

CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD 25 February 2020

President **Graham Harker** opened the proceedings at 19.30 hours and welcomed the eighteen members to the meeting before introducing the speaker **John Schofield** to present his display of “**Rhodesia UDI**”.



It is not often there is a speaker who has actually lived in the country he is talking about so it was a treat to hear stories which came from personal experience.

The display started in 1891 with the Malawi District/Nyasaland through to 1893 when it became British Central Africa. In 1908 Nyasaland Protectorate came into being followed in 1924 by firstly Southern Rhodesia and secondly Northern Rhodesia. The 3 Territories joined as Rhodesia & Nyasaland from 1954 until 1963 when they reverted to 3 separate Territories.

In 1965 Rhodesia (Southern Rhodesia) made a Unilateral Declaration of Independence which was not recognised by Great Britain. On display were examples of mail to the UK with postage dues for the full postage as the Rhodesian stamps were not accepted by the UK authorities. There were letters from the United States to

Prime Minister Harold Wilson urging him to accept Rhodesian independence. In 1980 it became Zimbabwe under the control of Robert Mugabe.

On show were definitive and commemorative stamps, mint, used and forgeries throughout these various periods together with relevant covers showing their usage. A wonderful, colourful display of material illustrating the history of the territory and the turmoil which ensued.

President Graham thanked **John** for his extensive display of stamps and his entertaining presentation. He then called on the audience to express its appreciation in the usual way. **Graham** also thanked the tea makers and brought the meeting to a close at 21.15 hours.

Brian Asquith & Graham Harker
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