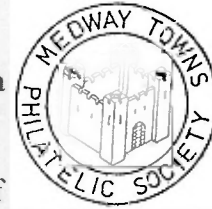


## SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (6)



Medway Towns P.S. The season began in September with a Members Evening devoted to 'Something beginning with H' which produced a wide variety of displays. We were shown stamps illustrating Hats, all aspects of Horn, private posts of Hamburg, stamps from Herm Island and Heligoland, and Horsetralia. (Where ? I guess this might be Australian Horses ? Ed.)

In October, Rosemary Dellar entertained us with a display entitled "From Sheerness to Shoeburyness, via Tower Bridge". This chartered an imaginary journey along the Thames, looking first at the Southern shore, then, in the second half, returning along the Northern side of the river. Based largely on postcards, it also included prints, maps and photographs, with dates ranging from the late eighteenth century to the present day. Lindy Bosworth was our November speaker, presenting her collection of material relating to the Austro-Hungarian Navy in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, which operated mainly on the Adriatic coast. She also showed the Navy's connection with the Danube, but during World War I the Navy was occupied chiefly against the Italians: Lindy's talk introduced leading personalities, including Captain Von Trapp. The Annual Auction in December had about 200 lots, (of which some 65% were sold,) attracted a large number of members and visitors. Our meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup> is 'President's Evening' with Richard Barnard in the Chair.

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Postal History 1996  
Postcard 1991

Swale Philatelic & P/card Society At our meeting at Phoenix House on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September, member Chris Rapley gave a display of old type numbered birthday cards and cards depicting hot air balloons. In the second session, he showed stamps of the Flora &

Fauna of Scandinavia, a varied collection showing trees, fish, nature, mammals, marine life, domestic animals and insects. On October 8<sup>th</sup>, Laurie Tomlin, another member gave a stunning display of Kent Villages on postcards. This covered much of East Kent, but did stretch as far as Maidstone and Bexley. On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the turnout was disappointing, and stamp collectors missed out on a terrific display by Ian Marshall, from Tunbridge Wells, who showed covers with Bishop and Dockra postmarks, London Coffee houses mail and Ship Letters. There were also a phenomenal amount of Penny Black stamps, various trials for different inks, perforation trials, some 2d blues and maltese cross cancels. Only 7 members turned up on November 12<sup>th</sup>, and postcard members who did not attend, missed a very enjoyable meeting, despite our scheduled speaker being unable to join us due to illness. The displays by Laurie Tomlin and John Crunden included early 'Bamford' cards c.WWI, comic cards and variety acts, Sittingbourne & District, and, greetings cards. Harry Ward was our guest speaker on November 26<sup>th</sup>, with the history of Captain Cook, in stamps, postcards and covers, together with a full story life story. To end the year, we had a Christmas Party on December 10<sup>th</sup> plus our competitions, but alas the 'Hales Cup' had no entries this year. Brian Day won the Postal History Trophy (Photo elsewhere in this issue). Also on show were a set of photos of an embroidered tapestry showing the history of the New Forest displayed by Frances Howland, plus some other displays by members. Frank & Pat Parsons are to display on Jan.7th

## SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (7)



Maidstone & Mid Kent P.S. Having completed the first half of the season, there have been a very interesting and varied range of displays. Dr. Garth Taylor was our guest in September with a display covering the Czech Forces in France in WWII, 1939 - 1945 including postal history, postcards, seals and printed labels. Later that month, Michael Farrant showed Zanzibar postal history from 1890/91, operated by the German Postal Agency, then Zanzibar's own postal history up to 1963. In October, Maggie Thompson showed the 'SAAR', covering the French period between 1935 and 1948, before transferring back to German ownership. Two weeks later, our own member, and Secretary, Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins showed a remarkable display covering the Russian Postal Worker and his work from 1750 to date. This was a fascinating evening and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. November started off with our Bi-Annual Auction and was followed by Mike Roberts display entitled "The Pitiful and Wasted Life of a Stampaholic". His talk made fun of himself, but the material he showed was remarkable. Our next guest was John Rawlins showing "Germany - The War Years 1939-45" which reflected life in Germany through the first part of the war when life was reasonable to the latter part when life was not good. Our final meeting of 2015 was 'President's Evening' and Tony Bosworth had invited Geoff Richardson along to display 'Austria'. The first half concentrated on the TPO's to Trieste and covered the 30 Post Offices in Trieste. The second half covered "The Day of the Stamp" which included the annual issues and covers, shades and varieties issued. Our monthly morning meetings also re-started in September with Bill Kemm giving a display of "British Post Offices in Latin America", followed in October, by the Kent President, Paul Cahill showing French Colonies. Then in November, Ian Marshall displayed "Early G.B. Miscellany". Finally in December our own member, Godfrey Prior gave a fascinating display of "The Royal British Legion". The second half of the season looks just as good!

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Malling Stamp Club Our Annual Dinner was held in August at The George, in Trottscliffe and as usual a good time was had by all. In September, Tunbridge Wells P.S. visited us, with Colin Evans showing USA Confederate States Patriotic Envelopes, Ian Marshall displayed 'Coffee Houses' mail explaining how they worked, and how the government suppressed them,

some caught fire and their eventual decline. Peter O'Keeffe displayed G.B. postmarks, postal oddities and curiosities. An enjoyable evening and varied content - members always enjoy visits from other clubs as you never know what you will see. Our October meeting was our A.G.M., which was followed by members displays, then in November, Eddie Shilling visited with his display of Spain. As with all of Eddie's displays, this was well researched and very informative, even though this is one of Eddie's newer collections. This was probably the first time that Spain has been displayed to the club, other than the odd page now and again. Our auction was in December, being well attended, with most people finding something of interest. As usual, it was followed by some festive snacks.

SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (8)



Gravesend Stamp Club For our first September meeting, we held a three sheet competition and a bourse. Unfortunately there were not many entries, but the members enjoyed the bourse and meeting up with each other after the summer break. At our second meeting, in September, Bob Higgins visited with his display of 'Dinosaurs and Fossils'. This was a most interesting and enjoyable evening with samples to look at and pick up, in addition to the philatelic material. We held our Autumn Auction in October, which was well attended and there was a good variety of lots on offer. Our second meeting in October was another joint meeting with the North West Kent Postcard Club, this is now an annual event. This year the speaker was Cliff Ayers with a display of postcards entitled 'Development of the Battleship, and WWI Sea Battles'. Chris has a truly impressive knowledge of his subject, and there was a good attendance from both clubs. We hope that perhaps some of the stamp club members will be inspired to collect postcards. Our Christmas Social together with the N/W/K Postcard Club was held in December, and as usual, the Postcard members provided the displays, which were followed by the food and drink. Again, a good attendance and a good time was had by all present.

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Sidcup Philatelic Society In mid-August, we took part in the 'open day' held at the Community Centre, with a variety of displays from their collections, by our members. John Corderoy (President), Cliff Gregory (Past President), and Judith French (Secretary). Although it was 'Out of our normal season, it proved an enjoyable sideline and it keeps us 'in the news'. Our annual Dinner was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, when we also celebrated our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Earlier in 2015, we had visits from Tony Bosworth (Bohemia & Moravia) on 28<sup>th</sup> April, a Summer Auction on 12<sup>th</sup> May, and a visit by the Lewisham PS on May 26<sup>th</sup>, All of which were excellent shows, although the auction was a disappointment. We hope to have a team in the Inter Society Event at Beckenham in the Autumn. There is a photo of part of our 'Open Day' display on another page in this issue.

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The North West Kent Postcard Club have meetings in the Spring as listed  
 February 22<sup>nd</sup> - Prague, Karlovy Vary and Sokol, by Mrs. Lindy Bosworth  
 March 21<sup>st</sup> - Members Displays of Rochester and the Medway Towns.  
 April 25<sup>th</sup> - Club outing to Maidstone for an evening postcard fair.  
 Meetings are at the same venue as the Gravesend Stamp Club, 7.45 for 8pm  
 Enquiries to Julie Lester 01474-325507

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**CLUB NEWS** As this may be the last Federation Bulletin, I had hoped that perhaps all our affiliated clubs would send in reports - as you will see I received sixteen, but alas five either forgot (perhaps they don't have diary's or their pens ran dry! or they are still hibernating! So there is nothing from Dartford, Deal, Eltham & Woolwich, Herne Bay, or Romney Marsh in this issue. XXX

## SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (9)

My apologies to the DEAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY Hon. Secretary, ALAN BUCKMAN. After completing this issue of the Bulletin, and searching through some other papers to check a couple of dates, I found a sealed envelope which was apparently handed to me, possibly at the Federation Rally at East Malling in March 2015. Unfortunately it is undated, but checking dates of the meetings listed in the Federation Directory, it seems to relate to the Autumn 2014 period. As this report has not appeared in a previous Bulletin, I am including it here, even though it might now be a little dated. Sorry folks but perhaps it really is time for me to bow out now. I can't blame it on Dementia just yet, at least I hope not.

Deal Philatelic Society The programme for the last year included more 'Members Evenings' which were well attended. September saw our club members displays of WWI and related topics. The bourse in October aroused plenty of interest for browsing, with lots of buying and selling taking place. The auction, in November, was our best ever, (see details below), and the December competitions saw a new member, Bob Palmer winning two of them with Jonathan Pond winning the third. Surprisingly the number of entries was 11 in total - a good turn out! In February (2015), Alan Febery told us about the R.A.F. Escaping Society, this was illustrated with much material gathered over several years. Then in March, Michael Thompson, from Northfleet, displayed the 'Letter Service on the Great Little Trains of Wales', quite an esoteric collection, maybe contrived, but very entertaining. The Auction in April was our second best, and in May, the Dover club entertained us. We were also invited to display at Maidstone and at the Bexley clubs. Only a few of us are making the journey, but Ron, Bob and myself have ample material to provide a good show.



Our Auctions during the season were our best ever, with gross takings of £835 in November and £805 in April, with 32/34 bidders mostly in the room. If you were not present you missed a real spectacle with members of the Cinque Ports, Dover, Whitstable, Herne Bay and Ashford fighting it out with our Deal club members for the quality material on offer. Most bidders left with something, all bargains. Our vendors are offering quite a variety in job lots, old albums and single and unusual items, with a large range of value. I hope this continues. We shall be running our usual theme of meetings over the coming year, as I write, this is still to be arranged. Alan Buckman

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### KENT NEWS

I received what I believe is a draft of the minutes of the Council Meeting at Beckenham, which, being away, I had to miss but lack of space means I cannot include even a brief listing in this issue. Your club Sec. should have received the full report from the Fed Sec.

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"We apologise for this letter being delayed ..... er ..... could I have the Penny Black stamp?"



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# SIDELIGHTS ON STAMP COLLECTING !

## WHO DO WE THINK WE ARE ?

BY HARRY LAYNE. BSc.

Harry has spent some time in hospital over the last few months, and has had time to think about our hobby and how non-collectors regard us. He is slowly recovering and is now up and walking again, somewhat slowly at first, but has now managed to put together his jottings and compiled a series of paragraphs which he feels might be worthy of consideration. There are eleven in all, and I have tried to fit in as many as I can in this issue - any left over will be passed to my successor, for a future Bulletin, if there is one. PJOK

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INTRODUCTION Have you ever wondered what non-collectors think of our hobby when they ask "what are your interests?" and you reply "I collect stamps!" Having done some basic research, the writer was amazed by some of the facial expressions and comments received from non-collectors who appear to take stamps for granted. They do not seem to notice the intricate designs that sometimes convey the country's heritage and history. In many instances stamp collecting appears to be frowned upon by non-collectors, many of whom believe that stamp collecting is for school children and should have been left behind with your school days. Some people will actually admit to collecting stamps when they were children, also that they still have their old collection lurking in the attic somewhere. Compared to most other hobbies and pastimes, we are in the minority bracket.

