



YOUR STAMP ACTIVE NETWORK NEWS



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Email; stampactive@btinternet.com

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QUICK LINKS

Click on the links below, or copy and paste the link into your search engine. For more information look on the **Stamp Active website: www.stampactive.co.uk**

NEWS



- **SPRING STAMPEX 2018**

<https://www.stampactive.co.uk/spring-stampex-14th-18th-february-2018/>



Spring Stampex takes place at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 0QH from Wednesday 14th to Saturday 17th February 2018.

POP SINGER SOPHIE ELLIS BEXTER'S STAMP COLLECTION ON DISPLAY



There will be plenty for young collectors at Spring Stampex. Stamp Active will again be running the **Kids Zone in Gallery Bays 14 and 15**. Every child will also get a **free goodie bag**. This year we are very excited about seeing the stamp collection of Pop Singer, **Sophie Ellis Bexter**, which will feature in the Court of Honour. She has a keen interest in philately thanks to her father. There will also be the popular childrens' activity sheets to gain points

which can be exchanged for free gifts or used in the exciting **free Auction on Saturday at 2pm**, held in the Kids Zone. The climax of the auction is a draw for a **Penny Black** for all the children who take part in the auction, sponsored by Mulready Philatelics and Stanley Gibbons. There will also be a chance to win more prizes in the **"Lucky Dip"** or **"Guess the Number of Stamps in the Jar"** sponsored by the Philatelic Traders Society.

The youth area will also display the entries in the **2018 Stamp Active Competition**, sponsored by The Great Britain Philatelic Society and Stanley Gibbons. On show will be some of the best collections from the UK's up and coming young collectors.

There will be a **free draw for all adults who "Bring a Child to Stampex"** with prizes generously donated by Royal Mail, Stamp & Coin Mart, Jersey Post and Stanley Gibbons. *For more information about Stampex 2018, click on link or copy and paste link into your search engine;*

<https://www.stampactive.co.uk/spring-stampex-14th-18th-february-2018/>

Sophie Ellis Bexter's collection at Stampex;

<https://www.stampactive.co.uk/pop-singer-collection-spring-stampex-2018/>

School groups are welcome but should be booked in advance. Assistance with transport costs for schools may be available, if required. *For further details and information about school visits, click on link, visit the Stamp Active website*

<https://www.stampactive.co.uk/contact/>



- **MonacoPhil HOSTS YOUNG COLLECTORS**



A group of young high potential collectors was recently invited to attend MonacoPhil by members of the Club de Monte-Carlo in Monaco. There were 2 from the UK, 2 from Belgium, 1 from Russia, 1 from Italy and 10 from the USA. They were invited to all the activities of the Show for free including the exhibition itself, the cocktail party, gala dinner and closing dinner. Individual members of the Club de Monte-Carlo sponsored them on a voluntary basis.

RPSL President Patrick Maselis would like to undertake a similar initiative at Autumn Stampex in London and anyone knowing young high potential philatelists is invited to contact Patrick Maselis by email. Please contact: patrick@maselis.be

For further details and information, click on link or copy and paste into your search engine; <https://www.stampactive.co.uk/monacophil-hosts-young-collectors/>



- **RUNNYMEDE JUNIOR SCHOOL STAMP CLUB**

Please take the time to read this delightful and inspiring letter from Steve Pye, Co Opted Governor at Runnymede Junior School.

I was introduced to Runnymede Junior School when my two Grandchildren enrolled there in 2014. As a support volunteer I sat in on a talk given to Year 3 by Erene Grieve. She captivated the children with a brief history of stamps then showed them the variety of subjects and how they could be collected and displayed in an album. Best of all was the selection of free stamps, which were given to the children in the class.

I knew little about stamps before that date, never having collected them as a child. However I did feel that the enthusiasm shown by the kids on the day should not go to waste. Previously the School had had a thriving Stamp Club. The previous governor who ran it retired, and there was no one left to take it over. As a result, I volunteered my time on a Monday and Thursday lunchtime to set up a new Stamp Collectors Club. We enrolled three members of the previous club from Years 5 and 6 to act as mentors and 10 children from Year 3.

