

The Basildon Philatelist.

Editor: L C Stanway FRPSL.

Vol. 15 No. 2 - October 2010

Editorial:

Festival 2010 is almost over but we need to keep up the momentum of encouraging "lone collectors" to join our club. Can you help? Do you know anyone who should gain the benefits of membership?.

National News

PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Congress 2010 at Kenilworth from 21-24 July was a great success, with some 100 collectors from all over Britain and many foreign countries being given an impressive series of presentations, mostly relating to the stamps and posts of the reign of King George V, the theme of Festival of Stamps 2010. Of the collectors admitted to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, the world's highest philatelic honour, at a ceremony at Leamington Town Hall, one was Britain's (and Ireland's and South Africa's) Brian Trotter, not for his outstanding leadership of the London 2010 International Exhibition, but instead for his numerous publications and gold-medal collections.

Congress 2011 will be at Queen's Hotel, Southsea from 16-19 June. As an experiment, it will incorporate a National one-frame competition.

Congress 2012 will be held at Queen's Hotel in Perth, Scotland, from 19-22 October, overlapping with the National exhibition (q.v.).

ABPS COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will be at Congress 2011. Please advise your Editor of anything to raise.

FESTIVAL OF STAMPS IS ALMOST OVER!

Festival of Stamps London 2010 is both a year long and a nationwide event. Dedicated regional teams around the country have spent the last two years developing exhibition and fair events to bring Festival 2010 to somewhere near you. Supported by the ABPS and the BPMA, these events form an

integral part of the Festival and seek to promote philately to the general public and society membership to collectors who do not currently enjoy the benefits of belonging to a group with shared interests. The regional programme ends in October and the latest information on forthcoming events follows:

Federation events:

9 October. The South of England Stamp Fair and Sussex Convention. The South of England Centre, Ardingly.

16 October. Hampshire Philatelic Federation. Wickham Community Centre.

23 October. Cornex 2010. Liskeard School and Community College.

30 October. North-Western Philatelic Federation. Horwich.

Partner events:

In addition, partners of the Festival continue to hold exhibitions around the country including (Note: Most of these events are likely to be small adjuncts to existing museum displays. British Library, Congress and Bath Postal Museum are major philatelic displays):

Until 30 October 2010. Exhibition - King George V. Bath Postal Museum.

Until 31 October 2010. Exhibition - Rugby Post. Twickenham World Rugby Museum.

Until 14 Nov. 2010. Exhibition - Impressions of Africa: money, medals & stamps. British Museum Money Gallery, London.

Until 31 December 2010. Exhibition - Philatelic Rarities. British Library.

Until 31 December 2010. Exhibition - Treasures from the Archive. British Postal Museum & Archive, Clerkenwell.

Until 27 Feb. 2011. Exhibition - Posted. Post Office, 67 Wilton Way, Hackney E8 1BG.

For further details and additional events, see website www.london2010.org.uk or the Editor.

WORLD POST DAY

How can we get the society noticed on World Post Day 9 October 2010, which marks the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union? Tell us now!

2011-2012 NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

The 2011 ABPS National Exhibition will be hosted by Sheffield Philatelic Society on 6-7 May at Ponds Forge International Sport Centre, Sheffield. (A 1-frame national competition will be held at Congress, q.v.).

The 2012 ABPS National Exhibition will be held in Scotland on 18-20 October 2012 at Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth PH2 0TH. Expressions of interest have been requested from dealers and exhibitors. (A national multi-frame thematic, open and postcard competition will also be held at Stampex from 22-25 February.)

ABPS WEBSITE

The all-new ABPS website contains a wealth of valuable information, with more to come. Please visit it at <http://abps.org.uk/>

ABPS HANDBOOKS

Publication of new editions of the Handbook and the Lectures & Displays list have been long-delayed by illness of those who were handling them and subsequent technical problems. New editions are in preparation.

ABPS AWARD OF MERIT

Each year, the ABPS honours up to 15 grass roots philatelists that have made an outstanding contribution to a local or specialised society. Nomination forms for the 2011 awards can be obtained from Susan Oliver, ABPS Awards Committee Chairman/Secretary, 46 Woodville Road, Ham, Richmond-upon-Thames, TW10 7QN 020 8940 9833 susan.m.oliver@virgin.net.

