

## CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

### NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023:

On a hot sunny day on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 the first meeting of the 2023-24 Season started very appropriately with a display 'Umbrellas & Parasols' given by thematic collector **Michael Blackman**, a member of Croydon Philatelic Society and accompanied by his wife **Hilary**.



Michael Blackman and his wife Hilary pictured with President Pauline MacBroom following his presentation

Michael's first interest in the topic began when he was given a project on umbrellas when he worked at the Patent Office 30 years ago. Since then, Michael has collected material on the subject which he has developed into a display which he shared with members of Croydon Philatelic Society.

There was a great variety of material – postage stamps from a variety of countries world-wide as well as meter marks, stamp booklets, postcards, Mulready stationery to name but a few. Michael had grouped the material under a number of headings – fashion, religion, art & literature, entertainment, humour, advertising, meteorology, perfins, invoices, transport and many more. Michael was accompanied by his wife Hilary who showed off some umbrellas/parasols such as ones from Japan made of thick paper treated with lacquer and beautifully decorated.

All members present were pleased to view the items on display and quiz Michael on his collection. President Pauline MacBroom closed the meeting with a vote of thanks to Michael and Hilary. A most interesting and unusual presentation. Michael continues to search for further items to add to his collection.

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