

SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (3)

Medway Towns Philatelic Society May was our main competition night when the "Challenge Cup" was won by Michael Thompson with his entry "Cape of Good Hope". The Thematic Trophy was won by Rosemary Dellar, with "Not for Vegetarians" Mike then gave two short displays, one featuring the "Fourth G.B. Philatelic Congress", and the other "The Talylyn Railway" All present then took part in a "Try Your Hand" contest (as mentioned earlier in the Society News Round Up) - this was won by Richard Barnard.



Then in June, Richard Hart's display of Jamaica emphasized his two main interests - the content of early letters from the island, and the cancels on later covers. Our A.G.M. took place in July, when the Officers elected were Richard Barnard (President), Gary Marcham (Vice President), Mrs Elke Shilling (Secretary), Eddie Shilling (Treasurer), Bob Higgins (Packet Sec. and Librarian). The "One Sheet" competition attracted eight entries, and the winner was Eddie Shilling. Additionally, we had several members displays, including Rolvenden, Nineties Netherlands, Exhibition Covers, and Hong Kong and the Seychelles.

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Maidstone and Mid-Kent Philatelic Society We have a full programme of day time meetings in addition to the evening meetings arranged for the coming season. The day meetings are held at Mote Park Indoor Bowls Club, which is in Willow Way, Maidstone, ME15 7RN commencing at 10.30 am usually on the first Thursday of the month but please check beforehand. Visitors are welcome to attend. Meetings held so far have been well attended and numbers continue to increase. Our AGM. was held in June with



Laurie Gatley elected as our Competition Secretary, and all the other Officers and committee members remaining the same. Tony Bosworth was awarded the Derek Beak Service Trophy in recognition of his 10 years service as our Programme Secretary.

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Gravesend Stamp Club Our May meeting was a display of Switzerland, by Frank Parsons. This is a country that is not often displayed and Frank gave an interesting and informative display of his working collection. In June we held an auction with a good variety of lots on offer, and nearly everyone went home with something to add to their collection. We decided to cancel the scheduled July meeting, which was to have been held at a members home, as several members were going on holiday.



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North West Kent Postcard Club The meetings for the rest of this year are as follows:-

- 24 September Third Reich Art, by Steve Clark
 - 22 October Reykjavik by Tony Davis.
 - 26 November Munich & Bavarian Exhibitions, by Tony Neale
 - 14 December Joint Social with Gravesend & Dist. Stamp Club
- Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. We meet at The United Reformed Church Hall, junction of Singlewell Rd



and Kings Drive, Gravesend, 7.45 for 8pm. (Where Gravesend S/C meet)

Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society In February this year, the Society held a somewhat different type of meeting – a financial presentation about investments, inheritance tax planning and will writing. This was presented by three experts from the St.James Place Wealth Management firm and hopefully offered advice for any members with a pound or two to spare. In March, Ian Crane was our guest, with his display entitled “An Evening of British Rubbish” - this was anything but, in fact there were many G.B. £1 stamps, essays, colour trials, specimens, proofs and even forgeries, plus Some cinderella items. There were also some complete sheets, including QEII “Machin” blocks, and more recent G.B material. Later in March, Frank Simpson showed “The Kingdom of Hanover”, from 1714 to 1837 in the first half, and from 1850 to 1865 in the second half. One of our Past Presidents, Bob Larg visited us in April, giving four shows, Australian Officials, British East Africa, India, and New Zealand. He included, stamps, covers, postal stationery, overprints, air-mails, registered mails, adverts on stamps, chalon heads and many more items. One spectacular item was of revenue stamps with a face value of £55,002 plus one of £9,040 and one of £300 odd, making a total charge of £64,350-10-9d (on piece). In May, John Baron, Chairman of the A.B.P.S. Executive Committee gave us his display “The Lottery”, which believe it or not, was first introduced in England in 1566. He also told us about similar lottery’s in other countries. Later we had a Power point display by John Tingey “The Man Who Posted Himself” and other curious objects. A wonderful display which kept members enthralled. At our AGM in May, George Whitehorn was installed as President for the year 2012-2013, and his position as Hon.Treasurer, has been taken over for the duration by Chris Sands, who also remains as Membership Secretary. Ron Burn was elected as President Elect (to serve as President 2013-2014). Bill Stenlake was formally confirmed as Packet Secretary, (having taken over following the death of Olive Davis.). Our Summer meetings are always, “Members Evenings” – and this year the topics are “Covers with Cachets”, “Recess Printed Stamps”, and “Postcards”. On July 7th we again had a table at the Azelia Hall Stamp Fair, selling a quantity of books from the remains of the Croydon P.S. library. From the 3rd to the 17th October, we are putting on a display in the entrance foyer of the Bromley Central Library to promote Stamp Collecting and this Society, and, of course, the Stamp Fair and Federation Rally which we are hosting at Langley Park Boys School on the 20th October – there are 19 dealers booked, and we also hope to sell off the remainder of the Croydon PS library books. Our first club meeting of the new season is on September 12th, when Tony Bosworth will display his collection of the 1936 Berlin Olympics – it’s a little different to London 2012 !



