

G. B. NEW ISSUES

To mark the 175th Anniversary of the issue of the 'One Penny Black', the Royal Mail will be issuing on the 6th May, a Miniature sheet of 4 stamps, all with postally valid 'reproductions' of two One Penny Black's and two Twopenny Blue's, each overlaid with the small silhouette head of Queen Elizabeth II and the value '1st'. The One Penny Black stamp will also be available in blocks of six, in booklets, on the same date, alongside the Europhilex logo

The stamps in the mini sheet will be se-tenant, both horizontally and vertically, and as near the original colours as possible. The cost. will be 4 @ 63p = £2.52 for the mini sheet and 6 @ 63p = £3.78 for the booklet. Interestingly the letters at the base are SC (Black), and QB (Blue) - Maybe they could have been VR and ER? Surely all collectors of Penny Black's and/or Two penny Blue collections will need to have these?



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MORE MACHINS

There used to be a saying "What Goes Up, Must Come Down", but this rarely applies to Postage costs. Here are the six latest additions to the MACHIN range of G.B definitive stamps. The 'Machin's' were introduced in June 1967 with the old 1/2 d value, but these range up to £3.30. (Total cost £14) I have not counted, but have we reached 100 different 'Machins' yet, or maybe its more!



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ANOTHER W.W.I MEMORIAL ISSUE

On the 14th of May, there will be a set of six new stamps, 3 @ the 1st class rate and 3 @ £1.52. They will be available in a Prestige Stamp Book (£13.96), but there is apparently no mention in the 'Philatelic Bulletin' whether they are in individual sheets or se-tenant



The Gurkha soldier on one stamp won the VC was the first Nepalese Gurkha to be awarded the medal. The leather football was kicked into No Mans Land and then the German lines as British infantry charged during the battle of Loos The Gallipoli Campaign is represented by a Pte British soldier paying tribute at a Graveside.

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IS YOUR NAME ALSO THE NAME OF A POST OFFICE ?

As a 'space filler' in the last issue, I asked the above question, and illustrated four United States Post Offices having English surnames as their titles. They were Brown, Jones, Robinson, and Smith. Well at least we have two readers and they have replied. Michael Dobbs was first up, with one in New York, USA, which is 'DOBBS FERRY', but it is unclear whether it is named after Mike, or whether it came first. The other is Ted Needham (Dartford) who sent me a postcard and a postmark incorporating his name - 'NEEDHAM MARKET'. I also spotted on an envelope from British Columbia, Canada a 'POWELL RIVER', but I am not aware of any Kent members named Powell ! It's just a fun thing, but does anyone else wish to claim a mention in the 'Bulletin' ? Drop me a line with an illustration and you could join the famous few !



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COLLECTING IN FRANCE



4. What do French Philatelists collect ?

I suggest that we work backwards.

i) There have been a much greater number of stamps issued in France, compared to U.K. I can give a few figures to illustrate this fact. Overall, in the 60 years between 1945 and 2004, the GPO issued 2038 stamps (SG 462 to SG 2500) In France, 'la Poste' issued 50% more i.e. 3031 stamps (Yvert 670 to Yvert 3701)

From February 1952 (the accession of Queen Elizabeth II), up to 1960 – when the GB 'Commemorative' flexed its wings and flew – GPO issued 104 stamps; La Poste issued 291 stamps.

Since 1960, both countries are pressing ahead with, on an average, 42 new stamps each year in UK, and 55 new stamps each year in France. So where does a collector begin ?

ii) New Issues: (I understand that this a vexed question in UK stamp circles: it is here, too) Collectors have been happy to keep up to date with new issues. A certain malaise began to creep in from the mid 1990's, when collecting one of each of the new mint stamps started to become expensive. The French Post Office therefore multiplied the modes of selling its wares, by introducing Presentation packs, Commemorative packs, Souvenir packs, Theme booklets of 12 stamps each, First Day Covers.... And the latest 'wheeze' is to sell each new issue by the sheet or half sheet, per stamp in the series. (NB: No reduction for bulk purchases)

