

A LIVING STAMP !

The 60p value stamp recently issued in the 'Britain Alone' set showed 3 young children as evacuees during WWII. They were brother and 2 sisters, the Dawson family, and met up again for an up to-date photo to mark this latest stamp. They are John Dawson Barbara Southard, & Rosemary Brett. The Photos appear below were taken at Kings Cross station. some 70 years apart.



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MARK YOUR DIARY !

The KENT POSTAL HISTORY GROUP hold their next POSTAL HISTORY AUCTION on SATURDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2010 at The Red Cross Hall, Bradbourne Vale Road, SEVENOAKS, TN13 3QG

Further details and a list of lots can be obtained from John Weston, on 01732 - 358163

MACHINE

MACHINS

What are referred to as 'Horizon' labels or 'Gold Horizons' bearing an enlarged 'Machin' head of the Queen in gold colour. These are produced mainly for use on larger items, and are replacing the large white labels issued at the counters of many Post Offices. Basically similar to the white self adhesive labels they can be for any value and have code letters to indicate the service being used., such as SD(Special delivery) 1LG, 2LG and 1PK all of which I have seen. This is another type of stamp collectors might want for their collections ! So far they don't have the elliptical hole perf at the sides. They still appear to be self adhesive, but do have perforations all round ! They are intended to replace the white labels as stocks run down, and should be available at most Post Offices soon. PJOK



Did you hear about the new reducing salon in the City ? Its for stocky brokers

SOCIETY NEWS ROUNDUP (1)

DEAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY In the last twelve months the Society has held its 'Centenary' exhibition in September 2009, and this attracted a fair share of interest and gave the hobby a lot of publicity. Also that month, Tony Hayes from Thanet displayed T.P.O.mail (Travelling Post Office) and ships mail postmarks. President Dr J.Pond gave an interesting talk and display of material from pre stamp to the modern era in October. Then we held an auction in November and our competition evening in December, Peter Read won the 'Penny Black' Trophy for postal history, with a fine display of 'Stamp booklets through the ages'. Alan Buckman won the Vlissingen Trophy for his Thematic entry 'The History of Martin Frobisher'. In February this year, the Committee entertained with displays of Flown Covers USA medals on stamps, Battleships, Guernsey stamps, and slides of the latest Machin varieties. We had a visit from Messrs Browne & Clark from the Swale Society in March, showing 'Post Office Mechanisation' and 'Kent on Stamps'. Both were well presented in depth studies of the subjects. In April we held another auction and in May we welcomed members from the Dover Stamp Society who entertained us with some interesting displays. To end the season, the June meeting was the A.G.M. and Presidents Shield Competition. Next season, we revert to having pre-printed lists of the various lots for our Autumn auction, vendors are requested to submit lists of their lots to the club Hon. Secretary by 20th September please.



SEVENOAKS & DISTRICT P.S. At our A.G.M held on 2nd June, current President Maurice Short, in the absence of any other nominations continues in office for a 5th year. New membership Hon. Secretary, Mr R.Appelt was formerly elected to the committee and the other Officers were re-elected. After the AGM a smaller than usual auction was held. For Presidents Evening Gilbert Denton was invited to show members part of his Luxembourg collection, giving us an informative insight into the history of that country. Due to



SEVENOAKS

lack of entries (only two being received), it was decided to withhold the 'Theo Jones' Thematic Cup competition for this year. This after the committee had decided to change the format from an eight page competition to a one to eight page arrangement. Even this did not seem to attract members to enter, perhaps they thought it was 128 pages! The new season opens on Wednesday, 1st September when it is hoped members will produce eight pages for the letter 'N' in the 'W.E.Cordery' cup competition, bring along some of their new acquisitions and maybe even bring material for a bourse!

