



The Essex Philatelic Contact.

The Journal of Association of Essex Philatelic Societies



- 81 Years of Service -

Editor: L.C. Stanway FRPSL.

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EDITORIAL:

The rebuilding of the Association continues with, this year, the first Council Meeting and the reintroduction of the annual competitions, while, for next year, the preparations for relaunch of StampEssex has been announced.

I hope that all societies will take full advantage of our services by sending in reports, however short, of every meeting, photographs of speakers, forthcoming programmes (as far ahead as possible), updated officer lists, venue details and other news. Philately in our area will only flourish with mutual support! We cannot help you if you do not tell us what you are doing.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO EPC.

Subscription to this journal are free of charge and initial circulation was to officers and members of members societies, as in the existing AEPS mailing list. Other interested persons wishing to obtain their own personal copy are invited to send their e-mail address to the Editor at the address on the last page. Any persons wishing to unsubscribe are similarly invited to contact the Editor by e-mail.

AEPS News

STAMPESSEX

Your committee is planning to relaunch StampEssex on 9 May 2026 at Runnymede Hall, Thundersley. Potential vendors are invited to contact Ray How for details and prices. It will host the Association's Spring Competitions for 2026. At present, it is assumed that the Autumn competitions will be at the AGM, as for this year.

AEPS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held on 15 December and was well attended, with seven societies represented. The meeting stood in memory of Bill Trower, before the annual reports were presented and approved. The demise of Roy Bates and Frank Hale was also noted during the meeting. The Secretary asked all societies to report the passing of members, to avoid unnecessary mailings, etc., and to ensure that the new year's programmes be sent to him by those societies as soon as they were available. The highlight of next year will be the relaunch of StampEssex. Meanwhile, this year has seen the relaunch of competitions, the entries and results of which were displayed before and after the meeting, with results announced and cups presented immediately after the AGM. Various other issues will be addressed by the Executive.

AEPS SEMINAR 2026

If you have any suggestions as to possible topics for the 2026 annual Seminar, please contact Ray How now. The more ideas the better!

AEPS COMPETITIONS

The AEPS Autumn Competitions 2025 were judged by Mike Kentzer & Terry Wagg of Mid-Anglia Federation, except the Literature Competition, which was judged by Len Stanway, the Editor of The Malayan Philatelist. The trophies were presented at the AGM on 15 November.

The Traditional (Stamps & Postal Stationery) Competition was won by Mick Carter (Frinton) with "Sudan Official Stamps". The Postal History Competition was won by Ray How (Rayleigh) with the "Post Office Packet Service: Milford Haven to Waterford Route", which also took the Great Britain Postal History Trophy. Joint second were Len Stanway (Basildon) with "Richmond Postal Markings 1765-1862" and Alan Moorcroft (Frinton) with "UK Registered Mail 1841-1993". The Aerophilately Competition was won by Len Stanway (Basildon) with "Carriage of Empire Route Mail from Malaya to Britain by Air 1928-1937". Second was Mick Carter (Frinton) with Sudan Early & Interesting Airmail Covers". The Thematic Competition was jointly won by Colin Evans (Benfleet) with "The Zaire River Expedition 1974-75" and Mick Carter (Frinton) with "Airgraphs MEF & PAIForce". Third place went to Sue Stacey (Rayleigh) with "Pacific Navigators". The Cinderella Competition

was won by Len Stanway (Basildon) with "Metropolitan Railway (1863- 1933)". Second was Andy Howson (Rayleigh) with "British Occupation of Former Italian Colonies". The Picture Postcard Competition was won by Len Stanway (Basildon) with "Richmond Castle". The Stokes Cup was not awarded as no society qualified. The President's Award went to Frinton. The George Pearson Trophy went to Mick Carter (Frinton). The Chris Rauch Trophy went to Colin Evans (Benfleet). The Classic Trophy went to Ray How (Rayleigh). The Literature Trophy went to Mick Carter (Frinton).

As regards 2026 competitions, it is planned that StampEssex will host the Spring competitions, while the Autumn competitions will be at the AGM, as for this year.

PHILATELY IN ESSEX HANDBOOK

The AEPS handbook is published in three volumes: Vol.1: Essex Present; Vol.2: Essex Past; Vol.3: Catalogue of Essex Philatelic Souvenirs. This free digital handbook is sent by e-mail to AEPS e-News subscribers. The 2025 edition of Vol.1 was published in December 2024 and work will soon start on the 2026 edition. New editions of Vol.2 and Vol.3 are only published when new material justifies it and circumstances permit, but it is on the Editor's (long) "Things To Do" list. The Editor continuously updates the master record and will be glad to receive details of any other new or updated information for inclusion in future issues and any interim publicity. Please send amendments to Len Stanway a.s.a.p. Copies of all three volumes are available free by e-mail on request.

AEPS e-NEWS

This free e-mail service may be received by any philatelist, publicity or press organisation. It provides a monthly list of events in the AEPS area, plus press releases on selected AEPS or society events. To subscribe, or to request publicity for an event, contact Len Stanway.

AEPS BOXES

Ray How has large storage boxes available on request. They are made of corrugated cardboard and come flat-packed for self-assembly. Please contact Ray to place orders (ray.how@btinternet.com).

Member Society News

Information given is the latest available to the Editor at the time of going to press.

BASILDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Secretary: Charlie Mead (01268-522052).

Venue: George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, SS14 2FL.

