



The Essex Philatelic Contact.

The Journal of Association of Essex Philatelic Societies



- 82 Years of Service -

Editor: L.C. Stanway FRPSL.

Vol. 38 No.1 – March 2026

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EDITORIAL:

It's not worth getting a speaker in because ...

Having done, over the years, all the possible roles in a philatelic society, I know how much work they entail, but that work is vital to keeping and gaining membership, so it must not be neglected. It really annoys me when society officers say "It's not worth inviting speakers because we only have a few members". It is usually a sure sign that the society is on the way out. Most of the speakers that I know are only too happy to display to a small audience if they know what it is likely to be at the time of booking. Their main interest is spreading the gospel of their topic to a wider audience. I was once invited to a small-town society in Norfolk that had only four members. The meeting had to be rescheduled once because one member was ill, but, when the day finally came, ten people came along. Members brought friends or family and several people saw it advertised and came along. Two new members joined the society on the night!

Spring is here at last, we hope. Our season begins with the annual Seminar, which, this year, will be on the theme of Locals and Cinderellas. If you have not already booked, contact Ray How now – Don't miss it! It is always a good social and philatelic occasion.

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 with publicity, etc., if you do not tell us what you are doing, and your reports help other societies choose potential speakers for their own future meetings.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO EPC.

Subscription to this journal is free of charge and default circulation is to all known 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 SEMINAR 2026

The subject will be Locals and Cinderella (including Revenues, Railways, etc.). The keynote speaker will be Andy Howson, who will give two displays. Members will be invited to provide the balance of displays.

Arrival time is 09,00 for 09.30. If you have not already booked to attend, please contact Ray How now!

STAMPESSEX

Essex Stamp Day (StampEssex) will be relaunched on 9 May 2026 at Runnymede Hall, Thundersley. It will host the Association's Spring Competitions for 2026. Please make sure that it is in your diary and that you come along to show your support. There will be a wide selection of dealers and displays.



Association of Essex Philatelic Societies

are pleased to announce the return of

Essex Stamp Day

On Saturday 9th May 2026

from 10.00 till 16.00

at The Runnymede Hall, Kiln Rd,
Benfleet, Essex SS7 1TF

Featuring

A.E.P.S. Competitions and Essex Society displays,

With a Hall Devoted to Dealers selling

Stamps, Postal History, Postcards,
Accessories, Etc

Light Refreshments and Large Free Car park are
available,

Contact Colin on 07914489814

Or Email colinmaxine2005@hotmail.com

TRAVEL

By Car: From all directions, the A13 to Benfleet up the Bread and Cheese Hill and the council offices / Seevic College are about 300 yards on the left-hand side at the traffic lights, Sat Nav = SS7 1TF.

By Train: From London Fenchurch Street to Benfleet Station, then number 27 bus to the Castle Point Council office's / Seevic College, (Runnymede Hall is behind the offices).

From London Liverpool Street to Rayleigh Station then number 1 bus to the Castle Point Council office's / Seevic College, (Runnymede Hall is behind the offices).

By Bus: Number 28 From Basildon and Southend to the Castle Point Council office's / Seevic College (Runnymede Hall is behind the offices).

Number 27 from Benfleet Railway Station / Canvey Island to the Castle Point Council office's / Seevic College, (Runnymede Hall is behind the offices).
All buses run every 20 Minutes during the Day.

Suggested Hotels :

(All within 15 Minutes' drive)

Basildon and Rayleigh = Premier Inn

Canvey Island = The Oysterfleet

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 will soon start 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 by e-mail on request.

ALBUMS CLOSED

We have been informed by Jenny Rauch that her mother, Janet, passed away on 17 January 2026 at the age of 94. She had been living in Leeds for some time following a period of hospitalisation. In 1982, Janet's husband, Chris Rauch, passed away suddenly shortly after they had hosted an Executive Committee meeting. It had been planned to give him

Life membership of the Association, so it was presented to her instead. Although not, herself, a collector, she continued to host Exec meetings until 2006, serving as Vice President 1990-1993 and President 1993-1996. Anyone wishing to send condolences, can contact Jenny Rauch at 2 Gipton Wood Avenue, Leeds LS8 2SZ. The funeral will be broadcast online and Jenny can provide details.