MIDPEX

Midpex 2011 on 2 July will be at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, just south of Leamington and close to the M40. It has more than double the floor area of the previous venue, all on one level, and free parking for 2000 vehicles (including coaches). Specialist societies will have twice the frame space, plus table and seating on each stand. Friends of Thematica will hold their competitions. Catering will be on a mezzanine overlooking

the stands with drinks available at ground level. There will be a free Shuttle Bus between Leamington Station (Chiltern Railway) and the Centre throughout the day.

A preliminary booking has also been made for Midpex 2013 on 6 July 2013. For further information contact bobharper@btinternet.com

BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

For more information on BTA activities, contact Peter Denly, 9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 2BY or www.brit-thematic-assoc.com.

Essex News

AEPS EVENTS

AEPS Council Meeting 4 September 2010. The society was represented by Alan Taylor, John Cowlin and Len Stanway. The key business issues were, firstly, a report-back on the financial aspects of the June Colchester event, which is currently "break-even" although a number of bills have still to be resolved on both sides of the account, and secondly, a paper by Len Stanway (as ABPS representative) on the importance to local societies of being ABPS members. It was announced that Lynn Roberts would stand down as Secretary at the AGM for health reasons. The Assistant Secretary, John Dickenson of Bishop's Stortford, has agreed to take her place. A proposal that Lynn and Malcolm Roberts be nominated at the AGM for Life membership was warmly received.

2011 events would be Spring StampEssex on 26 March at Rayleigh and Autumn StampEssex at Benfleet on 15 October.

Spring competition entries will be required at the January Council meeting.

NEXT AEPS EVENTS

The next Council meeting, to which we can send up to 3 delegates, will be at 2.30pm on 13 November 2010 at the Red Cross Hall, Chelmsford. It is also the AGM. If you have issues to raise, please contact Len or Alan.

Autumn StampEssex will be held at Spring Lodge Community Centre, Witham CM8 2HE on 2 October from 10am to 4pm.

AEPS Workshop. The next Workshop will be on 29 January 2011 at Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall, and will focus on "Social Philately". Book through Ray How (01702-544632).

ALBUMS CLOSED

We were sorry to learn of the loss of Len Keeley of Rayleigh.

Society News

ALBUMS CLOSED

The society is very sad to record the death on 26 July of Albert Thomas. Albert joined the society c.1980 and became a dynamic force at society meetings. Together with the late Doug Hex, he presented in 1981 the Tomex Cup, which is still awarded to the winner of the annual society quiz. For the next 20 years, Albert served as the society's quizmaster. From 1995, he combined this with the role of auctioneer. In 2000, he was awarded Life Membership for services to the society, but disability soon prevented him from attending meetings. He remained a packet member to the end. The President has written to Albert's widow, Vi, expressing the society's deepest condolences on her loss.

MEETING REPORTS by "Fly On The Wall"

5 July - Propaganda and Espionage Forgeries and Postal History of the Hindenburg (Ian Nutley).



Our good friend from Kent maintained his very high standard with two astonishing displays. He started by displaying forged stamps and postal stationery of Britain, France, Germany and Italy produced in World War Two to assist

agents carrying out espionage, to defraud the enemy post office and/or to generate black propaganda. He then took us through the short life of the German airship Hindenburg from its launch to its fiery end at Lakehurst and then treatment of the mail already prepared for its intended return flight to Germany, some of which was actually recovered from the wreck.

20 July - Thematic Evening (Peter Drake).



Peter made the long journey from Clacton to show a wide selection of the material in three sessions. The first was dedicated to military aviation - famous pilots followed by the Red Arrows display team. The second was a selection of short displays - The Universal Postal Union, President Kennedy, The Old Aircraft Company, Stamps-on-Stamps, Lundy Island, USA first day covers and Classic Cars. Peter concluded with a complete session on the subject of Cricket. The displays were profusely illustrated with stamps, covers, photographs and ephemera.

2 August - Airmails of World War Two (John Rawlins).



John. from Chelmsford, took us through the evolution of airmail services from the outbreak of World War Two to the post-war resumption of services. The display centred on the Empire (Far East and Australasia), Africa and USA routes, but also included Trans-Pacific Clipper and other routes.

17 August - Birds of the World (Ralph Bridgeman).



Ralph came from Frinton to show us part of a very large collection of bird stamps that he had amassed in a relatively short period. The first two sessions took us through an A-Z of stamp issuing countries, with stamps arranged in sets. The last session included a large series of special illustrated explanatory folders issued by the World-Wide Fund For Nature in connection with specific stamp issues.

