



# Basildon Stamp Collector

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## Editorial

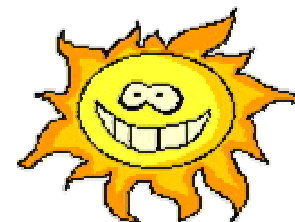
I am writing this editorial on mid-summers day, a wonderful afternoon, the sun shining, cool breeze blowing through my office window, much more pleasant than the sticky heat wave we had the other week. At least I feel like writing this now.

Anyway, back to business. I would like to thank those of you who have given me encouraging comments about the newsletter. Several members have said how much they enjoy it. These comments make my job worthwhile. It takes a long time to put together your newsletter, many hours writing reports and trying to get

appropriate illustrations to match. My thanks must go to the other contributors you help me to fill the newsletter, although 'Telephoning Doris' is a nightmare with the spellchecker. I would very much like a couple of you to help by writing a report about one of our meetings, so perhaps someone may like to speak to me during the next few weeks, or maybe I will need to do a bit of arm twisting? Be warned!

The raffle generated £169.75 last year, this is thanks to the generous donations of raffle prizes, so thank you to

all who helped. However, I do not have much left in stock now, so please see if you have



## Summer

any unwanted items you could let me have for the raffle.

Finally, remember subscriptions are now due for the new year.

Full members £10.00

Senior members £8.00  
(over 60)

## New Members ?

There are no new members to report this time.

Do you know anyone who would like to join us? They don't have to commit themselves to join straight away, why not bring them along so they

can see what we do, or give them a copy of this newsletter.

We need new members to help funds and continue the diverse interest we have throughout our membership.

## Meeting Report : Visit from Witham P.S. 3rd April

Our friends from Witham Philatelic Society entertained us with a variety of unusual material.

First up was Peter Wood with Croatia. A short history was given followed by complete sheets and blocks showing the many different watermarks and perforation varieties, as well as imperf. Examples. Also shown were different paper types and thickness.

A country we do not see very often.

Next was Russian Local Posts - Zemstvo

Imperial Post.

Again a wealth of history and background information was given and we were shown early postal history and postal stationery, stamps and labels. Different methods of printing were also explain together with examples.



**Dominica**

Dennis Ford, who is a regular displayer of material, was the final speaker, from whom we saw a variety of items. Balon

Monte, Exhibition Covers, Congresses, Paris Exhibition. First Flights, all with cheap stamps but used on cover as the correct postage rate of the time, which can be very scarce.

Dennis also showed us printing varieties and flaws on the key types issues of Bermuda 1937/39, together with early issues of Dominica and Fiji, all with clear dated village postmarks.

Yet again another enjoyable visit from another philatelic society.

## Meeting Report Member's Displays A & B 18th April

Seven of our members participated in the evenings entertainment, showing a total of 153 sheets.

Dave Perry showed miscellaneous covers used in Aden.

Claude Crowder, Australian Antarctic Territory.

Maggie Thompson, Abominable Snowmen, Bhutan, Tete Beche Tri-

angles.

Ann Coltman, Animals, Bears, Blankets, Enid Blyton.

Charlie Mead, Airmails, Book Post.

Rosa Howe, Antarctica (Explorers & Wildlife).

Chris Cooksey, British Antarctic Bases.

Again a wide variety of material and many thanks to all who participated.

**A & B**

## Auction News By Ann Coltman

Our next auction on 2nd October will be an 'Instant Auction'. This is a new venture for the Society and we would like you, as members, to make it a success.

You are invited to bring 10 lots to the hall on the night



**Fierce bidding**

where they can be viewed by all our members before the auction takes place. There is no minimum reserve price and all we ask is that you fill in the attached form with as much information as possible. A 10% commission is charged on the sold lots as normal.

If you have any queries about this auction please do not hesitate to ask Ann.

## TAKE A LETTER!

By Len Stanway FRPSL

Today we take it for granted that we can write and post a letter from anywhere to anywhere. This has only come about by a complex series of treaties underpinned by the Universal Postal Union (UPU), a United Nations body originally founded in 1874.

