

# News from the BPMA

## Your vote is essential

The Science Museum is seeking to develop its site at Wroughton, near Swindon, to become a new interactive museum for the countless, significant items that at the moment it can only keep in store. To be known as 'inspired', the aim is to make science come alive for visitors, especially the young, who appreciate the value of science but seem reluctant to make it the focus of their studies.

The BPMA is also hoping to be part of this major and significant project, as a new home for the many treasures currently housed at Debden. 'inspired' will mean that the collection will be accessible throughout the week.

This entire project is one of six that will be bidding for £50 million in the Big Lottery, to be chosen by the public in a televised vote later this year.

Make sure you watch the programmes, but more importantly, remember that by voting for 'inspired', you are helping the BPMA in its long-term aims.

## Recent acquisitions

A number of significant items have recently been acquired by the BPMA.

*'Post & Go' pen and badge:*

At Spring Stampex this year, the BPMA acquired a pen and badge with



*Post and Go.*



*Post Office sign.*

'Post & Go' advertisements. 'Post & Go' are self service postal machines introduced on trial in three post offices in the UK in February 2007. They are similar to the 'Weigh and Pay' machines trialled in 2004 but only offer first and second class (small and large size) letter and packet services. The six machines are being trialled in Maidstone, Kent, Belfast and Birmingham.

*Post Office fascia sign:*

This sign was transferred to the BPMA by the Post Office Ltd Equipment Team and was a sample from the supplier, never intended for actual use. This is the type of sign you would see on the front of post offices around the country.

*Stamp Vending Machine:*

This stamp vending machine was made by Thomas Automation Ltd and is known by the Post Office as type 'R'. It was kindly donated by the manufacturer (with help from Glenn Morgan of the Friends) and is one of the original 600 machines manufactured in 1995 for supply to the Post Office.

This was the first and only stamp vending machine that took banknotes as well as coins. It dispensed books of either ten first or ten second class stamps, holding 100 of each. The denomination of coins accepted meant that books of ten stamps had to be produced especially as the machine did not accept copper coins or 5ps and so could not sell counter books of 12 stamps. Therefore this type of stamp vending machine was deemed impractical and not used for long.

*Material relating to the postal strikes, summer 2007:*

BPMA staff managed to collect some material relating to the strike action that has occurred since June 2007. The leaflets and poster acquired were produced by the Communication Workers Union (CWU), which has



*Stamp Vending Machine.*

been organising the national postal strikes over pay and Royal Mail's modernisation plans.

The material consists of two leaflets, handed out during the strikes, stating the CWU's demands, and a poster that was displayed during the strikes. It is hoped that more material will be collected during further strikes as such items are very important in telling the story of the contemporary postal service.

Two staff from the BPMA also filmed and made oral history recordings at the picket line of Mount Pleasant on the day of the first strike, June 29, 2007. This included shots of the picket line and interviews with the Union representative and a postal worker regarding the strike.