

The Basildon Stamp Collector

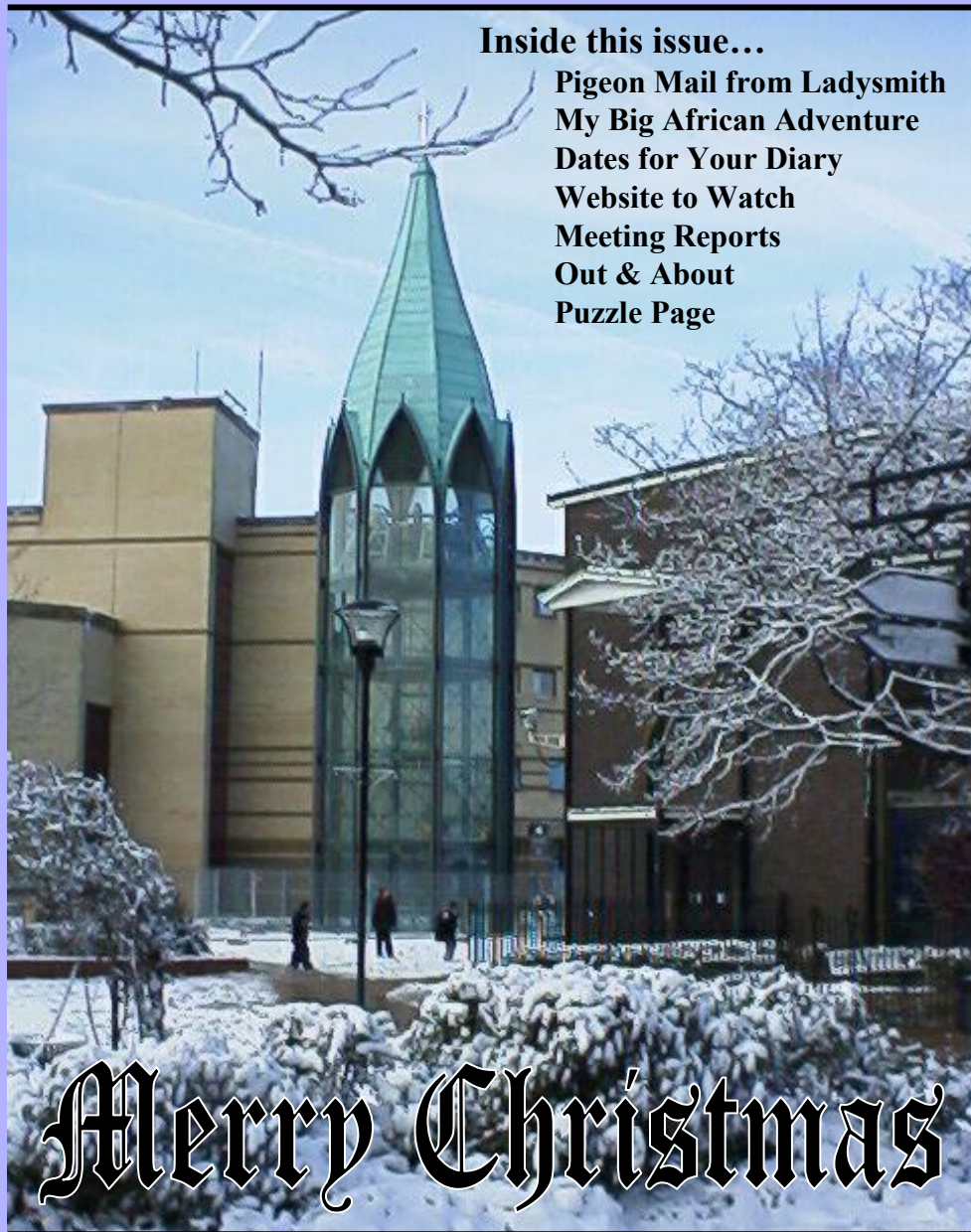
THE NEWSLETTER OF BASILDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Volume 12, Number 3

December 2007

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Merry Christmas



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Basildon Philatelic Society is a non profit making organization. Meetings are held on the first Monday and third Tuesday of every month, excluding bank holidays. See programme card for details.