Before a country joined the UPU, each country had its own rules for acceptance and delivery of mail, its own charges and its own rules for paying them. For mail to pass between countries, there had to be bilateral treaties between the two sides of the border laying down rules for the interface between the postal systems and an agreed table of rates between places in the two countries. Charges could be weight and/or mileage related, and could include customs fees, etc. They could be payable by the sender or recipient. It was the case in Britain well into the Nineteenth Century that you had the choice to pay in advance or on delivery, and it was not unusual for the recipient to refuse the letter (which may cost a significant part of their income) as the act of trying to deliver a letter was the only message that the recipient needed to confirm that the sender was alive and well or to confirm a previously agreed arrangement.

Even the existence of a post office could not be taken for granted. Many countries had no public post office. The British Post Office as we know it today only came into being in 1660 as the General Letter Office. Prior to that, the Royal Mail was literally that, the private courier service of the sovereign. If the general public wanted to send a letter, it was necessary to find a trustworthy person going in roughly the right direction, pay him an agreed sum to ensure that it was delivered and hope that he did not pocket the money and destroy the letter. For official mail within a country, the network of local government officers and military facilities provided a means of passing messages. This network dates back to Roman times, when a very efficient network of mail services existed throughout the empire. The Vindolanda correspondence discovered in Northumberland had thrown a completely new light on the daily life of Roman citizens and soldiers in Britain in the First Century AD.

Overseas mail was usually entrusted to ships' captains to carry. To service empires, a network of official post routes were operated by naval forces or commercial companies under contract. Early in the Sixteenth Century, the foreign merchants in London set up the Strangers' Post (later known as the Merchant Strangers' Post) to facilitate correspondence with Europe. British merchants launched their Merchant Adventures' Post in the 1580's. One merchant, Filippo Corsini, and his successors kept their correspondence from the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries intact and this came onto the market in the 1980's, allowing postal historians to study and understand the service before it was dispersed. This caused a revolution in our knowledge of the postal services of that era. Most postal history collections now contain a Corsini letter. A public Foreign Post was opened in Britain in 1632, formalising a private service that had been operating for some years.

The greatest postal network in Medieval Europe was operated by the Princes of Thurn und Taxis, who gained a postal monopoly over all mail between Vienna and all the Hapsburg possessions in the Holy Roman Empire. The Thurn und Taxis system distributed mail from the British posts mentioned above and similar systems all over Europe. The family (the merger of the De La Torre and Tassis families) was based at Bergamo in Lombardy (North Italy) and Ruggiano de Tassis started the mail carrying business in Italy circa 1290. As the family focus moved from Italy to Germany, Torre became Thurn and Tassis became Taxis. Jeanetto de Tassis was appointed Chief Master of Postal Services at Innsbruck on 11 December 1489. Their postal monopoly began in 1490, when Emperor Frederick III decided to improve communications in his territories and granted the imperial contract to the already well established Thurn und Taxis family postal business. Their courier service was opened to the general public in 1519 (following the opening of a competing French Post network) and grew to include parts of present-day Germany, Austria, Italy, Hungary, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and much of the rest of Europe. The family was ennobled in 1512 in recognition of their success and progressed up the nobility tree until reaching princely status in 1695, subsequently marrying into the royal families of Europe. In the days before trains, their horse relay network achieved reliability and delivery times unmatched by any other contemporary postal operator.

In the Eighteenth Century, the postal business was sold to the heir to the Spanish throne. The rise of Napoleon was the first real challenge to the Thurn und Taxis postal business. The decline continued through the Nineteenth Century as countries gained their own post office systems, but the family had diversified into many other areas of trade, so they were able to move on and they achieved the first multinational financial empire, reaching a global scale in the Twentieth Century. Although their name is still seen on various businesses to this day, this business empire collapsed in the 1990's as a result of inadequate succession planning and consequent death duties, etc., with the need to sell off most of the business to protect the surviving family's financial future.

## STAMPS

The thing about stamp collecting is ....it's addictive. It really is. Little did I know when I casually visited a display in the local library that I would be come hooked with a capital 'H'.

