

Friends – Out and About

Friends' visit to France

Twenty Friends visited Cartor Security Printing and the French Postal Museum at the beginning of October. The first day saw most of the group travelling together to Paris by Eurostar with the evening free to enjoy the delights of the local restaurants and bars around Montparnasse.

The next morning the party travelled by train for 1½ hours south-west of Paris to La Loupe. The paraphrased adage 'what happens in Cartor stays in Cartor' applies and passports had to be surrendered until leaving several hours later.

All aspects of production were witnessed from pre-press through printing, finishing, packaging, despatch and destruction of printing waste. Nothing was too much trouble and dozens of questions were answered, with highly-technical processes being clearly explained, much of it over a sumptuous country buffet lunch. When saying goodbye all were advised that all at Cartor were delighted to have shared the day with people who love stamps as much as they do.

The final morning was spent at the French Postal Museum, where helpfully an English-speaking guide was provided. The visit had been arranged by Douglas Muir in collaboration with Pascal Rabier, Curator of the French Postal Museum. All were struck by the size of the premises and some of the lovely exhibits, but some expressed concern about how little now related to the



The group of Friends that visited Cartor Security Printing in France, and also the French Postal Museum.

postage stamp. It appears to have been redesigned to appeal to the public at large, at the expense of the collector, with most of the philatelic collections having been put into store.

All too soon everyone was enjoying a final lunch near the Eurostar terminal in readiness for the journey home following a most enjoyable three-day visit.

GHM

The Post Office in Pictures

Also in October a group of Friends visited The Post Modern in Swindon where the BPMA had arranged an exhibition of just a selection of the thousands of photographs it inherited from the Post Office.

The visit had been kindly arranged by Andy Richmond, and Friends were able to enjoy an informative talk by Martin Devereux tracing the background to the collection. Many of the

striking images had originally been taken to illustrate the *Post Office Magazine*, which was published from 1934 to 1960, subsequently being replaced by *Courier*. Others were used to accompany Press Releases sent out both by The Post Office and through its various regional headquarters. There was the opportunity to delve through past issues of the *Magazine*, and other Post Office publications.

Index needed

An Index was produced of Volumes 1 to 9 of *Cross Post*. If anyone has a copy could they please contact Richard West (by telephone: 020 8644 7834; or e-mail: richjwest@btinternet.com). The hope is that it can be updated to include more recent volumes.

Debden Social Day

The date for the Friends' annual visit to the BPMA

store at Debden has been agreed for Saturday, May 19, 2012.

Spring Stampex

As Brian Sole reminds us in his Chairman's Message, Spring Stampex is on February 22 to 25. If you can help on the Friends' stand, please let Jean Elley know (020 7586 0309 or Jse29@talktalk.net).

Newsletter by e-mail

Many who completed the recent questionnaire indicated that they would be happy to receive the Newsletter by e-mail. If you would also like to do so, please send your e-mail address to Avice Harms (avice@avice.co.uk).

Also, if you change your e-mail address, please ensure you let Avice know.

New Friends' liaison

The new Liaison Officer between the Friends and the BPMA is Jana Harnett.