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:

2 March: Acquired in 2025 (Members displays).

17 March: To be advised.

6 April: To be advised.

21 April: To be advised.

19 May: To be advised.

Album closed:

We are sad to record that member Harry Flatman passed away on 20 February.

Recent activities:

1 December: Film Night.

Charlie Mead started proceedings with a PowerPoint talk on Albert Percy Ward, the founder of the South Sea Islands Correspondence Club, and his many roles, including Postmaster of a remote part of Fiji. We were then treated to films on the London Underground Parcels Delivery Service (Central

London Railway and others), Writing Up A Collection, and the British Library Philatelic Collections.

16 December: Festive Night.

Last year's winner, Ian McElwain, posed this year's Tomex Quiz competition in the form of questions and visual posers for members to tackle at their leisure while enjoying the traditional snack buffet and soft drinks. The winners were Charlie Mead with 23 out of 35 possible marks, followed by Len Stanway (19) and Mark McShane (14). Some of the questions were certainly challenging, but only one was the cause of debate between the experts present.

5 January: Tin Can Mail and Singapore 2025.

Charlie Mead gave a talk and display of the Tin Can Mail that operated from 1882 on Niuafu'ou, a small island in the Pacific between Fiji and Samoa. He took us through its history and showed us the many cachets used.

After the break, Len Stanway displayed the new issues of Singapore in 2025. Much reduced from its heyday, Singapore's stamp and stationery issues are now only available on line or from three SingPost shops, everyday mail using postage labels issued from counter machines, but they are still valid for postage.

20 January: Fiji Paquebot and Lundy.

Mark McShane started the evening with a display of the special covers produced over the years for Lundy collectors' clubs to the island, often referencing individual events during the visit, and including Cinderella stamps produced by the societies concerned.

After the break, Charlie Mead displayed Paquebot mail from ships calling at or leaving Fiji, with a wide variety of cachets and details of the ships themselves.

3 February: Len Stanway – Origins of, and Introduction to, the United Nations.

Len introduced us to the reasons why international organisations came into being, starting with the International Telegraph Union in 1865. He then took us through the growth of their number through the late nineteenth century with stamps issued by Switzerland, France or the Netherlands. The formation of the League of Nations after WW1, enabled them to be brought under an overarching structure, and its eventual merger in 1945 with the United Nations, formed in 1940 to enable the USA to join WW2. He finished with the formation of the UNPA and its early stamps for the New York office of the UN.

17 February: Charlie Mead: Fiji Airmails.

Charlie started with the first local airmails, using a Spartan floatplane. He then took us through the history of the Pan-American Airways San-Francisco-Los Angeles (San Pedro)-Hawaii-Fiji-New Zealand-Australia service, which started in 1941 and was brought to a sudden stop by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, after which the Clipper pilot stranded west of Pearl Harbour had to make his own way home westwards with a loan from a friendly bank manager, completing the first (almost) circumnavigation of the world by a civil airliner. He finished with some postwar first flights.

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:

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

1 April: David Belton displays "Isle of Man"

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

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

1 July: Tony Davis displays "Red Cross".

5 August: Bourse, bring and buy.

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

7 October: Society Auction.

4 November: The Committee Entertains.

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

2027

6 January: Annual General Meeting and Mini Auction.

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

3 March To be confirmed.

Recent activities:

3 December: Christmas Social:

Another year has flown by and the members gathered for the Christmas social. This meeting was very informal with a member's display of one or more sheets for the display that is judged by the members, for the trophy of best display.

A wide range of subjects were on show (fourteen entries in all), all trying for the trophy. Subjects included Philymphia, Zaire River Expedition, Postal Strike of 1971, Salvage mail, Boots labels, Puerto Rico 1873-1900, Pacific Navigators, World Wildlife Fund, Blackpool Illuminations, Lihou, and Little Trains of Wales.

