

The Basildon Stamp Collector

THE NEWSLETTER OF BASILDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Volume 13, Number 3

Autumn 2008



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Thematica ends after 22 years
Future funding of the Society
The Exchange Packet



DIARY DATES



CONTACTS

PRESIDENT, PACKET SECRETARY & TREASURER

Len Stanway
01268 522305

CHAIRMAN, WEBMASTER & NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Charlie Mead
01268 522052

VICE CHAIRMAN & PROGRAMME SECRETARY

Geoff Miller
07905 122857

GENERAL SECRETARY

Alan Taylor
07899 822881

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Mick Coltman
01268 413952

AUCTION SECRETARY

Claude Crowder
01268 414143

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, Fauers, Basildon, Essex. Doors open at 7.30 pm, meetings start at 8.00 pm and finish at 10.00 pm.

1 September

Basildon Philatelic Society
Scouting, display by John Snoding

13 September

Stamp Fair
Methodist Church Hall, Laindon

16 September

Basildon Philatelic Society
Recent acquisitions, members' displays

17–20 September

Autumn Stampex
Business Design Centre

20 September

Autumn BasPex
James Hornsby High School

27 September

AEPS Autumn Rally
Spring Lodge, Witham

6 October

Basildon Philatelic Society
Auction

21 October

Basildon Philatelic Society
Visit from Braintree & District P.S.

30 October — 1 November

Philatex
Royal Horticultural Hall

3 November

Basildon Philatelic Society
Great Little Trains of Wales, display by Mike Thompson

18 November

Basildon Philatelic Society
Mastermind quiz with Claude Crowder

EDITORIAL

The main theme in this issue of the newsletter concerns the financial basis of the Society. Our current levels of income are not keeping pace with increased costs. We have just moved into a brand new venue and although hire charges remain unchanged until the end of the year, we must be prepared for an increase whenever it may arise. Our Treasurer has produced a thought provoking article which I ask you to read and consider carefully. The Society desperately needs to increase its income. Any ideas you can come up with will be actively considered by the Committee. In the meantime please support all the fund raising activities run by the Society.

Our Autumn BasPex takes place on Saturday 20 September at the James Hornsby High School. Please make every effort to attend and encourage any stamp collectors you know to do the same.

The new George Hurd Centre has many advantages but one disadvantage is the need to vacate the premises by 10.00 pm sharp. Some meetings have a tendency to overrun slightly and whilst this could be accommodated at the old venue it is now no longer possible. At the last Committee meeting it was proposed that our meetings should be brought forward by 15 minutes so that they start from 7.45 pm and finish by 9.45 pm. This will give us 15 minutes grace to get out of the building without upsetting the local residents. If the majority of the membership are in favour of the change the new start time will come into effect with the next year's programme starting on 5 January 2009.

□

MEETING REPORTS

Monday 2 June

40th Annual General Meeting

At the AGM the officers and committee were re-elected *en bloc*, which saved a considerable amount of time. Chris Cooksey resigned as Competition Secretary and the post has been taken over by the Chairman until a new volunteer comes forward.

The Society's financial position continues to give concern. Subscription income accounts for barely half the cost of using the George Hurd Centre for our meetings. On the plus side our spring BasPex combined with the AEPS event recorded a profit. However this was a one off event which will not be repeated for at least five years. It was agreed that a single subscription rate should be introduced, thereby removing the distinction between full and OAP members. Subs for full members now stand at £10.

The Member of the Year award was



presented to our President, Len Stanway, for all his hard work as Treasurer, Packet Secretary and organizer of the catering at our twice yearly stamp fairs.

Tuesday 17 June
Competition Night

The Cinderella class was uncontested, but all five of the other classes attracted entries. Our judges for the evening were Alan Boyce and John Copeland who had the unenviable task of picking the winners.

Stamps (Traditional): Singapore—Len Stanway.

Postal History: Richmond, North Yorkshire—Len Stanway.

Aerophilately: First PanAm flight via Fiji—Charlie Mead.

Thematic: Antelopes—Ann Coltman.

Modern Material: Fiji Bird Definitive Surcharges—Charlie Mead.

