us a cover from that year with the 3c stamp cancelled by the 'BANDER MAHARANI/MUAR' circular handstamp. There then followed a number of combination covers including; one of 1894 rated at eight times the basic postage which carried four of the 6c stamp of Johore to pay postage to Singapore as well as the following Straits Settlements adhesives - a 5c for registration, six 10c plus four 1c stamps to make up eight times the overseas rate of 64c; a double rated cover with 1c, 2c and 3c stamps paying double the local rate to Singapore, a 5c and two 8c for double the UPU rate to Southampton.; a 1901 registered letter to London with 4c Empire rate and 5c for registration, endorsed 'via Singapore & Frankfurt on Main' and which was returned to Johore with a 1½d Q.V. stamp.

In 1896, stamps showing the head of the new Sultan, Ibrahim, were issued, and then in 1904 these were followed by a series showing a different portrait of the Sultan. Paul showed us die proofs of both issues. A cover sent to France in 1904 showed three of the 1c from the 1896 issue and, from the 1904 issue, two of the 1c plus the 3c, making up the correct rate of 8c for UPU countries.

Paul finished the first half of his display by producing examples of the first two types of official post card. That of 1904 had no picture on the reverse while that of 1906 had six different pictures.

Paul began the second half by saying that the export of rubber had led to a considerable growth in the economy of Johore, with a consequent increase in the amount of mail.

A cover sent to Denmark in December 1916 was endorsed 'by Europe' i.e. London while one sent in May 1917 was endorsed 'by Europe and Russia'. Both of these letters had been opened by a censor. Paul explained that Punjabi troops stationed in Malaya had mutinied as they thought they were about to be sent to the Western Front. This revolt was put down by Russian troops and sailors. However, the authorities were anxious to prevent news of this incident spreading.

Next we saw corner blocks of four of the 50 dollars and 100 dollars stamps that were sold from the royal collection a few years ago to finance the purchase of a cover with a number of penny blacks.

Paul then moved on to the Japanese occupation of Johore in WWII. We saw covers with various overprints on the postage due stamps; a 1942 registered stationery envelope overprinted in red with Japanese characters; and various Japanese Occupation Issues on cover.

The final cover in Paul's display carried four of the 25 dollar revenue stamps plus 1 dollar and 15c of ordinary stamps on a packet which had contained 289 letters sent to the agent of the Chinese Hong postal delivery service.

In his vote of thanks Richard Farman commented that it had been a fascinating afternoon with much material that was unfamiliar to us and we had all learned something from a wonderful display of very rare material.

AN EARLY HEREFORDSHIRE LETTER

by Alan Starkey

Among the documents acquired recently by the Ledbury and District Society is a single sheet of approximately A4 size which is actually made up of three pieces stuck together - no doubt an indication that paper was a scarcer resource in the late 17th century than it is today.

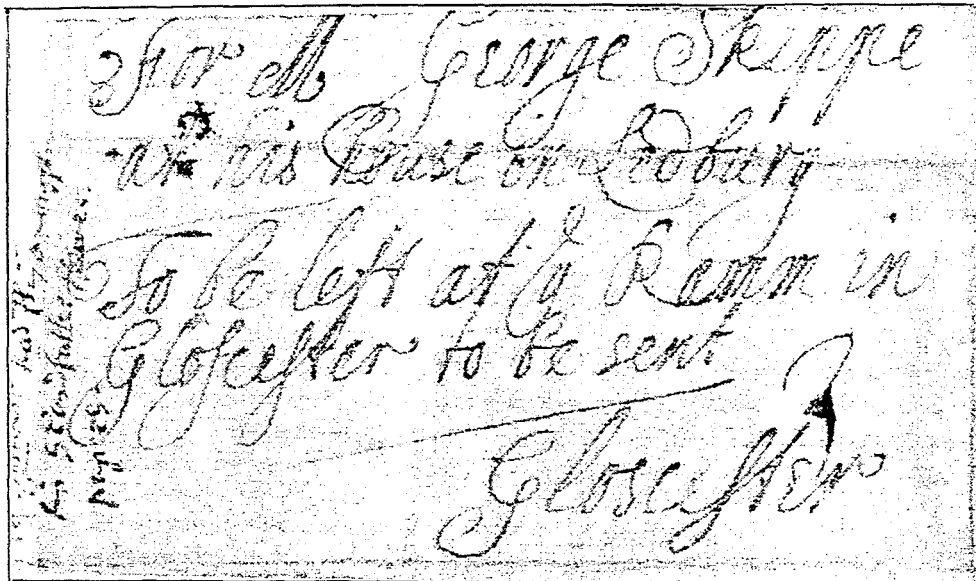
On the paper is a list of 'TITHES DUE FROM UPPER HAL & OTHER LANDS BELONGING TO ALDERMAN SWIFT' quoting dates in the early 1700s as well as acreage details of UNDERDOWN & HASELL.

On one part is the front of a letter addressed '*For M George Skippe at his house in Ledbury. To be left at ye Ramm in Gloscester to be sent/ Gloscester*'. To the address has been added an inked '3' - indicating the rate for a single letter sent more than eighty miles in the period 1653 to 1711. George Skippe lived at Upper Hall from 1668 to 1690 and his diary of 1680 records that he paid ten shillings a year for mail to be sent from Gloucester.

As regards 'ye Ramm', www.gloucestershirepubs.co.uk says:

"21 Southgate Street originally and 44 Southgate Street upon renumbering. The old Ram was a commercial and posting hotel. Billiards were a popular attraction. The building was completely rebuilt in the 1930s and is ow trading as the New County Hotel."

This front must be one of the earliest postal history items in Herefordshire. Can any members produce anything that is earlier?



MIDLAND POST OFFICES OPENED OR CLOSED DURING 2003

by Ken Smith

The year 2003 saw the start of the programme of closing up to three thousand Town Sub Offices (TSOs) nationwide. Closure dates should be treated with caution; many offices closed earlier than the official dates, although the closure leaflets available at the closing offices show, in most cases, the actual closure date.

BIRMINGHAM

Anderton Road	closed 13/10/2003	
Bell Lane	closed 13/7/2003	
Bilton Grange Road	closed 11/4/2003	
Prince's Corner	closed 8/11/2003	
Queensbridge MSPO (26, High St., Kings Heath)		closed 2/10/2003
St Vincent Street	closed 31/12/2003	
Walford Road (TSO)	closed 15/10/2003	

DERBYSHIRE

Brassington, Matlock	closed 28/6/2003	
Breadsall, Derby	closed 8/1/2003	
Burbage (TSO), Buxton	closed 5/4/2003	
Coal Aston, Dronfield	closed 6/12/2003	(was using a SID 'COAL ASTON, SHEFFIELD')
Great Longstone, Bakewell	closed 22/4/2003	
Heage, Belper	temporary closure by April 2003; official closure 27/8/2003	
New Bolsover, Chesterfield	closed 5/2/2003	
Lower Pilsley, Chesterfield	t. closure 26/7/2003	reopened 2/10/2003
Turnditch, Derby	closed by Dec 2001	reopened 8/9/2003 in the "Cross Keys"
Weston Underwood, Ashbourne	closed 26/3/2003	
Harpur Hill (TSO), Buxton	closed 17/5/2003	
Middlecroft (TSO), Staveley, Chesterfield	closed 4/12/2003	
St. Augustine's (TSO), Chesterfield	closed 27/7/2003	
Babington Lane (TSO), Derby	closed 24/1/2003	
Boulton Lane (TSO), Derby	closed 18/11/2003	
Crewton (TSO), Derby	closed 5/6/2003	
Hilltop (TSO), Dronfield	closed 23/6/2003	
Marlpool (TSO), Heanor	closed 22/3/2003	
Greenwich (TSO), Ripley	closed 17/2/2003	

