



1944

The Essex Philatelic Contact.

The Journal of Association of Essex Philatelic Societies



2026

- 82 Years of Service -

Editor: L.C. Stanway FRPSL.

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EDITORIAL:

Congratulations to Colin Evans for getting our web presence back up and running! Please note our new web address, as shown below. Congratulations are also due to Colin for his work in organising a successful Essex Stamp Day after a break of seven years,

Congratulations also to Jon Aitchison on his election to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (see National News).

Thank you to everyone who provided news for this issue. I hope that all societies will take full advantage of our services by sending in reports of meetings, photographs of speakers, forthcoming programmes, 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 and what you need.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO EPC.

Subscription to this journal is free of charge and default circulation is to all officers and members of members societies. Other interested persons wishing to obtain their own personal copy are invited to send their e-mail addresses 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

AEPS COUNCIL

The next AEPS Council meeting, to whom representatives of all societies are invited, will be held at 2.30pm on **25 July** at Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall End. Note: This is a change of date.

AEPS WEBSITE

Our new website came into use in March. Our new URL is <https://www.stampessex.co.uk/>. View and bookmark it now! The latest issue of all three volumes of "Philately In Essex" is now free to download. We are grateful to Alliance Auctions for financial help towards the cost of the new website.

AEPS SEMINAR 2026

Over two dozen philatelists from Essex, Suffolk and further afield met on 14 March for the latest in this long-running series of events. Keynote speaker was Andy Howson, who had come all the way from Somerset to introduce us to Cinderellas, defined as things that looks like a stamp but does not pay national postage.

In the first of his two displays, he opened proceedings with a spectrum of private posts, including rail and bus posts. He followed with island posts of varying legitimacy. Some operated a genuine service for many years, feeding isolated places that the Post Office had withdrawn from, such as Lundy, while others were brief fund-raising exercises.

There followed two rounds of displays from the audience. Len Stanway opened with the parcel stamps and postcards of the Central London Railway, including the joint service to and from the City & South London Railway. Alan Moorcroft followed with postcards and postal history from Essex post offices operated by women in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Mark Edwards then showed the Henry Dunant and his Red Cross humanitarian organisation. Geoff Miller showed calendar cards of the Falklands Islands Philatelic Bureau featuring stamps showing birds of the islands. Mick Carter showed telegraph forms with stamps used to pay transmission charges for the Eritrean and Ethiopian offices of the British Occupation of Former Italian Colonies. Mike McShane concluded the second round with the Lundy Collector's Club products, mainly produced by Jim Czyl, for its visits to the island.

The next round began with Trevor Potter, who showed postcards of the Falklands Conflict, both patriotic and anti-war propaganda, followed by cards based on drawings by war artist Linda Kitson, who travelled with the British force. John Copeland displayed British-stamped mail used at Forces Post offices abroad. Nick Harris took us back to World

War One with Nyasaland and Rhodesian forces post offices in German East Africa. Peter Drake showed Lundy Puffins and the story of Charles Lindbergh. Finally in this round, Maggie Thompson showed German Soldatenbriefe labels for soldiers' mail.

After an excellent cold buffet meal, Andy Howson returned to show and A-Z of private Christmas Charity Posts, permitted under postal legislation to operate from late November to 1 January. Most were operated by Scouts, but other organisation sometimes operated them.

Colin Evans restarted proceedings with Lihou Island and Ross Dependency issues, included some by Greenpeace on which he is seeking more information. John Butler explained the role played by Maureen Sweeney, and Irish weather forecaster, in the success of Operation Overlord. Ian Hayes showed the first four issues of Lithuania. Christopher Harman reminded us of the Cinderella Stamp Club, then showed stamps of some of the city local parcel delivery companies. Finally, Mark McShane returned to show a number of local inland posts.

The conclusion of a fascinating day was signalled by tea and cake in the traditional manner. Thank you to Ray How for organising an excellent event and Colin Evans and his helpers for keeping refreshment flowing at every break!

The next seminar is provisionally 5 March 2027.

