

The Basildon Stamp Collector

THE NEWSLETTER OF BASILDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Volume 13, Number 2

Summer 2008

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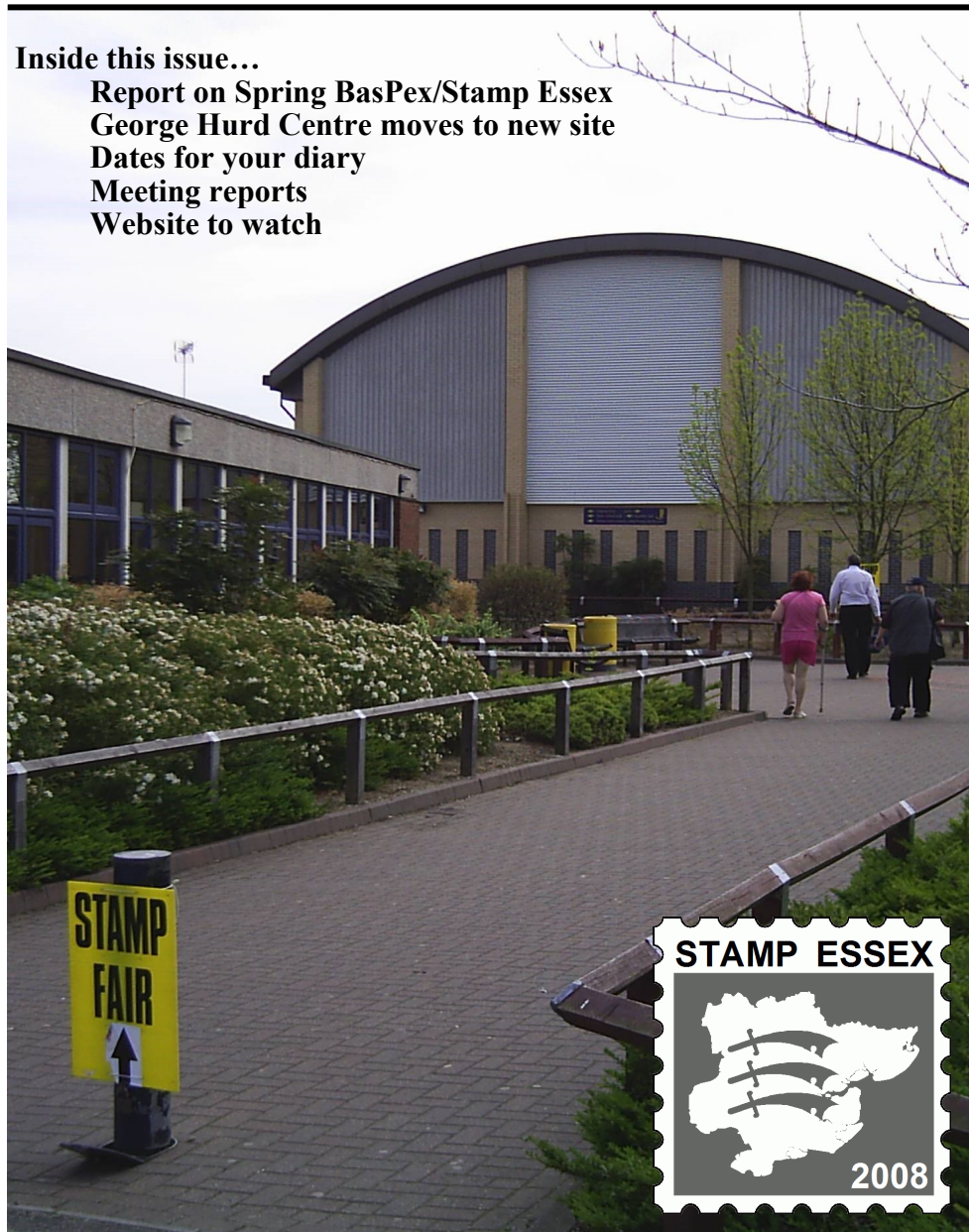
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Basildon Philatelic Society is a non profit making organization. Meetings are held on the first Monday and third Tuesday of every month, excluding bank holidays. See programme card for details.

Our venue is the George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, Essex, SS14 2FL. Doors open at 7.30 pm, meetings start at 8.00 pm and finish at 10.00 pm.

DIARY DATES

Monday 2 June
Basildon Philatelic Society
40th Annual General Meeting.

Thursday 5 June
Billericay & District Philatelic Society
Visit from Basildon Philatelic Society

Tuesday 17 June
Basildon Philatelic Society
Competition Night—8 sheet entries for all classes: Traditional (Stamps), Postal History, Aerophilately, Cinderella and Thematics.

