

The Basildon Philatelist.

Acting Editor: L C Stanway FRPSL.

Vol. 14 No. 2 - October 2009

Editorial:

My first newsletter has been received with the usual silence from members, known to newsletter editors everywhere! However, many members of other societies have subscribed to the e-mail version, so it cannot have been too bad.

Distribution of this issue to members has again been sponsored by TNS Consultants at no cost to the Society.

National News

MIDPEX

Your editor attended the first Midpex event at its new venue, the Xcel Centre, at Canley, near Coventry on 11 July. For those who are not familiar with Midpex, which is run by Midland Philatelic Federation, it is a dealer fair combined with a shop-window for specialist societies, many of whom took a table to publicise their work and recruit members. Having this specialist element attracts a lot of specialist dealers. 60 dealers and 39 societies attended and it also hosted meetings of British Thematic Association and the Annual meetings of the ABPS.

Attendance was unbelievable, estimated at 800-plus, which resulted in problems with parking (despite a dedicated bus service to the nearby station), climate (the air conditioning could not cope) and congestion in the event. The organisers undertook to make big changes at next year's event to take account of these problems.

Although primarily attending on business without the intention to buy, your editor came away with a number of gems!

ABPS COUNCIL MEETING

The Association of British Philatelic Societies held its Council Meeting and the Annual General Meetings of ABPS Ltd and ABPS Exhibitions Ltd at Midpex on 11 July. The following people were elected to Council:

Secretary: Colin Searle.

Treasurer: Nigel Gooch.

Membership Secretary: Alan Godfrey.

Communications Director: Willie King.

Willie's new post reflects a decision to draw together a lot of press and publication activities under a single officer. Geoff Longbottom, the previous publicity officer had sadly needed to retire due to ill health.

Phil Kenton has become Chairman of Council, handing the Executive Chairman position to John Baron. Alan Griffiths became Vice Chairman of Council.

Discussion took place on a variety of topics, including transparency of accounting and the basis for the capitation fee. Jennifer Flippance of BPMA gave a presentation on the 2010 Festival of Stamps. A request was made for philatelic literature competitions to be extended to include electronic media.

The Stamp Active Network is seeking sponsors for youth activities at London 2010.

The annual competition for local society journals was won by Carmarthen PS with Redditch PS as runners-up. The specialist society journals competition was won by France & Colonies with Postal History Society as runners-up.

The next Council meeting will be at Stampex on 27 February, while the next AGM will be at StampEssex-Festival of Stamps at Colchester on 5 June.

PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The 2009 Congress was billed to be held in "Manchester", but actually took place just over the Manchester Ship Canal in the rival city of Salford. A large number of collectors from all over the country gathered for a varied weekend of displays and presentations of a uniformly high standard, thought-provoking discussions and formalities, including the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists by this year's nominees. RDP is the world's most important philatelic honour, and one new RDP is always invited to display at Congress.

Many people think that this is a stuffy event for the "great and good", but this is far from the case today and there is plenty to interest any collector. A growing number of Essex philatelists are to be found there. PCGB 2010 will be held at the Holiday Inn, Kenilworth on 22-25 July. Put it in your diary now!

2010 AND ALL THAT - UPDATE.

Further events have been added to the list of events taking place as part of Festival 2010. Additions or amendments to the list published in the last issue are:

- 1 February - 30 October 2010** - Exhibition - King George V. Bath Postal Museum.
- 1 April - 14 November 2010** - Exhibition - Impressions of Africa: money, medals and stamps. British Museum Money Gallery.
- c.Jun-Oct 2010** - Railway Philately. Crewe Heritage Centre.
- 18 July - 14 November 2010**- Exhibition - Marine Philately. Aberdeen Maritime Museum.
- 23 October 2010** - Cornwall PF "Cornex 2010", Liskeard (date change).

The **Essex** event on 5 June 2010 has been moved to a new and far more suitable location at Charter Hall, Colchester Leisure World, Cowdray Avenue, Colchester CO1 1YH.

Apart from a further regional event in Northern Ireland, there will also be related exhibitions (dates to be announced) at the British Library Philatelic Collections, Bletchley Park National Codes Centre, MCC Museum at Lords Cricket Ground, Museum of Rugby at Twickenham, Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum and the National Football Museum (Preston).