DARTFORD & DISTRICT STAMP CLUB Our last two visiting speakers last season were K.F.P.S. President, Grahamme Boutle, in March and Mrs Erica Banks, in June. At the AGM in May we learnt of a small deficit in our funds, but subscriptions will remain the same for the coming season. Ted Needham, Packet Secretary for the last 48 years, and his wife Jean Needham, Hon Programme Secretary for 28 years both retired from office. Ted who handled 1003 packets in that time, handed over the job to the Chairman, and Jean is succeeded by Frank Parsons. Both Ted and Jean were presented with certificates of appreciation. Both will remain active members. The new season opens with the letters 'H' & 'I', and Ron Burn is our next visiting speaker, showing Tristan da Cunha



SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (2)



C.P.P.S.

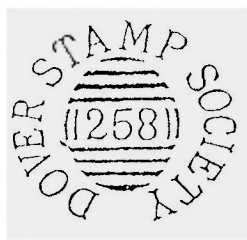
CINQUE PORTS PHILATELIC SOCIETY To start the new season, we welcome members of the Swale Society on the 6th September, then on September 20th members are asked to show their 'New Acquisitions', perhaps what they acquired at 'London 2010' ? On Thursday September 30th we are sending a team to visit the Hastings & East Sussex Society. On October 4th we are to be entertained when the Royal Tunbridge Wells P.S. visit us, then on October 18th we have an 'Auction Evening'. On Friday October 22nd, we are off on tour again, with a visit to the Herne Bay Society. Continuing the series of 'Exchange Visits', we have a visit by the Isle of Thanet Society on November 1st. These club visits are usually very entertaining with such an interesting variety of displays, sometimes a collectors main interest, sometimes a side or relatively new collection, with something to interest many members. On November 15th John Priestly is to show us 'Brazil', a country not often displayed in Kent. Another 'Team Visit' is scheduled for November 29th when the Ashford P.S. come to visit us. To end the year, we have our 'Christmas Fare', a Grand Draw and an auction on December 13th. In 2011 the Society celebrates its Centenary, 1911-2011, and as part of our celebrations we will be hosting Federation Day on June 25th



LEWISHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY Our new season starts on the 7th September with our new President Albert Jackson 'in the chair'. On the 21st September, Dane Garrod will be our speaker, showing his 'Ten Collections' - this is actually one display. On October 5th, Lynn Roberts will show us her 'Albania' display and on the 19th, Frank Simpson is to show 'Goslar' - now this really is a mystery, few know what it will be about, so members are advised not to miss it. On the 2nd November, we have a 'Members Evening', with

'New Acquisitions', so we can see what gems members have recently acquired. Then on 7th December, Michael Farrant will show us his collection of Zanzibar, a territory not many members will have seen before. On 21st December we have our Christmas Social, so don't miss this one.

DOVER STAMP SOCIETY Unfortunately our Annual Dinner was not so well attended this year due to illness and family disruption caused by the Icelandic volcanic ash but it still proved an excellent social gathering. The A.G.M. in early June was a lively and productive one. Because of rising costs of the Salem Hall rental and a shrinking membership there was a deficit over the year and if this continues, our running costs would be unsustainable. Various options were discussed, such as doubling the £5 membership, and perhaps afternoon meetings in a pub room. Finally, however, it was decided to leave the venue unchanged and increase membership by £2 to £7. We will miss the social continuity of 2 meetings a month but the reduction to one is an economic necessity and in line with the programme structures of many other clubs. We have invitations to the Bexley, Isle of Thanet and Whitstable societies so that the new season's programme looks less sparse than it might have done. We had several successful meetings towards the end of last season, including early mint sets of USA and Civil War Postal History by Derek Mauri, plus well supported 'Members Evenings' with displays of themes relating to Letter 'H' but unfortunately no time for the bourse following the AGM due to the aforesaid lengthy debate on the Finances.



SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (3)



MEDWAY TOWNS PHILATELIC SOCIETY We had a 'Members' evening in May entitled "What Else Do You Collect" this produced an esoteric variety of material, including Fossil ammonites, Trade Cards featuring Buffy the Vampire and other TV series, postcards showing scenes along the Thames from Wargrave to Reading, and a display of letters, photos and postcards associated with the Royal Mint when it was located at Tower Hill. Ed Jarvis rounded off the evening with a fully illustrated account of finding silicified wood at Rainham, a rare discovery which caused specialists at the Natural History Museum to jump for joy. The team of four members from Tunbridge Wells visited us in June Peter O'Keeffe opened the evening with a display of British Postal Stationery, mainly from Queen Victoria's reign, but extending as far as the British Empire Exhibition of 1924. Nigel Gooch then introduced us to the Islamic Republic of Iran, demonstrating that stocks of stamps relating to the Pahlavi dynasty were obiterated when the new Republic was declared. After a tea break, we were treated to a superb display of G.B. line engraved stamps by Ian Marshall, beginning with an Imprimatur of the Penny Black and then with each of the plates on cover, the first dated 23rd May 1840. Amongst his gems was a copy of the VR 'Official', of which there are only 21 examples known to have been released. Henry Hupfield was last, showing the history of the first stamps of Egypt & Sudan of which many had printing faults and all sorts of perforations. At the A.G.M. in July, the serving officers emphasised the importance of recruiting new members both to the Society and to the Committee, and of boosting attendances at meetings if the Medway Towns P.S. is to continue. But there were no volunteers and the current committee were re-elected en bloc. with a warning that this might prove to be the last season for the club. We then held a One sheet competition, won by Ed Jarvis with "The Polar Bear" issue. A bourse and a demonstration of an electronic Watermark Detector closed the evening.

SWALE PHILATELIC SOCIETY & POSTCARD GROUP The AGM was held on May 20th with the officers and committee re-elected for another year, and Shaun Caveney named as Chairman, Bryan Clark as Vice Chairman as well as Publicity Officer. and with Geoff Brooks joining the committee. A proposal to change the name to "Swale Philatelic and Postcard Society" was passed unanimously and a new constitution and rules will be circulated shortly. Two competitions were then judged

with John Crunden winning the Postcard Cup and Eddy Scott winning the Members Cup. We then had displays by Arthur Robinson and Bryan Clark to show members how to arrange and write up pages for competition's and displays. Members then showed parts of their own collections. The new season starts on September 23rd.

ORPINGTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY Last season finished with a visit from Ian Nutley who displayed his collection of Auschwitz on February 10th and our Presidents Evening was on March 10th. The OPS away team displayed on April 14th and we had our A.G.M and members auction on May 12th. We visited Bexley on May 7th. Our current membership is 36 paid up, and we now look forward to a varied programme in the 2010/2011 season. With sadness we report the death of Bernard Norman, a member since 1977.



SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (4)



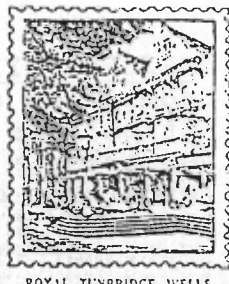
BEXLEY PHILATELIC SOCIETY In the final two months of last season we held our AGM. in June, with most officers continuing in their existing posts, but Keith Allen taking over as our new Programme Secretary, and he has produced an excellent programme for 2010/2011 - Well done Keith ! In July we had two meetings, a traditional auction, with the usual good turn out and a number of unusual items for sale. This generated some useful income for the Society. The final meeting was a display by David Milsted from the Croydon Society showing Army Officials 1896-1904 including some most interesting covers and a large array of Queen Victoria ½d vermilion stamps with fine cancellations from far and wide. It was a well delivered and interesting evening. The new season starts on the 10th of September and by tradition it is delivered by two of our own members; the short straws this time has been drawn by Pat Parsons and John Corderoy. Our second meeting in September will be Tony Hickey giving his Nuremburg Rallies display which had to be cancelled in January due to the weather conditions. We have another auction early in October, followed later that month by Tony Hayes showing Antartica. November brings Competition Night with an accompanying bourse, and for the second meeting, we have Lindy Bosworth with Czechoslovakia, which should be another interesting evening. In December, our own member Julie Lester will be showing Lundy Island, and to end the year, its our Presidents Night, when Ray Jeal is our host, and we have the usual festive fare to finish off the evening. Please note, the September and October meetings this year are on the 2nd and 4th Fridays rather than the 1st and 3rd - hopefully this can be rectified for next season. Meetings are held at the Freemantle Hall, in Bexley Village and new members are always welcome - contact Adrian Smith 01322-559210 or e-mail adethebeak@yahoo.co.uk