Normal day and time: First Monday and third Tuesday, 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Website: <http://www.basildon-philatelic.org.uk>

Forthcoming meetings:

1 December: To be advised.

16 December: To be advised.

5 January: To be advised.

20 January: To be advised.

2 February: To be advised.

17 February: To be advised.

Recent activities:

1 September Charlie Mead – Fiji – King George VI period.

Charlie showed the stamps and postal history of the King George VI's reign, which was affected by the Second World War in both mail handling and stamp printing issues. It was also the period when meter marks made their first appearance. The second half included a large section dealing with the airmail services provided by Pan American Airlines' Clipper flying boats.

16 September Members' displays – My favourite theme.

This theme proved to be so popular that the next meeting will be "My Favourite Theme Part 2"! Tonight's showing was kicked-off by **Harry Flatman**, who showed GB Wilding high values, followed by various Machin printings. **David Church** followed with envelopes from a variety of countries made from surplus maps. **Maggie Thompson** displayed part of her "Pussy Cats" collection, showing, lions, tigers and many smaller feline species on stamps and postal stationery. The evening was brought a close by **Len Stanway** with part of his "Railway Preservation" collection, notably covering the issues of the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway and the North Yorkshire Moors Railway to the end of 1993.

6 October: Members' Displays - My Favourite Theme Part 2.

Following the success of the previous meeting, the meeting continued to accommodate the material that it was not possible to include last time. **Maggie Thompson** kicked off with Saar Rad Cross issues 1950-1956, including die proofs, first day covers and examples correctly postally used on cover. **Charlie Mead** followed with "Operation Drake", a young persons' expedition around the world in the ship "Eye of The Wind", with a mixture of event covers and the special stamps issued by Jersey and Cocos (Keeling) Islands. **Mark McShane** displayed "Annexations & Occupations", starting with the Anschluss annexation of Austria by Germany, the Sudetenland, Bohemia &

Moravia, Slovakia, Alsace & Lorraine and Jersey, The Japanese Occupation of Malaya and the Allied occupation of Germany. He followed with Rail 200 covers that he had put together using earlier rail-themed issues and covers. He finished with his "Least Favourite Theme", the vandalism created by pen-wielding post persons. Finally, **Len Stanway** continued from where had left-off last time with stamps and covers of the North York Moors Railway and some other minor railway issues.

21 October: Giles du Boulay – Prussian Danzig 1793-1920.

Giles gave us a fascinating evening of postal and socio-political history. He started by taking us back to the partition of the former Polish Kingdom in 1772, in which Prussia failed to get its hands on Danzig. The borders were redrawn twice, in 1793 and 1795, after which Prussia had achieved its objective. The earliest letter from Danzig shown was one of 1795 to Amsterdam, while revenue documents from 1793 were shown. Much early Danzig mail comes from a Bordeaux wine merchant's archive "liberated" during the German Occupation of that city. Napoleon took Danzig on his way to Moscow and officers' letters were displayed. From 1807-14, Danzig was declared a "Free City" with Napoleon as its Duc. It was returned to Prussia by the Treaty of Vienna in 1815, becoming the capital of West Prussia. Prussian stamps appeared in 1830, Danzig getting postmark 304. Disinfected letters from the 1831 cholera epidemic received a red handstamp after treatment. The Crimean War of 1854-55 included the blockade of the Russian Baltic fleet by British and French vessels. The North German Confederation was formed in 1868, followed by the German Empire in 1871. The Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 generated prisoner-of-war letters and telegrams from Kaiser Wilhelm I giving war updates. 1900 was celebrated with postal stationery postcards. 1914 brought Feldpost and regimental postcards. After the Armistice of 1918, Danzig gained brief independence. Prussia was formally wound up from 22 February 1947.

3 November: The Committee Entertains.

Ian McElwain opened proceedings with Montserrat issues from 1953 to 1983, followed by **Alf Potter** with special covers showing regimental insignia of the British Army and rare medals. He also showed a selection of cigarette cards on a similar theme.

The second round featured **Charlie Mead's** "Fakes, Forgeries and Facsimiles", which included stamp reproductions as exhibition souvenirs.

Len Stanway finished the display with North Borneo issues from 1931 to 1964,

18 November: Auction Viewing.

With the postal auction closing date looming, **Ian McElwain** brought the auction lots for members to view. Sadly, a combination of illness and atrocious weather kept most members at home and the few that arrived were able to have a relaxed evening viewing and going through several exchange packets.

BENFLEET & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Secretary: Sue Stacey (07957-725647).

Venue: Jubilee Hall, St Barnabas Church, Church Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet SS7 2EJ.

Normal day and time: First Wednesday, 7.30pm for 8.00pm to 10pm, all year.

Forthcoming meetings:

3 December: Xmas Social, Members display and trophy for best entry.

2026

7 January: Annual General Meeting & mini-auction.

4 February: Colin Evans displays "Ross Dependency (thematic)".

4 March: Len Stanway FRPSL displays "Origins of, and Introduction to, the United Nations".

1 April: David Belton displays "Isle of Man"

6 May: Kevin Dillistone displays "Lighthouses around Great Britain".

3 June: Wendy Buckle displays "Paper, Past and Present".

1 July: Tony Davis displays "Red Cross".

5 August: Bourse, bring and buy.

2 September: Brian Stonestreet displays "New Zealand – A New Era".

7 October: Society Auction.

4 November: The Committee Entertains.

2 December: Xmas Social, Members display and trophy for best entry.

2027

6 January: Annual General Meeting and Mini Auction.

3 February: Colin Evans displays "Ross Dependency to 1987".

3 March To be confirmed.

Recent activities:

3 September: Brian Davis - Concorde Queen of the Sky.

The chairman welcomed Brian Davis to the September meeting. Brian had travelled all the way from Staines in Middlesex to be with us. He started off the evening with the stamps and covers of the prototype Concorde, and then moved on to the English and French test pilots, Brian Trubshaw, and Andre Tucac, with signed covers from both pilots. Brian also showed newspapers from the first test flight, as well as early flight covers. In the second half, the members saw a short display of covers that included the Braniff Airways, Singapore Airways, and the Pepsi Concorde. Other souvenirs included leaflets about

Concorde, menus, safety leaflets, and on-board souvenirs. The second half was finished with covers that showed the delivery of each Concorde. In the third display, Brian showed the Society stamps from all over the world, as well as records by various artists that have Concorde in the title of the tune. Cinderella stamps and air show covers completed the display. The chairman and the members thanked Brian for what was described as a fantastic display, which was enjoyed by all, including visiting guests.

1 October: Auction.

The Society had its first Auction in seven years, and it was well attended, with the viewing finishing around 7.30pm. The auction began shortly afterwards, with sixteen people bidding on the 344 lots, the last lots finishing around 9.45pm. The Treasurer reported that just over a third of the lots were sold, and some vendors had sold between 50% to 90% of their lots.

5 November: Display by Basildon Philatelic Society.

It was with great pleasure that Benfleet Philatelic Society welcomed members of the Basildon Philatelic Society who gave a display in 3 parts; firstly, **Charlie Mead** (Secretary) showed Fiji – King George V1; secondly, **Len Stanway** (President, Basildon and Secretary, AEPS) showed Early Brunei, then, thirdly, **Ian McElwan** (Chairman and stamp dealer at Rawreth and Marks Tey) showed Montserrat.

Charlie gave a geographical overview of the Fijian Islands, the time meridian running through them. Charlie has a very interesting collection of all things in Fijian philately, including Harry Luke, who was a governor and stamp collector, and reintroduced stamp booklets, Madame Joseph, who forged postmarks, a selection of postal stationery, errors, Paquebot mail, the Rev. Tippitt and tin can mail. He explained 'V' mail, short for Victory Mail, that was put onto microfilm to save weight and space.

Len said that Brunei, a small state situated in the NE of the island of Borneo, is probably the richest country in the world and at one time ruled over much of Southeast Asia. Len had postcards and old illustrations before the country modernised, covers and examples of forgeries. The first stamps of Brunei only appeared in catalogues in the 1970s because of the involvement of a dealer in their issue. Len was able to illustrate the changing face of philately with examples of overprints, colour changes, registration envelopes, and in 1952 a new set of definitives was issued. Len still finds pleasure in scouring stamp fairs and the internet for new finds.

Ian spoke of the "emerald isle" of Montserrat situated in the Caribbean. It is green and lush, plus has lots of Irish immigrants. First stamps were from Antigua overprinted Montserrat and issued on 1 August 1876. Due to a shortage of postage stamps vertical bisects are common. Ian confessed to having

many gaps in his collection, most of which are expensive. In 1990, the Soufriere Hills volcano sent lava flows and ash across the southern part of the island and, with further eruptions, the southern part of the island has now been evacuated and closed off.

An evening filled with interest, with clear information nicely illustrated and explained. Benfleet members thanked Charlie, Len and Ian for a most entertaining evening.

----- CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Dave Everard (01245-465506 or email: davideverard@live.com).

Venue: Christ Church United Reform Church, 164 New London Road, Chelmsford CM2 0AW.

Normal day and time: 2nd Tuesdays, 7.15pm for 7.30pm to 9.30pm, September to November, April to June.

Forthcoming meetings:

25 November at 11am: Seasonal displays (Members' displays).

7 April: Member's displays at 7.15pm.

Recent activities:

9 September - Members' displays.

Our first meeting back from our summer break was well attended and comprised members' presentations. **John Copeland** began proceedings with a display of newspaper cuttings dating from 1785 detailing mail coaches and railway services from London to East Anglia. **Eric Lienhard** followed with a presentation of postcards produced for the Swiss chocolate manufacturer F.L. Cailler. This was Eric's last meeting after 70 years, as ill health is taking its toll. **Pat Adams** then displayed a small selection of local postcards covering the outskirts of Maldon.

Following a refreshment break, **Derek Connell** gave an informative display on the 2012 Olympic Torch Route from Olympus towards London. **Ian McElwan** followed with a colourful display of stamps from Montserrat. **Nick Harris** then displayed a variety of caricature letters from those on the British side of the Boer War. **Pat Adams** concluded the presentations by returning to continue her earlier theme of local postcards covering the parish of Goldhanger.

23 September – Derek Connell – Capital City.

We were delighted to have one of our members, Derek Connell, give a display entitled "Capital City". The first part of the evening comprised a fascinating display of stamps envelopes and letters all showing various locations within London, accompanied by detailed information provided by Derek in his usual humorous way.

Following a refreshment break the theme continued, but the latter stages were devoted to the torch route of the Olympic flame for the 2012 Games and the various stamps and envelopes that indicated

with illustrations of the route taken. Pat Adams thanked Derek for a most interesting and informative presentation.