STAMPESSEX

Essex Stamp Day (StampEssex) was relaunched on 9 May 2026 at Runnymede Hall, Thundersley. Due to lack of support, the Association's Spring Competitions for 2026 were postponed until the autumn, to be held, as last year, as a combined Spring/Autumn event in conjunction with the AGM. It is an excellent venue, light and airy with good car parking. We had a delayed start, as, just as we opened to the public, the adjacent swimming pool had to be evacuated because of a gas leak and the fire brigade ordered us out too. Luckily, we were allowed to resume after about 15 minutes.

Support from dealers was excellent, but attendance was a little disappointing. Nevertheless, everyone that Executive members spoke to was happy with the day. The Executive will be meeting shortly to discuss the day and plans for future events.

PHILATELY IN ESSEX 2026 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 2026 edition of all three volumes was published on 1 December 2025 and work has started on the 2027 edition. 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. Additional copies of all three volumes are available free to download on the new AEPS website.

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 June: Members' displays.
- 16 June: Annual General Meeting.
- 6 July: Members' displays.
- 21 July: Members' displays.
- 3 August: Members' displays.
- 18 August: Members' displays.

Recent activities:

2 March: Members' displays – Acquired in 2025.

Alf Potter kicked off with an artistic display of British and Commonwealth QE2 stamps between 1953 and 1990. **Charlie Mead** followed with the latest finds in his Fiji Government Franks Collection, including three envelopes (normally they are on wrappers).

After the break, **Ian McElwain** displayed Malta and various items he had for resale. **Len Stanway** closed the Evening with Singapore's new issues of 2025.

17 March: Members' displays.

With our Chairman on holiday and our Secretary off-sick, it was left to our President to chair the a sadly-depleted meeting. **Alf Potter** started proceedings with Chinese and Japanese picture postcards and a number of Japanese QSL cards. QSL was telegraphic code for "Receiving you" and the cards were sent between radio amateurs to acknowledge contact.

Len Stanway presented two rounds, illustrating the development stages of British pre-stamp postal history, then showing British stamps and postal stationery to the end of King George VI's reign.

Alf then returned with McGill cartoon postcards on coasters and on tin wall plaques.

21 April: Members' displays.

Our correspondent sadly failed to record the content of this meeting, for which he apologises.

19 May: Members' displays.

Garry Green opened proceedings with some stamp issues of Alderney. **Len Stanway** followed with postcards of Malaya, the majority showing the construction and features of the Penang Hill Railway and its brief predecessor. After tea, **Charlie Mead** showed the "Paid in Cash" handstamps of Fiji and the subsequent introduction of meter marks for larger businesses and post office counters.

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 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:**4 March: Len Stanway FRPSL – Origins of and Introduction to the United Nations.**

A welcome return for Len, a member of Basildon Philatelic Society, who has displayed before. Len showed, over two parts, the intricate origins and history of the United Nations. He explained that in a previous life he had been an international negotiator for vehicle safety at the UN, so he has a greater understanding than most about this worldwide organisation. With 193 countries, the number of bilateral treaties required on a given subject would reach 18,528, with the same number of amendments each time something changed, so it made sense to become one treaty organisation that they could all sign up to.

It all started with the International Telegraph Union in 1865. The first stamps for what was now the International Telecommunications Union were issued by Switzerland in 1958.

He went on to explain that the popular theory that the League of Nations collapsed in 1935-36 was not true. Its Security Council collapsed, but the rest of the organisation carried on unaffected until 1945. In 1940 the United Nations was formed so that it could act as an umbrella to allow the USA to join with the fighting in WW2.

Len showed stamps and special agency covers, with some signed by the designers of the stamps. The 1959 Stampex was themed around the UN.

With his extensive knowledge of this subject, it was a walk through history of an organisation that we probably need more than ever at the moment.

1 April: David Belton – Isle of Man.

Sixteen Benfleet members welcomed David from North Herts Stamp Club, Stevenage. David said that he had hoped to go and visit Hadleigh Castle, but had difficulty in actually finding it. David gave a display in two parts: Part 1 was on postal history – letters to 1840 and the small sub post offices of the Isle of Man, including WW2 internment camp letters.

