

# Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies



**Bulletin No. 205, April 2019**

**Website: <https://kentphilately.jimdo.com/>**

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Please note that the opinions expressed within the bulletin are not necessarily those of the KFPS.



**BROMLEY & BECKENHAM  
PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
STAMP & POSTCARD FAIR**

hosting the  
**KENT FEDERATION of PHILATELIC SOCIETIES' AGM,  
RALLY & COMPETITION DISPLAYS**

To be opened by the Mayor of Bromley

at  
**LANGLEY PARK BOYS SCHOOL  
HAWKSBROOK LANE, SOUTH EDEN PARK ROAD, BECKENHAM, BR3 3BP**

**SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019  
9.30 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
FREE ADMISSION & PARKING**

\* DEALERS \* DISPLAYS \*  
\* HELP & ADVICE \* FREE VALUATIONS \*  
\* TOMBOLA \* REFRESHMENTS \*  
\* KFPS RALLY, COMPETITIONS & AGM \*  
\* MEET THE SOCIETY \*

**More information from 020 8778 7001**

# Welcome

I extend a huge welcome to this first bulletin of 2019! Thank you for the emails, letters and postcard sent to me in response to the last bulletin content and for the new content. Thank you to John Hammond, FRPSL, for a copy of the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies (ASPS) Spring 2019 Newsletter, and to David Page for sending a copy of the Autumn 2018 Middlesex Philatelic Federation (MPF) Bulletin to me (via Peter O’Keeffe), and to Peter for a copy of the Winter 2018 Sevenoaks & District Philatelic Society (PS)

Newsletter. From the first two, I note the vacancies available [Newsletter Editor (ASPS), Chairman (MPF), Competitions Secretary (both, with ASPS from 2020) and Youth Officer (MPF)]; it looks like other federations are having issues too recruiting to vacant positions. **What can be done to fill such positions?** From Peter’s newsletter I note a couple of items of interest. Firstly, the joining together of Sevenoaks and Orpington societies for the exchange package circuits which has benefits to members of both clubs: for Orpington PS the continuation of an exchange packet and for Sevenoaks & District PS further income as they will retain all commission; both societies will benefit from the supply of, hopefully, different material.



Secondly, a couple of members from Sevenoaks meet up regularly on a Wednesday morning in a local coffee shop for about an hour and chat informally about stamps, on any topic, and take along a stamp or two. **I know of other societies nationwide, that get together informally; is this something you wish to take part in?**

This edition has been in process since the last bulletin was issued; just the day after sending a copy by email, I received my first response: feedback on an article’s content. It has then taken until now, to complete this edition in full. Michael Dobbs, Communications Officer, empathises by saying: ‘I produce an 8-page Newsletter for my Forces Postal History Society each quarter, to go out with our Journal - it deals with society matters, meeting write-ups (which I compile) and I always find it pleasant and relaxing nearer the "cut-off" time to find I have been slowly compiling the newsletter over the weeks and months, starting from when the previous one was completed. However, there is still sometimes a mad dash to get it completed on time with the last finishing touches!’ So true, Michael, so true! For me, it is those last days, that are the hardest, in a way, because all the formatting needs to be done to maximise use of space, so lots of reordering of content goes on (and on and on)...



In this edition you will find much to entertain you; hopefully there will be something that “sparks your interest”. There is news on what is happening within KFPS and in society meetings, as well as responses to previous articles, as well as new articles on a range of topics from history: a ship’s telegram, William Osler, GB new issues; geography: the Royal School of Military Engineering, unusual Russian material;

mathematics: ‘fee to pay’; to contemporary literature: GB new issues. You can also plan which society meetings you wish to visit, to listen to the most incredible speakers and see their fabulous exhibits: I’ve planned mine for May – I may well be visiting a different society close to me! There are also, of course, questions to be answered, some individual, but some to be discussed within your societies; the latter with a focus on vacant KFPS positions and competitions.

Please respond.

Enjoy!

Jenny, Bulletin Editor



David Rennie, Secretary of Bromley & Beckenham PS (BBPS), responds to David Parnall’s contribution on page 3 of Bulletin No. 204, October 2018: David writes that David Parnall is a Life-Member of BBPS having joined in 1964. His theme was forestry and he has kindly sent me copies of pages from his original collection displayed in 1967. He presented the Parnall Cup to KFPS the same year and the first winner was BBPS member H Eric Scott for ‘The Development of Sail’ at the KFPS 1967 Autumn Rally. David Parnall still regularly submits books for the packet.

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## Kent Federation News

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### The Executive Committee

Further to Marcus-Sherwood Jenkin's resignation as KFPS President in September 2018, Paul Cahill has agreed to resume as President until a replacement can be found, but has stepped down as Chairman.

*Thank you Paul, for stepping in again as President – it couldn't have been that bad the first time, if you wish to do it again!* John Smith (pictured) has agreed to be co-opted as



Chairman, subject to ratification at the AGM in May. John has been a member of Woolwich and Eltham philatelic societies since 1978, and subsequently the amalgamated Eltham & Woolwich Stamp Club (E&WSC). He is the Packet Secretary and Auctioneer at E&WSC and has been both President and Secretary. He is also a member of the Pitcairn and Norfolk Island Society, of which he is also Chairman/Auctioneer and a long standing committee member. He explains: *"I am afraid to say that my interest in actually collecting stamps has waned a bit as the items I need are becoming so expensive, including postcards"*. He has agreed to take on the role as KFPS Chairman *"as the Federation appears to be desperate to find people willing to serve in the management committees etc. I think it is a general problem with most clubs that the same people are relied on to run things*

*and none of them are getting any younger. So come on, you younger members, step up and offer your services. The most important role is of course that of Secretary for which we are looking for a volunteer at this time. We also need to find a President-Elect. I will just finish off by thanking the existing members who are involved in the Federation's management teams, especially Mike Dobbs, Communications Officer, who keeps us all in touch with goings on, and Jenny Viggars for the production of this excellent bulletin. Happy collecting!"* At the council meeting, John also thanked Michael R Thompson for his coordination of the competitions, and providing a venue for Executive Committee meetings, and for hosting the spring and autumn rallies.

Nicola Davies has also resigned as Secretary due to work commitments, with her involvements at the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) and its move to Abchurch Lane, and beyond to the London 2020 International Stamp Exhibition. This resignation may be temporary, as Nicola's workload may decrease following the 2020 exhibition, and she may subsequently be able to resume the role.



So, yet again, the Federation has vacant positions: President, President-Elect, Secretary (possibly temporary until June 2020), all ready to be filled by volunteers.

**We urge you to consider these vacancies at your society meetings and put in your nominations at the AGM.**

The AGM will be held at the KFPS Federation Day on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May, which is hosted by BBPS (see page 2 for details).

### Spring Rally

The KFPS Spring Rally was hosted by the East Malling Grand Stamp fair on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019. Michael R Thompson, organiser of the stamp fair, reports that the hall was set up by 8.05 am, with 14 dealers present. The fair was a great success and the best so far; he feels that it's getting better every time. The hall was packed from about 10.15am, with there being a great atmosphere all day. There was a KFPS Council meeting at 11am and the competitions were on the stage (more later on these). There were still quite a few visitors viewing the material when everyone was packing up at the end of the day. Malling Stamp Club members helped out in the kitchen and around the event, with the club being donated £72 from the proceeds.

Advertising was important: Radio Kent gave out the details during the week but on the Saturday there was even more publicity with a feature called 'Three Little Words'. Michael says that his words were "Grand Stamp Fair", with the presenter reading out the details that he had emailed them. It was also advertised in the Diary Dates section of the Kent Messenger newspaper.

East Malling Grand Stamp Fair will host the KFPS Autumn Rally on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

### **Competitions**

Michael R Thompson writes that the Spring Rally 2019 KFPS new 9 page postcard competition, was a great success with 10 entries displayed. The results were very close:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Cinque Ports PS	Folkestone	85pts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bromley & Beckenham PS	William Harvey	84pts
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Malling SC	Rosherville Pleasure Gardens, Northfleet	83pts

The competition was judged by two Kent (ABPS) accredited judges: Michael wishes to thank Ray Barton of Ashford PS and Bob Higgins of Medway Towns PS for doing a grand job for the Federation. Michael also extends his thanks to the helpers who assembled the frames and helped with the polythene to cover the entries after the judging was finished. His final thanks, go to everyone for making this competition a success, but he is hoping for more entries next time, please!

The next competitions will be held at the KFPS Federation Day in May, where the 16 page competitions will take place; the categories are:

- (a) Traditional
- (b) Postal History (Aerophilately entries will be accepted in this class)
- (c) Thematics.