Our venue is the George Hurd Centre, Fauners, Basildon, Essex. Doors open at 7.30 pm, meetings start at 8.00 pm and finish at 10.00 pm.

Dates for Your Diary

Monday, 3 December
Basildon Philatelic Society
My Favourite Theme

Sunday, 9 December
Stamp Fair
Community Centre, Ingatestone

Sunday, 16 December
Stamp Fair
Mayflower School, Billericay

Tuesday, 18 December
Basildon Philatelic Society
Festive Night, Quiz, 1 Sheet Competition

Sunday, 6 January
Stamp Fair
West Leigh Junior School, Leigh-on-Sea

Monday, 7 January
Basildon Philatelic Society
Bohemia & Moravia, by Tony Bosworth

Saturday, 12 January
Stamp Fair
Methodist Church Hall, Laindon

Tuesday, 22 January (4th Tuesday)
Basildon Philatelic Society
The Holocaust, by Ian Nutley

Sunday, 3 February
Stamp Fair
Community Centre, Ingatestone

Monday, 4 February
Basildon Philatelic Society
Letters E & F, members' displays

Sunday, 17 February
Stamp Fair
Mayflower School, Billericay

Tuesday, 19 February
Basildon Philatelic Society
Basildon v Billericay Quiz

Wednesday, 27 February—1 March
Stampex
Business Design Centre, Islington

Monday, 3 March
Basildon Philatelic Society
Chairman's Guest: Alan Moorcroft FRPSL

Editorial

The last issue of the newsletter was produced at short notice and was therefore shorter than I would have liked. With this issue the newsletter is back to its usual size in terms of content, if not the page dimensions which remain A5.

With more space at my disposal I can now take the opportunity to thank David Church for looking after the newsletter for the last three years and doing such an excellent job in the process.

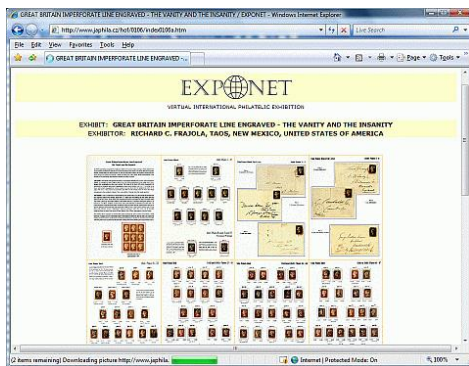
Many of you will no doubt know by now that Ann Coltman has had to give up the post of Exchange Packet Secretary at her own request. I would like to thank Ann for all her hard work she has put in on behalf of the membership, often in trying circumstances when a small minority of members have persistently ignored the rules and made operating the Packet more difficult than it should. Len Stanway has stepped into the breach and is running the Packet on a temporary basis in addition to his other duties as President and Treasurer, not to mention all the work he puts in on behalf of the AEPS.

We desperately need a new Packet Secretary to come forward. There is an appeal elsewhere in this issue. If you feel that you have some time and energy that you can spare on behalf of the membership then please seriously consider volunteering. To make the Packet Secretary's life easier your Committee has decided to take a hard line on anyone who persistently fails to observe the rules by suspending them from the Packet.

□

Website to Watch

www.exponet.info



EXPONET is an on-line international philatelic exhibition containing over 250 exhibits from more than 30 countries.

Major international exhibitions only take place in this country once every ten years. Exponet is an exhibition you can visit any day from the comfort of your own home. There is much to enjoy from the wide range of exhibits on show.

□

Out & About

Displays by members at other societies.

Tuesday, 5 February

Benfleet Philatelic Society
Railways, Len Stanway.

Wednesday, 6 February

Clacton Philatelic Society
Australia, Michael Musgrave.

If you are giving a display to another society please inform the editor so that it can be publicised in this column.

□



Meeting Reports

by Charlie Mead

ALBANIA

Monday 3 September

This was the first time that a full evening had been given over to a showing of Albania. Lynn Roberts from Hullbridge gave a memorable display of stamps, postal history, postal stationery, revenues and Cinderella material. Starting with pre-stamp entires, including an item of disinfected mail, from the Ottoman Empire period up to 1912, then continuing with the reign of Prince William of Wied. The display continued with the provisional government of Essad Pasha, successive occupations by Italy, Greece and Germany. The stamps of King Zog were covered and the evening was rounded off with material covering the period up to the fall of communism.