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Adlestrop, Moreton-in-Marsh	reopened 11/12/2003*	(closed 31/10/2002)
Aston Somerville, Broadway	closed 25/3/2003	
Bisley, Stroud	closed 16/10/2003	
Nympsfield, Stonehouse	closed 26/2/2003	
Oddington, Moreton-in-Marsh	closed 18/3/2003	(to reopen "after Christmas"; served from Adlestrop)
Westerleigh, Bristol	closed 27/3/2003	
Benhall Avenue (TSO), Cheltenham	closed 31/12/2003	
Springbank (TSO), Cheltenham	closed 31/12/2003	(opened 23/10/1995)
Suffolk Road (TSO), Cheltenham	closed 10/7/2003	
Stratton (TSO), Cirencester	t.closure 25/4/2003	reopened 7/7/2003
Woodfield (TSO), Dursley	closed 15/7/2003	
Bristol Road (TSO), Gloucester	closed 27/6/2003	
Sudbrook (TSO), Gloucester	closed 30/6/2003	
Cashes Green (TSO), Stroud	closed 16/7/2003	
Whitehall (TSO), Stroud	closed 4/6/2003	
Priors Park (TSO), Tewkesbury	closed 29/9/2003	

* On its reopening, Adlestrop used the Oddington datestamp as its own had been lost.

HEREFORDSHIRE

Brimfield, Ludlow	closed 21/3/2003	
Kingsthorne, Hereford	closed 3/9/2003	
Staunton-on-Arrow, Leominster	t. closure 11/10/2003	reopened 8/9/2003
Titley, Kington	t. closure 21/3/2002	reopened 15/1/2003
Whitney, Hereford	opened 10/11/2003	(in a Service Station)
Eign Road (TSO), Hereford	closed 23/7/2003	
Stanhope Street (TSO), Hereford	closed c.9/6/2003	
Widemarsh (TSO), Hereford	closed 22/7/2003	

LEICESTERSHIRE

Albert Village, Swadlincote	closed 12/11/2003	
Bagworth, Coalville	closed 16/5/2003	
Blackfordby, Swadlincote	reopened 4/12/2003 (in village hall Thurs, 12-3pm) (Closed March 2002)	
Buckminster, Grantham	closed 8/12/2003 (also closed 15/8/1999; did it reopen shortly afterwards?)	
Diseworth, Derby	reopened 5/12/2003 (closed 29/5/2002)	
Donisthorpe	reopened 1/12/2003 (in Community Centre Mon & Thurs, 9am-12.30 pm)	
Ellistown, Leicester	closed 24/12/2003?	
Moir Road, Donisthorpe, Swadlincote	closed 18/7/2003	
Nailstone, Nuneaton	closed 30/10/2003	
Scalford, Melton Mowbray	closed 19/5/2003	
Sheepy, Atherstone	closed 19/3/2003	reopened 26/11/2003
Kirkby Road (TSO), Barwell	closed 6/5/2003	
Scraptoft Lane (TSO), Leicester	closed 17/2/2003	
Sparkenhoe (TSO), Leicester	closed 14/11/2003	
Southfields Park (TSO), Loughborough	closed 8/5/2003	
Melton Road (TSO), Syston	closed 7/4/2003	
The Orchards (TSO), Wigston	closed 3/6/2003	

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Boughton, Northampton	closed 12/5/2003	
Croughton, Brackley	closed 15/12/2003	
Culworth, Banbury	closed 18/11/2003	
Great Billing, Northampton	closed 7/7/2003	
Grendon, Northampton	closed 3/12/2003	
Guildsborough, Northampton	closed 20/12/2003	
Isham, Kettering	t. closure 23/1/2003	reopened 1/9/2003 (in the 'Monk & Minstrels')
Naseby, Northampton	closed 24/12/2002	
Orlingbury, Kettering	reopened 4/7/2003	(served from Warkton)
Pattishall, Towcester	closed 23/7/2003	
Stoke Bruerne, Towcester	closed 11/12/2003	
Hood Road (TSO), Daventry	closed 9/4/2003	
Tamar Square (TSO), Daventry	closed 14/4/2003	
King Street (TSO), Kettering	closed 3/9/2003	
Windmill Avenue (TSO), Kettering	closed 9/9/2003	
Dunston (TSO), Northampton	closed 9/9/2003	
Kettering Road (TSO), Northampton	closed 15/1/2003	
New Far Cotton (TSO), Northampton	closed 29/5/2003	
Newton Road (TSO), Rushden	closed 30/9/2003	
Wellingborough Road (TSO), Rushden	closed 2/10/2003	
Cedar Way (TSO), Wellingborough	closed 8/1/2003	
Northern Way (TSO), Wellingborough	opened 2/1/2003	
Eastfield Road (TSO), Wellingborough	closed 1/7/2003	

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Car Colston, Nottingham	reopened 22/7/2003	(served from Barkestone)
Cottam, Retford	reopened by Dec 2003	(closed 27/1/2000)
East Markham, Newark	closed 3/9/2003	reopened 26/11/2003
Gringley-on-the-Hill	closed 21/8/2003	
Halam, Newark	closed 22/12/2003	
Lambley, Nottingham	closed 15/4/2003	
New Eastwood, Eastwood, Nottingham	closed 24/1/2003	
Newthorpe, Nottingham	closed 5/9/2003	(in the Baptist Chapel)
Ollerton, Newark	closed by Dec 2003	
Sutton, Retford	reopened 23/1/2003	(in the village hall)
Queens Road (TSO), Beeston	closed 13/9/2003	
Berry Hill (TSO), Mansfield	closed 19/3/2003	
Upper Nottingham Road (TSO), Mansfield	closed 18/3/2003	(delayed from 12/10/2002)
Northgate (TSO), Newark	closed 29/7/2003	
Bobbers Mill (TSO), Nottingham	closed 3/6/2003	
Derby Road (TSO), Nottingham	closed 12/11/2003	
Gedling (TSO), Nottingham	reopened 18/6/2003	(t. closure 28/10/2002)
Haydon Road (TSO), Nottingham	closed 16/7/2003	
Highbury Vale (TSO), Nottingham	closed 26/6/2003	
Hillside (TSO), Nottingham	closed 17/4/2003	
Old Basford (TSO), Nottingham	closed 1/7/2003	
St Alban's Road (TSO), Nottingham	closed 2/7/2003	
Westdale Lane (TSO), Nottingham	closed 8/12/2003	
London Road (TSO), Retford	closed 18/7/2003	
Westfield (TSO), Retford	closed 22/10/2003	
Archer Road (TSO), Stapleford	closed 16/10/2003	
Alfreton Road (TSO), Sutton-in-Ashfield	closed 18/2/2003	