Part 2 was a variety of items, including original sketches, complete decimalisation collection of plate blocks, minor flaws, booklets colour errors, stamp sachets, postage dues. David said that he stopped collecting after the year 2000.

This was a very diverse and interesting evening based on postal services on the Isle of Man. David's depth of knowledge was clear from the start and his enthusiasm was palpable. Members thanked David for coming such a long way to show his collection.

6 May: Kevin Dillistone – Lighthouses Around the British Isles.

19 Benfleet members welcomed Kevin and Frances who had travelled from Bexhill to give tonight's display. Kevin is President of Bexhill, Eastbourne and South Downs Philatelic Society, a

member of the Association of the Sussex Philatelic Societies, and a member of Hastings Club.

In Part 1, Kevin explained that there are 96 lighthouses around the coast of the British Isles from North Kent, including the Roman Pharos at Dover, all the way back into Essex, most of which are now redundant, overtaken by digital GPS technology. This first part was a display of postcards, as there are very few British stamps. However, the Dungeness lighthouse features on a stamp produced by Chile. Kevin spoke about high and low lights, lightships, that there is only one lighthouse with a ghost, and that lighthouses had to have three keepers after the incident at the Smalls Lighthouse, and the thunderous sound of the foghorn that was sounded during periods of poor visibility,

In Part 2, Kevin concentrated on the lighthouses of Scotland. They are looked after by the Northern Light Board. Generations of the Stevenson family designed and built most of the lighthouses in Scotland. Kevin spoke about Skerrymore being the tallest lighthouse, the incident at Flannan Isles Lighthouse in 1900, when the keepers disappeared. This was a very interesting display. Lighthouses have the functional purpose of warning mariners of hazards, guide ships to safety and help to identify their location along coastlines. Many were in remote locations with lightkeepers spending weeks on duty and many were home to sometimes large families who lived around them. Thank you to Kevin for enlightening us to the rigours of being a lighthouse keeper.

CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

Venue: Room 1, 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 October, April to July.

Forthcoming meetings:

9 June: Member's displays at 7.15pm. This will include presentations by Derek Connell (1923 Exhibition), John Copeland (Dubai), Mr. Messenger (Heligoland) and Mr. Torkildson (Post and Go stamps).

14 July: Member's displays at 7.15pm.

8 September: Member's displays at 7.15pm.

13 October: Member's displays at 7.15pm.

Recent activities:

14 April: Members' Displays:

For our first meeting since our winter break, we invited members to display. **Nick Harris** began proceedings with a fine display of material covering Canadian involvement in the Boer War, including

patriotic stationery and postcards. **John Copeland** was next, displaying Brentwood postcards. He exhibited a wide variety of postcards for the area, including aerial views of yesteryear.

After a refreshment break **Pat Adams** continued the theme of postcards with a display of material covering the Chelmsford area. Included was a postcard from Norway dated 1842 addressed to the famous local photographer Fred Spalding.

12 May: Members' Displays.

Rob Myers began proceedings with a display on early Afghanistan for a period between 1870 and 1895. This covered a wealth of material including stamps both on and off cover. **Derek Connell** followed with the theme of early London exhibitions with material from 1906 onwards, including the International Stamp Exhibition of 1912 run by the Junior Philatelic Society (now the National P.S.). For the next meeting, he has promised an in-depth display on the exhibition held in 1923. The final presentation before our refreshment break was given by **Pat Adams** with postcards from Norway depicting the whaling industry. Norway was a major whaling nation and her display included a postcard showing the southern Norwegian port of Sanderfjord from which vessels set sail to the Antarctic.

The second part of the evening was devoted to a display by **Nick Harris** on the Sieges of the Boer War. This was an extremely informative presentation and covered the post leaving the besieged Mafeking, Ladysmith and Kimberley. Very little mail entered, however, and the post leaving was a very dangerous operation with many of the local natives paid to perform the service were often caught and executed, their bodies left on the roadside to dissuade others who may wish to break the blockade.

