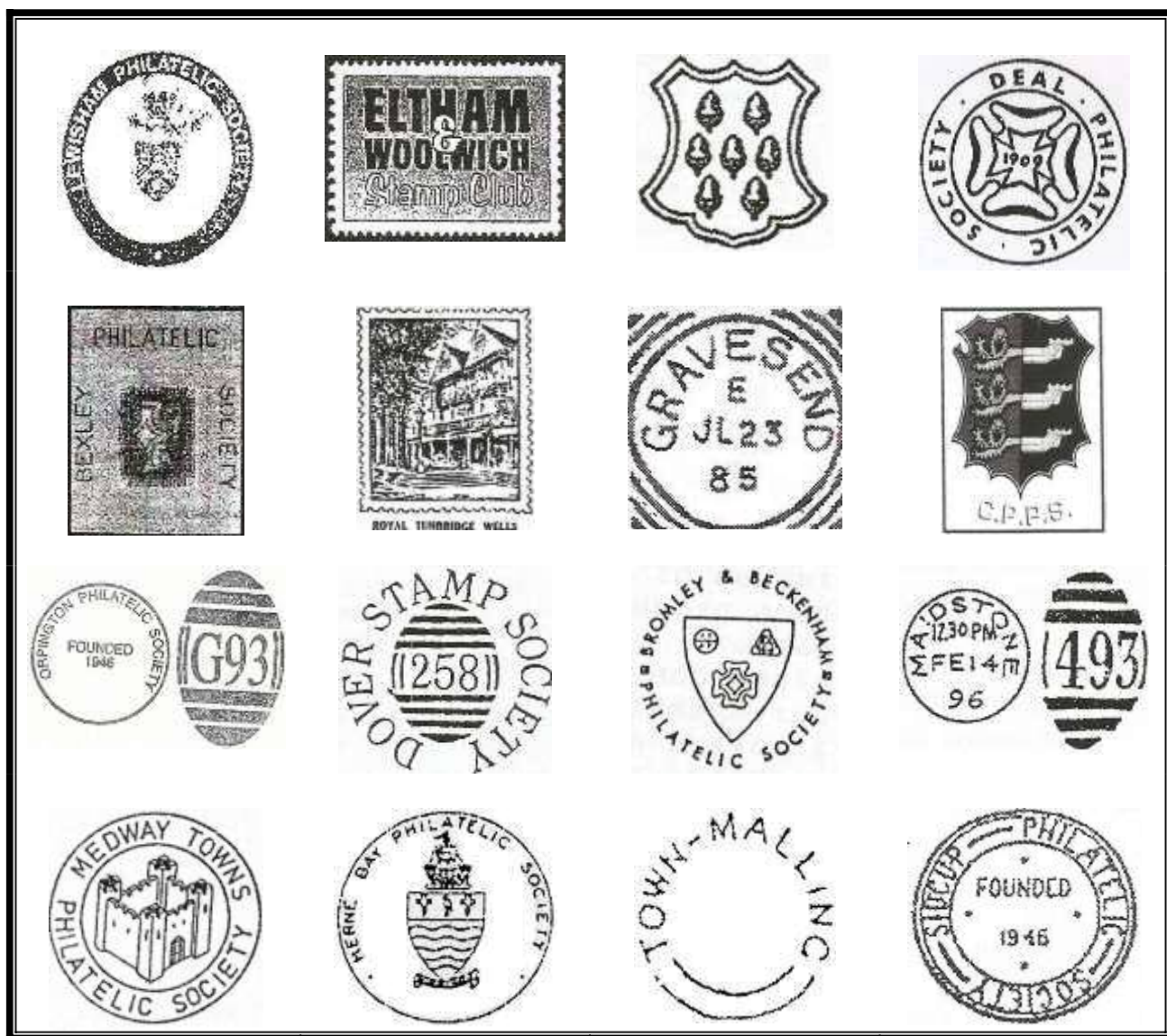


Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies



Bulletin No. 206, May 2020

Website: <https://kentphilately.jimdo.com/>

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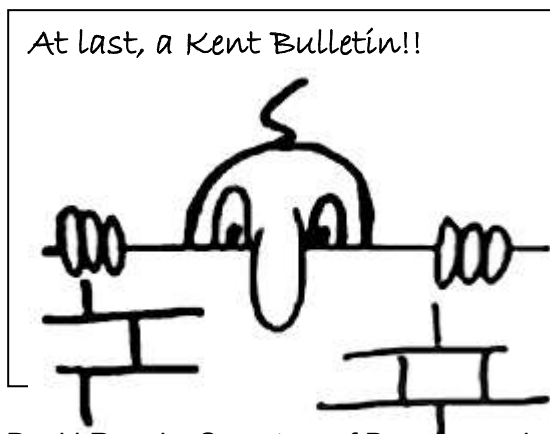
EAST MALLING GRAND STAMP FAIR		
Web: MallingStampFairs.weebly.com Hosting the K.F.P.S. Autumn Rally		
SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2020		
9.30 am - 3.30 pm		
		
STAMP FAIR HALL		Details: 01474 325507
EAST MALLING VILLAGE HALL NEW ROAD EAST MALLING Nr MAIDSTONE KENT ME19 6DD		EAST MALLING IS JUST OFF THE A20 - SIGNED FROM LEYBOURNE - LARKFIELD
TOP DEALERS FROM THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND SELLING and BUYING	REFRESHMENTS ALL DAY STAMP DISPLAYS ADMISSION FREE SAT NAV: ME19 6DD EVERYONE WELCOME FREE CAR PARK	STAMPS POSTAL HISTORY PHILATELIC BOOKS and CATALOGUES POSTCARDS etc.
FUTURE EAST MALLING GRAND STAMP FAIRS NEXT STAMP FAIR - SATURDAY, 27th FEBRUARY 2021 OTHER NEXT YEARS FAIRS: 22nd May 2021 and 25th September 2021		

Welcome

I extend a large welcome to you all; this being the long awaited bulletin. I offer my apologies for the very late publishing of this, to both my correspondents and readers, but as you are aware I moved to Margate at the end of September to start a new job. In doing so I moved into temporary accommodation, and did not move into my Ramsgate home until the week before Christmas. Not only have I been busy getting to grips with my new job and studying, but also unpacking my belongings which had

been put into storage, and settling into the local area. I have also been supporting my family via long distance. Overall, this has been a stressful time, one which I had not appreciated would be quite so disruptive to my life, health and wellbeing. I have found I have little time for hobbies, whether that be stamp collecting or crafting, but the current unprecedented covid-19 pandemic has provided me with some free time, albeit small, given that I am a clinically based NHS worker, trying to keep patients and myself safe.

Covid-19 presents different opportunities for philately as all "in person" philatelic activities have ceased. Email and online communities are also ways to keep in touch. In Kent, David Rennie, Secretary of Bromley and Beckenham Philatelic Society (PS), has been sending out regular emails - his ramblings, life in his garden and street, a number of jokes, as well as philatelic news. Michael R Thompson, President of Gravesend & District (SC), has processed some old (post 2014) philatelic articles that have been published in the London & Provincial Stamp Club bulletins and emailed these out to his extensive email contacts. Adrian Safier, Chairman at Whitstable PS, has also been sending regular emails to members, with virtual stamp content being included. Michael Dobbs, our Communications Officer, has been providing email updates on Kent news, and forwarding national information to club secretaries and officials. ***Who else do you know who has been keeping in touch? Have they done something that has really inspired you to take part or learn something new? Please let me know; a synopsis can be written, once this is all over, ready for the next bulletin.***



Michael Dobbs emailed out some good news in November 2019 concerning philately supporting charities, and the hard work undertaken by philatelic volunteers to achieve this. At this time, he was referring to Whitstable PS, where two members John Marriott and Bill Downes (also a member of Herne Bay PS), support the Pilgrims Hospice charity in Margate, by sorting through donated stamps, postcards and other collectables, categorising them and putting them into appropriate auctions. This work has raised at least £10,000 for the charity.



Michael is aware that other philatelic society / club members also undertake charitable work concerning the sale and / or donation of philatelic material to charities. ***I would love to hear from you about this work, showing how our hobby supports charities of all types, so that I can put together an article for the next bulletin. Please get in touch; it will only take ten minutes of your time to drop me an email, or write me a letter.***



It was interesting to hear about the decision by Royal Tunbridge Wells PS to hold its meetings during the day and how these have been going (page 24), as well as Herne Bay PS's trial of daytime meetings during the winter months (page 23). With an ageing membership less willing to attend evening displays and ageing speakers less willing to travel at night, ***are other philatelic societies considering adopting a similar policy, either just for the winter months or for their whole season? Your thoughts on this are welcome; just get in touch, and I can share these in the next bulletin.***

This week (2nd-9th May) should have been London 2020, now postponed until 2022 (19th-26th February). I am sure that some of you would have been attending this show and meeting up with friends you had not seen for a while. I was going to be one of those, and had planned on attending on Wednesday. You may now be looking forward to when local stamp fairs resume and visiting autumn Stampex (30th September-3rd October). Michael will provide updates on stamp fairs when he can, and I am sure we will soon find out by the philatelic press if Stampex is to go ahead. However, you can get your philatelic "fix" online, with eBay, I am sure getting more buyers, albeit with deliveries of purchases being slower, and virtual auctions being performed online with postal bids being accepted. ***I would love to hear about your philatelic purchases during the covid-19 lockdown, if you wish to share!***



I hope that you find something enjoyable and interesting to read in this bulletin; there is news from Kent, alongside a variety of articles, ranging from a philatelic pub sign, to covid-19 related issues, to overseas exhibitions, to detailed explanations of stamp issues, GB stamps news, and society / club reports. ***Your thoughts on what is included will be appreciated, so let me know what you think?*** Finally, I wish you, your families and friends, good health for the coming months; keep safe and hopefully we will see each other soon.



Enjoy the read!
Jenny, Bulletin Editor

Kent Federation News

The Executive Committee

Both Colin Tobitt and John Shaw, have had periods in hospital over the last year. Both have required operations, which went well, but have led to a large period of time recuperating. I hope that you, alongside us, continue to wish them well in their recoveries. However, Colin will be relinquishing his role as Treasurer at the AGM due to ill health.

We continue to have volunteer vacancies available to fulfil a number of roles within the Federation. We have vacancies for President, President Elect, Treasurer and Competition Secretary. We thank Paul Cahill for continuing to act as President at this time, and for Michael Dobbs and John Shaw who have both carried out some of the secretarial job role over the last year. On a positive note, Nicola Davies has agreed to return as Secretary; we welcome her back. If you are willing and able to undertake one of these roles then contact our Chairman, John Smith on smiffy09@hotmail.co.uk.