At the break, the members enjoyed sausage rolls, mince pies, chocolate biscuits and coffee, along with a Christmas Raffle, the votes were counted and the winners, announced by the Chairman, with a very narrow margin, were:

1st: Line Engraved, Queen Victoria. Bill Wilson;

2nd: Zaire River Expedition, Colin Evans;

3rd: Puerto Rico 1873-1900, Harry Taebert.

The quality of the entries, range of subjects and depth of knowledge by all the fourteen entries were outstanding. The Chairman thanked all those that entered, making for a very entertaining evening.

7 January: Annual General Meeting:

The AGM commenced early, at 19.15, as there was a mini auction afterwards. It was well attended and completed in record time. The existing committee were all happy to stand again and the members were elected with Bill Wilson volunteering to help with promotion of the Club, after the meeting.

It was with pleasure that Dennis Livermore, was nominated as a Life Member. This was agreed unanimously. Dennis is a great promoter of the Club and can be heard at Rawreth Stamp Fair encouraging everyone to come along to one of our meetings. Thank you, Dennis, for your enthusiasm and continued support.

Certificates of Thanks were handed to those members that entered the Christmas Display.

Colin Evans (the Chairman) was presented with a folder of covers etc. about Railways, in appreciation of all that he does for the Club.

The auction consisted of mixed lots of high value, lower value and nil reserve. Thanks to those that purchased lots as this meant that a decent profit went towards Club funds.

4 February 2026: Colin Evans - Ross Dependency (Thematic Display).

In Part 1, Benfleet club members welcomed their Chairman, Colin, with his display. Colin explained that it is a new display and that he has enough material to compile another 2 displays. The Ross Dependency is a land mass that is part of the Ross Sea and was originally claimed by New Zealand. He explained and illustrated with stamps the formation of the present-day Antarctica. Over millions of years, tectonic plates have moved the land mass southwards. He went on to outline the history, discovery and exploration of The Ross Dependency. Travel there is by air and sea (only in the Summer).

The area is named after Sir James Clark Ross RN, born 1800, polar explorer, who discovered the Ross Sea in 1841 during his Antarctic Expedition, which took place between 1839-1843, on board HMS Erebus. He was just 12 years old when he first joined the Royal Navy. The Ross Sea is rich in marine fauna. The Ross Ice Shelf is the largest ice shelf of Antarctica (90% is floating ice). Ross Island is

formed by four volcanoes, including Mount Erebus, where a tourist plane from New Zealand crashed in 1979. The way that fatal air accidents were investigated was changed after this air crash. There are many well-known historical sites from the explorations of Ernest Shackleton and Robert Falcon Scott.

In Part 2, Colin went through the many explorers of the region, alongside those above, Mawson, Edmund Hillary, and Ralph Fiennes. He also showed stamps on Antarctic Birds, Seals, Penguins, as well as Huts and Stations. An inhospitable, cold place with, at first, primitive equipment that took a lot of determination and courage to remain. A well explained and illustrated display with stamps, covers, maps, that makes you realise the endurance needed to get to, and stay in, this remotest of places.

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:

14 April: Member's displays at 7.15pm.

12 May: Member's displays at 7.15pm.

9 June: Member's displays at 7.15pm.

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:

25 November - Members' displays.

Nick Harris began proceedings with a fine display of KGV Seahorse issues which included some with overprints of those being used by Morocco Agencies, Bechuanaland, British Levant, Nauru and Ireland. He also displayed material covering the Nyasaland-Rhodesia Field Force post offices used by the British during World War 1. **John Copeland** was next with Bahrain and the Trucial States and included a selection of British stamps, some with overprints. Included were a number of examples of post from our forces stationed there.

Following our break for refreshments, which had a seasonal touch with mince pies provided, **Norman Sharpe** delighted us with a selection of some of the stamps that he collected in the 1940s as a child, including the Silver Wedding issues from a number of colonial territories. He also displayed sets of stamps from Costa Rica and Bulgaria. To conclude the evening, **Pat Adams** gave an interesting display on her family's early history, starting just before the outbreak of the First World War.