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 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:**4 February: Alan Moorcroft FRPSL – Channel Islands Occupation:**

At the February meeting, guest speaker Alan gave a very interesting talk and display on the Channel Islands Occupation. Alan began by describing the evacuation of 5,500 children from Guernsey to Britain on 20 June 1940, but that Jersey families decided to stay put. The Guernsey children were fostered with British families and were stranded in Britain for five years. The Germans flew in to the Channel Islands on 25 June 1940 and introduced curfews and ID cards. All British postage stamps supplies were cut off and so, by February 1941, Guernsey and later Jersey introduced their own "arms" design stamps. Then, in June 1943, Jersey printed pictorial issues showing local views. There were some forgeries and the first German Commandant got swastikas overprinted on British stamps. These are very rare. Mail was allowed from the Channel Islands to German-occupied countries and vice-versa, and there was lots of internment mail. The Germans finally surrendered on 9 May 1945 and regular UK post was reopened by 14 May. Alan described how one unfortunate honeymoon couple arrived in Jersey in June 1941 just as the Germans bombed the harbour and could not leave for 5 years!

4 March: Bourse & Competitions:

At the March meeting, there was a successful Bourse followed by Competition Evening with entries for the various trophies. **Peter Nason** won the postcards and postal history competitions with displays on Madeira and the 1971 postal strike respectively. **Mick Carter** won the one-country entry with a display on Somalia EAF. He then went on to also win the Cinderella entry with Tripolitania licence stamps as well as Thematics with Sudan airmails.

Our correspondent unfortunately missed the April meeting, which was the AGM, and the May meeting had to be cancelled as the venue was being redecorated.

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:

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:

25 July: Zoom Meeting, 10am. Guests welcome.

Contact Alan Moorcroft for invitation (see below for contact details).

19 September: Autumn Meeting, bourse and members' displays (10.30-16.30). For further details email: eastanglianpostal@gmail.com or see the website: www.eaphs.webador.co.uk.

Recent activities:

EAPHS has recently rejoined ABPS.

25 April: Meeting at Red Gables, Stowmarket:

A new record of 19 members and two guests attended this meeting on a lovely warm sunny day. Displays were held in the morning and after the AGM in the afternoon. The attendees brought a packed lunch and refreshments, cakes, biscuits and cakes were provided. Following the lunch break, a bourse was held where members brought items to swap or sell and this was boosted by our new member Scott Kibby who brought along a wide range of material which helped stimulate some trading. Scott kindly made a donation to the Society at the end of the meeting.



Displays were provided by (in the order given):

- **Paul Lascelles:** Norfolk 16th Century and Post Towns 1700 to 1799
 - **Mike Kentzer:** King's Lynn sub-post offices and Norfolk M.P.s
 - **Steve Teuma:** The Penny Post Marks of Suffolk
 - **Terry Wagg:** Cambridge Post Paid Envelopes
 - **Michael Golbourne:** Essex Postal History
 - **Ken Burr:** Some interesting local covers
 - **Bernard Mabbett:** Great Yarmouth recent purchases
 - **Alan Moorcroft:** Essex Skeleton datestamps
- Also attended: Mike Brindle, John Copeland, Don

Davies, Dahlia Harrison, Terry Harrison, Judy Bradshaw, Scott Kibby, Kevin May, Linda Moorcroft, Andrew Skilling, Andy Soutar, Robert Stephenson, Winston Williams

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. Auctions on Saturday. Viewing 2pm for 3pm start.

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

Forthcoming meetings:

13 June: Grand Auction.

Recent activities:

No reports received.

FRINTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: 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, 7pm to 10pm, except August. Occasional afternoon meetings at 2pm to 5pm.

