



The Essex Philatelic Contact.

The Journal of Association of Essex Philatelic Societies

- 82 Years of Service -



Editor: L.C. Stanway FRPSL.

Vol. 38 No.3 – September 2026

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EDITORIAL:

Suddenly, it is autumn and activity starts to ramp up, both in societies and at Federation level with the invitation to enter our annual competitions (see below).

We have just heard that eminent Essex philatelist Alan Moorcroft FRPSL has been elected President of the Great Britain Philatelic Society. AEPS wishes to congratulate Alan on this prestigious appointment.

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 COMPETITIONS 2026

Entries in this year's competitions have recently been invited. As in 2025, all disciplines will be judged at the same time and displayed at the AGM in November. A major departure this year, to avoid insurance issues, will be the request for scanned or photocopied entries, suitably stiffened. This follows experience of judging the Mid-Angia Federation competition entries, which have been in this form for some years. For an entry form, see your society Secretary or contact Ray How.

AEPS AGM

The next AEPS AGM, to whom representatives of all societies are invited, will be held at 2.00pm on **14 November** at Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall End. Entries in the Association's 2026 competitions will be displayed.

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 2027

The next seminar is provisionally 5 March 2027 at Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall End. Any enquiries should be directed to Ray How.

STAMPESSEX 2027

The next Essex Stamp Day (StampEssex) will be on 8 May 2027 at Runnymede Hall, Thundersley, Essex, SS7 1TF. 10am-4pm. The hall has been booked. Any enquiries should be directed to Colin Evans.

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:

7 September: Chairman's Night.

22 September: Members' displays.

5 October: Postal Auction viewing and Abu Dhabi (J.W.J. Copeland).

20 October: President's Night.

2 November: Members; displays.

17 November: Committee Entertains.

7 December: Tomex Quiz.

22 December: Festive Night.

Recent activities:

1 June: Members' displays.

Garry Green began the displays with 2006 Alderney booklet panes showing seabirds. **Mark McShane** followed with three displays, the first being the 1954 issues marking the Silver Jubilee of stamps on Lundy. He followed with postcards and postmarks from the Prague Reich Arbiets Dienst art exhibition of 1944, and ending with airmails and aerogrammes from the Philippines. **Brian Tett** showed us Gibraltar issues from 1935 to 1974. **Alf Potter** closed the first half with postcards showing US Marine Corps uniforms backwards from 1985 to 1775. After the break, **Len Stanway** showed issues of the United Nations Postal Administration from 2022 to 2025.

16 June: Annual General Meeting and Members' displays.

The Annual General Meeting approved and received reports from the officers. Relaunch of the auctions has helped a little, but the society is running on savings accrued during the good years. Membership remains stable but too low to be viable in

the long-term. The only significant change is that Ian McElwain has, once again, taken over the Programme Secretary role from Charlie Mead and produced a draft programme.

After the AGM, **Len Stanway** displayed GB booklets of the 1980s and **Charlie Mead** showed Fiji Land Bird Definitive Surcharges.

6 July: Members' displays.

Ian McElwain kicked-off proceedings with a display of reproduction Post Office reward notices. **Garry Green** followed with Alderney miniature sheets showing the work of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. **Mark McShane** took us to off-shore islands with local posts, starting with Lundy animal charity sheets, Shuna, Cosna and, from Ireland, Long Island. After the break, **Ian Hunt** showed GB booklets and **Maggie Thompson** showed Liberian Triangulars from 1894 to 1953.

21 July: Members' New Acquisitions.

Mark McShane opened proceedings with Bohemia & Moravia 1941 presentation cards featuring the "Victory" handstamps issued to a variety of districts with text either in German or bilingual. **Maggie Thompson** followed with Documentary Tax stamps of Saar on document, illustrating the currency problems of the period.

Ian McElwain started the second half with railway letter covers from a variety of British heritage railways. **Garry Green** followed with prestige booklet panes of Alderney on the theme "Garrison Island". **Len Stanway** wound up proceedings with the latest new issues from the United Nations, Great Britain and Singapore, with two envelopes illustrating that international postage rates have reached the point that Singapore Post now sends new issues to the UK by courier instead of its own service!

3 August: Ian McElwain – Pitcairn and Montserrat.

Ian opened his display by reading the introduction to an old specialised catalogue of Pitcairn, a remote Pacific island. It explained the geographical and historical situation, including the roles of Fletcher Christian and John Adams in establishment of the colony. Postage stamps were introduced as late as 1940 and went on to represent a substantial part of the island's budget. He then showed stamp issues to 1997.