It should be quite a year for philately! Further details of all these events can be obtained from the Editor.

WORLD POST DAY

Did you know that, each year, 9 October is designated by UNESCO as World Post Day, marking the anniversary of the founding of the Universal Postal Union.

Many countries mark the day with special philatelic events, special postmarks, etc., but in Britain - Nothing!

Have you any ideas how we could make a splash and get the society noticed on this or a future World Post Day? If so, tell us!

Essex News

ALBUMS CLOSED

Dr Gaden Robinson of Havering society died on 7 September after a short illness. As well as having served as Chairman of that society, he was Newsletter Editor of the Malaya Study Group.

NEXT AEPS EVENTS

Autumn StampEssex will be on 31 October at Great Wakering Primary School, at which the society will be defending the Quiz Trophy that we won at last autumn's event. We will need a new team as Charlie and Len are barred this year. A lack of volunteers means that sadly we cannot enter any of the display competitions this year.

AEPS Spring competitions.

The society desperately needs volunteers to enter the 16-sheet Traditional (stamps and postal stationery), Postal History & Postmarks and Aerophilatelic competitions at the AEPS Colchester 2010 event in June. The entries will be needed by about March. If you can help, please speak to Charlie Mead NOW!

Book Now for January AEPS Workshop!

The annual Workshop will be held at Henry Dixon Hall, Henry Dixon Road. Rivenhall End, Witham, Essex. CM8 3HR on 30 January 2010. This year's topic will be Traditional Philately, i.e. stamps and postal stationery.

For those who have not attended, these are very interesting events with something for everyone. Whether or not you display or compete, there is always something to learn about the finer points of the hobby, as well as having a chance to socialise with collectors from all over Essex and beyond. This year it will cost £20 for the day including lunch and refreshments. Why not give it a try?

AEPS Council Report

As key officers were unable to attend for varied reasons, the September Council meeting was brief and only dealt with routine business. The **next Council meeting**, to which we can send up to three delegates, will be at 2.30pm on 14 November at the Red Cross Hall, Chelmsford. This will also be the Annual General Meeting. If you would like to come and meet delegates from other Essex societies, please contact Len or Alan.

The next **Executive Committee** meeting will be on 28 October. If there is anything that you feel should be raised at County or National level, please contact Len before the meeting.

Society News

MEETING REPORTS

21 July 2009 - Prisoner of War Mail (David Tett FRPSL).

David Tett, from Wheathampstead in Hertfordshire, is the acknowledged expert on the prisoner of war mail of the Second World War in the Eastern Theatre and has published four of an eventual five-book series covering the whole of south east Asia. He displayed a section of his collection dealing with the PoWs in Malaya and associated mail to Sumatra, Thailand and Japan. Taking us through the war from occupation to liberation, he explained how a British PoW in Changi camp, Singapore, set up an internal mail distribution service, keeping track of who was in which of many prison camps across Malaya, initially secretly on pain of punishment or death, but on which the Japanese themselves later came to rely. As befits this subject, not every story had a happy ending.

3 August 2009 - United Nations (Len Stanway FRPSL).

This date had been booked for a display by Leytonstone, Wanstead & District P.S., but they were unable to raise a team due to transport problems. Our President therefore stood in at short notice to pull-ahead the display booked for September.

Having worked as a delegate to the United Nations at Geneva, Len inevitably started to collect the stamps of this unique postal administration. Starting with the antecedents of the UN, including the League of Nations, he explained how the UN was not just the political Security Council, that gets all the headlines, but was the grease that made the modern world work, enabling almost all aspects of our daily lives that we take for granted. Although most of the display was a selection of stamps and postal stationery covering the period right up to the present day, he also included some postal history items from the early years.

18 August 2009 - Steamboat Mail (Hugh Feldman FRPSL)



Commencing with a projected PowerPoint presentation which explained the background to the material that we were going to see and displayed the key items, Hugh, from Saffron Walden, treated us to a Large Gold-winning display of mail carried on steamboats on the rivers and canals of the USA between 1824 and 1875, together with mail carried on some coastal sea routes via Nicaragua and Panama, including many rare or unique items. Hugh has published an award-winning book on this material based on original research in the US National Archives in Washington. He

shared his unique insight into how the services developed and the difficulties of tracing many of the places served by the services, some of which had been, literally, swept-away overnight when rivers such as the Mississippi changed its course.

