

CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th NOVEMBER 2022

President Pauline MacBroom opened the meeting at 14.30 hours which was attended by 11 members and invited **Roger Morrell** to present his display of **BULGARIA**.



The Bulgars reputedly came from across the Danube in the Middle Ages and merged with the Slavonic population, spreading almost to the Adriatic Sea. It was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the 1700s before becoming part of the Ottoman Empire until the 1870s. With the aid of the Russians, the Turks were attacked and independence eventually achieved. This, together with subsequent alliances and wars, has led to a rather complicated history of Bulgaria which includes its postal system.

From the 1870s Turkish stamps for local post offices were on show followed by the first Issue of Bulgarian stamps printed in Russia in 1879. Over the years there were many occasions when stamps were overprinted for various reasons. Perforation varieties were displayed, and postal stationery was extensively represented. The Balkan Wars, World War 1 and World War 2 were well covered right through until in 1990 when communism collapsed. Maps were displayed showing how Bulgaria had changed shape over the years.

President Pauline thanked Roger for his presentation of such a wonderful array of material which was enjoyed by members present and the meeting closed at 16.15 hours.