For November and December 2014, La Poste plans to print eighteen new stamps of different face values, (in singles and multiple booklets) with print runs ranging from 400,000 to more than 4 million each. If I were a Company Treasurer with this income flow, I would be smiling all the way to 'La Banque'. It is a sad fact that only a percentage of these stamps will be used commercially; the majority of them being 'collected' in some form or other. And I fear that 'La Poste' is poisoning the collectors' pool, and inadvertently getting the collector to look back to earlier years for less expensive items.

iii) What are the 'earlier years' ? I would say that they began on 1st January 1849 (the day that 'Cérès' stamps were first issued in France) and they lasted until 1970. For over 120 years, stamps were issued to be used commercially i.e. they were affixed to envelopes containing mail, and sent through the post. Many a collector started his hobby in these years: in fact, I remember the Manager's secretary in the office snipping the stamps off the day's mail, and saving them for her nephew) But from 1970, the commercial use of postage stamps began to die out, following the introduction of franking machines into offices, banks, businesses, Insurance companies, clubs, and all echelons of the French administration. (And nowadays in yet another cost-saving venture, companies tend to bundle up all their outgoing mail, and send it to the out-of-town sorting office, for bulk franking at reduced "En Nombre" rates. It makes economic sense to save 3 or 4 centimes per envelope, on a batch of say 500 envelopes)

iv) Working back through the 'earlier years' pre-1970, we can pin-point 1934 as the start of a rich and colourful period for collectors, especially those who are attracted to 'Thematics'. In fact, I think that France showed the way for this aspect of collecting. We have, from 1934 onwards:

- Portraits of famous Frenchmen
- Famous sites and monuments
- Coats of Arms and Heraldry
- National Achievements
- Anniversary commemoratives
- Famous paintings (from 1960 onwards)



v) Another approach is to specialise in the stamps of a given historical period. In France, there have been seven distinct régimes, while the UK has known only one system of Parliamentary democracy and one Royal Family since 1837. France has - over the years - lived under:

- Up to 1852 The Second Republic
- 1853 - 1870 The French Empire
- 1871 - 1940 The Third Republic
- 1940 - 1944 The French State, ruled from Vichy
- 1944 - 1945 The Provisional Government
- 1945 - 1958 The Fourth Republic
- 1958 to date The Fifth Republic



Each of these periods provides scope for the specialist collector, according to his tastes and interests.

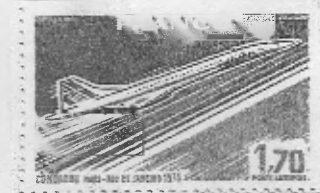
vi) Still working back through the 'earlier years' many collectors are attracted to the stamps of the late 19th century/early 20th Century, for their types and designs.

There are 'types', (such as 'Cérès', 'Louis-Philippe', 'Sage', 'Semeuse', 'Paix', 'Iris', and at least six versions of 'Marianne') just as there are designers.... Mouchon, Blanc and Merson. All these words are as evocative to the French collector as 'Wyon Head', Dulac and Wilding to his UK counterpart.

vii) The 'classic' period of French Philately covers the years 1849 to 1870. The number of stamps issued was small, and they were, in the main, imperforate. The design was firstly that of 'Ceres' the goddess of Fertility, her head portrayed in left profile; then later, Louis-Napoléon in the same pose. Varieties of engraving and printing are keenly collected (the 'tête-bêche' misprint dates from this period), and nuances of colour take up several pages in the specialist catalogues. This period is a rich mine of instruction and enjoyment to the collector of classic material.

viii) Another much explored area is that of the General Colonial Issue, in the 19th Century. As there were upwards of 68 Colonial territories using the same issue, there are hundreds of varieties of overprints, surcharges and value changes.

ix) Just as UK enthusiasts collect GB Colonials, so the French will collect the issues of the individual French colonies. And from 1960 onwards, when the colonies - especially in West Africa - were granted their independence, there opened up a rich source of new stamps printed in French (always a 'plus' for the young collector over here).



x) For enthusiasts of commercially used mail, we must not forget the pleasure of a clear struck CDS on an envelope. I have seen a collection of 125 stamped covers, each one bearing a fine CDS from each of the Post Offices existing in the 'Département de Vaucluse'. i.e. the 'county' where I live. Country-wide, scope is enormous for this type of specialised compilation, when you consider that France has upwards of 36,000 villages and towns with Post Offices.

