

Anthony writes...

When did you start collecting stamps?

I started collecting when I was about 8, encouraged by my grandparents. I accumulated for a couple of years before losing interest. Six years ago, I bought a small collection of WW2 German medals which included some ID documents and some stamps and I haven't looked back!

What areas do you collect and why?

I started off with Germany and GB, which then evolved into British Commonwealth up to 1970. More recently, I have taken a fancy to Austria, Belgium, Iran and the USA... and quite a few others! The mixture of history, geography and the beauty of the designs of so many stamps mean I am fast becoming a worldwide collector!

What made you join Guildford and District Philatelic Society?

I'd read about philatelic societies online, how interesting the meetings can be and what an amazing source of stamps the club "packet" is and thought I'd see what was local to me. I went along to my first meeting, and everyone was very friendly and welcoming, and the rest is history!

Where do you buy your stamps from?

Lots of places!! The club packet is brilliant (I am a member of two other local societies as well and obtain a great many excellent stamps from their packets) plus I buy online from various sites like ebay, ebid and stampworld.

What advice would you give new collectors?

Collect what you like and don't feel the need to narrow your focus if you don't want to. Whilst there are many specialists out there who will only collect varieties of a handful of stamps, there are many more who collect anything and everything. By having a wide range of subjects, I think you keep the hobby interesting and there's always plenty of material available to you at whatever your budget level.

What would you do differently with your own collection, if you were starting out again now?

Nothing! It's been a wonderful learning curve!

What are your favourite stamps?

My favourite stamps vary from day to day! I love the classic Greek Hermes heads and engraved stamps (pretty much anything by the master engraver Pierre Gandon is stunning!). I also love some of the more recent pop-culture issues that have come out - like the Star Wars stamps from the USA - great fun!