After a break, Ian showed us the issue of Montserrat, one of the Leeward Islands of the Caribbean, to 1981. In contrast to Pitcairn, its first stamp issue was in 1876, with much of subsequent interest. The island lost over half its usable land area in 1995, when a long-inactive volcano laid waste to the south of the island.

18 August: Members' displays.

Garry Green kicked-off proceeding with the 1994 definitive series of Alderney, including number of booklet panes. **Ian Hunt** followed with a thematic display of issues marking events of World War One. **Alf Potter** then showed a miscellany of material, starting with USA miniature sheets marking events of 1941-1943, then some lovely Lakeland postcards of Cumbrian lakes, Spanish dancer postcards with the skirts in attached lace, and a series of British covers marking railway events using personalised stamps.

Maggie Thompson presented the second round, showing triangular stamps, mostly related to rocket mail, but opening with a selection of other flown mail, such as pigeon post, glider, Zeppelin and catapult mails.

After the break, **Len Stanway** closed proceedings with Singapore issues of 1987-88, including a variety of issues from the fifty "PLVM" vending machines.

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:

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.

Albums closed:

Colin Evans has sadly informed us of the passing of Benfleet member **Stanley Holloway**. Stan had unfortunately been treated for cancer at Southend Hospital for most of the year. He was an active member on club night's with helping in setting up and taking down tables and chairs etc, and was known to have his own table to sell unwanted stock. Colin describes Stan as an absolute gentleman with his quite talking voice, smart appearance, and willingness to help the club in many ways. He had always been a well-liked member of the Society by everyone and will be missed by all. The Society held a minute's silence in memory of a lovely gentleman. Our thought goes to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

Recent activities:**3 June: Wendy Buckle - "Paper, Past and Present".**

Seventeen members of Benfleet P S welcomed Wendy, who had come from Bournemouth to give a display on Paper, Past and Present. The display was in two parts, the first part giving a history of the various writing materials through the ages – clay tablets, tree bark, animal skins, papyrus, linen, silk rags, cotton, jute, hemp, straw. Wendy explained that the Chinese invented paper about 2,000 years ago, filtering to Korea and Japan then into the Middle East, via the trade routes, then into Europe. Paper making arrived in the UK quite late – John Tate of Hertfordshire, in 1494 having the first paper mill,

All paper is made in the same way – grinding the raw materials with water into a pulp then placing the slurry onto a mould. The moulds came in a variety of sizes up to double elephant. Foolscap was so named after the original watermark, of a "fools cap" being sewn onto the mould. A paper making machine that produced paper in endless rolls became known as "The Endless Web". In 1847, a Canadian invented the system of making paper from wood pulp, this made a cheap paper that was used for newsprint.

In Part 2, Wendy illustrated the different types of paper, weights, uses and, with the introduction of the Penny Black, writing bloomed, when Basildon Bond came into production. Books, newspapers and magazines were in enormous demand. Once cheap colour printing came along, wallpaper became popular, and, of course, the most essential paper product of all - the loo roll!

Wendy's display was very interesting and well-illustrated, and members had many questions and queries for her. Members thanked and showed appreciation to Wendy for coming such a long way, and traversing the Dartford Crossing is no mean feat.

1 July: Tony Davis - "Red Cross".

14 Benfleet members welcomed Tony, who had travelled from Maidstone, Kent. His display was given in two parts. Tony explained that he set himself a challenge in March 2024 - that he will construct a Red Cross display on a budget and, within a year, he had given his first display. His base was the purchase a Red Cross collection from Colin Evans, chair of Benfleet and thematic dealer, and extending it into what was before us tonight.

In 1858, Austria declared war on Italy and France. This left many wounded, injured and dead soldiers. A Swiss man, Henry Dunant, saw this and was moved to help. Along with other Swiss friends, he created an organisation, The Red Cross, using the neutral emblem of a red cross on a white background, and, in 1863, 12 nations had signed up. At this time, the Red Cross only administered to soldiers on the battlefield.

Around the same time, John Furley founded the St John Ambulance to assist those wounded or injured in Britain.

Tony had a selection of WW1 silks, humorous postcards, information about hospital ships, forms of transport, ambulances and most proudly a photo of his mum, who was a member of the St John Ambulance Brigade, receiving a certificate. Over time, the Red Cross became a global phenomenon with all countries now represented. The Red Cross was founded in 1863. For Moslem countries, the Red Crescent was created in 1906 and the Red Crystal in 2005 as a neutral for situations where neither may be acceptable.

