



**KENT FEDERATION
of
PHILATELIC SOCIETIES**



**THIS YEAR MARKS THE 175th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ISSUE ON THE 6th MAY 1840, OF THE
ONE PENNY BLACK, ACKNOWLEDGED AS
THE WORLDS FIRST POSTAGE STAMP.**

No.198

MAY 2015

BULLETIN

PLEASE VIEW THE KENT PHILATELY WEBSITE

<http://kentphilately.weebly.com>

It supports the K.F.P.S.

Welcome to Summer ! As I type this on Easter Monday, the sun is shining, some of the neighbours are out with their lawn mowers, and the temperature is at last into double figures. The daffodils and even tulips are in full bloom, and the trees that have been stripped of their colour during the last few months are sprouting new buds. This is the last page I need to prepare, and again on a count up, I see that I shall have to leave out at least one page, until next time; even so we will have 30 pages in this issue. Thanks to all of you who have sent in articles, some nice and brief and some rather longer than I can fit in - sorry. All I need to do now is to number the pages and then it's off to MRT tomorrow for printing.

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The 'Spring Rally' at East Malling on the 28th March was quite well supported in the morning, but attendance faded a bit in the afternoon, and disappointingly only 14 clubs (out of 21) were actually represented at the Council Meeting - one does wonder why! It is after all your chance to air your views, find out what is going on elsewhere in Kent, meet fellow collectors, seek those items missing from your collection - with several dealers in the one venue, it saves travelling some distance to find what you are looking for. Our next Rally is Federation Day, which is on SUNDAY 12th July with a first time visit to the Great Danes Hotel on the A20 just outside Maidstone - a fairly central venue by car, so it's in fairly easy reach of ALL club members (but it might be the Wimbledon Men's Final) so lets see you there. Note, refreshments will be available, but at hotel prices. Donations of suitable prizes for the Tombola will be welcome, as will a volunteer or two to run it - probably morning only - can you help ?

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I have just realised that I have not mentioned the NEXT COMPETITIONS to be held on the 12th July - they are Aerophilately (16 pages), Postal History (8 pages) and Cinderella (8 pages) - do see what you can do and let Maurice Flack know in good time - by say the 28th June - Good Luck !

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For this years DAWES CUP competition, our team is being selected on April 10th and the entries will be on show at the Surrey Federation Convention at Addlestone on the 4th July, when the results will be officially announced.

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All our clubs have been sent copies of "The Benefits of Membership of the Kent Federation" - (see also on page 10 of this issue of the Bulletin) Hopefully clubs will acquaint their members with this information, and hopefully more will want to be part of the Federation.

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Don't forget the Seminars - they really are for YOU, and are a useful source of information, even if not directly of your collecting interests, they can show you how to improve, enjoy and better your knowledge of our hobby.

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Sadly we have heard that the oldest society in Kent, The Isle Of Thanet Philatelic Society is to close down, due to an aging membership, current Officers no longer able to carry on, no new blood to take over. It is a dire warning to other clubs that unless they can attract more younger (i.e below 70 !) and or more existing members to take the reins of office - this will be their future - notice how many clubs fail to attract any nominations (or volunteers) for office at their A.G.M.'s !

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As I finish this the sun has gone down, but I can see if the mower still works !

DIARY DATES - 2015

MARK YOUR DIARY NOW!

Remember, if you are planning to visit any of the events listed here, you are advised to check that neither the date, nor the venue have changed, BEFORE you travel.

NEXT CUT-OFF DATE for the SEPTEMBER 2015 issue of the BULLETIN needs to be the 15th AUGUST 2015. PLEASE let me have YOUR CLUBS NEWS, or any other items for inclusion in good time. I some times try to assemble some pages before the cut-off date, so any early contributions are welcome. Your co-operation is much appreciated. Check these dates BEFORE booking your holidays, so that you don't miss the events. It should also help Secretaries to avoid clashes elsewhere !!!!

