

The Basildon Philatelist.

The Journal of Basildon Philatelic Society

Editor: L C Stanway FRPSL.

Vol. 18 No. 1 - July 2013

Editorial:

The society has a new Chairman! After thirteen years at the helm, Charlie Mead has stepped down due to pressure of work and, following a rare ballot, Ian McElwain has been elected to the post for 2013-2014. The President paid tribute to Charlie's outstanding contribution to the society over many years. A full report of the AGM can be found in the meeting reports section.

International News

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

The only UK way to qualify for international competitions is through ABPS national exhibitions. To be eligible for five frames at an FIP, FEPA or other Continental Federation competition, it is necessary to achieve 75 points and a vermeil medal at a national exhibition (Eurothema and Thematica do not qualify).

Forthcoming international exhibitions are:

Thailand 2013, Bangkok, 2-14 August (www.thailand2013.com). Commissioner is Chris King.

World Stamp Exhibition, Brasilia 2013, Rio de Janeiro, 11-17 November. Commissioner is Frank Walton (closed)

Philakorea 7-12 August 2014.

London 2015 Stamp Exhibition 13-16 May at the Business Design Centre. Under the auspices of FEPA, this European International will have 1400 faces of exhibits.

Singapore World Stamp Exhibition 2015, 11-16 August.

World Stamp Show - NY 2016, Javits Convention Center, New York City 28 May - 4 June 2016.

RESOURCE LINKS

Members are reminded of the following links to philatelic resources on the World Wide Web:

Global Philatelic Library

(www.globalphilateliclibrary.org)

If you find any useful links, let me know!

National News

ROYAL MAIL "DESIGN A CHRISTMAS STAMP" COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN

In June, the Royal Mail invited children between 4 and 11 years old to design a Christmas stamp for issue on 5 November 2013. The top prize is £1000. Details can be found at www.royalmail.com/designastamp. The closing date is 19 July.

EAST MIDLANDS & EAST ANGLIA FEDERATION

The Extraordinary General Meeting of our neighbouring federation agreed that it was too large and should be split up, but could not agree on how it was to be achieved. A working group has been set up to prepare proposals.

ABPS HANDBOOK

The current editions of the ABPS Directory and ABPS Register of Speakers and Judges are held by Alan Taylor for members to consult when necessary.

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 2014 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.

Nominations can be submitted by an ABPS member society or by a federation. The closing date for entries is 1 March 2014.

STAMPEX

Future Stampex events and themes will be as follows:

Autumn 2013: Full National Exhibition – France and Colonies Philatelic Society display. 18-21 September. Last chance to qualify for

London 2015 (except thematic and open). Entry forms on ABPS website.

Spring 2014: Pictorial Classes: Thematic, Open Philately and Postcards 19-22 February. Last chance to qualify for London 2015 in these classes.

Autumn 2014: Full National Exhibition - Germany & Colonies 50th Anniversary and Centenary of the outbreak of World War One. 17-20 September.

Spring 2015: Limited exhibition (200 frames). Diamond Jubilee of the Great Britain PS.

Autumn 2015: Full National Exhibition - GB Overprints Society 45 Years.

Spring 2016: Pictorial Classes: Thematic, Open and Postcards.

Autumn 2016: Full National Exhibition - Portuguese P.S or King George VI Collector's Society.

WORLD POST DAY

How can we get the society and/or the hobby noticed on World Post Day 9 October 2013, which marks the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union? Tell us now!

PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Congress is becoming increasingly important as the main opportunity each year to enter into informal discussions with ABPS officers and all readers are encouraged to consider attending to ensure that the grass roots views reach the "powers that be" in the hobby (and vice versa). It is always a wonderful chance to see outstanding displays and meet other collectors in all disciplines.

Congress 2013 report will appear in the next issue, together with the outcome of the ABPS Annual General Meeting and discussion on proposals to amend the ABPS Articles of Association.

Congress 2014 will be held at Ypres in Belgium from 11-14 July to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War, organised jointly with the Royal Philatelic Society London, the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and l'Académie de philatélie de Belgique. Overseas congresses are rare but not unprecedented.

MIDPEX

Midpex 2013 is scheduled for 6 July 2013. Further information: bobharper@btinternet.com

ABPS EXHIBITING SEMINARS

Are you interested in seeing these events but unable to go to London? Whilst you get much more out of being there, you can now view them in the comfort of your own home. The ABPS has posted the PowerPoint presentations in PDF form on its website at <http://www.abps.org.uk/Exhibiting/Seminars/index.xalter> for you to view or download. Several titles are available and others are added from time to time.

BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

BTA has announced its intention to expand its scope to include the new "Open Philately" class, which has close synergy with Thematic Philately, whilst allowing far greater freedom of interpretation and greater use of related ephemera. For information on BTA activities, contact Peter Denly, 9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 2BY or www.brit-thematic-assoc.com.

ISSUES TO TAKE UP WITH ABPS?

Then contact the AEPS Secretary, John Dickenson, who is the ABPS point-of-contact for the member federations and thus with grass-roots societies. John can be contacted at 9 Southbrook, Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 9NS, 01279-722297 or dickenson17@ntlworld.com.

ABPS WEBSITE

The ABPS website contains a wealth of valuable information on collecting and exhibiting at all levels, including future events and youth philately. Please visit it at <http://abps.org.uk/>. All ABPS societies are listed with their contact details. Please advise the ABPS of any necessary changes.

Essex News

AEPS EVENTS

AEPS Council Meeting in March received an update on plans for the 2014 70th Anniversary event and plans for a new website.

Spring StampEssex was hosted by Basildon on 27 April at the James Hornsby School, Laindon, the venue used for the 2008 event. Attendances were good, with the dealer hall busy throughout the day. The furthest travelled visitor came from Singapore and went away pleased with additions to his Reunion collection. Complimentary remarks were received on the catering, provided by the ladies that handle David Church's fairs. The invited display was a collection of May 1840 Penny Black covers by David Church. A newly built corridor alongside the main hall enabled the AEPS competition displays to be shown in a "good north light" without direct sunshine.



Witham won the Stokes Cup (Basildon came fourth), having taken three individual awards – Stamps (Don Davies), Postal History (Robin Calvert) and George Pearson Trophy for the best foreign entry (Robin Calvert). Basildon took the Aerophilatelic Trophy (Chris Cooksey), and Bishop's Stortford the GB Postal History Trophy (Peter Denly). Finally, Chelmsford won the Postcard Competition (Pat Adams). Basildon issued a Smilers sheet and presentation pack to mark the event and their 45th anniversary (see separate item).

PHILATELY IN ESSEX 2013

If you want to find out about any society in the county, county competition rules or a catalogue of Essex event covers, speakers, judges, etc., please ask the Secretary to show you Philately In Essex, the AEPS Handbook.

The 2013 Supplement is available from the AEPS for £5 or the whole loose-leaf book can be purchased for £10. Contact Len Stanway if you would like to buy a copy.

DO YOU WANT TO DISPLAY TO OTHER SOCIETIES, OR JUDGE COMPETITIONS?

The AEPS maintains a register of locally-based philatelic judges and of persons willing to speak to other societies locally or throughout the country. If you want to be included as a speaker or judge in these AEPS Registers, please contact Len Stanway. A new edition will be compiled after the summer break for publication in the 2014 supplement to "Philately in Essex", so now is the time to come forward to register or ask for advice on joining in these pleasant tasks.

NEXT AEPS EVENTS

The next Council meeting, to which we can send up to 3 delegates, will be at 2.30pm on 13 July at Spring Lodge, Witham. If you have issues you would like raised, please contact Len, Alan, Ian McElwain or John Cowlin.

Autumn StampEssex 2013 will be held on 28 September at Cheshunt School, EN8 9LY, from 10am to 4pm, organised by Cheshunt society. Admission free and refreshments available.

The date for **Workshop 2014** has been provisionally set for 25 January at Henry Dixon Hall, Henry Dixon Road, Rivenhall End, Witham, Essex. CM8 3HR. The theme and cost have still to be announced.

Spring StampEssex 2014, marking the 70th Anniversary of the Association, will be held on 10 May at Marconi Social Club, Beehive Lane, Chelmsford CM2 9FH from 10am to 4pm, organised by AEPS officers. Support will be vital from members of all AEPS societies, so put it in your diary now!

Basildon Society News

MEMBER NEWS

Chris Cooksey is to be congratulated on achieving a Gold award in the Revenues class at Spring Stampex with his display of British South Africa Company mining certificates.

AUCTION

Members are reminded that our next auction will be held at 7.45pm on 7 October, with viewing at 7.15. Auction lot lists must be submitted to Claude Crowder at the meeting on 1 July with the actual lots needed by the following meeting.