These are individual competitions with a maximum of one entry per person, per competition. Competition rules have been emailed or posted to all society contacts (usually Secretary or Competition/s Secretary), so if you are unsure on what to do, speak with your society contact.

## Get your entries ready now!

Michael also reports that there appears to be diminishing interest in the Dawes (Inter-Federation) Cup. He has some concerns about the rules surrounding the display of the competition entries, and will investigate these further, prior to the AGM in May, where he will provide an update.

### **Bulletin**

Advertising is important for local societies and federations when, for example, considering stamp fairs, newsletters and bulletins. Corbitts (back page) and Cavendish Auctions (page 15) have been positive in their continued support for KFPS, particularly with the Bulletin and Newsletter, for which we thank them, however, like most societies and federations, further support via advertising is needed. This bulletin is widely distributed across England and Wales with both email and printed copies; it is not just restricted to Kent. If you know of any sources of advertising who would be willing to support KFPS, or If you wish to place an advert in the next bulletin, please let Colin or myself know.

The next bulletin will be issued mid-October 2019. ***Just remember, the bulletin cannot be produced without input from yourselves, so please send me all your society news, articles, photographs, questions, comments etc.*** However, items sent in for publication may be declined, shortened or amended at my discretion. ***I look forward to hearing from you all.*** The final deadline for content is **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

**This space could be yours!**

**¼, ½ and whole page advertising available**

**Do you wish to advertise:  
Your society? Your stamp fair?  
Your stamp auctions?  
Your philatelic items for sale?**

**Space available in the KFPS Bulletin  
Next issue October 2019**

**A full page advertisement costs £60, half page £30 and quarter page £15**

**Please contact Colin Tobitt for further details regards payment**

**All adverts must be suitable for black and white printing**

**Please contact Jenny Viggars regards your content requirements**

**Affiliated societies**

Following their AGM, we now welcome back Malling Stamp Club to the KFPS, so thank you. However, Swale Philatelic & Postcard Society have now officially closed with their last meeting in December 2018. Colin Tobitt, Treasurer, writes: "Another sad day for philately".

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*News of Kent Philatelists*

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Colin Tobitt, KFPS Treasurer, informs us that David MacIntyre of Eltham & Woolwich SC died in hospital earlier in the year. He had been ill for a long time and collected general non-commonwealth stamps and was a past president of the Portugal & Colonies Society. Our thoughts go out to his family and friends at this sad time.

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*Articles and Items of Interest*

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**Questions, but no answers:** Peter O’Keeffe’s article on page 10 of Bulletin No. 204, October 2018, elicited a number of responses:

David Rennie, Secretary of BBPS, writes: As luck as it, I have just come across the following in the BBPS committee minute book dated 8<sup>th</sup> July 1969, almost 50 years ago, "Mr Nugent complained of heavy-handed postal cancellations on philatelic mail in the ordinary post." He concludes that nothing changes! David also writes: At Thames and Black Swan we had a rubber stamp which read 'PHILATELIC ITEM, PLEASE CANCEL LIGHTLY, NO BALL PENS' which seemed to work. We used 'Readers Digest' strips for the catalogue mailing which went through the machine system and did not need to be hand cancelled.



Harry Layne BSc AMIEE, member of Eltham & Woolwich SC, writes: I should add my thoughts as I have visited my local sorting office, as well as met the managers and some of the staff. Although my visit was some years ago, I was given every opportunity to state my case, and given a tour around the office, which has now been demolished, and my comments were recorded. My original case was that my stamps for collecting were being ruined. I watched the machines cancelling the stamps, as well as the staff also cancelling stamps at the counter, and was allowed to make a personal inspection. I picked out several items (letters and cards) that had missed being cancelled. My immediate question was "what happens to these?" The answer was that they are usually put back into a second run and hopefully cancelled. If they are not cancelled on the second run it is usually left to the postman to mark the stamps with a pen. Sometimes, such as at Christmas, the mail run is very heavy, and there is no time to cancel missed envelopes, which usually contain Christmas cards. The manager further explained "Very few staff are now employed as inspectors, so we rely on the postmen to mark the stamps to prevent their re-use. Please remember that we handle millions of items every year". I also posed the question of underpaid mail etc, which used to be marked with a 'postage to pay' marking in green ink. The manager replied politely that they do not have time to check everything, and most of these items are sent out with the 2<sup>nd</sup> class items, albeit a few days later.

So Peter is probably right in thinking that there seems to be no answer, and we have to live with postmen’s pen cancels. I also mentioned that uncanceled stamps can be re-used, and the manager replied that if one is re-using stamps they must be cut round leaving at least a quarter of an inch margin. Steaming them off for further usage is actually illegal. Very few, if any, cases of fraud ever reach the courts. \*\*

On a more positive note, when I showed the manager my Woolwich collection which included a Mulready and a 1d black, both used at Woolwich, and many of the later postmarks of Woolwich and Eltham, he appeared to be amazed, and offered me the opportunity to put them on display inside the public’s access near the counters, where everyone could see them. Alas, they only lasted three days and the manager personally took them down to save them being vandalised. Thankfully they were enclosed in display frames used for Post Office advertisements.



Terry Collings, President of Orpington PS, writes: I recently took a parcel into the Ramsden Post Office and asked them if they could cancel the stamps. They replied they could not do it. I asked why, as the package was going to a stamp collector. The reason, they were waiting for the ink to come in! What an excuse!



Richard Thompson, of France, and a KFPS supporter, writes that Peter can have the enclosure on the left (***I will pass this on to Peter in May at the KFPS AGM***). The two blocks were on a registered letter sent to Richard from a stamp dealer friend in Salisbury, so yes, “they” do these line cancellations on mail sent abroad too!

Jenny Viggars, Bulletin Editor, writes: On page 30 of the March 2019 issue of Stamp Magazine there are two short articles covering this topic; one entitled ‘Postal worker should have gone to Specsavers’ informs us that a postman has drawn lines through stamps which have already been ‘perfectly adequately cancelled with circular date stamps’, and the other identifies that the practice of using a marker pen to cancel stamps is also occurring in the USA. In the March 2019 issue of Stamp Collector, a reply to a letter regards this issue, suggests that complaints can be sent to Rico Back, CEO of Royal Mail, however the replier (on behalf of the magazine) writes ‘But we’re not holding our breath that this frustrating trend will be seen as a priority’.

Michael Dobbs, KFPS Communications Officer, using various Post Office Circulars and Gazettes found in The Postal Museum archives, answers two of Peter’s in-article questions:

### **The Post Office, or is it Royal Mail?**

The ‘Post Office’ is the organisation which runs post offices whilst ‘Royal Mail’ is the organisation which delivers mail to your door. The history behind this, is as follows:

With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 1987 the Counters Business began trading as a limited company registered under the Companies Act 1985. This was established as a wholly owned subsidiary of The Post Office as Post Office Counters Limited (incorporated on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1987) of 80-86 Old Street, London EC1V 9NN. This change was notified in the *Post Office Gazette of 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1987*.

The Postal Services Act 2000 came into force on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2001. On that day the property, rights and liabilities of the Post Office were transferred from the public authority (The Post Office) to a public limited company (plc): Consignia Holdings plc, a company wholly owned by the Government which was nominated for this purpose in accordance with the Act. This information was provided in the *Post Office Gazette of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2001*. The business brand names remained in place as: Royal Mail, Parcelforce Worldwide and Post Office Counters Limited; the latter being a subsidiary company that operated the network of high street Post Office branches which was renamed Post Office Limited on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2001. Its registered address remained at 80-86 Old Street, London.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2002, Consignia Holdings plc changed its name to Royal Mail Holdings plc with its registered address as 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The *Gazette of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2002* confirmed the date of the name change and from that date all Consignia branded units came under the Royal Mail cruciform brand. Despite this, the company still comprised the four main businesses as follows:

- (1) Royal Mail - the national mail collection and delivery service.
- (2) Post Office Limited - a subsidiary company that operated some 500 company owned Post Offices around the UK
- (3) Parcelforce Worldwide - the Royal Mail express parcel delivery business
- (4) General Logistics Systems (GLS) - Royal Mail’s European parcels division.

**Is there still a Postmaster General?**

The *Post Office Circular of 5<sup>th</sup> August 1969* announced that under the Post Office Act 1969, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 1969, the General Post Office (GPO) ceased to be a Government department and was established as a public corporation called the Post Office Corporation. At the same time, and as also reported in the *Post Office Circular of 30<sup>th</sup> September 1969*, the office of the Postmaster General (PMG) ceased to exist and the new Corporation took over responsibility for providing postal and telecommunications services, giro banking services, postal remittance services and data processing services.