Tony's display showed just what can be done with an idea and determination. It takes a lot of time, effort and research to put a display together and members thanked Tony for this interesting display achieved in such a short time.

The 5 August meeting was a successful bourse.

CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Dave Everard (01245-465506 or email: daveeverard@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:

8 September: Member's displays at 7.15pm.

13 October: Member's displays at 7.15pm.

Albums closed:

A recent loss was **Eric Lienhard**. Eric was one of the AEPS team that displayed at the RPSL in 1972.

Recent activities:

9 June: Members' displays.

The meeting comprised presentations from members on a wide variety of subjects as follows: **John Copeland** commenced proceedings with an in-depth display on stamps issued by Abu Dhabi, in an historical context. Following a refreshment break he was followed by **Derek Connell** with a presentation covering the 1923 London Stamp exhibition, which was held at the Royal Horticultural Hall, including publicity labels and other associated material. Next up was **Nick Harris** with two presentations, the first being on the Japanese Occupation of the Gilbert and Ellis Islands during World War 2 and the second on Operation Tambarin to the Antarctic with overprinted stamps of the Falkland Island Dependencies. Messrs **Messenger** and **Thor Torkildsen** concluded an extremely entertaining evening with the former displaying the first multi-coloured stamps in the world, issued for Heligoland in 1867, which was the smallest British colony. He also gave a detailed history of the islands. Thor then gave an extensive display of Post and Go stamps from no fewer than nine issuing postal authorities

14 July: Four Members' displays.

For our final meeting before our short summer break, we were delighted to receive presentations from four of our members as follows: **John Copeland** commenced proceedings with an extensive display of aerial views of locations within Essex on postcards, including within the former boundary prior to 1974 when places such as Romford and Chingford then became parts of London Boroughs.

Derek Connell continued his theme from the two previous meetings with a display on London Apex Stamp Exhibitions, covering, this time, the 1934 exhibition. This revealed a wealth of material ranging from a banquet menu to pigeongrams, as well as entrance tickets to the event.

After a refreshment break, **Nick Harris** displayed a range of King George V Seahorse overprinted stamps issued in Irish Free State, Nauru, British Levant and Morocco Agencies.

Our final presentation was from **Pat Adams**, who gave us a second opportunity to see her display of postcards depicting the whaling industry of yesteryear. We will not meet in August and our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 8 September.

3 August 2026: Ian McElwain – Pitcairn and Montserrat.

Ian opened his display by reading the introduction to an old specialised catalogue of Pitcairn, a remote Pacific island. It explained the geographical and historical situation, including the roles of Fletcher Christian and John Adams in establishment of the colony. Postage stamps were introduced as late as 1940 and went on to represent a substantial part of the island's budget. He then showed stamp issues to 1997.

After a break, Ian showed us the issue of Montserrat, one of the Leeward Islands of the Caribbean, to 1981. In contrast to Pitcairn, its first stamp issue was in 1876, with much of subsequent interest. The island lost over half its usable land area in 1995, when a long-inactive volcano laid waste to the south of the island.

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:

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:**5 August: Auction and Display.**

At the August meeting, there was a successful Bourse, followed by an excellent display of Ascension Island stamps by Bob Field. This covered all issues from the first issues until 1985. including GB stamps used in Ascension and St. Helena stamps overprinted Ascension.

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:

26 September: Stamp Fair, Stanway Village Hall, Villa Road, Colchester CO3 0RH. 10.00-16.00. Organiser: Peter Nason pnason@aol.com 01206 570544, 07831 374794.

For ordinary meeting details, please contact the society.

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:

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:

No reports received.

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:

8 September: Easter Island and other displays (Rufus Barnes).

13 October: Recent Acquisitions (Members).

10 November: A Thematic Evening (Colin Banfield).

8 December: Christmas Social Evening & Quiz

23 January 2027: Auction. Viewing from 2pm, auction from 3pm.

9 February: Denmark: Conscience, Conflict & Camps 1932-1949 and The Reunification of Southern Jutland with Denmark 1864-1920, plus some postcards (Birthe King FRPSL RDP).