OPINION Generally, it appears that one is not allowed to publically express any bad remarks about our hobby, and such comments are usually edited out. The writer feels that if one cannot have their say then it is pointless having Bulletins and Newsletters and the like, because the usual phrase takes preference, i.e. if you cannot say something good, then do not say anything. If opinions are never aired, then nothing will ever change. In most cases, even constructive criticism is frowned upon by the so called officers of clubs and societies. So who do we think we are? because those people in so called high places, such as Presidents, Secretaries, Chairmen, Committees etc, who are supposed to be responsible for the running of the societies business, are just another person if you pass them in the street, and are not God's gift to philately, as they would like you to imagine them.

QUESTIONS The writer has been asked several times by non-collectors, the same question, i.e. Do you own a Penny Black? but due to the many replies and sometimes insults received, reluctantly answers NO, as it appears that many are of the opinion that they are very rare and only a few exist, so the writer prefers not to argue trying to explain that there are millions of them in existence. Some people will think you are mad, and some will just walk away from you, and the writer has found it futile trying to explain to non collectors that the few they are mentioning are the early examples that were sent to postmasters, and a few 1<sup>st</sup> date cancels (6<sup>th</sup> May 1840). It can be dangerous in some cases, admitting to non-collectors that you own several examples

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COMMENTS The writer has also managed to have a look through some people's old collections, and although the owners pointed out several old stamps, there did not appear to be anything rare or valuable lurking about in their age worn pages. Having invited them to view the writers collection, hoping to get them interested again, they accepted, and it was the writers turn to let them see what their schoolboy collection could have looked like now, some 50 years later. Having seen the writers offerings, it was their turn to be amazed, with not only a couple of pages of Penny Blacks, but some on cover as well, and one visitor commented on the date of one cover, 10<sup>th</sup> May 1840, which was a Sunday, and also mentioned that, if they were real, they would be worth a fortune. "Why don't you sell them" he said, but this brought about a whole new outlook on the subject, which will not be discussed here. Another viewer commented that she thought the writer must be famous having such a nice and probably valuable collection. The writer replied that he did not know anyone who has become famous for just collecting stamps, although a few famed collections such as the Reginald Phillips and the Tapling collections, together with the Royal collection were mentioned, but to no avail. It was however, nice to hear that my viewers (old school friends), like most people, have heard of Stanley Gibbons and the introduction of the 1d black, but unfortunately this seems to be the extent of their philatelic knowledge, and most non-collectors have never seen a Penny Black.

AUCTIONS & FAIRS Having also been asked where the stamps and covers came from, created another story, and some surprises, when the writer mentioned Stanley Gibbons and some of the well known auction houses. "You mean they actually have specially designated auctions just for stamps and envelopes", was another comment, and the writer did his best to explain, again watching the interesting facial expressions and frowns. When the writer showed the viewers one of his prized gems, and also showed them the S.G. catalogue price, there were gasps, and it appeared to be the overall opinion that, who would pay such a sum for an envelope with a piece of sticky coloured paper attached to it. The writer made no comment. Stamp Fairs were also mentioned and the story of a rare item obtained by the writer from a lady dealer, which was an entire that was thought to be priced at £1250, but when the writer checked and asked "how much is this dear?", the lady replied "£12.50 sir". "How much!" said the writer, and the lady dealer replied "O K I will accept £10". This actually raised a few smiles from the guests, but the writer still cannot believe how lucky he was to obtain not only a scarce post-mark, but on a complete entire as well from a dealer and it has raised a few comments when being displayed. The most amusing moment of the afternoon was when the writer explained that having purchased a local postcard at a fair, with a scarce cancellation, and feeling quite proud of it, thought to show it to his wife on arriving home, only to be amazed when she commented "yes its O K dear, but that ugly black marking ruins the stamp". The writer also explained to his guests that anyone can own an example of the world's first and most famous stamp, but no one will achieve fame by doing so or become a public celebrity over night. It had to be said that there are dealers who deal only in 1d blacks and also those who collect only 1d blacks. But imagine, due to the large number issued, they could be classified as a common stamp, and if no one wanted them, they would be virtually worthless. But as usual their value is based on quality as well as supply and demand. At this point the writers wife appeared with a most welcome cup of tea and some snacks.

SOCIETIES & CLUBS The writer also gave a brief run-down on stamp clubs and specialist societies, but again the opinion was mostly negative, and of the writers twelve guests, six of them thought it fitting to just laugh saying that they thought nothing could be more boring than sitting looking at stamps for a couple of hours or more. So the writer felt that he had made a bad job of his explanation of clubs and societies, especially when he mentioned that each club usually has a President, Secretary, Treasurer and officials such as a committee. Again negative comments were raised i.e. why all that fuss and bother over a few stamps. So Presidents etc, who do you people think you are ? , because , as mentioned above, if you were passed in the street you would be just another person. The writers reply was that many people watch sports like Football, Snooker and Golf, where the object is to kick or poke a ball into a net or a hole. Next, a slightly heated discussion took place until it was agreed, each to his own, although it was mentioned that one only has to pay ticket money for watching their sport, but to pay high prices for 'bits of obsolete sticky coloured paper. was ridiculous. (Editor's Note: what about art, and paintings in particular, which often sell for remarkably high prices ?) Stamps are, in certain cases, miniature art !)