**\*\* One recent (January 2019) court case regarding the re-use of uncancelled stamps was publicised in the British press where a middle-aged couple from the West Midlands were jailed for two years each for buying, washing and selling stamps on eBay, costing Royal Mail more than £400,000 in revenue. Some of these stamps had even been previously cancelled. Jenny**



Michael R Thompson, President of Gravesend & District SC, writes to the Editor:

During the Council meeting which was held at the KFPS Spring Rally at East Malling, it was suggested that future competitions should be judged by a popular vote with all people attending the rallies being asked to vote for the winning entries. This will be a great downward step for the Federation as the county competitions are the first stage in a long line, to compete in the Dawes Cup (Inter County Competition), national and then international competitions, all over the world. I presume that there will be a proposal for this at the AGM in May. I totally disagree with this, and if it does get the majority of support at the AGM, I would then think it best for the KFPS to withdraw from the Dawes Cup competition. We do not want to be a laughing stock in the eyes of the philatelic world. At the moment all competitions are judged by accredited ABPS judges that have been on the required course, and also have experience in this difficult job.

**Please discuss the above at your societies/clubs and provide your responses at the AGM and/or for inclusion in the next bulletin. Jenny**



**FEE TO PAY!**

Cliff Gregory, Sidcup PS member

It was about the middle of November 2018 that I received advice from the Post Office that they were holding a letter for me on which there was postage due. I went to collect it from my local sorting office in Sidcup. On collection I was told that there was no charge to pay, despite the yellow label dated in manuscript 29/9/18 showing there was £2 to pay and 'No Postage Paid'. I was given no explanation. The letter was from a well-respected London philatelic auction house with contents dated 20<sup>th</sup> September. A small part of the postage stamp is missing from the top right. There is no postal marking on the front or back of the cover and, as received, there is a cross in ballpoint ink towards the bottom right of the postage stamp.

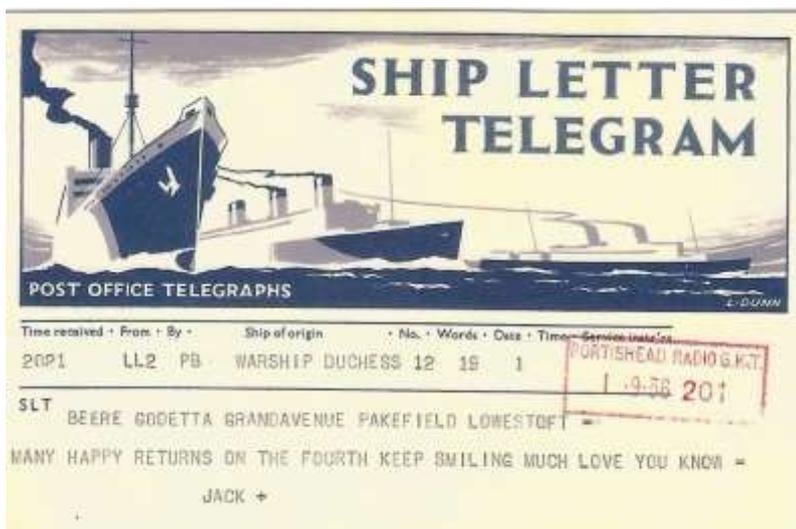


I am left wondering what rules are used in determining how much of a stamp has to be missing to treat a letter as unpaid and why it took the letter over a month to reach me. I am a member of the Postage Due Mail Study Group and have reported this cover to it too, and will advise if any explanation is forthcoming. Has anybody else had problems with paid or underpaid mail?



## A Telegram's Tale

Dennis Rosser, ex member of Ashford PS and one time KFPS president, now living in North Wales



One of my collecting interests are telegrams - be they British or foreign. When I acquired this telegram and realised it was from a Royal Naval vessel I decided to delve deeper and found the events, as they unfolded, to be a very tragic story indeed.

At the outbreak of WWII HMS Duchess was one of a flotilla of nine D class destroyers attached to the China Station. All nine ships received orders to set sail for home waters with the greatest possible speed. Their first port of call was Singapore for refuelling, then onwards to Colombo and Aden,

through the Suez Canal to Malta to refuel again. It was here that three of the destroyers: Duchess, Dainty and Delight, received orders to proceed to Gibraltar to escort the battleship HMS Barham to the Clyde.

HMS Barham (pictured) was a Queen Elizabeth class dreadnought battleship, one of the largest classes of warship ever built in Britain. She was built at the John Brown shipyard on Clydebank and was launched in October 1914 to take her place in WWI. She fought at the Battle of Jutland where she was hit six times by enemy shells, resulting in 26 of her crew being killed and 37 wounded.



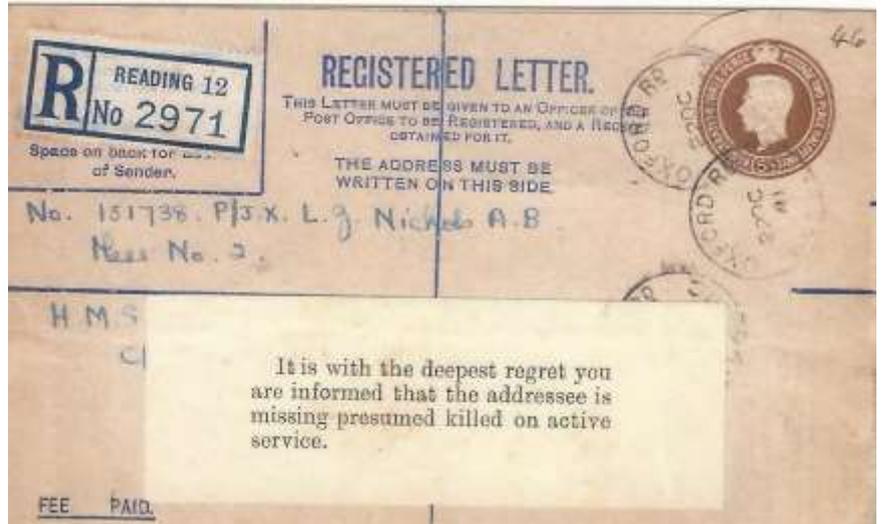
HMS Barham, was a massive vessel of some 31,000 tons, dwarfed the escorting destroyers. The battleship and her escorts followed the usual zigzagging pattern of submarine avoidance but at 04.00 hours on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1939, whilst sailing in poor visibility, 9 miles off the coast of the Mull of Kintyre, HMS Barham collided with HMS Duchess, and cut her in two. From a compliment of 129 crew, only one officer and 22 ratings survived the terrible accident.

The afternoon of 25<sup>th</sup> November 1941 was a fine clear day as the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean, Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham on board HMS Queen Elizabeth, together with HMS Barhaivi and HMS Valiant, and their screen of destroyers, led by HMS Jervis, steamed into the Gulf of Sollom, off the coast of Egypt. At 16.17 hours, the senior operator on HMS Jervis reported a contact, but it was indistinct, and when consulted the officers on duty discounted it. A few minutes later the battle squadron altered course to conform to their zigzag routine, bringing the battleships into a formation in which units follow one another but are spaced out sideways to allow each other a line of fire ahead. Admiral Cunningham was relaxing in his bridge cabin when at 16.30 hours he heard and felt the cabin door give three distinct rattles and thought the ship had opened fire with its anti-aircraft guns. He quickly went up to the bridge and saw HMS Barham, which was immediately astern, stopped and listing heavily to port side.

Unknown to the squadron, German U-331 had penetrated the destroyer screen and fired a salvo of four torpedoes towards the group, three of which hit HMS Barham's port side, causing it to list heavily and spread fire towards the ammunition storage areas.

In his report, U331 Captain Lieutenant Hans Diedrich von Tiesenhausen wrote: 'The Barham had rolled over when there was a terrific explosion as one of her magazines blew up. The ship was completely hidden in a great cloud of yellow-blackish smoke which went high into the sky. When it cleared away Barham had disappeared. The explosion of HMS Barham was captured on a dramatic piece of film shot from HMS Valiant which shows the drama from the moment the ship was torpedoed, how she continued to steam ahead, heeling over fast as she went. Then came the terrible explosion which shattered the ship in a huge cloud of black smoke.'