6 September - Basildon v. Billericay Quiz.

David Church, John Cowlin and Claude Crowder represented the Society in this annual, friendly tussle with our nearest neighbours. Bob Jackson was questionmaster on this occasion. The questions were often "challenging" and scoring sometimes equally difficult to follow, with the audience invited to score points for the team they supported! After an early Basildon lead, Billericay fought back bravely and took the lead, with only one question between the teams at the start of the last round. When the dust settled, the margin was still one point, but in Basildon's favour.

21 September - Display by Edenbridge Stamp & Postcard Club.



Our visiting team from Kent comprised the society's Treasurer, Rita Wiffen, and its Secretary, Derek Hamilton-Smith. Derek kicked-off with a wide variety of pre-war airmails, starting with the world's first airmail, in India in February 1911, followed by a large variety of material from the Windsor - Hendon flights of the same year. He then went on to display an exceptional variety of British domestic airmails of the 1920s and 1930s. Rita then displayed "Philatelic Terms A-Z", beginning with an Active Service Envelope and finishing with ZIP Code. In between, she showed a wide selection of interesting and scarce material. To finish, Derek showed a round of assorted British and foreign postal history. Although not written-up, the material made up in its variety and interest, finishing with a newly-acquired Docwra entire.

NEXT BASILDON MEETINGS:

- 4 October - Postal History & Postcards of Richmondshire (Len Stanway).
 - 19 October - Display by Hullbridge P.S.
 - 1 November - College Stamps (Chris Harman).
 - 16 November - Auction.
 - 6 December - Emergency Currency (John Cowlin) (in Small Hall)
 - 14 December - Festive Night.
- Doors open 7.30 (7.00 for Auction only).

MORE PUBLICITY

To supplement our own website, we now have an additional free publicity site at <http://basildon-philatelic-society.clubbz.com>. Clubbz.com is one of a number of operators offering free publicity to clubs and societies.

PLEA FROM THE PACKET SECRETARY!

Please make the Packet Secretary's life a little easier. Vendors can help by:

- Ensuring everything is priced (unless you want to give it away!).
 - Adding up the total sale value of your book.
 - If you re-use a book, covering up with a label the old markings on the cover and inside.
 - Being consistent where/how you mark the price (above stamp preferred).
 - Using hinges that will last long enough for the packet to at least enter service (and preferably come back again!) before falling off.
- Members' books are always welcome - David Church usually has blank books available or you can make your own to the usual format.

WANTED - YOU!

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.

COMPETITION ENTRIES WANTED

The AEPS Spring Competitions will be displayed at Rayleigh on 26 March. I'm sure that you would agree that we want to see the Society well represented in the displays at this event. How do we achieve that? Well, it is down to **YOU**. By **the first meeting in January**, we need 16-sheet entries in stamps / postal stationery, postal history / postmarks or aerophilately categories. If you can fill one of our two allocated places in each competition, please tell Charlie Mead asap.

ARE YOU E-CONNECTED?

If you have an 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.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

15 July saw John Cowlin at Billericay.
Ann Coltman displayed "Teddy Bears & Others" to Hullbridge on 9 September.

Len Stanway displayed "Aspects of Malaya" to Newmarket on 16 September

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.

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. Many issues available. Wants lists to Len Stanway.

Article

**THE GREAT BOER WAR 1899 – 1902
PIGEON MAIL from LADYSMITH
by John Cowlin**

At the outset of the war in 1899, the Boers were in possession of several well organised pigeon lofts and there was a strong society of pigeon fanciers with 18 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 this society's lofts, but its president, Tom May, hurriedly clipped one wing of each pigeon, thus destroying the bird's flying capacity. For this action, he was taken prisoner by the Boers. Meanwhile, Robert Arbuckle, member of the Durban Poultry and Pigeon Racing Club, wrote to General George White offering his pigeons for military use in Ladysmith. On 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 21 October 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