In common with most kids I collected stamps long long ago, but now it is so very different, it's much more fun. Who ever thought of thematics was definitely on a winner, not only is it so much fun, by accident you learn as you go. Just think how much more interesting history and geography would have been 'in my younger days' if stamp collecting had been thematically arranged. Of course, there is the problem of homework. After all it's not easy to display stamps let alone collect them if ignorance is your only guide.....I'm discovering that, I must say.

My friend is good at geography and history...very useful for me I must say. Recently I'm discovering how very useful catalogues are...but aren't they heavy! Happily there is colour in the newest simplified catalogues which makes all the difference to a novice like me. I look forward to the time when my Bird catalogue is also in colour. Just think of the work that goes into formulating a single page of information, let alone several heavy books with very small and close print. Now I know of other uses for magnifying glasses !

Recently my friend and I have been sorting out loose stamps into countries/categories. Doesn't it take a time, but it's like shopping for stamps without forking out more money. A distinct pleasure. When we are sorting the stamps we know that knowledgeable people have vetted the box beforehand but it is still a great pleasure.

I'm very glad that we are involved with stamps. You never know, over time we might become quite knowledgeable.

*Rosa Howe*

## The Motor Car until 1970 Display by A.R. Miller - 16th May

Even if you did not think you were interested in motor cars, you could not fail to have been entertained by Tony Miller with his unique collection of material and ephemera.

Tony began with the usual display of album pages of stamps, but written up in his own style with drawings, pictures downloaded from the internet, as well as stamps.



tonight, including the inventor of the automobile, Siegfried Marcus. We had 3 full showings of sheets, supplemented with model cars, plus 2 tables full of driving licences, documents, adverts and much automobile memorabilia.

Tony's presentation style was unique, no airs or graces, he told

it as it was, which included personal anecdotes. We even had a demonstration of how to learn to drive in the early years.

If this display was entered into a formal stamp competition it would not do very well. However, if I was judging it I would no doubt give it first place as a very interesting display of the social history of the motor car.

Those who were not present missed a superb evening!!

We all learnt something

### The Motor Car

## 38th Annual General Meeting 5th June 2006

Our 38th AGM took place with the usual format, each officer giving their report. There was concern that we made a slight loss last year, but this was mainly due to the lost revenue from the clubs stamp fairs. Your committee has this in hand and we shall be resuming the Stamp Fairs in the autumn and continuing with 2 events each year, one in the spring and the other in the au-

turn.

Our thanks must go to our new Treasurer, Len Stanway who presented the accounts most concisely.

Member of the year was awarded to Claude Crowder for his excellent work in stepping in as our auctioneer, a job he has now made his own.

The committee more or less remained the same and all in all this

was a very uneventful AGM, we were all finished shortly after 9.00pm.

Subscriptions remain the same and are due now. Your prompt payment will be greatly appreciated.

Full Members	£10.00
Senior Members	£8.00

### Meeting Report : President's Guest

For tonight our President Len Stanway arranged a display of Japan by Mark Fuller. The Society had not had Japan displayed before for a whole evening.

Mark began in 1871 with the first issue, explaining the secret marks engraved into the design in order to deter forgeries. However many were forged and very good they were too as it was difficult to tell them apart.

Some printing plates were destroyed during the war and had to be re-engraved.

The display was complemented with a variety of material, including covers, postcards and photographs. Many of the photos showed the country before and after their major earthquake. In addition Mark had some books which contained many illustrations. As Mark suspected there are not many

Japanese collectors in the club so these additional items made the display interesting and gave us an insight into the country.

It is a pity there were so few at the meeting, but we were competing with England's World Cup match against Sweden. However the non football fans present were suitably entertained.

# Telephoning Doris

By Rosa Howe

Hullo gain Doris, sorry I 'avent bin in touch but yer know 'ow it is when ye'avin a good time..Yes Doris, I did 'ere about your bitta good luck.. Remember me to the rest of the family won't you when you 'ave a bevy to remember 'im. Nice of you to fink of you in the end wee'nt it.