EVENTS & ORGANISATIONS Over the years many clubs and societies have been formed, but the idea of stamp clubs never really got off the ground until the 1950's, although some were formed way back in the 1920's, probably with a few collectors taking turns in having meetings at their homes. When the membership exceeded about 10 members it was then thought more appropriate to hire a church hall or a suitable room in perhaps a public house or the like. Indeed the writers father was a collector and attended one of these early clubs which at the time was named 'The South East London Stamp Club. Later (after World War Two), when the membership grew, the name changed to the Woolwich and District Philatelic Society. Many clubs seem to have been formed soon after the war, but unlike modern times, it then appeared to be the norm to join a club. Getting Philatelic information in the early days was by way of books and magazines, much like 'Stamp Collecting' or 'G.S.M.', (Gibbons Stamp Monthly) and there was also a weekly newspaper. It was also the 1950's that gave rise to other events like 'Stampex'. This was started in 1953 by the P.T.S, the driving force of which, for the first ten years, was William Ferris, who was Chairman of the P.T.S. (Philatelic Traders Society) at the time, and was set up by these dealers in an effort to increase their profits. Obviously, they had no idea at the time if the event would be a success or a failure, but well over 15,000 people passed through the doors in 1953, and over the years it has become a way of life in the Philatelic world, but it's not without it's problems. Britain in fact was the first country to organise such an event and by the 1960's British experience and success has spread to other countries. There have been a few poor attendance years, but figures still indicated an upward attendance trend, at least until the 1990's. In the 1960's these events used to be opened by the P.M.G's (Postmaster Generals), Film Stars and other notable figures. The writer has not attended the opening in recent years so cannot comment on what happens now, but it is always advertised in the main Philatelic magazines. (Editor's note: There appear to be more overseas dealers attending now.)



DECLINE Over the last ten years, there appears to be a decline in club attendances, most of which is due to older collectors passing on to the happy hunting ground. In the writers local area (South East London and North West Kent), over the past six years at least five clubs have closed down and a few others are in serious trouble. This may not apply to specialist societies, many of which have a thriving membership at present, although most of the members are well past retirement, and although people are living slightly longer these days, the question the writer asks is who will replace them when the membership attendance begins to fail. There are also a number of elderly collectors who are reluctant to go out at night and are happy to stay at home and just continue to receive the clubs circulating packet. In some cases where a person is a member of say three or more local clubs, when that member is no longer able to attend, several clubs are losing a member. In fact the writer knows of one club whose entire membership are all members of other societies, so that when these members can no longer attend meetings, another club will close. There are of course other factors that are relevant to a clubs well being such as, venue costs, programme printing costs and of course affiliation fees and visitors expenses, all of which come from the club funds, and have tended to push up the membership fees, but some of the elderly members just cannot afford the extra pounds. It is also relevant to mention that clubs do need volunteers to take on the tasks of running the clubs, which is usually the same people doing all the work. Some savings are made by the clubs that print their own programmes, while others have decided to dispense with affiliation fees and rely on stamp magazines and newspapers for information, which was the norm for collectors before clubs were amalgamated into a Federated area. The writer has also heard it said that those clubs who choose not to be affiliated (obviously to help keep the club funds healthy), are in fact no worse off.

DOUBTFUL FUTURE Despite what we are being led to believe, there are not enough new younger collectors entering the hobby of stamp collecting. Although the few odd junior clubs may be active now, it appears doubtful if they will survive. Most parents either do not have the time, or will not accompany their children to stamp clubs, and without them, due to all the new rules and regulations, both the clubs and persons responsible for collecting children for club attendances, will need to be vetted. The writer can remember when he was a junior member, and was actually the only junior present at his local club, and that many of the older members used to keep their stamps protected from prying little fingers, and due to this the writer never learned much or saw any rare stamps, outside of museums etc. Auction nights were much like modern times and were always well attended. The writer was accompanied by his father and usually got the job of distributing the secured lots to the buyers. It holds certain memories as one particular gentleman (the late Major Broadhurst), always presented the writer with a packet, or tin, or maybe a sheet of stamps which he had purchased, as compensation for the writers efforts. The writer is still in possession of a page of the 1938 King George VI Dominican definitive set of stamps, which was presented to him by the Major. The major had paid 6d (LSD), for these fine used stamps and although they have now been re-mounted, they were the first complete commonwealth set to be owned by the writer, although the 2½d shade is still missing

This set was the pilot set which prompted the writer into collecting fine used stamps. At the time of writing, the set is catalogued at £45 used, and slightly higher in mint condition, but the mint stamps are relatively easy to find. The writer is in fact still in touch with a dozen old school pals who always attend the writers parties, and who used to collect stamps as children, but unfortunately none of them collect now. Very few children are seen at stamp clubs these days and then usually only where their parents are also collector members. It must also be remembered that children have much more to interest them today by way of computer games, etc, which we never had when we were children. If those children of today that do collect stamps follow in their parents footsteps, their interest will probably be lost in favour of education and a sustainable future. Whether they will return to the hobby at a later date is a matter of pure conjecture.

INEVITABLE So, what can we do to get people and children interested in our dying hobby ? Lots of collectors have tried to get others interested, including the writer, who attended a few schools and night classes in the past, and while some may have introduced the odd one or two, mostly their efforts were to no avail. Many juniors these days race home only to go to their games machines, whilst the older children are into other things like music and sport etc. The writer has taken his children, nieces and nephews to some stamp fairs in the past, and also to 'Stampex', only to be given a single word appraisal of their visit; boring ! There was a Television programme about stamps, with the late Martin Willcocks taking part, describing all the rare and expensive items and how much they would cost, probably putting people off, and due to this the programme never really got off the ground. So it appears that all our efforts are in vain, unless someone can wave a magic wand and change the future.

(Editors note: perhaps TV should be encouraged to show our hobby on a childrens programme, with simple, rather than expensive items included ! Postage rates in my youthful years were 1d or 2 ½d, nowadays its over 10/- and 12/6d at pre-decimal rates. Albums cost 1/- to about £2, now you would need more like £7 (say 140/-) minimum. and there were plenty of small shops with pages of cheap stamps for sale).