KFPS events

Since the last bulletin in April 2019, there have been two rallies; the first was held on Saturday 11th May 2019, when Bromley & Beckenham PS (BBPS) held their stamp and postcard fair. They hosted the Federation Day Rally, competitions and the AGM. The fair was held at Langley Park Boys School, Beckenham. The Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Nicholas Bennett, who attended alongside the Mayoress, performed the opening ceremony. Local councillor Diana Smith, herself a collector, also attended. This was another successful event for the society, and although numbers attending, both visitors and BBPS members, were lower than previous years, a good day was had. David Rennie extends his thanks to all the BBPS members who helped either setting up or on the day, especially Grahame Boutle for compering the opening ceremony (photographs on next page), Carole McCarthy on the tombola, and Ian Crees and his team on the refreshments.



The second rally was held on Saturday 28th September 2019. Michael R Thompson, the organiser, writes that the East Malling Grand Stamp Fair was another great success. It was advertised on BBC Radio Kent, in the local free booklets that are put through front doors, The Stamp Diary and Stamp magazines, and also in the Kent Messenger newspaper in the Diary Dates piece. It was a long day, with the hall being open at 7.35am for setting up and the dealers arriving by 8.00am. The hall was crowded from about 10.15am, with a great atmosphere all day. There were still quite a few visitors viewing the material when we were packing up at the end of the day. Food and drink was provided by Malling SC members at a good price. The KFPS council meeting was held.

Kent Federation Day and AGM 2020

As you are aware this was scheduled for 18th April, and due to covid-19 this has been postponed. Subject to how the “lockdown” and “shielding” continues, it is hoped that we can hold the AGM at the East Malling Grand Stamp Fair on Saturday 26th September. Details of this fair can be found on page 2. We will of course, keep you updated on this.

Affiliated societies

A number of societies and clubs have not yet paid annual fees. If this is an oversight, please submit the fees to Colin as soon as possible. If this is not an oversight, and you no longer wish to be affiliated to KFPS, that is fine, we wish you all the best for the future, but just let Colin or myself now.

It was sad news to hear that the Romney Marsh Philatelic & Postcard Society had its last meeting in August 2019, after 39 years of running meetings for the local philatelic community.

Competitions

The KFPS 16 page individual competitions were held at the Summer Rally on Saturday 11th May 2019. There were three competitions and they were judged by ABPS / KFPS accredited judges, Lewis Giles and Brian Stonestreet, both of Maidstone & Mid Kent PS. Michael R Thompson extended his thanks to both Lewis and Brian for judging the competitions for the KFPS and also to the members of Kent clubs for entering the three competitions. The results are as follows:

16 page Traditional competition (2 entries)

1 st	Michael R Thompson	Malling	The Aden States and South Arabia - The commonwealth issues and their development	84pts
2 nd	Graeme Ashdown	Bromley & Beckenham	George VI definitives	81pts

16 page Thematic competition (4 entries)

1 st	Jenny Viggars	Bromley & Beckenham	The story of blood	94pts
2 nd	Michael R Thompson	Malling	The history of archery - From ancient times to the modern crossbow	89pts
3 rd	Grahame Boutle	Bromley & Beckenham	Man under the sea	81pts

16 page Postal history, including aerophilately, competition (4 entries)

1 st	Colin Tobitt	Eltham & Woolwich	Austrian postage dues usage during German occupation "Ostmark" (4 th April-31 st July 1938)	88pts
2 nd	Michael R Thompson	Malling	BEA the British air letter service, 1951-1971 sterling issues	80pts
3 rd	Graeme Ashdown	Bromley & Beckenham	New Zealand 1931 Christmas airmail	78pts
3 rd	Grahame Boutle	Bromley & Beckenham	Wartime and early post war proving flights to and from Australia	78pts

The photographs show Michael R Thompson and Colin Tobitt accepting their competition certificates from KFPS past Presidents Grahame Boutle and John Shaw respectively.



Michael R Thompson writes:

THE PAST YEAR: As you know from my previous reports, I was asked to take on the KFPS Competition Secretary's position to resurrect the competitions for the Federation after the sad death of Maurice Flack. Unfortunately, all the records and paper work were disposed of and not returned to the KFPS. The Executive Committee agreed that all competitions in the year 2018-2019 would be judged by our ABPS / KFPS accredited judges. I would again like to thank the following judges for helping the KFPS - 2018 Autumn Rally: Lewis Giles and John Grant, 2019 Spring Rally: Ray Barton and Bob Higgins and as above, 2019 Summer Rally: Lewis Giles and Brian Stonestreet.

Unfortunately, although it was also agreed by Council in September 2018 with no objections, objections started to be voiced concerning the postcard competition rules, and also one club decided to enter three competition entries in a two entry club competition. Also, in the 16 page postal history, including aerophilately competition, it was suggested that two entries be allowed per individual, one for postal history and one for aerophilately, and that they should both be judged, and then the one with the lowest mark be disqualified.

The problems that I faced during the year were totally unacceptable and unfortunately no one decided to come forward to take over this position at the AGM. As you now know we do not have a Competition Secretary and no competitions are planned for future rallies. I wish the KFPS well for the future.

Brian Stonestreet FRPSL, Publicity Officer for Maidstone & Mid Kent PS, writes a letter to the KFPS President Paul Cahill on judging competitions:

I have been reading the latest edition of the Federation bulletin and note Mike Thompson's comments re future judging. For once I find myself agreeing with him and that efforts should be made to ensure society entries are judged by qualified Federation or national judges as appropriate. I will not be at the Federation AGM meeting but have written down some thoughts for what they are worth.

The difficulty comes in trying to persuade societies to use judges. My own society, Maidstone, has stopped inviting outside judges due to the lack of entries that we were getting for the Grant Cup, postal stationery and thematic competitions. It was felt that it was not fair to invite a judge to travel to us, only to find there were just 3-4 entries. They are now judged by some of our members who, ironically, are Federation judges. Members appear to have lost interest in entering competitions for various reasons and the hardcore of Maidstone who have entered feel that they have nothing new, or maybe sometimes age makes them feel that they cannot be bothered. This of course probably applies to other societies. Another possible cause may be the quality of some of the judges that have been invited to judge at KFPS in the past, where low marking on really exceptional entries has put people off. I remember a superb South Africa entry that has scored in the high 90s at national level only to be given a low 70s score.

This is where Maurice is sorely missed as many of us can remember being telephoned and had our arms twisted to find an entry for some competition or other.

So while I support Mike Thompson's concerns, the Federation needs to find someone who is prepared to do the leg work, providing societies go back to having their competitions judged properly, and that I feel takes us back to the start of this email.

Lingley Shield

Don Brookfield of Bexley PS was awarded the Lingley Shield for his many years of service to philately at the AGM. It was presented to him by John Shaw, past President (see photograph).



Bulletin

Advertising is important for local societies and federations when, for example, considering stamp fairs, newsletters and bulletins. Corbitts (back page) and Cavendish Auctions (page 17) have been positive in their continued support for KFPS, particularly with the bulletin and newsletter, for which we thank them. Note that the current Cavendish Auctions advertisement makes reference to London 2020; note that it was produced pre covid-19. However, like most societies and federations, further support via advertising is needed. This bulletin is widely distributed across England and Wales with both email and printed copies; it is not just restricted to Kent. ***If you know of any sources of advertising who would be willing to support KFPS, or if you wish to place an advert in the next bulletin, please let me know.***

The next bulletin will be issued towards the end of the year / early next year - date unknown at present. Given that there will be no society and club meetings until at least September, a "term" of events is needed, at least, before the next bulletin can be written. However, ***remember, the bulletin cannot be produced without input from yourselves, so please send me all your society news (once resumed), articles, photographs, questions, comments etc.*** However, items sent in for publication may be declined, shortened or amended at my discretion. ***I look forward to hearing from you all.*** I will inform you of a deadline closer to the time.

News of Kent Philatelists

There has been much sad news over the last year with reported deaths of members of Kent philatelic societies and clubs.

Peter O'Keeffe, Secretary of Sevenoaks & District PS, reports that 'We are sorry to have lost our most senior member **John Crowe** FRPSL who passed away in February 2019, aged 95 years. John was a past President, former Packet Secretary and society Librarian. A very keen collector of Australian air-mail material, he gave displays, was part of our 'visiting team' and represented the KFPS in a number of competitions, many of which were successful. He will be sadly missed'. Peter, in his role as Newsletter Editor of Royal Tunbridge Wells PS, continues with more sad news: 'We were shocked to hear that our youngest member, **Sheila Jeffery**, age 57 years, but looked more like 30ish, died suddenly in June 2019. Although still working, it meant that since our change to morning meetings, we had not seen her at meetings for some time. We send our condolences to her family'.

David Rennie reports the deaths of several members of BBPS. **Bill Morris** a fairly new member, but a regular meeting attendee, died on New Year's Eve 2019. He had displayed his Falkland Islands collection to the society in February 2019. **Tom Head** died in January 2020. Tom was one of David's first customers when he, and his wife Ruth, set up Black Swan Postal Sales in 1980. However, it was not until 2011 that he became a member of BBPS. Tom was a great George V collector, but his other interests included GB and Bermuda high value key types. He regularly attended the society's auctions and the monthly stamp fairs at Azalea Hall, Beckenham. His funeral was held in early March in Beckenham. **Bill Kirby** sadly passed away in February 2020. He celebrated his 100th birthday in December 2019 where BBPS members had signed and sent a birthday card, as he could not attend a meeting to coincide with his birthday. A Service of Thanksgiving was held in Herne Hill in March.

Roger Dickinson, Vice Chairman of Cinque Ports PS, states that it is sad to have to report the loss of two of our former Presidents and longest standing members during the last year. **Harry Ward** passed away on 27th March 2019 following a long illness. Harry was known throughout Kent where he gave a number of displays on his favourite collecting themes – Japan, whaling and Captain Cook. On 2nd June we also lost **Gerry Bates**, whose health had been declining for some time. Gerry was known for his collections of Bermuda, as well as Captain Cook. He will also be remembered for providing refreshments at a number of past Federation events. Both Harry and Gerry will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts and condolences are sent out to all family and friends at these sad times.

And now for some fabulous news, most of which, if not all, you will already know, but it's so good to highlight it again! Both John Shaw and Michael Dobbs shared the news that on 20th June 2019 at the AGM of the Royal Philatelic Society of London (RPSL), **Colin Tobitt** FRPSL was presented with the London 2000 medal for his outstanding service to the society, and the Expert Committee in particular. Colin has spent over 10 years, working two days a week, in the Expert Rooms. This award is basically for those who work quietly and without fuss behind the scenes, and often, without whom, the society would function less well. Congratulations, Colin. By the way, there is a fabulous picture of Colin hard at work on the Experts page of the RPSL website; please take a look.

