

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS... Helen Crabtree

On the 29th August the Isle of Wight Radio Station broadcast the *Alex Dyke* show live from Arthur's postal museum. It was the start of a new feature for them called *Normal or Nutter!!* Guess which one Arthur will be featured as? Arthur is mentioned in the latest 2008 copy of *Yellow Pages* on the island as a sort of "did you know" bit! They have given a talk to Lower Hyde Shanklin WI and have had visits from the East Cowes Heritage Group, the Lake Ladies Group, Whitwell Mothers' Union and the legendary Ron Hall.

Steve Knight opened the Colne Valley Postal Museum for Heritage Weekend in September. Saturday was quieter than usual (17) but Sunday with fine weather more than made up for it and he got around 70 people overall. He got the usual good press coverage in local papers. He also gave a talk to Drinkstone Local History Society in September.

Simon Vaughan Winter had a superb illustrated article on letter boxes in the September issue of *Herefordshire Life* - the glossy County magazine for his home county. Unlike most articles it included good publicity for the Group.

Bob Edwards gave a talk to Petersfield and District Philatelic Society in the summer and at St. Christopher's church in Farnborough in October. He has some excellent photographic display boards.

I have given talks to Christ the King Church over 55's in Kettering, the Kettering Salvation Army Ladies Group, Kingsley special school and Beech Close Residential Home in Desborough.

If you would like some publicity material for your talks please contact me.

Helen Crabtree

Publicity Officer

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Long-term Member **Glenn Morgan** (No. 232) has sent a different scan of the blue airmail boxes leaflet to one from Martin Robinson featured in Newsletter 129 on page 10. Glenn's version was prepared for the Western District and therefore contains on page three a list of airmail boxes from within W1 instead of WC1 and WC2. In all other respects the leaflet is identical to Martin's copy. It is assumed that other postal district versions must also exist. Reports welcome.

While on the subject of postal districts, Glenn also sent scans of two gummed labels that were once supplied on a trial basis free to local businesses in Manchester by the GPO to encourage the use of this early form of postcoding of mail. Note how the first label is just worded "postal district number"; while the second reads "postal district initials and number". They date from June 1936 onwards and look as if they could even have been designed by the producer of the airmail leaflet, as the style is similar. Glenn would welcome further information from other members, especially if they possess examples correctly used on envelopes.

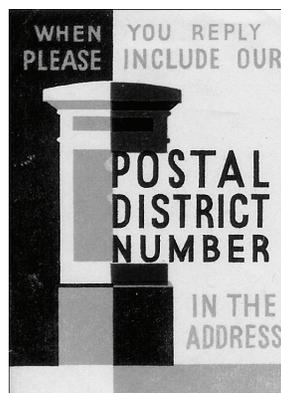


Airmail leaflet.

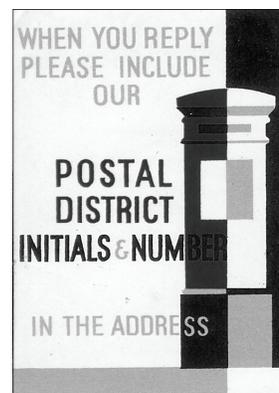
The special blue Air Mail posting boxes in the Western District are at :-

- Western District Office (Wimpole St.), W. 1.
- Marble Arch B.O. (Great Cumberland Place), W. 1.
- Orchard St., W. 1.
- Oxford Circus, W. 1.
- Piccadilly, 101, W. 1.
- Piccadilly Circus, W. 1.

W.1. Airmail box locations.



Label—District Numbers.



Label—Initials & Numbers.