LAST WORD The writer has always been of the opinion that Stamp Collecting was a fun hobby that was not to be taken too seriously. Over recent years it seems to have changed a little too much for the writers liking, with too many collectors wanting to become top dog. Collecting as it stands at the present seems to be easy enough and has not changed much over the years, and one obtains their items and place them in their collections in whatever way suits them. Some collectors feel that the whole issue has now become too involved. The writer while visiting fairs etc, always takes tea when on offer as it seems a good place to ask people what they collect and of course the ultimate question, if they are a member of a club. Obviously many faces are recognised, but of those not known to the writer, some are packet members only and feel that they can do as they wish at home, and not need to attend clubs, while others have no wish to join a club. Some people said that they were only simple thematic collectors, while others gave the expected answer that they have no spare time to go to a club. One person gave an odd

remark, saying that they were not a philatelist and only a stamp collector, and that Philatelic Societies are for experts. So with this in mind, perhaps our general meetings venues should revert to being called Stamp Clubs, and for those who specialise in collecting various subjects, should perhaps use the term Philatelic Society. The writer was given the impression that the word Philatelic, seemed too technical and perhaps a little too frightening for some basic collectors. So perhaps we are doing too much, ! our being a little over zealous may be delaying new collectors from joining our clubs. Dare it be said, that there is much jealousy within our hobby, as some collectors cannot afford to own the stamps they require, but you are not alone. When the writer was a junior, the old nine page competitions used to be great fun but now the general opinion is that competitions are probably well out of hand, and while the glory hunters among us are still entering, there seems to be a decline in the number of entrants. Having done a little basic research here too, it appears that most collectors are not interested in competitions, many giving the same reasons for not entering i.e they are not interested in winning medals... or I am not going to remount my collection... or I don't need so-called judges to tell me what to do... or maybe, I like my collection the way it is, and a host of other reasons. There also appears to be much inconsistency in the judging and the writer has heard comments such as, why did that collection win as it has photocopies included or, find a better example, but the one you are showing is one of only a few examples that exist in private hands. At the end of the day, you are the one that has to live with your collection. So mount them the way that suits you. Enough said ! Finally, the writer offers his apology to those that feel these notes are a little negative, but some things just cannot go unsaid if our hobby is to last for another 175 years, which is doubtful at present, but ask yourself the question, how many collectors will attend the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Penny Black in 2040 ? When trying to imagine the future, nothing would please the writer more than to find stamp collecting to be a thriving hobby in say 25 years time, and that someone will dig out these notes and say "Who was this idiot that got it all wrong" HL.

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Editors note: Well Harry has had his say, you may or may not see eye to eye with his views, and if there is another Edition of the Kent Federation Bulletin, YOU could air your views. So if we manage to enrol a new Editor, he or she will no doubt be pleased to hear from you. I can remember my early days collecting, my pal living down the same road as I did, lived next door to a lady who had a nephew in Nyasaland (c 1943). He wrote to her occasionally, and she gave the stamps to my pal, he swapped some with me (probably for marbles, or conkers) and this was the start. However in my form at school, only one other pupil collected stamps, and we often got together to look at our accumulations. There were some 30 other pupils, so 2 out of say 30 was a pretty low percentage. We had several stamp shops with rows of pages hanging in their windows with masses of cheap stamps for sale - you don't see those these days ! My parents did not collect, and only one other school friend had similar interests. I was not aware of a local club existing, and it was not until I moved to Kent that I took more of an interest, visiting stamp shows etc and joining the stamp society linked with my employers, which really pushed me to where I am..

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### **ELTHAM & WOOLWICH STAMP CLUB.**

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### **ROMNEY MARSH PHILATELIC & POSTCARD SOCIETY.**

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### **SEVENOAKS & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY.**

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### **SIDCUP PHILATELIC SOCIETY.**