Saturday & Sunday 5–6 July
Basfest '08
Gloucester Park.

Monday 7 July
Basildon Philatelic Society
Visit from the Revenue Society of Great Britain.

Saturday 12 July
Stamp Fair
Methodist Church Hall, Laindon.

Tuesday 22 July
Basildon Philatelic Society
Auction (postponed from 20 May).
Viewing of lots from 7.15 pm.

Monday 4 August
Basildon Philatelic Society
Titanic—display by Mike Routh.

Tuesday 19 August
Basildon Philatelic Society
Competition—8 pages from my collection.

Monday 1 September
Basildon Philatelic Society
Scouting—display by John Snoding

Tuesday 16 September
Basildon Philatelic Society
Recent acquisitions—members' displays

EDITORIAL

This has been both a hectic and disruptive few weeks for the Club.

Hosting the AEPS spring event at a new venue proved challenging but ultimately worthwhile thanks to the help and commitment of the membership. That of course was planned and had been for some time. What was unexpected was the move of the George Hurd Centre to its new site on the other side of the Town Centre being brought forward by a month. Worse still, the new date for the move coincided with our spring auction.

After an initial attempt to find an alternative venue for the auction it rapidly became apparent that the event would have to be postponed. This necessitated some hasty amendments to the stock of auction catalogues that had been produced in readiness for distribution at the combined Stamp Essex and Spring BasPex.

The James Hornsby High School proved to be an excellent venue for our twice yearly stamp fairs. The dealers' hall although slightly smaller than our previous venue is compensated by the addition of a servery which provides a welcome rest area along with proper catering facilities.

This has been a challenging time for the Society, but thanks to the hard work of the committee we can now look forward with a little more certainty.

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

MEETING REPORTS

Monday 3 March *Chairman's Guest*

Alan Moorcroft accepted the Chairman's invitation to provide a display, taking as his subject the German occupation of the Channel Islands. The display opened with a 1940 advertising leaflet encouraging tourism to Jersey.

Following the fall of France the islands were swiftly occupied by German troops. This was illustrated by items of mail that were returned to sender as undeliverable and one item that was held up for five years, finally being delivered at the end of the War.

Mail services between the islands were restarted by German planes, but quickly replaced by a boat service. Bissets correctly used for the printed paper rate were shown.

The role of the Red Cross was illustrated by mail sent via their service which took up to six months to go from England to the Islands via Portugal, Switzerland, Germany and Paris.

The fate of 11 local policeman who were imprisoned in mainland Europe for stealing German stores was told in items of mail. After serving their sentences they were deported for offending the Germans.

Following the allied invasion of France the Channel Islands were bypassed and entered what is referred to as the Fortress Period. During this time the Germans managed 29 flights into the Islands, all via Guernsey, although many were others were shot down. Eight items of mail from this period are known.

Mail carried by the Red Cross ship SS Vega, which reached the islands in December 1944, was shown.

The islands were finally liberated on 9 May 1945. Liberating troops provided Liberation Cards which could be sent post free. The first mail out of the Islands left

nine days after liberation. Local newspapers with coverage of the liberation were shown to round off an excellent evening.

Tuesday 18 March ***Visit from Enfield P.S.***

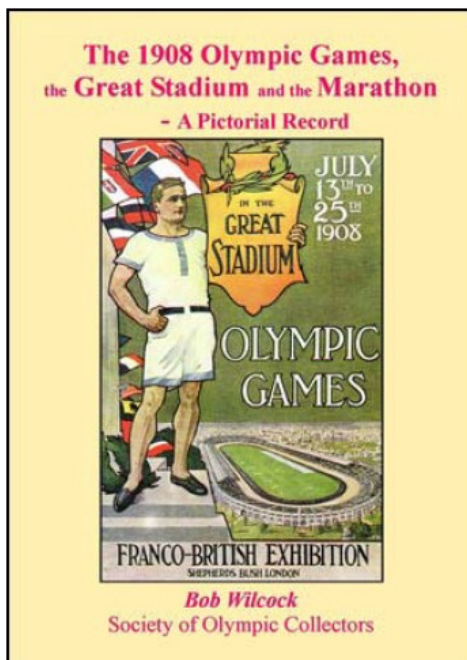
Luigi Wiechula and Derek Burrows made the journey from Enfield to provide two very different displays.