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:

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

1 April: Annual General Meeting (Members only),

6 May: Bob Hider displays Early Commonwealth of Australia.

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

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

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

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

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

4 November: Auction.

2 December: Pre-Christmas Buffet.

Recent activities:

3 December: Bourse and Members' displays:

After a successful bourse, David Pugh showed some interesting stamps from Zanzibar from the first issues through to those of George VI. Mick Carter then showed some interesting covers from Ethiopia 1936-1947, during and just after the Italian Occupation.

6 January: Bourse and Bob Peters:

After a successful Bourse, Bob Peters showed a colourful and interesting display of GB first day covers up to 2020. These were very wide-ranging, including James Bond, Star Trek, Sherlock Holmes, Queen Elizabeth II, etc.

4 February: Alan Moorcroft FRPSL – Channel Islands Occupation:

At the February meeting, guest speaker Alan Moorcroft FRPSL 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 5 years. The Germans flew in to the Channel Islands on 25 June and introduced curfews and ID cards. Supplies of British postage stamps 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!

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:

3 March: Subject to be advised.

Recent activities:

No reports received.

EAST ANGLIA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

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

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

Forthcoming meetings:

25 April: Annual General Meeting, bourse and members' displays (10.30-16.30).

11 July: Zoom Meeting (Provisional date), 10am. Guests welcome.

19 September: Autumn Meeting, bourse and members' displays (10.30-16.30).

Recent activities:

No reports received.

DO YOU COLLECT EAST ANGLIA POSTAL HISTORY?

IF SO, WHY NOT JOIN THE:

EAST ANGLIA POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

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

EPPING FOREST & DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Contact: Secretary: Chris Clemens, 07368-242074.
 Venue: Main Hall, Roding Valley High School, Alderton Hill (entry from Alderton Hill), Loughton, IG10 3JA.
 Normal day and time: Second Tuesday, 7.45 for 8.00pm to 9.45pm. Auctions on Saturday. Viewing 2pm for 3pm start.
 Website: <http://www.eppingforeststampclub.uk/>

Forthcoming meetings:

10 March: Birthe King FRPSL, RDP: "Denmark: Conscience, Conflict and Camps 1932-1949" and "The Re-Unification of Southern Jutland with Denmark 1864-1920, plus some postcards .
 14 April: Competition Evening
 12 May: Annual General Meeting, Bring & Buy and Kimble Trophy Competition.
 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.

Award for Frinton member:

Simon Martin-Redmond was awarded the "Philatelic Ambassador of the Year 2025" by the Philatelic Traders Society. This is a terrific award and indicates Simon's efforts to inform the public about the benefits of Philately. Heartiest congratulations, Simon, for winning yet another prestigious philatelic award. Simon is also the President of the Museum of Philately, to again broadcast our very interesting pastime, and has brought prestige to the society.

Forthcoming meetings:

2 Mar: Annual General Meeting and Members' 8- or 16-sheet displays (7pm-10pm).
 16 Mar: Members' displays – Letters M, N and O (7pm-10pm).
 30 Mar: Bourse with Sarah Brrokes (2pm-5pm).
 13 Apr: Ed Hitchings Entertains (7pm-10pm).
 27 Apr: James Podger FRPSL displays West Indies (7pm-10pm).
 11 May: Graham Wylde displays GB Line Engraved (2pm-5pm).

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:

17 November: Competition Night:

Competition Night had five trophies to be won. There were a record ten entries in the Ashton Cup (stamps) category, with Geoff Miller winning with his display of the "War Tax Stamps of the West Indies". Mick Chittock won the thematics category, and also the Novices Cup, with his display on "Towns and Cities of France". Bob Hider won the postal history section with his "Early England to Australia Flights" covers, whilst Peter Drake won the Cinderella section with his "Hadrian's Wall" display. The competition secretary, Jonathan Juby, and all contestants were warmly applauded.

[Our correspondent was ill and unable to attend the December meeting.]

