

EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

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Newsletter No. 499 --- Saturday 15th March 2014

Just one month to go to our 500th meeting - five weeks before we can enjoy the planned festivities. Make a date Easter Saturday. More about that later, I mustn't get too far ahead of myself.

This extraordinary winter continues to surprise us; it was a lovely warm spring day as we made our way over to Roydon, talking things cartophilic all the way. The expectations are what we all have before every meeting and at Roydon we rarely come home disappointed and March was to be a great meeting for most of our members.

We had to rearrange this month in several ways prior to the day, Alan was away in the big city enjoying its delights and we knew he would be late but Les and Anne had the auction lots and they were soon on display by 9.30am. Alan turned up about 12.15 and soon got himself organised.

I had a bit of juggling to do with the dealers this month, three dropped out, John Haddon Silver (off to Paris for a birthday treat), Ken Sandeman was needed for cricket coaching the youngsters of Essex, and Alan Wilde had other things to do. John Shaw stepped in at short notice (many thanks) and along with Mike Heard/Peter Beer and our good friend from the Welsh border Peter Russell, all reported a good day. Even Ken and Alice Courtney in the back room were busy every time I looked in (welcome back Ken after a 3 month break). Martin Toms never turned up - most unlike him - but I understand his car let him down on the way. Hope everything is alright.

Among the lesser spotted members around, the Kenny boys were back after illness and work, got in the way of collecting. Had a lovely chat with Tony Brown who comes most months taking 3½ hours each way - total dedicated support. The Bradshaw's called in, Cynthia was not happy, as they were out of sync now (they always come every other month) and would not be with us next month. Common on Derek get organised. Had a telephone call earlier in the week from our good friend Ted Wareham, he told me he is a lot better but his wife Margaret is in hospital. Get well Margaret and try to be with us next month. Bill told me he has just celebrated his 98th birthday. Many happy returns from all your friends. Furthest member to visit today was Granville Elliot/Dave Turnbull from Sussex although I bet Jack Norman from Market Rasen isn't a lot shorter. Well done all, we appreciate your support. April is also subscription renewal month, Les will be after your £6.00 at the next meeting. It remains truly great value.

Sad to report the death of a past member – John Myatt died on 22nd December at his Caister home. John worked for the BBC as a news and sports reporter and always found time to come to EACCC when we were at the Park Hotel. His daughter has asked us to sell his entire collection through the club auction. Alan has collected it and will be putting it in later in the year.

The caterers had a busy day once again and had some delicious 'homemade chocolate cake' for us to devour, it was very very nice. They sold quite a few 'full English breakfasts' this month and in all I understand they sold over 200 hot drinks. I only paid for 62 so several people enjoyed more than one. I reckon some members are saving their tokens up because the girls on the door reported 64 members, 3 visitors and 5 dealers.

Right now on to the auction -- it started a bit late but Alan soon got into his stride and a good one it turned out to be. Final figures £3234, from the 216 lots. There were 23 in house bidders who spent £2365 and 7 postal bidders who spent £869. There were 68 unsold lots and just 2 vendors. Top spot went to Lot 114 a smashing set Kensitas Flowers 2nd series for £150. Besides the Myatt collection to sell later this year we also picked up another collection from an Essex collector, which includes 'other' items as well – postcards, matchbox labels, stamps' so we will have some variety in the New Year.

The village hall is to be refurbished starting at Easter, new windows and doors and a complete top to bottom paint job – about time too in my opinion.

We have been given a huge number of used Albums of various sizes and quality which will be available on a first come first served basis from next month. Priced from 50p to £1.50. All proceeds to club funds. Get them on the Members table.

Next month our 500th meeting ...

Everyone who comes will receive a special limited edition commemorative card – collect it on check in – very nice it is too.

A free finger buffet for all about 12.00 – the plan is for the usual bacon rolls and drinks available from 9.00 until 11.30 then we need to clear the back room for the caterers to set up the buffet. The auction will follow later (about 1.30ish)

Dealers with us in April -- John Haddon Silver John Shaw
 Peter Beer Martin Toms Ken Courtney
 Geoff McMillan and Alan Wilde.

Saturday 19th April 2014 9.00am until we finish