(But, even so, there is a sombre caveat here: 'La Poste' is phasing out the use of the CDS on ordinary mail. Post Office counter staff can now only use the branch CDS on Registered mail.. All ordinary mail is henceforward packed off to the local sorting office, where a machine stamp sees it on its way)

xi) To close this summary on 'Collecting in France', I should add a final word about collecting 'Postal History', which is attracting increasing numbers of enthusiasts to collecting pre-stamp and stamped covers. An infinite number of avenues open up for personal exploration. For example, it is fascinating to decipher and read through the text of an 18th Century letter sent to a local 'notaire' about a boundary dispute with the adjoining landowner... And it is a pleasure to view a 'Cérès' 20 centimes Black (Yvert n° 3) on cover with a clear-struck CDS from January 1849. (This is an equivalent to a May 1840 Penny Black on cover)

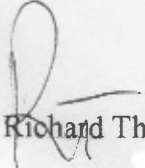


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So, there you have it. France offers more stamps to collect (4000 at end-2014), post-marks by the tens of thousand, and Postal History in abundance.

Why don't you have a try ?


Richard Thompson



RT/achevé de rédiger
8 novembre 2014

Editor's Note: Thank you Richard, it seems that we encounter the same sort of problems with the Royal Mail as collectors in France do with La Poste, but it is interesting to learn that it might still be possible to obtain good clear hand cancels on French mail sent 'registered', rather than have Regional Office machine cancels on mail sent by ordinary post. PJOK

XX

LONDON 2015 "EUROPHILEX" runs from 13th May until 16th May inc but remember if you go along on the FIRST day it will cost you £10 entrance fee, on all the other days entrance is FREE ! I may be wrong, but I understand that many U.K dealers think the stand fees are too high - maybe we will have more none UK dealers, but their asking prices might be higher - but if it's that special item you cannot find elsewhere, you might feel that you have to have it. PJOK

THE LURE OF THE STAMP.

By the President of the Bromley and District Philatelic Society.

"Do you collect stamps?" "No, but my boy does."

How often I have heard this reply, and I have often felt tempted to retort that the child is father of the man; and if the boy is engaged in the pursuit of philately he is probably developing qualities which will stand him in well in his riper years.

Take away the glamour with which the stamp is invested by its devotees and what remains? A sorry little scrap of paper. My object is to analyse various aspects of stamp craft and to justify, if possible, indulgence in a vice which, if allowed to get out of hand, would be harmful and wicked.

Children write letters: letter-writing is not childish, but to write letters as a child does would be childish. To collect stamps as a child collects is childish, and many adults who take up stamp collecting in their middle age commence collecting in a childish and aimless fashion. The philatelically ignorant parent will buy his offspring an album and a packet and tell him to go ahead. This the child does without the aid of a catalogue and, especially nowadays, soon becomes discouraged. He gets hold of perhaps a Turkish stamp, and his father cannot tell him, since there is no Latin script upon it, what country or period it belongs to. Then, perhaps, he catches sight of an adult's collection and decides that stamp collecting is beyond his intelligence, and so a collector is lost. He is lost, for the simple reason that his parent has only his own childish knowledge of stamps. Sometimes in helping his child the parent gets bitten with the craze himself, and there is rejoicing amongst the imps of Hell.

A Fascinating Hobby.