MAY 4	Tunbridge Wells PS host a Fair at	Crowborough on Bank Holiday Monday
MAY 13/16	"London 2015" "Europhilex"	The Design Centre. Islington, London
MAY 17	LW Stamp Fair	Freemantle Hall, Bexley DA5 1AA
MAY 23	Stamp Essex (Federation/Society)	Sudbury, Gainsborough School, CO10 OJU
JUN 6	Beckenham Stamp Fair	Azelia Hall, Croydon Rd, Beckenham.
JUN 7	Sevenoaks Stamp Fair	Stag Plaza, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ZZ
JUN 13	Orpington Stamp & P/card Fair	Lutheran Church, Petts Wood, BR5 1RD
JUN 13	"Swinpex"	St. Joseph's School, Swindon, SN3 3LR
JUL 4	Beckenham Stamp Fair	Azelia Hall, Croydon Rd, Beckenham
JUL 4	Surrey Federation. Addlestone	Comm. Assocn, Garfield Rd. KT15 2AJ
JUL 4	"Midpex" Leamington Spa	Warwickshire Exhib. Centre, CV31 1XN
JUL 12 (Sunday)	KENT FEDERATION DAY	Gt Danes Hotel, Hollingbourne. ME17 1RE
JUL 12	L.W. Stamp Fair	Freemantle Hall, Bexley, DA5 1AA
SEP 5	Beckenham Stamp Fair,	Azelia Hall, Croydon Rd, Beckenham
SEP 6	Sevenoaks Stamp Fair,	Stag Plaza, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ZZ
SEP 12	Orpington Stamp & P/C Fair	Lutheran Church, Poverest Rd, BR5 1RD
SEP 16/19	"Autumn Stampex".	again at the Design Centre, London.
OCT 3	Beckenham Stamp Fair,	Azelia Hall, Croydon Rd, Beckenham
OCT 10	S/England & Sussex Fed	Ardingly Show Ground, Sussex.
OCT 24	KENT FEDERATION AUTUMN	RALLY Langley Park Sch, Beckenham BR3 3BP
NOV 7	Beckenham Stamp Fair	Azelia Hall, Croydon Rd, Beckenham.
NOV 14	Maidstone Stamp Fair	Grove Green Comm.Centre, ME14 5BT
NOV 14	Orpington Stamp & P/C Fair	Lutheran Church, Petts Wood, BR5 1RD
NOV 15	Sevenoaks Stamp Fair	Stag Plaza, Sevenoaks. TN13 1AA
DEC 5	Beckenham Stamp Fair	Azelia Hall, Croydon Rd, Beckenham.

For more information, try www.abps.org.uk on the "Exhibiting" tab. E & O.E.

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If you know of any more 'dates', together with post codes - please let me know, and space permitting, I can include them in our next issue. PJOK.

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ROUND AND ABOUT We have two 'Kent based' stamp & philatelic material Auctions in the County, namely MARTELLO PHILATELIC AUCTIONS, (Office Telephone no. is 01303 - 269712 or E-mail : info@martelloauctions.com). They hold their auctions at The Holiday Inn, Canterbury Road, Ashford TN24 8QQ. Their next Auctions are on Friday's, 22nd May and 24th July. The other is T & T AUCTIONS LTD which use's St. Marks Hall, Bayham Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5LX Their next auctions are planned for 30th May, 11th July, 15th August, 3rd October, 7th Nov, and 12th Dec. Telephone 01892 - 529898 or E-mail them on info@tandtauctions.com.

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Short List

Michael T. Aker

Every Secretary of every Philatelic Society I have ever met (and after many sinful years I know quite a few) has an annual and ulcer-forming problem: who is to be asked to give displays at the forthcoming meetings of the Society?

At first glance, this appears to be a problem of little magnitude and easy solution: simply go through all the previous seasons' programmes and choose the requisite number of speakers who have not yet visited your Society.