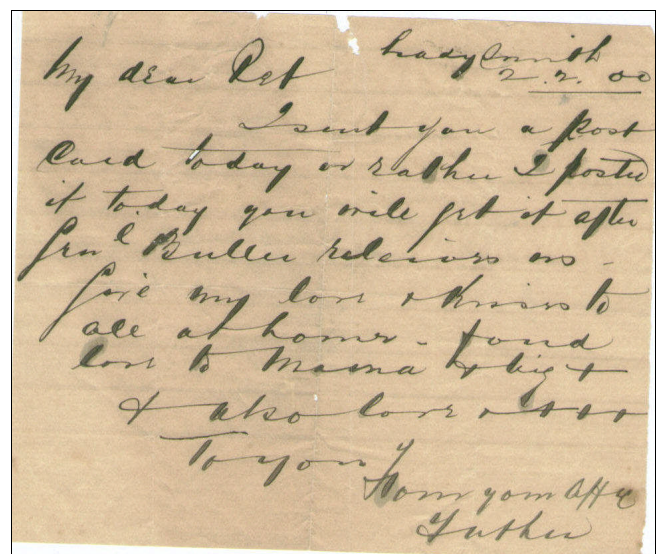
soon surrounded by Boer forces communications were cut off on 1 November 1899. Pigeons were promptly employed to carry military messages flying above enemy troops encircling the town. Mr. Hirst had a very rough time of it indeed during the bombardment. For 11 weeks, he was in bed with enteric fever; and in order to keep body and soul together he had to use the pigeon's food for porridge! One can imagine how loath was Mr. Hirst to rob his beloved bird's! To make matters worse, one pigeon loft was quite close to the Town Hall, the turret of which 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 as a 96-pounder shell exploded a few yards behind them. On 9 November 1899 the pigeon Royalty carried a message from General White congratulating the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, on his 58th birthday. The pigeon flew from Ladysmith to the Natal loft of his owner, Clifford Brookes of Durban, who forwarded the message to England. It was bred from imported English stock. 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 to Ladysmith "Thank The Times Correspondent for a basket of nice fat pigeons". The cartoon postcard shown refers to this incident.

On 3 December 1899, an important map was carried from General White to General Buller 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

28 February 1900. Out of the 400 odd messages sent during the campaign only three are known to have survived.



A postcard by Julius Arthur Thiele, 1841-1919, "The British courier pigeons!".



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

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 Genl Buller relieves us. Give my love & kisses to all at home fond love to Mama & big + & also love ++++

To you from your Affec(tionate) Father"

Author's acknowledgment: Pigeon Mail Through History by Salvador Bofarull.

ARTICLES WANTED

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



Philatelic Events in AEPS Societies October - December 2010

See also the list of Festival events on page 1.

October 2010:

- 2 **AEPS/Witham - STAMPESSEX, Spring Lodge, Witham, CM8 2HE. 10am-4pm.**
- 4 Basildon - Postal History & Postcards of Richmondshire (L C Stanway).
- 4 Frinton - Display by Sudbury & District P.S.
- 5 Benfleet - Informal, Bourse and Mini-auction/
- 5 Sudbury - The Nuclear Option (J. Waldon).
- 6 Bishop's Stortford - Bohemia & Moravia 1938-1945 (A J Bosworth).
- 6 Clacton - (Provisional date).
- 6 Goodmayes - My One Favourite Sheet.
- 7 Billericay - Postal History of Selected KG VI Commonwealth Commemoratives (B S Cook).
- 8 Harlow - (Provisional date).
- 9 *Worldwide- WORLD POST DAY.*
- 9 Leytonstone & Wanstead - (Provisional date).
- 11 Cheshunt - (Provisional date).
- 11 Rayleigh - The Blue Lamps (R E How).
- 12 Braintree - (Provisional date).
- 12 Bury St Edmunds - A Philatelic journey around Norwich & Norfolk (J Walden).
- 12 Chelmsford - Latin-American Heroes (A Stewart).
- 12 Epping Forest - Competitions.
- 13 Brentwood - Railways & Hotels (Mrs L Roberts), Steamers & Lighthouses (M K Roberts).
- 13 Ipswich - (Provisional date).
- 14 Hullbridge - P & Q (Members).
- 14 Witham - Auction.
- 15 Colchester - The Origin and Development of the boat to sea-going ships (S Mallindine).
- 16 Colchester - Stamp Fair, Stanway Village Hall.
- 18 Frinton - Latest Acquisitions (Members).

- 19 Basildon - Display by Hullbridge P.S.
- 19 Southend - (Provisional date).
- 19 Sudbury - Display by Braintree P.S.
- 20 Bishop's Stortford - Maritime (Members).
- 20 Goodmayes - The Pacific Area (D Johnson).
- 21 Billericay - Open Night with dealers.
- 22 Harlow - (Provisional date).
- 23 EAPHSC - Auction (at Stowmarket).
- 25 Leytonstone & Wanstead - (Provisional date).
- 25 Rayleigh - Competitions and Bourse.
- 26 Braintree - (Provisional date).
- 26 Bury St Edmunds - Albania from pre-stamp to present (Mrs L Roberts).
- 26 Chelmsford - Troubles & Transition - Ireland 1900-1930 (P Wood).
- 27 Brentwood - Open Evening.
- 27 Ipswich - (Provisional date).
- 28 Shoeburyness - The Life & Times of Winston Churchill (S A Moorcroft).
- 28 Witham - Speaker to be announced.

