THE ASSOCIATION OF SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Founded 1947 Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies

ASPS NEWS *October 2026*

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I hope members of all Affiliated Societies will have enjoyed some, if not all, of the hot summer we have had this year. There was a heavy rain shower when I left the Symposium in Haywards Heath back in June, as far as I can recollect, the last rain until recently. Now we are in September, and with most clubs traditionally taking a break, philatelic activity has returned. As if that wasn't a sign of the darker evenings to come, hinted at again by this "October" publication, it is also marks the end of the ASPS year, with the AGM being held in October as usual, and this issue of NEWS the last of the calendar year… next issue January 2027 !

It is not surprising therefore that this issue should be reflecting on ASPS ahead of the AGM, and of course the Ardingly fair.

The South of England Stamp & Postcard Fair, organised by ASPS, is on 10 October in the Norfolk Pavilion at Ardingly Showground, from 10.00 – 4.00. This well established annual event attracts dealers from outside the area, enabling Sussex club members to see stock not always available at the more local fair. This year there are 37 stall holders listed on the publicity flyer. Similarly the attendance is expected to come from a wide area, but hopefully will include a large number from the Sussex clubs. After all it is "your event" organised by your Association.
The event incorporates the Association's **Annual General Meeting** during the course of the day.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**
The notice for these meetings has been sent out to all Society secretaries, and the formal agenda for the AGM should have been received by Society secretaries, once nominations for the officers and committee had been received, together with any motions submitted.
Prior to the AGM proper an **EGM** has been called to enable a revised constitution for the Association to be approved.

Whilst an organisation should have clear guidelines establishing it's raison d'etre and its organisation. ASPS is a small organisation, it does not need detailed rules. A committee is elected to run the Association, and given the authority to act as seems appropriate, whilst actions can be discussed at the subsequent AGM if appropriate.
You will know from the minutes of meetings that the Committee has been active throughout the year, both visibly and behind the scenes. Apart from the **Ardingly** *event, this year saw*

the one day **Symposium** *at Haywards Heath, as well as a review of the Constitution, development of a new web site, and the introduction of* ASPS NEWS. All of which will be reported on at the AGM.
None *of these activities just happen: apart from discussion at committee meetings, much work is undertaken by the Association officers outside of meetings: work on next year's Ardingly fair will start as soon as this year's event has been wound up.*

It is important that all clubs and societies should be represented at these meetings to endorse the revised constitution… and of course attend the AGM.

ASPS SYMPOSIUM … and beyond: The other main event this year was the all day meeting in June. This was fully reported in July *NEWS*, but several strands emerged beyond the main theme of *Open, and Context Philately.* Whilst the meeting expounded ways in which collections can be developed and enhanced, the discussion also touched on what societies did to promote themselves and philately to a wider audience.

FINDING NEW COLLECTORS A number of articles have appeared in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* which touch on this topic: In the April 2026 issue Richard West & Christer Brunstrom discussed *'*What is being done to encourage the next generation of collectors'*,* under the title *Passing on the Mantle.*Richard West discusses youth philately in Britain, whilst Christer Brunstrom writes about the promotion of stamp collecting in Sweden.
Guy Thomas' article *Playing The Name Game (GSM Nov 2025)* considers that the phrase 'stamp collecting' does the hobby no favours, and more recently two articles in the August 2026 edition of GSM have added to this theme.
Guy Thomas writing about *Philatelists of the future* discusses the efforts to encourage young people to take an interest in philately, and another article by Neil Donen & Jan Hofmeyer discusses 'Exhibiting' in *Your collection is worth sharing with others.*

Societies need to reach out to the wider community, not just publicising the individual meeting, but consulting with their local library and museum to offer displays. Other local organisations can be approached, e.g. Lions, Rotary, U3A, Probus, to offer introductory talks, and this could include youth organisations (other than schools).