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SERENDIPITY - A Post Script ! Further to Ian Nutley’s article on a Previous page, you may be interested to know that it was in the first half of 1943 that a French Resistance group produced the forgeries, based on the then current Fr.1.50 Petain postage stamp. They chose a design featuring a likeness of General De Gaulle, then leader of the Free French, based in the U.K. The forgeries first appeared in the Southern Department of Alpes-Maritime. They were crudely printed in January 1943 by Robert Thivin, who was later tortured to death by the Gestapo on the 3rd February. The forgeries are known used from at least nine towns, and must be considered extremely rare on cover. Ian was extremely lucky to find one !

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SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (5)

Cinque Ports Philatelic Society On the 16th April, the Society held a Quiz Night, and although the attendance was slightly lower than usual, everyone who participated had a very enjoyable evening, especially the visiting team, from Dover Stamp Club, who were the overall winners.

Peter O'Keeffe was our visitor on April 30th with a very interesting display of "The Rhodesia's 1891- 1991", which covered the numerous changes of name for that territory over the Century.

At our 'Aviation' evening on the 14th May, member Paul Cahill showed a very comprehensive and colourful array of French Colonial airmail stamps and covers. Our A.G.M. was held on the May 28th, when Mary Cockburn was elected as our President, and Paul Cahill became Chairman,. Roger Dickinson is now Vice-Chairman, and Barry Knight took over as our Hon. Secretary from Chrissie Baker. On the same night, the 'Jim Scannell' single page competition was won by Mary Cockburn. The Society welcomed Tony Bosworth on the 11th June, and enjoyed his superb '1936 Berlin Olympic Games' collection. Next was our auction night, on June 25th, with over 100 lots on offer. Later Barry Knight gave his display entitled "On The Rails – Looking For Mice" – a railway based theme of paintings by Terence Cuneo, who included a mouse in all his Railway paintings. On the 6th of August, Maurice Flack, as Kent President is to entertain us with one of his displays, and on the 20th August, Alan Rye will give a display.



Royal Tunbridge Wells Philatelic Society In June, member Bill Hedley showed us his fine collection of early Hungarian postal history and stamps, then in July, Michael Farrant gave a display a display of Zanzibar – an area which none of those attending could remember having seen before. This was followed on the 9th of August with a visit by four members of the Maidstone & Mid-Kent Society, with a very interesting selection of offerings.

Our morning meetings at The Spread Eagle Pub continue to prove popular with a regular group of members attending and some very good speakers. On the 21st we had a for taste of the Olympics when Tony Bosworth showed us his collection of the 1936 Berlin games, a fascinating display, with an interesting tale to tell. Next we had another visit by Gilbert Denton, this time showing 'Ulster', again a very interesting part of the British Isles. On August 16th, Nigel Chandler showed us 'Imperial Russia', yet again a period we had not seen before. Our forthcoming meetings (evening) include a visit by the Swale Society, our President's Evening, the A.G.M. and competitions evening, and to end the year, we have an auction and if time permits, a philatelic quiz. The next four morning meetings include topics such as 'Disaster Mail by John Lea, 'South Africa' by Roy Ferguson, 'Grenada' by Tim Pearce, but the 'Twentieth Century Global Adventure' by our own member John Barker has again had to be postponed due to his hip problem. Instead, all members have been asked to display one frame (up to 12 sheets) of 'Their Choice' Our programme year runs from January to December, and our first evening meeting of the New Year is provisionally a visit by a member of the B.T.A. on January 10th, and member Henry Hupfield shows us part two of his Egyptian collection on the morning of January 17th at the Spread Eagle.

SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (6)

Swale Philatelic and Postcard Society Firstly, some older news, The Society celebrated its 75th anniversary with a Luncheon at the Dover Castle Inn at Teynham on the 14th October last, but shortly after reported that longstanding member David Pope died on the 25th of October. He had joined the Society back in 1937. David had been unable to attend meetings over recent years, but was a keen supporter of the Exchange Packet.



He was a survivor, being rescued from Dunkirk in 1940. In December, the Stamp Competitions, resulted in The Postal history Tray being won by Bob Turcan and The Hales Cup, by Eddy Scott. Eddie's entry (German) was entered in the Kent Federation 'Grant Cup' in March and was placed fourth. More news to bring us up to date, on April 19th our guest speaker was Kent President, Maurice Flack who showed a variety of stamps from Cyprus, Botswana, Mauritius and Hong Kong. Maurice has many friends who lived or visited various countries and bought stamps for him. He mentioned that the people of Hong Kong preferred not to collect used stamps, and he knew of one chap who purchased 300 miniature sheets all of the same issue ! (an investment ?) It was our A.G.M. and competition evening on May 24th All the Society's Officers were re-elected, as was the Committee, with the exception of Alan Blackley who did not wish to stand again. The competitions were well supported with many entries, The Postcard Cup was won by Vicky Harris and the Members Cup, by Edwin Jarvis. Then followed several displays by members of the various items that they collect – there was a surprise when our Packet Secretary Deryk Kitney showed church paintings which he had himself painted. In all a very enjoyable evening, After our Summer break, we have 'an away' visit to Tunbridge Wells on the 13th September, and resume our 'home' meetings on the 20th September when the Committee will entertain us.



Malling Stamp Club For our May meeting, we had a display By Cliff Gregory entitled "India - Underpaid Mail to the U.K." This was a most interesting, informative and unusual display containing excellent material. Cliff has undertaken extensive research of his subject and his knowledge is impressive. Our June meeting was 'Lighthouses' presented by Ted Borley. A lighthearted and interesting display on a theme not displayed at Malling S.C. before. It was President's Night in July with Tony Bosworth, whose subject, not surprisingly was the 1936 Olympics. As anticipated, Tony gave a lively and informative

display containing some very scarce material. We were pleased with the attendance at the mini stamp fair in July. The main object is to raise awareness of the club locally and we seem to be achieving that aim. We have gained at least one new member at nearly every fair, with several potential members showing an interest, including a junior ! The next mini fair is on Saturday, 27th October at The Clout Memorial Institute in the High Street, West Malling from 10.30am to 3.30pm, with free car park opposite.



Time stands still ! A friend had been waiting downstairs for his wife "Are you ready yet" he enquired of her, "I've been telling you for half an hour", shouted his wife, "I'll be ready in a minute".



SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (7)

Sevenoaks & District Philatelic Society For 'Presidents Night' on May 2nd, Peter O'Keeffe showed a selection of "Official Mail" items used in Britain from 1867 through to 1980, including items from the Royal Household and all variety of Government Departments. The second half was of the Stamps of Malawi from 1964 to 2004, a short period of 40 years but there were plenty of stamps issued. The A.G.M. was held on 6th June followed by a small auction. All the Officers and Committee continuing for at least another year. Then on the 4th July, Michael Farrant was our guest, giving his display of "German East Africa, 1914 to 1917", a most interesting period of WWI telling part of the story of the war in Africa. This being the Society's 70th Anniversary we held a celebratory dinner on the 1st August at the Sevenoaks Community Centre with 34 members and friends enjoying a very nice meal. A special cake was commissioned for the celebration depicting several stamps of G.B. (all of which were eatable) and a photo of it is shown elsewhere in the Bulletin. Mrs Mary Russell, widow of Past President John Russell was our special guest. Our first meeting of the new season is on September 5th when members are asked to bring along competition entries for 8 pages or 4 pages connected with the letters R - S- or T. There will also be a 1 page competition, for those too busy to make it 8 or 4 pages. On the 3rd October, Mrs. Christine Earle is our speaker, with her award winning display "The Post Office Went To War". Then on November 7th, several members are showing their Aerophilately collections. On December 5th, we have our main auction, and we are looking forward to our 25th Annual "Cheese & Wine Supper" on January 4th.