OXFORDSHIRE

Adderbury, Banbury	reopened 18/9/2003	(served from King's Sutton) (Closed 13/12/2003)
Ardington, Wantage	closed by July 2003	
Ardley, Bicester	closed by July 2003	
Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxford	closed 29/6/1984	(by July 2003 open at 'The Swan', Monday mornings.)
Bodicote, Banbury	closed 18/3/2003	
Buscot, Faringdon	closed 28/5/2003	
Coleshill, Swindon	closed 26/3/2003	
Marston St Lawrence, Oxford	closed 31/12/2003	(closed 28/3/1985; reopened in village Hall 'by 2000')
Milton, Abingdon	closed 30/7/2003	
Souldern, Bicester	closed 27/12/1990	(by July 2003 at the village hall Tues. 10.30 to noon)
Stratton Audley, Bicester	closed 25/4/1991	(by July 2003 at the 'Red Lion' Wed. 11 a.m. to noon)
Headington Quarry (TSO), Oxford	closed 2/4/2003	
Merewood Avenue (TSO), Oxford	closed 17/2/2003	
Sunnymead (TSO), Oxford	closed 15/3/2003	

RUTLAND

Empingham, Oakham	reopened 8/12/2003	(In the Methodist Chapel) (Closed 17/4/1999)
North Luffenham	closed 12/2/2003	
Thistleton, Rutland	closed 13/8/2003	

SHROPSHIRE

Brimfield, Ludlow	closed 21/3/2003	
Bronington, Whitchurch (In Flintshire)	closed 14/5/2003	
Darliston, Whitchurch	closed 27/3/2003	
Dorrington, Shrewsbury	reopened 6/2/2003	(In the 'Horse Shoes Inn') (Closed 23/12/2002)
Eardington, Bridgnorth	closed 2/7/2003	
Lawley, Telford	closed 9/1/2003	

Lilleshall, Newport
 Little Dawley, Telford
 Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry
 Waters Upton, Telford
 Longden Green (TSO), Shrewsbury
 Meole Brace (TSO), Shrewsbury

reopened 31/7/2003 (Temporary closure 5/7/2002)
 closed 6/5/2003
 closed 28/10/2003
 closed 20/3/2003 reopened 24/3/2003, in new P.O. Stores
 removed from Royal Mail website by October 2003
 removed from Royal Mail website by October 2003

STAFFORDSHIRE

Coton, Gnosall, Stafford
 Drayton Bassett, Tamworth
 Keele, Newcastle-under-Lyne
 Kings Bromley, Burton-on-Trent
 Marchington, Uttoxeter
 Newborough, Burton-on-Trent
 Packmoor, Stoke-on-Trent
 Quarnford, Buxton
 Shobnall Road (TSO), Burton-on-Trent
 Belt Road (TSO), Cannock
 Stubbs Gate (TSO), Newcastle
 Castletown (TSO), Stafford
 St Leonard's Avenue (TSO), Stafford
 Ball Green (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent
 High Street, Tunstall (TSO), Stoke
 Joiners Square (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent
 The Allotments (TSO), Stoke-on-Trent
 The Leys (TSO), Tamworth

closed 22/1/2003
 reopened 3/9/2003
 closed 6/8/2003
 closed 10/3/2003
 closed 9/7/2003
 closed 28/5/2003
 closed 17/3/2003
 closed 14/8/2003 reopened 21/10/2003
 closed 25/10/2003 (Had closed by August 2003 because of illness)
 closed 7/4/2003
 closed 24/3/2003
 closed 18/3/2003
 closed 25/3/2003
 closed 20/10/2003
 closed 12/7/2003
 closed 6/11/2003
 closed 19/5/2003
 closed 6/5/2003

WARWICKSHIRE

Bedworth (FPO), Nuneaton
 Bishops Tachbrook, Leamington Spa
 Fillongley, Coventry
 Pillerton Priors, Warwick
 Ratley, Banbury
 Tanworth-in-Arden, Solihull
 Chilvers Coton (TSO), Nuneaton
 Hilmorton Road Parade (TSO), Rugby
 Shottery (TSO), Stratford-on-Avon

closed 12/2/2003 (There are 5 TSOs in Bedworth apart from this FPO.)
 closed 25/9/2003
 closed 22/8/2003 reopened 25/9/2003
 closed 2/4/2003
 reopened 18/11/2003 (In the village hall) (Closed 26/2/2002)
 closed 22/1/2003
 closed 25/10/2003
 closed 6/3/2003
 closed 28/5/2003

WEST MIDLANDS

Deepfields (TSO), Bilston
 Broomfield Road (TSO), Coventry
 Holyhead Road (TSO), Coventry
 Kenpas (TSO), Coventry
 Paradise (TSO), Coventry
 Spon End (TSO), Coventry
 Whitley (TSO), Coventry
 Langland Drive (TSO), Dudley
 Amblecote (TSO), Stourbridge
 Dudley Road (TSO), Tipton
 Abbey Road (TSO), Smethwick, Warley
 Elm Terrace, Tividale, Warley
 Gorsty Hill (TSO), Rowley Regis, Warley
 Thimblemill (TSO), Smethwick, Warley
 Vicarage Road, Oldbury, Warley
 Heath Town (TSO), Wolverhampton
 Millfields Road (TSO), Wolverhampton
 Owen Road (TSO), Wolverhampton

closed 12/4/2003
 closed 12/3/2003
 closed 27/11/2003
 closed 15/4/2003
 closed 9/4/2003
 closed 27/11/2003 (t.c. on 14/9/2000, so reopened shortly afterwards?)
 closed 9/4/2003
 closed 9/6/2003
 closed 26/11/2003
 closed 3/6/2003
 opened 10/11/2003
 closed 1/12/2003 (Formerly 'Elm Terrace, Dudley'.)
 closed 7/8/2003
 closed 4/11/2003
 closed 17/3/2003
 closed 24/7/2003
 closed 28/5/2003
 closed 9/10/2003

WORCESTERSHIRE

Broadwas, Worcester	closed 26/4/2003
Callow End, Worcester	reopened 31/7/2003 (in the 'Blue Bell Inn') (closed 23/3/2002)
Cookhill, Alcester	closed 6/1/2003
Shrawley, Worcester	closed 7/4/2003
Market Place (TSO), Bromsgrove	closed 17/9/2003
Sidemoor (TSO), Bromsgrove	closed 11/9/2003
Aggborough (TSO), Kidderminster	closed 2/6/2003
Bewdley Road (TSO), Kidderminster	closed 12/4/2003
Broadwaters (TSO), Kidderminster	closed 24/4/2003
Malvern Wells (TSO), Malvern	closed 17/9/2003
Upper Welland (TSO), Malvern	closed 6/11/2003
Beoley Road (TSO), Redditch	closed 29/7/2003
Headless Cross (TSO), Redditch	closed 11/8/2003
Bewdley Road (TSO), Stourport-on-Severn	closed 18/8/2003
Newtown (TSO), Stourport-on-Severn	closed 20/8/2003
Sidbury (TSO), Worcester	closed 24/11/2003

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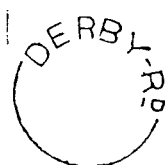
DAVID SHAW, PO BOX 27, MALTON YO17 6QG

DERBY ROAD T.S.O., NOTTINGHAM

by Dennis Humphreys

Recently, a Post Office 'Hit Squad' came to Nottingham to consider the closure of seventeen sub-offices. Among these was Derby Road T.S.O. which is of particular interest as it was one of the first three receiving houses to open in Nottingham in 1845, the other two being Sneinton and Mansfield Road both of which closed many years ago.