It is curious how the fascination grows upon one. You men who drink glass after glass of toddy and smoke 40 cigarettes a day, did you enjoy your first whisky or your first cigarette? And now you would hate to be without them, wouldn't you?

Stamps are thought to teach geography: that is about the only thing they do not do. A knowledge of geography is hardly even useful to the collector. He can know and learn from them political history, foreign exchange, foreign commercial expressions, zoology, botany, heraldry, commercial geography (products), ethnology, mythology, etc., etc., but most of all he will learn printing and stationery. A stamp has usually seven features: colour, process, design and inscription, watermark, perforation, paper, gum, and all these features may have to be studied in turn or in conjunction. Every new supply of paper, ink, or plates will cause a "difference," and the specialist, who is usually a disillusioned general-collector, concerns himself with the minute differences arising from these causes. What the stationers must think of the flutter their idiosyncrasies cause in philatelic dove-cotes is a matter of imagination: one

BROMLEY MERCURY

8th APRIL 1932

I know of was highly incensed, whilst others have been known to make mistakes on purpose. There have been instances where printers have sold their waste as curios at high prices.

The collecting habit seizes its victim early: it is like measles, but you can have it twice, and it is often worse the second time. The child collects toys, then books, birds' eggs, and so on; it is human nature to reach out for the thing which is just beyond grasp. The mountaineer always has another peak to climb. No one has climbed Everest and returned to tell the story. Beyond this life is eternity, and, the immediate objective attained, there is always another just round the bend.

Effect on Character.

What qualities does stamp collecting develop? Grasp of detail, an eye for colour, appreciation of beauty in design, patience, discrimination, selectivity, acumen, neatness, to name only a few. On the bad side, envy, possibly larceny, falsehood, deception, avarice, profligacy. Well is the character tested, but the man who cannot control his baser passions is soon marked and outed. Indeed, self-control is one of the principal qualities necessary to and developed by stamp-collecting. There is nothing wicked in buying or selling aspirin, yet aspirin can kill. In the same way stamp-collecting can ruin a man, has ruined many a character, may be. It is, therefore, too strong meat for a weak digestion or a weak intellect and the most charitable plea for the non-collector is this.

There will always be dilettante men who scratch the surface, but refuse to dig down, and they go their way saying, "There is nothing in it." Fortunes have been made by men who dug holes and lost by those who had walked over the spot countless times without knowing there was anything valuable there.

The other day I was looking through the collection of a specialist who had been collecting one country for 30 years. Catching sight of one stamp in a block of four I said, "Hullo! You have the rarity." "What do you mean?" says he. (It was a Sudan camel stamp.) I said, "The flaw round the camel's head." "Well," he replied, "I never knew it." I sent the other day to another famous specialist in my own country, Egypt, a rare variety from my collection. He replied that it was new to him. I doubt very much whether any but he and I know of it, and it is the only instance in philately of an inverted perforation because this is the only stamp in philately which has two different perforations on the same side at the same time, the 50 piastres Egyptian birthday stamp of 1926, fourth row on panel. It may be one of ten only, in which case it is the rarest Egyptian stamp.

So much for the Bromley Philatelic Society and its main object, "Amusement with Instruction," and so much more for that little bit of official stationery—H.M. the Stamp.

G.S.T.

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January 2015

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KENT POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

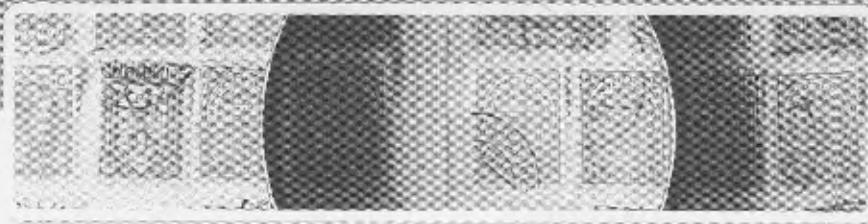
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2015 PROGRAMME LISTING FOR CLUB MEETINGS