7 September 2009 - Haiti (John Shaw MBE FRPSL)



John, from Eltham, Kent, kindly stepped-in at short notice to fill the gap in our programme caused by the August change. This is the first time, so far as we know, that Haiti has been shown at the Society, and what an interesting story it was. After a brief history lesson, John entertainingly took us from the first issue in 1881 to the emergence of "Papa Doc" Duvalier in 1958. It was a saga of constant changes of Presidency with consequent new issues, provisional overprints and changes to printer allegiance, strange anniversaries and (officially inspired?) printing errors.

22 September 2009 - Southend-on-Sea Philatelic Society.

Society visits are always notable for the variety of material displayed, often countries that we have never seen at the club before. Southend's team of four members did not let us down! Tony Stapleton introduced us to mail from Cyprus during the troubled period from the struggle for independence to after the Turkish occupation of the northern part of the island. Geoffrey Basco showed us the stamps of Jordan and Israel. David Buttimore started with a catapult flight cover from the S.S. Europa, then showed Canadian Special Delivery and Airmails. Secretary Sue Stacey displayed stamps and postcards on the theme of Archaeology.

NEXT MEETINGS:

5 October - Auction. Come and help us raise funds for the society! You might find a bargain!

20 October - Anne Coltman will show a "Pot Pourri" from her collections.

ALBUMS CLOSED

Cyril King, who was a member of the Society from the 1970s until 2006 (when he moved to Benfleet society), sadly died on 2 September, aged 85. Our society was represented at his funeral by the President, while another former member, Peter Nye, represented Benfleet P.S.

A REQUEST FROM THE PACKET SECRETARY

If you receive the packet, please ensure that you fill in the list before passing it on. There have been several cases recently where the packet has been unnecessarily delayed because the packet has gone back to people that have already seen it. (In one instance, the recipient bought more items, but for most it is simply an inconvenience!).

WANTED - NEWSLETTER REPORTERS

We require the help of all members. If you see or hear about anything that you feel should be mentioned in this journal, please let the Editor know. We also need volunteers to do a brief report of each meeting, to reduce the workload on the Editor.

ARE YOU E-CONNECTED?

If you have e-mail address, you could save the society money and keep yourself up to date with local philatelic news, programme changes and auction catalogues by sending your e-mail address to the Editor.

SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

The few members who have not yet renewed are politely reminded that subscriptions were due from 1 June. The

2009-2010 rate is £11 for all members. Please pay your subscription to Mick Coltman.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

The Committee Meeting on 15 September received updates on the financial situation, membership renewal (most now renewed, thank you) and other routine business.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for 10 November. If you wish to raise any issues, please tell a committee member as soon as possible.

SELLING IN THE SOCIETY AUCTION

All members of the society are entitled to sell their surplus material through the society auction. Have you ever done so? No? Why not? It is so easy.

The first thing to do is to decide what to sell and how much you would like for it. Deciding the reserve price (the minimum price at which it would be offered for sale) can be tricky, but the better the bargain represented by the reserve price, the more bidders you are likely to get and thus the likelihood of it selling for a higher price! A high reserve price may dissuade anyone from bidding at all. The society applies a minimum lot reserve price of £2. This does not mean that every single item must be worth two pounds - you can combine items into mixed lots to make up the reserve.

There is no limit to the number of lots a member may offer to sell, but there is a physical limit to the number of lots that can be sold in the time available. If there are too many lots on offer (which has never happened in my memory!), the Auction Secretary, Claude Crowder, may need to ask you to hold some of your lots over to the next auction.

Once you have decided what to sell, obtain a "lotting list" from Claude and write a clear, accurate and concise description of each item, including, if appropriate, country, description, catalogue number, catalogue value, condition (any defect must be identified) and reserve price.

Pass the lotting list and lots for the next auction to Claude by the date specified. The auction list will then be compiled and

distributed to members of our and other AEPS-member societies.