Michael Dobbs reported that in November 2019, **Bill Hedley** was elected as President of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) in Monaco. This most prestigious appointment for a Kent philatelist will last for a period of 4 years. Congratulations, Bill.

Articles and Items of Interest

Kent, philately and covid-19

Michael Dobbs, KFPS Communications Officer

As a result of the pandemic coronavirus (covid-19) we are now well into this lockdown period and life as we know it has changed considerably. It has brought our philatelic activities to a halt - or has it? With my March issue of 'The Kent News' I started to announce club closures until the start of the new season, but that other activities were still going ahead. However, all that was to change very quickly and I sent out a series of emails announcing more club closures, stamp fair cancellations, including London 2020 being put back until 2022, and the KFPS AGM being postponed until the East Malling Grand Stamp Fair on Saturday 26th September 2020.

For those of us who have access to internet and email facilities there is a fair amount of activity online - our friend Michael Thompson has been sending out philatelic articles he has written and had published in the London & Provincial Stamp Club Bulletins since 2014. We have had four such emails recently - and they do contain a variety of articles on stamps, postal history and postcards - mainly GB related, but some other countries covered as well. They form an interesting series of short articles - not too complex, keeping it simple and an easy read. I know Bromley & Beckenham PS has also sent out a couple of emails with a page from a members' collection and I'm also aware that Whitstable PS has been sending out emails containing articles. And now a plug for my Forces Postal History Society: on our website at www.forcespostalhistorysociety.org.uk there are a range of displays which can be viewed. We have over 30 displays, obviously with a Forces connection. There are stamp discussion forums, one such being www.stampboards.com, based in Australia, it has a world-wide following. Here you can view material, see questions raised and answered. To join in you have to register, but just to view you don't - but you could spend days simply looking around the many thousands of posts!

For those in lockdown at home this is also an opportune time to sort out that backlog of stamps and covers - to mount them up, ready to show at your club during the new season. Not shown before? Make it your goal, ambition, wish, objective, intention or whatever you want to call it to do just that - let others see what you collect, start with a members night on a given topic or recent acquisitions. You don't have to talk - just put up and shut up! Some clubs have quiet meetings where members just do that!

Editor comments: I am a member of www.stampboards.com and have found it a great help with my thematic collections, and have made new contacts along the way, who I now email on a regular (or not so regular) basis for support. My contacts in India have been a great help with translating my Meghdoot postal cards and Jean, in Canada, has given lots of support with my blood collection. So, do try it out, if you get the chance.

Speakers

Rosemary Dellar, Medway Towns PS committee member

As one who both displays and enjoys seeing what others show, I agree that there is rarely enough time to do justice to 180 sheets, especially the later frames. Often I feel it would be better to include fewer sheets, and spread them more widely across the available boards. Then if someone wanted to study one sheet in detail, others would still be able to look at adjoining sheets. Another suggestion would be to break the display down into shorter periods, so that we listened for about 10 minutes maximum, then looked at 30-40 sheets while what the speaker has just told us is still fresh in the mind. I know this might mean that some of us have to rethink our displays. Perhaps each club should have discussions about how they feel on both these topics, and report back to the Federation.

The George VI issues of Newfoundland

Cliff Hurst, Secretary of Eltham & Woolwich SC

At first glance, the stamps issued by Newfoundland during the reign of King George VI may not look very inspiring, apart from the set of stamps known as the 'Long Coronation' set, which was unique in celebrating the event and providing useful publicity and income for the Dominion which was to play an important part in WWII. For those who like to be complete in all aspects of their collection, there are several perforation varieties to collect, some of them extremely rare, notably the 7c and 14c comb perf 13.3 x 13.2, although the reason for these variations is unclear. This set is based on the then current set of definitive stamps with values up to 48c, printed by Perkins Bacon, apart from the 2c, 4c and 5c stamps which followed the omnibus Coronation design and were printed by Waterlow & Sons. Of course, with a new monarch, new definitives were required and here the fun starts. New low value stamps showing portraits of the Royal Family were produced by Perkins Bacon in perf 13.25 and placed on issue from 12th May 1938 and all apparently remained quiet on the philatelic front until 1941, when the Perkins Bacon plant "copped a packet" courtesy of the Luftwaffe, which destroyed the printing ability and ultimately forced the closure of Perkins Bacon.

However, the Newfoundland contract was taken over by Waterlow & Sons on a "help your neighbour" basis and printed stamps using plates salvaged from the bombed Perkins Bacon plant, which were perforated 12.5. But the Perkins Bacon plates were not a good fit in the Waterlow presses, and the plates were re-engraved in a slightly larger format. Thus it is possible to find stamps prepared from Perkins Bacon plates but printed and perforated by Waterlow, although these stamps may only be distinguished by careful measurement. There is, however, an easy way to distinguish the printings if you can find corner blocks of four. The Waterlow stamps (apart from those printed from Perkins Bacon plates) will show a 4 figure plate number in each corner, whereas the Perkins Bacon printings show no numbers.

Reverting to the Perkins Bacon story, around 1937, the Chairman was due to retire and consideration was given to an appropriate presentation for the occasion. It was decided to combine the stamp production work with other printing work undertaken by the firm, and sheets of Newfoundland stamps were printed "ex officio", without the permission or authority from the Newfoundland Post Office, on ungummed, coloured "bookend paper" which is normally used to attach the covers to a book. Stamps were produced, imperforate on green, yellow, blue and pink patterned backing paper, with some stamps being printed on the coloured side. Probably only one sheet of each was produced, and also the 1c Coronation cod fish with a blue backing. These were presented to the Chairman and quietly put away, and it was only many years after his death that the stamps came to light and were offered on the philatelic market.

Society closures – What to do? David Rennie, Secretary of BBPS

I was amazed to read that the Basingstoke Society has closed after 84 years. In 2016 there were 30 members. Even more worrying is the news that 7 other Hampshire societies have closed or amalgamated in the same period.

If each one of us brought a collector friend to one of our meetings, or to meet us at Azalea Hall, that would help.

I have found, via eBay, examples of 2c, 3c and 4c definitive values, and also strangely a 4c King George VI in military uniform, in carmine, which appears to have been printed on brown parcel paper, which produced a very poor impression of the stamp. Unfortunately, certificates for this material cannot be obtained, as whilst they were undoubtedly produced by Perkins Bacon, they were not officially authorised by the Newfoundland Post Office. As I always say, Newfoundland is different!

Stockholmia 2019 International Exhibition: 29th May - 2nd June

John Shaw, past President KFPS

This exhibition, held in Stockholm, was a very special occasion, since it also coincided with the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Philatelic Society London. Of course it was not then called the "Royal", but the London Philatelic Society, and was granted its royal status by King Edward VII, mainly because of the involvement of his son, later to become King George V with our hobby. George V also served as president of the Royal and was the first person to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1920.

The exhibition was basically for members of the Royal because of the 150th anniversary occasion and was wonderfully organised, mainly by our very active and talented members from Scandinavia. I had hoped to attend but the state of my knees sadly put paid to that; nonetheless, I sent out a 5-frame, 80 page exhibit, sadly having to rush the last few pages due to time, and then mislaying some of my most important items, but that is all my fault and is now history.

The exhibits comprised several classes of competitive exhibits and non-competitive displays, the latter basically being 'Court of Honour' showings. Three KFPS members were involved, all being past presidents and they were as follows:

Traditional Class:	Title	Medal	Points
John Shaw	South Africa 1926-30 Definitives	Gold	91
Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins	Federal Soviet Republic	Vermeil	83
Open Philately Class:			
Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins	Russian & Soviet Prison & Justice	Vermeil	82
Non competitive:			
Bill Hedley	Hotel Posts of Siebenbürgen	-	-

The exhibits were marked to the same standard as national events, but international awards are given one grade lower than for the same mark at national level; so Marcus, with his 82 and 83 points would have been awarded Large Vermeil medals at national level, so well done all.

The international jury stated that the quality of exhibits was extraordinarily high and complimented the exhibitors on this; they reported that they had judged 294 exhibits and said they had enjoyed looking at all 27,232 pages of philately: WOW!

A special poster stamp was produced to promote the exhibition and is shown here. These were produced in self adhesive sheets of 20 stamps and sold at the exhibition at £10 per sheet.





How many of these have you seen used?

Peter O'Keeffe, the Bulletin's "GB new issues expert"

A special booklet has already been issued to advertise London 2020, Of course, now it has been postponed, but the booklet has been on sale. It contains six 1st class stamps (as issued in 2015/2016) depicting the 1d black, 2d blue and 1d red. I have always thought these were a fine update of the original stamps. I wonder how many of these have been sold!

HMS Barham and Helen Duncan

Dennis Rosser, member and Honorary Vice President of Ashford PS, and one time KFPS president, now living in North Wales

An unusual follow up to my article on the sinking of HMS Barham by submarine U331 in the Mediterranean on 25th November 1941 with the loss of 861 lives.



Helen Duncan was a spiritualist and was the last person in Britain to be tried and sentenced under the 1735 Witchcraft Act. Born in Callander, Perthshire, Scotland in 1897, Helen Duncan was a show woman who travelled throughout Britain holding regular séances during which she would produce the form of dead people by emitting a cloud-like substance, ectoplasm, from her mouth. These spirits were said to appear, talking and actually touching their relatives.

It was during WWII that Duncan's activities attracted the attention of the 'establishment'. In 1941 she claimed to have spoken with a deceased sailor from HMS Barham and revealed that the ship had been sunk in the Mediterranean, although the War Office did not officially release this fact until 27th January

1942. On the night of 19th January 1944, one of Duncan's séances was raided by police, in her then hometown of Portsmouth. Officers attempted to stop the ectoplasm issuing from her mouth, but failed. After order had been restored, she was formally arrested. It has been alleged that the real reason for the raid was due to the paranoia surrounding the forthcoming D-Day Normandy landings and the fear that she might reveal the date and other sensitive details.

In one of the most sensational episodes in wartime Britain, Duncan was eventually brought to trial at The Old Bailey and became the last person to be prosecuted under the Witchcraft Act, which had not been used for more than a century. After a seven day trial, she was sentenced to nine months imprisonment in London's Holloway Prison. She was even denied the right of appeal to the House of Lords. She was released from prison on 22nd September 1944. However, the harassment she faced appears to have continued right up to her death.

In November 1956 the police raided a private séance in Nottingham in an attempt to prove fraud. Once again the investigators failed in their objectives. Five weeks later she passed away. As a result of the case, the Witchcraft Acts were finally repealed in 1961. A formal Act of Parliament three years later officially recognised spiritualism as a religion.

A Dronma bronze bust of Helen Duncan, presented to the town of Callander by her supporters, gives rise to controversy, even today, as those with strong religious views objected to its public display. As a consequence the sculpture is currently on display at the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum; the image is from their website.