With the support from Stamp Active, some resources left over from the old Club we began a simple imaginary journey around the world. Children had to find stamps showing forms of transport, locations and animals that would be found on this imaginary trip. Their response had me hooked! Not only that but their friends from other Years got to hear about it and we soon got extra members and we now have 25 children who turn up regularly. They each have an album, bought by a relative or supplied by me from funds allocated by the school (sourced by very supportive dealers at the local stamp fairs). We have had two school trips to the main Stamp Fair held each year at the Liverpool Liner Hotel. The generosity and support given to the children by the various dealers and stallholders has kept the momentum of interest amongst the children.

We gained some publicity in a couple of Stamp magazines and via twitter which attracted support from both the Isle of Man Postal service (who donated stamps and Aardmann Animation Stamp Postcards to the children). We also have had regular support from a Mr Brian Stanmore who had read the article and now sends me envelopes filled with stamps from around the world to give to the children.

I have filled three shoeboxes with envelopes sorted, alphabetically by country, subject matter, theme e.g. transport, sport, famous people, flowers, birds etc. The children take some home and keep what they want, returning the envelope to its correct position so as to keep things in order.

I too began to keep an album, concentrating on UK stamps from Victoria through to 2016. This has now grown to 4 volumes with all the swaps laid out in stock books so the children can fill in the gaps in their own collections.

Being retired, I do have time on my hands. The Club has given me a purpose and a hobby I can develop. What I didn't bargain for was the affection and respect shown by the children or the fellowship of the school staff and the various dealers I have met through the internet and at the fairs. It has kept my mind active (thinking of a variety of new competitions and activities) and I now have a library of books. These help me to answer the numerous questions about history, rarity, value etc of stamps.

I would recommend anyone to get involved in starting a Club such as Runnymede's. The support from Stamp Active and the enthusiasm that has developed in the children, reinforces the lessons in school and widens their education outside of the curriculum. The best of all, it taps into their natural tendency to collect things and no doubt will give them a hobby they can take away with them when they move to senior school. That is a reward in itself.

Steve Pye

For further details and information about Stamps In Schools, click on link or copy and paste it into your search engine; <https://www.stampactive.co.uk/stamps-in-schools/> For information and support about starting a School Stamp Club, <https://www.stampactive.co.uk/stamp-clubs/>



EXCITING COMPETITIONS RESULTS!



• **Bring A Child to Stampex Winners**

Stamp Active continue to run their regular promotion to “Bring A Child to Stampex” with excellent prizes for those who bring a young collector to the Kids Zone in Gallery Bay 15, which is sponsored by The Philatelic Trader’s Society at every Stampex.

The winners at Autumn Stamp 2017 were:

- 1st: Royal Mail Year Book 2016, donated by Royal Mail: Tony Jones, Orpington
- 2nd: Subscription to Stamp & Coin Mart, donated by Warners Group: Sarah Swan, London
- 3rd: Stampex Smiler Sheet, donated by the PTS: Matthew Merkies, London
- 4th: Subscription to Gibbons Stamp Monthly, donated by Stanley Gibbons: Hayley Hart, Banbury
- 5th: Guernsey First Day Covers, donated by Guernsey Post: Jessica Doidge, Banbury

Commenting on the competition, John Davies, Chairman of Stamp Active, said “We are very grateful to all our sponsors or their generous support of Stampex. We are trying to encourage more parents and grandparents to bring kids along to the show. They all have a great fun time but we need to see more here. It is expected that this promotion will also be run for Spring Stampex, so please come along.”



• **Alex Cuesta Wins Penny Black**

Alex Cuesta from London was the latest winner in the free prize draw for a Penny Black, sponsored by Mulready Philatelics, that takes place after the youth auction at Stampex. The enthusiastic young collectors compete for 30 lots in the free auction using the points they have gained by taking part in the free activities in the Kids Zone. They all receive a draw ticket with the lucky winner picking up the Penny Black. The auction is conducted by the ever-cheeky Michael Thompson, currently President of the National Philatelic Society.