Auction catalogues will probably be issued in mid-July. Please support your society's fund-raising efforts and fill gaps in your collection at the same time!

SUGGESTION BOX

Members will be invited to make suggestions with regard to events and the way the society is run. A box and suggestion slips will be provided at meetings. Suggestions may be made anonymously or members can leave their name for follow-up. All suggestions will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

MEETING REPORTS by "Fly On The Wall"

16 April – Auction

Claude Crowder and Ian McElwain shared auctioneer duties at a packed auction with record-breaking results for the society. Congratulations are due to Claude for another successful event. The realisations were:

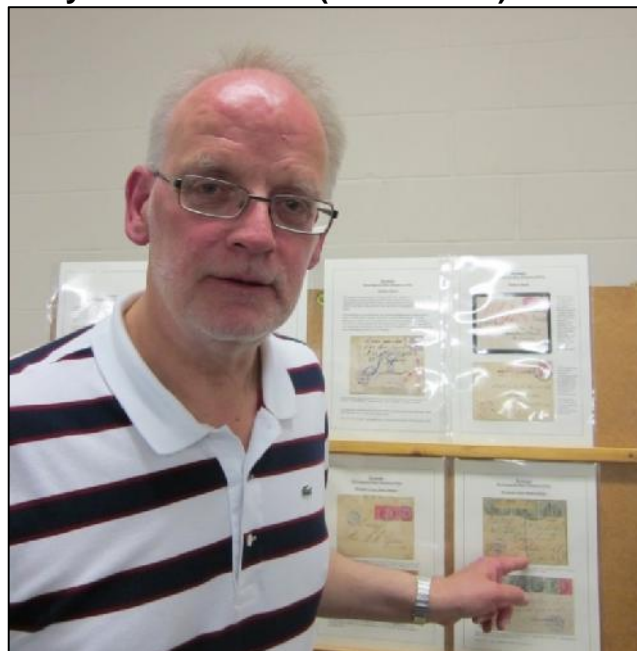
1	£7.00	58	£5.00	143	£2.00	231	£7.00
2	£2.00	61	£15.00	145	£5.20	233	£21.00
3	£2.00	62	£26.00	146	£4.50	234	£10.50
4	£2.00	65	£8.50	149	£7.50	236	£3.00
5	£4.00	68	£2.00	150	£4.20	237	£15.00
6	£14.00	71	£20.00	156	£5.50	238	£8.00
7	£35.00	72	£2.50	157	£5.50	242	£20.00
9	£2.00	74	£2.50	158	£5.50	244	£40.00
12	£5.00	75	£6.00	159	£20.00	253	£9.50
13	£5.00	76	£26.00	161	£5.00	257	£17.00
14	£2.00	77	£7.20	162	£4.00	260	£9.00
15	£4.80	78	£3.00	163	£4.00	263	£9.00
16	£2.50	82	£10.00	165	£9.50	265	£15.00
17	£2.80	83	£28.00	166	£10.00	266	£12.00
18	£7.50	84	£5.00	170	£8.50	268	£40.00
19	£9.25	85	£7.00	177	£5.80	271	£5.00
23	£4.00	86	£6.00	178	£25.00	276	£30.00
24	£20.00	91	£11.00	179	£15.00	289	£7.00
25	£5.50	92	£4.20	180	£50.00	293	£2.00
27	£3.00	93	£5.00	181	£9.00	314	£5.00
28	£5.00	94	£2.00	182	£18.00	326	£2.00
29	£2.00	96	£4.00	185	£10.00	332	£3.00
30	£2.00	97	£3.20	190	£60.00	340	£10.50
32	£2.50	101	£2.50	196	£15.00	342	£2.00
34	£2.80	104	£14.50	197	£15.00	344	£2.00
36	£2.00	107	£11.50	200	£12.00	345	£3.00
37	£2.00	108	£26.00	202	£4.00	348	£30.00
38	£20.00	109	£32.00	208	£14.00	350	£12.50
39	£2.00	111	£4.00	209	£2.00	353	£5.50
40	£2.00	112	£5.00	210	£8.50	354	£5.00
41	£2.00	114	£6.00	211	£50.00	358	£3.60
42	£3.80	116	£3.00	212	£3.00	359	£5.20
43	£10.00	117	£2.00	214	£10.00	362	£2.20