What does Peter Brack have to do with the Federation?

John Shaw, past President KFPS

During his lifetime, not a lot. Peter Brack cut an upright, aristocratic, figure at the Peterborough Latin American auctions; always immaculately turned out, handkerchief in his top pocket, and who loved his stamps, especially those of Venezuela. He had a passion also for exotic motorcars and, it appeared, for all the good things in life. On one occasion, approaching the age of 90 years, at an auction, he was accompanied by a very attractive young lady, a veritable English rose. The two spoke to each other in endearing terms: "Please get me lot number 712, darling", and that sort of thing. Has Peter got himself a 'bimbo' we all wondered, when just before the sale started, Peter got to his feet and asked to be heard; "Ladies and gentlemen, in case you have been wondering, I would like to introduce you to my granddaughter". The outcome was howls of laughter and a round of applause.

Peter died in 2016, aged 92 years, and in his will left money to the National Philatelic Society (NPS), to be used for the promotion of Latin America philately, and the NPS decided to hold an annual Peter Brack Memorial Lecture which would include a display of philatelic material. The first, in 2017, was a display of Paraguay, given by me, and the second was Mexico, by Ray Barton, Ashford PS member and regular displayer to KFPS societies. The 2019 display was given by Geoff Hanney of Sidcup PS, at the beginning of November. So three Kent philatelists, one year after the other. Who will be next? Is it a Kent philatelist? You will be updated once known!

Plating the One Penny Black, rare or common

Harry Layne BSc, member of Eltham & Woolwich SC

Have you ever wondered what your prized 1d black is really worth? Most 1d blacks, those worth owning, usually carry a price tag of £200-£300 give or take a little, depending on the printing plate the stamps come from, and of course the condition of the stamp. There are many factors that contribute to the value of your prized possession, eg: quality, cancellation or margins, to mention a few, but these issues were printed in their millions and some 63,561,840 stamps are recorded as being distributed in 1840. If one allows a figure of say 10% for stamps destroyed, binned or poor quality etc, there would still be enough left for every collector in the world to own several examples. So it appears that our prized possessions are just common stamps, and if no-one collected them they would probably be practically worthless. Being the world's first stamp they have now become a commodity, and a few are highly prized, Many books have been produced covering most of the aspects required to assign a 1d black to its correct printing plate, so only brief notes will be mentioned here.

Plate 11: These issues were printed from 11 plates and there are certain features on the stamps that can portray which particular printing plate the stamps were printed from, as printing methods in 1840 cannot be expected to be the high quality we expect

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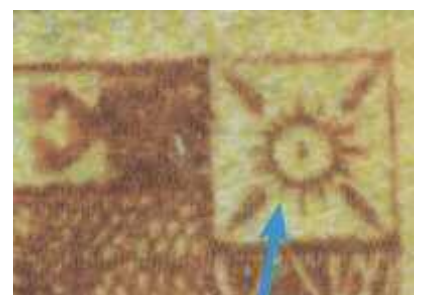
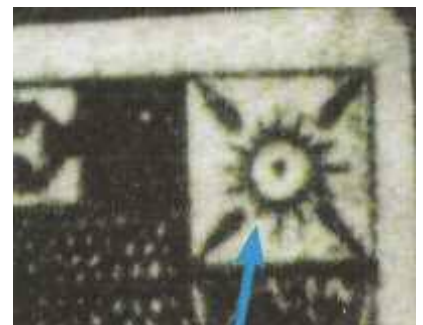
today. These have been well documented in the past to help collectors ascertain the correct plate a stamp derives from. This can be quite important as it will give one some idea of the value of their stamp, which could be anything from £60-£6000. I have managed to find at least one example from every plate, bearing my initials, and as some of the later 1d reds were printed from the identical plates used for printing the black stamps, it is possible to match pairs with identical check letters from the same plate.

Scarce Plate 11: Plate 11 has always been a sought after issue, and including the stamps that have not survived or were destroyed, only some 700 sheets were produced. Many of the stamps can be assigned to their correct printing plate, but the examples most people look for are from Plate 11. These are quite scarce and you may be advised to buy these only when accompanied by an expert committee certificate, usually the RPSL, but with a little experience and practice it is relatively easy to be sure that you have found the rare Plate 11, as there is one parameter that not all books cover.

Some books point out that some of the check letters at the bottom of the stamp differ to those from other plates, or that they are always of a slightly greyish appearance and always have a black Maltese Cross and a wavy looking right hand side or distinguishing marks such as guide dots or guidelines. It would appear to be the case that, even in our very promiscuous time, that there is nothing new to learn about 1d blacks, but I have always been of the mind that nothing is perfect, and hope these few notes may prompt you to look at your prized possession again.

But what if I indicated that you can plate many examples just by looking closely at the top corners of the stamp. This may sound a bit farfetched, but quite true, These top corners, or stars as they are referred to, are the key to locating the printing plate of many issues. Other examples all have some feature to help you allocate the plate and I can only hope that I have made things a little clearer than ploughing through a library full of books with lots of the usual useless technical data, and still not finding the answer to the problem. As usual the old saying "it's quite easy once you know how" takes preference.

Once you get used to looking at the magnified top corners, north east or north west [right and left respectively], you are almost there. The scarce Plate 11 can be recognised as the only 1d black to show the 7 o'clock ray flaw in the upper right corner or north east corner. Look at the stars as though they were a clock [not including the four major thick rays], and you will notice that in the 7 o'clock position, the usually protruding ray is very short and practically missing when compared with the rest of the rays, or other examples. Well done, you now have a Plate 11 1d black; WOW, which many of the purists, if the truth was known, are probably quite jealous and would rather you didn't know about this simple way to detect 1d blacks that come from the scarce Plate 11. I don't suppose they will thank me for telling you!. I have included a scan showing the top right or north east corner of a 1d black [top] and 1d red [bottom] examples of plate eleven showing the 7 o'clock ray flaw.



Covid-19 philately

Jenny Viggars, Bulletin Editor

As a medical thematic collector, not only of blood and the heart, but also of infectious diseases, the Covid-19 pandemic has already provided me with three sources of material. The first two, I am sure one most of you will have already seen. The Royal Mail has been using a text based health education campaign cancellation since late March; here's one - if you have a clearer cancellation, please consider passing it on to me for my collection!

The Royal Mail have also issued a special postmark to celebrate the 100th birthday of Captain Tom Moore who has raised 32 million pounds for the NHS during the lockdown. The postmark has been applied to all stamped mail between Monday 26th April - Friday 1st May.

The third item is of cinderella origin. Positively Postal, run by Scott Thomson, a UK based stamp dealer and postal artist, has produced a set of 4 colourful cinderellas, shown below, which are now in my collection. I know that most of you will find these rather bizarre, but they certainly help to get the current health messages across.

Other countries have also produced new postal cancellations and added, or planning to add, new stamp issues to their programmes. These are now all on my ever expanding "WANTS LIST".



Slogan cancellations have been reported in Ireland, Malaysia and Singapore, and there are stamp issues from the Isle of Man (easier to get hold of), Iran, Vietnam, Spain (two personalised stamps) and Switzerland. China was one of the first countries to plan to issue stamps, but these have been postponed. Stamp designs from a number of other countries have been identified on the internet, but no planned issue dates provided, for example from Bosnia Herzegovina and Lebanon. So if you receive any Covid-19 related items, I'd love to hear from you.



Some companies have produced postcards, for example, Cavalier Postcards in the UK, have produced a set of nine simple designs (one shown here) which I have ordered (but awaiting delivery); I will save some for my collection, but post the others out using www.postcrossing.com. If you see any other postcards on your travels (once we come out of lockdown) I'd love to receive one!

The 1905 Paraguay 2 centavos olive-green issue

John Shaw, past President KFPS

One of the items shown in my Paraguay display, for the Peter Brack Memorial Lecture in 2017, was quite an ordinary block of four 1905 2 centavos olive-green. At that time the Latin American states were paranoid about stamps being looted en-route or from the post offices, with consequent loss of revenue. One measure to minimise this was to issue a new set of stamps each year, or change the colours and demonetise the previous issues. Paraguay was, by 1905, in the UPU and the rate for an internal letter was 2 centavos, and UPU regulations stated it should be generic red, so the thousands of 2 centavos olive-greens were held back until 1907. Paraguay run out of 5 centavos stamps, and out of money to have new stamps printed, so the vast stock of 2 centavos olive-green, together with many other surplus items, were surcharged '5 Centavos'. Many otherwise unissued official stamps were also surcharged in the same fashion and this is a risk collecting area for Paraguay specialists. Whilst none of them are especially valuable, many are very scarce.

In 1912, Charles Phillips, then managing director of Stanley Gibbons, wrote a book on Paraguay, pointing out that only one sheet of 100 of the 2 centavos olive-green stamps remained unsurcharged. He also bemoaned the fact he had been unable to acquire a complete set of them. Now Phillips was, through no fault of his own, not quite correct and when the America and South American Bank Note Company archives were sold in the 1980s, I believe that one or two more sheets were found. This still makes it a very small number of stamps to go round and at a catalogue price of £60 per stamp, it seems quite a snip.

Another anecdote I must share with you is from a visit to the Charing Cross "arches" dealers. I knew much less about Paraguay at this time, and was looking for two values in this set. I knew that I needed two of the 'Lion' stamps. One dealer had some US Minkus Global album printed pages on which there were no gaps; I checked that the stamps were all different and as described on the album pages; wonderful – they were! So I paid the dealer his money, but checking against the catalogue, found there was no 2 centavos olive-green. Further investigation revealed that both Scott and Minkus did not like to sell albums where the collector would be unlikely to fill all the spaces, and the 2c olive-green was so scarce they left it out! As a consequence it took me a long time to get my first example, in a collection from Cavendish, and now I am fortunate to have a block of four (illustrated) of these rare stamps, never issued without surcharge.



Wigmore's philatelic pub sign

Rosemary Dellar, Medway Towns PS committee member



I thought readers might appreciate this pub sign - it will be familiar to at least some members of the Medway Towns PS. Our local hostelry in Wigmore has recently been revamped (about the fifth time since the 1930s). Until a few years ago it sported a portrait of Queen Elizabeth I, and there was vaguely Tudor décor inside. Then she disappeared, to be replaced by the words 'Flame Grill'. This is a vast improvement.



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GB 2019 and 2020 Issues by Peter O'Keefe

On the 19th September 2019, Royal Mail issued a set of 8 stamps (two for 1st class mail, two at £1.35, two at £1.55, and two at £1.60) which I think are one of the best sets issued for some time. They pay tribute to the Royal Navy and depict some of the most famous warships since the 16th century. They show the Mary Rose, HMS Queen Elizabeth (aircraft carrier), HMS Victory, HMS Dreadnought, HMS Warrior, the Sovereign of the Seas, HMS King George V (battleship) and HMS Beagle. There is a brief history of these ships in the presentation pack, which costs £11.20, or if you have the Royal Mail Philatelic Bulletin, issue no 2, volume 57 for October 2019, you can get the full story. Both of the 1st class values are included in a six stamp (all 1st class) retail booklet at £4.20.



