

Famous Author from Oundle u3a?

Congratulations to Kathryn Baird, one of our Members, on the publication of her book *'Fifty Mysterious Postcards'*. Those of you who learned Pitman shorthand will find this fascinating – do you remember all the squiggles? – but Kathryn has unlocked its secrets for those unversed in its intricacies.

As Kathryn notes:

"Having a glorious time, fine every day. We have faces like boiled lobsters and the skin is peeling off".

"I am looking forward so intensely to tomorrow night. I must give vent to my feelings then and I am sure you will feel like me".



Two examples taken from my book *'Fifty Mysterious Postcards'*. Pitman Shorthand Messages from the Golden Age of the Postcard', published by The History Press and will be available in Oundle Bookshop and all major booksellers from 15th

September. This book features postcards from my collection with the transcription of their tiny stories. Intriguing examples of a dying art coupled with nostalgic images.

I learnt to write Pitman shorthand fifty years ago and taught it in the 1980s in a college of further education. In 1984, I bought my first postcard with a message written in shorthand and I've been pursuing this niche hobby ever since. And thanks to the members of two Oundle u3a Writing groups, under the leadership of Jill Rundle and Anne Browne, I've been inspired and encouraged in my writing.