Some clubs arrange their programmes from September through to May, others arrange it on an annual basis, perhaps omitting July or August. Michael Dobbs the Kent Federation Communications Officer likes to have your details (and any amendments) in good time, so that he can keep an up to date listing - so your clubs Programme Secretary is requested to contact him as appropriate please. Either by telephone on 0208 - 402 - 5409 or by e-mail on michaeldobbs@ntlworld.com Having an up to date list can assist all club Programme Secretaries, and they can see when someone they might wish to contact is likely to be already 'booked'. It is also useful to enquire of another club secretary whether they might recommend certain speakers. The meetings in April were listed in the February issue of the Bulletin, the remainder of this year are shown here, and on the next page. If your Society is not listed, speak to your Secretary, and ask him or her to let Mike Dobbs know.

May 2015

Fri 1	Bexley	Competitions & Displays	Members
Tue 5	Lewisham	AGM	-
Wed 6	Dartford	AGM	-
Wed 6	Deal	Dover entertains	-
Wed 6	Isle of Thanet	President's Evening	-
Wed 6	Sevenoaks	Airmails: Interrupted Mail	Paul Cahill
Thur 7	Eltham-Woolwich	AGM	Members
Thur 7	Maidstone	Competitions & Bourse	Members
Thur 7	Tunbridge Wells	World Railways	Richard Hart
Fri 8	Gravesend	Me and My Collection	Steve Alpe
Fri 8	Herne Bay	Club Auction	Members
Mon 11	Cinque Ports	Visit from Hastings PS	-
Mon 11	Dover	An evening with	Maurice Flack
Mon 11	Medway Towns	Members Night	Members
Tue 12	Malling	Members' Displays	Members
Tue 12	Sidcup	Summer Auction	-
Wed 13	Bromley & Beck	Visit by Medway Towns	-
Wed 13	Orpington	AGM & Members auction	Members
Wed 13	Romney Marsh	Flying down to Rio	Ian Nutley
Thur 14	Maidstone	(AM) Australia	E Warden
Fri 15	Bexley	Canada - George V	Mel Doyle
Fri 15	Swale	AGM, Competitions & Displays	Members

(continued on next page)

It seems that Lewisham have their AGM in May and then close for three months, Deal, Dover, Edenbridge, Gravesend, Maidstone and Orpington do not meet during July and August, Sevenoaks and Royal Tunbridge Wells do not meet in July, but Tunbridge Wells resume in August, and Sevenoaks and all the others re-open again in September. The Kent Postal History Group have meetings in different venues on differing dates during the year, usually in January, March, June, October and November.

New Issues which you may have missed include the Alice in Wonderland set (January 6th) Inventive Britain set (February 19th) Bridges set (March 5th) the Comedy Greats set (April 1st) Sorry, there is insufficient space to illustrate these.

Interested in military / wartime / censored mails ?