9 March: Early Isle of Man Postal History, and post-1973 stamp issues (David Belton).

13 April: Competition Evening.

11 May: Kimber Trophy, Annual General Meeting, Bring & Buy.

12 June: Auction. Viewing from 2pm, auction from 3pm.

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:

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:**15 June: Garie Naden: "Horse Posts and Mail Coach Routes".**

Garie, from Macclesfield P.S., entertained members with an excellent display. Garie's very well written-up display had won several recent awards and would be displayed at an international philatelic history convention in Germany later this year. It comprised of 48 A3 sheets containing nearly 200 pre-stamp covers, some with rare postmarks. Garie explained that, from 1660 onwards, mail was handstamped, the first in the world, and was sent initially by horse post on six main routes from London. Later, cross posts joined one main route to another without passing through London. This proved to be both quicker and cheaper. Exeter to Bristol was first. Then, from 1720, Ralph Alan, postmaster of Bristol, became responsible for all cross posts until it was taken over by the post office in the 1760s. By the industrial revolution, the public wanted

a quicker, more-efficient service and so, by 1785, mail coaches were introduced. This also eliminated highway robberies of the post. After the break, Garie began with a small display entitled "Maverick Deputy Postmaster of Stockport". This related to Peter Boardman from 1774 to 1809, who produced very large town postmarks, then horseshoe and delightful scroll shaped postmarks before changing from black to purple or red postmarks, contrary to post office standards. Garie then showed a small thematic collection of old postcards of chickens and ended with some interesting material from a Macclesfield P.S. exhibition held in a former silk mill. A very interesting and varied display.

29 June: Sue Burn - "Smithy" the Extraordinary Flying Life of Australia's most famous pilot, Charles Kingsford Smith "

Guest speaker Sue, from Cornwall, entertained members with an excellent display. Sue presented her display with a variety of ephemera from postcards, covers and photos to newspaper archives. She explained how "Smithy", born in Brisbane, Australia, became the first person to fly around the world, but not in continuous flight. He applied to join the Royal Flying Corps in 1916. Despite being wounded in action and losing part of his foot, he continued his flying career after WW1, initially as a Hollywood stunt pilot. In 1921, he became a pilot for the Western Australia airways and, in 1924, commenced the regular Perth to Darwin air service. In June 1928, 27 aircraft attempted to race across the Pacific from Australia to Honolulu, but only three made it, including Kingsford Smith. Then, later in 1928, he was the first to cross the Tasman Sea from Australia to New Zealand and back. Later, "Smithy" became the first to fly east to west across the Atlantic from Ireland to Newfoundland. He then continued to San Francisco and onward in a circumnavigation of the world in his biplane "the Southern Cross". In October 1935 in his final flight, attempting a new England to Australia flight record, he went missing in Burma. He was only 38. He raised funds for his various flight attempts through touring many cities, especially in Australia and New Zealand, where he became a celebrity. Sue's display was an excellent presentation of the early development of flight and of "Smithy's" tough life.

The next meeting was the annual auction on 13 July.

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:

16 September (evening): James Podger displays "West Indies A to V".

7 October(afternoon): Graham Wylde displays "GB QV Surface Printed Issues on Cover".

21 October (evening): Andrew Skilling displays "Gold Coast".

28 October: Society Coach Trip to Stampex, London (time tba).

4 November (afternoon): Mike Kentzer & Terry Wagg display "Free Mail" and "GB King George VI".

18 November (evening): Visit from the Sudbury PS.

2 December (afternoon): An Afternoon with Dealer Sarah Brooks. Sarah will bring much of her stock, a chance to add to your collection! (In the Conference Room)

20 January 2027 (afternoon): Members' Display.

3 February (evening): Competition - Up to 10 Sheets of your Choice.

17 February (afternoon): Don Davies displays "GB Postal History with a Difference".

3 March (evening): Two Members Entertain - Robert Mason "Flights of Fancy" and Kevin May "Iceland".

17 March (afternoon): Ray How displays "Ireland" on St. Patrick's Day.

7 April (afternoon and evening): Society Auction. View Lots from 4pm, Auction Starts at 7pm Sharp. (In the Conference Room).

21 April (afternoon): Derek Pollard displays "3rd Reich".

5 May (evening): President's Night.

19 May (evening): AGM followed by a Quiz & Social End to the Season.

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:

Contact society for details.

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:

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:

8 June: Mark Edwards: "My Collections":

Sixteen members of Rayleigh and three of Benfleet welcomed Mark, who is a member of Rayleigh PS, ably assisted by Rupert. Mark explained that he has been collecting for about 20 years and he was pleased to be able to give this presentation as parts of it had been collected by Clair, his partner. Mark's presentation was in two parts, with the first showing going through the development of farming through the ages from approximately 12,000 years ago in the Middle East,

where hand ploughs were used, through to today with the huge farm machinery that is used to produce enough food for the population of the UK and beyond.