Earlier on the 3rd September 2019, a set of eight stamps featuring Elton John were issued, plus a four stamp miniature sheet - 12 stamps in all, at a basic cost of £13.50. Most of these stamps have a dark background and will not reproduce well in black & white. The set of eight have part of a record at the side; is this intended to convey that it is from a record folder? Why do we need so many? I am not impressed. One wonders how many collectors buy these? Are there any 'youngsters' then? Do the general public care? No doubt a few first day covers will be purchased, but will soon lose any value.



Next we have a 'Gruffalo' set of six 1st class values and a miniature sheet of four stamps (two at 1st

class and two at £1.55, plus a presentation pack costing £12.20. These at least are very colourful and were issued on 10th October 2019. Do I like them? These are not really my choice, but certain younger kids might be amused, but only for a month or so! Oh, you could have a signed and framed set, one of a hundred, for £79.99, or a Gruffalo 50p coin with a miniature sheet on cover for £64.99. Where is that money box?



The Royal Mail 'Philatelic Bulletin', April 2020 issue, lists the choices by its readers of their **favourite stamps issued during 2019**. I think they have made the right choices. The first three individual stamps are from the 'Forests' set issued on 13th August – first is Westonbirt, The National Arboretum (1st class), second is Sherwood Forest (£1.55) and third Glen Affric (1st class).



In fourth place is the Royal Navy boat HMS Victory from the ships set of 19th September (see previous page).

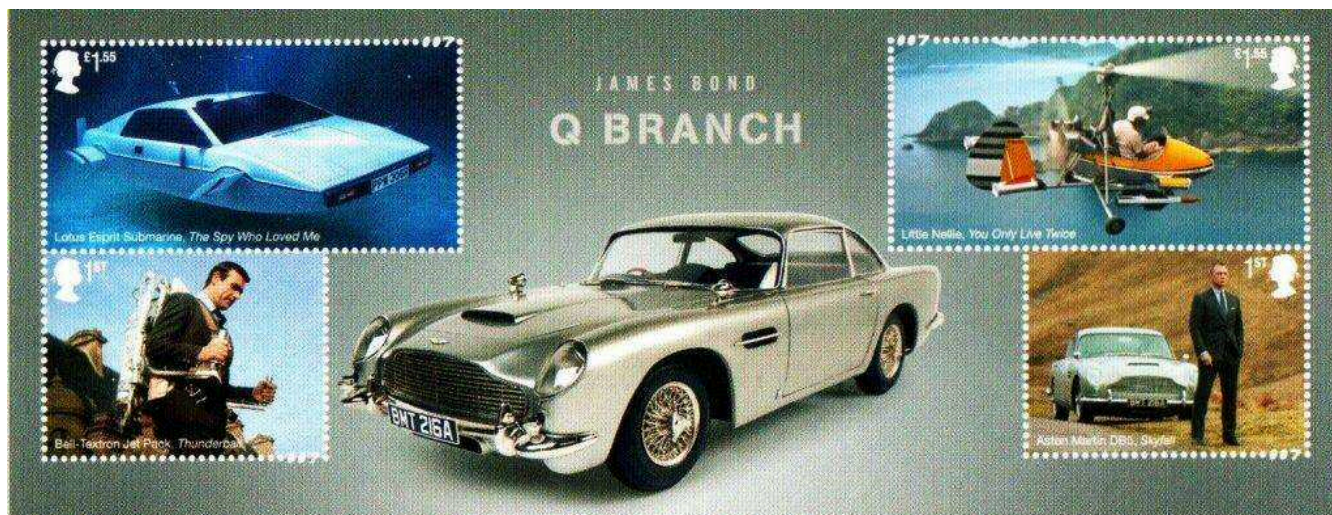
It is not surprising that the 'Forests' set was also the first choice in the 'sets' voting. The 'Birds of Prey' set, issued on 4th April, was second and the 'Royal Navy Ships' set was third (see previous page).



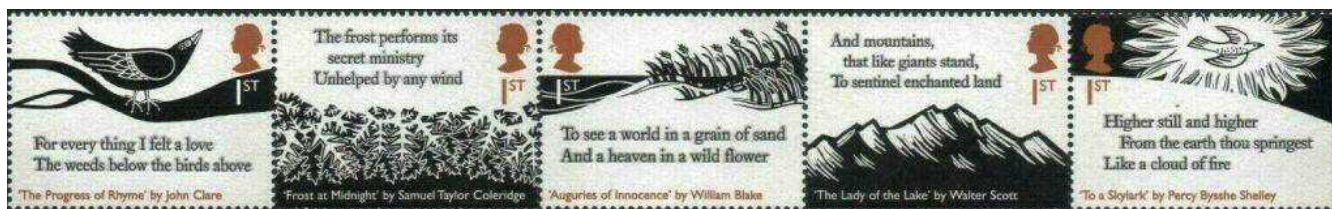
Moving to 2020. James Bond 007: I know it is all fiction, but I thought for once the Royal Mail might have got it right - a colourful issue depicting six of the actors who have played the part in full length films. Planned for issue on 17th March 2020 (were they actually issued then? I have not seen any yet. Has the covid-19 pandemic affected them?) They are in full colour, three 1st class and three at £1.60, (in se-tenent strips of three), as shown on the next page.



There is also a miniature sheet with four different stamps, two 1st class and two (larger size) at £1.55; these show some of Bond's means of transport. All the usual 'money add-ons' are available, so if you want them you might need to raid your money boxes again! A mint set (of 6) costs £6.90, the mini sheet is £4.50, and other items range from £5.25-£29.99! For example, a 'Collectors Sheet' of ten stamps and labels, showing other 007 scenes, costs £12.60. The set might well turn out to be the best designed this year. Overall, I rate it much better and more interesting than many of last year's stamps! If successful, this is a money spinner for the Royal Mail. The illustrations are not to size.

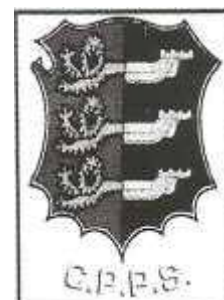


The Romantic Poets were issued on 7th April; this consists of ten, all 1st class values, mainly in black and white, with the Queen's head in red. These list brief quotes from poets: Wordsworth, Byron, Shelley, Coleridge and Keats, plus Clare, Blake, Scott, Landon and Robinson. The choice of the black colour for the variety of background illustrations could have been better. There are the usual add-ons; the stamps are at the new price of 76p each! These are not necessarily intended for overseas postings, so these could have been an opportunity to publicise our heritage! There is a competition linked to this issue, but closing date is (or was – depending on when you read this) 15th May 2020. - see The Philatelic Bulletin. I do not rate these highly! Just five of the ten (not to size) are shown below.



Society News

Cinque Ports Philatelic Society Roger Dickinson, Vice Chairman, writes that on 4th March 2019 we welcomed our near neighbours, the Dover society, who gave us an entertaining evening. Bob Palmer gave a comprehensive display of Austria from WW2 with many fine engraved issues. This was followed by Ian Markie who showed Bolivia, including the first issue of 1867 and modern issues from 1885 to 1999. The evening was rounded off by David Luckhurst who showed excellent stamps and postal history of Czechoslovakia. The theme of our meeting on 18th March was 'These Interest Me', and members brought along a variety of displays, not necessarily restricted to philatelic items. Albert Terry brought along lighthouses (stamps and models), Barry Knight brought North American and Canadian fridge magnets (all railway connected) and Alan Rye brought over 500 book marks. The evening was rounded off by Paul Cahill who showed 1938 cigarette cards on the theme of flying, Swiss postcards and fossils.



Brian Stalker was the guest on 1st April and he entertained with an impressive display on Labrador coastal mail steamers. Brian proved to be highly knowledgeable on his subject and his display showed the considerable amount of research he had carried out. Our competition night was held on 15th April. The winner of the traditional competition was Barry Knight with the Isle of Man, and he also won the thematic competition with the Golden Arrow. The auction held on the same evening was highly successful and lots sold for a total of more than £156.

On 13th May John Weston was the visitor and he gave a very comprehensive display of postal history connected with the villages around Tunbridge Wells. Tony showed a wide variety of village postal markings from a wide range of periods, and the display was well illustrated with postcards of the various villages. Our AGM was held on 20th May, and Paul Cahill was this year's winner of the one page competition. The annual quiz night was held on 3rd June, and thanks are due to Barry Knight for coming up with the questions once again. We had a successful auction evening on 1st July, and several members of the Dover society came along and helped to boost the takings.

The first meeting of the new season was held on 12th September when we welcomed the Hastings society. Pat Calton opened the evening with a display of covers from around the world produced to commemorate the US bicentenary in 1976. Peter Gray then showed stamps and postal history from both Australia and Norfolk Island commemorating the arrival of the first fleet of convict ships which left England for Australia in May 1787. This was followed by Andrew James who covered two topics – pre-decimal machines with the emphasis on the different gums and phosphors, and the stamps of the Ryuku Islands starting with the early issues denominated in Yen, followed by later issues denominated in cents and dollars. The evening was rounded off by Chris Dadswell who gave a very colourful display of decorative covers issued for various British wildlife commemorative sets, particularly the 1981 butterfly series.

On 10th October Albert Terry entertained us with a wide variety of material which covered topics such as the first one hundred years of the UPU, lighthouses, traditional and regional costumes, reptiles and postcards of alpine flowers. On 24th October members showed their imagination with items linked to the letter B. As usual on these evenings an impressive variety of material was shown covering subjects such as bridges, Red Cross post buses, birds, birthdays, butterflies, Bohemia (and Moravia), bushman art, buildings and birds of Norfolk Island, and finally Bulgaria and Bolivia airmails. We held a workshop and tips night on 14th November at which interest was shown in how to design and write up pages using a computer.

Our first event of the new year was a club visit to Deal on 5th February to compete in the annual quiz night with the Deal and Dover societies. After a closely fought contest the Deal society just managed to beat Cinque Ports. Chairman's Evening followed on 13th February and Paul invited Vick Hoadley to display his Malta collection for the first half of the evening. Paul then followed with a display of Swiss airmail stamps and postcards and other material on the Eiger. Ladies' Evening was held on 27th February. Myrtle Wheeler showed post cards of WW2 propaganda posters and Mary Cockburn displayed post cards showing old Folkestone. Sue Farrant then showed some colourful China covers from 1982-85, followed by Christine Moran who showed stamps and miniature sheets issued for the 25th anniversary of the coronation.