The next of kin of casualties were informed but the loss of the ship was not immediately announced, since it was clear at the time, the enemy did not know for sure she had been sunk and it was important to make certain dispositions before the loss of the ship was made public. On 27<sup>th</sup> January 1942, the Admiralty issued a communique to the press announcing the loss. Later that same day German radio announced that the Knights Cross had been awarded to Von Tiesenhausen for his daring exploit.



The Times newspaper published a casualty list on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1942. This showed that from a compliment of 1260 officers and ratings, 861 lost their lives. Shown is a registered envelope addressed to Able Seaman Leslie J Nichols, Mess No 2, who was serving on HMS Barham at the time of the explosion.

Footnote: U-331 was sunk on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1942 in the Mediterranean, north of Algiers, after she had been badly damaged by a Hudson aircraft. Thirty two of her crew were killed; there were 17 survivors including Von Tiesenhausen, who were rescued by a seaplane from the aircraft carrier HMS Formidable.

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**Tracked Overseas Post!**

Cliff Hurst, Secretary of Eltham & Woolwich SC

I am very sorry to advise that I have twice suffered the loss of tracked post arriving from overseas via London Heathrow and subsequently handled by the Langley sorting office. The first loss was admittedly some two years ago; a Newfoundland item from Montreal, Canada, which luckily was sent by registered and insured post, passed through the Langley sorting office (location LLA), was logged as leaving and never heard of again. As the item was insured, I was able to claim and received compensation. The second loss occurred with an eBay purchase being sent from Moscow by tracked post, arriving at Heathrow and the Langley sorting office on 27/12/2018 and logged as leaving the centre on the same day, only to again mysteriously disappear. This unfortunately leads me to believe there is a "sticky fingered" individual at the Langley sorting office, who is targeting **philatelic post** and if this is the case, I cannot believe that I am the only victim. If any KFPS member has suffered a similar loss, can they please supply details by email to [cliffordhurst62@gmail.com](mailto:cliffordhurst62@gmail.com) so that the full scale of the problem may be advised to Royal Mail.

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**Royal School of Military Engineering**

Michael Dobbs, KFPS Communications Officer and member of Lewisham PS and BBPS

Some of you will know that I collect certain aspects of military mail and that I am Secretary of the Forces Postal History Society. One of my many collections is of commemorative covers and postmarks for the annual Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) Open Day. First, some background information: the Royal Engineer Establishment was founded by Major (later General Sir) Charles Pasley in 1812. It was renamed the School of Military Engineering (SME) in 1868 and was granted the 'Royal' prefix in 1962. The RSME is commanded by a Brigadier, the Commandant RSME, from the headquarters in Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent. The RSME at Brompton Barracks is also home to the Royal Engineers Museum and the Institution of Royal Engineers.

It is interesting to note that some early postcards give the location as Chatham, whilst others give it as Gillingham! Illustrated is an early postcard showing the South Africa Arch built in 1902 which was unveiled by King Edward VII on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1905 to commemorate the 420 Royal Engineers who died in the Boer War. The postcard is inscribed 'S.A. War Arch, R.E. Barracks, Gillingham'. A Parliamentary Representation Report on the 'Proposed Division of Counties and Boundaries of Boroughs' ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1832 explains that the principal part of the town of Chatham lies in the parish of Chatham, but some also in the parish of Gillingham. The dockyard, barracks and other military / naval establishments are at Brompton and entirely separated from the town of Chatham. The boundary line between Chatham and Gillingham passes through the middle of Brompton, the best part of which is in the parish of Gillingham. Brompton Barracks was built between 1804 and 1806 and was originally called the Artillery Barracks as it was required to house the gunners, who were to man the defences of Chatham.



The dockyard, barracks and other military / naval establishments are at Brompton and entirely separated from the town of Chatham. The boundary line between Chatham and Gillingham passes through the middle of Brompton, the best part of which is in the parish of Gillingham. Brompton Barracks was built between 1804 and 1806 and was originally called the Artillery Barracks as it was required to house the gunners, who were to man the defences of Chatham.



Commemorative postmarks were used for the RSME Open Day between the years 1967-1978; I don't know if any exist earlier or later than these dates. I am missing covers for 1969 and 1977. The picture is of the 1971 commemorative cover. Commemorative postmarks for 1968 and 1972 are also shown; they have distinctive British Forces Postal Service numbers, 1070 and 1325 respectively.

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## HOW MUCH IS YOUR STAMP COLLECTION WORTH?

On reading Michael R Thompson's Autumn 2018 (page 11) article, Harry Layne BSc AMIEE, member of Eltham & Woolwich SC, reflects that Michael's words have made him reluctant to try and sell his collection, especially after a few dealers visited his home. He explains: I felt quite insulted by their offers for my GB collection, which contains at least three 1840 1d blacks and three 1840 2d blues, together with other line engraved stamps, including an 1850s 1d Archer Perf, and all the other issues up to the 1854 1d plate series. Nearly all of the stamps are very well centred with nice CDS cancels, as I had been quite fussy on what I included, and probably paid extra to own some of them. There is also a complete series of the 1d plate numbers [less 77 of course], and many surface printed issues including £1 browns and the Jubilee and EDVII issues, with all the high values, including a nice CDS example of the £5 orange. So, as you may imagine, my second word to the dealers was "off".

I used a SG Concise Catalogue to get a rough idea of the value, although my copy is five years out of date, but we all know that catalogue value is nothing to go by, but it does give you an overview. After looking around eBay I noted that many of my stamps were selling for quite high prices, and when making a decision as to my albums' value I used only a third of the price of the eBay sellers. As a rough guide I ended up with a nice round figure of £40,000. The rest of my Windsor Album was near complete to 1970 and all in fine used condition, with many of the more difficult stamps.

David Rennie, BBPS Secretary writes: As a former auctioneer, I was interested in Cliff Hurst's comments about Buyer's Premiums (Bulletin No. 204, October 2018, page 9). If memory serves me right, these were commonplace in the antiques and fine arts world, and introduced into philately by Harmers or Phillips in the 1970s. At first it was 10% or so, and enabled the auctioneer to offer a lower commission rate, to attract larger vendors or owners of prestige collections, when glossy catalogues were being introduced with colour illustrations. At Thames we weren't in that league. In practice it penalises the bigger spenders and still doesn't fairly compensate the auctioneer for the amount of work handling different sized lots, for example, a £100 stamp or a £100 box = £10.

The canny bidder will reduce his maximum bid to allow for the buyer's premium to be added, which actually reduces the amount going to the vendor and increases the total going to the auctioneer. Examples include:

10% vendor's commission with no premium on £100 is £10 = £90 to the vendor: but at say 5% vendor's commission if the lot is sold at £90 with 10% buyer's premium, is £4.50, therefore the vendor receives £85.50, instead of £90.

The auctioneer receives £10 on the £100 lot, (with no buyer's premium), but £13.50 (£9 + £4.50) on the £90 lot with 10% buyer's premium.

The buyer pays £110 (£100 + £10 buyer's premium) but if he adjusts his bid down to £90, he only pays £99 including the 10%.

As Michael mentions, we may be disappointed, and I am now of the mind that selling by auction is probably the best option to give everyone a chance of owning many of the scarcer items included in my collection, with many stamps that one does not see offered very often. I feel this is far better than to sell your collection to rogue dealers, who in my case offered less than £1000 for items that I feel could have sold on eBay for at least triple their offers, even if I sold only the more difficult to obtain, or the more expensive items. Some of the auction estimates are also getting lower to attract bids.

I have had my fun from these stamps, and not wanting to line other's pockets I may end up setting fire to all of my 8 albums, if a half reasonable offer is not forthcoming. Failing that, my wife tells me that when my number comes up she will bag them up and put them down the hole beneath my coffin, and anybody who want to dig them up can have them!

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### Unusual Russian Material!

Cliff Hurst, Secretary of Eltham & Woolwich SC

Any other members who collect Russian material and regularly check eBay may have noticed that two dealers in Moscow are regularly offering some rather unusual material, namely design proofs, colour trials, colour proofs and specimen stamps. All these stamps are imperforate and many are printed on what appears to be scrap coloured paper, although a few are printed on a high quality gloss paper and late Soviet and Russian Federation materials are all printed on normal stamp paper. As none of this material is available from UK dealer's stocks, I have been snapping them up and now have quite a respectable collection ranging from the Romanov Tercentenary stamps to the 2018 World Cup. Of course, the collection is far from complete, as I suspect that somebody with access to the archives has realised that the archives are not checked or audited, and has been regularly raiding the archived material. How long this will continue is anybody's guess, as the best the perpetrator can hope for, if discovered, is the sack and possibly a spell in a Siberian gulag for stealing state documents. Having said this, I hope that nobody in the Russian State Security Service takes and reads the KFPS bulletin! If any society (west of the Medway please) would like a display of this unusual material, contact me by email at [cliffordhurst62@gmail.com](mailto:cliffordhurst62@gmail.com).