However, it is not just a case of societies being more pro-active. This approach requires careful consideration: you cannot give a regular club presentation to a non-philatelic audience. Similarly a display in a library has to be directed to a non-collecting public. If talks are to be given, then the speaker has to be properly prepared. The *Symposium* meeting touched on the delivery of displays to societies: not everybody is a natural speaker, and guidance could be given.

Those at the *Symposium* seemed to agree with this but equally thought that the lead should be taken by the national philatelic bodies. One such body, international in fact, is doing just that. The Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) has launched an initiative to

bring new collectors into philately. Called *Philately Forward* it is inviting Federations, Societies and individuals to submit ideas

- *LATE NEWS* [one of the advantages of the digital age, the text is never frozen until I press the send button]
  As I have been preparing this issue of NEWS, I have received a communication from Colin Proctor from stampdetectives, which may have been received byu other society secretaries. *Colin has developed an on-line programme to attract children towards stamp collecting:*
  He writes: We all know that you can't keep youngsters off their phones or tablets, but we can try to make it educational without them knowing! That's why I've developed a fun, easy-to-play game and educational tool called The Virtual Stamp Academy. It automatically generates 5 different stamps each week, with clues that link perfectly to KS2 History and Geography curricula.
  Go to stampdetectives.com for further information

NEWS FROM CLUBS & SOCIETIES

In brief there isn't any ! Not quite true, but I have received no communications about society activities and meetings directly. Agreed, it has been the summer break for most, but some society AGM's have been held and programmes devised for the coming year and possibly new officers appointed.

One item I have received from **Adur Stamp Club**, informs me that Bob Knight and John Poole have died. Bob was a regular on the displays circuit.

In the absence of anything else I make no apology for promoting **East Grinstead Stamp & Postcard Club.** Our autumn programme is curtailed this year due to non-availability of the venue, and remaining meetings have been re-arranged. On 27 October Mike Slamo is showing *Great Britain Used Abroad,* and on 10 November *East Grinstead Postal History* will be presented. Both these meetings start at 2.00pm, at Chequer Mead Arts Centre, De La Warr Road, East Grinstead.

Some Sussex societies have a web site, from which I have taken information.

Sussex Postal History Society meet bi-monthly: Their next meeting will be the Society Auction on Wednesday 4th November 2026 at 2:00 for 2:30pm in the Durrington Community Centre. The auction list is on their web site.

Mid Sussex Philatelic Society's programme for the year up to June 2027 is on their web site: meetings up to the end of this year are on 9 November: *Philatelic Cornucopia.* 25 November: Australian Pot-Pouri, and 7 December: *Peace.* The society meets at the King Edward Hall, Lindfield for 2.30pm

Hastings & East Sussex Philatelic Society has also arranged it's programme for 2026/27, their 103rd season, which may be seen on their web site.

The full programmes for these societies can be found on their websites ,or via the Society contacts page of the ASPS web site.

October is the month when the National Stamp Exhibition takes place currently. **Stampex** will be held as usual at the Business Design Centre in Islington from 28-31 October. Somewhat reduced in size in recent years, this is still recognised as a major national event. Organised by the Philatelic Traders Society in this it's 70th year. Not quite the 'go to' event it was, without competitive exhibits to view
For further information and a list of dealers attending go the website *stampexinternational.com/stampex*

For good measure Guy Thomas' Comment Column in the current Gibbons Stamp Monthy (October), *A Less than Capital Idea*, questions London dominance of major philatelic exhibitions, although the recent Europhilex was held in Birmingham, and the 2030 International is likely to be in Birmingham as well.



A National Stamp Exhibition and a British Philatelic Exhibition were held variously in the early post war period, leading to the National Stamp Exhibition held annually in March at the Methodist Central Hall Westminster from 1953. In 1956 the title 'Stampex' was used for the first time.

The intention of NEWS is to report on ASPS activity, and philatelic matters which may interest society members in Sussex. Any opinions expressed are those of the editor unless otherwise attributed, and may not reflect the views of the ASPS Committee.