Orpington Philatelic Society Terry Collings, President, writes that on 17th April 2019 they were entertained by the Eltham & Woolwich chairman Ray Houghton. It turned out to be a very varied display of interesting subjects, beginning with Iran from 1972 generally in blocks of 4, then a collection of GB lithographs for commemorative stamps, then a series of cruise covers followed by an unique display of the 1953 coronation of Queen Elizabeth. The second half of the display covered Australia from 1913 to 1936 with a huge range of different papers, perforations and shades and then a nice collection of exhibition stamps, cinderellas and covers together with revenues. To conclude there was an interesting collection of German cigarette cards.



On 15th May we held our AGM and member's auction and on 19th June we held a display by John Corderoy covering Gibraltar. The display commenced with a rare pre-stamp cover and then was followed by the GB stamps showing the G and A26 overprints together with the Gibraltar overprint, before finally obtaining stamps specifically printed for Gibraltar. It was a very detailed collection with numerous varieties, shades and perforations leading up to the year 2000 where there was a proliferation of anniversaries for the armed forces. The president thanked John for what he had shown and apologised for the club's poor attendance, which was probably due to holidays and the fact that England ladies were playing Japan in the FIFA football competition, which we won 2-0.

We held a member's evening on 16th October covering any subject beginning with A, B or C. The members rose to the occasion and displayed stamps from Baden, Berlin and Canada. There was a huge display covering the stamps, postal history and numerous first flight covers from Australia followed by British Post Offices abroad. Another display showed the British Antarctic Territory and how politics worked alongside the Falkland Islands Dependencies. Censored mail from both Australia and New Zealand was shown together with a most unusual display covering Apollo-Skylab acquisitions complete with autographs from the various astronauts, many of whom are now deceased..

Cliff Hurst treated us to two displays on 20th November. The first display covered Barbados from 1852 and showed the various imperforate issues leading up to the perforated types. This was followed by examples of pre-cancelled postal stationery, newspaper wrappers and the first air letters together with first day covers up to 1985. The second display was an unbelievable collection of Russian proofs and specimens of tremendous rarity together with rejected designs and examples of the final stamp productions. The quantity shown was enormous and was a credit to Cliff's dedication to this subject.

Our one sheet competition and Christmas social was held on 18th December. The varied entries included catapult covers emanating from the USA, GB one penny reds, GB 1937 propaganda stamps, GB advertising booklet panes, GB postal history and obliterations, Australian first day flight covers, New Zealand first day flight covers, GB smilers, Russian and Falkland Islands map varieties. The competition was won by Peter Heinecke with a German cover from Barsinghausen during WW2.

The committee members held a display on 20th February. It commenced with a display covering The Great War of 1914-1918. A huge collection of covers and postcards showing how the forces both GB and USA communicated with their families. There were numerous different types of postmarks and censor marks and a multitude of propaganda postcards. This was followed by a GB display of Victorian covers and the penny blacks; the highlight being penny blacks on cover with the Maltese cross.



Herne Bay Philatelic Society David Goodban, Vice-Chairman, writes that the 2019/2020 season began in early September with the usual bourse and continued throughout the winter with a varied programme of members' displays, competitions and bourses. We enjoyed a visit from members of Gravesend & District Stamp Club in October and a "miscellany of displays" by Hugh and Dawn Johnson in November. After Christmas the highlight was a most interesting presentation by David Luckhurst of Soviet Union WW2 propaganda and items of Esperanto.

In addition we held two very successful auctions, organised and run as usual by Ryan Epps, and our Christmas Special Fish and Chip Supper, which this season became our Fish and Chip Lunch, as a result of the society's trial of afternoon meetings during the period from November to February inclusive. The success of this trial is still to be assessed by the members. There was no marked change in attendance figures, and it seemed that any addition of those preferring afternoons to evenings was offset by those whose work or other commitments prevented afternoon attendance. It was also found that parking in central Herne Bay in the afternoon is either difficult or expensive or both! So a decision on any continuation of afternoon meetings is yet to be made - and, like so much else in these uncertain times, must wait until we can start planning for next season. Let's hope we don't have to wait too long.



Malling Stamp Club Julie Lester, Secretary, writes that in March 2019 Paul Skinner visited with his display entitled To Infinity and Beyond – The Race into Space. This was a fascinating and entertaining display. Paul's enthusiasm for his subject is infectious and this was a very enjoyable evening with stories and interesting material, including non-philatelic items. Our April meeting was our spring auction which was well attended with a good variety of lots on offer. The speaker for our May meeting was unable to attend owing to be admitted to hospital suddenly and several members

stepped in to give displays. Lindy Bosworth showed Czechoslovakian Exhibitions and Tony Bosworth showed Nuremberg Rallies, Colin Smith showed Czechoslovakia, Ollai Railway and Mallorca Railway and Margaret Emerson showed Queen Victoria and King George V Jubilee stamps.

Our June meeting was an excellent and informative display of New Zealand – The Definitive Story by Brian Stonestreet. Our July meeting was a display by our club president, Margaret Emerson, which was enjoyed by the members. Our August meeting was members' displays and several members showed material. Lindy Bosworth showed postcards of Karlovy Vary, Karlsbad and Czechoslovakia, and Tony Bosworth showed propaganda essay covers of Croatia. David Chambers showed photos of Aylesford, Preston Hall and West Malling. Julie Lester showed insurance ephemera, Colin Smith showed part of his collection of Australia which had not been seen for 40 years, Michael Thompson showed his new display of Churchill and Margaret Emerson showed Folkestone postmarks and royalty.

In September, Peter O'Keeffe stepped in at short notice when the scheduled speaker had to cancel. Peter showed his collection of British official mail, which had only been displayed once before, 10 years ago. This was an unusual display of material which is not often collected and Peter has impressive knowledge of the subject. Our AGM was held in October and was followed by members' displays. Colin Smith displayed Czech covers with charity surcharge stamps, Tony Bosworth displayed postcards of Nuremberg, including amusing cards showing anti-social behaviour, views of Nuremberg by Tucks and also some Croatian covers. Michael Thompson followed with Indian stamps used in Aden, a plate 225 penny red on cover, a 1940 cover produced by Finland for the 1940 Olympics which did not take place and some covers from Iraq. Lindy Bosworth displayed the Czechoslovak Legionnaires, Italian, Russian and French Legions in WW1 and YMCA postcards. Our President, Margaret Emerson finished with a display of Captain James Cook's voyages and postcards of West Malling.

Our November meeting was a display of Belgian Congo 1886-1945 by Gerald Marriner. This was an excellent display of seldom seen material delivered by Gerald in his usual interesting and informative way. Our December meeting was an auction, which was well attended with a good variety of lots on offer. This was followed by festive snacks as usual.

Our first meeting of the year 2020 was members' displays, 5 sheets or 25p and most members put up a display. David Chambers showed documents relating to the advertising of a vacancy for a postmaster in 1958. Lindy Bosworth showed Slovakia 1993 and Tony Bosworth showed London Olympics 2020 including torch covers. Colin Smith showed Austrian stamps and Julie Lester showed undated double arc postmarks on Kent postal history. Michael Thompson followed with BEA covers and Margaret Emerson finished with Kent church and cathedral postcards and Royal Mail bag labels.

In February our annual competition was held. Traditional, postal history, thematics and cinderella are all allowed. The results, by popular vote, were as follows:-

1 st	Mr M Buller	Maps on Stamps
2 nd	Mr M R Thompson	The Frog
3 rd	Ms M Emerson	South Africa

Our March meeting, just before the lock down, was an excellent display by Mark Routh of the Falklands War. Mark's knowledge of the subject is extensive and the amount of material he has is incredible; it includes ephemera and newspapers from the time. This seems like recent history to us, but the newspapers appeared quite old fashioned. There was a lot of philatelic mail in the post office when the invasion took place; the Argentinian troops processed it, having brought a handstamp with them, which I think is amazing.



Royal Tunbridge Wells Philatelic Society Peter O'Keeffe, Newsletter Editor, writes that Birthe and Chris King were our guests at our second meeting in March 2019, with very interesting displays of the 'Occupation of Denmark in WWII,' and the 'Postal History of Schleswig - Holstein' respectively, both of which drew a number of questions from an appreciative audience. Our first April meeting Michael Dobbs, secretary of the 'Forces Postal History Society' showed us some post war items of British and NATO postal history, which although relatively modern, still has an interesting story to tell. Our second April meeting was a visit by Andy Gould, with the story of the 'London, Brighton and South Coast Railway' which of course had a connection with our locality. In May, our

members were invited to show items from their collections with a 'National Stamp Day' theme, which produced much rarely seen material. This was followed later that month by a visit from four members of near neighbours, the Maidstone & Mid Kent PS with a fine variety of topics.

Another Kent society, the Cinque Ports PS, were our guests early in June, again with a mixed bag of goodies to entertain us. Two well-known individuals, Phillip Kaye and Cliff Gregory shared the morning of 26th June, with displays of 'Heathfield & Mayfield P/H' and 'Airmails from India' respectively; one being of local interest and the other of 'International' interest. With only one meeting in July, members were invited to show "From my other collection"; this produced an array of assorted stamps and postal history, without any duplication. We also held just one meeting in August, when members displayed two frames each of material not previously shown, and we saw some surprising, but interesting items, again without any duplication.

Our meetings so far in 2020 have included the new year lunch, with 31 members and friends attending, and WWII British Forces postal history by Peter O'Keeffe, the Treaty of Versailles by Tony Hickey, Egyptian medallions by John Aitchison and German East Africa by Michael Farrant, all of which had very interesting histories and provided a fine variety of material.

Now being April 2020, it is nearly a year since we changed our meeting venue, moving to The Camden Arms in Pembury where our fortnightly Wednesday morning meetings have been a success. We have four new members, and an average attendance of 20 for our sessions is most acceptable. Alas the current coronavirus situation has stopped all meetings for the foreseeable future, and this also means that the annual Stamp Fair, which we host, at Crowborough, scheduled for the first May bank holiday, is 'off'. This is the 75th year of our society, and we had planned to hold a special anniversary lunch to mark the event. As things stand, all our meetings will hopefully resume in September, but note on 10th September (a Thursday) not the 9th. A new date for the anniversary lunch will be arranged. Thereafter, hopefully we return to the programme already announced for the rest of the year, with us looking forward to displays by Bill France, Christine Earle, Robin Morton, Robin Tapper and Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins. On 20th October our visiting team are due to visit Heathfield PS. In November we have our competitions and AGM, plus displays by several of our own "Royal" members, so hopefully we can look forward to 'normal service' being restored before long.