5 January: Members' displays: Postcards:

George Oliver showed postcards of old Romford about 120 years ago, and others displaying the British and Japanese Trade Exhibition. Mick Carter showed World War II postcards sent back to UK by servicemen who were in Egypt, North Africa and the Dodecanese Islands, whilst Trevor Potter showed postcards that were produced by various charities to help British servicemen injured during the Falklands War. Dave Ball displayed some excellent traditional British seaside cards, and all present thoroughly enjoyed the comments on these cards and doubt they would have been offered for sale in today's censorship era. Postcards showing the history of the London Transport and especially the famous maps of the underground system were shown by Chairman Bob Hider. A very colourful display of postcards showing Police and Military Policemen in their uniforms between 1900 and 1930 were shown by

Mick Chittock, plus some about farming before WWII drawn up by Harry Payne. These were very interesting. WWII was still the theme when Alan Moorcroft showed photographs of hotels on Jersey that were occupied by various German Regiments and senior officers. Finally, a wonderful display of paintings of German/Austrian Military Cavalrymen was shown by Peter Drake. These were beautiful cards and showed the colourful uniforms of these men. Altogether, a very enjoyable meeting with displays on a variety of postcards.

19 January: Bob Hider: Western Australia:

Members were given an excellent display by the Chairman about the stamps and postal history of Western Australia. He has been collecting these for the past 40 years and accumulated some rare and very interesting material. He gave a brief history of the, then, colony, which was about 3000 miles from New South Wales, where settlers/prisoners from British jails first started the colony near Sydney. By 1829, Perth, on the River Swan, became the capital of Western Australia. There were only about 8 ships a year visiting Perth, so letters were not a large part of the colony's activities and it was down to various Honorary Postmasters to accept mail and arrange for them to be taken by these ships. The first stamps featured a picture of the Black Swan, and this design featured on the vast majority of stamps. In 1867, gold was found and there was a large influx of settlers all trying to make their fortune. Although no mail was generated, by the 1890s, a lot of forged stamps appeared, as philatelists from all over the World showed an interest in Western Australian stamps. The printing and design of stamps improved dramatically. The delivery of mail was always a problem, as Western Australia was such a vast state with very few roads. In the Coolgardie Goldfields, a cycle express company was set up to deliver mail locally and, in addition, camels were used to travel to communities well away from Perth. The Trans-Australian Railway and a track to Coolgardie were built and mail was carried on these railways to the eastern and southern parts of the continent, as this was quicker than by ship. Travelling Post Offices were used on the trains to sort the mail on its journey. Some railway stamps were issued, but these are very rare.

Some stamps were used by Government Departments and were perforated with the letters 'OS' (Official Service). This collection of the stamps, issued between 1854 and 1913 (when replaced by stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia), is virtually complete. A comprehensive collection of postal stationary items, postcards, envelopes and newspaper wrappers finished off his display. He also displayed many postal covers which related to the various periods of different stamp issues, these too

were scarce. Altogether this was a superb collection of the stamps and postal history of Western Australia.

5 February: Andrew Skilling – The Gold Coast:

On 5 February, Andrew Skilling gave a display on the 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 is 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 mystique as to why Europeans had fought so hard to occupy Gold Coast for the spoils of gold.

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:

4 March 'Two Members Entertain' Barry Martin 'Victory Issues' & Andy Soutar 'Grenada 2' (evening):

18 March (afternoon): Colin Evans: Ross Dependency - Stamps & Postal History

1 April (Afternoon and Evening): Society Auction. View lots from 4pm, Auction starts at 7pm sharp' (In the Conference Room)

15 April (afternoon): Dahlia & Terry Harrison 'The Harrison's Entertain!'

6 May (evening): 'President's Night with Penny Black Theme'

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

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

Recent activities:

No reports received.

LEYTONSTONE, WANSTEAD & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

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

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

Website: www.lwdps.org.

Forthcoming meetings:

23 March: Family Quiz Night.

27 April: Abdul Aziz displays "Pakistan".

25 May: Social (by invitation).

22 June: Annual General Meeting and Members' displays.

Recent activities:

No reports received.