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PLEASE HELP TO KEEP THESE DETAILS ACCURATE & UP TO DATE. 09/01/2016

DATE	SOCIETY	TITLE OF DISPLAY			
<b>February 2016</b>					
Mon 1	Cinque Ports	Chairman's Evening	Paul Cahill	Orpington	USA Stamps & Postal History
Mon 1	Medway Towns	Competitions / Bourse & Silent Auction	Members	Romney Marsh	Anti-Communism 1919-45
Tue 2	Lewisham	Mourning	Grahame Boutle	Maidstone	(AM) Postal History of Brighton
Wed 3	Dartford	Club Auction	Members	Swale	Images & Topography: Half Way & Sheppey
Wed 3	Deal	Recent Acquisitions	Richard Hart	Tunbridge Wells	Pre-Stamp to 1950
Wed 3	Sevenoaks	Jamaica	Cliff Ayers	Gravesend	Spring Auction
Thur 4	Editham-Woolwich	WW1 Royal Navy Ships	Members	Dover	Quiz Night
Thur 4	Maidstone	Competitions & Bourse	Members	Lewisham	Gibraltair
Thur 4	Swale	Fish & Ships: Shipping on Lower Thames	Bob Appleton	Edenbridge	(PM) Members displays
Fri 5	Bexley	Hospital Ships - A Postal History	Peter High	Eitham-Woolwich	Australian Aviation
Fri 5	Herne Bay	Club Auction	Members	Maidstone	Visit FROM Cinque Ports
Mon 8	Dover	UK & Commonwealth	Members evening	Bexley	The letters 'U', 'V' & 'W'
Tue 9	Sidcup	Spring Auction	-	Herne Bay	Visit FROM Maidstone Postcard Club
Wed 10	Bromley & Beck	French Army 1792-1815 and Cayman Islands QV & Ed VII	Tony Merson	Cinque Ports	To be advised
Wed 10	Orpington	8-sheet Competitions	Members	Sidcup	An Evening with the Kent President
Thur 11	Maidstone	(AM) Fiji	John Dann	Bromley & Beck	GB before 1952
Thur 11	Tunbridge Wells	Jamaica	Richard Hart	Swale	Aspects of Germany
Fri 12	Gravesend	Newfoundland	Cliff Hurst	Tunbridge Wells	(AM) Scouts
Mon 15	Cinque Ports	Ladies Night	Members	Romney Marsh	Visit FROM Dover
Tue 16	Lewisham	Competition, Bourse & Displays	Members	Maidstone	World Scout Jamboree
Thur 18	Edenbridge	(PM) Postcard Meeting	Chairman, Cliff Hurst		
Thur 18	Editham-Woolwich	Newfoundland	Peter Pugh		
Thur 18	Maidstone	Railways Part 1: 1898-1917	Members		
Fri 19	Bexley	Auction	Members		
Fri 19	Herne Bay	Letters 'G' & 'H'	Members		
Mon 22	Dover	Comps & Display by .....	David Luckhurst		
Tue 23	Sidcup	A short history of Space Flight	Paul Skinner		
Wed 24	Bromley & Beck	Letter 'R' for Nugent Cup	Members		
Wed 24	Romney Marsh	Red Cross Anniversaries	Richard Mittell		
Thur 25	Swale	Tristan da Cunha	Ron Burn		
Thur 25	Tunbridge Wells	(AM) Boxer War	J Latham		
Fri 26	Gravesend	Annual General Meeting	Members		
<b>March 2016</b>					
Tue 1	Lewisham	The Letter 'P' Night	Members		
Wed 2	Dartford	Team Visit FROM Lewisham	-		
Wed 2	Deal	Miscellany of Early GB	Ian Marshall		
Wed 2	Sevenoaks	Stamps, P/cards & Local PH	Members		
Thur 3	Eitham-Woolwich	Russia - Part II	Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins		
Thur 3	Maidstone	A Masonic Evening	Peter Nason		
Fri 4	Bexley	Disaster Mail	John Lea		
Fri 4	Herne Bay	Club Competitions	Members		
Mon 7	Cinque Ports	Tuppenny Blue	Tony Davis		
Mon 7	Medway Towns	Members Night	Members		
Tue 8	Sidcup	Victor Mills Mem. Evening	Members		
Wed 9	Bromley & Beck	Competitions / New acquisitions	Members		
Wed 9	Orpington	USA Stamps & Postal History	Colin Evans		
Wed 9	Romney Marsh	Anti-Communism 1919-45	Tony Bosworth		
Thur 10	Maidstone	(AM) Postal History of Brighton	Frank Parsons		
Thur 10	Swale	Images & Topography: Half Way & Sheppey	Francis Howland		
Thur 10	Tunbridge Wells	Pre-Stamp to 1950	Ron Burn		
Fri 11	Gravesend	Spring Auction	Members		
Mon 14	Dover	Quiz Night	Members		
Tue 15	Lewisham	Gibraltair	Bob Higgins		
Thur 17	Edenbridge	(PM) Members displays	Members		
Thur 17	Eitham-Woolwich	Australian Aviation	Grahame Boutle		
Thur 17	Maidstone	Visit FROM Cinque Ports	-		
Fri 18	Bexley	The letters 'U', 'V' & 'W'	Members		
Fri 18	Herne Bay	Visit FROM Maidstone Postcard Club	-		
Mon 21	Cinque Ports	To be advised	-		
Tue 22	Sidcup	An Evening with the Kent President	Paul Cahill		
Wed 23	Bromley & Beck	GB before 1952	Members		
Thur 24	Swale	Aspects of Germany	Eddie Scott		
Thur 24	Tunbridge Wells	(AM) Scouts	Dr Jim Etherington		
Wed 30	Romney Marsh	Visit FROM Dover	-		
Thur 31	Maidstone	World Scout Jamboree	Dr Jim Etherington		
<b>April 2016</b>					
Fri 1	Bexley	The Committee Entertains	-		
Fri 1	Herne Bay	President's Night	David Goodban		
Mon 4	Cinque Ports	Competition & Mini Auction	Members		
Mon 4	Medway Towns	The Life of Horatio Nelson	Tony Davis		
Tue 5	Lewisham	Visit FROM Cinque Ports	-		
Wed 6	Dartford	Czechoslovakia	Lindy Bosworth		
Wed 6	Sevenoaks	Spring Auction	Members		
Wed 6	Eitham-Woolwich	Tsingtau Coronel & Falklands	Graham Booth		
Thur 7	Swale	Anschiuss	Colin Tobitt		
Thur 7	Gravesend	Broadstairs through Time	Bob Turcan		
Fri 8	Dover	1 Page Competition & Bourse	Members		
Mon 11	Sidcup	Visit FROM Malling	-		
Tue 12	Sidcup	AGM - Cheese & Biscuits	Members		
Wed 13	Bromley & Beck	Grand Auction	-		
Wed 13	Orpington	Visit FROM Dover PS	-		
Wed 13	Romney Marsh	Lighthouses	Chris Dadswell		
Thur 14	Maidstone	Club Auction	-		
Thur 14	Tunbridge Wells	Things I Like	Ray Barton		
Fri 15	Bexley	Two Page Comp & Displays	Members		
Fri 15	Herne Bay	Visit from Maidstone & Mid-Kent	-		
Mon 18	Cinque Ports	Russia during WWI	Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins		
Mon 18	Dover	Annual Dinner	Members		
Tue 19	Lewisham	Visit FROM Medway Towns	-		
Thur 21	Edenbridge	WW2 Occupation of Germany	John Terry		
Thur 21	Eitham-Woolwich	Latin America	John Shaw		
Thur 21	Maidstone	(AM) New Zealand Air Mails	Lewis Giles		
Fri 22	Gravesend	Members Night	Members		