EDENBRIDGE STAMP & POSTCARD CLUB As we have missed reporting in several recent Bulletins we will take you through our 2009/10 season: In September '09 we opened the season with a members 'Open Evening' with 'New Acquisitions'. In October, we had a visit from the East Grinstead P.S. who showed East Germany, USA commemoratives, and a good mix of Ephemera, Covers and Programmes etc under the title Royal Events. In November we entertained ourselves, but there was no



meeting in December. Despite the weather we were fortunate to be able to gather again in January, with displays of postcards by various members. Our speaker in February was Nigel Fordham who told us about his work with the 'Crown Agents', illustrated with Falkland Islands stamps, a most interesting and different talk and display. In March, Kent President, Grahame Boutle showed us his Thematic collection of Mourning Covers and 'Churchill' material - something very different. Another open evening in April followed in May by a fascinating treat when Ron Burn brought his Tristan & da Cunha and Southern Seas collection, explaining the history of the Island, its evacuation and what the Islanders had to endure was most enlightening. Finally, in June, we held our AGM and competition evening, but unfortunately there were no enties. We are not a very competitive bunch here in Edenbridge ! In July a high proportion of our members went to Tonbridge School for "Kentpex"- what a lovely venue - we now look forward to the Season 2010/2011 which starts in September.

SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (5)



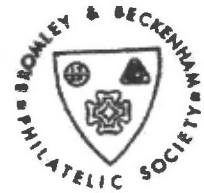
ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS PHILATELIC SOCIETY The Society does seem to be thriving, attendances at the monthly evening meetings did, on average, increase last season and the monthly morning meetings have settled down to an average of around 15. There is however ample room for more to attend both meetings. In June our speaker Dr D. Watson showed Barbados, a most exhilarating show with a detailed history of the Island backed up with some excellent material. In July, our member Robin Morton took us on a 'World Tour' of the British Empire/Commonwealth with a display of stamps from virtually every 'British' country, together with a number of postal history covers. It's not often that we see so many stamps from so many different countries in one display. We usually meet every month of the year, and despite holidays, we were entertained by Christine Earle in August, showing "The Post Office Went To War", a really interesting reminder of the second World War for those of us of 'a certain age', and an eye opener for those not so ancient. The most recent morning meetings have included Jamaica, by member Richard Hart, with plenty of the background history of the Island, and a full range of stamps of France by Jack Davey from Surrey. (Unfortunately due to a hospital emergency affecting the Pub owners wife, the Junction Inn was shut when we arrived, but we were luckily able to relocate at very short notice to the local church hall - a little cramped, but we were able to see the display - sorry Jack, for at the time, a lack of an explanation). We were back to normal for the August meeting, when member Henry Hupfield showed us his Egypt and Sudan display, this time in far more detail than previously. Our first meeting of the new season is on the 9th September when we are taken to Dartmoor and its Prison by Mr P. Phillips, then on the 16th September (at Groombridge) Mrs Y. Gren shows us 'The Czech Lands' (10.30 AM start). In October its our Presidents Evening on the 14th, and Brian Asquith is our guest on the 21st (again 10.30am) showing Chinese Airmails. If YOU are retired, and free on the third Thursday of the month, why not come along to a morning meeting? 10.30am to 12.30pm. The Junction Inn at Groombridge is about 300 yards over the border into Sussex, (no passport required) from Tunbridge Wells, there is free car parking and you might care to join some of us for lunch in the pub afterwards - no obligation. Enquiries to either Henry, on 01892-529780 or Lis on 01892-527587.

KENT POSTAL HISTORY GROUP The meeting held on June 26th at Etchinghill Village Hall (near Folkestone) was to be the last meeting for some time that Paul Davy will be able to attend. A staunch member of the Group and our late Hon. Secretary, as his job has now moved to Switzerland, and we wish him well in his new environment. The village hall is in a very pleasant location with a large room and good facilities. It's 3Km South of Lyminge and 8Km North of Hythe.