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Kent Postal History Group We enjoyed another successful meeting on the 16th June, this time a first visit to the Ringwould Community Centre, when the day's topic was 'The Posts of Sandwich, Deal, Walmer and Dover'. A good turnout, boosted by some members of the Dover Society, with several very interesting items were on display. Our next meeting is on September 29th, when we are at the Red Cross Hall, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks when the topic is to be "Sevenoaks and Villages," plus new



Acquisitions. To end the year, we again visit Leeds Village Hall, in Kent, (not Yorkshire), for our Auction. Closing date for advising Michael Thompson of any lots you wish to submit will be September 29th, so that a listing can be prepared in good time. The January meeting, will again be at Hurst Green with 'Brighton' as the topic, plus as usual, your new acquisitions. The AGM will be at Challock in March, with a June meeting, probably in Sevenoaks. More details later, or contact John Weston or Michael Thompson.

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NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY - CUT-OFF DATE FOR NEXT BULLETIN IS
15th January 2013

EDITOR'S NOTE If YOUR CLUB does not get a mention, it's because your Hon. Secretary has not managed to coerce you or another member of your club to take on the job of Press Correspondent! It's not a difficult task and it only takes a few minutes, THREE times a year!

Isle of Thanet Philatelic Society We continue to jog along, with an average attendance of fourteen. Our 'Open' Evening way back in September 2011 was devoted to King Edward VII world wide and revealed a host of material rarely seen. Visits from the Swale and Herne Bay clubs were very welcome and our visit to Ashford was much appreciated. The letters, M,N,O and P again showed some ingenuity, with 10 members showing some seven hundred pages. Our Christmas Buffet was also most enjoyable, and we are now looking forward to the New Session, the 2012/2013 season, hoping to see many more excellent displays by our members and invited guests. On September 19th, we have displays of "The Era of King George VI". On October 1st, we visit the Cinque Ports, then two days later it's Letters Q and R. Michael Thompson is our guest on October 17th, showing "Bits & Pieces", and on November 7th, we have a visit by the Dover Club. Our guests on the 21st November are Ken Austen and David Luckhurst, and it's Christmas Time on December 5th. Members are invited to show anything connected with Christmas and to enjoy the buffet.



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Lewisham Philatelic Society On the 7th February, we had an evening devoted to 'New Acquisitions', then on February 21 Barrie Cook displayed "British Post Offices in the Arabian Gulf". March 6th was a display by Geoff Richardson entitled "Austrian Special Postmarks", including several very scarce items. On March 20th, Derek Lincoln represented the Dartford Society, with a variety of displays. It was competitions and a bourse on the 3rd of April, with Maurice Flack and Grahame Boutle as Judges. (this report fails to mention who won!) The



Sidcup Society were our visitors on April 17th, with four very different displays and as is often the case, having something to interest our members. At the A.G.M., Colin Tobitt took over as President from Albert Jackson, and Tony Bosworth succeeded Ron Batterson as Hon.Treasurer. Fifteen members attended our Annual Dinner at the Bromley Court Hotel on the 4th June. The new season kicks off on the 4th September, when new President, Colin Tobitt shows us some of his collection. For our second meeting, on the 18th September, its 'New Acquisition' time again, then Len Bridger, from the Orpington PS. will display French Aviation to us on the 2nd October. We have not been advised what Ian Nutley and Tony Hickey have in store for us on the 16th October, but if it has nothing to do with WWII we will be surprised. Then for something completely different, Greg Newey is to show us "Flying Fish" and a "History of Skiing". On November 6th.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY ?
 Our son was doing his homework: "Dad, Where are the Alps" he asked. "Ask your Mum, she's always putting things away" was the reply.

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SEVENOAKS & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY - 70th ANNIVERSARY

An illustration of the special celebratory cake made for the Society's 70th Anniversary 1942 - 2012, and cut at the Anniversary Dinner on the 1st August

which was held at the Sevenoaks Community Centre

The 'stamps' were eat-able and despite being delicious, there was more than half left for the 'refreshments' at the first meeting of the new season, on September 5th. The inaugural meeting of the Society was held on the 31st July 1942,



COURT IN THE ACT ! Extracts from Newspapers, seen by Dennis Rosser

A round up of convictions across the country. Phil Gerrish, Director of Investigations, says: "The Courts take offences against Royal Mail seriously, and so do we - our policy is to prosecute all cases of theft and fraud, every time. We will also use all available legislation to recover our losses from employees who steal."

