

# The Basildon Stamp Collector

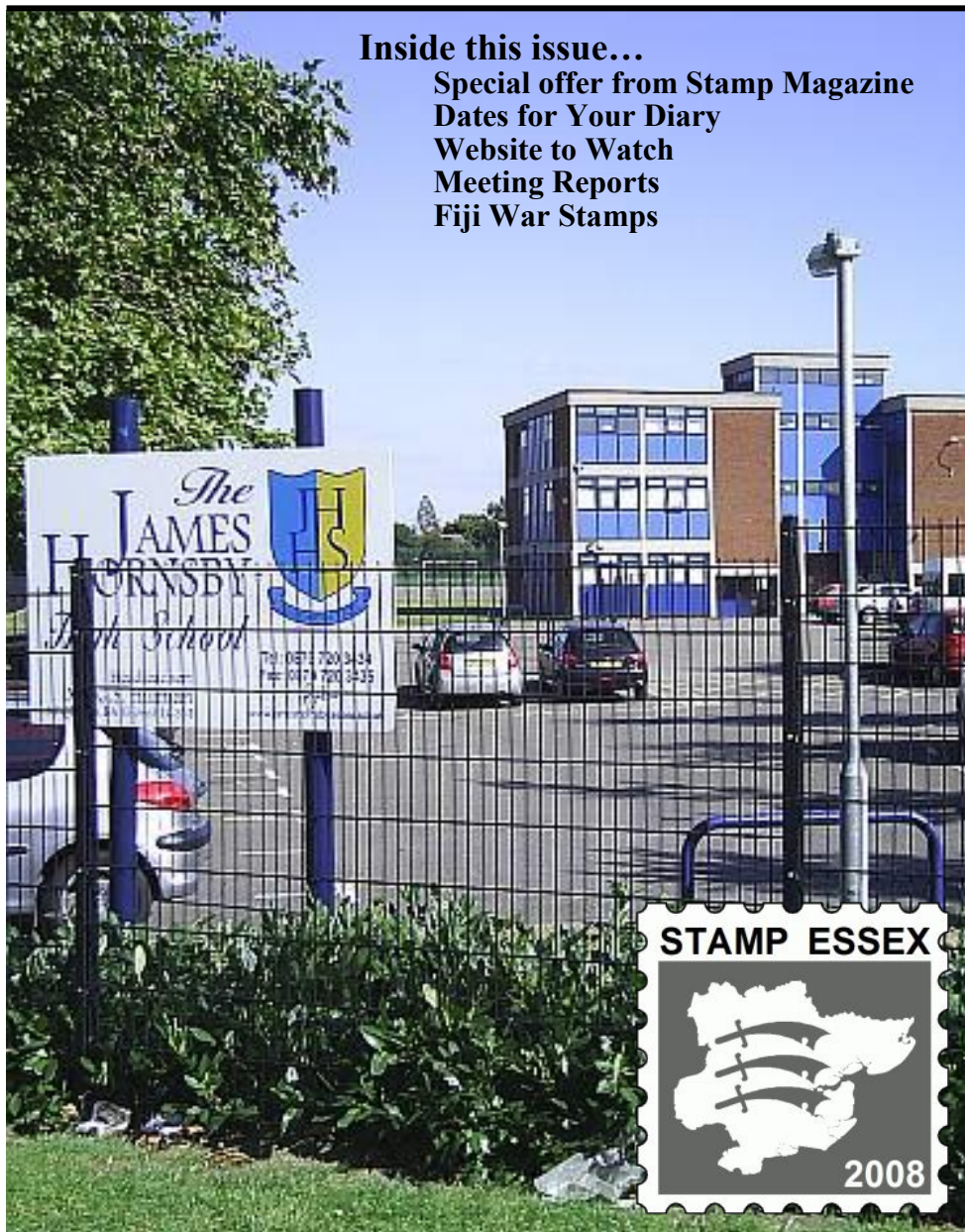
THE NEWSLETTER OF BASILDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Volume 13, Number 1