Forthcoming meetings:

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

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

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

13 Jul: 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 2 (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:

5 February: Andrew Skilling – Stamps and Postal History of the Gold Coast:

Although only having collected Gold Coast stamps for about 3 years, he showed a first-class collection of the stamps from 1875 to 1957, when the country became independent and known as Ghana. Andrew showed a superb atlas of Gold Coast describing every aspect of the country and had amassed a large collection of the stamps, both mint and used. The stamps of KGV1 and QE2 were pictorial and showed castles, scenery and local industries such as manganese mining, timber and the growing of cocoa. Gold and diamond mining are still one of the staple industries of this country. In addition, he displayed dozens of superb covers and some postcards sent from and to this colony from, mainly, European and North American countries. Many of these had particularly interesting history when sent in the two World Wars and displayed a variety of censor markings. Altogether this was a very informative display and Andrew's history of the country only added to the mystic as to why Europeans had fought so hard to occupy Gold Coast for the spoils of gold.

16 February: Ray Rackham - A Life in Paper, and Kevin Marsden - A Journey from Sea Mines to Turtle Doves:

Ray and Kevin entertained members with their presentations. Ray's interesting short talk "A Life in Paper" was about his career in the civil service in book conservation and binding. He worked at the British Museum, House of Lords, Tower of London and the London Metropolitan Archives. At the British Museum, Ray worked on the restoration of the 1215 Magna Carta, the medieval Mappa Mundi, WW1 trench maps and the repair of globes to name a few. He felt it was never a job.

Kevin Marsden then gave an interesting Power Point presentation "A Journey from Sea Mines to Turtle Doves" about the former Naval Armaments

Depot, Wrabness. This started in WW1 with 250 employees making magnetic sea mines, parachute mines and depth charges until it closed in 1965. It had its own railway station "Priory Halt" and munitions trains on site. Women workers were known as "canary girls" as their skin became stained yellow by phosphorus. Subsequently, 26 acres were purchased as a nature reserve by the Essex Wildlife Trust and opened to the public to enjoy the wildlife in 1993.

2 March: Annual General Meeting and Member Displays:

After a successful AGM, members were treated to the winning displays by the Society's first place team at the AEPS Autumn Competition 2024, winning the President's award. **Mick Carter** showed his displays of the British Occupation of the former Italian Colonies, Middle East Forces airgraphs, Sudan airmail covers and official stamps and, for the Literature Trophy, "Why I collect Egypt". **Alan Moorcroft** displayed some registered mail covers from 1841 onwards and **Mick Myall** showed some interesting Edward VIII material. Later, **David Pugh** showed some old French printed sheets of various British Empire colonies, mainly Victorian stamps.

16 March: Members' Displays – M, N and O:

Members provided displays associated with the letters M, N and O. **David Pugh** showed pre-WWII stamp issues of New Guinea, whilst **Mick Chittock** displayed early Norway from 1855 to 1941. **Brian Clarke** then showed some early Montserrat issues and Nevis QEII 1980-82, whilst **Alan Moorcroft** covered machine cancellations from 1913 onwards. **Andrew Skilling's** theme was Manningtree with some interesting pre-stamp covers from 1790-1831 and some later Victorian covers postmarked Manningtree. **Terry Rawlings** then showed some GB Machins and different watermark issues, whilst **Jon Juby** showed a wide range of issues from Mesopotamia to Natal and the Olympics to name a few. **Trevor Potter** showed some motor car covers and **Geoff Miller** some OHMS Falklands conflict covers. Finally, **Mick Carter** displayed some Malta and MEF airmail covers. It was generally agreed that there had been some excellent displays covering a lot of subjects.

13 April: Ed Hitchings – Aspects of New Zealand and "My Funnies":

Ed, from Sudbury, entertained members with an excellent display entitled "Aspects of New Zealand". He began with the first stamp issue, the famous Chalon heads of 1855, including some forgeries and 1906 reprints. Then, Ed displayed representative examples of other early issues, express delivery and postage due stamps plus health stamps that began in 1929, including the well-known "Smiling Boys" of

1931. Then Ed switched to revenue stamps, his favourites, starting with the first issues of 1867 and later the 1939 surcharges with values to £900. There then followed beer duty stamps, honey seal tax stamps, law courts and land and deeds stamps, rare ultra-high value revenue stamps, railway charges stamps and Cinderella issues.