Part two gave a more international flavour. We were informed of what must be the strangest harvest, of ostrich eggs, and the most controversial, palm oil, with the associated destruction of the rain forests. When the product is grown, it must then be picked, processed and transported. Once a labour-intensive industry, much is now mechanised, apart from cocoa as the pods have to be hand-picked as they ripen at different times. There is a Swiss mini-sheet that smells of chocolate. Mark illustrated his display with "Freedom from Hunger" stamps, promotions to "Eat More Fruit", old advertising material, postcards, covers, photographs, stamps, etc. It was clear that Mark had carried out a lot of research of this subject with everything from potatoes to Alpine farms and The Archers. An interesting display that dispensed with a lot of myth surrounding the production of food in today's world.

22 June: Alan Moorcroft: "Aspects of Collecting Local Postal History – Part 2":

12 members welcomed Alan with Part 2 of his local postal history display. It began with an entire from Colchester with mileage marks and an 1823 letter from Manningtree. Alan had a series of letters addressed to John Ambrose, Solicitor, Mistley and Manningtree, acting on behalf of the Rigby family of Mistley Hall. He continued with a series of letters from Frank Watts, Stonemason of Colchester. During the course of his business Frank travelled to Australia and New Zealand with various letters sent home on-board SS "Victoria". He also visited Carrara in Italy to purchase marble for his business with bills and letters. Tom, Frank's son, took over the business and, as he was interested in stamp collecting, he purchased Winch Brothers, stamp dealers of Colchester. They produced catalogues, stationery and postcards. Tom died in 1965, when his wife gave his collection to Colchester Philatelic Society which was dispersed through their packet auctions.

We all go off on tangents! Alan said that he often finds himself immersed in the history of a piece of correspondence and just must find out a bit more and these investigations can lead almost anywhere.

Part 2 concentrated on Walton-on-the-Naze and Frinton-on-Sea. Alan had an example of the "scarcest UK postmark", the "Essex Post Comes and Goes Everyday" of 1674. He had four examples that were all posted in St. Osyth. In 1835, the Penny Post was extended to this important early seaside town.

In 1835, only 13 people lived in Frinton on Sea. 1892 saw the first post office. In the early 20th century, seven top grade hotels were in the town. It was a place for the rich and famous. Sadly, many of these hotels have now been demolished and today there is only one hotel in Frinton, The Rock, built in 1902, which is now up for sale.

During the 1930s, bottles containing a card were dropped in the oceans to check tides etc. Known as "Drift Mail", a reward of one shilling was given to those that recovered them.

Alan explained that he has two Aerographs and then went off at another tangent – so easy to do! A cover of the First Official Aerial Post 1911, Hendon to Windsor.

As with all of Alan's displays, this was of great interest. An excellent display not only of material but the social history and the clear and easy way in which it was given.

13 July: All-members display: "Acquired in 2025:

Members brought material that showed the diverse interests of the club and it turned into a tribute night in stamps, postcards and other memorabilia. **Lesley Peters** gave a display of Penguins. Lesley explained that there are many different breeds, some are endangered and need protection. **John (of Hullbridge)** gave a display of Bill Trower's Aircraft – stamps, photos, postcards, especially of flying boats and Boeing Clippers, Bill's favourite subjects. **Bill Wilson** had a one-sheet tribute to Benfleet member and friend Stanley Holloway. **Mark Edwards** showed Medical Means of Assistance and Transportation, Red Cross and Florence Nightingale, including a photo remembering his partner, Clare. **John Butler** showed the Battle of Hastings and the Bayeux Tapestry. **Adrian Putt** has family in South Africa and he had purchased a "job lot" from Bettel. He explained that they do not issue stamps, only labels. **Sue Stacey** remembered Don Down with a display of Butterflies. Don was a much-respected member of the South East Essex Natural History Society and shared his extensive knowledge freely. **Mark Routh** showed "A Load of Rubbish", Thomas the Tank Engine and other Engines. A very interesting evening which showed the range of subjects that club members have and wish to share.

27 July: Nick Harris: "Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902:

12 members welcomed Nick, who had travelled from Tiptree. Nick's display was presented over two parts. Nick gave an overview of the reasons behind the Anglo Boer War - GOLD – with war being declared on 11 October 1899. We have all heard of Mafeking, Ladysmith and Kimberley – Nick had covers from each of these besieged towns. As a morale booster, residents were encouraged to send each other mail internally. Any mail that had to be got out was taken by highly-renumerated runners. If captured, they paid with their lives. Baden Powell was the initial General serving at Mafeking and he devised a system of dummy forts giving the impression that the town was better fortified than it actually was. Baden-Powell went on to develop the Boy Scout movement from the cadets who were delivering mail in Mafeking.