March 2008

## Inside this issue...

Special offer from Stamp Magazine  
Dates for Your Diary  
Website to Watch  
Meeting Reports  
Fiji War Stamps





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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

**Wednesday, 27 February to  
Saturday, 1 March**  
Spring Stampex  
Business Design Centre, Islington

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

**Saturday, 8 March**  
Laindon Stamp Fair  
Methodist Church Hall, High Road

**Tuesday, 18 March**  
Basildon Philatelic Society  
Visit from Enfield P.S.  
*Last date to submit auction lots*

**Saturday, 29 March**  
Rayleigh Stamp Fair,  
Sweyne Park School, London Road

**Monday, 7 April**  
Basildon Philatelic Society  
The Olympics, by Bob Wilcock  
*Auction catalogue publication date*

**Tuesday, 22 April**  
Basildon Philatelic Society  
Ladies Night

**Saturday, 26 April**  
Stamp Essex & Spring BasPex  
James Hornsby High School

**Monday, 28 April**  
Leytonstone, Wanstead & Dist. P.S.  
Visit from Basildon P.S.

**Monday, 5 May**  
Basildon Philatelic Society  
Bank Holiday ~ no meeting

**Saturday, 10 May**  
Laindon Stamp Fair  
Methodist Church Hall, High Road

**Tuesday, 20 May**  
Basildon Philatelic Society  
Auction, viewing from 7.15 pm

**Monday, 2 June**  
Basildon Philatelic Society  
40th Annual General Meeting

## Editorial

Spring is just around the corner and our big event on 26 April is fast approaching. We will need as many members as possible on the day to help with setting up, providing displays, stewarding and finally clearing up at the end. Lists will be available at our meetings for volunteers to sign up. The revenue from this event will go a long way to help meet the ever increasing running costs of the Society. The hall hire for our evening meetings is amongst the most expensive in the county when compared to other stamp clubs in Essex. Please help by giving a little of your time and energy to make Stamp Essex 2008 / Sping BasPex a success. □

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## 2009 Programme

Our Programme Secretary, Geoff Miller, has already started work on next year's programme of meetings. Some of our invited speakers have to travel a considerable distance to be with us and their expenses, although justified, can be a drain on Club funds. These are difficult times and our finances have suffered from increased expenditure while income has declined. To help offset the cost of outside speakers it is hoped that the number of members' displays can be increased.

Geoff would like to hear from any member who is prepared to show what they collect by giving a display to the Society. It doesn't have to be a whole evening as two members can be paired to do half each.

Please contact Geoff if you would like to help. □

## Meeting Reports

### DISPLAYS BY BETH & ROSA

#### Tuesday 20 November

Beth took the theme of "Health" for her display which started with Egyptian medicine in 3000 BC. A wide range of health issues were covered, including alcoholism, asthma, drug abuse and smoking. The work of Edward Jenner and the development of inoculation was depicted along with other health pioneers such as Florence Nightingale, Mary Walker the American Civil War army surgeon, Alexander Flemming and Robert Koch. Other topics included hospitals, blood groups and the St John's Ambulance. Diseases such as diabetes, polio and tuberculosis were covered.

The second half of the evening was devoted to Rosa's display on the subject of "Birds". The role of Darwin's finches in the formation of the theory of evolution was used to introduce the subject. This was expanded upon with the theory that birds are descended from dinosaurs. Stamps depicting prehistoric birds, parrots, swans and seabirds were shown. This was followed by a look at the work of the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust. Bird stamps from Russia, Falkland Islands and New Zealand made colourful additions to the display.

### MY FAVOURITE THEME

#### Monday 3 December

Your editor was forced to miss this meeting due to illness and has been unable to obtain a report from another source.

### FESTIVE NIGHT

#### Tuesday 18 December

The annual contest for the Tomex Quiz was set by last year's winner Maggie Thompson. The many different displays from the previous twelve months provided the inspiration for several of the

questions. The editor of this journal came out victorious, although it must be said that he had something of an unfair advantage. Having kept notes of all our meetings he was therefore better placed than most members to recall what had been seen over the past year.