14 October – Nick Harris - King George V first flights of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

We were delighted to have one of our members give this display. The first part of the evening comprised a fascinating display of stamps, envelopes and letters, all showing various locations of the first flights, beginning in 1931 from what was Southern Rhodesia with a map, provided by Nick, showing the routes. The first experimental route began in Cape Town, South Africa to London with numerous stops on the way and took 19 days to complete. Thirty years later, an anniversary flight completed the journey to London's Croydon airport in 14 hours. Over time, the route was extended to Singapore and ultimately to Australia, and Nick displayed envelopes postmarked at the various stop-over points.

For the second part of the evening, Northern Rhodesia was the starting point for flights and the display included mail to, not only Greece and Austria, but also Delhi, as well as a host of other destinations, including some rare examples. Finally, Nick displayed two Zeppelin covers from Northern Rhodesia to Brazil. Pat Adams thanked Derek for a most interesting and informative presentation that we all thoroughly enjoyed.

28 October – Annual General Meeting.

The decision was taken to continue meetings, but reduced to one a month, on the second Tuesday. February and March meetings would be discontinued, with meetings restricted to evenings only. A membership fee of £10 was agreed.

CLACTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Secretary: Ken Brown (01255-820514).

Venue: Clacton Indoor Bowls Club, Valley Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 6NA.

Normal day and time: First Wednesday, 7.00pm to 10pm, All year.

Forthcoming meetings:

3 December: Pre-Christmas Buffet.

2026

7 January: Bourse to 8pm, then Bob Peters displays Norfolk Island.

4 February: Competition Evening.

4 March: Bourse to 8pm, then Members' displays.

1 April: Annual General Meeting (Members only),

6 May: Bob Hider displays Early Commonwealth of Australia.

3 June: Bourse to 8pm, then Members' displays.

1 July: Bourse to 8pm, then Bob Field displays Ascension.

5 August: Bourse to 8pm, then Members' displays.

2 September: Bourse to 8pm, then Members' displays.

7 October: Mick Carter displays British Occupation of Italian Colonies.

4 November: Auction.

2 December: Pre-Christmas Buffet.

Recent activities:

6 August: Bourse plus Members' displays.

After a successful Bourse, members' displays began with **David Pugh**, who displayed a mint selection of Malay States and then some sheets of early used St. Helena, Turks Islands and New Zealand Chalon Heads. **Mick Chittock** then displayed Swedish definitives from 1907 - 1950.

3 September: Bourse plus Members' displays.

After another Bourse, **Mick Chittock** displayed various area postmarks on the BMA Malaya issue of 1945-48 in blocks of four and singles. **Bob Field** then showed Cinderella issues of Tristan Da Cunha from 1908-46, plus Gough Island issues. **George Oliver** displayed early France from 1849-70 and **Mick Carter** showed covers of MEF overprints, Eritrea and Ethiopia telegrams and Somalia and Sudan airmails. **David Pugh** finished with a display of GB 1d reds and early issues of Antigua, Jamaica and Mauritius.

1 October: Bourse plus Members' displays.

At the October meeting there was another successful Bourse, after which **Mick Chittock** showed some Swiss covers and **Mick Carter** showed his latest acquisitions of covers and some blocks of four stamps of the British occupation of the former Italian colonies. **Dave Pugh** then presented a display on Labuan, Sarawak and some of the Malay states, whilst **Bob Peters** showed some Norfolk Island stamps and covers.

5 November: Auction.

At the November meeting, there was a very successful annual auction of stamps and other philatelic material with auctioneer Brian Clark.

COLCHESTER & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Treasurer: Peter Evans (01206-540990).

Venue: Room 7, Wilson Marriage Centre, Barrack Street, Colchester CO1 2LR.

Normal day and time: Fridays, 2pm to 4pm.

Forthcoming meetings:

12 December: Subject to be advised.

30 January: Subject to be advised.

3 March: Subject to be advised.

Recent activities:

No reports received.

EAST ANGLIA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact: Secretary: John Copeland (01277-218128).

Venue: Garden Room, Red Gables Resource Centre, Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1BE.

Normal day and time: In person: Saturdays as announced (one or more per annum), whole day 10.30 a.m. or afternoon 2pm for 2.30pm. Zoom as announced.

Forthcoming meetings:

5 January: Zoom Meeting.

April (date to be announced): Annual General Meeting (10.30-16.30).

Recent activities:

No reports received.

DO YOU COLLECT EAST ANGLIA POSTAL HISTORY?

IF SO, WHY NOT JOIN THE:

EAST ANGLIA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Study Circle started as a Norfolk Postal History Group way back in 1950. Since then, we have gradually expanded to take in the seven counties which we term East Anglia, hence the title of the Society and the bulletin - Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk. We are a small, friendly society with some 40 members. We meet twice yearly in Stowmarket and twice yearly by zoom. There is a quarterly journal, **Eastern Angle**, with news and research articles. Our annual subscription is only £20, or £10 if choosing electronic journals only. For further information please contact us by email:

Alan Moorcroft: 20, Orchard Gardens, Kirby Cross, Frinton on Sea, Essex CO13 0FL 01255 851003 Email: eastanglianpostal@gmail.com Website: www.eaphsc@webador.co.uk

EPPING FOREST & DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Contact: Secretary: Chris Clemens, 07368-242074.

Venue: Main Hall, Roding Valley High School, Alderton Hill (entry from Alderton Hill), Loughton, IG10 3JA.

Normal day and time: Second Tuesday, 7.45 for 8.00pm to 9.45pm.