Nine members and one visitor saw displays of Ashford mails by Paul Davey, Maidstone, by John Dann, and Tonbridge by John Weston, each of these displays were later shown at "KENTPEX 2010" at Tonbridge in July. In addition there were displays of Dover sub Post Offices by Tony Belsey, and a number of new acquisitions by Paul Davey, with other line engraved bill headings by Maurice Porter, and other small items. A good afternoon was enjoyed by the few, and the tea and cakes, were as usual, excellent. The only disappointment was the low turn out. The next meeting is on October 2nd at Willesborough Windmill (Ashford) with the topic 'Military Mail in/from Kent' - any period. Enquiries to John Weston on 01732-358163.



SOCIETY NEWS ROUND UP (6)



BROMLEY & BECKENHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY At our AGM Ian Nutley stood down as our Programme Secretary after 10 years and Ian Reed, the outgoing President has taken his place. Bob Parsons was installed as the new President for 2010-2011 and Len Barnes was elected as President elect, to follow Bob in due course. Honorary Life Membership was awarded to Olive Davis for her long and beneficial services to the Society - you will remember that Olive was awarded the Lingley Shield last year.



MALLING STAMP CLUB In May we had members displays which produced many varied items and included some Alderney and autographs. Gilbert Denton a regular visitor was our speaker in June, with his Luxembourg display and as usual he was amusing and informative with this little collected country. For Presidents night in July, Tony Bosworth said that we had seen enough of his collections and invited Mike Thompson to display his Talyllyn Railway collection. Mike

dedicated the display to one of our club's founder members, the late Pat Wallace (who disliked cinderella material and in particular the Talyllyn Railway - this was a standing joke in the club when Pat was alive). The only items Pat liked were the classics, so Michael completed his display with his 'Ceylon Chalon Heads' issues. In August, we had a visit from a team of three from the Medway Towns Society showing Indonesia, Floods in the Netherlands, German Locals, Gibraltar and Dinosaurs - with such diverse displays there was something for everyone.

GRAVESEND STAMP CLUB Our May meeting was a display of Mexico by Ray Barton, a newish collection which which surprised us with the amount of quality material he has managed to acquire in a very short time. In June we held an auction with a good attendance and several interesting items on offer. Our meeting in July was a quiz compiled by John Stubbings, the winner of last years quiz. The winner this year was Michael Thompson and he will set the quiz next year. The August meeting was "Ten Sheets" or a 10p donation to club funds!



MAIDSTONE & MID-KENT PHILATELIC SOCIETY 40 members & friends attended the annual dinner at the Russell Hotel in Maidstone in May, when the guest speaker, a long standing member, Mr. Freddie Fagg said that he joined the Society when the meetings started again after the war, but he had attended a few meetings as a visitor before the war (over 70 years ago).



He spoke of some of the people who were members in years gone by and what they collected. He then

presented the club with several international medals awarded to one of our founder members, Mr Grant in the 1920's and 30's. Freddie had been looking after them for the club for nearly 50 years and he thought they should be returned to the Society archives. The dinner was a most enjoyable event as usual and we will be holding our dinner at the same venue again next year.

CLUBS PROGRAMME LISTING Lets hope that YOUR club programme details have been forwarded to Judith French, so they can be included in the issue due out shortly.

GOOD RELATIONS !

East Midlands & East Anglia Philatelic Federation meeting in Cambridge, 21/8/10

The Kent Federation was invited to provide seven judges for the various competitions for the above event. The team travelled up on the morning of the event which was held at Girton College and commenced their task at 10am...The seven were, Bill Hedley, Colin Tobitt, Grahamme Boutle, Lewis Giles, Brian Stonestreet, Bob Higgins and Maurice Flack. They had an enjoyable day and were well looked after. MCF

EURO SCOUT 2010

The eighth annual International Euro Scout Stamp Exhibition was held at Chelmsford from the 14th- 16th May 2010. The Kent Federation and the Essex Federation lent their display frames to the Federation of Scout & Guide Stamps Club, and Colin Tobitt and Maurice Flack were able to offer their proven ability with erecting the frames. In all, 128 frames were needed to display a very high standard of material covering all classes of philatelic material. The exhibition is held annually in a different country. MCF