The one sheet competition was won by David Church with an early usage of the Penny Black on a cover dated 12 May 1840.

Thanks must go to all members who contributed to the festive buffet which followed the competitions.

## **BOHEMIA & MORAVIA**

### **Monday 7 January**

Members who were absent missed an exceptional display and informative talk on a short lived period in central European history. Tony introduced the display by explaining that he met his wife in Prague and then decided to look for a subject that would remind him of that happy event. After a brief introduction on the creation of Czechoslovakia after World War I, Tony described how the new state was meant to act as a buffer against German military aggression. 1938 was a special year as it marked the twentieth anniversary of the young state, but it also saw civil unrest by ethnic Germans living in the Sudetenland encouraged by Adolph Hitler. Troubled flared up in the September but was suppressed by Czech forces. In response Hitler demanded that the Sudetenland be absorbed into Germany. Chamberlain (Britain) and Deladier (France) refused to support the Czechs despite their willingness to fight. In March 1939 Slovakia separated from the remainder of Czechoslovakia and the German protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia was formed. Tony showed a selection of early covers including meter marks and stamps from the first republic. A Zeppelin cover with the first set of Bohemia and

Moravia, overprints in German, advertising covers, personal delivery service, business reply service and business mail were shown. Tony demonstrated how five stamps if laid down in a certain way traced a map of the former Czechoslovakia and illustrated this with a cover that had passed through the postal system without being detained.

The assassination of Reinhard Heydrich by Czech and Slovak nationalists and the terrible reprisals inflicted by the Nazis including the destruction of the villages of Lidice and Lezaky was covered.

## **THE HOLOCAUST**

### **Tuesday 22 January**

This difficult subject was sensitively



*Reinhard Heydrich, Reich Protector*

handled by Ian Nutley when he gave his display to the Society. The introduction included postcards from Germany, Austria and USA amongst others depicting anti-Semitism. The role of Herman Göring was illustrated by a cover from IVB4, the Jewish Office, and the emphasis in Germany from 1937 to encourage Jews to emigrate. The major part of the display covered concentration camp mail including the various

regulations covering the different types of prisoner. Apart from Jews, prisoners included gypsies, enemies of the state, communists, trades unionists and criminals. The Nazis believed that criminal behaviour was genetic and could be inherited. Consequently criminal inmates were allowed to regain their freedom if they agreed to be sterilized. The second part of the display showed the extent of the concentration camp system, which covered almost the whole of German occupied Europe. The final part of the display included parcel stamps, forgeries and mail from Auschwitz.

## **MEMBERS' DISPLAYS, E & F**

### **Monday 4 February**

Five members provided displays inspired by the letters E and F. Our President Len Stanway opened the evening with a display of *Federated Malay States*. John Cowlin then showed *F for Fighting*, which featured picture postcards from the Boer War. Chris Cooksey provided displays of *Falkland Islands* and *HMS Endurance*. Maggie Thompson showed *Fakes, Forgeries and Facsimiles* and Charlie Mead finished the evening with *Fiji First Day Covers* and *French Polynesia*.

## **BASILDON v BILLERICAY QUIZ**

### **Tuesday 19 February**

One of the closest ever contests between the two clubs resulted in a narrow four point victory for the Basildon v Billericay shield. Bob Jackson of Brentwood society set the questions for the evening and

proved to be an excellent quizmaster. The Basildon team of Maggie Thompson, David Church and Dave Perry were pitted against Jean Taylor, David Barter and Arthur Ritchin for Billericay. The searching questions brought out the best in both teams and an added twist helped to keep the scores ticking over. If neither team could answer a question it was thrown open to the audience. If it was then answered correctly the points were awarded to the team selected by the person giving the right answer. After two rounds of questions the scores were tied at 14 all. By half time Billericay had the narrowest of leads, a single point separating the teams. At the end of round four the scores were again tied. In the penultimate round Basildon established a five point lead, but a spirited fight back from Billericay reduced this to just four points at the end of an exciting contest. □

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## **Shaken But Not Stirred**

Following the Basildon v Billericay quiz David Church was involved in a car crash at the Basildon Hospital roundabout. A car containing three youths was driving erratically and ran into David's car giving

him no chance to avoid an accident. David was shaken, his mother Ivy bruised, but May Coleville suffered a broken rib. May was taken to the hospital while the police drove David and Ivy home. All three are now well on the road to recovery. □

**F**iji issued War Tax stamps as a direct result of similar issues in Canada and New Zealand. Postal fees were published in the Royal Gazette on 5 November, 1915.