Luigi opened by confiding that his unusual name was the result of having a Polish father and Italian mother. His display entitled *Pages From My Collection* contained a dazzling array of philatelic errors and mistakes from France, Poland, Barbados, Bangladesh, French Polynesia and Greece. These included a stamp commemorating the Bangladeshi founder of Microcredit depicting the wrong Nobel medal and withdrawn on the day of issue. Another rapidly withdrawn issue came from French Polynesia where woman whose portrait had been used for the stamp refused permission for image to be used.

Derek Burrows followed by giving a thematic display of Thailand. Introducing the subject Derek explained that the indigenous population of Thailand had originated from a people who had migrated south from China. Themes covered by the display covered the royal palace, the Emerald Buddha, Thai dancing, puppet theatre, kite flying, musical instruments, fruit and vegetable carving and Thai boxing. High values printed in Finland were shown where the Thai currency had been misspelled as Bath instead of Baht. The stamps were not withdrawn or corrected in order to prevent speculation.

Monday 7 April ***The London Olympics 1908***

Bob Wilcock apologised that the first part of his display covering the 1908 Olympic marathon was abroad in a competition, but he was able to show photocopies of the sheets to give at least a flavour of what was missing.



This turned out to be the fascinating story of Dorando Pietri who finished first having been helped over the line, then disqualified following a protest and finally presented with a gold cup for his achievement by Queen Alexandra.

Bob explained that he started his Olympic collecting in 1972 after seeing an advert in a French philatelic magazine.

The second part of the display covered the bids for the 1992 and 2012 summer games. Items shown included a very early use of Smart Stamps to mark the opening of the 2012 offices in the Canary Wharf tower.

At the end of the evening Bob kindly autographed copies of his book on the 1908 Olympic Games in London. Copies are still available from the Society of Olympic Collectors.

Tuesday 22 April ***Ladies Night***

Your editor was away in Belgium and missed the evening's events. If you are

able to provide a short report for the next edition of the newsletter the editor will be pleased to publish it. □

Album Closed

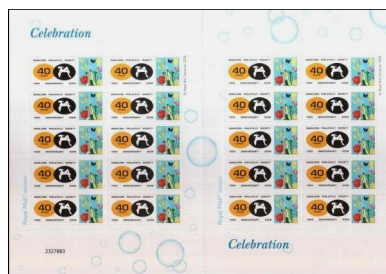
Members will be saddened to learn of the death of **Fred Perry**, a long standing member of the Society.



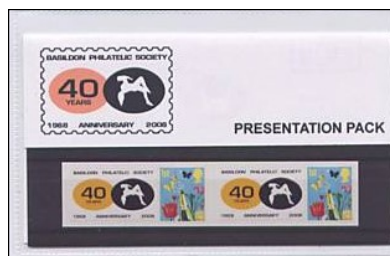
40th Anniversary Souvenirs

To mark the Society's fortieth anniversary a range of philatelic souvenirs have been produced. These were launched on 26 April at Stamp Essex & Spring BasPex. The souvenirs include a commemorative cover, presentation pack and complete sheet of commemorative 'Smilers' stamps. Each has been produced in strictly limited quantities and remain available to members on a first come first served basis from the Treasurer.

- Souvenir cover with single 'Smilers' stamp £2.00
- Presentation pack with pair of 'Smilers' stamps £2.75
- Complete sheet of 20 'Smilers' stamps £20.00



Full sheet of 20 'Smilers' stamps.



Presentation pack.

SPRING BASPEx

Exhibition

There is one thing that nobody can organise and that is the weather. Fortunately for the organisers of Stamp Essex and Spring BasPex the weather on the day was perfect with clear blue skies and warm sunshine helping to make the day a great success for the Society.

A small team of hard working volunteers started setting things up on the Friday evening. This took the pressure off the two hours on Saturday morning when all the exhibits have to be mounted, dealers installed and catering prepared.

At 10.00 am the doors opened to the general public and a steady flow of visitors came and went throughout the day.

In the competitive classes for the Stokes Cup our Competition Secretary, Chris Cooksey, won the Stamp Trophy in the traditional class with his exhibit of Rhodesian Federation 1954 Issue. In the overall competition for the Stokes Cup the Basildon team of Chris Cooksey, Len Stanway and Charlie Mead finished in third place behind winners Bishops Stortford and runners up Ipswich. The judges were Richard West and Brian Asquith.

Our Society provided a number of displays including a combined display of stamps issued during 1968, the year in which the Club was founded. Other no competitive displays were provided by Alf Potter, David Church, Len

*The Society celebrated its 40th Anniversary at the
Stamp Essex 2008 alongside
James Hornsbury.*



The busy dealers' hall at the combined

on Report

*40th anniversary by hosting
Side Spring BasPex at the
High School.*



Side Spring BasPex and Stamp Essex



Stanway, Chris Cooksey and Charlie Mead.