Part Two was about the various locations that the prisoners were sent to, as it was cheaper to send them abroad. Firstly, prisoners were accommodated on ships, then onto St Helena, Ceylon, Bermuda, India and St Lucia. British prisoners were housed at the Pretoria Racecourse. Disease killed more than in combat.

This was a superb display with many covers, personal letters, postcards, overprinted stamps and Nick had, possibly, the only two known covers with the "telegraph cancellation". The defiant, haunting faces of prisoners stared out from an old postcard. Nick's knowledge and passion for this subject was clear, and it was a privilege to have the opportunity to view it.

The 10 August meeting was a successful bourse.

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:

Contact society for details.

18 November: Display to Ipswich P.S.

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:

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 received an accolade from Google for the society-developed website, which went live in January this year. Just search Google for "Witham Philatelic". You should get us at the top of the list. The site provides society details, events diary and log of past meetings along with pictures and short soundless

videos of material from the displays given in each display.

4 June: Mick Carter - British Occupation of Former Italian Colonies:

A total of 150 sheets were shown and the display was finely narrated with examples of personal experience of assembling the collection and subsequent research activities about the postal history material.

2 July: Don Davies - Censorship of the Seaside Postcard:

The talk began with the development and printing of the saucy postcard, culminating to the censorship and court cases of the postcards. The display was finely narrated with examples of personal experience of assembling the collection and subsequent research activities regarding artwork, printing plates, the court cases and the postcards which were ordered to be destroyed.

6 August: Colin Evans – Thematics:

Many themes were on display, supported with examples of personal experience of assembling the collection and subsequent research activities, including competition entries that achieved award standard. The display started with the World Cup and ended with a steam locomotive. Subjects between included Concorde, Penny Reds, Elizabeth Tower, Big Ben, Blackpool, Brownsea Island, Congo River Expedition (Zaire), Victoria Cross, Ferries, Pele and more.

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

National News

ABPS CHANGES

Gwynne Harries, the Chairman, has announced: "I am pleased to announce that the two pending vacancies which we were anticipating on the Executive Committee at the end of this calendar year have now been filled. My very special thanks to our two new willing volunteers who will take up their position from January 2027.

Adel Bullpit, who will likely be known to many of you, will be taking over the reins as editor of ABPS News. Adel is already an experienced philatelic journal editor and through her membership of a number of British specialist societies is well acquainted with ABPS.

David Smith will be taking on the responsibilities as Membership Secretary. David currently acts as minute secretary and does a stalwart job getting the minutes out within 24 hours usually. The only issue that arises with this process falls at my feet with my delay in

proofreading them before distribution, for which I apologise. I must try harder!

In my welcome of our two new post holders, it would be remiss of me to ignore our outgoing colleagues. As such I would like to thank both Keith Burton and Barry Stagg for their fantastic work and support over the years. Their contributions have been significant in helping oil the workings of ABPS. Thank you, gentlemen, very much indeed."

MIDPEX 2027 CANCELLED

The Warwickshire Exhibition Centre has changed hands and is no longer available for events, so the decision has been taken to cancel the 2027 event.

THE GB 2030 INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

A Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of Simon Richards to organise the next full International Stamp Exhibition in the UK in 2030. Planning has now commenced for the exhibition to be held again at the NEC in Birmingham. Hall 3A is booked, with access being much closer from the train station. Patronage is being sought from FIP for this to be an FIP World Stamp Show.

THE PHILATELIC FUND

The Board of Trustees of the Philatelic Fund would be pleased to support all areas of philately and would welcome more applications for special projects from both local and national societies. If you have an idea to promote membership growth or improve understanding of philately, please put forward your ideas to the Fund. Applications should be addressed to the Fund via the ABPS.

ABPS EXHIBITION COMMITTEE

There are a number of trophies in storage at the Royal Philatelic Society which appear to be redundant and will be reviewed. The Silver Mail Coach and Silver Post Box are still retained. An approach has been made by the PTS to bring some form of exhibits back to Stampex.

ABPS AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Congress Medal was awarded to Steve Harrison. Award of Merit was awarded to Steve Jarvis. Nominations are invited for the Congress Medal and Awards of Merit for 2027.