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### My Favourite Philatelic Item ☺

Jenny Viggers, Bulletin Editor



William Osler (1849-1919) was a Canadian physician, specialising in medicine, particularly cardiology. This 1969 6 cent Canadian stamp was issued to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. But I digress, as the stamp itself is not my favourite item! Osler became a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London in 1884, while working in the USA, but he moved to Oxford in 1905 to take up the Regius Professorship of Medicine at Oxford University, and became a physician at the Radcliffe Infirmary. He held the professorship until his death, but over time reduced his clinical contact at the hospital. Osler focused his attention on private patients and reforms in clinical teaching of medical students and junior doctors, including during ward rounds.

This Philco Publishing Company postcard, a cheap eBay buy, is my favourite, not because of the Hope, Faith and Charity image, but because of the content on the reverse. Firstly, it uses a half penny King Edward VII stamp: he invited Osler to take on the new medical roles in 1904, but it was not until 1905 that Osler moved 'across the pond'. This reflected the international scale of Osler's reputation. Secondly, it is postmarked August 1908, a possible date (who knows?) when Osler could have been teaching at the Radcliffe Infirmary, to which, thirdly, this postcard is addressed. It is to a patient on Victoria Ward from her grand-daughter.



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## GB New Issues by Peter O'Keeffe

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On 15<sup>th</sup> January, a sheetlet entitled 'Stamp Classics' was issued. It has six stamps, one for each reign of the six monarchs since postage stamps were first introduced. In my view, not the best choice, but all of some interest. Three reproductions are now 1<sup>st</sup> class values and three are £1.55; perhaps ideal for collectors of 'Stamps on Stamps'. I purchased a sheetlet at Stampex on day 2, and find that I have number 812 of only 6000 to be issued (at Stampex). This could be unique! Is it the first time GB stamps have been numbered? I assume those sold elsewhere are not numbered. I wonder who has 811 or 813? Within these new stamps, surely the odd one out is the KEVII 2d Tyrian plum which was never issued? Why is this included when the 4d, 9d, 10d, 1/- or any of the larger high values of KEVII issues would have been quite suitable? These stamps are obviously aimed at the collector as they are only available as a miniature sheet; the cost of which amounts to £6.66. Or there is the 'Press Sheet' containing a limited edition run of only 300, if you have been saving up! PS, those sold at Stampex also have the 'Logo' of the show imprinted thereon. The usual "add ons" and a brief history are also available.



A further PS! I've just learnt that the Stampex special miniature sheet was withdrawn on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February, the day before the show closed, so this could mean that only about 20% of the numbers 'printed' would have been sold. If all 6000 were overprinted, what have Royal Mail done with the remainder? Only on sale for three days, was this bad planning? Does this make them worth more already? Lucky me!

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ANOTHER NEW ISSUE? I read in a national newspaper that soon (no date quoted) a 15 stamp set of fictitious comic strip super heroes is to be issued featuring gaudily coloured characters such as Captain Marvel, Spider Man, Hulk, Iron Man and Thor. The illustrations shown are 1<sup>st</sup> class values. Perhaps they will excite some people, but I am not one of them - no wonder many youngsters are not collectors! 15 stamps at 67p is certainly not the pocket money I got when I started collecting! 2/6d (12½p) was the most I could muster to obtain one 'high' value of a set costing all of £1-17-6d.



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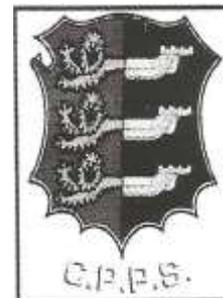
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## Society News

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**Cinque Ports Philatelic Society** Roger Dickinson, Vice Chairman, writes that our meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November was members' night when members brought along anything relating to the letter A. As usual with this type of evening there was a great variety of material on display covering countries and topics such as Aden, Alderney, Antigua, Austria, Australia, aviation, Agencies in the Turkish Empire, the Australia 99 Stamp Exhibition, Afghanistan Red Crescent Day stamps, airmail letter sheets, Albanian airmails and African animals. On 19<sup>th</sup> November we held another successful hints and tips workshop at which various topics were discussed, particularly relating to ways of display. The most effective use of Hagner-type pages was discussed and demonstrated together with the use of Microsoft Word to personalise album pages. The theme of the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> December was members' new acquisitions. Members brought along material showing recent Great Britain commemoratives, British railway station postmarks, German and Indian miniature sheets, stamps and covers of Gibraltar relating to WWI, Alderney Red Cross miniature sheets, Sir Francis Chichester covers, emblems and flags of US states, US state birds and flowers, rocket mail and finally Vatican City. Our annual Christmas party and auction was held on 17<sup>th</sup> December. As usual this was a highly successful evening and the auction lots sold well. Christine Moran and Myrtle Wheeler once again worked hard to ensure that everyone was supplied with a good variety of refreshments.



Following our mid-winter break the first meeting of 2019 was Chairman's evening on 4<sup>th</sup> February. Paul Cahill gave a typically polished display of Benelux airmail material including airmail stamps from the Netherlands (including Curacao, Netherlands Antilles and Surinam, Belgium, Belgian Congo and Luxemburg). He also included KLM and Sabena crash mail. The evening was rounded off by Vic Hoadley who showed ¼d stamps of the Commonwealth. 18<sup>th</sup> February was Ladies' Night. In spite of the fact that we do not have many lady members they certainly managed to keep us well entertained. Myrtle Wheeler gave an extensive display of stamps and covers relating to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, and this was followed by Mary Cockburn with a display of covers and photographs relating to Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway. Christine Moran finished off with a colourful display of stamps, covers and maximum cards of butterflies of the world.

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**Malling Stamp Club** Julie Lester, Secretary, writes that in September 2018, Len Stanway visited with his collection of Malaysia which was well received. Len presented a memory stick containing information regarding Malayan philately for use by the Malling members. In October, our AGM was held and was followed by member's displays. In November, John Corderoy visited with his display of East Germany, which is a country which has probably not been displayed at the club before. Our Christmas auction was held in December and, as usual, was well attended by members and visitors. A good variety of

lots were on offer. After the auction, the members and visitors enjoyed festive snacks and drinks. 2019 started with a members' evening, Five Sheets or 25p. Most of the members displayed and it was a very enjoyable evening. The February meeting was competition, bourse and members' displays. The competition is not a serious one and is decided by popular vote with Michael Thompson being the clear winner with Herm Island.

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**Dover Stamp Society** Bob Palmer, Secretary, reports that auction night on 11<sup>th</sup> March was very successful, with 12 members attending. On 25<sup>th</sup> March the annual quiz involving two teams, Dover SS and Deal PS, took place, with 8 members and 3 visitors taking part. The excellent quiz was well delivered by Tony Belsey, however, the winner was Deal PS. The annual dinner was held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.



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**Sidcup Philatelic Society** report the following: In October 2018 Jenny Viggers displayed 'A Medical Mix' including in the first half stamps, covers, postcards and ephemera related to blood donation: it's medical history, how blood is donated, blood donation organisations and blood transfusion. The second half covered cardiology, and the infectious diseases polio, smallpox and malaria, using a variety of philatelic

material. In December, three members took part in the BBPS annual inter-society display evening. Each member provided 12 sheets and spoke for 3-4 minutes about their entry to the audience. Cliff Gregory was runner up with his display of GB QV and EVII registered mail to India including Sea Post Office postmarks. Judith French displayed 'Tobacco' (pictured) and Geoff Hanney 'Forces mail in Ulster during WWII'.



In February 2019, Ian Reed gave a display of Channel Islands' Postal History 1785-1950, including mail in and out of Jersey and Guernsey, the Weymouth Packet and mail routed through St Malo. Pre-stamp material included various early cancellations, mail forwarded by agents, and also included some ship letter cachets. Early postal stationery items, one penny black cover and a variety of stamped mail, postmarks and 'moveable box' items were supplemented by postcards of mail boats. The second half included Edward VII, George V and George VI material and wartime Feldpost mail, concluding with bisects, wartime issues on covers and post war mail.