Website: <http://www.eppingforeststampclub.uk/>

Forthcoming meetings:

9 December: Christmas social evening.

2026:

24 January: Saturday stamp auction.

10 February: Visit from Watford PS with Martyn Atyo "Post And Go", Graham Walker: Native American Place Names, Steve Birch: "Spain".

10 March: Birthe King FRPSL, RDP: "Denmark: Conscience, Conflict and Camps 1932-1949" and "The Re-Unification of Southern Jutland with Denmark 1864-1920, plus some postcards .

14 April: Competition Evening

12 May: Annual General Meeting and Kimble Trophy Competition.

13 June: Saturday stamp auction.

Recent activities:

No reports received.

FRINTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: General Secretary: Steve Alpe (07810-277275).

Venue: Frinton Community Centre, Soken House, The Triangle Shopping Centre, Frinton-on-Sea CO13 0AU.

Normal day and time: 1st & 3rd Mondays, except August. Times as shown below.

Forthcoming meetings:

1 December: Christmas Celebrations (Members' displays (8 sheets), voting for the Howard Davis Cup followed by an Xmas buffet and raffle).

2026

5 January: Members' display "Postcards" (2pm-5pm).

19 January: The Chairman's Choice – Western Australia (7pm-10pm).

2 February: Andrew Skilling displays "Gold Coast" (7pm-10pm).

16 February: Display by Kevin Marsden and Ray Rackham (7pm-10pm).

2 March: Annual General Meeting and Members' 8- or 16-sheet displays (7pm-10pm).

16 March: Members' display "Letters M, N and O" (7pm-10pm).

30 March: Bourse with Sarah Brookes (2pm-5pm).

13 April: Ed Hitchings Entertains (7pm-10pm).

27 April: James Podger FRPSL displays "West Indies" (7pm-10pm).

11 May: Graham Wylde displays "GB Line Engraved" (2pm-5pm).

1 June: Cliff Ayres displays "World War Battleships" (7pm-10pm).

15 June: Garie Naden displays "Horse Posts & Mail Coach Routes" (7pm-10pm).

29 June: Sue Burn displays ""Smithy" – The extraordinary flying life of Australia's most famous pilot" (2pm-5pm).

13 July: Auction Night (viewing 7pm, auction 7.30pm-10pm).

14 September: Nick Harris displays "Anglo-Boer War" (7pm-10pm).

28 September: Peter Lister FRPSL displays "What An Inheritance Brings" (2pm-5pm).

12 October: Terry Rawlings displays "Aspects of Spain 3" (7pm-10pm).

26 October: Simon Moorcroft FRPSL displays "Manchester Postal History" (7pm-10pm).

9 November: Bob Peters displays "Covers and Miniature Sheets" (7pm-10pm).

23 November: Competition Night (7pm-10pm).

7 December: Christmas Celebrations (7pm-10pm).

Recent activities:**1 September: Don Davies Entertains.**

At the September meetings members enjoyed excellent displays. Guest speaker Don Davies FRPSL entertained with a few of his favourites, starting with a display of superb early covers, signed envelopes from Charles Dickens, an advert from a well healed gentleman seeking a wife and the replies received, plus some "naughty" postcards. In part two, he showed some superb 1d blacks, 2d blues and 1d reds including Maltese crosses and "ivory heads" plus fraudulent cancellations and copies: a real education and very entertaining.

15 September: Members' displays – Letters J, K & L

Nine members showed varied displays ranging from Charles Lindberg, Kirby post offices, Labuan, Johore, Linley Caches Club covers, Luxembourg, loose letter cancellations of Australia and Locomotives, to the sobering Japanese occupation of Sarawak.

6 October: Colin Evans: Railway Art and Railways.

Guest speaker Colin, from Benfleet, presented an excellent display on "Railway Art".. Colin began by showing stamps, postcards and PHQ cards based on the paintings of renowned railway artist Terence Cuneo. These included GB and Isle of Man stamps of steam locomotives and the Douglas horse tram. Colin then displayed material from various other artists on Jersey stamps, Irish trams and railways, the 150th anniversary of the Manchester railway and some interesting bus and steam transports with street scenes. Especially interesting philatelically were poster stamp advertising labels up until WWI. Colin was thanked for a very interesting display.

20 October: Bob Peters: Gibraltar Stamps and Covers.

Bob presented an excellent display. He began by showing some mint Edward VII and George V definitive sets followed by a wide selection of covers from 1969 to 2007. His varied and colourful display ranged from naval crests, women of achievement, and maritime heritage to birds and wildlife. In the second half of his display, Bob showed many further covers from 2012 to 2020 on subjects ranging from QEII's 80th birthday to the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and Gibraltar scenes. A very interesting and varied display.

3 November: Alan Moorcroft FRPSL: Aspects of Collecting Local Postal History.

Alan presented a very interesting PowerPoint display. He explained that his postal history covers of Colchester originally started in 1730 but that he then acquired covers from 1586 onwards concerning the production of woollen cloth by refugees in the Dutch quarter and sold in London to the merchants Corsini Brothers. Alan's research resulted in a visit to the Corsini archive in Florence and meeting the current

Countess Corsini. Alan then showed Napoleonic period soldier's letters from 1813, when 7,000 troops were stationed in Colchester and a further 5,000 at Weeley Barracks, the latter to man the Martello towers on the coast. An air letter from the Polish Hostel, Kelvedon, in 1957 was intriguing and led Alan to find out that, after the American Rivenhall Airbase ceased to be used at the end of WWII, it was occupied by Polish families, who could not or chose to not return to Poland. Finally, Alan's first cover from the Frinton post office in 1904, concerning correspondence with Belgium, led him to find out that Marconi set up the Marconi School of Wireless Telegraphy at 34 Upper Third Avenue in 1901 with a tall radio mast to send radio messages to Belgium as a pioneering early use of radio. Alan's superb talk and display, which also included other stories, demonstrated how lots of local history examples may be found through postal history research.