■ **Anthony Clifford Brierley**, a postman from Oldham delivery office, targeted cash and stole 831 postal packets and intentionally delayed a further 11,898, together with 21,686 Door to Door postal packets. Brierley pleaded guilty to one charge of theft and one of intentional delay at Oldham Magistrates' Court on 27 February 2012 and was sentenced to 16 months' imprisonment on each charge to run concurrently.

■ **Sean Alexander Stephenson**, a postman from Manchester South West delivery office, who stole postal packets containing DVDs, books and headphones, pleaded guilty at Manchester Minshull Crown Court on 9 March 2012 to one charge of theft of 47 postal packets, one charge of opening three postal packets and one of intentionally delaying 848 postal packets. He received a total sentence of nine months' imprisonment.

■ **Stephen Leslie Walshaw**, an agency driver from Wakefield, and Andrew Wake, unemployed from Barnsley, pleaded guilty to the theft of two mail bags. At Sheffield Crown Court on 8 March 2012, Walshaw received an immediate 12-month prison sentence and Wake received a six-month suspended prison sentence along with 150 hours' community service, and was also ordered to pay Royal Mail £4,000 in compensation.

Final note on the Minutes of the A.G.M. (see earlier)

It was also agreed that, when possible, events should not be arranged for dates which could clash with any other philatelic meetings on the same day, such as a Seminar, when a KPHG meeting was scheduled. It was suggested that Clubs should consider approaching local schools, and hopefully encourage youngsters to join, or at least attend their meetings. Possibly a Seminar at Wainscott might be arranged, with a well known personality (a stamp collector) in attendance !

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Note, this letter was written before full details were made known by Royal Mail.

Sittingbourne.
31st May 2012.



Dear Peter,

After reading your comments in the May Bulletin, I did not mention there would be quite a few individual Gold Medal winners stamps that were going to be issued, the reason was that I was unsure of how they were to be issued. From what I understand, unless I am wrong, they are going to be miniature sheets comprising of six first class stamps, not one stamp for each medal winner. Why they need six stamps for one medal is beyond belief; as Mr Hammond pointed out in his letter to me, Royal Mail was reviewing their programme with a commitment to reduce the number of issues and stamp values, perhaps he had not realised the Olympics would be a great way to rip off collectors !

Royal Mail states if there are 19 medal winners (as in Beijing) the total cost would be £68.40. and they are offering 10% discount to existing customers at Tallent House, if ordered before May 31. But who knows ?, there could be more winners ! By the way if you want both miniature sheets and first day covers, the price is then (at least) £159.60

Regards,

Bryan Clark. (Swale P & P/c Society.)

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Editor's Note: I agree, the R/M did not make it clear in their early announcements how many stamps were likely to be issued (even they might have been surprised by the actual number of winners), and then to issue miniature sheets each having six identical stamps for the same winner(s) is a bit over the top ! It's a "one off" event and it's unlikely to occur again (in the UK) in our life time ! But, if R/M still exists in 2016 or 2020, no doubt if Team G.B. wins any more, they will try to cash in again ! Think, if Team G.B. win more next time, the price could be a lot more !
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THANKS AGAIN to all correspondents for their contributions, also to the Essex, Middlesex and Sussex Federations for copies of their Journals, to Swale, Sidcup, Sevenoaks, and Tunbridge Wells for their Newsletters, and to Michael Thompson for the printing and despatch of this Bulletin.
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YOUR A.G.M. As far as I am aware, only the Medway Towns Society have notified me of a change of Hon.Secretary, Rosemary Dellar stepping down after several years service, with Mrs Elke Shilling taking over: we wish her several 'Happy Years' in the job. (It would be helpful to have her details please, ie postal address, e-mail address and telephone number Also for new Sec. at CPPS.(OK MRT)

Lost in translation ? Many overseas students apply to study English at a local college and one applicant on being told that "the classes were all full", was horrified. "What do you mean ?" asked the student, "they are awful ?"
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Warning seen on the back of a van "Keep your distance, sudden tea breaks"