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**Orpington Philatelic Society** Terry Collings, President, reports that on 21<sup>st</sup> November the society was given a fascinating display by the jovial Len Barnes covering the development of air transport as undertaken by France. It began in 1870 with balloons and pigeon posts, for which he was able to show many letters from this period. Eventually petrol power was introduced and flight as we know it was conceived. By the time of WWI France had a huge fleet of aircraft and we were shown many early flight covers, some commemorating historical events, exhibitions and advertising with various vignettes. On 19<sup>th</sup> December we held our annual bourse, one sheet competition and a social gathering, with refreshments, ready for Christmas. The competition response was terrific with displays covering fakes and forgeries, Tonga and St Kilda tin can mail, flight covers including one from the Apollo space shuttle, the 1841 one penny reds, Victorian London obliterator post marks, Rhodesia 1917 war tax, Israel tabs and the 1973 exhibition. The competition was won by Terry Collings with his display covering the 1946-1948 Falkland Islands Dependencies.



On 20<sup>th</sup> February we held a members eight sheet competition. It turned out to be a good evening for Trevor Taylor who won all three competitions with a postal history display for Zeppelins, a stamp display of the one penny red, and a thematic display for forgeries. On 20<sup>th</sup> March we held a member's display evening covering exhibitions and special events. The displays started with a large variety of exhibition post marks and advertising material followed in depth by the London exhibition of 1980. Many special events were covered with Australian covers celebrating first flights covering the 1920s-1940s.

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**Herne Bay Philatelic Society** Arthur Blake, Secretary, writes that the Herne Bay branch is alive and well, thriving. We have a full programme with guest speakers, auctions every three months, and the usual bourse. But other than that nothing of note. Jenny Viggers, Bulletin Editor, notes that their website states that they have a 'flourishing "Stamp Exchange Packet"', and that Tony Hickey displayed 'Victory and Peace' in December, and Tony Bosworth showed 'Croatia 1941-45' in February. Their Christmas special involved a fish and chips supper.

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**Medway Towns Philatelic Society** Rosemary Dellar, committee member, writes that at our January 2019 meeting, President's Night, Bob Higgins chose to show 'Fossils and Dinosaurs', illustrating his subject not just with stamps and covers but with actual fossil specimens. On competition night in February, the joint winners of the Challenge Cup were John Mortimore with a colourful 'West India Regiment' entry, and Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins, whose '1905 Constitution Overprint of Montenegro' demonstrated exhaustive research. The range of entries in the Challenge Cup are shown, alongside the winners with Bob Higgins. The Thematic Trophy was won by Michael Thompson; his subject the 'Summer Olympics Track & Field Events', and the winner of the Cinderella Salver was Ian Griffin with 'GB Medicine Duty Revenues'.



In March Paul Jackson introduced material fresh to everyone with his fine display of stamps and covers of the Showa period of Japan, covering the years 1937-47. He gave a clear description of the events during that time, and the changes to the country's stamp issues they caused. He showed some rare covers from which 'undesirable' issues had been removed following the American post-war occupation, but regretted that a cover he had bought, posted in Hiroshima, proved too radioactive to be allowed through customs.

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**Gravesend & District Stamp Club** Julie Lester, Secretary for the North West Kent Postcard Club, the postcard section of the society, writes that in September 2018 Colin Tobitt visited with his display of Pneumatic Mail. This was a very unusual subject which most of the members had never seen before. In October we held our autumn auction where a good variety of lots were on offer and nearly everyone went home with something new for their collection. Frank Parsons also visited in October with his display of Switzerland which was an interesting and informative display, which also included Suchard postcards, which were particularly attractive and interesting. The WA Page Memorial Display was in November and Peter O'Keeffe visited with his display of Rhodesia which had not been displayed at the club for many years, and the members enjoyed seeing these classic stamps. In November, the meeting was a joint meeting with North West Kent Postcard Club (NWKPC) where Paul Baylis, one of the postcard club members, displayed part of his extensive collection of WWI postcards. In December, the joint social evening with NWKPC was held.

In January 2019, our President, Michael Thompson, displayed part of his collection, Reach for the Sky - The Balloon. The club has several members who have joined quite recently and they had never seen any of this display before and found it very interesting. Unfortunately, there was a mix up with the arrangements with our first speaker in February. The weather was not very good, so only a few members were in attendance. After a chat and refreshments, the meeting finished early. John Smith also visited in February with his very interesting collection of 'Some Small Islands in the South Pacific and The West Indies' which was enjoyed by the members. The weather was much better this evening and the attendance was good. Our AGM was held in March and was uneventful. After the break, Hugh Johnson displayed Canadian Cinderella stamps and Michael Thompson displayed part of his new sideline collection of Olympics.

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**Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society** David Rennie, Secretary, writes that in November we had a spectacular and unique display by Peter Lister entitled 'Something Different'. In the first part Peter (seen here alongside Grahame Boutle, BBPS President) showed GB pre-stamp postal history dating from 1591 with many 18<sup>th</sup> century items including charge marks, Queen Anne's Bounty items, rare 'Enfield Bag' items and 2d posts. This section was superbly presented on leaves with stylish writing-up. In the second



part Peter showed his friend's wonderful mouth-watering and unique display of GB; line engraved stamps all with 'N-J' letters in the bottom corners with many 1d blacks from different plates, including many matched pairs with 1d reds. There were unused and used examples including scarce numbers in Maltese Cross cancellations, red, blue and brown cancellations, early-date covers including a "doctored" 6<sup>th</sup> May 1840 item. Changing the subject, Peter's final display related to the 1934 MacRobertson Air Race to Australia. There were some 60 applications for the race, but just 19 planes took part, leaving London on 20<sup>th</sup> October with varying fortunes enroute. Most carried unofficial private mail and Peter showed "signed" covers from twelve of those competitors, with numerous photos, press-cuttings etc.

Brian Asquith's visit, also in November, provided us with some spectacular and unusual material. I doubt if there is a bigger "used on piece" item than this from Australia. His display was a miscellany of collectibles covering modern postal history, including this huge multi-franking item from Australia, moving on to the Civil War and Wakefield, Concorde (collateral material including Post Office notices, competition entries and postmarks), banknotes (including stamps as money and Latvia stamps printed on leftover paper), a wide selection of bonds and share certificates, and finally Chinese Airmails from 1901-1023, as well as a book and large gold medal celebrating Brian's Court of Honour entry at the 2009 China International Exhibition, Luoyang City, Henan.



On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 28 members attended to see Robin Tapper's Bromley postal history display which was well received, and very informative. This was our highest general meeting attendance for some time and it was good to see some of our more recently joined members in the audience. Robin's earliest item, a Corsini letter, was 1573 Paris to London which may have come via Rye, Sevenoaks, Bromley, and Lewisham using the so called "rippiers" or fish carriers of Rye, but without marks to confirm this. Other early



items included 1699 mentioning the Post Office at Bromley, 1798 with Bromley "serpentine" handstamp only in use for four years 1797-1801 and Farnborough straight-line 1817 etc. Having traced the developments of the Bromley Post Office through its various postmarks and cancellers, Robin was able to do a similar presentation for all the satellite and smaller towns and villages including station offices, and numerous skeleton types, albeit limited by the earlier marks being non-existent, and most later 19<sup>th</sup> century marks being extremely scarce and elusive. Nevertheless, it was a fascinating display of great interest to our members, some of whom live in places such as Chislehurst, Orpington and Bickley, as well as the Crays, Crofton, Chelsfield, Knockholt, Biggin Hill etc. Robin, is seen here with Grahame (again!).

Other BBPS meetings included our successful inter-society meeting (mentioned on other pages of the bulletin), Chris Sands displaying Netherlands Antilles, William Morris showing Falkland Islands and David Milsted FRPSL displaying Army Official postal history.

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**Sevenoaks & District Philatelic Society** Peter O'Keeffe, Secretary and Editor of the society's newsletter, writes that since the last Bulletin, we have held five meetings: in September 2018, it was letters K, L, or M, covering three competitions; items seen included Morocco Agencies overprints on GB stamps, Kuwait, Malta, Levant overprints on GB, and a single sheet entry of a flight cover by KLM, the Dutch Airline. October was a display of 'The Other Things I Collect' given by Peter O'Keeffe, being different philatelic countries or items out of the ordinary. In November Pierre Jean, showed 'The Stamps of France', an almost complete range up to 1977 - (it turned out to be a display by PJOK). In December we had a room auction, boosted by the sale of the 'Society library'; alas despite some good bargains, support was disappointing. As the date for the January 2019 meeting was the 2<sup>nd</sup>, which would have been our social 'Cheese & Wine' do, and being so close to the New Year celebrations, we decided not to have any meeting this time. Therefore our first meeting of 2019 was a 'Members Night' on 6<sup>th</sup> February, and being the anniversary of the death of KGV I, we asked members to show any KGV I stamps from their collections. Apart from two large showings (with a variety of types of material) it was disappointing that several of those present did not make much of an effort. A pity, but if this happens too often, it lessens the attraction of such meetings, and membership does suffer. Alas, the phrase "use it, or lose it" seems appropriate!



