

## JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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I am writing these Musings on Guy Fawkes Day. In my career in retailing this was a significant day in that it marked the beginning of the all important Christmas trading period. Thankfully, these pressures are now behind me and I can enjoy Christmas in the same way as most others. Over the Christmas and New Year period, the Society is celebrating in two ways. On 11 December, following our '14 days to Christmas' members meeting, we will be able to enjoy the Christmas lunch organised by the Camden Arms. On 8 January 2020, we will be having our customary New Year Lunch, also at the Camden Arms. Appropriately, this will be the first of two meetings in 2020 when we shall be able to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Society. The second will be on 13 May.

When I took over as President last November, I said that I was keen to promote the social side of the society and to try to improve attendance at meetings. I also wanted to encourage more of our own members to display their collections. I believe that the move to all morning meetings and our new venue at the Camden Arms has provided the necessary momentum. For me though, most significant of all has been the number of members who have shown parts of their collections at members only meetings. We have certainly seen some wonderful material and some new ways of approaching subjects. I particularly enjoyed the use of postcards and other ephemera to bring subjects alive – so much so that I am now including more of them in my own collections!

Whilst the RTWPS seems to be holding its own, we still need to find ways to broaden our appeal. This is particularly important as many societies and exhibitions are experiencing difficulties. The fact that a philatelic institution like Autumn Stampex 2019 recorded disappointing attendances, fewer competitive displays and fewer dealers, despite some new initiatives and hard work on the part of the organisers, is a cause for concern. This cannot just be 'exhibition fatigue'. To me, it heralds the need for new approaches to adapt to a new internet enabled environment where information is more readily available than ever before, purchases can be made without leaving the house and friends and colleagues can be

(continued overleaf)

REMEMBER, REMEMBER, the 25<sup>th</sup> December WE ARE NOT MEETING!

XX

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## PRESIDENTS MUSINGS (continued)

contacted instantly. However, what this new environment lacks is the opportunity for people to come together to see and hear about other collecting areas and to socialise with like minded friends. This is the challenge which we face. It also provides us with a great opportunity to optimise the appeal of our Society and the enjoyment of our hobby.

Back to the here and now and Christmas.

Thank you to everyone for your help and support over the past year. Have a really Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2020.

Robin

### ..... A QUESTION FOR OUR AUSTRALIAN COLLECTORS / EXPERTS ? ? ? ?

As a keen collector of Postal Stationery, I recently acquired a QEII letter card, unused, but probably circa 1955, which has a red 4d imprinted 'stamp' on which the Queens head faces to her right (on the left as we look at it).

However this has been deleted (before issue by the Post Office), using seven straight lines in black ink. It has been replaced by an imprinted blue 'stamp' with a face value of 5d, of a similar design.

Now if the rate was increased by one penny, why was it considered appropriate to delete the 4d? They could have added a 1d impression.

Perhaps they did not have a 1d value in stock, or maybe it was to meet UPU colour requirements for the new rate? A 1d adhesive could have been added!



They also deleted the 3 lines of instructions

on the reverse about extra postage being needed for mail addressed to a non British destination - was this no longer necessary? It seems unusual - does any one know why?

Peter O'Keeffe.

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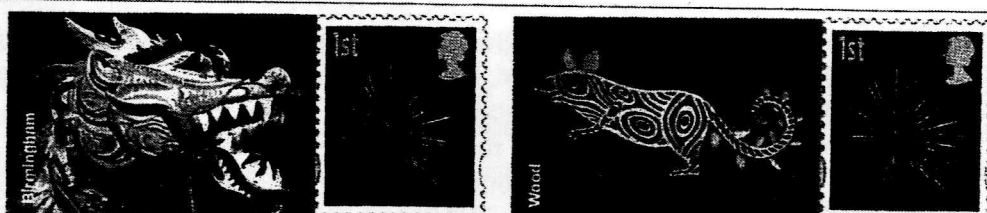
**COMPETITIONS** Our recent competitions caused some problems, which need sorting out - for instance in the eight page 'Stamps' category, we had entries of nine, twelve and eight pages, and in the 'Postal History' section, at least one entry was more stamps than P/H! It has been suggested therefore that, in good time, for our next competitions, a listing should be made available to those of you prepared to take part, it is suggested that this should be issued two/three months beforehand to clarify the requirements. The Committee will draw up such information, and hopefully more entries will be forthcoming. It should be noted that entries for County, National or International competitions are normally, of 8, 16, 32 or 64 pages - should we accept similar numbers to encourage our members to try their skills for an even higher rating?