VISIT FROM FRINTON

Tuesday 18 September

Ralph Bridgeman and Dave Hacker made the journey from the north east of our county to provide two contrasting displays.

Ralph kicked off the evening with a thematic display of birds of the world which he has been working on for 8 years. Starting with swans and wildfowl, including the work of the RSPB. This was followed by marine birds such as the albatross and puffins.

Dave gave a very interesting display of postcards depicting World War I battle-grounds including Arras, Cambrai, Albert and Verdun. Postcards of propaganda posters illustrated the drive behind the war effort and new technology was cov-



King Zog of Albania

ered in the form of the first tanks.

AUCTION NIGHT

Monday 1 October

Our Auction Secretary, Claude Crowder, produced another excellent auction with over 200 good quality lots. A good proportion of lots were sold producing provisional returns of £50, which will go towards Club funds.

VISIT FROM HAVERING

Tuesday 16 October

Two members of Havering Stamp Club made the journey down the A127 to be with us.

Brian Allen opened with a display of Pakistan, starting with overprints on the stamps of India. The change of currency in 1961 was covered. A second session covered the commemorative issues and miniature sheets.

Fred Morrison displayed an ABC of George VI. The stamps from many Empire and Commonwealth countries were shown including, Antigua, Australia, the Bahamas and Bahrain amongst others.

VISIT FROM GOODMAYES

Monday 5 November

Hot on the heels of Havering four members from Goodmayes also made the trip down the A127 for our firework night meeting.

Keith Rowland displayed original artwork of both accepted and unaccepted designs for GB Elizabethan commemoratives. Starting with an unaccepted design for the 1958 Commonwealth Games, accepted designs for the Salvation Army, and colour separations for the issued Battle of

Hastings stamps the display continued with unaccepted artwork for the Cathedrals issue. The accepted designs for the Folklore stamps and army uniforms were shown.

Derek Heard showed the early issues from six countries: Mauritius, Gilbert & Ellice Is, Seychelles, Leeward Is, the Gambia and Gold Coast.

Geoff Mallett provided an entertaining look at *Letters with Character*. This was based on a sixteen sheet competition entry which included redirected, misdirected and damaged letters.

Clifford Cashman brought the evening to a close with a display of faults and errors.



Festive Night

This year our festive night will include both the annual Tomex Quiz and the one sheet competition. The quiz will be set by last year's winner, Maggie Thompson.

Everyone who turns up is invited to bring one page from their collection to be judged by all those attending. If you can't decide which is your best sheet then why not bring a second or even a third sheet.

While the judging of the one sheet competition takes place there will be time to sample the usual Christmas fare that members kindly provide to be shared.



MEMBERS' FREE ADS

Maximum 50 words.

Name:

Address:

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Telephone:

Advertisement:

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Hand your completed form to the Editor at any meeting or post to:

The BSC Editor,
70 Gernons,
Basildon,
Essex,
SS16 5TN.



The Great Boer War 1899 – 1902

Pigeon Mail from Ladysmith

by J.F. Cowlin

In 1899, at the outset of the war the Boers were in possession of several well organised pigeon lofts and there was a strong society of pigeon fanciers with eighteen members in Johannesburg. The founder of the society was an Englishman who had imported birds from England and Belgium. When the war broke out, the Boers were in control of the society's lofts, but its president, Mr. Tom May, hurriedly clipped one wing of each pigeon thus destroying the birds' flying capacity. For this action he was taken prisoner by the Boers. Meanwhile, Mr Robert Arbuckle, member of the Durban Poultry and Pigeon Racing Club, wrote to General George White offering his pigeons for military use in Ladysmith.

In October 1899 members of the Durban society had a meeting with Major Altham who accepted the offer. Mr. Hirst, a member of the society, who volunteered to establish and take charge of a number of pigeon-lofts in Ladysmith on October 21st 1899. He took with him 60 old birds capable of carrying news across the links to Maritzburg and Durban, and also 100 young untrained birds for the purpose of founding a military pigeon loft. Another group of pigeons placed at the disposal of the British Army came from a Pietermaritzburg private loft owned by a Mr. Lee.