To aid this laudable effort, there have been, in the past, lists published in good faith by certain philatelic papers of those who are prepared (at considerable expense and inconvenience) to visit other Societies.

Having been, during an unaccountable lapse from sanity, one of these hard-worked and under-appreciated Secretaries, let me tell you that it is not as easy as all this; if it were, there would not be the annual turnover of secretaries that there is!

First of all, the thing to do is to call a meeting of the Committee. This is normally composed of the Officers of the Society plus a certain number, depending on the strength overall of the membership, of ordinary members. These latter are usually selected from those who have been disappointed in their attempts to attain office in the Society, plus those who make the most noise at meetings.

Mind you; it is not the purpose of the Committee meeting actually to choose the Guest-speaker(s); this would be asking far too much. The wise Secretary (i.e., ALL Secretaries) will already have a list of suitable speakers in his pocket, but this he will not produce until a suitable time.

This time will depend on various factors, but will normally be after everybody else has produced his (or her) own ideas which will then be thrashed out by the other members until everyone (bar the Secy.) sinks exhausted into his chair, and the member in whose house the meeting is being held, breaks for much-needed refreshments.

It is a sad reflection on the state of the human race, that in practically all the committee meetings I have attended as a Secretary, the one dominant idea of every member of the Committee is to see that by hook or by crook, usually the latter, the country he collects is represented that season by a speaker from afar.

This, no doubt, is what Democracy means, but so far as the average society is concerned is hardly ever practical politics.

The ideal to be aimed at, though seldom reached, is to take a little look at the book which every competent secretary has in which are recorded not only the names and addresses of all the fully paid-up members (the Treasurer has a note of the others), but also their collecting habits.

From this it is sometimes possible to compile a list which gives the proportion of members who prefer Commonwealth countries, those who collect Foreign, and those who only collect Thematically.

Now, from this first or preliminary list, choose the due proportion of displays required to suit all three categories, so that each division will have a one-in-three chance of seeing something that will keep him awake. This will depend also on the total number of meetings available for Speakers.

Next, go through all the names which have hitherto been submitted to the Committee, by the Committee, and remove all those who for one reason or another had better not be asked.

These same reasons can range from "Display too specialised", to "Talks a — sight too much", and all stations in between.

Incidentally, the reason for the reactions to the two examples quoted is, or should be, fairly obvious to all concerned; in the first case, it is generally a fatal mistake for an ordinary society to invite a Specialist to give them a display, unless he, the Specialist, can also produce a fairly general display of his particular country; nothing has a greater tendency to induce somnolence than page after page of, say, the provincial surcharges of China, unless a goodly proportion of the members are avowed Chinaphiles, and even then they would rather be talking about their own surcharges.

In the second case (far too common), the Speaker knows his subject inside-out, but cannot refrain from dotting all the T's and crossing the I's (as Hanoud would say), so that, when the despairing members at last get a chance to go up to the display frames and see his stuff for themselves, it is very nearly time to go home.

In the intermediate classes of speaker is the joker who has such a magnificent collection, liberally dotted with Royal Certificates, that the average member is made to feel so inferior that he sometimes feels like giving up collecting.

There is also the speaker (usually a Thematic one) who will persist in including coloured (or plain) photographs and such which completely overshadow the poor little stamps on the page. He quite forgets that the stamps should be their own illustrations.

There are also—but enough has been said to give you an idea of how the Secretary's mind works.

To my mind, and I suspect, many others' also, the ideal show should not be too highly specialised, and should be aimed at interesting the greatest number of ordinary members, whatever they collect, should not call for too much preliminary talk, and should give members ample time to view the display at their leisure.

would be surprised how many times per season it is completely disregarded.

Now is the moment when the Secretary produces his own list, carefully compiled over the years and including all those speakers who have passed his own acid test. These include all those, who in addition to the qualities discussed above, can provide their own transport, do not require a meal at the Secretary's expense and do not require out-of-pocket expenses either. It is from a list such as this that you will find, in nine cases out of ten, the final choice is made.