November 2010:

- 1 Basildon - College stamps (C G Harman).
- 1 Frinton - Croatia 1941-1945 (A J Bosworth).
- 2 Benfleet - Display by Goodmayes P.S.
- 2 Sudbury - Afternoon Meeting.
- 3 Bishop's Stortford - GB 1700-1900 (K Burr).
- 3 Clacton - (Provisional date).
- 3 Goodmayes - Anything to do with Asia.
- 4 Billericay - Thematic Night (Members).
- 5 Harlow - (Provisional date).
- 8 Cheshunt - (Provisional date).
- 8 Rayleigh - King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II - Postal History of British Post Offices in the Persian Gulf (B S Cook).
- 9 Braintree - (Provisional date).
- 9 Chelmsford - Annual General Meeting.
- 9 Epping Forest - Olympic Games (R Wilcock).
- 10 Brentwood - 1840-1940: A Worldwide Centenary (I Crane).
- 10 Ipswich - (Provisional date).
- 11 Hullbridge - An Imaginary Dinner Party.
- 11 Witham - Informal / Bring & Buy.
- 13 Leytonstone & Wanstead - (Provisional date).
- 15 Frinton - P is the letter (Members).
- 16 Basildon - Auction.
- 16 Bury St Edmunds - Japan (Mark Fuller).
- 16 Southend - (Provisional date).
- 16 Sudbury - Bourse and auction.
- 17 Bishop's Stortford - Letter H (Members).
- 17 Goodmayes - Land, Sea & Air (Members).
- 18 Billericay - Bridges (L Scott).
- 19 Colchester - NZ Health Stamps (R Amery).
- 19 Harlow - (Provisional date).
- 22 Leytonstone & Wanstead - (Provisional date).
- 22 Rayleigh - Auction.
- 23 Braintree - (Provisional date).
- 23 Bury St Edmunds - Auction.
- 23 Chelmsford - Queensland (A Griffiths).

- 24 Brentwood - Open Evening.
- 24 Ipswich - (Provisional date).
- 25 Shoeburyness - D, E, F (Members).
- 25 Witham - Members' New Acquisitions.
- 29 Frinton - (Provisional date).

December 2010:

- 1 Bishop's Stortford - Auction.
 - 1 Clacton - (Provisional date).
 - 1 Goodmayes - Auction.
 - 2 Billericay - Christmas Social.
 - 2 Witham - Christmas Social.
 - 3 Harlow - (Provisional date).
 - 6 Basildon - Emergency Currency (J Cowlin).
 - 7 Benfleet - Chairman's Night.
 - 7 Sudbury - Afternoon Meeting.
 - 8 Brentwood - Display by Chelmsford P.S.
 - 8 Ipswich - (Provisional date).
 - 9 Hullbridge - Chairman's Night & Christmas Titbits.
 - 9 Shoeburyness - Chairman's Night.
 - 10 Colchester - Recent Acquisitions (Members).
 - 11 Leytonstone & Wanstead - (Provisional date).
 - 13 Cheshunt - (Provisional date).
 - 13 Frinton - Auction.
 - 13 Rayleigh - Christmas Social.
 - 14 Braintree - (Provisional date).
 - 14 Bury St Edmunds - Social Evening for members with Single Sheet competition.
 - 14 Chelmsford - Great GB Exhibitions (D Knight).
 - 14 Epping Forest - Christmas Meeting.
 - 15 Bishop's Stortford - A Theme of Your Choice.
 - 15 Goodmayes - Quiz Night (C Crowder).
 - 17 Harlow - (Provisional date).
 - 21 Basildon - Christmas Party.
 - 21 Southend - (Provisional date).
 - 21 Sudbury - Quiz Night.
- 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 Wayletts, CM13 3SH. 01268-414143.

Future programme:

We have a vacancy for a Programme Secretary - Speak to Alan or Charlie now to volunteer!

www.basildon.aeps.org.uk

Press Date

The intention is that the next issue should be published on 1 January. Your news or articles should be with the Editor by 20 December.



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Serving the stamp collectors and postal historians of Basildon.