Ladysmith, with its British garrison was soon surrounded by Boer forces. Communications were cut off on 1st November 1899. Pigeons were promptly employed to carry military messages flying above enemy troops encircling the town. Mr. Hirst had a very rough time of it indeed during the bombardment. For eleven weeks he was in bed with enteric fever;



A postcard by Julius Arthur Thiele, 1841-1919, "*Les pigeons courriers des Anglais!*" This postcard refers to Lionel James capture of carrier pigeons.

and in order to keep body and soul together he had to use pigeon food for porridge! One can imagine how loath was Mr. Hirst to rob his beloved birds.

To make matters worse, one pigeon loft was quite close to the Town Hall, the turret of which, as we all know, made such an excellent target for the Boers. Once the loft was struck by a shell, but fortunately not much damage was done; and on another occasion, when sending

off their second message, Mr. Hirst and his assistant narrowly escaped destruction when a 96-pounder shell exploded a few yards behind them.

On the 9th November 1899 the pigeon **Royalty**, bred from imported English stock, carried a message from General White congratulating the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, on his 58 birthday. The pigeon flew from Ladysmith to the Natal loft of his owner Mr. Clifford Brookes in Durban, who forwarded the message to England.

The Times correspondent with the Natal Field Force was Colonel Lionel James. He was trapped in Ladysmith by the Boers swift advance. Communication with the outside world during the siege was rudimentary. Runners or pigeon were the main methods for getting information out, though heliograph was also used by day and searchlights by night. The last message he sent before the siege was a request for some pigeons to be supplied for news transmission. Unfortunately the runner bringing them in was captured by Boer pickets, and a humorous Boer signaller heliographed into Ladysmith "Thank The Times Correspondent for a basket of nice fat pigeons".

On 3rd December 1899 an important map from General White to General Buller was carried by a pigeon to Pietermaritzburg. Also other messages written in cipher were sent by pigeon from Ladysmith, and were deciphered on their arrival by military personnel. The siege of Ladysmith lasted four months before the garrison was finally relieved on 28th February 1900.

Out of the 400 odd messages sent during the campaign only three are known to have survived.

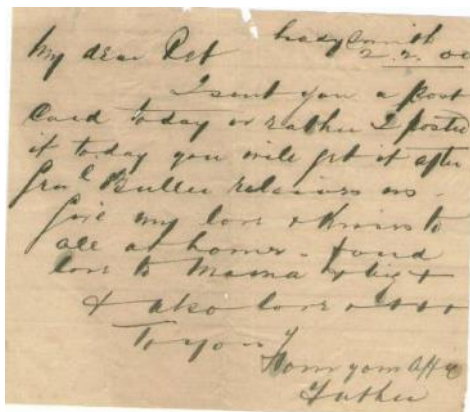
The letter reads:

Ladysmith
2.2.00

My dear Pat

I sent you a post card today or rather I posted it today you will get it after Gen^l Buller relieves us. Give my love & kisses to all at home, fond love to Mama & big x & also love & xxx

To you



A pigeongram message from Capt. H. Sparks in the besieged town to his family in Durban.

From your Affec
Father

Acknowledgment is made to **Pigeon Mail Through History** by Salvador Bofarull.





My Big African Adventure

by Ann Coltman

Nine months have passed since I, in a wild moment, agreed to take part in the St Luke's charity trek to South Africa. I still think I am mad to have made the decision, but it was my way of saying thank you to them for being there for me when my dad died of cancer in January. They saw me through that very bad time even though he had been in a hospice in Hampshire.

Since I put my name on the application form I have managed to raise nearly £2000 which means that there is just £1000 left to go. I have raffled a hand made quilt, taken part in boot sales and craft fairs, sold patchwork block kits and filled a charity tin many times over. At Wat Tyler Country Park I am responsible for Unit 9 from which I sell hand-made items for my trekkie fund. The generosity of people has been overwhelming and I know that somehow the last amount of money will be made on time.

I am now making fabric postcards to sell at £3 each (they do go through the post—I have tried it). The second quilt is almost finished and raffle tickets for that will cost £1. As this quilt is over 80" square it has taken a bit of time to make, but this could be a Christmas present for someone!