At the auction, the lot will be offered for sale at the reserve price that you specified. If there is more than one bidder, the price will rise until all the bidders have reached their personal limits. The lot will go to the highest bidder.

A few days after the auction, the Treasurer will pay you the price raised, less 10% commission for society funds and the Auction Secretary will return any unsold lots, which you can resubmit to the next auction after reconsidering your reserve price if necessary.

SMALL ADS

Society members are entitled to insert one small advertisement free of charge in each issue. Please send your advert to the Editor.

Malaysia - first day covers for sale. Wants lists to Len Stanway (address, etc. below).

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Are you doing something outside the society that members may be interested to hear about? Have you heard about another member's activities or achievements? If so, please let the Editor know.

Article

BASILDON POSTAL HISTORY by Len Stanway

It is easy to believe that Basildon was an empty desert before the creation of the New Town in 1949, but this was far from true!

The first reference to **Basildon** Post Office that I have found was 1873, when it was a sub-office of Brentwood. It was served by Billericay Railway Sub-Office from 1 June 1899. The RSO title was abolished in 1905. A Telegraph Office facility with code "JSL" opened on 23 June 1908. Basildon became the Post Town from 31 March 1952, from which date all the offices listed below were transferred to its control and all addresses had to include "Basildon". Pending construction of the present Basildon office in East Square, the Basildon office was temporarily operated from

the former Laindon Station office from 1 May 1954. A **Town Centre** Branch Office opened on 7 September 1959 and closed circa 1963-1964, when the Basildon office title moved from Laindon to the new building.

However, the first office in the New Town area was **Laindon**, which was in operation as a sub-office of Billericay by 1845. From 1 April 1861, it was placed under Ingatestone, then Brentwood in 1870, Billericay RSO from 1 June 1899, then Romford from 5 June 1904.

Laindon Station office opened in 1904 under Romford, with, by 1908, the area's first Money Order and Savings Bank (MOSB) facility. Laindon Station became the Post Town from 7 August 1922).

From 1 December 1923, the original Laindon office was renamed **Laindon Park**, and placed under Laindon Station which was now renamed **Laindon** and elevated to the status of Post Town. Laindon office was renamed Basildon from 1 May 1954 pending completion of a building in the New Town centre. Laindon Park closed in 1957. The Laindon branch office title reappeared circa 1963-1964 when the Basildon office moved into the new town centre facility.

Vange opened in 1873 under Romford. By July 1885, it was transferred to Stanford-le-Hope. A MOSB facility was provided from 1 August 1896. From 1st January 1897, it was placed under Pitsea.

Langdon Hills opened in 1874 under Romford. A telegraph facility ("LIA") opened in October 1898, and a MOSB facility by 1908. From 7 August 1922, it was placed under Laindon Station, then Laindon from 1 December 1923. It closed in 1960.

Pitsea opened in 1893 under Bowers Gifford. It became a Post Town on 1st January 1897, with code K92. A telegraph facility ("PSE") opened on 7 December 1897. A MOSB facility was provided by 1908. A new branch office in the Broadway was opened on 6 February 1961, but it was moved into Tesco on 11 October 1993.

Inter-war housing development led to opening of eleven offices.

North Parade opened under Laindon in 1927. A telegraph facility ("RMA") opened on 1 November 1942 but was withdrawn in 1948. The office closed circa 1970-1973.

New Avenue opened under Laindon in 1929 and closed circa 1939-41.

Church Lane opened in 1930 under Laindon and closed in about 1964.

Nightingale Parade opened in 1931 under Laindon and closed in 1976.

Vange Corner opened in 1931 under Pitsea. From May 1973, it was transferred from Basildon to Fobbing, Stanford-le-Hope and it was closed circa December 1973.

Church Road opened in 1932 under Billericay and closed in 1957.

Dry Street opened in 1933 under Laindon and closed in 1976.

Pound Lane opened under Pitsea in 1935. It closed on 22 June 2000.

Rectory Road also opened under Pitsea in 1935.

Worthing Road opened in 1936 under Laindon. It closed in 1970.

Wash Road opened by June 1939 under Laindon. It closed on 13 October 1988.