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**Maidstone & Mid Kent Philatelic Society** Brain Stonestreet, Publicity Officer, writes that our 96<sup>th</sup> season started off with a visit from Sidcup PS; due to traffic problems on the motorway only Geoff Hanney made it by the start time and bravely stood in for the first half with displays of Indian army uniforms, Indian forces in Egypt in WWI, Chile's involvement in Antarctica and postcards of Whitstable. Brilliant!! The remaining team members finally arrived and we saw a display by John Corderoy of Israel/Palestine stamps complete with tabs and Frank Parsons showing customs and excise material from his late wife's collection. In the second meeting of September, we were then privileged to see a fine collection of material on WWI and WWII by Chris and Birthe King.



October saw brilliant displays from Bill Hedley on Hungary and Pat Reid on Tasmania. It was thought that this was the first time that Tasmania had been showed at the society. In November four of our members visited Redhill and Croydon societies, and we also saw a fine display of Nelson and Trafalgar, as well as holding our bi-annual auction. December saw a display on the Nuremburg Rallies by Tony Hickey, which was well received. For our President's Evening Tony Bosworth invited four of our senior members to give displays. Lewis Giles started off with a potpourri of New Zealand where we saw pre-stamp mail, routes and rates, onward air transport and Christmas airmails 1931/2. John Dann followed with overseas mail from Maidstone 1794, instructional mail 1800's, registered mail and 'A Study of Bomber Fund Labels for Fiji'. Nick Lazenby showed Canada, the first stamp covers of 1800 and Germany pre WWI postcards. Richard Barnes followed with GB definitives and covers of QEII definitives.

In January 2019 we had our usual members evening with the letters P, Q and R which produced the usual variety of displays and terrible puns. This was followed by Marcus - Sherwood Jenkins who displayed as part of his role as (ex) KFPS President. Finally for January our own member Margaret Emerson stood in for Mr B Lardner who was unwell. She displayed her fine collection of 'royalty'. February started off with our Grant and Revell Cup competitions. The Grant Cup was won by Lewis Giles and the Revel Cup was retained by Hugh Johnson. Our own member, John Mortimore gave his first ever full thematic display of the British Redcoats. This is a remarkable and informative display about their history.

Our morning meetings have seen a members display of 'Military Mail'. Two of our members have shown 'My New Collections' (Dawn Johnson) and WWII - Occupied Territories (Alan Baum). So far this year we have had a members' display of "G is for...", a visit from Tunbridge Wells PS and Hugh Johnson displaying Canadian pre-stamped mail.

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**Lewisham Philatelic Society** Tony Hickey, Secretary, writes that it seems incredible that the 2018/19 season is ending next month. Once again the season has been extremely successful with wonderful displays, such as Ian Marshall with London Coffee Houses, Geoff Richardson with Booklet Panes of Germany, Geoff Hanney's Miscellany, Tony Hickey on the Treaty of Versailles, John Smith's Small Islands and Derek White on Canadian Revenues. This, mixed with our

member's evenings, means that we have had a very varied and enjoyable season. We also took part in the BBPS inter-society meeting, where John Shaw showed South Africa, the 1935 Silver Jubilee issue including varieties, Colin Tobitt showed Austrian 'Turnfest' (gymnastics) and Tony Hickey (pictured) Memel issues. A secret vote was cast by audience members who voted Tony's to be the best. ☺



Membership is still a problem as we only have 14, however I'm pleased to say, most are active and regularly attend. Due to the rising costs of the venue we amalgamated our AGM with a members' evening, thus saving the cost of one night - every little bit helps!

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**Royal Tunbridge Wells Philatelic Society** Peter O'Keeffe, Newsletter Editor, writes that our programme runs from January to December, but I continue from where I left off with our last report. For the evening meetings, on 13<sup>th</sup> September, Mike Slamo, Sussex Federation Treasurer, gave an interesting display of GB Queen Victoria stamps, followed on 11<sup>th</sup> October with a visit by Orpington PS when two of their members, Paul Skinner and Len Bridger, entertained us. Our AGM was on 8<sup>th</sup> November, when Robin Tapper took over from Nigel Gooch as our President for the next three years. This was followed on the same night with our competitions, again some excellent material was on show.

To end the year we had a 'GB Miscellany' display given by Patrick Frost. On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 we held our annual New Year lunch, this time at The Spread Eagle (our morning meetings venue) with 31 members and friends in attendance. Now that we have moved (for all meetings) to The Spread Eagle, our Secretary & Treasurer Ian Marshall gave another fine display of Scottish postal history on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. The next meeting was a visit by Peter Pugh, on 13<sup>th</sup> February showing 'Another Bloody Railway: Trans-Siberian Railway, covering the history of the building of the line and the many problems encountered.

Now reporting on the last of our morning meetings towards the end of 2018: On 27<sup>th</sup> September, Brian Asquith gave us an excellent show entitled 'On Dragons Wings' being a history of Chinese airmails, then our retiring President, Nigel Gooch, showed us even more of his collection of Persian covers on 25<sup>th</sup> October. Our final meeting of 2018 was on 22<sup>nd</sup> November when four of our FRPSL members, John Barker, Dee Pullan, Robin Tapper and Brian Stonestreet all gave displays of some of their favourite items from their collections.

**STOP PRESS!**

The next meeting to be held on  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April  
will be the last at The Spread Eagle.

As from  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May  
we will, for the rest of the year (at  
least) be meeting at  
The Camden Arms Hotel  
1 High Street  
Pembury  
Near Tunbridge Wells  
TN2 4PH.

There is easy access (off the A21)  
and plenty of parking

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesdays at 10am.

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**Bexley Philatelic Society (BPS)** Will Dalrymple, Press Officer, writes that more than a touch of sadness was carried by the display of past president Frank Parsons (pictured) that opened the 2018-19 season, as he presented not his own collection, but that of his late wife and fellow collector Pat, who died earlier in the year. The display was of her

collection of national savings stamps. The scheme started in 1916, and was initially intended for use by children.

A few years later these items

included, rather shockingly, a swastika, but he explained that its use as a symbol of good luck pre-dates the more familiar Nazi usage. Sheets and books of coupons were shown. The second half featured fiscals and revenues, including of gramophone labels and vehicle tax discs. At the next meeting in early October, Romney Marsh Philatelic & Postcard Society members presented a wide variety of displays, from Nyasaland and Zanzibar postcards, to a thematic presentation on campaigning physician Albert Schweitzer, a focus on bird paintings and American naturalist John James Audubon, to South American lighthouses.



Following the club's usual autumn auction night was a competition and bourse. Winner of the eight-page competition (traditional to 1937) was Cliff Ayers, with Zanzibar. The 16-page postal history competition was won by Frank Parsons, for his display on Switzerland. In November, members showed their own materials on the display boards without any responsibility to speak; it was the club's first 'silent display'. Finally for 2018, at our traditional pre-holiday meeting in December, president John Corderoy showed off stamps from his collection, which was in fact from his biggest: Monaco. The world's second-smallest country used French stamps until 1885, and John showed seven used examples from the first issue, which he said are difficult to find. Also shown were sought-after miniature sheets, including an imperforate national fête day during the reign of Louis 2<sup>nd</sup> (1922-1949), and a full Red Cross charity sheet. John also revealed that his love for the country comes partly for its preference for the recess printing process, and in particular the work of Polish engraver Czeslaw Slania, who worked on many Monagasque stamps.

It's been a member-focused start to 2019, which kicked off with contributions on that popular theme, "What Else Do you Collect?" On the ensuing postcard-themed meeting, presentations covered locomotives, airmail postcards, items with a royal theme during the reign of KGVI, and advertising cards from the Swiss chocolatier Suchard. That was followed by a display of UPU stamps from Phil Clark. Then came two other member-focused meetings: our spring auction, and our two-page competition with members' bourse. On 5<sup>th</sup> April, Ray Barton (pictured) showed a cross-section of his extensive collection of Mexico, from pre-stamp items through what he called one of the most interesting periods for a collector, during the 1913-1916



revolution. Early on, trouble with bandits prompted the decision to only treat a stamp as valid payment of postage if given a district handstamp. The physical geography of the country, in terms of the distances between major cities, prompted a second feature of its philately: bisects, as supplies of stamps ran low. Both initial high values, the 4 and 8 reals, were allowed to be bisected by official sanction, and so was the 2 real, and although these are scarce, Ray showed a certificated example. His talk covered many other interesting examples, including forgeries, provisional issues, registered covers, postage dues, inflationary prices, local overprints and more.