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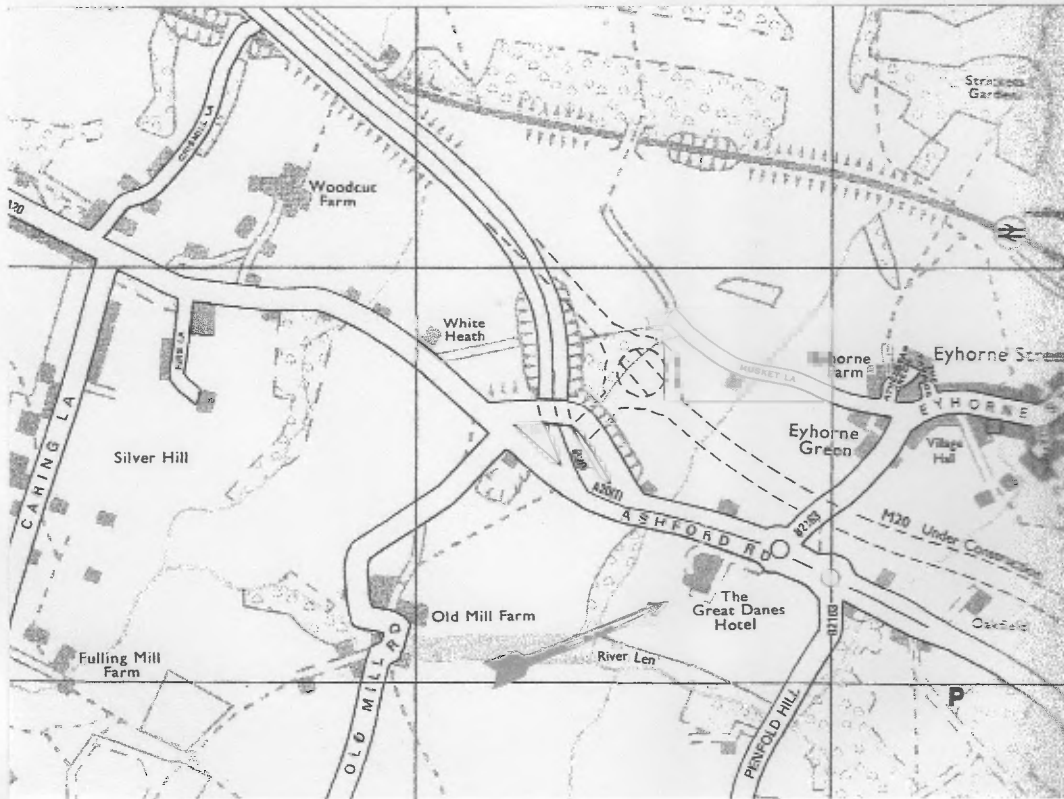
Further details contact: **Martin Hopkinson**
Trewinney Barton, Mevagissey, ST AUSTELL,
Cornwall PL26 6TD

Date	Location	Event	Organizer
Mon 18	Cinque Ports	AGM & 1 page competition	Members
Mon 18	Dartford	Fiji	Ted Needham
Wed 20	Isle of Thanet	AGM	-
Thur 21	Edenbridge	Something Beginning with G or H	Members
Thur 21	Maldstone	Cayman Islands	G Booth FRPSL
Fri 22	Herne Bay	Postcards	Members
Tue 26	Sidcup	Visit from Lewisham PS	-
Wed 27	Bromley & Beck	President's Comp. & AGM	Members
Wed 27	Romney Marsh	AGM	-
Thur 28	Tunbridge Wells	(AM) The GB 2d Blue	Tony Davis
June 2015			
Mon 1	Cinque Ports	Visit from R. Tunbridge Wells PS	-
Mon 1	Dover	AGM & Bourse	Members
Mon 1	Medway Towns	1936 Olympic Games	A J Bosworth FRPSL
Wed 3	Dartford	Australia	Keith Prime
Wed 3	Deal	AGM & President's Shield Comp	Members
Wed 3	Sevenoaks	AGM & Auction	Members
Thur 4	Maldstone	AGM Cheese & Wine	Members
Fri 5	Bexley	AGM & Displays	Members
Fri 5	Herne Bay	AGM	Members
Sat 6	Kent PHG	Squared Circle, Maritime prints	Ringwood Vill. Hall
Tue 9	Malling	History of Royal Navy to WW2	Cliff Ayers
Wed 10	Bromley & Beck	The Atlantic Ocean	Members
Wed 10	Orpington	Russia Pt 2 - 1938 onwards	Cliff Hurst
Wed 10	Romney Marsh	Postcard evening	Members
Thur 11	Eltham-Woolwich	To be arranged	-
Thur 11	Maldstone	Annual Dinner	Members & Guests
Thur 11	Tunbridge Wells	Leith/Edinburgh PH / WW1 Naval PH	Robin Morton & Lynton Wright
Fri 12	Gravesend	Summer Auction	-
Mon 15	Dartford	Competition Night & Bourse	Members
Thur 18	Edenbridge	AGM & Open Evening	Members
Thur 25	Tunbridge Wells	(AM) Croatia	Tony Bosworth
July 2015			
Wed 1	Dartford	Auction	-
Wed 1	Sevenoaks	President's Evening	-
Fri 3	Bexley	Auction	Members
Fri 3	Herne Bay	Summer Bourse	Members
Mon 6	Cinque Ports	Summer Auction	Members
Mon 6	Medway Towns	AGM & Competition / Displays	Members
Wed 8	Bromley & Beck	Postcards	Members
Wed 8	Romney Marsh	Letter 'L'	Members
Thur 9	Eltham-Woolwich	Summer Auction	Members
Mon 13	Dartford	GB Postal History	John Lee
Tue 14	Malling	President's Night	-
Fri 17	Bexley	Mexico	Ray Barton