½d on all postcards posted within Fiji

½d on commercial papers and documents posted in Fiji for delivery in Fiji

1d on all letters posted in Fiji, except letters on which the minimum rate of postage is 2½d

1d on all other articles, except newspapers, posted in Fiji

The then current stamps of the colony were the De La Rue key type, printed on multiple crown CA watermarked paper and perforated comb 14. The halfpenny green and penny red values were overprinted “WAR STAMP” by the Fiji Government Printer, based in the capital, Suva. These overprinted stamps were issued on 1 December 1915.

On 19 May 1916 the London GPO requested 379 specimen copies of the



*Inverted War Tax overprints*

War Stamps for distribution among the administrations of the Postal Union. 380 copies of each value were overprinted diagonally with a brass stamp reading ‘SPECIMEN’ which had been ordered from Sydney in 1913. The stamps were sent to London on 10 July 1916.

Revised postal fees were published on 1 December, 1916. The main changes are shown in italics.

½d on all postcards posted within Fiji  
*for delivery in Fiji*

½d on commercial papers and documents posted in Fiji for delivery in Fiji

1d on all letters posted in Fiji, except letters on which the minimum rate of postage is 2½d

*1d on all parcels posted in Fiji*

1d on all other articles, except newspapers, posted in Fiji *for delivery in Fiji*

One sheet of penny and two sheets of halfpenny stamps are reported to have been issued with the overprint inverted and with the full knowledge of the Post Office. Apparently the error was not thought to be important! Ninety-three years later and the latest emergency surcharges on Fiji’s *Land Bird* definitives can also be found inverted. It appears that the Post Office in Fiji still does not consider it important!

A sheet of penny stamps had the overprint displaced to the left by one full column giving rise to the error of a pair of stamps with only one of them overprinted. Both halfpenny and penny stamps can be found

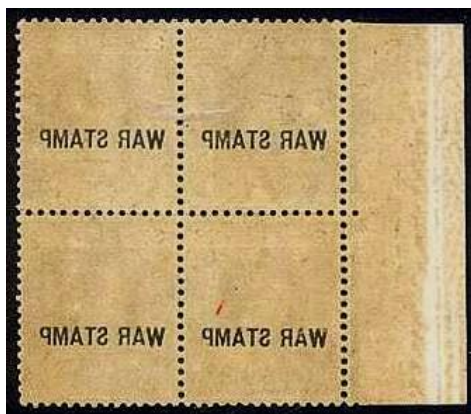




*War Stamps on a cover from Fiji to England.*



*Pair of penny stamps, one overprinted and one normal.*



*Overprint offset on reverse*

with the overprint offset on the reverse.

The cover in the illustration bears 4d ( $2 \times 1d$  and  $4 \times \frac{1}{2}d$ ) in War Stamps. The 4d rate is made up as follows: 1d Empire postage, 1d War Tax and 2d registration fee. The stamps have been cancelled with the single ring GPO Suva date stamp for 25 September 1917. The double ring Suva registered date stamp for the same date has been applied in the bottom right corner. □


**The deadline for articles to be published in the next edition of this newsletter is Tuesday 20 May.**

## SPECIAL OFFER FROM STAMP MAGAZINE

*Stamp Magazine* is offering readers £1 off either the April or May issue.

The April issue will include a detailed study of Great Britain's embossed issue, 1847-54, asking why it was adopted and why it was replaced.

The May issue will look at the impact on early philately of Jean-Baptiste Moens (1840-1908), the worlds first stamp dealer.