G.B. NEW ISSUES As no doubt you know, every British Gold Medal Winner (individuals and team events) has been shown on the special miniature sheets of 6 first class stamps (all having the same design, ie one sheet of 6 per winner)- that's £3.60 per sheet, x 29 costing a total of £104.40, for the complete issue. The stamps are self adhesive, and were on sale at main Post Offices by noon, the day after a particular medal was won, and at local offices within a week. As I understand it, prepared sheetlets were already in the hands of (I believe) six different printers, (presumably, spread around the U.K.) and only needed the relevant illustration of the winner(s) and the appropriate wording added, prior to despatch to the main Post Offices. (I wonder if any printing errors will show up in due course ?) I do not think any printers imprints are included, to differentiate the sheets, so presumably, if any were printed in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, there will not be anything to identify them ! The main Post Office in Tonbridge told me that they ran out of the Bradley Wiggins mini-sheet within 2 days ! But again I wonder how many of the General Public would be buying them ? The selvedge shows the venue and the date the medal was won, and the names of the winners, however the winners of the team events are only shown on the selvedge, not on the stamps.



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NEXT, WE HAVE ANOTHER ISSUE OF "POST & GO" STAMPS From



Two of the 6 stamps in the latest set.



28th September, the third issue of British Farm Animals is to be made available (as any stocks of earlier issues are used up) at the main Post Offices that have these machines They feature 6 different breeds, from various parts of the British Isles - some you have probably never heard of ! The stamps are all 1st class values, and are self adhesive, and can be obtained singularly, or as a set. Again, do many people know of these 'stamps' ?

Finally, for good measure, the Post Office decided to try to get more of our cash ! They think the Olympics will not come around again, for some time, so why not make a bob or two from the 1948 Olympics ! They issued a Facsimile Pack (no valid stamps), costing £5.95 on 27th July containing reprints of the 1948 Olympic stamps, plus essays of some of the unaccepted designs. Nice, but you can't use it for postage. It might appeal to some collectors.

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 There are more stamps to come – the Paralympic Games will have a miniature sheet and no doubt more stamps, etc, commencing on 29th August !

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KEEP THE FLAME ALIVE is the title for yet another Olympic issue – this time It's a LONDON 2012 Prestige Stamp Booklet, costing £10.71. (which includes VAT). It has (to quote the P.O.) four unique panes featuring various Olympic sports stamps, (previously issued), together with a potted history, archive photographs and fascinating facts ! Strangely, the British Philatelic Bulletin has not given a date of issue.

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 After all the "New Issues" this year, no wonder there are so few youngsters collecting stamps these days ! The 1948 Olympic set cost less than 2/- (10p)

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 A man was arrested recently for being in possession of a forearm ! (o for an i)

COMPETITION RESULTS - FOLKESTONE - 14th July 2012.

The competition's were held, Judged by Brian Sole and Derek Mauri both from the Surrey Federation - our thanks to them for giving up their Saturday leisure time and for joining us on the day. Thanks also to the entrants for these competitions.

<u>The W.A. PAGE POSTAL HISTORY TROPHY</u>		8 pages,	8 entries
1) CINQUE PORTS	Canadian Domestic Letter Mail 1868/1901		90 points
2) Cinque Ports	British Censored Mail at Bloemfontein during the second Anglo Boer War 1900/1902	83	"
3) Maidstone	New Zealand Routes & Rates	80	"

<u>THE CINDERELLA TROPHY</u>		8 pages	5 entries
1) MALLING	British European Airways – The Air Letter Service - the 1951 First Issues.	76	points
2) Maidstone	Pidgeon Post of New Zealand	72	"
3) Malling	The 4 th Philatelic Congress of G.B. Margate 1912.	70	"

<u>THE SOCIAL PHILATELY COMPETITION</u>			
1) CHRISSIE BAKER (Cinque Ports)	Mariah's London 1887-1901	91	points
2) Michael Thompson (Malling)	The Village of Rolvenden in Kent.	76	"
3) Grahame Boutle (Bromley & Beckenham)	Advertising in the Oil Industry	67	"

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OUR NEXT COMPETITIONS to be held at Beckenham, on 20th October 2012.