Monday 7 July
Visit from the Revenue Society of Great Britain

Ed Hitchings provided an entertaining and varied display on behalf of the Revenue Society. The evening was split



into two parts during which Ed covered almost every conceivable tax raised by the British government over the last 300 years. To list them all would fill this entire issue of our newsletter. Some of the more unusual items on show included: a lottery ticket from 1814, Wallpaper Duty, Post Horse Duty, Hair Powder Duty, Glove Tax, a drover's licence, an armorial bearings licence and a bath chair driver's licence. Ed was particularly pleased to be able to show his own Peddlers

Licence which he had obtained from his local Police. Also included was a photocopy of a document featuring no less than 27 £1 million tax stamps on it.

Tuesday 22 July
Auction



This was originally scheduled for the 20th of May but had to be postponed as a result of the George Hurd Centre relocating. Our auctioneer Claude Crowder took some brisk bidding and the majority of the 227 lots sold with a few going well over their reserve.

Monday 4 August
Titanic, display by Mike Routh

Your editor was unable to attend this meeting. If any member would like to write a short article about the evening, the editor will be pleased to publish it in the next edition of the newsletter.

Tuesday 19 August
8 Pages from My Collection

John Cowlin came out on top in the annual competition judged by members present on the night. There will be a chance to see a lot more of John's collection when displays "War and Rebellions" to the Society on Monday 5 January. □

THEMATICA ends after 22 years

Thematic Exhibitions and the Friends of Thematica regret to announce that at the moment there are no plans to stage further Thematica Exhibitions.

Thematica was the brainchild of the late John Fosberry 22 years ago, as a way of providing thematic collectors with their own event and to encourage collectors to exhibit, albeit with no formal judging rules.

Initially held once a year, the popularity of the event meant that in recent years it has been held twice a year, in June and November. The summer has always witnessed a combination of dealers and exhibits. A pinnacle was reached in November 2007 when the British Thematic Association combined with Thematica to host a European thematic exhibition, Eurothema.

However the rising costs of a suitable venue in Central London means that it is no longer financially viable to continue the event. The joint organisers wish to thank all those dealers and collectors who have supported Thematica over the years.

The Friends of Thematica hope it might be possible to find a way to continue the annual John Fosberry competition, which was always judge by the visitors, and the Barclay Cup / Rushstamps Youth Competition, inaugurated just a few years ago, which has consistently attracted a large number of young exhibitors.

Website To Watch

The British Postal Museum & Archive
postalheritage.org.uk

British postal services helped to shape the modern world. The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) works to make this human story of communication, industry, and innovation accessible to everyone via their website.

The BPMA cares for the visual, written and physical records of over 400 years of postal development. These collections are in two complementary parts – the Archive collection (The Royal Mail Archive), and the Museum collection. The Archive collection contains a wealth of philatelic material including the RM Phillips collection.

The RM Phillips collection of Victorian GB stamps has been digitised and can be viewed volume by volume (there are 45 in all) and page by page over the Internet.

There is an on-line catalogue of all the collections.

THE BRITISH
POSTAL
MUSEUM
& ARCHIVE

Our history through the post

FROM THE TREASURER

Future funding of the Society in the 21st Century Hard facts and thought starters for member debate...

The meeting of your Committee on 16 July 2008 received reports on the changing nature of stamp dealing and the effects that it would have on the Society in the future. I feel that members deserve to have this information and thus be able to consider and discuss the way forward. These changes will ultimately affect all philatelic societies, but the when it happens in individual cases will depend on how much the society in question has "put aside for a rainy day". Unfortunately, for reasons that I will not go into here, we are not one of the lucky societies that have substantial endowments built up during the richer years of the 20th Century.

Stamp dealing is changing. As with collectors in general, we have an ageing population. Many long-established dealers are giving up altogether due to old age and new ones are not coming forward. Many of those that remain do not want to travel. If they travel, they can only bring a limited part of their stock to events. Hall fees are rising, and therefore so are table fees. Fuel costs are rising too, so dealers have to make a lot more money to make participation in a fair viable. On the other hand, there are new low cost means of dealing now, such as internet websites and E-Bay, which enable dealers to make money without any of the costs or inconvenience of attending fairs.

Inevitably, it is becoming increasingly difficult to persuade dealers to come to society fairs and the number of commercial fairs is beginning to fall.