Eltham & Woolwich Stamp Club Cliff Hurst, Secretary, writes that the 2019 spring season started on 10th January 2019 with a members display of new acquisitions, followed by a members airmail evening on 24th January. Both evenings resulted in interesting displays. The following meeting was the then KFPS President's display and Marcus provided us with a fascinating display of Russian fiscal stamps and documents, without ever showing a postage stamp. Something of a record! 21st February was marked by a display of Switzerland by Frank Parsons. 7th March was our spring auction, with the usual disappointing results, due mainly to most members being specialist collectors. The following meeting was a members postcard evening with displays of Shoreham, Kent by John Smith and some Russian postcards by Cliff Hurst. On 18th April, we had a visit from Orpington PS, arranged at short notice as due to ill health, the club secretary had not confirmed the visit, but Paul Skinner turned up trumps with another magnificent display of space related material.



Following our summer break, our first meeting of the new season was a traditional "Something I have not shown before". Most attending members participated and a wide range of material was shown. This was followed, at the next meeting, by a display of material from the Russian Federation by Cliff Hurst. Our third meeting was a display of 'Small Islands' by Ian Reed from Bromley & Beckenham; this included St Helena and was well received. Our first visit to another club on 14th October was to Dover PS by John Smith and Cliff Hurst. This was our longest journey to another club to date, which involved driving through heavy rain to Dover, where John's satnav tried to direct us over non-existent roundabouts and then made a spirited attempt to send us back to London! We eventually found the venue, arriving slightly late, but the display of Turks and Caicos by John and Newfoundland by Cliff were well received and we await the return visit.

On 9th January 2020, we had a members' display of Christmas and new year items. Ray Houghton produced some very interesting Christmas designs and Cliff Hurst showed some Russian design and colour proofs based on our exploration of the heavens, and finished with a Russian Christmas/New Year sheetlet. The Russians do not celebrate Christmas on 25th December but stick to the traditional day (now in January) calculated on the old Julian calendar which is combined with New Year, and much vodka flows! The next meeting on 23rd January was a members' sport on stamps evening with just Cliff Hurst producing any material, showing a collection of Olympic themed stamps which he had purchased at the KFPS fair in Beckenham. On 6th February we were royally entertained by members of Croydon PS, and on what turned out to be our final meeting of the season, on 9th March, Cliff Hurst showed his Newfoundland collection, which included a complete sheet of 80 of the 3d triangular green, followed by all the transatlantic airmails.

Maidstone & Mid Kent Philatelic Society Brain Stonestreet, Publicity Officer, writes that our season, since our last report in 2019, has continued with some fine displays on WW1 the Salonica Campaign by R Morrell, the German Inflation Period by R Mott, a visit by Redhill PS, where we saw displays of Antarctic Territory, USA Airmails and GB QV surface prints. Our last display of the season was a fine thematic display - The Post Office went to War by Christine Earle. In addition we have also had our bi-annual auction and our thematic / Woodruffe Cup competitions.



For our morning meetings we saw Canada pre stamped mail by Hugh Johnson, a visit by East Grinstead PS and 12 sheets from my collection by society members. The AGM saw our President, Tony Bosworth, standing down after completing five years. Our new President is Tony Davis, who originally held this position from 2009/14. In addition our Programme Secretary, John Mortimore, has also decided to retire after producing magnificent programmes for the last ten years. He is succeeded by Margaret Emerson, who many will know through the Civil Service PS and Malling PS. For the remaining committee positions, the same culprits are carrying on.

Maidstone's 98th season got under way in September with The Battle of the River Plate by Graham Booth FRPSL and was followed by Mark Routh with the Falklands War in 1982. Wars over, in October we started at a more sedate pace with Brian Sole FRPSL showing his magnificent thematic display 'Go By Cycle'. This was followed by Ian Marshall FRPSL displaying the London Coffee Houses. In November we received a visit from our friends at Ashford PS with four interesting displays. This was followed by our bi-annual auction. December saw Michael Thompson's display of Aden and Tony Davis's, President's Evening with Iceland. Our morning meetings for October to December have covered the weather by members, France by Mike O'Keeffe, a display by members of their 'own delights', and GB used abroad by Alan Baum.

January 2020 started off with a members' evening with the letters S, T and U, with the usual good thought and sometimes amusing definitions of said letters. This was followed by Marcus Sherwood Jenkins FRPSL displaying Russian revenues. In February 'Law & Order' was maintained by Ray How with a remarkable thematic display of the subject. Our annual Grant and Revell Cup competitions were won by John Mortimore and Margaret Emerson. The daytime meetings saw 'Small Islands' by Ian Reid and 'White Nights, Red Stars and Black Days' by Marcus Sherwood Jenkins.

Our **November Stamp Fair** will be held on
14th November 2020
at **Grove Green Community Centre, Maidstone**
from **09.30 to 3pm**

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our April stamp fair, but we are hoping to resume meetings in September with our 99th season, for which the programme is already arranged.

Maidstone members are hoping that all of our fellow collectors and friends and their families are keeping well and continue to do so.



Gravesend & District Stamp Club Julie Lester, Secretary for the North West Kent Postcard Club, the postcard section of the society, writes that our Spring Auction was held in April 2019 and was well attended, with several visitors. There was a good selection of lots on offer with mixed lots for sorting being popular, as always. A members' evening, show 10 sheets or pay 25p, with a members' bourse was also in April. Two members brought along considerable quantities of material for sale and the other members were eager to look and buy. However, they did take time out for

displays. Dawn Johnson showed a study of Great Britain, KGVI, Hugh Johnson showed various interesting covers including covers between Australia and Great Britain with 6 x 1d and also Lufthansa airmail covers. Graham Green showed French Colonies, complete mint sets 1942/43. In May, Tony Davis visited with his very interesting display of Iceland, which was enjoyed by all the members. Our June meeting was the Summer Auction which was well attended with a good variety of lots and several visitors attended from other clubs.

Our first meeting in September was a 3 page competition and bourse. The competition was won by Hugh Johnson with Maritime Mail, with Michael Thompson in second place with The Postal History of Lundy and Dawn Johnson in third place with The British Empire Exhibition. Our second meeting in September was a display of Red Coats by John Mortimore. This is a colourful and interesting display and John has extensive knowledge of his subject, the different regiments, their history and battles. Our first meeting in October was an auction which was well attended, with several visitors and a good variety of lots were on offer. Our second meeting in October was a display entitled "Things I Like" by Ray Barton. This was a very interesting and entertaining display which included a diverse selection of material. In November, Tony Hickey gave the W A Page Memorial Display which was entitled "Two Fateful Years in Germany".

Our January 2020 meeting was President's Evening. Michael Thompson displayed Herm Island. Our winter auction was held in February and was particularly well attended. Our second meeting in February was a display of Channel Islands by Ian Reid. This is an interesting display which Ian inherited from a relative and has then continued. Our AGM took place in March when it was agreed that we would start a publicity drive and Dawn Johnson agreed to set up a Facebook page for the club.

North West Kent Postcard Club meets in the same venue as the stamp club, usually on the last Monday in the month at 7.45 pm. Visitors are welcome. Our October meeting was a display of Hong Kong by Bob Appleton. As usual, Bob gave an excellent display. His display started with street scenes and followed with trades, including laundry, seamstresses' street stalls and barbers. He also showed cards depicting opium smoking and opium protests, criminals in stocks and executions and Hong Kong police. This was followed by postcards of the electric tramway which was opened in 1904 and a scarce postcard issued during the Japanese Occupation during WW2. The postcard competition subject was Ethnic and the competition was won by Julie Lester with a fabric card showing Japanese ladies.

Our November meeting was a joint meeting with Gravesend & District SC and was a display by our own member, Paul Baylis, showing more cards from his extensive WW1 collection. His display started with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and he showed a card depicting the blood stained jacket he was wearing and a card showing the car in which he was shot. This was followed by postcards of paintings by Alfred Bastien which formed a grand panoramic view of the Yser Front. Paul also showed postcards from the German perspective which included Zeppelins, including some shot down by the British, submarines, the raid on Scarborough, houses bombed by Zeppelins in Hartlepool and German battleships. The postcard competition subject was Patriotic and was won by Julie Lester with an early card showing troops with a canon and music for a patriotic song.

Our January meeting was our AGM, which as usual was quite brief. It was agreed that we should have an advertising campaign to try and attract new members. There were no changes to the officers. After the refreshment break, there were displays by several members. Frank Parsons started with Rottingdean, West Sussex and was followed by Judith French with a small selection from her extensive Dartford collection. Next were a few early comic cards depicting motoring mishaps shown by Julie Lester. Ron Gilson showed Folkestone postcards and Paul Baylis showed postcards depicting matches, some of which could be struck with a match. Michael Thompson finished the displays with Rolvenden, Kent. The subject for the one card competition was Europe and was won by Julie Lester with a Gruss Auss postcard of Berlin.

Our February meeting was a display of The Panama Canal and the Panama Exhibition by Geoff Hanney and was enjoyed by the members. The subject for the one card competition was Lock or Loch and was one by Ron Gilson with a postcard of Allington Lock, near Maidstone.



Bexley Philatelic Society Will Dalrymple, Press Officer, writes that after a last minute change of programme, outgoing president John Corderoy stepped in to display East Germany from 1945. He explained that in the 1949-1990 period, it would be hard to find another country that had produced so many stamps. This was because the regime pandered to international philatelists to generate desperately needed funds. Stamps were characterised by the lack of religious imagery, and also the lack of new year's celebrations. More prominent themes were the communist party and fairy tales. He showed issues around the spring and autumn Leipzig fairs.

Bexley club stalwart Don Brookfield was awarded the KFPS Lingley Shield at its AGM in April 2019 (see page 7). The award, which is not given every year, goes to an individual who has contributed to the promotion of philately in the county. Don had won it in 2011; marking only the second occasion it had been awarded twice, after previous Kent bulletin editor and collector Peter O'Keeffe.

Grace Davis offered a vibrant thematic presentation about the Nobel Peace Prize, offering philatelic and non-philatelic historical material about the awards and awardees. The eccentric Swedish inventor of dynamite died in 1896, establishing the prizes in his will; the first year of prizes being awarded was in 1901. She documented how the focus of the prize evolved, from first going to pacifists to those promoting international stability during the interwar period, to those helping to lay the conditions for peace by helping to eradicate poverty, for example.



In early July, former club president Frank Parsons (shown) showed off a detailed pre-stamp postal history collection centred around Brighton and Hove, explaining the evolution of hand cancels in the early period. One piece from 1796 was shown to have left London at 8pm by the night coach, arriving at the coast about 6:15 the next morning, having travelled tens of miles over dark country roads. The second half of his talk went into the details of the stamp years, as well as non-stamp material such as a 1838 inspection certificate of a 'headed flyer', a converted sedan chair with harness for horse, and cigarette tax discounts for OAPs, used up until they were withdrawn in August 1958.