Thematic (8 pages) and Aerophilatelic (8 pages), are both for "club" entries, the Postal History (16 pages) is for Individual entries. Do not forget to advise our Competition Secretary, Maurice Flack (phone 01634 – 714584) of your intention to submit an entry, on or before the 6th October. The actual entries are to be in his hands on or before 10.am on the 20th October.
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DO YOU ENTER COMPETITIONS ? How long is it since YOU, or your club entered any of the Federation Competitions, if ever ? Some may have entered their club competitions, and even been winners, but many have never even tried. Is it because your collection has too many gaps ? or you have not written anything up yet ? or that you have insufficient knowledge of your particular speciality ? What are you doing about it ? You have seen displays by visiting speakers at your society, surely you have picked up some ideas as to what is required - and you don't even have to speak in a competition ! The 8 page competitions should be ideal for you to enter - only your club secretary and Maurice will know which is your entry, so you won't be embarrassed. You will enjoy preparing an entry, and if it's only stamps, we have the traditional competition next Spring, which gives you ample time to get an entry ready.
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REPORT FROM DENNIS ROSSER - NORTH WALES CORRESPONDENT.

Recently - June 8th to be precise - I was a guest of Aberconwy PS on an afternoon visit to one of their members who has a private Postal Museum which is housed in three rooms he has built on his property. The Museum contains a remarkable and mouth watering selection of practically all and everything to do with Post Offices and Royal Mail in general, including postboxes, and original Post Office counters and fittings. Another room is fitted out to resemble an old time village shop/Post Office while the third has all manner of letter-scales, FDC's, telegrams and several framed postcards featuring Post Offices and Royal Mail vehicles. We all agreed that it was quite unique and that it would be sometime before we would see its equal. He regularly welcomes parties of up to 15 persons from schools and club organisations and although there is no entrance charge he does appreciate donations which are sent to his local Hospice.

I cannot be more precise because my memory is taking me back to at least 50 plus years to the time when I replied to an overseas advertisement in one of the popular boys magazines - probably the Champion or the Wizard - and which said to include an IRC (International Reply Coupon) for a reply. One couldn't send a SAE because of course British stamps were 'foreign stamps' in whatever country it was I was writing to. For those wondering what an IRC is, it is a coupon that the recipient took to their Post Office whereupon it was exchanged for a postage stamp that was then used to send whatever it was that one had requested. What I am getting around to telling you is that after a period of 86 years Royal Mail withdrew them for sale on 18th February 2012. When first issued on 4th April 1927 they were known as Imperial Reply Coupons - later renamed Commonwealth Reply Coupons and again another name change in 1975 when they became IRC's.

Some of you may have GB printed stamped Postal Stationery - Airletters, Letter Cards and suchlike, and unless you actually collect such things probably just have them put away in a box. Well you may be surprised to know, and providing they are in decimal currency, you could cut the 'stamp' from the stationery and paste it (or more than one 'cut-out') on an envelope and use it for postage. This 'cut-out' facility is another victim of Royal Mail pruning and became invalid on 1st August this year. You can of course continue to use them in their original format.

One of my neighbours is a retired Sorting Office manager and each month passes on to me his copy of 'Courier' - Royal Mails in-house newspaper. It has a column headed 'Court in the Act' - not 'Caught' - and names dishonest employees caught stealing, the depot they worked from and their crime - mostly stolen vouchers and cash from Birthday and Christmas cards and withholding delivery of Mail. Bank cards and Mail Order goods are another 'popular' target. Royal Mail takes a tough stance on these crimes and always takes action against dishonest employees. All featured crimes receive a jail sentence - no slaps on the wrists here.

Shire publications recently published a book entitled Mail Trains by Julian Stray. Even if you do not collect anything to do with Railway philately I am sure you will find it very interesting. It has 64 pages, lots of illustrations and is packed with information on the subject and costs just £6.99. The ISBN reference is 978-0-74781-083-4.

KENT FEDERATION OF PHILATELIC SOCIETIES AUTUMN RALLY

Hosted by THE BROMLEY AND BECKENHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY

at LANGLEY PARK BOYS SCHOOL, BECKENHAM, BR3 3BP
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ADMISSION FREE

10am to 4pm. Refreshments
19 Dealers. Tombola
Help & Advice. Free valuations
K.F.P.S. Council meeting 11am
KFPS Competitions on display

To be opened by
The Mayor of BROMLEY,
Councillor: Michael Turner

Information on 020 8778 7001

Free car parking

Come along, bring a neighbour
and see what proper Stamp
Collecting is all about.