Part 2 of Ed's display he called "My Funnies" and was an eclectic mix from 1853 US carriers taken to local post offices, bogus issues from Guatemala, Dominican Republic and the fictitious country of Sedang, to Kinderpost and national savings stamps. Ed ended his superb display with the unusual never absent, never late cards from some schools.

27 April: James Podger FRPSL – West Indies:

James, from Farnborough, entertained members with an excellent display on the "West Indies". He began with pre-stamp covers and ship's letters of Antigua from 1758 onwards, Bahamas, including the earliest known ship letter of 1769, various Barbados and British Honduras covers and then British Guiana. These included the earliest known cover going inland, dated 1801, then later a very nice display of the 1882 provisionals of British Guiana, including on covers. Cayman Islands included the earliest pre-stamp cover in private hands and some early (1901) postcards. James then showed various early covers of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat and Nevis, plus early ship letters of Jamaica from 1771 onwards. Swedish occupation covers of St. Bartholomew for 1794 and 1829 were interesting, followed by early covers for St. Christopher, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Tobago and Trinidad. James ended his superb display with some nice 1866 die proofs of the Turks Islands.

11 May: Graham Wylde – G.B. Line-Engraved.

Graham, from Cambridge, entertained members with a superb display covering the classic 1d black, 2d blue and 1d red issues. He began by explaining how these stamps were engraved and then showed his 16-sheet winning display in the East of England competition covering plate 1 of the Penny Black, some with re-entries or partial doubling of the design. The first cover shown by Graham was of a Penny Black dated 8 May 1840, only two days after the first day of use. Graham then showed various later plates of the 1d black, some repaired or with recognised flaws, followed by a lovely 9-sheet display of 2d blues of plates 1 and 2, and then 1841 2d blues with white lines added. Despite Maltese cross postmarks never intending to look different, Graham showed several varieties.

In the second half of his display, Graham showed the progression of the 1d red from imperforate to perforated, first perf. 16 then 14, and a change of die and watermarks, as well as the introduction of letters in all four corners. Graham's display included rarities

such as a 1d red of plate 22 small crown on cover, where only one other is known. He ended with a display of the development of postmarks from Maltese crosses to the first dating on covers, plus some humorous contents of some Victorian letters. An extremely interesting and entertaining display.

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.
18 June: Postal auction.

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:

26 June: Display at Norwich & Norfolk P.S.

Recent activities:

No reports received.

LEYTONSTONE, WANSTEAD & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Secretary: Richard Wood (admin1@lwdps.org).
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:

22 June: Annual General Meeting and Members' displays.

Recent activities:

No reports received.

RAYLEIGH & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Secretary: Ray How (01702-544632).
Venue: The Rayleigh Parish Centre, Rectory Garth, Hockley Road, Rayleigh SS6 8BB.
Normal day and time: Second and fourth Mondays (except bank holidays), 7.30pm for 8pm to 10pm, all year.

Forthcoming meetings:

8 June: Mark Edwards and My Collections.
22 June: Alan Moorcroft - "Aspects of Collecting local Postal History Part 2".
13 July: Acquired in 2025 (Members' displays).
27 July: Nick Harris - "Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902".
10 August: Bourse.
24 August: Members display "1950-2000".
14 September: Members display "Postcards and Ephemera".
28 September: Brian Stonestreet - "New Zealand – A New Era".
12 October: Trevor Potter - "Falklands Conflict, 25 years".
26 October: Competitions and Bourse.
9 November: Jim Charlton - "Gilbert and Ellice Islands".
23 November: Colin Evans - "More Interesting Collections".
14 December: Christmas Social and Doug Venman Competition.
2027:
11 January: Annual Quiz for the C Moir Trophy.
25 January: The Ken Seymour Display.

Recent activities:

23 March: Chairman's Night: Peter Lister – "What Inheritance Brings".

Rayleigh members welcomed Peter, who had been a friend of Bill Trower and Ken Seymour. Peter is a member of the Enfield Philatelic Society and is an Expert on the Committee at The Royal.