RAYLEIGH & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

Venue: 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:

9 March: Sue Stacey - "My Collecting Interests"..

23 March: Chairman's Night.

13 April: Mark Routh Entertains.

27 April 69th Annual General Meeting and Competition Night.

11 May: Geoff Richardson - "Austrian Scouting".

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:

24 November: Colin Evans: Something Entertaining.

14 members welcomed Colin and Dave from Benfleet and District Philatelic Society.

It was with sadness that Ray How, chair of Rayleigh, informed the meeting that a long-standing member Ron Chatfield had passed away.

The Boy Scouts, in another room, set off the smoke alarm that gave a resounding start to Colin's display. Colin is a thematic collector, and his display was in two parts consisting of a number of different interesting themes, including The Royal Albert Hall, Caldey Island, with Colin explaining its history and geography. Brownsea Island which is a National Trust property and has red squirrels, and the Victoria Cross – there have been 1,358 medals issued since 1856.

Part 2 started with the Zaire River Expedition that lasted from 4 October 1974–26 January 1975. This was Colin's entry in the recent AEPS Thematic Competition and won first prize. Other themes were the Elizabeth Tower, the Advanced Passenger Train and Bullfighting.

Colin showed a Tribute to Bill Trower. He had been able to purchase some of Bill's Fun and Frolics display. Bill was a memorable person who Colin remembers as always wearing a blazer and AEPS tie when he displayed.

This was a very entertaining evening with a real mix of subjects well illustrated with lots of information and Rayleigh will be inviting Colin again next year (and

Dave was able to win the dark chocolate Kit Kats in the raffle that probably cost him about £5.00!).

12 January: Annual Quiz for the C Moir Trophy.

Thirteen members came along to the annual quiz that was chaired by Quizmaster John.

Ray said that the Hall fees have gone up, but the club is trying to keep subscriptions down.

John presented five rounds of ten questions and one round with pictures of stamps where we had to identify the country. With the highest score, Andy Howson was the winner with Adrian Putt coming in a close second. Andy will be the Quizmaster for next year's quiz. Refreshments were taken and, with the raffle drawn thanks to John, bringing to a close an enjoyable and competitive evening.

26 January 2026: Ray How – The Ken Seymour Memorial Display.

14 members were present to see the display by Ray How, chairman of Rayleigh PS. Ray showed a wide range of Irish postal history in Part 1. He had early hand struck cancellations, ships letters, mileage stamps, Duplex cancellations - a big, interesting variety of material. Ray went on to show AEPS covers – the first was Southend on Sea 30 June 1945. Part 2 comprised a wide collection, including stamp booklets, crime prevention cards that were sponsored by the post office, various police covers, detectives in fiction – Sherlock Holmes, Air Lingus baggage labels and tickets, and comic postcards, with information booklets about 'What to do as a Police Officer'. A little-known fact is that, apparently, Police Officers were allocated space in nuclear bunkers in the event of a nuclear war. Members thanked Ray for an interesting, funny and well-illustrated evening that generated a lot of discussion.

9 February: All Members Display - Letter 'R'.

Twelve members were at the meeting, of whom seven displayed:

Sue Stacey – Roman Britain;

Lesley Peters -Royalty;

Bill Wilson - Rowland Hill;

Adrian Putt – Rwanda;

Colin Gardner – Malawi Republic and Austrian Republic;

Andy Howson – Scouts Christmas stamps 'R' – Reculver, Rotherham, Rugby, Rivenhall, Rayleigh;

John Butler – Royal Succession – from Claudius to Charles.

Bill had a letter written and signed by Rowland Hill and said that James Chalmers, a Scottish inventor, was also trying to get postage off the ground around the same time. Indeed, his son had it engraved on his father's gravestone that "he invented the adhesive postage stamp". A diverse variety of subjects with lots of information on the sheets and verbal overviews. An

enjoyable and informative evening. Thanks to those that displayed.