The fitness programme—i.e. walking regime—was devised by my friend and boss and consisted of walking round the Country Park every Saturday and Sunday morning for 30 minutes before spending the day on our feet serving customers. In March she upped this to twice round the park and at a fast pace—this was then added to by walking at a good speed through Langdon Hills, with a park rang-

er, for 2½ hours. (Do not try to lose weight by walking, it does not work, believe me.) This routine was all right until Sue (the boss) broke a bone in her foot falling down the stairs—no walking for seven weeks now and it gets dark early now so there is no walking through Langdon Hills in the evenings.

I think out of all the challenges that I will be facing on this trek having the vaccinations will be the worst. I have a phobia about needles and have to ask the surgery to them one at a time. The last time I had an injection I was ill for two weeks afterwards.

We leave England on March 9th and after landing in Johannesburg we make our way to Marrick, near Kimberley, where we begin our trek. It involves six days of walking approximately 20km each day, with a possibility that there will be no basic facilities for all that time. The walking, which will be over plains and through bush, will be a challenge, but memory of my dad will keep me going.

On December 1st there will, hopefully, be a table sale at Kingswood School and the following day a Jingle Sale at Corringham Village Hall—I will be participating at both events. I you feel that you could help raise some money I and St Luke's will be extremely grateful.

Thank you.

□



From Pillar to Post A Brief History of the Pillar Box

by Charlie Mead

The pillar box is one of our most familiar pieces of street furniture, but have you ever stopped to think how they came about?

The volume of mail handled by the Post Office increased dramatically following Sir Rowland Hill's postal reforms, which culminated with the introduction of the Penny Black. The use of postage stamps allowed the sender to pay for postage in advance, and therefore avoid having to queue at the Post Office to have a letter weighed and the charge calculated. However, the sender still had to visit the Post Office to get their letter into the postal system.

Anthony Trollope, the Victorian novelist and a surveyor's clerk at the Post Office, had seen posting boxes in France where they had been in use since the 1600s. Trollope recommended their adoption in Britain. The first pillar boxes were installed in St Helier, Jersey on 23 November 1852. The boxes were constructed by local blacksmith, John Vaudin and cast at the Le Feuvre foundry in Bath Street, St Helier. The boxes proved successful and appeared on the mainland the following year. The first being installed in Botcher-gate, Carlisle.

At first, different regions had their own style of boxes. London's first boxes, designed by AE Cowper, were stubby and rectangular. The design was considered

ugly and was replaced by a design from the Department of Science and Art. This was an ornate cylindrical style, introduced in early 1857. The aperture was on the top in the sloping roof of the box, but this allowed rain to enter and damage the letters inside.

The first national standard pillar boxes were introduced in 1859 and painted green to be unobtrusive. Too unobtrusive, it would seem as people kept walking into them. Red became the standard colour from 1874.



In 1866 an octagonal design by JW Penfold was introduced. It is considered by many as the most attractive pillar box to have been produced. In 1989 copies of Penfold boxes were reintroduced to some tourist and heritage sites.

By 1878 there were 25,082 pillar boxes in use. The following year a new cylindrical design was introduced and this has remained virtually unchanged up to the present day.

There have been many other styles introduced over the years including glass-fibre boxes in 1994 for indoor sites such as shopping centres.

The next time you pass a pillar box just spare a thought for this great design classic. □

N	B	L	N	A	T	Z	B	I	S	E	C	T	Y	H	D
E	C	U	A	D	O	R	E	L	O	Q	G	U	T	I	H
P	O	W	Z	A	C	Q	K	U	A	B	I	R	Y	C	O
A	J	E	O	N	K	W	B	N	R	C	F	E	O	O	W
L	A	B	U	A	N	X	N	J	Z	F	K	U	U	X	E
M	T	O	V	C	P	O	J	V	S	R	U	L	O	M	U
V	L	P	E	S	E	R	I	O	U	T	J	A	P	A	N
E	A	H	R	O	U	L	E	T	T	E	R	V	E	V	E
L	M	T	A	H	R	Z	L	Y	A	E	D	A	O	Z	V
G	Y	T	D	H	O	G	E	O	Q	R	T	U	H	I	E
Q	R	C	U	K	P	O	S	T	A	L	O	R	D	E	R
U	A	I	B	M	A	G	B	I	R	C	O	F	K	W	B
N	L	R	F	U	O	O	W	X	L	I	A	M	R	I	A
N	L	J	F	U	R	X	M	O	P	N	J	S	U	E	O
M	O	V	P	E	S	M	E	X	I	C	O	R	O	T	P
E	D	A	H	S	V	H	A	E	E	H	R	L	T	A	H

WORD SEARCH

Can you find the words listed below in the grid opposite. Words may run up, down, backwards, forwards or diagonally.