It is strange that there is no record of either the issue or the use of a UDC before that issued in August 1857. The first two recorded handstamps are illustrated below.

Issued 27th August 1857Issued 26th February 1865

The receiver listed from 1845 was Francis Drabwell, a black-and-white smith. By 1871 the office was in the hands of Mrs M Drabwell, a general-smith. E.C. Patchett, a chemist, who took over the office in 1871 resigned to be replaced by Robert Henry Beverley, also a chemist, on 1st January 1895. Mr Beverley resigned in 1906 and was followed by George Garton who was still listed as the sub postmaster in 1919. From 1920 to 1922, directories give Miss Annie Garton as the sub postmistress. Mrs Annie Doneghne, listed from 1925 to 1930 was probably the same person but the change of surname followed a marriage. Miss J Tipping, a tobacconist, was listed from 1930 to 1943. By 1948, the office was in the hands of George Walker, also a tobacconist. Mrs Sheila Terry who was appointed in January 1968 ran the office until its closure in November 2003.

The office has been at the following locations in Derby Road: number 97 in 1866, 93 in 1868; 95 in 1871, 128 from 1871 to 1906; 101 from 1906 to 2003.



The post office from 1906 to 2003

NEARLY - BUT NOT QUITE

A proposed 5th Clause Post at Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, in 1801

by John Calladine

The Act of Parliament that introduced Fifth Clause Posts, 41 George III cap 7, became effective on 5th April 1801. The subject of Fifth Clause Posts was covered in 'Midland Mail' 112/6 but, fundamentally, it authorised the Post Office to establish official local posts and to deliver letters to places that were not post towns. Most importantly, this was to be done with the agreement of those affected whom, nevertheless, retained the right to make their own arrangements if they so wished.

No sooner had the Act become law, than the Post Office Surveyors began to examine closely the various unofficial posts in their district to identify those that might profitably be converted to official Fifth Clause Posts, if the residents could be persuaded they would benefit. The likeliest candidates were those where the local postmaster was already levying a charge comparable with any that the Post Office might be able to agree with the residents and yet was providing an unreliable (and possibly insecure service). If the unofficial post were already carrying a considerable number of letters, so much the better, but there was also an expectation that an official post would encourage people to entrust more letters to it.

When, in 1787, the Postmaster General had persuaded the Treasury to appoint an additional five 'riding surveyors (to bring the total to seven), three of them held the dual position of postmaster and surveyor. Mr Lott, the postmaster of Honiton, became surveyor of the Western District, Mr Saverland, the postmaster of Portsmouth was responsible for the North Wales District and, the gentleman of particular interest to us, Mr Woodcock, was both postmaster of Gloucester and surveyor of the South Wales District. In 1802, a year later than the events that will unfold, the Postmasters General became aware of the incompatibility of these two positions and took action to obtain the resignations, as postmasters, of Mr Lott and Mr Saverland. Mr Woodcock had pre-empted them because he had resigned as postmaster of Gloucester in 1800, ensuring that his daughter was given the appointment.

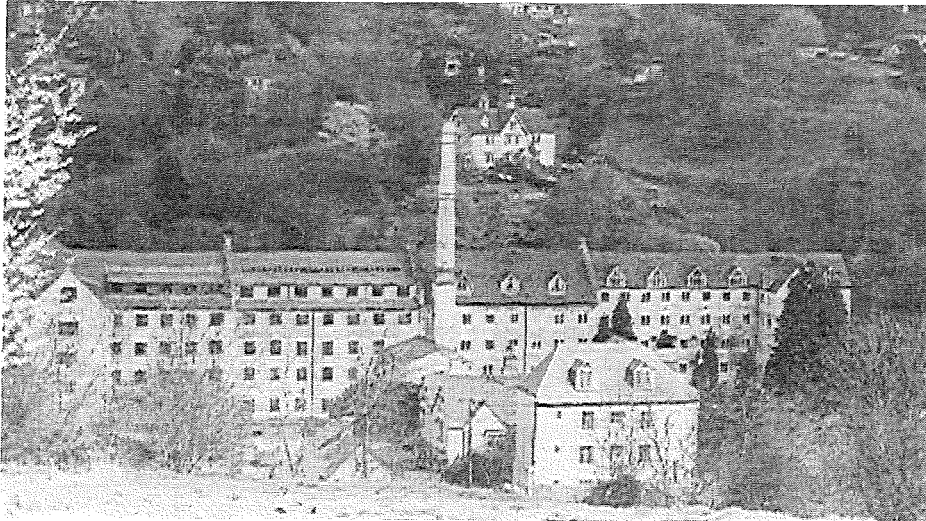
We might digress briefly to consider how such dual appointments ever came to be sanctioned. They arose because, initially, the surveyors were an essential part of John Palmer's plan to introduce mailcoaches and they worked under the direction of the Mail Coach Office. The introduction of mailcoaches greatly affected the organisation of cross road correspondence and Mr Palmer wanted surveyors with an intimate knowledge of their local arrangements. These three gentlemen stood out as the obvious candidates in their districts.

Thus, in 1801 when the surveyors were looking at possible Fifth Clause Posts, Mr Woodcock knew a lot about the unofficial posts in Gloucestershire and none more than those he had run profitably from Gloucester and which now benefited his daughter. One does not have to be a complete cynic to understand why he looked elsewhere in the county, still close to home, for other candidates.

The place that attracted his attention was Minchinhampton, a post town high on the Cotswold hills between Cirencester and Stroud. This was at the centre of an important cloth manufacturing area, with the fast flowing local streams providing power to a host of fulling mills. The parish of Minchinhampton stretched from Chalford, in one valley, to Nailsworth and Horsley in another and Mr Woodcock looked at the unofficial posts in both directions. In the direction of Nailsworth and Horsley, the messenger charged 1d for each letter taken to Nailsworth and an extra 1d to Horsley. He was paid three or four shillings a year for carrying newspapers and "a box at Christmas for letters brought in from the clothiers". Much the same happened in the post to Chalford and Bisley but there were fewer letters and more newspapers. (As newspapers were carried free in Fifth Clause Posts, one can see why that delivery failed to excite Mr Woodcock.)

The surveyor came to the conclusion that the post to Nailsworth was the only one, as he wrote, "*that offers any inducement to the GPO, in point of profit, to take up the business*". However, he added cautiously, "*the manufacturers have expressed no wish for any alteration*". His calculation of the likely revenue was based on the then current figure of 172 letters a week, delivered by the (daily) messenger. Although there *could* be as many as 124 incoming letters, he decided not to include them but to suggest that the official messenger be permitted to retain the customary small Christmas Box. He therefore estimated the revenue as 14/- a week (i.e. 168 letters) and the produce as £36-10-0 a year.