• **Carys Receives Top Award**

Carys Llewellyn was presented with the Anne Dummer Trophy as our Young Collector of the Year 2017 at Autumn Stampex. The award, which is sponsored by Midpex, was presented by Rob Swain, Publisher, from Stanley Gibbons. Carys received a trophy, a Penny Black cover donated by Ian Park of Beckett Philatelics and a Teddy Bear donated by Royal Mail. Commenting on the award, John Davies, Chairman of Stamp Active, said “Carys has been a wonderful ambassador for the hobby. She has built a fine collection but has also played a key part in helping others in local junior clubs.”



• Stamp Active and British Youth Stamp Championships

Last Autumn, for the first time, the Stamp Active Network held not only the British Youth Stamp Championships, but also the Stamp Active competition. The latter will now be held twice a year, in Spring and Autumn.

As always the judges were impressed with the high standard, and were pleased to see new exhibitors and exhibits in both competitions. The judges were Dave Armitage, Brian Asquith and Richard West.

The judging was kindly hosted by The Royal Philatelic Society London, sponsored by Stanley Gibbons Ltd and the Great Britain Philatelic Society, while the area at Autumn Stampex in which the exhibits were displayed was kindly provided by the Philatelic Traders' Society.

British Youth Stamp Championships 2017

There was just one entry in each of the four classes: each entrant receives £25 to spend on philatelic items. The overall best exhibit is Winter Sports by Carys Llewellyn who receives a further £100.

Class B (17 and 18)

Toby Asson - The American Dream: Small silver

Class C (14 to 16)

Ben Matthews - Invasion and Target Sports: Silver-bronze

Class D (12 and 13)

Carys Llewellyn - Winter Sports: Large silver

Class E (under 12)

Rhys Hart - The Battle of Britain: Small silver

Stamp Active Competition Autumn 2017

The overall winner, and receives £50 to spend, was Ellie Dodge with Snake Facts, also receiving £25 for the best exhibit in Class C.

The best exhibit in Class B is The Great Romantic Composers by Sara Llewellyn who receives £25.

The Schools Trophy goes to Prendergast Community School, Haverford West.

Class B (12 and 13)

Sara Llewellyn - The Great Romantic Composers: Gold

Class C (10 and 11)

Thomas Absalom - All about Space: Silver

Joyce Bazley - Cats and Dogs: Silver

Wilfred Bazley - A brief history of Aviation: Silver

Ellie Doidge - Snake Facts: Gold

Sam Evans - All Creatures Great and Small: Silver

Alex Faversham - All about Stamps: Silver-bronze

Max Fenn - Wales: Silver-bronze

Evie Mills - The Coast: Silver

Iwan Morgans - Transport: Silver-bronze

Toby Roberts - Famous Britons: Silver-bronze

Melisa Thomas - Flowers: Silver-bronze

Dorothy Wild - Endangered Animals: Gold

INFORMATION



- **STAMP DONATIONS VERY WELCOME!**

Donations of stamps, particularly of first day covers and thematic stamps would be welcomed by the organisers to:

Stamp Active Network, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, OX16 9LB

- **JUNIOR SECTIONS IN STAMP MAGAZINES**

Both the *British Thematic Association* and the *RAFLET Stamp Club* produce quarterly magazines that include lively sections for junior stamp collectors. For further details and membership information, click on the links below:

British Thematic Association (*'Themescene' Magazine*) <http://www.brit-thematic-assoc.com/themescene.htm>

RAFLET Stamp Club <http://www.raflet.org.uk/maglay.htm>

CONTACT US!



- Send us news from your club or what's going on in your area – we all want to hear!
- **Email:** stampactive@btinternet.com

- **Our website:** www.stampactive.co.uk
- **Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Stamp-Active-Network/1467326926871682?ref=hl>
- **Twitter** @stampactive

Stamp Active is the UK's leading voluntary organisation that promotes stamp collecting to young people in the UK. Stamp Active promotes a number of initiatives including the free postal club, KIDSTAMPS, for young collectors and it is a regular feature at STAMPEX with its lively youth area and free children's auction on the Saturday. www.stampactive.co.uk