And if it were not so undemocratic a procedure, it could all have been left to the Secretary in the first place!

There is yet another type of speaker, or rather speakers, which if properly arranged can obviate a lot of work and disappointment.

This is the Society visit, where a team of anything up to four members of another society is asked to come along and entertain your members.

This, whilst being in the nature of a "Lucky Dip", can at the same time be very entertaining and rewarding, especially if the visiting team have read my notes on the subject of displays.

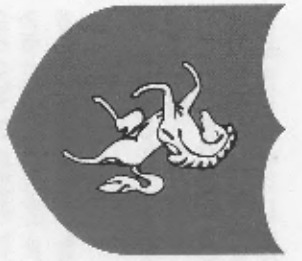
If your Society, as mine does, meets at the local hostelry, an even better meeting is assured providing that the visitors have had the good sense to exclude all teetotalers from their ranks; indeed, after the visitors and hosts have adjourned to the room where the display is due to take place, it has been known for even a display of Chinese provisional Provincial Surcharges to be greeted with enthusiasm.

From the above, it will be obvious that any Secretary who knows his stuff, will endeavour to arrange as many away matches as possible with Societies who meet in inns, thus not only getting a lot of free beer, but the undeserved reputation of being an excellent Secretary.

Another good way in which to pile up the goodwill of your own members is to cut out nearly all the visiting speakers (just leave one or two in for the look of the thing), and concentrate on having "Members Nights". These are not only most economical, but as they give the average member a chance to show his proud possessions, so they also avoid giving the other members that inferiority complex associated with V.I.P. shows. For if there is one thing that a member enjoys more than looking at someone else's collection, it is looking at his own.



With acknowledgements to Gibbons Stamp Monthly and Michael T. Aker. - First published July 1965. Not much has changed over the last 50 years!



KENT FEDERATION OF PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Affiliated to:
The Association of British Philatelic Societies

Benefits of membership of the Kent Federation

Available to Clubs or Societies, and their members, affiliated to the Federation

- > **Federation Bulletin** - provides news reports from clubs in Kent, future club events, reports of Federation Council meetings and the Annual General Meeting, Competition results and news, dates of other philatelic events in and around Kent including Stamp Fairs, Auctions, Federation Rallies and Seminars as well as articles and "Letters to the Editor". Published three times a year.
- > **Federation Directory** - provides details of Federation Officers, affiliated clubs in Kent with Hon. Secretary contact details and meeting venues, Accredited Competition Judges, list of persons willing to give displays, including display titles, details of affiliated club / society meetings, Seminars, Federations Rallies and other national events. Published annually, but with additional electronic versions issued periodically to reflect important changes.
- > **Rallies** - the Federation holds three Rallies per year organised by either an affiliated Club or Society or by the Federation Executive Committee itself. The Federation will always assist a local club or society if required. Rallies

are events open to the public to browse, buy or sell material through the various dealers who attend, view Federation competition entries or other exhibits and where the Federation holds its Council meetings or Annual General Meeting

- > **Seminars** - the Federation holds all day seminars on popular philatelic topics led by well known philatelists or specialist societies with excellent displays accompanied by a talk on the subject, followed by a "Question & Answer" session.

- > **Display Frames** - the Federation has several large 'secure' frames which it uses at Rallies in connection with Federation competition events, but which your club or society may also borrow, if you have a public display in your area.

- > **Communications** - the Federation provides the basis for a network of communications between it and affiliated clubs on philatelic matters. This network is consolidated through KFPPS publications - the Bulletin and Directory - as well as seminars and e-mails, including those from relevant

organisations such as ABPS, BPMA, RPSS, Rossiter Trust, Stampex, etc.