Obviously, for this post to be viable, Mr Woodcock had to be sure of getting a messenger - whom he described as being necessarily "very active" (in view of the hills) - for a relatively small payment and he thought one could be found for 1s - 6d a day. That would total £27-7-6 a year and leave the Post Office with a profit of £9-2-6. This was the proposition he put to Francis Freeling and the one Freeling presented to the Postmasters General, notably without a positive or negative recommendation and with the comment "*Your Lordships will therefore be pleased to decide whether Mr Woodcock shall make such an arrangement*".



Dunkirk Mills, Nailsworth, 1798-1855
(from 'A History of Bristol & Gloucestershire' by Brian S. Smith & Elizabeth Ralph)

The Postmasters General decided that this was the time to establish some principles that could be applied to other possible Fifth Clause Posts of marginal profitability. Their view was that, unless the new post provided a speedier service and therefore encouraged more letters (and particularly return letters) to be sent, it would not be the Post Office's object to disturb the existing arrangements simply to gain a small revenue. That was a relevant observation because, although Freeling had not mentioned it in his minute, Mr Woodcock had commented:

"The clothiers are desirous, if it were attainable, to answer by return of post and have said generally that they would not mind a little expense to accomplish it. But most of the principal ones lie so wide from the office, from 3 to 4 miles, that no exertion, even if horses were employed, could secure it for them".

The Postmasters General said they would discuss the point at their next "board" (the Board of the Inland Office?) and, as the Minchinhampton Fifth Clause Post is not among those to be found in the records, one assumes their views prevailed. One does wonder, however, if Samuel Woodcock submitted the proposal with tongue in cheek, hoping to kill off the whole notion of Fifth Clause Posts in his neck of the woods. Who knows . . . ?

Reference: Post 40/19G/1801

MORE ON OFFICIAL LOCAL POSTS IN OXFORDSHIRE

The aim of this article is to give in conjunction with earlier articles details of all the Penny Posts and Fifth Clause Posts that operated in Oxfordshire. Other articles are to be found in MM109/10 (Adderbury, The Fox and The Holt), MM112/15 (Gosford, Marcham and Kingston Inn), 117/11 (Appleton) and 118/16 (Ensham).

WATLINGTON RECEIVING OFFICE

I have not been able to trace any documents which detail the start of an official post to Watlington. However, later reports infer that an established post replaced an unofficial service in 180, and one mentions the official post started at about Michaelmas 1801 (i.e. 29th September 1801). In a report of January 1802, Freeling refers to the "*Watlington private post established under 5th Clause of the 41st Geo: 3rd*". This report concerned an increase in salary for the receiver at Watlington. The postmaster of Nettlebed had written:

"As the amount of the Watlington Pence, if it continues as at present, will exceed our former calculation by four or five pounds a year ... The poor woman is very materially hurt by the alteration as £6 a year is not now more than half what she used to get and moreover she says that by being now confined she is hindered from earning a great deal of money as she used to go out charring ..."

Mr Woodcock suggested that her salary should be increased to £10 p.a. Freeling concurred.

On 30th January 1802, a number of the inhabitants submitted a petition asking that Tetsworth should be their post town rather than Nettlebed, and that, "if the receipts permitted", it should be a daily post rather than on five days a week. They stated that they were willing to pay one penny per letter and paper over and above the General Post charge upon "Collection and Delivery".

The surveyor, Mr Bartlett, supported this application. He said that a daily post was desirable as not only were the inhabitants unwilling to give up any of the five days but also on Mondays some people were obliged to send to Tetsworth and the wagons that went that day would take the letters which were more numerous than on any other day. In addition, Saturday was market day and a carrier from Tetsworth who attended would take the letters to the disadvantage of the Revenue. The post was to leave Tetsworth at 7 a.m. in summer, 8 a.m. in winter, arriving in Watlington about an hour later. The departure from Watlington was to be at 4 p.m. in summer, 3 p.m. in winter.

In his report to the P.M.G., Freeling recommended the proposed changes and ended by writing:

"Though this arrangement being for a small Village like Watlington appears comparatively very trifling, yet the carrying it into effect will be a matter of some importance for the Correspondence being changed completely from one line of road to another, Mr Bartlett will have not less than 40 or 50 Letters of Instruction to write to various Postmasters. I mention this to your Lordships as a curious circumstance to shew that even one of the smallest Posts cannot be disturbed without a considerable degree of trouble and attention."

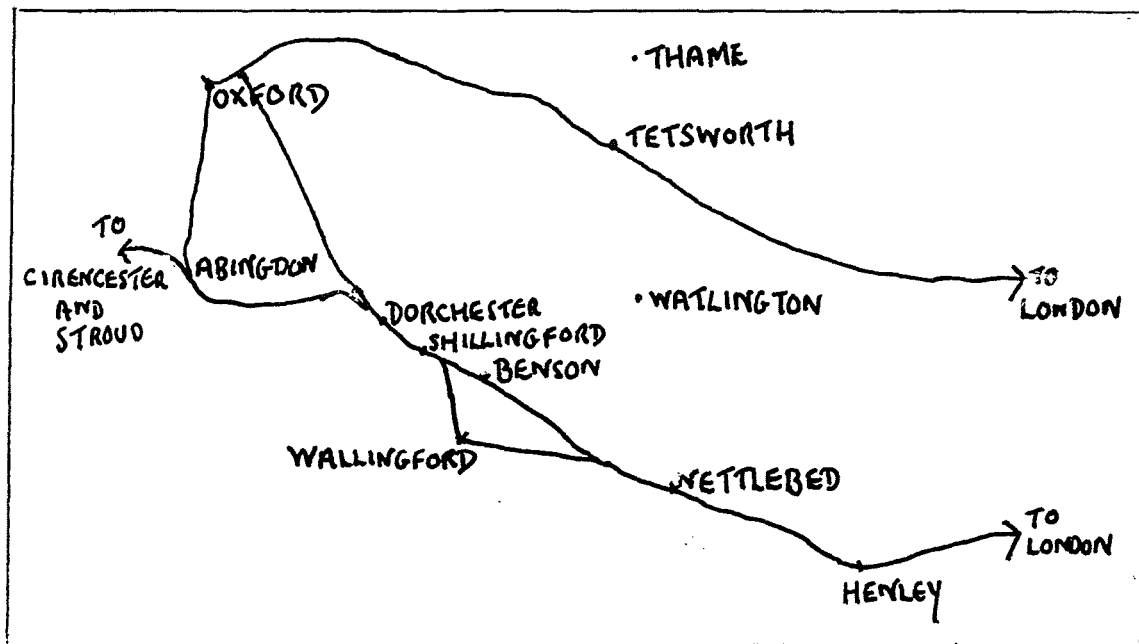
In July 1807, a Mary Allen of Tetsworth sent a petition to the Postmasters General:

"That your Petitioner is employed as your Messenger to carry the letters from Tetsworth to Watlington (a distance of at least 5 miles) and to take the letters from Watlington to Tetsworth every day throughout the year. That your Petitioner was satisfied with this allowance from the Revenue as long as she was permitted to apply to her own benefit the small sums she received for taking or leaving letters on her way. But since she has been deprived of this benefit by a late regulation of the Post Office, she humbly prays your Lordships to take her case into consideration, and to make some addition to her wages; which she trusts you will be pleased to comply with, when you recollect that she is under the necessity of travelling on foot with the bags of letters seventy miles at least every week both winter and summer - and consequently 3640 miles in the year, for the sum of £13 according to the present allowance from the Post Office."