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**G. B. NEW ISSUES** The latest Christmas stamps, could have been lighter in colouring - they do not reproduce well in black & white. There are eight stamps in the set, two 'large', 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> class, two smaller, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup> class, plus four others, at £1.35, £1.55, £1.60 and £2.30 totalling £10. Then there is a miniature sheet with all eight values, the usual 'add-ons', booklets of 12 x 2<sup>nd</sup> class or 12 x 1<sup>st</sup> class, stamp souvenir sheets (£12.60), a generic sheet (£18.40), and presentation packs etc. Issued on the 5<sup>th</sup> November. A slightly Religious set, but I feel they could have been better.



THE LUNAR NEW YEAR is the 'Year of the Rat' and The Royal Mail issued a Generic sheet consisting of 20 x 1<sup>st</sup> class, blue 'Fireworks' stamps (from the 'Smilers' range) each having an orange label attached showing one of 15 different Chinese designs of a somewhat colourful rat.. Not to my liking, and I doubt the general public will even get to know about them or use them. Again darkish colouring which may not copy well, in b & w! Here are two of them.




Two of the labels that feature on the Generic Sheet alongside the Fireworks stamp from the Smilers® range

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**WORLD WAR I** I recently purchased a black & white postcard showing British soldiers of the 4<sup>th</sup> King's Own West Lancs. Regiment driving horse drawn open top wagons, loaded with equipment along TONBRIDGE high street. It shows the year as 1916. Perhaps they were headed to Somerhill, which around that time was a Military 'Summer Camp'. The card being a reproduction, to raise funds for the Royal British Legion. There is a small double circle TONBRIDGE 'X' WWIWWIWWI type of 'Post mark' showing a timed date of 11.00 AM on the 11<sup>th</sup> November '18. cancelling an imprint of a KGV ½ d. The card was not used, it being one of a set of six for charity purposes. The 'Postmark' is fictitious, but one does wonder if there ever was a similar Tonbridge mark at least of that date...?  
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OUR 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER - 13<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020 Below is a photocopy of the menu for the event held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1953 - not a special date (apart from it being Remembrance Day). It was in 1954 that the town was awarded the title 'Royal' Note: J.C. Cartwright was our President for a total of 16 years (in three terms) and A. R. Hughes donated the 'Hughes Cup' awarded to members who served the club in various capacities.. Also note, there was a 'Chairman' for the Dinner ! Cancel your holiday and join us for the 75<sup>th</sup> ! The menu was on a stiff card - this one belonged to a Mrs J.E.T. Hornsby.

*Mrs J. E. T. Hornsby*




TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
PHILATELIC  
SOCIETY.

CORONATION YEAR.

*Sixth*  
**Annual Dinner**

PANTILES GRILL,  
WEDNESDAY,  
NOV. 11th,  
1953.



### Menu.

Vegetable Soup.

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Roast Chicken.

Stuffing. Bread Sauce.

Roast and Creamed Potatoes.

Buttered Carrots.

Garden Peas.

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Jelly and Ice Cream.

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Cheese and Biscuits.

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Coffee.

### Toasts.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

Proposed by J. C. CARTWRIGHT.  
President.

INTERVAL

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.

OUR FEDERATIONS OF  
PHILATELIC SOCIETIES.

Proposed by G. REEVES-BROWN, M.B.E.  
Vice-President.

Responded to by R. E. TURNER.  
Chairman A.S.P.S. 1951-53.

PRESENTATION OF THE BREWER TROPHY.

ENTERTAINMENT.

OUR GUESTS.

Proposed by A. R. HUGHES.  
Vice-President.

Responded to by R. HUTCHINSON.  
Head Postmaster Tunbridge Wells.

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS** Since moving to The Camden Arms with two meetings most months commencing at 10.30am and usually finishing by 12.30pm (with the option to stay for lunch - which entitles us to the free hire of the meeting venue providing we have a minimum of six lunches), the attendances at these meetings have ranged between 18 and 24, which is about 50% of our membership. It seems that most members are no longer employed so it should be easy to attend, the morning rush hour is over, it is not dark, your 'other' half, could drop you off, go shopping, and join us for lunch ! If you have not yet joined us, do try and come and see what you are missing. Set your alarms, come by car (free parking) or bus (to the door) and be on time; we have enjoyed some very interesting displays and speakers and have a friendly atmosphere, access is easy, we are on the ground floor, and offer free coffee at the interval. Why not give it a try ? Since mornings appear popular we have attracted three or four new members from other clubs, most meeting in an evening. Don't forget, usually 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays. Make a New Year resolution, even though the topic may not really interest you, the social side can be enjoyed, and you will learn much more about our mutual hobby and how other members manage their collections.

**THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH** This is on January 8<sup>th</sup>, Don't forget YOU NEED TO BOOK, contact Ian Marshall 01892 - 525780, A.S.A.P. and place your Menu choice. This is important.