Date	Location	Event	Organizer
August 2015			
Wed 5	Romney Marsh	5 sheets or 50p	Members
Thur 6	Eltham-Woolwich	From my collection	Members
Fri 7	Herne Bay	Club Auction	Members
Tue 11	Malling	Stuart Henderson Entertains	Stuart Henderson
Wed 12	Bromley & Beck	Great Moments in History	Members
Thur 13	Tunbridge Wells	French Commem. to 1950	David Targett
Sat 22	Malling	Annual Dinner	Members & Guests
Thur 27	Tunbridge Wells	(AM) A morning with	Peter O'Keeffe
September 2015			
Tue 8	Malling	French Airmails to S. America	Ian Nutley
Tue 8	Sidcup	Aspects of NATO	Michael Dobbs
Wed 9	Romney Marsh	Start of New Season	-
Thur 10	Tunbridge Wells	Hospital Ships	Peter High
Tue 22	Sidcup	Postcards	Members
Thur 24	Tunbridge Wells	(AM) 2 Sheets or 50p I	Members
Thur 24	Swale	Stamps and Postcards	Members
October 2015			
Sat 3	Kent PHG	Parcel & Skeleton pmks	Sevenoaks
Mon 5	Cinque Ports	Visit FROM Isle of Thanet PS	-
Thur 8	Swale	To be arranged	-
Thur 8	Tunbridge Wells	President's Evening	Maurice Lovell
Tue 13	Malling	AGM & Displays	Members
Tue 13	Sidcup	Autumn Auction	-
Thur 22	Swale	An evening with	Ian Marshall
Thur 22	Tunbridge Wells	(AM) Mchins	Robin Tapper
Tue 27	Sidcup	To be arranged	-
November 2015			
Tue 10	Malling	Eddie Shilling Entertains	Eddie Shilling
Tue 10	Sidcup	Monty Sims Memorial Evening	Members
Thur 12	Swale	To be arranged	-
Thur 12	Tunbridge Wells	AGM & Annual Competitions	Members
Tue 24	Sidcup	Newfoundland	Cliff Hurst
Thur 26	Swale	An evening with	Harry Ward
Thur 26	Tunbridge Wells	(AM) Newfoundland	Brian Stalker
Sat 28	Kent PHG	Annual Auction	Hollinbourne
December 2015			
Tue 8	Malling	Christmas Auction	-
Tue 8	Sidcup	Christmas Social	Members
Thur 10	Swale	Competitions-Christmas Fare	Members
Thur 10	Tunbridge Wells	Czechoslovakia	Colin Smith

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

THE KENT FEDERATION OF PHILATELIC SOCIETIES
 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ARE HOSTING THE FEDERATION
 DAY (INCORPORATING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING) ON
 SUNDAY, 12th JULY 2015 AT THE GREAT DANES HOTEL, (Part of
 the MERCURE GROUP) Sat Nav: ME17 1RE from 10am to 4pm



This sketch map is from an old set of maps, but it clearly shows where the Great Danes Hotel is situated - hope you can find it!

FREE ADMISSION.

FREE CAR PARKING

TOMBOLA

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PHILATELY

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