B.A.M.S. (BRITISH AIR MAIL SOCIETY)

On Saturday, 23rd October 2010, the above Society will be holding their Autumn Meeting at Shoreham Airport (Conference Suite, Main Terminal) from 10am. Shoreham is a few miles East of Brighton. there will be a guided tour of the Airport commencing at 11am, then Lunch from 12.15 to 1pm. After lunch there will be displays of Ballooning, early pioneer flights including World War I. followed by a break for an 'English cream tea'. The second session will be the development of commercial Aviation between England and France with a finish between 4.30 and 5pm. The President of the French 'Cercle Aerophilatelique Francais, Gerard Collot and friends from France will be attending. Anyone interested is welcome to attend but in order to 'book', you are requested to contact Josh Spoor on 01273-592214 advising him and if appropriate, the number of friends friends you are taking with you. Arrangements can be made to pick you up at Shoreham station if necessary, however car parking will cost approximately £2 for the day. (It is not clear how much Lunch/tea might cost - you could ask Josh Spoor)

The North West Kent Postcard Club

On the 17th May, the club visited the Maidstone Postcard Club and thereafter we had a short Summer break until the 23rd August when we held a members evening which included some 'Recent Acquisitions' Welsh Railways and an excellent display of postcards collected circa 1905, by an employee of an insurance company who was sent to Japan. This display comprised of some of the postcards he collected from countries he visited on the way which included Ceylon, Malaya, Singapore and Hong Kong. Our programme for the remainder of 2010 is:- Visitors welcome.

September 27th - Kent Post Offices, by Maurice Porter

October 25th - Abbey Wood, by John Smith.

November 22nd - Stuart Henderson entertains.

December 10th - Joint Social Evening with Gravesend Stamp Club.

PAUL DAVEY REPORTS FROM SWITZERLAND

30th August 2010

Dear Peter,

firstly an answer to your question concerning my last letter. CHF is the abbreviation for the Swiss Franc, the CH referring to the latin, *Confœderatio Helvetica*, the Swiss Federation.

We moved into the apartment a month ago and the collection and library arrived safely. Despite the van being too large to drive up to the door, the two removal men, together with myself and my son, managed to carry everything over 100m and up a flight of stairs in one day. This was no mean feat since we had over 3.5T of stuff to carry! The following day was a Sunday and since nobody is allowed to work on a Sunday, we had the day to unpack before the removal guys returned to take the packing materials away on the Monday. In Switzerland you pay to dispose of things by the kg. It is one way of encouraging people to recycle. Whilst all the shops are closed Sunday, you might need to buy something whilst travelling so Zurich main station and airport have hundreds of shops open full time. One of the busiest places in the city on a Sunday!

I thought it might be useful to relay some tips on packing and moving a collection. The library was packed into relatively small boxes, 12"x12"x18". This meant it was possible to lift them, albeit some of the more dense publications, particularly auction catalogues, were at the limit. Small spaces in the boxes were packed with bubble wrap to stop things moving about. The albums (springback and peg) were closed with elastic bands and packed into the same size boxes. Fortunately I don't use Hawids, I use hinges, so things stayed put. The main problem was stockbooks. I have various sizes from large 32 page to pocket size and we all know a small jolt can cause everything to fall out of the strips. I found that, after closing with elastic bands, they would fit into a plastic Tesco food bag which could then be taped up. This stopped anything moving about and all was delivered safely. Following the acquisition of a couple of new bookcases from Ikea (how come they fitted when packed but not when unpacked?) everything is now accessible.

An interesting observation from the Swiss PO – I had some stamps sent to me from the US for examination. Swiss customs asked for an invoice to charge me VAT. I had to point out that there was no invoice, the stamps weren't mine and that they would be sent back once I had examined them. My German is not up to writing such a letter (yet!?) so I e-mailed them in English. No problem, the stamps arrived next day with nothing to pay.