44	£10.00	118	£2.50	216	£57.00	363	£3.20
46	£2.00	119	£3.00	218	£3.00	364	£5.00
47	£2.80	121	£3.00	220	£2.80	365	£2.10
48	£15.00	126	£5.20	221	£20.00	366	£2.50
49	£12.00	128	£2.50	222	£3.20	371	£35.00
50	£8.00	129	£13.00	223	£25.00	377	£16.00
51	£4.20	130	£4.00	224	£4.00	386	£10.00
52	£15.00	134	£10.00	228	£5.00	390	£5.00
53	£4.00	136	£2.00	229	£2.00	394	£12.00
54	£4.00	140	£6.00	230	£20.00	397	£3.25
55	£18.00						

14 May – Visit to Malling Stamp Club

The Basildon team received a warm welcome at Malling in Kent on a wet and blustery evening. Claude Crowder started with a pot-pourri of Spain ancient and modern, followed by Geoff Hammond with a display of Bermuda with Large Nyasaland types in profusion. Len Stanway finished the first half with a short display of the Metropolitan Railway's stamps and stationery. David Church started the second half with his Penny Black May Dates, followed with Alan Taylor's "Royalty", the life and times of the present Queen. Len Stanway finished with the early years of the United Nations.

21 May – South Africa (Nick Harris)



Nick showed a variety of unusual aspects of South Africa, notably the postal history of the Boer Wars. He took us through the various campaigns and the problems both sides faced in handling prisoners of war. Eventually, the British resorted to exporting prisoners of war to a number of other colonies, including St Helena, India and Ceylon, so collectors of other countries had plenty in which to take interest.

3 June – Philatelic Journey Through Life (David Church)



David opened with a tribute to his father, John, who introduced him to the hobby and the society as a youngster, by showing part of his father's collection of Iceland. John was a founding member of the society and its Treasurer for many years. A keen football fan, David amassed a large collection of football special event covers, of which a few special items were shown. His next major collection was Faroe Islands. His latest collection is "May Date" 1840 Penny Blacks on cover, of which he has an amazing range with only a few key dates missing. The display was supplemented by a facsimile complete sheet. Other collections made their appearance including some of those "temporary collections" which he currently holds in stock as a dealer. A very varied and interesting evening.

18 June – Annual General Meeting



The society's 45th AGM was less well attended than recent ordinary meetings. This meeting is

very important to the running of the society and is the members' chance to air their views and influence future policy. All the reports this year were up-beat, reflecting the recent upturn in attendances and the improved financial position of the society, and great emphasis was placed on the thanks due to all members who have contributed in their various ways to the society during the year. However, we must not become complacent and we must seek to recruit a new generation of members to keep the society in business. Presenting his report, the Chairman announced his intention to step down due to pressure of other work. The President paid tribute to his contribution over many years, which has gained considerable praise, both inside and outside the society. The Treasurer reported that, although the Society's accounts show a substantial loss in this financial year, this was purely the cash-flow effect of the accounting period falling immediately before StampEssex and the underlying result was a satisfying profit on the year's activity. No change in subscription was necessary. StampEssex itself made a small, but satisfactory, profit with a stock of souvenirs still available (see advert!). The Exchange Packet remains healthy but needs more members. The Packet Secretary added to his routine niggles by encouraging vendors to mark the catalogue numbers against stamps, as this might increase sales and to ensure that boxes are passed promptly to the next on the list. For the first time in many years, an election was held for the post of Chairman, won by Ian McElwain. Claude Crowder remains Vice Chairman. All other posts remain unchanged with the exception of Ian's former posts of Programme Secretary and Public Relations Officer, which pass to Geoff Hammond. The Member of the Year award was presented to Len Stanway for the second time.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2013-2014 are now due. The rates remain at £13 for full Membership, £2 for Juniors and 50p for Associate Members (exchange packet and auction vendors). Members attending meetings also pay £1 attendance fee at the door to cover refreshments and assist with hall hire. Subscriptions should be paid to Mick Coltman.

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 spread the workload.

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.

Non-members are also invited to join the e-mailing list to receive this newsletter and other society information.

RECENT MEMBER ACTIVITIES

It has been a busy quarter for our displaying members. Those I have a record of are as follows – please let me know of any that I have missed:

Chris Cooksey displayed “Southern Rhodesia during World War Two” to Brentwood on 8 May, then “South Atlantic and British Antarctic Bases” to Leytonstone, Wanstead & District P.S. on 11 May.

John Cowlin displayed “Emergency Currency 1900-2011” to Colchester on 17 May.