Freeling said that Mary Allen had carried the letters of a gentlemen who lived between Tetsworth and Watlington for which she received 1/- a week. When this had been brought to his attention, he felt that, while there was nothing wrong and the wages (5/- a week) were so low that the woman could not be expected to do the work without the extra money, it was an irregularity that could not be allowed to continue and that the woman should only deliver letters in an official capacity. Consequently the gentleman had been asked to pay 1/- a week to the Revenue for the delivery of his letters. The surveyor now proposed that the shilling be paid to Mary Allen, a move which he fully supported.

The surveyor, Mr Scott, reported in November 1813 that he had found that the postmistress of Tetsworth had been in the habit of charging a penny upon all the franks and newspapers sent to Watlington since the start of the 5th Clause Post to that place. As no complaint had been made by the people of Watlington, Mr Scott suggested that it would be right to convert the 5th Clause Post to a Penny Post and to furnish the postmistress at Tetsworth with all the necessary daily and monthly forms. The cost of the post was about £25 p.a. while the receipts amounted to £56 p.a.

References: Post 40/6H/1802, 40/25H/1802, 40/44I/1807, 40/305/1813.



DORCHESTER, BENSON and SHILLINGFORD RECEIVING OFFICES

The proposed opening of these receiving offices was a result of the withdrawal of the Stroud mail coach (See MM92/16 and 95/6.) on 20th July 1812. As a result of this withdrawal changes in the circulations of Nettlebed and Wallingford were necessary. Wallingford was to cease exchanging bags with Abingdon, Faringdon and Cirencester, and was to open vouchers with Oxford and all the towns beyond Oxford on the Gloucester and Worcester Roads. These letters would gain a day as they were until then sent through Nettlebed. (As early as 1808, and possibly before, Wallingford received its London letters from Nettlebed. See MM107/4.) The ride from Nettlebed to Wallingford was discontinued, and the Wallingford bag (probably carried by the Worcester mailcoach) was to be left at a receiving house at Benson. Benson, Shillingford and Dorchester were to be taken from the delivery of Nettlebed and put under Wallingford. They were to be served by a penny post messenger who was to leave Benson for Wallingford at 6 a.m., return as soon as the letters had been sorted out and go on through Shillingford to Dorchester where he would arrive by 9 a.m. The messenger was to remain in Dorchester until 7 p.m., return to Wallingford by 8.30 p.m., and bring the bags back to Benson by 9.30 p.m. Mr Scott said that the inhabitants would have as long to answer there answers as at present, and five hours more than they had before 28th April when the mailcoach began to detour through that town. (Chris Beaver has the Stroud coach changing its starting point as a mail coach from Dorchester to Nettlebed on 6th April 1812 - MM101/5.) Dorchester, Shillingford and Benson all gained four hours. The annual expenses of this post were as follows:

a daily foot messenger from Benson to Wallingford, from there to Dorchester and back	£46.16.0.
Benson receiver for exchanging the bags in the night and for delivering the penny post letters	£18.00.0.
Shillingford receiver	£2.04.0
Dorchester receiver	£8.16.0

Mr Scott concluded his report by stating that the inhabitants of Dorchester paid an extra penny on letters and newspapers inwards and outwards while at Shillingford and Benson no charge was made on the returns. He had provisionally engaged a letter carrier and hoped to have everything ready to start on 20th July.

This penny post lasted until 14th July 1837. In April 1837, a Mr Vernon Harcourt complained of the late delivery of letters at Benson and Dorchester. Mr Rideout reported that if the P.M.G. sanctioned the arrangement he proposed that would obviate any delay. We do not have the full details but what is clear is that on 15th July 1837 Benson was made a posttown and Wallingford was reduced to a sub-office under Benson (MM108/12). The reason given for this was that Wallingford was off the main road while Benson was directly on it. Shillingford and Dorchester then became penny posts under Benson. The total cost of the new arrangement was £27 p.a. which included £5 p.a. for a letter carrier.

References: Post 40/170/1812, 35/733X/1837, 35/845X/1837, 35/348Y/1837

CHARLBURY RECEIVING OFFICE

Why a penny post from Enstone to Charlbury was introduced is something of a puzzle as there was already some form of office there for which the postmaster of Woodstock was allowed £6 p.a.. I cannot find any report which gives the reasons for the establishment of the post from Enstone to Charlbury. That may be because I have not had time to delve deeply into Post 40, or, possibly the next paragraph contains the reason.

In September 1810, Freeling wrote to the Postmasters General saying that was enclosing a report from Mr Woodcock on a penny post that Mr Woodcock had set up on 5th July. Freeling said that he had at the time corresponded with Mr Woodcock about this post and had agreed with him that it ought to be tried. Freeling went on:

"Mr Woodcock not being much used to such establishments did not make so formal a Report of the expence as he should have done ..."

Mr Woodcock said that the expense of the post, which had started on 6th July, consisted of £45.12.0 p.a. for a daily horsepost and 310 p.a. for the receiver. There was already £6 p.a. allowed in the Woodstock account for Charlbury which would be transferred to Enstone. The receipts did not quite cover this, but Freeling commented that it was very much in the nature of penny posts to improve.

Mr Woodcock commented that there were two impediments to the success of this penny post. Mr Stratton, at the Rangers Lodge had objected to the payment of the penny and had said that he would send his servant to Enstone for the letters unless the Charlbury sub-deputy would deliver his letters for five guineas a year. For the time being Mr Woodcock had consented to this. However, he wished to know if Mr Stratton was justified in refusing to pay the extra penny when a penny post had been set up by the Postmaster General. Strangely, Freeling made no comment on this.

Also, the Duke of Beaufort had a hunting lodge less than a mile from Charlbury, but sent to Woodstock, five miles away, for his letters. Mr Woodcock hoped that he would be able to persuade the duke to have his letters by the penny post.

In April 1812, it was reported that the receipts for the year ending 5th January 1812 amounted to £54.15.8 as against expenses of £55.12.0. However, it was decided to continue the penny post.

References: Post 40/86S/1810, 40/102/1812

BAMPTON RECEIVING OFFICE

The inhabitants of Bampton, a village about six miles from Witney sent up a petition in January 1817 asking for a penny post from Witney as the person who had acted as a private messenger had recently died. The number of letters and newspapers sent from and received at Bampton amounted to 312 items in a fortnight. Mr Woodcock pointed out that this would yield over £31 in a year, and even if the messenger were allowed 2/- a day the post receipts would barely cover the expenses. Nevertheless, Mr Woodcock felt that the post should be trialled as the receipts were likely to increase. He added that if the P.M.G. approved then a "P.P." stamp for Witney and a "No 1" for Bampton should be ordered.