26 February: Len Stanway – Origins of, and Introduction to, the United Nations.

Len introduced us to the reasons why international organisations came into being, starting with the International Telegraph Union in 1865. He then took us through the growth of their number through the late nineteenth century with stamps issued by Switzerland, France or the Netherlands. The formation of the League of Nations after WW1, enabled them to be brought under an overarching structure, and its eventual merger in 1945 with the United Nations, formed in 1940 to enable the USA to join WW2. He finished with the formation of the UNPA and its early stamps of the New York office of the UN to 1963.

SUDBURY & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

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

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

Forthcoming meetings:

2 March: Auction

16 March: Rayleigh PS visit with displays.

7 April: Bury St Edmunds Postcard Club visit with displays

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

5 May: AGM.

19 May: Norfolk & Norwich PS visit with displays.

2 June: Chris Harman FRPSL: "Forgeries".

7 July: Paul Odell: "Detectoring".

Recent activities:

No reports received.

WITHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Contact: Ian Kelly (07767-633655) or

btwphilatelic@btinternet.com.

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

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

Forthcoming meetings:

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

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

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

4 June: Mick Carter Entertains.

2 July: Don Davies: Evolution of Censored Postcards.

6 August: Colin Evans Entertains.
 3 September: Members display Africa.
 1 October: Queens Afternoon.
 5 November: Annual General Meeting & Bring & Buy.
 3 December: Christmas Gathering.
 2027
 7 January: Members' New Acquisitions.

Recent activities:

4 December: Seasonal Social with informal displays.

Members enjoyed refreshment from bottomless tea and coffee pots along with seasonal snacks and treats, whilst perusing a variety of material on display. The highlight of the display were the hand-decorated covers, particularly the ones sent during the war.

8 January: Think of a number.

100 sheets of material displayed by members included the numbers 1, 3, 10, 1998, 1999, and 2000. Subjects included Local Posts covers, Stamps - a world-wide selection, UN International Year of the Ocean, and Millennium counting down & counting up.

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

National News

FELLOWSHIP OF THE ROYAL

The Royal Philatelic Society London announced in December that Derek Connell and Anthony Newsom have been granted Fellowship (FRPSL). The AEPS extends its congratulations to the Essex members concerned.

ABPS AWARDS

Each year, the ABPS honours up to 15 grass roots philatelists that have made an outstanding contribution to a ABPS-member local or specialised society with the Award of Merit. Nominations for the ABPS Award of Merit and for the Congress Medal can be submitted by an ABPS member society or by a federation. The closing date for the next round of awards is 31 March.

ZOOM MEETINGS

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

The following societies invite wider attendance at their Zoom Meetings:

- Sheffield P.S. hosts a monthly meeting via Zoom. This is on the first Thursday of every month except for August. All are welcome to attend. Details of programmes and dates may be found on the Society's website www.sheffielddps.org.uk. James H. Grayson, Secretary, Sheffield Philatelic Society
- Southampton & District P.S. has an established Zoom programme with meetings on the last Tuesday of the month. Meetings are included in <http://www.southamptondps.org.uk/meetings.html> and video recordings of most past meetings are available.
- Dawlish Stamp Club has monthly Zoom meetings, generally held at 19:00 on the third Wednesday of each month. For more information, contact Robin Buchanan at rgybuchanan@btinternet.com
- Harrogate Philatelic Society is continuing its Zoom meetings - usually the first or second Friday evening of each month. They open at 7pm and chat, then single or multiple displays on the chosen theme follow at 7.30. They end with more chat - very sociable. Contact harrogateps@gmail.com for the link and see the Harrogate PS website (via ABPS or YPA) for the programme and other details.
- Grantham Philatelic Society Zoom meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month. For more information, please contact Martin Lodge at MAVlodge@btinternet.com.

PCGB CONGRESS 2026

Congress 2026 will take place in Nottingham and will incorporate the ABPS National Exhibition for 2026... For more information about Congress contact Steven Harrison by emailing him at sharrison500@btinternet.com or calling him on 0121 313 0671.

ABPS NEWS

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

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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michael.carter@coppicegreen.com.

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To be announced.

www.stampessex.org.uk

General Data Protection Regulation

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

Press Date

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



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.