- > **Competitions** - the Federation runs a number of 8-sheet Inter-Society and 16-sheet Individual competitions each year at Federation Rallies, following an agreed programme to cover all classes of philately. This allows members (either as individuals or part of a team) to display their material to a wider philatelic audience, but be bound by rules and advised by guidelines in the formal world of philatelic exhibiting. Taking part may not be suited for everyone, but the displays shown at Rallies provide an interesting mix of topics

- > **Council Meetings** - the Federation is run by and for the benefit of affiliated clubs and societies. The way in which the direction of the Federation is steered is through decisions made at Council meetings and an Annual General Meeting to which affiliated clubs are entitled and encouraged to send their delegate(s). Affiliated clubs and societies are entitled to send at

least one delegate to put across their point of view and to vote on matters, then report back to their club on what was discussed and the decisions made or if further information is required.

- > **Assistance or Advice** - is available from the Federation on any philatelic matter or details of who can help resolve any philatelic problems you encounter. Should your club or society be willing to organise a Federation rally, just a 'stamp fair' or any other type of philatelic event, a pre-printed guide is available which lists all the topics you might need to consider for holding such an event, together with the problems you could encounter and how to get round them.

- > **Represents Kent clubs at a higher level** - i.e. ABPS

Please remember, the Federation is there to support philately in Kent, and in particular members of its affiliated clubs and societies.

The Federation is democratically run to benefit us all, majority votes dictate any policy changes and all clubs are encouraged to support the ideals and events the Federation organises for YOU.

United we are strong, divided we are weak, so let us be strong!

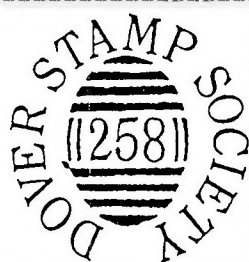
SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (2)

Swale Philatelic & Postcard Society On January 9th, Frances Hoyland showed postcards with advertisements, these included well known firms such as Tate & Lyle, the C.W.S., Shredded Wheat, Sharps Toffee and newspaper adverts for Bird's Custard, Fry's Cocoa, Lifebuoy Soap and a Bournville Whisk.



On February 6th, Robert Turcan gave a talk on Cranbrook, Kent's smallest town, illustrated with postcards and photo's from a book he had written. Chrissie Baker from the Cinque Ports P/S was our guest speaker on February 20th - her display was entitled 'Open Philately', telling a story with 50% being non philatelic material. There were three display's, (1) was 'A Gentleman in Southern Africa 1885-1910'. (2) 'Charlies Desk' - being about items found in a mans desk, and (3) All about a Victorian Gentleman "Henry's Life from 1846-1901" Each being an interesting insight into the Victorian Era, and with material not seen before. That meeting on February 20th was our last at the Masonic Hall, as we have now returned to the Phoenix House in Central Avenue; meetings are still on Friday's at 6.30 pm until the A.G.M. in May. We revert back to Thursday evening meetings when the new season opens in September. On March 6th, we were back at Phoenix House with Bob Appleton as our speaker with "Hold Tight Please" - a display of horse drawn omnibuses in London, but by 1905 there were 20 'mechanical' buses, and by 1908 the London Omnibus Co. had several thousand. 'Routemasters' were introduced in 1956. (it's almost 50 years ago!) Then on March 20th Paul Cahill, Chairman of the Cinque Ports P/S and the next President of the Kent Federation gave a display of 'Aerophilately', this was mainly of Aircraft on stamps from French Colonies in Africa, and India, in issue between 1945 to 1969, which he had only started to collect in 2000. Our new season commences on THURSDAY September 24th with a joint meeting of both sections - stamps and post cards! Then on the 22nd of October, Ian Marshall is our guest speaker, followed by Harry Ward on 26th November, and a joint meeting of both sections on December 10th. Other postcard meetings are scheduled for October 8th and November 12th with the programmes still to be confirmed.