Freeling agreed with Mr Woodcock and pointed out to the P.M.G. that in many instances the penny postage did no more than equal the cost of the post, but he felt that penny posts were desirable not only for the public accommodation but also as means of augmenting the Revenue, for whenever a penny post was the means of an additional letter being written, it was not only the penny added to the revenue but also the General Post charge.

In March, Mr Woodcock wrote that he had started the penny post between Witney and Bampton on 14th March 1817, and as it appeared to give the inhabitants great satisfaction it would probably turn out better than expected. The principal residents wished to have Edmund Cork, "*a sober, steady man*" for the messenger and he had employed Mr Cork until the decision of the Postmasters General was known. There is also an inference that Mr Cork was to be the receiver. Mr Woodcock said that as there had to be an open receiving box under the care of a proper person a small salary of £2 p.a. should be paid. This was in addition to 2/- a day for the messenger. As in the case of Woodstock, there is mention of Witney receiving £6 p.a. for Bampton prior to the establishment of the penny post.

By April 1818, the receipts of the Bampton Penny Post were about £12 p.a. more than the expenses.

References: Post 40/19/1817, 40/58/1817, 42/160/1818

WHITCHURCH RECEIVING OFFICE

In 1810, a request was made that a penny post should be established in and around Reading. Mr Scott eventually recommended the introduction of a penny post as far as Streatley on the Wallingford Road. Although virtually all of the messenger's walk was in Berkshire, at Pangbourne he had to cross the bridge over the Thames to the receiving office in Whitchurch, and then return to Pangbourne. The salary of the receiver was only £1 p.a., half that of the Pangbourne receiver. A toll of 2d a day had to be paid to cross the bridge. Obviously penny post messengers unlike the mailcoaches were not exempt from tolls. Letters for Mapledurham (on the Oxfordshire bank) were to be left at Purley (on the Berkshire side of the river).

Although the arrangements for this post had been completed by 29th April 1811 "*to commence the middle of next week*", it is probable that the introduction may have been delayed as correspondence dated July 1813 refers to the penny post as having been in operation for a year.

References: Post 40/39R/1810, 40/86/1811

BRILL, LONG CRENDON and OAKLEY RECEIVING OFFICES

A minute of 3rd March 1838 authorised the establishment of a penny post from Thame to Brill, Long Crendon and Oakley with an allowance of 12/- a week for a foot messenger and £3 p.a. each for a receiver at each of the above villages.

A further minute stated that there was to be no allowance for Jas and Frances Bickerstaff, late private messengers between Thame, Brill and Oakley. They were not Post Office employees but private messengers of the inhabitants and had been thrown out of work by an official arrangement made at the request of the inhabitants.

References: Post 35/1010Z/1838, 35/742AA/1838

HENLEY PENNY POSTS

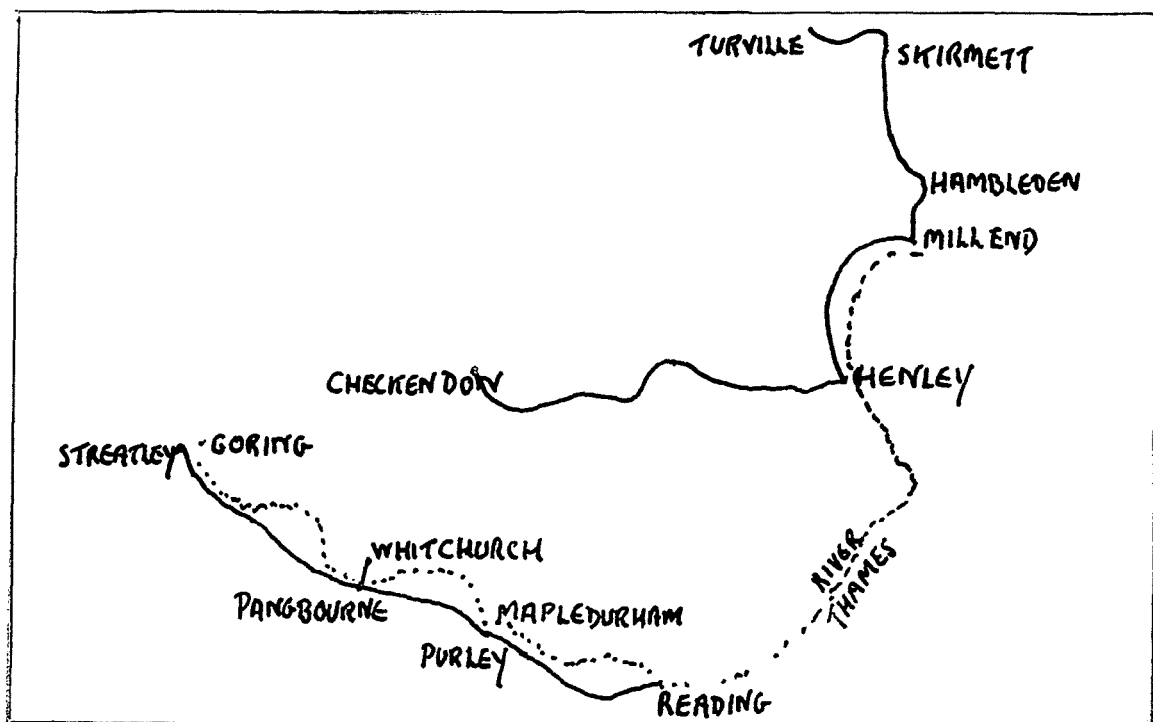
A minute dated 14th February 1838 authorised the setting up of a penny post from Henley to Rotherfield Greys, Rotherfield Peppard, Wyfold and Checkendon experimentally for one year. No details are given but Lord Lichfield wrote "*Refer to the Treasury for a nomination to the receivership.*" However, Oxley does not record handstamps used at any of these villages.

Later in the year, a minute authorised the extension of the Henley and Checkendon messenger's walk to Goring "*for the accommodation of Streatley*". Goring lies on the Oxfordshire bank of the Thames directly opposite Streatley. How this was to benefit Streatley which already had a penny post of its own was not made clear. The wages of the messenger and the Streatley receiver were increased.

References: Post 35/1110Z/1838, 35/903AA/1838

A minute dated 19th June authorised a penny post from Henley to Turville to serve the villages of Greenlands, Millend, Hambleden, Skirmett and Fingest. Eight days later the surveyor was given permission to appoint receivers at Hambleden and Turville.

References: Post 35/799AA/1838, 35/947AA/1838.



Appendix 24 in the First Report to The Select Committee on Postage shows that nearly all the official local posts in Oxfordshire returned a profit in the year ended 5th July 1836, as can be seen below.