Sevenoaks & District Philatelic Society Peter O'Keeffe, Secretary and Editor of the society's newsletter, writes that Grahame Boutle gave us an unusual, yet most interesting, display in March 2019, with his "Beyond Recall - Mourning Postal History" - a variety of memorial mail, on covers, postcards, photographs, newspaper cuttings, stamps and labels. In April, Robin Morton showed us the postal history of 'Edinburgh & (its port) Leith', which attracted great interest, and lots of questions. Jeremy Gaskell was our guest in May, showing "Two Famous Women", which told the story of Edith Cavell, executed in WWI for nursing wounded allied personnel, and Queen Astrid, of Belgium, killed in a car accident in the 1930s. He included many photographs, newspaper cuttings, some stamps and memorial labels, and gave us a brief history of their lives. We had our AGM in June, with Tony Fandino and Pat Newman joining the committee. Our July meeting featured a display by Robert Hurst of "The Falkland Islands Dependencies", which only issued their own stamps from 1946, so we saw KGV and QEII items, plus a few Falkland Islands stamps with postmarks of the Dependencies from the QV, EV11 and KGV eras.



So far this year we have hardly had value for money, but two displays have turned up trumps. In February 2020, Peter O'Keeffe displayed Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia) but since 1964 it has been independent and has issued stamps now for 56 years. Due to inflation, there have been many changes in postage rates, numerous overprints, and a number of doubtful issues (all nicely produced) which are rarely seen by the general public. Whether the postal authorities, private companies or the government benefit from these issues is not revealed. In March we saw a very interesting display "The Red Coats", being a display of stamps, cards, labels featuring soldiers of the British Army, both at war and in peacetime, which wore 'Red Coats'. This was given by John Mortimer, from Maidstone, who stood in at short notice for another Maidstone member who had to cry off. It is a history of many British regiments which wore the famous red coats in battle and on parades.



The sudden restrictions on society meetings did at least give us three weeks notice, but for a small club such as ours, this might mean a falling off of interest. This would be a great pity as we have survived for 78 years, with a membership ranging from over 100 down to our present 17. However, we must look on the bright side, and look forward to a resumption of our monthly meetings. Hopefully we can commence a 'New Season' on 2nd September - fingers crossed.



Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society David Rennie, Secretary, writes that in May 2019 they held an unusual members evening where they were asked to bring albums or sheets which they would not normally display to show their varied interests. The result was a very eclectic evening ranging from specialised QV St Lucia to modern Pakistan, run-through collections of Germany, Ascension (including varieties), Israel - all tabbed, GB parcel QV labels with officials, Olympic and Paralympic winners sheets, Martinique island mail, and music and oil thematics.

The President's Competition and AGM were also held in May. Chris Sands' Kelantan was chosen as the winner, and Grahame Boutle presented him with the cup. Ron Burn was installed as the new President. At this meeting copies of the History of BBPS Part 2 1945-1982 written by David Rennie were presented to members. The photograph shows David presenting a copy of the book to Ernie Burkin's daughter Barbara, with her husband John Pearse. Ernie Burkin's family generously donated half the printing cost of the book which enabled BBPS to give a copy to all its members.



In July we were visited by Birthe and Chris King. Birthe gave her display and slide show: Refugee Camps in Denmark 1945-1949; it was accompanied by a knowledgeable and entertaining discourse and included letters and covers to and from many of these camps, accompanied by documents, postcards and photographs. It was a well organised and thought provoking display, clearly and knowledgeably presented. Chris then gave his display and slide show: Denmark and the Napoleonic Wars. This provided a detailed commentary on the events during this period in which Denmark or the Danes had been involved. He set the scene as it was in 1800, and the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801



when Nelson famously "did not read the signal with his blind eye." Chris moved on to the "Continental System", a blockade of Europe denying the British ships entry to European ports and the 2nd Battle of Copenhagen in 1807 when the British seized the Danish fleet. Finally Chris talked of the Danish involvement in the "Demilitarised Zone" along the French/German border after Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo. Ron Burn, pictured here with Birthe and Chris, presented a copy of the new BBPS book to Chris King, past-President of the RPSL, for the Royal's library, in recognition of the help given to David by the librarians at the Royal when he was researching the book.

We had two unusual displays in September, covering 3 countries and over 400 sheets in total! The first display by John Shaw, FRPSL (pictured on the left below) was of Haiti and Paraguay, and as far as living memory goes this was the first and only time either of these two countries have been shown at BBPS. Both displays were spectacular, containing a wealth of unusual material from early issues, through various revolutions and presidents with essays, specimen overprints, numerous overprint errors etc. The second display was Ceylon by Cliff Hurst (pictured on the right below), from first issues until it changed its name to Sri Lanka. Again there were early proofs, many overprints with numerous errors, early booklets etc. Another feature was the extensive and comprehensive range of postal stationery cards, envelopes, newspaper wrappers and registered envelopes. In all this was about 250 sheets, shown in three parts, probably the most that has been shown to the society for any one country on any one evening!





On 9th October we had two displays by members of the Pacific Study Circle. Hugh Bennet (pictured on the left) showed Kiribati, formerly the Gilbert Islands. All in all this was a most unusual and informative display, with much original material, photographs and correspondence in addition to actual stamps, including full sheets, and covers. John Ray (pictured on the right) showed Fiji. He detailed the Fiji Express service and stamps, provided an extensive display of the "CR" and "VR" monogram issues and the numerous overprints and surcharges made there-on for new values and change of currency. A generous number of perforation and plate varieties were also shown. In addition to the stamps John showed a comprehensive collection of postal stationery of all types, both unused and used, and finally an introduction to the island postmarks which are popular with collectors.

On 26th February 2020, in a change to the published programme, Tony Hickey showed Germany 1917-1933. Tony gave an extremely interesting, informative and educational account of Germany from near the end of WWI to 1933 when Hitler and the Nazis came into power and the 3rd Reich was established. Throughout the whole period large numbers of picture postcards were produced; of the leaders, of the parties, as well as propaganda messages helping to stir up unrest, to promote or oppose the territory changes, and to promote or denigrate particular ideologies. Tony showed dozens of these, all written up with suitable background information with relevant photos, press cuttings and documents such as voting papers etc. Relevant stamp issues were shown, particularly the plebiscite issues, but also the black-edged cinderella issues mourning the loss of both European territories and overseas colonies.

The final meeting of this season was held on 11th March; this was our competitions evening, alongside new acquisitions. There were thirteen entries for the competitions and the winners were declared as follows: Thematic Cup, Grahame Boutle for Gasoline / Gas; Jubilee Cup (airmails), Grahame Boutle for Australia Empire Air 1934; Gillman-Davis Cup (postal history), Ian Reed for Maritime Postal History; Gibbons Salver (stamps), Andrew Harris for St Kitts Nevis 1920-22 issue; Tom Davis Crystal Bowl (best overall), Ian Reed. We would like to thank Peter O'Keeffe for being our judge on the night. The President's Competition scheduled for 27th May will be postponed until 9th September, when the AGM will also take place.

Medway Towns Philatelic Society Rosemary Dellar, committee member, writes that our speaker in May 2019 was Peter O'Keeffe, whose display entitled 'The Red Penny' included a wide variety of red markings on cover, 1d red postage stamps from the reigns of Queen Victoria onwards, postage dues, postal stationery, meter marks, controls, stamps overprinted for use abroad, and much, much more. The first sheets illustrated some of the many 'penny paid' and single stroke marks on covers which predated the issue of stamps. There were examples from all the London districts and offices, of the designs used in different towns, and paid marks of Scotland, Ireland and Wales. A few Victorian 'penny red' stamps were present, as well as some Venetian reds (aka 1d pinks). Prepayment became compulsory from February 1859: covers after this often bore instructional marks referring to deficiency or absence of this. Postal stationery in the form of postcards was very popular. One card produced for use by troops during WWI had only a brief life, as military mail became free within weeks. Red Penny 'Foreign Rate' postcards 1875-1899 are one of Peter's specialities, and he ended with one frame showing such cards sent to countries all over the world. Every frame had items warranting lengthy scrutiny - one addressed to Russia apparently arrived before it left England - the two countries used different calendars. An unusual mourning cover had the normal black diagonals on the reverse, but no black border. There were postcards uprated by embossing, and examples of stamp bisects on covers which successfully reached their destination. Fiscal usage too was illustrated - at first cheques bore a 1d red stamp. This thoroughly enjoyable show had something of interest for everyone.



At the AGM in July it was reported that meetings usually attracted about fifteen from a membership of 24. The financial position remained healthy and the subscription unchanged. Paul Jackson became our new Vice-President and Gary Marcham remains in charge of the raffle which, with its unusual selection of prizes, contributes significantly to club funds. Bob Norris was congratulated by all present when his name joined those recorded in our 'For Service to the Society' album. The photograph shown here of Bob is the best I can do at the moment - we hope to get something rather better when he can actually sign the book! The one-sheet competition which followed the meeting was won by Rosemary Dellar with 'Wheels': Mike Thompson was second with 'Aden Dhows'.



We started our new season in September 2019 with a members' night, the theme being 'Something beginning with L'. This produced the usual variety of displays, where the number of sheets ranged from just a couple to two or three frames. The subjects were Liechtenstein, Lundy - the large map issue, labels, lapsed validity, Lithou and the *Lusitania*. Members had also entertained one another in June, when the title was '1-3 covers with a story to tell'.

Early in October representatives of Medway Towns PS and other organisations which meet in the Common Room of La Providence in Rochester were invited to meet the Mayor of Medway there. Habib Tejan spoke to everyone present, and was interested to hear about what the philatelic society did at its meetings, wondering if we had any pictures. Luckily our secretary, Elke Shilling, had on her phone a photograph of treasurer Eddie Shilling showing material from the Spanish Civil War period - stamps, covers and labels. The photograph shows the Mayor alongside organisation representatives.



We had a fascinating 'Evening in Russia' with Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins in March 2020. We had all been busy at Medway planning our contributions for the 'Members' Meeting' in April which the Mayor was scheduled to attend, but of course that didn't happen. By June we shall have a new Mayor, who may not have an interest in stamps. Meanwhile at least some members are having time to sort out those boxes and carrier bags which have been lurking accusingly at the backs of cupboards. Two members who also belong to other Kent clubs have been contributing material to be shared by all who receive Mike Thompson's regular e-mails.

Final Thoughts

As you will see there are no society meeting dates at the end of the bulletin; Michael will keep you up to date with what is happening in Kent, as and when that information is available. Thank you, as always, to all contributors to this bulletin: for your responses to other's articles, for new articles and society updates, KFPS activity details, for feedback etc. I hope that you have enjoyed reading this edition, and will provide new content for the next one. In the meantime, please stay safe.

Jenny

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