Well as I was sayin me and my mate went to the auction I toil' you about, we got



**'Allo again Doris**

there early and 'ad a good butcher's 'ook, jus so we'd know wot's wot, if you know wot I mean. My friend, she collects Islands, so to speak...trouble is it's easy to get carried away an' you get lead up the garden path, and find yerself wanting everyfink in sight. We was warned abaht that sort of thing munfs ago, but yer jus' get sorta caught up, there we sat cards in our 'ands, you 'ave to ave a card to bid fir the 'lots' of stamp see. Yes I know we go on abaht it Doris, but it's so good you should join. Wot did you say? Gawd. I'm sure 'ee could get

is own tea once in a while, you should be more firm wiv im Doris you reely should.

We did manage not to bid against each over too much, but my mate she said I was a bit too quick, so I ended up by spending a fair wodge. Thing is I got caught up a bit wiv the bidding, cos it was something I wanted. Doris I could'nt put me 'and down it wus like a time warp. I knew I should back down but I kept thinking just a bit longer and the price went up n' up I kep saying to me-self 'put yer 'and down yer silly

## **Telephoning Doris** : continued

Mare' but nothink 'append. The bloke at the front well 'is eyebrows were going up 'n up, but I came over all funny - I could'nt move. In the end I put me 'and down, but it was a bit close for comfort. We 'ad a good laugh about it after I can tell you. These auctions should 'ave an 'ealth warning I tell yer Doris, thank gawd for cheque books, otherwise I would 'ave looked a right plonker, in public too. Oh well Doris I spent me pen-

sion, but you can't take it wiv yer can yer, just like 'Arry could'nt either. I'm glad 'ee left you a few bob, cheers Doris, catch you again over the phone anover day.

**The Telephone  
What a wonderful  
invention**

## **The Other Side of the Counter** : by David Church

So, now you are set up as a Stamp Dealer where do you buy your stock from? You may have a collection of your own you wish to sell or some duplicates. You can place a buying advert in your local paper or stamp magazine. Put a buying sign up at a stamp fair at which you have a table. You can buy at auction, either postally or public. There are nu-

merous auction houses around the country, large and small, many are dedicated to stamps and collectibles, the choice is endless. You may wish to buy from other dealers, single items or wholesale lots. Once you become known it is surprising how often you will be contacted (on average I get asked to view or buy a collection once a

week), nine times out of ten though the person thinks it is worth more than it really is, so you have to let them down gently.

Just to clear up one point from last time, following the budget, the VAT threshold has risen to £61,000

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**Letters** - It was nice to receive a letter from Dennis Sales the other week, it reads as follows:

“Just a line to let your members know I’m getting on quite well. I’m sorry I had to leave the two stamp clubs, I miss their company. I have joined a local club but 5/6 miles away, two members pass nearby and give me a lift. The new club is quite good, but I don’t feel at home yet. Next meeting is members night, I hope to show part of my collection of Swiss railways.” *Best wishes, Dennis Sales*

**Advance Notice - BASILDON STAMP FAIR**

The Society is holding a Stamp Fair on Saturday 9th September at Barstable School Basildon. (*not as previously advised*). Helpers are wanted, any help you can give will be greatly appreciated, please contact one of the Committee for further details. This Fair is being organised to promote the Society and generate much needed funds.

**What’s On**

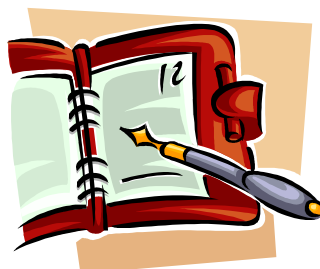
**Local Stamp Fairs :**

- 1st July - Rawreth
- 2nd July - Southend
- 8th July - Laindon
- 5th August - Rawreth
- 20th August - Billericay
- 2nd September - Rawreth
- 3rd September - Southend
- 9th September - BASILDON
- 10th September - Ingatestone
- 23rd September - Lain-

- don
- 1st October - Billericay Postcard Fair (Postcards only)
- Future Meetings :**
- Mon 3rd July : Visit from Clacton P.S..
- Tues 18th July : The Committee Entertains
- Mon 7th August : Aerophilately, display by Bill Trower

- P.S.
- Mon 2nd October : Instant Auction up to 10 lots from each member

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Make a diary note now!

- Tues 22nd August : 1 Page Competition
- Mon 4th September : Visit from Sudbury & Dist. P.S.
- Tues 9th September : Visit from Benfleet