GOODMAYES PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Secretary: Cliff Cashman (020-8984 9346).
Venue: Methodist Church Hall, Percy Road, Goodmayes, IG3 8UA.
Normal day and time: First Wednesday, 7.45 for 8pm to 10pm, September to July.
Website None.

Forthcoming meetings:

Contact society for details.

Recent activities:

No reports received.

HARLOW PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Secretary: David Button (01279-423514).
Venue: Maidmoore Room, Great Parndon Centre, Abercrombie Way, Harlow, CM18 6YJ.
Normal day and time: 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 6.30pm for 7pm to 9pm, all year.

Forthcoming meetings:

Contact society for details.

Recent activities:

No reports received.

IPSWICH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Secretary: Mike Smith (01473-403904).
Venue: Kesgrave War Memorial Community Hall, Twelve Acre Approach, off Bell Lane, Kesgrave IP5 1JF.
Normal day and time: First and Third Wednesdays, 1pm for 2pm to 5pm or 6.30 for 7.30pm to 10pm (alternating), September to May.
Website: www.ipswichphilatelic.uk

Forthcoming meetings:

3 December (afternoon): An Afternoon with Dealer Sarah Brooks (in the Conference Room).

- 2026
 21 January (afternoon): 'Members' Display'
 4 February (evening): 'Competition' - Up to 10 Sheets of your Choice
 18 February (afternoon): Derek Pollard 'German Occupation Issues'
 4 March 'Two Members Entertain' Barry Martin 'Victory Issues' & Andy Soutar 'Grenada 2' (evening):
 18 March (afternoon): Colin Evans: Ross Dependency - Stamps & Postal History
 1 April (Afternoon and Evening): Society Auction. View lots from 4pm, Auction starts at 7pm sharp' (In the Conference Room)
 15 April (afternoon): Dahlia & Terry Harrison 'The Harrison's Entertain!'
 6 May (evening): 'President's Night with Penny Black Theme'
 20 May (evening): AGM followed by a Quiz & Social End to the Season
 26 June: Display at Norwich & Norfolk P.S.

Recent activities:

No reports received.

LEYTONSTONE, WANSTEAD & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Secretary: Richard Wood (07765-444070).

Venue: Forest Room, Wanstead House, 21 The Green, Wanstead, London E11 2NT.

Normal day and time: Last Monday at 7.30pm to 9.30pm, September to June.

Website: www.lwdps.org.

Forthcoming meetings:

15 December: Christmas Get-together, Chairman's Display, Quiz, One-page competition, Bring and Buy,

2026

23 February: Auction.

23 March: Family Quiz Night.

27 April: Abdul Aziz displays "Pakistan".

25 May: Social (by invitation).

22 June: Annual General Meeting and Members' displays.

Recent activities:

No reports received.

RAYLEIGH & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Secretary: Ray How (01702-544632).

Venue: Parish Rooms, Rectory Garth, Hockley Road, Rayleigh SS6 8BA.

Normal day and time: Second and fourth Mondays (except bank holidays), 7.30pm for 8pm to 10pm, all year.

Forthcoming meetings:

8 December: All members Display: I Collect These For Fun.

22 December: Christmas Social & Doug Venman Competition.

2026

12 January: Annual Quiz for C. Moir Trophy.

26 January: The Ken Seymour Memorial Display.

9 February: All Members Display Letter 'R'.

23 February: To be advised.

9 March: To be advised.

23 March: Chairman's Night.

Recent activities:

10 November: John Copeland – Essex Postmarks.

It was a pleasure to welcome John, from the East Anglian Postal History Society, to our meeting. Despite being wet and dark outside, 15 members attended.

John gave two showings; the first being about the history of the post in Essex, with his first example dating from 1592; the second with examples of the differing styles of cancellations, travelling post offices, postage dues and registered mail etc.

John explained that originally this was a Royal system only with messengers delivering mail for the monarch. John Palmer introduced the mail coach to the post office in 1784/5, which radically changed the time it took to receive letters as, previously, mail had been delivered by horse and cart.

John outlined the various ways of charging for the service. Mileage was added from London to post towns, but, with precise measuring, this led to extra charges; charging by the number of sheets. This only lasted a short time and it was decided to change to "marks". Some towns had introduced a "penny post" and John had examples of covers with rectangular receiving house marks. Parcels by post was introduced in 1883 with labels being applied and then cancelled.

Following the introduction of uniform post, it was found that that the stamps would require cancellation with the introduction of town post numbers on cancellers in 1844. This, in turn, led to different ink colours for different parts of the country. It was finally agreed to combine the canceller with the date. This changed to thin lines/bars in 1949.

Part 2 started in 1922 with the UPU requiring that mail had the name of the country that it was going to clearly shown on the envelope. Cancellations were with a variety of rubber and steel obliterations and then with the introduction of various machine cancellation systems. John had examples of "Paquebot" mail coming into Harwich; a small reward offered for recovering "letters in a bottle" and the on-site post office at Upminster windmill. In 1971, with a postal strike, many private systems were set up. 1981 saw the introduction of Scout Post and today e-mail has changed the face of post and postal services.