Mon 25	Dover	Iceland	Tony Davis	Romney Marsh	Travel	Members
Tue 26	Sidcup	New Zealand	Graham Brown	Eltham-Woolwich	Officers Entertain & Bourse	-
Wed 27	Bromley & Beck	Visit FROM Cinque Ports	-	Maidstone	AGM Cheese & Wine	Members
Wed 27	Romney Marsh	Joint meeting at Rye with Hastings & East Sussex PS	-	Tunbridge Wells	Pre-stamp Maritime Postal History	Hugh Johnson
Thur 28	Maidstone	Visit FROM Chelmsford	-	Gravesend	Summer Auction	Members
Thur 28	Swale	Visit FROM Deal	Alan Buckman	Edenbridge	AGM & New Acquisitions	Members
Thur 28	Tunbridge Wells	(AM) Oil Industry (Postcards)	Grahame Boutle	Tunbridge Wells	(AM) Iceland Re-visited	Tony Davies
<b>May 2016</b>						
Tue 3	Lewisham	Annual General Meeting	Members	Bexley	British Borneo	Jeremy Gaskell
Wed 4	Dartford	Annual General Meeting	Members	Herne Bay	Summer Bourse	Members
Wed 4	Deal	Visit FROM Herne Bay PS	-	Cinque Ports	Summer Auction	Members
Wed 4	Sevenoaks	President's Evening	-	Medway Towns	AGM & One Sheet Comp	Members
Thur 5	Eltham-Woolwich	Annual General Meeting	Members	Dartford	Club Auction	Members
Fri 6	Bexley	Singapore	Len Stanway	Sevenoaks	Post-VW2 British Forces Mail	Michael Dobbs
Fri 6	Herne Bay	Club Auction	Members	Eltham-Woolwich	Summer Auction	Members
Mon 9	Cinque Ports	Propaganda Germany 1919-33	Tony Hickey	Bromley & Beck	Between the Tropics	Members
Mon 9	Dover	Memorabilia	Members	Romney Marsh	The Letter 'M'	Members
Mon 9	Medway Towns	Air Mails - Kent President	Paul Cahill	Bexley	Auction	Members
Tue 10	Sidcup	Visit FROM Medway Towns	-	<b>August 2016</b>		
Wed 11	Bromley & Beck	Propaganda ppc's Boer War	John Cowlin	Cinque Ports	Insects with a twist	Allan Rye
Wed 11	Orpington	AGM & Members Auction	Members	Herne Bay	Club Auction	Members
Wed 11	Romney Marsh	AGM	Members	Bromley & Beck	Postcards	Members
Thur 12	Maidstone	Competitions & Bourse	Members	Romney Marsh	Bookmarks	Mark Hayes
Thur 12	Swale	AGM / Comps / Displays	Members	Eltham-Woolwich	From my collection .....	Members
Thur 12	Tunbridge Wells	Australia Postal History	Mrs D Pullen	Tunbridge Wells	A Scandinavian Selection	Nigel Steer
Fri 13	Gravesend	Music	Ian Reed	Tunbridge Wells	(AM) ifini	Rosemary Dellar
Mon 16	Cinque Ports	AGM & 1 Page Competition	Members	<b>September 2016</b>		
Thur 19	Edenbridge	Open Meeting	Members	Cinque Ports	First meeting 2016/17 season	-
Thur 19	Maidstone	(AM) My Best & Worst Buys	Members	Tunbridge Wells	Haiti	Geoff Hanney
Fri 20	Bexley	The Battle of Jutland	Cliff Ayres	Romney Marsh	Start of New Season	-
Fri 20	Herne Bay	Chile - Don Davies & Works of Art - Ryan Epps	Cliff Ayres	Tunbridge Wells	(AM) A Hungarian Miscellany	Bill Hedley FRPSL
Mon 23	Dover	Visit FROM Orpington	-	Sidcup	India & Indian States	Ron Ogilvie
Tue 24	Sidcup	WW1 Battleships & Jutland	Cliff Ayres	<b>October 2016</b>		
Wed 25	Bromley & Beck	AGM & President's Competition	Members	Tue 11	Autumn Auction	Members
Wed 25	Romney Marsh	Visit FROM Ashford	-	Thur 13	Co-Presidents' Evening	Colin Evans & Maurice Lovell
Thur 26	Maidstone	Battle for the Pacific	Bill Trower	Tue 25	Things I Like	Ray Barton
Thur 26	Tunbridge Wells	(AM) Airmails of France	John Hammonds	Thur 27	(AM) Gibraltar	David Sumpter
<b>June 2016</b>						
Wed 1	Dartford	Visit from the Kent President	Paul Cahill			
Wed 1	Deal	AGM / President's Competition	Members			
Wed 1	Sevenoaks	AGM & Auction	Members			
Fri 3	Bexley	AGM & Displays	Members			
Fri 3	Herne Bay	AGM	Members			
Mon 6	Cinque Ports	Visit FROM Bexley PS	-			
Mon 6	Dover	Annual General Meeting	Members			
Mon 6	Medway Towns	Me & My Collections	Steve Alpe			
Wed 8	Bromley & Beck	Landlocked countries	Members			
Wed 8	Orpington	Visit FROM Kingston PS	-			

**Notes:**

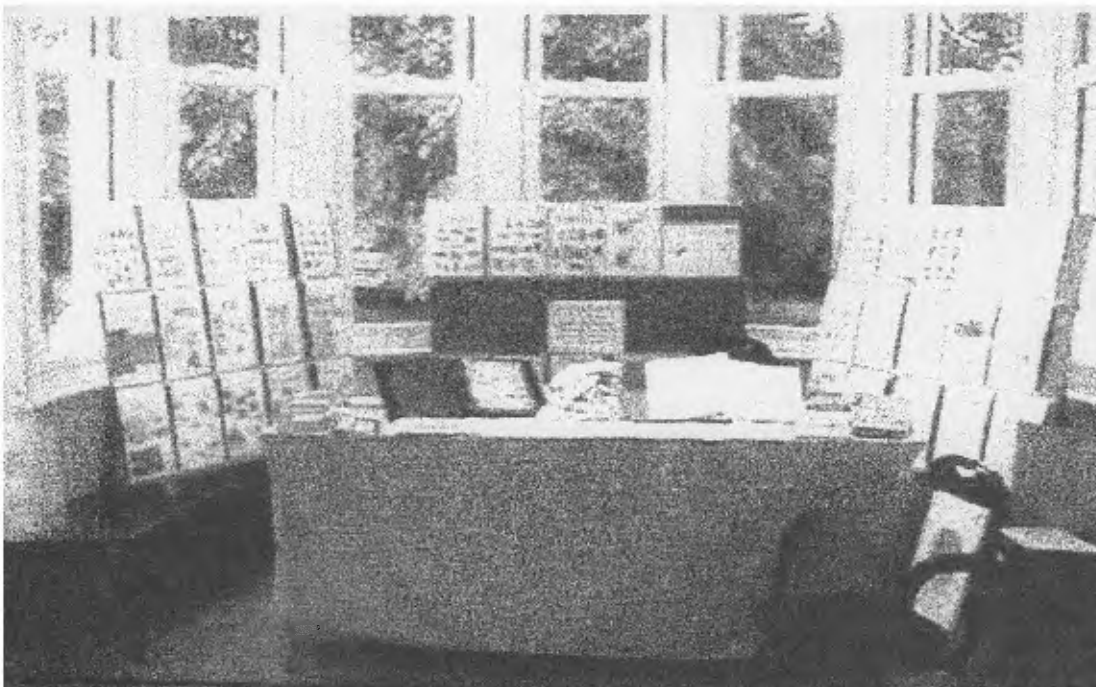
- (1) (AM) indicates morning meetings (Maidstone & Mid-Kent and Tunbridge Wells)  
(2) (PM) indicates afternoon meetings (Gravesend & District)