I have now visited two stamp shops. The local one appears to deal only in Swiss material and, in German, he did point out a weekly evening stamp fair, held close to where I first stayed for 9 months and never found out about. I visited the next Monday and found 3 dealers. Mostly postal history but I got a few bits. The second shop I visited was a totally different affair. Fluent English and a very respectable stock. A selection of 1d black covers, various surface printed etc onwards. Not cheap I have to say but good quality. I purchased an 1897 Tunbridge Wells cover addressed to Switzerland with one of the better postage dues on and a couple of CHF1, more modern, postage due covers. I shall be returning!

Paul.

Editors note: Thanks Paul, I should have realised what CH meant. Hoping that you are settling in OK. If you do send another report please don't try out your German on us. PJOK.

DENNIS ROSSER REPORTS FROM NORTH WALES

When we were children, it was traditional at Christmas time in our family, to write a note to Father Christmas together with a list of things we like to receive as presents. In the immediate post war period it was usually quite a modest list and for me in particular at the top of the list would always be a new stamp album followed by a children's annual ~ preferably Rupert ~ if I got a Beano or Dandy annual too, then that was an added bonus. Once we had made out the list, checked, and rechecked it again to be sure nothing had been left off we would place it on the fire for the list to go up the chimney to the nice man in the red suit. We were so naive in those days.

In later years children were encouraged by the Post Office to place their letter and Christmas wish list to Father Christmas in the Royal Mail post box. Letters would be sometimes be addressed to childish destinations such as North Pole, Penguinland, Reindeerland, and such like, and I believe that according to where the letters were addressed some would be sent to Scandinavian countries ~ I remember one year having a reply, together with a small gift, from Denmark.

You may be surprised to know what the Post Office now does with the children's letters. They are sent to Royal Mail's Returned Letter Centre in Belfast where the staff become Santa's elves and enter the names and addresses of anyone who sends a letter to Father Christmas onto a database. This triggers a pre-printed reply from 'Santa'. The information on the database is then used for marketing purpose, in accordance with the rules laid down by the Data Protection Act.

Typical uses will be to identify those homes that are most likely to use mail for communications, what postcode areas have lots of households with young children and what sort of toys/books/games/CDs/DVDs children are asking for. This information can then be sold to retailers to allow them to develop marketing strategies, especially those which use Royal Mail as an advertising channel.

Used well, retailers can target mail-shots by product type, price band, postcode area, etc.; reducing the cost of advertising by avoiding 'blanket' mail shots. Information of this sort is an extremely valuable commodity and one that retailers are willing to pay handsomely for.

Footnote. One of my 'Back of the Book' collections is of Royal Mail children's Christmas Cards. My earliest card is dated 1966 and right through to 1982 – unfortunately I only have seven cards from this period – the envelope meter cancellation depicted Santa Claus in his sleigh flying through the star studded night sky pulled by two reindeer, whereas last years card was 'franked' with a Postage Paid HQ31 Impression. Is this an indication that the threat of global warming has caused Father Christmas to relocate elsewhere?

Dennis Rosser. August 2010.

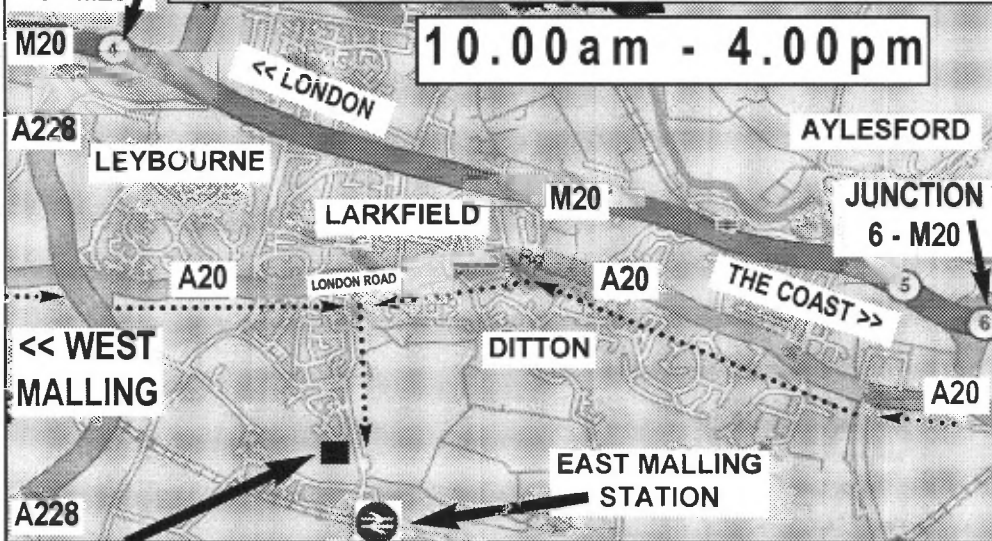
STOP PRESS !! Have just learnt that Stanley Gibbons Ltd have acquired the business of stamp dealer Nigel Haworth of Clitheroe in Lancashire, however Nigel will be at Autumn Stampex !