POST TOWNS AND PENNY POSTS	DATE ESTABLISHED	GROSS REVENUE	ANNUAL EXPENSE	NET REVENUE
Abingdon				
Kingstone		£40.02.02	£69.15.00	£11.17.03
Appleton	17August1834	£41.10.01		
Enstone				
Charlbury		£41.10.01	£55.12.00	
Oxford				
Ensham	28March1835	£47.10.11	£50.12.00	£34.04.00
Gosford		£37.05.01		
Tetsworth				
Watlington		£48.10.00	£30.16.00	£17.14.00
Wallingford				
Dorchester				
Benson		£69.02.07	£59.08.08	£9.12.11
Shillingford				
Woodstock				
The Fox	27July1826	£11.19.00	£15.00.00	£38.18.08
The Holt	27July1826	£41.19.08		

Appendix 25 gives information on Fifth Clause Posts.

Banbury				
Adderbury	24 th Feb1829	£2.12.02	----	£2.12.02
Woodstock				
Adderbury	23 rd August1826	£17.09.00	£19.12.00	

The inclusion of Adderbury as a Fifth Clause Post under Banbury is a surprise as is the date of its establishment. The report of 1826 on the setting up of the penny posts to The Fox and The Holt as well as the Fifth Clause Post from Adderbury to Woodstock indicates that there was to be a penny post between Banbury and Adderbury. I cannot find any report of 1829 authorising the setting up of a Fifth Clause Post.

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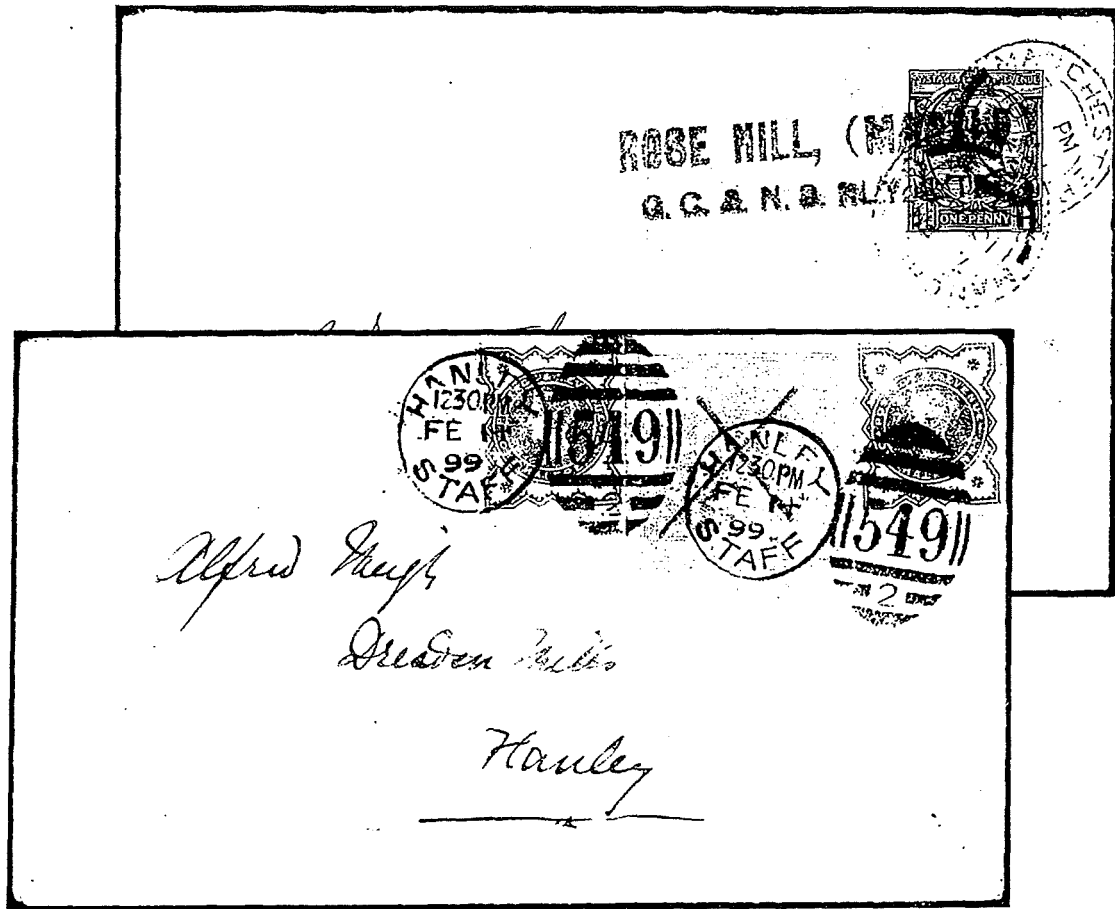
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CORRECTION

In the map of Leicestershire and Rutland which appeared in the last issue (MM132/15), I included Scafford and Ab Kettleby. The post offices in those villages have in fact closed.

SWAN RIVER STAMP SHOW

Jan Gane has written to point out that she is the Events Co-ordinator of the Swan River Stamp Show (not Swan Valley Stamp Show as stated in MM131) which will be held in Fremantle, Western Australia from 9th to 12th September 2004. The organising committee is hoping for a range of entries in the exhibition, and if any member is interested, they should write for a prospectus to Jan at PO Box 2081 Warwick, Western Australia 6024, or visit the website www.swanriverstampshow.com.

If any members have any postal history from early Western Australia (Swan River Colony), Jan says that the committee would appreciate a photocopy so they can record it.

Jan comments that this year's Midpex was her first experience of the event and she thought the show was very well organised. It was a pleasure to speak with our members who made her feel very welcome and seemed delighted that she should be interested in becoming a member, even if she lived so far away.

THE LOST POSTCARD

The following is taken from an article which appeared in the Leicester Mercury on 19th December 2003.

"A village postmaster is on a mission to ensure that a long-lost postcard reaches the family of a woman it was addressed to 96 years ago. The postcard was sent to Sarah Dye, of Bitteswell, in 1907 - but only turned up at the address on Friday last week.

"Now, postmaster Tony Woodhead wants to trace her relatives so the message can be delivered. The card, with a picture of Yarmouth beach, was posted in Birmingham on 11th April 1907. Mr Woodhead said "I have heard of things being delayed in the post, but never for this length of time. We did wonder whether this is one for the Guinness Book of Records. The fact it was sent with the rest of the mail, with no special attempts to protect it, is astonishing." {Ed: Mail delayed by nearly one hundred years is clearly an everyday occurrence in Birmingham.} "Although we can read the message, we can't really decipher the signature."

"Mr Woodhead said that the postcard was discovered behind an old sorting frame during a reorganisation at a Birmingham sorting office. It reads "I have posted the parcel today. With love to all."

"Bitteswell postal worker, Yvonne Hill said she was astonished when the postcard arrived with a 1907 postdate. She was at a loss as to where to deliver the card because it had no house number and the Dye family no longer live in the village. Records show Sarah Dye died on December 30, 1907. She is buried in the village cemetery, next to her husband."

I wonder if any relative claiming the card will be surcharged as the stamp will no longer be valid. If so, what rate will be levied?

THE NEXT MIDLAND MAIL

I hope that this will appear in late March, but certainly before the AGM. Since Royal Mail Heritage Archives will be closed for the next few months I have a great need for articles. So write a few notes on your favourite cover and send them to:

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

**THE EDITOR WISHES MEMBERS A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
AND MAY ALL THOSE LONG SOUGHT AFTER COVERS COME YOUR WAY.**