How does that affect our society's core

activities? The core costs of running a society can be considered to be hall hire. To this must be added:

- Speaker travel costs and other meeting expenses.
- Publicity, programme cards, etc.
- Postage, telephone calls, etc.
- Insurance.

In round figures, it takes about £1000 to run the society's core activities each year. Where do we get the money from to fund that £1000?

The core income of the Society is its membership fees. With a membership in the low 40s and closed albums generally exceeding new members each year, this can be expected to provide about £400. Members' generous participation in raffles and donations for refreshments bring in about £250. This leaves some £350 to be obtained from other "fund raising".

The exchange packet makes a small contribution, but cannot really be considered profitable given the amount of work necessary both for the vendor to compile books and for the Packet Secretary to operate the packet. If the truth be told, yields rarely justify the work involved. If members spent more, this might be different (and might encourage better material from vendors), but this is a Catch-22 situation - If the material is not there, people will not buy it.

The auction is in a very similar situation - given the choice between selling through a society or E-Bay, many people are opting for the latter. Both the auction and exchange packet are probably best considered as break-even activities for long-

term planning.

Whilst hosting StampEssex was a boost to the Society this year, most of the income came from souvenirs, which we can only justify on very special occasions. Society fairs should provide a small income once we get it established, IF we can get enough dealers to take part, which is getting harder for the reasons explained above and because our failure to organise events for several years lost us our slot in dealer's calendars. Members must come to the events in larger numbers (and bring their friends) if we are going to keep the dealers we have. We will be lucky to break-even on the events in the short term.

So where do we go from here?

Options that have been suggested include:

1. ***Fully fund the society from subscriptions.***

This is the only guaranteed long-term solution to our problems. With present levels of activity, this would cost each member somewhere between £16 and £20 per annum.

If we cut meetings to one a month and scaled back activity accordingly, we would have to maintain fees at about their present level.

2. ***Find new sources of funding.***

Grants from councils, etc., have largely dried up, unless you can demonstrate that the funding is going to the politically-correct special groups in society. Hobbies are expected to be fully self-funding.

We are experimenting with buying material for resale to boost the auction and packet, but the problem is lack of time to process the material. We have only a few members carrying the burden of running the society and they deserve to have some time to themselves.

Here I have to say "***Over to you***". What do **YOU** think we should do? Do **YOU** have any ideas for fund-raising activities? Would **YOU** be prepared to organise an activity?

Please send your reasoned comments either direct to the Treasurer for confidential discussion in the Committee or to the Newsletter Editor for publication.

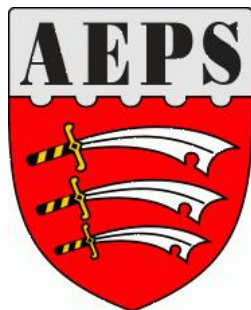
A.E.P.S. AUTUMN RALLY

Hosted by Witham Philatelic Society

Saturday 27 September 2008

Spring Lodge, Witham. 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

A.E.P.S. Autumn Competitions, Dealers, Displays, Refreshments.



The Exchange Packet—All you ever wanted to know!

Len Stanway explains all

Most members will already be familiar with the Exchange Packet but there may be some of our newer members who are not familiar with the concept, so here goes -

What is an Exchange Packet?

Members put stamps, covers, etc., into booklets, together with prices at which they want to sell each stamp, set or cover, etc. and gives them to the Packet Secretary. He gathers books together into boxes of typically 10 books and circulates them around the membership. Each member takes what they want, completes a slip (even if nothing is taken) and sends the slip and money to the Packet Secretary, who audits the books at the end of the circuit and pays the vendor.

Can anyone join?

Both vendors and buyers must be members of the society, but not necessarily attend meetings. There are special arrangements for vendor-only members.

How long does a box take to go around the circuit?

Typically about two-to-three months if everyone abides by the rules. Each member is allowed three days from receiving a box to passing it on, but special arrangements can be made when necessary by contacting the Packet Secretary.

I specialise - will it be worth my while?

We try to get as wide a spectrum of material as possible from vendors and one never knows what will turn up. I have personally found some real gems for my specialist collections going for peanuts among Basildon packets.