FEPA

With Philately Forward, FEPA invites you to be part of shaping the future of our hobby. We are launching

an open initiative to gather the best ideas for bringing new collectors into philately: What could inspire someone to start collecting stamps today? Whether you are a collector, exhibitor, society member, federation representative—or simply someone with a passion for stamps—we want to hear your ideas. All submitted ideas will be reviewed by FEPA. The best idea will be awarded a prize of €1,000 to build or expand a stamp collection. The deadline for participation is 31 October, and the winner will be announced in November 2026. Selected ideas will be featured on FEPA News and shared across the European philatelic community. See the FEPA Website for more information.

MAGNET INSURANCE PARTNERS WITH THE ABPS

Magnet Insurance are delighted to announce our partnership with ABPS. Magnet Insurance acquired the Stamp Insurance Services business in 2023 from Barry Horne, following his retirement. Our aim is to support the Philatelic community by providing relevant, competitive insurance products to cover the wide and varied risks across the philatelic sector. This new partnership harnesses the collective buying power of the ABPS membership.

For policies, ABPS members, whether existing or new Magnet customers, will receive a 10% ABPS member premium discount. We will also be providing useful information and content within the insurance section of the ABPS website, to keep members up-to-date with insurance matters relating to Philately. How do you receive your 10% Member Discount? For New Enquiries, when you contact us for a quote, let us know you are an ABPS member, we will check the ABPS member directory and apply your 10% discount. For those members who are already Magnet customers, we will apply the 10% ABPS member discount automatically for renewals due on or after the 1 January 2026 and the ABPS logo on Magnet's letter will indicate that the discount has been applied.

For Stamp Societies, Clubs, Federations and Associations, we offer products covering various options, including:

- Circulating Packets
- Material held at Packet Secretary's home
- Auction Stock
- Club Contents
- Contents at Exhibitions, events
- Public Liability
- Employers Liability to cover volunteers
- Money and Personal Assault

For further details, please visit the website: www.stampinsurance.co.uk/clubs-societies/ or phone Magnet on 01636 858249, during normal office hours (9am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday) for a quotation.

ABPS NEWS

The latest issue of ABPS News (Summer 2026) is now in circulation. Back issues can be downloaded from the News section of the ABPS website. Final dates for copy for issues are usually 15 January, 15 April, 15 July, 15 October.

Good reports are received from most societies. Some Societies have not sent a report in for some time and we would be delighted to hear from them, and which in turn help them. Please remember that affiliated societies can benefit from putting information into ABPS to publicise themselves. Here is a detailed reminder from our Editor:

- Any affiliated society is eligible to send in
- (i) an advertisement for any activity (meeting, AGM, weekend, fair) once a year. This should be sent as a jpeg or Word document and be suitable to fit into an A5 page (allowing a 2mm margin round the page).
 - (ii) notification of any meetings etc to be included in the Diary. This should be in Word and give date, title, times, address, contact details. Details can be sent at any time but must be received at least 3 months before the event to allow for the publication and distribution.
 - (iii) reports on their meetings and other activities, up to 250 words per issue. This will be edited to fit the space available. Photos are welcome (usually one per report is the maximum). As before, Word and jpeg or equivalent are the necessary means = I use Arial 10, single-spacing - no other format as I have to remove it before inserting.

Articles and enquiries relating to ABPS News can be submitted via the website or you can write direct by email at editor@abps.org.uk. Specialist and national Societies will receive PDF copies only of ABPS News in future. This facilitates the distribution of the magazine to all members of the Society rather than having just a few copies of the magazine.

ABPS IS SEEKING REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Lack of awareness of ABPS, and the difficulty we had in filling vacancies on the Executive Committee over the last twelve months, has shown the need to get more people involved. We would like to see individuals acting as Regional Representatives for ABPS, making contact with local societies in their area, offering support, seeking feedback and creating greater participation in the work of ABPS. A "job description" has been drafted and we would like to hear from anyone who would be prepared to take on such a role. You can decide the size of the geographical area that you would cover, so limiting the scope of the role for yourself. Please email chair@abps.org.uk if you are prepared to help.

STAMP ACTIVE YOUTH STAMP COMPETITIONS

The Stamp Active Network, the voluntary organisation that promotes stamp collecting for children in the UK, is organising the national youth stamp competitions. Full details of the competitions and entry forms can be found on the Competitions section of the Stamp Active website. For further information, and advice on preparing an entry, go to www.stampactive.co.uk

There is now a guide to stamp competitions, called "STAMP FUN – Showing Your Stamps", which can be downloaded from the Stamp Active website Competitions page. Please have a look. This might help some adult visitors too!