Peter outlined his early life as an apprentice, where he met Ted Wilson who became a lifelong friend. Peter started to collect stamps at a young age and Ted noticed this interest and, as he was a keen collector himself, they became philatelic friends. When Ted passed away, he left his collection to Peter as he thought that Peter would be the only person who would appreciate it and know what to do with it.

Peter showed us parts of Ted's and Ken's collections and then his own. And what a collection!

Even the uninitiated of us realised just how fortunate we were to be at tonight's meeting to view the exceptional material on display.

It started with a Corsini correspondence of 1591 and things just got better from thereon in. Peter has an amazing collection of Penny Blacks and Penny Reds. It was clear that years of research has gone into making this collection. He was able to give great detail about the marks, the intricacies of cross marks, watermarks, cancellations, postal stationery, and, with extensive knowledge of the different plates, he has been able to plate a huge number of examples. He explained that he has very few missing examples and that he has searched through thousands of Penny Blacks and Penny Reds. His advice is that you never complete a collection and it is dead easy to plate the stamps!

This was a wonderful evening with Peter explaining clearly and in detail about his collection. Members thanked Peter for such an enjoyable evening and to Ray How for arranging it. No one went near it with coffee!

11 May: Geoff Richardson – Austrian Scouting'

Ten members welcomed Geoff Richardson from Surrey to our meeting. In Part 1, Geoff explained that he has been collecting stamps for many years. He was a scout and became interested in Scouting in Austria 1978. This started off a huge collection, much of which is in boxes, some is written up and waiting to be mounted. Geoff said that he writes up about ten sheets a week. He has plans, along with a friend, to do a joint display in Austria (this was 2008, but not done yet!). Hopefully, they will do it in two years' time.

Geoff showed special cancellations and spoke about the number of different dies, of which he has a great number. Material is now hard to obtain as many dealers and outlets have closed. In his display, he had a photograph dated 3 August 1951, which is one of the first photos of an Austrian scouting event. Geoff explained that he likes to be able to see what he is buying.

In Part 2, Geoff had brought with him books and information on his subject, plus postmarks. He likes good ones – labels and slogans. Geoff allowed plenty of time for members to view his display and he answered many questions raised. Thanks to Geoff – this was an excellent display with a wealth of scouting material.

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:

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 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.

13 February: Exhibition & Stamp Fair at The Labour Hall, Collingwood Road, Witham CM8 2EE 10am-4pm.

Recent activities:

The society developed a website during the first quarter of the year. Just search google for Witham Philatelic. You should get us at the top of the list. The site provides society details, diary and past meetings along with pictures and short, soundless videos of material from the displays given.

5 February: Bruce Wilkinson - Postal History:

The society hosted a guest speaker, who told a story on postal history and development of the mail service. 160 sheets were shown.

14 February: Exhibition & Stamp Fair:

An Exhibition & Stamp Fair was held by the society at a new location. The event was well attended by the public including the local Mayor. Dealers went home satisfied and next year's event which is scheduled to be held on 13 February 2027 is fully booked.

5 March: Len Stanway FRPSL – Mails Under London:

The subject covered development of a pneumatic railway which subsequently went on to be developed to what we know today as the Post Office Railway. Much information was available in pictures, share certificates, and maps. The second half of the display

concentrated on the development of the various London railway companies and the conveyance of parcels. Rare and unique material was shown, including parcel stamps. If you ever get the chance to see this display, GO, it is recommended.

2 April: Members' Displays – G, H, I, J.

The subject was the letters G, H, I or J and members were invited to show some sheets. All members attending showed a total of 160 sheets. Stamps, postcards, and postal history were shown from the following countries; Germany, Grenada, Gibraltar, Hati, Hawaii, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Isle of Man, Italy & Italian Colonies, Jamaica, Japan, and (J)Yugoslavia. A good variety of subjective material covering thematics, culture, philatelic exhibitions, miniature sheets, postmarks, flora and fauna. A sunny afternoon's meeting was enjoyed by all. A recent joiner gave their first display.