THE KENT FEDERATION OF PHILATELIC SOCIETIES 2010 STAMP FAIR & K.F.P.S. RALLY

COMPETITION ENTRIES ON VIEW
AEROPHILATELY, POSTAL HISTORY & THEMATIC

JUNCTION 4 - M20 **SATURDAY 30th OCTOBER 2010**

10.00 am - 4.00 pm



STAMP FAIR HALL

EAST MALLING - OFF THE A20

**EAST MALLING VILLAGE HALL
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etc.**

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CAR PARK**



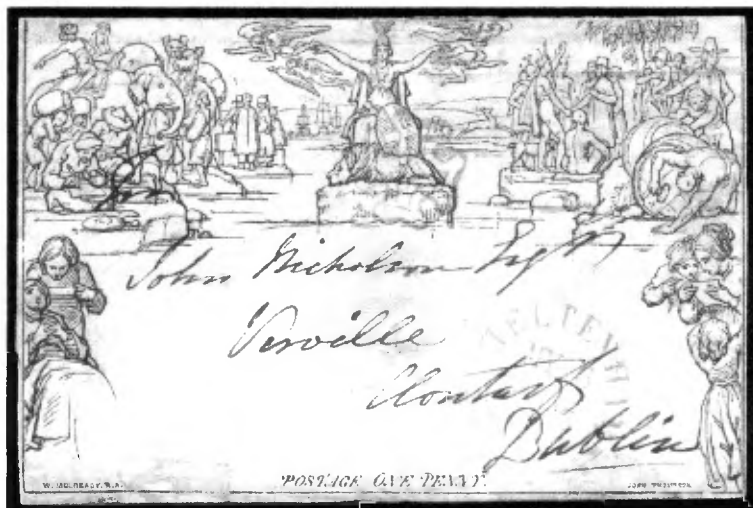
WATER PROOF

A blindfolded wine merchant was demonstrating his knowledge of being able to identify wine. Glass after glass were placed before him, he took a sip and immediately called out the correct brand. After ten glasses, his friends gave him a glass of water. He sipped it, frowned, and took a second sip, then said "Sorry, but this has me baffled, it's beaten me, for the first time in my life, I do not know what it is," "I have never tasted it before". Then he perked up and said "But I can tell you one thing, it won't sell!"

BE HAPPY
Learn to be happy alone! If we do not enjoy our own company, why inflict it on others?

RALLY VENUES If you know of any venues that would be suitable for a Federation Rally, please let our new Hon. Sec. know. We have regular venues at Paddock Wood and East Malling, but it would be useful to have others especially in other areas of the County - suggestions are needed, so that Federation can hopefully rotate the Rallies a bit more. If we had a reliable and suitable venue in say, East Kent or central Kent, this would be beneficial.

Fine Great Britain is always a feature in our auctions



1840 (May 6), Mulready 1d. letter sheet (stereo removed upon opening) addressed to Dublin. "CHELTENHAM/MY 6/1840" first day of issue c.d.s. and Maltese Cross cancellation both in red on front, arrival datestamp of May 7 on reverse also in red. Sold for £3,750.

- A rare FDC
- Unrecorded in "May Dates"

Should you wish to dispose of your valued and treasured stamps,
whether it be a collection or single item, please consult us.

Whether you wish to sell by auction,
private treaty, or would prefer an immediate outright sale
we can help you.

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