## SWALE PHILATELIC & POSTCARD SOCIETY.

The photograph below shows President Sean Caveney presenting the 'Postal History Salver' to Brian Day, as winner of that competition at the Clubs Christmas Social. (Photo received from Brian Clarke)



XX  
SIDCUP PHILATELIC SOCIETY Part of the display mounted  
by the Society for the Sidcup Community Centre 'OPEN DAY' on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
August 2015.. The photo, taken by Judith French was the evening prior to  
the event, was later added to on the day with further items.





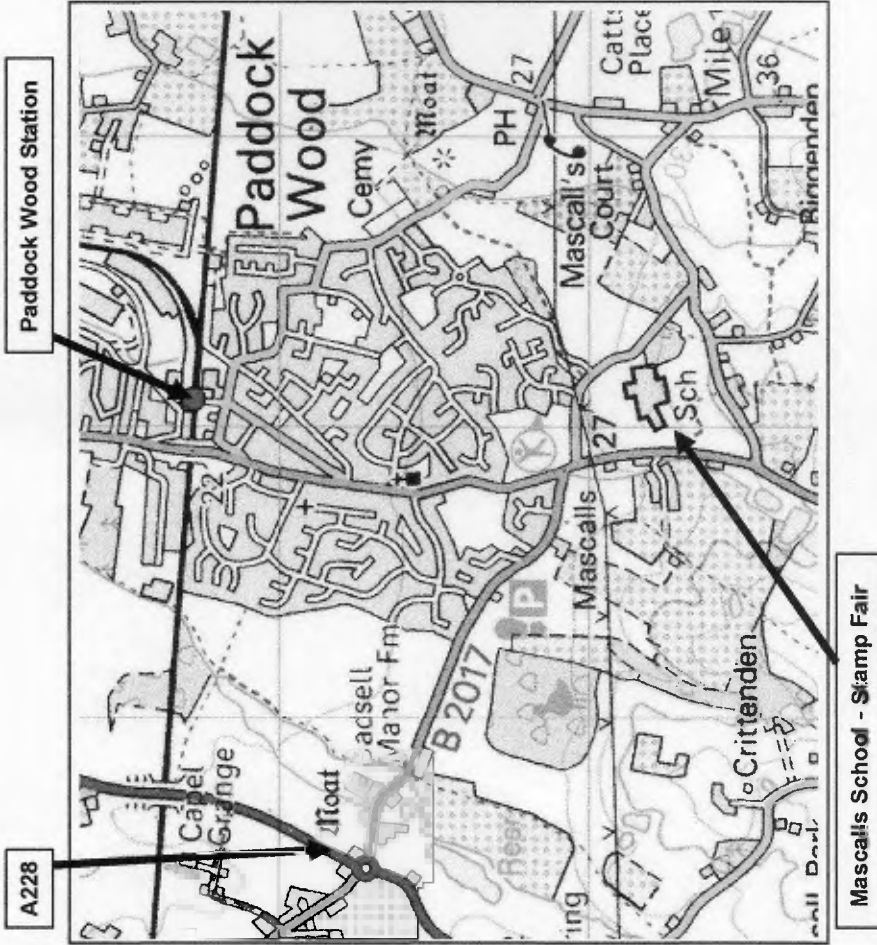
**KENT FEDERATION  
of  
PHILATELIC SOCIETIES'  
2016 SPRING RALLY & AGM**

**MASCALLS SCHOOL  
MAIDSTONE ROAD  
PADDOCK WOOD  
TN12 6LT**

**SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
FREE ADMISSION & PARKING**

- ★ DEALERS ★ SELLING and BUYING ★
- ★ STAMPS ★ POSTAL HISTORY & POSTCARDS ★
- ★ TOMBOLA ★ REFRESHMENTS ★
- ★ KFPS COMPETITIONS & AGM ★

More information telephone: 020 8658 6790



**2016 KFPS Spring Rally & AGM - Mascalls School**

**By Train:**

Paddock Wood Rail Station to Mascalls School - 1 Mile (No 6 bus to school every half hour)  
Currently the train service from London Charing Cross to Paddock Wood and Dover to Paddock Wood on a Saturday is every hour.

**By Bus:**

Bus routes on Saturdays to Mascalls (as of current 2015 time table):

- Maidstone bus station to Mascalls: No 6 bus every half hour, 59 mins travel time
- Tunbridge Wells to Mascalls: No 6a bus every half hour, 35 mins travel time
- Tonbridge Rail Station to Mascalls: No 205 bus every hour, 32 mins travel time

**By Road:**

Mascalls School is on the B2160 (Maidstone Road)  
Close to the A228 and off the B2017 (Badsell Road); A21 close by





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