7 May: David Martin – Belarus, and Ian Kelly - "Just Engraved Stamps":

These were the titles of the displays given by two speakers. A total of 160 sheets displayed, and the Belarus section was finely narrated with examples of personal experience of the country. Aspects of Belarus covered history, religion, culture, famous people, flora, fauna and architecture.

The second display covered the art of engraved stamps with designs issued by the various security printers whose engravers were kept anonymous for security reasons. Special prints from American Bank Note Company and the Bureau of Engraving were shown. The display finished up with stamps and miniature sheets from engravers Jules Piel, Martin Morck and Jorge Peral.

Acknowledgements: I am grateful to the following for meeting information: Mick Carter, John Copeland, Alan Moorcroft, Colin Evans, David Everard, "Fly-on-the Wall", Ed Hitchings, Ray How, Ian Kelly, David Pugh, Sue Stacey.

National News

ROLL OF DISTINGUISHED PHILATELISTS

The 2026 Signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists have been announced. The new signatories join 92 other current living RDPs from 31 countries, spread over six continents. More details on the background and history of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists can be found at: <https://www.abps.org.uk/roll-of-distinguished-philatelists>. The new signatories are:

- Jon Aitchison, RDP, Essex, UK;
- Dr Andrew Cheung, RDP, Hong Kong, China;
- Alexander T. Haimann, RDP, USA;
- Ding Jinsong, RDP, China.

This year's signing ceremony, on the 105th anniversary of the first signing to the Roll, will take place on 28 May 2026, during the Boston 2026 World Stamp Expo in the USA. Details and short biographies of the 2026 signatories: <https://feapanews.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026-New-RDPs-biographies.pdf>

PCGB CONGRESS 2026

The 107th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain 2026 will take place at the Jubilee Hotel & Conferences, Triumph Road, Nottingham NG7 2TU from 4-6 September. The Theme for this year is "Grass Roots to Grand Prix", so speakers will approach the hobby from many different angles. Highlights will include:

Friday, 4 September:

- Local Society, Federation and Congress Presentations;
- National Competition opens;
- The Official Opening of Congress;
- The Kay Goodman Lecture from Oscar Young;
- 2026 Congress Medallist presentation by Steven Harrison;
- Drinks Reception;
- Buffet Dinner.

Saturday, 5 September:

- RDP Discussion on how they got to where they are today;
- Simon Carson from the PTS;
- Junior Philatelists Present;
- ABPS Annual General Meeting;
- Richard Morel from The British Library - Research Resources;
- Presentations by new RDPs Jon Aitchison, RDP (UK) and Alexander T. Haimann(USA);
- Competition Results;
- Drinks reception;
- Congress Banquet.

Sunday, 6 September:

- Nottingham Philatelic Society Present ...;
- ABPS Panel Discussion - Society Membership and Engagement;
- Closing ceremony;
- Competition displays open till 2pm.

Please visit <https://gbcongress.uk/> for booking information and hotel conference rates. For more information about Congress contact Steven Harrison by emailing him at sharrison500@btinternet.com or calling him on 0121 313 0671.

FEDERATION LIAISON OFFICER

Daphne McMillan is undertaking this role. Daphne is particularly interested in how the ABPS may support Federations to develop in a difficult period for societies of all kinds. On 30 April, she hosted a Zoom meeting, attended by most British federations, to discuss their experiences in the post-Covid environment. The Secretary attended for AEPS and

explained how we were still rebuilding, taking the opportunity to promote Essex Stamp Day in the process! All those present agreed that this should become a regular meeting to explore different issues facing federations. Daphne's e-mail is mcmillandaphne@yahoo.co.uk

ABPS NEWS

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

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)

EXHIBITING

Full details of all opportunities to take part in both national and international stamp exhibitions can be found in the Exhibiting section of the ABPS website.

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.

AEPS Contact Information

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<https://www.stampessex.co.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 next issue should be published on or by 1 September. Your news, letters, etc. should be with the Editor by 15 August.