We would like to thank John for a fascinating display with so many interesting examples about postal services in Essex.

SUDBURY & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Secretary: David Gottesmann (01787-469527).

Venue: Tudor Church of England Primary School, Tudor Road, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 1NL.

Normal day and time: Third Tuesdays, 6.30pm for 7.00pm to 9.30pm, all year, plus first Tuesday in spring/autumn.

Forthcoming meetings:

2 December: Quiz night, last day for submitting auction lots.

2026.

13 January: Films.

10 February: Informal and auction viewing.

2 March: Auction

16 March: Rayleigh PS visit with displays.

7 April: Bury St Edmunds Postcard Club visit with displays

21 April: "Bring & Buy", informal, letters V, W & X.

5 May: AGM.

19 May: Norfolk & Norwich PS visit with displays.

2 June: Chris Harman FRPSL: "Forgeries".

7 July: Paul Odell: "Detectoring".

Recent activities:

No reports received.

WITHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Ian Kelly (07767-633655) or
btwphilatelic@btinternet.com.

Venue: Spring Lodge Community Centre, Powers Hall End, Witham, CM8 2HE.

Normal day and time: First Thursday, 1.30pm for 1.45pm to 3.45pm.

Forthcoming meetings:

4 December: Christmas Gathering (Members).
2026

8 January: Think of a Number (Members).

5 February: Bruce Wilkinson: Postal History.

14 February: STAMP FAIR & Exhibition at The Labour Hall, Collingwood Road, Witham CM8 2EE 10am-4pm. (New Venue)

5 March: Len Stanway FRPSL: "Mails Under London".

2 April: Anything beginning with G, H, I or J (Members).

7 May: David Martin: Belorussia and Ian Kelly: Engraved Stamps part 2.

4 June: Mick Carter Entertains.

2 July: Don Davies: Evolution of Censored Postcards.

6 August: Colin Evans Entertains.

3 September: Members display Africa.

1 October: Queens Afternoon.

5 November: Annual General Meeting & Bring & Buy.

3 December: Christmas Gathering.

2027

7 January: Members' New Acquisitions.

Recent activities:**4 September: Colin Evans – Letter H Thematics**

Colin gave a display of 160 sheets that you had to be there to appreciate. One could never have imagined that just one letter as the subject matter could be utilised to show stamps, postcards and postal history covering approximately 50 sub-categories, too many to list. Members gave their applause in the usual manner as Colin was presented with a certificate of appreciation.

2 October: Members Activity – Kings.

The members brought along a few sheets each, which tallied to a total of 160 sheets with Kings as the subject. Whilst members enjoyed their refreshments with chocolate oaties, they viewed and discussed the varied content. On display was material consisting of a gold medal award entry at national level "King Size", beautiful postal markings from Sweden, structure of the monarchy in Europe 1860-1939, early first day covers, stamp exhibition, and the first stamp issued in the world bearing the portrait of King George V. In all, the material covered aspects of over twenty kings.

6 November: AGM Bourse and a few sheets

The AGM was held and it was agreed no change in the operation of the society was required. This was followed by displays from members, which included Leeward Islands used, Lesotho used, New Zealand and a range of humorous postcards. The bourse consisted of five trading stations; business was brisk and both sellers and buyers went home very happy.

Acknowledgements: I am grateful to the following for meeting information: Colin Evans, David Everard, "Fly-on-the Wall", Ian Kelly, Sue Stacey.

National News

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR ABPS

Dr. D. Gwynne Harries, FRPSL, was elected as the new Chairman of ABPS at the 2025 AGM. Gwynne writes, He describes himself as "a bald, overweight old bloke with a beard who likes real ale, rugby, jazz and photography. After 40+ years career in



education, he has increasingly devoted time to his lifelong interest in philately. His collecting interests include KGV GB, France, Sudan, meter mail, Iran, Norway, QV surface printed, etc. He is an active member of many local and specialised societies, serving as an officer of the RPSL.

ROYAL IN THE EAST

The East Anglian members of the Royal Philatelic Society London meet twice a year outside London. One meeting is held in the north of the region in the Summer and one in the south at Christmas. Provisionally, the 2025 Christmas meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cricket Ground on 6 December.

ZOOM MEETINGS

Some Societies hold regular meetings on Zoom and welcome visitors. Details of speakers who are prepared to give displays via Zoom can be found on the ABPS website by doing a search of "Zoom" on the Speakers page.

ABPS would also like to compile a list of Societies that have a Zoom programme. If you do so, please email pr@abps.org.uk. The following societies invite wider attendance at their Zoom Meetings:

- Sheffield P.S. hosts a monthly meeting via Zoom. This is on the first Thursday of every month except for August. All are welcome to attend. Details of programmes and dates may be found on the Society's website www.sheffieldps.org.uk. James H. Grayson, Secretary, Sheffield Philatelic Society

- Southampton & District P.S. has an established Zoom programme with meetings on the last Tuesday of the month. Meetings for 2024 are included in <http://www.southamptondps.org.uk/meetings.html> and video recordings of most past meetings are listed at: <http://www.southamptondps.org.uk/avideolibrary.html>.

