

East Anglia Card Collecting Club

Newsletter No. 641 Saturday 13th December 2025

It is always with a great deal of anticipation that we look to the December meeting, it is different and busy always with a full house. I was a bit concerned that our date error on the auction list would affect attendance but I think we did enough to ensure everyone got it right. When I got to the hall it was in full swing, Paul, Mike and Peter were all set up and selling, the smell of coffee hit you as you walked through the door told you Sally was there and had the kettle on. Barry bought his mum to enjoy the day and talking to her, she really did, she was a great help folding the raffle tickets.

First thing to do is set out the auction lots, thanks Rob for doing that, the demand for raffle tickets was instant and Sue and Barry's mum was selling that at a fast pace. The early birds were out in number and talking , chatting, buying and creating a buzz in the hall. Great to welcome out three Sussex members, they must have set out well early ! In all we had 46 members and 6 visitors so it was a good turnout.

Some bad news to share with members, our good friend Albert Watson has died, he hasn't been for a couple of years after a cycling accident. I have some lovely memories of this extraordinary and rather eccentric man. Albert was a hoarder and he told me once he was a addictive collector and claimed to have 62 different collections from John Wayne to buttons to Queen Victoria to marbles. You name it and Albert collected it. He travelled everywhere with Gus in his three wheeler! Albert would never sell anything and his eclectic collection are all being sold by his only relative at our local auctioneers. Another great collector gone forever, rest easy Albert we all loved you.

Enclosed with this newsletter besides the February auction list is a flyer for the 2026 Annual Convention, a unique opportunity to see the top dealers in the country, all under one roof. Note the new opening times this year. Why not think about having a table and selling some of your excess stock, to make way for new cards in the New Year, tables are free for members (subject to availability). We are hosting the event and have some door duties to sort out and will be having a table for the club, so offers of help would be appreciated.

We had a full house for our 11.00am auction and Alan soon had us digging deep in our pockets, it wasn't our best but Alan was able to find homes for most of the items. The 250 lots were sold for £2606, with 22 in house bidders spending £850 and there were a further 19 successful postal bidders. A total of 8 vendors and only 24 remained unsold. Top spot was number 54 a very rare set of Wills Cinema Stars with Walt Disney, in selling for £200.

My plea last month raffle prizes didn't fall on deaf ears and we had 96 to pass out, Alan found 4 more so we reached the magic 100. A sincere thank you to everyone who brought them in, it is very much appreciated, but before we did the raffle we had Sally's 'Christmas themed' buffet to enjoy and 'what a treat', everyone packed their plates with delicacies of all types, some even warm, but what a feast. I did see a few doggy bags so nothing was wasted. Thank you Sally and your team, it was just what we wanted and very much enjoyed. Enjoy your forthcoming well earned holiday, I'm sure you will have a good time. Sally's not with us next month (she is still on holiday) so we won't be able to offer the usual full service. We will talk about it and see what we can come up with - volunteers would be helpful - probably be just tea/coffee and a few filled rolls.

Once the buffet was cleared Chairman Les did his 'thanks' to everyone for making the club what it is today - presents were given to everyone who does something for the club. Be assured there would be no club without volunteers. I truly believe it is the efforts of everyone what makes our club so successful. Thank you everyone very much.

That done and it was raffle time and we soon got into the swing of drawing the number, calling it and see who the lucky winners was. I think Chris Bree regained his 'most prizes' hat again with 9 prizes. It has been mentioned to me that the prizes this year were of a lot better quality so thank you everyone for making it our best Christmas raffle ever -- a cheque for £568 will be presented to Tapping House in the new year, with Gift Aid this will become over £700 - another club record. Really sincere thanks to everyone. A last clear up and that was it for another year, shall we do it all again in 2026 ?

We next meet on Saturday 17th January at Roydon Village Hall (our home for the past 16 years) 8.30 to 3.00pm. Please remember we have reduced the auction to 250 lots and it will not start until 1.00pm. Dealers booked in to come are Peter Beer, Gary Challis, Ron Smith, Mike Heard, Brian Pentalow and Mr.20p Colin Weston. Darren Moyse has also asked to stand but has not as yet confirmed his attendance.

I hope all members will have a good Christmas and a 2026 for all to remember.

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