Three philatelic souvenirs marking the Society's fortieth anniversary went on sale at the event. See page 5 for details.

It was good to see many old faces at the event including Albert Thomas, who was looking remarkably well, and former member Steve Alpe.

The day passed all too quickly and it was soon time to close the doors to the public and start packing up. The dealers all seemed pleased with their takings and Roger Swindells was doubly pleased as won the Aerophilatelic Trophy.

Thanks must go to all the members who contributed to making the event a resounding success. □



George Hurd Centre moves to new location

The long awaited replacement George Hurd Centre has at last opened its doors. I was lucky enough to have a guided tour on its first day of operation. First thoughts suggest that the new building is a big improvement on its predecessor.

There are five main rooms on the ground floor of which four may be suitable for our meetings. The Club will probably experiment by trying them all over the coming months before deciding which one best meets our requirements.

The day room is large and can be divided in two by a partition. This could be useful on our competition nights when we have judges at work. The main hall is large,

well lit and similar to a sports hall. Both it and the day room have access to the tea bar where we can prepare our refreshments.

The remainder of the ground floor houses a classroom, a craft room (both of which may be suitable for meetings), the snooker room, a small hair salon, toilets and the reception desk. The only thing that appears to be missing is storage space.

The upper floor houses offices for voluntary sector bodies.

The car-park includes disabled bays and is located in front of the main entrance.



The main entrance to the George Hurd Centre in Audley Way.

Website To Watch

www.philatelicedatabase.com

This is an on-line philatelic magazine containing articles on a whole range of topics including stamp profiles, book reviews, a glossary of philatelic terms, and a guide to foreign stamp inscriptions. There is a new issues section and crosswords that can be completed on your computer screen.

The glossary and guide to foreign stamp



inscriptions are particularly useful for beginners as well as collectors at all levels.

A new section has just been added focusing on famous philatelists.

This is a site well worth adding to your favourites and revisiting from time to time.

Check it out.

**The PHILATELIC
DATABASE.COM**

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.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

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



??? DID YOU KNOW ???

Chambon Perforation. The name given to the perforation applied to New Zealand 1960 (Jul. 11 – Sep. 1) to 1964 ½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d. and 8d. from a specially made head, a unique variation of a double-comb head, whereby, at one operation, one row of stamps was completely perforated on all sides, and half-legs were provided to the paper or stamps above and below that row, the second stroke completing the legs of the row below, completely perforating the next row, and providing half-legs for the row or paper below that. When the paper travel was perfectly adjusted, the Chambon perforations were indistinguishable from results produced by the more usual comb heads perfectly adjusted; slight maladjustment of paper travel did not result in irregular corners, but did result in unusually close or wide spaces between vertically neigh-

boring holes at the center of each side of each stamp in a row, with a compensating difference in the stamps of the next but one row vertically below or above. The perforating head was made by Messrs. Chambon and was used experimentally by De La Rue & Company Ltd. The perforating gauges 14. Perforating machines and heads manufactured by Messrs. Chambon have been widely used in stamp production.

From Fundamentals of Philately by L.N. Williams, revised edition published by the American Philatelic Society, 1990.

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS

NAME THE COUNTRY

1. Tonga, 2. India, 3. Barbados, 4. Malta

HELPERS WANTED

The Club will need as many members as possible to help with setting up, stewarding and packing up at Autumn BasPex.

Setting up starts on the Friday night, 19 September, at 5.00 pm when we have two hours to set up all the tables and chairs ready for the following morning.

At 8.00 am on the Saturday we have another two hour slot to help the dealers set up, arrange the displays on stage, set up the Club table and a host of other tasks that have to be completed before the doors open to the public at 10.00 am.

If you can spare an hour or two to help on either Friday or Saturday it will be greatly appreciated. Please add your name to the list which will be available at our regular evening meetings.

Thank you.

FREE SMALL ADS FOR MEMBERS

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

**THIS
SPACE
COULD BE
YOURS !**

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

Eighth page £2.00

VISIT THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

www.basildon.aeps.org.uk



2008

STAMP FAIR & EXHIBITION

Saturday 20 September 2008

10.00 am to 4.00 pm

**Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the
founding of Basildon Philatelic Society**

JAMES HORNSBY HIGH SCHOOL

**Leinster Road, off St Nicholas Lane (B148),
Laindon, Basildon, Essex, SS15 5NX**

FREE ADMISSION : FREE CAR-PARK

**Stamps, Postal History, Accessories,
Souvenirs, Refreshments on sale.**

Displays, Tombola, Raffle.

**Viewing of lots from the Society's
Auction of 6 October 2008**