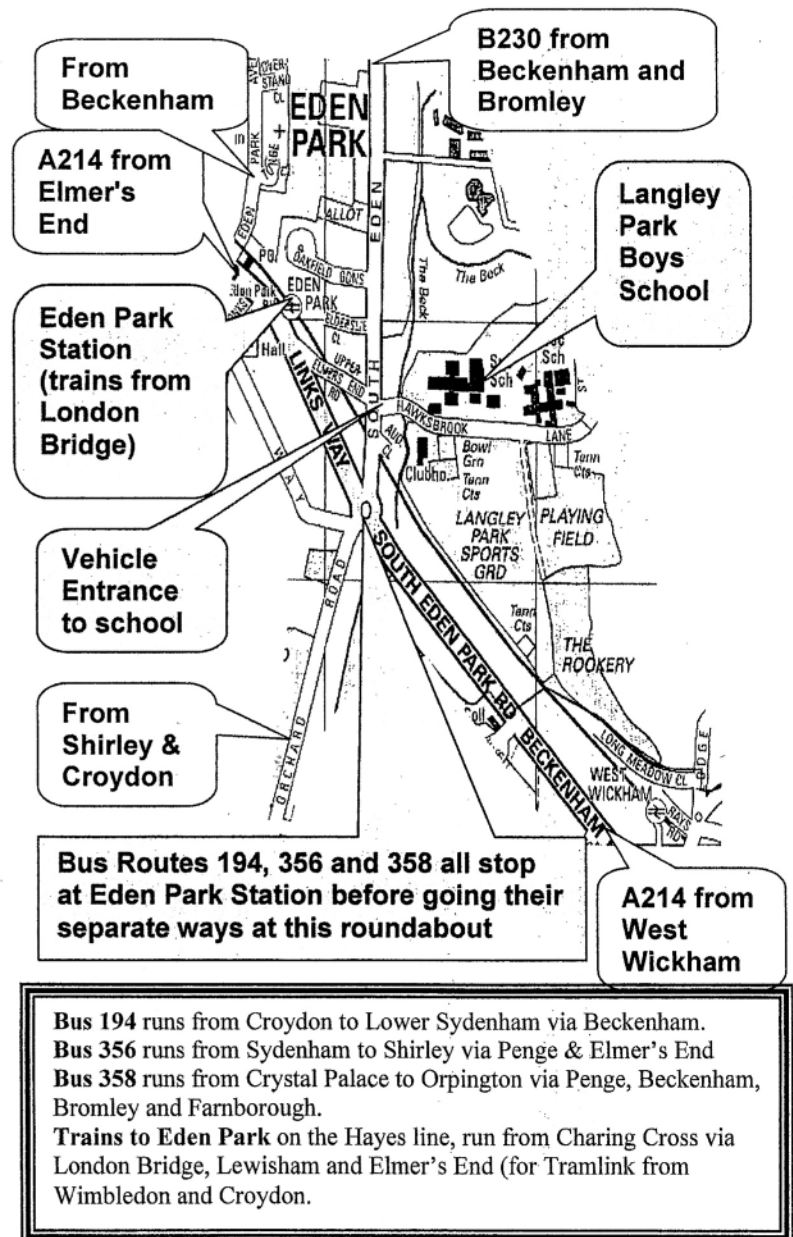
NOT OUT ! Well it's not just
cricket. Whilst at my friends
house watching Tennis, I found
myself more interested in his dog
which every few minutes, got up
and marched to the door. I found
that he was responding to the
frequent calls of "OUT"!

.....
WEARING GLASSES ? I get
my spectacles from my wife's
niece, who is an optician. When
asked recently by a friend, where
I got them, I replied that I had a
niece in "eye places".

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The less important you are in a
Company the more your absence
is noted.

Cheap advertising ! Did you hear about the glazier's shop which put a sign in
it's window "Window Shoppers Welcome !"

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Sat. Nav. Postcode BR3 3BP

To be happy, take a short view
of life - no further than lunch !