INVITATIONS TO ZOOM MEETINGS

Some Societies hold regular meetings on Zoom and welcome visitors. I am pleased to share details of those that have shared their information. 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

We are pleased to share details of those Societies who invite wider attendance at their Zoom Meetings, as below:

The **National Philatelic Society** holds six Zoom Meetings a year (normally at 7pm on the second Monday of "even months"). These alternate with our "live" Saturday London meetings that are held in the "odd months" of the year. Details of the current programme can be found on www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps.

Sheffield Philatelic Society hosts one meeting a month via Zoom. This is on the first Thursday of every month except for August. All are welcome to attend. This Zoom meeting is in addition to two in-person meetings a month which are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, except for August and the meeting on the fourth Wednesday in December. Details of programmes and dates may be found on www.sheffieldps.org.uk. James H. Grayson, Secretary, Sheffield Philatelic Society

Southampton & District Philatelic Society has an established Zoom programme with meetings on the last Tuesday of the month. Meetings for 2026 are included in the overall programme at <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 been holding monthly meetings on Zoom since the first Covid lockdown. Zoom meetings are generally held at 19:00 GMT 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 (avoiding their physical meetings). 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 Stamp Club: Zoom meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month. For more information, please contact Steve Carter at steve.carter.57@live.co.uk

The Postal History Society has Zoom Meetings on the first Monday of every month at 2.15pm for 2.30pm (London). Meetings are shown in the overall programme on their website <https://www.postalhistory.org.uk/programme/>.

Contact secretary@postalhistory.org.uk for more details.

Dundee & District Philatelic Society: Contact details for each Zoom meeting can be obtained from their secretary, David Millar at dm010b6500@blueyonder.co.uk

Sudan Study Group holds Zoom Meetings three times a year and they are well attended by members from across the globe. Visitors are welcome. Further details can be obtained from: Bill Barclay. Please email: barclayphilatelics@gmail.com

West Africa Study Circle is happy to welcome non-members to its Zoom meetings, which consist of a mix of short displays and members' queries. If you would like to receive a Zoom invitation please contact Paul Redhead (via webmanager@wasc.org.uk)

CALLING ALL SOCIETY SPEAKERS

If you are a Society Speaker and would like to add your details to the ABPS website, you can do so by going directly to the Speakers section of the ABPS website and complete the form by clicking on "Add your details to our Speakers database here". There is generally a shortage of speakers for Societies and you will be greatly assisting Programme Secretaries by adding your personal details to the website.

FEDERATION LIAISON OFFICER

Daphne McMillan is very active in this role of supporting federations for ABPS. Daphne is particularly interested in how the ABPS may support Federations to develop and get more out of their websites. Email: mcmillandaphne@yahoo.co.uk

A initial meeting took place where there 19 participants representing 13 Federations. The consensus was that the meeting had been valuable and that further meetings, perhaps quarterly focusing

on specific aspects would be useful. The second meeting, in June, discussed communications and the different approaches thereto.

SUPPORT ABPS BY BECOMING A FRIEND OR PATRON

If you are active in the world of philately and want to play a direct part in supporting the hobby today and in the future, please think about becoming a Patron or Friend of ABPS. You will receive personal copies of ABPS News, an ABPS badge and be featured on the website. Most importantly, you will be contributing to the growth of the hobby in the UK. For more information, go to the ABPS website www.abps.org.uk

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 AV equipment and lighting for society frames. The maximum grant is £250.

CALLING ALL STAMP EVENT ORGANISERS

The new website of the ABPS 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. 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/>

MAKE SURE YOUR SOCIETY LOOKS GOOD ON THE NEW ABPS WEBSITE

Our website has received some very positive feedback so far but we know there is more that can be done. It is the same address www.abps.org.uk. It includes all the usual information about ABPS news and activities. It includes a searchable list of speakers, judges and an events calendar. If you are a speaker or judge or an event organiser, please check the information on the website and advise us of any corrections, updates or additions. If you are a Society or Speaker, you can add some pictures of your meetings or displays to create attractive content. 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

Any feedback or ideas, or if you would like to help, please contact our Chairman, Gwynne Harries by email at harriesg@rpsl.org.uk

The postal address for all ABPS correspondence is: ABPS, 15 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 7BW

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.

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

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ray.how@btinternet.com

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General Data Protection Regulation

Published by Association of Essex Philatelic Societies, 25 Clay Hill Road, Basildon, Essex SS16 5DD.
Founded 1944 - Non-Profit-Making - Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies.

Serving the stamp collectors and postal historians of Essex and Environs.

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 December. Your news, letters, etc. should be with the Editor by 15 November.