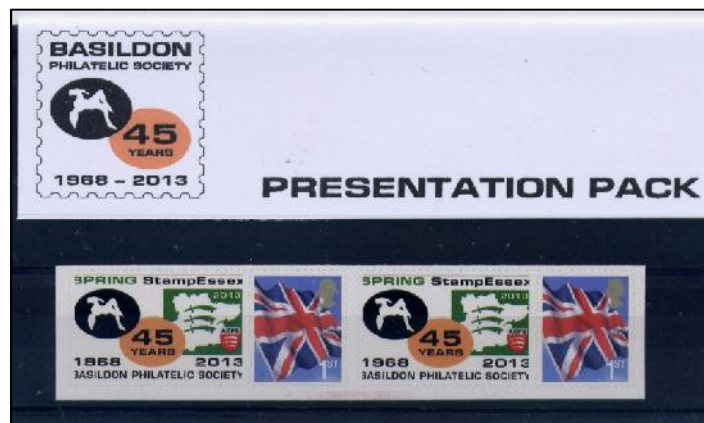
Ann Coltman displayed “Pot-Pourri” to Billericay on 20 June.

Len Stanway displayed “Aspects of Malaya” to the National Philatelic Society on 11 May and “Singapore” to Cambridge PS on 5 June

MISSED YOUR STAMPESSEX SOUVENIRS?



The society still has a limited number of copies of its 45th Anniversary Smilers sheet and presentation pack available at £22 and £3 respectively, plus £3 postage and packing per order where necessary. Please help us liquidate these assets as soon as possible! Orders to the Treasurer, please.



ARTICLES WANTED

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

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Ann Coltman holds the **Society Library** with many catalogues and reference books that members can borrow to research their collections and to find out how to get more from our hobby. The library also contains philatelic aids, such as the Signoscope watermark detector and ultra-violet lamps. Sample stamps and a catalogue is brought by Ann to most meetings. Members can ask her to bring particular items to the next meeting for them to borrow until the following meeting. If you are disposing of redundant catalogues, Ann would welcome donations, which may either be added to or replace items in the library or sold to raise society funds.

Ann also holds the **Society Archives**. If you find any old documents, programmes, etc., or see any reference to the society in the current press, Ann would welcome them in case they fill gaps in the collection.

If you are not taking advantage of the society's **Exchange Packet**, you are missing out on the chance to fill those annoying gaps in your collection. Contact Len Stanway for how to join.

Do you want details of other societies in Essex, Suffolk, Hertfordshire or East London? If so, Alan Taylor holds the society's copy of

Philately in Essex, the AEPS handbook, and brings it to most meetings.

SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS JOURNAL

This newsletter is published in both electronic and hard-copy formats. The hard-copy version is distributed only to members of the society who do not have e-mail facilities. The electronic version is sent to all members who have e-mail. It is also available free-of-charge to any interested collector outside the society. To request addition to the distribution list, please contact the Editor.

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.



Philatelic Events in AEPS Societies

July 2013

- 1 Basildon - Competitions.
- 2 **AEPS - Executive Meeting**.
- 2 Benfleet - (Provisional date).
- 3 Bishop's Stortford - (Provisional date).
- 3 Goodmayes - Annual General Meeting.
- 4 Billericay - Basildon v. Billericay Quiz (at Billericay).
- 4 Witham - Triangles (Mrs M Thompson).
- 8 Cheshunt - Iraq (G P Green).
- 8 Rayleigh - The Austro-Hungarian Navy in World War One (Mrs L Bosworth).
- 9 Epping Forest – AGM and Bring & Buy.
- 10 Brentwood - Mint Imperials – A Philatelic Confection (G P Green).
- 11 Harlow - Subject to be announced.
- 11 Hullbridge - America (M Nunn).
- 13 **AEPS - Council Meeting**, Spring Lodge Community Centre, Witham CM8 2HE. - All societies should send delegates.
- 16 Basildon - Aspects of British Borneo (J Higgins).
- 16 Bury St Edmunds - Subject to be advised.
- 16 Sudbury - Bits & Bobs (R E How).
- 17 Bishop's Stortford - (Provisional date).
- 18 Billericay - Iraq 10 (G P Green).

- 18 Witham - Postal History of Bishop's Stortford (W I Stevenson).
- 19 Colchester - AGM and Chairman's Cup.
- 22 Rayleigh - Acquired in 2012 (Members).
- 24 Brentwood - Open Evening.
- 25 Harlow - Subject to be announced.
- 25 Shoeburyness - The Olympic Games (R Willcock).