- Dawlish Stamp Club has monthly Zoom meetings, generally held at 19:00 on the third Wednesday of each month. For more information, contact Robin Buchanan at rgybuchanan@btinternet.com

- Harrogate Philatelic Society is continuing its Zoom meetings - usually the first or second Friday evening of each month. They open at 7pm and chat, then single or multiple displays on the chosen theme follow at 7.30. They end with more chat - very sociable. Contact harrogateps@gmail.com for the link and see the Harrogate PS website (via ABPS or YPA) for the programme and other details.

- Grantham Philatelic Society Zoom meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month. For more information, please contact Martin Lodge at MAVlodge@btinternet.com.

ABPS NEWS

The closing date for copy for the next issue is 15 January. Articles and enquiries relating the ABPS News can be submitted via the website or you can write direct by email at editor@abps.org.uk. This is an opportunity for you to promote your Society. Reports should be limited to 250 words. Affiliated Societies and Federations are entitled to one free advertisement each year, space permitting.

ABPS SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

The ABPS is always there to help! If you are planning a local event to promote philately and may need financial assistance, please have a look at this scheme on our website as you may be eligible for a grant. In particular, there may be some small societies of less than ten members who made need financial help to keep going. ABPS is very willing to consider financial support. Recent grants have included support for audiovisual equipment and lighting for society frames. The maximum grant available is £250.

MAKE GOOD USE OF THE ABPS WEBSITE

The ABPS website (www.abps.org.uk) includes all the usual information about ABPS news and activities. It now also includes a searchable list of speakers, judges and an events calendar. If you are a speaker or judge, please check the information on the website and advise ABPS of any corrections, updates or additions. If you have any images of your local Society, events or seminars etc. that you think might enhance the website please send them to the PR Manager at pr@abps.org.uk

The same website provides the opportunity for organisers of philatelic events such as Stamp Fairs, Philatelic Exhibitions, Society Weekends and Regional Society Meetings, to promote their events free of charge. It is also a chance, if you are planning an event, to check that it does not clash with anything else. The ABPS Executive has now agreed that Society Auctions, organised by affiliated Societies, can also be included in the ABPS events calendar. You can request an event to be added to the ABPS Events Calendar directly on the website. Entries will then be checked by the administrator and approved. Go to <https://www.abps.org.uk/request-event-addition/>

STUART ROSSITER TRUST

The trust publishes and sells Postal History books, and sponsors authors and research. To date, it has published many books and helped a number of individuals and specialist societies with research and production costs for their books. It can help societies or individuals with research costs, publication costs or publishing books. When it publishes or supports books, the trust promotes them through our its website

and e-newsletters. The full list of its publications currently available is on www.rossitertrust.com. To discuss how it could help your Society or members with their Postal History book, or monograph, contact our Corresponding Trustee Andy Gould at srtcorr@gmail.com.

CALLING ALL SPEAKERS

If you are prepared to give displays to Societies, either in person or by Zoom, please pass your details to the Secretary of ABPS or input your information on to ABPS website.

If you are sending new or amended information to ABPS, do not forget to send the same information to the Editor of "Philately In Essex" so that all local societies (whether members of ABPS or not) have access to the same information. There is generally a shortage of speakers for Societies and you will be greatly assisting Programme Secretaries by adding your personal details to both websites.

STAMP ACTIVE NETWORK

Stamp Active Network is the voluntary organisation that promotes stamp collecting for children in the UK. Schools should contact the Events Manager for Stamp Active, John Davies, if interested in receiving assistance, initially by email on davies1890@btinternet.com. For further information, look at the Stamp Active website www.stampactive.co.uk

Can you donate any material suitable for child collectors to Stamp Active?

Kidstamps is a free postal club for children. Donations of stamps, etc. would be welcomed by Peter Barham, Hon. Secretary, Stamp Active Network, 2E Broomwood Road, Orpington, Kent, BR5 2JH. (stampactive@btinternet.com)

International News

OVERSEAS EXHIBITING

More-advanced collectors enjoy exhibiting items from their collections abroad. Overseas exhibitions fall into three categories:

1. National and private exhibitions that choose to invite overseas entrants. These set their own entry and judging criteria.
2. Continental federation exhibitions are organised by the international federation responsible for that region. In Europe, that is FEPA (European Federation of Philatelic Associations), in Asia-Pacific, FIAP, etc. These set their own entry criteria, but generally judge to FIP rules.
3. Full international and world exhibitions that invite entries world-wide, organised by a national organising committee under the auspices of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP).

Unless otherwise decided by the organisers, to be eligible for five frames at a FIP, FEPA or other overseas Federation competition, UK collectors must first reach qualifying standard (75 points and vermeil medal) in an ABPS national exhibition.

Entries must be made through the UK Commissioner for the event, appointed by ABPS.

Potential exhibitors should consult the ABPS website for details of forthcoming national and international exhibitions that they might enter.

WORLD POST DAY

Can YOU think of a way to get the hobby noticed in the UK on World Post Day 9 October, which marks the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union? Tell us now!

AEPS Contact Information

Chairman & Competitions:

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01702-544632.

ray.how@btinternet.com

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Treasurer, Membership & Newsletter items:

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Webmaster:

To be announced.

www.stampessex.org.uk

General Data Protection Regulation

The Association does not obtain or retain personal data of members or correspondents with the exception of (i) current contact data for distribution of news, etc., appropriate to the association's normal activities and administration, (ii) historical record of competition winners, officers, etc., as published in Philately in Essex. With the exception of essential officers listed above, contact information is never divulged to third parties without their specific consent.

Press Date

The intention is that the next issue should be published on 1 March. Your news, letters, etc. should be with the Editor by 15 February



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