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Dover Stamp Society We recently had a visit from the Whitstable society, with a good cross section of material on show. David Russell brought Nauru and Norfolk Island, Alan Mundy showed 'Advertising and Exhibition Cards', and Bill Downes had some very interesting postcards and covers on a 'Military' theme, which included a group of black first WWI cards in a humourous vein. In black silhouette format they

were in excellent condition and as well as being highly amusing, they formed a truly unusual collection. The 'Memorabilia evening' at the end of January again produced a good response from members, with 'Cheese' labels being one of the unusual features to find their way into the show. The 'competition' evening was not so well supported - our membership does not seem to focus so much on this aspect of collecting, but they are nearly all keen to display, as witnessed at our recent 'Letters Q, R and S' evening, when the boards were full. At the time of writing, we are looking forward to a visit from our friends at the Cinque Ports P/S, and to a display of 'Iceland' by Tony Davis. In April we have our ever popular Annual Dinner for members, wives and friends.

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Even if you are on the right track, you could be run over if you just sit there!

SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (3)



Bromley & Beckenham P.S. We held our annual competition for the 'Nugent Cup' on 14th January; There were nine entries, based on the letter 'C' with topics including Condolences, Corals, Charity, and Churches, Cardiology, Caricatures, RMS Caronia, Chopin, Cut-Outs for Colonial Postal Orders, and finally the Army 'Courier' Service. Judging was by a panel of five members, and Jenny Viggars was declared the winner. for the 2nd second year running, this time for the Cardiology entry. A photograph appears elsewhere in this issue. We held our ninth Annual Dinner on the 21st January in the Wickham Room at 'The Warren' Coney Hall, when 33 members and guests enjoyed good food and convivial company. Our member Chris Sands showed stamps of Luxembourg and the Netherlands on January 28th, well presented and written up on continental (Davo) size sheets. Then we were entertained by three members of the Basildon P/S (from Essex) on February 11th with displays of 'Hidden Letters on the GB Sherlock Holmes 1963 set, a thematic display of 'Lions', and then Teddy Bears, with Rupert Bear, Paddington Bear and Winnie the Pooh, a longer display of Royal Events, and lastly a spectacular display of Propaganda postcards of WWI, with interpretations into English where needed. On February 25th, Ian Harvey was our visiting speaker, with his excellent display of 'Great Britain Booklets - the first 100 years'. - a scintillating display of rare arial from his Gold Medal winning collection including the development chronologically through the EVII De La Rue years. The various printers and types of printing were explained in detail, plus documents from the archives of both the Post Office and the printers. We have another competitions and 'New Acquisitions' evening on the 11th March. followed on the 25th March by a visit from Brian Asquith, showing 'The Postal History of Wakefield'.

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Cinque Ports P/S. With no meetings in January, our New Year commenced on February 2nd, when Paul Cahill entertained us with a very nice display of French Colonies, and a superb show of Crash Mail. Then on February 16th, four members of the Whitstable society gave displays of Packet Boats, Triangle postmarks, Perfins, The Cameroons, and Kent County Cricket Club. plus a thematic display of Birds. A superb evenings entertainment. As usual, inter club visits tend to produce a very varied

selection of material. Tony Davis, from Maidstone displayed a fine collection of 'Iceland' on the 2nd of March, and then on the 16th March, we were entertained by three members of the Bromley & Beckenham P/S, with Tristan da Cunha, by Ron Burn, Music, and St. Lucia by Ian Reid, and ending with 'Mourning Cards and Contents' by Grahame Boutle. Another fine series of displays. On March 23rd four of our members are heading to Dover to show what we collect, and similarly we are away to Hastings on the 2nd of April. On April 13th it is competition night, plus an auction, and on April 20th, Alan Febery will display 'The R.A.F. Escaping Society' The Hastings Society are due to visit us on the 11th May and we have our A.G.M. on May 18th. The Royal Tunbridge Wells P/S are to visit us on June 1st, and we end the season with our 'Summer Auction' on July 6th.

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The NORTH WEST KENT POSTCARD CLUB have a meetings on April 27th, when Sue Auton shows 'Crayford'. and on May 18th when they visit Maidstone Postcard Club Evening Fair. Contact: Julie Lester (see Malling S/C - page 2)

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