**£1 off the April or May issue of**  
**STAMP**  
MAGAZINE™

**To the customer:** This coupon can be used in part payment against Stamp Magazine issue dated April or May 2008, on sale 13/03/08 & 10/04/08. One coupon per item purchased. Please do not attempt to redeem this against any other product or issue as refusal to accept may cause embarrassment. Voucher expires 08/05/08. Offer subject to availability.

**To the retailer:** Please accept this £1.00 off coupon as payment towards a copy of Stamp Magazine issue April or May 2008, on sale 13/03/08 & 10/04/08. One coupon per item purchased. Claims to your Marketforce wholesaler must be made by 03/07/08. A 2p handling allowance is credited for each coupon redeemed.

**To wholesalers & organisations sending coupons direct to clearing houses:** Please submit coupons to Valassis Department 1030, Corby Northants NN17 1NN by 14/08/08.

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# Website to Watch

www.myphilately.com



MyPhilately.com is a social networking website for stamp collectors. Registering with the site allows participants to get in touch with other collectors who have the same or similar interests. According to the home page you can “meet new philatelic friends online - create or join your own collecting groups - Share your thoughts on philately - upload images to MyPhilately and share them”.

Special interest groups cover a wide range of philatelic fields from single countries such as Canada, USSR, Guernsey and Montserrat to wider geographic areas like Scandinavia and Africa. Single issues such as Machins and Penny Blacks are catered for as well as thematics including endangered wildlife and the game of cricket. □



## MEMBERS FREE ADS

Maximum 50 words.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

Advertisement: .....

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

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

# NAME THE COUNTRY

*The name of the issuing country has been removed from the following stamp illustrations. Can you name the missing countries?*



1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....

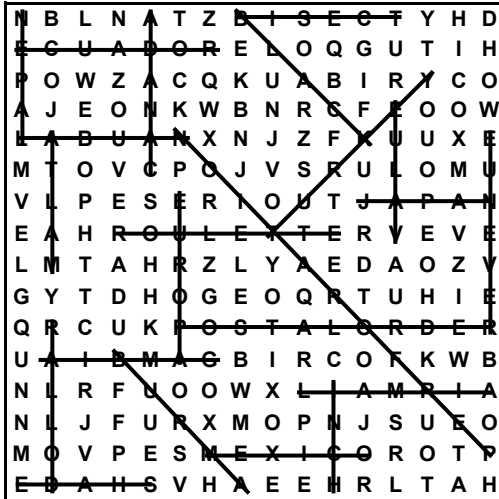
## ??? DID YOU KNOW ???

The monopoly of the New Zealand Post Office was circumvented ingeniously in 1930-1 by Dominion Airlines Ltd, which operated an air service between Hastings and Gisborne in the North Island. Letters were carried for sixpence each, and the company produced special stamps for the purpose. The Post Office objected to this and ordered the company to terminate the service. The company managed to continue the service, within the letter of the law, by re-issuing the labels without any denomination expressed. Technically the letters were carried free of charge, but had to be signed by the pilot, G B Bolt, who charged sixpence for his autograph. □

*From The Guinness Book of Stamps Facts and Feats by James Mackay. The book is available from the Society's library.*

# LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS

## WORD SEARCH



## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



The ten differences have been circled in the above picture. How many did you get?

## THIS NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU!

The editor urgently requires contributions to the newsletter. Short articles up to 500 words on any aspect of our hobby or the Club will be gratefully accepted, including illustrations.

### FREE SMALL ADS FOR MEMBERS

Sell or exchange your unwanted items through this newsletter. Use the form on page 9.

### 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

Save 20% on these rates by advertising in three consecutive issues.

## THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS

VISIT THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

[www.basildon.aeps.org.uk](http://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**

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**Stamps, Postcards & Accessories on sale**  
**Leukaemia Research**

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**AEPS Competitive Displays**  
**Basildon Philatelic Society Displays**  
**Refreshments**  
**Philatelic Souvenirs**