Similarly, it is impossible to predict what will sell. Some good looking books have returned untouched - Other apparently run-of-the-mill or highly specialised books have surprised me by returning almost empty.

Where can I get booklets to fill?

Both the Packet Secretary, Len Stanway, and David Church are able to sell you booklets at a few pence each.

How do I find more about buying or selling through Basildon packet?

Contact the Packet Secretary at a meeting or on 01268-522305 or e-mail len.stanway@aepe.org.uk.

NEWS

From your Committee

Modern Material Competition rules revised.

On 15 July, your Committee considered the future of the Modern Material Competition. Instead of having a completely separate Modern Material competition, it was decided to revise the rules so that, in future, all Traditional, Postal History and Aerophilatelic entries will be judged together. The highest scoring entry composed of material less than 30 years old will now be awarded the Modern Material Trophy. This makes life simpler for both judges and your Competition Registrar and avoids the need for the competitor to decide which competition to enter if, say, he or she has an entry which is both Modern and Traditional.

Please amend your handbooks as follows: The dates in Competition Rule 7.2 are amended to “2009”, “1979” and “2009” respectively.

Rule 7.3 now reads:

“7.3 The trophy shall be awarded to that entry in the Stamps, Postal History & Postmarks and Aerophilatelic Competitions that:

7.3.1 - qualifies under the criteria specified in paragraph 7.2 above, and

7.3.2 - is awarded the highest mark among such qualifying entries.”

Rules 7.3.3, 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6 are deleted.

You’ve not entered this competition before? Well, why not give it a try next summer — There’s plenty of material around. It comes through your door every day!

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.

PUZZLES FOR STAMP COLLECTORS

The following puzzles appeared in the magazine *The Philatelist* in 1871.

CONUNDRUMS

1. Why is a used penny postage stamp like an old soldier?
2. Why is a postage-stamp like a bayonet?

TRANSPOSITIONS [ANAGRAMS]

1. Oppose a new fictitious stamp, cute forge.
2. Ici, do I barter rare old stamps? O dealer, I O.
3. Do So; I collect a used obsolete embossed as rare David Cross.

CHARADES

For liquid things my *first* does well,
A female's name my *next* will tell;
My whole you now at once may see,
A stamp-producing colony.

BURIED POST TOWNS AND COUNTRIES

1. He can do very much in a day, if he tries.
2. I do not get on at all, however I ponder, by night or day.
3. Bring some crack-nuts for Dora drom every depôt.

??? DID YOU KNOW ???

NEWSPAPER TAX STAMPS. Impressed or adhesive stamps denoting the payment of taxes on newspapers and other periodicals, used by many European countries as a means of raising revenue and curbing the freedom of the press. Such stamps, impressed on the upper corner of the front page, were used in the UK from 1712 till 1870 when this “tax on knowledge” was finally abolished. As the payment of this tax entitled the papers to be transmitted and re-transmitted through the post without further charge, it has been argued that they also served as a form of postage stamp. From 1855 to 1870 they were only payable in respect of papers sent by post and therefore should be regarded in that period purely as postage stamps. Several papers (*The Times*, the *Illustrated London News* and *Stamford Mercury*) elected to use precancelled black impressed stamps after 1855 as an alternative to adhesive stamps, on copies sent by post. Austria issued adhesive tax stamps, inscribed ZEITUNGS STEMPEL, to distinguish them from newspaper postage stamps (inscribed ZEITUNGS POST STEMPEL). French tax stamps were affixed on the page prior to printing, so that the newsprint served to cancel the stamps and prevent re-use.

From Philatelic Terms Illustrated, published by Stanley Gibbons. This book is available from the Society's library.

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

The ten differences have been circled in the picture opposite.



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.

WANTED

Items posted between London NW District Office addresses and NW England 20 Feb 1863 to 21 Oct 1866 also Midlands or NW TO via GPO London 1 Dec 1873 to 31 Oct 1874. Contact Len Stanway.

FOR SALE

Malaysian first day covers. Wants lists welcome. Contact Len Stanway.

FREE SMALL ADS FOR MEMBERS

Sell or exchange your unwanted items through this newsletter. See 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

VISIT THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

www.basildon.aeps.org.uk



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**