Another nine offices resulted for the New Town development.

Lee Chapel opened by 1946 and closed circa 1957-1958.

Whitmore Way opened in January 1954 with a MOSB facility from the start. A telegraph facility ("IMW") opened in April 1954.

Gardiner's Lane opened on 1 May 1954 and closed in 1963.

Barstable branch office and telegraph facility ("BAB") opened on 26 January 1955.

Fryerns opened in 1958.

Kingswood shopping centre sub-office opened on 1 May 1959.

Lee Chapel South opened by 1963 and closed on 19 October 2004.

Honywood Road opened in 1963.

St. Paul's opened in 1964.

Four offices served later developments.

The Triangle shopping centre sub-office opened on 25 November 1976.

Felmores End opened on 6 October 1980.

Noak Bridge opened on 13 October 1988. It closed on 9 July 2007 but reopened on 28 September of the same year.

Great Berry opened on 5 January 1998 and closed on 31 August 2004.

Ref: Essex Post Offices (K Smith), BPMA

ARTICLES WANTED

Members are invited to write short articles for inclusion in the newsletter. Please contact the Editor.



Philatelic Events in Essex

October 2009

- 1 Billericay - Postal History of selected King George VI Commonwealth Commemoratives (B S Cook).
Witham - Display by Frinton & District P.S.
- 2 Harlow - (Provisional date).
- 5 Basildon - Auction.
Frinton - (Provisional date).
- 6 Benfleet - (Provisional date).
Sudbury - Display by Cambridge P.S.
- 7 Bishop's Stortford - Postal History of Exhibitions (D Knight).
Goodmayes - China 1878-1945 (D Sibley).
Clacton - Bourse, Latest Acquisitions and Postcards (Members).
- 8 Hullbridge - N and O is for (Members).
- 9 *Worldwide* - *WORLD POST DAY*.
- 10 Leytonstone & Wanstead - STAMP FAIR, United Reformed Church Hall, Grosvenor Road, Wanstead E11 2HD. 10am-4.30pm.
- 12 Cheshunt - Egypt (D Clarke).
Rayleigh - Spain to 1936 (T R W Hawkins).
- 13 Braintree - (Provisional date).
Chelmsford - An Evening with Michael Sefi.
Epping Forest - (Provisional date).
- 14 Brentwood - 1911 Coronation Aerial Post (P Lister).
Ipswich - Smyrna in the Ottoman Empire (M Fulford).
- 15 Billericay - Open Night with dealers.
Witham - Auction.
- 16 Colchester - Display by Sudbury P.S.
Harlow - (Provisional date).
- 17 Colchester - STAMP FAIR, Stanway Village Hall, Villa Road, Stanway CO3 5RH.
- 19 Frinton - (Provisional date).
- 20 Basildon - Pot Pourri (Mrs A Coltman).
Southend - (Provisional date).
Sudbury - Members' Displays.
- 21 Bishop's Stortford - Coils & Booklets.
Goodmayes - Wembley 1924-25 (K Cooper)
- 24 EAPHSC - Auction (at Stowmarket).
- 26 Leytonstone & Wanstead - President's Nt.
Rayleigh - Competition and Bourse.
- 27 Braintree - (Provisional date).

- Chelmsford - Spitzbergen and Travelling Post Offices in South Africa (C & S Oliver).
- 28 Brentwood - Open Night.
Ipswich - Members' Displays.
- 29 Shoeburyness - The Flying Boats of Foyne (W E Trower) & Bourse.
Witham - Informal / Bring and buy.
- 30 Harlow - (Provisional date).
- 31 **AEPS/Shoeburyness - STAMPESSEX, Great Wakering Primary School, High Street, Great Wakering SS3 0EJ.**

