

BASILDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

September 1998

My name is David Johnson and I am taking over the printing of the Newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Society of thanking Charlie Mead for his services as Editor. At this time I am only producing a double sheet letter until I get into the swing of producing it in the old format.

Since the last newsletter we have had our AGM at which the members voted to increase the subscriptions: standard rate to £8.00 per annum, £5.00 for the over 60's and £1.00 for juniors. If you have not yet paid would you please pay our new Treasurer, Peter Nye, 41 Chevers Pawen, Pitsea, Basildon, SS13 3EL.

We are sad to report that Len Scharde, our librarian, passed away on the 30th June. For the time being his widow Vera will carry on with the job of librarian but will only deliver locally should members want items from the Library. You could telephone Vera (01268 542104) and items will be at the next meeting.

Our meetings until the new year are:

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| October 5th | Auction Night with some 365 lots. |
| „ 17th | Stamp Fair at Laindon Community Centre . . . hope to see you. |
| „ 20th | Ladies' Night . . . lady members displaying items from their collections. |
| November 2nd | Competition Night for stamps, postal history and aerophilately. |
| „ 17th | Informal Night and Mini Fair with dealers. |
| December 7th | Sarawak and Labuan by Rev. David Hubbard FRPSL. |
| „ 22nd | Festive Evening and Tomex Quiz with Albert Thomas (4th Tuesday). |

Due to an oversight we have had to change some of our meetings in the new year (the Secretary had us meeting on Easter Monday), the 16th February meeting will now be Something beginning with "L". The Auction will now be on 1st March and the Thematic and Cinderella Competitions will be on 16th March.

MEETING REPORTS

At a recent meeting we welcomed a visit from Billericay P.S. (all be it that two of the three members were also Basildon members). John Pettit opened the evening with a display of the stamps of New Zealand, starting with the first set of pictorial stamps and the reprinted set of this year, celebrating the centenary of that issue including the incorrect spelling on the 2 1/2d blue. Moving on to the round 1 dollar stamps first issued in 1988 in booklets and reissues up to 1997 in different colours and including miniature sheets of the Olympics and winners. John completed his section with a selection of internal first flight covers including a number with Christmas Day postmarks.

Mike Broughton, the new Secretary of Billericay P.S., then showed a selection of stamps of Singapore from its formation of a country in 1965, showing a number of varieties and errors that he collected whilst living in that country.

Dennis Sales surprised us all by not showing Switzerland but some Great Britain postal history. Starting with a number of prestamp covers from the early part of the last century he showed us a cover with both a 1d black and 2d blue, with an item from the London to Dover night mail and items carried on the post office underground railway and a series of covers with postage due stamps on covers from abroad including a cover postmarked 25/12/12 from the "Miracle of Holland."

Charlie Mead gave the vote of thanks especially to John and Dennis for showing material not seen before.

In another recent meeting we had a Ladies' Night with three of our lady members taking part. Vivian Holiday was first with famous women on stamps, covers and photographs including the wives of Henry VIII, Mrs. Beaton, Pochahontas and Vivian Leigh with many more on Great Britain stamps, carrying on with stamps of other countries showing amongst others Eva Peron, Joan of Arc, Marie Currie and Grace Kelly.

Brenda Nye gave a display of Christmas covers from around the world from 1958 to present times including some returned from Father Christmas and some with Christmas Day postmarks, finishing off the display with some "Coca Cola" Christmas cars.

Maggie Thompson entertained with a feast of triangles to end the evening that included blocks of 16 and a set depicting "Star Wars." She concluded with an amusing story of a block of stamps sent to her from America as a FDC that had been opened by Customs and resealed with sellotape that also affixed to the stamps. She sort the help of a member of the Royal Philatelic Society as to how to remove the tape from the cover and also informed the Customs and the person that sent it, to cut a long story short, she then produced four of the same covers in good order.

At the AGM, with no other candidate coming forward Pat Harris said that he would remain as General Secretary for a further year but that would be the last as he would be 70 years old next year and somebody younger should take the work on. Two new members joined the committee and there would be a redistribution of work.

Thank you. A. P. Harris, Secretary.

Well that's about all for this issue, I hope to get the next one out by Christmas. If any member has an item for the next issue please write to me at 15 Mentmore, Langdon Hills, Basildon, Essex SS16 6DB. Thank you.
