

EAST ANGLIAN CIGARETTE CARD CLUB

Secretary/Treasurer *Chairman* *President* *Vice Presidents* *Auctioneer*
Mr Colin Fawcett *Mr Les Woolnough* *Mr Bill Peck* *Mrs Muriel Peck* *Mrs Vera Summers* *Mr Alan Worthington*
01945 583656 *01473 743794* *01379 642792* *01379 642792* *01842 753292* *01473 714411*

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Report of a meeting held at Roydon Village Hall on Saturday 21st July 2012

This was going to be a meeting like no other, I usually look forward to the trip to Roydon and the rest of the day wheeling, dealing and helping with the auction but not this month. I had heard on the Tuesday previous that our great supporter and fellow member Alex Woollard had died. A full report overleaf with a tribute to our Alex.

I had to leave early for the meeting Ken Short and Barry Allen couldn't make it, so Dennis and I left home very early to open up the hall. When we got to the village hall John Shaw was waiting to unload his goodies so we set about putting up tables and getting out chairs ready for the usual rush of early bird collectors. It was a slow morning (by our standards) but the sun was shining so who cared. No caterer (quite understandable) but everyone was told to help themselves to tea/coffee and biscuits, make your own and wash your own cup up. Thank you everyone it worked very well, thank you also to Vera for the final kitchen clear up. It was nice to welcome Mike Pryor to our club again, we don't see enough of him, and Geoff McMillan also made the trip up from Melton Mowbray. Martin Toms had had to cancel as he decided to take a break in Thailand; he will be with us next month. Also missing was Peter Beer who had taken his wife off for a short break, his stock was in the capable hands of Neville Proctor, who spent the morning calling 'bargains for all'.

Among the members with us after a short illness was John Eaves, looking for the usual bargains, Gus was feeling better so he was with us along with his partner in crime Albert Watson. Nice to see also Jim Reynolds who was dropped off by Anne on her way to hit the shops, he 'of course' bought along Derek Lugo. Most welcome one and all. A visitor from Bressingham called in after seeing our sign outside and was absolutely amazed by what he found, the enthusiasm, helpfulness and dedication of the members has convinced him to be a part of the club and he is returning next month with a wants list and his joining fee. He took with him a small quantity of our leaflet and was going to take them in the local tourist information centre to help advertise our club. This was our lowest attendance for quite a while with just 58 members checking in with the girls on reception.

As the magic hour approached Alan was soon ready to begin the auction, in the absence of Anne, Albert volunteered to show and deliver the lots, and a right good job he made of it too. Alan had only got back from his holiday to Cornwall on the night previous so started off rather unsteadily and after sorting out telephone bidders and computer gremlins he was soon in full flow. I always wonder at the auction why hall bidders always sit in the same spot. The 184 lots were soon knocked down to new homes, some at very cheap prices. When we have instructions to sell whatever, Alan now starts at £1 and goes upward from there!

For the members who like the figures, 69 went unsold, top price of £250 for an album of Naughty Silk Postcards in lot 23. Final total was £2205 from 15 vendors.

The new Murrays catalogue will be with us soon a quote from their website say's *'Cigarette Card Values 2013 We are pleased to announce the publication of our new catalogue, Cigarette Card Values 2013. All prices have been individually assessed with some large increases, some minor increases, and many unchanged. Catalogue will be available at the end of August.*

Next month's meeting is **Saturday 18th August 2012** at Roydon Village hall with the following dealers due to be with us -- Mike Heard, Ken Courtney, Martin Toms, Alan Wilde, Peter Beer, John Haddon-Silver and from Leeds the welcome return of Neil Daniels.

The club table will have all the trade price Albums and Pages as usual.

Alex Woollard 1949 – 2012 On Tuesday 17th July I was informed of the death of our good friend and loyal member Alex Woollard. As most members know Alex had been ill for a few month's with pneumonia but was making good progress, he even made it to the June meeting even though he was in a wheelchair, he had pushed himself to come such was his enthusiasm for our club but on Monday morning he didn't feel too well and was taken to hospital where he had a massive heart attack and with a weak immune system he couldn't fight it and unfortunately died in the evening.

Alex lived for our club; his input to its development in the past few years has been considerable. With his great computer skills he helped us move into the 21st century. He was responsible for the design of our letter heading, he did all the club badges and for what he will be most remembered he designed and organised our yearly calendar. He bought his first draft of the 2013 calendar to the June meeting for our thoughts and although I thought it was very good as usual, Alex wasn't happy with it and had been revamping it right up to his death. As a tribute to Alex, I will make sure we have the calendar he designed available to members later in the year and dedicate it to his memory. Alex was also responsible for the last set of club cards and you can find a young picture of him features on the November page of this year's calendar.

Val, Lorraine and Kevin didn't feel they could do the catering at this meeting but will be with us hopefully in August. I for one will miss Alex the club has lost a stalwart, his enthusiasm, his energy and his friendship will be missed. Alex enjoyed his card collecting -- and his bottle collecting -- and I think his collection was based around local interests, Val will continue with this interest.

I'm sure Alex will still be at our club looking down on us with envy and happiness. At least he won't have to wash our cups up - I remember him complaining of washing up 200 cups after a particular meeting standing there telling me wearing his cooking apron!

Our thoughts are with Val and his family at this difficult time and I'm sure many members would wish to say a fond farewell to our friend. His funeral is on

Wednesday 8th August at 2.00pm at Chippenham Church (near Mildenhall)

God bless you Alex and thank you for bringing your personality and friendship to our club. Every member will miss you.