PERFORATION	MEXICO
ROULETTE	CANADA
EUROPA	INCH
GAMBIA	MALTA
LABUAN	TURKEY
POSTAL ORDER	BLACK
AIRMAIL	BISECT
NEPAL	JAPAN
DOLLAR	VALUE
REVENUE	ECUADOR
BURMA	
SHADE	

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are ten differences between the two pictures. Can you spot them?

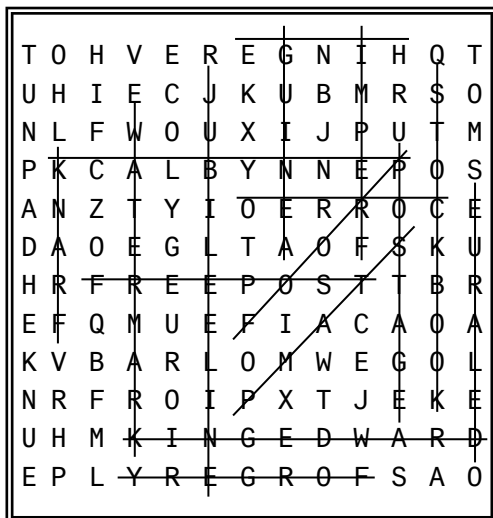


??? DID YOU KNOW ???

The Association of Essex Philatelic Societies was the brainchild of J.B. Seymour, FRPSL and formed on 3 June 1944 at a “Congress” hosted by Leytonstone society with representatives from Ilford, Epping Forest, Colchester and Southend-on-Sea. An inaugural meeting was held on 3 February 1945 at Ilford and events have continued every year since. A second event was added in October 1964 to produce the now familiar spring and autumn pattern. Basildon hosted its first AEPS event in October 1982 at the Pitsea Leisure Centre and hosted further events in 1993 and 1998. The 1998 event was entitled *Home Counties Stamp Day* and included the *Dawes Cup* inter federation competition. This was the biggest event we the Society has tackled, requiring both halls at the Laindon Community Centre. Basildon next plays host to the AEPS on 26 April 2008 to celebrate the Society’s 40th anniversary. □

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

WORD SEARCH



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



FREE SMALL ADS FOR MEMBERS
Sell or exchange your unwanted items
through this newsletter.
See coupon on page 5.



WANTED

The **Exchange Packet** requires a new secretary. This is an excellent opportunity for someone to make a real contribution to the success of the Society. Income from the Packet helps keep down the cost of annual subscriptions. Running the Exchange Packet will not only help the Society provide a valuable service to members, but also allows the lucky organizer first refusal on all material offered for sale. If you are interested please contact the President or Chairman for more information.

ADVERTISING RATES

Display ads are based on an A5 page.

Cost per issue:

Full page £10.00

Half page £5.50

Quarter page £3.00

STAMPS WANTED

For plate reconstruction. GB 1870 ½d rose-red, plate 5 fine used. Letterings required:

CE/EC, XH/HX, DI/ID, XI/IX,
CK/KC, WK/KW, XO/OX, VP/PV.

Contact Charlie Mead.

VISIT THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

www.basildon.aeps.org.uk



Stamp Essex
incorporating

Spring

BasPex



STAMP FAIR & EXHIBITION

Saturday 26 April 2008

James Hornsby High School

Leinster Road, Laindon, Basildon, Essex

10.00—16.00

Free Admission & Free Car-Park

Stamps, Postcards & Accessories on sale
Leukaemia Research

AEPS Competitive Displays
Basildon Philatelic Society Displays
Refreshments
Philatelic Souvenirs