August 2013

- 1 Witham - Chairman's Evening.
- 5 Basildon - 12 pages from my collection.
- 6 Benfleet - (Provisional date).
- 7 Bishop's Stortford - (Provisional date).
- 8 Harlow - Subject to be announced.
- 8 Hullbridge - Bourse.
- 12 Cheshunt - Members Entertain, bourse, quiz.
- 12 Rayleigh - Bourse.
- 15 Witham - Informal / Bring and Buy.
- 20 Basildon - Display by Epping Forest & District PS.
- 20 Bury St Edmunds - Subject to be advised.
- 20 Sudbury - Members' displays.
- 21 Bishop's Stortford - (Provisional date).
- 22 Harlow - Subject to be announced.
- 28 Brentwood - Open Evening.
- 29 Witham - Germany (R A W Orrin).

September 2013

- 2 Basildon - Essex Postmarks (J W J Copeland).
- 3 Benfleet - (Provisional date).
- 3 Sudbury - Subject to be announced.
- 4 Bishop's Stortford - (Provisional date).
- 4 Clacton - (Provisional date).
- 4 Goodmayes - (Provisional date).
- 5 Billericay - Bring and Buy.
- 7 **AEPS - Council Meeting**, Spring Lodge Community Centre, Witham CM8 2HE.
- 9 Cheshunt - South West Africa (M K Roberts).
- 9 Frinton - (Provisional date).
- 9 Rayleigh - The Pride of My Collection (Members).
- 10 Braintree - (Provisional date).
- 10 Bury St. Edmunds - Members' Evening.
- 10 Chelmsford - Recent Acquisitions (Members).
- 10 Epping Forest - Subject to be announced.
- 11 Brentwood - Mails Under London (L C Stanway).
- 12 Harlow - Subject to be announced.
- 12 Hullbridge - Man's Marine Adventure (P Denly).
- 12 Witham - Gilbert & Ellice Islands and Kiribati (T Gill).
- 14 Leytonstone & Wanstead - Subject to be announced.

- 14 EAPHS - Competition and Postage Dues (Members) (at Stowmarket).
 17 Basildon - Open Evening & Display (C W Mead).
 17 Sudbury - Subject to be announced.
 18 Bishop's Stortford - (Provisional date).
 18 Goodmayes - (Provisional date).
 19 Billericay - Display by Hullbridge P.S.
 20 Colchester - (Provisional date).
 23 Frinton - (Provisional date).
 23 Leytonstone & Wanstead - Subject to be announced.
 23 Rayleigh - Rayleigh Through The Looking Glass (M Davies).
 24 Braintree - (Provisional date).
 24 Bury St. Edmunds – Aspects of Cape of Good Hope (R Hill).
 24 Chelmsford - 16 Sheets (Members).
 25 Brentwood - Open Evening.
 25 Ipswich - (Provisional date).
 26 Harlow - Subject to be announced.
 26 Shoeburyness - An Evening with John Cowlin.
 26 Witham - Informal / Bring and Buy.
 28 **AEPS/Cheshunt - Autumn STAMPESSEX**, Cheshunt School, EN8 9LY.

For venues, times, etc., contact the Editor or visit <http://www.wherecanwego.com>, which is updated with the latest available information.

BPS Contact information

Chairman:

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Membership:

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mcoltman1945@btinternet.com

Library and Archives:

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mcoltman1945@btinternet.com

Exchange Packet & Newsletter items:

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len.stanway@btinternet.com

Auction:

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Programme and Publicity:

Geoff Hammond, 2 Flint Close, Basildon, Essex SS16 6UD. 01268-544899.
gw_hammond@hotmail.com

www.basildon.aeps.org.uk

FORTHCOMING BASILDON MEETINGS:

- 1 July – Competition Night (8 sheet displays – any discipline).
- 16 July – Aspects of British Borneo (Jon Higgins).
- 5 August – 12 pages from my collection (members informal competition).
- 20 August – Display by Epping Forest society.
- 2 September – Essex Postmarks (John Copeland).
- 17 September – Open Evening with display by Charlie Mead.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are held at George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon SS14 2FL (doors open 7.30pm):

Press Date

The intention is that the next issue should be published on 1 October. Your news or articles should be with the Editor by 20 September at the latest.



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Serving the stamp collectors and postal historians of Basildon.