November 2009

- 2 Basildon - Austro-Hungarian Navy Mail in World War 1 (Mrs L Bosworth).
Frinton - (Provisional date).
- 3 Benfleet - (Provisional date).
Sudbury - Thematic Collection (P Denly).
- 4 Bishop's Stortford - Cinderella (S Henderson).
Goodmayes - Africa (Members).
Clacton - Display: To be advised.
- 5 Billericay - Thematics (Members).
Ipswich - Visit to Philatex.
- 6 Harlow - (Provisional date).
- 9 Cheshunt - Auction.
Rayleigh - Morocco Agencies (B S Cook).
- 10 Braintree - (Provisional date).
Chelmsford - Annual General Meeting.
Epping Forest - (Provisional date).
- 11 Brentwood - An Evening of Commonwealth Rubbish (I Crane).
Chelmsford - 90th Anniversary Dinner.
Ipswich - Perkins Bacon (C G Harman).
- 12 Hullbridge - An imaginary dinner party.
Witham - Informal/Bring & Buy.
- 14 AEPS - AGM and COUNCIL MEETING, 2.30pm, Red Cross Hall, 200 New London Road, Chelmsford, CM2 9AD.
Leytonstone & Wanstead - Quiz and Knock-Out Competition.
- 16 Frinton - (Provisional date).
- 17 Basildon - Display by Witham P.S.
Southend - (Provisional date).
Sudbury - Bourse and room auction.
- 18 Bishop's Stortford - Errors, Mistakes, Fakes & Forgeries (Members).
Goodmayes - Display by Benfleet P.S.
- 19 Billericay - 1935 Silver Jubilee issues, etc. (A Ritchin).
- 20 Colchester - Great Britain (H J Russell).
Harlow - (Provisional date).
- 23 Leytonstone & Wanstead - Members' Night.
Rayleigh - Auction.
- 24 Braintree - (Provisional date).

- Chelmsford - Overseas for Halfpenny 1879-1949 (P Mellor).
 25 Bishop's Stortford - Annual Dinner, The Chequers, Ugley (admission by ticket).
 Brentwood - Open Night.
 Ipswich - Antarctica (J Fryer).
 26 Shoeburyness - A, B, C (Members).
 Witham - Members' New Acquisitions.
 30 Frinton - (Provisional date).

December 2009

- 1 Benfleet - (Provisional date).
 Sudbury - Churchill (S A Moorcroft).
 2 Bishop's Stortford - Auction.
 Goodmayes - Auction.
 Clacton - Display: To be advised.
 3 Billericay - Christmas Special.
 4 Harlow - (Provisional date).
 7 Basildon - Anything But Stamps (Members).
 8 Braintree - (Provisional date).
 Chelmsford - Triangles Pt 1 (Mrs M Thompson).
 Epping Forest - (Provisional date).
 9 Brentwood - Open Night.
 Ipswich - Australian Airmails and the McRobertson Air Race (P Barrall).
 10 Hullbridge - Chairman's Night & Christmas Fare.
 Shoeburyness - Chairman's Night.
 Witham - Christmas Social.
 11 Colchester - Recent Acquisitions (Members).
 12 Leytonstone & Wanstead - Inter-Society Auction.
 14 Cheshunt - Members Entertain.
 Frinton - (Provisional date).
 Rayleigh - Christmas Social.
 15 Basildon - Festive Night Quiz and 1-sheet Competition.
 Southend - (Provisional date).
 Sudbury - Quiz Night & Informal family evening.
 16 Bishop's Stortford - Overprints & Surcharges.
 Goodmayes - Quiz Night (C Crowder).
 18 Harlow - (Provisional date).
 22 Braintree - (Provisional date).

For venues, times, etc., contact the Editor.

BPS Contact information

Chairman:

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Alan Taylor, 5 Easton End, Laindon, Essex SS15 6QB. 07899-822881.

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Mick Coltman, 17 Little Dodden, Basildon, Essex, SS16 5TZ. 01268-413952.

Library and Archives:

Ann Coltman, 17 Little Dodden, Basildon, Essex, SS16 5TZ. 01268-413952.

Exchange Packet & Newsletter items:

Len Stanway, 25 Clay Hill Road, Basildon SS16 5DD, 01268-522305.
len.stanway@btinternet.com

Auction:

Claude Crowder, Mayville, Brentwood Road, Dunton Waylets, Essex, CM13 3SH. 01268-414143.

Future programme:

Geoff Miller, . 10 Essex Close, Laindon, Essex SS15 6PT. 07905-122857.
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www.basildon.aeps.org.uk

Press Date

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