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**Whitstable Philatelic Society** Further to Chairman Adrian Safier's introduction to Whitstable PS in the last bulletin, Geoff Parris, Secretary, writes that Whitstable PS hold occasional displays, from within our members, and less frequently from other local societies. We do not compete for cups and we do not involve with the Federation, by choice. Our membership remains steady, by virtue of local advertising, our website and Facebook page, and the influx of new members who are finding Whitstable is an attractive town to retire to, or commute, from Medway, London, and beyond. We keep our subscription low at £2.00/pa which with our commissions from packet rounds, auctions and raffles, covers all our overheads, which includes a very nice clubroom, storage of our display boards, kitchen facilities, large car park and heating. We use email a lot and Adrian informs all but eight of our members, and all of the local societies who have email contacts, of what we are up to, and our auction lists. By the same means, we also let our members know of any outside events that we are told about.



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*Society Meetings end April 2019- end October 2019*

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The listings below may not be complete as changes happen; Michael Dobbs will inform all societies of updates as and when available.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Society</b>	<b>Title of display</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<b>April 2019</b>			
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sidcup	Sokal	Tony Bosworth FRPSL & Lindy Bosworth FRPSL
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	Bromley & Beckenham	Some of my favourite Tristan	Ron Burn
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	Romney Marsh	A display by Richard Mittell ( <i>to be confirmed</i> )	
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	Tunbridge Wells	(am) London, Brighton & South Coast Railway / Interrupted Mail	Andy Gould
Thur 25 <sup>th</sup>	Maidstone	Visit from Redhill PS	Members
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	Gravesend	10 sheets or 25p & bourse	Members
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	NWKPCC	Hounslow and Isleworth	Ray Barton
<b>May 2019</b>			
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	Deal	Visit from Kent Postal History Group	
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	Romney Marsh	Joint meeting with Hastings & East Sussex PS at Rye	
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sevenoaks	A Famous Woman	Jeremy Gaskell
Thur 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Eltham & Woolwich	AGM	Members
Thur 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Maidstone	(am) 12 sheets (one frame)	Members
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bexley	Spain	Eddie Shilling
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Herne Bay	Club auction	Members
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Bromley & Beckenham	Bring your own album/sheets	Members
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Tunbridge Wells	(am) National Stamp Day display (one frame each)	Members
Thur 9 <sup>th</sup>	Maidstone	Competitions & bourse	Members
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	Gravesend	Iceland	Tony Davies
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Cinque Ports	Visit from Kent Postal History Group	John Weston
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Dover	Visit from Romney Marsh	
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Medway Towns	GB Red Pennies ( <i>not just penny reds!</i> )	Peter O'Keeffe
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup>	Malling	German Occupation Zones 1945-49	Eddie Shilling
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup>	Sidcup	Silent displays: 50p fine if you talk	Members
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	Orpington	AGM & auction	Members
Thur 16 <sup>th</sup>	Whitstable	Visit from Cinque Ports PS	
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Bexley	The Nobel Prize	Grace Davies
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Herne Bay	Censorship of seaside postcards	Don Davies
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	Cinque Ports	AGM & 1 page competition	Members
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	NWKPCC	Outing to Maidstone PCC Evening Postcard Fair	

Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Bromley & Beckenham	President's competition & AGM	Members
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tunbridge Wells	(am) Visit from Maidstone PS	
Thur 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Maidstone	The Post Office went to War	Christine Earle FRPSL
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sidcup	An Evening with Paul & Victor	
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	Romney Marsh	AGM	Members
<b>June 2019</b>			
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cinque Ports	Quiz Night with Dover & Deal	
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Medway Towns	1-3 covers with a story to tell	Members
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	Deal	AGM & competition	Members
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sevenoaks	AGM & auction	Members
Thur 6 <sup>th</sup>	Maidstone	AGM & cheese & wine	Members
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	Bexley	AGM & displays	Members
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	Herne Bay	AGM	Members
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	Dover	AGM	Members
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	Malling	The Definitive Story (New Zealand)	Brian Stonestreet
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	Bromley & Beckenham	Postcards	Members
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	Romney Marsh	Philatelic competitions	Members
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tunbridge Wells	(am) Visit from Cinque Ports PS	
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Gravesend	Summer auction	Members
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	Orpington	Gibraltar	John Corderoy
Thur 20 <sup>th</sup>	Whitstable	Auction No 3	Members
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	Tunbridge Wells	(am) Heathfield & Mayfield India & other countries	Philip Kaye FRPSL Cliff Gregory

David Rennie, BBPS Secretary, writes about summer meetings. 'I am sure those societies which continue to hold summer meetings, would welcome visitors from other societies, where they do not have summer meetings. Having a look here, or finding details on the Kent or individual society websites, helps to plan which meetings to attend. Our postcards meeting in June would be a good place to start, and guests are always welcome to bring some material to show'.

**July 2019**

Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	Cinque Ports	Summer auction	Members
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	Medway Towns	AGM & 1 sheet competition	Members
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sevenoaks	The Falkland Islands	Robert Hurst
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bexley	Brightelstone postal history	Frank Parsons
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	Herne Bay	Summer bourse	Members
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup>	Malling	President's evening	Margaret Emerson
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	Bromley & Beckenham	Refugees in Denmark 1945-49 Denmark & the Napoleonic Wars	Birthe King FRPSL Chris King RDP FRPSL
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	Romney Marsh	Letters P & Q	Members
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	Tunbridge Wells	(am) My other collection	Members
Thur 18 <sup>th</sup>	Whitstable	AGM, bourse & displays	Members
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	Bexley	Auction	Members
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	NWKPCC	Members displays	Members

**August 2019**

Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Herne Bay	Club auction	Members
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup>	Malling	Members displays	Members
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Bromley & Beckenham	Favourites from my collection	Members
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Romney Marsh	Travel	Members
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Tunbridge Wells	(am) Two frame display	Members

**September 2019**

Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Sevenoaks	Letters N, O & P competitions	Members
Thur 5 <sup>th</sup>	Cinque Ports *	<i>Start of New Season</i>	
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	Malling	Monaco	John Corderoy
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sidcup	UPU	Phil Clarke
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	Tunbridge Wells	(am) Border changes in Europe	Rex Dixon
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	NWKPCCC	A Tour of Gibraltar	Bob Higgins
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup>	Sidcup	Visit from Gravesend SC	
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	Tunbridge Wells	(am) 2012 Olympics	Margaret Emerson

**October 2019**

Tue 8 <sup>th</sup>	Malling	AGM & displays	Members
Tue 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sidcup	<i>Meeting cancelled</i>	
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	Tunbridge Wells	(am) Local & Global Collectables since 1665	John Barker
Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sidcup	Autumn auction	Members
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tunbridge Wells	(am) President's morning	Robin Tapper
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup>	NWKPCCC	Hong Kong	Bob Appleton

Notes:

NWKPCCC = North West Kent Postcard Club

(am) indicates morning meetings (Maidstone & Mid-Kent and Royal Tunbridge Wells)

(pm) indicates afternoon meetings (Dover)

\* = From the 2019/20 season Cinque Ports PS will meet on a Thursday

**North West Kent Postcard Club** are the postcard section of Gravesend & District Stamp Club.

Visitors are welcome; they meet at St Paul's United Reformed Church Hall, Singlewell Road, Gravesend, DA11 7RE at 7.45 pm, usually on the last Monday of the month.

The next meetings are as follows:-

- 29<sup>th</sup> April Ray Barton Hounslow and Isleworth
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July Members' Displays
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept Bob Higgins A Tour of Gibraltar

Further details can be provided by Julie Lester (see Malling SC details on page 27)

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*Thank you, as always, to all contributors for this bulletin: for your responses to other's articles, for new articles and society updates, KFPS activity details, for feedback etc.*

*I hope that you have enjoyed (circle the word that most likely reflects what you have done) browsing, skimming, scanning, reading thoroughly or annotating this bulletin. How else do you go through it? Let me know.*

*I will be starting work on the new bulletin in the next couple of weeks, finalising it in October. Wanted are willing volunteers answering questions and writing: feedback, comments, news items and articles of interest. This bulletin cannot be edited without your input, so come on, whichever your method of writing (circle the word that*

*reflects what you will do), by pen, typewriter or computer, send it in. Photography or scanning skills might also be helpful.*



*I look forward to hearing from you all. Jenny*



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